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Fewer students choose dorms reversing a decade-long trend

By PAUL DANZER

Although more living options are available, students aren't packing the University residence halls like they used to.

For the first time in 10 years, supply exceeds demand for the University's housing facilities, according to the director of the University housing department.

Nevertheless, 150 more students signed up to live in the halls than the department estimated in January, says Director Dan Williams.

As of last week, 2,646 residents had been admitted to residence halls. As many as 2,800 students could end up in University housing facilities, Williams says.

Williams is astounded by the number of students who have elected to live in the halls. "That is a dramatically higher number than we had anticipated," he

says.

The late summer rush to the dorms has forced the housing department to reopen halls that they did not plan to use.

Last week, the department re-opened Thorton halls in Bean Complex and the first floor of the University Inn. More reopenings are anticipated.

Student options range from coed or single sex halls for freshmen, upperclass and graduate students, single or multiple rooms, and more luxurious living at the University Inn.

Among the more popular residence halls are the special interest halls. Academic pursuit halls, which offer 24 hours-a-day quiet hours for enthusiastic students, are the most popular of the special dormitories. Approximately 300 residents are living in the academic pursuit halls this year, accord-

ing to Marge Ramey, assistant director of housing.

The other special interest dorms include an international studies hall, an environmental hall and a creative arts hall. Residents in these halls participate in activities in their area of interest throughout the year.

Students living in the residence halls are served three meals a day. Meals are served in three dining halls, and residents are assigned a dining hall according to which of the seven housing complexes they are assigned.

Breakfast is served from 6:45 to 10:30 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

The cost for room and board for the year is \$2,127 for residents in standard campus multiple rooms. A single room on campus or a University Inn multiple costs \$2,762 and a single room at the University Inn costs \$3,587 for the year.

The University Inn is a high-rise coed complex located five blocks west of campus. Each room has a bathroom and a telephone and weekly maid service is provided.

Each dorm complex has laundry facilities, television, vending machines and recreational facilities.

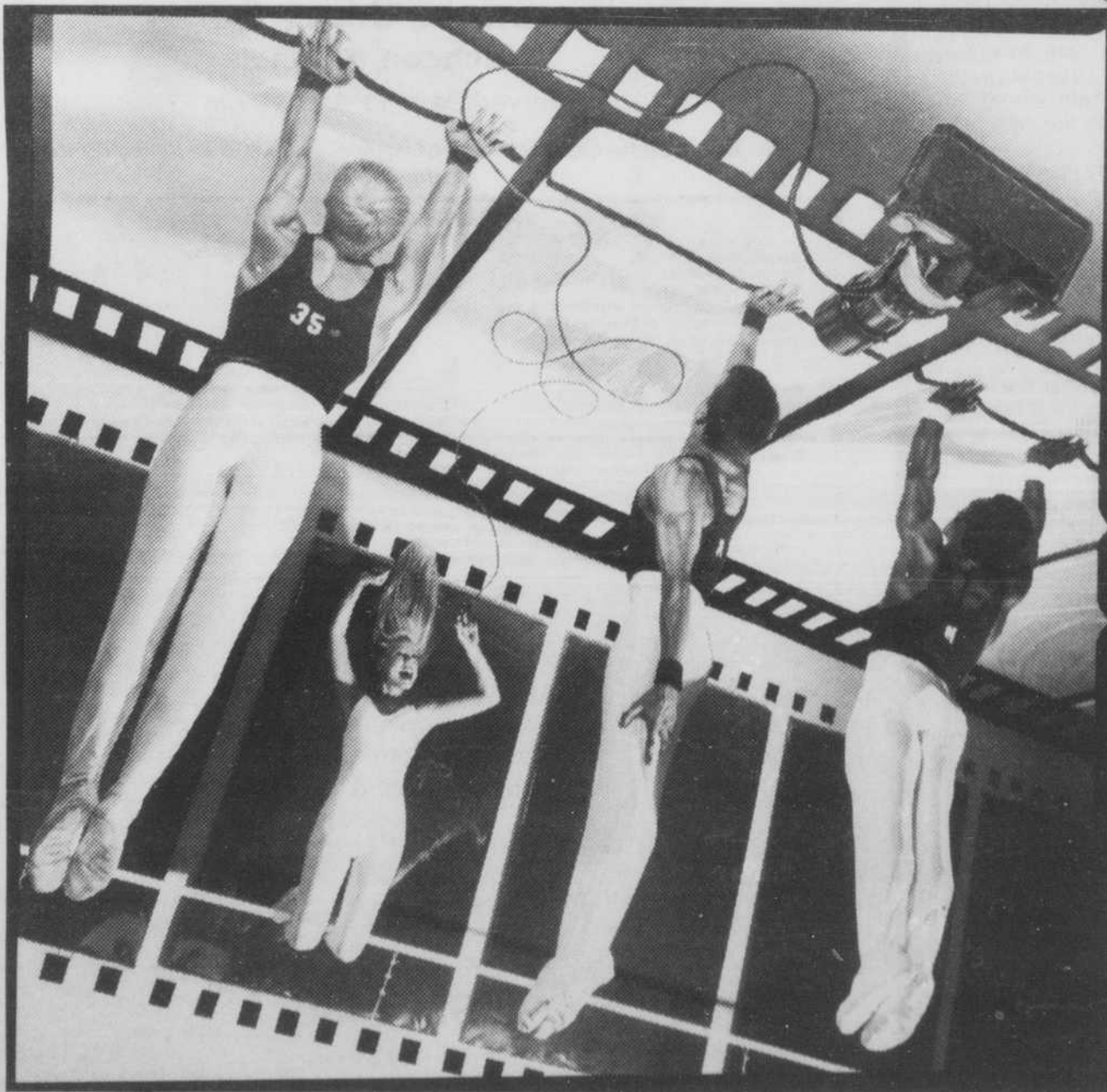
Area directors for each complex administer individual residence halls. Each complex also has a student manager who assists the area director with administration and takes charge of the complex in the director's absence.

Each dorm has a resident assistant (RA), a student living in the dorm who coordinates dorm activities and helps resolve problems that arise at the dorm.

Resident assistants also help the dormitory advisory board plan activities and projects for the dorm residents. Each complex also has a President's Council, which helps set policy, plan events and physical improvements for the complex.



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