

Residence directors speak out for differentiated housing plan

By Charles Johnson

Four UNL residence directors offered their continued support of the Differentiated Housing Task Force proposal in recent interviews. The proposal, written by a subcommittee of the Council on Student Life, would offer a choice of alcohol and visitation policies and special interest areas to students living in residence halls.

Each residence director said he believed the differentiated housing proposal was at the heart of making halls more attractive to students, along with increased maintenance improvements.

The proposal was brought before the Board of Regents in March but was not discussed because of a pending lawsuit brought against the regents by ASUN and the Residence Halls Assoc. (RHA) protesting visitation and alcohol policies.

ASUN and RHA have dropped the suit, at least temporarily, in hopes that the regents will discuss the proposal at their April 20 meeting.

Commenting on the proposal, Pound Hall Residence Director Mary Kramer said, "The obvious way to make dorms more attractive would be to allow use of alcohol in the rooms and also guarantee space for people who don't want alcohol."

Kramer said there is a need for the expansion of visitation hours, increased funds for maintenance improvement and help in building interpersonal relationships between the residents.

"There should be set up enough of an academic atmosphere so everyone is happy," she said.

"By continuing to regulate hours and alcohol we inhibit the personal growth of the student," she said. "I think we will come up with some formula so that we could maintain some kind of academic atmosphere while allowing the use of alcohol and increased visitation."

"If the regent's concerns are in regard to students managing themselves, perhaps alcohol could be tried on a trial basis," she said.

In predicting a slight drop in occupancy for Pound Hall next year, she listed privacy and noise as the factors most influencing residents to move out. She said she hopes the regents will "get rid of the open door and give us the flexibility to have a variety of academic experiences in the dormitories."

John Humlicek, a residence director of Abel Hall, said he sees the differentiated housing proposal as a "step in the right direction."

He favors liberalized rules and regulations, along with more extensive planning with the students. "But it shouldn't be in the hands of the regents," he said. "They shouldn't be worrying themselves with simple rules and regulations in dormitories on a single campus in the University system."

He said he especially favors the aspects of the report's proposal that would allow co-ed and special interest residence hall floors.

Humlicek doesn't foresee a rise in residence hall occupancy next year. He cited the increasing cost with no real changes in the environment and the rules and regulations as prime factors in the occupancy of the halls remaining at its current 85%.

Due to UNL policies on alcohol and visitation. "You're more apt to have a discipline record on file at the University if you live in a residence hall," he said.

Mike Eyster, Schramm Hall residence director, favors physical renovation of his hall to attract more students.

"One of the big things, especially in Harper-Schramm-Smith, would be carpeting the hallway," he said. He also would like sound insulating of the study carrels on each floor.

He said he supports the differentiated housing proposal because it "allows students expanded options for different living environments. That's the way the University has to go," he said. "Not everyone wants the same environment."

"I think there's potential for a different alcohol and visitation policy," he said. "But a blanket ok on alcohol wouldn't be the answer to the problem. It would be a mistake for the Legislature to allow alcohol and not give the Housing Office prerogatives to implement regulations regarding its effects."

"I strongly back the Differentiated Housing Task Force proposal," said Steve Heldt, Harper Hall residence director.

He said he is most impressed by the proposal's intent—the idea of various living conditions in living units. "A little more student responsibility wouldn't hurt anyone," he said.

Crossword Puzzle

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1. "Little — Echo" | 45. Comforted | 1. Accumulates |
| 4. Goddess of harvest | 47. Female fowl | 2. Angry |
| 7. Concepts | 48. Insert between lines | 3. Of the kidneys |
| 12. Land measure | 52. Conjunction | 4. Is in debt |
| 13. Humor | 53. Early years | 5. Steers |
| 14. Italian goddess | 54. Hebrew tribe | 6. Cubic meter |
| 15. Truck | 55. Regret | 7. Fateful date |
| 16. Basic | 56. Meaning | 8. Tumult |
| 18. Greek letter | 57. Letter | 9. Erode |
| 19. Open lesions | 58. Donkey | 10. Literary collection |
| 20. Pronoun | | |
| 22. Social gathering | | |
| 23. Tardy | | |
| 27. Those in power | | |
| 29. Place | | |
| 31. Conscious | | |
| 34. Lassoed | | |
| 35. Metal fasteners | | |
| 37. Swiss river | | |
| 38. Matures | | |
| 39. Sense organ | | |
| 41. Brilliant star | | |

Average time of solution: 23 min.

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| ROB | CAMPI | ITA |
| ABO | UNION | RAG |
| HIGHBALLS | ITO | |
| AID | KEAS | |
| INCITE | ARCHED | |
| NOO | SMA | TIMNE |
| DUCK | SID | DIAL |
| INKED | MIS | STE |
| ASTROS | SPATES | |
| AFRO | TAL | |
| ANI | CUBALIBRE | |
| MEL | ATONE | OUT |
| ADS | SHOTS | NEA |

Answer to last puzzle

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | | | 19 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | 21 | | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | |
| | | 27 | 28 | | | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | | | | | 34 | | | | |
| 35 | | | | 36 | | 37 | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | 39 | 40 | | | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| | | | | 45 | | | | 46 | | 47 | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | | | | | | | 52 | |
| 53 | | | | | | 54 | | | | 55 | |
| 56 | | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | |

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