

The Daily Tar Heel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997
Volume 105, Issue 70

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Officials: housing crunch likely to last all semester

■ The students who will continue to live in lounges will not have to pay rent.

BY NICOLE WHITE
STAFF WRITER

Students living in temporary housing will likely remain there until next semester, but they will not have to pay any rent, Department of University Housing officials said Monday.

Originally, housing officials planned to place all students in permanent housing within the first six weeks of the semester. But residents did not cancel their contracts in the volume the housing department expected them to, said Wayne Kuncel, director of University Housing.

"It doesn't surprise me at all," said Ed Goode, a freshman from Greensboro, who is currently living in a Winston Residence Hall lounge.

"They just kept setting the date back."

The department's committee on temporary housing met Friday to decide how to improve living conditions for the 47 males still living in lounges and an apartment in Hinton James.

"Effective this past Sunday, any student remaining in temporary housing will be given free rent until they receive

permanent placements," Kuncel said. Students offered a permanent location will have the option of remaining in temporary housing, Kuncel said. If the student accepts a permanent assignment, he will pay regular rent.

"Some students may be in temp housing for the rest of the semester," said Rebecca Casey, assistant director of University Housing.

To improve phone service, phone jacks would be provided for all remaining temporary locations, Kuncel said. The students currently have only voice mail service.

"If we cannot get a jack in the room we may provide a cellular phone," Kuncel said.

The cellular phones would be provided at no additional charge to the students, and one would be provided per room, Kuncel said.

In addition, desks and lamps will be moved into temporary rooms, and extra beds will be moved out this week, Kuncel said.

"Rather than move a lot of furniture we will find out what they actually want and need, then move it in accordingly," Casey said.

In spite of the promises to make temporary housing more comfortable, some students said they would rather have a regular room.

"It's a pretty good deal," said Jeff Smith, a freshman from Greenville. "It's

"Some students may be in temp housing for the rest of the semester ... regardless they will be offered the benefit of living rent-free ..."

REBECCA CASEY
Assistant director of University Housing

kind of disappointing, but it would be worse if there were still eight or nine (roommates) like we had to begin with."

Smith said he would prefer to move out of his current home.

"I would take the permanent room and pay for it," he said. "I don't feel like I am getting the full college experience. It's like camp."

Housing officials said they expected all students would be placed in permanent housing by next semester.

"Without fail we have students who leave the University," Casey said.

David McGowan, a freshman from Wilmington, said he knew the officials were trying.

"I feel comfortable that they will do everything they can to get us housing as soon as possible."

Goode said he was still happy to be at UNC, "(but) they could totally make up for (temporary housing), if they gave us all parking passes."



Junior Scott Dillin reads a magazine amid the clutter of the third floor lounge in Ehringhaus Residence Hall. The lounge once contained seven students, but now two reside there.

Chancellor announces interim dean

■ John Evans has been appointed the interim dean of the business school.

BY MARISSA DOWNS
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Michael Hooker has appointed an interim dean for the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

The appointment of John Evans, a professor and a former business school dean, became effective Monday after former dean Paul Fulton officially stepped down Friday.

Fulton announced his retirement in January after serving as dean of the business school since 1994.

Provost RICHARD RICHARDSON said UNC could not find a replacement for Paul Fulton in time for Fulton's retirement.

"We made the decision right after it was clear we wouldn't be able to get a permanent replacement by the time Fulton retired," Richardson said.

Evans has been a faculty member since 1970 and served as the dean of the business school from 1978 until 1987.

Hooker stated in a press release that Evans was the ideal choice for the interim dean.

"He is well-known and well-respected among the Kenan-Flagler faculty, staff and students, and he has the administrative skills to guide the school through this important period of transition," Hooker stated in the press release.

"We are fortunate to be able to draw on (John's) expertise and leadership ability."

Frank Morgan, director of marketing of the business school, said Evans has tremendous respect among the faculty.

Morgan said he wasn't concerned that the University had not named a permanent dean yet.

"I'd rather that the search be thorough and not be placed under artificial time pressures," Morgan said.

Richardson also said, although he was unaware of any plans Evans might have as the interim dean, he had faith in Evans.

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A different kind of language

BY SUNNY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Shannon Bedford likes to laugh and giggle like every other 10-year-old, said her mother Jamezetta Bedford.

"She loves being with other kids and is very social," Shannon's mother said. "If she sees other kids playing a game she will try to imitate them."

Shannon has a difficult time communicating with other children or even her parents, though.

While still in preschool, Shannon

was diagnosed with a moderate form of autism, a developmental disorder that inhibits communication. Her first words were at age six, and her parents must now use visual picture cards to communicate with her.

"Her language is very scattered, and I don't know what she thinks," Shannon's mother said. "She doesn't have enough language skills to tell me. But she is happy."

Shannon's mother explained that much of this happiness is a result of Shannon's time with the group

TEACCH, the Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handicapped Children.

"I've seen her go from where she didn't know her name to where she progressed to a four year old receptively," Shannon's mother said. "She's adding, subtracting, she's good at vocational tasks and she loves to cook. I've seen her gain a lot of maturity and progress in the program."

Division TEACCH is a program designed to educate and assist families and individuals with autism and related disorders. It was founded in 1972 by the N.C. General Assembly and was the first statewide program of its kind to deal with autism.

Gary Mesibov is the director of Division TEACCH. "The challenge is to understand how (individuals with autism) think and learn," he said. "If you can do this, they will be able to lead meaningful and full lives."

This principle is now implemented both nationally and internationally through the expanding influence of the Division TEACCH program.

There are no age or severity restrictions within the program. It is free to residents of North Carolina through funding from the General Assembly and private donations, Mesibov said.

The Chapel Hill center was the first to be established and now leads six other centers across the state in providing services to those dealing with autism.

Lee Marcus is the current director of the Chapel Hill area TEACCH center and has been with the center since 1974. He said TEACCH provided many of the special and individualized services required to assist an individual with autism in relating to the rest of

of on-site services."

One of the more entertaining services offered by TEACCH is the adolescent social group which meets every Thursday afternoon. Individuals with autism, ranging in age from 11 to 16, participate in activities other people their age enjoy, Marcus explained.

"We do lots of fun activities like bowling, overnight camping, tours of campus, scavenger hunts and even service projects like cooking dinner at the Ronald McDonald House," he said.

This interaction provides the individuals with a structured way to develop their social skills and allows the parents some time to themselves, Marcus said.

Autism, according to the Autism Society of North Carolina, is a developmental disorder rather than a mental illness. "Autism is a brain disorder present from birth," said David Laxton, the director of communications for the organization. "It effects one's ability to process information and to understand the world around them."

Laxton said symptoms usually appeared around the age of two to three years and four out of five individuals born with autism are male. "There's no definitive link, but there seems to be a pattern," Laxton said.

Laxton said older statistics reported the rate of incidence of autism as 15 in every 10,000 births but said that percentage is low.

SEE TEACCH, PAGE 2



"We are the hub of a wheel," Marcus said. "Our program serves as a point of expertise. We work directly with families, we have parent training and counseling, we are a resource and consultant to schools and if (individuals with autism) are working in jobs, we can be a help to the employer."

TEACCH provides additional services outside of the office as well. "We (go to schools) to evaluate children, direct teaching situations, have playroom teaching and our therapists meet teachers," Marcus said. "We have lots



Barbara Bianco (left) and TEACCH Director Lee Marcus prepare a teaching session to help individuals with autism at the clinical community building.

Residents praise ordinance to limit yard parking

BY JOHN GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

Fifteen community members — but only three UNC students — chose to take a stand on the front-yard parking issue at a public hearing during the Chapel Hill Town Council's Monday night meeting.

A proposed ordinance, which focuses on front-yard parking, would limit the space allowed for use by vehicles to 40 percent of the front yard in certain historic districts. Many University students use this form of parking because of its convenient location near campus.

At the hearing, the ordinance received overwhelming support by the communities involved. Property owners in the effected neighborhoods came out in large numbers to support the ordinance.

But only three University students spoke against the ordinance.

Fifth-year UNC student Tara Powell said if the ordinance passed, not only would it affect the students who would lose their parking spots, but it would place a premium on parking in other districts where the parking is not regulated.

"I was surprised not to see more students out to oppose this ordinance because it will affect a lot of people once parking spaces start to disappear," Powell said.

Other opposition to the ordinance came from Student Body President Mo Nathan, who said he did not want the

debate over the ordinance to turn into a battle between students and residents. Nathan said his chief concern was that, "students have access to where they live."

Nathan said he wished for town residents and University students to be good neighbors.

Hopefully something could be worked out so that students who came into the year with a certain set of expectations about their parking situation would not have that taken from them, he said.

Nathan also expressed concern about the proposed amortization period of six months, which, as it stands, would force residents currently renting out parking spaces in their yards to comply with the regulations in the ordinance before the end of the school year.

Nathan said he thought the period should coincide with the academic year. But community members said front-



Student Body President MO NATHAN said he hoped the residents and University could be good neighbors.

Everyone is a moon and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.

Mark Twain

INSIDE Tuesday

Dieters beware

The diet drug combo of "fen-phen" no longer exists. The FDA pulled "phen" off the market Monday. Page 7

cummings on display

Four letters containing poems and sketches by famed poet e e cummings have been donated to the Southern Historical Collection. Page 2

Today's weather



Partly sunny;
mid 80s
Wednesday: Sunny;
mid 80s