



DTH/KATHY SHUPING

Children spend the day sledding behind Odom Village, UNC's family-style housing complex. The complex will be converted into apartment-style suites in 2005, one year before construction begins on other new housing sites.

Apartment-style halls come to UNC in 2006

BY MEGAN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Patrick Elliot said he might have reconsidered signing a lease in December for off-campus housing had on-campus apartment-style residences been available to him.

Moving into a house on Green Street next fall will force Elliot to sacrifice the convenience of campus life for a little independence, but he said the benefits will be well worth it.

"Living on campus can definitely have its conveniences, but sometimes you just want to have a big place with better amenities," Elliot said. "You may be a little farther off campus, but you're more comfortable."

The UNC Buildings and Grounds Committee approved plans on Jan. 8 that could eventually give students such as Elliot the best of both worlds.

At the committee's preliminary design review, designers were given the go-ahead to continue work on the proposed \$65.5 million apartment-style housing project on South Campus, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2006.

At its January 21 meeting, the UNC Board of Trustees viewed plans for the residence halls and expressed approval of most aspects of the project.

But some members raised concern over the price of living in the residence halls compared to apartments off-campus, which housing officials promised to research in the next couple months.

Attracting upperclassmen and graduate students who would otherwise choose to live in an off-campus apartment is a central goal of the new residence halls, said Christopher Payne, director of housing and residential education.

The project initially was proposed for completion in 2005, but design plans were halted in November 2002 due to ongoing construction in the area.

The apartment neighborhoods will consist of five buildings in two South Campus locations — three south of Craig Parking Deck and two south of Hinton James Residence Hall — with a capacity of 960 students, if fully approved. The design would accommodate four students with two bathrooms, a living area and a kitchen.

The apartments would be furnished in the same manner as other residence halls are.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor of planning and construction, stressed that there is still a significant amount of work to be done with the architectural design, which is being handled by the firms of Sasaki and Clark Nexsen.

Payne said he hopes this more independent living facility might lure academically focused students to remain on campus in their final years at UNC, becoming a positive influence for underclassmen.

For Elliot, cost and cars are his greatest concerns with the proposed apartment-style housing.

Payne said that pricing structures for the apartment units haven't been determined, but it's clear that no special parking privileges will be allotted to apartment residents.

Upon final approval for the project in March, contractor bids will be finalized in November and construction is scheduled to begin in December.

From there, the units will be ready for occupancy by fall term 2006, Runberg said.

Students traveling through South Campus can expect the typical construction inconveniences such as dust and noise, Payne said.

Current construction on family-style housing on Mason Farm Road, which is scheduled for completion in 2005, will convert Odom Village to apartment-style housing for UNC students one year before the new sites. Odom Village is now the site for graduate student family-style housing.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Complexes lure tenants with added benefits

BY AMY KINGSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Residents at some local apartment complexes can tan, swim, work out, socialize and more — all without a special membership.

Amenities, all the extras that come with four walls and a roof, can make certain apartment communities more appealing than others. The competition for the student dollar increasingly can be measured by the list of amenities.

Amenities range from basic to extravagant. The Villages boasts a list of extras, including monthly

socials, a free video library and a 24-hour fitness center, said Cheryl Davis, the apartment complex's relocation specialist.

Highland Hills Apartments in Carrboro offers a game room and guest suite, said Henry Jay, Highland Hills' marketing specialist. "Our amenities are very popular," Jay said. "They are one of the reasons people choose us over someone else."

In contrast, residents at Chancellor Square apartments and Mill Creek Condominiums can expect new appliances and well-

appointed living spaces, said Adam Jones, the owner of both complexes.

But many residents enjoy an additional perk: proximity. "A lot of our places are within a half-mile of campus," Jones said. "A lot of students like to walk or bike to classes."

The impact of these extras remains unknown to complex owners, but their appeal to students is undeniable.

Jones said students comprise an estimated 90 percent of residents in Mill House Properties, the company that oversees Mill Creek and Chancellor Square.

Residents regularly use the amenities offered by The Villages, Davis said. She estimated that 60 percent of residents consider the extras important in deciding where to live.

The popularity of different amenities cycles with the seasons, Jay said.

He cited the pool as one of the most popular amenities in the summer, but said the snow has caused an increase in video-borrowing.

The diversity of amenities reflects diversity among residents.

Athletic residents can utilize playing fields and children can use a playground at The Villages.

Other residents can enjoy the video library or opportunities to socialize, Davis said.

Students living in Mill House Properties rarely use the pools or decks, Jones said. Most are more concerned with the availability of appliances such as dishwashers and microwaves.

"I think if you have a unit well-appointed, it makes it easier to live," he said.

Physical additions — such as

fireplaces — to the rooms can increase rent, but owners and employees denied that amenities cost residents extra money.

"I can't really say whether prices would go down," Davis said.

Residents appreciate the amenities, Jay said, helping complexes remain competitive.

"That's what makes it home," he said. "There are a lot of apartment communities. Amenities will help residents make that jump."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Arts groups court campus

Entertainment options varied

BY KATE LORD
STAFF WRITER

As the spring semester begins, students are looking for entertainment outlets on campus.

Through UNC-affiliated groups, there are a wide variety of choices to be found.

For those interested in theater, several associations on campus are willing to cater to their needs. Pauper Players is a student-run musical theater group that will be showcasing a music revue called "Broadway Melodies" from Feb. 5 through Feb. 8, as well as an April production of the love story "The Fantasticks."

The oldest student theater company on campus is Lab! Theatre, which is affiliated with the Department of Dramatic Art. From production to design to all of the acting, students are the core of this ensemble. Starting the spring season with a production of "Glengarry Glen Ross," which runs from Feb. 6 through Feb. 10, the troupe also will be producing "The House of Yes" and "Sylvia" in late February and early March.

To see professional actors in action, look no further than the Paul Green Theater, where the PlayMakers Repertory Company performs. The company is wrapping up its current run of "King Lear" and will present "The Subject was Roses" and "Luminosity" later in the semester. PlayMakers spokeswoman Pam

O'Connor said that the company is essentially a "professional wing of the UNC Department of Dramatic Art."

PlayMakers offers a "great lab for students to work and learn" at the undergraduate and graduate levels, she added.

The theater offers the low-cost Incredible Student Pass for all five shows of the season, or a patron can come to see a show on Tuesday Community Night, when all admissions are \$10.

Company Carolina, a student-run theatre company, is another option for students interested in theatrical productions. The group encourages all students to audition and typically produces three shows per year, including a musical.

For music lovers, a mix of a cappella groups exist on campus. The Loreleis and the ClefHangers are two student-run ensembles, exclusively female and male, respectively.

Students might have heard Tar Heel Voices while having a meal in Lenoir Dining Hall. This coed a cappella group was formed in 1988.

"(THV has) a tradition to build off of," said co-president Emily Cook. "We stand on the shoulders of past members."

With their "special flavor," the group hopes to spread music around campus.

Movie buffs will enjoy the Union Film Series, which includes such entertainment as "American Splendor," "Lost in Translation," and "The Philadelphia Story," shown in the Union Auditorium, usually for free.

With a plethora of other enter-

Arts Around Campus

Pauper Players

Feb. 5-8, 8 p.m.
Gerard Hall
"Broadway Melodies ... a musical review in three parts"

Lab! Theatre

Feb. 6-10, times vary
Kenan Theatre
"Glengarry Glen Ross"

PlayMakers

Feb. 28-March 31, times vary
Center for Dramatic Art
"The Subject was Roses"

Chapel Hill Players (CHiPs)

March 26, 8 pm
Murphy 111
Improv Comedy Show

tainment options also present at UNC, from Chapel Hill Players, a student improv comedy group, to chamber music and ballet hosted by the Carolina Union Performing Arts Series, there is something for everyone.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Housing

The Division of Student Affairs

& Residential Education

Top Ten Reasons To Live On Campus

1. Students who live on campus are more likely to interact with professors outside of class, attend cultural events, seek employment on campus, and participate in clubs and organizations.
2. One check pays all — no separate cable or utility bills to pay.
3. Attend all the social and educational activities that you want.
4. Access campus facilities and services at your convenience.
5. There's no need to have a car when you live on campus.
6. Enjoy the convenience of living close to your classes.
7. Access the campus network right from your room.
8. You have a lifetime to live off campus.
9. Walk to Franklin Street.
10. Make friends that you'll keep for a lifetime.

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