

Administration has no business telling students where to live

The newly-renovated Tonapah Hall is solely populated with entering freshmen. The all-freshmen residence hall results from a revised university policy which mandates that all entering freshmen, who are recent high school graduates, must live on campus. Is this a good idea—a good way to make their matriculation process a smooth sail—or does it reveal a great mistrust of younger students by the administration?

Tonapah Hall houses 210 such students and has five floors for students with various interests—an all-male floor, an all-female floor, a study-intensive coed floor, a substance-free coed floor, and a general assignment coed floor, etc.

The freshman residence hall offers a more nurturing atmosphere which hopes to better adapt students to a college environment, in order to combat the high freshman drop-out rate, said Strong.

So, now for the sake of raising the number of returning freshmen, and subsequently, increasing university revenues, special freshman programs have been initiated and operate out of Tonapah Hall.

Do freshmen really need this specialized treatment? If you are old enough to vote and

theoretically decide who will govern the country, does the university have a right to dictate where you will reside?

Some students would object to this condescending treatment, but a number of freshmen seem happy with the opportunity to live among their own kind, for lack of a better phrase.

"I thought I would be an outcast in the other dorms," said Maggie Hume, an 18-year-old resident in Tonapah Hall.

"We are all on the same level," said Heidi Reinhardt, 18. "Everyone's just starting out."

Sean McCarthy likes the idea of being in a building full of people who are "just as confused as I am."

Other students were not as enthused by the prospect of being surrounded by their peers.

"I didn't want to be surrounded by all freshmen, but now it's okay," commented Jermaine Webster, 18, "I feel comfortable, but I wouldn't mind staying in the other dorms."

Despite mixed opinions—receptive, opposed and indifferent—the general population agreed that a mandated university policy restricting all traditional-aged entering freshmen outside of Clark County to campus housing was unnecessary.

Residential Life directors contend they

consider all the residence halls to be adult environments and deny they had any part in the new university freshmen policy.

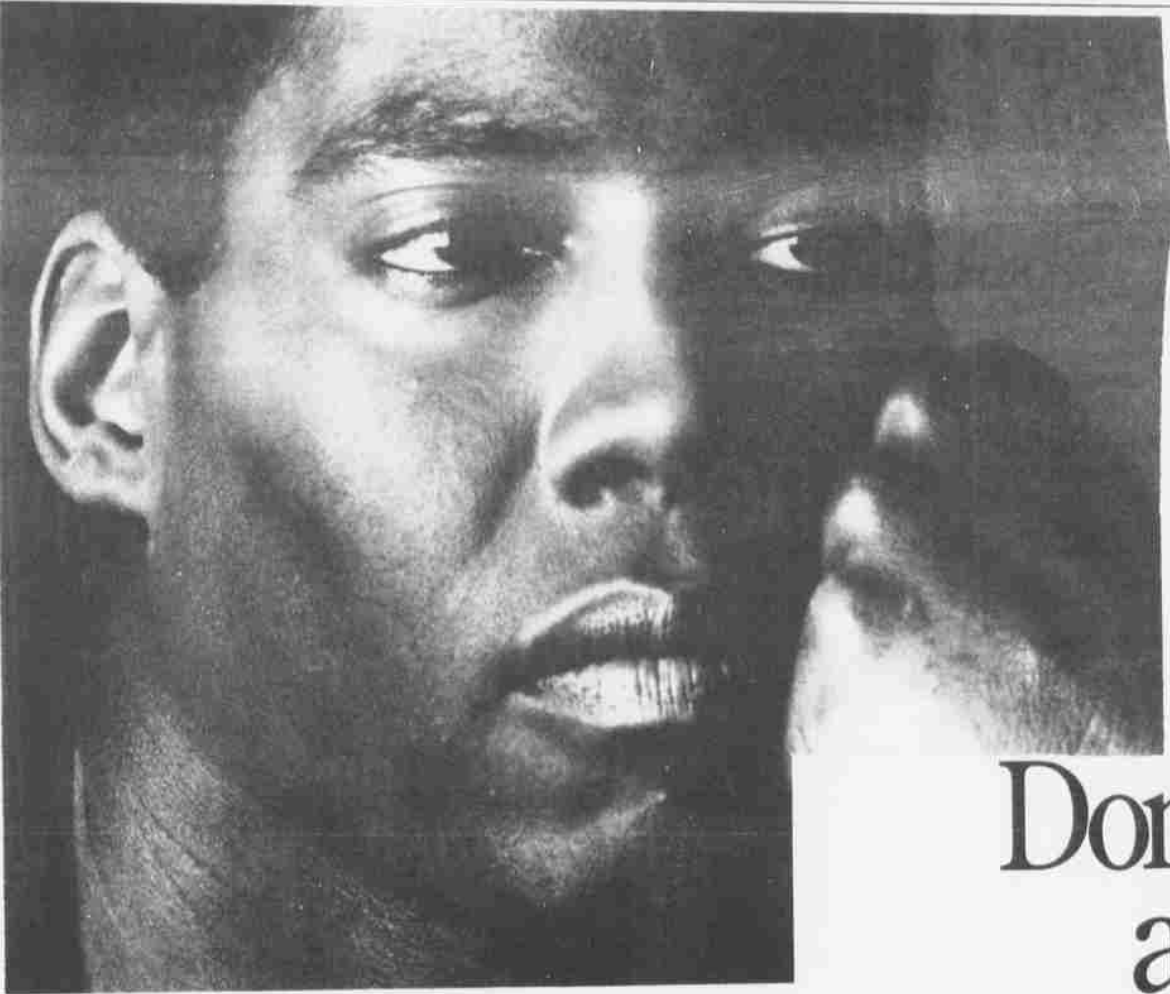
Maybe the university is genuinely concerned with the welfare of entering freshmen, or maybe their intentions are less sincere. But that's not the point.

When will they learn? If they want people to act like adults, they have to treat them as such.

Frankly, this policy smacks of paternalism. The administration wants to look after the "kiddies"—if you're a freshman at UNLV ("of traditional freshman age," of course) you must live either at home or in the residence halls.

Please, college-age students are adults; they are capable of, and need to be allowed to make their own "adult" choices. Where to live is one of the most important of those choices. The UNLV administration needs to accommodate those decisions but has no business making them.

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HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.