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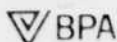
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Wet dogs, random fires and 'Chicken Man'

By JIM STERLING
The Complex Peppercorn

9/1/91 We moved in today. There are six of us in three bedrooms. It's a quaint little townhouse—perfect for hard-working college students. So I guess it was pure luck that we landed it.



Tom, our landlord, was packing up his family and moving out at the same time we were moving in. He wore a SMC T-shirt and spoke in his best voice. The already high level of tension was heightened by three large, drooping Alaskan Malamutes racing around the living room, tugging on the orange dog carpet, trying to get off to see the balls I had just given them. It was an ugly sight.

Tom soon left us with nothing but a wet dog, small and a Georgia O'Keefe print used to make a flowered look in the driveway.

9/3/91 Although it's been two days, the smell of wet dog only seems to increase. Marty said she has flea bites on her legs. Jeff said she was "probably just imagining things." The upstairs toilet runs all night and rarely flushes completely.

9/15/91 We had our first party last night. Our friends kept asking, "Where's your dog?" while cups lay across them in our fever for underage drinking. Later, after we had all gone to bed, the police came upstairs to say hello.

9/16/91 I woke up to discover that one of Jeff's rugby teammates barfed on my toothbrush. Tom's son dropped by with the lease since we had neglected to sign one before we moved in. He didn't seem very comfortable being around us, so he just put it on the table and left.

10/5/91 All of the people who sleep downstairs, including Jeff, are covered with flea bites. They are arguing that they should pay less rent than Matt and me, who sleep upstairs. But Matt disagrees, citing the upstairs broken toilet. "Everything's even," he says.

10/18/91 The backyard caught on fire today for no apparent reason.

10/30/91 The garbage disposal has been



BRIAN SHELLITO, THE DAILY NEBRASKAN, U. OF NEBRASKA

broken for the past four days. The backed-up food is beginning to reconstitute itself into a creation Mike has named "Chicken Man." The lease hasn't moved from its original spot on the kitchen table.

11/9/91 The exterminator, who was supposed to show up and get rid of the fleas, didn't. The Home Owner's Association left a nasty note on our door warning us that we are subject to a \$25 fine if we keep leaving the garage door open.

11/12/91 Jeff put small amounts of sulfur in the corners of the living room, claiming, "It will drive the fleas into the center of the room where we can kill them." The dryer broke today.

11/14/91 The plumber came to fix the toilet today. He told Doc that due to the accelerated wood rot, he wouldn't be surprised if one of us fell through the bathroom floor sometime soon. This news somewhat cheered up the people who sleep downstairs, who are still bitter about their flea bites.

11/29/91 Jeff crashed into the side of the

garage with his car, nearly bringing down the balcony. He said he'd fix it later.

12/5/91 Chicken Man is still alive and well. Mike thinks he's neat and wants to keep him at least through Christmas. The persistent dog smell led us to the decision that maybe we should stop entertaining in our home.

12/7/91 The lease has been sitting on our table for months. It is covered with various mug stains and phone numbers. The word "BOOBS" is scribbled in blue magic marker in the upper right hand corner. It is still unsigned.

12/8/91 Fearing that we will be fined if we open our garage door, we park our cars in the visitors' lot and walk the rest of the way.

12/16/91 Tom came by today to pick up the lease that none of us had ever bothered to sign. We found it under the toaster, wiped off the crumbs and signed it. Tom asked if we were having any problems. We couldn't come up with anything that's unusual for off-campus living, so he left after wishing us a Merry Christmas.

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Landlords and students often are at odds over housing conditions. Students contend they don't get enough respect as tenants. Landlords claim students are irresponsible.



Do you believe students are responsible tenants?

Call our toll-free number today to vote yes or no.

February results This one wasn't even close. Students almost unanimously said that raising the drinking age has not curbed underage drinking: **Hasn't worked, 96.2%; Has worked, 3.8%.**

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As the race for the White House is heating up, we'd like to know who your favorite candidate is in this year's presidential election. Call and tell us what you think.



If the presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

Call our toll-free number today to cast your vote.