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Alex Toews for the Emerald

Philosophy major Max Goins sits among belongings crammed into his Walton Complex room. With no state minimum for room size requirements in residence halls, students often end up in rooms smaller than they are accustomed.

Halls

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education, recreational opportunities and student housing. In the "Dorms Like Dungeons" category, the University came in 15th place. Other schools with low-scoring dorms included the University of Washington and UCLA.

Housing Director Michael Eyster knows about the size limitations of the residence halls and the problems they create.

"I've seen prospective students and their parents take a look at a

room here and say, 'Whoa, I can't live here,' Eyster said. "That's definitely a problem."

Eyster said that when the newest residence halls were built in the 1960s, students did not use computers, which often require a lot of desk space.

"We're here to help students do better academically, and having a desk with barely enough space for a computer and a book ... that creates a dilemma," he said.

Eyster said the residence halls at the University still provide a positive living environment on campus, however. He noted that larger student buildings containing more than 1,000 students can create bad experiences. As a student at the University of Nebraska during the 1960s, Eyster said he witnessed poor residence hall conditions firsthand.

"My building held 1,000 students and was 12 stories high," Eyster said. "It was very impersonal and so people became very inconsiderate toward each other."

During the 2002-03 school year, more than 3,000 students lived in on-campus housing, according to the University Housing Web site.

Eyster said he hopes to create a healthier learning environment with the planned "Living Learning Center." The new housing project will accommodate more than 400 first-year students and will be the first new on-campus housing built in more than 40 years.

"I'm not interested in meeting the standard for dorm rooms, but exceeding them," Eyster said.

Contact the reporter at shoikeda@dailymerald.com.

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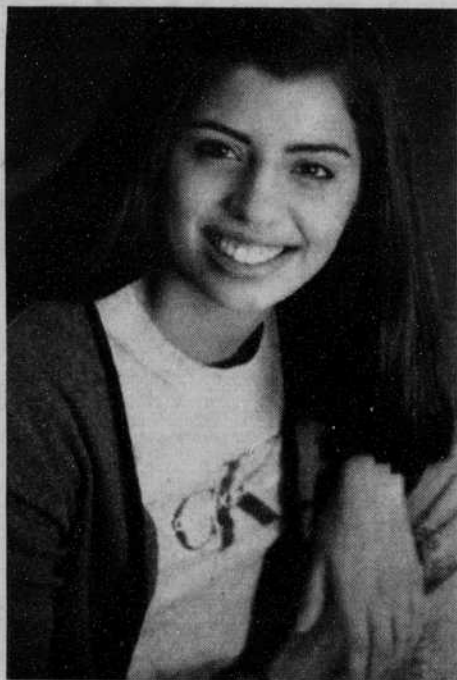
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- ◆ I will make my academics, not the party scene, my first priority.
- ◆ I will make a difference by getting involved on campus.
- ◆ I will make lasting memories with my friends.
- ◆ I will continue to be involved in community service projects in Eugene.
- ◆ I will finish my degree at the UO and go to Law School.
- ◆ I will challenge my friends to drink responsibly...or not at all.

- Jen Bok, UO Student

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