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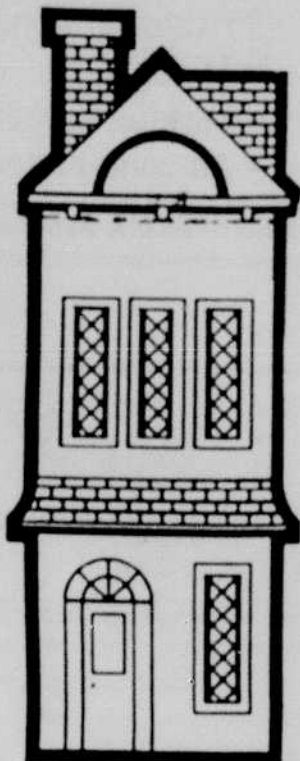
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1995 SPRING MOVING GUIDE

Dorms not just for 18-year-olds

I'll confess. September will mark the beginning of my third year in University Housing, but funny enough, I don't feel the least bit guilty.

I could go on to talk about all of the reasons that I live in campus housing, such as having my food cooked for me and living only minutes from classes instead of miles, but I won't. The nice people in the Housing Office can tell you that themselves and give you a few brochures to boot.

Often when people think of the dorms, they conjure up this idea that only two groups of people live in residence halls, freshman and the socially maladjusted non-freshmen left behind in the exodus off campus. If you've got more than 45 credits and are living in the dorms, head for the 12-step group nearest you. You've got a problem.

Wrong.

The stereotype of the average dorm resident being an 18-year-old normally-intoxicated freshman living away from home for the first time is false and outdated. Typically, about one-third of housing residents are non-freshmen, some who have lived away from home for years. Many people who live in the dorms do so because they don't have time to shop and clean, and would rather enjoy the college experience. Bury the stereotypes. We're not all 18.

A central reason why I choose to live in on campus is the people. Although it is true that I live in close quarters with 50 other people (about 12 per floor in Young Hall, where I live), the positive aspects outweigh the negative. I've developed so many friendships with a



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Although dorms are often thought to house only freshmen, that is just a stereotype. People of all ages and all levels of schooling make their home in the dorms.

wide variety of people who I otherwise wouldn't have met. From watching movies to rollerblading (and subsequently taking me to the emergency room), friends from the dorm have made the difference between enjoying college and simply surviving.

But campus housing is more than casseroles and companionship. There are some things that could only occur in a University residence hall.

Consider the Super-Soaker incident. A number of "friends," many of whom I still speak to, decided to surround me as I returned from work one evening with several gallons worth of chilly water launched from large water-fueled weapons. Oh, how I love dorm life.

Then there was the infamous

attempt at the dryer derby last year, in which a person tried to squeeze into one of the basement dryers in Earl Complex. If someone actually fit (no one did, fortunately), we would have turned it on. The goal? There was no goal. We were having fun. We live in the dorm.

Dorm residents do a lot of things together. We study, talk, drink, laugh, yell and do everything else that others do. I live in the dorms because I enjoy it, not because I'm forced to. For those who live in the dorms, it just makes sense.

Unless, of course, you're the one who fits in the dryer.

— Robbie Reeves

To be closer you'd have to live on campus!

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Living with your parents isn't all that bad

When I was growing up, I never thought that "going away to college" would mean just commuting across town.

I pictured lush, storied campuses half a world away, where people from all over the world would come together to drink the fruits of academia — and, of course, to throw riotous parties in dorm rooms, greek houses and off-campus apartments, preferably as often as possible.

Throughout my high school years, I looked forward to the day when I'd leave the home of my childhood and strike out on my own, with nothing but a couple of roommates and a charge card to keep me company.

The problem is, I'm still looking.

It's an embarrassing thing to admit that you still live at home. Even if it's the best possible living arrangement for you, it still carries a Mama's Boy stigma that doesn't quite fit the Big Man On Campus profile that most of us would like to have.

As anyone who's been through it will attest, it isn't easy to live with your parents during college. Most of the people I talk to say they could never live with their folks again — that they were just dying to get away from them when they moved out.

In fact, I'm sure some of the people who come to the University from far away have made the trek just so they could put a few state lines between them and their parental units.

And that's fine. Even if you love your parents, living with them can be a headache. I have to admit that, too.

But, I also have to admit, it hasn't been *all* bad. After all,

you can't beat the rent, unless you've got those "tough love"-type parents who are actually charging you something. Fortunately, my folks don't.

And, if you start doing a little random snacking at home, grabbing whatever's in the kitchen, the chances are pretty good that those snacks will eventually be replaced by someone, no questions asked. Try doing that in an apartment with roomies. You'll end up with everyone stockpiling food in their closets, and probably have a good fight now and then, too.

A lot of people refuse to live at home because they can't stand having their parents "control" their lives. I don't have a solution for those people; my parents are pretty cool.

And I will say that you need understanding friends and significant others, too. ("What, we can't have the kegger in your living room?! We'll be quiet. We promise.")

For me, living at home does mean an awfully long commute, since I live outside the city in the tiny town of Alvarado, next to Fern Ridge Reservoir. But I know the route so well now, I can make the trip in just 15 minutes — 25 if I obey the speed limit.

There are ways to survive living at home; I've managed to do it for almost 21 years now. But even if you can get along with your folks, can tolerate the inconveniences, and can find a place to "get away" occasionally, there still will come a time when you have to leave the nest. I, for one, will pack my bags in June.

Thank God.

— David Thorn

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