

Residents are getting some lofty ideas

by Karen Pastorik
 Collegian Staff Writer

The dorm loft is a new creation of dorm resident students, who design and install them in their dorm rooms.

Lofts are, for the most part, wooden, scaffold-like structures built for holding up beds, enabling those who have lofts to utilize their entire floor space.

There are about a dozen students who have lofts, with more students looking into loft-building because of its benefits and style. Students with lofts have much more space for additional furniture, stereo equipment, or just plain room to breathe.

Students usually build their

own lofts with a little help from parents and friends. Many unique versions of the loft have evolved from inventive and practical ideas.

"I really like it. The best things about it are (it's) space and originality," said loft-owner Nancy Quirk. "Our loft was easy to put up. We used bolts to hold it together, so we can move it in pieces. It gives us a lot of space. It really opens up the room," Quirk said.

Erika Steiner and Sue Rattenbury recently had a loft built in their Niagra dorm room. "It's warmer sleeping up top and there's a lot more privacy. One person can be studying with the

light on below the loft, and the other person can sleep above, undisturbed by the light."

Randy Eadie and Marty Becker have an elaborate set-up in Lawrence. They have a large loft, carpeted platform, and a ladder ascending through a cubbyhole.

Builders agreed that the average cost of a loft is between forty and sixty dollars.

Michael Ryan, Food and Housing Manager, explains how to go about authorizing your own loft. "After you make a drawing for the loft, take it to us for a preliminary check," Ryan said. "After it is built, we inspect it. We just have to make sure it is safely supported and won't

damage the room. They are not allowed to hang on the walls. We will store them for students over the summer, because there are maintenance and ceiling repairs done on the rooms," Ryan

explained.

As an alternative to building their own, some people purchase a pre-built loft from students who are planning to move to University Park.



Screen talk: critiques King's "Silver Bullet"

by T. McGee
 Collegian Contributing Writer

In the past ten years or so, Stephen King has become an omnipotent force in both the literary and cinematic worlds.

His books top bestseller lists all over the country and films based on his work appear before the printing presses have stopped.

I must admit that I am a 'King Junkie' and though I've been disappointed by most of the films, I read every King book within seconds of its release.

In the beginning, producers would buy the rights to a King book and then hire some studio back to write the screenplay. Alas, the producers have brightened considerably. Now Stephen is able to pen his own scripts and the results are, if not tremendous, at least truer to the vision of his books.

"Silver Bullet" is King's latest effort and it proves to be another successfully chilling feather in his ghoul-covered cap.

The story concerns a small town with the dubious distinction of

having a monthly visit with a werewolf. Of course everyone in the town thinks the savage murders are the work of a fanatical psychopath, but a young crippled boy slowly unravels the secret. The film has some very good scares and a well timed sense of humor. The makeup effects, designed by Carlo Rambaldi, are some of the best ever and the casting is good throughout.

Gary Busey plays the crippled boy's hard drinking, good natured uncle with just the right amount of gruff fatherly love. Evertt McGill is acceptably sinister as the offbeat lycanthrope, but his character is played up to be nasty from the start and this hurts the later scenes of revelation.

Corey Hain and Megan Follows are quite good as the young boy and his sister—they should do well if they continue acting careers.

The film is directed by Daniel Attias and he lends a solid hand to the film's suspense through deft camera movements, moody lighting and vivid imagery.

However, this is not the great King film that is to come. "Silver Bullet" does have its problems, such as an unstable time frame

(we never know how much time has passed) and the blatant unveiling of the werewolf's identity in the film's first few minutes.

One day the ideal Stephen King film will be made, but our macabre friend may have to do all the work himself.

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