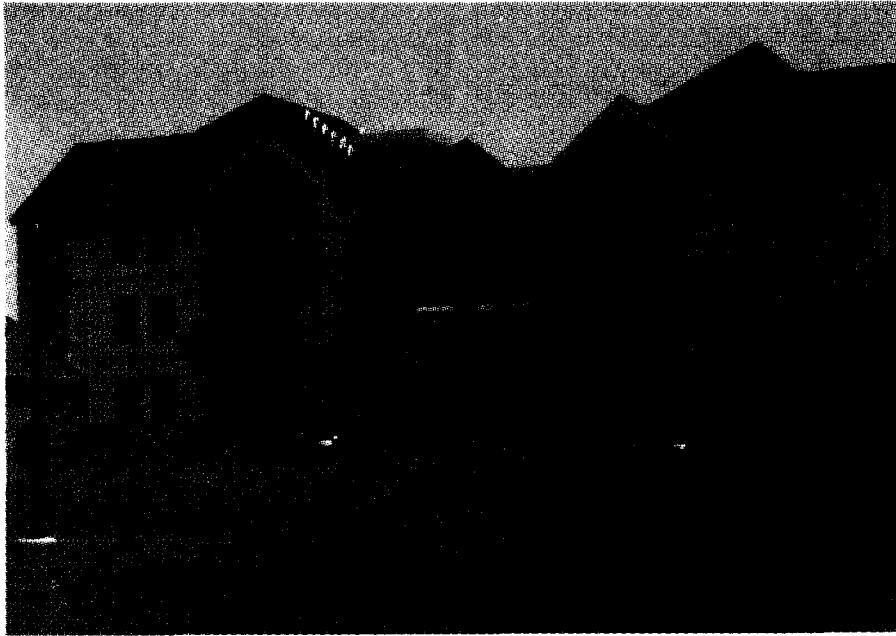


Taking it to the house

Housing expects another building to be constructed in the Village within the next year

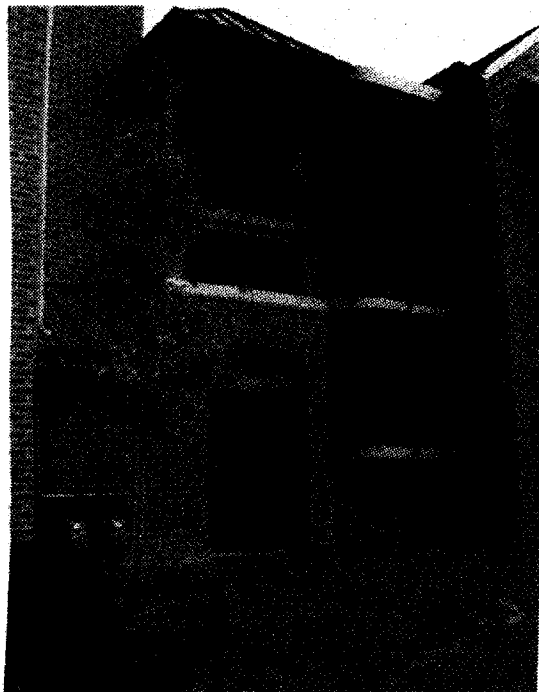
By **PETER STRELLA**

Editor in Chief

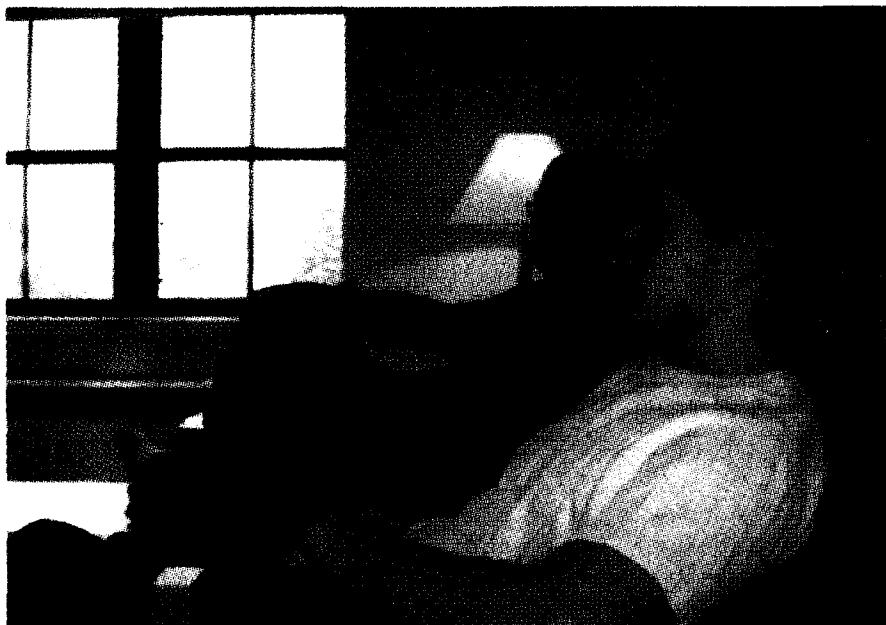


photos by Steve Standridge

The 8000 building is one of two buildings in the Village with three floors. It has a capacity of 48 residents.



The walkway and concourse of the 8000 building. The proposed new building could either have two or three floors. Each floor houses 16 residents. Four students live together in each apartment and each student has his or her own room. Apartments are pre-furnished and include a washer and dryer.



Anthony Strayer and Lee Cutchall relax in their living room

“When we built [these buildings], we had in mind upper classmen. Now we have to ask ourselves, ‘Is our housing conducive to freshmen?’”

**- Jo Ann Coleman
Director of Housing and
Food Services**

Funding for all Housing and Food Services projects is obtained mostly through profit from food sales and housing fees. Tuition is not affected.

Auxiliary Services collects revenue from all campuses with housing or food services departments and places the money into a general fund.

“You put your proposals in and you wait your turn,” said Coleman. “We didn’t do anything for a long time and that helped us [get money to build the Village].”

Room and board fees at Penn State Harrisburg should remain around \$2,215 per semester, regardless of how much the new building costs.

The Village currently houses 292 students and a new building would boost the occupancy by at least 32 students, depending on whether or not a third floor is added. A third floor would allow room for 16 additional residents.

Penn State Harrisburg currently has land for six more buildings. Coleman said the school expects to build one of them within the next year. If all six buildings were constructed, the Village would have a maximum occupancy of just under 500 students.

Coleman said that the new building may not be an exact replica of the other eight. This is because Penn State Harrisburg has plans to expand into a four-year university next fall.

“When we built [these buildings], we had in mind upper classmen,” said Coleman. “Now we have to ask ourselves, ‘Is our housing conducive to freshmen?’”

But even with these considerations, Coleman does not foresee any major changes. She said that the freshmen currently living in the Village are not experiencing any major difficulties.

“I really don’t have a problem with how it is now,” Coleman said.

Many students, freshmen and upperclassmen alike, agree with her assessment. Kevin Snyder, an information sciences and technology transfer student from Penn State Mont Alto, said he was happy with the housing offered at Penn State Harrisburg.

“I like having my own room,” said Snyder. “It’s a lot better than most dorms. The rooms in general are a lot more spacious. The kitchen is great. Short of a dishwasher, everything is perfect [in the kitchen].”

Snyder said the rules residents must follow are reasonable for the most part and he liked the fact that the rooms are furnished.

But Student Government Association President, Lee Cutchall, said that the soundproofing in the buildings is poor.

“I lived under FMJ last year and basically didn’t get any sleep.”

FMJ is a resident that, Cutchall said, is notorious for playing loud music late at night. Cutchall believes the soundproofing was hurt because the contractors had to rush to meet the August 2002 deadline.

Snyder agreed that the walls are thin. “I think they could have done a little better job on the construction. The walls are flimsy and sound travels through them,” Snyder said.