

Opinion

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Students complain about resident assignments

Is there truth to an old proverb?

By Carla Layton
Staff Writer

To have success in most things in life, you first plan on being successful. In deciding on a school at which to further one's education, one of the most important things to take care of is housing. Having a comfortable place to live is a prerequisite for success.

With some Elizabeth City State University students assigned to halls and dormitories they were not supposed to be assigned to, suddenly ECSU's halls do not look so lovely. When policies and principles begin to contradict the lyrics of the school's alma mater, a problem occurs for some students.

According to some students, the ECSU housing problem has caused a disruption among the students and some faculty. Students who returned, to school, and have problems with housing are late starting classes, and some instructors are held up in carrying out their class activities because of tardy students arriving late.

The problems students report happening in Viking Village have caused more than a ripple in the school community. Among the problems -- some students assigned to previously single rooms in Viking Village were given roommates.

Should students have been notified of the situation for the new school year before having to decide on a dorm? Candice Palmer says, "Yes, I feel

students should be notified about the dorms so they can adjust accordingly, or have time to switch to another dorm."

Last year residents of Viking Village who lived in single rooms did not have roommates. This year, without notification, students' rooms are being doubled up. Is it the responsibility of the school to let the students know beforehand what the living situation on campus will entail?

Jedariah Gist, a resident assistant in Viking Village, and Mr. ECSU, says, "Yeah, as an RA, it has caused a lot of problems. People arrived with one assignment and when they got to school, it was something different. It appears as if the school did not adequately prepare for the students. It is a very touchy situation; students felt like the school made them double up and didn't have the decency to send out letters. Why couldn't they have the decency to notify students because of the high enrollment? I hold the school personally responsible for lack of acting accordingly."

Viking Village, erected in 2004, is a three-story building with suite-style apartments, living room areas, a club house and courtyard, as is described on the Elizabeth City State University Web site. Students scheduled to live in VV, were placed in other dorms, many

with no air conditioning. Students who were promised single rooms, received roommates.

Michael Burton a senior said, "You can't expect much from temporary housing, although it was an inconvenience." Burton was scheduled to move into Viking Village last year and was placed in Womack Hall, with an unexpected roommate, and no air.

Many students had to contend with inadequate electrical outlets, no air and limited space. When word spread that VV would finally open, it was delayed again because it did not pass the safety inspection. Once VV passed inspection, students were finally allowed to move in.

Burton says, "The housing situation was very difficult because it was hard to get a good foothold in classes."

Little did the students know that the previous events concerning Viking Village foreshadowed much of what was to come. The 2005-2006 school year began with students still complaining about housing.

Burton, a second year resident of Viking Village, had no problems reserving and receiving his room. Burton did however, have some concerns. "The parking is horrible, and compared to other dorms, why do I have to pay two dollars and

twenty five cents to wash and dry clothes and everywhere else students pay less?" A small number of students did not have concerns about Viking Village, but an even bigger number did. Many Students paid the one hundred dollar housing fee over the summer, and when they arrived at school their rooms were given away.

An ECSU student who wished to remain anonymous said, "I was supposed to be in Viking Village last year and they had to temporarily put me in Womack. I had no, air, no phone line, no cable, and on top of that they gave me a roommate."

The student added, "This year I paid my housing deposit three weeks into the summer and I was sent a letter from ECSU that guaranteed my room." Still when he arrived his room in Viking Village had been given away, and he was moved into Butler Hall. Asked how he tried to solve the problem or get answers he said: "All, Bruce Boyd, in Residence Life told me was that a lot of people were being changed around."

"I hold the school personally responsible for lack of acting accordingly."

Other frustrations include cars being towed from the parking lot of Viking Village, a lot which some claim does not have enough parking spaces to account for the number of students living in the dorm.



Quitting is still the answer Battling the addiction of nicotine

By Keria Miller
Staff Writer

Smokers have a very hard time battling the addiction of nicotine. Most smokers who try to quit know that one less puff on a cigarette could make a life or death difference.

The late ABC News' chief anchor Peter Jennings announced to the world on April 5, 2005 that he had lung cancer. He quit smoking 20 years ago, but still he struggled with backsliding since. Jennings

died, on August 7, 2005 at 67 years old.

"Nicotine is an incredibly powerful addiction," says Peter Shields, a professor of medicine at Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University Medical Center. "A lot of smokers 20 years later are still dreaming about smoking."

Lung cancer is the leading cause of death among all other cancers. Estimates from

the American Cancer Society suggest 172,570 new cases this year with 163,510 dying from the disease.

Health care officials say factors such as age when you quit, how long you smoked and heredity all play a role in whether or not, someone will develop a another smoking-related disease.

"If people quit smoking, they have done the most important thing they could do to improve

the quality of life and their life expectancy," says physician Corrine Husten of the office on Smoking and Health, part of the federal Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention.

Research shows that former smokers reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke to the level of non-smokers within a few years after quitting. The risk never drops to the level



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Starting off on the right foot

By Kimberly Murphy
Staff Writer

It's another exciting school year here at Elizabeth City State University, and I hope that students will indulge in the wonderful opportunities this institution has to offer. In order to make this school year successful, students should first set high principles for themselves.

To be successful students should discipline themselves to maintain flourishing study habits. Therefore I would like to provide a few helpful tips to help establish a winning learning practice. According to www.college.lifetips.com, considering the following tips will assist students, with becoming successful.

Always take notes in every class. Know what's expected of you. Take notes even if it's routine stuff you think you already know. Establish a routine time to study for each class. For every hour you spend in class, you will probably need to study two hours outside class. Studying for each subject should be at the same time. Study includes more than just doing your homework. You will need to go over your notes from class by editing and making sure you understand them. Studying your syllabus daily is very important to see where you are going and where you have been. Be sure to do reading assignments. (Don't put them off just because there's not a written assignment.) Read ahead whenever possible. Prepare for each class as if there will be a pop quiz.

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See Tips on page 8.