

Trash

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University Housing. It involves getting together 300 people — including regular cleaning staff and temporary student and non-student employees — to clean a total of 1,750 residence hall rooms in 45 halls.

And in the few days that they have to clean, interesting things tend to crop up in the 'lost and found.' Members of the cleaning staff have seen it all. Take for instance radios, vacuum cleaners, socks and underwear.

"You get a handful of condoms every once in a while," janitor Margene Kethcart said, while combing through a hallway in Earl Complex.

In the past, they've also found a large blow-up doll, plane tickets, a live python hiding in the mattress of a vacated bed and a purple dildo.

"We try very hard to write down the room number, the hall number and that we found it during close down so that we can get their personal items back to them," Hahn said.

Last week's move out might have been tamer than that of past terms, however.

"When there's something unique that's found we usually hear about it. Everybody talks about it," said Nancy Wright, director of facilities for University Housing. "We haven't heard that this year."

Hahn said last week's cleaning yielded less trash than previous terms, crediting the staff at each hall for checking to make sure that students cleaned up after themselves before leaving.

Still, students leave behind a lot, often intentionally, Hahn said. The University donates those items to local charitable organizations. The items left after last week's clean-up will be do-



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University Housing employee Kevin Davis works on cleaning the residence halls in Hamilton Complex.

nated to the Springfield/Marcola Family Resources Center, where they'll go

to families in need.

Wright said that trash bins were placed around campus where students could bring their charitable donations during the last weekend of the term. She stressed that they made donating goods an option rather than simply sending them to the landfill.

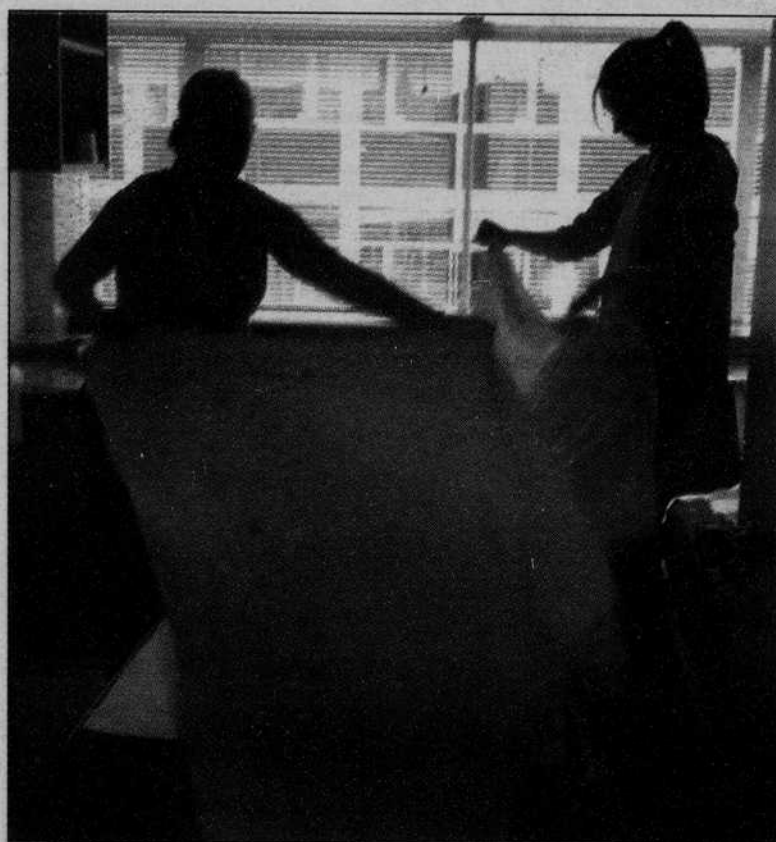
"It really helps them to have clothing and shoes that the college kids don't want," Hahn said, adding that the bins were placed on nearly every floor of every residence hall during that weekend.

Cleaning crews are under an even tighter deadline, given the various campus activities that start soon after University students leave. Last week more than 2,500 people flooded into the dorms to attend various summer camps and seminars, coming in groups ranging from three people attending a physics camp to more than 1,000 for a football camp.

The football camp, for instance, started last week — less than two full days after Finals Week ended. That meant the cleaning staff needed to clean 1,050 rooms in less than 48 hours.

"We're making a transition from an academic season to a conference season," Hahn said. "We switch from being a home to a hotel."

Jared Paben is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



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Amber Nysten (left) and Donna Buchanan, summer housing department employees, make the beds in the Hamilton Complex after each room is thoroughly cleaned.



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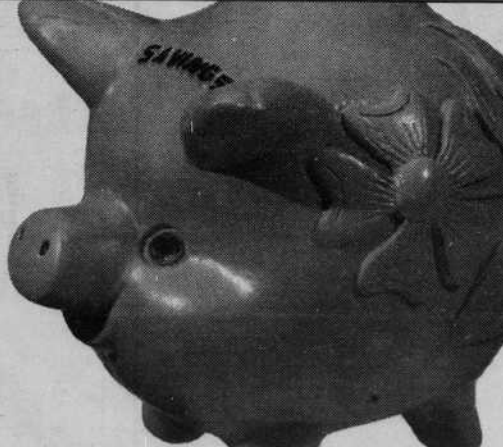
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