

Finding affordable housing for UCSD students and visiting faculty members is a serious problem for the Off-Campus Housing Office

August 22, 1983

Finding affordable housing for UCSD students and visiting faculty members continues to be a serious problem, according to Gloria Spencer, director of the Off-Campus Housing Office at the University of California, San Diego.

More than 13,000 graduate and undergraduate students are expected to enroll at UCSD this fall including students attending Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the School of Medicine. These students, as well as visiting faculty members and researchers from all parts of the world, create a need for various types of accommodations. Approximately one third of the students can be housed on campus. Many of the rest will be looking for housing.

UCSD's location along Interstate 5 near the northern city limits means students generally seek housing along the coast from Leucadia to Mission Beach and inland to Clairemont and Mira Mesa.

"Each year our students are forced to go further north and east looking for housing," Spencer said. "Any distance over 10 miles presents problems with commuting and with parking."

Spencer, who has worked in the UCSD Off-Campus Housing Office since 1967, said a primary goal of the office is to be able to offer a wide variety of affordable listings to students. "The problem the campus faces is its location," she said. "We are in a popular resort area with high property values."

For the past several years, during the summer, Spencer has employed a student intern to contact area landlords, apartment house managers and real estate offices. The intern's job is to make these persons aware of the need for housing for the university community and then compile a directory of apartments that will accept students.

The awareness campaign has been successful but it has also pointed up a problem with UCSD's location.

"The citywide vacancy factor currently is 3.5 percent," Spencer said. "Because we are in a coastal area, our rate is always lower than that. The vacancy factor in La Jolla is 3.2 percent; in Pacific Beach it's 2.7 percent, and in Del Mar and Solana Beach it is zero."

Spencer said a 5 percent vacancy factor is considered a shortage.

Persons with available rentals are urged to contact the housing office at UCSD. The office publicizes listings free of charge and provides lease and rental agreement forms, housing pamphlets, maps and other information as part of its service.

To list an available rental or to obtain more information, phone 452-3670 or visit the Student Center Complex, Building B, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Following Labor Day, the office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays during September.

For more information contact: Paul W. West, 452-3120 or Gloria Spencer, 452-3670

(August 22, 1983)