

Knee cap, chicken feeder add living touch to room decor

"Over there is my right knee cap. I use it as a paper weight," said Mark Griffith, a sophomore living on 7th floor Cather, as he gave a guided tour of his room. "Notice my vice admiral's flag. I guess you could say my room is decorated a la Navy."

Griffith is just one of the many UNL residence hall residents who has personalized his room.

He pointed to a garbage can which belonged to 7th floor.

"A couple of guys and I take the garbage cans into our rooms, otherwise they get locked up on weekends. Everyone comes in and uses it," he said.

He said he plans to wood panel one corner of his room later this year.

Generally, students interviewed said they brought extra lighting with them to school because they thought their rooms were too gloomy.

Others bunked their beds to conserve space.

"I haven't had real good luck with my plants—it's too dry up here," said Vance Knudson, Cather 809. Terrariums hang from the ceiling and line the bookshelves in his single room. A chicken feeder sets on the top of one bookcase, filled with more small plants.

"I brought my own bed, too, said Knudson, "because the others are too lumpy." The agriculture major put his

mattress in the upper bunk of a bunk frame, leaving the lower mattress out to make a study area.

Knudson hung two hooks on the bulletin board, crossed a bar over them and suspended a plant from the bar.

"Can you believe I bought this G.E. radio cabinet for \$1.50?" asked Neihardt Residential Center resident Carl Cooper. "Of course, I had to refinish it."

Cooper's room decor includes a 100-year-old rocking chair he bought for \$1 and refinished and a plant-filled spice rack which sets on the ventilator.

A cabinet in the corner of Cooper's room houses old pop and ink bottles. One small bottle, turned purple with age and sun exposure, dates back to the 1880's, Cooper said.

Sheila Rocha taped patterned gift-wrap paper to the walls of Abel 313. A black velvet Mexican sombrero hangs on the wall.

"See that bookcase?" Rocha asked. "Some neighborhood boys in North Omaha made it for me this summer," she said. The bookcase functions as a divider, separating Rocha's study area from her bed.

"It doesn't cost that much to decorate a room," Rocha said.

"I think it's worth it to have the things around me that reflect how I feel. With my room decorated this way, I can feel at home," she said.



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