

No Vacancy



Jeff Haller/DN

Kerry Fischman, left, and Laci Fischer hang out in Fischer's new residence, one of the seventh-floor TV lounges in Abel Residence Hall. Fischer decided to move out of her temporary triple room, and the lounge was the only available space.

Overcrowding poses problem for housing

By Patty Wewel
Staff Reporter

A rush of students requesting on-campus housing has left several students with temporary room assignments as their home away from home.

Michael Hager, assistant director of housing, said two students had moved into the TV lounges of residence halls. One student moved into a lounge in Abel Residence Hall because he smoked and his other two roommates did not.

As of Aug. 16, 186 freshman had temporary room assignments, and 46 upperclass students were waiting for a room on campus. More current figures won't be tabulated until Friday.

The housing crunch occurred because more freshman than expected decided to attend UNL. Also, fewer student cancellations were received than housing officials had planned.

However, the number of students in temporary housing is not as bad as housing officials had feared.

Hager said housing officials realized in July that overcrowding would be a problem. But they expected to place almost 300 students in temporary housing.

Housing officials explored several options to accommodate the residents, including moving students into TV lounges in Abel Hall.

The housing department furnished the lounges with a phone, bunk beds, desks and racks to hang clothes. Student assistants, as well as students in single rooms, were asked to consider taking roommates.

Hager said temporary and permanent triple rooms had been filled with three people. Students were moved into the garden level in Heppner Hall, where guest housing was converted to student housing.

Laci Fischer, a freshman in general studies, moved into a TV lounge Tuesday night after long disputes with her two roommates.

Fischer said the three had been living together for almost one week. Fights about space and personality clashes prompted her to leave her temporary triple room in favor of lounge living, Fischer said.

With two sets of bunk beds, four desks and ample space, Fischer said she had no problem living in the lounge indefinitely.

"I love it; this is cool," Jaime Iliff, a freshman business administration and accounting major, is making it work with her two roommates.

Although her room is crowded, Iliff said

they were able to work out most of their space problems.

But Iliff said she did not have most of her clothes and other belongings with her.

Hager said overbooking the residence halls did not happen by accident.

Last March, the university, which is required to provide on-campus housing to anyone younger than 19 on the first day of classes, calculated the number of incoming freshman that would need housing.

To calculate how much space is needed, housing officials—conservatively—consider the number of high school seniors graduating in Nebraska. They then figure how many students may live with relatives, Hager said.

Glen Schumann, acting director of housing, said this year, housing officials miscalculated the number of incoming freshman.

Hager said housing officials thought they would be safe in extending the deadline for upperclassmen to reserve single rooms.

Hager said housing's highest priority was getting students out of temporary spaces and into permanent assignments.

Schumann said some students always were put in temporary housing. However, he said, the last time the residence halls were overcrowded to this extent was in 1982.

Safety patrol to be extended to greek units

By DeDra Janssen
Senior Reporter

Safety patrols usually limited to residence halls have been expanded to greek houses this year, police said.

Ken Cauble, University of Nebraska-Lincoln police chief, said community service officers from his department would be patrolling areas by the houses for eight hours each night.

Cauble said the aim of the expanded patrol was to increase safety, not to catch students drinking in greek houses.

"This is not designed to just be a snoop for alcohol at parties," he said.

Fourteen officers have provided security for residence halls for the past two years, Cauble said. The Office of University Housing pays the campus police department for the service in the halls.

In the expanded patrol, officers will provide security for greek houses, he said. The officers can enter sororities with permission from live-in house directors.

Officers can enter fraternities at their discretion, he said.

Cauble said two additional officers had been hired because of the expanded service, and the greek houses on campus were paying for part of the cost.

Cauble said the patrols were added because campus administrators wanted more security on

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Police blame stadium crimes on construction

By Charles Isom
Staff Reporter

Several fans have been a little too eager to see the new and improved Memorial Stadium, university police said.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the number of reported break-ins at the stadium had doubled last year, increasing from three last year to six so far this year.

Four of those six break-ins have occurred in the last three weeks. No one has been arrested.

Nothing was stolen during any of the break-ins, Manning said. The crimes varied from simple graffiti to attempting to steal a forklift, he said.

On separate occasions, unlawful entrants have written the word "Crips" with marker on the walls of the stadium, damaged equipment used in restroom construction and tried to hot-wire a forklift.

On one occasion, trespassers hot-wired two

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Trees, shrubs to be planted around North Plaza Park

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

Green space will benefit campus, landscaping director says

Green space is beginning to live up to its nickname.

Starting this week, trees and shrubs will be planted along the green space area north of the Nebraska Union. The area, officially called North Plaza Park, underwent a massive transition this summer from a parking lot to a park.

Bud Dasenbrock, director of Landscape Services, said rock, concrete, old lights and water lines were removed in the early part of the summer. Putting in topsoil and installing sidewalks and an irrigation system took the rest of the

summer to accomplish.

Kim Todd, campus landscape architect, said the area was seeded as soon as possible because of the heavy student traffic during the first weeks of the fall semester.

Workers posted signs and fences around the area after it was seeded to keep people off the newly developed spot, she said.

"We're trusting people to respect the area now," Todd said.

Dasenbrock said the idea for creating the park originated in a committee

that included officials from parking services, facilities management and landscape services. The university hired an architecture firm to design the park and to demolish the parking lot.

The park created much controversy last year. Some students and faculty members opposed removing a parking lot to create room for the area.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the decision to remove the parking stalls last October, despite opposition from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Dasenbrock said he hadn't heard any negative comments since the changes started.

The park will benefit the whole campus, Dasenbrock said.

"We try to develop a bond between people and plants," Dasenbrock said. "People may not be aware of it, but everyone benefits from being around plants."

For many incoming freshmen, the final decision to attend a college is based on the appearance of the campus,

Dasenbrock said. The space will improve the appearance of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, Dasenbrock said.

Dasenbrock said the park would continue to evolve this semester. Trees, shrubs and flowers will be planted, and the irrigation system will be adjusted. Most of the flowers will be planted in late winter when the area is completely finished, he said.

As the park enters its final stage of development, Todd said, the area will attract visitors.

"We hope this turns more of the campus into a place more for people and faculty to interact," Todd said.