

OPINION

LETTERS

The college experience

Re "College housing has never looked so nice," Sept. 4

In this day and age of high unemployment and a shattered economy, The Times features the "needs" of the pampered and spoiled who, evidently, have the ears of university planners, both private and public.

A glaring omission in your article was the relatively low-cost, student-owned-and-operated housing co-ops at UCLA and UC Berkeley. In the 1970s their reasonable rates enabled my brother and me to pursue a world-class university education without going broke at UCLA. Currently, my daughter is able to avail herself of the same opportunity in Berkeley, which is a welcome, much-needed option.

ANNETTE HALPERN
Ventura

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USC's need-blind admissions policies and commitment to undergraduate financial aid ensure that our students matriculate on the basis of merit, not the ability to pay. As a result, students generate a housing demand that

spans all income levels. If independent developers can maximize return on investment by focusing on high-end properties, they should. The university's housing plans, however, focus on students of more representative means.

USC residence halls and residential colleges are modest. I have lived in one for more than 20 years, part of a core of USC faculty members and their families who reside in student facilities and form lifelong bonds with students. The hallmark of the typical USC residential experience is friendship and the life of the mind, not hot tubbing and margaritas.

JAMES E. MOORE II
Los Angeles

The writer is a professor at USC's Andrew and Erna Viterbi School of Engineering.

EDITORIALS



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