

Street

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6A (O,F)

Dorm form: Cut above the norm



A do-it-yourself, some two-by-fours, fabric, secondhand furniture and a dash of imagination can transform a dreary cinder block college dorm room into a "Home Sweet Home" away from home.

By JANICE TIGAR-KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER

When Nicki Yuskowatz walked into her dorm four years ago at Central Michigan University, one word came to mind: institutions. The cinder block walls, cold tile floors and heavy, room-darkening drapes in her suite and 22 others on her floor in Herrig Hall weren't exactly the student's notion of warm and inviting decor.

"Right off, I thought, 'If I'm going to live here, it's going to be nice, like home,'" said Yuskowatz, a Farmington Hills resident and 1992 Central Michigan graduate.

For starters, Yuskowatz and her three roommates decided who could contribute the things that are essential to dorm life these days — a TV, stereo, VCR, portable refrigerator and vacuum. From there, they shopped local garage sales to harvest a sofa, chair and lamps to fill the three-room suite.

STREET STYLES

(Students say lamps are a must-have to replace fluorescent lights that sometimes buzz and always produce yellow glare.)

"They applied mural contact paper on a half wall above the cinder block and ran matching border from the living room to the two bedrooms. They bought plush blue carpeting at a remnant sale and hung dance posters and a vine wreath. Inexpensive floral throws from Penny's covered a secondhand velvet seat and chair. One roommate splurged on a new entertainment center. Total cost: About \$200.

"You need a plan; decide what you need and how to arrange your bedroom and living room so that your things are available to you," said Yuskowatz, whose suite won third place last year in a campus-wide decorating contest.

These roommates happened to have similar taste, but that's not always the case. If you like modern and your roomies want a cowboy western motif, compromise in the living room and do your own thing in the bedroom, they suggest.

You generally can't paint dorm walls or put holes in cinder block (though students say toothpaste fills holes nicely), but don't overlook the decorating power of fabrics and contact paper.

Contact has come a long way since the 1970s, when all you could get were gaudy florals and ditzy prints in primary colors. Today,

there are style choices galore: Art Deco, graphics, geometrics and traditional prints in a range of colors. You'll probably have to remove it when you leave or have it approved by the next resident.

"Men decorate the main living area like a den; women decorate it like a living room," said Mike Thimsen, a 1991 Central Michigan graduate and a resident assistant at coed Tate Hall for two years. "Most guys set up their room around a stereo system and Nintendo. Women decorate with color and seem to change everything twice a year."

Thimsen, a Birmingham resident, said aquariums frequently turn up in men's rooms as do plants, sports and rock music posters. Women, on the other hand, opt for antiques, mementos from home and plush floor coverings "that actually fit and match the room."

Most students who live in residence halls turn to fathers or other do-it-yourselfers to construct a bedroom loft from two-by-fours. It raises the mattress off the floor, allowing room underneath for the school-issued desk and dresser. Best of all, it creates more living area.

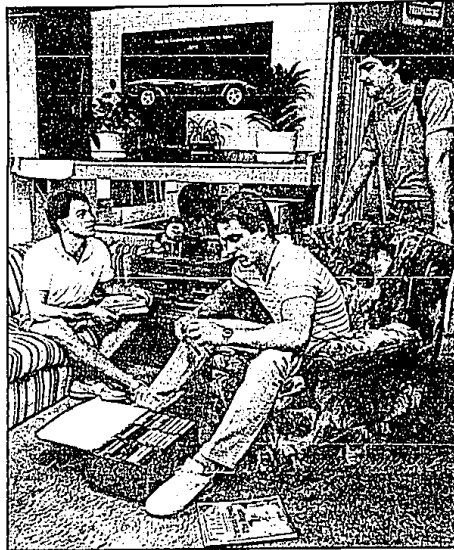
Most universities issue guidelines for loft building and do a room check in the fall to make sure they measure up. In Mt. Pleasant, East Lansing and other college towns, some lumber companies sell loft kits some will even install.

You can reuse the loft each year you're in the dorm and usually sell it to the next resident for a profit, said Yuskowatz. After three years, hers sold for \$80. An interior design major at Michigan State said her stylish loft with built-in storage sold for \$350.

Roger Serr, assistant director of residence life at Michigan State, said dorm life isn't so bad. Some newer halls even have basic cable TV service.

"First year students usually walk in the dorm and say, 'How will I survive this?'" he said. "Six weeks down the line they've done a lot to personalize the room. I've seen engineering students build a stereo, TV and phone into their loft."

College towns are great places for yard sales because sellers know students will snap up almost any furnishings that are in moderately good shape. Secondhand sofas used for as low as \$30 to \$50 and used carpeting can be found for a few dollars.



Dorm form: At Central Michigan University, male students (top photo) make the stereo system the focal point of the main living area while female students (at left) use contact paper and second-hand furniture to create a living-room atmosphere.

You don't need a knack for decorating to turn a generic dorm into a clean, well-lit place. With some inexpensive finds and a

glut of imagination, even a cinder block room with no amenities can win the accolades of fellow students and parents alike.

READER'S

Album: *Funky Good Time / Live* (Gramavision CD)
Artist: The J. B. Horns
Review: This live concert by James Brown's horn section of Pee Wee Ellis, Fred Wesley and Maceo Parker is a funky melange of sweet and down and dirty hornage. The tunes range from the laid back "Blues a la LS" to the happy Latin sounds of "In My Neighborhood" to the familiar funk of James Brown's "Funky Good Time." The songs are nothing innovative, but bestow a powerful dose of the majestic sounds of the trio with the support of a strong rhythm section.
By: Jim Hofer of Harper Woods

Album: *Blacktronic Science* (Gramavision CD)
Artist: Bernie Worrell
Review: The mood music of Worrell, former George Clinton bandmate, continues with his unearthly organ sounds standing above the tribal percussive grooves and the eerie tension established by the strings. The classical feeling of "Revelation in Black Light" contrasts nicely with the free rap in "Flex." The real story of the CD, however, is guest stars George Clinton, Bill Laswell, Bootsy Collins, Maceo Parker, Fred Wesley, Ayo Dieng, Tony Williams, Sly Dunbar and the Material Strings.
By: Jim Hofer of Harper Woods

MUSIC NOTES

With shows in cities that border their home country of Canada, the Baronaced Ladies hope their phenomenal popularity will leak over into the United States.

"Our album ('Gordon') has gone seven times platinum in Canada," said vocalist/guitarist/bassist Ed Robertson laughing. "It's the sixth-highest selling record of all time in Canada."

"In the U.S., it's certified quadruple cardboard — certified linoleum," joked Robertson. The group hopes to replicate the popularity — Canadian that is — of the album and its hits "Enid" and "Be My You" with its new album which the ladies will soon be recording.

"It's a little spicier; we're already performing some songs live. It's more moody but more melodic."

The group will perform at the State Theatre on Friday, Sept. 10.

Elton John recently stopped by some smaller area venues to check out possible sites for a multi-night stint. His tour is slated to start the end of the month and last until early November. Tour dates will be announced soon.

Scott Campbell, host of Detroit Music Scene and former member of the Sillios, has organized a Bosnian war relief benefit, featuring performances by himself, Scott Morgan, Junk Monkeys, The Exceptions, Deborah Veda, and Drain-O. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Magic Bag Theatre Cafe on Woodward Avenue, north of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information, call 644-3030. Those who like to donate to the Bosnian-American Relief Fund, can write to 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 680, New York, N.Y., 10077.

"Gift," the first feature film from Jane's Addiction and Porno For Pyros frontman Perry Farrell, has been released on home video. This fall it will be released at selected theaters which so far includes Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Chicago. Press materials for the film, co-directed by Farrell and filmmaker Casey Niccoli, describe it as a "tragic, comic love story" that incorporates death, memory, drug addiction, joys of the human anatomy, racism, police and the medical profession.

"Gift" blends fact with fiction and reality with fantasy, taking its audience on a journey into the depths of a netherworld in which drugs are a way of life and death looms around every corner in a search for constant euphoria."

The film includes the songs "Stop," "Classic Girl," "Ain't No Right," "Of Course," "Three Days," "Been Caught Stealing," "Lady Bus Driver," "Pink Handle" and "Ants." The film has special appearances by Ice-T (who sings a duet with Farrell) and Terri Nunn.

Something Wild will soon be playing Russia. The band won the two-month-long contest, sponsored by WRIF and Stoll vodka. Details are sketchy about when the group will begin its tour. The band beat out semi-finalists Heaven's Wish and the Jes Gru.

South by Southwest Music & Media Conference is accepting applications for its 1994 event to be held March 16-20 at the Austin Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin, Texas. Veteran performers have been included in a wide range of acts like Timbuk 3, Michelle Shocked, Geto Boys, Gin Blossoms, School of Fish, Dead Milkmen, L7, Cracker, Helmet, the Rev. Horton Heat and Meatpuppets.

See NOTES, 6A



Black Mali: Bandmates include guitarists Ted Canaday (from left) and Geoff Coman, vocalist Lonn Sanders, percussionist Brian Smith and bassist Joe Canaday.

Black Mali 'suits' its sound very well

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Lonn Sanders suits his band Black Mali just fine.

Between Black Mali's psychedelic rock sound and Sanders' chest-length goatee and '70s suite, there's never been a question about either's direction.

"They've both evolved equally. I've worn them since day one, when I played a house party in a Jimi Hendrix cape and tie." This three-year veteran has left Sanders with quite a collection.

"I have a plethora of suits; I try to

mix the suits. It's pretty inexpensive. I just go to thrift shops," said Sanders, also an experimental harmonica player.

With all that, it sometimes becomes a tough choice for him. "Depends on all the different shows. We have all different things. Different energy . . . different things."

It wasn't just the suits that got the Detroit-based band into the world-renowned New Music Seminar this summer, it was Black Mali's highly

See MALI, 6A

Monday, Sept. 6
BORCAT GOLDTHWAIT
With Kevin Meaney at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 175 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, (cont'd)
377-0100
LORRIE MORGAN
8 p.m. at the State Fair, State Fair and Woodward Avenue, Detroit, (country)
368-1000
RELIS JAM SESSION
With Joe Myrtle at Attic Bar, 11667 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (blues)
365-4194
Tuesday, Sept. 7
2 IGUANA'S FROM EAST!
The Grand Cafe, 5319 Grand River, Farmington, (rock)
615-9181
MARY McGUIRE AND MYK RISE
McE's Farm, Novi, (acoustic rock)
349-7038

IN CONCERT
CHISEL BROB. WITH THORNETTA DAVIS
Avin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (blues)
832-6269
CLOCKWITS
With Sharon Piders at Blind Pig, 206-208 First St., Ann Arbor, (blues)
996-8555
Wednesday, Sept. 8
MIND BOMB
With Black Matt and Danda Lions at Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (alternative rock)
996-8555
OSWALD LANE DRIVE
O Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (blues)
334-7411
GEORGE HIGGINS AND A.K.S. BAND
Attic Bar, 11667 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (blues)
365-4194
HORIZONS IN POETRY
Avin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, (poetry)
832-6269
AN EMOTIONAL FISH
With Tyrone's Powerwheel at St. Andrew's Hall, 43 E. Congress, Detroit, (blues)
961-MELT
Thursday, Sept. 9
SAWYER BROWN AND COLLIN RAYE
With Chris LaDoux at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 175 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, (country)
377-0100

FRANK ALLISON
Shadowbox Caffe, 2917 Trowbridge, Hamtramck, (rock)
673-2233
FICTION
With Present Absence and Imaginary Friend at Griffin's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock)
334-9292
MARY McGUIRE
Will record a live album at the Detroit downtown Pontiac, (acoustic rock)
333-CAFE
RUSTY REED BAND
With Harmonica Shab at Attic Bar, 11667 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (blues)
365-4194
"RAY SHUFF"
New acoustic show from 3:30-7:30 p.m. with local acoustic talent including Alex Rmetzky (Moosek), Chris Richards, Chris
See IN CONCERT, 7A