

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Volume 99, Issue 15

Friday, March 8, 1991

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

News/Sports/Arts 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163

Rite Aid agrees to move hair products

By Steve Politi
Assistant University Editor

African-American hair care products sold at the Chapel Hill Rite Aid have been moved from the front of the store to an area near other hair care products at the request of local African-American organizations.

Rite Aid spokesman Ray Doering said Thursday that company officials and members of UNC's Black Student Movement and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro chapter of the NAACP discussed the

matter in a meeting earlier this week.

"We agreed that we would keep ethnic hair care products together instead of splitting them up," Doering said. "It was a productive meeting. We understand better the concerns raised by NAACP people. Any talk of boycotting ended or was canceled."

Laura Anderson, BSM minister of information, said all the store's hair products would be grouped together at the center of an aisle.

"Perms, shampoo and brushes will not be next to candy and tobacco," she

said. "It's a big reshuffling that will take their workers a lot of moving."

Ray McKeeby, regional director for front-end operations at Rite Aid, and John Olson, division manager, represented Rite Aid at the meeting.

Anderson said the officials were receptive to the BSM and NAACP members' ideas.

"(McKeeby) asked me what I would be 100 percent happy to present my constituents with," Anderson said. "I said, 'Move the hair care products.' He said they'd be moved by Monday."

Anderson said she and other students who have been boycotting the store would begin shopping there again after the products were moved. BSM members began boycotting the drug store in December after an employee allegedly told a customer that the African-American hair care products were placed near the front of the store because they were more likely to be stolen.

"When those hair care products are moved, I'll be back in there," Anderson said. "People may think they had to make a decision with all the bad press.

We're just pleased that a decision was made, and pleased that (McKeeby) came here to help make a decision."

James Brittan, NAACP chapter president, said he believed that Rite Aid hadn't intentionally discriminated against African Americans.

"After talking to them and listening to them, I don't think they set out and said, 'I'm going to discriminate against black people,'" Brittan said.

Rite Aid officials decided to move the products after having many con-

versations with BSM and NAACP members, he said.

"It wasn't something that just happened that night (at the meeting)," he said.

Anderson said the meeting proved to be the best way to settle the issue.

"We tried to trace just how all of this mess started," she said. "There was wrong information, different stories about what happened. This meeting helped clear the air about what was said."



DTH/Kevin Chignell

He's outta there!

UNC's Donnie Leshnock is tagged out by Duke catcher Mike Harrell in baseball action Friday at Boshamer Stadium. Leshnock

was attempting to score on a Chris Cox single. UNC beat the Blue Devils, 17-1, in its ACC home opener. See story page 2.

Housing officials, RAs discuss meal plan cut

By Soylia Ellison
Staff Writer

Resident assistants and housing department officials met Thursday night to discuss the recent elimination of the \$400-a-year meal plan for new RAs.

Some RAs are dissatisfied with housing officials' decision to eliminate the meal plan and the way new RAs were notified about the cut. The new RAs were not told about the cut before being interviewed for their positions.

Allan Calarco, associate director of University housing, said the decision to cut the meal plan was "a bad choice among bad choices." He decided not to cut present RAs' benefits because they had been cut last year, he said.

Calarco told the RAs the cuts had to be made to balance the department's budget and to keep residence hall rent increases below 10 percent.

"We didn't feel that a 10 percent increase was acceptable, so our goal was to cut from the budget so that it would be less than 10 percent," he said.

He was responsible for trimming \$40,000 from the areas he supervised, Calarco said.

Pete Corson, an RA in Carmichael, said he would not be satisfied unless the \$400 was given back. "I'm suspicious that they're going to get rid of the meal plan all together. I think they've been planning this for a long time."

But Calarco said the plan could be reinstated in the future. "It is not a predictor that it will never be regained."

It also could be reinstated for next year's RAs, but that would mean making cuts elsewhere, he said.

Area directors and assistant area directors also attended the meeting.

One assistant area director said he was upset that no one addressed the ethics of changing pay benefits after the RA recruiting process ended. He said he expressed concern at a meeting about the way RAs were notified before the letters offering them the positions were sent out, but he was ignored.

"I think you (new RAs) have the right to be angry about them cutting your pay and trying to slide it by you and pull the rug out from underneath you," he said.

L.D. Newman, assistant director for University housing, said the way new RAs were notified was not addressed because only one person questioned the

decision to send the letters.

Corson said that the meeting had accomplished little but that he was glad the RAs had honestly expressed their views on several issues.

After the meeting, Calarco said that in response to the issues raised by the RAs, he must find a way to resolve the situation. He also plans to invite the department's finance director to another meeting between RAs and officials that is scheduled for March 20 and give RAs a way to air their grievances.

One student at the meeting said Newman's refusal to let four RAs attend a meeting between new RAs and housing officials Sunday night showed the problems that exist in the department.

Newman said she did not tell the RAs they could not attend the meeting, but tried to discourage them from entering it because she thought they might overwhelm the new RAs.

Corson said they offered to let Newman ask the new RAs if they could attend or if they could attend the meeting but not speak during it. But she refused, he said.

Newman responded, "I honestly don't remember (what happened)."

Hiring freeze not expected to affect Carolina Inn staff

By Burke Koonce
Staff Writer

The state hiring freeze will not prevent Carolina Inn employees from transferring to other UNC positions when the University relinquishes control of the inn after September, UNC officials said Thursday.

Despite the recent budget crunch and hiring freeze on state employees, numerous job openings exist in positions that are not funded by the state, said Carolyn Elfland, acting associate vice chancellor of business and finance.

"There is no such (unilateral) freeze in effect," she said. "It's a myth."

Many positions in the housing department, the physical plant and physician-related areas are independently funded and are open, Elfland said.

Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor of human resources, said about 150 non-state funded positions were

open at the University.

Elfland said Carolina Inn employees who wanted to remain state employees when the inn changed management would have priority transfer status to other UNC departments.

Charest said University departments with openings were required to consider employees with priority status before other applicants and interview them first.

State employees who have priority transfer status also will be assigned full-time employment counselors to assist them in their UNC job search, she said.

Elfland said the University always had employees on laid-off status, but they do not always have the option of the priority transfer plan. The plan was implemented now because of the unusually high number of people who could lose their jobs at the inn, she said.

About 40 of the 71 full-time Carolina Inn employees that could be affected already are in the plan, she said.

The priority status plan now is temporarily available for any University employee who might be laid off, not just Carolina Inn employees.

"Any employee who is in laid-off status will be considered," Elfland said. "The plan is especially for employees who want to stay on as state employees as opposed to those who want to stay hotel employees."

Inn employees who performed clerical and administrative duties could find a reasonable number of positions open in those capacities, she said.

The priority transfer plan is similar to a plan implemented in 1988 to help employees in the University's laundry service find work in other departments, she said. The plan helped 41 employees find jobs in only 11 weeks, she said.

Carolina Inn employees were told last fall that the University would abandon management of the hotel at some point in the near future, Elfland said.

Annual Springfest events to be dry again in spite of proposed changes

By Shannon O'Grady
Staff Writer

No alcoholic beverages will be allowed at Springfest again this year despite students' efforts to change the policy.

Gretchen Diffendal, Residence Hall Association president, said Springfest coordinators proposed several alcohol use policies to University officials, but none were approved.

Last year marked the first time alcohol

was not permitted at the annual band party sponsored by Henderson Residence College.

The coordinators offered to check people's identification cards as they entered the party and give arm bands to those over 21, Diffendal said.

"We were willing to regulate things as much as possible," she said. "On the basis of last year's Springfest, the alcohol problem was not resolved, it was just displaced. People drank outside of our jurisdiction."

Students drank around Davis Library and the surrounding area before entering Connor Beach, which was roped off, Diffendal said.

Wayne Kuncl, University housing director, said Thursday that the University could not permit students to consume alcohol at outdoor campus events.

"The risk is just too great for the group, for me as the director of housing

See SPRINGFEST, page 5

Iraq releases hundreds of Kuwaiti hostages; allied troops head home

The Associated Press

Former Kuwaiti hostages reached freedom by the truckload late Thursday, chanting "USA! USA!" and American troops — dusty but triumphant — arrived in Europe for their first hot showers and cold beer in weeks.

In Baghdad, Iraq's official media pleaded for national unity and ominously vowed that dissidents "will pay."

Opponents of Saddam Hussein claimed that the rebellion had spread to the Iraqi capital, and Iraqi refugees said an uprising in southern Iraq continued despite the execution of more than 400 dissidents.

Iraq released trucks and buses filled with Kuwaitis to Red Cross officials.

The Bush administration estimated that 800 to 2,000 Kuwaitis had been released.

As the trucks rolled into the U.S.-occupied southern Iraqi town of Safwan, the Kuwaitis waived and shouted "USA! USA!"

Kuwait said Iraqi troops abducted 30,000 Kuwaitis during its 6-month occupation of the oil-rich emirate.

Gian-Battista Bacchetta, head of the

Persian Gulf War



The White House held Iraq responsible for the journalists' safety, but spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said "unfortunately, it may not be that Iraq has them."

Allied and Iraqi commanders meeting under Red Cross auspices discussed the release of 63,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.

In Kuwait, Crown Prince Saad al-Sabah ordered an investigation into the assassination attempt of a former parliamentarian who advocates full democracy.

The prince, who is prime minister, also said martial law may have to be extended beyond the originally declared three months.

In Iraq, Saddam struggled to put down rebellions that broke out after he was

forced to withdraw from Kuwait.

For the first time since the unrest began, the official media made direct reference to the upheaval.

An editorial in the government daily Al-Iraq said, "antagonists were trying to dismember Iraq and strike at its national unity."

Another government newspaper, Al-Thawra, threatened: "Everybody who tries to undermine the security of the revolution is a traitor and a mercenary. ... All of them shall regret it. They will pay."

In Syria, a Shiite opposition leader, Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi Madaressi, said rioting had spread to Baghdad's Thawra and Shulla districts.

The neighborhoods are home to about 1.5 million people, mainly impoverished Shiites.

Madaressi claimed government forces had been evicted from 14 cities and towns from Basra to Khanaqin, on the Iranian border.

Iraq is ruled by Sunni Arab Muslims, but about 55 percent of its population of 17 million is Shiite.

Non-Arab Kurds, who live in northern Iraq, also are a sizable minority and have been guerrilla for years.

Kurdish guerrillas claimed they had seized three towns on the main highway linking the mountain province with Baghdad. They said they have captured 650 soldiers in recent fighting.

In allied-occupied Safwan, a refugee told Associated Press correspondent Edith Lederer that forces loyal to Saddam had executed more than 400 opponents Wednesday, but protests to oust him continued in southern Iraq.

"Their hands were tied, then they tied them to tanks and shot them," said Hussein Ali Kazem, 22, a student and farmer who left Basra on Wednesday. "The bodies are still there, bound by the wrists at Sahat Saad," a traffic circle in the city, Iraq's second largest.

The reports couldn't be independently confirmed. Some of the missing journalists had sought to visit the cities in turmoil but were detained.

The Pentagon said about 5,000 American servicemen and women will

return to the United States daily during the next few days.

They include members of the 1st Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas; the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the 101st Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Some already savored reunions back in the United States.

Marine Lance Cpl. Brian Little was allowed to return early to Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas because his mother needed surgery. He had two immediate priorities: "See my mom and get drunk," said Little, 22. Alcohol is banned in Saudi Arabia, where Little had been stationed since August.

"All we talked about for seven months was beer and women," Air Force Sgt. Brian Mann said after digging into an ice chest at Dover (Del.) Air Force Base and pulling out the coldest beer he could find.

"How sweet it is!" said Gen. George Lee Butler, commander of the Strategic Air Command, shortly after 21 SAC members arrived home Wednesday at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

INSIDE

The Daily Tar Heel

CITY

Durham newspaper lays off 46 employees because of recession 3

STATE AND NATIONAL

State enjoys reduced high school dropout rates 3

SPORTS

ACC tournament preview analyzes each team's chances 2

Sports 2
Classified 4
Comics 5
Opinion 6

WEATHER

TODAY: Cloudy, cold; high in 40s
SATURDAY: Cool; high in 50s

© 1991 DTH Publishing Corp. All rights reserved.

If you aren't going all the way, why go at all? — Joe Namath