

In 'Da House: Kitchen

BY RHONDA REINHART & APRIL TOWERY
Staff Writers

Dirty dishes and dining utensils are not the only things one might find in a kitchen. From rocking chairs to scalloped potatoes with a mind of their own, something a little out of the ordinary is taking place in students' kitchens. These days, students are using their kitchens for more than slicing tomatoes and refilling ice trays. Some could even rename their kitchen "the entertainment room."

• **WHEN IS A KITCHEN NOT A KITCHEN?**

A kitchen is generally considered a room or space used for the preparation and cooking of food. But when college students are involved, kitchens can serve multiple purposes.

Matt Elliott, a senior mechanical engineering major, said he has found the kitchen serves as a great place to do homework. Sometimes Elliott trades in his pots and pans for textbooks and a calculator. He said his roommate, a self-proclaimed "obsessive clean freak," keeps the kitchen tidy to provide an accommodating studying atmosphere.

Paige Loustalot, a junior kinesiology major, said she and her roommate do not get much studying done in their kitchen.

"Our kitchen is not a kitchen when my roommate and I get in a fight," Loustalot said. "Then it becomes a boxing ring."

• **SCALLOPED POTATOES & KISSING THE COOK**

The kitchen is a place where things get cooking in more ways than one. Loustalot said things get a little steamy when someone had a sexual encounter on the dryer in her friend's

kitchen/laundry room.

"It was totally in the open," she said. "Everyone in the breakfast room saw."

Holly Foran, a junior English major, said she and her roommates use their kitchen for socializing. People often are drawn to the kitchen to chat with one another at parties, but few would have wanted to be in Loustalot's kitchen at one of her eventful gatherings.

"The craziest thing that ever happened in our kitchen was when we had a party and a guy peed in our trash can," Loustalot said. "He was really drunk."

But for some, wacky kitchen experiences are not an everyday occurrence. Elliott said the craziest thing that had ever happened in his kitchen was when his roommate was cooking scalloped potatoes that boiled over and made a mess.

• **MAKING A HOUSE A HOME**

A person's character can be made visual with their adornments and belongings. Personalizing the kitchen can involve a decorative theme or a simple collection that means something to the owners.

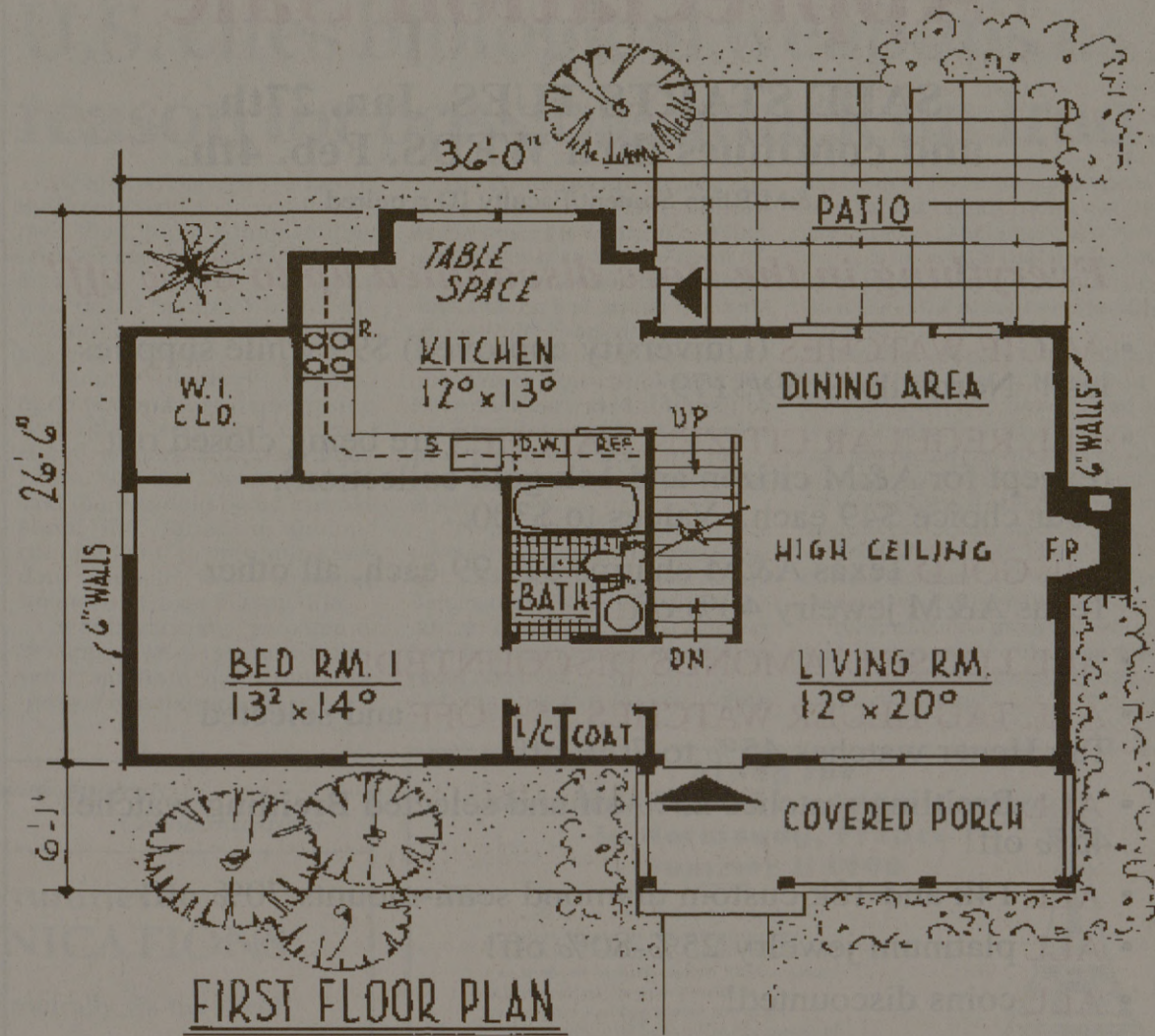
Elliott's kitchen is made personal by his "weird seasonings," his favorite being Tabasco.

Loustalot's collection of shot glasses is what makes her kitchen personal.

Gayla Lytle, a junior agricultural economics major, has personalized her kitchen by substituting a rocking chair for a dining room table. She also keeps the water bowls for her dogs in the kitchen, but there is a time when the dogs are not invited in.

"I love my dogs, but they can't come in the kitchen when we're cooking," Lytle said. "That's a rule. That's a no-no room."

Holly Foran, a junior English major, said her



VeggieTale message pad in her kitchen reflects her personality.

"It's a Christian cartoon with Larry the Cucumber and Bob the Tomato," she said. "It's a reflection of me because I'm a Christian, but I'm also a lot of fun."

• **THE KITCHEN ALTERNATIVE**

Students are breaking free from the cultural

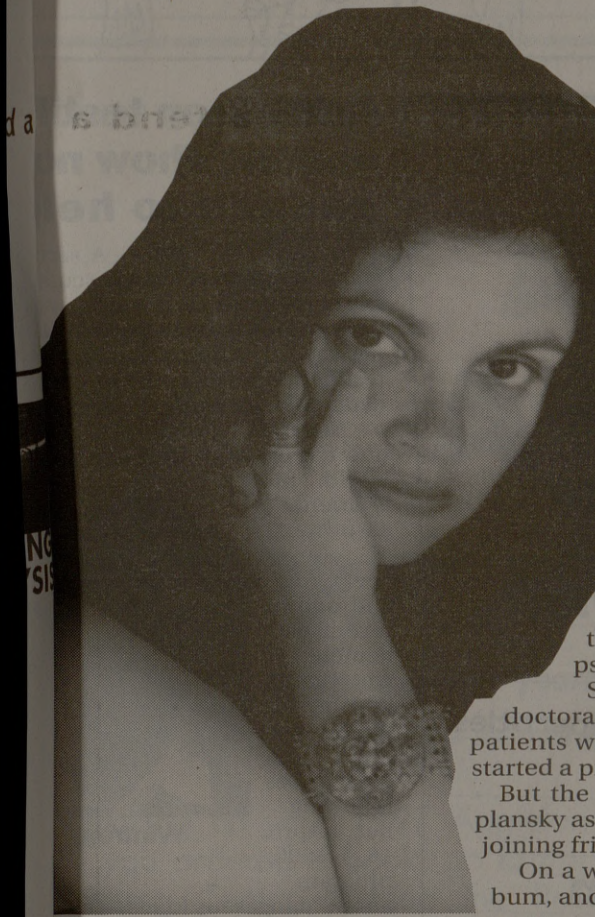
norms that are imposed by society concerning kitchen etiquette.

Used for everything from sex to socializing, the kitchen proves to be a versatile room in the homes of college students.

No longer will the kitchen be confined to merely making midnight snacks and cooking dinner for friends.

Lucy Kaplansky brings solo act to Crooked Path Ale House

BY JAMES FRANCIS
Aggielife editor



Music can be described as a reflection of the condition of the human soul; it speaks to its listeners in a way only the heart and mind can decipher.

With these two elements combined, an individual would have to have a background in psychology and a natural talent for music. Luckily enough, visitors to the Crooked Path Ale House this Thursday will witness such a person.

As a kid, Lucy Kaplansky started out singing show tunes with her father, a University of Chicago math professor and semi-professional piano player. But this first step into the spotlight of music would not be her last.

Kaplansky started her amateur singing career in Chicago bars, and once she was out of high school, she headed for New York. There she encountered well-known names in the music business such as Shawn Colvin and Suzanne Vega.

After teaming up with Colvin, many people predicted the two would move on to bigger and better things. That was when Kaplansky decided a career in psychology was calling.

She took a leave from the music industry, attained her doctorate in psychology, worked with substance abusers and patients with mental illnesses at a New York hospital and even started a private practice.

But the lingering memories of performing stayed with Kaplansky as she found herself continually performing for fun and joining friends in vocal harmony on their albums.

On a whim, Kaplansky and Colvin decided to record an album, and once the recordings made their way to the president

of Red House Records it would seem Kaplansky's musical career was reborn.

Red House released *The Tide* in 1994, and within six months, Kaplansky had signed with a major booking agency and began touring.

Nowadays, Kaplansky has left behind her job at the hospital, although she maintains her private practice. Besides working with Colvin on her Grammy Award-winning album, *Steady On*, Kaplansky also garnered credits on soundtracks for the films, *Pretty in Pink* and *The Firm*.

Her influences cover a range of familiar names, from Joni Mitchell to Joan Baez to Jackson Browne.

And although Kaplansky has people in the music industry she looks up to and respects, she is no longer on the giving end of heralding people for musical accomplishments.

For her debut album, *The Chicago Tribune* states, "★★★ 1/2! Kaplansky extends the promise of her debut CD, *The Tide*, in this remarkably self-assured and entertaining collection."

With her new album, *Flesh and Bone*, Kaplansky is receiving even more critical acclaim for her de-

velopment as a gifted songwriter.

The Boston Globe describes Kaplansky and her new release as, "a penetratingly intelligent singer-songwriter ... *Flesh and Bone* is a nimbly crafted blend of eloquent, emphatic originals and ear-catching covers."

Kaplansky's friend and old singing partner Colvin said, "Her singing has been a source of amazement, comfort and inspiration to me."

It seems Kaplansky, psychologist that she is, has a big future ahead of her in the business of making good music.

From rave album reviews to working with some of the best in the industry to attaining great heights in her personal goals, Kaplansky only can move upward on the ladder of success.

For individuals interested in getting an up-close and personal look and listen to the music of Kaplansky, she will be performing at the Crooked Path Ale House this Thursday at 9 p.m.

And with a background and life history such as Kaplansky's, the show promises to be one worth seeing.

Quote for the Day

This week's theme: Presidential accusations.

"When I grow up, I want to be president so I can get all the chicks."

— Cody Lemons
Senior nuclear engineering major

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