

Housing Guide

A PUBLICATION OF THE DAILY TAR HEEL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013



CHAPEL
VIEW

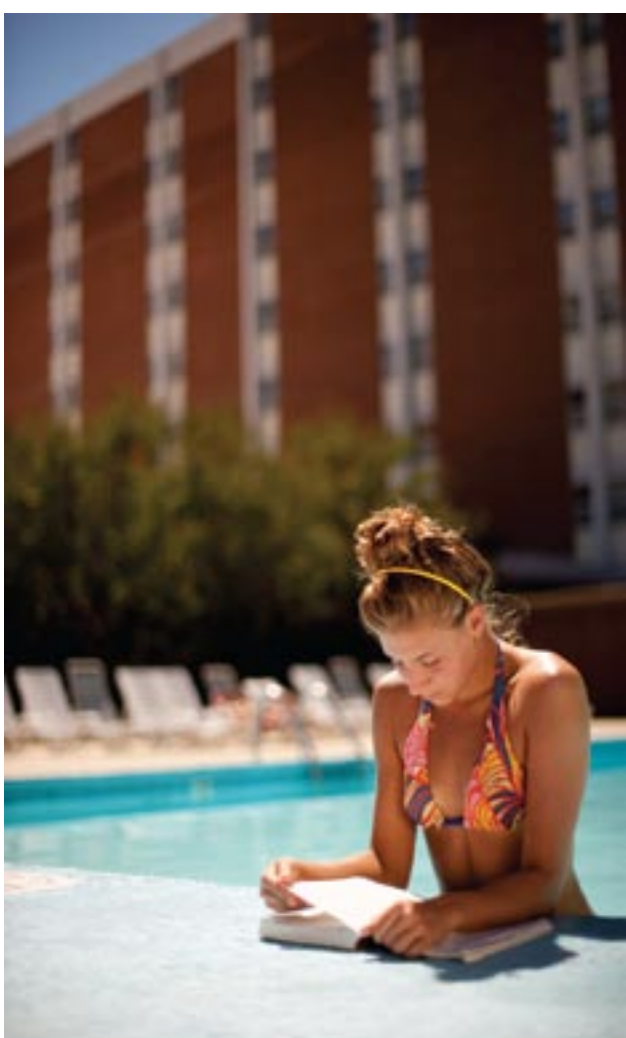


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Granville Towers ~ p14

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DTH hosts housing fair

By Jackson Knapp
Staff Writer

Deciding where to live can be an overwhelming process, and The Daily Tar Heel's housing fair can help students get started on their search. The fair brings together representatives from more than 40 housing complexes, including apartments, dorms and rented houses, said Kevin Schwartz, general manager of the DTH.

"The housing fair is the largest gathering of housing vendors in one place in the area," he said.

Students can ask the vendors about their facilities and prices and can even sign a lease at the event, Schwartz said.

The fair is free to students and also offers free food, including Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Chick-fil-A.

The winners of the DTH Cribs Photo Contest will also be announced and could win the first pick in UNC's fall housing lottery or a \$150 Whole Foods gift card.

More than 1,900 students attended last year, Schwartz said.

"There's going to be a ton of free food and prizes, and just about anywhere you want to live next year is going to be there, all in one room," he said.

"You can do all your pre-shopping and pre-screening right there and effectively narrow down the complexes

or houses you actually want to visit. It's a great time saver."

Erin Angel, director of sales and marketing at Granville Towers, said the fair helps her reach out to students who wouldn't otherwise come to visit.

"We can, in a way, bring Granville to those students," she said.

Sophomore Steven Walter said that he is looking forward to the fair.

"I haven't sat down to look at all of my options yet, so it'd be nice to, not only have them all in one place, but be able to get all the information I need at once," he said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

GROUPS ATTENDING

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- Shadowood
- Louise Beck
- Autumn Woods
- Bell Properties
- Berkeley at Southpoint
- Collins Crossing
- Glen Lennox
- Chapel Ridge-View
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- Park at Chapel Hill
- Sagebrook
- Timberlyne Village Apartments
- Hawthorne at the View
- University Apartments
- Sunstone Apartments
- UNC Department of Housing & Residential Ed.
- Granville Towers
- Stratford Hills
- Timber Hollow Apartments
- Cool Blue Rentals

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How to use the search options on HeelsHousing.com

The Heels Housing website allows users to narrow down their housing search according to the neighborhood or apartment's distance from the Pit, cost per rental unit per month (excluding utilities) and number of bedrooms.

The Daily Tar Heel

Heels Housing

Roommate Board

Housing News from the DTH

UNC Housing & Residential Ed

Exploring the Neighborhood

See All Listings

DISTANCE from the PIT

per rental unit PER MONTH

number of BEDROOMS

SEARCH

advanced options

Distance from the Pit:

Select a distance from the Pit, anywhere from 0.25 miles to 10 miles. The Pit is a central location on campus and a good indicator for about how far your apartment is from campus life.

Per rental unit per month:

Choose the amount you will pay for the entire apartment unit. So whether it's a one-bedroom or four-bedroom, this is the total cost of the unit, excluding utilities, Internet and any other services not included with the apartment.

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Safety first when living off campus

Officials stress safety for students living in off-campus housing.

By Rachel Butt
Staff Writer

Students living around town should make sure to lock their doors and hide their valuables — theft is the most common crime in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

At the major apartment complexes, there were 160 cases of larceny in Chapel Hill last year and 95 in Carrboro.

“Keep your valuables with you and always lock the door,” said Josh Mecimore,

public information sergeant for the Chapel Hill Police Department.

“If you’re putting it out there, you’re basically advertising them for stealing.”

In Chapel Hill, larceny in the major apartment complexes increased by 25 percent since 2011.

Chapel Ridge, Finley Forest Condos and PineGate were the most targeted areas.

Last year in Carrboro, larceny dropped by about 22 percent.

Collins Crossing Apartments accounted for about 26 percent of these cases.

Along with larceny, there are also many cases of automobile theft at apartment

complexes: 25 in Chapel Hill last year and 22 in Carrboro.

University officials suggested that students research the safety of their potential off-campus housing options.

“Talk to current residents or people who are running management properties,” said Randy Young, spokesman for the UNC Department of Public Safety. “Take precautions.”

UNC also educates students on how to stay safe with Good Neighbor Initiative, which is run through the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement.

Director Aaron Bachenheimer said that students should use common sense when approaching

CRIME MAP

Go to dailytarheel.com for a map of incidents reported in Chapel Hill, Carrboro and on campus.

Link: <http://bit.ly/SnYx58>

safety.

“Chapel Hill is not a bubble, it’s the real world,” he said.

“Common sense safety precautions will make you far less likely to become a victim,” he added.

Wendy Bateman, a graduate student who moved to Durham apartment when she was a junior, said that safety and proximity to campus were her top priorities.

She suggested that people walk in well-lit areas with a partner at night and use a Safe Ride bus route.

“A lot of people just end up by themselves,” she said.

Students should also stay safe by following town ordinances, said Megan Wooley, housing and neighborhood services planner for Chapel Hill.

Some students break the law through exceeding the

SAFETY TIPS

- Research the crime statistics of potential apartment or housing complexes before moving in.
- Know your neighbors, so that your neighbors can look out for you and your property.
- Always lock your door and shut your windows; don’t assume that your roommates will do it.
- Do not walk alone at night— walk in pairs.
- Keep your apartment well lit, and do not leave any valuables outside.

OFF-CAMPUS BUS ROUTES NEAR SELECTED APARTMENTS

Chapel View
2701 Homestead Road

Chapel Ridge
101 Legacy Terrace

- A
- Safe Ride T

Mill House
1720 East Franklin St.

- CL
- D
- DX

Notting Hill Apartments
100 Drew Hill Lane

- D
- DX

Townhouse Apartments
425 Hillsborough St.

- A
- HS
- Safe Ride T

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Leasing advice available to students

UNC offers resources for students living off campus.

By Lynsay Williams
Staff Writer

Students living off campus don't have to face their problems alone.

Two UNC departments and the town of Chapel Hill provide a variety of resources, ranging from help with neighbors to advice on leases.

Off-Campus Student Services

After redefining part of

its mission two years ago, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement is now a resource for all students living off campus.

Director Aaron Bachenheimer said the office fields questions, gives advice and refers students to other groups that can help with specific problems.

"We do a lot of resource directing for student questions," he said.

Residents living in the community can even approach the office about issues with student neighbors.

The office then works with the Chapel Hill Police Department to visit the stu-

"Our office is an intermediary between (students and neighbors)."

Aaron Bachenheimer,
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

dents and to discuss being a good neighbor.

"Our office is an intermediary between those two people," Bachenheimer said.

He also said it is important for students to build relationships with their neighbors.

"There's just such a benefit to not only living in a home, but also living in a community and a neighborhood,"

Bachenheimer said.

The office also helps educate students who are thinking of moving off campus.

"Do your homework, so you can make an informed decision about living off campus."

Student Legal Services

If students have an issue with a landlord or lease, they can come to Carolina Student Legal Services for advice.

The department is funded by student fees and is otherwise free for students needing to consult with a lawyer.

"Our primary involvement is landlord-tenant, so we're happy to read leases or represent students in landlord-

OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Off-Campus Student Services

Location: 2100 Granville Towers South

Contact: 919-962-8298
greeks@unc.edu

Carolina Student Legal Services

Location: Student Union, Suite 3512

Contact: (919) 962-1303
cls@unc.edu

Tar Heel Citizen Times

To be added to the mailing list, email goodneighbor@townofchapelhill.org or call 919-968-2728.

tenant disputes," said Dorothy Bernholz, director of student legal services.

She said students should inspect their apartment before moving in, be aware of their legal rights as a tenant and give written notice to their landlord every time they have a problem.

"We're happy to give preventive legal advice if they have any questions," Bernholz said.

Tar Heel Citizen Times

The town sends out a newsletter each month while

school is in session to students living off campus.

The newsletter, called the Tar Heel Citizen Times, provides students with tips on how to live in the community.

"It has helpful information about university and town regulations and job and volunteer opportunities," said Megan Wooley, housing and neighborhood services planner II for the town.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

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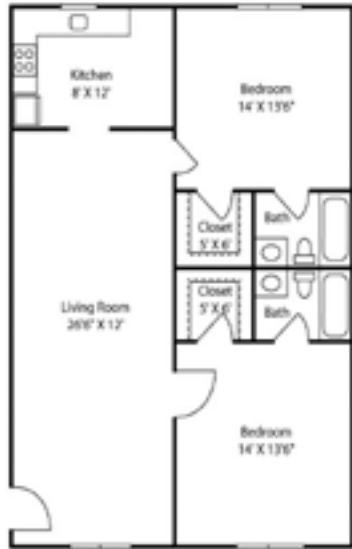
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Like a good neighbor, UNC is there

The University takes initiatives to improve town-gown relations.

By Resita Cox
Staff Writer

Noisy, a bit messy and scattered all over Chapel Hill, students living off campus not only have to learn how to be good neighbors, but also how to beat the stereotypes.

The Good Neighbor Initiative has been working for almost a decade to solve these problems by improving relations between student residents and their community neighbors.

"We work on connecting the community and the students so that they can live harmoniously among each other," said Aaron Bachenheimer, director of the Office of Fraternity and

Sorority Life and Community Involvement, which leads the initiative.

Students can get involved and participate in events that bring together the community.

Programs focus on the areas that are immediately adjacent to campus, Bachenheimer said.

"We go door to door the day before classes start and we literally knock on about 1,000 doors to talk about local laws and expectations, as well as noise and trash," he said.

Events include an annual neighborhood walk and a block party.

The block party usually has about 60 volunteers and about 400 attendees, Bachenheimer said, describing it as a celebration of living together.

The Good Neighbor Initiative grew out of

the Chapel Hill Police Department, he said.

After receiving complaints from the same housing complexes year after year, police officers decided to be proactive and discuss issues with students living off campus before the problems occurred, Bachenheimer said.

"Over time, the University got involved and the community got involved," he said.

Bachenheimer said many student organizations participate, such as the Carolina Union Activities Board and groups in the Greek community.

He said the initiative is trying to create more opportunities for students to interact with their community neighbors.

"We are working on developing a week of service projects with many of our same community partners that

"We go door to door the day before classes start, and we literally knock on about 1,000 doors..."

Aaron Bachenheimer, director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

would bring together student and non-student residents in the Northside Neighborhood," Bachenheimer said.

The Good Neighbor Initiative also works closely with student government.

"We work to be the student voice of the town," said Natalie Meyer, chairwoman of the town and external relations committee.

"We have been involved for a number of years, trying to get student volunteers to come out for the neighborhood walk-around."

The Town of Chapel Hill also participates in the project and helps connect community members and student groups.

"We have a lot of community partners that all have a similar mission," said Megan Wooley, housing and neighborhood services planner.

"I think it is a really great partnership between the University and the town," she said.

"It shows that we can really come and work together."

Wooley said the program also focuses on teaching students how to act as adults.

"We just really want to help students understand their responsibilities," she said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Neighborhood Walk

Time: The day before classes start

Location: Neighborhoods including Northside, Pine Knolls and the North Columbia Street area

Block Party

Time: Mid-September

Location: Hargraves Center in Northside neighborhood

GOOD NEIGHBOR TIPS

● Introduce yourself to your neighbors and participate in community events.

● Be aware of possible noise and trash violations when hosting a party.

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Convenient cooking: ‘You press one button’

By Randy Short
Staff Writer

After a day of handling classes, extracurriculars and homework, students can be befuddled by the simplest of tasks: boiling water. For students who find themselves off the meal plan and cooking on their own for the first time, the task of preparing healthy, affordable meals can seem foreboding. But armed with just a few utensils, anyone can whip up simple meals that fit into the college schedule and budget.

“If you have a skillet, a pot to boil, a good knife and a cutting board, that’s all you need,” said Dorette Snover, an owner and chef at the C’est si Bon Cooking School in Chapel Hill. The convenience and versatility of rice cookers and blenders should make them

staples for college students, said Whitney Dane, the teacher at Kid’s Kitchen, which is part of the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department.

“You press one button, and it cooks it all for you,” Dane said.

Dane also said rice cookers can be used to roast meat and heat soup, while smoothies loaded with fruits and vegetables are a cheap, filling and quick meal.

Snover suggested cooking foods that keep well over time and can be stored, like brown rice and pastas.

“Onions are forgiving, and soup is always easy to cook,” Snover added.

When cooking on a tight schedule, preparing filling meals in bulk can stretch one meal into several, Dane said.

To keep cooking costs under a budget, Snover suggested buying seasonal vegetables at the local farmers’ markets.

Both Carrboro and Chapel Hill hold farmers’ markets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Carrboro’s market is located at the Town Commons, and Chapel Hill’s is behind University Mall.

Limiting the number of meals with meat can help lower the cost of cooking as well, Dane said.

A meal of roasted vegetables is cheaper and also much healthier than a bag of chips, said Marilyn Markel, a chef at Southern Season.

Cutting coupons and avoiding brand names is a good way of eating at a lower cost, said sophomore Maggie Schneider, a residential advisor at Hinton James Residence Hall.

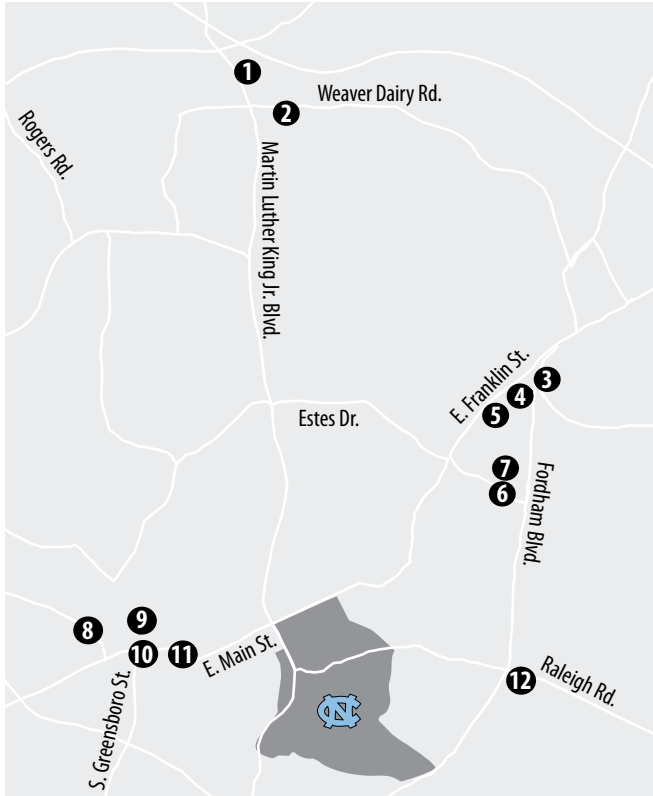
For those who want to learn to cook, Dane said there are many step-by-step tutorials online.

For a more formal introduction, there are many cooking classes in the area, with offerings from basic knife skills to crepe recipes.

Southern Season offers classes throughout the week, ranging from about \$20 to \$50 per class.

Grocery stores and markets near campus

Looking for food? Living off campus means students have to cook for themselves, sometimes for the first time. Here are some food stores around town.



1 Harris Teeter	7 Harris Teeter
2 Food Lion	8 Carrboro Farmers' Market
3 Food Lion	9 Harris Teeter
4 Trader Joe's	10 Weaver Street Market
5 Whole Foods	11 Don Jose
6 A Southern Season	12 The Fresh Market

SOURCE: STAFF REPORTS

DTH/MATT EVANGELISTO

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COOKING TIPS — CHEAP AND CONVENIENT

- Use rice cookers for easy-to-make meals; just add meat and vegetables and let the food cook throughout the day.
- Cook in bulk to stretch one meal over many days.
- Use a blender to make smoothies, which are an easy way to get fruits and vegetables.
- Buy food at the farmers’ market for cheaper produce.
- Cook with filling foods, like pasta, rice and beans.
- Cook foods you enjoy eating, not just food that is cheap.

Other groups in the community also offer cooking classes, such as the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department and C’est si Bon. Regardless of how a student learns to cook, Markel stressed that a beginner should be patient and cook foods that they like.

“Be adventurous and don’t get discouraged if something doesn’t turn out,” she said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

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Don't be couched by expensive sofas

Affordable furniture options are available from many mediums.

By Marisa DiNovis
Staff Writer

When sophomore Ailsa Pearl Bennett moved off campus at the start of the semester, she wasn't satisfied with the furniture she found on Craigslist.

After checking multiple thrift stores, Bennett said she still couldn't find anything she liked.

Many students struggle to find affordable furniture for their apartments, but there are solutions all around town.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Bennett found her solution at the ReStore.

The ReStore sells new and used furniture and appliances. The proceeds help fund building projects for Habitat for Humanity.

"They had a really good selection of couches, tables and other furniture," Bennett said.

UNC Surplus Property Retail Store

When UNC departments and residence halls no longer want furniture or other equipment, including office supplies and electronics, they send the pieces to UNC Surplus.

"Students should come by to see what the retail store has to offer," said Josh Kastrinsky, a communications specialist for the finance division.

"The inventory changes daily, so it's always good to check back if you can't find what you're looking for on a given day."

Kastrinsky said chairs are almost always in stock, and desks, tables and filing cabinets are usually available.

Dressers often end up at the store after residence halls are renovated and typically cost between \$10 and \$15, he said. Bed frames are also sold.

Price is determined based on the condition and size of the piece of furniture.

Kastrinsky said the store only accepts cash, and customers are responsible for transporting purchases.

PTA Thrift Shop

The PTA Thrift Shop is a nonprofit retail business that

STORE LOCATIONS

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore: 5501 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham (919) 403-8668

UNC Surplus: Off South Estes Drive in Chapel Hill, near Horace Williams airport
Open Tuesday and Friday
919-962-2134

PTA Thrift Shop: 103 South Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill (919) 942-6101

U-Haul: 1707 Eubanks Rd, Chapel Hill (919) 918-2838

gives earnings to the Parent Teacher Associations in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

"It's most popular as students are leaving school and as they're coming back into town," said Barbara Jessie-Black, executive director of the store.

She said the shop's selection

depends on donations, but it often includes bedroom and living room furniture.

The store offers a delivery service for large items and has a 24-hour holding policy for purchased items, she said.

Freecycle

The Freecycle Network is a nonprofit organization where people both give away and claim items for free in effort to keep goods out of landfills.

Membership is free, and the organization has more than 9 million members worldwide.

Users post online the goods they are willing to give away, and people can browse these posts and claim the items. Users can also make requests for specific items.

McKenzie Burris, a moderator of Freecycle for Orange County, said the site has some student traffic, but estimated it to be less than 10 percent.

"I think Freecycle is a fantastic option for students who are willing to be open and flexible," Burris said in an email.

Burris said futons and



DTH/CRISTINA BARLETTA

The PTA Thrift Shop sells affordable furniture. Earnings are donated to Parent Teacher Associations in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

couches are common furniture offerings.

"It's also a good place to just browse the daily offer posts," Burris said. "Mini-fridges, bikes, exercise equipment and televisions are common items offered."

To pick up an item, the arrangements are made directly between the person giving away the item and the

person taking it.

"Not everything may be in perfect condition, nor a specific style you're looking to cultivate," Burris said.

"It kind of forces you to be creative and work with what you have, especially when you have a minuscule budget."

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

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UNC has sublease, roommate finders

By Lauren Gil
Staff Writer

As students move off campus, many take on a yearlong lease, even though they won't be in the area all year long. But there is a way to avoid paying rent during the summer or while studying abroad: subletting.

Subletting is when a tenant finds someone to take over their lease for a period of time to pay for rent and utilities. There are many ways for students to find a subletter, ranging from placing flyers all over campus to using online sites such as Craigslist, Uloop or the HeelsHousing roommate board.

Though subletting might seem like the perfect solution, students should know that subletting doesn't necessarily mean they aren't responsible for the apartment.

Subletting is usually not legally binding, said Dorothy Bernholz, director of Carolina Student Legal Services. Even if the subletter signs a contract, that doesn't always release the original tenant from responsibility for damages or rent, she said. "It's just as if (the new tenant) stayed there with written permission," she said. But some landlords allow separate subletting contracts that are legally binding, like StoneCrop Apartments and University Apartments. "We do it that way because it's easier for everyone," Jason O'Quinn, property manager of University Apartments. "The person who has moved out is free of burden, the new tenant doesn't have to worry about sending money to the old person, and we can deal with people who are living here rather

than trying to track down the original tenant," he said. Bernholz suggested that students take pictures of rooms before leaving to hold the subletter accountable. "There may be problems with your co-tenants, especially if you rent to Sam the ex-con," she said. Bernholz said that not all landlords allow subletting and that students should check their leases to make sure that subletting is allowed. Elise Hopkins is a sophomore who plans on subletting her room in a house off Franklin Street during the summer. "As long as you work things out with your roommates and plan ahead, living off-campus will be much easier and worth it," she said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Renters insurance protects property

UNC encourages off-campus students to purchase insurance.

By Ellen Black
Staff Writer

Renters insurance pays for lost property in the event of damage or theft. Most renters insurance policies last for one year and require only one payment, typically around \$100. Dorothy Bernholz, director of UNC Student Legal Services, recommended that students living off campus purchase renters insurance. "As a general rule, if you aren't covered by your parents' insurance, it's a good idea to get renters insurance," she said. Bernholz added that most undergraduates are covered by their family's insurance

policy. "There are lots of break-ins in Chapel Hill, and there would be nobody to pay for lost property if you don't have renters insurance," she added. Bernholz said many landlords even require residents to purchase the insurance. In some cases, she said, if students do not get their own renters insurance, the landlord might take out a "forced-placed" policy for just their own property, not the tenant's and add the cost to the rent. Bernholz said that tenants do not have to use the insurance provided by their landlord. "You have a right to get your own renters insurance," she said. Bernholz advised students to seek legal advice if a landlord tries to force a tenant to buy renters insurance. "It's a very serious legal issue," she said. Gina Turner, manager of Townhouse Apartments, said she does not require renters insurance but strongly recommends it. Turner said students can generally get a renters insurance plan through their car insurance provider at a discounted rate. Parents can also extend their homeowners insurance to cover a renter policy, Turner said. "Depending on coverage, it's fairly inexpensive," she added. University Apartments does not require renters insurance either. "We're not going to force people to get it," said Jason O'Quinn, property manager of University Apartments. "When they sign their lease, they understand that they are waiving our responsibility to their personal property." Bernholz said insurance companies can refuse insurance to someone with bad credit. Companies can also charge more for people living in a high crime neighborhood, she said. Bernholz said students who don't buy renters insurance are taking a gamble. "It all depends on your risk," she said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



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UNC tries to control housing rate increases

UNC continues to focus on keeping housing costs low.

By Kristen Skill
Staff Writer

As the cost of living continues to grow, UNC is trying to keep dorm rates from increasing at no more than three percent a year. For a student living in a dorm with one roommate, the cost is \$2,815 per semester. Next year, the same will cost \$2,878, a two percent increase. Rick Bradley, assistant director for the Department of Housing and Residential Education, said that the price goes up because costs are increasing. "Utilities go up every year, we have more renovation and construction, material, labor," he said. "All those things rise and the cost is passed on to the students who are paying that rent." Bradley said the housing department receives no state funding and relies on student's payments. Though the costs are higher, Bradley said that there is high demand for apartments and single rooms on North Campus. "Apartment-style housing typically costs more because there is more square footage with that space and the cost of the project is so much more than the cost of building a residence hall," Bradley said. "For example, building Ram Village cost \$90 million, so we're paying off the debt

PRICES BY SEMESTER

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double, dorm room

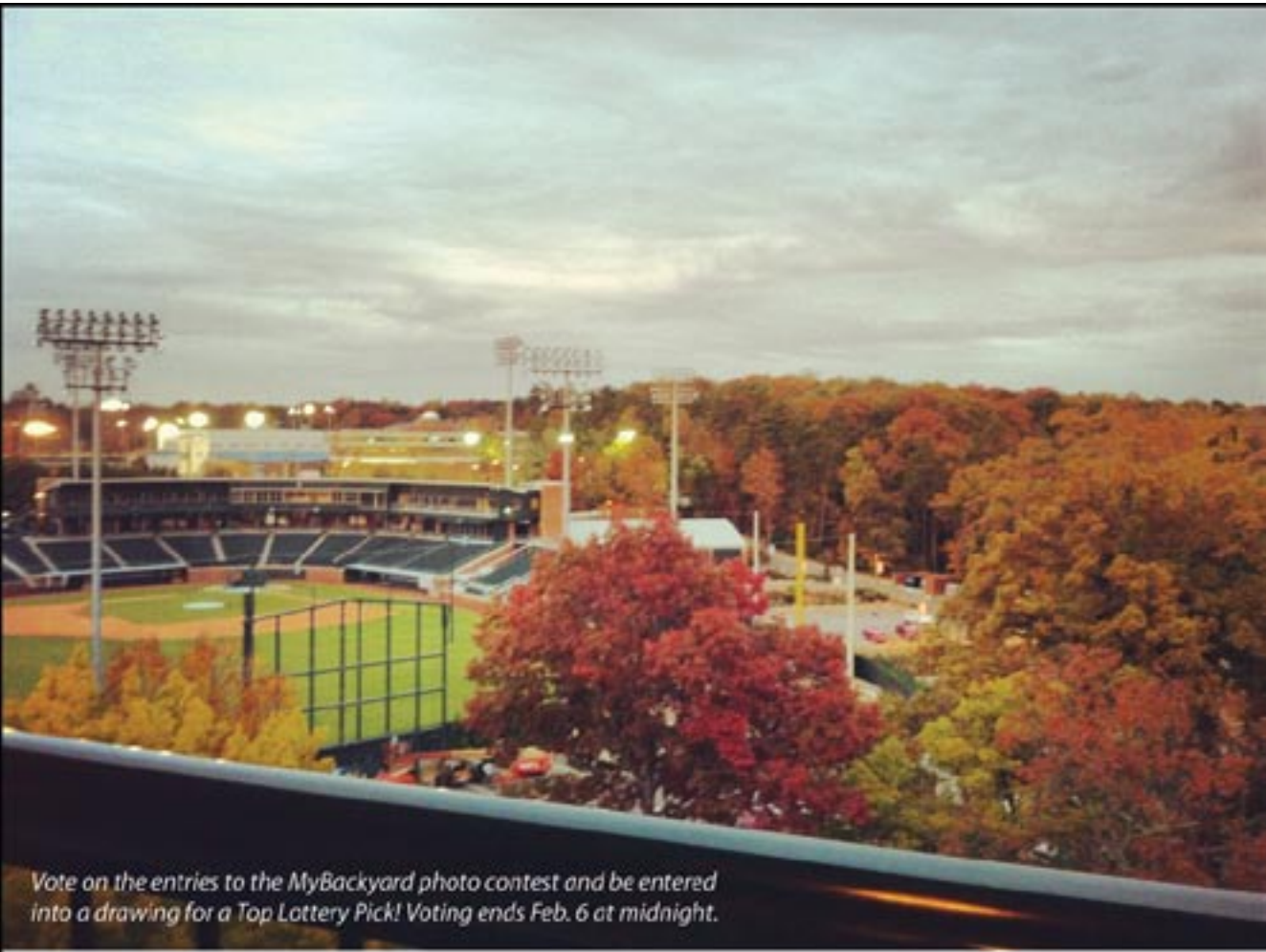
\$3,411
single, dorm room

\$3,295
double room, Ram Village

\$3,556
single room, Ram Village

from that," he added. For students struggling to pay for the cost of on-campus housing, there are financial aid options available, said Phillip Asbury, deputy director for the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. Those options are part of a student's overall financial aid package and can be used for either on-campus or off-campus housing, he said. "We base it off of a general measure of what it costs students to live here," Asbury said. Asbury said a student's cost of attendance includes room and board. "If they chose to live off campus, the amount allotted for housing in their financial aid package might have enough to cover the housing or it might only cover part, but they have the option," Asbury said. Sophomore Amish Parikh lives in Morrison Residence Hall and said the pricing is relatively reasonable. "Housing in general is just expensive," he said.

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



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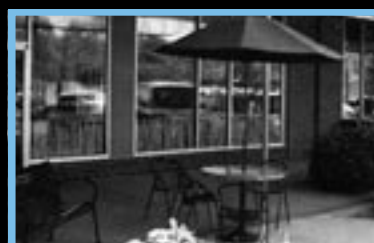
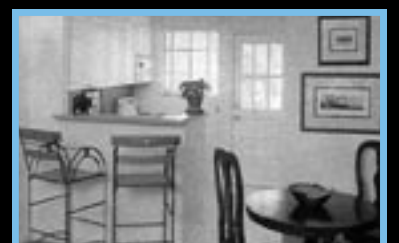
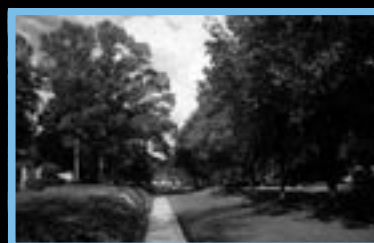


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Same-sex dorms less popular

Residence halls are changing restrictions on gender.

By Hunter Toro
Staff Writer

South Campus is finally getting an all-female dorm. Starting this fall, Hardin Residence Hall will switch from co-ed to all-girls. This will replace Parker Residence Hall, which is a mid-campus all-female dorm that will become co-ed starting in the fall. Hardin will be the first gender-specific dorm on South Campus. The change will give freshmen females a same-sex housing option on South Campus, said Rick Bradley, an assistant director of the Department of Housing and Residential Education. "Most first-year students

live on South Campus," he said. "We had not previously had an all-female hall on South Campus, and it's posed some challenges." Bradley said Hardin was chosen because it is close in size to Parker. He said switching the genders of the dorms will not cost any money because the facilities won't be changed. There are two other all-female dorms at UNC: Aycock and Kenan Residence Halls, both on North Campus. There are only two all-male dorms, also both on North Campus: Graham and Mangum Residence Halls. Over the years, Bradley said he has seen a significant decrease in the number of students looking for single-sex halls. Most of the requests are from freshmen, he said.

"We had not previously had an all-female hall on south campus, and it's posed some challenges."

Rick Bradley, assistant director, Department of Housing and Residential Education

"The number of students asking for a single-gender hall as a top preference is a very low number," he said. "I would say for male students we probably get five requests for first year students. For females, maybe a dozen to 15." Freshman Anna Johns lives in Parker and said she has grown to love the dorm even though she didn't pick it for the all-female aspect. She said her experience living in an all-female dorm has been pleasant. "It's nice because I don't have to worry about guys walking in from down the hall when I'm not looking my best," Johns said. "It makes for a really comfortable environment."

Sophomore Susan Rich lives in Manly. She said before moving in, she had some reserves about living in a same-sex hall. "I knew there were pros

and cons ... There's a lot more freedom in an all girls dorm," Rich said. "But you don't get to know as many guys, and that part isn't as appealing." Bradley said that most people who ask for a same-gender hall do so for religious reasons. "There are more and more Muslim students who I think have a stronger desire to be with all female students," he said. Bradley said that in the 1990s, other buildings were changed from single-gender to coed, and people reacted with an uproar. But changing the gender of a dorm is nothing unusual, he added. "This is not the first time we've changed the gender of a building," he said. "It's not an uncommon move."

Contact the desk editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

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VIEWPOINTS

Off campus? Ain't nobody got time for that

Imagine this: You snooze your alarm one too many times and wake up 10 minutes before your 9 a.m. class starts. If you live in an off-campus apartment, forget it, you aren't going to make it to class without missing the first half.

But if you live on campus, ten minutes is more than enough time for you to brush your teeth, grab your bag and go. A disheveled appearance in class is way better than missing an impromptu exam review.

Obviously, the best part about living on campus is the closeness to the academic buildings and libraries, but the dorms are the little gold mine of resources, there to make your time at UNC as excellent as possible.

You've got all of your friends in one place, and if you don't like your roommate, there are plenty more people living in the rooms up and down your hall who are just friends-in-waiting. Living off campus, you'll have neighbors, but they probably won't take kindly to you randomly dropping in.

When you live on campus, food is never an issue. We might take the food at the dining halls for granted, but ask anyone who has lived off campus for a semester: That much buffet-style food at your disposal with just the swipe of a One Card is a godsend.

There will come a time when a student feels ready to have to deal with absent-minded landlords and bills, and the independence that comes with it can be exhilarating.

But let's be real — not everyone is ready to venture out on their own after a few semesters at UNC.



Sierra Wingate-Bey
Editorial Board

Living off campus provides privacy, independence

Do you value independence? How about more privacy, flexibility and a greater sense of responsibility? Then living off campus is for you.

We all value independence. By venturing off campus, we can finally experience adult life. Tired of being watched by the RA on your hall or following the RHA's rules and regulations? Moving off campus will give you freedom from these rules and allow you to set your own.

Wish you had more alone time and could get away from that crazy roommate or avoid those annoying dudes down the hall that blare their music at 3 a.m.? With off-campus housing you can finally escape these distractions. Privacy comes with moving away from campus. You will have your own bedroom. Need I say more?

Staying off campus, you can even better manage your schedule. The set-up is more suitable for getting to a part-time job or internship.

Are you a pet person? Most off-campus options are also pet-friendly, unlike on-campus dorms. And if you plan on sticking around for the summer or during breaks, you don't have to worry about your apartment or house closing down.

Last but perhaps most important, living off campus helps us grow up and mature. By living off campus, you will take on more responsibility. It will expose you to the dynamics of the real world where there are no RA's or meal plans—just landlords and grocery shopping.

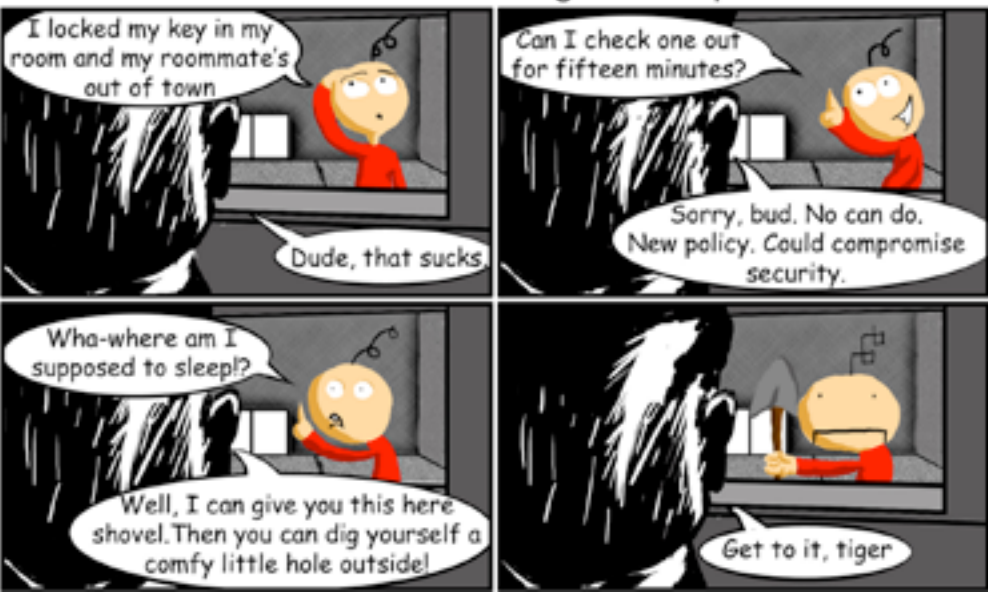
Empower yourself. Leaving the cradle of on-campus living might just be your best decision yet.



Matthew Oakes
Editorial Board

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Matthew Leming, mleming@live.unc.edu

The Benefits of Living on Campus!



QuickHits



One big roof

It took far too long, but there will finally be a gender-neutral housing option on campus next year. It's just a trial run, and it's only in a few select residence halls, but the principle is good. No one living on campus should have to live somewhere where he or she doesn't feel comfortable, safe and secure.



Ladies' night

Next year, due to an increase in demand, Hardin will become an all-girls dorm for the first time. At last, there will be all-female housing on South Campus. So on the upside, you can now live with all girls in a new place and the odds of you getting placement there are better. On the downside, that place is on South Campus.



South Campus

For all the good news, living on campus isn't perfect. There's the issue of roommates, the problem of one bathroom for a whole suite, and obviously the hellacious walk from South Campus. Unless you manage to sneak into a North Campus dorm. In that case, you have to resist the constant urge to take a nap in your bed between classes.



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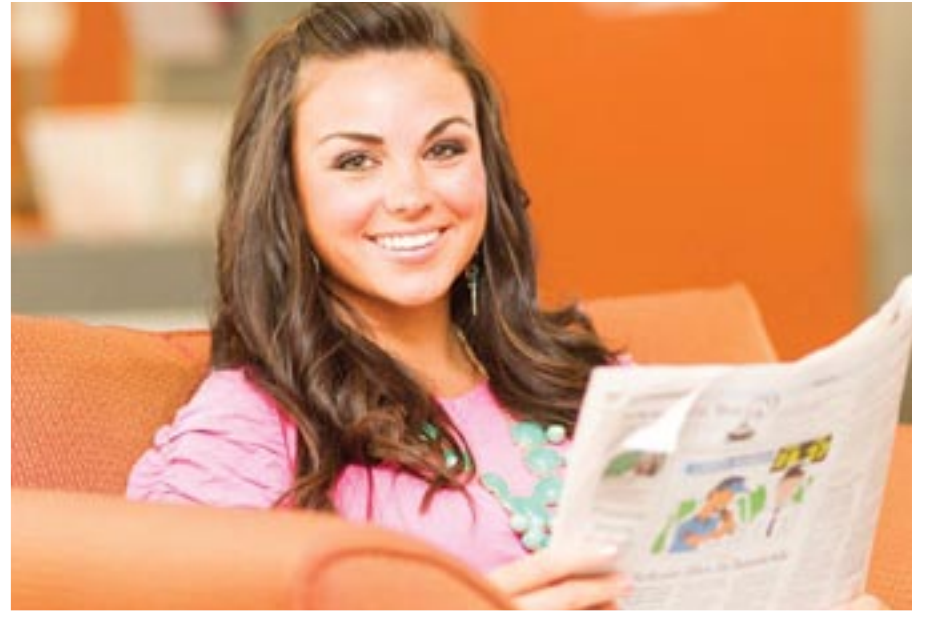
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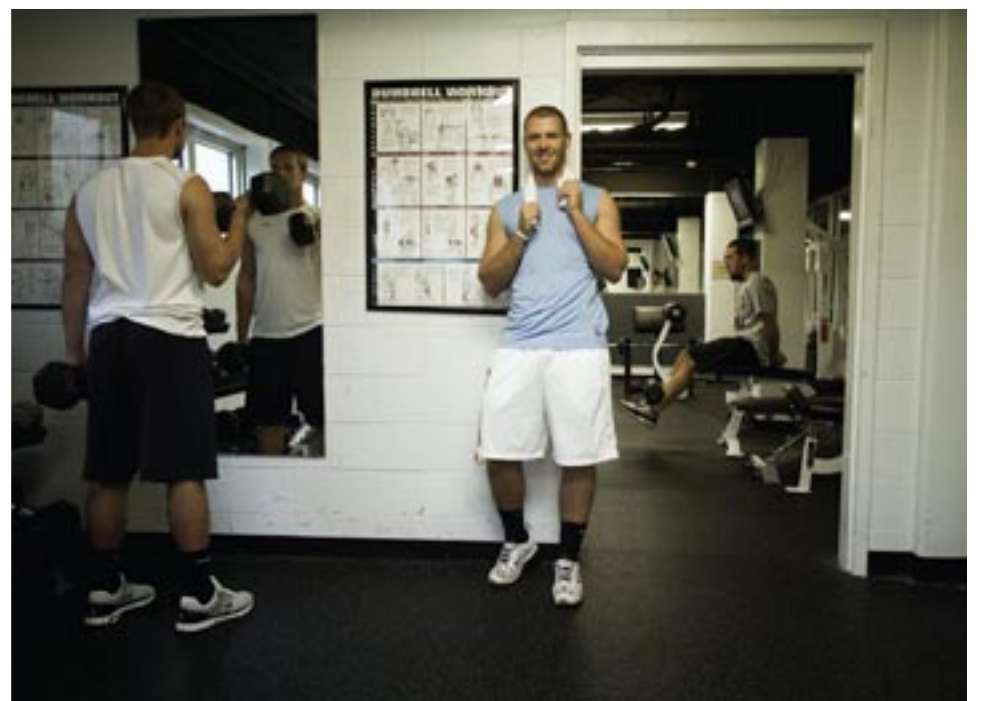


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