

Senior Buddies offer guidance to freshmen

By **CHRIS CHALFANT**
Staff Writer

If you are just about to begin your years at Carolina, you probably have many questions and anxieties. But

not to worry! The Freshman Buddy Program provides freshmen and junior transfers with an upperclassman volunteer to guide and advise you, and maybe most importantly, to be

your friend.

The role of the Big Buddy, who is a sophomore, junior or senior, is to advise the incoming student on everything from grades, classes and professors to social "graces", Greek life and parties, of course. The program is offered by the senior class, which sponsors many activities for the buddies as a group. In addition to the one-on-one (or pair) activity, many group activities are planned for the fall. These include a field day with a picnic, as well as a cookout.

Co-chairs for the 1989-1990 program are Travis Darnell and Erica Ortlam.

"The program is great," Darnell said. "It gets freshmen associated with UNC and helps them not feel alienated or overwhelmed."

The program provides for a rela-

tionship in which both parties benefit from the program. For the incoming student, adjustment to UNC is easier, and his or her college experience is enhanced.

"For the freshmen, it is a good way for them to get accustomed to campus life," Darnell said, "to meet people, and to help with confusing times such as drop/add." Darnell said the Big Buddy's benefits include "sharing his or her UNC experience with someone who does not have that." Plus, pride and satisfaction can result from simply giving back to the university.

The Big Buddy can save the freshman or junior transfer some frustration that is practically inevitable. Upperclassmen know that two or more professors in the same course often teach very differently. This can make

all the difference in the (GPA) world. "Freshmen (and junior transfers) meet someone who will be their friend throughout their first year, will introduce them to new people, and will guide them," Darnell said.

The buddy experience is especially useful during the first few weeks of school, but it does continue.

Applications for freshmen and junior transfers are available in the Pit on Saturdays during C-TOPS, at registration and in Suite B of the Carolina Union. For Big Buddies, applications are available in the senior newsletter, registration and also in Suite B.

For more information call the senior class office at 962-1989 or Travis Darnell at 942-4325. The tentative deadline for applications is Friday, September 1.



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RAs help transition to dorm life

By **JOHN BLAND**

Assistant Editor

Unless you freshmen come from a family like "The Waltons" and had to pack your seven brothers and sisters in one room, you might not yet be ready to put up with one of the

more challenging aspects of college life: living with a roommate.

Fortunately, that's where your Resident Assistant (RA) comes in.

When two people live in the close confines of a dormitory room (particularly the shoe boxes of South Campus), conflicts are bound to arise. These conflicts may erupt from trivial arguments, such as who gets to watch "The Flintstones" or "Guiding Light," or they may be grounded in much more serious personality and/or cultural differences.

These problems can often be helped by the housing staff — if not the RAs, then the assistant area directors (AADs) and area directors (ADs).

"The basic task (of an RA) is to act as a non-judgmental mediator to

help the individuals involved resolve their conflict by themselves," said Tim Dore, an RA for Graham Residence Hall for 1989-90. Dore stressed that it was important that the roommates try to work it out among themselves, rather than rely upon the arbitration of the RA.

He added that each RA had his or her own style concerning the resolution of roommate conflicts.

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.

Room changes will not be considered for the first 10 days. When rooms are available, room changes will be considered after the applicant meets with an AD.

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