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when compared to his former residence in the West University area. "Most people are pretty mellow. You have to be ready to settle down when you move here," the journalism graduate student said.

A recent graduate from the California Polytechnical Institute, Miriam works in a stockbroker's office while her husband attends classes. This is not uncommon. In most couples, only one partner is a student, she said. One parent often stays home to take care of the kids, she added.

This can be a primary benefit of married student housing.

"I was able to watch my daughter which was really important to me," Amazon resident Lisa Abercrombie said. An MFA student in creative writing, Abercrombie had the opportunity to stay home and care for her newborn daughter because housing was "cheap."

Abercrombie stressed that another benefit was the close proximity to campus. "Westmoreland looks nicer but Amazon is close to the University," she said. "I ride my bike to school."

Westmoreland resident Scott Swanson is happy with what he considers excellent bus service and a chance to form ac-

quaintances at the bus stop. "You start getting to know them," he said of his fellow bus riders.

Most residents agree that the University-provided housing forms close neighborhoods. "Basically everyone's a student or a spouse of a student. You're really sharing a common experience," Abercrombie said.

But while their experience may be the same, students' place of origin is most likely not. Nearly 50 percent of the residents are international students, according to housing director Ramey.

"You get exposed to a lot of different cultures," Norman said.

Norman said her children have learned to "respect other people's ways and not judge them by our ways."

"It made me see myself in a new way from someone else's perspective," she said.

Amazon resident and single mother Becky Long also counts the international influence as a positive factor. "My son perceives it as normal for people to be from other countries," she said.

A one-time dweller in the southern Oregon wilderness, Long's shift from an isolated log cabin in the woods to the compact and populated Amazon housing was a real turn around, she said.

"We're sort of anomalies," she admitted of her past living arrangement.

Her 150-year-old log cabin lacked running water, indoor

plumbing and electricity, she said. "A lot of people come here and go into shock," Long said of Amazon's somewhat rustic appearance. "We thought it was fine and dandy."

Long particularly likes the neighborhood friendliness. She thinks it leads to a higher level of safety for the complex's many children. "We back each other up," she said of nearby parents. "We keep an eye on what's going on."

Both Amazon and Westmoreland offer day care to their tenants. As a cooperative, Amazon's child care program manages to keep prices even lower, Long said. Her seven-year-old son Willie received a discount in return for Long's services, which included classroom work, cleaning and painting.

"I can't even imagine what it would have been like to transport Willie across campus to child care," Long said.

In addition to saving on costs, the cooperative child care leads to greater community participation.

"It's being a part of what's going on, instead of just leaving them there and picking them up," she said.

Children, to a large extent, define student married housing. Amazon housing supports close to 220 kids, while Westmoreland's number approaches 280.

Scott Swanson noticed the

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ies, are more expensive," University President Myles Brand said in a prepared statement.

Of the \$1.1 million, the University would receive about \$413,000, Sellers said.

"We will use the additional funds to improve our quality of instruction at the University of Oregon and we will make sure that our financial aid packages reflect the additional needs our students may have in light of this increase," Brand said.

OSU would receive \$426,400, and PSU would receive \$260,000. The funds are allocated to the three universities based on the sizes of their general and education budgets.

The 1.7 percent difference is part of a proposal in Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's budget, Sellers said.

Goldschmidt's recommendation is for tuition to increase 5 percent above the level of the five state colleges by 1993.

Compared nationally with tuition rates at other universities, Oregon's schools rank somewhere in the middle, Sellers said.

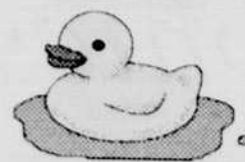
Compared with schools in the Western United States, tuition rates for Oregon's schools are third lowest behind Colorado and Washington State, he said.

The state's higher education board is scheduled to discuss Bartlett's proposal at its April 20 meeting and may vote on the issue at its July 20 meeting.

Sellers said the board had expected Bartlett's request for tuition increases.

The issue the board will face is whether to approve Bartlett's proposal for the additional 1.7 percent for the state's three universities, he said.

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