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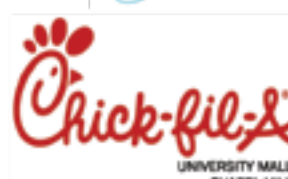
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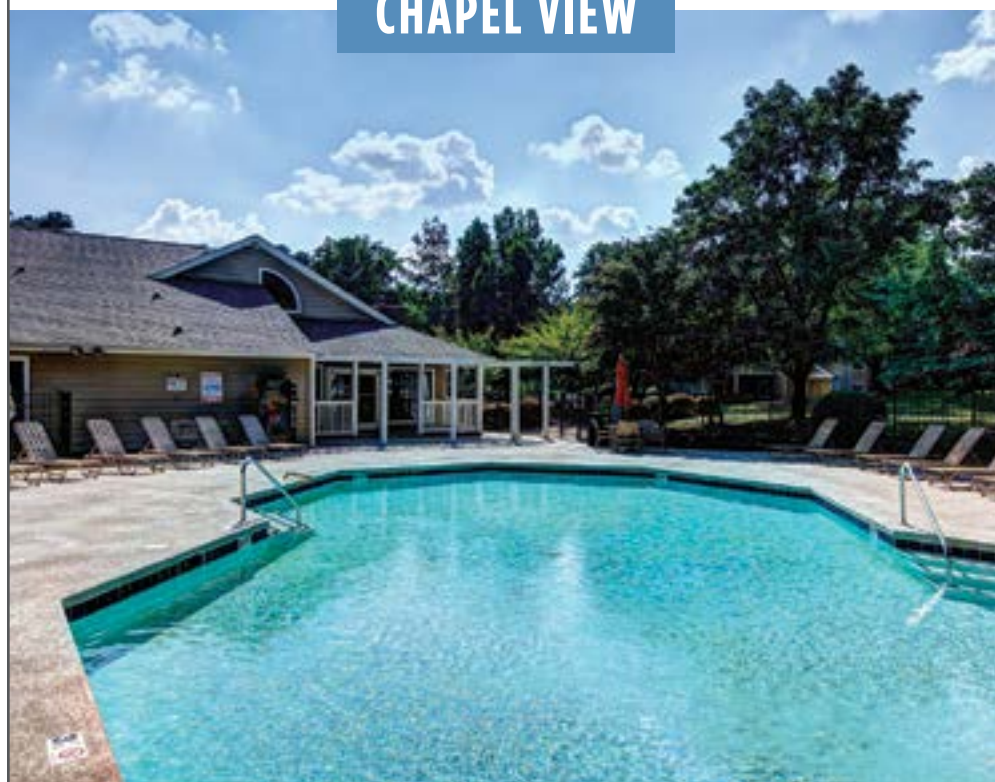
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COLUMN

On versus off campus: Each has its advantages

The choice between on-campus and off-campus living is an issue that every college student must address during their education. The reality is that on-campus living provides many advantages not found in off-campus apartments or houses. Apart from living in close proximity to classes, students living on campus have an easy connection to campus life and the opportunity to live with students from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. The opportunity to interact daily with groups beyond one's immediate social circle is a valuable part of the college experience and is best achieved through on-campus living. Other benefits of residing on campus include the



Mahmoud Saad
Editorial Board Member

lump price. Rather than having to worry about separate bills for water, electricity, cable and Internet, students can pay one fee covering all of these living essentials. Furthermore, on-campus residents are not bound by the terms of yearlong leases, which off-campus students must honor even if they are not in permanent residence. Students who live off campus may advocate the benefits of increased independence

or privacy, but these benefits come at the cost of convenience. An obstacle to living off campus also exists when trying to find suitable means of transportation. Driving to campus requires parking permits, and restrictions on purchasing passes apply to students who live within a two mile radius of campus. While public transportation is an option, off-campus residents may find it difficult to plan around the city's limited bus schedule. These residents are also faced with less convenience when it comes to easy socialization with their peers. On-campus residence is the perfect time for students to branch out and engage with individuals whom they otherwise wouldn't have

the opportunity to meet. It's important that students preserve this for as long as possible because after graduation, independence won't be just an expectation, but a necessity.

Nurturing independence should continue to be a priority for universities, but the process of becoming independent is a gradual one. Whether students follow the path to graduate school, fellow-

ships, or work after graduation, the time spent during undergraduate study should be spent on-campus in order to maximize the college experience.

opinion@dailytarheel.com

COLUMN

Independence is key in housing decisions

The main purpose of going to college is to get an education. But it is also equally important to foster a sense of independence during these formative years. Otherwise, you might find yourself relying on your parents for everything ranging from the mundane electric bill to the creepy nightly bath following graduation. That is why it is so important for students to move off campus in order to foster personal growth. It is true that the convenience of dorms is great. You can go from sleeping in bed to sleeping in class in minutes. And not having to worry about bills is a huge advantage. I can speak from experience that it is not fun having to come up with \$200 at 8

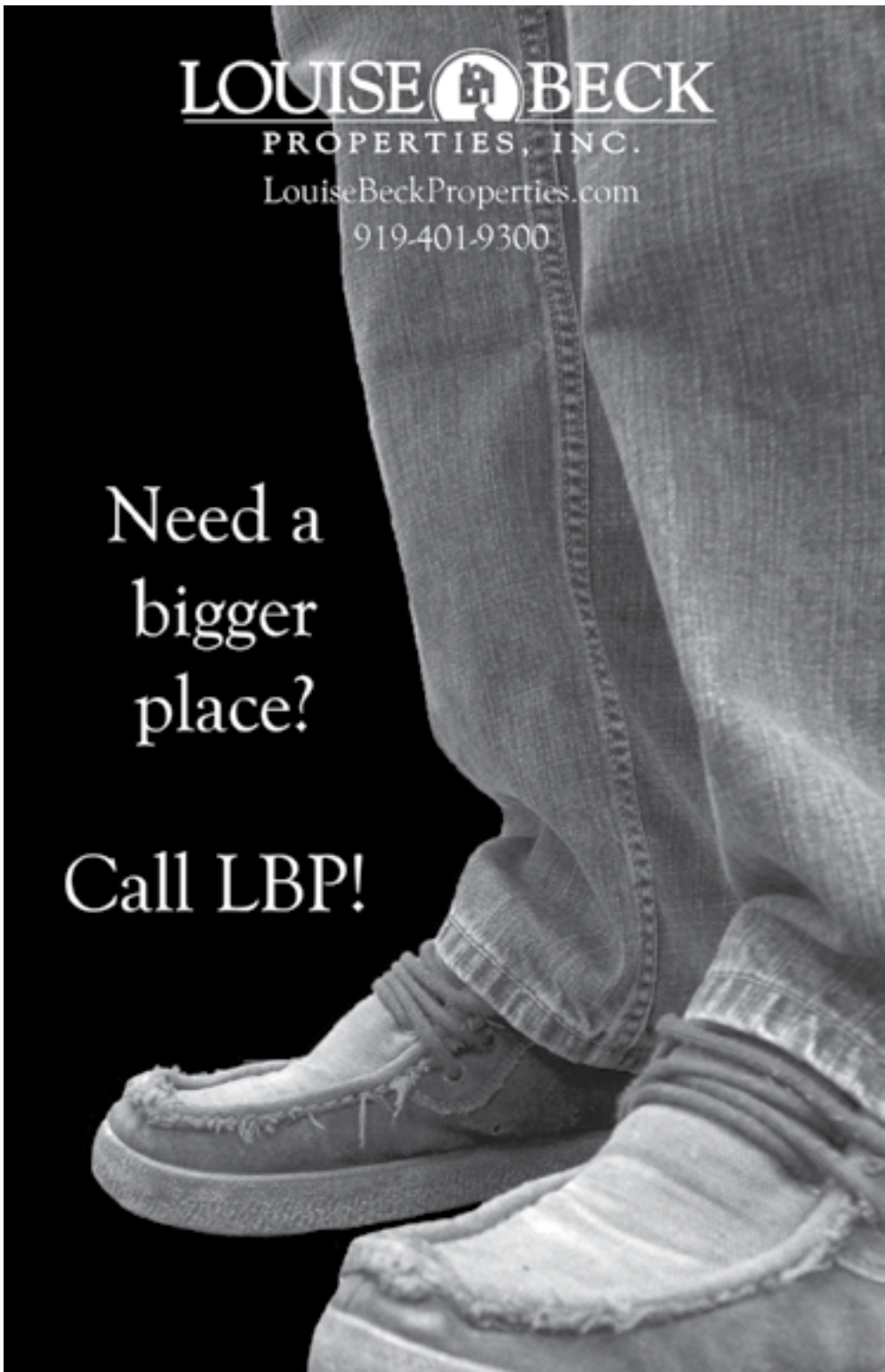


Zach Gaver
Opinion editor

a.m. in order to avoid having your water cut off. But that convenience and ease just isn't how the world outside of college works. There are bills. There are commutes. There are landlords that don't take kindly to holes in the wall. These things are a hassle, but everyone is going to have to deal with them at one time or another, so you might as well start now and learn how to react properly to these unpleasant situations.

And don't get me wrong, living off-campus isn't just boot camp for a life of misery and hardship — there are actually fun parts to it too. The lack of a resident adviser and any restrictions imposed by the Residence Hall Association affords a freedom that is extremely liberating to many people. This freedom is liberating, but also adds a sense of accountability, which ranges from paying your own bills to maintaining neighborly relations. There is an appropriate time to live on campus. However, it's necessary to grow beyond this in order to come out of college ready to deal with the world.

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UNC promotes student wellness

By Carolyn Ebeling
Staff Writer

The close proximity of Campus Health, the Student Recreation Center, Rams Head Recreation Center and multiple dining options makes on-campus residential life ideal for many students.

UNC Housing offers a plethora of services to its residents, including many opportunities for healthy and safe living.

Dr. Mary Covington of Campus Health said dorm life can get very hectic.

"Living in a communal environment can be exciting and stimulating—so much so that students forget they need to nourish and replenish their body's immune system," she said. "They need to get at least seven to eight hours of sleep, eat nourishing and healthy foods and exercise to keep their body strong."

Larry Hicks, director of Housing and Residential Education, said the majority of safety violations reported by on campus have come from residents not locking their doors when they leave the room or when they are sleeping.

"We've never had a residence hall room broken into that was locked," he said.

The University's partnership with Alert Carolina is important to this mission, said Randy Young, public safety's information liaison officer.

"(Alert Carolina) makes the whole campus more conscious of incidents and stirs people to take more precautionary measures," he said.

Young said the University is trying to create an environment in which the reporting of incidents is supported.

"If you see something, say something," he said. "That is going to create a better environment in residence halls, on campus, in the arboretum, etc."

In terms of health, Hicks said the immediacy of recreation centers is a plus.

"There's dozens upon dozens of programs at student rec for

students to join to get healthy and remain healthy," he said.

Covington said Campus Health works hard to give students information about potential health risks.

"We work to identify any communicable disease issues and get information to students that will minimize their chances of getting sick and help them get well faster," she said.

Hicks said the housing department has also found ways to combat the effects of illness in group living situations, particularly during this year's excessively heavy flu season.

"We encourage the flu buddy system where you can go and get food for your roommate if they get the flu," he said. "We can't overstress students getting a flu shot because that is probably the biggest (illness) deterrent that we have."

Sophomore Jessica Zambrano said she makes sure to stay healthy by working out and eating well.

"I go to the gym, and I do not eat a whole cheesecake every day," she said. "I wash my hands, sanitize and take showers."

Hicks said the size of the University community helps students feel like they always have someone in their corner.

"It's definitely a large community, but the fact that we have a lot of people around looking after each other is really helpful."

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The oldest University building marks tradition on campus.

By Keaton Green
Staff Writer

On-campus living is not only about convenience, there's also a distinct historic aspect for those who live in the University's oldest building.

Last year marked the 200th anniversary of laying the Cornerstone of what was then called the East Building by Gov. William Davie on Oct. 12, 1793.

Now, Old East residence hall stands as the oldest public university building in the U.S. It housed the University's first student, Hinton James, when he arrived in 1795.

Most students learn this key piece of history when touring the University, but many don't know the full history of the building.

Old East was originally a two-story structure containing a hallway and two rooms on both sides. It functioned as both the academic building and the residence where professors and students lived.

"It was literally the entire University," said Patrick Horn, Associate Director at the Center for the Study of the American South.

"Kemp Battle's 'History of the University of North Carolina' relates stories about pranks being played on professors in Old East and students using trap doors to pass exam questions to underground 'researchers,'" he said.

"Student writing from the 1840s reveals that Chapel Hill was a pretty lawless place."

It is this history that attracts students to live there today. Old East currently houses 67 students, and has been co-ed since 2000.

Freshman Zac Locklear lived in Old East during the summer of 2013 while participating in the Summer Bridge program. He said he enjoyed the history of the building.

"I liked to think about all the people who lived there before me," he said.

Junior Isaac Warshauer lived in Old East as a sophomore and chose to live in the building again this year.

"I kept thinking I could live in a dorm that people have lived in for 200 years," he said.

Besides the intrigue of the building, which interests history buffs, Warshauer said the biggest benefit of living in Old East is the proximity to classes.

The function and design of Old East have evolved over time, he said.

The third floor of the building was not added until 1823, to mirror Old West, built that same year. In 1848, the buildings received their north wings.

After being condemned as unsafe, the building was gutted and refurbished from 1922-24. Further renovations in the 1990s added conveniences such as elevators and gave the buildings their present appearances.

The new rooms added to both buildings in 1848 served as the libraries and meeting places of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies (Di Phi)—the oldest student



DTH/SYDNEY HANES

Old East is the oldest public university building in the United States.

debate and literary organizations on campus which still meet today.

The Philanthropic Society would meet in Old East and the Dialectic Society would meet in Old West, mimicking the fact that the former tended to select its members from eastern North Carolina and the latter from the west.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies eventually amassed large collections that became the first donations to endow what became the University Library. The library was housed at Old East from 1853-69.

Today, there is a recreation

of the original library in the same spot in Old East, which now functions as a study room and lounge. It was added in the 1990s, Warshauer said.

Warshauer, who is a member of Di Phi, also said that while the interior of the building doesn't resemble what it was 200 years ago, the view from his dormitory window has not changed very much.

"I like to stand and look out the window and I imagine someone looking out the same window 200 years ago," he said. "Sometimes its nice to think about the history."

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UNC housing offers disability services

Handicap-accessible transportation and housing are available.

By Kristen Chung
Staff Writer

For students requiring handicap-accessible services, on-campus housing and transportation has you covered.

Rick Bradley, associate director of the Department of Housing & Residential Education, said the department has accommodated students with a variety of disabilities and medical conditions.

"We have had everything from a student with such a severe peanut allergy that we took a one bedroom apartment used for guest housing and provided that to him ... so

that he could have the safety of preparing his own meals in a kitchen that wasn't contaminated by peanut oils," he said.

Students in need of special accommodations for housing fill out the regular housing application and also submit the chronic or severe medical conditions special accommodations request form found on the housing website.

As part of the request process, students specify the accommodations they require and proof of medical need.

Representatives from the Office of the Dean of Students and Campus Health Services review the applications.

Bradley said while all buildings meet the handicap accessibility standards mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, only certain rooms offer special accommo-

dations. These might include shower stalls that have roll-in access, toilets and sinks with different height levels or visual doorbells.

Junior Meredith Kimple, who uses a wheelchair, lived in Koury Residence Hall during her freshman year.

She said she was given special accommodations like a handicap button to open her door and a large bathroom for her power chair.

Kimple said she lives at home in Durham now.

"I've lived at home for the past two years because it's a lot cheaper," she said, "I haven't really looked into apartments, but I've heard Ram Village might have an accessible room. But as far as on-campus housing, south campus is very accommodating."

Randy Young, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said students with disabilities are eligible to use P2P handicap services after registering with the Disability Service Office.

The P2P handicap service offers five wheelchair-accessible handivans and four minivans that run on-demand 24/7 when dorms are open, Young said.

The service offers on-campus transportation for those affiliated with the University.

Freshman Logan Gin, who uses a wheelchair, said the service is helpful.

"When you call, depending on how busy it is, they will pick you up at one point or another in as much as 15 to 20 minutes. The service itself, you can't really get too much better," he said.

Young said the P2P offers 800 to 1500 disability transports in a given year.

"What we do is try to maintain access. If that's something we can offer in transportation, that's what we do," he said.

Bradley said he encourages students who might need special accommodations to apply early for housing.

He said while a shortage of accessible rooms is rare, a student who identifies a disability late in the process is less likely to have a space if disability need is high.

"I think our university is becoming known certainly in the southeast as a university that does a very good job of addressing accessibility issues for housing and the campus in general, that we're seeing more students with higher and higher lev-

els of disabilities," he said.

In order to accommodate more students, Bradley said the housing department has converted former resident adviser rooms into accessible space and is planning to include more accessible rooms in the new residence hall off Ridge Road.

Tiffany Bailey, director of the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service, said she helps students with disabilities get the resources they need.

"The myth is that people feel like whatever disability or medical condition that they might have might not qualify them for services through our office, and we look at disability and medical very broadly," she said. "I would encourage folks to contact us."

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Housing fair showcases on, off-campus living

By Mia Madduri
Staff Writer

The Daily Tar Heel will host a housing fair for the 2014-15 school year Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The fair will include 40 participating vendors who will provide information on housing opportunities for both on- and off-campus locations.

Participants range from housing developments like Glen Lennox Apartments and Bridges at Chapel Hill,

to real estate firms like Louise Beck Properties and community representatives like the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement.

“It’s a selection of all the places being represented for campus housing. From the biggest nearby complexes to smaller landlords, this is a good chance to explore these options,” said Kelly Wolff, general manager of The DTH.

Wolff said The DTH created a housing fair because

there was not an organized one previously on campus.

Students can compare different options, ask questions one-on-one with a representative, and three winners will be chosen to select housing for next year before the housing selection

process opens to the rest of campus, Wolff said.

“The housing fair is good way for students to get the picture of Carrboro and Chapel Hill and what’s available to them,” said Lauren Hill, spokeswoman for Bridges at Chapel Hill. “This

way, they can narrow down their decision before they see our apartments.”

“I think this fair is important because throughout the year, you don’t actually visit those dorms because you feel invasive,” freshman Felicia Branch said. “But when

there’s a time for you to go, you can go meet new people.”

“There are a lot of things you don’t realize about dorms and housing until you go to the fair. It’s really useful,” freshman Sri Sure said.

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Representatives at the Housing Fair

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DTH FILE PHOTO
Students check out a booth at The Daily Tar Heel Housing Fair in 2011. This year’s fair will begin at 10 a.m. on Feb. 5.

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Students consider cost of living on, off campus

Chapel Hill and UNC offer housing options for any budget.

By Madison Flager
Staff Writer

College students are always on budgets, and when planning for the next academic year, the finances for selecting the best housing option are important factors to consider.

Living in a residence hall costs between \$5,928 and \$7,026, based on a variety of factors. And students who want more privacy and space may want to consider apartment options both on and off campus.

On-campus apartments offer the perks of extra space without students having to worry about utilities or other additional expenses, according to the Department of Housing and Residential Education's website.

Ram and Odum Village, on-campus apartments located on south campus, run from \$6,335 per academic year — for a private bedroom in a two bedroom, one bathroom apartment — to \$8,228 a year for a one-bedroom private apartment.

Rent runs for the duration of the academic year, meaning those who don't plan on living in Chapel Hill during the summer do not need to sublease their on-campus apartments.

Most off-campus complexes only offer 12-month leases.

Carolina Student Legal Services advises all students considering off-campus housing to consult with its attorneys about the terms and agreements in housing contracts.

"To understand the full nature, we encourage kids to come to us before they sign a lease," said Dave Crescenzo, an attorney for Carolina Student Legal Services. "We can go over the terms at any point in the process, but preferably before they sign anything."

"Odum is a nice in-between

to get out of the dorms before you move off-off campus," said Rachel Wolf, a junior who lives in Odum Village this year. Wolf said she plans to relocate off campus during the 2014-15 school year.

She said the ability to use scholarships and financial aid money for on-campus housing is convenient, though she added students who live off campus can also potentially receive refund checks for financial aid which would have gone towards on-campus housing.

The expense of off-campus complexes varies widely, with location being the primary cost factor.

Rent at Stratford Hills, located on Bolinwood Drive — about 1.4 miles from campus — ranges from \$720 to \$1,320 a month depending on the floor plan.

At Chapel Ridge, located about 2.5 miles from Franklin Street, rent for a four bedroom, four bathroom apartment is \$579 a month.

Other factors to keep in mind when considering whether to live off campus are the cost of utilities, food and parking.

Some apartments include utilities, while others will cost extra each month.

Chapel View's monthly rent includes water, cable TV, internet, sewer and trash; Chapel Ridge includes cable, Internet, trash and water.

Kathryn Auten, a junior who lives in Warehouse Apartments, said her rent includes utilities up to a certain point.

"We've had overage charges every month since I've been there, since August," Auten said. "Usually it's only around \$2, which isn't that annoying, but it's been up to \$13, which is absurd."

"It's just another extra cost to think about," she said.

Raven Moore, spokeswoman for Warehouse Apartments, said there is a \$25 cap on electricity charges, and if residents go over the cap the cost is split evenly among residents.

Parking is also a factor to consider at many apartment complexes. Auten said the cost for a parking space at Warehouse is between \$60 and \$100 each month.

The official rate for Warehouse is between \$55 and \$95 depending on if students

want a covered or uncovered parking deck spot, Moore said.

She said Warehouse finds its rates comparable to those in the area and that when they run special deals, they try to make them as competitive as possible with other complexes.

Block meal plans are avail-

able for off-campus students, but with private kitchens and a further walk to on-campus dining halls, groceries are another cost to keep in mind.

Wolf said she finds eating without a meal plan to be less expensive.

"I had a commuter meal

plan last semester and ended up not using it enough," she said. "It's pretty expensive compared to cooking for yourself or even just eating out. Especially at peak hours in Lenoir, it's not worth it."

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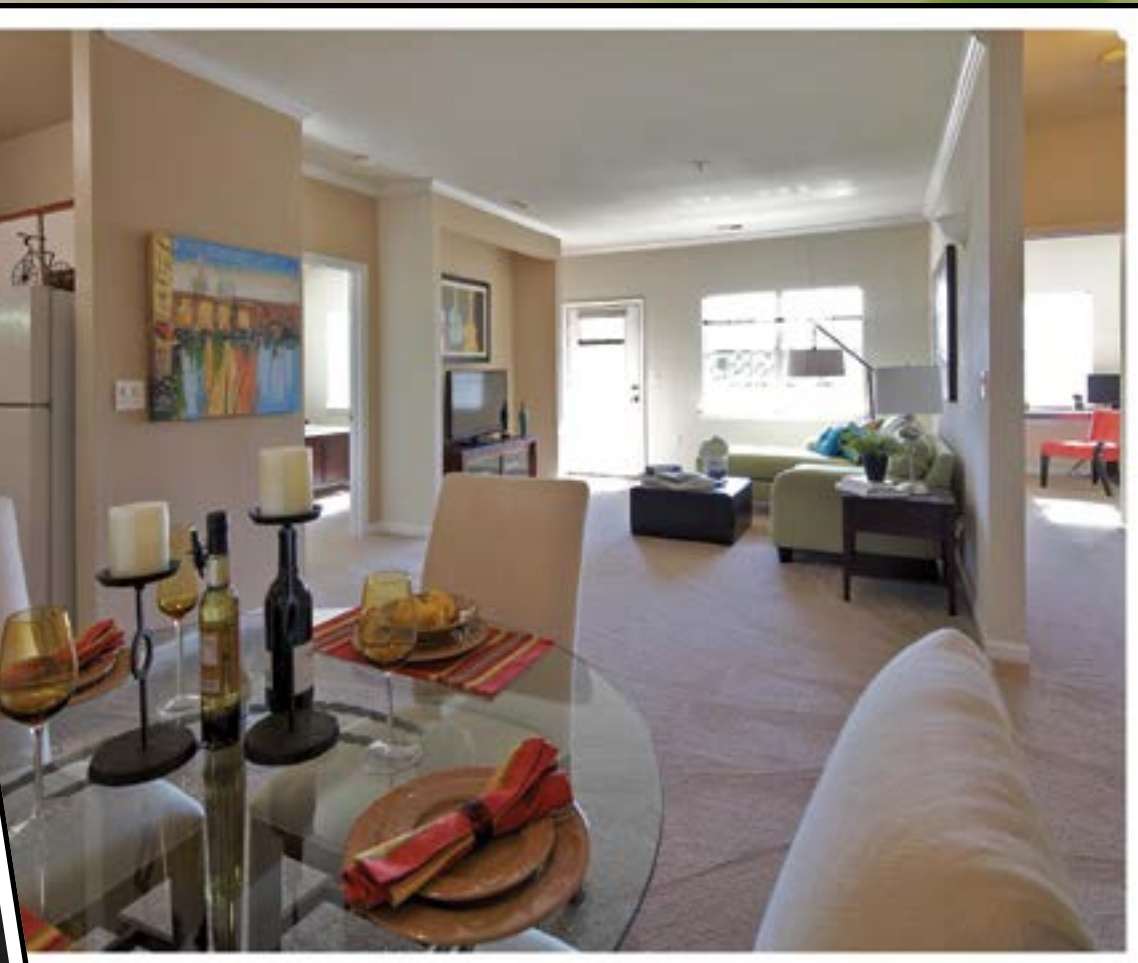
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housing.unc.edu/housingselection

COLUMN

What makes for a good roommate?

The short answer: It depends. But otherwise there’s a lot of ground to cover.

Roommates should either be just like you or totally the opposite, as it needs to be clear where they’ll fit in your life (also in your nap, shower and angry ranting schedule). If they’re you, you’ll get along great. You’ll pick up each other’s mannerisms (like thumb-twiddling or laugh-suffocating), your cycles will sync (you’ll need two toilets) and your lives will merge into one undifferentiated mass.

But if you have too much in common it’ll be obnoxious, not just for the obvious reasons, but also because you’ll have doubles of every new Killers album (and if you’re me, you don’t need to be reminded that they’re way past their prime).

Also it’ll piss you off and ruin your life forever when you find the one thing you differ on so radically (for me it’s usually drone warfare, photojournalism or cashews).

You avoid that inevitability if you pick someone entirely different, but this can go wrong, too. It helps to have at least enough in common to fill one good lunch with conversation every couple of months on a random hungover Saturday of your choice.

Without any common ground, your relationship will be stuck at “friends-by-association” The association here being that you sleep within at most 20 feet of each other and thus are exceedingly vulnerable to sneak attack.

Not being close is easy because your lives are separate, like aloof and uncom-

**Michael Dickson**

Cries from the Peanut Gallery

municative parallel lines. But one of you is going to be hilariously useless if you ever find the other crying on the kitchen floor some afternoon.

You might not think it’ll ever happen to you, but you’re probably delusional, which, incidentally, is another common type of stress-burnout — we don’t all break down the same way, but boy do we break down. I’m a reclusive, break-off-from-reality-and-paint-inkblots type, but I think crying would be healthier.

Anyway, it helps if your roommate knows you well enough to at least know whom to call for you during the periodic meltdowns in the productive but poorly designed nuclear reactors of your life.

So a balance between the two extremes is probably for the best! Also, trying to decide and preemptively control the place your roommate is going to occupy in your life is futile and misguided, and it’s not going to work.

What you need to do is sit down and compare notes. Talk about what you want in the college experience and your roommate relationship, and see if you’re compatible — communicate!

But that’s awkward, so never mind. Screw it — just pick somebody, and run with it.

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IMPORTANT HOUSING REGISTRATION DEADLINES

The Department of Housing and Residential Education has released these key dates for the housing registration process for the 2014-15 school year.

- The application or returning students is due Feb. 13 by noon.
- To apply for a Living-Learning Community, first submit a housing Contract/Application.
- To continue to the Living-Learning Community application, click on the "LLC/SIH" tab within the housing application. The deadline for the LLC application is March 7.
- Apartment Selection/Super Suite Dates: Keep same apartment or super suite: Feb. 18

Move to another apartment or super suite – Feb. 19
Pick an apartment or super suite – Feb. 20

- Residence Hall Selection Dates

Keep same room – Feb. 21
Keep same suite and pull in suitemates – Feb. 24
Move within your building – Feb. 25
Select a space in the Cobb Honors Hall (Honors students only) - Feb. 26
Current Seniors, Juniors – Pick on Feb. 27
Sophomores – Pick on Feb. 28
Current first-years – Lottery on March 3 and 4
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Visit: housing.unc.edu for more information.

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