

DTH HOUSING FAIR '93

# Housing department program aims at diversity

By **Phuong Ly**  
Staff Writer

For many years, black students have felt uncomfortable living on North Campus.

The University housing department has been trying to change that through the Residence Hall Association Diversity Program.

The four-year program, which was implemented last fall, encourages black students living on South Campus to move to North Campus.

The program's goal is to create a more diverse, open community by helping to break down the self-segregation patterns of campus housing, said Anne Presnell, associate director for special programs with the University Department of Housing.

Typically, about 20 to 30 percent of the students in South-campus dorms are black, compared to about 7 percent in North-campus dorms.

Over the years, a pattern of self-segregation emerged as black students developed a sense of community on

South Campus and passed the word on to their friends and family members who were coming to UNC, Presnell said.

At the same time, many white students were directed to dorms on North Campus, where their family members may have lived, Presnell said.

She hopes the program will dissolve stereotypes about the regions of campus

so students would make housing decisions that are not based solely on their skin color.

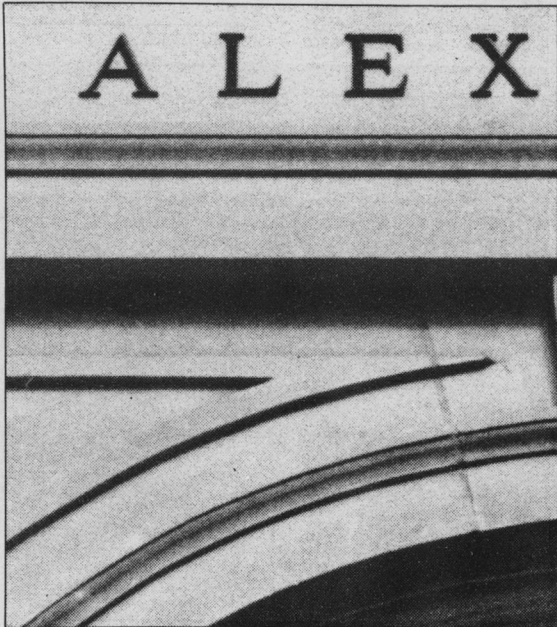
"We want there to be a natural community developing that is a combination of all the kinds of folks we have on this campus," she said.

The program presently has 44 participants living in seven North- and Mid-campus dorms that traditionally have a

low percentage of black students.

Each year, 135 spaces are allotted for diversity program participants. Fifteen spaces are available in each of the following North and Mid-campus dorms: Alexander, Grimes, Kenan, Lewis, Manly, McIver, Ruffin, Stacy and Winston.

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DTH/Erin Randall

Alexander Dormitory has 15 spaces allotted for the Diversity Program

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