

Occupancy shows dorm popularity



Richard Armstrong, director of UNL Housing explains the increase in residence hall occupancy.

By Lorraine Hughes

The number of students living in UNL residence halls increased substantially this year.

According to Richard Armstrong, director of housing, 95.57% of the beds in residence halls have been committed and if occupancy increases at the same rate as previous years, they will be over 100% full.

The national trend for students to seek campus housing, said Armstrong, is partially a result of the tightening economy. Over all, campus housing is cheaper, he said. Off-campus utilities, groceries, and gas expenses can increase while residence halls have a "set rate for the year."

The relaxing of campus restrictions is another reason why students are sticking to campus living this year. The elimination of floor sponsors, open door policy, and increased visitation privileges allow students more freedom, said Armstrong.

A new feature that may attract students to the dorm is the installation of telephones in each of the 2,572 dormitory rooms on campus.

Centrex system

UNL is converting to the Centrex system. The elimination of switchboard operators will save \$77,910. The \$11,493 difference will be passed on to students as a part of increased housing costs.

The Centrex system will mean a savings of about \$56 a year for students who had phones installed formerly by Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Residence hall contract rates for the 1975 school year are \$1,190.

Long distance excepted

According to Armstrong, service charges, with the exception of long distance calls, are included in the student's room and board contract.

Students will be asked to fill out a card telling if long distance privileges are desired. Nearly 100% will want those services, he estimated. Long distance calls will be billed to Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph.

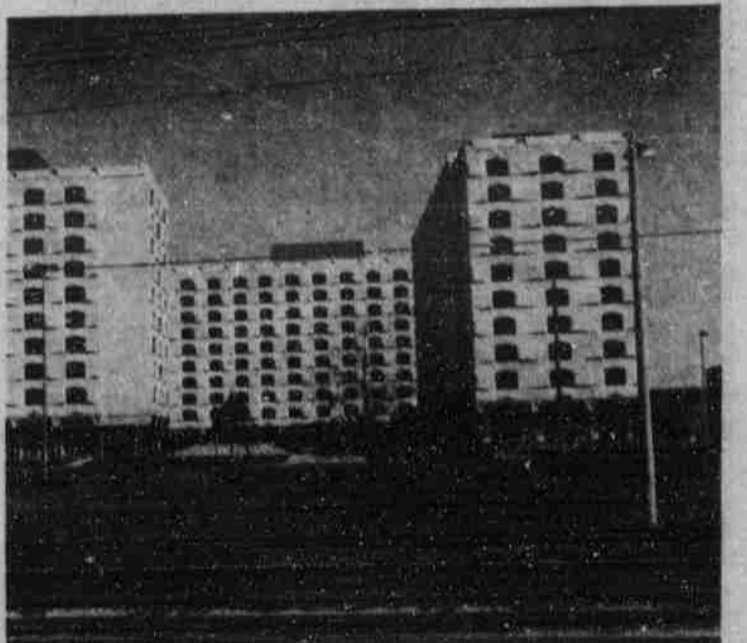
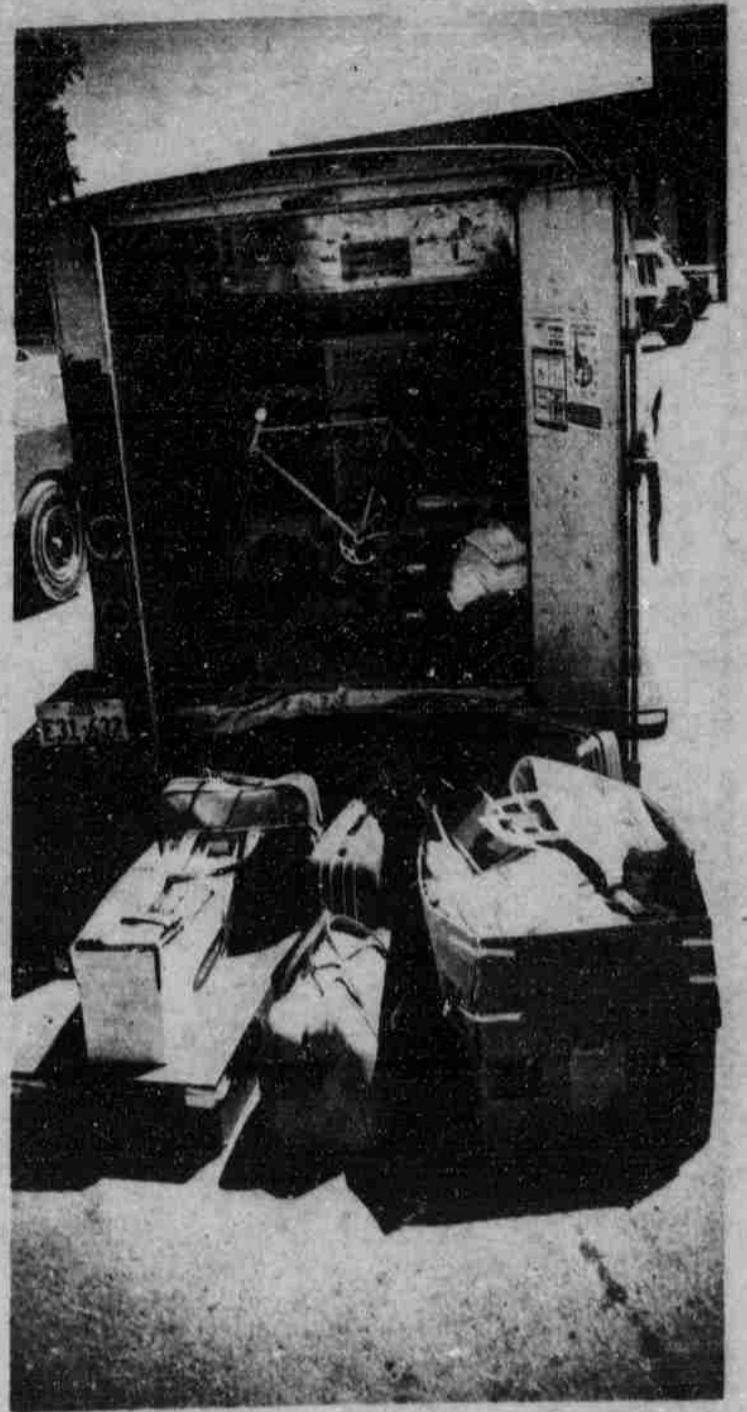
Relaxed campus restrictions are attractive, but "there is always more to be achieved in the way of regulations," Armstrong said.

Another UNL Housing Department staff member has "her own personal theory" as to why dormitory occupancy has increased. Marie Hanson, co-ordinator of programs, said the security measures residence halls offer could be an added attraction.

'Security will tighten'

Ken Nelson, head of student security, said although security will tighten in some areas, "I don't foresee any additional problems" with more people living in dormitories this year.

Bill Schnackel, complex program director of Cather-Pound-Neihardt complex, said he would be able to do more programming. The influx of students into residence halls is a very positive factor, he said.



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