

# RHA programs cultivate unity

BY TOM PREVITE  
STAFF WRITER

The Residence Hall Association strives to cultivate friendships and fun times with a wide variety of activities targeting students living on campus each semester.

RHA President Kristin Conte said that the most popular activities revolve around end of the year programs such as the Old Dirty Bash and the Beach Blast.

"Anytime it's an exam time, we do something to relieve stress," Conte said. "We make stress balls, serve stress relieving foods, such as chocolates or make cards to children at the UNC Children's Hospital."

Other activities during the year include Screen on the Green and holiday special events, such as pumpkin carvings for Halloween.

As many as 300 students can turn out for these events, Conte said. "We do a lot of publicity in the resident halls, on the cube, in e-mails, and a lot of it is word of mouth," Conte said.

Senior mathematics major Karl Sain said he enjoys the Screen on the Green and the Old Dirty Bash. "They're fun," he said. "I'd say it's worth it for the free food that they give out."

Sain, who has lived in Winston, Mangum and Old West residence halls during his four-year collegiate career, said that in addition to these activities, living on campus makes it easier to become involved in the campus community. "(Campus living) is a convenient way to stay close to your classes and anything else you're involved in."

Not all activities are fun and games, though. The RHA also schedules meetings in which students discuss important issues to them, such as smoking on campus or politics.

"We had a really successful program about the war in Iraq and a discussion about it," said Ellen Jones, resident director for the Hinton James-North Community. Campus communities stimulate

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KARL SAIN, SENIOR

interaction between students in every day life as well.

"We've encouraged having doors open so people can get together," Jones said. "We've tried since day one to encourage this."

One of Hinton James' contests involves offering students a prize for having their doors open when resident advisors visit.

"It's worked, although it's a little challenging as students get more active with their schedules," Jones said.

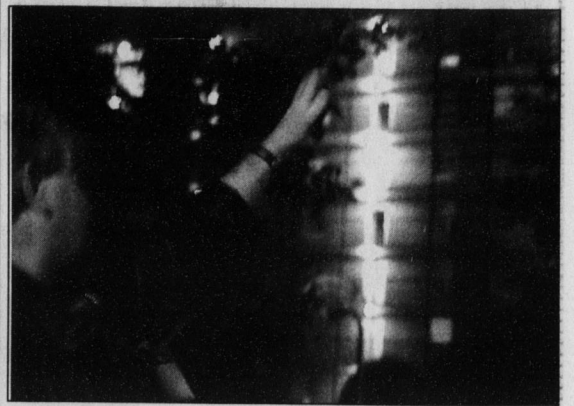
This year, students living on campus can look forward to new events, such as a battle of the bands concert and a special activity to spread diversity awareness which Conte calls a "wall project."

"In March, we'll have a brick-painting party where students can paint words of oppression or hate which they have encountered in life," Conte said.

The bricks will be built into a wall in a prominent place and then torn down during the week of diversity in late March. "During the week of diversity, there will be a knocking down ceremony with speakers to destroy the hate," Conte said.

Nevertheless, Jones placed emphasis on the long term benefits of residence community practices. "We're trying to make it the best, a place they can call home."

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).



Tour participants cited the south side of Hinton James-North Residence Hall and a corridor near Morrison Residence Hall for improvements.

# Better lighting needed on campus walkways

BY ANDREW SATTEN  
STAFF WRITER

The UNC Electric Systems Group held its Fall Lighting Tour on Nov. 11 to ensure that all campus walkways, roadways and parking lots are illuminated adequately.

This biannual event, during which a portion of the campus is toured at night, focused on Middle Campus and South Campus.

A group of 13 people participated in the tour that was headed by Phil Mazarick, an engineering technician at UNC Electric Systems.

The group included officials from the Department of Public Safety, representatives from student government's Student Services Committee and senior Nanishka Albaladejo, who was observing campus lighting for her environmental studies capstone class.

The tour revealed two key areas in which lighting should be revamped.

The group called for two lamp posts to be installed on the south side of Hinton James-North Residence Hall and for a series of bulbs to be replaced along the wooded corridor between Morrison Residence Hall and Kenan Stadium's gate five entrance.

Lt. Angela Carmon, a crime prevention officer for University police voiced support for the lighting that has been added to Davis Library but said the areas bordering Coker Arboretum, especially on Raleigh

Street, are often problematic and have frequent instances of criminal activity.

"On one side of Raleigh (Street) you've got the campus, and on one side you've got residential housing, and usually (residents) don't want everything all lit up," she said.

During the first week of classes, a student was mugged at night near this area between Caldwell and Hamilton halls.

In early November, lights were mounted on the east side of Davis Library, lighting the corridor next to Lenoir Dining Hall. For years this area was a reoccurring issue on campus lighting walks but had been avoided because of an underground irrigation system and high costs.

"Money is an issue because of the state and University budget problems," Plant Maintenance Supervisor Joe Emory said. "But safety is a bigger issue, and that takes precedence."

After the tour Mazarick said the walk was a success. He highlighted the difficulty of managing University lighting in the midst of the construction on campus, which constantly changes the flow of student traffic.

"With all the projects going on, it's been a real challenge," he said. "You have to be very creative sometimes to keep the lights on."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# More residence halls to become coed

Some students opposed to the change

BY ALLISON PARKER  
STAFF WRITER

Among the many freedoms of college is the chance to live in the same hall as the opposite sex, and student input is now making that opportunity universal across campus residence halls.

Students have influenced the decision to put an end to the single-sex status of several North Campus residence halls.

McIver and Alderman residence halls, which were both all female before closing for renovations, will reopen next fall as coed, said Christopher Payne, director of Housing and Residential Education.

Joyner Residence Hall was converted to coed in 2002.

During fall 2003, students living in North Campus residence halls were asked to participate in a poll regarding the possible transformation of single-sex residence halls.

Twenty percent of residents

responded, with almost 88 percent wanting the change.

"As a result of that feedback and the current gender ratio of 60 percent females and 40 percent males we decided to make the move to coed," Payne said.

Seven residence halls on campus are reserved for as single sex. Mangum, Graham and Stacy residence halls are male only, while Aycock, Manly, Parker and Cobb residence halls house only women.

Because of the student poll and a number of forums held over the coed issue, McIver and Alderman will re-open next fall as coed residence halls, with Kenan Residence Hall — located in the same area — remaining all female, Payne said.

"We want to listen to the students' preferences, because they play a large role in campus housing," Payne said.

"We want to involve students in these decisions."

Community directors on North Campus also are trying their best to satisfy students and do what they think is necessary.

"Different students have different needs, we do what we can to accommodate them," said Jennifer Lewitas, director of the Olde Campus Upper Quad Community.

There are many benefits to coed housing, said Peter Trentacoste, director of Olde Campus Lower Quad Community.

"The interaction is necessary, it's how life is in the real world," he said.

"When you get an apartment, you aren't divided by gender."

Some students living on North Campus also are opposed to single-sex housing.

"With single-sex residence halls, you don't get the diversity of opinions and interests that you would with a coed dorm," said Cobb resident Michelle Sweeney, a senior chemistry major.

Some residence halls offer an alternative form of coed living for students. Alexander and Joyner residence halls are separated by

floors — men live on odd-numbered floors, and women live on even-numbered floors.

"I would rather each floor be coed, because it's easier to meet other people and interact with them," said Alexander resident Joe Hafera, a junior communication studies major.

Due to the separation of the sexes by floor, converting some of the single-sex residence halls to coed wouldn't change much, said sophomore Stephanie Kurtz.

"The way coed residence halls on North Campus are set up now — divided by floors — there wouldn't be that much of a difference," Kurtz said, a Cobb resident.

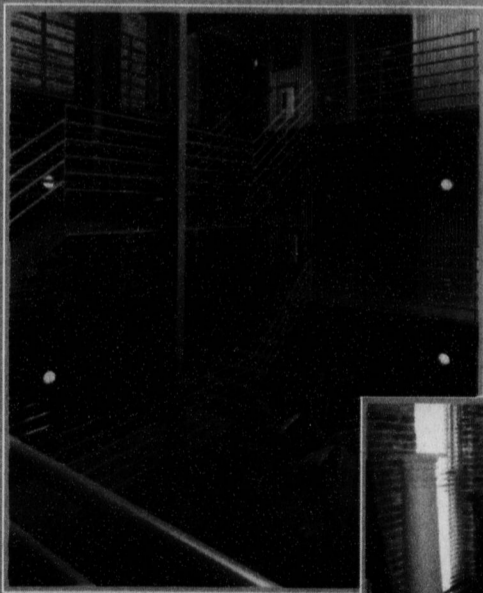
But some students are not opposed to changes in single-sex living arrangements. Sophomore Kerry King, who lives on an all-female hall in Joyner, said she enjoys the benefits of single-sex living.

"I don't mind it, because we definitely have our privacy."

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