

# RHA adds interest to on-campus living

Offers array of residence hall activities

BY KATIE O'NEAL  
STAFF WRITER

Living away from home for the first time can be an exciting, albeit nerve-racking, experience.

Suddenly, you're thrown into unfamiliar territory, free from your parents' watchful, and seemingly "overprotective," eyes.

While many students are thrilled by this newly found freedom, dorm life can come as a shock.

Students are expected to share a very small room with another person — all the time, with all of their habits and belongings — and somehow make it through an entire school year.

That's where the Residence Hall Association comes into play — sometimes literally.

The RHA, which is student-driven, exists to make students' transition to dorm life as easy and fun as possible.

Students depend on the group to represent them and voice concerns on issues that affect them — including visitation policies,

security and the improvement of facilities, such as restrooms and common areas.

RHA provides extra incentives for dorm life, including DVD players and movies, cleaning supplies available for messes and cooking implements for making those gourmet meals.

The biggest issue the RHA deals with is helping students find ways to have fun together — college isn't only for studying, after all.

The group organizes a number of different activities throughout the year, such as pizza nights, Halloween festivities, movies on the residence hall lawns and guest speakers.

These events are one way to get involved with other students.

If you're interested in participating in public service, the RHA also helps students get involved in blood drives, which are held in residence halls across campus throughout the year.

In the Hall Brawl, a friendly competition between students in

different residence halls, students earn points by participating in a variety of activities.

The event gives students the opportunity to socialize with residents of other halls.

The Beach Blast, held each spring on sunny South Campus, is a sure way to catch spring fever — if the uphill climb to finish finals hasn't already gotten you ready to relax.

It's a last chance to hang out with the roommates RHA helped learn to be friendly and provided with enhancements to ease the tension.

And the Olde Dirty Bash, held on North Campus around the same time, provides more food, fun and games.

Attending RHA meetings is a good way to stay informed about upcoming events in your residence hall and across campus.

If such activities aren't enough for you, the RHA also encourages students to get involved by taking a leadership position and affecting dorm life across campus.

The group also acts as a liaison between students and members of the campus Department of Housing.

William Thompson was picked as president of the RHA in February's campuswide elections. See his column, printed on page 24 in this issue.

Anyone interested in learning more about the RHA and its programs can visit <http://www.unc.edu/rha>.

# Campus dining options are magically delicious

There is hope beyond Ramen

BY MEGHAN DAVIS  
MANAGING EDITOR

So once you've hauled the last of your boxes up the flights of stairs — the elevators tend to break just before classes start — and made your now-lofted bed, you're bound to be hungry.

Feeding yourself for the first time might seem a daunting task. Human young do rely on their mothers longer than any other mammal.

But being in college doesn't mean you're required to consume a steady diet of microwavable pasta, Hot Pockets and the ever-important delivery fare.

While those tasty items will come in handy, Ramen noodles don't really have much nutritional value.

Campus dining halls offer students vegetables — not to mention fruit and other elements of the Food Pyramid.

The first step to gaining entrance to those Wonkalike centers of student life is buying a meal plan.

Plans come in a variety of options: tally your meals by the week or by the semester.

Keep in mind your class schedule, because chances are that if your first class isn't around breakfast time, you'll be skipping that fine meal, and how often you'll want to each off campus, which many stu-



DTH FILE PHOTO  
Before the Rams Head Center (shown here) opened, students had to walk uphill to get to class — not that your caption-writer is bitter.

dents opt for on weekends.

The University is home to two dining halls — one very new, one recently renovated.

Lenoir Dining Hall is where many of your parents ate when they were students at UNC. But the whole interior is fairly new — Lenoir was renovated about seven years ago to its current incarnation.

The upstairs cafeteria area, Top of Lenoir, serves three meals per day and can be paid for using a meal plan. The plans also apply towards meals from Outta Here, which serves elements of the featured option, only to go.

Meanwhile, Lenoir Mainstreet keeps many students on campus when they get a hankering for fast food.

Those stores have different hours, so check the dining web site, [dining.unc.edu](http://dining.unc.edu).

The Ramshead Center is an all-inclusive package: you can park, eat, study and exercise in one South Campus friendly area. The cafeteria looks very different than Lenoir, but the food is the same. Ramshead can boast a retro diner atmosphere, complete with a well-stocked jukebox.

For something a little different, Ramshead's End Zone feels more like a sports bar — play games, eat

burgers and fries and watch ESPN on the big screen TV.

No college could thrive without coffee, period.

That's where the Fex element of the meal plans comes in — all other food offering locations on campus accept Flex, often instead of credit cards.

Students have options for caffeineation, too. Graham Memorial houses a coffee shop that serves Starbucks coffee during normal business hours.

But for those late night caffeine fixes, students rely on Alpine Bagel's coffee varieties, Red Bull dispenser, bagel sandwiches and giant cookies.

All are made fresh right in the Student Union.

Again, hours vary but are usually updated on the web site.

For those who enjoy the challenge of cooking in a dormitory kitchen, Ramshead also features a grocery store on the lower level. It's a great place to stock up on snack food — and the occasional apple. That's also where Ramshead's Outta Here option can be found.

Like Alpine Bagel, the Ramshead Market is open late most nights.

So before you buy an industrial size box of Easy Mac, check out the campus options. [www](http://www)



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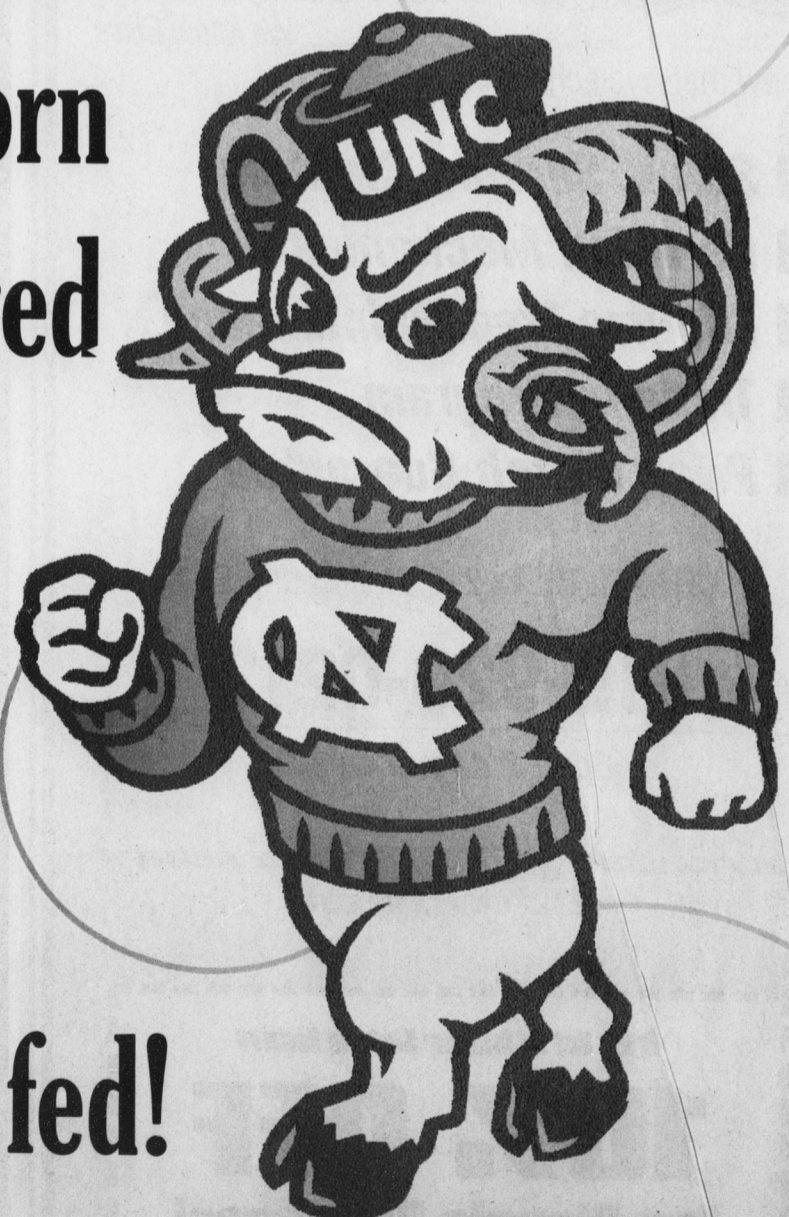
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