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Students Finding Living Easier Off UC Campus

By **BOB LIGON**
Mercury Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The unique cluster-college concept of University of California, Santa Cruz, apparently is in for a testing period.

The academic eye of the nation has been glued on the local campus since it launched a bold new plan to avoid university "bigness" by developing a series of small residential colleges where students would live and learn in close touch with professors and fellow students.

What's gotten local officials concerned is a relatively sharp increase in the number of students electing to live off campus.

The dormitory vacancy rate, which in past years has been almost nil, this semester climbed to 10 per cent.

Some officials say it probably would be higher if more off-campus housing was available in the Santa Cruz area.

Gurden Mooser, assistant chancellor, said the vacancy rate is "by no means at an alarming point now," but he added university officials are "keeping a watchful eye on the situation."

Mooser noted other residential type colleges also are reporting more students moving off campus.

One university official said, "We are hoping the current rate isn't a straw in the wind as far as student living habits are concerned."

Such a change could pose problems for university planners. New colleges are planned far in advance of construction dates.

Colleges number six and seven, now in the detailed planning stages, have dormitories planned.

Of the five colleges now open, each has about 67 per cent resident students.

College number five, which opened this semester, has a large dormitory building not now in use. The major reason for this is that the college opened at half strength (400 students).

Officials say the dormitory will be filled when the college is up to full strength next year.

University officials said students preferring to live on campus in no way reflects the slowdown on the number of applicants to the local campus. Applicants far exceed the number of openings, they said.

Santa Cruz local officials also are keeping an eye on the campus vacancy rate.

The main reason is that the Santa Cruz area has virtually no housing available to rent or lease.

The many bungalows once occupied by elderly persons in the Santa Cruz area now are being taken up by students.

Students also are pooling money to rent large Victorian-type mansions in the Santa Cruz area.

Lee Duffus, student services officer, said students living on campus pay between \$1,047 and \$1,170 a year for housing and food. Both single and double accommodations are available, he said.

Mooser said university architects are now considering the possibility of providing more "diversified" living accommodations on campus, in an attempt to attract students to stay on campus.

Providing kitchen facilities may be one possibility, he indicated.

Duffus said a survey showed that of the 33 per cent of students living off campus, almost 21 per cent were sharing private quarters with other students.

Laid It On Thick For Ol' Monterey

By **MAC BOWE**
Mercury Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — Somebody goofed when they wrote the resolution

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