



Just one example of creativeness in dorm room decor...decorating the home away from home can be rewarding and inexpensive for housing residents

## Dormitory decor: lofts and posters spice up the room

By BELINDA ROLLINS  
Staff Writer

Decorating a dormitory room can be a chore or it can be a lot of fun. Students who are lucky enough to make it through the dorm lottery can use things they used the year before, but new students can hardly use the Chippendale bedroom furniture they had at home last year.

Dormitory furnishings are a great way to express your true personality. Maybe your parents disapproved of posters on the walls. Good news. University Housing allows posters and other things to be attached to the walls as long as the items will not damage the walls.

A good way to get ideas is to look at the rooms of upperclassmen. The beach buff might want to hang up an old fishing net and attach shells to it. Mirrors, flags and collages are also popular items. The possibilities are endless.

There never seems to be enough space in any room. Bunking the beds saves space, while building a loft almost adds space. Lofts make use of space that was wasted before.

Students who are handy with tools can build their own lofts relatively easily and inexpensively. Students who lack carpentry experience may get friends to help them build one or they may be able to buy a used loft.

Since the dorm room is supposed to serve as a home away from home, students should try to make it as comfortable as possible. Roommates whose ideas complement each other instead of clash can work together to create a serviceable and comfortable room.

Decorating need not be elaborate. However, a room does need to contain several things which are taken for granted at home.

Twin size comforters fit better than

bedspreads on bunk beds because they are narrower and shorter. Try to lean over and watch *General Hospital* from the bottom bunk with a bedspread hanging in the way and see if it doesn't get annoying.

Curtains give a room more vitality. They can be plain or ruffled, depending on the desired effect.

A rug always makes a room cozier. It also feels better than the cold floor on bare feet at 7 a.m.

Milk crates can serve as shelves, stools or containers. They can be obtained inexpensively at grocery stores or department stores.

A crock pot, toaster oven and a refrigerator are the bare necessities for those who wish to cook in their rooms.

A television, stereo or radio or all three are good to have. They can be great monotony breakers.

A comfortable chair may be just the thing to relax in after a long day of classes. A rocker or recliner can be a haven at day's end.

Plants can make any room brighter. Real horticulture enthusiasts may want to use plants as the main source of decoration.

Photos of friends and family can ease the pain of homesickness and make the transition to college easier.

Posters of an athletic team, a rock group, a beautiful person or a spectacular sunset will look better than plain walls.

If the walls are painted some horrible color, maybe a paint job is in order. Be creative. The artistic dormitory resident may wish to paint a scene or favorite cartoon character.

No matter how a room is decorated, it can always be altered or completely changed. So if it is hard to decide on just the right decor, experiment, experiment, experiment.

### Common sense helps too

## Patience the key to a furnished apartment

By BELINDA ROLLINS  
DTH Staff Writer

Furnishing an apartment can be an expensive task, especially for students who are starting from scratch. There are several ways to save money and still create a home-like atmosphere that is both comfortable and practical. Patience and common sense may be two of the biggest money-savers.

Many students have the attitude that their apartment must be completely furnished by the first day of classes. Not so, although it helps to think about what is really needed before going shopping. Every apartment needs a bed, a couch, dishes, cookware, etc. Costs can usually be greatly reduced by waiting for an upcoming sale at a store or by looking around at yard sales.

Yard sales are usually advertised in the classified ads with directions on how to get there and a partial listing of the items that will be for sale. A good yard sale can be like an outdoor department store. The

merchandise may include dishes, pictures, furniture, cookware, small appliances and lamps. When shopping at yard sales, inspect all items carefully before buying them. Before purchasing any small appliance, ask to plug it in and see it in operation or that \$3 mixer might turn out to be \$3 wasted. Shop carefully and cautiously.

Whether shopping for new or used goods, it is usually a good idea not to buy the first item seen. For instance, the local furniture store may sell a table for \$50 while a department store may have it priced at \$45. A comparable table might be sold at a yard sale for \$15 or \$20.

There are other sources of furniture and furnishings besides retail stores and yard sales. Some students find it profitable to let relatives know that they need furniture. Will Thompson, a senior from Goldsboro, said, "I was really surprised at all the things my relatives had stored in their basements and attics. They were glad to get rid of it."

Another way to save money and create a warm atmosphere is to look around at

home for things to use. Scarlett Beaver, a senior from Concord, went through some old snapshots she had laying around and arranged them in collage picture frames for her bedroom. Beaver said, "Bare walls are depressing and I didn't want to spend a lot of money on a picture that didn't mean anything to me." Other articles that can be borrowed from home for apartment use might include throw pillows, posters, wicker baskets and other assorted knickknacks.

For those students who have money to spend, furniture rental is a viable alternative. Enough furniture to furnish an entire apartment can be rented for as low as \$50 a month. Metrolease and Cort are two furniture rental agencies that serve the Chapel Hill area.

Practicality is the most important consideration when acquiring furniture and furnishings for apartments. After all, the purchases you make will be a part of the home you have made.



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