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Student Life: Enrollment, cost of housing is up

■ Continued from Page 1

second priority and undergraduates, ages 21 and older without children are third priority.

"We don't turn away anyone with children," he said. "We can accommodate most grads. It's the undergrads that we may turn away due to our priority system."

The steady trend of student growth may force housing officials to consider building even more student complexes. Director of Residence Life D.J. Morales said student growth should continue.

"The children of baby boomers are nearing college age, so the next five years should continue to increase," she said.

Despite the steady enrollment increase, Morales believes it isn't necessary to construct additional student housing in the near future.

"In the spring, we have a capacity of 83 percent, while in the fall it is 100 percent," she said. "We tend to lose people in the winter and spring terms, but never in the fall."

Gaddini agrees.

"We need to look at that very carefully for more family residence halls," he said. "We'll do it only under strong consideration, given market trends, costs and benefits to the University."

In 1996 student enrollment is projected to reach 17,422 this fall.

Along with the increase of student housing, the cost of housing has risen as well. Room and board fees jumping \$400 to \$600 from last year.

Matchett-Morris said room and board rates increase incrementally every year, but new services were the main cause of the price hike and three more resident assistants.

The increase of room and board costs concerns Western Oregon State University transfer sophomore Josie VerMeer who just moved into Boynton Hall. She said Western offered her grants, while the University did not.

"I do have an inheritance," she said. "But, if I didn't have that, I would be worried about costs. People think college is way too expensive in the first place."

Rent remains nearly unchanged from last year at family housing complexes East Campus and Spencer View. However, Westmoreland rents increased.

"In July, we raised the rents \$25 more because operation costs such as utilities, water and maintenance increased," said Frank Gaddini, the family housing area director.

Student family housing is generally in high demand because of low rents, campus proximity and friendly communities. Waiting lists tend to be long and students may need to look at alternative housing. However, Gaddini said they created a waiting list "via a lottery system" to eliminate long waits.

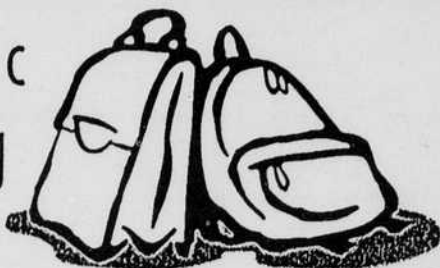
"Our system is predictable and creates a fair expectation," he said. "Usually it takes six to seven months before we get you in. If it was first come, first serve, it would be too long of a waiting list."

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