

Neihardt to become honors-only

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

A new policy implemented by University Housing will be leaving some students in the Neihardt Residence Center seeking another shelter after next year. Beginning in the fall of 2000, non-honors students now living in Neihardt will be denied further residency because of space constraints.

The 2000-2001 academic year will be the first time Neihardt will close its doors to non-honors students, said Ana Campos, Neihardt residence director.

University Housing administrators have been enforcing a gradual plan in the last seven years to cope with an

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JEFF GREEN
non-honors Neihardt resident

increase in requests from honors students to live in Neihardt.

Last year, Campos said, Neihardt had to turn away more than two dozen students.

An increasing number of requests to live in Neihardt by incoming freshman honor students has been the major reason non-honors students are being affected, she said.

With the newest changes, Campos said the plan would:

- Give non-honors students in Neihardt a one-year grace period before moving out of their rooms.

- Designate two floors in Pound Residence Hall as upperclass honors floors.

- Give non-honors students currently in Neihardt priority to rooms in other residence halls during the 1999-2000 academic year.

While the policy was aimed at dealing with space constraints, it was also devised to build Neihardt exclusively into an honors dorm, said Director of University Housing Doug Zatechka.

“The No. 1 goal is to create sufficient space so the honors program can continue to grow,” he said. “I don’t like to disadvantage people, but a popular program is a top priority.”

Zatechka said he hoped that the one-year grace period would give non-honors students a “cushion” in finding other living arrangements.

Cory Lueninghoener, a sophomore computer engineering major and a non-honors student living in Neihardt, said the change “seemed to be cruel.”

Lueninghoener wrote a letter to the

Daily Nebraskan in December saying administrators were discriminating against non-honors students to make Neihardt more exclusive.

Junior education major Candace Cain agreed.

“They’re trying to create an environment for people who are successful in just one area of learning,” said Cain, a non-honors student who has lived in the hall for three years.

Jeff Green, a sophomore general studies major who also lives in the hall, said he liked Neihardt’s sense of community.

“I’ve met all my friends here and leaving Neihardt makes it much more difficult to maintain my relationships,” he said.

Green called the policy “unjust” since it will force him out of the hall for his senior year in school.

“It’s frustrating. It would just be easier if I could stay where I’m comfortable,” Green said.

Campos said she was aware that some students would be forced out of Neihardt their senior year, but said administrators have done everything they could to be fair.

“This extended period of time for people to make their living arrangements is one example of how we tried to take people’s feelings about living in Neihardt into account,” Campos said.

Angie Buescher, president of the University Honors Program Advisory Board, said the change was inevitable.

“I think it was a long time coming,” she said. “I really don’t see it as a huge event that just happened.”

Grab-and-go lunches to be more eco-friendly

BY SANDI ALSWAGER
Staff writer

The grab-and-go lunch program already helps students save precious time, but now the program is taking a step towards saving the Earth.

The grab-and-go program allows residence hall students to go through the food line in their cafeterias and take meals back to their rooms.

With the current system, students throw away foam food containers and plastic silverware when they finish eating.

But the new system lets students use a plastic container that can be reused after students finish eating, said Dale Ekart, UNL recycling coordinator.

A trial program began in November and concluded in December during finals week. Ten Cather-Pound residents used the reusable containers for about a month.

A second trial program using new plastic containers will begin in about a month.

Angie Noe, a junior environmental studies major, participated in the first trial program.

She said the new grab-and-go containers are convenient and easy to use.

“All of the (foam) waste adds up,” Noe said. “I think it would be great if the whole dorm system used (plastic containers).”

Along with the reusable main container, the new grab-and-go lunch program uses reusable silverware and mugs. All the containers are exchanged for new ones each time students go through the line, Ekart said.

Containers are issued and can be used whenever students want. When a meal is finished, the containers must be rinsed out and leftover food

must be put in the trash, he said.

Ekart said program committee members questioned whether the new containers would be too much of a hassle, whether students would remember the container when going to the cafeteria and whether enough students would use the program to make it cost-effective.

Committee members were also concerned that students would put leftover food in residence hall sinks and clog them, Ekart said.

But surveys given to students, kitchen and maintenance staff showed positive results from the first trial program and led to a second trial program, Ekart said.

Ekart said the student organization Ecology Now played a crucial role in getting the program started.

Galen Wray, program coordinator and Ecology Now member, said students needed something different.

Some Ecology Now members lived in the residence halls and saw that the grab-and-go lunch program used foam and produced a lot of waste, said Wray, a senior environmental studies major.

Wray said it cost about 27 cents a meal if all components of the grab-and-go foam containers were used for a meal, including the tray, plastic silverware and bowls.

“(The new program) saves money and cuts down on trash and waste,” Wray said.

The containers also are more sturdy and spill-proof with dry items, he said.

“Overall there were not a lot of people that really complained,” Wray said. “There were some people that weren’t using the program, though, because of throwing the (old) containers away.”

Anyone interested in being a part of the second trial grab-and-go lunch program should call Ekart at (402) 472-6099.

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