

RENTER'S GUIDE

SPECIAL ISSUE 2023



BEAVER'S DIGEST | THE Baro

THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

This issue is for every student seeking a sense of home through housing. Whether you're an incoming student or returning and looking for a new place to live, your living situation can make or break your college experience. In this special issue, the second of its kind, Beaver's Digest and The Daily Barometer have collaborated to produce a variety of articles pertaining to housing in Corvallis.

Housing is an undeniably complex system that we unfortunately need to work with, filled with pros and cons. You might be worried about the safety of your neighborhood, the sturdiness of your plumbing or the lack of air conditioning come summer months. Maybe you're concerned about a roommate's hygiene habits or rising rent costs.

Just remember that there's a lot to look forward to — the comfort you'll feel opening your front door, the memories you make with roommates, the satisfaction of decorating your new place or the smell of the first meal you truly make on your own.

We hope the stories in this special issue help you in some way in your search for housing, through the good and the bad. It's a tough world out there, and we hope this issue provides comfort in some way.

Best wishes for your house search!

Take care,

Sukhjot Sal
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
BEAVER'S DIGEST


DEAR READERS,

For all readers who have faced uncertainty, questions, or fears about housing in Corvallis, this magazine, made in combination with Beaver's Digest is made with you in mind.

I hope you all find this issue helpful, informative and able to answer some questions that might arise in the search for housing. In this issue we have focused on what we believe is most important for students to know as many of us are first time renters.

Stories on topics such as knowing your rights as a renter and where to get help with landlord legal troubles (found on page 6) and what bus routes connect campus to various locations in the city, to name a few.

Additionally, we are able to learn from the experiences of others living situations and experiences. From that we have collected the perspectives of what it is like to live in Greek life housing, continuing to live on campus and the cost of living for students.

I hope you all enjoy this magazine and best of luck in finding where you end up calling home here in Corvallis.

Best,

Riley LeCocq
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THE DAILY BAROMETER



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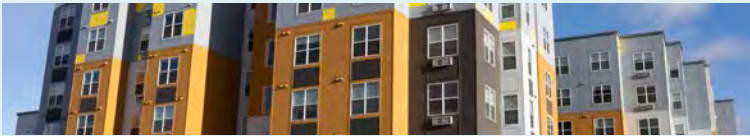
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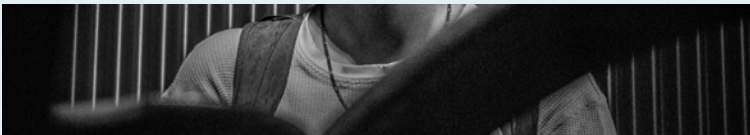
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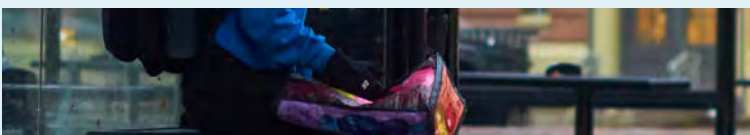
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MEET THE STAFF



PHOTOGRAPHER: **ASHTON BISNER**



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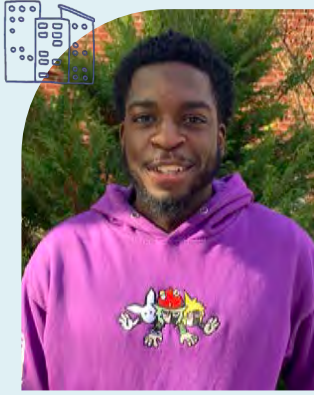
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Rising rent costs seem to disproportionately impact OSU students

WRITER:
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PHOTOGRAPHER:
MATTHEW MCKENNA

RISING RENT costs are not a new phenomenon in Corvallis. When coupled with the housing shortage, Oregon State University students are facing a hard time finding a house, let alone its affordability.

26% of Corvallis' population is "rent burdened," the highest in the State of Oregon, according to the City of Corvallis Land Development Information Report in 2021. The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines rent burden as "households who pay more than 30% of their income for housing" and "may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care."

Corvallis also ranks as the city with the most "severely-rent burdened" population in the state of Oregon with 37% of the households paying more than 50% of their income on rent.

Max Klamath, a first-year master's student in the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at OSU said that around one-third of their income goes into paying rent.

Another graduate student, Miles Moran, who studies statistics at OSU, said that he used to pay about 80% of his income as rent in a previous one-bedroom apartment where he lived alone until this summer.

Klamath, who currently resides in Albany, expressed how difficult it was to find housing in Corvallis.

"I had been trying to move to Corvallis – just anywhere at all. And it is impossible. It is absolutely impossible," Klamath said. "So I kind of just gave up after like six months of looking."

Evan Park, a junior studying chemistry at OSU, said she moved out of a two-bedroom apartment because of housing costs. She paid a rent of \$1,000 per month in the two-bedroom compared to \$640 in her current five-bedroom house.

"The other place was really expensive and not really worth the price in my mind," Park said.

An alternative source can be to look for on-campus housing. Park said that she did consider on-campus housing initially but on finding the rent to be expensive, she decided to drop the idea.

Moran said that he was not interested in housing for the same reason that none of the options available were affordable.

This trend of students looking for off-campus housing correlates with the data. Since 2016, the percentage of students who have enrolled themselves in on-campus housing has been consistent at about 19-20%, barring 2020 which saw a drop to around 10% due to COVID-19.

The time when one applies for housing is also crucial. Klamath, who received their

admit from OSU in August, was unable to find housing in Corvallis since most students who come in fall start looking for housing around the months of June and July.

Noah Vaughan, a fifth-year Ph.D. studying physics also mentioned how when they first came to Corvallis, they struggled to find a place due to this discrepancy between leases and classes starting.

"I really struggled [but] I found a place where they could let me move in September," Vaughan said.

Vaughan eventually found housing at the International House and was paying \$800 per month as rent – almost half their income.

Moran also faced a similar difficulty finding housing at the end of this summer.

"If you didn't respond to an advertisement, within 10 minutes, it was already gone," Moran said. "Someone had already taken it."



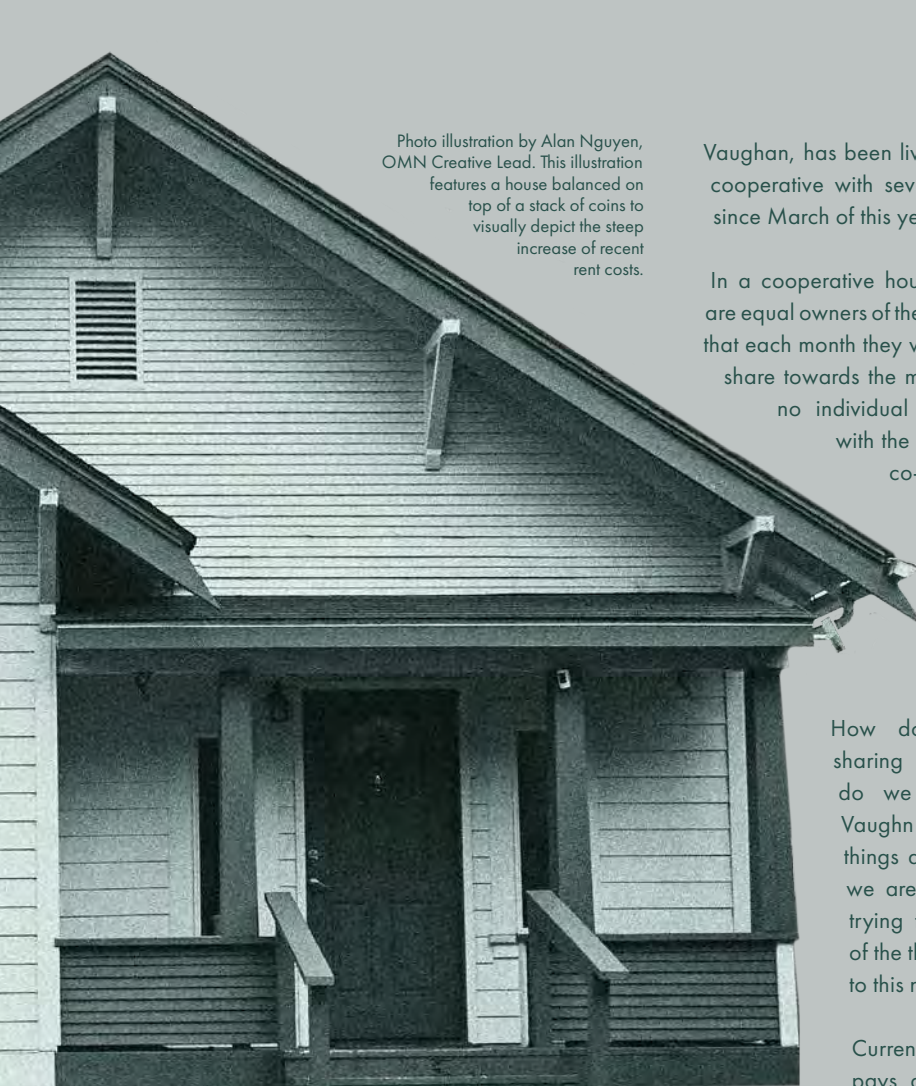


Photo illustration by Alan Nguyen, OMN Creative Lead. This illustration features a house balanced on top of a stack of coins to visually depict the steep increase of recent rent costs.

Vaughan, has been living in a housing cooperative with seven other people since March of this year.

In a cooperative housing, all people are equal owners of the house, meaning that each month they will pay an equal share towards the mortgage. There is no individual equity involved with the ownership of the co-op housing.

“ J u s t working out: ‘How do we do

governance?

How do we do like sharing labor? How do we share costs?’” Vaughn said. “A lot of things are changing but we are very effectively trying to transfer some of the things we learned to this new place.”

Currently each resident pays about \$150 per month as their share in Vaughan’s situation.

prepare for it during the summer – not considering other factors that may lead to instability in student’s life.

“Housing insecurity is not just a problem in and of itself, but now it’s causing this sort of interaction effect with other problems like (comprehensive) exams,” Moran said.

Paying a significant portion of salary towards rent also has effects on other aspects of students’ life. For example, Vaughan faced food insecurity during their first year at OSU when they were paying about half of their income as rent.

“Food was difficult, because a lot of times it’s like I was working late. And by the time I was done working, I couldn’t go grocery shopping, or eating out was too expensive a lot of times,” Vaughan said. “Food was definitely an issue.”

According to Vaughan, their situation has improved since they moved to the housing co-op.

For Klamath, these decisions between buying food and other expenses such as veterinary bills made rent costs even more of a concern.

“October was a really hard month and I probably paid like \$1,600 in medical bills throughout October just catching up to stuff that we owed,” Klamath said.

Vaughan and Klamath also emphasized that students, especially those who are new to Corvallis should know their rights as renters as they are gullible to be taken advantage of by landlords and property management companies.

“When people don’t know their rights, (renting) companies will charge higher deposits and then not get the deposit back,” Klamath said. “There’s a way that (landlords) can take advantage of people who don’t know what their rights are because they haven’t been renting very long.”

Klamath expressed concerns about the high barrier for housing applications where, in some cases the applicant was required to make two and a half to three times the rent to be even considered.

“I don’t know anyone who makes that much money. I don’t. I’ve never met a person who makes that much money,” Klamath said.

Students often find themselves in a situation where they have to make a choice between finding a house to live by themselves and pay significantly higher rent, or live in a shared housing and pay lower rent. Each of them have their pros and cons.

“I think it’s more fun, because I’m closer friends with these roommates,” said Park, who currently lives with four other roommates.

For Moran and Klamath, the situation has been different. Owing to personal preferences and accommodation of pets, they both have preferred single room housing.

“I prefer to live alone and I have two dogs. So sometimes, that’s not comfortable for people who already have pets or have cats or whatever,” Klamath said. “I just prefer to live by myself. It’s easier for me.”

Moran also explained how unstable employment during the summer in his department has impacted student’s academics.

According to Moran, students in his graduate program take their comprehensive exam at the end of summer – an exam that partially contributes to their master’s degree and his department expects the students to



Editor's note: This article was originally published in March 2022.

RATHER THAN SPENDING all your money on new goods, why not buy your furniture used?

These six options provide a way to both save money and reduce your carbon footprint through reusing and recycling goods.

SIX STORES TO SAVE ON FURNITURE



WRITER:
SAM MISA

PHOTOGRAPHER:
TAYLOR WELLS

1. OSUSED STORE WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

The OSUsed Store is located on campus, and features all used goods for purchase through Oregon State University's Surplus Property department that are significantly cheaper than store-bought goods. The store's inventory includes things such as computers/computer accessories, furniture, office supplies and many other items.

For 2022, the OSUsed Store also has a reward card program to save additional money for each visit. The store takes cash, checks up to \$1,000, as well as Visa and MasterCards.

LOCATION: The Property Services Building on campus at 644 SW 13th Street

HOURS: Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Fridays noon-3 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Surplus Property - Oregon State University on Facebook

CURRENT INVENTORY: Not too long ago, OSUsed Store sold seats right out of Reser Stadium, as well as outdoor benches from OSU's campus for only \$35. For more information on their current inventory, you can find it on their Facebook page listed above.

2. BENTON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

The ReStore with Benton Habitat for Humanity is similar to that of the OSUsed Store in that both of them get their inventories from donations. The main difference between the two is that the ReStore has the added benefit of having all of its proceeds going directly to support Habitat for Humanity's programs in Benton County.

"We receive new donations and shipments every day, offering products at 50-75% off retail prices," states the ReStore's webpage on Habitat for Humanity's website. "Visit often to see what new values are available for your home, yard, office or whatever project you are working on!"

LOCATION: 4840 Philomath Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97333

HOURS: Varies seasonally

SOCIAL MEDIA: @bhfh_restore on Instagram

CURRENT INVENTORY: Just recently, BHFH ReStore was selling a matching sofa and chair for \$179. For more information on their current inventory, you can find it on their Instagram page listed above. "Inventory is constantly changing but always includes some staple products," ReStore's webpage states.

3. GOODWILL

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

Goodwill is a tried and trusted way of both donating and finding used goods that may otherwise be thrown away. This particular location in Corvallis, Ore. has 3.9 stars out of 5 on Google Reviews, and isn't too far from campus to bike or drive to.

Its inventory contains clothing in addition to furniture and other household items, as well as a limited number of sporting equipment as well.

LOCATION: 1325 NW 9th St, Corvallis, OR 97330

HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

4. CORVALLIS FURNITURE

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

Corvallis Furniture focuses entirely on furniture for your house, apartment or dorm. This includes bed frames, shelves, dining tables and entire couch setups. It also has two locations, both not far from OSU's campus. With a 4.4 out of 5 stars on Google, Corvallis Furniture is a safe bet for getting good quality furniture for reasonable prices.

"Corvallis Furniture has new and pre-loved furniture," states the Corvallis Furniture Facebook page. "Come check out our great selection or bring in your quality pre-loved furniture for consignment."

LOCATION: 1810 SW 3rd St. and 700 NE Circle Blvd.

HOURS: Varies

SOCIAL MEDIA: Corvallis Furniture on Facebook

CURRENT INVENTORY: Just recently, Corvallis Furniture was selling a queen platform bed with drawers for \$100. For more information on their current inventory, you can find it on their Facebook page listed above.



5. FURNITURE EXCHANGE

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

At just over a decade old, Furniture Exchange offers home decor of all kinds. Furniture Exchange also offers consignments for order so that your furniture can be delivered to your home.

"Quality pre-owned furniture at affordable prices," states the Furniture Exchange Facebook page.

LOCATION: 210 NW 2nd St

HOURS: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays

SOCIAL MEDIA: Furniture Exchange on Facebook

CURRENT INVENTORY: "An ever-changing variety of furniture and home decor!" states the Facebook page. For information on their current inventory, you can find it on their Facebook page listed above.

6. FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

Logging into Facebook's Marketplace to acquire furniture is one of those high-risk, high-reward situations where you can get some steals or some duds. Some nice things about FB Marketplace is that you can shop locally and can arrange to pick up or have something delivered, and prices are negotiable to the point where some people may just be giving away their own goods for free.

Current Inventory: At the time of publication, someone in Corvallis is giving away a free queen mattress and bedframe, and another





OSU OFFERS RESOURCES TO NAVIGATE STUDENTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC HOUSING MARKET

WRITER:
NINO PAOLI

PHOTOGRAPHER:
DUANE KNAPP



IT'S THE start of Spring term and students living in the dorms are ramping up to move off-campus. Here are some things to keep in mind before moving.

First and foremost, Noah Chamberlain, a staff attorney at Student Legal Services, urges students to read their lease agreements.

"I can't express how many students come in to ask about a housing issue... but it quickly becomes evident to me that they never read the lease," Chamberlain said.

ASOSU Student Legal Services provides legal advice to OSU students at no extra cost. Chamberlain says that landlord-tenant issues that involve leases, housing, habitability or accounting issues are the number one type of cases that the office assists students with.

"Leases have grown, on average, from between four to six pages from when I

started practice about 12 years ago, to now students are signing leases that are upwards of 50 to 60 pages sometimes," Chamberlain said.

"Even if it's a one-page lease or a 60-page lease, the number one thing that I would say is read your entire lease agreement."

Leases are your housing syllabus, and will provide you with what to expect, what to know and what is expected of you.

Things to consider are: monthly rent, utilities, fees, deposits, pet rules, shared spaces, parking, furniture and maintenance requests.

Evaluate whether it is an individual or joint lease, and what you are responsible for in your lease agreements. Chamberlain encourages students to read through it all before signing.

"It's a challenging thing, because it is such a competitive rental market (in Corvallis)," Chamberlain said. "There is so much pressure to sign and enter leases quickly and it's so competitive... Students, as soon as students look at a unit, if they don't sign a lease that day, it may be rented to somebody the next."

However, Chamberlain says the best thing you can do for yourself is to know your rights and responsibilities before signing an agreement, whether it be for a month or for a year.

Chamberlain advises students to exercise prudence when confronting a housing issue as well.

"Landlord-tenant issues should be resolved as much as possible in real time," Chamberlain said. "So if you have a habitability issue... [and] if you come to talk to me nine months later... there may be very little I can do for you."

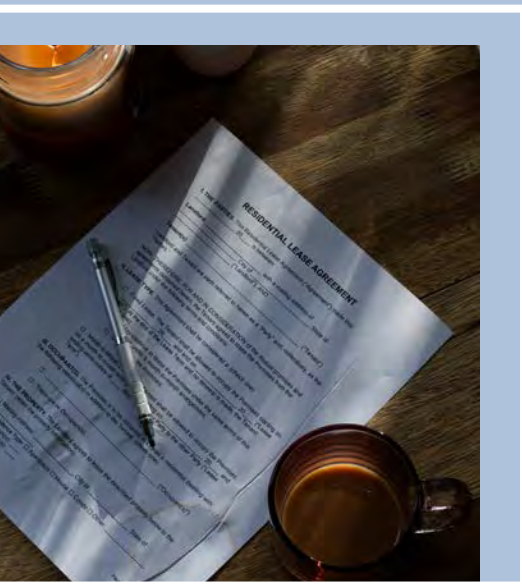
Chamberlain also says that when addressing a lease or habitability issue with your landlord, it should all be documented in writing.

"Oregon law specifically requires that if you're trying to send notice to your landlord, that that notice be in writing," Chamberlain said. "A common scenario that we see is a tenant comes in and says, 'I talked to the landlord twenty times on the phone'... A game that landlords can play very effectively is that if you haven't put it in writing to them, the landlord can pretend as if those phone calls never occurred."

SLS can help with coaching students on how to formally address their landlords in writing, or providing written letters to landlords on the student's behalf, Chamberlain said.

The Basic Needs Center at OSU has helped many students with various housing issues as well said Andrea Norris, peer-aid coordinator, and Meron Solomon, a student navigator at BNC.

"There's a variety of ways that we have housing conversations," Norris said. "Sometimes somebody is coming in because





they have a gap in their housing, so they're looking for something short-term. Sometimes it's someone whose housing fell through for the school year and they're at square one trying to find where they're going to be now."

Norris said that BNC is open to any OSU student to come and talk with other, knowledgeable students about various problems.

"It's pretty casual, we don't want to stress anybody out," Solomon said. "We just want to have them leave with a good plan or good idea of what their next step is going to be."

The BNC resources span from providing emergency short-term housing at Dixon Lodge, helping students who are facing eviction and getting students in contact with local resources that may be able to assist them with security deposits, to preparing students for hard conversations with their roommates, Norris said.

Services at OSU such as SLS and BNC are acutely aware of the pressure for housing in Corvallis, and are willing to work with students before or after signing a lease.

Norris explained that BNC peer navigators' goals when students come in with questions about housing is first assessing their specific needs, and then guiding them towards their next steps in their plans.

Norris says that many students came into BNC in September and August, when many incoming students were denied on-campus housing because of high enrollment and not enough space.

"We are in a very tight housing market in Corvallis," Norris said.



GROOME

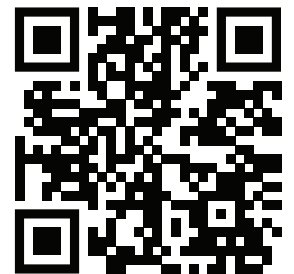
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BEAVER'S DIGEST

Comparing independent leasing

WRITER:
OLYVIA NEAL

PHOTOGRAPHER:
ASHTON BISNER



LET'S FACE IT: Nobody wants to live in a dorm. When students go off to college, they dream of freedom, having their own space and living independently for the first time.

As such, an apartment may appeal to a student far more than a dorm, and, for those who aren't first year students, an apartment is the ideal situation. These are the four leasing companies that provide student housing:

SIERRA

Sierra has a wide variety of apartment floor plans available for students, including everything from five-bedrooms, currently priced at \$650 a month, to single bedroom apartments, increasing in price as the number of room bedrooms decreases. These apartments are fully furnished, including a flat screen TV, a full-sized washer and dryer, and a fully equipped kitchen. The complex itself boasts a heated pool, a fitness center, a game room, tanning beds, garage parking, and more. Perhaps the best feature of all to those who missed their pets while living in the dorm, a student's furry friend is welcome to come with them, as Sierra is pet friendly.

THE UNION

While it has less variety in the number of rooms, with their floor plans primarily consisting of two and four-bedroom

apartments, The Union has a number of options nonetheless. Their lowest price as of the writing of this article is \$779 per month. Similar to Sierra, they offer fully furnished apartments, along with a fully-equipped kitchen, washer and dryer. However, while they are lacking in Sierra's pet friendliness, heated pool, and fitness center, they have a rooftop garden, library, and free taco Tuesdays and free waffle Wednesdays.

YUGO

Yugo's rooms vary from two to four bedrooms, with the current lowest price at \$749 for a three-bedroom per bed, per month. They maintain the same in-unit expectations of Sierra and Union, but out of the room, one can expect to find what they describe as a resort-style pool, a mini-mart, reserved parking, and a two-story fitness center. They also have available roommate matching.

THE RETREAT

The Retreat is another pet-friendly option that has floor plans varying from one to five bedrooms and the same in-unit furnishings as the previous options. The complex has amenities that include an indoor golf simulator, pool, fitness center, sauna, and game room. Their apartments come with the option to have them fully furnished upon move-in or to furnish with one's own possessions.

These are the primary options for student housing, with their differing amenities. Any of these options may appeal to students depending on their personal preferences, with each option holding different activities and services unique to each company.

PICTURED: The Sierra Student Apartments pictured on Jan. 19 in Corvallis. The Sierra Student Apartments are one of three student apartment sites which also include Domain and The Retreat.





Roommate Agreement



Moving in with new people can sometimes be a challenge. Whether you are living with your best friend or someone you barely know, setting terms before you move in is always a good idea. This roommate agreement can help you and your roommates set ground rules and expectations of your household. Feel free to cut out this page, take it to your roommates and fill it out together. Then stick it on your refrigerator and refer to it if any problems arise!

NOISE LEVEL

When you're studying at home, what is the expected noise level?
 quiet loud music no music doesn't matter

Any specific quiet hours? _____

SECURITY

Is it okay to leave the windows open at night?

yes no

Should doors be locked while gone or while home?

home gone both

Where will the spare key be?

hide for selves give to others none



FOOD

How should grocery shopping be done?

together separate

How should food be cooked?

together separate

Is food shared?

yes no asked first

How should food be stored?

designated spaces labeled with names wherever

TEMPERATURE

Turn off heat if it reaches _____ °F



BILLS

How should bills be paid?

together separate give money to designated roommate

DECORATIONS

Should shared spaces be decorated?

together no deco check with others

OTHER

List pet peeves:

If a problem arises, how should we communicate?

roommate meeting one-on-one text note

Discuss these topics:

What to do when an individual is upset.
 What are preferred sleep schedules?



GUESTS

Do guests need to be approved before they are invited over?

yes no

Are get togethers okay?

yes no discuss

Is alcohol allowed?

yes no

Are overnight guests allowed?

yes no

HYGIENE

How clean should the space be?

immaculate messy but not dirty don't care

Who should clean what?

designated chores clean up after self tag team

BORROWING ITEMS

Clothes/shoes/makeup/etc?

yes no ask first

Appliances/utensils/supplies?

yes no ask first

WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE ABOVE TOPICS AND ARE READY TO LIVE TOGETHER:

ROOMATE #1

ROOMATE #2

ROOMATE #3

ROOMATE #4

ROOMATE #5



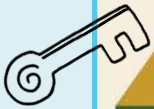


DAM DWELLINGS:

HOME RESOURCES FAIR

FEBRUARY 20 - 24

grab your event schedule and checklist in the
SEC plaza from 11am-4pm on February 15th!

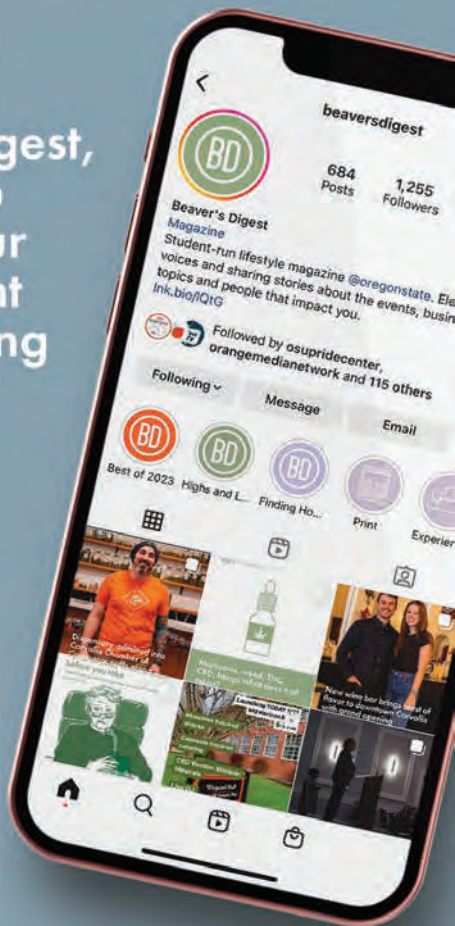
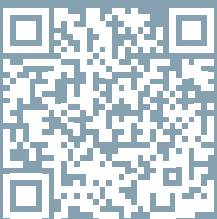


Check out our newest issue of Beaver's Digest, Highs and Lows: The Cannabis Issue, on racks now around campus!



Follow our Instagram, @beaversdigest, to stay up to date with our latest content and upcoming events!

read more at:



A house full of comm

"IT'S A UNIQUE experience, being able to live with 60 plus of your best friends."

According to Cade Dinsmore, president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, this is the highlight of living in greek life housing at Oregon State University.

Dinsmore describes the normal process for fraternity members living in to begin after their first year where members then live in for two years, typically their sophomore and junior years of school. Although in some cases when space allows new members are allowed to move in within their first year.

"If you need to talk to someone, you go, you walk right down the hall," Dinsmore said. "It's so easy to find people and there's always something going on."

The social benefit of meeting new people and always having a friend around is an experience shared by OSU sororities as well according to Devyn Halvorson, the 2022 panhellenic president and member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

"Once [members] moved in, they became best friends with people they would have never expected to be friends with," Halvorson said. "Another great thing about living in is the proximity to campus, all chapter houses are a short walk to campus and there is most likely someone else that has



Community, perspectives on Greek life housing

a class at the same time as you that can also walk with you to campus.”

Aside from the friends and proximity, the amenities and finances also appear to be a perk of living in Greek life housing according to Halvorson.

“You are paying for your place to live, what would normally be utilities, and you are also paying for two cooked meals a day with snacks,” Halvorson said. “All of our chapter facilities have a chef who cooks two meals a day Monday through Friday every week.”

According to Dinsmore, for SAE specifically this works out to be about \$3,000 per term.

In addition to dining, each house typically includes communal sleeping areas as well as day rooms and living rooms.

According to Alpha Delta Gamma sorority member and third year business management and supply chain logistics student Kelli Nekomoto, these common areas were where she became more comfortable with striking

up conversations and was able to bond with other girls.

“I love how everybody’s super into the beaver community and like Corvallis in general is already such a good community of like supporters,” Nekomoto said.

However there are other aspects to consider when living with upwards of 30 other people. According to Nekomoto, the shift from campus residence halls to greek life housing was an adjustment.

“By winter or spring term I finally kind of got it down and like I found out how to get quiet time within a lot of people,” Nekomoto said. “Because you kind of have to find your free time away from the house, then it kinda nudges you in the right direction of finding other places on campus or off campus to study.”

The other aspect of Greek life housing that drew Nekomoto to living out after her standard time is the difficulty in finding housing during breaks as many sorority houses close for

winter, spring and summer breaks.

“For spring break I had to find another place to crash for the week,” Nekomoto said. “So it is a little bit hard in terms of you have to move a bunch of stuff and I didn’t have a car last year or so it was pretty much whatever I can do in walking distance.”

Nekomoto mentioned that to help with these break times many of the older members of the sorority are typically welcoming for those who need a place to stay, tying back to the community aspect of Greek life.

“I mean, we’re gonna have the rest of our lives to live in a more private setting,” Dinsmore said. “This is a very unique time in our lives, and it’s a very, very, very cool experience.”

WRITER:
RILEY LECOCQ

ILLUSTRATOR:
CAT SMITH

DORM HORRORS

WRITER: GINNIE SANDOVAL	PHOTOGRAPHER: JAKE FISCHER
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DORM LIFE can have its ups and downs, but for some students, living in the dorms can result in some unspeakable horrors.

Room issues within the dorms have become a common reoccurrence among Oregon State University students.

"I have mold in my room," said Quora Reese, who lives on the fourth floor in Wilson Hall. "When I told them about it, all they did was give me a mold kit."

"We also have mold in our showers," said Shay Catt, another student living in the same building but on the fifth floor. "We keep reporting it, but they don't do anything about it."

In addition to this, Reese added, "I told my RA that there was mold on our walls, and she told me that it happens a lot."

For international student, Kristle Kranene, issues with her room started her very first night in the dorms, where she says she said she nearly froze.

"When I arrived, they said there would be bed linen, but there wasn't," Kranene said. "I was on the seventh floor [of Blass Hall] on the first day and the heating didn't go all the way to my room. So, there was no heating in the entire room. It was just so freezing cold and the mattress was just a piece of purple rubber; it was horrible."

PICTURED: Mark Fitzharris poses for a photo outside Wilson Hall on the Oregon State campus Nov. 29. Mark was placed in a dorm with two other international students at the beginning of the year.



Kranene said she resorted to using her sleeping bag until she was able to acquire bedding. After bringing up the issue and requesting an additional heating source, she was told it couldn't be provided since the heating on the floor wasn't broken, it just didn't fully reach her room.

"I was sleeping in my sleeping bag, and I was still freezing," Kranene said. "After a week they said that they would bring a heater, but then told me they weren't going to because the heating on the floor wasn't broken. There's just no heating in the room. Which was kind of the point."

Recently, OSU has been housing three people in a room. For sophomore Mark Fitzharris, everything was fine up until one of his roommates had to leave.

"My living situation was initially three people in an economy triple at Wilson Hall," he said. "It was great because I got to choose my roommates."

Fitzharris said that the silver lining to living in a triple is the ability to choose the people you're going to be crowded with. So, he was surprised when after one of his roommates had to leave, the school sent them an email that said they needed to prepare for a new roommate."

OSU moving someone into the room without consulting the roommates first was upsetting for Fitzharris.

"This pertains to comfortability," Fitzharris said. "Is it okay for the school to move someone in? We chose to live in a triple simply because we got to choose each other. Had we not become such good friends the rooming would have been different; maybe we would have preferred to live in a two-person dorm."



While room issues come up frequently for dorm-dwelling students, there are some who just experience interesting situations. Second-year roommates Ashley Sander and Lena Freebury experienced a vomit incident in their dorm that didn't seem to ever go fully away.

"I went out into the hallway, and it smelled like vomit," Sander said. "It looked like it had been shampooed, but you could tell there was a trail of projectile going directly to the bathroom."

Sander explained that the sixth floor isn't well ventilated, resulting in a lasting smell that drove them to use a different bathroom until it eventually dissipated. Apparently though, that wasn't the only incident.

"That was the first time," said Freebury. "The second time was right in the middle of the lobby. There was no way you could not pass by this ginormous splatter during your day-to-day life."

"You could see that it hadn't been shampooed and we kept having to go around it," Sander said. Three of us put in a maintenance request."

Freebury said that to avoid the stain in the lobby, she chose to use the fire escape to get to class over going anywhere near it.

Both roommates said the vomit was never properly cleaned up and eventually it just blended into the carpet. While the window was left open for a long time, the smell lingered for close to a month.

"It doesn't smell like vomit anymore, thank God," Sander said.

University Housing and Dining Services stated that due to the vague details provided by students they are unable to confirm any specifics, but they "can share that all of our residence hall rooms receive heat from steam and when we hear of mold concerns from students we respond very quickly to evaluate and provide any tools needed to help address it in the room."

Check out our newest issues of The Daily Barometer, on racks now around campus!

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THE Baro



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Roommate Compatibility Quiz



WRITER:
TARSA WEIKERT

Unsure about who to live with? Take this roommate compatibility quiz to test if your prospective roommate is right for you.

HOW DO YOU APPROACH DOING DISHES?

- A. I clean my dishes before I eat my freshly-cooked meal.
- B. One or two dishes in the sink does not bother me!
- C. I do not own a dish.
- D. I mean, I have grown mold in my sink before.

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO AFFORD RENT?

- A. Full-time workaholic here.
- B. Mom and Dad help me out.
- C. I am a broke college student.
- D. Just positive vibes here man, the corporate elite can't hold me down.



DO YOU ENJOY HOSTING WILD PARTIES OR DO YOU PREFER A QUIET NIGHT IN?

- A. I'm going to stay home all day.
- B. The occasional party never killed anyone.
- C. Party until you die and then party some more!
- D. Silent Disco.

DO YOU ENGAGE IN ANY MESSY HOBBIES?

- A. No...
- B. Sometimes my hobbies can get messy, but I always clean!
- C. I have so many hobbies! One of my favorites is making homemade bread and cleaning up my mess three days later.
- D. My life is a mess, my room is a mess, I am a mess.

DO YOU GET ANGRY EASILY?

- A. No, I am a neutral and understanding person.
- B. I may get upset if clothes are left in the bathroom, but we can talk it out.
- C. Do not look at me on Tuesdays...
- D. Pickup the fork you left on the counter, or I will lose my mind.

ARE YOUR COMFORTABLE LIVING WITH PETS?

- A. Yes! I have one fish, two snails, three cats and a dog!
- B. A cat or dog would be fine to live with.
- C. I literally sneeze every time I see an animal.
- D. No, I am not a fan of living with fur babies.

ARE YOU AN EARLY RISER OR A NIGHT OWL?

- A. I rise with the sun and sleep with the moon.
- B. I only have time to sleep in on the weekends.
- C. I am usually up studying until 3AM everyday.
- D. Sleep is for the weak.

WHAT IS YOUR NEGLECTED HOUSEHOLD CHORE?

- A. My room exists in a constant state of chaos.
- B. The laundry belongs in the basket or on the floor, not in my closet.
- C. I can leave a dish in one spot for weeks.
- D. Somehow the trash always ends up outside, it's like magic.



RESULTS: Compare results with your prospective roommate! Individuals who answered A or B for most questions may not be compatible with individuals who answered C or D for most questions.



FIND HELP WITH HOUSING BOTH ON CAMPUS AND OFF

PHOTOGRAPHER:
KATE ZINKE

WRITER:
SAM MISA



Editor's note: This article was originally published in March 2022.

WITH THE average cost of rent in Corvallis, Ore. being \$1,674 per month for an average-sized apartment of 866 square feet, there are resources available for students of Oregon State University facing housing insecurity.

In extreme cases, the Human Services Resource Center is able to provide emergency housing for up to 28 days for up to 10 people

at a time. Outside of this program, the HSRC provides other ways for students to save money, which they can then use for housing. For example, they provide Healthy Beaver Bags, which are ingredients and recipe kits available on Fridays from noon to 2:30 p.m. and can be picked up with a valid OSU student ID at the back porch of Champinefu Lodge. Additionally, open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, the HSRC food pantry is also available and only requires participants to give their name and zip code in order to qualify.

facing financial issues include the HSRC Food Assistance Application and guidance for those applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program available through the federal government, as well as the textbook lending program shared with the Valley Library.

"I think the textbook program is a good example of how [the library] works really well with the HSRC," said Steve Weber, coordinator for circulation services at the Valley Library. "They use the same system we do in the library to keep track of all the books that they have."

"They can choose from any [selection], and this changes weekly," said Food Security Assistant Tina Hanby. "You've got a nice variety of items that you can have... If you can't make it on Wednesdays, you can always come on Mondays or Thursdays and make an appointment and we'll have everything ready for you."

For housing cases the HSRC is not able to take care of, students are sent to other organizations, such as Jackson Street Youth Services. Jackson Street helps people from ages 10-24, and for college age participants, the organization groups them in their Next Steps Program.

"We offer housing and support," said Executive Director of Jackson Street Ann Craig. "If you're 18 to 20, experiencing homelessness and you need some extra

Other HSRC programs designed to help students



support, you can be in our program where you can stay up to 18 months.”

According to Craig, while the Next Steps Program does not require them to pay rent, program participants who are making an income have to set aside 30% of their earnings for savings. This is to help them have at least a couple months of rent ready for when they leave the program.

“For those students that are 21 through 24, they can still access that program,” Craig said. “Even if they’re younger, they can decide that they don’t need all that support—they don’t need the skill building or the support getting a job or with school. In that case, we can support them with basically discounted rent.”

According to Craig, many students may not even think of themselves as houseless because of the negative stigma associated with the word, which can stop them from asking for help when they need it. Craig

said using the label ‘homeless’ is not always necessary; oftentimes, it is just important to recognize when someone needs a safe place to live and be self-sufficient.

Craig said the people who visit Jackson Street are very diverse, but that the organization sees a lot of people with similar upbringings.

“We see many young people who have experienced trauma in their childhood,” Craig said. “Maybe they’ve had parents die or they’ve been neglected or abused in the past, and they may have a distrust of adults or getting help.”

According to Craig, LGBTQ+ youth are another common demographic of people Jackson Street sees a lot of; people who need housing because their identities were not accepted by their families.

“That’s why they don’t have this kind of support that you would normally have when you’re transitioning to adulthood,” Craig said. “They

need some extra help navigating, that maybe their parents aren’t willing to do for them.”

According to Craig, there are other options for those facing housing insecurity, such as Community Outreach, Inc. The organization has a transitional housing program as well as programs to help people dealing with drug abuse or addiction. COI did not respond for comment in time for publication.

There are also many opportunities to assist Jackson Street through donations and volunteering.

“We are always looking for academic coaches, for leaders for youth activities, for mentors,” said Craig. “Mentors are a bigger commitment, because we’re looking for someone who will be willing to work with that youth for a whole year.”



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BEST OF Beaver Nation 2023

STUDENT ON THE STREET

WRITER: ABHEER SINGH
PHOTOGRAPHER: FERN BARBER

Siera Steil



"I'm in Buxton (hall dorm)."

Ella Dreke



"West Hall on campus."

Yusuf Tamimi



"I'm living on campus, I live in Cauthorn Hall."

Abbey Schlumpberger & Nicole Brown



"Buxton!"

EVER WONDERED where other people live? In a non-creepy way? We completely understand — getting a sense of other people's housing can help illuminate options in our own search. We got really nosy, walked around campus and asked folks, "What's your living situation like?"

student on the street

"Apartments
in the Orchard
Court."

Lucas Yao

"Grove streets."

**Chisom Molokwu &
Chimdi Chikezie**

Bryan Partida

"I'm
staying at
home, off
campus
(local
student)."

"NorthWest Oak Avenue."

WHAT'S YOUR LIVING SITUATION LIKE?

"I'm living
in an
apartment,
it's in Grand
Oaks."

Siera Steil

...et student on the



THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

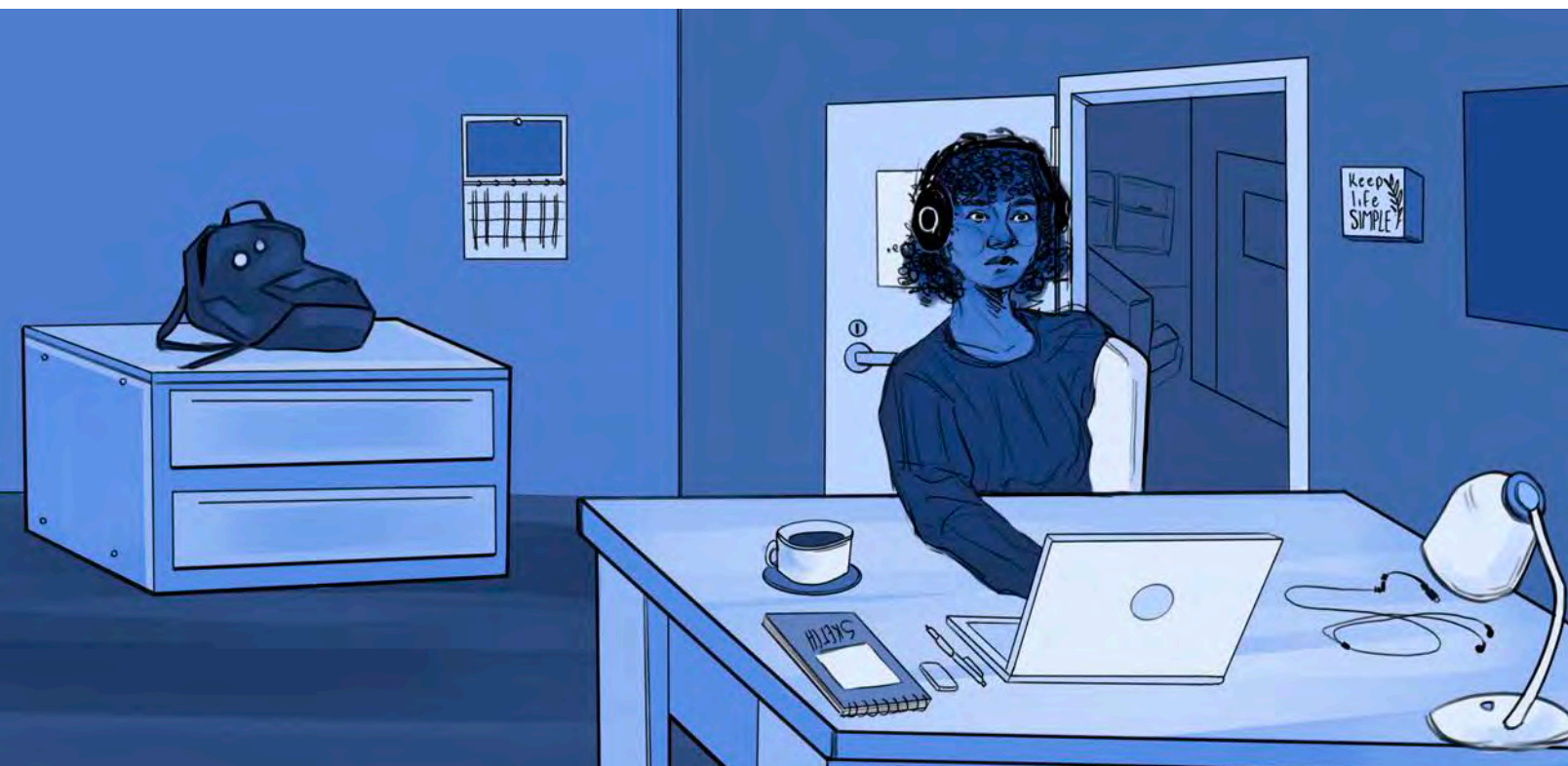
WRITER:
ALEXANDER BANKS

ILLUSTRATOR:
CAT SMITH

why some undergraduates may desire to live on campus past freshman year

EVEN THOUGH Oregon State University only mandates first-year students to live on campus, some undergrads continue living on campus rather than weighing other options.

With 16 different residence halls, free laundry and more than 25 different micro-restaurants, “the college experience” is something those undergrads still desire.



OSU offers plenty of resources to immerse you into Beaver culture, but for first-year history major Miguel Barbosa, the most important thing is experiencing a real, bittersweet taste of independence.

Although Barbosa is a freshman he lives off campus with his parents, both being professors at the university. One of the very few exceptions allowed for incoming students.

After his first term, he plans on moving out of the house and into the dorms, to take advantage of the complete college experience.

"I spend less time with my friends because I'm off campus," Barbosa said.

With all of his necessities being in close proximity: classes, friends and a library, Barbosa feels that living on-campus will give him the ability to optimize the most time with his friends as they all undergo the freshman experience together.

He recommends that even if a freshman might have the ability to live off campus, like himself, they should at least experience what living in a dormitory is like.

"I wouldn't have to pay for utilities which comes with the cost of the dorm room," Barbosa said. "It all depends on what is more important to you, (like) personal freedom."

Freedom, however, is just one of the many perks that come with living on campus.

Rebecca Munk, a third-year math and physics double major, chose to continue living on campus for her own convenience.

"It was just easier to figure out," Munk continues. "I had done it last year and I already knew the process. It keeps all your finances in one place."

Munk enjoys spending time in physics-specific clubs and partaking in the different events at the university, such as the Halloween party and bubble party earlier in the year.

Being within walking distance only makes life easier for her.

According to University Housing and Dining Services, in self-conducted research and studies done by OSU, students who live on campus earn better grades and graduate quicker.

However, according to Munk, being around freshmen can get annoying since they are so loud, which is why Munk lives in Halsell Hall, a dorm exclusive to at least second-year students and those that are transferring.

OSU caters to many different students and their unique living situations: students with children can apply to live in Orchard Court, students who are in recovery for substance abuse can apply to live in Dixon Lodge and students who want to experience different cultures can apply to live in the International Living and Learning Community building.

Unfortunately, convenience might not always be possible, and being away from loud freshmen could be the least of some student's worries.

"I had a terrible time reserving my room," Munk said. "They — (UHDS) — kept talking about system malfunctions and being understaffed."

UHDS was not available at the time of publication to comment.

how to make your dorm feel more like home



Editor's note: This article was originally published in March 2022.

THE TRANSITION to living in a dorm can be difficult, but there are ways to lessen the homesickness and make your dorm an enjoyable place to be.

According to Hannah McLeod, a student at Oregon State University, it can definitely be a hard experience moving into the dorms. She noted how the transition from high school to college, and how it's so different from at-home life, can be a struggle.

A common hardship is learning how to live with your roommate. Aneka Davys, an international OSU student from Australia, said an important thing to do is "ensure that you are on the same page as your roommate and actively try to work with them and compromise."

Homesickness is often a heavy burden new students face. Davys said, "I feel homesick all the time, especially in the morning."

While there can be struggles with dorm life, OSU dormitory residents provided their experienced wisdom on how to deal with the hardships you may face, and overall, how to make your experience the best it can be.

In terms of dealing with homesickness, McLeod said, "When I was a freshman, the best solution for that was being with friends. Only because it's almost like, with homesickness, you almost lack personability."

McLeod added, "Spending time with people was really helpful for me and also making time to do the activities that I find important."

Technology has also helped students connect

with family and friends from far away.

"Usually I look at photos or try to message someone or just find something to get my mind off it," Davys said.

Maddie Jensen, an OSU student from out-of-state said, "I have Skype virtuals with my family every Sunday. So just being able to connect virtually has helped a lot."

Jensen also said that continuing to do what she does at home can help ease her homesickness.

Additionally, it's important to make your dorm feel comfortable and more like home.

A good way to do this is to "make time to, if you can, cook in the dorms—I think that's a great option. I did that a couple times freshman year," McLeod said.



Davys agreed that cooking was a good way to make your dorm experience more fun. "I try to set tasks to do, such as cooking every Sunday night and other hobbies," she said.

Another way of making your dorm feel more like home is getting creative. "I think the key to making it more homey is decorations," Jensen said. She recommended putting some lights up.

Most of all, students noted that it's always a good idea to get involved with your dorm communities, whether that be through joining activities or getting to know your neighbors.

"I would definitely say, even though it's kind of uncomfortable, meeting new people on your [floor level] whether that be knocking on peoples' doors or just trying to get your name out and connecting [is important]," Jensen said.



PHOTOGRAPHER:
KAYLA JONES

WRITER:
ADIA WOLTERS

McLeod agreed, "I think making as many connections you can as a freshman is probably one of the best things you could do."

Both Jensen and McLeod said movie nights are a great way to have fun with your floor.

McLeod also talked about the importance of getting out of the dorms with the people you meet, such as going to Monroe Avenue which hosts various restaurants that are fun places to go out with friends. She added that she went a lot as a freshman.

Finally, students said that it's also important to get involved with the OSU community as a whole.

"I think that when you are more involved on campus you meet more people," McLeod said, noting that this will allow you to develop more relationships around campus—and some of the people you meet may even live in your dorm!

"I think being a part of a club or team is really helpful," Dayvs said.

According to McLeod, finding an activity you like to do and getting involved with those groups can help build meaningful relationships.

"I also think Oregon State is a pretty cool school where it has a large campus-small campus kind of feel," McLeod said. "So the people you meet in your dorms you're gonna know again, and you're gonna run into them on campus."

Overall, dorm life can seem daunting, but experienced OSU residents provided assurance that there are ways to enhance your experience through getting yourself involved with the OSU community.



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For students living off-campus, Corvallis-area bus networks provide several commuting options



PICTURED: A student waits for their bus at the bus stop on Monroe and Kings, Nov 29. CTS routes 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 pass through this stop, meaning that you can make it here from most areas of Corvallis without having to switch buses.

WRITER:
WES FLOW

PHOTOGRAPHER:
ALEX OZERAN

STUDENTS LOOKING to rent in or around Corvallis have many factors to consider, but one factor to pay close attention to is transportation – how to navigate from home to campus and around town.

While there are a multitude of ways to get around town in Corvallis, campus and city transportation officials encourage students to consider public transportation.

“Taking a look at bus and bike routes to campus when you are selecting housing is really important,” said Sarah Bronstein, sustainable transportation manager for Oregon State University.

For students who need to get around campus, OSU transportation services operate the Beaver Bus, a free shuttle bus service that runs Monday through Friday. According to Bronstein, OSU has spent a lot of time raising awareness about the service.

“Over the summer and fall of 2022, Transportation Services attended nearly 50 events to share information about transportation and parking with students and employees,” Bronstein said.

According to Bronstein, most students already have access to information about the Beaver Bus, since the Beaver Bus tracker is built into the OSU mobile app.

At the moment, two Beaver Bus routes are currently running, down from the usual six, due to a nationwide shortage of drivers, according to Bronstein. However, she says that this will change as soon as OSU can hire more drivers.

“Moving forward, any changes to either reduce or increase bus service will be dependent on driver availability,” Bronstein said. “We hope to increase our Beaver Bus service as soon as more drivers become available.”

There are more than just Beaver Bus stops on campus, though.

According to Bronstein, there are 28 Corvallis Transit System bus stops on or around campus. Of these, three are shared with Beaver Bus stops, allowing riders to change bus services more easily.

For travelers traversing the town, CTS provides

bus service to all parts of Corvallis, according to Tim Bates, transit coordinator for the City of Corvallis.

Renters may be looking to avoid the added expense of gas, especially since, according to AAA, Oregon’s gas prices are currently among the nation’s highest, and the fareless CTS bus services provide an affordable alternative.

Renters may want to consider not just the proximity of potential housing to public transit, but how much service the area receives as well.

“There are areas of the city that receive a lot of service because of ridership demand,” Bates said. “Witham Hill Drive, Circle Boulevard between Witham Hill Drive and Harrison Boulevard, South Corvallis, and Kings Boulevard are among those areas.”

CTS is currently being affected by the same driver shortage as the Beaver Bus. According to their website, weekend service on all routes has been suspended due to the shortage. Furthermore, CTS has recently canceled its Night Owl routes, Route 50, Route 5 Peak Service and Route 6 Peak Service, although this is due to a lack of demand, rather than lack of drivers.

“There is no guaranteed date on which service will be restored,” Bates said. “We are working as hard as we can to make this happen.”

First time transit users may have questions, and both Bates and Bronstein offered advice about where you can get more information if you’re unfamiliar with local transit services.

“Feel free to ask questions of the bus drivers,” Bates said. “They are a great source of information.”

Bates added that riders can also call the CTS information line at 541-766-6998 or visit the CTS website at corvallisoregon.gov/cts.

Bronstein suggests that transit users download the Transit App, which has real-time tracking for multiple local bus services. According to her, the app doesn’t just include tracking info for the Corvallis area; in fact, the service is used by transit systems nationwide.

Corvallis bus services can take you farther

than just city limits, too. The Linn-Benton Loop has three routes connecting Corvallis and Albany, all of which stop at both the Corvallis Downtown Transit Center and on the OSU campus.

The service is popular with students, according to City of Albany Transit Manager Barry Hoffman. The most recent data available shows that the loop’s most popular route is the Campus Connector, a line between the OSU campus and Linn Benton Community College that’s free to OSU students.

Normally, Loop routes are free to riders with an OSU, LBCC, Hewlett Packard or Samaritan Health Services ID card. For the time being, however, the Linn Benton Loop is free for anyone to use, no ID card required. According to Hoffman, it’s possible the service may remain this way permanently.

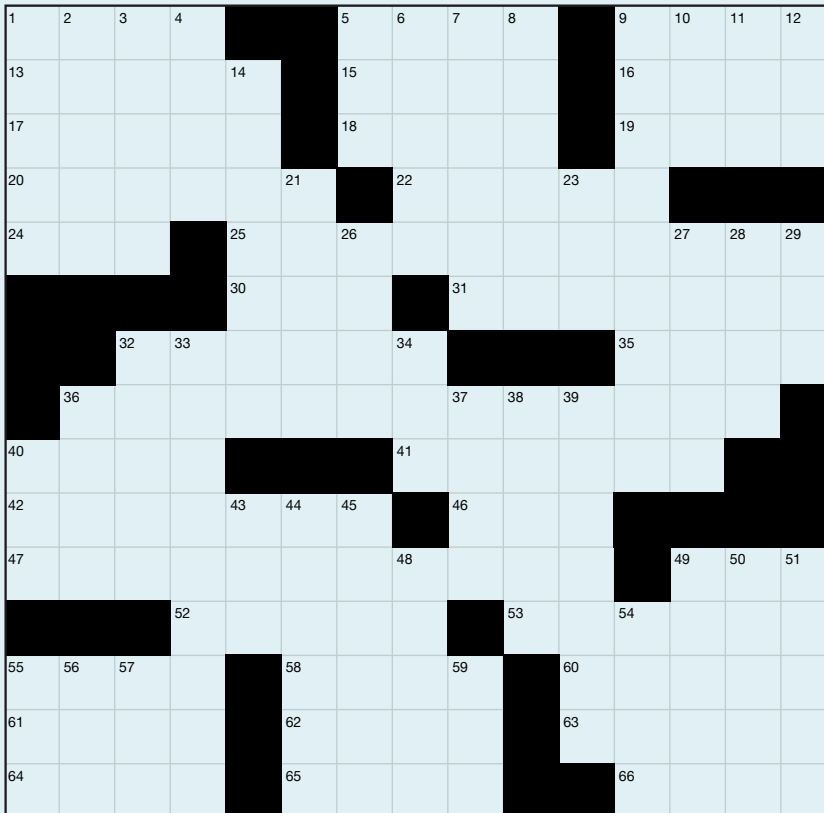
“Re-implementing fares has been a topic at recent meetings, but there has also been discussion about trying to keep the (Linn Benton) Loop fareless,” Hoffman said. “There is no immediate plan to re-implement fares.”

Benton Area Transit and Lincoln County Transit have partnered to offer the Coast to Valley Express, a bus service from Albany to Newport which stops in Corvallis. A ride from Corvallis to Newport costs five dollars, according to the BAT website.

Besides these public transportation options, several companies also offer services from Corvallis to other cities statewide. According to the OSU Transportation Services website, Groome Transportation offers shuttle bus services from the Corvallis Hilton Garden Inn to Portland International Airport seven days a week, and FlixBus offers service to cities such as Eugene, Salem, Portland and Seattle.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Volts over amperes
5. 2013 Ben Stiller film which one Best Picture
9. A loud wail
13. Like Santa's suit, after going down the chimney
15. Durable choice for woodworkers
16. Home to the majority of Earth's population
17. A tutor's pupil
18. "_____ sow, so shall ..."
19. Gardening tools
20. 1987 Dustin Hoffman film, notorious for its negative reception
22. "You're _____ talk!"
24. Loser to DDE
25. Some tax filers (see 2-down)
30. 24 Mos.
31. Big cholesterol source
32. Non-complainers in philosophy
35. Senior citizens org.
36. 1969 Kurt Vonnegut anti-war novel following Billy Pilgrim (see 2-down)
40. Some airport sign stats.
41. Spine bearing spot on a cactus
42. Harmful algal bloom
46. "Fleur-de-____"
47. Global warming cause (see 2-down)
49. Descendant of Muhammad's title, "____ Khan"
52. "_____ Lymphoma"
53. Greetings
55. Head, to Pierre
58. Take drugs?
60. British rosters, or spanish for broken
61. Improves, of some wines and cheeses
62. Blues singer James
63. 'm', in an algebraic equation
64. Led with a boom?
65. Jörmungandr's greeting
66. Grieg's "_____ Death"

DOWN

1. Old Roman Port
2. What's missing from 25-across, 36-across, or 47-across
3. Light seekers
4. Editor's neutral note
5. "____ glance"
6. Replace a lawn
7. Singer Gloria of "I Will Survive"
8. Actor Michael of Caddyshack
9. Gmail alternative
10. Spanish for bear
11. Golfer Michelle, or "how" in German
12. Choral noises
14. Accusatory retort
21. Put the trailer on again
23. Religious deg.
26. The Nazarene author Sholem
27. "Take it or _____ it"
28. Truth alternative?
29. NASCAR oil brand
32. 1960s British rock band
33. Crucial cooking step omitted from most recipes
34. RR stop
36. Gang ending
37. Perry Mason author
38. "Third _____," which ended in 1945
39. Houses a child, temporarily
40. Physics work unit
43. "Monsters ____"
44. Some farm equipment
45. D sharps, in other words
48. Moves swiftly, like a bird
49. Sopranos counterparts
50. How a boss might react to monkeying around?
51. Half of a mule's lineage
54. 1970 hit by The Kinks
55. Kept open by a drunk
56. One of Freud's 3 personality components
57. Commonly spilled by teenagers?
59. Prosecutor leaders: abbr.

SUDOKU

	7		6		8	1		
	3			1	5			
	6			5				
			4				8	2
				7		4		
		4				5		6
5					1	8		7
		9				3		



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PUZZLE CONTRIBUTOR:
TUCKY HELM

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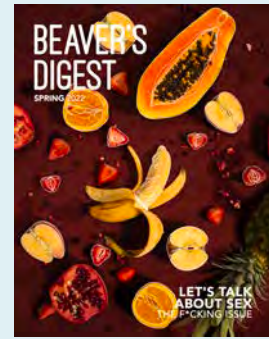
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