New dorm offers space, security

From "DORM," Page 1

make these changes over the summer. It was like the first year was a trial year."

The dorm was built because the college expected an increase in incoming students, said Glen "Skip" Sharp, vice president of student

"The new dorm was designed different from the old dorms because it was more economical," he said. "This living center offers many attractive features, such as more space and the feel of a safer environment to the students."

There are major differences between the older dorms, where rooms open onto a shared living area, which open to an outdoor courtyard. In the new one, doors open onto hallways, with the only entrance through one front door.

"The older ones offer more freedom with the entrance coming straight from outside, more like apartments," Sharp said. "However, the new dorm offers a

greater sense of security and less east, for the first time in August. freedom, with the entrance coming from a hallway."

The new dormitory is attractive to parents, he added, with all entrances to rooms being enclosed in the building. There are some problems with the privacy in the rooms, said Hempler, because the bathrooms — which are shared by two rooms — lock from the inside but not the outside. Once someone is the bathroom, she said, they have access to the other room.

When asked about this Sharp said, "That's the way the rooms were meant to be set up. It's supposed to be like a suite with two rooms and a bathroom in between. It teaches the students responsibility to keep their outside doors

Sharp said they planned to make improvements in mechanical systems, including the hot water. Other than that, he said, the college is happy with the new facility.

Students moved into the dorm, known as Living Center North-

The contract had been signed and construction started just over a year before that.

The living center was up and running in record time, Sharp said. Work on the building didn't start until December 2007. Soil problems with the site made it unsuitable to build on. From the end of September to the first of December, crew hauled dirt to make the soil right for the foundation.

Mother Nature also played a part, as the winter weather was hard to work with, Sharp said.

"We were literally finalizing some safety checks just days before the students moved in in August," he said.

About 96 are living in the dormitory, he said. At full capacity, it could hold 160 students. Men are on the third floor and women on the first and second. Sharp said the college is happy with the numbers, adding that they don't have to start making payments on the building

There will be an official checkoff evaluation by the students in the spring, he said. Monday, college officials and board members plan to talk with some of the freshmen about the campus and the new dormitory at a studenttrustee dinner.



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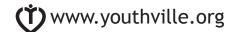
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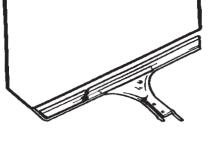
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