

RHA plans for dorm unification

□ A forum will be held Tuesday to discuss turning the three balcony residence halls into co-ed.

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

Residents Hall Association members discussed Wednesday the details of the Keathley, Fowler and Hughes halls unification.

Keathley and Hughes, women's balcony-style halls and Fowler, a men's balcony hall, will be consolidating into one large co-ed complex.

Pablo White, a resident advisor for Fowler and a junior computer science major, said the decision to turn co-ed was approved earlier this semester by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

"The environment is practically co-ed as it is," White said. "Why not go a step further and just make it one large complex?"

The new complex would be run by a single resident director and would have one president, three vice presidents and one Residence Hall Association representative.

There will not be a rent increase for the three dorms.

White speculated that the consolidation would help to alleviate conflicts that have existed in the three dorms.

"When there are three resident directors, there are three completely different interpretations of how things should be run," he said. "That has caused conflicts within the complex."

At the present time, the only

things left to decide concerning the dorms are the details, such as renovations and floor assignments.

White listed several possible improvements including ties to the Ethernet, new lighting, painting the rooms and replacing ceiling tiles.

"We're willing to accept that the renovations may be done in steps over three to four years," he said. "We know that the University only has so much money for renovations."

Gia Chevis, Keathley president and a junior finance and accounting major, said she views the consolidation as a favorable act.

"I think it will be a very positive move," Chevis said. "It will give guys more space."

Suzanne Lyons, RHA presi-

dent and a Hughes resident said the concerns have surrounded the placement of residents.

"One of my main concerns how to structure the male/female ratio in terms of what they are on floors," Lyons, a senior geophysics major, said.

Lyons said Keathley and Hughes are the only two women's balcony dorms and if floors were given to a particular sex, it would be unfair.

"These are the only female balcony dorms," she said. "The first floor goes male, the second floor goes female, the third would be no first floor female balcony rooms."

The Department of Residence Life and Housing is hosting an open forum Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1995 in the A-1 Lounge for concerned and interested residents and students.

Details for the dorms are set up in the air.

"The only thing definite now that it's going co-ed," Lyons said.



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Monday thru Thursday tickets go on sale at 2:30 p.m.
Please look for our schedule in the Battalion on Thursday, & Monday.

Gramm expects boost in campaign

□ The presidential candidate thinks that Powell's decision will benefit his election chances.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now that Colin Powell's no longer casting a shadow over the GOP presidential race, voters can focus on the two candidates who have a chance to defeat President Clinton: Bob Dole and Phil Gramm, the Texas senator said Wednesday.

And, Gramm added, the scrutiny can only help his campaign.

Painting his rival as a reluctant participant in the GOP revolution on Capitol Hill, Gramm said: "I think when people look at my record, when they look at Sen. Dole's record, that those who are committed to ... a dramatic change in the way Washington works are going to conclude that I am the person who can lead the country to make those changes."

Gramm's comments were made during a Capitol news conference held an hour after

Powell announced he wouldn't seek the White House next year. Gramm barely mentioned Powell, training his sights instead on Dole, the front-runner.

Brushing aside Republican rivals Lamar Alexander, Arlen Specter, Dick Lugar and others, Gramm said Powell's decision to bow out brings the race down to himself and Dole.

"I think that now that we don't have the spectre of a genuine American hero in Colin Powell basically looming over the race, now that the field is set, people for the first time are really going to sit down and look at the two candidates who have a chance of carrying the ball over the goal line," he said. "They are going to look at Sen. Dole's record. They are going to look at my record. And I believe they're going to choose me."



Gramm

Although Dole and Clinton figure to gain the most from Powell's departure, Gramm said the retired general's decision not to enter the race is "a very positive thing and an important step toward winning the nomination."

A slew of recent polls had indicated that Powell would be even or slightly ahead of Dole if he entered the race.

Dole welcomed Powell to the Republican Party but refrained from speculating on which candidate benefits most from his announcement.

Gramm contended that Dole's campaign doesn't get a bounce from Powell's decision not to run. "This is the action that for the first time in this campaign is going to induce people to say, 'The field is set ... I've got to decide two things: Number one, which of the Republican candidates as president could not would change America; and secondly, who can beat Bill Clinton?'"

"And I think I can win on both of those issues," Gramm said.

Pizza policy perturbs Austin resident

□ Some vendors in the city refuse to make deliveries to areas with high crime rates.

AUSTIN — Cheryl Langford just wanted a pizza.

She called four pizza delivery companies and was told the same thing: "Sorry, we don't deliver to that part of the city."

That reply left Langford, 40, who lives on East Ninth Street, not only hungry, but frustrated and confused.

"We like to eat, too," Langford said. "Why should they segregate where they deliver?"

Some vendors say the problem is that they have no restaurants near the area. Others blame the region's high crime rate. They say the safety of delivery drivers who face a higher risk of robbery in the 78702 ZIP code prompted the no-pizza policy.

Austin police statistics show that in the past six months, 22 percent of the reported aggravated robberies in Austin — 61 out of 274 — occurred in the 78702 ZIP code, the area east of Interstate 35, south of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, west of Airport Boulevard and north of Town Lake.

That was the highest percentage of aggravated robberies in any ZIP code. Zone 78723 — south of U.S. 290 East of Interstate 35, west of Ed Bluestein Boulevard and north of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard — was the next highest with 10 percent of aggravated robberies in Austin.

Most robberies in the 78702 ZIP code,

however, were concentrated near 11th Street and Airport Boulevard. Few occurred in the center of the neighborhood.

Langford and other residents say the high crime shouldn't mean the 78702 area is designated as the unofficial pizza-free zone.

The restaurant, at 2727 E. Seventh St., has been open about nine months. So far, owners say, their delivery crews have encountered no crime.

"It seems crazy that anywhere would be isolated from pizza," said Narciso Garcia, partner-owner of La Pizza Loca. "But companies have historically discriminated against this community by not delivering and not caring about the kind of service they give."

The community response to La Pizza Loca has been positive, said Lori Cervenak-Renteria, a founder of the United East Austin Coalition.

The neighborhood group, formed 10 years ago, recently recognized the pizza shop for "Best Business Effort" in the region.

"In this neighborhood, we have a high number of low-income families or elderly who do not drive," said Cervenak-Renteria, who has lived in East Austin for 16 years. "Those people find it difficult to provide cheap, fun meals for their children or grandchildren. A bus ride to a fast-food place might cost \$4 or \$5 they may not be able to spare."

La Pizza Loca delivers in all of East Austin. Mr. Gatti's Market Manager Andy Cook declined to comment specifically on why his company does not deliver to East Austin.

He would say only that "safety is a concern for drivers in all parts of the city."

Little Caesar's and Double Dave's representatives said they do not have locations close enough to cover the entire East Austin area.

Bobbie Enriquez, aide to Austin City Council Member Gus Garcia, said that by refusing to deliver to East Austin, many pizza places perpetuate the stereotype that the area, which has a high concentration of minority residents, is unsafe or undesirable.

"There's this myth that minorities commit more crimes than anyone else, and that's simply not true," Enriquez said. "You have to ask yourself why would Bank One put a branch on East Seventh Street? If a bank can put a facility there and not worry about being robbed, then why should pizza places avoid the area?"

But Garcia of La Pizza Loca says he's happy to offer an alternative.

"We realized that this part of Austin was not being served by anyone and it would be good opportunity for us," Garcia said.

Garcia, who often calls his customers by name and waves at passers-by through his shop window, said he hopes to make La Pizza Loca the community's pizza place.

The shop currently works with Brooke Elementary School, giving away free pizzas to students who have perfect attendance.

Manuel Passarell, who lives at 1909 E. Ninth Street, said La Pizza Loca is a step in the right direction.

"We're good people here, and we're doing the best we can," he said. "And every once in a while you just want a pizza. It doesn't seem like a crazy thing to ask for."

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