Life inside an isolation dorm room at UNC

Students detail the loneliness of life inside quarantine and isolation.

By Praveena Samasundaram
Assistant Online Editor

First-year Erica Bass woke up to a call on the morning of Aug. 20 about her COVID-19 test results. She'd tested positive.

“I did end up crying a little bit after I found out about it just because I didn’t really know where to go next,” Bass said. “I had absolutely no idea what to do because my main support system is states away.”

She’d gotten tested at the UNC Health Respiratory Diagnostic Center the day before and was living at the AC Hotel in Chapel Hill. Construction challenges had delayed her move-in to Granville Towers East.

Bass’s mother, who lives in Virginia, immediately contacted Carolina Housing to set up isolation housing on campus in Parker Residence Hall for her as soon as possible.

The Roadmap for Fall 2020 set aside Parker Residence Hall for isolation for students who tested positive for COVID-19, and Craige North Residence Hall to quarantine students who might have been exposed.

After packing up using a list from Carolina Housing, Bass took the P2P to Parker Residence Hall to begin her stay in isolation housing, which would last until Aug. 28.

She got a call from Campus Health on the morning of Aug. 23 for contact tracing — they asked who she’d been in contact with over the last six days. Bass thought she’d be receiving a daily check-in phone call from Campus Health, as the person from Campus Health who’d answered her call on Aug. 16 to get a COVID-19 test.

“They told her that she’d receive a call from Carolina Housing within an hour to start the move-in process into on-campus quarantine at Craige North Residence Hall.”

Bass went back to her room after getting tested and waited about four hours before receiving a call from Carolina Housing about moving in.

“You imagine moving into a dorm as a very monumental, special thing, but when you’re moving into a quarantine dorm, you have no one helping you,” Fras said. “You only brought the stuff that you can carry. It’s very disheartening.”

She was given the code to a locker outside of Craige North, which had keys to her room and food for the first night in quarantine.

“I couldn’t hear anyone talking in the hallway,” Fras said. “There was no music. It was just desolate. I just unpacked everything and went to sleep.”

In one of UNC’s isolation dorms on Thursday Aug. 27, 2020.

Lexi Freas
First-year psychology major Lexi Freas poses for a portrait over FaceTime with her bags as she prepares to move out of one of UNC’s quarantine dorms on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020.

Natalie Tuinstra
First-year psychology major Natalie Tuinstra poses for a portrait over FaceTime in one of UNC’s isolation dorms on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020.

Lilly Thurmond
First-year business major Lilly Thurmond poses for a portrait over FaceTime in one of UNC’s isolation dorms on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020.

Erica Bass
First-year political science and dramatic art double major Erica Bass poses for a portrait over FaceTime in one of UNC’s isolation dorms on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020.

Ashleigh Martens
First-year philosophy and pre-law student Ashleigh Martens poses for a portrait over FaceTime in one of UNC’s isolation dorms on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020.

Activists ask what comes next after release of sexual assault records

By Anna Neil
Assistant University Editor

Student activists and survivors at UNC have worked for years to combat sexual assault and gender-based violence on campus. And with the recent release of 15 sexual assault records since 2007, they now look to how activism and awareness can move forward.

Reactions to the release

“With the release of the records, I think there is just this celebration of accountability — that was, I think, one of the first responses, then also empathy for survivors, and that’s really what my reaction was,” Campus Y Co-President Thilini Weerakkody said. “It was based on seeing a lot more of the systemic failings in the university.”

“I think it’s just really important to hear how each of these cases have been handled, and to just start to document that and come up with our own accountability.”

By JTUFOPO "QUEEN LATIFAH, "HAIRSPRAY"

"Yesterday is history, and it’s never comin’ back!
QUEEN LATIFAH, "HAIRSPRAY"

Heel Talk: Episode 19
How we got, lost, then got a Pass/Fail option for the Fall semester.

Listen on Apple Podcasts and Spotify

SEE ACTIVISTS, PAGE 3
Resident advisers question their positions’ future

By Claire Tynan  
Staff Writer

As students move off-campus and dorm de-densification continues, resident advisers are responsible for fewer and fewer residents. And the future remains uncertain for Carolina Housing student staff and their employment status.

Between Aug. 17 and Aug. 24, Carolina Housing’s occupancy decreased from 60.5 percent to 51.1 percent, after the University moved all undergraduates online.

And as of Friday, on-campus housing is at 13.1 percent occupancy. “There is the chance that your room, hall, and/or community assignment may change as we move forward,” Carolina Housing said in an email to student staff on Aug. 22.

Jarrah Faye, a sophomore majoring in political science, is an RA in the Craige community. She said she does not think it would be a good idea to move RAs to other halls, due to multiple clusters of COVID-19 on campus.

“I don’t really think it’d be a good idea for us to have multiple RAs moving to another spot so we can further spread the disease,” Faye said. “I think staying put is not only better for us but better for other students as a whole.”

RAs and other student staff are also facing changes to their day-to-day tasks.

“At this time, we are suspending rounds for all communities. The on-call phone should be answered, and staff should provide assistance over the phone, where possible and appropriate,” Carolina Housing said in an email to student staff the afternoon of Aug. 21. The email also said the public desks will be closed, but office assistants and RAs should still report for office hours to complete administrative tasks.

“So far, housing has allowed us to close the desks so we can only answer the phone and help residents as much as we can remotely and we’re no longer checking in items,” said an office assistant who asked to remain anonymous due to employment concerns. “Because of those extra precautions, I do feel a little safer, but it’s weird because I still can’t do my job the way that I wanted to, the way we all expected to.”

In the Aug. 32 email, Carolina Housing said RAs will continue to be paid as usual and those living on campus can continue doing so. “I hope that, if we do have to get fired or terminated, there’s compensation,” the office assistant said. “Because it’s not fair for us to have to stay here this long and prioritize capital over our health for them to just terminate us with no type of compensation.”

She said she was excited to apply for her position earlier in the year, but thinks the University did not make a good decision in allowing students back on campus. Faye said she also thinks the University’s choice to have students on campus was ill-informed and put students at a higher risk of getting COVID-19.

“My RA experience was not worth getting kids sick,” Faye said. “It should not have re-opened — not in this way.”

Faye said that, along with her disappointment in how the University handled COVID-19 precautions, she is disappointed to have not gotten the full RA experience.

“Because it’s not fair for us to have to stay here this long and prioritize capital over our health for them to just terminate us with no type of compensation,” Faye said.

Students move out of Craige Residence Hall on Aug. 18, 2020. After most of the students moved out of dorms, RAs are wondering what their future will look like.

Director of Carolina Housing Allan Blattner said in a statement via UNC Media Relations that UNC understands the challenges facing students during this time.

“This is a time filled with uncertainty and stress,” Blattner said. “Carolina Housing is working hard to keep residents and staff, including student staff, safe, and to regularly communicate about upcoming changes in a consistent and timely manner.”

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Campus workers protest for job security

By Emily Orland

Campus workers, faculty and graduate students gathered in front of the South Building on Thursday morning to advocate for worker safety and job security in the wake of the University’s decision to close campus.

The rally was hosted by the NC Public Service Workers Union UE160 and The Workers of UNC Coalition.

Donald Santacaterina, a history doctoral student and UE160 vice president, kicked off the rally by mentioning that the University’s decision to close campus was a “small step” towards ensuring the safety of all employees.


By Anna Pogarcic

Y’all, I’m on the brink. As the semester trudges on, I rely on this semester’s themes to keep growing. I know I’m not alone in this, and this is not new, but everyone is in the same boat. I am trying my best to stay on top of things, but I keep getting thrown off track.

I’m feeling on the brink of myself and anything else in my life. I feel like I’m not in control of anything and I feel like I’m not in control of myself. This semester is a tsunami and I barely know what I’m doing.

I’m not kidding. I went to the doctor before the semester started, and they told me my blood pressure was too high for someone my age. And that was the case before classes started and we were already dealing with daily University breaking news.

I said earlier in the email that the Office of State Human Resources, which is run by the University, determines what leave is available and the Carolina way.

UNC Medicine Relations said in an email that the Office of State Human Resources, which is run by the University, determines what leave is available to employees and UNC-Chapel Hill has little to no discretion. UNC Medicine Relations said in an email that a member of the Carolina community tests positive for COVID-19.

I want to leave us at home. That’s not right. That’s pride, and that’s definitely not the Carolina way.

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I think that the way that UNC handles its policy, it puts a lot of the burden on survivors, as their discourse doesn’t. The University must prioritize education to prevent sexual assault.

I hope this isn’t the only time we are forced to leave our homes and that it is OK to feel like it sucks. We get it, this is unprecedented and we have had to allow for feelings. We can be everything and can be forced with what our lives have been uprooted. We can even let go of our feelings.

But it’s also important to remember what we have individual impact on how it goes forward.

We can be better and we can have individual impact on how it goes forward. The only way we can ensure that the world goes forward and that we can learn behind the bad feelings is to do the right thing.

Social distance. Hug a tree. Take time for yourself. Keep the greater social interest in mind. That’s what we must do in the long term.

But for today, some time off, have a good moment or intense emotion and accept 2020 has been tough, and that — and whatever you may be going through — sucks. Sad music, in an eerie and confusing way, makes me feel better.

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Kevin Guskiewicz needs to step up or step down

Hey, can we get a new chancellor? Please?

I’ve watched the administration struggle to keep the whole thing afloat. Once a top recruiter, someone who really built up a strong recruiting stable, not so much anymore. Kevin Guskiewicz comes off like a wrong hire.

He’s a former Nassau County administrator who’s known for his political savvy. Guskiewicz has been described as someone who is good at navigating complex political landscapes, but his tenure at UNC has been marked by controversy and criticism.

The athletic department under his leadership has faced numerous challenges, including financial issues and ethical concerns. The most recent controversy involved the football program, which was placed on probation by the NCAA after violations were discovered.

We need a leader who can inspire and lead the Tar Heels to victory on and off the field. The current chancellor is not doing that job. It’s time for a change.

December 20, 2020

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Commentary on campus

Kevin Guskiewicz's tenure has been marked by controversy and criticism, and it's time for a change. The current chancellor is not doing that job. It’s time for a change.

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UNCG new pass/fail option leaves much to be desired

The announcement came after months of debate, but some students and faculty are concerned about the new pass/fail option. There are a few key differences between the traditional system and the new policy, which some argue could lead to more students opting for the pass/fail option.

One concern is that the new policy may be too lenient. There are questions about whether the new policy will actually help students who are struggling. There are also concerns about the impact on academic integrity.

It’s important to consider the potential consequences before making changes to an institution’s academic policies. We need to find a balance that meets the needs of all students and upholds the values of academic excellence.

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It’s time to give WBNA players the credit they deserve

In defense of Kevin G

In 2010, WNBA players banded together to form the WNBA Players Association in order to demand the same resources and professional representation that their male counterparts receive. For years, however, the Women’s National Basketball Association has been a shadow of the National Basketball Association, with far fewer resources and opportunities available to its players.

The WNBA’s success is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of its players, who have been fighting for their rights and fair representation for decades. It’s time for the league to step up and recognize the contributions of its players.

Recent negotiations between the WNBA and its players have been tense, with questions about contracts, pay equity, and mental health concerns. It’s clear that more needs to be done to address these issues.

In the end, the WNBA needs to step up and address these concerns. The league has the resources and platform to make significant changes, and it’s time to make those changes now.

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The year has shown us that nothing is straightforward, everything can change in a heartbeat, and we can’t control our fate. As a result, it is both unfair and unrealistic to expect leaders to declare a class pass/fail by Nov. 17 — enough grade may have to put forth extraordinary work on the other suck.

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What’s the future of the WNBA?

The WNBA’s future is in our hands. We need to continue to demand fair treatment and recognition for our players, and to support the league in any way we can. It’s time for the WNBA to step up and address these issues.

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The pandemic has laid bare the need for real change. The way we operate as a society is broken, and it’s time to fix it. The WNBA can be a leader in this movement, and we need to support it.

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Linda’s, Moe’s shutter as COVID-19 cases spike

Emma Kenfield
Senior Writer

Two more Chapel Hill favorites, Moe’s Southwest Grill and Linda’s Bar and Grill, have shut their doors in response to COVID-19 outbreaks in Chapel Hill.

Linda’s, located on East Franklin Street in 1988, a staple at Carolina for over 30 years. Before COVID-19, Linda’s offered dine-in services indoors and outdoors with unique cocktails, beer and wine, a full menu until midnight and a “drunchies” menu until close.

Since the pandemic, Linda’s has offered outdoor seating, delivery and takeout, with the option to purchase wine or beer. On March 19, Bar Manager Justin Cole created a GoFundMe to keep Linda’s afloat after Gov. Roy Cooper’s executive order to limit restaurants to takeout services only. The GoFundMe was updated on the day the restaurant closed again and has since reached its original $20,000 goal. The money will be split among staff members, according to the GoFundMe page.

Christopher Carini, owner, operator and chef at Linda’s since 2011, said there was not enough business to justify staying open with local cases spiking.

He said he’s making preparations to reopen for dine-in and takeout in October, assuming the number of cases lowers by then.

“When we reopen, I’m gonna man front-of-house and assume the risk for infection,” said Carini. “Because if I want to open my restaurant, then I should be the one assuming the risk — not asking the people who work for me to go back to work.”

Moe’s Southwest Grill, located beside Yogurt Pump on Franklin Street, has closed permanently. Moe’s is a franchise with over 700 locations both in the U.S. and abroad. The menu includes burritos, tacos, quesadillas and burrito bowls.

The Chapel Hill franchise owner didn’t respond to a request for comment. Matt Gladeke, executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, said Moe’s closed because someone else is taking over the lease.

“A new restaurant will be going in there quick on their heels,” said Gladeke. “I don’t think that restaurant is ready to come out with too much press yet, but that’s probably the biggest reason that Moe’s is shutting down.”

Walking down Franklin Street is a much different experience than it was a year ago. People wearing masks, curbside seating and a noticeable drop in foot traffic are signs of the strange times we are living in. However, the boarded up businesses that pepper the street are evidence of a more concerning change.

Ms. Mong, Lula’s, Lotta Stone Fired Pizza and Waffle House have all closed their doors since the pandemic began, and with students leaving after classes have gone remote, the economic impact COVID-19 is having on downtown Chapel Hill may be creating long-term changes.

Gov. Roy Cooper issued an executive order banning dine-in in restaurants on March 17 and issued a stay-at-home order on March 27, which resulted in numerous businesses closing temporarily with hopes to reopen once the worst of the pandemic was over. This decision by Cooper was controversial, but the threat of the virus called for unprecedented actions to flatten the curve in order to save lives.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has dragged on, as well as its effect on businesses. For a restaurant-heavy Franklin Street, this does not help to create optimism for the future.

It is easy to notice the struggles that small businesses are facing right now, and stories to cover the immediate fallout of the University going to remote classes after numerous clusters were reported on campus are abundant. The question becomes about what happens after a couple of months pass, and people begin to focus their attention elsewhere.

Our goal is to make sure that we are providing the people of Orange County with comprehensive coverage that will continue to focus on stories that are important to our community. The 2020 election is fast approaching, and the results of it will easily become the next big story of the year. But businesses on Franklin Street will not stop feeling the impact of the pandemic because they are no longer the top story.

It is important for The Daily Tar Heel to remember the stories of businesses owners on Franklin Street, and to continue to tell them. Franklin Street is a highlight for students attending UNC, and preserving its legacy is the least we can do.

If you live in Orange County and want to make your voice heard on something you care about locally, email city@dailytarheel.com.
buildings are professionally cleaned.

areas of quarantine and isolation daily.

does not call students in quarantine needed.” They said Campus Health to assess their symptoms, condition Campus Health provider or nurse responds will receive a call from a Relations, “Any student who food, but that’s it,” Freas said.

like, ‘Am I being forgotten about? Am

expected to receive phone calls.

survey for symptom monitoring for Compensation up to $100. For more information, call 919-966-

on COVID-19. Eligible candidates will have had a positive

This is a study developing a non-invasive assay for research

Agency is seeking adults ages 18 and up for Research Study.

ANTIBODY RESEARCH STUDY The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking adults ages 18 up and for Research Study. This is a study developed to research on COVID-19. Eligible candidates will have had a possible diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 2 months. You will receive a call and be mailed a survey to complete.

To place a Line Classified Ad, go to www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds or call 919-962-0252. Help Wanted


HOROSCOPES

If August 31 is Your Birthday...

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7 — Support your partner as you navigate uncharted waters. Use your influence to guide you through this new development. Consider all possibilities. Grab an opportunity.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is an 8 — Adapt to any changes, look beyond what you can see to imagine what’s possible. Use your inspiration and coordination to take advantage of an opportunity.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Today is a 7 — Use what you’re building. You have the power and the wisdom to bridge different points of view. Listen and make a powerful connection.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Today is an 8 — Together you can accomplish more. Don’t hold back. You can share your needs. Collaborate on the final product. Female financial advisors. Listen for what could be possible.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — Support your partner as you navigate uncharted waters. Use your influence to guide you through this new development. Consider all possibilities. Grab an opportunity.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Adventure awaits. You are on the forefront. Manage tasks, priorities and obligations. Stay in communication to manage the consequences of unforeseen events. Always ambidextrous.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Focus on the financial. Manage tasks, priorities and obligations. Stay in communication to manage the consequences of unforeseen events. Always ambidextrous.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — Things are not going according to plan. Review and revise. Change indoor new market opportunities and pathways to a new ambition. Reconsider the rules.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6 — Time to recharge your batteries and get ready for productive days ahead. Give up something valuable to something better. Pay attention to your dreams.
Athletes march for racial justice

By Ryan Wilcox

North Carolina basketball’s Leaky Black and Andrew Platek were among the first to show up Saturday, standing and waiting outside McDonald’s, the latter in a Black Lives Matter T-shirt.

Others soon began popping up: volleyball players here, fencers there, recognizable by their team-issued merchandise and brandishing signs with phrases like “Matter is the minimum” and “Black lives > white comfort.” Before long, a crowd had formed on the north side of Franklin Street.

A half-hour later, more than 200 Tar Heel athletes and coaches had marched their way from Franklin Street to Rosemary Street to Morehead Planetarium, where a handful of players gave speeches about racial injustice to conclude a memorable and important day in UNC sports history.

“This system was built for people like us not to succeed,” junior track and field athlete Madrid Loper told the crowd. “We want an equal fight. We don’t want any advantages, we want to be treated like human beings.”

The event, part of the #MarchOnMyCampus2020 movement, was organized by UNC track and field’s Nicole Barnes and Lauryn Hall and women’s soccer’s Rachel Jones. It came after the Aug. 23 police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which left Blake paralyzed from the waist down in family conflict, but that he was “very proud of our players and staff, and all the athletes, coaches and staff, who participated.”

The march ended with organizers handing out voter registration forms and emphasizing the importance of turning out in November. It had the effect of being one final call to action — and a reminder that UNC athletes, like all athletes, can be much more than the sport they play.

“Let’s show the NCAA and everybody in the world that we’re not just entertainment,” Hall said. “We have a voice, and we’re going to show it no matter what.”

Hundreds of UNC athletes showed up in support of the movement and gathered at the end of the march outside of Morehead Planetarium.

UNC athletes marched along Franklin Street to protest racial injustice on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020 in Chapel Hill, N.C.Athletes representing various UNC sports dressed in black, brought signs and called for the end of police brutality shortly after police shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back in Kenosha, Wis., on Aug. 23, 2020.

Some of the UNC basketball players were seen marching down Franklin Street with the rest of the college athletes.

Track and field junior Madrid Loper raises his fist, a symbol of the Black Lives Matter movement, as the protesters march down Franklin Street.