

Dorm Safety, con't. from page 1

Creech said the residence-hall fire equipment is inspected regularly and meets all required building codes.

Because of the gravity of the subject, a second interview was conducted with the chief. He restated his concerns, focusing on the difficulty in reaching some buildings with fire-fighting equipment because of the decorative walls surrounding the campus.

At The Oaks residences, he continued, "I've only got one hydrant to protect the whole complex."

Dry Hydrant

Asked about the hydrant across the road, by the new Fine Arts Center, he dismissed it as "a dry hydrant," which requires two trucks to, in turn, pump water from the lake to be transferred to another truck for spraying.

King continued: "Over the past years we have tried to keep open access areas to the college. We've asked them not to close off with walls like they have."

He specifically mentioned potential difficulty in getting trucks into the area among Sloan, Virginia, Carolina and Smith dorms.

"Even up in around Alamance," he continued, "they elected to plant grass and trees and bushes and that's made it very difficult for us to provide adequate access."

"Also, the security personnel are not keeping fire lanes open like they should."

Working On It

King commended Robert Poindexter, the vice president for administrative services, for his beginning to deal with problems.

"I will say," he noted, "that Mr. Poindexter has been working with me on these problems."

Those problems, he said, can be found at dormitories both new and old. Old dorms tend to have a lot of wood, and students endanger themselves by trashing halls.

New dorms, he continued, are often built to a design that forces too many people to use too few stairs.

"The new modular dorms are, I feel, very, very unsafe because there's only one way out," he said.

Although the questionnaires distributed by The Pendulum did not reveal it, Chief King said he has gotten complaints from students that trash in hallways create fire hazards, extinguishers aren't kept full, and fires are not reported.

"There are some fires they're not reporting," he said, "and so we're not responding on."

"They have a very slow system of reporting, with the RAs, and I feel that's going to catch them one day."

"We'd rather be safe than sorry."

The college is taking a lot of responsibility on itself.

"The Pendulum questionnaires revealed that students are mostly concerned with comfort and appearance. Buildings built in the early sixties, they say, still have original furniture. Torn desk chairs, dart-riddled closet doors, and "antique" metal bed frames are all normal fixtures in some of Elon's residence halls.

Not So Bad

Are things all that bad? Not according to Director of Housing Lee Proctor. "We take a look at the budget for the year and make recommendations on what needs to be improved," said Proctor.

He cited replacing carpet in Staley with tile and new noise-abatement insulation in North Hall as major concerns.

West, Hook, Brannock and Barney all have new locks, he said. "We have no sub-standard housing," said Proctor.

"Of course we have no physical luxuries, but the buildings are clean and meet the needs of the students."

The type of housing a student receives depends on what is available during lottery. "Students have the opportunity to live where they choose if they have a good lottery number," said Proctor.

Elon's housing varies greatly from one building to another. Variations include hall arrangements, four-person suites, eight-person suites, air conditioning and location.

Opinions Vary

Opinions on the conditions of the residence halls varies from person to person in extremes.

"Everything is O.K.," said Smith resident Pat Neary.

Sophomore Kennon Whittle commented the condition of his room is good.

"We affectionately refer to our room as Cell Block 113," said freshman Michelle Strehl.

Why are the rooms in their present condition? "Inflation," said Proctor. Proctor commented on the times when there was high inflation and high interest rates. It was general practice, according to Proctor, for colleges and universities to make do with what they

Another problem resident students, especially women, are facing is rooms designed for two people currently used for three. The housing office is making an effort to de-triple all rooms.

However, this does not solve the current problem for tripled residents are facing. "There was one dresser for three girls. Lets be reasonable," said Laurel Underwood.

"There certainly is not enough closet space unless all three of us owned one pair of pants, two shirts and only one shoe."

How does Elon compare to a nearby college of some reputation and Methodist roots? Duke University has recently spent more than \$11 million on housing improvements, according to a college official.

Duke's housing manager, Fidelia Thomason, said Duke considers housing an "auxiliary service"—meaning an attraction, not a mundane necessity—and, therefore, top priority.

Ms. Thomason failed to mention that Duke considers \$16,000 a necessary per-year cost, a figure that is twice that of Elon.

According to Elon's auxiliary services director, Buck Bayliff, an auxiliary service is something that generates revenue for the college. Elon does not consider its housing program an auxiliary service, he said.

"We have a well established furniture-replacement program, where we replace furniture every three to four years," said Thomason. However, Duke also distinguishes among categories of residence, and charges according-

ly. Rates vary from \$1,188 to \$2,589 per year, compared to Elon's flat rate of \$1,040 per year.

Duke houses 89 percent of all undergraduate students compared to Elon's 54 percent.

Loud Noise, con't from 1

socialize than to get work done," said sophomore Sherri Geer.

Librarian Gay Shepherd says "Although the library is extremely quiet during the day, at night it is often crowded with people anxious to talk to one another." Second floor of the library is designated as a quiet study area, yet often enough security guards are required to patrol this area in order to keep the noise level down. "There have been occasions where students have come up to us and asked that we do something about the noise," replied Shepherd.

Students have now started studying in empty classrooms, during the evenings, yet even these areas are becoming over crowded with students as well. Administrators, began a project last year by opening the cafeteria in the evenings as a study hall to be used by interested students. "We began the project last year," said Chester Robinson, North Area Coordinator, "and obviously it is needed enough to continue it." Although the study hall will take place in the cafeteria, students will only have access to the tables and chairs, which Robinson hopes, "will allow a study atmosphere to be maintained."

The study hall will be opened on Sept. 27 and will be open Sun.-Thurs. from 7:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Fountain, con't. from 5

added to the water to discontinue the foaming.

If this is done too often [putting defoamer in the water], persons from the maintenance department will eventually have to strip the fountain, clean it out with water hose pipes, brush it down [opening drains and valves to clean them], then fill it back up with water which take approximately six hours according to Smith.

This procedure has been [done, performed] five or six times this year. When you are the one stuck with draining the fountain, the practical joke which caused the job having to be done in the first place, is not funny at all.

Surprisingly though, the chemicals are not the main danger associated with the fountain. Electricity is.

Light fixtures in the fountain contain 120 volts of electricity. The light are set by a timer and come on automatically when gets dark outside. Although there is not a high risk of electrocution it can happen.

Another hazard is the presence of broken pipes. Because the pipes are made of soft copper there is a larger possibility for breakage. Pipes have been broken due to people playing in the fountain with friends or most often with pets.

Smith stresses that "caution should be taken be one could get hurt by cutting their foot on the broken pipes."



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