

Sweet shop has chocolate creations for every occasion

By MARYMELDA HALL
Assistant Features Editor

You're trying to study, but that chocolate craving just won't leave you alone. Why settle for an ordinary package of Zingers when you could have a Love Truffle or chocolate gummy bears?

Just head for The Chocolate Mousse Ltd. The Mousse opened in University Square last March and has been attracting chocolate fans ever since.

Owned by Kristin Wickliffe, the shop features handmade chocolate creations, freshly roasted nuts, gourmet jelly beans, and desserts like cakes and mousses as well as decorative tins to package your goodies.

For Wickliffe, chocolate is a hobby that turned into a business. After working as a dental hygienist for six years, she switched instead to "giving everybody cavities."

"I'm a chocoholic," she said. "I've been fooling with chocolate since I was a teenager. I basically couldn't get the kind of chocolate I really wanted. People are really appreciative of handmade and homemade chocolate."

Chocolate comes in enough varieties to satisfy all its fans. Employee Poppy Z. Brite prefers semi-sweet chocolate.

"I think people that eat a lot of chocolate, that are chocolate 'gourmets,' like semi-sweet," she said. Semi-sweet has a deeper flavor than its milk chocolate counterpart.

Truffles are one of the most popular items and, as Wickliffe was quick to point out, they are not chocolate-covered mushrooms.

"Truffles have a chocolate mousse-like center coated in chocolate," Wickliffe explained. "They get their name because traditionally they look like the mushrooms, truffles."

Customer Francis Wellman found the Truffles hard to resist.

"I just pigged out, and I don't know if I want to spoil myself or not," she said as she examined the Truffle display. "I don't eat a terrible lot of chocolate, and it has to be pretty good."

Wellman settled on a small assortment, because "How can you have a favorite?"

White chocolate is another Mousse option. "White chocolate is a little sweeter, and it can be tinted so we can

make more convincing things," Wickliffe said.

Those things include pink pigs, green frogs and, of course, blue feet.

"When the students were graduating last year, we had a seven-inch mold shaped like a foot," she said. "It was Carolina Blue with a dark chocolate heel."

Working from a large selection of molds, the shop custom designs chocolates. Shapes include false teeth and a lollypop devil's head mold, which Brite turned into a Siamese cat when she was experimenting one day.

Sugarfree chocolate, made mostly for diabetics, also is available. Even though it has about one-third fewer calories than regular chocolate, most people usually go for the real thing.

Holidays are busy seasons for The Chocolate Mousse, with hollow eggs at Easter and a general clean-out on Valentine's Day. The store always is glad to see the students return, and the students are happy to find The Mousse.

"I just love chocolate," said Cathi Underwood, a senior from Charlotte. "I usually eat it later in the day. It satisfies the craving for something sweet."

Sweet can be M & M bars, Truffle cake, chocolate-covered pretzels and Oreos and, naturally, chocolates shaped like "mousses."

The Chocolate Mousse takes its name very seriously. A huge stuffed moose sits in a swing on the side wall, presiding over the candy. Smaller stuffed and wooden moose peer from the window and countertops. And, occasionally, Wickliffe's husband visits the area in a moose suit, handing out fliers.

Chocolate has swept the country, starring in magazines, cookbooks, greeting cards, calendars and bumper stickers. Wickliffe thinks its popularity might stem from more than that melt-in-your-mouth quality.

"There's a theory that chocolate actually stimulates certain hormones that make a person feel less depressed," she said.

So to perhaps help your spirits, The Chocolate Mousse is open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday.



DTH/Dan Charlson

The Chocolate Mousse in University Square has something for every chocolate lover

Men discover the pleasures of mousse

By RHESA VERSOLA
Staff Writer

Of mousse and men? Styling mousse is fast becoming a staple hair-care product for many grooming-conscious Americans, most recently American males.

In 1984, sales for mousse products reached the \$250 million range in the United States, according to a *New York Times* article. Mousse, meaning foam in French, is heralded by industry analysts as the "hottest new product in the \$2.5 billion hair-care industry in 25 years," the article said.

Marie Johnson, co-owner of Scruples hair styling and tanning center at 128 E. Franklin St., said, "As soon as we get it in, it's gone."

Vidal Sassoon mousse samples were distributed by UNC resident assistants to dorm residents on the University campus, according to Al Calarco of the UNC housing department. The samples were included in the contents of the *Campus Voice* packages which were distributed by the 1330 Corporation in Knoxville, Tenn., Calarco said.

L'Oreal of France first introduced mousse to the American retail market in early 1984. L'Oreal's mousse was developed after more than five years of laboratory research as a molecular combination of cosmetic polymers (used in shampoos) and holding polymers (used in hairsprays).

Paulette Wilkie, co-owner of Scruples, said mousse could be dabbed or spread on either wet or dry hair, but best styling results occurred when applied to towel-dried hair after shampooing.

Wilkie said mousse was best for people who had fine or fly-away hair to add more fullness and for those who had curly hair for added control.

Mousse products include flavored mousse in three flavors: chocolate for brunettes, lemon for blondes and strawberry for redheads. Fizz-in color mousse allows the user to temporarily change their hair color to red, green or purple, said Wilkie.

Some hair stylists believe alcohol, an ingredient in mousse, dries out the hair.

Sam Huff of Cosmair, Inc. Research in New Jersey, said there were no adverse side effects from using mousse. Cosmair, Inc. is a manufacturer of L'Oreal products.

Nicholas Principe, owner of Salon 135 on E. Franklin St. said women have known about the benefits of styling aids for years, but males were just beginning to use styling aids, such as mousse.

"A lot of men try them initially from their girlfriends or wives, but once they are introduced to it, they use it on a regular basis," Principe said.

Pat Tambay, a junior from Greenville, said: "I've been using mousse for about two years. I don't use it in excess, just in spots."

Ken Wiley, a junior from Burlington, said he used mousse for better control. Bob Bullock, a senior from Chadburn, said his hair didn't need mousse.

"I think if I were a GQ model, sure, then I'd think about using it," Bullock said.

Select few to receive hardship parking permits

By KAREN YOUNGBLOOD
Staff Writer

The list of 250 lucky winners will be posted today in Suite C.

The prize? A coveted hardship parking permit.

"We've had more than 800 people turn in hardship applications," said Ray Jones, chairman of Student Government's parking committee. "We've read every one of them twice, and we're giving them out on the basis of who needs them most."

The UNC Traffic Office gave the Executive Branch of Student Government 250 spaces to allocate. The spaces are given to people who didn't get spaces, but must have them because of special needs or obligations. Student Government's parking committee

members put the hardship applications in order of priority based on need. Jones said making the decision was not easy.

"I wish we could give permits to everybody, but there's a limit," he said.

Reading the applications was emotionally trying, Jones said, because so many people had valid reasons for needing a space. But space was just not available.

"Sometimes I had to just put the applications down and get away from it," Jones said. "I've talked to people crying so hard I couldn't hear them. I've had parents call me, and I've talked to people who were furious. I've even had people write 'Please don't make my child a latch-key kid.'"

"We hate it, but at the same time, we recognize that some people just won't get the permits, Jones said."

The lucky few who got parking spaces had the best of reasons, he said.

"We have students from Charlotte

who commute daily," Jones said. "A lot of the applicants are people who have to have a job to stay in school and need to go to work straight from school."

Even applicants who are commuters were not guaranteed a hardship parking space, Jones said.

"We've got people who commute from Durham, and we can't assign them a space because we don't have anything for them," he said. "We were always thinking 'Who has some alternative and who doesn't?'"

Although most of the needs of the applicants were sad, Jones said he never saw the perfect hardship application.

"The best application in terms of hardship would be a full-time student, who had a full-time job, was a single parent with three kids in three different schools, has only one leg and parents who are terminally ill," Jones said. "We haven't really had one like that, but some have come close."

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