

# Ram Village application due | Arc aids developmentally disabled

BY MEGAN HANNAY  
STAFF WRITER

Two days remain to apply for a room in Ram Village apartments for next year.

But officials said not everyone who wants a spot in the South Campus apartments will get one.

"We expect more applications than we have space for," said Rick Bradley, assistant director for the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

Recontracting for the apartments has concluded, and 136 students have requested their current Ram Village apartments. Another 166 requested to change apartments within the complex, Bradley said. Many students have not recontracted because they are graduating seniors.

That leaves about 600 spaces — about two-thirds the total capacity — open to students not now living in Rams Village.

Last year, more than 700 students applied for these leftover spots.

"(Living in Ram Village) is just really convenient," said junior Bryan Ching who recontracted in Ram Village for next year. "We were contemplating living off-campus, but ... it's easier to keep in touch with friends here."

Seniors, followed by juniors, are given first priority. Sophomores are selected by a lottery, and spots are not set aside for freshmen.

To deal with the demand last year, officials assigned four-bedroom apartments to students who wanted one-, two- or three-bedroom apart-

ments but did not get them.

That meant some applicants landed apartments with strangers. "Some people wouldn't be happy with this," Bradley said.

The process is different this year. Students will meet with housing officials on Feb. 4, 5 and 7 to choose their residence.

With this new system, those who don't get the Ram Village apartment they want now have more time to search for other living arrangements. Open-campus recontracting begins Feb. 28.

"Now students can make their

own decisions much sooner," Bradley said.

Junior Heather Jackson, who recontracted for Ram Village, said the process was very simple. "I was a just a little confused about whether I had to pay my fee," she said.

All students living on campus next year must pay a \$200 housing deposit by March 1, regardless of when they recontract.

"It's a prepayment towards the semester rent," Bradley said.

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

BY TRICIA THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

To some, cleaning tables, swiping cards and interacting with customers is just another tedious day at work. However, it is a step toward independence and a sense of accomplishment to the people the Arc of Orange County serves.

The Arc of Orange County works with local developmentally disabled residents to help incorporate their skills into the community.

The nonprofit is increasing the resources available to these residents with the newly formed Employment Support Services.

The main focus will be to assist individuals in finding paid employment, said Christian Keller, director of group programs and specialized services.

"These guys have a lot of viable and useful skills, but they just need that extra support to go through the process," Keller said.

The month-old department is working with eight people currently, and new referrals come in everyday, Keller said.

"We're just starting to expand the program," said Michelle Antonelli, employment specialist for Arc. "Our goal is to serve many more than that."

Arc works to provide disabled residents with the resources they need to locate, secure and maintain a competitive employment position.

Keller said they try to place clients in jobs that complement existing interests and skills.

"If someone really loves music, we'll look into some of the record stores or a place where they can be working with folks that play instruments," Keller said.

Arc has provided this aid before. They've set up summer internships

and volunteer opportunities for clients at local businesses for years.

"We have done bits and pieces of employment support services but nothing to this extent," Keller said. "Now we can put all of our energy and time into helping clients find jobs."

One client already works at Café Carolina in Meadowmont Village.

"It allows him to be around and talk to people he wouldn't normally be exposed to," said Sam Rhule, Café Carolina general manager. "He gets to learn ... communication skills and how to deal with people."

Rhule said he would encourage other businesses to become involved with Arc's employment services.

The most successful part of the program is the individual's sense of pride and independence in their vocation, Keller said.

"It's a real job. It's not something that's made up for them," Keller said. "They're in a real business with a real job. They are being able to be productive and contributing members of a society."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu)

## National and World News

FROM THE  
CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### Florida governor endorses McCain

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Florida Gov. Charlie Crist endorsed a beaming Sen. John McCain on Saturday night, delivering a boost three days before the state's pivotal presidential primary.

Crist praised McCain as a "true American hero." At a county GOP dinner in St. Petersburg, Crist added, "After thinking about it as much as I have, I don't think anybody would do better than the man who stands next to me, Sen. John McCain."

### Kucinich legacy: a fight for time

NEW YORK (AP) — The legacy of Dennis Kucinich's longshot presidential campaign might be less his anti-war views than a futile fight that legally reinforced the rights of TV networks to organize their own debates.

Kucinich was excluded from Democratic debates on ABC, MSNBC and CNN in January.

The Cleveland congressman, who officially dropped out of the race Friday, protested each decision to either the Federal Communications Commission or the courts.

### Senate considers adding to rebate plan backed by Bush and the House

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Bush's chief negotiator on an economic aid deal said Sunday that the Senate should quickly get behind a plan or risk drawing resentment from a frustrated public.

The president and House leaders have agreed on a proposal to provide tax rebate checks to 117 million families and give businesses \$50 billion in incentives to invest in new plants and equipment.

"I don't think the Senate is going to want to derail that deal," Treasury Secretary Henry

Paulson said.

The Senate is considering adding such elements as extending unemployment benefits for workers whose benefits have run out, boosting home heating subsidies, raising food stamp benefits and approving money for public works projects.

The administration hopes to start getting rebate checks out in May, assuming that Congress acts in the next few weeks.

Paulson said the economic program would boost job creation, consumer spending and confidence in the stock market.

### U.S. spy satellite could hit Earth

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A large U.S. spy satellite has lost power and could hit the Earth in late February or early March, government officials said Saturday.

The satellite, which no longer can be controlled, could contain hazardous materials, and it is unknown where on the planet it might come down, they said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified as secret. It was not clear how long ago the satellite lost power, or under what circumstances.

### Rioting in Beirut leaves seven dead

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Protesters angry about electricity rationing clashed with Lebanese troops Sunday in Beirut's worst riots in a year, leaving seven people dead, hospital and security officials said.

Hundreds of Shiite Muslims opposed to the government rioted and burned tires, blocking some major roads in the Lebanese capital and its southern suburbs.

Lebanese soldiers fired into the air to disperse the crowd, but it was unclear how the deaths occurred and whether the soldiers also intentionally fired on civilians.

### On-campus housing prices

Price for 10 months, utilities included:

#### Ram Village

(Furnished Apartments)  
 > Shared bedrooms: \$5,728 per student  
 > Individual bedrooms: \$6,055

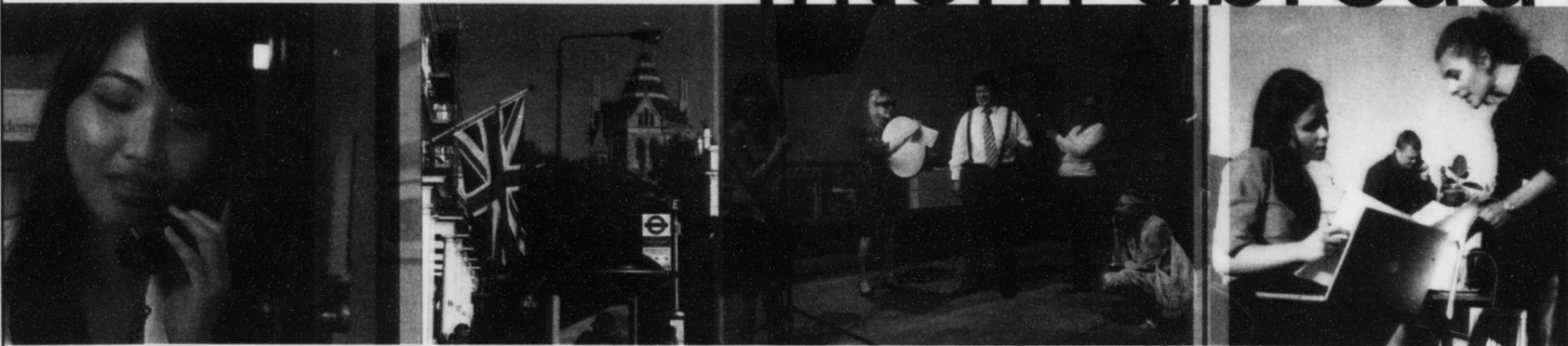
#### Residence Halls

> Shared without air conditioning: \$3,960 per student  
 > Shared with air conditioning: \$5,050 per student  
 > Single without air conditioning: \$4,800  
 > Single with air conditioning: \$5,816  
 > Morrison super suites: \$5,436 per student



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