## GHETTO

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and articulate talk make him a respectable modern pirate. His toy shop's ceiling is adorned with Escher prints, his walls with a painted jungle.

Conard said, "We worked so damn hard to get through the hippie haven image here in the house. In '69 the town locals used to drive through the alleys and take potshots at the back of the house. The solid citizens definitely didn't like this place back then."

During the turbulence of the early '70's the house had a reputation around town for housing revolutionaries, motorcycle gangs and an underground newspaper, all of which is mostly accurate, Conard said.

"For awhile whoever was toughest ruled this house," he said.

"Motorcycle gangs would take the place over for a few weeks and rip co per out of the fire detectors on the ceiling that were there for when the place was a nursing home:

In '70 the KU Student Housing Assoc. bought the building and began to experiment with ifferent forms of cooperative living. Eventually the house evolved into its current form, one "more cooperative than ever," with weekly seminars and an anonymous forum for complaints.

"Before the place was fixed up we contributed as much to the Student Ghetto as anyone else," he said. "Still, rather than an apartment house where people. beat on the walls, we talked about things."

Conard said he hadn't noticed any substantial changes in the ghetto since he'd lived there.

"No one much owns their own homes in the ghetto and so I don't see, he and two friends rent at 1225 too hopeful a future for it. It's a grungy residential area that'll just fall down and be replaced by brown box apartment buildings. Students don't mind living around here 'cause it's cheap and what they call comfortable."

Conard said he would move out of the Sunflower House in the spring, but only to travel a few blocks farther south down Tennessee to a "two cats in the ya: : : wo bedroom house'. 'Moving out of here will be the end of an era for me," he said, looking out the window.

On the other side of the street, across form the Sunflower, you can see how the other half live in the white stone-walled Beta Theta frat house. Inside, as

you stand near the marble-encased fireplace under a beautiful bronze chandelier, the frat men bob up and down the stairs in white T-shirts on their way in and out of the kitchen and ask the same question: "Howdy. Is somebody helping ya?"

Scott Morgan, who's lived in the Beta House both of his years at KU, sat in the trophy room under 10-foot walls of plaques, trophies and class pictures dating back to 1881 and told of student ghetto Tennessee Street frat life.

"We try to be low-key around campus and not come across as a fratty place," he said, scratching at his pug nose. "Still, when I went down to Quantrill's the other week, I'c. The rounded myself with the Greek world and felt out of place and didn't know how to act. Other than the house I don't know much about the area around here."

Into the room strolled lanky Andrew Sigler in Tab Hunter type white cuffed-slacks. He snatched up a large bronze trophy from a table near where Morgan sat.

"You certainly could call this place a ghetto," he said. "Why, we're even going to burn this trophy for "indling." Then he left the room.

"It seems like the people in this area only see the rowdy side of Greeks, when they're going wild, especially in the big houses down the block," Morgan said. "We here don't get out too much, just study a lot and so would probably be considered kind've boring. When we do go out it's just to the Whee! orHawk so we don't have to drive."

Morgan said he studied six hours a day, would live in the house for four more years and then try to get into law school.

Up the block, Gary Popenoe sat in the sunroom of the house that Tennessee and looked out through alley. Synthesizer music hummed in the background and the house cat Nathan was curled up sleeping by Popenoe's side.

"You learn to know all the animals on the block, the alley back there's just an animal jungle," he said. "But this is the best place we ever lived in. Jayhawk Towers was so intense, and befrre that was Oliver Hall Zoo, cubicle

"There's a lot less tension living here. The density's less, there's a lot fewer people per house."

Nathan woke up and yawned when Popenoe said, "We're right be-



tween the city and campus and can walk to both. And after awhile the city traffic on Tennessee just becomes a kind of drone in the background."

and decor along out unitable or busts the naked branches to the back Popence said he wished the City would sponsor a volunteer program to clean up the alleys so that they could be used as bike paths, and also widen the street renovations coming south on Tennessee a few feet more so that angular parking could be possible.

> "The only thing I don't like about ful." living here is that the pigeons get in the eaves by my window and sound like geese getting it on. I have to shoot them away with a BB gun."

Nathan was up stretching, then around the table, peering hope-

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fully ou the half-open window to the animal jungle below. But Popenoe can't let the cat go out on the prowl for mates because it has not claws and so gets badly " beaten up by the tomcats on the street.

As he took Nathan away from the window and appeased him with catnip, Popenoe said, "It seems like a certain lifestyle goes with living here. A more laid-back, friendly way of life, more peace-

Out on Tennessee Street, the traffic waves have dried up, the bars have emptied, and such a stillness surrounds the city that you are thankful for the crunch of your boots in the hard snow and the dog howling down the block.

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