

Residence Halls Get Touch-Ups

The face of South Campus will look different this year, with more sophomore students in residence halls.

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

While they may not have seen the paint cans, the polish and the behind-the-scenes administrative decisions, campus residents undoubtedly noticed the housing changes that went into effect this semester.

All four South Campus residence halls underwent renovations this summer, with Morrison getting the largest makeover costing more than \$1 million.

"It was an area that needed to have a facelift and an upgrade," said Director of University Housing Christopher Payne. "We had been hearing things from a lot of students living in the building."

Morrison received new loft beds and mattresses, a complete paint job, refurbished furniture and renovated kitchens and study rooms.

Craige residents will also find new loft beds and mattresses, and Hinton James and Ehringhaus residents will notice some additional air conditioning units and maintenance repairs.

But a shifting South Campus demo-

graphic will bring the largest change to the area.

More sophomore students will be living on South Campus due to a greater number of returning students in campus housing and the placement of some freshmen in other campus regions.

"We have hundreds of rising sophomores who will live in the southern region but want to move north and can't," said Dean Bresciani, associate vice chancellor for student services. "We don't want South Campus to be all freshmen."

Sophomore Eric Meehan from West Chester, Pa., lived in Ehringhaus last year and requested an area change this year because of the distance from classes.

He said he was disappointed to be back on South Campus but is glad that many sophomores will be returning. "My suite is all sophomores," he said. "There haven't been any big complaints because we know a lot of people."

South Campus will also lose many graduate, international and transfer students who have traditionally been housed together in Craige.

This year, most graduate students will

be in Whitehead on Mid Campus. A large portion of international and transfer students will be spread throughout campus.

Bresciani said international students have been housed together in the past because only one hall was open during breaks. But he said multiple halls are now open. "We're doing it very purposefully," he said. "To be dispersed, we think they'll have a better educational experience."

Jialynn Wang, a third-year pharmacy student from Chapel Hill, said she is excited about living in Whitehead.

"It'll be nice for all graduate students to live together," she said. "Everyone's older and more of your peers."

The residents of Old East and Old West will also have

to adjust to a new living situation. For the first time in more than 200 years, women will be living in the traditionally all-male buildings.

Payne said he hopes all the housing changes will pan out well this year. "I think we made some really good decisions about where people are living."

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CHRISTOPHER PAYNE
Director of University Housing

Case Against University, Dorrance Slows to Snail's Pace, Lawyer Says

By BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

Louis Varchetto, an attorney for former North Carolina women's soccer players Debbie Keller and Melissa Jennings, said their lawsuit against the University and Coach Anson Dorrance has come to a "screeching halt" since October.

Varchetto has been waiting for a ruling on the defendants' motion for dismissal since the defense filed a reply brief in support of their motion in October.

Jennings and Keller filed a 19-page lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Chicago on Aug. 25, 1998, accusing Dorrance of sexual harassment and misconduct.

The defense originally filed for dismissal in June 1999 at the federal court in Greensboro.

"I thought the court would have decided the motion late last year," Varchetto said. "My time frame is all out of whack. I've been sitting around doing nothing for a year now."

The plaintiffs recently had to respond to an additional plea the defense made on the issue of qualified immunity.

Qualified immunity protects government officials from liability for civil

damages as long as their conduct does not violate established statutory or constitutional rights that a reasonable person should have known.

The plaintiffs were ordered to file a response on June 15 of this year, but they were given a 20-day extension on July 17. The plaintiffs filed a sur-reply on July 26.

Varchetto said court rules don't allow an issue to be raised for the first time in a reply. Marcy DeFalco, who is also an attorney for Jennings and Keller, said the court told the plaintiffs to respond anyway.

"The court issued a ruling in June saying, 'Yeah, you really can't do it that way, but they've raised it. Why don't you plaintiffs respond to it,'" DeFalco said.

Varchetto said if the case is not dismissed, the discovery period that follows could take more than a year because so many witnesses will be deposed.

Varchetto said he has talked with



Former UNC player Debbie Keller has played two games for the Rockford Dactyls of the USISL W-League.

Keller and Jennings on a daily basis. Varchetto said they are both frustrated with how slowly the case is moving.

"It's pretty hard not to be frustrated with things not progressing," he said.

Judy Keller, Debbie Keller's mother, said her daughter is living in Illinois so she can be contacted once the discovery period begins. She has played two games for the Rockford Dactyls of the USISL W-League and is going to cosmetology school.

"Because of the lawsuit, she decided to fulfill one of her hobbies," Judy Keller said. "It's kind of an expensive hobby."

University defense attorney Thomas Ziko could not be reached for comment.

Cari Hepp, spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Justice, said the state attorney general's office could not comment on the case.

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

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