

UNLV's Residence Halls: A full house

by **maritess zurbano**
News Editor

More than 100 UNLV students were denied on-campus housing for the fall semester as dorm occupancy rose from 95 to 100 percent.

For the first time in four years the halls are filled with the maximum of 1,078 students ranging from freshmen to graduate students.

Residential Life Director Karen Strong said waiting lists for residence hall occupancy began forming in July.

Strong attributes the overcrowding problem to a "high return rate" of dorm residents from the spring 1995-96 academic term. Nearly 300 students who lived in the residence halls last year are returning this year, according to Strong.

Nevada freshmen from outside Clark County and out-of-state freshmen are the two priority groups for on-campus housing placement. Strong said the bulk of these students have been placed in residence halls but some remain on a waiting list.

Students who were not placed in the residence halls should utilize university services including roommate referrals,

temporary housing and information about local apartments, Strong said.

Many new students said they were relieved to get a room. Buck Iannatuoni, a junior transfer student from Western Connecticut State University, said moving into the dorms was a great transition.

"It was easy for me," Iannatuoni said.

Erik Herr, a junior majoring in history, returned to the dorms for the third year.

"It's less hassle for me to live in the dorms. I don't have to worry about where my food is coming from, or whether or not I'm going to make rent or not," Herr said. "Because I live on campus, I don't have to worry if my car can make the drive to school."

Robert Ackerman, vice president for student services, said solutions to the overcrowding problems in the residence halls are currently being explored.

"Our projections indicate that we will grow into a campus of 35,000 students in the future," Ackerman said. "We're looking at housing and expansion and we'll see how quickly we'll get to that number."

"We want to make sure



Students pack residence halls for the first time in four years. More than 100 were denied housing.

the current demand for housing is real so we don't overbuild the system," Ackerman said.

Immediate solutions to the problem are in effect, according to Ackerman. "When we discovered that dorm rooms

were quickly becoming unavailable we arranged for many students to temporarily stay in motels at a reduced rate," he said.

UNLV President Carol Harter said the residence hall occupancy is a positive indication of the university's future.

"We are looking forward to what promises to be a great new school year," Harter said. "I am delighted that our residence halls are full, which is another indication that UNLV is becoming a mature university with a sizable resident population."

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munication major, is acting as a page at the convention. Story lobbied Congress last year on behalf of students to save direct loans and is also active in the state party.

"I'm excited because my going to the convention

shows that young people can be a part of the process," said Story, former CSUN Nevada student affairs director.

Council, a political science major, is also a page. "I was so thrilled when I found out I was going, not only because it is a part of something so important, but also it will be a good example for my children," she said.



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