

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 room-

mates 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.

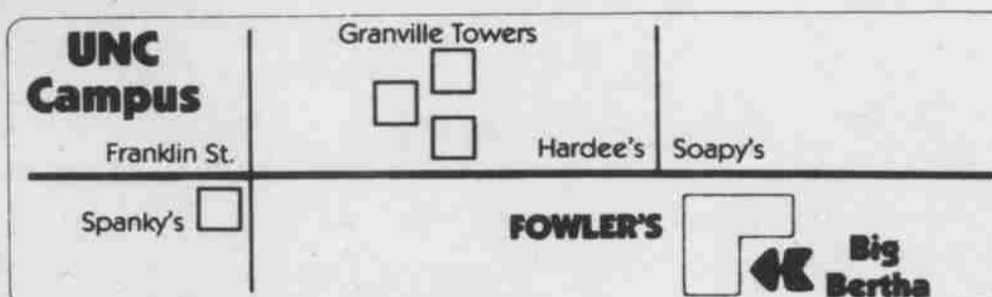
"It is real important for a student not to make hasty judgments on his roommate," he added. "(The student) should try to get to know the roommate and give the situation some time."



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The Ratt

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received from a visit to The Rat. Memories of yesterday, including autographed footballs and autographed basketballs, also add to the atmosphere, not to mention the tradition. Pictures of former UNC superstars give way to reflections about past seasons and numerous championships.

Other than the main dining room, there are four "special" rooms scattered about the place, each with its own unique personality.

The "Circus Room" is a good spot for the kids. Mirrors are everywhere, and brightly painted animals cover the walls. The "Train Room" is the home of The Rat's most popular table, which gives a clear view of the Franklin Street sidewalk above. Next comes the "Lautrec Room" (as in Toulouse), which was painted in imitations of the artist's famous murals. Finally, there comes "The Cave," which looks exactly like it sounds.

Another important room to The Rat is the bar, located to the immediate right as you walk in the door.

Pitchers of beer, very popular on football weekends, are \$2.95 for the small and \$5.50 for the large. A mug of beer is \$1.10, domestic bottled beer \$1.35 and imported bottled beer \$1.75.

Whether you visit The Rat as a student, alumni or visitor to Chapel Hill, in this writer's opinion, it will be one of the most enjoyable and memorable meals you will ever eat. I would also bet that you'll feel the urge to return — even before you open the heavy wooden door to leave.