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Surviving residence hall life doesn't have to be painful

Resources exist for everything from broken beaters to problems with a roommate

By Amy Goldhammer

It's almost the end of the first week of living in the residence halls. You've already found out your neighbor works out to Debbie Gibson every morning at 6 a.m., you got busted for trying to smug-gle beer to the fourth floor in an unmarked box, you've hooked up with the cutie across the way, and you're very aware that your roommate's feet smell.

But surviving life in the residence halls is easier than one may think.

"In summary, always read everything you receive in the mail from us," said Kelly Matchett-Morris, associate director of resident life. "We provide a lot of information to students and a lot of times they don't read it.'

Students in the residence halls should know their resources, he said. This includes the area desk, the resident assistants and the resident directors. When students check in, each will receive a handbook that provides information on details from broken phones to switching roommates

"One of the things we will never, ever escape is that we have really small rooms," Matchett-Morris said.

People have different tolerances when it comes to his or her alone time, he said. A good way to figure out certain down times is through good communication, he said.

The dorms provide a great social atmosphere," said Jerry El-more, a senior and former resident of Housing.

University Housing sends out questionnaires on which students

can note their interests, study habits, cleanliness and other lifestyle preferences. The office tries to match up students to its best ability.

However, if problems do persist your roommate puts your stuffed animal in a noose, or stands on your windowsill in a cape and then pretends to be dead on the ground the next morning, or, perhaps cleans knives and gun cartridges on your bed, to name a few the option of moving or switching is available after ten days.

We don't want students exchanging a problem for a prob-lem," Matchett-Morris said. "This is why we instigate at least a tenday 'trial period.'

The residence halls are something everyone complains about at one point, Elmore said. But it is the best experience for someone new to college, he added.

The residence halls enforce conduct codes and rules, but if a student is caught breaking a rule, he or she will be dealt with accordingly, Matchett-Morris said. This includes, but is not limited to underage drinking, drug use and obnoxious noise at odd hours.

"Basically, don't do the crime if you're not willing to do the time,"

The residence halls provide many students with an opportunity they wouldn't get to experience elsewhere, Matchett-Morris said. Lifelong friendships are made in the residence halls

"I met just about everybody I ever knew there," Elmore said.

Much of a student's residence hall experience is what each is willing to make it, Housing contends.

"It's nice to be surrounded by people who don't know what they're doing," Elmore said. "It's fun to be lost together.'

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Jerry Elmore Computer and Information Science Major

Residence hall phone numbers

main number - 346-4277

FAMILY HOUSING: Family Housing director

-346-4222 Amazon - 346-5263

East Campus --- 346-5263 Westmoreland --- 346-5261

M HALL COMPLEXES:

-- 346-8169

Hamilton area desk --- 346-5266 resident director - 346-9527 assistant resident director

resident director -- 346-9165 assistant resident director

-346-9336 area desk -- 346-4217 resident director --- 346-9091

resident director - 346-9091 Walton

resident director - 346-9288

University Inn area desk - 346-4287 resident director - 346-8627

resident director --- 346-9161

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