

Off-campus homes offer more privacy

Others stress residence halls benefits

BY DAN PIERGALLINI
STAFF WRITER

One of the major decisions that students face during their four — or five — years of college is whether or not to move off campus. There are a variety of factors that influence decisions about housing, such as costs, privacy and responsibility. Both living on- and off campus can be pricey, but the costs tend to come in different areas. Students must weigh the benefits of things such as a meal plan when compared with buying groceries on a regular basis. But there are pros and cons to both options, say students who live

on- and off campus. "The proximity of my house to campus is perfect, just close enough to stay in the loop of what is going on on campus, but far enough away to have the feel of living off campus," said Brian Hewitt, a junior who shares a house on Merritt Mill Road. Others who rent apartments farther away from campus did not share Hewitt's sentiment. "My least favorite thing is living so far away and not being able to walk to campus," said Travis Grannis, a junior who lives in Chapel Ridge Apartments. "On days when it is really cold or rainy or something, I just don't go

to class because I don't feel like waiting at the bus stop." For some, living on campus is not so much a choice as it is a lack of choices. "For me, with my financial aid, living on campus is free," said Maria McGowan, a freshman who lives in Cobb Residence Hall. She added that she thinks students would get more for their money by living off campus because of the additional space offered by most apartments in the area. Cars and parking are also a consideration for both on- and off-campus residents. "Being able to park outside of my back door is a great perk," Hewitt said. However, students are quick to

agree that living off campus makes having a social life a bigger effort. When asked what advice they would offer students trying to decide where to live next year, both groups of residents made similar suggestions. "Make sure you have accessibility to class and make sure others have accessibility to you, so that you won't be bored on weekends," said Stephen Brower, a sophomore who lives in a fraternity house on Rosemary Street. Additional suggestions included finding a place with cooking facilities available, with a nearby bus stop or with transportation provided by the apartment complex itself, such as the shuttle bus provided to residents of The

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STEPHEN BROWER, SOPHOMORE

Verge. Knowing one's roommates in advance also helps. Many students said one of the obvious perks to living off campus is the privacy that comes with having a room to one's self. "My favorite thing is having my own room and not having to deal with another roommate," Grannis said. Students also said there was a fair amount of decision-making and responsibility that comes with

living off campus, such as paying all bills on time and buying groceries. "I think it really just boils down to what level of responsibility and privileges you want," Brower said. "(There is) more responsibility with your own place but more freedom and less freedom with the dorms but you have a lot more done for you."

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Granville offers many amenities

Parking available for all residents

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY
STAFF WRITER

With three new room options, new meal plans and more parking, Granville Towers is offering the new and improved version of its slogan "The place to be at UNC." The East, South and West towers just off of Franklin Street offer residence hall and apartment-style housing within easy walking distance of the campus. Granville also offers the two things students in Chapel Hill need: food and convenient parking. There's a newly renovated dining hall, The Agora, and parking has been made available to all Granville residents, including first year students, who in the past have had to wait to get a spot, or find alternative parking. "The convenience, you can't beat it," said Nicole Mercer, marketing, sales and University relations director for Granville Towers. "The convenience, the location, everything's right here," she said. Walter Futch, a sophomore mathematics major, said that parking is the best feature Granville

offers. "(Parking is) really close to the dorm." Parking involves an application process, open only to Granville residents. As an added incentive to lease one of the newly renovated apartments, the Towers offer parking as part of the largest and most expensive package, the Granville Apartment. The larger apartments — the Granville, the Ramses Deluxe and the Franklin — are designed for a single occupant and offer new furniture, larger beds and kitchenette facilities. The apartments were well received with people on a waiting list before the renovated rooms were even completed, Mercer said. Granville's regular residence hall-style rooms offer a little more personal space, with a two-room suite that accommodates two people per room with a shared bath in the center. "Sharing a bathroom (between) four people, that's not too bad," Futch said. Residents are required to have meal plans as part of the lease, though there are five options that include block meal plans that provide 225 or 125 meals per semester that are transferable for guests.



DTH/LINHDA TRAN
Freshman Granville Towers resident Spence Davenport gets pasta from the Granville dining hall. All residents are required to buy a meal plan.

Not only is the food there, but the Towers staff also helps residents tidy up. Laundry facilities are available in each tower and Granville has housekeeping services for residents. "It's nice (housekeeping) clean(s) up every week," Futch said. Mercer said the rent rates are competitive for the area, and that rate does not increase for residents once the lease is signed. But Futch said he thinks the rent is a little exorbitant. "Definitely too much." Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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