Dorm life: good, bad or ugly?

By **Danny Tyree**

So, having earned an associates degree from

our local community college, my son Gideon is now pursuing

a bachelor's degree in mechatronic engineering from my old alma mater.

This only child who had never really spent the night away from home is cautiously adapting to dormitory life. ("Dormitory": from the Latin for "Who needs Latin? We have panties to raid and fire extinguishers to discharge!")

So far, he and his roommate are coexisting amicably; but I have seen enough "roommate from hell" stories online to know this is not everyone's college experience. (Atheists have terrible dorm anecdotes. Who wants to hear about the "roommate from a post-death state of nonexistence"? But I digress.)

Numerous circumstances can create friction between roommates. The recurring complaint about "failure to observe boundaries" figures into one of Gideon's favorite anecdotes about my college days.

I remember following my friend John back to his dorm room. (Perhaps this was the time we failed to get into

a sold-out showing of Pryor LP, which had "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."). John generously offered me some chips. While I was munching, his roomie Ralph (a future lawyer) walked in and let it be known that he was the actual owner of the aforementioned snacks. Ralph dryly quipped, "Huh. It says right on the bag, 'Goes great with dips,' and you were drawn right to

Yes, ground rules must be set - about borrowing, bedtime, thermostats, hygiene, visitors, decorations, TV/stereo volume and the like. And still there are problems. ("Were you raised in a barn??? Those pastel earbuds are throwing off the whole feng shui of the

I can think of at least two freshmen who assumed it would be fun, fun, fun to room with their high school compadre, only to have things head south in a hurry. Suddenly, BFF started standing for Butthead Facing Fury. I always took the luck

of the draw when it came to roommates. I have not been in contact with any of my roomies since I graduated, but I still cherish my mem-

Ken pulled off the lofty goal of being both a comic book nerd and a ladies' man. I remember Ken playing a Richard

the Pied Piper effect of drawing neighbors into the room one by one, until we had a full house. Of course, that's not saying much for a dorm room. You can't write home, "Dear Mom and Dad, I'm feeling claustrophobic" without opening the window or hallway door to have room to write "claustrophobic."

Nate was a gentle soul who had issues with my politics, my lack of rhythm and the audacity I displayed in not being born in Philadelphia. (What can I say? I won "rebellious fetus of the trimester" three times in a row.)

At least I didn't have to room with the guy who lived in my friend Jack's dorm. Jack dubbed him "Sieg Heil!" because he could often be seen alone in his room doing a sort of goosestepping dance to loud polka music. I suspect Sieg! was next to worthless in late-night study sessions. ("I know nothing! I see nothing! I hear nothing!")

I hope Gideon continues to enjoy dorm life, earns his degree and lands a respectable job. I hope he finds plentiful chips for his electronic projects.

And that Ralph doesn't show up with a cease-and-desist order. *Sigh*

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POLICE BLOTTER

Road rage escalated into alleged threats as several people spent part of a day last week arguing over speeding.

A resident of Stegall Road told a Marshall County deputy he yelled "Slow down!" at a speeding driver who almost lost control of her truck while passing his home where he was working in the front yard. The driver sped by again moments later, this time flashing a raised finger as the resident yelled "Slow down!"

Later in the day the man was driving on Wade Brown Road and passed the alleged speeder, yelling "Slow down" again a third time, a Marshall County Sheriff's Office report said. She began following him. He stopped at the Farmington fire hall, where the woman drove up cursing as he said for the fourth time she needed to slow down.

Moments later the speeder, accompanied by five or six other people, showed up in front of his home. The resident held a revolver by his side as a man among the group allegedly threatened to attack. The victim said he fired a shot into the air - without aiming the gun at anyone - and told the group he would defend himself. The man allegedly refused to leave and continued cursing as the speeding woman said the resident was on video and would be arrested. The group left when the resident called 911.

A deputy inspected the weapon and noted it was loaded with one spent casing in the cylinder.

The accused group was questioned by a detective and admitted going to the home, but refused to identify themselves. The speeder's brother told a deputy they heard several shots fired as they passed the residence. The detective noted those with the woman repeatedly changed their stories.

No charges were filed.

A man who claimed he was punched in the face by several men and his wrecker stolen was charged by the Marshall County Sheriff's Office with vandalism over \$2,500 and filing a false report.

Christopher Chad Smotherman called a Marshall County deputy Aug. 30 claiming he'd been punched in the eye in the Laws Hill area and the wrecker, owned by a Lebanon company, stolen. He also said his phone was stolen and he'd walked to Christiana before notifying au-

The wrecker was found in a ditch on Clay Hill Road around 30 minutes after the report was filed. Smotherman has since admitted to MCSO Capt. Jimmy Oliver he panicked after running the wrecker into the ditch and spinning the rear tires down to the steel belts. Damage to the wrecker was estimated at \$9,000.

Smotherman allegedly admitted making the false report. Bond was set at \$24,000.

A generator and car stereo ampli-

fier were stolen Saturday or Sun-

day from a home on Darnell Mealer Road, according to a Lewisburg Police Department report. A gooseneck trailer stolen in Limestone County, Alabama be-

tween Aug. 9-12 was recovered last Thursday on Collier Road by the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. Two people were arrested on drug

charges last week. •Methamphetamine was found on a driver stopped by Lewisburg police Thursday, Sept. 8, for out-

standing warrants including driv-

ing on a revoked license. A total of 2.12 grams of meth and several syringes were allegedly found in the car driven by Lacey Louise Russell, 38, of Marshall Street. Her license is revoked due

Russell was also charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$3,500.

to a DUI conviction.

•Approximately .66 grams of meth were found on a passenger in a vehicle involved in a wreck Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Taco Bell on North Ellington Parkway.

Amanda Robison, 42, of Franklin was charged after the vehicle was searched due to the driver having a large sum of money in his possession, Lewisburg police said.

Peter Sparks, 31, of Culleoka was charged with driving on a suspended license and for a financial responsibility violation due to his vehicle being uninsured. Sparks was turned over to Maury County authorities for service of an outstanding warrant.

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Christmas Tree

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Get To Know



Kacy Kincaid sports correspondent

What is your favorite

part about your job with the Tribune? I love sports, writing,

and photography, so combining these things to create a conduit to the community that I grew up in and continuing to build relationships and a legacy is such a blessing.

What is your favorite vacation spot? My favorite vacation spot is anywhere with

sun and water. What is your favorite

movie and why? My favorite movie is

A League of Their Own. I loved that movie from the get-go, but it really became special to me after our Marshall County Little League all-star team won the state championship in 1998 and again in 2000. Us girls grew up playing together and continued through high school, so I really understand and respect the camaraderie of the

teams in the movie. ribune

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