

Joint living has its catch

■ Finding just the right roommate or getting along with strangers can take time and 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 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 dorm 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 students with any type of roommate-related questions or issues to feel comfortable addressing them. They can assist students regardless of whether they reside in residence halls or off-campus housing.

Some students opt to personally select their roommate. They may sign up a close friend, or even an acquaintance from high school, even though it can be a little trying for new students to co-habitate with someone they've known since childhood, as they are often struggling to leave that life behind them at the same time.

Freshman Ian Taylor chose not to room with his best friend since grade school for this reason.

"It's better this way," he said. "We still hang out all the time, but we have our own space, too. This way we don't get completely sick of each other."

Next year, the two plan to rent a house together.

Houses and apartments are often the next step from the residence halls. Students all over campus are planning and wondering where to live next year. Of course, a roommate can be helpful when the housework needs to be divided, or maybe they have a good ear to listen.

Many students try to find their roommates before searching for a place.

Other students sidestep the want ads section and move into one of the Greek houses near campus. Being a member of a sorority or fraternity allows a student to reside with around 40 to 70 of his or her peers.

"You aren't put with a huge group of strangers like in the dorms, and you don't have to live with just one or two other people like in an apartment," said Lisa Nicholson, a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. "I live in a great place with 50-some fabulous girls."

for some time alone. But for the most part, Nicholson said she believes University

AAA Budget Storage



Special Summer Rates
June 1 - Sept. 30

- Professional On-Site Management Team
- Fenced & Lighted
- Electronic Gates

Main St. **UO**
Franklin Blvd., Eugene

4990 Main St., Springfield

Student Rates

4 months for:
5x5 UNIT @ \$100
5x10 UNIT @ \$130
10x10 UNIT @ \$270

747-0223

U-HAUL®

Self-Storage & Truck Rentals

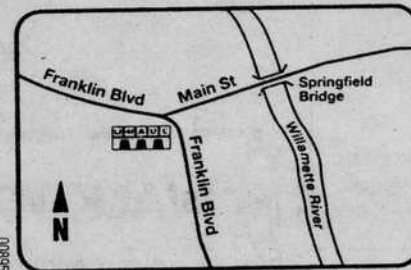


Best Security & Cleanest Rooms!



- NO DEPOSIT
- Low Monthly Rentals
- Electronic Security
- Your lock, Your Key
- A Size for Every Need
- Optional Safestor® Insurance
- Padlocks, Boxes, Packing Supplies
- FREE Use of Loading Carts

OPEN 7 DAYS!



4400 Franklin Blvd.
(W. of Springfield Bridge)

726-6051

"Only U-Haul® has One Month FREE Storage with One-Way Truck or Trailer Rentals!"



Bell Real Estate

610 East Fourteenth

Fabulous vintage 1 bedroom with hardwood floors, custom tile bathroom, garage & more. Some utilities paid.

\$590/school year lease

775 East Fifteenth

1 bedroom unit in fantastic location. Many with new carpets and new paint. On-site laundry. Some utilities paid. Off-street parking available \$25 per month.

\$445/school year lease

625 East Sixteenth

Spacious 1 & 2 bedroom units with patios/decks. Some utilities paid, including cable. Off-street parking available \$25 per month. On-site laundry.

\$455 - \$570/school year lease

749 - 771 East Seventeenth

1 bedroom with large courtyard. Some utilities paid, including cable. On-site laundry. Off-street parking available \$25 per month. (Getting new windows and siding this summer.)

440 - 454 East Eighteenth

Fabulous vintage 1 & 2 bedroom units, most with hardwood floors and cove ceilings. Some utilities paid, off-street parking, on-site laundry. Pets are negotiable w/deposit.

\$425 - \$645/school year lease

1390 Alder

Wonderful, completely remodeled 2 & 3 bedroom units in prime campus location. Some utilities paid, including cable. On-site laundry. Off-street parking available \$25 per month.

\$925 - \$1250/school year lease

1866 & 1870 Onyx

Very nice studios, 1 & 2 bedroom units by Hayward Field. Some utilities paid, including cable. Off-street parking and on-site laundry.

\$415 - \$695/school year lease

2040 Emerald #B - #E

Very nice 1 bedroom loft units in quiet, private location. Vaulted ceilings and skylights. All utilities paid.

\$495/year lease

Don't forget to check back in August for campus duplex and house listings.

For area listings, stop by our office or check www.bell-realty.com

Ask about our year lease discounts on most rentals.

To view these units, please call Bell Real Estate at (541) 688-2060.

or page (541) 341-2784

Sat & Sun 12-5.

Students, we ship your stuff home!

Take advantage of our Student Discounts

Ask about FREE BOXES

Furniture, computers, stereos, TVs

Insured, custom packing

UPS, Ocean Freight, Motor Freight



Packaging Store.

2705 Willamette Street (convenient parking)

344-3106