

Students Elevate Quality of Rooms With Lofts

BY MICHELLE CRAMPTON
STAFF WRITER

In the often cramped, impersonal world of dormitory living, it's no surprise that the comfort and privacy of a room's occupants can be compromised. For many students at UNC, lofts provide that much needed sense of personal space.

"It's kind of divided the room into separate little areas like a little apartment," Juh Nath, a sophomore from Cary, said of the L-shaped loft she shares with her roommate in Spencer Residence Hall. "Under her loft is like her room and I've got mine."

"Last year, we had everything up against the wall so all we had was a big open space in the middle of the floor," Nath said. "Now we're taking advantage of the three-dimensional space we weren't using before. We're shopping now for a little sofa or a futon so we can entertain more people comfortably."

Ken Page, a sophomore from Greensboro, said he thinks one reason that the majority of upperclassmen have lofts is because it's the new craze. "Everyone's got one," he said. "You just have to have it."

Mike Zeinstra, area director of Old Campus Lower Quad, agreed.

"Typically, I think it's sophomores and juniors that have them here," Zeinstra said. "Freshmen see someone else who has them and then they see signs for sale at the end of the year. They figure they have to get one and then off they go."

Josh Lynch, a sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio, who has a single loft in Teague Residence Hall, agreed that freshmen see lofts belonging to upperclassmen and want one for themselves.

"They see from other people how much room they get," Lynch said. "It just seems a lot better than just having a stupid bed."

Zeinstra said he has seen variety in lofts' designs. "The majority of the students (in



Jon Risen relaxes on his loft Wednesday afternoon at the Tau Epsilon Phi house on Rosemary Street. Risen says that the loft provides more storage space and greater privacy for him and his roommate.

Lower Quad) do have lofts," he said. "They go from the very basic single loft which is basically raising a bed up on four stilts to the very elaborate L-shaped lofts."

"Everybody's got their own little design to make it look like home," he said. "It makes the room more personal and it's a great space-saver. It's definitely a room decoration."

The Department of University Housing sets guidelines that dormitory room decorations must meet.

The top of mattresses on the loft must be

at least 36 inches from the ceiling. The lofts may not restrict access or exitways or cover or block potential fire exits.

Lofts may not interfere with heating, electrical, air conditioning or other fixed units in the room and must be self-supporting structures built at least one foot from radiators. Lofts can not be enclosed in any way and only a protective guardrail may rise above the main deck surface of the loft.

University Housing Director Wayne Kuncl said that lofts cannot be installed in Carmichael, Mangum, Old East, Old West,

Alderman, Kenan, Parker and Ruffin residence halls, which already feature loft-style furniture. Loft installation is permitted in all other residence halls.

Page said that above all other things he likes about his loft, the best part of sleeping in an elevated bed was the adventure.

"It really livens the place up," he said. "But when you're sleeping elevated in the air several feet higher than normal, you're wondering if you're going to fall or if the thing is going to break. That's what is most exciting."

SBP Cabinet Takes Time For Leadership Workshop

BY MARVA HINTON
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Calvin Cunningham, the student body officers and members of the executive branch attended their annual two-day retreat this week to set goals and make plans for the coming year.

"We did very general goal-setting and also team-building by doing group problem solving," Cunningham said.

The goals set during the retreat have not been finalized due to the fact that the full executive board was not present.

"It's my sincere desire that we have as much participation in goal setting as possible," Cunningham said. "We are probably a couple of days away from releasing an action plan for academic advising and curriculum assessment."

He also expressed a desire to make the executive branch more politically active in local government and public debate about the University's future.

"During the next year I want to determine how the specific activity we're involved in relates on a local, state and global level," he said.

The director of North Carolina Fellows and Leadership Development, Cindy Wolf Johnson, did a presentation for the officers on leadership styles and diversity issues.

"We did an assessment of personal leadership styles and how they can most effectively work together," Johnson said.

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Carol Binzer, the assistant director of Leadership Development, and John Curtis, the assistant director of the Student Union, did a presentation on effective goal-setting.

Student Body Vice President Amy Swan organized the annual event.

"We were challenged to think about our own leadership styles and what we were trying to get out of student government and what we wanted to leave behind," Swan said.

The retreat allowed the officers to find solutions to problems that might arise during the year.

"We had to come up with a plan on how decisions would be made and formulate strategies on dealing with problems," Swan said.

The retreat also gave the officers an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other.

"We did a challenge course that forced us to work together and learn to trust one another. I really enjoyed meeting our cabinet members," she said.

Cunningham said the retreat's activities would help his administration to be more effective.

"If we know and understand each other's leadership skills we can work effectively over the next year," Cunningham said.

Swan said officers can use skills they learned at the retreat in running student government's executive branch.

"It's important that people know how to communicate their ideas within the organization and convey the idea that everyone's opinion is important regardless of their position," she said.



Student Body Vice President AMY SWAN organized the annual executive branch planning session.

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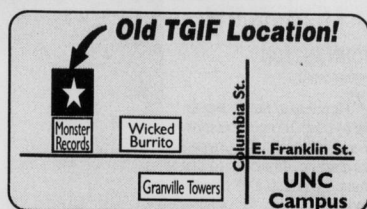
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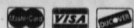
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