



The sophomore apartments have been plagued with problems all year.

Heat, from page 3

Because the problems were the result of the work done over the summer, Director of the Physical Plant David Holthouser fired the contractor in charge of that work.

"I then put our Davidson Physical Plant people to work," Holthouser said. "They really care; they love this place and have a vested interest in this school. We are aiming to have this problem fixed for good. We have been very disappointed because our Physical Plant wants to do everything perfectly."

Irwin, Akers, and Knox have a history of problems with their heating and air conditioning systems.

When these buildings were built in the early 1980s, a central heating unit was put on each of the four halls in each building.

The system functioned much like one in a personal home would function; all seven rooms on each hall were the same temperature at all times and there just was one thermostat on the hall.

The system in Irwin, Akers, and Knox was not ideal because students inevitably disagreed about their desired room temperatures.

Therefore, in 1996, Davidson hired a mechanical engineering firm in Charlotte to come in and completely change the way the system operated.

A thermostat was installed in each room and regulation of temperature was done by a simple "voting" system.

For example, if four rooms in Akers needed cool air and three needed heat the circuit board in the mechanical room, after receiving this information from the room thermostats, would pump cool air into those four rooms.

While cooling these rooms, the system would not pump any air at all into the other rooms on the hall.

After the temperatures of the cool rooms matched the desired temperatures, the other three rooms would then receive heat.

When a room was at an ideal temperature, a damper in the duct would prevent any air from coming in.

Furthermore, there were two furnace units

that controlled each hall. One controlled the front three rooms and the other controlled the back four rooms. This setup caused problems on a normal basis from 1996 to 2005.

"Circuit boards and limit switches on furnaces failed regularly, primarily because the furnace units had to cycle on and off so rapidly to react to the individual room demands," said Holthouser.

On a cold night last winter, this issue caused a furnace on one hall to fail. Since that one furnace controlled half of the rooms on the hall, those rooms were without heat.

Because of the problems last winter, Holthouser decided the system was in desperate need of an overhaul.

Last March, a mechanical engineer from Atlanta came to investigate the system.

Then, shortly after graduation, he and another engineer were hired to do work on the system during the summer.

The new plan was to tie the two furnace units together, so that they could work together to heat or cool all the rooms. On a cold night, if one unit were to go out, the other would take over, eliminating the problem of last winter.

New thermostats were installed in each room, which communicated with a computer in the chiller plant to regulate room temperatures.

By the end of the summer, the system was thought to be working properly; however, issues started coming up among residents of the Sophomore Apartments.

Last week, the Physical Plant checked each room in the Sophomore Apartments to make sure the duct was communicating correctly with the computer system.

The plant finished this process on September 22.

"I applaud the work of RLO in this challenge for me," Holthouser said. "Dean Marsicano and the RA staff have done a fantastic job of communicating and coordinating the problems, which have greatly helped us get to the root of de-bugging the system. The Physical Plant staff has been working diligently to iron things out, and I appreciate everyone's patience."

Sorority, from page 1

posal significant encouragement.

"It's really great to have the eating house members voice their concerns and ask us questions," White said, "because it means that they are thinking about what we are saying. They're not close-minded or rejecting our organization before they understand what its goals are."

Eating houses on campus are generally supportive of the effort and have been circulating a petition expressing approval of the sorority to house members.

"The ladies behind the effort were very respectful," Turner Eating House President Jaimie Matthews '07 said. "They spoke to the eating house presidents in advance to be

campus that would increase diversity at Patterson Court, not exclude individuals for superficial reasons," Charisma Loney '08 said.

"People have enough to worry about at Davidson without having the added pressures of a sorority rush process," White said.

The planned sorority seeks to affirm interpersonal relationships through service and social events, including joint projects with the eating houses.

Members of the organization could also hold membership in an eating house simultaneously.

"It is important to us that our organization fosters intellectual culture and fits in with the objectives of Davidson College," said organizer Cherita Jeffreys '08.

The process of making such an organization a reality for the Davidson College community is a Herculean undertaking.

The women are currently gathering support in the by presenting their idea to various campus organizations as well as a signed petition.

The organization, in order to be established, will have to be approved by the Patterson Court Council (PCC), Council on Campus and Religious Life (CCRL), and finally, President Vagt.

"Such a process," Hamm said, "may take more than one year."

The colonization of a particular Greek letter organization on Davidson College would also have to go through various channels of approval.

"Don't attempt this process unless you're serious," Moore said, "but we are serious, and passionate about this organization. It may not happen next year, and we are prepared for that outcome. I'm proud of my school, and I think this organization could help to make it a better place."

"We wanted to bring an organization to campus that would increase diversity at Patterson Court, not exclude individuals for superficial reasons."

—Charisma Loney '08

certain that there was no confusion and make it clear that they were in no way trying to compete against us."

Indeed, many of the women instrumental in bringing the organization to fruition say that the term "sorority" is misleading. The structure of the application process for membership to the organization does not entail a rush component. Candidates would apply for membership through a process based on GPA, merits, references, and service. Young women would then be selected at the national level by alumni, not locally by members already involved in the organization.

"We wanted to bring an organization to

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