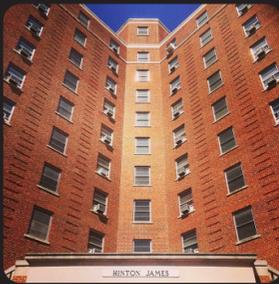


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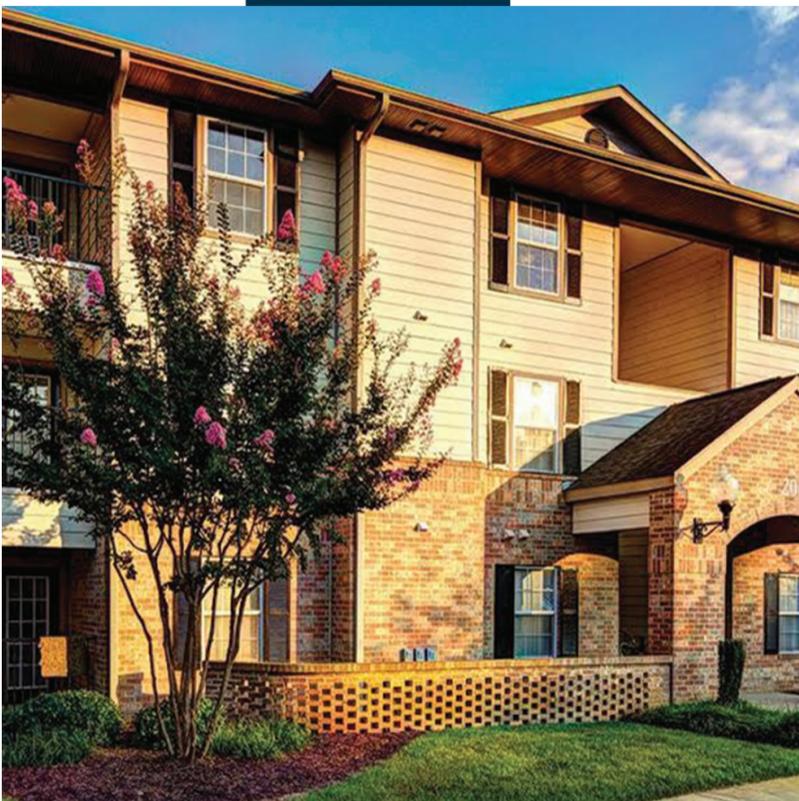
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Things you'll forget when you move off campus

By Maddie Flager
Senior Writer

Moving off campus is wonderful.

You have your own space, you don't have to live in fear of random room checks anymore and as beautiful as UNC is, there's something very freeing about getting out of class and going home at the end of the day — and not to a dorm a few steps away.

However, with all those exciting things comes a shopping list full of items taken for granted when living in a dorm (R.I.P. school-provided toilet paper).

Here are a few easily forgotten items to add to your fall shopping list.

Paper towels and toilet paper:

Paper towels are one of those annoying necessities.

No longer can you walk to the bathroom and snag a handful when something spills. Pro tip: Buy them in bulk.

No one ever wants to buy them, but they will get used. Last semester, I bought a 24-pack, and it lasted right up until finals.

And don't forget toilet paper, either. If you lived in a dorm where toilet paper was provided for you, you will forget that it's an essential. Stock up.

Garbage bags:

Harris Teeter bags only go so far. Invest in garbage bags and a bin to avoid having to throw tiny trash bags out twice a day.

Shower curtain:

Who thinks of buying a shower curtain?! Reminisce about first-year move-in weekend memories, and head

to Target to pick one up.

Pots and pans:

No one I knew actually cooked in a dorm, and most people forego meal plans after moving off campus.

So it's time to buy at least one pot, pan and baking sheet.

Cooking supplies:

Salt, pepper, condiments — trust me, you'll want them sooner or later. Also, a bottle opener and can opener are essential.

Tool kit:

You can nail things in your wall, yay! Don't forget a hammer.

Cleaning supplies:

Probably the worst part of moving off campus is having

to clean your own bathroom, maybe for the first time ever. (Thanks, Mom.)

You're going to want toilet bowl cleaner, shower cleaner spray and disinfecting wipes.

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Students turn to Carrboro for housing

By Brooke Fisher
Staff Writer

Off-campus housing may seem like a luxury, but it doesn't have to come at a luxury price tag.

Carrboro, Chapel Hill's neighbor to the west, draws in students from all parts of the UNC community.

"(Students) are indispensable to the character of Carrboro," said Damon Seils, a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. "Our student population in Carrboro is a little different as there is a greater representation of graduate and professional students."

Both undergraduate and graduate students flock to Carrboro for low rent and parking. Sophomore Troy Simpson cited cheap rent and parking as top reasons for picking Carrboro.

"I found very, very cheap rent and quite a large house," Simpson said. "There's a reduction in housing cost. It's basically cutting housing

costs in half." Simpson also said the park and ride buses are reliable for commuting to and from campus.

"I decided to live in Carrboro for a bunch of reasons," said nursing student Emma McFarlane in an email. "Mostly because it was a lot cheaper than living in Chapel Hill. Also, parking is a lot easier."

However, senior Emma Gutt said that price wasn't what influenced her, but location.

"I live right next to the farmers market," Gutt said.

With students renting and living in Carrboro, the housing market changes. Seils said students do have an interesting impact on the market.

"Although our student population is not growing, the preferences for different kinds of housing is starting to change different parts of town," Seils said.

Though students do affect the housing market, Carrboro is committed to affordable housing, said Nate Broman-

Fulks, assistant to the town manager, in an email. This includes affordable housing for those who live below 60 percent of the area median income level and combatting gentrification.

Carrboro is a partner in the Northside Neighborhood Initiative. The initiative aims to create a family-friendly, multi-generational community in the neighborhood north of Franklin Street while also balancing the needs of long-term residents, new residents, homeowners, renters and students.

But Carrboro also offers students more than just affordable housing: Carrboro offers students a home away from home.

"(You) have a sense of separation of work and home in a way," Simpson said. "It's nice to be quiet and away from campus and not crammed into a smaller accommodation."

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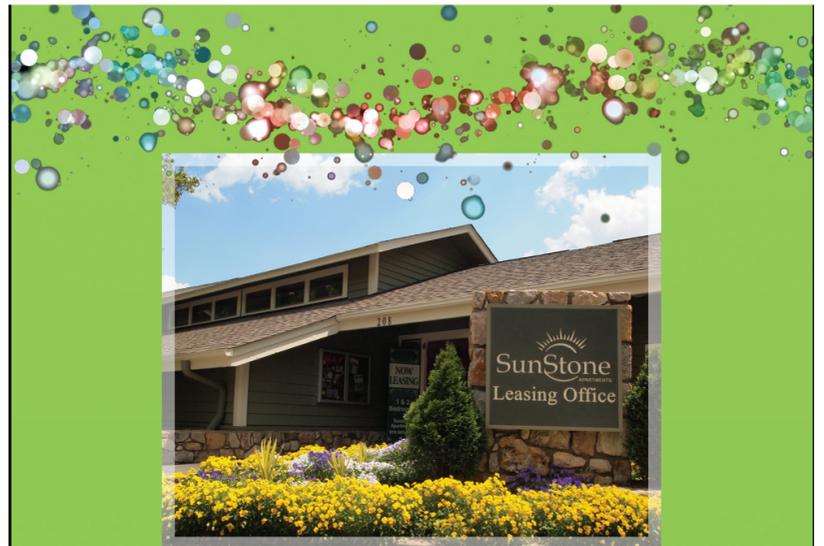
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Pros and cons of living alone in college

By Megan Mallonee
Staff Writer

Confession: I've never lived on campus at UNC. I transferred here and went straight to an apartment. Sometimes I feel like I missed out on something, but it's worth it to avoid sharing my most sacred space.

The Daily Tar Heel wanted to break down the pros and cons of living alone. Whether you get a one-bedroom apartment or score a single dorm somewhere on campus, there are a lot of great things about finally achieving pure solitude — and also a lot of things that feel like solitary confinement. Here's what to expect:

PROS

I love the people I share my apartment with — but I love having my own room just as

much. The pros of living without a roommate are not difficult to list.

1. The most important aspect of living alone is sleeping in my queen bed.

It's near impossible to fit two of those in a living space. I fell out of my twin bed three times as a first-year, and my roommate probably thought it was funny.

2. Living alone means no one can judge your streaming choices.

Rather than following the hype and checking out "Making a Murderer," I'm on season three of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," and I love it.

3. Without a roommate, you are free to continue telling people you don't snore.

I know I snore because I had to do a sleep study when my mom became concerned I was choking to death each night.

For the rest of us, at least there is no roommate there to say, "You kept me up all night snoring." Me? I've never snored.

4. Decorating is all up to you!

No more lying about whether you like those paisley, monogrammed pillows or those little brown signs that say something about dancing in the storm.

5. Two words: Snooze. Button.

How many times can you delay your alarm each morning when it isn't disturbing anyone? The limit does not exist.

CONS

Believe it or not, though, living without a roommate has struggles. The cons are just more manageable.

1. There is only one closet of options.

This does not go over well on the nights I literally have absolutely nothing to wear. Luckily, I share my apartment with three girls who happily raid my closet and let me raid theirs.

2. Sometimes it gets lonely.

I am the type of person

that likes to share every single thought that runs through my head.

Not having a sounding board the bed over is a struggle.

This ends with a lot of calls to my mom. She likely wishes I still had a roommate.

3. When it comes to cleaning, no one is there to keep you accountable.

During exam week, this translates to my floor no longer existing. During regular school hours, this means I have to choose to clean.

4. Along that same line, there is no one else to take credit for a strange smell, heap of

laundry or socks on the floor.

That's all you, girl. Embrace it.

5. Living alone is a temporary joy, as I know I will likely have a roommate again at some point in my life.

Maybe it will be the year after graduation; maybe it will be when I get married. Kidding, I'm definitely not sharing a room with my husband.

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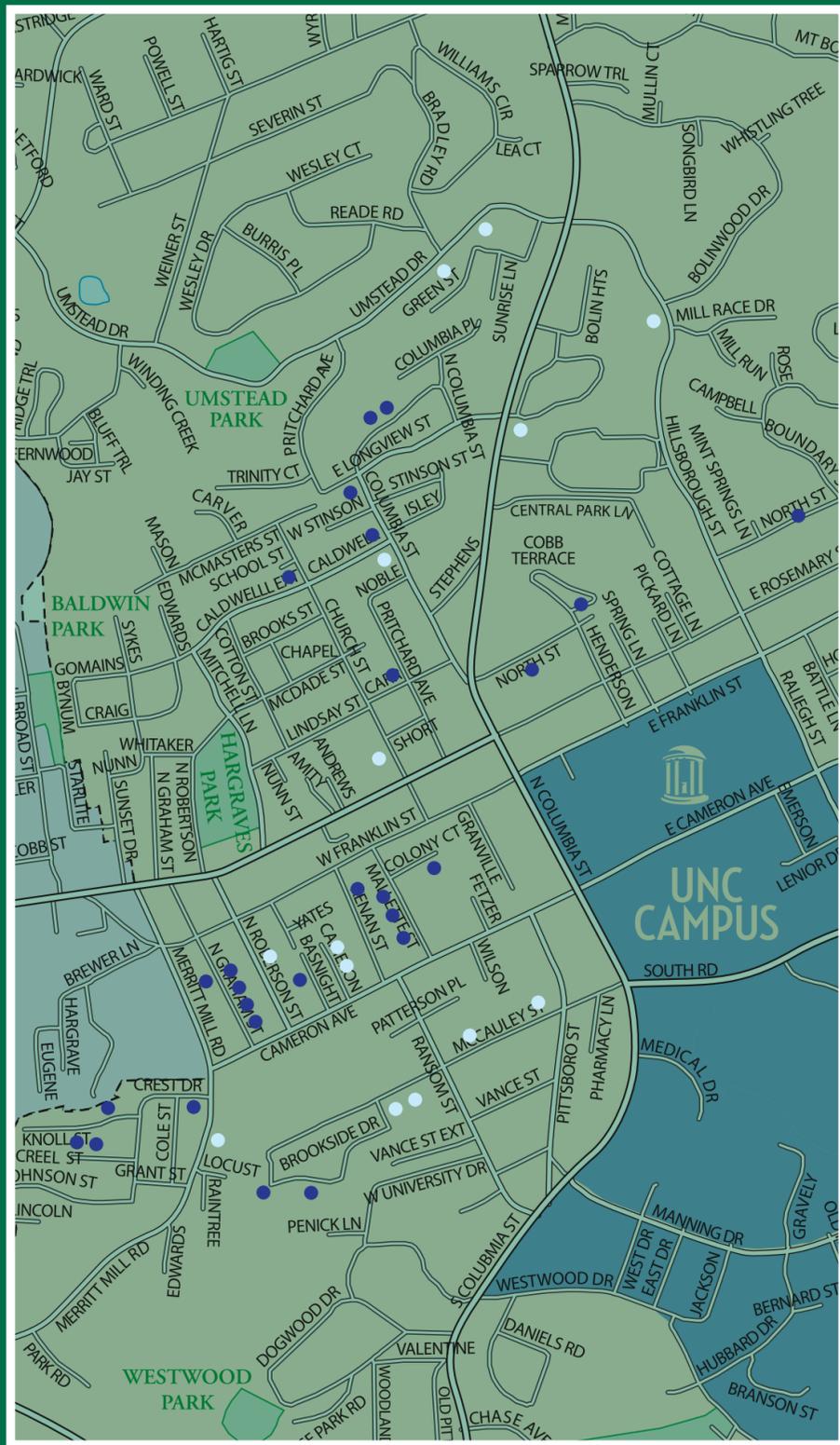
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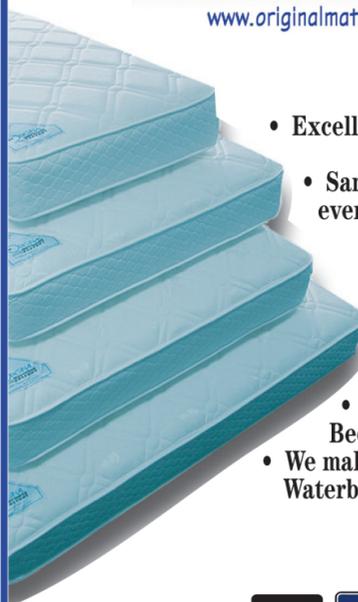
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Fish bring companionship to dorms

Fish are the only non-service dog pets allowed on campus.

By Trevor Lenzmeier
Staff Writer

The transition to college from high school can be a difficult step, as incoming first-years must learn to cope with a rigorous course load, increased freedoms and responsibilities and a departure from family life at home.

While many students living on campus might bemoan the absence of their calico cats and chocolate Labs during the school year in Chapel Hill, others have sidestepped the issue by inviting finned friends into their dorms.

Sophomore Emily Meggs,

who currently lives in Grimes Residence Hall, said she decided with her roommate to raise a group of guppies in their dorm room last September. Though only Pepa remains, Meggs said she enjoys the soothing presence her fish have provided.

"They're very easy to take care of. It's nice whenever you're stressed out with school to look over and kind of secretly envy the fish," Meggs said.

"We decided it would be something almost therapeutic that would also add a little bit of life to our room."

Meggs, like many other fish owners on campus, keeps pets at home and decided to opt for a less care-intensive pet while at UNC. Other than preapproved service animals, fish are the only pets allowed

in residence halls as mandated by UNC housing policies.

Rick Bradley, associate director of housing and residential education, said the policy is based on practicality and an interest in keeping the dorms in suitable living conditions for students who might have health restrictions regarding domestic animals.

"Certainly just maintenance in terms of where animals would go to use the bathroom would be one key element of the rule on a college campus," Bradley said.

"Particularly allergy issues for students that would come behind other students that had pets in the facility would be the biggest challenge."

Though housing does not record any data on the amount of fish on campus, Bradley said the number of aquariums

stored in dorms seems to have decreased over the past couple of decades. With no change in the policy, Bradley could only guess that waning popularity of pet fish was the reason. Still, many continue to find comfort in aquatic friends.

Sophomore Kirsten Sharpe, who is a resident adviser in Hinton James Residence Hall, keeps a rose petal betta fish named Kevin on her dresser in a tank she has dubbed "The Pentagon." She said Kevin frequents the HoJo front desk and often makes trips to the rooms of "aunts" and "uncles" when Sharpe leaves town. Though Kevin might not be able to bark or purr, Sharpe said he is full of personality and life.

"He is super cute and friendly. Every time I come home from class, I'll stop by



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN SHARPE

Kirsten Sharpe, a residential advisor in Hinton James, keeps a rose petal betta fish named Kevin on her dresser in a tank.

and say 'Hi Kevin, how was your day?' And he always swims up next to the glass and flutters his little fins by me," Sharpe said.

"He's very personable;

sometimes he just likes to swim around and do little fish somersaults."

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The new normal: dorm room bland

By Jordan Mareno
Staff Writer

Growing up, the best way to impress our friends was to invite them over and stun them with our fabulous movie-themed bedrooms. My own bedroom, in all of its tiny glory, went through a Blue's Clues stage followed by a Harry Potter stage. And few differences distinguish our rooms in college from our room at home:

1: Items kept in storage

At home, storage space is filled with items that you are embarrassed to have on display: That life-size cardboard cutout of Harry Styles or that framed picture of you and your middle school friends with song quotes pasted over top in neon font.

In college, we store away by the lame Snowpocalypse items: Clothing and extra food. It might be boring and lacking in personality — but only because you're low on space.

2: Wall hangings

The walls of your dorm have nothing on your childhood bedroom's. Those have relics: Layers of paint choices you went through, tick marks tracking your height and an indent from when you squabbled with your siblings.

At school, your walls come stony, cold and lifeless. A blank space.

3: On-shelf display items

Trophies from all of your childhood activities — soccer medals, dance trophies, spelling bee ribbons — sit on display in your room at home, collecting dust. In a dorm room, your shelves have pictures of your family and old friends along with a few books.

Maybe our dorm rooms need a little bit of the life that our prepubescent selves created in our childhood bedrooms. Next time you're home, consider bringing some of those old posters.

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WHAT'S YOUR LIVING STYLE?

Written by Zack Green

Deciding where to live can be a painful process filled with pro/con lists and night terrors. Use our quiz to bypass the anxiety and tedious research, and find out where you truly belong.

1. How do you feel about sharing a bedroom?

- A) I don't mind at all!
- B) They're tolerable but I could live without them.
- C) No thank you.
- D) I don't believe in owning property. As humans, we share everything.

2. How much of a "gym rat" are you?

- A) My friends say I practically live at the gym.
- B) I hit the gym a couple times a week.
- C) I like to make the occasional appearance.
- D) I don't know where a gym is located.

3. Personally, how important is living in a large and connected community?

- A) The resources and

social connection are great!

- B) It can be nice to have sometimes.
- C) Definitely not a top concern for me.
- D) I can connect with whoever I want on the internet.

4. How are your cooking skills?

- A) Does cereal count as a meal?
- B) Eating out and takeout are essential to my survival.
- C) I can cook well enough.
- D) I live off vending machines.

5. What are your punctuality tendencies?

- A) Nothing is worse than being late for something.
- B) I'm usually a little late for things.
- C) Some days I'm early,

others I'm on time and most days I'm late. And I'm OK with that.

- D) Timeliness is next to godliness.

6. Which statement best describes your financial management skills?

- A) I'm aware of how much I spend, but my parents handle most of it.
- B) Due dates and I do not get along very well.
- C) I have my finances together ... I think.
- D) I've never had a late book fee at a library. Ever.

7. Do you like to entertain people?

- A) I'd rather not have a lot of people in my living space.
- B) Hosting the occasional small get-together can be

fun!

- C) I throw the best parties and events.
- D) IMO: Music should only be played through headphones.

8. How do you feel about chores?

- A) I prefer minimal responsibility when it comes to cleaning.
- B) I'll do it, but I'll whine about it for an hour first.
- C) Cleaning can be tedious but also therapeutic.
- D) I refuse to lift a finger.

9. Would you like to have a cat/dog during college?

- A) Nah, I can't make that commitment right now.
- B) I might be interested.
- C) Just filed the adoption papers!
- D) Pets are too loud.

Mostly As: On campus - Convenience is key for a busy body like you. The support and ease of living on campus is your best fit!

Mostly Bs: Apartment - You're independent but like being connected socially. An apartment will cater best to you!

Mostly Cs: House - You're in control and know how to fend for yourself. A personalized home is just what you need!

Mostly Ds: UL - Fun and life outside of school scare you. You'll surely find refuge in the Undergraduate Library.

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Dealing with landlords the right way

By Dottie Blyth
Online Production Assistant

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... Landlords.

They remind you about overdue rent, tell you if a maintenance worker will be in your apartment while you're away and will ask if

you're interested in buying Girl Scout cookies. But who are they really, and why haven't I seen mine since move-in day?

The world may never truly know what they're up to, but in this case, the "no news is good news" mantra applies — the less you see of them, the better.

Here are a few pointers on how to handle these mysterious beings:

Rent

The worst thing you can possibly do to tick off a landlord (and roommates) is to forget to pay rent on time.

You'll learn how to write a check if you haven't already, and while part of you might be sobbing about all the Ms. Mongos you could be buying with rent money another part will make you feel accomplished and responsible. You are an adult; you

are paying bills!

Maintenance issues

Let them know. This includes the toilet that's been having plumbing issues since mid-October. Oops.

Pets

If there's a fee with your furry friend, don't try to bypass it. Your landlord will find out one way or another, and it won't be a fun time for either of you.

Also, if your landlord tells you you're allowed to have

pets, don't impulse buy a hamster. I learned this the hard way, and there's no going back.

Communication

Like with every relationship, communication is the key to success. If they send you periodic emails, at least skim over them. And as always, do not "reply all" to your entire apartment complex.

Your Rights

Sure, you might be living on their property, but you also have rights. Read over your

lease and know them. (And before you sign, consider heading to Carolina Student Legal Services in the Student Union to have someone read over your agreement.)

When living off campus, being on good terms with your landlord should be a priority no matter how frustrating you think they might be. At the end of the day, they are people just like you who just so happens to hold your fate in their hands like a tiny little bird.

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COLUMN

Surviving housing as a transfer

The Ten Commandments of being a transfer student living on campus at UNC

Being a transfer student is weird. At a relatively young age, you are placed in a room with a random stranger, and based on the UNC Housing Portal's super in-depth profile, you're supposed to be best friends.

The profile features personalized questions tailored for you to meet your BFFL, like "How often do you smoke cigarettes?" and "How would you rate your level of cleanliness?"

But don't worry — the person you're going to be matched with has no friends or idea what they're doing either! As a transfer student, I've realized things are inevitably harder and more awkward.

Here are some tips about how to be both a good roommate and a good transfer student.

1. Make sure you apply for on-campus housing by the given deadline.

If you're like me, you'd rather gargle on broken glass before waking up at a single-digit hour, like 9 a.m. But, you'll thank yourself.



Ryan Schocket
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor and transfer student.

arts@dailytarheel.com

2. Be a good roommate.

Don't be that roommate who's always in the room. It's annoying. Don't be that roommate who goes to bed at 8 p.m. Don't be the roommate you would hate to have.

3. Ask your roommate about his or her pet peeves.

This is a perfect segue into talking about yours. Once your roommate finishes talking, you can hit them with a list of things they better not do. That includes leaving your dirty laundry on my bed — shout out to the roommate I had when I was a first-year.

4. ASK. ASK. ASK.

I would rather give you a vital organ than share my last batch of pizza rolls.

Taking food without asking is a mortal sin that many people don't think twice about committing.

If you want something of mine, ask, so I can tell you no.

5. When parents visit, clean up.

Put away the gravity bong you made out of our kitchen garbage can and all other accompanying drug paraphernalia.

6. Don't be a slob.

When ants and centipedes are feeling at home in your dorm or apartment, there is a problem.

7. Don't be an uptight neat freak.

Pick your battles, and learn how to suck it up once in a while.

8. Apply for the RR permit early.

Although the RR lot is located in east bumble, it's nice to be able to have a car on campus.

9. Get involved, and take advantage of everything UNC has to offer.

It's the best way to make friends. I originally thought the second I walked on campus, people would want to be my friend.

They don't. Also, go to basketball games. Go to meetings. Befriend people you normally wouldn't talk to.

10. Don't bring a million strangers into our dorm or apartment.

Whether you're a drug dealer or really promiscuous, try not to make our room the den for all sketchy behavior.

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