

MC Suffers from Housing Problem

By Elizabeth Tankersley
Staff Writer

After a much needed summer break many juniors and seniors attending Methodist College returned this fall to find that they had nowhere to stay. As everyone was later informed there were some slight delays in the construction of the Cape Fear Commons Phase II apartments.

Students that are supposed to be residing in these apartments have been informed that the "updated" move in date will be during the weekend of September 14th for the Commons D section. This of course is excellent news for those of you living with two other people in a suite style room. It is not such great news for those scheduled to live in sections E and F of the Commons, because these sections are rumored to be finished in yet a few more weeks.

The delays are contributed in part to the construction company's

for most colleges to "overbook" the amount of available on site housing due to the fact that there is usually a fair potential to lose some students by the last day to drop and add classes.

This year however, that number did not quite make enough space for the number of already displaced students to be accommodated comfortably. Also contributing to the large residential population was the number of returning students, the influx of new students, and the large majority of recently deposited students (i.e. people who wait until the last minute to pay their housing fees).

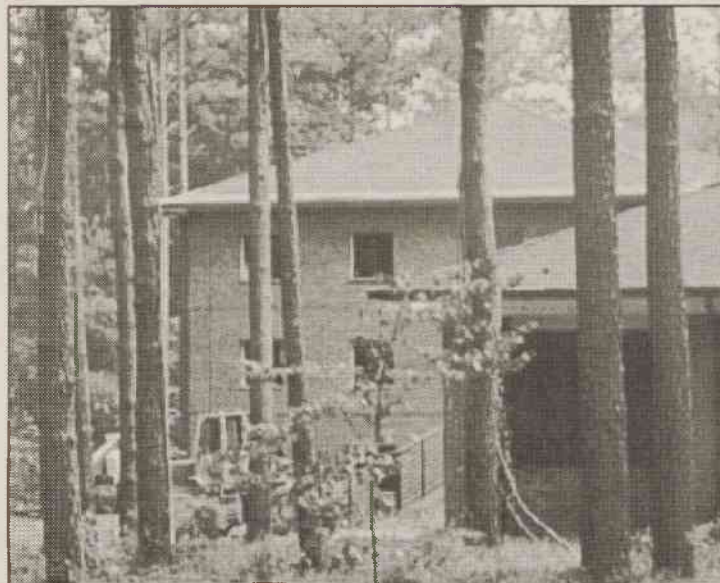
The consequences of this minor catastrophe have caused some rather uncomfortable living situations for students. There are examples of three people in two person suites, scheduled single rooms have added guests, and the majority of Residence Advisors are now sharing their rooms as well. These conditions are making for a disgruntled student body on campus, while still maintaining the campus housing policy. The policy is to keep everyone housed and taken care of while residing at Methodist College.

What students may not be aware of is the fact that all students, less the small portion that reserved rooms and paid fees late,

are being compensated for the trouble. Some are being refunded a portion of their board charges.

All Residence Advisors are receiving a five-dollar per day cover charge for their added guests, which they will be paid upon the move out date of said guest in a lump sum.

Students staying in triple rooms are also receiving benefits in the form of a two-thirds boarding charge. That is each member in the room will only be charged two-thirds of the standard residence hall fee. All of these students were also given the option of a school provided storage facility, just off campus, to put their personal belongings in



Cape Fear Commons Phase II

Photo by Robin Warrington

due to a lack of space in the residence hall rooms. This option has not been used as readily as it was made available thus far. Only one student has stored anything in the school supplied storage facility.

Students that were scheduled to be living in the Commons are also going to be refunded the difference for the number of days they were displaced in another residence hall. These students also received a 14 meal per week plan from the school at no cost.

Those students who chose to move off campus due to the lack of housing are going to be refunded for the board they paid in advance. Only 9 students actually decided that the living conditions were intolerable for the short construction delay.

These students were not given any of the meal privileges the other Commons' residents received, but they are able to use the storage space currently provided by the school if they wish.

It should be noted that the college has not broken any laws, and has not violated building or fire codes with the current housing situation.

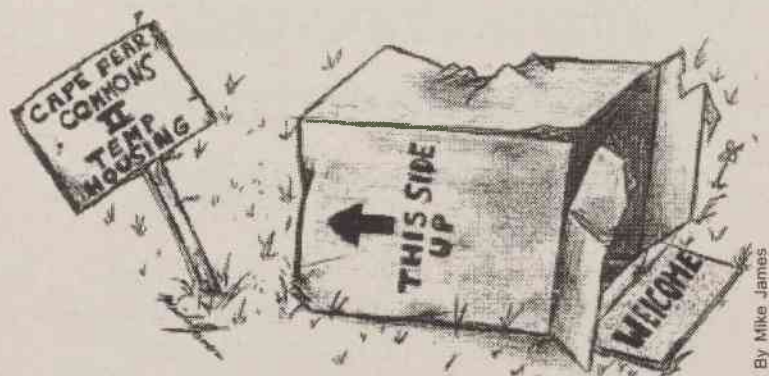
This is an atypical situation that Methodist College is in. There is an extremely large student body that must have shelter during a housing crunch, and the administration is trying to be accommodating to the masses to the best of their abilities. Not an easy task when there is an extremely displeased student body being shuffled into rather small rooms with a lot of other people.



Photo by Robin Warrington

rapid pace over the summer creating a lack in necessary supplies to finish the Commons. According to Rob Foreman, Director of Housing and Residence Life, and Ashley James, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life, during the latter part of July construction was in fact ahead of schedule, but due to this fact the construction company ran short of many materials needed to finish the buildings interior, such as sheet rock. Construction was further delayed because of malfunctioning sprinkler systems in the building.

Another cause for the current lack of housing on Methodist College's campus is that admissions for residential students are at an all time high. It is a standard practice



* THE JOY OF CAMPUS HOUSING *

Graphic By Mike James