

# Collegian housing project not yet completed

## Students waiting out final construction

By Hon Walker  
Emerald Associate Editor

Last winter, it seemed too good to be true. A new housing complex under construction at 18th Avenue and Alder Street promised upscale living for University students beginning in the fall of 1989.

With the advent of fall, and rooms still occupied by carpenters instead of students, The Collegian, as this new structure is called, may indeed have proven to be too good to be true for 22 University students.

"Often when you get toward the tail end of these things, you get unanticipated quirks" in construction, said Howard Seelig, owner of the Seattle-based 3300 Company.

Ground was broken in the fall of 1987, but "we were under no pressure to grind it out

on any sort of schedule," Seelig said.

Now, however, after leasing living space to 22 students for fall term, the 3300 Company is struggling to meet its obligations. Last week the students were housed in the Continental Motel on East Broadway, while construction crews prepared first-floor rooms for occupancy.

"We're pounding away," Seelig said. "We have people working late in the evenings, and we have people working overtime. They really deserve a lot of commendation."

The building, when completed, will contain 44 rooms. Electricity and plumbing systems have been installed, but the structure's second floor will remain unoccupied at least through the fall while construction there continues, said Darrin Towe, 3300 Company em-

ployee.

"Construction is construction. Towe said. "Things get caught up."

Towe and Seelig were reluctant to discuss reasons for the delay, but labor turnovers and the need for structural inspection were two factors which slowed construction, Towe said.

First floor rooms are scheduled to be ready for occupancy today. In the meantime, the 3300 Company covered motel and meal costs while the students waited for a place to call home. They kept their belongings in their cars or in storage provided by The Collegian.

The extra costs of a week of lodging and food for 22 students "is going to make a dent," but in the long run will not be a consequential expense for the company, Towe said.

Last week, University sophomore Pete Wheary arrived from Portland with no idea that the complex was not prepared for occupancy. He had reserved a room at The Collegian last winter.

"I'm a little bit upset right now," he said. "It's a hassle because we can't unpack or move in yet. They're doing what they can; it's not going to do any good to have a bad attitude about it."

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Photo by Mark Ylen

Pete Wheary, one of The Collegian's displaced students, hopes to move out of a motel and into the building today.

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