

Temporary housing, though inconvenient, has advantages

By Pat Gentzler

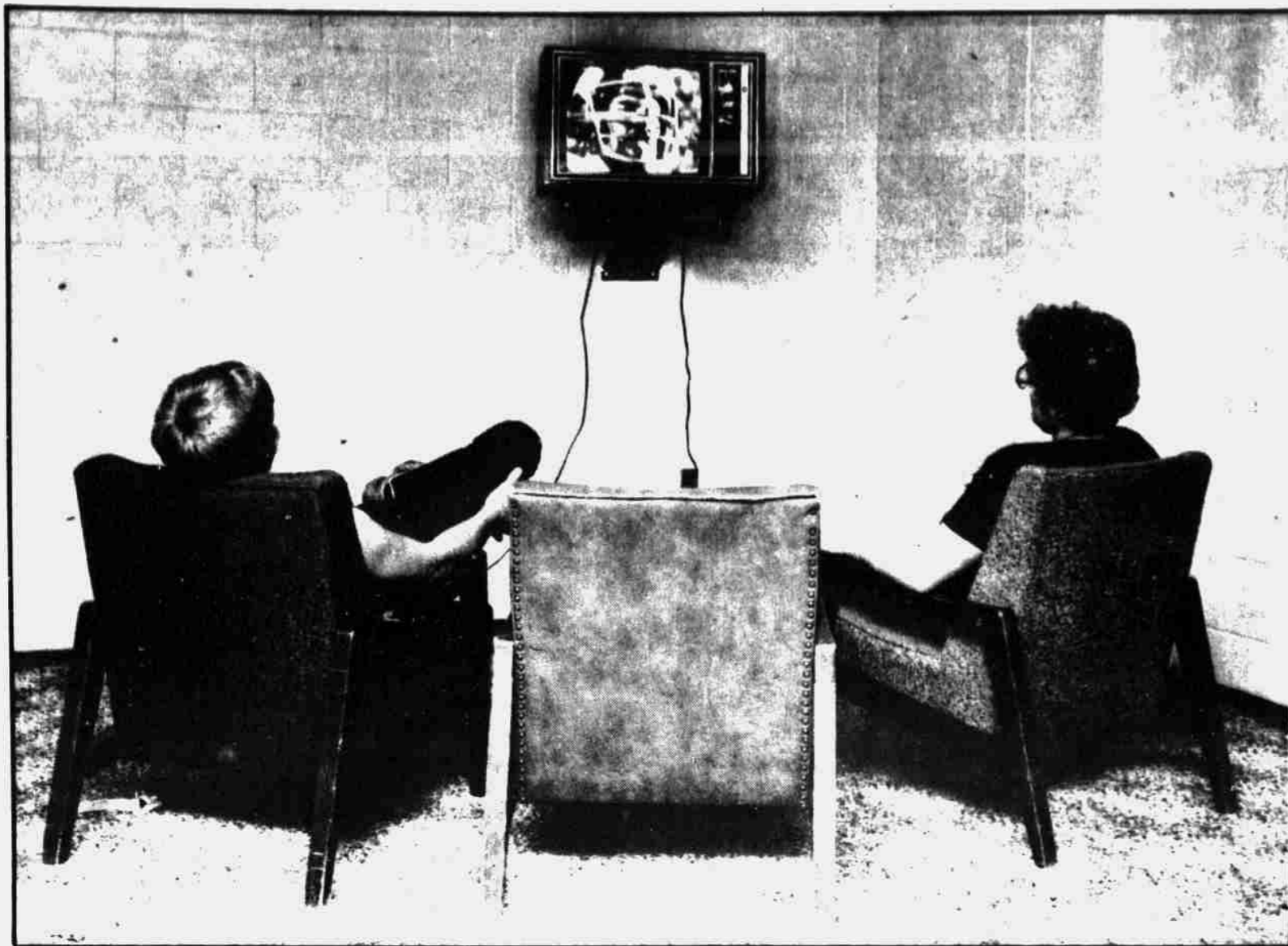


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Lounges in the residence halls will be crowded with temporarily assigned students, so the rest of the floor will give up watching television in the lounge for part of the fall semester.

Deb Leake and Carol Robinson are roommates. They have another roommate, too, and expect two more before classes start. They are temporarily living in a lounge on Schramm Hall's seventh floor.

There are several things that set their living quarters apart from the other residents. There is no window and no mirror. Clothes are hung on metal racks along one wall, and shoes are neatly lined up underneath. The room does have desks and dressers, but the girls still need to keep some of their belongings in suitcases for lack of storage space.

Not having a window seems to bother the girls the most.

"When I woke up this morning, I didn't know if it was five or what," said Robinson, a sophomore from Blair.

It's hard to know what to wear when you can't tell what the weather's like, added Leake, a freshman from Ogallala.

Lounge not bad

But despite all of the obvious inconveniences, the girls really don't seem to mind living in a lounge that much.

"I'm just glad I've got a room," Leake said.

There even seem to be some advantages of living in a lounge. Robinson optimistically pointed out that they have carpeting and a lot of extra space.

Coralie Clapham, a freshman from Fremont, said she doesn't really mind where she's living either. She is one of two girls living in a lounge in Selleck. Their quarters are a little more cramped than those in Schramm.

"If we could just find someplace to put this," she said, grabbing onto a metal rack of clothes. They would like to rearrange the room, but the amount of furniture limits the possibilities.

"I don't know what it's like to be in a regular room," she said, so living in a lounge doesn't seem so bad.

The residents in regular rooms are far from happy about having their lounges occupied, but they seem to be sympathetic with the temporary residents.

Goodbye television

"There's a lot of 'where's our television?'" said Mary Foley, student assistant on Robinson and Leake's floor.

"They don't like people in the lounge because it takes away the TV and it's the gathering place for people to get to know each other," said Renita Jensen, a Selleck student assistant. But the other girls on the floor realize that it's not the temporary resident's fault and don't take it out on her, Jensen said.

Robinson, Leake, and Clapham are among more than 150 women and 90 men assigned to temporary housing in residence hall lounges at UNL.

"It's my belief that men will be out by Oct. 1," said Doug Zatechka, director of housing at UNL, but he didn't know when the women in temporary rooms would be out.

Moving out

Although she would like to get out of her cramped room, Clapham said, "I asked if I could stay in Selleck."

The idea of moving to another housing complex in the middle of a semester does not seem too appealing to Robinson and Leake either. They would like to rent a refrigerator together, but neither knows how long they will stay there. They would even like to room together after moving.

Jensen, a senior, was in temporary housing when she was a freshman. In the middle of a semester, she moved to a new floor.

Friends established

"When they move on to new floors, friends will have already been established," she said. "While you're in temporary, it's not a problem because everybody else is new too."

Zatechka said that for more than five years, he's been reading reports that college enrollment should be declining but "I haven't seen it happen."

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