

Improving dormitory life is task of RCF

by Pam Phillips
Staff Writer

Incoming freshmen will find a friend in the Residence College Federation, (RCF).

This student agency is "the only student group working actively with the residence program," according to Steve Saunders, chairman of the RCF.

Saunders, a junior from Pensacola Fla., was elected RCF chairman last spring in the all-campus elections. This was the first time the RCF chairmanship was filled through a campus election.

Basically the RCF is concerned "with anything and everything" regarding residence hall living and life on campus. Its executive board is formed by the chairman and the governors of the eight residence colleges.

Even though the RCF is composed of members of residence colleges, Saunders

estimates that 90 per cent of RCF policy-making affects independent dorms.

The Residence College Federation officially came into being three years ago. Before that time campus living affairs were administered by the now defunct Men's Residence Council (MRC) and the Women's Residence Council (WRC).

In actuality, the executive council of the MRC was the decision maker on dormitory living. To include the women on campus the RCF was set, with the MRC being discarded and the WRC being replaced with the Association of Women Students (AWS), which does not confine its interests to dormitory living.

The first residence colleges were formed in 1961, Scott and Morehead. In the previous organization, the governors of these colleges had acquired much support and it was they who pushed for the independence of residence college government.

Before last spring the RCF was co-chaired by a male and a female head, one the chairman of the AWS and the other head of the MRC.

Saunders plans this semester to continue working on a "master plan" for future development in the dormitories. In this master plan is the possible inclusion of new academic residence areas.

This plan allowing students with similar interests such as a language or other major to live together has been tried before on other campuses with success. Presently on this campus there are three of these living-learning projects: the International Student Center, located in Carr dorm and McIver, Hinton-James, and the Morrison Academic Residence Area.

The Morrison project was formulated last year by students who wanted to live in an academic environment and solicited other students who desired the same. The response was so favorable that the fourth floor has been filled with an overflow onto the third and fifth floors.

Expressing enthusiasm for this action, Saunders disclosed that the entire project was "student initiated." The inhabitants of the area plan for study, discussion and speakers.

Saunders is hopeful that freshmen can serve in the RCF. Positions are open for secretary, treasurer, social and academic chairmen, writing surveys and descriptions. Saunders said these could be filled by qualified freshmen.

However the easiest way to become involved is through the residence hall program in the dormitories where anyone can easily furnish assistance for the residence college system.

Working "hand-in-hand" and "side-by-side" with the RCF is the Office of Residence Life. Director of this department is Robert Kepner, a former college master and graduate of UNC.

Kepner's office assumes the overall responsibility for all of the University-owned housing, including Granville and married student housing. He has three assistant directors, 12 fulltime resident directors and numerous part-time personnel such as resident advisors (RA's).

A resident advisor is a full-time, upper class undergraduate, graduate, or professional student who assumes the responsibility for a floor or hall. The program was begun in women's residence

halls about 30 years ago, with the men's program started 15 years ago. Approximately 125 men and women are employed as RA's.

Their duties are advising the individual students on their problems and advising the residence government on their social, academic and athletic events.

Residence directors possess full-time positions in coed halls. These women had the full responsibility for the administrative duties of the hall and supervise the RA's.

Assisting Kepner in his work are three assistant directors—Jane Leone, John Meeker and James E. Wadsworth. Miss Leone is in charge of the programs of the dorms, activities and research concerning residence living.

John Meeker supervises the staffing and operations of the residence halls. He is in charge of the improvements and enhancements of the dorms.

Wadsworth oversees married student housing and aids in finding off-campus housing for those who wish it. The office of Residence Life has a listing of available off-campus housing posted on a bulletin board outside its office, but personnel

cannot refer listing to students who call on the phone.

During the summer the Office of Residence Life has been active in dorm improvements. A social lounge has been added to Whitehead dorm.

Hinton-James, the high rise dorm on South campus, went coed this year. Previously only Project Hinton, a living-learning experiment, was coed. Minor adjustments were made to adapt the rooms for girls. Also a resident director's apartment is being built.

The Women's International Floor was moved from Winston Dorm to a floor in McIver. Winston was converted to a Men's dorm with few modifications since it had been a men's dorm prior to its conversion to a women's residence hall.

Assisting both the RCF and the Office of Residence Life is a committee, the Committee on Residence Living (CURL), which advises on pertinent matters in residence hall living. The committee is composed of 14 members, seven of which are students nominated by the president of the student body and approved by the dean of Student Affairs. The other seven are faculty members nominated by the committee and also approved by the Dean of Student Affairs.



Students have problems at the University from the first day they arrive. It all starts when you try to figure out where everything is on a campus of this size. These two freshmen have the right idea—just follow a map. (Staff photo by Johnny Lindahl)

To continue summer projects

Saunders works to aid students

by Pam Phillips
Staff Writer

Steve Saunders, junior chairman of the Residence College Federation (RCF), will continue most of his summer projects this semester.

One of the foremost of his tasks will be the compilation of an evaluation of the SEARCH committee's work begun last spring. The work of this committee was to determine dormitory residents' attitudes toward their living quarters and how defects in the residence living quarters could be improved.

Functioning with surveys and interviews, SEARCH has collected most of the basic research. Now work remains to evaluate the findings of the survey within a booklet.

Also noticeable this fall is a simplified check-in, check-out procedure which Saunders helped formulate with the Office of Residence Life.

Regulations governing room occupation and the men's key deposit have been abolished. Saunders has expressed hope that this trial policy will do away with many unannounced room checks, conducted in past years by Physical Plant employees.

Prior to a student's arrival, his residence advisor (RA) has checked his room with a checklist for damaged furniture. The student checks his room with this list and notes flaws in his room. At the end of the year the student's room will be checked by a physical plant employe and he will be assessed for the damage he has done.

Saunders is pleased with this policy for it is a "more positive set of regulations." The reasons for the damage assessment and estimated cost of damage are given on the back of the checklist.

Saunders thinks "students will act out of consideration for others and for their own welfare and safety," regarding their dorm rooms.

This policy will limit room checks to be announced except in the Upper Quad

and McIver where spot checks will persist because of faulty wiring.

The new key deposit system for the men's residence halls provide that the student will pay for the key if he loses it. Before, men made a deposit of \$1 which was refunded when they turned in the key. If a student does not return a key at the end of the year, he will have to pay \$7 for reworking the lock's cylinder, to prevent thefts for the next occupant.

Additionally, this summer most of the dorms were completely checked for wiring deficiencies. This study aided in directly determining refrigerator quotas for dorms. Before, according to Saunders, refrigerator quotas were set "purely arbitrarily." Now Saunders predicts that refrigerator quotas for South Campus will be abolished and radically changed for North Campus.

This is a move which Saunders

considers to be "in line with reality." The results of the survey will help establish the capacity of the electrical wiring and help to determine the effects of additional kitchens and appliances in the dorms.

Another project Saunders has in mind is a study of the Physical Plant. This project was discussed last year at RCF meetings, and a check of old RCF records indicates that it was attempted three years ago.

Assisting Saunders in his position will be the members of the executive board of the RCF, composed of the governors of the various residence colleges on campus. They are: Morehead—Jim Wellons; Scott—Allen Reep; James—Charlie Miller; Morrison—Joe Grier; Granville—Walter Daniels; King—Sheila Wall; Ehringhaus—Mark Williams; and Craige Graduate Center—Paul Hoch.



Steve Saunders

Students allowed credit for 24 pass-fail hours

Students may take up to 24 hours of pass-fail credit toward graduation requirements for courses in which they don't want to receive a regular grade.

Any course may be elected for pass-fail except English 1 and 2, courses taken to meet the foreign language or math-sciences requirement, the eight courses chosen as Divisional Electives in the new General College curriculum, courses in the student's major and related courses specifically required and designated by number by the major department or curriculum.

A student may designate a course or courses for which he has registered in the regular manner as pass-fail by application to the office of his dean before the end of the second full week of classes.

A student should see his advisor for permission to enroll in a pass-fail course before applying to his dean.

In computation of grade point averages, a failure on pass-fail will be computed as hours attempted; a pass will not be computed as hours attempted.

Once a course has been selected for pass-fail, the decision cannot be changed.

A student who changes his major to a field in which he has already taken pass-fail work may credit only one pass-fail course in the new major. If he has taken more than one such course, he will lose credit for it.

Fifteen hours of letter-grade credit are required to qualify for entry on the Dean's List.

Although the above pass-fail procedures are for students in the General College and College of Arts and Sciences, they are generally applicable to all schools and departments. A student should check with his dean or advisor for any exceptions.

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