

# Two new shops open up on Franklin Street

## Vintage clothing open; pizza coming

BY MARK ABADI

STAFF WRITER

Two new businesses opening this month are hoping to make up for a school year's worth of lost ground.

Artichoke Basil, a new pizza shop at 153 E. Franklin St., and The Clothing Warehouse, a vintage clothing store on 109 E. Franklin St., are opening with one month left in the school year.

### A new taste in pizza

With six pizza restaurants on Franklin already, it might be difficult for a new pizza place to stand out.

But owners of Artichoke Basil are hoping their specialty — which uses an artichoke-based sauce —

will help them do just that when the restaurant opens this month.

"Everybody uses tomato sauce," chef and co-owner Yilmaz Bulut said. "We make things different here."

Bulut hails from New York City, where he worked as a chef for 12 years. He expects to open the restaurant within two weeks.

Artichoke Basil is located where hookah bar Aladdin's once stood.

Errol Jenghis contacted Bulut and Muzaffer Uras, a third co-owner, last fall about opening the restaurant. By November, they were drawing up plans and decorating.

Jenghis' brother — owner of Fazil's Times Square Studio in New York before it closed — donated several large mirrors to add a little

flavor to the interior. The mirrors stood since the 1920s in the studio where Fred Astaire and James Cagney practiced.

"Bruce Lee practiced kung fu in front of these mirrors," Jenghis said.

A code violation involving exposed pipes in the kitchen forced the owners to install a new ceiling, pushing the opening date from February to late April.

Jenghis said he is disappointed the restaurant missed out on most of the school year, especially the NCAA basketball tournament.

"We lost a lot of money by not opening, and we're going to have some hard times it seems," he said. "By the time we open, school will be letting out.

"Summertime's going to be tough, but God willing by September we'll start doing good again."

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**ERROL JENGHIS**, OWNER OF ARTICHOKE BASIL, SET TO OPEN AT 153 E. FRANKLIN ST.

UNC students seem most intrigued by the restaurant's name.

"It sounds delicious — I love artichoke," said first-year Sarah Rhodes. "I don't eat out that much but I feel like I definitely will find myself there soon."

### Strong turnout for soft open

Saturday marked the soft opening of The Clothing Warehouse, and if its first day is any indicator, the chain vintage clothing store will have a pleasant stay.

"We kind of just opened the doors, and we've been flooded," manager Ryan Hill said.

With the store's grand opening April 18, Hill decided he would test the waters with a soft opening.

Hill said that despite the store's small size compared to the franchise in Greenville, S.C., people shopped all day. "We've seen more business today than I've ever seen in the Greenville store," he said.

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