

Campus breezeways demolished over break, to be reconstructed by fall 2002

□ Structurally unsound breezeways are torn down, replacements constructed soon.

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Staff Reporter

Students returned to campus from Spring Break to find that the breezeways connecting Brewer, Faircloth, Vann and Stringfield dorms had been torn down.

Last week the *Herald* reported that the breezeways were structurally unsound and would be demolished over break.

The College hired D.W. Griffin Wrecking Company to destroy them.

According to Tom Sherry, director of Facilities Services,

the company began tearing down the breezeways last Tuesday, March 12 and finished on March 17.

"It took longer than expected because of the rust," Sherry said.

Currently, the first floor entrances are accessible to students.

The CamCard swiping device at the Faircloth dorm entrance was damaged during the demolition, making the door inaccessible for students. However, maintenance repaired the broken device yesterday.

The doorways opening to the second and third floor breezeways were covered with sheetrock for safety reasons, although they are locked. They will remain locked until the new structures are completed.

According to Sherry, it is a fire hazard for the doors to remain uncovered because they are not accessible exits, and may be hazardous if there was a fire in one of the buildings.

The College is working with Pearce, Brinkley, Cease, and Lee Architecture, a Raleigh-based design firm.

The firm recently held a meeting with Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president for Student Development, and Heidi LeCount, director of Residence Life to begin planning for the rebuilding of the breezeways.

According to Sherry the architects will develop a design for the breezeways, which will be presented to the College for approval. Once the College has approved a design, bidding for the construction work will be open to outside companies.

Sherry said that the design firm should have another meeting with representatives from the College in approximately two weeks.

Construction is expected to begin mid-May and will be completed by July at the very latest.

"We hope to begin rebuilding the day after commencement," said Sherry.

He also said that the breezeways will be rebuilt and permanently reopened by the time students return for the Fall 2002 semester because it is not an ongoing construction project and is relatively simple.

"It is unlikely that the breezeways will be rebuilt exactly as they were," he said.

However, the College has several ideas. For example, the fourth floors of the dorms could gain a breezeway.

The goal is to update the design of the breezeways to correspond with the rest of the buildings on campus.

According to Sherry, there have been no official complaints from students since the breezeways have been torn down and the walkways reopened.

However, some students have concerns about moving out of the dorms for the summer because residents on the



Sophomore Nathalia Faber tries the CamCard device outside of Faircloth dorm on Monday. The device, which was broken during the demolition of the breezeways, was repaired by maintenance on Tuesday.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA HOLDER

upper floors of Stringfield and Faircloth dorms do not have access to an elevator.

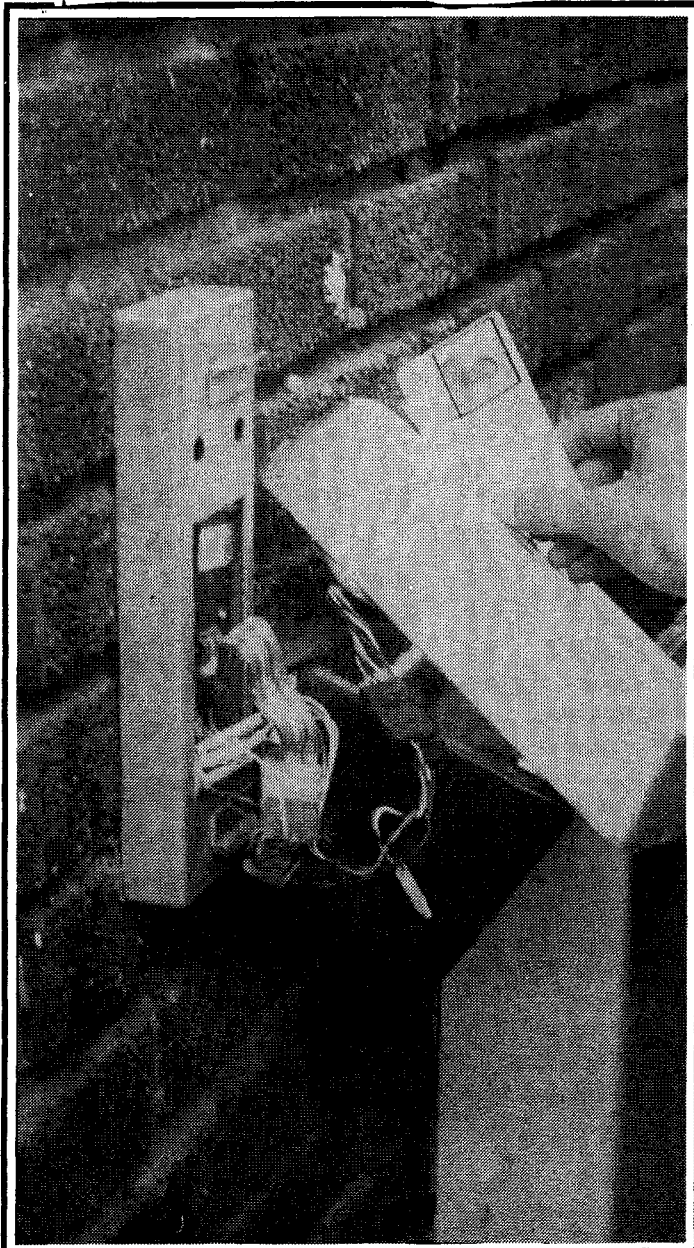
"How will students on the upper floors move things such as lofts, chairs, and couches?" asked sophomore Krista Kearney.

"We are aware that it will be an inconvenience for students," said Sherry.

He and Bill Wade, vice president of Finance, have considered the issue.

Sherry added that the College has considered hiring a moving company to help students move heavy items out of the dorms.

This issue will be addressed in more detail closer to the end of the semester.



Students walk the path toward the breezeway-free dorms.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA HOLDER

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