# Dorm occupancy up from estimate

Approximately four to five % more students occupied residence halls last week than preliminary estimates had predicted, Housing Director Richard Armstrong said Sunday.

Figures compiled Friday set the opening occupancy rate at 87.7 per cent. Armstrong noted that 387 persons live in single rooms constructed for double occupancy, so the actual space committment is 93%.

He attributed the rise in residents to the recent rain throughout Nebraska that improved the chances of better harvest, enabling more students and their parents to afford college costs.

Some residence hall directors say

they were impressed by the sudden surge for rooms and expressed optimism that occupancy would increase in the future.

"The liberalized rules with respect to visitation hours and letting the room doors be shut have definitely helped us fill up the room," said Claudia Pernal, Sandoz residence director.

Harper, Sandoz and Schramm Halls have waiting lists, but Steve Heldt, Harper Hall residence director, commented that the occupancy rate was high to begin with last year and dwindled as the year wore on.

Two floors at Abel Hall were scheduled to be closed but were reopened to accommodate the walk-ins. Bill Thompson, residence director at Abel Hall, said Able 13 is open temporarily and those residents will be moved to other dorms as vacancies develop.

Selleck Residence Director Rich Citrin said the liberalization of dorm policles contributed to the sudden interest in dorm life. He added that the high price of apartments and the scarcity of off-campus housing has helped the occupancy rate.

The Neihardt Residence Center is close to 100% occupancy, according to director Joe Scalzo, except fot Love Hall.

Scalzo said that over 100 new residents checked in Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

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The TKE's chose Heppner basement because it is closer to the main fraternity house.

TKE

Hermes said that the situation was perfect because the basement was not being used and that is where the TKE's wanted to move. Now, that Selleck is almost full, it is good that they didn't choose that dorm, he said.

Hermes said, "As far as communicating, it is unfortunate that we didn't, but we had absoutely no intention of keeping anyone in the dark."

It is the responsibility of the Housing Office to assist all students in finding housing and that ''if we can provide the service, we should,'' he said.

Both Houser and Potter object to the fact that the tudents were not randomly selected but that it is an organized group.

Beside the manner in which the decision was reached, Centennial Fellows have questions about the contract itself.

Houser said that the terms of the contract are unique in that the TKE's will not have a regular Student Assistant but one of their own members who has been assigned and trained individually.

Hermes said there is no problem in justifying contracting for only room.

He said that he is applying the same principle in the residence halls which is that meals are an important part of the social function. If the TKE's were forced to eat away from the main part of their group, it would cause isolation.

"If I was faced with the same decision today," Hermes said, "I would do exactly as I did.'

He said it is a sound decision on the basis of all the factors and that "we would have been mismanagers if we gave the TKE's any other rooms.'

Potter said that he intends to fight the decision and that he has drafted a letter to Kenneth Bader, vice chancellor of student affairs.

He said he is taking issue with the manner and the substance of the decision but that if it remains "we will try to live with it in the best way possible.'

Action should be taken, he said, to insure that in the future "decisions are not made in this manner and that they should not be deleterious to existing programs.

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Armstrong, said that it is in the process of being drawn up and that it will be available to read later on this week.

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