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Raleigh, North Carolina

Fire breaks out in storage room of Heilman dorm

by Kate Stewart

A fire broke out in the storage room of second Heilman at 4:00 a.m. last Wednesday, according to a fire report filed with the Raleigh Fire Department.

Students Truly Ager and Jennifer Pitch smelled the smoke from the fire and reported it to security.

According to Security Chief Dan Shattuck, security received a call about the fire at about 4:15 a.m. Security officers then went to the scene and removed a burning mattress from the storage room, took it outside, and extinguished it by wetting it down. Security then evacuated both second and third Heilman because of excessive smoke on both floors. The Raleigh Fire Department was also called to the scene because of the smoke and they used special fans to ventilate the floors

and get rid of the smoke.

According to Heilman/Barefoot Residence Director Beth Flye, the fire was started by a cigarette that had been dropped onto the mattress.

Two students, according to Flye, had been smoking in the storage room when one of them allegedly dropped a burning cigarette onto the mattress. Several students then tried to put the cigarette out and then left the room thinking that they had extinguished it by patting it down, not realizing that it was still smolder-

ing and would heat up again later.

The two students have since come forward and have turned themselves in to the Solicitor General, Hannah Simonds, because smoking in the storage rooms is an honor code violation.

Flye also said that the fire alarm was not pulled at the time of the fire because students rationalized their fear of pulling the

alarm, thinking they would face a fine for pulling it if there was not a real

fire. Flye said, "If there is a fire of any magnitude, pull it [alarm]!"

Charles Taylor, Vice President of Business and Finance, said that his office has taken action since the fire. Taylor has had the fire alarm devices checked, especially since they did not go off during the fire, a concern for both Taylor and Flye. Taylor also said another alarm system, the one in the return air system, has also been checked. He also commented that a similar incident happened about three or four years ago.

Taylor added, "We are concerned that students understand the danger of smoking, especially in places where it is not authorized." As far as the handling of the situation, Chief Shattuck stated that everything "went as well as it could go" given the situation. Taylor said, "Everybody acted responsibly in this matter."

"We are concerned that students understand the danger of smoking, especially in places where it is not authorized."

**Charles Taylor
Vice President of Business
and Finance**

Faculty challenged to better meet student needs

by Christina Peoples

This summer a workshop was held for the faculty to address better meeting the learning needs of all students, especially those with learning disabilities, or LDs.

The required three-hour workshop on August 18 was host to about 120 faculty and administration. The workshop, one of a series planned for this year, was led by Dr. David Heinig-Boynton of the psychology department.

Topics for these future sessions will include how tutors can better serve LD students in the Writing Center, how student advisors can help these students meet their needs in scheduling and faculty communication, and how the faculty can adapt their specific subject to the learning styles of both LD students and others, said Heinig-Boynton.

There will even be a workshop

between LD students and faculty to discuss the students' needs and what the faculty can do to meet them, said Heinig-Boynton.

"What this says about the faculty here is that they are aware of the special needs of these students and they want to learn how to fit their needs in the classrooms," said Heinig-Boynton.

Federal law says that if there are any disabled students at a school, then the school must provide reasonable assistance. In the case of LD students, this assistance could include allowing students more time on tests and assignments, developing different test formats for individual needs, and providing tape recorders for lectures. It is also possible to get textbooks on tape or to have volunteers read the textbook to the student.

Students who need special assistance with their work can go to the Writing Center for tutoring in English

grammar and composition. There are also tutors available through the math department. Students can also go to the Personal Growth and Counseling Center or a willing faculty member for help.

Nan Miller, advisor for the Writing Center, said, "Last year we noticed a significant rise in the demand for special help in tutoring sessions." Heinig-Boynton will be giving the tutors workshops this year on how to more effectively help the students.

At least half of the LD students at Meredith did not know they had a disability until they came to college. They slipped through the cracks of public education, but their problems become very apparent here, said Heinig-Boynton.

According to Heinig-Boynton, LD students must meet all the requirements for acceptance to Meredith, but

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Today's Forecast



Mainly sunny, very nice
High 78, Low 50
Thursday- Mainly sunny
and cooler. High 71, Low 43