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Our changing skyline

Megan Troutman Apr 26, 2018



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A few days ago I came home to my apartment door wide open, a maintenance key in the lock and two men sitting in my bathroom.

No warning. Yes, it was terrifying.

My roommate had filed a work order for a leaking toilet (our apartment is falling apart) but forgot to tell me maintenance would be taking a look at our bathroom at some point. We both assumed we would at least get a text saying, “Hey, you weren’t home, but we broke in anyway. By the way, we like your shower curtain.”

But nope, nothing.

To be fair, the maintenance men were very nice and fixed our toilet. I did feel bad though as those poor men had to see the ramshackle estate of our home and walk across a living room covered in art supplies, newspapers and video games (relics of each of my roommates, respectively). They also had to see the weird crap in our sink that was there when we moved in, the warped floorboards (also not our fault) and the leaking toilet.

Did I mention our apartment is falling apart?

But hey, for prospective NAU students, they will not have to live in a ramshackle hovel anymore. The good news for college students is more apartments are built on and off campus every year, providing options other than fast-deteriorating buildings.

The bad news for locals is more apartments are built on and off campus every year, adding to the ever-changing skyline of Flagstaff.

In fact, the parking lot for my freshman dorm used to be the lot where the Homecoming fair was held every year. There would be pop-up rides, cotton candy, photo booths, slides — the works. I would always try to convince my friend to go on the upside-down spinning ride with me and she would get nauseous. Then we did the photo booth. It was great.

Now, that parking lot is being built into a four-story building for honors students. According to the NAU Projects Report, the building will hold 630 beds for first-year honors students and will have extra classrooms dedicated to honors classes. The total budget for the project is \$57,840,000.

So good news, freshmen: You will not have a run-down apartment.

But for upperclassmen looking forward to their cotton candy and upside-down ride fix in the parking lot, better luck next year; or never, because the parking lot is now a beautifully constructed, albeit mountain-view-blocking, building.

Am I bitter? Not really, although I do like the idea of college students struggling with their run-down homes because that's a character-building experience. All of these nice apartment complexes popping up over the NAU campus and Flagstaff are great, but it just brings more people into the already crowded town and it deprives students of the true college experience of leaking toilets and warped floorboards.

New buildings mean a nicer living situation which means more students in town — there are pros and cons, but my opinion still stands strong.

Let freshmen struggle with their run-down apartments and dorm buildings. I served my time; it's time they do theirs.

Megan Troutman is the editor-in-chief of The Lumberjack, Northern Arizona University's student newspaper. College Chronicles aims to connect FlagLive! readers to various aspects of campus life.