

# Living jointly is tricky

■ Finding just the right roommate or getting along with strangers can take patience

Susan Monahan  
for the Emerald

Friend or stranger, a blessing and a curse at the same time — such are roommates.

The college experience can teach young adults to live in the most perilous of conditions, shoulder-to-shoulder in this complex partnership. A freshman will often enter the University unsure what to expect of his or her future roommate.

The freshman year can prove to be the biggest transition in the lives of some, as they struggle with newfound freedoms and responsibilities. Couple that with the fact that they will be residing in a 10-by-

11 cubicle with someone else just as bewildered, and you have the grounds for almost anything and everything.

Freshman Sarah Carver, a

“When they stuck two talkative, stubborn children together, what did they expect?”

Sara Carver  
freshman

resident in the Hamilton Complex, opted to be paired with a stranger, and making it through her experience was, at times, perplexing.

“When they stuck two talkative, stubborn children together, what did they expect?” Carver said.

She and her roommate, Erin Harris, are quick to hug and reconcile, she said, making it clear that the bond they've made this year will last beyond the residence halls.

While there will always be odd pairings within the residence halls, the close proximity can allow two strangers to become very familiar, very quickly. This environment could make or break the roommate relationship, but it's encouraging to know that the vast majority of University dorm residents begin to adapt, learn and compromise with their roommates, Carver said.

As a resource, the Counseling Center provides peer mediation services and one-on-one counseling for anyone who may need some extra assistance. Their open-door policy allows for

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