

RCF survey condemns UNC dorm situation

by Charles Jeffries
Staff Writer

"Here at UNC we've had less of an attempt to provide a decent environment for persons living on campus than any other major university," said Steve Saunders, chairman of the Residence College Federation (RCF), Tuesday.

Saunders made the statement after reviewing the partial results from a survey taken during the spring semester of 1971.

The survey, entitled Student Environmental Analysis Survey (SEARCH), was an attempt to study the overall effect of the dormitory arrangement here at UNC as compared with other universities.

The SEARCH report divided the campus into areas of similar physical arrangement in an effort to assess the effectiveness of academic facilities, personal warmth, accessibility to the downtown area, and the overall influence of dormitory life on the individual.

The idea for the study came from an examination of similar studies conducted at other institutions. Saunders said that he found other institutions more receptive to the needs of students as far as their accommodations were concerned.

Although the majority of the report is complete there remain two areas that still need to be explored.

The first of these areas concerns the economics of residence hall living. The report will seek to discover why it is that more money is not provided for residence programs and how would the increase, if any, affect the students who live in the dorms.

The second area concerns service facilities provided by the dorms. These include electrical capacity, kitchen facilities and laundry rooms.

According to Saunders, the University does not make a careful study of the students' needs when it starts construction on new living facilities.

"Instead," said Saunders, "the administration lays out the money to the architects and they must build to suit the money that they are given to work with."

Saunders said he believed the study was representative of the student body. The survey, in the form of questionnaires and interviews, involved more than 1200 people.

When the final conclusions of the survey are made Saunders hopes to publish them in booklet form to be distributed to the students and the administration.

"We hope that the administration will heed the results of the study and will try to initiate the changes necessary to create a better environment for those members of the student body who reside on campus."

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