

North Dakota State University

Welcome Home

Together we can make a difference



May 2008

Managing Roommate Relations

Living with a roommate can be a challenging experience. Most students entering college have never shared a room with another person before. In addition, your room might be smaller than the room you live in at home, minus the roommate! Do not despair! A roommate relationship in college can be managed, and many result in close relationships that are sometimes maintained long after you have left the college experience. Building a positive roommate relationship takes work however, but it is better to put work into this relationship than endure the problems that arise when things do not go well with a roommate. **The key to a successful roommate relationship is honest and open communication:** This should start from the moment you move in and continue throughout your entire roommate relationship. NDSU's residence life program requires resident hall tenants to establish formalized roommate agreements. Since one is not required in apartments, you should take the initiative to complete this process on your own. When establishing an agreement on how you will live successfully together, think about the issues that are important to you, as well as the expectations that you have for a roommate. Some things to consider discussing are: Are you a morning person, who likes to go to bed early so you can get a quick start to your day, or someone who stays up late and eases into the day slowly? Do you intend to share personal belongings? If so, is everything in the apartment O.K for common use, or are some things off limits? How will you manage issues of overnight visitation? Do you have different feelings about same sex versus different sex visitation? How frequently will this be permitted, and are their guidelines that you can set with a roommate to make this situation manageable? Is this something that you are simply not comfortable with? Will there be set times for quiet in the room to permit study and sleep? When will those "quiet" times occur, and how will this be managed? How frequently should guests visit in the room, and are there "no visitation" times that could be set to guarantee periods of privacy in the room? How are you going to manage problems with each other if they arise? Honest open communication is critical to a successful roommate relationship. In addition to setting expectations for each other, you also need to live by the expectations that you set. As a college student, you will experience many different situations and through these experiences your initial expectations may change. If this is the case, then you may need to revisit your roommate agreement and set new expectations. You and your roommate may not always see things exactly the same (and that can be a good thing), but you should always work to be sensitive to each other's needs. Being able to com-

promise and understand your roommate's perspective will be important as you work to learn about each other and live together. Sensitivity, ongoing honest open communication, and the ability to listen and hear what your roommate is saying, along with compromise, will move you along the road to successful roommate relations. **Fixing a problem...managing a roommate conflict if it occurs Things you need to do on your own:** Let's face it. Sometimes you can do all the right things and still end up challenged by your living arrangement with your roommate. Getting back to that communication thing, it is important that you discuss concerns with your roommate as soon as they arise, in a calm and rational fashion. In many instances, simply bringing a concern to your roommate's attention may alleviate the problem. You should always communicate confidentially with your roommate, and in a respectful way. Be fair when you discuss concerns, by sitting down alone with your roommate. Be honest, state your concern, and discuss how the concern might be resolved. The initial step to sorting through a roommate conflict is with you, although upon request your Complex Manager should help you prepare for this meeting with your roommate. **meeting with staff to resolve a roommate conflict:** So you have spoken to your roommate and things do not seem to be getting better. As a next step you should discuss the problem with your Complex Manager. They can sit down with both you and your roommate to attempt to sort through the issues that are a problem for you. Typically staff are reluctant to get involved in a roommate conflict until roommates attempt to sort through the problem on their own. If you have not yet spoken to your roommate about the problem your Complex Manager will most likely ask you to go back and talk to your roommate. If things don't seem to get better after you have attempted to sort things through with your roommate, the Complex Manager will most likely meet with both you and your roommate to work to resolve the conflict. Even if you feel that you are right and your roommate is wrong, remaining in an unhealthy living environment will be detrimental to you, so if you are unable to resolve the problem, leave it behind and move on to a new room and roommate. **Managing an irreconcilable roommate conflict:** Although it is not the norm, some times roommate conflicts cannot be resolved. In these instances, your alternative to staying in a negative situation is to relocate to another room in the apartment facilities, if space is available. In many instances although roommates are sometimes miserable with their living situation, a sense of pride and righteousness keeps them from wanting to move to another room. If you are in a bad roommate situation that is making you miserable, don't let your pride get in the way of relocating into a healthy living situation!

Did You Know?

- When your smoke detector starts beeping, it means that you need to replace the batteries.
- Summer hours for the University begin Monday, May 12th. The hours are 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.
- A Complex Manager position is opening up in the near future. Keep your eyes open for information on applying.

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The Department of Residence Life supports students by providing a vibrant, healthy place to live and learn

University Village Antenna Service

Phone:
701-231-7557

Mailing Address
PO Box 5481 NDSU
Fargo, ND 58105-5481

E-mail:
NDSU.Residence.Life@nd
su.edu

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday 8a.m.
—5 p.m.

University Village Antenna Service – The basic antenna service provided for University Village will no longer be paid for by NDSU after May 30, 2008. This means that if there are problems with your TV reception after this date it will be your responsibility to have this repair made. The reason for this is because of the transition to digital in February, 2009. TV sets that currently receive programming through cable or satellite are not likely to be affected by the transition. However, TV sets that rely on “over the air” broadcasting with an antenna (set-top or rooftop) to receive a signal will be affected by the cutoff of analog broadcasts in 2009.

You will need to consider one of the following options:

Purchase a digital-to-analog converter box that plugs into an existing television. The boxes, which are expected to cost \$40-70 will be available for pur-

chase in 2008.

Beginning in February 2008, U.S. households can request up to two coupons valued at \$40 each. Each coupon can go toward the purchase of a single set-top converter box that will allow you to continue watching FREE “over-the-air” television on an analog set.

Subscribe to cable, satellite or telecommunications service provider if all desired local broadcast stations are carried by that service.

Purchase a new television set with a built in digital tuner.

This information and further answers to questions you may have can be found at

www.dtvtransition.org.

Upcoming Events!

We're On The Web

WWW.NDSU.EDU/RESLIFE

How May We Help You?

If you have questions or concerns please contact a complex manager

- Sisika Ranaweera and Mangala Ganehiarachchi:
263 University Village
Phone: 231.4177
- Cassie and Andy Wahl:
26 University Village
Phone: 231.4026
- Rob and Dani Fischer:
109 Bison Court
Phone: 231.4285
- Bouchaib Falah:
181 University Village
Phone: 231.4175

Apartment Repairs

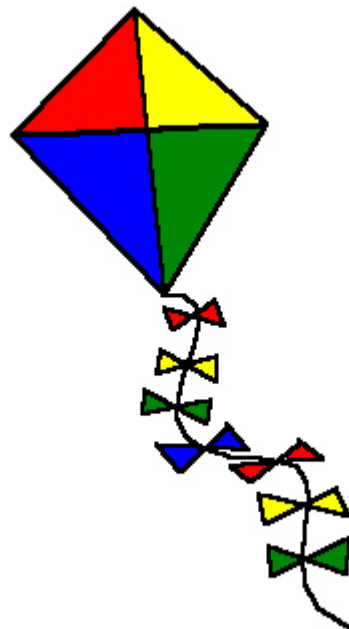
Please call Service & Repair at 231.7282. Please be ready with your name, apartment #, telephone # and a description of the problem.

End of the Year Picnic!

Tuesday, May 6th

5:00 PM at the Basketball Court
in University Village

We will be grilling and
hanging out having a great time!



Kite Flying!

6:30 PM

Elephant Park on
19th Avenue North

Bring the family and we
will supply the kites!