

Theme houses to be cleared, new Polo Road dorm added

Polo Hall takes over Deacon Band practice field

By FRANK WILSON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Students will have a new housing option to choose from in the fall of 1998. A new L-shaped dormitory called Polo Hall is expected to open with a unique style of housing.

"We're currently in the final stages of planning," said Connie Carson, the director of Residence Life and Housing.

The new hall will be built across from Student Apartments and next to North Hall on what is currently the marching band's practice field.

"It'll kind of finish off that community," Carson said.

The new hall will combine some elements of current residence halls with apartment-style suites.

The exterior of the dorm will look like those of other residence halls. It will have a lobby with a front desk, study lounges and a laundry room. But students' rooms will be completely different from those in other residence halls.

"We don't have anything like it on campus," Carson said.

Most suites are designed to resemble two-floor townhouses. The downstairs area will have a living room, dining room and kitchen. Bedrooms will be upstairs. Such suites will house four students.

Some other rooms will be like studio apartments. These will be designed for two students.

Carson expects most of the residents to be upper-class students. Residents will be chosen through the usual lottery system. Four students will block together when choosing an apartment.

The exact number of students that will be housed in the new hall will be determined when the plans are finalized. Carson said that right now they are planning for approximately 194 beds.

The system for residential advisors has not been determined yet. Carson said the staff patterns have not been worked out yet, but that there may be as few as three RAs. Whether the RAs will live together or with other students has not been decided.

Work on the residence hall is expected to begin sometime this spring.

"We probably will break ground in late March," Carson said.

Polo Hall, like North, is only a project name. The official name of each of these

buildings will be determined at a later date. This could take some time — Collins Residence Hall did not get its official name for almost 10 years.

Carson said the cost of constructing Polo Hall is set right now at a little over \$10 million. Carson said that there are additional plans for construction other than Polo Hall. A road will run past the new building and connect Allen Easley Drive to Wingate Road. "We're redoing that whole area," Carson said.

Carson warned that the construction of a new dorm does not mean that the university plans to increase enrollment.

"We're not expecting to expand the undergraduate population," she said.

Instead, the new dorm will offset the loss of 70 beds due to the closing of some theme housing along Polo Road. The extra space will also help eliminate the day student waiting list for housing, which at times has been as large as 50 students.

Carson addressed concerns that the building might not be completed on time, saying, "It will be done on time." She cited the university's good relationships with its contractors and the previous projects which have been completed on schedule as evidence that there will be no problems.

"The last three summers we have done renovations that most schools close down buildings for part of a year . . . in an 80 day period," Carson said. She also mentioned that North was completed when expected.

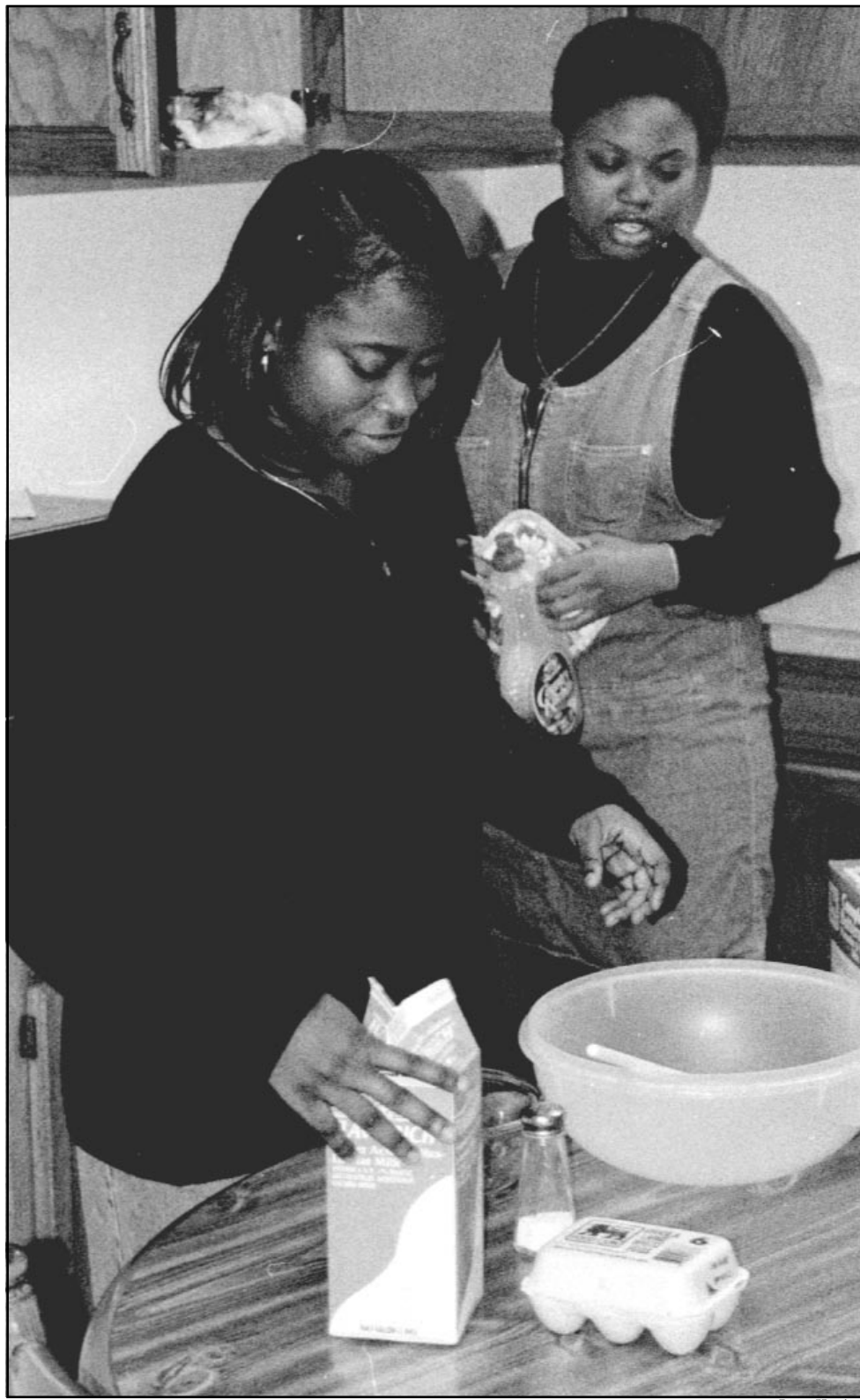
Nevertheless, a contingency plan will be put in place. "It may not be one student like," Carson said. The details of the plan have not yet been worked out.

In addition to residences, the building will also offer some small office space to four independent student organizations. Groups expecting space in the new building include the Euzelian Society and the Philomathesian Society.

Senior Susie Danks, president of the Philomathesian Society, said, "They tell us that when the new dorm is done we'll have some space out there." She said that in the meantime plans to put together temporary office space in the basement of Huffman House are being evaluated.

Carson is very positive about the project and the effect that a new residence hall will have on the surrounding dorms.

"I think it's going to be a real nice community builder for that area. . . . It'll bring that community together," she said.



Sophomores Chere Childers and Sikirat Kazeem prepare their meal at the NIA house. Several theme houses will be closed in 1998, but a new hall will replace them.

Bryan Herring

New residence hall for upperclassmen opens as theme houses are closed

By ERIN FOLEY
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

In the fall of 1998, all but five of the university's theme houses will be closed.

The nine houses on Student Drive will be cleared out in the fall of 1998 due to poor conditions.

The houses were built in the post-war era, and are costing the university a good deal of money in maintenance costs.

Four of the Polo Road houses — 1012 Polo, which this year housed the International Theme program, 1059 Polo, 1109 Polo and 1115 Polo — will also be effected by the closings.

The satellite houses which commonly house theme programs are very costly and difficult to maintain.

This year, only six of the satellite houses are home to theme programs. The remainder are simply apartment style living.

"Theme houses are under-subscribed to as themes — there are not enough solid themes," Carson said.

Five of the theme houses — 1210 Polo, which this year housed the WAKE Radio theme program, 1145 Polo, the Fine Arts theme, 1157 Polo, the German theme, 1125 Polo, the Tokai theme and 10911 Rosedale Circle, the NIA theme — will remain in the fall of 1998.

The effects of closing the satellite houses will not be tremendous.

"Normally, we have two or three new themes apply for housing each year. Except for the German and French houses, who have been with us for awhile, most theme houses have changed themes very often," Carson said. "Precedence will be given to the academic programs. There is no need for the academic themes to be concerned with losing theme housing."

The university will be retaining the properties that it is closing, but has not yet announced for what the houses will be used.

"Maybe they will be used for graduate student housing, which is currently not provided for on this campus.

"The current student apartments used to be graduate housing, but were changed when the demand for undergraduate apartments arose," Carson said.

Study to find computers' impact

By JENNY SPRINGS
NEWS PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

The Plan for the Class of 2000 is well underway, but the process has not ended with the distribution of IBM ThinkPads to the freshman class.

Members of the department of communication are one year into a five-year study of several different aspects of computer usage on campus, according to Julie Meyer-Francke, a graduate student helping with the study. The study will influence decisions made about the plan and computer use at the university in the future.

"We're trying to analyze the impact of what this computerization is going to do to Wake Forest as a whole," she said.

The four main goals of the study are to determine the general attitude toward technology among the student body, the student body's usage and familiarity with computer technology, relationship and cultural issues, and demographics, Meyer-Francke said.

"By looking at those four things, we can determine the importance

of computer-mediated communication," Meyer-Francke said.

The study is also looking at the changing perceptions about communication problems versus the actual communication patterns that occur.

According to Meyer-Francke, the study is being conducted in a four step process. The first step is the administration of focus groups every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

The meetings, which last for approximately an hour, allow students to share their input about the computer technology and communication process. Participants are recruited through signs on campus and are paid \$5 for their time, Meyer-Francke said.

From the input received in the focus groups, the researchers then construct a survey, which will be handed out at least once a year over the next four years.

The first of these surveys was handed out last year during pre-registration. The group hopes to distribute another survey this spring during fall pre-registration.

Once the surveys have been completed, the researchers will analyze the data, and from this analysis, they will make recommendations to the

administration, faculty, IBM, Microsoft representatives, and everyone else involved, as to how to make the process of converting the university to ThinkPads easier, Meyer-Francke said.

"We want to preserve the character of the university. We don't want that to change, and so that's a major concern," she said.

The group hopes to answer several questions, including whether the university is becoming a better place to learn, and whether the computers are attracting a different kind of student.

They will also be studying ethical implications, such as honor code violations that may arise from students finding information on the Internet, Meyer-Francke said.

They also hope to find out what students and faculty want out of the hardware, as well as what they don't want, she added.

"We really need all the help we can get. We're mapping the changes, so we welcome help from upperclassmen, too," she said.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the study can contact the communication department office.

Gantt challenges students to involve themselves in politics

By MATTHEW COLEMAN
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Nearly 200 members of the university community turned out Oct. 31 to hear U.S. Democratic Senate candidate Harvey Gantt speak.

Gantt, who was defeated in the election, concentrated on issues that are of special interest to college students, such as college loans and subsidies, tax credits for tuition, funding for school lunch programs and Head Start.

"Why deny any person the opportunity to get all the education they want?" Gantt asked. "Support the public school system — support it, support it, support it."

Gantt said that education will be the key to success in the 21st century. "To compete in the economy of tomorrow, we're going to have to develop the most sophisticated work force the world has ever seen," he said.

Gantt ran against the incumbent Jesse Helms (R), who has served 24 years in the Senate. Gantt portrayed Helms as someone who has held office too long and has forgotten the North Carolina people.

"I sense something great happening across the state," Gantt said. "The people want change. They want someone who will go to Washington to help people. This

isn't about projecting an image of caring, this is about really caring."

Gantt suggested that Helms cares more about foreign governments and multi-national corporations that have given money to the Jesse Helms Center at Wingate University than he does about his constituents. Gantt has requested that Helms return the foreign contributions, but so far Helms has refused.

Gantt was invited to campus by the Election '96 committee, which is a group representing campus political organizations, the pre-law society, the political honor society, and Alpha Kappa Alpha. According to senior Will Burns, the chairman of the committee and president of the pre-law society, Gantt and Helms were both invited to campus to participate in a debate, but Helms declined.

Junior Lilly Bekele thought the Gantt rally helped alert students to the importance of political action. "I think the good thing about this is that students get a first-hand look at the candidate and can form their own opinions rather than just accepting their parents' beliefs," she said.

Gantt closed his speech by issuing three challenges aimed at getting students more involved in the political process. He asked everybody to vote, to encourage 15 other people to vote, and to help the elderly and disabled get to the polls.

"I sense something great happening across the state."

Harvey Gantt
U.S. Democratic Senate candidate

Election

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power by Constitutional amendment, as voters in Tuesday's polling ratified the proposed amendment. North Carolina is currently the only state in which the governor does not have veto power.

In other North Carolina referendums, voters supported a record \$3 billion in bonds for school and highway improvement projects. The project which may affect university students most directly will be the widening of nearby US 421 to four lanes from Winston-Salem to Boone. The project also includes the construction of an outer-loop highway around Winston-Salem. The bonds will also help to pave 1,232 miles of currently unpaved roads.

Throughout the country, there was a trend toward allowing voters to decide on matters of new state and local initiatives and laws such as the ones considered in North Carolina. Among the most popular targets for voting were environmental protection and term limits for elected officials.

Dole won 17 states, while Clinton won 31; Alaska and Hawaii still had incomplete results as of Wednesday.

Ohio, Illinois and the Northeastern states.

Clinton's victory was announced at 9 p.m. Tuesday by network news programs, which based their projections not on official counts but on exit polls of voters taken as they left the polling places. Many authorities objected to this practice on the grounds that such reporting would discourage residents of Western time zones from voting, thus affecting state and local elections.

Support for Clinton was strong in the Midwest and Northeast, while Dole won some Western states and most Southern states, including North Carolina. Minorities overwhelmingly voted for Clinton, as did women. Many analysts say that the Republican party's inability to win the female vote was a major factor in the race.

Clinton celebrated his reelection in Little Rock, promising to be a "bridge to the future" in his next term.

Dole stated that he would rest for some time and then return to "standing up for what I think is right for America."

Dole retired from his Senate seat to concentrate on his presidential campaign earlier in the year. According to political analysts, Clinton's second term will be one in which he continues to hold to the political middle ground.

Voters apparently want political moderation and non-partisan politics, according to analysts.

They also want less government interac-

tion with the economy and a contraction of governmental control in general.

However, citizens expect continued economic prosperity, an issue which was important in Clinton's 1992 victory over George Bush.

While the Democrats retained control of the White House, the Republican Party was able to reinforce its control of the Senate and hold on to its majority in the House of Representatives. While more than 10 Republican representatives lost their seats, there were gains for the GOP in the Midwest and the South.

In the Senate races, only one Republican incumbent failed to win re-election, and Republican candidates won three seats opened by the retirement of Democratic incumbents. The Republicans will hold at least 54 Senate positions, with information on the Oregon race still incomplete.

The current House has a Republican majority of 235 to 197. This difference will decrease somewhat, but not enough for the Democrats to regain control.

Newt Gingrich won his race in Georgia and will retain his berth as Speaker of the House. He has been a representative for 10 terms.

Trent Lott will remain Majority Leader of the Senate. Republican Strom Thurmond of South Carolina won his bid for reelection at the age of 93, the oldest Senator ever. He will be one hundred years old during the next election for his seat.

Registration

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problem and that nothing will be implemented until the new software system is installed. "There are a lot of steps ahead before the new process can occur," he said.

"There was an increase of 33 percent of the number of sections offered at 8 a.m. The percentage of students taking 8 a.m. classes went up the exact same."

Paul Escott
Dean of the College

The current system has upperclassmen pre-register for one or two of their optional classes after selection for the classes in their major is completed.

Freshmen and sophomores can pre-register for two of their classes.

The class order of pre-registration sees seniors getting one optional class, and then the juniors get one optional class. The sopho-

mores then get one optional and then the freshman get their highest priority class available.

Then both the sophomores and freshman get another optional class, because they do not have a declared major.

To dispel any pre-registration myths, Benton said, "The pre-registration order is totally random, but it is done by class order."

Benton said that, despite what students have said previously, neither the housing lottery order nor the "first come, first serve" premise is in effect when the registrar sections students in their optional classes.

Benton said, "It works out pretty well, but it takes a solid week to complete it."

One of the debated aspects of the registration process has been the addition of many 8 a.m. classes for divisionals.

Orser said, "Enrollment for these classes has been very good."

According to Orser, the idea is to make more classes available for students and doing this by adding another section in the 8 a.m. time slot.

Adding sections during a new time slot not only provides more classes but also frees up classroom space.

Escott said that the premise of more 8 a.m. classes went quite well last semester. "There was an increase of 33 percent of the number of sections offered at 8 a.m. The percentage of students taking 8 a.m. classes went up the exact same."