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Record Numbers Lead To Housing Shortages

By Whitney Larrimore
Staff Writer

This October, Methodist College will break ground on a new 68-bed apartment complex behind the Riddle Center.

This is the first of three apartment complexes that will be built to help ease overcrowding problems.

According to William Walker, Director of Residence Life, the number of students staying on campus this fall is 755. The normal number of resident students runs around 700 in the fall and 600 in the

spring. "We can house 722 comfortably if Resident Advisors have private rooms," said Walker.

A man is living in overflow housing in the downstairs portion of Institutional Computing, and five women are staying in the apartment in Garber. Assistant Football Coaches were moved out of that apartment and into Cumberland Trace to make room for the women.

Other students are living with Resident Advisors, who typically have private rooms. Freshmen are being housed

in the Honors Residence Hall with honors occupants. There have even been two cases of female students in triple occupancies.

Why are there so many students? According to Walker, Methodist is experiencing its largest upperclassmen return ever. There is also a record number of female students living on campus.

"The student population of Methodist is growing," said Walker. "We intend to have the total student population grow, but we are concentrating on increasing the number of residential students, specifically upperclassmen."

That is why the new apartment complexes are being built.

Each apartment will consist of a kitchen, living room and four private bedrooms. Once the three new residence halls are complete, around 200 students will make their homes behind the Riddle Center, near the current location of the Challenge Course. If need be, the Challenge Course will be relocated.

The new residence halls are meant to attract upperclassmen and raise the number of them living on campus. Once these residence halls are built, upperclassmen can move out of residence halls like Weaver or West Hall, and make more room for underclassmen, increasing the total capacity for resident students.

"The first of the three residence halls should be complete next fall," said Walker.

After the first residence hall is complete, work should begin on the others.

Until then, students will get time to know their new roommates. A Resident Advisor and Residence Hall Association president, Jennifer Packard, junior, was accustomed to living alone. "It's different (having a roommate) because last year when I was a RA (Resident Advisor) I pushed my two single beds together and had a king size. My room was a sanctuary for me."

Now Packard has a roommate, freshman Tonia Campbell. Packard was surprised how much Campbell reminded her of herself when she was a freshman.

"I feel like a mom," Packard said. "You revisit your past and see how much you've changed. Tonia stays on the phone just like I used to."

Campbell is happy she is rooming with Packard. "I knew I was going to have a roommate, but I didn't know it would be an RA. This is my first year, and I didn't know what to expect. Jennifer gave me study tips and helped show me around campus."

"As students withdraw or decide to move off campus, students that are in temporary housing will take their places," Walker said. "If our apartment complex is built, we won't have this (overcrowding) problem next year, but eventually we may face it again."



Emergency Call Boxes Are "A Good Safety Measure"

By Cindy S. Bridges
Editor

What's new on campus this year? The annex to the library, the renovations to the Lion's Den, improvements to the campus bookstore, new faces amongst both the professors and the students, and three emergency call boxes are all new additions.

The installation of the call boxes is perhaps the least noticed addition to the Methodist College campus. They were made possible by a cooperative effort between the Police and Public Safety Department, Student Government Association, and the Residence Hall Association. Without the involvement of all three of these groups, call boxes at Methodist College would not have become a reality. These boxes were installed in July of this year, just prior to student orientation.

The idea for the call boxes evolved when students in the RHA expressed con-

cern that they did not have the means to contact the Police and Public Safety Department when on campus at night. One member of RHA stated that she went to the Science Building one night, found it locked, and had to make a return trip to her dorm room to call for assistance. She stated that she felt uncomfortable making three trips in the dark when it was not necessary. The call boxes would prevent these types of occurrences from happening.

The call boxes are located in various positions around the campus. One is on the north side of the Math and Science building, one is on the north side of the Student Union, and one is on the north side of Clark Hall.

The goal of the three departments working on this project is to install three call boxes every year for the next five years. "What I would like to see in the near



In an emergency, don't hesitate to press the button!

Photo by Cindy Bridges

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