

# Lofts lift rooms to new creative heights

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At this time of year, the Clarion traditionally salutes those creative and innovative few who make a home out of their dorm rooms.

Here at Brevard, students are given a small cubicle made out of concrete and cinder blocks and furnished with basic furniture. The dorms that we are to call "home" at first appear cold, unfriendly and downright scary.

Few are the students who execute their rights as creative human beings and decorate their rooms with new ideas and ways of making the dorms suit their needs.

But there are those who have discovered that it is possible to create something exciting out of your basic college dormroom.

The primary device used by Brevard students is the loft. Lots and lots of lofts (sounds like a commercial) fill rooms all around campus to add that certain.... je ne sais quoi, allowing a room to feel "homey."

One such room with the touch of classe is that of Jason Shank and Lee Cook in Green. The loft was built by Jason and his dad, and, along with Lee's curtains, creates a soft atmosphere. In addition, Jason filled the room with three plants, which he calls Mary, Jill and Juana.

Over in East Beam, Jeff Yellen and Jim Coale have room that has that touch of home, too. Jeff's loft creates a living room area which supports a

couch, coffee table and Jim's home entertainment center. The beds are underneath the low loft and Jim's bed is only accessible by crawling through the desk.

Both roommates are proud of their place. Jeff says, "The room...it's the pad." The English translation for that is: home sweet home.

Moving on from atmosphere to convenience, a loft can almost double your room's space -- which takes us to the room of John McDowell and Michael Eaton in Green where their loft covers almost the entire room. The loft was built by the roommates along with RD Gary Hassett. Both roommates value their loft for its uniqueness and convenience. "Come see for yourself," says Michael with a grin, "It's worth the \$2 admission charge."

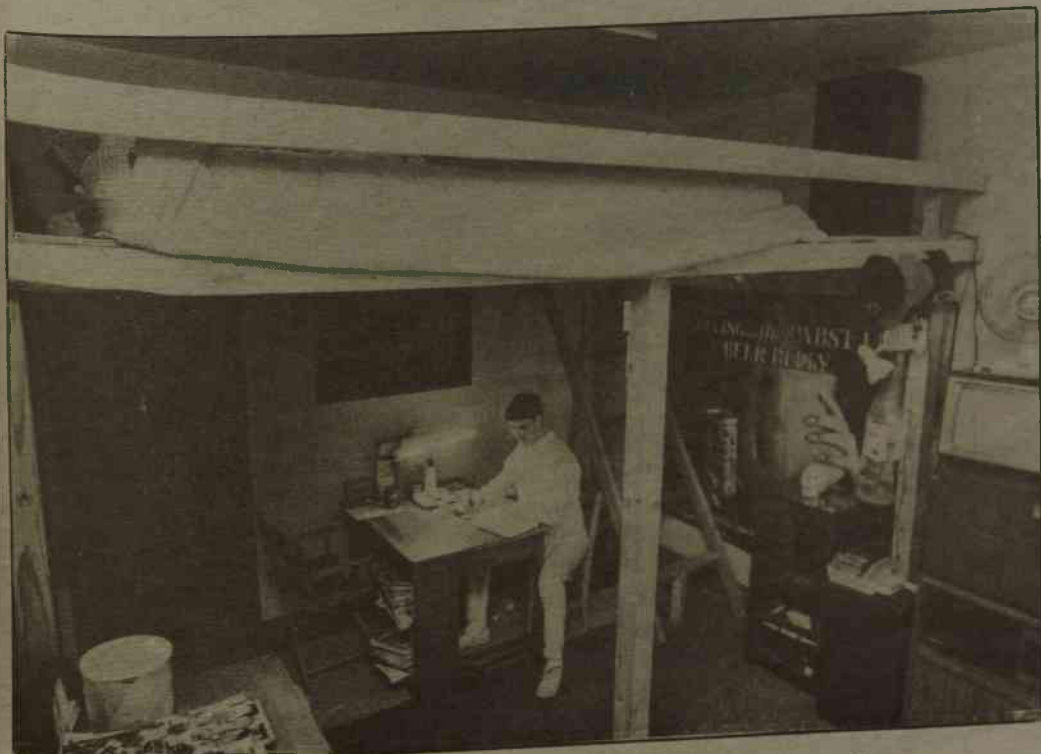
A loft is not the only creative answer to dormroom conversion. Carpeting, pillows, a picture or two, and something that resembles home to you can ease the transition to college life.

In room 115 of Green, Chris Shuler and Kip Lowery have learned recycling the '90s way. They took two used lofts, and put them together in such a way as to separate their living space from their entrance, creating a hallway for privacy.

Next and finally, we go to West Beam 248 where Julie Connell, Jennifer Ainsworth and Emilee Wilkins share a room. The loft here, built by Emilee's dad, is unique because it provides bunks for all three women as well as shelf space.



The traditional loft-type room of Jason Shank, above, and Lee Cook, absent, in Green is enhanced by curtains and house plants.



The huge overhead loft in Green 111 makes maximum use of the high ceilings.



John McDowell, left, and Michael Eaton, right, use every available space to their advantage -- including the bottom of the loft.

(Clarion photos by Reid Morrison)