



ITINERANT ARTISTS

"The house has kind of had three main periods," said Jeremie Faircloth, one of the first of many artists to move into 4 Tallwood Road. "At first, we had a band living here. During the middle period, it was just another guy, E. J. Baker, and myself. It was quiet. We were making a creative transition. Then Kari Hagedorn came in and changed things. The place got cleaner, 'cause let's face it, boys in their 20s don't really care about cleaning. It took on a more familiar, homey feel. But the place has always been a minicommune. People sleep here for a few weeks, then take off. People walk in with things, walk out with things. It's never boring."

CREATIVE COALITION

A FLORIDA BEACH HOUSE WAS PART ARTISTS' COLONY, PART 'MINICOMMUNE.' SCENES FROM ITS FINAL WEEKS. **BY EDWARD LEWINE**

It might be the closest thing northeast Florida ever had to an artists' retreat. Something was always happening at 4 Tallwood Road in Jacksonville Beach: someone painting, recording a song or cooking a vegan dinner. It began in 2000, with Jeremie Faircloth and E. J. Baker, both now 28, local kids with artistic aspirations who wanted a beach house. Over the years, a good dozen creative types cycled in and out of the ramshackle four-bedroom home. This summer, 4 Tallwood broke up. The landlord decided to sell, and the last assortment of five bohemians moved on. "This has been a haven for us," Faircloth said, "a haven for our creativity. It's really sad."



IN THE KEY OF LIFE

"We have these amazing, chaotic parties," said Kari Hagedorn, 26, a two-year resident of 4 Tallwood who works in development at Jacksonville's Museum of Contemporary Art. "The woman with the flute came out of nowhere. It was the most awesome thing. We were playing music and she just joined in. She was the friend of a friend of the house. I have no idea why she brought a flute with her. She was really a highlight of the night."



MIXED MEDIA

"I paint and play seriously," said Faircloth, above left, who plays several instruments. "I can take the momentum or the frustration from one and put it into the other. Music gives me pictures in my head. When I paint, I imagine the opera and the symphony. Each one evokes the other."

FERTILE IMAGINATION

"There were these old drums in the shed behind the house, and I planted them with various plants," said Baker, a landscape gardener. "I thought it would be cool and flow with the vibe of the house. I found the plants in the trash. People just rip them out and throw them away."



IT'S ALL IN THE TILE

"I'm on the graveyard shift, operating a bridge on the Intracoastal Waterway," said Jeremiah Johnson, 25, who arrived at 4 Tallwood in 2004. "I sleep during the day, and then I work on music. I record all over the house. The room can affect the sound in a big way. Sometimes, when I want a

sound that is distant or cold, or has some natural reverb, the bathtub is awesome for that. I was playing this very droning guitar; playing it in the bathtub created this sustained, pretty humming, like a honey sound."



MENDING SPREE

"A few years ago I got a sewing machine," Hagedorn said. "I haven't mastered the techniques yet, but I do my best. I even have a sewing circle with a group of girlfriends, and we call ourselves the Threadlocks. We all have names, and my name is Dawn of the Thread. Right here I am sewing a pillowcase. I also fixed a dress that day. I like to buy vintage clothes that need mending. They break easily and I fix them up."