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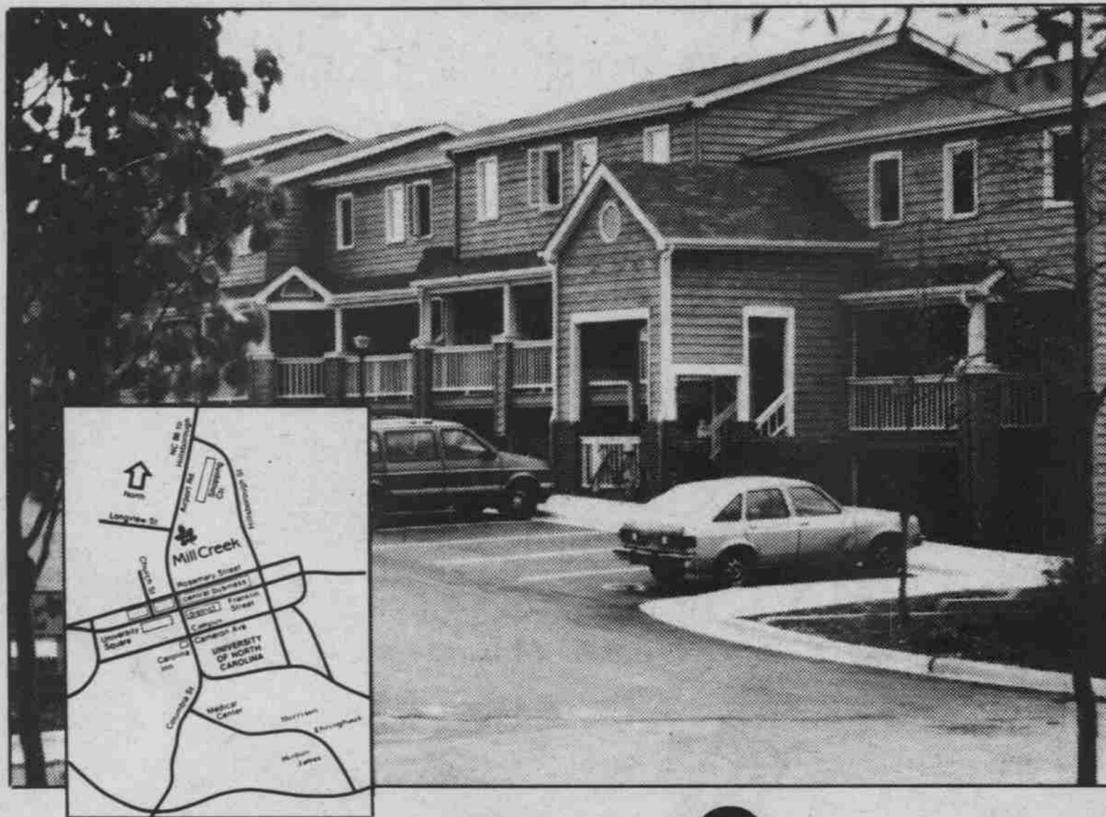
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Testing the luck of the draw — dorm lotteries

By SIMONE PAM
Staff Writer

The 86 women and 117 men who were unsuccessful in Thursday and Friday's two housing lotteries now have the option of resubmitting their housing contract for the general drawing or withdrawing their contract from the lottery process.

Students requesting a triple or quad room participated in the first drawing on Thursday, and students requesting an area change participated in Friday's drawing. As these students' names were drawn, they were given their first-choice hall preferences based upon their contracts, if space was available, he said.

If no space was available in the requested areas, the students' names will be submitted to the general hall drawing for their residence halls on Tuesday.

Collin Rustin, associate director for administration of housing, said 5 percent of the space in every residence area is reserved for students making area changes. The number of spaces allocated for area changes within each residence hall depends on the size of the hall and the number of rising sophomores who chose to remain in their rooms.

Students who are not successful in any of these drawings will be placed in the waiting list drawing to determine their position on a central waiting list, Bischoff said. The waiting list drawing is Feb. 24.

If a student is placed on the waiting list, the student will be notified as soon as a space is available, said Wayne Kuncel, director of housing. "It (the waiting list) is based on cancellations of students who cancel their residence hall contracts, and as those cancellations come in, then we begin to move those students off the waiting list and into the spaces that they have chosen," he said.

"My real hope is that when we do our room drawings that 95 percent of those students are immediately assigned to residence halls," Kuncel said.

Rustin said: "Any student who is flexible can be provided with on-campus housing. If a student on the waiting list asks for a high rise, they can get one if they want one."

Sharon McMillen-Cannon, STOW area director, said: "A lot of students are feeling a lot of anxiety about not getting the room they wanted. The area directors try to work with the students to give them the best possible situation possible."

STOW did not have to do a drawing in Old East and Spencer last year, McMillen-Cannon said. "It appears as if the numbers are evening out," she said.

Most of the moves are being made from South Campus to North or Mid campus, Kuncel said. In addition, students seeking an area change have

a better chance of getting what they want if they request a triple or quad, he said.

Women have the best chance for an area change to Ruffin, which will be reopening after being closed for renovations this year, Rustin said.

Rising sophomores are guaranteed the same room or another room in their residence hall without entering the lottery, if they choose, said Mark Bischoff, assistant area director in Hinton James.

Rising sophomores will be given the room they request, if this year's residents are not returning, based upon the last four digits of their social security number.

The number being used to determine placement is 5872. For students who submitted their applications together, the best number out of the group will be used.

In Olde Campus Residence Area, about 80 percent of all rising sophomores are expected to return to their current rooms, said Roger Nelson, Olde Campus area director. Rising sophomores compose 40 percent of the area, and incoming freshman are reserved less than 50 percent, he said.

Many freshmen are very relieved that they do not have to go through the lottery process, Nelson said. In addition, the upperclassmen who choose to remain on campus should be given the opportunity to do so if they want to, he said.

The decision to guarantee sophomore housing and include upperclassmen in a central lottery was based on parent and student feedback, surveys and two and a half years of study, Kuncel said.

"We really do not feel that it will have a significant impact on the juniors and seniors who want to return to the residence halls," he said. "But we actually don't know until we go through the drawing."

"We work very hard to build strong residential communities where people enjoy living where they are and the last thing I want them to do is to move off campus if they don't want to move. We want them to keep them."

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) opposed guaranteed sophomore housing, and presented a counterproposal that was not accepted. Jimmy Randolph, RHA president, said, "It has not been decided the way I feel is the best, but it has been decided."

The RHA intends to closely monitor and evaluate the current policy to decide if it is the best system, Randolph said.

The advice Randolph gave to upperclassmen who do not get back into the residence halls was to wait. "If you wait until August, you can even get in the hall of your choice," he said.

"Any student who is flexible can be provided with on-campus housing."

— Collin Rustin, associate director
for administration of housing