DOOR

MS

T...or apartment life?

TRIFE

Most students call campus "home"

RLH attempts to make housing comfortable for residents

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quarters and more privacy. "Students today have been raised in households where they are used to having their own rooms," Carson said. For this reason, some students flock to locations where they can have their own space.

Rob Howard, a junior who decided to move to a house after his sophomore year, said that for the same amount of money that he would pay to live on campus, he can have his own room, a yard and freedom living off campus.

Senior Alex Orr, who also lives off campus, said: "I didn't like the restrictive environment of campus. People our age don't need RAs (resident advisors)."

Students who choose to leave campus for apartments and houses surrender their right to university housing. The university states that all students are guaranteed four years of housing, unless they decide to move off campus.

Many students who have given up their housing have later returned to RLH, requesting to move back onto campus. However, the chance for these students to receive housing again is slim.

Carson said that some students do not recognize the conveniences of campus living until they move to houses and apartments. "They do not account for things like commuting to classes, lease agreements, working with landlords and computing."

RLH is involved in a continuous project to upgrade residence halls in order to make on-campus living more appealing to students.

The construction of Polo Residence Hall is an example of its efforts to conform to student requests for campus living arrangements. Student feedback in the biannual "Quality of Life Survey," conducted by RLH, indicates that students are interested in apartment style living. Polo Residence Hall, which will be completed in time for the 1998-99 school year, will feature townhouse living. Units will consist of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area, and a kitchen.

Carson said that in addition to student input on the survey, she has witnessed a national university trend toward apartment-style living. Although Carson said that the university is trying to follow the current trend in apartment-style living, it will probably not build another dormitory once Polo is complete.

Last summer, the university renovated Luter Residence Hall and Student Apartments. Interior renovations in Student Apartments included refurbished hardwood floors, new kitchen utilities and equal-sized bedrooms. Prior to the renovation, one of the bedrooms in each model was significantly larger than the other bedroom. The university also replaced the exterior of the building with brick and concrete.

Such improvements, as well as the addition of air-conditioning to all of the residences, have slightly increased the percentage of students living on campus in recent years. This year the university is experiencing a housing crunch, in which RLH had to convert study lounges into bedrooms in order to accommodate an overflow of students.

The housing crunch was also a result of an effort by RLH to convert the smaller back rooms on the Quad into single rooms. Carson said that the opening of Polo will help to lower the density on the Quad, and allow the university to convert more of these rooms into singles.

Although she expects Polo to fill very quickly for next year, Carson said she cannot predict how the opening of the new building will affect the trend among seniors to move off campus. She sees the new residence hall and Student Apartments as an upperclassman area. Juniors and seniors usually have the higher lottery numbers which gain them entry into the more desirable residences.

Freshman and sophomores tend to live on South Campus and in rooms on the Quad rather than in on- or off campus apartments.

Freshman Sarah Steinbeck, who lives in Johnson Hall, has been pleased with her living situation this year. "Johnson is actually cleaner than I expected it to be. It seems posh compared to dorms at other universities," she said.

Carson said that the university is fortunate that the buildings on campus are relatively new. Older architecture at universities such as Florida State make structural changes difficult.

Over the summer the university will renovate Babcock Residence Hall. In the future, it expects to renovate Collins Residence Hall, and Palmer and Piccolo Residence Halls.

"We can't give people a tennis court behind every dorm, but we will try to provide them with amenities," Carson said.

For some, it's a hard dorm life

By Ashlee Miller
Contributing Reporter

As housing meetings approach, university students will soon start scrambling for roommates and possible places to live. This spring students will try to stake out that 4x4 piece of campus property that will serve as kitchen/bedroom/living room for the upcoming year. Which brings to mind the question: "Do we really want to fight for that last fourth-floor back room in Kitchin, the one with the asbestos actually hanging from the ceiling tiles?" As you prepare to high tail it to a faux ski lodge in Aspen Park, we thought we would compile a list of reasons why it might not be too bad to hear the suite door slam shut for the very last time:

1. When you cook, you can cook in an actual kitchen.

It is kind of a scary realization when you find yourself carrying luke-warm Ramen noodles from the Taylor House lounge up to your room. Or even worse, stirring Lipton Cheese and Broccoli rice in an illegal hot pot on your very own bathroom counter, the same bathroom counter laden with remnants of crusted Cover Girl rouge in Burnt Mauve.

2. When you sleep, you won't have to climb a ladder to get into your bed at night.

It is great to know that the bed you are sleeping in is Model TX-23, the very same model that your five-year-old cousin Ronnie got for Christmas this year. Plus, you won't have to worry about people using your bottom bunk as a couch, thus wiping their orange Cheeto-covered fingers on your Laura Ashley Bramble comforter.

3. Girls, when you use the restroom, you won't have to stare at the urinal.

In our suite this year, we tried to cover up this nasty item by putting a yellow mum in it. However, its sudden death led us to wonder what happened. Maybe one of our suitemate's suitors watered it a little too often.

4. When you're sleeping with your retainers in and Clearasil applied, you won't have to worry about a 3 a.m. fire drill.

Every time this horrible event occurs, we comment that we are surprised that we don't get burned up while waiting for the curling iron to heat up, or because we couldn't see to get out of our suite after stabbing ourselves in the eye during a hasty mascara application. For you guys, you won't have to worry about leaving that crucial PlayStation moment when you are just getting ready to score.

5. When you want to take a relaxing bath, you will actually have a bathtub accessible.

Even if there were a bathtub in the dorm, you would have to wear a full rubber suit to avoid contracting strange diseases from the plankton that would be growing on its floor.

It is always an eye-opening experience when you wonder if your coffee maker is burning, only to realize that it's just your flesh on fire because you forgot to slam yourself up against the shower wall to dodge the ever-changing water temperatures.

6. When descending the stairs from the third floor, you won't have to dodge any superfluous items.

On a Sunday afternoon, it is not unusual to get a half-eaten slice of Papa John's pizza, digested or not, stuck to the bottom of your Nike running shoes.

7. When you live off-campus, you can rest assured that a cleaning man won't arrive to scrub the sinks during peak showering hours.

Yep, that's right. I am sure Daddy would be glad to know that although the university prohibits male visitors after 2 a.m., it does hire local Winston-Salem men to clean the all-women's suite bathrooms each morning.

8. When you turn on the air unit in your room, you won't have to worry about the sauna effect.

It is so nice to go to bed with the air conditioning on, get in a cool bed, and then wake up at 5 a.m. gasping for a breath. You're drenched in sweat because the heat kicked on when the temperature outside dropped below 70 degrees. In our suite this year, we couldn't figure out why a skunky smell was being emitted from our heater.

Luckily, we knew the guys who lived in our suite before us, so we questioned them about it. They comforted us by saying "Oh yeah, something did fall in there" but they couldn't remember exactly *what* type of animal it was.

Despite the list of bratty complaints, maybe it's not that bad to live on campus. Apartment life can contribute to isolation, even though it may mean isolation from the above aggravations. And after all, didn't we come to college to be surrounded by friends?