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Different environment attracts some to single-sex dorms over coed halls

By MARA LEE
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, the idea of male and female students living in the same residence hall was unthinkable.

Rules prohibited opposite-sex visitation, women signed out before leaving the building and tight curfews attempted to control those students brave enough to challenge the system.

Despite crusades to promote sexual equality, single-sex residence halls remain an institution on campus. Thirty-five percent of UNC students live in the University's 12 all-female and seven all-male residence halls.

But how different are the experiences of single-sex and coed housing residents?

Uniform visiting regulations govern all residence halls. Members of the opposite sex may visit until 2 a.m. on weekends, and may be in rooms with doors closed — but not locked.

These restrictions are a far cry from the days of housemothers and 11 o'clock curfews. But today, students agreed, although enforcement is fairly lax everywhere, visitation rules are more strict in female halls than anywhere else.

"It seems that women's dorms are more sheltered — they (housing) are much more interested in protection," said Heather Bradley, a sophomore journalism major from Raleigh.

Rob Fisher, a senior chemistry major from Wilmington, said visitation rules made female residence halls more secure. "It'll be kind of obvious if there's some guy walking around — some pervert walking around. They probably feel safer going through their hallways." Wen-Ling Lai, a junior business

major from Cary, said she understood the necessity for the regulations. "The reason behind their enforcing the visiting hours is so the girls won't be hurt, but I'm not sure I agree with it."

Tony Walker, a sophomore physics major from Charlotte, said he agreed. "I would say it stems from maybe a different time when for the University to allow someone of the opposite sex in the same room would be in bad taste. I think people have different morals, and they should dictate what they do, and not the University."

Although the rules may not be a daily inconvenience, some find the principle disconcerting.

"I know that the University gets a lot of pressure from the alumni and parents for these really strict rules. I feel that at 18, away at college, you're old enough to make that kind of decision. You should be able to decide who spends the night in your room if your roommate agrees," Bradley said.

The visitation policy has remained unchanged under the jurisdiction of Wayne Kuncl, director of housing.

"I suspect it was probably in the '60s or '70s that it went into effect," Kuncl said. "I know they are (enforced) from incident reports. We're consistent with law." Cohabitation is illegal in North Carolina.

Fisher, who lives in an all-male residence hall, said visitation rules in male residence halls were relatively lax. "People (if they're not drunk or something) are a little bit wary of coming in at three or four in the morning. If they don't make too much noise, the RAs don't say anything. Girlfriends spend the night often — just on this floor,

about two every weekend," he said.

Although visitation may or may not be more strictly enforced in female dorms, locks on the bathrooms are a more tangible policy difference. According to Bradley, "Locks on the bathroom doors contribute to that view that women are not capable of taking care of themselves and they need extra protection to keep them from the people who might harm them."

"It's a major inconvenience to have someone visiting you to explain to them not to go to the bathroom or go out of their way to go to the bathroom," Bradley said. "I think it would be much more convenient to have a bathroom for male visitors that might come over."

Fisher said he thought locks were more of a bother. "If someone wants to get in the bathroom, they're going to get in."

Another difference the single-sex and coed experience is in the daily environment.

"I feel that with males around, the environment is a lot more relaxed and guy-girl relationships can be more friendships," Bradley said. "In a girls' dorm, a lot of the time when a guy comes around, it's just to take some girl out."

"I think all-female dorms are a throwback to conservative views on college-age male-female relations," she continued. "They don't think we're at an age where we can handle ourselves."

Walker added, "In all likelihood, a woman in a coed dorm is going to have more guy-friends just because you live with them all the time. It may help them to better interact with guys."

But Walker added that he enjoyed not worrying about being properly dressed for a trip to the water fountain in his single-sex dorm.

In a coed dorm, Bradley said, "I might not be able to walk around in my jamma."

UNC researchers test drug that may aid heart patients

By NOAH BARTOLUCCI
Staff Writer

Researchers at the UNC schools of pharmacy and medicine are pioneering uses of a new drug they say may improve the pumping effectiveness of a failed heart.

The drug, milrinone, has been shown to strengthen the heart's pumping contraction and to relax arteries to increase blood flow in the peripheral circulation, the arms and the legs.

Dr. Kirkwood Adams Jr., director of the heart failure program at UNC, said milrinone's effect could be compared to a pump moving fluid through a fuel line. "If you increase the force of the pump and open up the fuel lines, then the pump will perform better," he said.

Adams, who is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine and Radiology, said milrinone demonstrated substantial evidence in early studies of improving heart pumping and reducing acute symptoms of heart failure — lung congestion and fatigue.

He explained that because of these findings, studies now concentrate on

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the drug's application to chronic heart failure.

Dr. J. Herbert Patterson, co-investigator of the study and an associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, said the goal of the study was to determine if milrinone is an effective drug for increasing exercise time on a treadmill test.

"The treadmill measures the exercise capacity of patients with heart failure," Patterson said.

To determine whether the drug is effective in the long term, the patients perform a series of exercise tests over several months to see if their ability to exercise improves with drug treatment. For example, the heart may perform well enough for a person to wash dishes or make a bed, but not well enough to mow the lawn.

According to Patterson, the UNC study has three parts: after a baseline stabilization phase, milrinone or placebo is added and compared to standard drug therapies for heart failure, but with the researchers blind to the active medication. The blinding ensures objectivity. In the third phase of the project, milrinone is administered open-label.

Adams explained that the reason for comparing milrinone to other drugs and for studying it taken with other drugs is that it has to be considered in the context of other treatments.

"Heart failure tends to be a progressive disease," Adams said. "Patients don't respond equally well to available medication. Many patients will feel better, others won't."

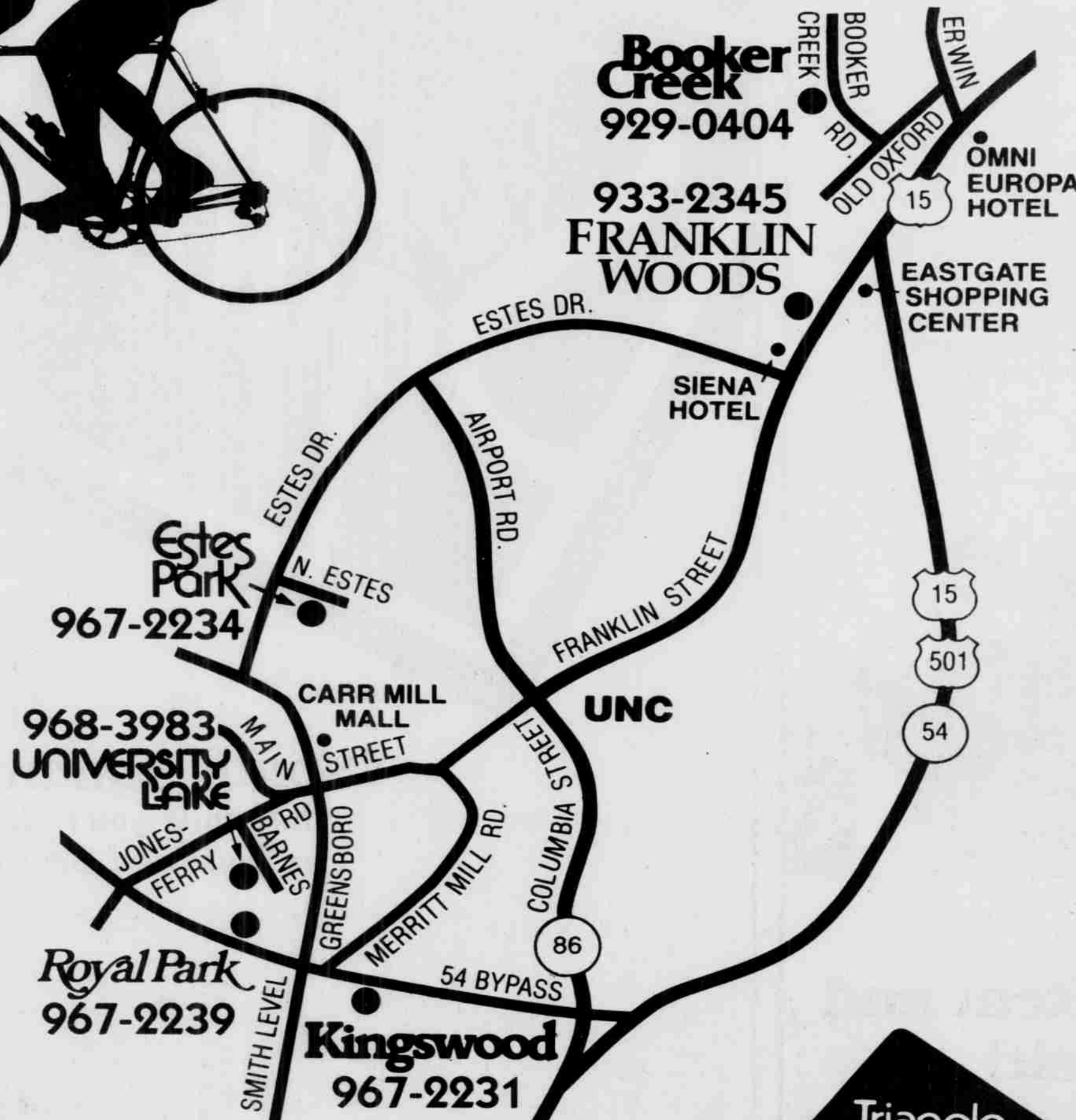
He said UNC takes a comprehensive approach to treating heart failure patients. "We will use standard therapy or new drugs," Adams said. "When investigative drugs fail, we may be able to offer the patient cardiac transplantation."

Adams said the impetus for today's milrinone research stemmed from the fact that heart failure is a leading cause of hospitalization nationwide.

"It's also one of three or four leading causes of death and affects several million people in our country alone," he said.

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