

# Your dorm room and roommate await

## Adjusting to your new life

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It was a 97-degree day in the middle of August. My parents were helping me move into my room in Clement Hall and were probably as happy to get me out of their house as I was to go. I was actually relieved when they left, and later that night, as I inspected the premises and roamed that hall in search of new friends, I remember thinking that dorm life might not be so bad.

Well...I definitely have lots of good stories to tell. But I have never regretted for one second living in a residence hall. It has been an education all in its own, and even though some of the time I was miserable, most of the time living in the dorm was pretty cool.

Just think, as freshmen, most of you are away from home for the first time. Maybe you are scared or a little worried, and that is okay. But, with so much freedom, after the first

night or two you won't even remember why you were worried in the first place.

What could be better than living on a hall with 32 or so people, staying up late, going downtown, dodging calls from your mother, exposing your hallmates to your exquisite music choices (just don't be mad when they return the favor) and ordering pizza at two in the morning? When you live in the dorm, the world is yours. No one is screaming at you to mow the lawn or eat broccoli. Your mom isn't yelling at you to turn the stereo down a few decibels. And you don't have to wash your dishes until they are so rank you can't stand them.

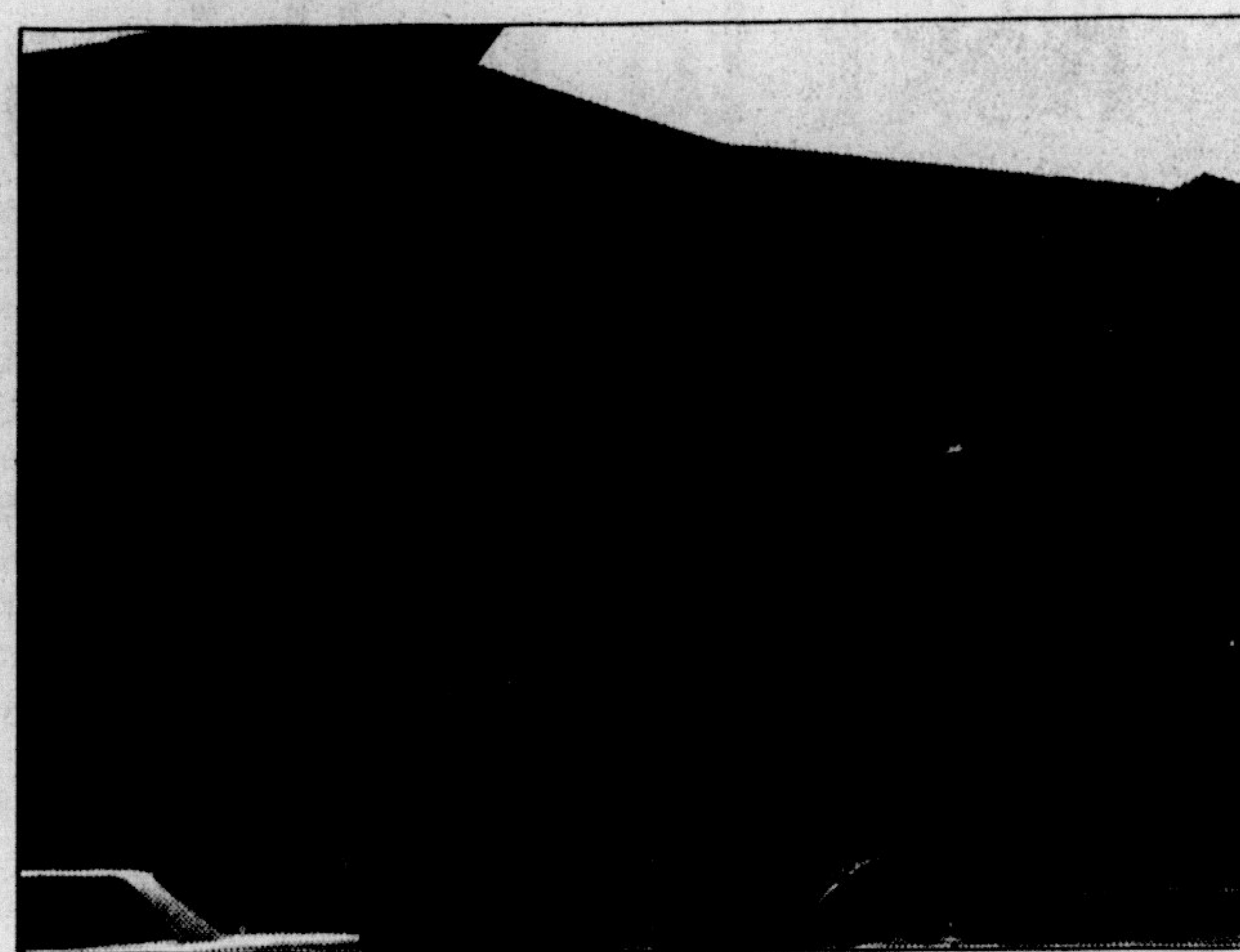
On the down side to all this, you have to do your own laundry, eating at Mendenhall pales in comparison to a home cooked meal (even if that home cooked meal is a TV dinner) and when you are worshipping the porcelain god after a night of heavy drinking at the Elbo, just pray you are lucky enough to have a roommate who will hold your head.

Speaking of roommates, roommates can be a great thing. In fact, my best friend was my roommate at orientation. But from my experience,

ECU Housing is not known for matches made in heaven. There is only one section on the housing application where you get to make any decision about who you spend the next two semesters with — the "smoking" or "non-smoking" box. Wow! What a scientific approach to placing strangers together who have to live in a 9 by 12 room for two semesters. Shouldn't ECU Housing at least ask for your music preferences or a zodiac sign?

But no matter how uncomfortable things may be, having an automatic friend such as a roommate makes things a lot easier. So what if they eat all your Jell-O out of the mini fridge or borrow your favorite jeans without asking? You can feel confident you will always have someone to eat with in the dining hall.

There is so much about life in a residence hall that could never be squeezed into this piece. You will just have to have your own experiences and wade through this first year in the dorm the best you can. Just be sure that if you are living without air conditioning, bring lots of fans because it will be practically unlivable until October. Also, try to follow the rules. You know...no overnight guests



Welcome to your new home...

FILE PHOTO

of the opposite sex, no drinking in your room unless you are 21, no more than six people in your room at a time, blah, blah, blah.

Your resident assistant will give the rest of the rules and it is best to stay in good graces with your RA. Some of you will have a great time living on campus. Some of you will end up

wanting to live in your car rather than see your roommate's face again. At least when it is all over, you will have some great stories to tell and in five years it won't matter if your roommate boiled your goldfish or scratched your \$25 Rage Against the Machine import.

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what's

## REALLY HAPPENING

at ECU

95% of ECU students don't drink from  
Sunday to Thursday

84% of ECU students drink once a week  
or less

66% said no to an offer to use alcohol  
or other drugs

69% didn't use marijuana in the past year

Myth: 74% of our students believe their  
peers drink 3 times a week

Fact: only 17% report drinking this often

## Tell Your Friends

Results of the CORE survey done at ECU,  
Spring 1997

The Division of Student Life at East Carolina University