

Off-campus students opt for opposite sex roommates

Laura Wainman
Special Projects Editor

A typical college male's apartment is littered with three staples: posters of hot, scantily clad women, piles of video games and a sink full of dirty dishes. But junior Roger Black lives in a world of pink furniture, clean dishes and real women — the price he pays for having female roommates.

Black had never planned to live with two girls. But once he made the decision to move off campus and realized most of his friends did not want to follow, he knew he couldn't be picky about who he lived with when it came to gender. He placed an E-Net ad and waited to see who would respond. When he met up with juniors Asheton Brown and Kristen Wrenn, everything fell into place.

Black is one of many Elon students who have opted for co-ed living situations and welcomed the change.

Despite the pink and girly feel of his apartment, Black said he has maintained his masculinity in his own room, which he said he enjoys keeping as messy as he wants.

"It really wasn't that tough to adjust, actually," Black said. "I think any roommate situation is a little awkward in the beginning as you are learning each other's personalities so you can live well together, but those things aren't gender specific. To be honest, I thought it was harder sharing my room with a guy freshman year than living in an apartment with two girls."

Senior Courtney Ramery, who shares her apartment with seniors Keegan Calligar and Will Maier, also said she felt the transition was surprisingly easy.

"I think it was a bigger change adding a third person to our apartment than the fact that a guy was moving in," Ramery said. "But I definitely feel much safer having a guy in the

apartment."

Despite the benefits, Ramery has experienced her fair share of awkward moments.

"If (Maier) has friends over and I need to go take a shower, I have to walk to and from the bathroom in my towel in front of his friends, which is embarrassing," Ramery said.

Though some universities across the nation have started allowing students of the opposite sex to live in the same dorm room, the only co-ed options for Elon students are in off-campus housing.

"I think it is a pretty controversial topic, but in the end I don't think it would end up working out anyways," senior Katie Burtzloff said. "My situation works because we all have our own space and privacy, which I think is important when living with the opposite sex. It would be hard for guys and girls to have that level of privacy in the close quarters of a dorm room."

Unlike Black and Ramery, who did not know their co-ed roommates before living together, Burtzloff and her other roommates had all known senior Ben Kaufman since freshman year.

"Since we had all been friends for so long, (Kaufman) just fit right in," Burtzloff said. "We were comfortable with each other already and knew one another's habits. I would advise anyone thinking about a co-ed living situation to be friends first so you are familiar with different living styles, and I would definitely recommend having your own rooms so you can have privacy."

While Black said he is enjoying his current living situation and gets along with the girls, he said he is planning on living with at least one guy next year.

"I think we might hang out more and maybe talk sports — it's just guy stuff, you know?" Black said.

Online retailer rejects labels in favor of musical independence

Christina Edwards
Copy Editor

Labels get thrown around a lot in the music industry, and the original meanings of words shift and get lost by association to a particular sound. Pop music can be extended to mean any popular music, and indie music is anything on an independent, not corporate, label.

So strip back the preconceptions of genres for a second and look past the current top-40 at the largest online retailer of independent music: CDbaby.com.

CD Baby is a site for musicians who are unsigned or not signed by a major label to distribute music on a wide-ranging level. A quick glance at the main page of the site reveals a variety of participating artists, ranging from country's Texas Tenors to Bandgard's alternative rock to Girlyman's three-part harmony folk-pop.

The Web site is set up so artists can register and begin selling their music either as orders for hard copies of CDs or as digital downloads through the site.

Artists receive a large percentage of the cut from sales made, a promised \$6 to \$12 per album, depending on the selling price of the album. No albums are ever pulled off the Web site for low sale numbers.

CD Baby occasionally features albums from bigger names in music, but will only sell music that is completely the property of the musician rather than tied to a major label.

The site provides an opportunity for new artists to showcase their work in a way that can potentially reach a large audience in a place where they aren't competing against artists with the marketing and airplay that comes with being on a major label. The top artists on CD Baby are bands and musicians most listeners have probably never heard of.



Alisan Porter's debut album is a top seller on CDbaby.com, a Web site favoring independent musicians rather than mainstream artists.

CD REVIEW



One of the top artists on the site, with several of her songs in the top-10 acoustic downloads, is singer Alisan Porter with her debut, self-titled album.

Porter is known for her role as the title character in the 1991 John Hughes film "Curly Sue," and her later role in the 2006 revival of "A Chorus Line." Porter's debut CD is a compilation of original pop-rock songs, all written or co-written by Porter showcasing an earthy acoustic sound with a voice that's Christina Aguilera's range with an edge more akin to Ann Wilson.

The album ranges from "C'Mon," a catchy, radio-friendly up-tempo track to the emotional, epically orchestrated tracks "For Us," and "Into the Fire." Her lyrics are poetic "when appropriate and catchy in the more pop-inspired tunes.

Porter's voice is unique and her riffs have edge and soul. Her debut is definitely something to check out, and is a perfect example of the gems that can be discovered on CD Baby, even if they haven't been discovered by a major label — yet.

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