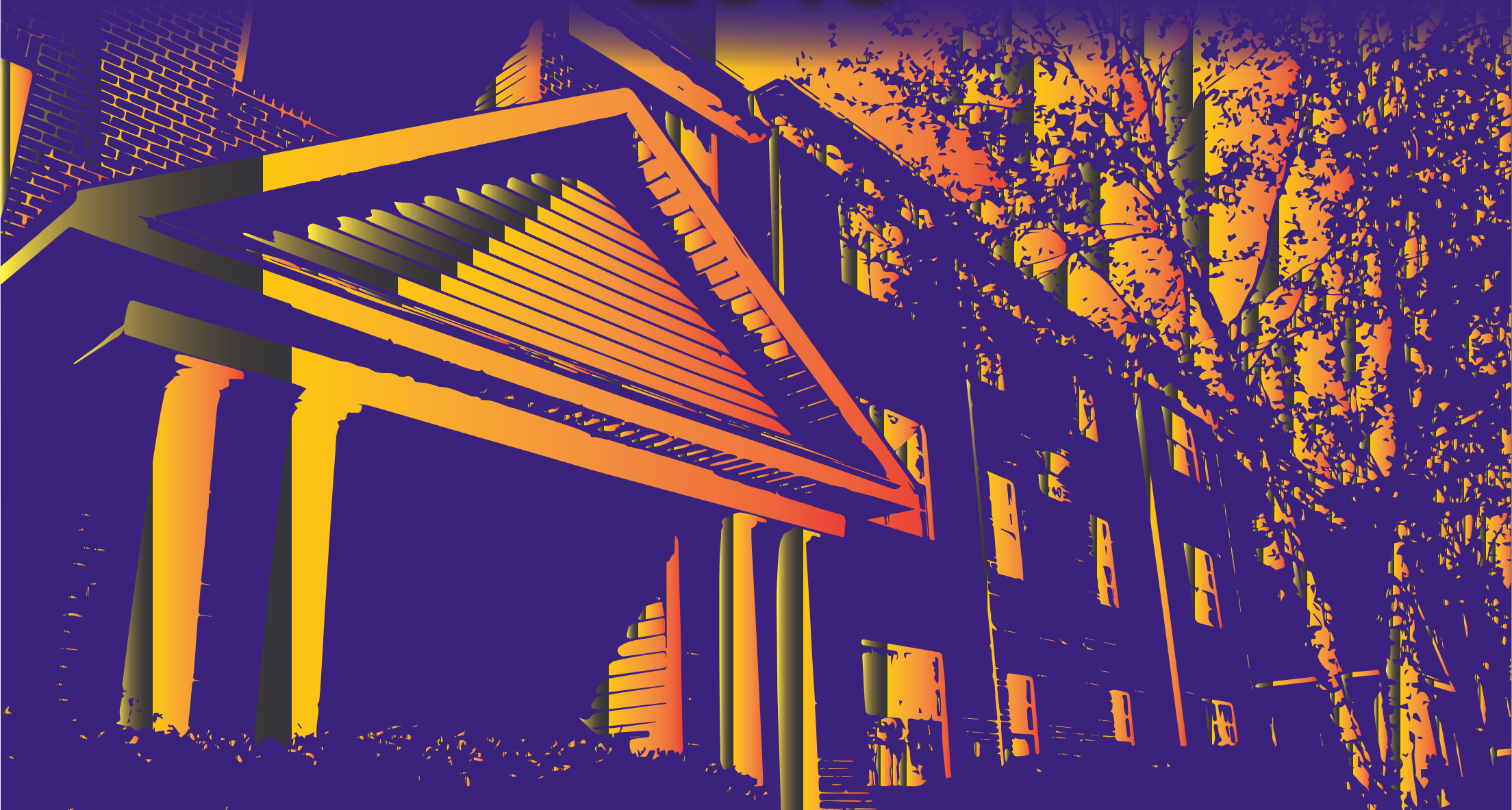


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Moving can create challenges

Andy Li
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University is home to more than 29,000 students and, according to US News, 80 percent of students live off campus. Although ECU provides several residence halls such as Garrett Hall and Gateway and requires freshmen to live on campus, moving off campus is often the best option for some students.

“It creates this freedom you don’t have on campus,” Megan Piggott, a senior majoring in musical theater, said. “When you’re on campus, you’re always being watched and have rules to follow. But living off campus, you’re like a real adult.”

Piggott currently lives alone in Lewis Street Apartments, which is just a block away from campus. She says living alone has its challenges, but she values her privacy more.

“Sometimes it’d be nice to have some split responsibilities with,” Piggott said. “But honestly, it’s nice to come home and not have to talk to anyone.”

Piggott used to live at Sunchase, an apartment complex 2201 Greenville Blvd. Sunchase is one of many apartment complexes which market themselves almost exclusively to students, including The Eastern, The District and The Province.

Michaela Dunlap, a senior majoring in exercise physiology, used to live at Sunchase as well. She thinks living in an apartment complex is a good transition from campus living to off campus.

“You go from having an RA to having



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Students and families move into dormitories across the campus of East Carolina University.

a property manager, or a landlord. You go from having a roommate and floormates to have your own room with a roommate or two and some neighbors,” Dunlap said. “So if you’re new to living off campus, I think it’s a pretty good place to go.”

Dunlap said she was nervous touring apartments her freshman year, but going with friends and getting advice

from her family made it better. She encouraged students who are thinking of moving off campus to do their research, read their lease thoroughly and ask questions to current residents.

Dunlap currently lives in a rented house on the Grid, a neighborhood loosely defined as lying between Fifth Street and Tar River and Brownlea Drive and

Summit Street. She lives there with her friends, Morgan Phillips, Eliza Davis and Julia Brown. Although the house wasn’t furnished, Phillips, a senior majoring in biology, said buying furniture and various appliances is an investment.

“I mean, you’re always gonna need things like a sofa or a bed or a blender,” Phillips said. “So it might be expensive now, but as long as it’s something you’re gonna always use, don’t worry about it.”

Phillips said students who want to move off campus should take advantage of the various resources ECU provides through its Off Campus Services’ website and at the annual Housing Fair, where housing complexes from around Greenville come to campus to present their leasing options. She said students should be confident when finding off campus housing.

“It can be really intimidating, because you’re just used to having all this done for you, and you’re not used to having to ask all the questions and do everything,” Phillips said. “But just remember that you’re an adult and you’re in control. Ask questions and communicate and you’ll be living on your own in no time.” questions and do everything,” Phillips said. “But just remember that you’re an adult and you’re in control. Ask questions and communicate and you’ll be living on your own in no time.”

This writer can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Parking presents problems

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

With limited parking available for faculty and students on the campus of East Carolina University, it may seem at times to be impossible to park anywhere without getting a ticket. While sometimes this can be true, here’s how to navigate the ECU parking scene.

Most of the limited parking on campus is available by use of permit only. All students and faculty looking to park on campus must register their vehicle with the Department of Parking and Transportation Services, pay a registration fee and display a valid parking decal on their vehicles.

For students who do not live on campus or close

enough to walk to it, C2 or B4 parking permits are available for purchase. Students with either of these passes can park at the Minges Park and Ride lot, and take a ride to campus on the bus provided by ECU. B4 passes also give you access to park on the Health Sciences campus.

After 5 p.m., all student parking permits are valid on campus. For those who cannot afford a permit, parking on or near campus becomes much more difficult. Parking on the Grid, or the streets directly near campus, is available anytime after 5 p.m., and is

> **PARKING** page **B5**



TINA GARRETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A car parks near the new parking deck on the main campus of East Carolina University.

PARKING
continued from B4

also available at all times on the weekends. The city of Greenville also provides many two hour parking spots in uptown Greenville, most of which are a short walk away from campus. For those looking to go to an hour class, or take a quick trip to the library, this option often comes in handy when they are available and willing to walk a little longer.

According to ECU's Parking and Transportation, ECU also offers eight different Pay-by-Space parking locations on campus and three others located on the Health Sciences campus.

Students can find the main locations on College Hill, north of Scott Residence Hall, east of Rivers Building, as well as the parking lot between Jenkins Fine Arts Building and Garrett Residence Hall, among other locations.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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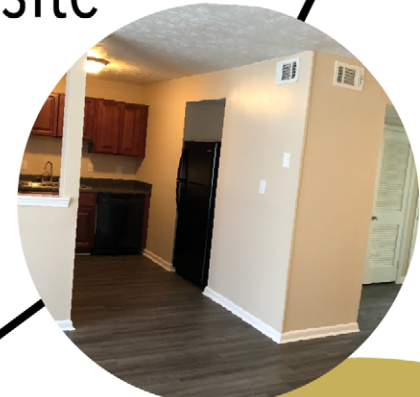
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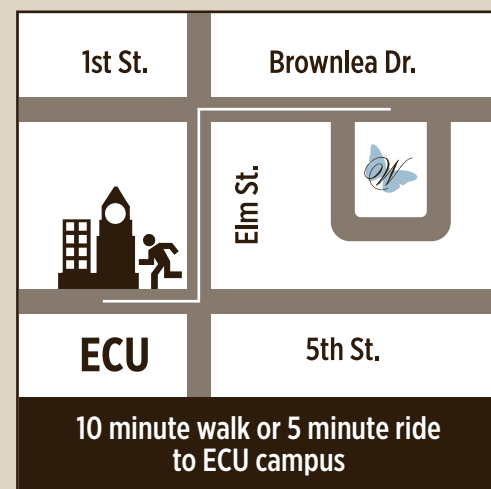
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Roommates relationships pros, cons

Jenna Price
TEC STAFF

A problem that most college students face every year is the situation of finding a suitable roommate and how they can make those very important decisions.

Most students, including ECU student Amelia Coleman, junior business major, will have at least one bad roommate experience during their time at ECU. Coleman said she has had both good and bad experiences.

Coleman said one of the reasons she thinks her bad experience was problem was because her and her roommate lived completely different lifestyles.

"My former roommate had different lifestyle choices from my own. Before we moved in together, I didn't think it would be an issue, but after we lived together for a few months, I

realized it was a much bigger problem than I had originally thought," Coleman said.

Coleman said students should look for a roommate who cares about them as a person and their success both personally and professionally.

"Find a roommate who cares about you succeeding in college," Coleman said. "It's important to have a roommate that is considerate and that not only wants to succeed, but wants you to succeed."

An option that some students choose is to live with a random roommate. Sometimes this can work out really well, but in other cases it can cause more problems.

Coleman said she has had experiences where she was good friends with her roommate and where the roommate was a stranger. She said she felt more comfortable living with a friend because it can



SARAH STYONS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Three roommates walk into the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house near the campus of East Carolina University.

be less awkward when it comes to household chores.

"I felt it was easier to communicate when I was living with my friend, I didn't mind telling her to take the trash out, where while I was living with someone I didn't really know I felt like I couldn't do that," Coleman said.

Hannah Falk, a sophomore education major, said she couldn't live with someone she didn't know beforehand. She said a real deal breaker for her when looking for a roommate is someone unwilling

to compromise on certain things.

Falk said how she picks a roommate by getting to know them. Falk said she doesn't need to be best friends with her roommate, but she thinks it could be difficult to peacefully co-exist if you're complete strangers.

"How I decide (who my roommate will be) is by getting to know them," Falk said. "It's definitely important to room with someone who has similar interests as you. Mostly because if it's someone you don't know at all it can be difficult to get along with

them. Although you don't have to be best friends with them it'll make co-existing so much easier."

Falk said she and her current roommate have a roommate contract in place to help alleviate any tensions they could experience from certain situations. She said they are pretty close, but the contract is very useful to help avoid unnecessary conflict.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Pets present important decisions

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

Every year the question "Should I get a pet?" arises for college students who live off campus and each time someone gets a pet that they truly cannot afford to take care of.

It's completely understandable that people want their own pets when they move out of the dorm. People

want that companionship from a little animal they get to call their own -- but too often students overlook the reality of owning a pet.

I chose to rescue a puppy going into my sophomore year here at East Carolina University and for me it was the best decision I made, but I took the time to think about the costs and responsibilities of owning a pet before I went to adopt.

Owning a pet is completely understandable and I encourage anyone who can take on the responsibilities of owning one to do so, but don't make any hasty decisions. Looking back on when I adopted my dog, the women working at the Humane Society of Eastern Carolina told me that too often students adopt dogs and cats not knowing the responsibilities it takes

to own one and how often students abandon these animals when they realize they can't take care of them.

Before potentially becoming one of these people consider three things: time, money, care. When thinking of time it should be on the premise of is

> PETS page B12



Ian Gonzales and his cat Ramba sit on the couch cuddling and enjoying each other's company.

MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

PETS continued from B11

there enough free time to show the pet the attention it needs and deserves.

Money is an obvious thing to think about, however, too often people overlook the fact that money doesn't mean just spending it on food and treats, but vet bills. Care is important because every pet needs care and love and if that isn't available to give the pet then you definitely shouldn't get one.

This isn't all doom and gloom to stop people from getting a pet, but I wanted to set the reality of the situation before talking about the great benefits a person can receive from having a pet.

A major doesn't have to be the deciding factor of whether a pet is a viable option or not. Senior criminal justice major Tyler Ennis hasn't let his time working on his degree prevent him from getting his own little bundle of joy a black lab puppy named Miley.

"Yeah, I get busy with school work, but I knew I wanted to adopt

a dog and once I found out that I could take care of one successfully it sent me full into searching for a dog," Ennis said.

Ennis is also joined in the dog search and adoption by his girlfriend and senior nursing student Jamie Farrell, who said adopting Miley was more of a mental health benefit than a responsibility.

"When I get home and I'm greeted by Miley I get an overwhelming amount of happiness added to my day," Farrell said. "I wouldn't trade having my Mile by my side for anything in the world."

I also can attest to the emotional and mental health benefits of having a dog, because I know that no matter how bad my days can get I will always have Angus to greet me with a wagging tail and squeals of joy.

In reality all it takes in deciding to own a pet or not comes down to thinking through the obligations that come with owning one and that if you decide to get one don't neglect it or the responsibilities.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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DANIEL THOMAS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Eastern on Tenth is a new student apartment complex along 10th Street. The complex is east of East Carolina University along 10th Street, between Elm Street and Fifth Street.

Budgeting for success, future

Jennifer Flippin
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Budgeting can be hard as a college student, especially when you might not be receiving an income substantial enough to let you live the lifestyle you wish to. With all the pressing costs and charges left to pay, it can be tricky to know how to budget your money accurately.

Morgan Gillespie, a junior studying musical theatre and professional acting, said it can be very challenging to budget and save money efficiently while not being able to focus on work as much as she did when school was not in session.

"I have a job back home that I work at over breaks, but I do not have one here in Greenville while I'm taking classes," Gillespie said.

Gillespie said her goal for summer and during breaks is to make as much money as possible in order to propel her spending and saving for the future while she's not able to make spending income as easily. Gillespie also said a common struggle for her and others is knowing when treating yourself may be going too far.

"I'm all for treating yourself, but you

need to make sure you have money for food and gas and fun," Gillespie said.

Jesse Cornaire, a senior studying biomedical engineering, said he is responsible for paying both his living expenses and college expenses. Cornaire said while it's difficult, he manages with the knowledge he's gathered about what he views as a legitimate need versus a want.

"I take all the money I have saved up for school and pay off my apartment rent and college tuition for the semester. Then I write out and estimate what money I need for food, clothes, school, etcetera for each month and I set that money aside in order to not accidentally spend it," Cornaire said.

Cornaire has been independent for three years now and says it's challenging, but worthwhile for having taught him the important things in life such as independence and budgeting to save the most he can for his future.

"Know yourself, what your weakness is in spending money. If you have little self control, find a way to set aside money and put it where you can't spend it," Cornaire said. "Whether that means putting (it) in your savings account or putting it all in an

"It is a struggle for any college student to get used to living on their own and reducing their spending to important things."

-Kathleen Agnew

envelope under your mattress. Just make sure you don't spend the money that you need in order to feed yourself, have a place to live, and to be able to go to school."

Other students have to support themselves while working a job and focusing on school, including Kathleen Agnew, a junior studying elementary education, said while her parents pay for her rent and tuition, she works as a waitress to support her other needs such as gas, food and clothes.

"I would recommend limiting yourself to only essential items you may need to survive in college. It is a struggle for any college student to get used to living on

their own and reducing their spending to important things," Agnew said.

Agnew said it was an adjustment going from not having to worry about money to suddenly having to make and budget it herself. Agnew said she learned what she really needs and what will get her the best bang for her buck.

She says through living on her own, she became more financially aware and it's been a good feeling to no longer rely on her parents and she feels less caught in the in between of adulthood now that she has money saved for her future.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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