

MIPs

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mand for police officers makes writing MIP citations a low priority.

The first week of school is when a lot of first-year students feel out the system, said DJ Morales, University Housing director of residence life.

"It's the regular testing period," she said. Students are checking whether the University is following through on its promises of strict rules, she said.

Incoming students are told several times about the University's and the Housing alcohol policies, Morales said. The policy is simple: no one younger than 21 can have alcohol in the residence halls.

"It's in their contract," she said. "They've heard it at least six different ways before the time they start their first class."

Although Housing is strict, resi-

dents who are older than 21 and live in the designated halls are allowed to drink alcohol quietly in their rooms. These students are often not a problem, Morales said.

The kind of alcohol use and abuse the University has seen during the last week is difficult to battle, she said, because of many impressions the nation has of the University.

"We have the national historical tradition," Morales said. "We have that 'Animal House' sort of mystique."

Both Morales and Saylor said the University's diligence in fighting alcohol use among minors is to curb the act and to educate students on the dangers of alcohol.

"Part of the enforcement is encouraging people to drink more responsibly," Saylor said. "We're just trying to keep a lid on things where folks don't get too out of hand."

Things did get out of hand in

two colleges early last year when two students died from alcohol poisoning.

"We don't want to make the national news for having people OD on alcohol," Morales said.

Although many students may complain about the presence of so much authority, the University is one of the safest places in a student's development, Morales said.

"We've got more people looking out for your welfare than probably anywhere else in your life," she said.

With alcohol ads common in national and local media, Morales said it is difficult for students to break out of the idea of college as an alcohol-drenched ride through a class or two.

There is one thing students can do with alcohol stay out of trouble, Morales said.


"Basically, don't bring it on or around campus."

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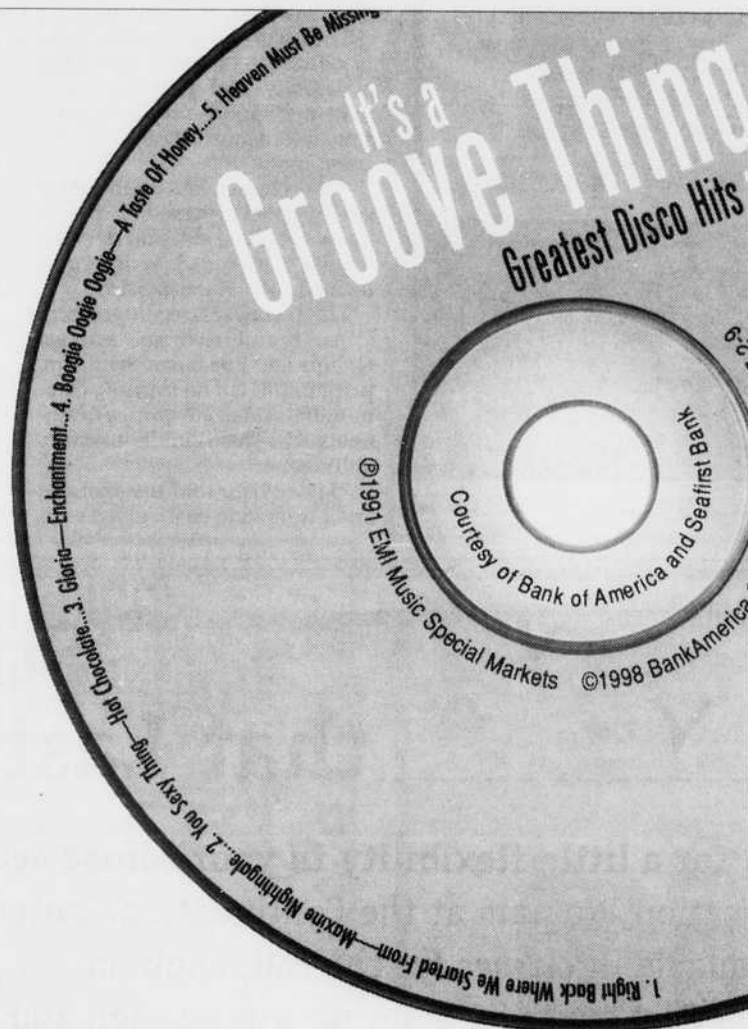
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