Housing director: Students responsible for year's rent

"The thing that causes the problem is that we try to break down the payment so that it will be easier on them (students) financially," Robert A. Stewart, director of Housing Services, said in an interview last week on the ambiguity of student housing contracts.

The housing contracts, binding for one academic year, have caused confusion among students because of their request for $100.00 advanced room fee ($50 - fall semester; $50 - spring semester). According to the contract the only conditions for a refund are to newly admitted applicants who do not attend, to students who graduate at the end of the fall term, to students on academic suspension and to students who marry.

If a student resided in a dormitory during the fall semester and plans to live off campus during the spring semester, he will not receive his $50 advanced room fee for the spring semester. Stewart said that this was "to let us know when somebody is leaving school for some reason." The student is responsible for the room rent for a whole year.

Stewart said that students are unable to get a dormitory room in the fall because all are full and must live off campus. Therefore, if another student lived in a residence hall for one semester and decided the second semester not to, then the dormitory would have an empty room, yet, the University would still have to pay operating expenses.

Stewart said students failed to understand the contract is for a space in a residence hall, not a specific bed. He said if all space was full, the student then would receive a refund.

Stewart explained the school services are not interested in making a profit," rather they work on a break-even basis. "If somebody doesn't want to live in the residence halls, we prefer he didn't live there," Stewart said. "We also have to pay bills."

When asked how the contract compared with commercial leases, Stewart says it is much less restrictive, "but somewhat similar.

He said if a student broke the contract, a hold would be put on his grades.

On November 29, 1972, a resolution proposed by Paula Kiese and Steve Zagoria, was presented in the Student Senate. The Senate recommended the housing office completely abolish the anticipated guidelines and adopt a system whereby the student would be released from his housing contract in a way that would be mutually satisfying and beneficial to both the University and the individual student. Although the resolution passed unanimously, it contains no government power, but reflects the sentiment of the Senate.

Stewart remembered little about it, but said he was all for making the contract as clear as possible. He said "We want the students housed in as pleasant a way as possible," but "we do have to keep things orderly because of magnitude."

Harry Walker, assistant ombudsman, said the contract was "very binding on the student" and "more protective of the University." But "whether the student's rights are infringed upon," he said, "I can't say."


Service marks cease-fire

A quiet service in the Rutledge Chapel to mark the signing of the Vietnam cease-fire was attended by about forty persons early Saturday evening.

The service, organized late Friday by the University Chaplains and Student Government, was intended to be a brief meditative interlude for those who wanted to contemplate the meaning of world peace.

After the statewide tolling of the bells at 7 p.m., Dave Spinzolo and Tim Tingle read selections from the Bible and Desiderata. One of the chaplains led the congregation in an unusual "Litany for Peace" and the service ended with the hymn, "Morning Has Broken.

Children's art class held

The University of South Carolina Department of Art will sponsor Saturday morning art classes for children during the spring semester beginning Feb. 3.

Two classes, one for 7 to 9 year-olds and one for 10 to 12 year-olds, will be offered from 9 to 11 a.m. in Sloan College on campus. The classes will include a variety of art experiences allowing each child to work individually with different media.

USC art education majors will teach under the direction of Dorothy Metz. A graduate art student at USC, Mrs. Metz holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Old Dominion University and is a former children's librarian at Richland County Library.

Further information may be obtained by calling the USC art department at 777-4236.

Red Cross seeks help

Volunteers are needed to aid the Red Cross with a campus wide blood drive on Feb. 6 and 7.

The blood drive, sponsored by USC's Volunteer Services, will be held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Naval Armory at the corner of Pickens and Pendleton streets and the same hours on Wednesday, Feb. 7, in the Men's Towers' M&N Lounge.

According to Volunteer Services, all students who would like to help during the blood drive should contact the office at 1321 Pendleton St.

Any student, faculty or staff member who donates blood will be given a free Burger King Whopper certificate, according to Matt Thorton of Volunteer Services.

Thorton said the University's quota has been set at 500 pints of blood. "If this quota is filled," he explained, "every staff and faculty member, student and members of their immediate families will be entitled to receive blood through the Red Cross Blood Program."

USC's November, 1972, blood drive fell short when only 426 pints were donated, Thorton said.

Orientation interviews held

The office of Freshman Services is now setting up interviews for orientation counselors for the summer session between July 9 and Aug. 7.

Interested students may pick up applications in the Counseling Bureau office, the Freshman Services office, both in the Pendleton Building, or the information desk at Russell House. Deadline for submitting the application is Feb. 21.

To qualify a student should have at least 30 semester hours and a cumulative Grade Point Ratio of 2.25. Graduate and Law students do not qualify.

Once accepted, students will be notified when the training sessions begin.

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