

# Dorm conditions:

## Students, officials disagree over who's to blame

By Becky Overton and Joy Inniss

Many ECSU students say that they are dissatisfied with the quality of campus housing, according to a recent survey. The survey revealed the following categories of complaints: cleanliness, bugs and mice, and problems with heat and hot water.

"I have been without heat about five times this semester," said Letitia Venport, a resident of Doles Hall. When I first returned to school for this semester the third floor was without heat for about two weeks."

"We were without heat and hot water several times during the fall semester," said Tara Howard, a Doles resident. "It lasted anywhere from a few hours to a whole day for water, and a few days for heat."

"Symera was without hot water for a month after our return to school on the 27th of March," said Craig Condo, a Symera Hall resident.

The University has a constant buildup of chemicals in its pipes, according to Hezekiah Cooper, Director of the Physical Plant, due to the nature of the city.

"A lot of times when students complain about not having water for more than a day, the problem was too big for us to handle, and we had to hire outside contractors to solve it," Coopersaid.

In answers to student complaints, ECSU officials say the campus faces special problems housing students because of the University's rapid growth and the relatively large number of students who live on campus.

ECSU houses 65% of its students, said Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, "compared to other 16 colleges in the UNC system. That's a lot, since no school in the system houses more than 40% of its students."

Last semester, the University took steps to ease the housing shortage, which saw some students living three to four in a room, and female students living in a dormitory.

To ease the shortage, the University constructed the Park Street Apartments, and the Honors Center on Hoffer Street. Students were housed in a converted rest home, the Harvey Building.

Most students in the New Complex and Park Street say they have no complaints about heat and hot water.

Some administrators say that student complaints about dorms are exaggerated and that the students themselves contribute to the prob-



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**Dr. Leon White**

"We spent about \$127,000 on new windows for Symera and Butler Halls last semester," said Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. "Why should we keep spending money on repairs if the students are going to be destructive?"

Students, however, often say the University is slow to respond to their complaints of broken windows and other damages.

"The window was broken in my dorm on February 18th," said Felicia Boone, of Mitchell-Lewis. "And no steps were taken to repair them. A workman even told me that the only way the University would fix it was if we had someone broken the entire glass."

One student said that her dorm director "sits on her butt and does nothing about our complaints. She says she will get to it sooner or later, most of the time later and later. This means never."

Students who have complaints about repairs must first report the problem to the Dorm Director, who then fills out a job order form, according to Kenneth Roberts, Director of Housing. "The form asks the location of the building, who requested the work, a description of the work desired and any special instructions," Roberts said.

One copy of the form goes to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the originating office staff member and on to the director of the Physical Plant, Roberts added.

Roberts said there are three classifications of a dorm director: dorm administrator, the hall director and a support person. Dorm administrators are counselors and not responsible

for vandalism and theft, he said. Roberts said students who damaged property would be held responsible for the damages, but when damage is done to a public place such as bathrooms no one can be held responsible.

When asked about the students who destroy their dorms Dr. White responded, "You have to have some compassion for those students who were denied proper education. They see us as just another part of society who is expecting them to fail. They take their frustrations out on their environment. You have to have some compassion for them."

Cooper took a different point of view about dorm vandalism: "Why not run track or lift weights to get the emotions out, rather than tearing up the buildings," he said. "Students should find other outlets for their frustrations, rather than being destructive."

"This is their home away from home, and they should try to make it as beautiful as possible," Cooper continued.

Although the University has taken steps to get rid of bugs and mice, students say they are dissatisfied with these efforts.

"We have problems with spiders and roaches," said Antoine Davis, a resident of Womack Hall. "Trust me I don't contribute to their diet in any way."

"I do not have problems with bugs," said Lorie Burrell. "Only because I brought my own roach and bug spray from home."

"Students are always complaining about bugs and what needs to be done," said Mr. McLean. "Students in the Complex have their own personal locks on the doors, and they don't want to let the exterminator in."

The University has a contract with Whitco and Terminex to exterminate bugs in the buildings, according to Hezekiah Cooper, Director of the Physical Plant. "The exterminators are effective at doing their job," Cooper said. "But the students have to keep their rooms clean, and not leave

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growth at ECSU will soon create another housing shortage.

"Because of rapid growth at ECSU, my biggest challenge is developing a housing plan that we can stick with," Roberts also predicts more of both commuter and live on students.

"The University is preparing for the anticipated growth by assembling a list of available housing off campus that can be leased back to the school." Officials are also seeking people who would like to rent out rooms in their homes.

In addition, the University is looking for more property to build multiple student housing like Park Street Apartments, as well as the new dorm that is in process.

The University has planned to build a new \$3 million residential dorm southeast of the New Complex, to house approximately 200 female students. The new dorm is to be completed in May, 1990, according to McLean.

"The new dorm will be approximately 50,000 square feet," said Skip Saunders, acting building systems engineer. "The ceilings will be higher, and the rooms will be brighter, and it will have an elevator and common kitchen area for students."

Saunders said the University is working on "the second phase" of the program, which is "the design and development process." Saunders added that construction of the new dorm should begin this summer.

Despite the University's long term efforts to improve living conditions, some ECSU students say they aren't willing to wait.

"Along with educating the student, the school also has the responsibility to provide adequate, clean, rodent-free housing," said Lynette Lindsey, a resident of Mitchell-Lewis.

"Somehow dignity gets compromised when we are expected to live in less than adequate housing," said Stewart (Ruffy) Beard, a resident of Butler Hall. "Good health and sanitation standards should be as high a priority as education. In fact they should be compatible."

"We all have a stake in ECSU," Beard added. "Therefore, it should be a cooperative effort to maintain a high standard at ECSU that will foster a healthy environment for all. Erosion, decay, and depreciation have a compounding effect on student life. The more apathetic we are to our surroundings the less self-respect we will have as a people."

### Students say they like The Park Street Apts.

By Alva Jones

ECSU students who live in the new Park Street apartments say they are happy with their housing.

"Living on Park Street is like finally being treated as an adult," said Donsenia Teel. "You are away from a lot of supervision, and therefore, you feel more comfortable and relaxed. It is like being at home, without your parents."

The new apartments were completed in August, 1988, at a cost of \$250,000. They were built by a real estate partnership, "The New Home Builders." The apartments house 60 students at a cost of \$150 per semester; however, only juniors and seniors may live there. Seniors get first priority.

"Park Street is sort of like the calm before the storm," said ECSU student Andrea Holley. "It gives you a feeling of independence before you are forced to get out in the world on your own. It gives you a sense of what real life is like."

The fully air-conditioned apartments consist of a single bath and

a half bath, two bedrooms, and a kitchen equipped with an oven-range, refrigerator, cabinets, counter space and a storage closet. The living rooms are furnished with a short love seat and chair and a study desk.

Upstairs, the two bedrooms are each furnished with a desk and beds, and they include built-in closets. Bathrooms have a shower, bathtub, medicine cabinet and mirror.

The apartments are fully carpeted, except the kitchen and bathrooms, and each unit has a storage unit at the back.

"I am pleased with the apartments," said Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Fiscal Affairs. "I hope the students will keep them in good condition."

Park Street Apartments' resident director John Lee said he feels the apartments are good for students. "It gives them a chance to be responsible young adults," Lee said.

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**Roger McLean**

their food out. As long as they do that, the bugs won't come back."

ECSU students say that dorm conditions affect their attitude about the school.

"Why spend money on new classrooms when the students don't have a decent place to live? said Tara Howard. "We lose lost of students because they do not like the living conditions."

"I feel that to most of the students living on campus is like living in poverty," said Lenny Hill a Butler Hall resident. "Living in Butler hall is like living in the ghetto."

Dr. White and Mr. Roberts both admit that Butler is in need of full renovation.

"It is hard to do full renovations of the dorms, said Roberts. "Full renovation would take almost nine months, and we have no alternative housing for those students."

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"Because of different summer programs many of the dorms are being used throughout the summer which makes it hard to find adequate time to renovate," said White.

The state does not provide money for dorm renovations, White said. Therefore, the money needed must come out of the students tuition.

"We have a dilemma on our hands; in order to improve housing drastically we would have to increase tuition and that would cause problems for our students who depend on aid," White said.

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## NTE scores improve; 95% pass Core Battery 3

By Ginger Blount

Two required courses for sophomore and senior teaching majors are making a dramatic improvement in the percentage of majors who are passing the National Teaching Examination (NTE).

"This past March we had 22 students who took the NTE Core Battery 3 (PK), and 95% of them passed," said Dr. Boyce Williams, Coordinator for Teacher Education Program.

"We have outlined a procedure and it is really working," said Dr. Eloise Roberts, who helps conduct special NTE workshops. "Some students may feel that this is unfair, but we won't let them take the test until they have met certain requirements."

The Sophomore Seminar prepares teaching majors for Core Battery 1 and Core Battery 2; and the Senior Seminar Course helps teaching education majors prepare for specialty areas on the NTE. The Senior Seminar Course is supplemented by a special NTE workshop, taught by Drs. Eloise and Andrew Roberts, and designed to help students pass Core Battery 3, Professional Knowledge (PK).

In the past many ECSU teaching majors have had special difficulty passing the NTE, especially as it related to parts 3 and which tests ones knowledge in professional education and specialty areas. The UNC System has required a 70% pass rate in order for schools to keep their teacher education programs.

"From 75 to 95% of our students pass Core Battery one and two," said Sherry Lewis, who set up the Sophomore Seminar in 1985, originally as a workshop. "The students feel it really helps them. The course helps prepare them for what to expect, and puts them in a testing frame of mind."

When asked how the class helped prepare her for the NTE Candace Brown, an education major responded, "The class did help me when taking the NTE. As far as some of the information that was on the NTE, I felt that some of the questions would have been more familiar to me just coming from high school, but I thought it was a fair test."

Lewis said the course "introduces prospec-

tive teaching majors to the concepts and skills they are required to master when they take the NTE. I try to teach them to look at questions and analyze them. They also have to think middle class and pretend they are not living in Elizabeth City, for the professional knowledge section of the test."

Core Battery 1 is divided into four different 30 minute tests, according to Lewis. These tests include listening, reading, writing and essay. Core Battery 2 is also divided into four 30 minute sections which test social studies, math, literature and fine arts, and science.

"To help prepare students for the tests, students are administered a series of sample tests," Lewis said.

In the fall of 1982, Dr. Olive Wilson set up the Junior Seminar, now known as Senior Seminar, to help teacher education majors pass the NTE PK. This year Dr. Andrew and Dr. Eloise Roberts established the NTE workshops to supplement the course. "We have very good attendance considering none of this is required. Students are recognizing the need for this in their careers to gain the additional insight for the exam," Dr. Andrew Roberts said.

"The workshop on the NTE was set up as a supplement to, and not a replacement for the Senior Seminar," said Roberts. "My wife and I volunteer our time, energy, and efforts to all persons, whether they are ECSU graduates, currently enrolled ECSU students, or graduates from other colleges or universities. The workshop seminar is free," Roberts said.

Roberts said the NTE workshop "makes sure students are able to respond, reply, and have the knowledge they can apply on the test, which measures, in part, how well you can apply techniques."

Roberts stated, "Persons' who are culturally, socially, economically, and educationally disadvantaged for whatever reason will find the NTE to be biased against their background. The NTE does not test one's ability to be an effective teacher; it tests one's knowledge base of professional education and one's demonstrated ability to apply that knowledge."

## LIBRARY

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to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

"Most libraries that are heavily used on Saturdays are used because there are weekend graduate classes," said Green.

ECSU offers two graduate programs, however, through UNC-CH and East Carolina University. Most of these classes are at night on Saturday. ECSU also has weekend classes.

Some students also felt that the library needed to extend its week night hours.

"I feel like the hours should be extended during the week," said Angela Hager, a freshman pre-med major. "Some students have difficulties to attend and we aren't given ample

time to use the library."

University Players' president, Lynn Chapman agreed and said that the 10 p.m. closing did not give members of her organization any time to use the library on week nights.

Many students also complained about a shortage of research materials.

"The public library is often a better place to find needed information," said Michelle Anderson. "To me that is very sad when you consider that this is suppose to be a quality university library where students can do academic research."

"I feel the library has neglected its responsibilities to the students of ECSU," said Natalie Weeks, junior accounting major. "The library needs to upgrade, update and revise its collection of books. We need information for today, not 20 years ago."

"I know that we have limited resources in terms of the number of books and the number of periodicals," said Dr. Joseph M. Ventura of the Department of Business and Economics. "We need to do something about that. Maybe we should ask that people donate their subscriptions."

In the 1987-88 academic year, the library spent \$185,000 on books. This year the library has been appropriated \$175,000 for books.

"The amount of money that the library gets is based on the number of students at the university," said Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance.

"Our library could use more up to date literature," said Velma Brown, an instructor in the Department of Language, Literature and Communication. "It needs to have everything computerized."

ECSU's library was one of the first libraries in the UNC System to be computerized according to Green. The conversion to a computerized check out system began in the Spring of 1988. Under the new system, books contain a bar code to identify the book; however, the library has not yet put all the books on the computer system.

"Last semester, one of my professors cancelled our research paper due to the lack of research materials in the subject area," said Donna Gregory, a junior English major.

"And most of the books that were available about the subject were not yet in the computer and therefore could not be checked out," added Gregory.

Green said that a student can get a book within 24 hours by requesting that it be put on the computer system.

"I attempted to check out several books that were not on the computer system that I needed for a research paper on a Monday at 11:00 a.m. and I was told that I would be able to pick up the books on Tuesday," said Gregory.

"When I returned Tuesday, the books were not ready. I did not get the books until Wednesday afternoon," added Gregory. "This is not the first time that I had to wait two days for books."

Although the survey dealt with student responses to the library, an instructor—Ventura—seemed to sum up students' overall feelings best:

"The library should be the central service of the university, and therefore much more student oriented in terms of hours and facilities. The library should be an intellectual preparation center, not a place to socialize."

LIBRARY	Mon.-Thurs.	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
UNC-Chapel Hill	8:00 am - 2:00 am	8:00 am - 11:00 pm	9:00 am - 11:00 pm	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 am	117
N.C. State	7:45 am - 1:00 am	7:45 am - 9:30 pm	9:30 am - 6:00 pm	1:00 pm - 12:00 pm	103.25
Western Carolina	8:00 am - 12:30 am	8:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	12:00 pm - 12:30 am	100.5
East Carolina	8:00 am - 12 midnight	8:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	12:00 pm - 12 midnight	100
Appalachian State	7:30 am - 12 midnight	7:30 am - 9:00 pm	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	12:30 pm - 12 midnight	99
UNC-Wilmington	7:30 am - 12 midnight	7:30 am - 9:00 pm	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	1:00 pm - 12 midnight	98.5
UNC-Greensboro	8:00 am - 12 midnight	8:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 7:00 pm	1:00 pm - 12 midnight	98
UNC-Asheville	8:00 am - 12 midnight	8:00 am - 9:00 pm	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	1:00 pm - 12 midnight	96
UNC-Charlotte	7:45 am - 12 midnight	7:45 am - 6:00 pm	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	1:00 pm - 12 midnight	94.25
Fayetteville State	8:00 am - 12 midnight	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	94
UNC A&T	8:00 am - 12 midnight	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	2:00 pm - 10:00 pm	92
UNC Central	8:00 am - 11:00 pm	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	2:00 pm - 10:00 pm	92
ECSU	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	2:00 pm - 10:00 pm	77
Pembroke State	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	5:00 pm - 10:00 pm	77
Winston-Salem St.	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	73