

The Daily Tar Heel

Feature Writers

All DTH feature writers meet at the DTH office at 4:30 today. All new members meet at 5 p.m. today. Contact Susan Hudson if you cannot attend.

Hot and bothered

Partly sunny today, high in the low 90s, with a 30 percent chance of afternoon thundershowers.

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

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News/Sports/Arts 962-0246
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ARA meal card plan causes confusion

By CHARLES ELLMAKER
Staff Writer

Susan Sparks will be eating a lot more meals in the Pine Room than she planned this semester.

Sparks, like many UNC students, purchased a "budget meal plan" last week, believing she had purchased a plan similar to one of the two budget plans available last year.

Under last year's meal plan, Sparks paid money into a dining account which she could draw from during the year each time she ate at the Pine Room, Chase Cafeteria or the Fast Break. At the end of the year, ARA Services, which operates the food service at UNC, would refund all unused funds to her account except for a \$25 service charge.

But this year, the budget plans were drastically changed. According to the new plans, students can purchase meal accounts of \$350, \$450, or \$550 to be used only one semester instead of the entire year — and with no refund at semester's end.

Although all of the information about the new meal plans was given to students before they signed up, Sparks said she felt using the name "budget" for the new meal plans was deceptive.

"Are you kidding?" she asked upon learning of the changes. "There is no way I'm going to eat \$450

of this food."

At the same time, Howard Southerland, director of ARA at UNC, said the meals really were budget plans, because students on the meal plans received discounts of 4, 5 and 6 percent, respectively, when they purchased their meal cards. And additional specials throughout the semester just for cardholders could mean as much as an extra 6 percent savings for a student.

In addition, students joining fraternities or sororities and athletes joining the training table at Ehringhaus Residence Hall could obtain refunds on the balances of their accounts.

Other UNC students apparently were caught off-guard also. Of 10 students interviewed in the Pine Room Tuesday, all but one thought they would be receiving money back at the end of the year, including two freshmen.

One ARA employee, who asked not to be named, said that it was "all in the small print."

David Welch, a sophomore from Winston-Salem, said he knew about the new meal plan regulations. "I bought a budget card last year, but when I found out you couldn't get your money back, I decided not to buy one."

Many students said they bought budget cards last year because they did not use the food service very

often, and it was a convenience to have a card that worked like money.

But James Cansler, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, said the meal card "was designed for the student who was serious about eating at the Pine Room."

"The idea is not to take someone's money and keep it for nine months, then give it back to them," he said. "The banks do a better job than that."

Cansler stressed that ARA had accepted the burden last year of a one-sided commitment to the University and its students. "They (ARA) provided meals when the students wanted to eat, and then gave them back their money when they didn't eat there."

This year, students must be more responsible, he said. "If they choose not to eat there, then they lose their money."

When asked about the changes made over the summer, Southerland said the new meal plans were enacted not to prevent the same losses that ARA experienced last year, primarily incurred because of the poorly designed and sparsely attended Chase Cafeteria on South Campus, but because the plans were "a better deal for the students."

However, Charles Antle, vice chancellor for business and finance, said ARA came to the ad-

ministration last spring with the changes because losses were too great under the refund plan.

"They returned some \$70,000 in refunds at the end of the year last year," Antle said Tuesday. "They (ARA) lost about \$250,000 two years ago and about \$90,000 last year," he said. "A private corporation can't afford to operate under those conditions, and we were concerned whether they would return this year."

Antle said the administration agreed to the changes in the meal plan to prevent similar losses this year, but only under the condition that all changes be handled straightforwardly. "We feel they have done a very good job publicizing the changes from last year."

"ARA is doing an excellent job with the food service, even though our facilities are not very good, especially for a campus this size," Antle said. "And I'm sure there was no intention on ARA's part to mislead the students."

Antle added that the budget cards are still being used "probably because of the enormous cost of reprinting magnetic cards."

Kevin Monroe, chairman of Student Government's Food Service/Health Affairs committee,

said Monday that no one there had been contacted or consulted about the changes, adding that he "just found out about it a couple of days ago."

Mike Vandenberg, UNC student body president, said he had heard nothing at all about the changes until an interview Tuesday. "We don't feel any injustice has been done since the students were shown the new rules, but we will work diligently to inform students about the changes and to aid them any way we can concerning the subject."

Vandenberg praised ARA for being "very responsive to the University and the students" and credited Southerland as being "a great food service manager, undoubtedly the very best I've ever known at UNC."

He added, however, that Student Government would like to have more input into future changes, and Monroe said he would consult with Southerland about establishing a liaison between ARA and Student Government.

Monroe advised students with questions concerning the meal plans to contact him or one of his committee members, or to call the Student Government Hotline at 966-4084.

Cigarettes, appliances

Close calls in dormitories draw attention to potential hazards

By PAM DUNCAN
Assistant University Editor

A UNC student smokes a cigarette in bed, and falls asleep with it still smoldering in his hand. Or he heats up a can of soup and forgets to turn off the hot plate before leaving the room. Both of these situations can present real fire hazards in a residence hall.

Many UNC students may not realize how serious a fire can be in a dormitory housing hundreds of students. There have been several close calls already in the first few weeks of the fall semester, in both high-rise and older dormitories.

Fire alarms were set off three separate times in Connor Residence Hall in the past week, said Jim Ptaszynski, acting director for residence life at UNC.

Two were false alarms set off by smoke from electric saws used to build lofts, he said. The third was a poster that was set on fire intentionally, causing the smoke alarm to go off.

Another fire occurred about 3 a.m. Saturday in Hinton-James Residence Hall after a student heating water on a hot plate in her room fell asleep, leaving the appliance unattended. When the water boiled away, the Teflon on the pot melted, scorching the walls and burning several posters.

"In that instance, that girl was darned lucky," said Jody Harpster, acting director of University housing. If the window had not been open, the student, whose name was not disclosed, might have been asphyxiated by the fumes from burning paint and Teflon, he said.

The student, who violated the new cooking-in-rooms policy, will not be punished. "She'll get an official warning and she will have to pay for the damage to her room," Harpster said.

Russell Perry, associate director of operations for University housing, filed the report of the incident with the North Carolina Department of Insurance Tuesday. With the department's recent recommendations to ban cooking in the rooms, Perry said he was sure NCDI would express its concern about the incident.

"One extreme is that they will immediately ban all cooking in the rooms," Harpster said. "The other extreme is that they won't say anything. I think it should be cause for concern."

There was no damage to University property other than smoke damage to the wall in the Hinton-James fire, Perry said. "What we're concerned with is the potential that something could have happened."

Plans to improve fire safety are now underway in the four South Campus high-rise dormitories, said Gordon Rutherford,

director of the UNC Planning Office.

The primary improvement will be the installation of smoke detectors, one-way voice communicators, emergency light systems and maybe emergency circuits for the elevators. The project is now before the Advisory Budget Commission for approval, Rutherford said.

He said he hoped construction would begin by May 1983 and be completed by the summer's end. The engineer's projected cost of the project is \$757,000, Rutherford said.

The new fire safety system for high-rise dormitories is being implemented because the 1981 session of the N.C. Legislature authorized the State Building Code Council to pass regulations regarding life safety required in existing high-rise structures.

"South Campus is fairly fortunate because each dormitory has a stairwell at both ends," said Steve Flury, UNC fire and safety officer. "The chances of smoke filling the hallways and blocking the exits are less than in dormitories with enclosed hallways."

Joe Robertson of the Chapel Hill Fire Department said the fire department personnel were trained to rescue from high-rise buildings as well as from one-story structures. He said high-rise fires were more volatile because all of the fire fighting must be done from inside the building.

For rescue from high-rise structures, Robertson said they use a net for heights below three stories and that they have aerial equipment to reach seven stories. "Otherwise the rescue work is done internally," he said.

Flury said the only serious fire on campus in recent years was a laboratory fire which caused \$100,000 worth of damage and in which an employee received third degree burns over 20 percent of his body.

Ptaszynski said Perry and Flury had worked closely to determine the appropriate number of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors per building on campus. They have followed a 10-year plan to install smoke detectors and fire alarms in all the buildings on campus, Ptaszynski added.

The CHFD has experienced many problems with false fire alarms on campus, Robertson said. "When we receive an alarm, we try to investigate and find the cause of the alarm, even if it is a false one," he said. All dormitory resident assistants now are required to call the general emergency number 911 whenever fire alarms go off, even in possible false alarms.

"I wouldn't try to guess the cost of responding to those false alarms," Robertson said.

Town Council approves satellite TV changes already made by Village Cable

By ALAN MARKS
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night approved two programming changes in Village Cable's franchise agreement, voting on the amendments three weeks after the changes had taken place.

Council member Bev Kawalec was the lone dissenter in the 8-to-1 vote, arguing that the council should not become involved in Village Cable's programming and should "stick by the original franchise agreement."

Village Cable would have been forced to purchase a fourth signal-receiving dish at a cost of \$10,000 if the changes had not been approved. The dish would have been used to continue broadcasting the Satellite Programming Network, which has been replaced on cable channel 32 by Cable News Network 2.

Town Manager David Taylor wrote in a memorandum to the council that "since Village has already purchased three receiving dishes and the franchise refers to two, we believe it would be unreasonable to require Village to acquire a fourth dish only for the purpose of continuing SPN. The cost of an additional dish would likely be

borne ultimately by cable subscribers through monthly fees."

Lu Stevens, general manager of Village Cable, told Taylor in a letter dated June 4, that the programming change was needed because of a change in satellites from which the company receives its signals. Village Cable could no longer pick up SPN programming without dropping the CBS cable or acquiring a fourth dish.

Stevens said in the letter it was not financially feasible at this time for the company to buy a fourth dish.

The second programming change allows Village Cable to substitute the "Weather Channel" service for the weather information available on channel 25.

Kawalec argued during discussion of the amendments that the council "is not obliged to change the franchise for any reason."

One of the advantages of having cable is diversity of programming, she said, and the move seems to be towards only sports, news and weather.

"It isn't in the public interest to change this franchise," she said.

Council members agreed that programming decisions should be prevented from

coming before the council, and should go through administrative channels instead.

"We have been in the middle in recent months of too many arguments concerning cable," said council member Jim Wallace. "The sooner we dispose of it (the amendments) the better."

The council also was informed by Town Attorney Emery Denny that they could take no action on rate hikes imposed by Village Cable on Aug. 17.

Denny told the council that Village Cable had the right to establish its own rates during the current 2-4 year period of the franchise agreement. The council will have the opportunity to review the rates between Sept. 1, 1983, and Nov. 30, 1983, he said. The council then can decide whether to modify the rates for the following 2-year period.

Village Cable raised the rate for 17-channel service to \$8.50, 35-channel service to \$11.95 and began charging a minimum monthly fee of \$8.50 to new, 12-channel service subscribers. Free service will continue to be provided to 12-channel service subscribers who already have it installed.



DTH/Al Steele

Jimmy Carter speaks to Democrats at Fayetteville fund-raiser Tuesday night. Gov. Jim Hunt looks on at dinner held for N.C. 7th District Rep. Charlie Rose

Carter speaks against Reagan's policy changes

By JIM WRINN
State and National Editor

FAYETTEVILLE — President Ronald Reagan's administration has abandoned long-standing principles of fiscal conservatism, former President Jimmy Carter said here Tuesday night.

Carter, speaking to a crowd of more than 400 Democrats gathered for a fund-raising dinner for 7th District Rep. Charlie Rose, said the Reagan administration had abandoned traditional stands taken by both Republican and Democratic presidents on economic, educational and environmental policies.

"In recent months we've seen these principles abandoned in Washington, D.C.," Carter said. "Radicalism has taken over."

Carter, who said he was speaking as an American, ignorant of any party affiliation, said the Reagan administration had drastically changed economic policy set not only during his own presidency but each one since Harry S. Truman.

"We've just seen the highest tax cuts primarily for the wealthy, immediately followed by the largest tax increase in the history of the nation," Carter said. "And we've got the highest unemployment rate since the Depression."

Gov. Jim Hunt, who introduced Carter, said the nation had been closest to attaining a balanced budget when the Georgia Democrat was in the White House.

"I really get upset when President Reagan says he inherited the nation's economic woes from the Carter administration," Hunt said. "What he inherited was a low deficit, a growing economy and low unemployment rates."

Carter said Southerners had long been afraid of government going into debt and that they were eager for better educational opportunities.

"The educational programs which have been set up over a matter of decades have been decimated," Carter said. "When I left the White House, there was not a single man or woman in America that couldn't go to college."

Carter said he also was critical of the administration's departure from environmental policies set up, ironically, when

Richard Nixon established the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Public policy (on the environment) has been abandoned not by a clown in the Department of the Interior, but by the whole Reagan administration," Carter said in one of his few public appearances since leaving the presidency 20 months ago. "Every loophole in the policy has been used to lower the quality of the environment."

The former president also noted that ties of cooperation between the United States and foreign countries seemed to have weakened since Reagan took office in January 1981.

"See if you can think of a single one (nation) that's closer to us now," he said.

Carter grinned often during his speech but rarely broke into his famous toothy smile. He noted that strong agricultural ties between his home state and North Carolina existed; he said small, family farmers who grew tobacco in North Carolina and those who grew peanuts in Georgia were usually given equal representation by their representatives and senators in Congress. However, he criticized the Tar Heel state's two Republican senators for casting decisive votes on the recently approved tobacco tax.

Carter greeted his sister Ruth Carter Stapleton, a Fayetteville resident, and noted that his ancestors had moved from Bertie County in North Carolina to Georgia.

The former President's wife, Rosalyn, who was scheduled to appear with Carter, was not there; her absence, however, was not explained.

Carter said he had been preparing a book on his presidency since leaving office. More than 5,000 pages of diary notes taken during his White House years were used in preparation of the volume, due out in early November.

Carter said he would begin a stint as a distinguished lecturer at Emory University in Atlanta in September, speaking on international politics, history and theology among other topics. He said he was working with the University to establish a center for public policy within the next 10 to 12 years. "The center will continue what I couldn't finish in four years," he said of the institution which would focus studies on human rights, nuclear proliferation, the environment and energy.