

# Finding furnishings for your apartment the affordable way

By **ASHLEY CAMPBELL**  
Staff Writer

You've hunted, found the perfect apartment and signed the lease. Yet you're afraid that on moving day, you won't be happy with your new home. Maybe your fear comes from what you'll be moving on moving day — a stereo and several Budweiser posters from the old dorm room.

Help is available. New, used and rental furniture stores, yard sales, classified ads and attics are all sources for the necessities for furnishing an apartment.

"We deal with a lot of students," said an assistant manager at Aaron Rents Furniture on Chapel Hill Boulevard in Durham. "Renting is a very popular way to get furniture for an apartment. We can furnish a one-bedroom apartment for \$55 a month with basic stuff."

for a steal, he said.

"I could furnish my whole apartment through ads in The Village Advocate if I had to," Bender said.

Other students have made the most of furniture from their families' attics. "Our living room furniture was my roommate's grandmother's," said Sallie Smalley, a senior economics major from Chattanooga. "It's in great shape, but the material was out-of-date. So we bought some material that we liked and recovered the cushions ourselves. We also improved the kitchen table with a table cloth."

Tracie McMillan, a junior biology major from Crumpler, used several resources to furnish her apartment and learned some buying tips in the process. She got her bedroom furniture from home, silverware and curtains from a yard sale, plates from K mart and her living room suite from



Students often decorate their apartments to fit their relaxed lifestyle

DTH/Brian Foley

*"We deal with a lot of students . . . Renting is a very popular way to get furniture for an apartment."*

— an assistant sales manager at Aaron Rents Furniture, Durham

Galloway's Furniture in Carrboro sells new and used furniture and also has a lot of experience with students. Owner John Galloway said, "If a student is starting an apartment, I try to give him a package deal at a cut rate. I also give free delivery if he helps me unload the truck."

Remco, also on Chapel Hill Boulevard in Durham, rents furniture on monthly or rent-to-own plans. For example, a student can rent-to-own a three-piece living room suite for \$88 a month for 21 months, said manager trainee Tony Sanders.

Buying used furniture from other people is another furnishing option. Dale Bender, a junior economics major from New Bern, had all the furniture he needed for his new apartment except a chest of drawers and a desk. He said, "I looked in The Village Advocate classifieds because I thought it would have the largest selection of second-hand furniture for sale."

"I looked through three different issues and found somebody with a chest of drawers that would fit in my room," Bender said. "A lady was selling hers because she was buying a new one. I got a better price on it because I helped her move in her new one."

Bender also saw several yard sales advertised in The Village Advocate. He went to one and bought a desk

a discount furniture store, she said.

"When you're looking at a sofa or chairs, check the back and sides," McMillan said. "If it's just fabric, it won't last as long than one with padding on the back and sides. Also, recliners break easier than other chairs."

Galloway offers furniture in a variety of price ranges. He said: "On average, I can furnish a living room for \$400 with new furniture and for about half that with used furniture. I have good, used dining room suites for \$85 to \$120 and new ones for \$100 and up."

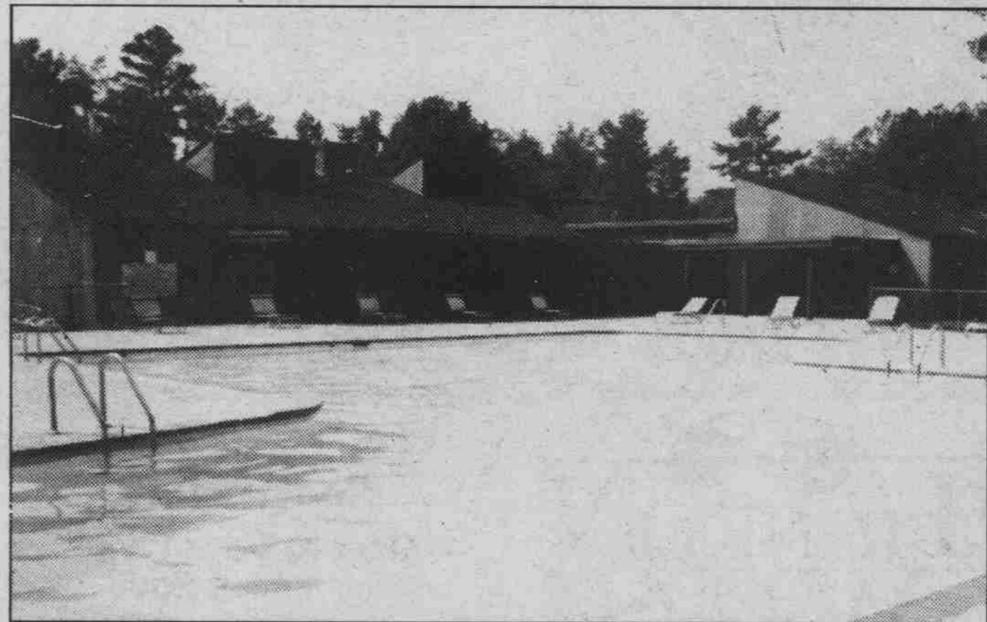
"If you buy a new, three-piece living room suite, I can get it custom-made in your choice of fabric in three to five days," Galloway said. "I can also get used refrigerators, stoves, and washer and dryers with a guarantee."

Aaron Rents Furniture rents furniture by the month for a minimum of three months. By the month, sofas and loveseats are \$10 and up, living room chairs are \$5.50 and up and tables are \$2 and up. Dining room furniture starts at \$3.50 a month for a table and \$1.50 per chair.

Twin beds start at \$7.50 a month and double beds start at \$9.50 a month. Twenty-inch, non-remote televisions are \$25 a month if you are renting other furniture and are \$35 if you rent them alone.

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