

Decorative fountains and chocolate-covered pretzels grace Lenoir on March 4. Carolina Dining Services offers special dinners at least once per month.

Theme dinners spice up meals

Options cost campus dining more

BY DAVID GILMORE

The counters of UNC's dining halls were spread with shrimp, fried oysters, clams and fish

Tartar sauce took the place of ketchup, and a fancy sundae bar replaced the smoothie stand.

This was not the average night at Lenoir or Rams Head dining

In fact, the special dinner is something Carolina Dining Services officials do at least once a month in an effort to give students a break from the monotony of wraps, burgers and barbecue. "I wasn't expecting Lenoir to

have food the quality that they had," sophomore Ryan Johnson said. "It was a good way to spice things up."

But the cost of preparing these meals makes them too expensive for the dining halls to put them on every day, despite some student interest in the idea.

"Quite often at these themed meals, they'll feature an upscale, pricier product," said Scott Myers, director of food and vending. "We

just can't afford to serve steak or shrimp every night, but it's a way to get students some upscale items within a reasonable cost."

The March 4 meal cost an estimated \$6,000 more than regular days — though it should be noted that it is the most expensive of the theme meals.

"There's usually a 10 to 20 per-cent increase," said Fred Bissinger, district manager for Aramark Corp. The total price of entrees at both dining halls usually runs at \$3,000 per day, so a special day costs between \$3,300 and \$3,600, on average.

Officials said taking the money used to make the theme meals and spreading it out throughout 30 days would not produce noticeable changes in food quality.

But some students still say they wish for more variety in the everyday offerings at the campus dining

"It'd be nice to have something different some of the time," sopho-more Jordan Wilson said.

Rams Head and Lenoir dining halls' main competitor, The Agora at Granville Towers, also

"We just can't afford to serve steak or shrimp every night, but it's a way to get students some upscale items."

SCOTT MYERS, DIRECTOR OF FOOD AND VENDING

"(Students) do seem to enjoy them a lot," said Kelly Stafko, director of dining services at The Agora. She added that events such as the State Fair dinner are especially popular among the stu-

Although the dining halls do not count student attendance at special dinners, dining officials said all three locations see an increase in student attendees on the theme dinner nights. Rams Head and Lenoir usually serve between 6,000 and 7,000 meals per day, and The Agora hosts about 2,000 students

"If you eat (dining hall food) two or three times a day, seven or eight times a week, it gets sometimes

offers theme meals about once a routine," Bissinger said. "Those special events break up that rou-

> Past theme meals included Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners featured last semester and a Valentine's Day theme in

And all three dining halls provide everyday specials that are not part of the theme meals. A banana split bar at Lenoir in February and a "chocolate extravaganza" at The Agora have proved popular with students.

The next theme meal, the Culinary Showcase, will be March 27 at both Lenoir and Rams Head

> Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



Introducing Truly Unlimited Calling.

- · Call anyone on any network in the U.S.
- Even landlines
- Talk as much as you want
- Flat rate of \$9999 Monthly Access

Switch to America's Most Reliable Wireless Network®



Free Shipping: Call 1.888.640.8776 **VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES**

Crossroads Plaza 919-859-6700

WIRELESS

North Raleigh

THE VERIZON

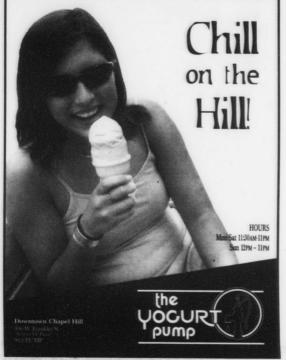
BUSINESS CUSTOMERS PLEASE CALL 1.800.VZW.4BIZ (899.4249)

Visit any store

† Verizon Wireless not available at all BJ's Who

"Our Surcharges (Incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 10.2% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 70¢ Administrative/line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 6% – 26% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan* lines w/ 2-yr. Agmits)

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges & \$1.99/MB (incl. Mobile Web ads). Offers and covarying by service, not available everywhere. Rebates take up to 6 weeks. Limited time offers. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. Device capabilities: Add 1 charges & conditions apply. Network details and comaps at verizonwireless.com. Voyager is a trademark of Plantronics, Inc. used under license by Verizon Wireless. Monthly access discounts are not available on Unlimited Anytime Minute plans. © 2008 Verizon Wireless.





TUESDAY

M. TENNIS vs. Wake Forest 3 PM **BASEBALL vs. Princeton 6 PM** M. LACROSSE vs. Marist 7 PM

WEDNESDAY **BASEBALL vs. Princeton 6 PM**

FRIDAY

W. TENNIS vs. Ga. Tech 2:30 PM SOFTBALL vs. Maryland 5 PM

SATURDAY

W. LACROSSE vs. Duke 1 PM W. TENNIS vs. Clemson 1 PM SOFTBALL vs. Maryland 1 PM SOFTBALL vs. Maryland 3 PM M. LACROSSE vs. Maryland 6 PM

Vegetarian Forum will be held on March 18 in Lenoir Mainstreet

