

Construction on stores to begin

By **BRENDA CAMPBELL**
Staff Writer

Construction on the Student Stores has been rescheduled to begin within the next two weeks, after being postponed last year because of problems with awarding contracts.

Since the end of the 1988 school year, two problems have set the construction back: a tight schedule and a tight budget.

"Our plan was to do most of the construction over the summer," said Rutledge Tufts, general manager of Student Stores. "But when the bids went out to the construction companies, both time and finances were too tight."

Although the plan was changed,

a contract was not signed until August, he said.

"Once a contract was signed, every effort was made to fit the construction around the busiest times of the season," Tufts said. "We wanted to do what would best benefit the store and the store's customers."

If the construction had begun as scheduled, it would have caused too many problems with the beginning of classes and book rush, Tufts said.

"If we had started the construction in August, when we were ready, it would have just got started and the students would be coming back," he said. "So we decided that shortly after the first football game we would put up the fence and begin

the project."

The \$1.25 million construction project, which will cause part of the Pit to be closed, will be scaled back due to a tighter budget.

"If we were to continue with our original renovation plan the costs would have been so high it would have forced Student Stores prices to be raised," Tufts said. "We realize that the Pit is a focal point of student life and we are making every effort to reduce the impact in that area."

The construction will begin around Sept. 10 and is expected to take nine months.

The construction will not interfere with book rush next spring, though, because by that time

enough of the construction will be complete, he said.

The renovation will accomplish several things, he said.

"We want to help improve the customer's experience in the store, improve the flow of traffic, have better displays of the merchandise and allow the customer easier access to the merchandise," Tufts said.

The largest aspect of the renovation is the relocation of the stairs, he said. This measure will help ease the traffic of students going up to the second floor.

Better handicapped facilities, a new loading dock, a sprinkler system and fire alarms will also be added during the general renovation of the store, Tufts said.

Computer system to provide students with campus Info

By **CEDRIC RICKS**
Staff Writer

Ever wondered when a campus organization will begin its meeting, or what time you'll get out for fall break?

There's a new way to find answers to questions like these with Info, a computerized information service that is available now in three campus locations.

The system, developed to give students easier access to campus information, originated from requests by Student Congress repre-

sentative Stephanie Ahlschwede (Dist. 14).

To use Info, students or faculty can use designated terminals in Davis library, the undergrad library or the student union.

"I went home last summer really distressed that there was not one place to look for information about the events and activities," she said. "Academic information was scattered. Students have to look in the Pit, the Cube and The Daily Tar Heel. The communications system was a mess."

Ahlschwede sought the help of Associate Provost John Harrison, who also wanted a better communications system.

"He thought about something similar, but it was mostly academic and faculty information," she said. "However, we decided to combine the two into one big network."

Harrison, with the help of UNC Academic Computing services, reviewed a similar communications system at N.C. State.

A Dec Vax computer, programmed with information for the Info system, is located in the basement of Philips Hall.

Directions on how to use the system appear on the computer terminals.

"It (Info) is a system of menus," Ahlschwede said. "The first menu tells how to use the system. Run through menus until you get to the area you want. The wording is easy to understand. It is common language, not academic. We spent four months debating how to make it (the system) easy to use."

The system is also a good resource for high school students, parents, alumni or anyone who wants to learn more about UNC, Judy Hallman, manager of information services at the computing center, said.

Deciding who would control the system, students or faculty, was a question that prompted the formation of a steering committee with student and faculty representatives, Hallman, who is committee chairwoman, said.

Funding for Info is coming out of Academic Computing Services' budget, Hallman said.

Student organizations interested in adding information to the system should call Stephanie Ahlschwede in Suite C at 962-5201.



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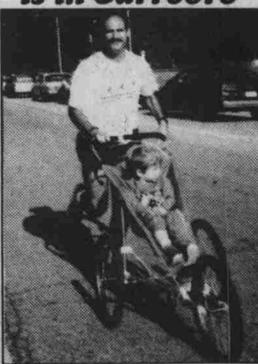
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