

Broken fourth-floor pipe sends flood through Winston

By **SONYA JACKSON**
Staff Writer

Sophomore Laurie Ply, who lives in Winston Residence Hall, unexpectedly took a late shower Saturday night when water from the fourth floor bathroom leaked through the ceiling of her third-floor room.

Ply was forced to leave her room after someone sat or leaned on a sink, causing it to pull from the wall and water to spout from the open pipe.

Ply was sleeping when the water seeped through the ceiling, said

freshman Debbie Morrison, Ply's roommate. "She found out about it when water dripped on her face."

Water flowed down the halls, stairwells, walls and ceilings for over an hour, said Jonathan Dills, first floor resident assistant.

"When I got back this morning there was still an inch of water in the carpet," Ply said.

"It was really like a flood," said sophomore Melinda Powel, also a resident of Winston.

According to Dills, he unsuccessfully tried to locate a shut-off valve,

asked residents to place towels in front of all doors and attempted to keep the water in one area by sweeping it down the stairs.

"There was nothing I could do," Dills said. "I had residents take turns holding towels on the pipe to slow the water down."

The water was up to four inches deep in places, residents said.

"People were wading and playing in it at the bottom of the stairs and down the hall," Morrison said.

In the room directly below the sink, the light fixtures and phone are not

working, the ceiling, mattresses and woodworks are damaged, a sticky substance coats the furniture and the rug is completely destroyed, Morrison and Ply said.

"Luckily it didn't go down the wall where we keep our major appliances," said Morrison.

"No one has come to assess the damage, but as long as I get a new carpet I'll be pretty happy," said Ply.

The entire residence hall will need to be cleaned, said Dills.

"Most of the fourth floor was affected, two rooms were really

damaged — the two below the bathroom — and the third, second and first floors experienced dripping water," Dills said.

The fire alarm sounded, and steam from the showers caused residents to believe that the hall was under flood and fire, said Morrison.

According to Dills, the water shorted out the system and caused the alarm to go off. Dills said he asked a resident to turn on the shower to cause the water to go down the drain.

The resident turned on the hot water, leaving the bathroom and hall full of

steam, which residents mistook for smoke.

"I really did get excited when I thought it was a fire," Dills said.

Maintenance workers shut off the water and water-vacuumed carpets that were really saturated, Dills said.

Recruitment

from page 1

appoint its own chairman.

Richard Soloway, professor of history, pointed out that no other elective committee in the University follows this method.

At the close of the discussion, the Faculty Council passed an amendment allowing the committee to elect its own chairman.

Laundry

from page 1

Department of Athletics. Total revenue from all University and hospital accounts was \$1.25 million last year.

Gene Walton, general manager of the Carolina Inn, said that if the University closes their laundry services, the Inn will investigate contracting with outside commercial laundry services.

"Hopefully, it (the laundry's closing) will not have a major impact on us," he said.

John Billing, chairman of the department of physical education said, "We use the laundry service for all physical education clothes and towels," he said. "We will have to find someone else to do it or get out of the clothing business."

The physical education department will always have towels available for the students, he said. If NCMH is doing business with someone else because it is less expensive for them, then maybe it would be less costly for his department to do the same, he said.

Paul J. Hoolahan, associate athletic director said, "It will not adversely affect us," he said. "We do a lot of our own in-house laundry." The football, basketball and baseball teams all have their own laundry facilities, he said.

Antle said the laundry facility is self-supporting, so the University will not lose any money if it closes down. Over the past two years, the plant has lost \$200,000, he said.

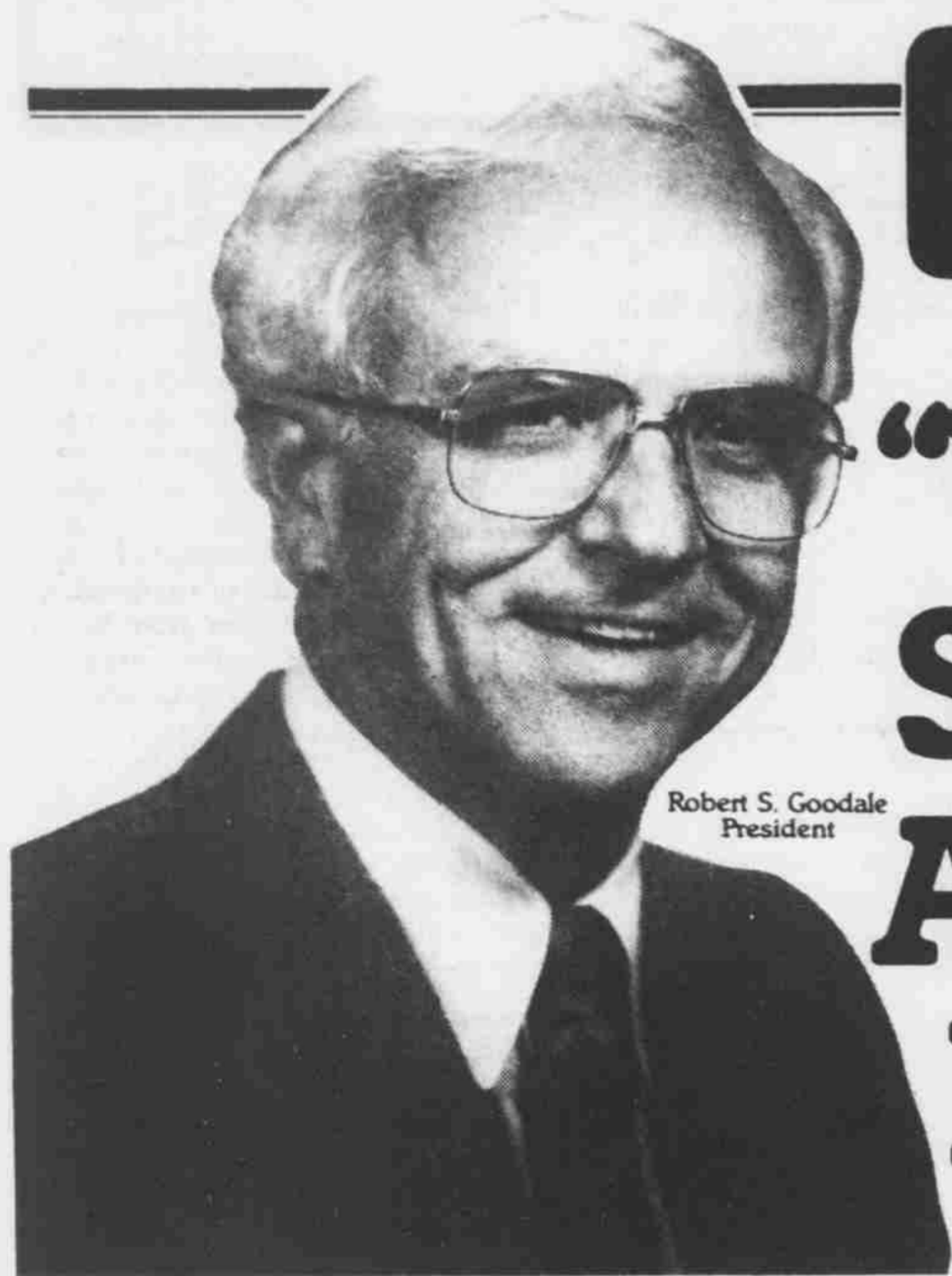
"This (the loss) was due to a lot of overtime work in order to do the hospital laundry," Antle said. "It is kind of ironic."

The present laundry opened on West Cameron Avenue in 1925. It was expanded during WWII when the campus became the headquarters for more than 20,000 Navy cadets and again in 1953 when the hospital opened.

Besides the main plant, the laundry maintains 11 coin-operated campus laundries in various residence halls with a total of 200 washers and dryers. The six largest dorms have small stores for student laundry drop-off and pickup service.

If the laundry closes, Antle said, the University will maintain its coin-operated facilities in residence halls.

Antle said that he does not know how the closing of UNC Laundry Services will affect students, but he does know that a large number of students use the facilities.



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