

Required test forces students to dog-paddle to graduation

From staff reports

Since the mid-1940s, UNC students have been jumping into Bowman Gray pool in Woollen Gym and dog-paddling, freestyling or doing whatever will keep their heads above water for 5 minutes. This is the swim test, one of the University's rites of passage.

Students who don't know how to swim are encouraged to take the beginning swimming courses from the

physical education department before taking the test.

The test is generally understood to be a requirement of the General College, and is noted as such on page 45 of the Undergraduate Bulletin. It was instituted during World War I when the Pre-Flight division of the Navy was training at Carolina and donated the outdoor pool. Bowman Gray donated the indoor pool, but a stipulation accompanied his gift: A

swim test must be instituted, so that every student who might use the pool would be able to swim.

If you're no Mark Spitz, don't despair. All you really need to be able to do to pass the swim test is keep from drowning. In this way the test is more a precautionary measure than it is an assessment of your ability to swim like a fish.

The test consists of jumping into the pool, swimming to the end and back using any stroke (in the case of some people, you might not call it swimming, exactly) and then staying in the pool for a total of five minutes. The stipulations are simply that you touch neither the sides nor the bottom of the pool during those five minutes.

If you are not a particularly good swimmer, but can manage even a slowish clip at the dog-paddle, you will be able to pass the test.

Students who want to bypass the test can get waivers under certain circumstances, according to Richard Cramer, an associate at the College of Arts and Sciences. A waiver would require a petition to the Appeals Committee, however — a procedure which has a reputation for being somewhat strict. Your best bet is probably to go ahead and take the test during your freshman year — and sink or swim.

Resident assistants help transition to college life

By L.D. CURLE
Staff Writer

Freshmen face a lot of changes when beginning life in college, and one of the biggest changes is dormitory living and having a roommate.

When two people live in the close quarters of a dormitory room, conflicts often arise. These problems can be helped by the housing staff, which includes resident assistants (RAs), assistant area directors and area directors (ADs).

"Resident assistants are trained to encourage students to solve their problems among themselves," according to Seong Soo An, an 1988-89 RA in Lewis Residence Hall. RAs try to get an individual to put himself in the other person's shoes, An said.

If problems can't be worked out, freshmen may try to change rooms or dormitories. If no agreement can be reached, then a Room/Area Change Application can be filled out, according to Don Collins, 1987-88 area director for Olde Campus.

Room changes will not be considered for the first 10 days, according to Anne Presnell, 1988-89 area director for Scott Residence College. When rooms are available, room changes will be considered after the applicant meets with an AD.

"In college, one will be facing many different views, cultures and people. One should not try to resist differences. Roommate problems should be given some time," said An

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Senior big buddies offer guidance to freshmen

By L.D. CURLE
Staff Writer

The Senior Big Buddy Program, which provides freshmen with a senior friend and guide, is planning to be bigger and better in its second year of operation.

This program pairs senior volunteers with willing freshmen, giving seniors a chance to give something back to the University and giving freshmen a chance to benefit from the experiences of an upperclassman. Orientation counselors will distribute brochures to freshmen, according to Kathy Ollice, co-chair of the program.

The applications from these will be matched with senior volunteer applications according to major and interests, she said. Volunteer applications will be included in the senior newsletter.

500 people participated last year, Ollice said. "We hope to double that number this year," Senior Class President Steve Tepper said.

This year, the program is planning to hold four social events for all of the participants, as opposed to only two events held last year.

Deadline for applications is Wednesday, Sept. 21.

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