

Residence hall game rooms profitable, successful

With finals week approaching and outside activities limited because of cold weather, residence hall occupants may find a study diversion close to home.

Three residence hall complexes contain game rooms, jointly supported by student governments at the complexes and by the Office of University Housing (OUH). Residence halls with game rooms are Cather-Pound-Neihardt, Abel-Sandoz and Harper-Schramm-Smith.

According to Kenneth Swerdlow, assistant director of housing, after expenses are figured revenue collected from game room operations is distributed among OUH and student government accounts. Swerdlow indicated that ten per cent of the revenue goes to the Residence Hall Assoc. (RHA), 45 per cent to the complex or residence hall governments and 45 per cent to OUH.

RHA president Tim Evensen said the association's share of the revenue is being returned to residence hall governments this year because RHA has received enough funding from refrigeration rentals this year.

Game room revenue uses

Complex and residence hall governments use their portion of the game room revenue to purchase new recreational facilities or to defray equipment and facility costs, Swerdlow said.

"Student governments (residence hall governments) are held accountable for pool cues and other minor articles," Swerdlow

said.

He added that the Abel-Sandoz government has used part of its revenue to buy a sauna bath and a weight lifting machine.

Game room revenue going to the OUH is deposited in a capital improvement account for such projects as carpeting residence hall dining room areas, Swerdlow explained. The OUH also uses game room funds to support summer programs in residence halls, with all game room revenue received during the summer going to OUH to pay employees who work in the game rooms, he said.

Among the expenses the OUH incurs in game room operations is the contracting with vending machine companies to rent such recreational devices as pinball and air hockey machines, Swerdlow said. He added that the university receives a three per cent commission after the vendor contracting expenses have been met.

Various reasons

Although many residence halls had table tennis and foosball tables before game rooms were established, central locations for recreational equipment were set up for various reasons, Glen Schumann, OUH coordinator of programs, said.

Schumann said game rooms were established because residence hall governments needed a way to obtain revenue for programs offered by the governments.

Another reason game rooms were set up was to centralize recreational facilities,

Schumann said.

"Pinball machines located in open areas (in residence halls) always seemed to be damaged and they were damaged mostly by vandalism," Schumann said.

Recreational equipment also was added to the game rooms after game rooms were organized, Schumann said, adding, "There was a need for more recreational facilities in the complexes located away from the union."

Game rooms profitable

Schumann said game rooms apparently have been profitably in Abel-Sandoz in allowing the complex's government to purchase the sauna bath and weight machine. He estimated that the Abel-Sandoz government receives about \$300 to \$400 a month in game room revenue.

If the Abel-Sandoz game room has been profitable, the Selleck game room was not, Swerdlow said. He said the Selleck facility opened last semester and folded at Thanksgiving. He attributed the game room failure to Selleck's nearness to the Union.

"Some places in Selleck were closer to the Union than they were to the game room," he said.

The first residence hall complex game room established at Abel-Sandoz three years ago. Cather-Pound-Neihardt followed, organizing a game room last year and Harper-Schramm-Smith opened its game room this semester.

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