

Students race to find cheap housing

By Ann Ziegler
Emerald Contributor

The race is on for the best rental housing for the least amount of money, and prices are expected to increase over last year's rates, said Chris Chupa of the University's Rental Housing Office and Kent Jennings of Jennings & Co.

Although Jennings, Joy Poust of Spyglass Associates and Marjorie Ramey of the University Housing Office all agree there is less to choose from in September, Chupa said that is the best time to look.

"September is by far the busiest month in terms of the number of people and listings," Chupa said.

"Listings drop off in mid-October," Chupa said, and openings increase in early November and late December.

Chupa said housing prices have increased noticeably this year. For example, the average one-bedroom apartment rented for \$195 to \$400 in 1989-90. This year, he said, the same unit may rent for \$350 to \$375.

Last year's two-bedroom apartments averaged \$250-500, Chupa said, "but you can tack some onto that."

Chupa said many students opt to rent in the summer

"to secure a place and handle the increase when fall comes around." However, many apartments listed are available only during the summer, he said.

Property managers painted a picture of a somewhat more desperate situation. Poust said Spyglass rentals were "thinning out" in mid-August, and she expected 100 percent occupancy by the end of this month.

Jennings echoed Poust's predictions of zero availability of housing near campus by September.

"Before the University moved back the enrollment cap, if you came in July, you'd probably do OK," Jennings said. But this year, he said, "a real together student would secure housing by June."

The story is much the same for University-owned housing. Marjorie Ramey, director of University Housing, said housing is booked for fall 1990 and students on waiting lists will most likely stay on those lists throughout fall term.

"We don't anticipate any vacancies for the 200 to 300 transfer or upper-division students," she said. However, students who drop out of school or find off-campus housing usually provide openings in the residence halls in winter and spring terms. Whether attrition will provide openings in family housing is "hard

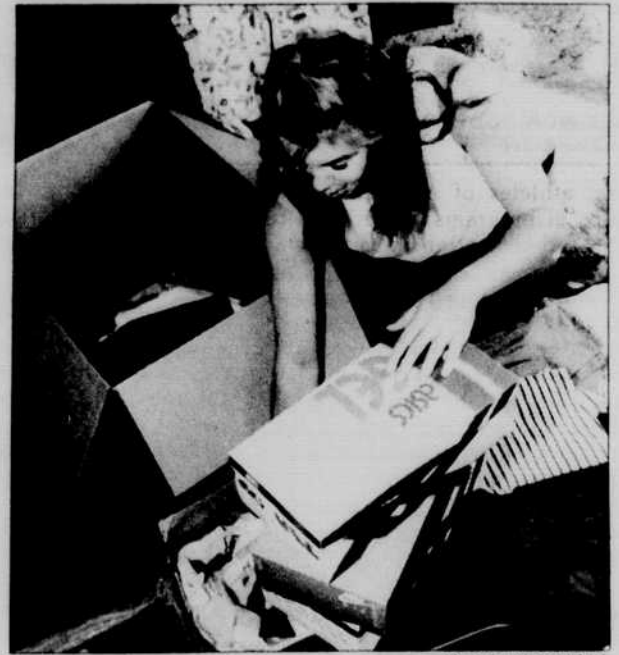


Photo by Martin Thiel

Elena Kavanaugh, a recent graduate in psychology and Romance languages, creates a rare Eugene/Springfield vacancy.

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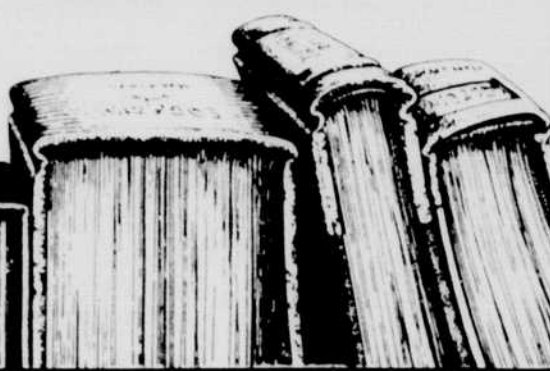
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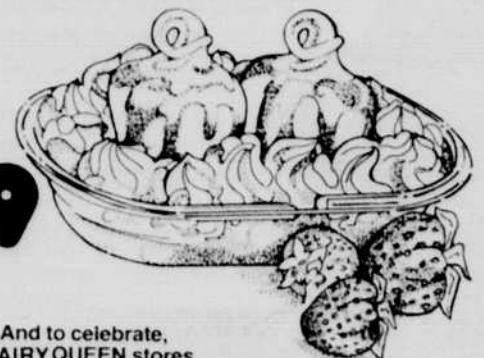
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