

Residence halls again face overcrowding

BY TERRA CHAPEK
Staff Reporter

If the number of residence hall applications continues to match last year's numbers the UNL residence halls expect to be over capacity when school begins in the fall.

In UNL's 13 residence halls 4,600 to 4,800 spaces are available and 4,000 have already been reserved for the fall. Doug Zatechka, the UNL director of housing, said the housing department had received the same number of applications by June 1996.

"If the numbers hold, everything is pointing to being very full in the fall," Zatechka said.

The residence halls opened last fall with approximately 300 more students than the number of two-person rooms available, Zatechka said. The extra students are housed in the resi-

dence hall lounges and placed in triple rooms.

Because of cancellations and no-shows, Zatechka said, the number of extra students drops rapidly in the first two weeks of classes. In past years, he said, the residence halls have always been down to capacity by the middle of the fall semester.

Zatechka said the overcrowding meant that students who didn't get their applications in early wouldn't get the options they wanted. Late comers may lose their choice of halls or roommates. The late students also could miss the opportunity to live on special interest or drug-free floors.

"It's the kid who comes in at the last minute who is going to have the problems," Zatechka said.

Upperclass students also need to be concerned with getting their applications in early, Zatechka said. Because most freshmen are required

to live in the residence halls, Zatechka said, there will be a cut-off date for all upperclass applications. The cut-off date depends on how many applications the housing department receives.

The increase in upperclass students in residence halls is a major cause of the residence hall application overload. There are approximately 500 more returning students this year than five years ago, Zatechka said.

A returning students discount is drawing students back to the residence halls, Zatechka said. Students who return to the residence halls pay the same price as their first year, despite the increase in housing costs.

The low cost is also a reason students opt to live in the residence halls, Zatechka said. He said UNL offers the lowest housing rates in the Big 12 Conference.

Adapting to college life takes time

RANDALL from 3

just might end up regretting it the rest of your life.

So forget everything you learned about how to succeed in high school and start over, because the minute you set foot in a classroom here, you're starting a new chapter in life.


And always remember, the years you spend in college are the best years in your life, but only if you decide to make them worth it.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go figure out how I'm going to afford all of this.

Randall is a junior news-editorial major and the editor of the Daily Nebraskan Summer Edition.

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