

Housing shortage a problem for students living on budget

By Linda Hahn
Of the Emerald

Increased enrollment at the University can cause problems when it comes to getting the class you want, finding a parking place and locating a place to live.

A projected housing shortage led many students to start their search early in the summer. Now, they are known as the lucky ones. Those who waited are still looking.

But dealing with a shortage was not the only housing problem students had to confront this fall. Higher rent also raised its ugly head, in line with the law of supply and demand.

While Paul Witsiers, a finance, marketing and decision science major, said that it is a normal for prices to go up as demand increases, his roommate, Evelyne Hollands, also a finance, marketing and decision science major, had a different opinion.

"Yes, it is normal, but this is the only place for students to live. They can't afford the high rates," she said.

The two started looking for apartments two weeks ago and found the majority was taken. "We had only two options, and they were rather expensive. If we could have looked earlier, we could have found something cheaper," Hollands said.

Starting the search early is definitely the key to success, said Samuel Lanahan, a graduate student in planning, public policy and management. He moved from Idaho two months ago and found the pickings fruitful.

"I know how to look for it. I don't rely on agencies or institutions. I do the legwork. I get on my bike, find the area I like, check out the landlord and the availability of the apartment. It took me a week of eight hours a day, but I found the ideal home," Lanahan said.

Those who started early weren't always lucky, however. Brad Newman, an English major, looked a few times in July, then began again in September in desperation.

"It seemed harder this time. The rents were higher, especially as you got closer to campus. I don't see a need to charge such exorbitant prices for a necessity. Paying \$400 to \$500 rent is ridiculous," Newman said.

Although the pursuit for the perfect abode may have been tough, some students are pleased with what they found.

Jane Rittenhouse, a telecommunications and film major, said she had a hard time finding her place because whenever she would call on an advertisement, it was already taken.

"It's just luck, fate that I found my place — it's nice. But I don't mind paying more. That's because I don't like a



Evelyne Hollands

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Jennifer Haven

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slipshod apartment," she said. But Jennifer Haven and Holly Hogarth, both English majors, are not content.

"We're still looking!" they said as they scoured the classifieds.

"We just called on one and it was taken," Haven said. They have been looking since early September without luck. "We just moved into a quad because we couldn't find an apartment."

"I learned one thing," Haven said. "Shop early!"

Shopping early wouldn't have helped Shasta Hatter, a psychology major. She looked

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Samuel Lanahan

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Shasta Hatter

six weeks before she found what she needed.

Her big problem is that she has a child.

"Many places don't take kids. And landlords have some real weird reasons why they don't," she said. Many of the places that do accept children are not appropriate for them. "Only 20 to 30 percent of rentals within a reasonable walking distance are suitable for kids. And houses are outrageously expensive."

What does she think of the law of supply and demand?

"I think it stinks! Capitalism is a really lousy system for student housing," Hatter said.

Band displays new look during halftime show

By Karen Engels
Of the Emerald

The University Marching Band and flag team displayed a whole new look during halftime Saturday at Autzen Stadium. And it wasn't just new marching boots or shinier whistles, but entirely new uniforms that carried an \$80,000 price tag.

The more than 185 member-group has doubled in size over the past few years. In 1982, just 80 people made up the band.

With the expanding size of the band in recent years, there probably would not have been enough old uniforms to clothe the current group, says Steve Paul, Marching Band director and assistant music professor.

The last time the band was able to purchase new uniforms was in the early 1970s or so, Paul says.

Because they are custom-made, the uniforms are unlike any others, says Paul. Made of lightweight nylon and other waterproof materials for typically wet Eugene weather, the uniforms are emblazoned with the green letters UO. Green and yellow reversible capes keep water off the members' backs and black hats add the finishing touch.

Fund-raising efforts were carried out for more than a year before band members were able to foot the bill for their sporty new costumes.

The uniforms were custom-designed by Judith Harrison, a local costume designer, and manufactured by Camel Originals, a Eugene clothing maker.

To ensure that the Marching Band and flag team would sound as good as they looked for their first performance on Saturday, the group began practicing during New Student Week for six to eight hours a day. During fall term, they will practice seven hours a week in addition to performances.

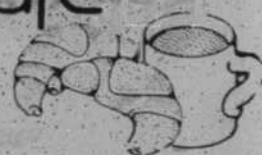
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