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Letters to the Editor

The Sydney Morning Herald

Boarding schools and university residential colleges are more than just places where students go to sleep - they are communities [Uni housing model may exacerbate antisocial conduct, 01.10.10].

Students living away from home for the first time are vulnerable, especially emotionally, after disconnecting from the day-to-day routine of family life.

In the same way residents in apartment complexes and retirement villages get together to celebrate Neighbour Day in communal areas, student accommodation should not be overlooked either.

Whether it is a more senior student, house master or facility manager who acts as the catalyst for developing a community structure, lot of the isolation and ill-considered behaviour could be reduced and eliminated if the students felt connected to their new environment.

Connectedness will lead to a greater appreciation of their fellow students and an understanding of how negative individual behaviours - loud music, late night parties, yelling and banging doors - impact upon others living side-by-side.

It's an important lesson for later in life.

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