

Housing director keeps 'open door' policy

By JOY THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Director of University Housing Wayne T. Kuncel said he had an obligation to communicate with the students, and one of his goals is to improve that communication.

Kuncel, who has served as director of housing for three years and been involved in college housing administration for 20 years, said getting to know people individually was a challenge.

"I have total responsibility for all of student housing," Kuncel said. "So I'm dealing with a very large organization and more than 7,000 students."

Kuncel said he understood the problem of communicating with students and worked to reorganize the Housing Department by giving the area directors a direct communication link to his office.

"I felt before that the area directors were too far removed from the director of housing," he said.

"The area directors used to work through the associate director for staff and student development (Allan Calarco)," Kuncel said. "We can now bring the director of housing closer to the students by having the area directors report directly to me."

Another way Kuncel has improved

communication is by making the Housing Department administration less of a hierarchy. At the top of that hierarchy is Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III.

As director of University Housing, Kuncel reports directly to Donald A. Boulton, vice-chancellor and dean of Student Affairs, and to Farris W. Womack, vice-chancellor for business, who make up the second level of the hierarchy.

Under Kuncel are five key staff members who make up the Housing Department's central administration located in Carr Building.

Collin Rustin, associate director for administration, helps Kuncel in overall department management and is the primary contact for students and parents.

Calarco is responsible for staff training and development activities.

Larry Hicks, business manager, helps Kuncel develop the budget and manage the department's finances.

William Sposato, associate director for operations, is responsible for housekeeping, maintenance and small renovations.

Lydia Lewis, manager of student family housing, now also is in charge of conference services. Lewis is responsible for generating business during the summer to alleviate housing costs

during the academic year.

These five staff members, along with 10 area directors report directly to Kuncel, and the entire group meets every Thursday.

Kuncel said he did "not want to make decisions in a vacuum."

"The decision makers should be aware of the impact of their decisions on the system," Kuncel said. Feedback is important because it allows the organization to correct bad decisions and to make better ones, he said.

Since there are so many students living on campus, student input has to be representative, he said. Students can go to their resident assistants when any problems or questions, he said.

"If the RA's (resident assistants) are doing their job well by getting to know the students well, the AD's (area directors) will get to know the RA's very well and the director will get to know the AD's very well," he said. "There is the potential for the system to work very well."

Housing also receives student input from student government, Kuncel said, just as he is adviser to the Residence Hall Association.

"It is important to me that a dormitory governor feels free to walk through my door and say 'I have a problem,'" Kuncel said.



Wayne T. Kuncel

"One of the reasons I got into this business is my enjoyment of working with students."

In addition to being concerned with getting feedback from students, Kuncel also has long-term and immediate plans to upgrade dormitory facilities. Another important concern is the opening of the new dormitory on campus and the expansion of Scott Residence College, he said.

Kuncel also is planning strategies to increase faculty and student involvement outside the classroom, increase academic and intellectual programming in dormitories, implement an alcohol education program and improve racial understanding in dormitories.

Affairs office available as resource for students

By RACHEL STROUD
Staff Writer

"It's satisfying to know you've helped someone and to feel like you've made a difference," said Frederic W. Schroeder, assistant vice chancellor of student affairs.

Schroeder, whose name is pronounced with a long 'a' where the 'oe' is, came to UNC in 1964 as the Director of the Department of Student Life. This past summer he was appointed assistant vice chancellor of student affairs.

His responsibilities to students include helping students with their personal needs and problems as well as fulfilling routine administrative duties, he said.

"We help with specific student needs of an individual or a group," he said.

As a hypothetical example, Schroeder said the office might become involved with helping someone preregister after he has been hospitalized, or it might help family and friends of a seriously injured student.

Schroeder also said the Office was often used for problem solving by many students.

"Although there are many different resources a student can use when he has a problem, we are often turned to when a student wants to ask 'where do I begin?'"

On a specific level, Schroeder's

routine responsibilities include working with the student judicial system, working with commencement, dispersing trust funds to the Sports Club and making sure that certain organizations receive gifts given to them. He also chairs the chancellor's task force on use and abuse of alcohol by students, a program that was started last fall.

"It's not always easy to find enough time to complete work with other problems continually coming through," he said. "There can be anywhere from 25 to 50 issues coming through a week, some of which need immediate action."

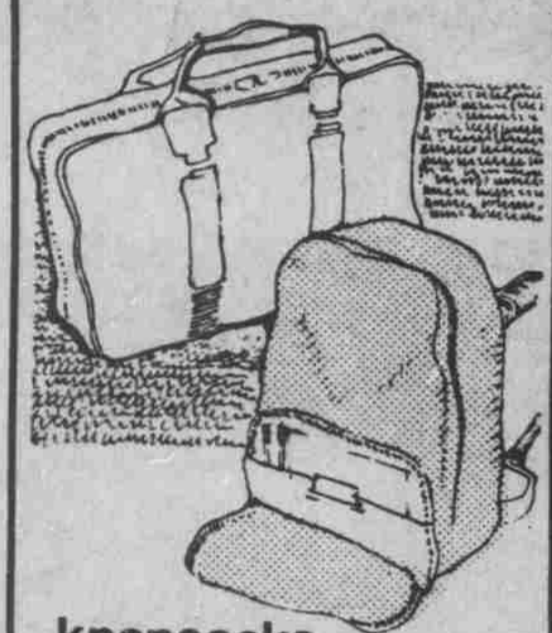
Schroeder said his ideal philosophy of relationships between faculty and students was an open and challenging relationship committed to the pursuit and exchange of knowledge.

"The most successful relationship between faculty and students is one where the student can say 'I don't understand' and ask questions, Schroeder said.

"Although this kind of interchange can't happen 100 percent of the time, it is an exciting and rewarding experience when it does happen."

"It is challenging for all of us in an academic community to realize learning best takes place with some degree of interchange," Schroeder said.

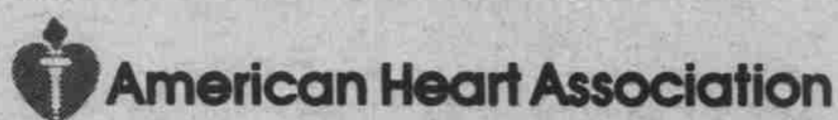
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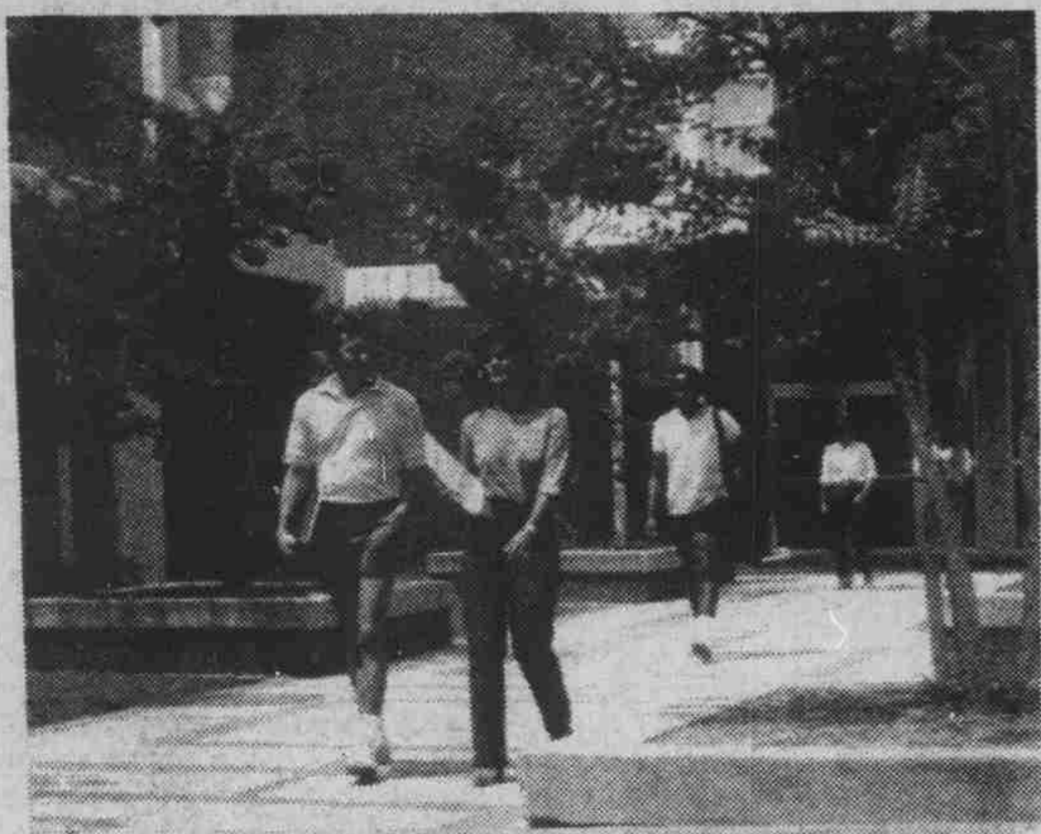
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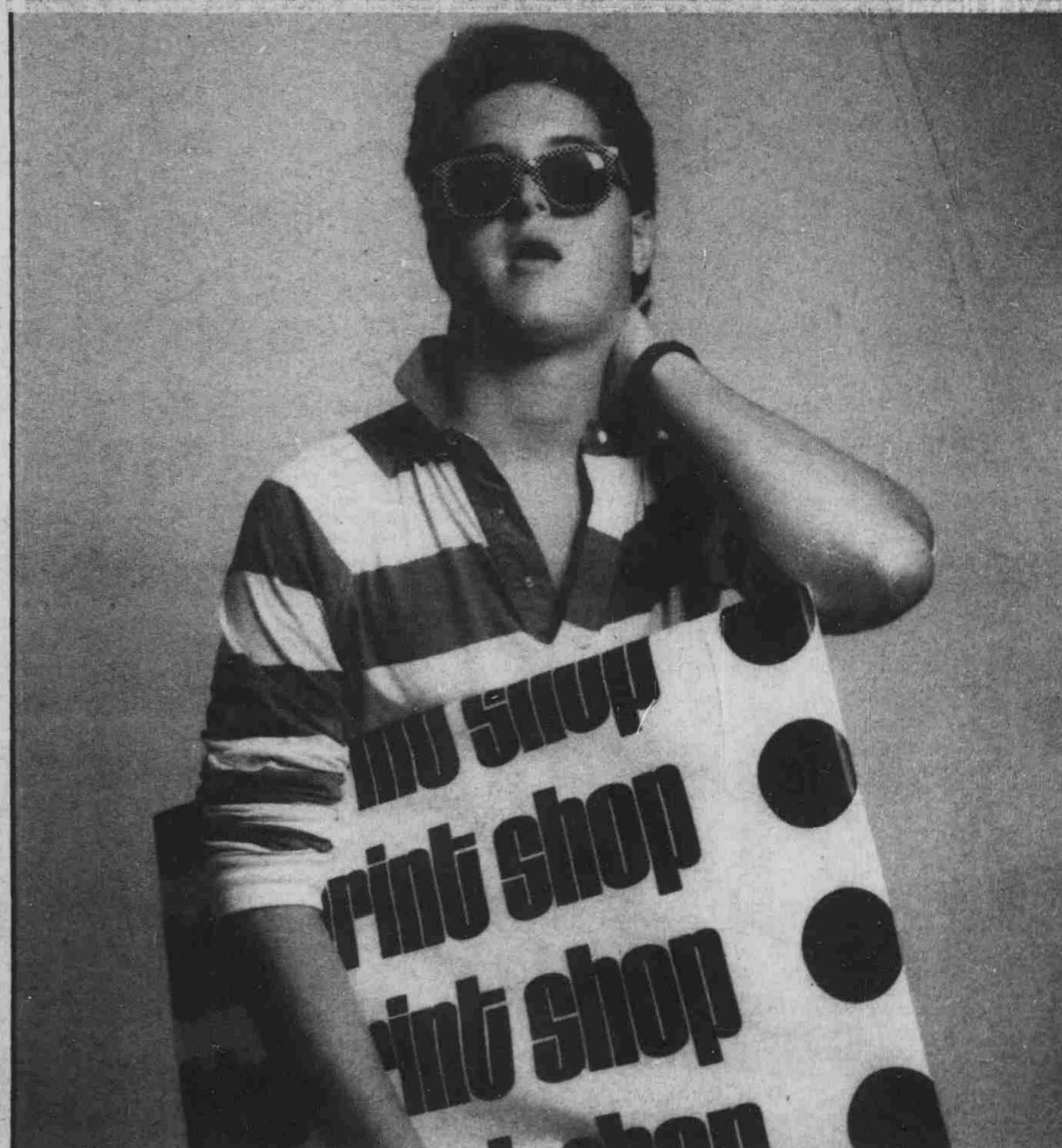
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