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# small TALK

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## Students Pine for new Pines



Photos by Will Montoya



Above: The 45 year old Pines Apartments pictured from the outside. Left: one of the finger print door decoders hanging on the paint chipped outer wall.



Above: The worn roof trimming on the left side of the Pines apartment



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The Pines Apartments have been around for 45 years and students are beginning to feel the effects.

Students living in the Pines have been complaining about the water and not having a common area or vending machines.

The Pines were originally built in 1960 and were the original residential dorms for Methodist College prior to the building of Cumberland, Garber, Sanford and Weaver. Those four dorms were completed in the spring of 1963 and were inhabited by students in the fall. When students first moved out of the Pines, it became housing for faculty, staff and married students. Gene Clayton, vice president of business affairs, was one of the staff members that lived there. "When the students moved out, the front two build-

ings became offices while the back buildings were never anything but residences," Clayton stated.

The Pines have come a long way from where they started. "When the Pines were re-opened to students, they were called Honor Hall. Students had to have a high GPA to live there," Clayton commented. Eventually the Pines served as the apartment option until Cape Fear Commons 1 and 2 were built, at which time they became the second choice.

Over time, many improvements have been made to the Pines to make them as user friendly and up-to-date as possible. Methodist now runs a network cable providing direct computer and telephone hook-ups. They have also maintained the apartments, landscaped the land, created parking, replaced the main line for the water and upgraded the bathrooms and showers.

For 45 year old apartments they are in good condition, but some students have lately made complaints about the water and accommodations that the Pines don't offer to the students. "I don't have a problem with the living area [in the Pines] because I like my roommates but I have noticed that the hot water is kind of grey and comes out in chunks. Sometimes the finger print locks work and sometimes they don't. Overall, I enjoy myself in the Pines," commented Jamie Davis, a current resident. Another complaint about the Pines is that they are the only residences that do not have vending machines and a common area. When asked, Gene Clayton commented, "There are no plans that I know of to build a common area for the Pines. The long term plan is to phase out the Pines and build new housing."

The main complaint, of

course, is the water. TJ Johnson, president of SGA, said that he loves living in the Pines but that the water is terrible. "I have gotten sick from the water," Johnson commented. His solution to the water problem would be to buy free-standing water coolers. You could put a cooler in every apartment for roughly \$150 a month. It costs \$15 for a five gallon jug. It would be easier than replacing the pipes and would fix the problem now." Putting a cooler in every apartment would be the best solution due to the fact that they are not planning on keeping the Pines long term.

As a last thought, Mr. Johnson said, "Everyone should experience living in the Pines. If Dean Blanc or Williams or President Hendricks would like to spend a weekend in the Pines to see how students live, I offer my apartment and time to them."