

Three's Company for Students Residing With Platonic, Opposite-Sex Roommates

BY ELLEN FLASPOEHLER
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Jack Tripper did it in the 1970s on the hit television sitcom "Three's Company." However, back then, living in a nonromantic setting with two females was considered taboo.

In the liberal decade of the 1990s, platonic, opposite-sex living arrangements are becoming more commonplace and widely accepted among UNC students, proving that two girls and a guy, or vice versa, and maybe even more, are definitely not a crowd.

"It's just like living with guys in a dorm," said Michele Lada, a senior from Fayetteville who shares a house with three other women and three men. "It's just like living with a bunch of brothers."

"My parents were a little hesitant about the whole thing at first, but I explained to them that the situation was similar to a dorm, so they were OK with it," said Sherry Honeycutt, a sophomore from Benson who lives with Lada.

Safety was one advantage that Ashley Alley said her mother found for having her live with two men. "She felt more comfortable having me live with two guys in an apartment in Chapel Hill," said Alley, a junior from Lexington.

Convincing parents to go along with the living situation seemed to be the biggest hurdle for students to overcome. Actually living together has proved to be much easier.

The advantages of having co-ed roommates are endless, many students said. Jessica Fraser, a junior from St. Louis, said she enjoyed having the male perspective on life readily available to her. "It is fun educating him on the ways of women," said Fraser, who lives with one man and a woman. "However, I have to hear

about every girl he falls in love with, and he always asks questions about why girls do certain things. But it's pretty neat having a different perspective on gender issues."

"Tim also has a tool box, so we can fix everything, which really helps out a lot," Fraser said of her roommate. "Sometimes I wonder what we'd do if we didn't live with a boy."

Alley said that in living with guys she had to cut back on some of her freedoms. "I can't walk around half-naked with guys in the house," she said.

Everyone knows the stereotype that guys are messy and girls are neat, so what truths can be discerned by including both genders under the same roof?

"We fill the stereotype a lot," said Richard Purcell, a senior from Baton Rouge, La., who lives with Alley. "Things have to be really bad for Byron and I to clean up. We leave our stuff sitting around a lot. Ashley gets sick of it, and last week she put up a chore chart because she was tired of stuff not being done."

Lada said that in their household, the guys kept the common areas neat. "But if you go upstairs and look at the bathrooms, it is a different story," she said. "The girls' (bathroom) could never be qualified as filthy, but the guys' was black with slime for months, and they didn't even care."

When men and women move in together under these circumstances, some wonder if the rumor mill starts churning out stories. "Ashley and I are really good friends, and a lot of our other friends constantly thought we were dating, so we had to dispel some of the rumors," Purcell said.

All in all, the students said choosing co-ed, off-campus living was a great way to go. "I prefer living with guys because you get a better mix," Lada said. "This is a lot more fun."



Co-ed roommate situations are no longer considered taboo, as they were in the past. From left to right, Tamara Reynolds, Michele Lada, Brent Inscow and Sherry Honeycutt live together in close quarters without any major problems.

Visiting Lecturer Earns \$30,000 Award

BY AUSTIN GELDER
STAFF WRITER

Think back to your senior year of high school, those painstaking hours spent writing the autobiographical essay that you hoped would win an acceptance letter into UNC. Melanie Sumner, a visiting lecturer and an '86 graduate of UNC-CH, accepts the blame for the essay requirement on UNC's applications.

When she was 16, Sumner wrote an essay, "Why I Love Jesus," and sent it to the admissions office at UNC. The director was so impressed, he wrote Sumner a letter inviting her to become a student at the University.

"Essays have been required on applications at UNC ever since I was a student," she said. Sumner's essay was included in "Essays That Work," a guide for applicants to colleges.

But Sumner's notoriety as a writer stems from more than that first college admission essay. Sumner recently won one of the 10 1995 Whiting Writers' Awards for her first book of fiction, "Polite Society," earning herself \$30,000 and recognition as a writer with exceptional talent and promise.

In addition to winning the Whiting Award, Sumner has recently been named among the top writers under 40 years old by Granta magazine. Her work has appeared in "Seventeen" and "The New Yorker."

Sumner's book, "Polite Society," is a collection of short stories about a young woman's service in the Peace Corps in Senegal, where Sumner herself spent two years. Sumner described her book as a collection of short stories about power and jealousy with a surprise ending.

The main character in "Polite Society" is a young woman from Tennessee that Sumner described as a lost rebel. The stories chronicle her psychological decline.

Sumner, who was born in Rome, Ga., said her book wasn't necessarily autobiographical. "The facts aren't accurate," Sumner said. "But the feelings are from my own experience."

Sumner said she enjoyed her time at UNC, but wished she had taken advantage of the opportunities she had while she was a student. "I was overwhelmed by the University," she said. "I didn't make it to class very much. I made bad grades."

Sumner said when she saw students not

putting effort into their studies, she wanted to tell them that they were wasting their time. "One of my fantasies is to redo my undergraduate years," she said. "There are things I just missed, like taking biology and foreign language classes or joining the sky diving club."

But Sumner, who graduated from UNC with a religious studies degree and got a master's degree in creative writing at Boston University, said she was impressed with her students, who generally turned assignments in on time and came to class.

"I'm a tough teacher," she said. "I want all my students to leave the course with one story they'll want to keep for the rest of their lives."

She said she tried to inculcate her students in her rules of writing: show, don't tell; tell facts, suggest emotions; and name characters. She said writers shouldn't break these rules until they've mastered them.

Along with teaching creative writing classes, Sumner is currently working on a new novel that she hopes to have finished by April. When she leaves Chapel Hill in April, Sumner said she planned to move to Montana to become a smokejumper and jump from airplanes to fight forest fires.

Survey Says Students Are No Couch Potatoes

BY MOLLY FELMET
STAFF WRITER

A survey of 1,655 UNC students revealed that 61 percent of the male respondents and 57 percent of the female respondents exercise at least three times a week.

The survey was conducted by the Epidemiology 160 class in the School of Public Health as part of a team assignment project.

"Many students are engaging in physical exercise," said Carl Shy, professor of the Epidemiology 160 class. "It was a surprise to us, and it was a good surprise."

Students in the class found some of the responses to their questions were surprising. Noelle Yaeger, a School of Public Health graduate student in nutrition, said she was surprised when most people said they exercised for health benefits. "I thought it would be for physical appearance," she said. "And that was true for males and females."

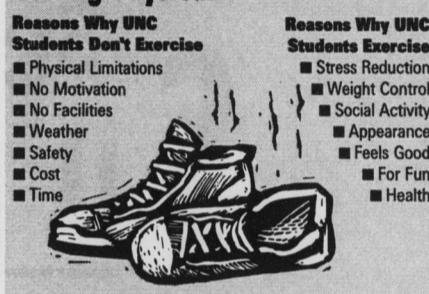
Kristen Smith, a graduate student in health behavior and health education, said that her group focused on whether students exercised for immediate or long-term health benefits.

Although students said they knew that exercise could reduce the risks for heart disease, few students listed that as a primary reason. "Of the people that worked out three times a week, the most common reasons were to feel good, relieve stress and improve their appearance," Smith said.

The survey also found that lack of time was the No. 1 reason why male and female students did not exercise. Other high responses included no motivation, no facilities and weather conditions.

"We did the survey while the Student Recreation Center was closed," said Loraine Alexander, course coordinator for Epidemiology 160. "I don't know if that made any difference in the

Getting Physical



responses."

Adults should get 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity preferably every day of the week, according to a set of recommendations released by the Center for Disease Control.

The CDC recommendations cited evidence suggesting that the amount of activity was more important than the duration or intensity of the activity performed. This means that simple activities such as walking up steps and walking to class could provide health benefits.

Alexander said, "I think the students calling and talking about it made people aware that you don't have to exercise like an Olympic athlete to get benefits."

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University to 26,000.

Gogan said many campuses had experienced similar problems with e-mail. "No one on this campus or others expected this kind of growth," Gogan said. "A lot of campuses have discovered the problem is the number of people that log in."

The PC Pine program is an IMAP program accessible in OIT computer labs. People using PC Pine can access their e-mail without logging on.

Rather than asking users to log in, this program asks people to enter their "login name." Like the typical Pine program with which most users now access e-mail, users are then asked to enter their password.

"The way you access e-mail wouldn't change, other than you will be able to get on the system," Gogan said.

Gogan said OIT was working to correct the problems with e-mail.

"We are trying our best to keep up with the growth of e-mail," Gogan said. "This is our number one priority," Gogan said. "We've had a number of people working to increase the number of people that can log on. It's something we're working on."

UNC Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa Inducts 149 Scholarly Students

BY LILLIE CRATON
STAFF WRITER

The UNC chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society initiated 149 students at a ceremony in Memorial Hall on Monday evening.

James Smyth, chapter president, said the achievements of Phi Beta Kappa members enhanced the University's reputation.

"In the past years people have accused the University of being fundamentally anti-intellectual in character," he said. "(These students) prove otherwise."

Chuck Stone, Walter Spearman professor of journalism and mass communication, commended the initiates in his keynote address.

"You are here because you have mastered the excellence of mind," he said.

Stone told the initiates they had the responsibility to cultivate four other "excellences": caring, character, service and tolerance.

"We should ask you ... to care about

something and to care enough to become involved," he said.

The initiates should "pay (their) civic rent" by performing community service, he said.

Stone also asked initiates to keep an open mind about ideas different from their own. "Factionalism is a tragic normality of society," he said.

In closing, Stone told the initiates, "be forever mindful that you have been nurtured by a liberal education with wonderfully multicultural roots."

Chapter Vice President Rachel Anne Harden gave a brief history of Phi Beta Kappa. The organization was founded in 1776 for exceptional students at the College of William and Mary, she said.

UNC's Alpha Chapter of North Carolina, established in 1904, continues this tradition of academic excellence, she said.

To be elected, the initiates must have accumulated at least 75 semester hours with a 3.75 GPA or 105 hours with a 3.65 GPA.

Campus Calendar

- TUESDAY**
- 4 p.m. BURCH FELLOWS selection process informative session will be held in 100 Hamilton Hall. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are invited to attend.
 - 6:30 p.m. ORDER OF THE BELL TOWER general body meeting will be held in Union 211.
 - 7 p.m. PRE-VET CLUB social will be held in 306 Peabody Hall.
 - SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS will have a speaker, Dragan Mihailovich, CBS senior Olympic sports producer, in 204 Howell Hall.
 - 7:15 p.m. GREEN GAMES will meet in the Union Basement.
 - 8 p.m. UNC YOUNG DEMOCRATS will meet in Union 208.
- ITEMS OF INTEREST**
- PAUPER PLAYERS will have interviews for Broadway melodies on Nov. 21. For more information, check the Pauper Player folder at the Union.

For the Record

In the Nov. 20 article, "Mystery Surrounds TA's Death," the name of the graduate student should have been spelled Robert Michels.

In the Nov. 16 article, "March Sparks Activism," a Black Student Movement program should have been called the BSM Buddy program.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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