



Photo by Jim Goodwin

An increase in the demand for single rooms allowed the University housing office to reopen Willcox dorm in the Bean East complex.



Photo by Stuart Redsun

Quads offer everything from maid service to free cable to student renters and are close to campus as well.

Hall computer spells relief

By Michael Doake
Of the Emerald

Dormitory residents who applied early this summer for housing space experienced few problems moving in, while those who waited until the last minute to apply spent a lot of their time last week waiting anxiously.

A new computer system saved time and headaches for many students moving into the University's six residence halls, according to Marjory Ramey, acting director of student housing.

Students who applied for housing early enough to get a fall reservation knew their specific room and roommate and had few problems to worry about, Ramey said.

For the students who did not apply in time to get reservations, the slow process of waiting for "no-shows" was in store for them last Monday.

"Our Sunday move-in was the best we've ever seen. It went like a breeze," Ramey said. "But we are distressed about Monday. We were slow and not up to our usual service."

Students who applied late for housing could not be processed through the computer and had a long wait for vacancies, she said.

Once in the residence halls, this year's 2,700 student residents found some new changes, said Ramey.

Willcox dorm in the Bean East complex was reopened in response to an increased demand for single rooms, according to

Ramey. Moore dorm, also in the Bean East complex, will remain closed and reserved for special events.

A second change involves a weekend meal plan that includes brunch and dinner on both days. Students will no longer have to eat out on Sunday nights, Ramey said. Some 19 meals a week will be offered.

Something that has not changed for residence hall students is the cost of room and board. Due to good management and summer conferences like Beaver Boys State and athletic camps, prices will remain the same as last year, Ramey said.

Students can choose from a variety of housing alternatives in the dorms, including special-interest dorms which offer accommodations to students interested in academic pursuit, international studies, creative arts, and environmental studies. Mixed academic-class dorms and coed halls are also available.

The University Inn, an apartment-like complex, is full again this year, Ramey said.

The housing department also has 750 families in units in Amazon, Westmoreland and the east campus area, she says. Residents there will have a slight increase in rent this year.

"We run the housing department like a small business," Ramey said, adding that the business is healthy. "We regret that people had to wait in line on Monday, but everything else seems to be running smoothly."

Quads offer quirky quality

By Leslie Knight
Of the Emerald

If you share your kitchen and bathroom with three people you don't know very well, you probably live in a quad.

Quads are a low cost form of community living. They used to be standard fare, but there is now a wide variety to choose from. Some have paid cable and installed phone jacks. Some offer maid and linen services to add some of the comforts of home.

People often choose quads because they are inexpensive and offer more privacy than dorms.

"You've got a little more freedom. You don't have to worry about a roommate all the time," says Maria Fundak, who lived in quads for nine months.

This same privacy can be a drawback — quads don't have the same social climate dorms have. Quadmates may get along famously or they may barely know each other's names.

Nancy Keller, who lived in a quad for a year and three months, feels this is a disadvantage to quad life. "It's a hassle to end up with three unknown roommates — you never see them, never get to know them."

Living with people you don't know can also create a security problem. Fundak adds this can be a problem in dorms or apartments too. "It just depends on how much you trust your quadmates."

There are horror stories of people cleaning out their quadmates' supplies of food,

liquor and everything else they can manage before they move out, but this seems to be rare. Food cabinets can be locked, and the door to the common area can be locked. Unless your refrigerator is in your room, though, you just have to hope your quadmates don't nibble on your food while you are out.

Quadmates also have different responsibilities to each other than roommates do. Any one of the four can move out without affecting the finances of the others and they generally do not share utility or phone bills. There can be lasting friendships made, or the occupants may rarely see each other, never talking about anything deeper than whether there's any hot water left.

Fundak found cooking her own food to be an appealing aspect of quad life. "There's not as much variety, but you're not restricted to their (dormitory) time schedules." Other people find cooking to be too much of a bother and move back to the dorms or on to a co-op.

Living in the commons area is just like apartment or house sharing only on a smaller scale. Quads that offer maid service take care of cleaning the small, much used common space. Weekly clean-up schedules help in quads that don't.

Keller feels the major advantage to quads is their convenience. "They're close to campus, they're cheap, they're furnished. They're good when you're desperate for a place to live," she says.



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