

Oregon Daily Emerald
 Editor in chief: Laura Cadiz
 Editorial Editors: Bret Jacobson, Laura Lucas

Perspectives

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403
 E-mail: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
 On-line edition: www.dailyemerald.com

Dorm Sweet Dorm

Living on campus can be beneficial to freshmen who are still familiarizing themselves with the University, but living off campus offers students a better taste of the real world



Beata Mostafavi

Having had almost a full term of living in residence halls, freshmen should be starting to get the feel of what dorm life is like. Here's a time to maybe think about next year's living options, to weigh the pros and cons and to start deciding whether to stay put or to say goodbye to the dorm world for good.

It's the only place where you can wake up five minutes before classes and still make it, traffic is rarely an issue, and dinner is always prepared. Sound familiar? Almost every University student has at some point had the sometimes infamous, sometimes illustrious dorm experience.

Some of us still do. But as much convenience as this life offers, after a couple of years in the dorms, students should step out of

the campus bubble and into the real world of living on their own. As sophomore Kevin Stolle describes it, living in the residence halls was a good experience because of the social aspect that allowed him to meet people he wouldn't have otherwise. But now that he lives in an apartment, he said of the dorm experience was "bittersweet to leave, but one year was definitely enough."

Not surprisingly, the largest residence hall population is the freshman class. Approximately 63 percent of these newcomers choose to start off college in a dorm room, which is a vital part of the college experience. Every freshman benefits from choosing this route. While not many meet friends in crowded lower division class lecture halls, dorms make it nearly impossible not to. With neighbors at arm-lengths away—literally—group activities and communal bathrooms, the dorms form their own communities and perfect networks for meeting new people in a close-knit atmosphere, a must for first-year students.

Then there's the non-fresh category who still live in University Housing. Almost 14 percent of sophomores, 5 percent of juniors and 2 percent of seniors still call the dorms home. Who can blame them? Convenience is a hard thing to give up once you're used to it.

"I'm really close to my architecture studio where I spend all my time," said sophomore Anna deAnguera, now in her second year of living in the residence halls. "If I was off campus I'd probably have to bike at night. Also I'd never cook if I was on my own."

Living in the dorms definitely has its advantages. So what if Carson's meals sometimes taste like airplane food? At least someone else has to cook it. And maybe dorm room space seems to be the equivalent of a shoe box, but it's a small price for being five minutes away from the library, EMU and almost all classrooms. Not to mention the skipped hassles most other living arrangements require such as buying furnishings, making grocery runs, doing dishes and cleaning bathrooms.

But such responsibilities should be ducked for only so long because we can't always count on living conveniently. I hate to say it, but unless we plan on moving into nursing homes straight out of college, living on campus isn't much practice for the world ahead.

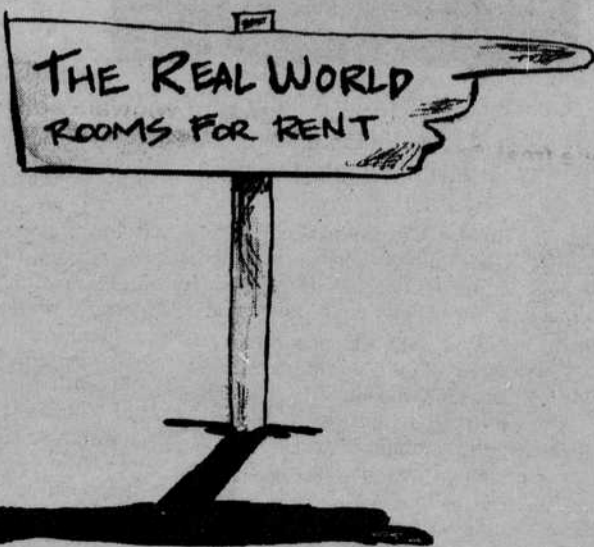
Those who make the move from dorms to a place of their own off campus, however, often find it's a more enjoyable way to live. "I like this better," Stolle said. "I feel like I'm on my own more because I have more responsibilities and I'm not so spoon-fed. I miss the convenience, but this is worth it."

Students who are already looking into next year's housing options should definitely consider all factors involved. It's especially a huge change going from dorm life convenience to off campus chaos. But many actually find it a better way to live. Just think. No more resident assistants knocking at your door at odd hours of the day. No more praying Carson is serving grilled cheese tonight—you can make it yourself.

And how great it is to be able to get away from campus as opposed to it being your permanent neighborhood. Plus you'll finally get to take advantage of those bus rides student incidental fees pay for.

So while underclassmen may find it extremely beneficial and convenient to live on campus, after they've had the experience they should move off and get a better taste of the real world.

Beata Mostafavi is a columnist for the Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the paper. She can be reached via e-mail at bmostala@gladstone.uoregon.edu.



Bryan Dixon Emerald

THUMBS



To a little pill with a lot of power

According to a study, ramipril, a drug marketed for a decade as a measure to fight high blood pressure, could help at least 10 million Americans substantially reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke and bypass surgery.

To police sensitivity

Eugene police will not use racial profiling, according to Eugene Police Chief Jim Hill. A pledge signed Tuesday by multiple officials reassure local residents that the police will not identify suspects based solely on their race.



To roofies

During the last two weeks there have been three separate reports of sexual assault. Each case involved Rohypnol, commonly known as the "date rape drug."

To a portend of evil things to come

Dozens of youngsters skipped school Wednesday to watch imported kiddie craze "Pokémon: The First Movie." The Pokémon juggernaut is a \$6 billion business.

CORRECTION

The story "Senators ordered to return some of summer stipends," (ODE Nov. 10) should have read, "After waiting a week, the senate did confirm Daniel Vergamini to the open ASUO Constitution Court seat." The Emerald regrets this error.