

# Give roommate a chance, a friendship may result

By **MICHAEL JACKSON**  
Staff Writer

If the term "college life" were to be found in Webster's Dictionary, the definition would probably begin with the words: "a very big change . . ." And perhaps one of the biggest changes freshmen will have to face will be learning to share a small dormitory room with another person.

And in this situation at one time or another, disputes between roommates are bound to occur.

When conflict situations come

up, the housing staff is there to help, including resident assistants (RAs), assistant area directors (AADs) and area directors (ADs).

According to Bruce Lillie, an RA in Stacy Dormitory for the 1987-88 academic year, RAs receive a lot of training in the area of roommate conflicts.

"Much of RA training focuses on communication skills, especially sitting down with roommates to find out what problems there are," said Lillie. "Just doing that often solves many of the

problems because usually the roommates have not confronted each other with their problems."

Sometimes RAs will make suggestions such as a written agreement signed by the roommates, said Lillie, and when a rule is broken, it is brought out in the open and settled.

If nothing seems to help bring about peace in your living situation, you can try to change rooms or even dormitories.

According to Don Collins, area director of Olde Campus, a

Room/Area Change Application can be filled out if no settlement can be reached between roommates.

However, Collins said, no room changes will be considered for approximately the first two weeks of the semester, until occupancy reports are complete. The only exception is a direct room swap which requires the agreement of all parties involved.

Also, no room changes will be considered until all temporary

triples have been dissolved, he said. If rooms are available, however, room changes will be considered after the applicant meets with an AD.

"We want to find out how we can help and come up with the best solution for the student and everyone involved," Collins said.

"It is real important for a student not to make hasty judgments on his roommate," he added. "(The student) should try to get to know the roommate and give the situation some time."

# Orientation programs help to make it a smooth transition

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Carolina Testing and Orientation Program Sessions (C-TOPS) were only a taste of what's to come during orientation week for UNC's freshmen and junior transfers.

The week begins on August 22 when freshmen and junior transfers move into their residence halls, and includes many social

and academically-oriented activities which allow new students to meet others and learn campus procedures.

According to Shirley Hunter, director of orientation, the week's activities are designed to carry out the three-part goal of orientation — to create a smooth academic transition to UNC for new students, to familiarize the students with UNC's campus and proce-

dures, and to incorporate them socially into UNC.

"We are hoping that orientation will make it easier for the new students to feel at home here, because so many campuses are different than Carolina," said Hunter.

Orientation programs scheduled for freshmen include a convocation on Sunday, August 23, a pep rally on Wednesday,

August 26, and other programs in each residence area, Hunter said. The other orientation programs will be facilitated by the orientation counselors in each residence area.

Examples of orientation programming for freshmen include a T-shirt graffiti party and an ice cream drop-add, which are planned for Ehringhaus Residence Area, said Sarah Shackelford, an Ehringhaus orientation commissioner.

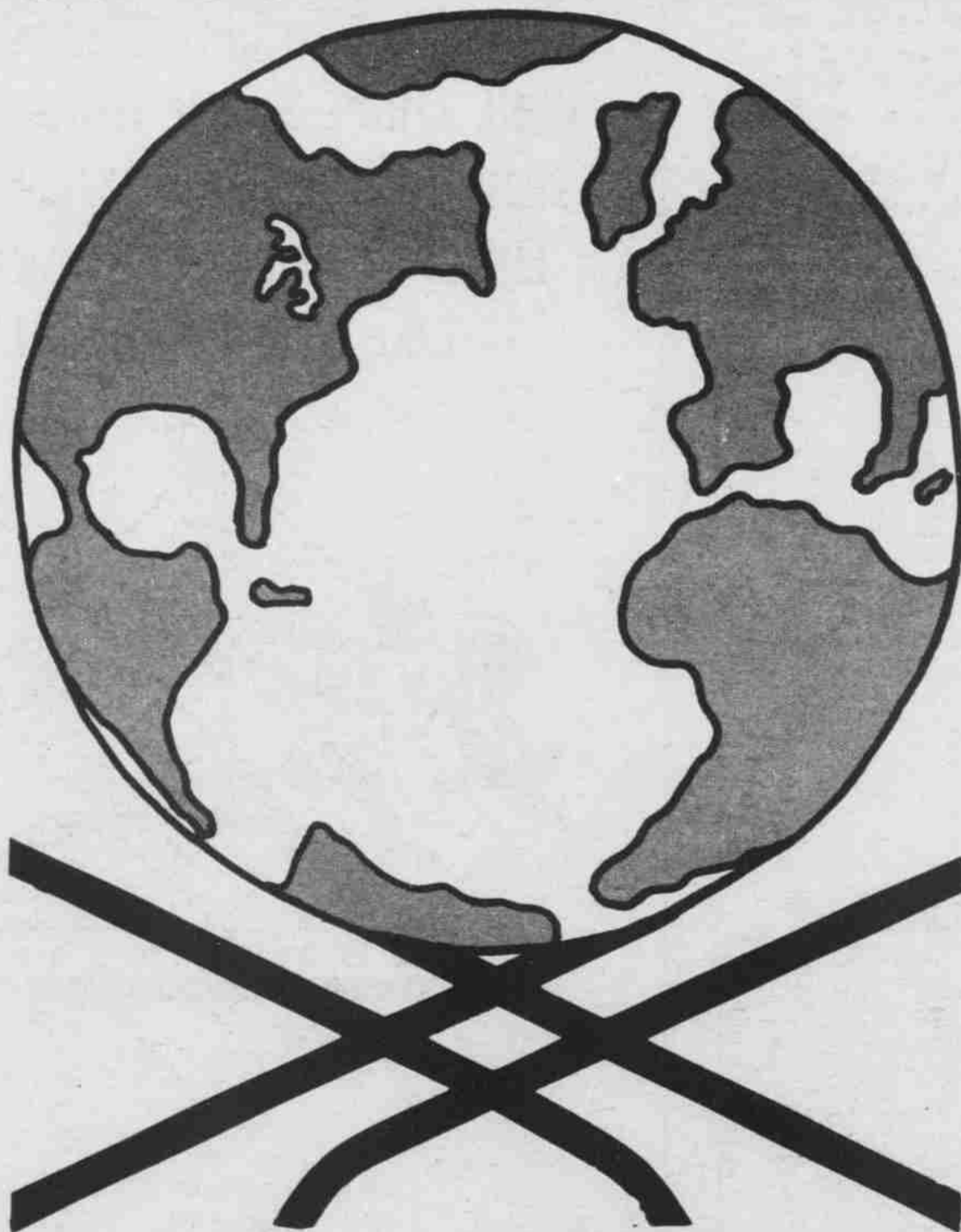
"The ice cream drop-add is a mock drop-add to familiarize students with the procedures of picking up and dropping classes," Shackelford said.

A South Campus Bash is also planned for the four South Campus high-rises, the five Mid-Campus residence halls and Granville Towers, she said.

Junior transfers will have a convocation on August 23 and a mock drop-add session. They will also be treated to a picnic at Forest Theatre and a pool party at Kessing Outdoor Pool during orientation week, Hunter said.

A student organization session will also be held for junior transfers. "We are having the session to show transfers what is here and and tell them about campus organizations," Hunter said.

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