Universities Try Letting Students Make Roommate Matches

They seemed like the perfect college roommates, Meagan Bailey and Melissa Doss.

The UNC Charlotte education majors are both from the N.C. mountains, both country music fans who love to work out. They even took the same classes their freshman year, so they went to bed at the same time, woke up at the same time.

They had so much in common, they displayed their loathing for each other in identical ways.

The silent treatment. "For weeks," Doss says. And then they'd explode.

Instead of perfect first-year college roommates, they ended

featuring Tom Rigney and Flam-

beau to be held Saturday, Oct. 11.

were invited back after last

cause he was so popular and so wonderful," said Barbara

Hudler, community outreach co-

ordinator for the Contra Costa

Latin roots with Cajun influence.

Rigney plays Cajun fiddle.

The band's music is based on

year's highly popular concert.

Tom Rigney and Flambeau

"We invited him back be-

By Carol Palinkas

Staff Writer

turn total strangers into friends who want to share a room the size of a closet.

This is the time of year when universities learn just how hard the matching can be. September and October, for many schools, is roommate-switching time.

Colleges try all sorts of ways to keep the time-consuming changes to a minimum.

One way is a new computer program called WebRoomz, which works something like an on-line dating service.

About a dozen schools, including UNC Greensboro, are using _ or are about to try _ what the Atlanta company says is the only opportunity to choose their own roommates.

For a minimum of \$35,000 colleges lease the WebRoomz program, then ask students to fill out computer questionnaires about the hours they sleep, the music they listen to and how warm or cold they like their rooms.

Each student's responses are logged into the WebRoomz program with an on-line name.

Those searching for roommates browse through the responses looking for the perfect match. Just to be sure, they can talk _ via computer, telephone or

Online names protect their privacy and reduce the risk of

ning to add the program.

They're in the driver's seat." WebŘoomz claims the program cuts down on the number of students who ask for room changes. But officials from several schools say it's too early to

That's not the main reason

"It has to do with student satisfaction," says John Campbell, director of housing and residence life at UNC Greensboro, which just began implementing WebRoomz.

"It gives the students a little more sense of control.'

Most schools in the Carolinas still match roommates the oldfashioned way. Students fill out questionnaires and workers match them _ by hand, in many

There are dozens of varia-

UNC Charlotte, for example, asks five questions, three about smoking:

At the other end of the spectrum is Davidson College. The private school north of Charlotte bases roommate pairings on the Myers-Briggs personality inventory along with a list of lifestyle questions (Do you study with music?) and information on students' hobbies and family living

"We try not to put a member of the Brady Bunch with the only child of a single mother," says Leslie Marsicano, Davidson's director of residence life.

 $The\ system\ works, Marsicano$ says. Only four of 470 freshmen

asked for room changes last year. "When my colleagues tease me, I just remind them that we don't have the level of requests to make switches that they do at their campuses.

Students say they can't imag-

fectly all the time.

"You really don't know people until you live with them," says Raechelle Berry, 19, a sophomore social work major at UNC Char-

Her freshman roommate experience was, in her words, horrible. She ended up spending much of her time with her boyfriend, Larry Owens.

His freshman roommate moved out after the two exchanged words.

1) Are you a smoker? hurt feelings. Students don't computer program in the United 2) Do you object to smoking? have to reveal their identities up a perfect example of how States that gives students the 3) Do you prefer a nonsmoking roommate? until they agree to become room-Tom Rigney and Flambeau The school also asks students "It gives the students the if they have a preferred roomfreedom to choose," says Sarah Nikirk, associate director of auxmate or want to live in special To Conclude Concert Series housing _ the honors dorm, for iliary services at the University of example, or Greek housing. Kentucky, which is just begin-

and 800 people are expected to he summer-long concert seattend. Plenty of parking will be ries at Cal State Hayward's available. Contra Costa Campus is coming Hamburgers, chicken and to an end, with the final concert

other grilled food will be available for purchase, as well as bev-Hudler said that visitors

Hudler said that between 600

should dress warmly and bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m.

The Contra Costa Campus is located at 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road, Concord. Additional directions can be obtained by calling (925) 602-6700 or visiting the Web site at www.concertinthehills.com.

'Trojan Women' Opens Friday

From Staff Reports

uripides' "Trojan Women" will open Friday in the Cal State Hayward Studio Theatre. Directed by Dawn Monique Williams, the play is a powerful statement on the brutality of war, particularly its impact on the inno-

cents, like the non-combatant protagonists of this classic work. Performances will be Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. as part of Hayward's Greek Festival in downtown's Centennial



11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. BOTH DAYS

- Food and Entertainment from many cultures Flea Market
- Pancake/Menudo Breakfast both mornings, 7:00 a.m. 1:00 P.M.
- · Game Booths . DRAWING: Visit our ticket booth and have your chance to .

\$1.00 DONATION PER TICKET. Something for everyone and every age

WIN \$1.500.00 CASH!!

6th and "C" Streets, Union City Phone (510) 471-2609 for more information.





Infomania: A guide to what's out there



Tired of the other grilled subs, well next time you

visit Southland Mall treat yourself with one of Charley's grilled subs. a

combo meal consists of a grilled sub of



your choice, fresh fries and refreshing lemonade.

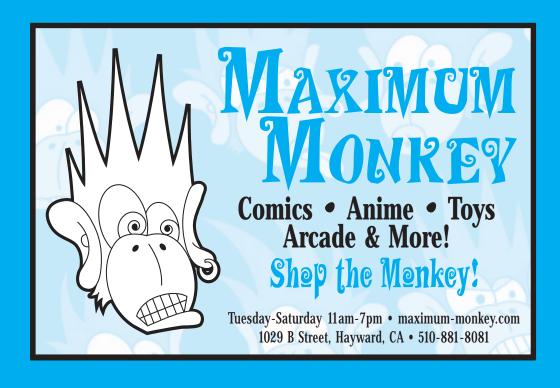
Charley's subs are made just the way you like them, with the meat thinly sliced, grilled with onions, bell peppers and mushrooms topped with melting provolone cheese. The fries served at Charley's are not the usual fast food fries. They taste very much like potatoes each one has the skin on it. Besides the



food it is also necessary that they staff is as welcoming as the food. The food is served to you with a contagious smile that definitely makes your day. Another added advantage about Charley's is that the subs contain only

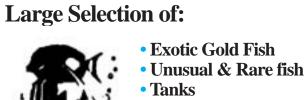
6 gm. of fat. Now that gives you another reason to stop by at Charley's the next time you are visiting Southland Mall.'

> Located In The Food Court, Lower Level 17 Southland Mall Hayward, CA Tel # (510)-265-0234



SUPERWAY AQUARIUM

"In business since 1973"



• Supplies + Accessories

Live food Full line of water conditioners



177 W Tennyson Rd. Cross street Huntwood Hayward, CA (510) 782-2011 Open 7 Days Mon. - Sat. 11 am to 8 pm., Sun. 11 am to 6 pm We take all major credit cards & ATMs

This Space Available

for Your Business or Restaurant Call 510-885-3526 for more information