

## Houses comply with sanitation standards

By SUMMERLEE WALTER  
Senior Staff Writer

Davidson's 12 Patterson Court organizations are responsible for passing inspections that evaluate the cleanliness of the house and of the kitchen area each week.

According to Patterson Court advisor Joy Hamm, eating houses and fraternities have been doing a satisfactory job of maintaining clean environments.

Every Monday morning, Hamm evaluates each house using a standardized set of criteria. An organization can receive a maximum of 100 points for the overall appearance of the house and another 100 points for the cleanliness of the kitchen area.

Once Hamm inspects each house, the scores are then averaged together.

If a house's average score falls below 75 points for two consecutive weeks, the house is shut down and stops serving meals until it passes re-inspection.

During this time, the house's CatCard reader is disabled and only reactivated by Hamm after members of the house clean in preparation for the re-inspection. As soon as a house passes its re-inspection, it reopens for meals and social functions.

"I'll inspect again on Tuesday if the house is ready," Hamm said. "It can open again within 24 to 48 hours if its members are willing to put in the work."

Although Hamm will close a house after a particularly low-scoring Monday, she has only enacted this measure three or four times within the past three years.

In each instance, Kappa Alpha fraternity (KA) was the offending organization. The low scores resulted not from sanitation issues in the kitchen, but from violations in the remainder of the house.



Some members of fraternities and eating houses are concerned with cleanliness.

"KA's kitchen is usually immaculate," Hamm said, "but if it is unhealthy for people to be consuming food in the dining area, I will shut the house down."

The last time that KA was shut down was during spring 2004.

"Since then, we have enacted the appropriate measures to maintain a sanitary environment," KA president and former house manager Mill Graves '07 said. "We emphasize that even during the week when we are not being inspected, each brother needs to clean up after himself."

Because Patterson Court organizations are classified as private clubs, serving only members and guests rather than the public at large, the State Health department does not inspect them as it does the Union or Vail Commons.

Like those employed by the State Board of Health, the criteria by which Hamm evalu-

ates each house are standardized.

In the kitchen, sinks must be clear and food preparation surfaces must be clean. Floors must be mopped, and any remaining party supplies must be thrown away.

Additionally, each kitchen has a sign reminding chefs to wash their hands and to employ safe preparation techniques.

Each newly hired chef completes a Safe Serve program that covers appropriate food storage temperatures and maintaining a sanitary kitchen.

Although there is no campus-wide protocol for reporting cleanliness problems, each house is responsible for setting up a system by which its members can report problems.

"My hope would be that if the situation could be handled through the house, it would be, but if a member's concern were not addressed, I hope that the student would come to me," Hamm said.

## NPHC sorority proposal awaits Vagt's decision

By JILLIAN BARTELS  
Staff Writer

A group of female students continue their work this semester to bring an historically black sorority to campus.

The effort got a boost last month when it was approved by the Council on Campus and Religious Life (CCRL). The final decision is up to Bobby Vagt.

"We are anxiously awaiting the final answer from President Vagt," said Cherita Jeffries '08, one of the leaders of the initiative. "We have sought out and received approval from other governing bodies, and he is essentially the last step."

"They've done a great job," Vagt said. "The college and students themselves have had many opportunities to become informed about this process."

While the campus waits for a response from Vagt, those who have been working to bring the sorority here want to make sure the school does not forget about them.

"Thus far, we truly appreciate the support from the campus, and we ask that they continue with this trend. Don't forget about us because we are still trying to make this dream a reality," said Jeffries.

If President Vagt approves the proposal, the college will invite four different NPHC organizations to come to Davidson and make presentations.

A committee will then determine which organization's values best coincide with the ideals promoted by Davidson College.

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