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Students offer differing opinions on campus residence hall life

Satisfaction rate is higher than in previous years, coordinator says.

BY CAROLYN ROSE STAFF WRITER

Residential Life administrators and students seem to agree that, although on-campus housing cannot please everyone, most students living there enjoy life in the dorms.

Terry Piper, director of Res-

idential Life, said there is an average 15- to 20-percent return rate among residents, and there is no reason to expect a difference this year.

In fact, Piper said, "We are at this point—ahead of last year's number of contracts being renewed."

According to Piper, 770 students lived in the residence halls this year; their capacity is 1,079. Some rooms are used for housing temporary guests of the university. David Brown, Residential Life coordinator, pointed to what he called encouraging news, a higher satisfaction rate than in previous years.

"The drop-out rate is better and vandalism is down," he said.

A random sampling of residents' opinions supports these views. Danielle Pafumi, a junior majoring in accounting, has lived in the residence halls for three years and will return next fall.

"It's easier for my parents," she said. "I have no car, and it's cheaper to live here than in an apartment."

According to Pafumi, the best part of on-campus life is meeting people, the worst: "Cigarettes on the carpet and fire alarms at 3 a.m. are the worst part."

Sara Fratt, a freshman hotel major living in Kitty Rodman Hall, said she is not coming back to the dorms next year. "At the beginning, it was really nice, and I made friends. Then the rules set in," she said. "It was almost worse than being at home, some-

times

"There is freedom to come and go, but some of the rules are strange. Nobody follows them anyway." Fratt said. He said the mandatory quiet hours should be unnecessary because students should not have to be told how to study. "Some (resident assistants) are cool. Others can't relate to you. I got along with my R.A. really well."

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Are four-year degrees a thing of the past?

UNIV

The

5 Year

Plan

"I get the feeling the

administrators want to

keep us here. It puts

more money in their

pockets the longer we

communication studies

stay in school."

Some students say they think UNLV wants to keep them in school longer than need be.

BY ERIN HIMES STAFF WRITER

Rising tuition, closed classes and the increasing number of non-traditional students attending colleges and universities are changing perceptions that most students earn their undergraduate degrees in four years.

School officials recognize that because of financial and person-

al pressures, many students are taking longer to get their degrees. This isn't quite making the traditional four-year degree a dinosaur, but is putting it on the endangered species list.

In some cases, university systems are trying to graduate students in less than four years to make room for new students who are competing for fewer classes.

According to Eileen McGarry, the director of Career Placement and Planning, a major factor in the increased time it takes to earn a four-year degree is the fact that federal loan and grant money is being reduced, forcing students to work part time or full time to help finance their education.

In some cases students take an occasional semester off to make money for tuition and to pursue internships.

In Virginia, the Legislature implemented a program that allows students in public universities to graduate in three years.

The plan lets people get credit for high scores on advanced placement tests taken during high school. If they pass the tests it's determined they have achieved a proficiency in the subject matter and they don't have to take it in college.

According to the Education Council, students who opt for the three-year plan could expect to save \$10,000.

Angela Duffy, 24, a sophomore majoring in finance, says if she

was offered the chance for a three-year over a fouryear degree she would take the three-year degree. "I scored ex-

tremely high on my ACT test upon entering college," Duffy said. "IfUNLV offered a three-year degree it would have removed a lot of obstacles for me, enabling me to go to graduate school much

earlier."
Lisa Kyne,
21, a freshman majoring in
communication studies, says the
five- and six-year degree is the

Lisa Kyne,

grand design of the university.
"I get the feeling the administrators want to keep us here,"
Kyne said. "It puts more money in their pockets the longer we stay in school."

Many students go to school part-time, which almost automatically puts them in the posi-

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PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

Sweep

Senior Tricia Reimche beats the throw back to third Sunday against Cal Poly Pomona.

Awareness a cure for student apathy, government leaders say

BY CAROLYN ROSE STAFF WRITER

While Student Government leaders say there are programs and services available to all, students say they don't have time for or interest in them.

Jannine Mundt, a sophomore majoring in anthropology, said, "I really don't pay attention to it [student government]. It doesn't affect me. It seems to be either a black and white issue or a Greek affair that doesn't pertain to the average student."

Mundt added, "I work all the time. I'm never here."

Leon Carroll, a sophomore majoring in both management information systems and business management, said he belongs to no organizations and did not vote in the recent election. He said he believes lack of time leads to student apathy. "Classes and working make it hard," Carroll said.

Sen. Willie Romero, liberal arts, said, "There is apathy, but it's hard to define."

He said the two main reasons for lack of involvement on the campus are the makeup of the student body, which includes older students with families and jobs, and the fact that UNLV is a commuter school.

Romero said more students are becoming involved with campus activities, however, because of

"You can't blame students. They want to get an education and get out. But they're missing a really fun part of school."



Joel Kostman, student body president

the increase of on-campus residents and campus organizations.

Romero said there are over 100 organizations on campus, and that anyone can get information about them.

"Organizations can get room reservations for meetings, up to \$500 per year after six months of recognition and also athletic tickets after one year," he said.

Legal counsel, notary public services and typewriters are some of the services available to students through Student Government. Romero said

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