

The CHICAGO MAROON Guide to



Breckenridge House 1442 East 59th Street

Step into the realm of ghostly laboratories, miniature golf in the hallways, and cats named Falafel. No, this isn't a dream, it's Breckenridge Hall. Famous for its close atmosphere, nightly board games in the house lounge, and haunted bathrooms, Breckenridge has become an object of obsession for some of its inhabitants.

Located at the corner of 59th and Blackstone, Breck (as it's called by the locals) is a mere 10-minute walk from campus and is conveniently located nearby popular shops, bookstores, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the many restaurants on 57th Street. It

is also close to the 6, X28, 173, A, C, D, 170, and 171 bus routes as well as the Metra Rail, making a trip downtown an easy endeavor. Although the dorm is a bit of a walk from its associate dining hall, B-J, the proximity of the Midway is an added benefit for those who want a last-minute pick-up game of soccer at one in the morning.

Breckenridge Hall is mostly composed of large doubles and a variety of different sized singles. The halls of the dorm are all single-sex (as are the bathrooms), but that doesn't prevent students from mixing. Breck also features a large community room, a kitchen with 10 industrial-size fridges, and a dining area in the basement.

Perhaps the best part of Breckenridge is its community life. Games of miniature golf often take over the hallways, and at night the lounge is converted into an area for board game marathons. The Resident Heads are extremely friendly and approachable, as are their two cats, Falafel and Monty. They (both the cats and the RHs) are often seen hanging out with students, inviting them into their apartment to watch TV or snack on treats.

If one is searching for a strong house community, nights of fun-filled games, and haunted bathrooms, look no further than Breck. Breck is back. With a vengeance.

—Tim Michaels



Burton-Judson Courts 1005 East 60th Street

The only dormitory south of the Midway—for now—Burton-Judson Courts, affectionately known as B-J, offers singles, aesthetically pleasing architecture, a dining hall, and a five-minute walk to campus.

B-J is composed of seven four- and five-story houses. Four of these houses (Dodd-Mead, Chamberlin, Vincent, and Coulter) are strictly non-smoking. Although all houses are co-ed, some single-sex floors are available. Room sizes range from 10 feet by 12 feet to 15 feet by 15 feet, and while most rooms are singles there are a few doubles in the dormitory. Residents have community bathrooms on each floor. Each house (the others are Mathews, Linn, and Salisbury) develops a strong

sense of community, with fewer than 50 people on average per house.

Aside from its conveniently annexed, Harry Potter-esque dining hall, B-J hosts a number of other amenities, such as three large, well furnished common lounges, a computer lab, a television room, and a basement recreation room known as "The Pit," which has ping-pong, pool tables, arcade games, and a late-night, student-run snack shop. Students also have access to the Law School's Library through The Pit, which is a favorite place to study.

Many residents of Burton-Judson are not only active within their own houses but with the dormitory at large. They compete in the annual Burton-Judson Olympics, for which houses design unusual events testing body and mind. Often, the Resident Masters host *Buffy* marathons. Burton-Judson had its own Scav Hunt team last year, and many residents are active in IM sports.

Contrary to popular belief, Burton-Judson residents are not zombies nor are they in any other way different from other students in the housing system. Citing the dormitory's verdant courtyard and the nearby Midway, Liz Siarny, a third-year in the College and a resident of Vincent House, said, "We get cool places to play. Plus," she added, "singles are awesome."

—David Kaye



Shoreland Hall 5454 South Shore Drive

Since the 1920s, the Shoreland—a building on the National Landmark Registry—has housed everybody from Al Capone and Elvis to some of the most boisterous and rowdy students on campus (it is the only dorm allowed to have registered parties). It is also the only dorm to offer singles, doubles, triples, quadruples, and even one quintuple, with enough space to make Pierce residents' jaws drop in disbelief. True, this luxury hotel cum dormitory's age is shown in peeling walls, creaking radiators, and continuing construction on the building's classical façade, but if Max P. is the Bears' stadium at Soldier Field, then the Shoreland is Wrigley Field. Just as Cubs fans admire the ivy

at Addison, Shoreland residents remain true to their quirky, historic home.

Situated on scenic Lake Shore Drive, the Shoreland often intimidates on-campus students who dread its distance from campus and fear it might have the word REDRUM written on the walls. But for residents of the 12-story, 10-house building, it is worth the wait for the bus. They have easy access to Hyde Park locales and CTA transportation to go downtown. Residents have all the comforts of apartment living, including kitchens and private bathrooms, without technically leaving campus.

There is no typical Shorelander. Residents can be social and active in their houses or remain private in their rooms with a close-knit circle of friends and/or lovers. Fraternity pledges drink with gamers, while first-years can get sage advice from seasoned fourth-years on the floor.

As far as diversity, eclecticism, and size goes, perhaps no dorm can beat the Shoreland. But much to the dismay of many, the University has already sold the building for private development; dorm life will end at the Shoreland in 2008. So act now. This is literally a limited-time offering.

—Joel Lanceta



Max Palevsky 5630 South University Avenue

Most first-years choose Max Palevsky (a.k.a. Max, Max P., the Monster that Ate the Reg) for its unbeatable location, spick-and-span facilities, and—err—bright colors. Located just a short walk from the main quads, the Reg, Bartlett, and Ratner, living in Max offers convenience that is especially appreciated in the dead of winter.

The strong house emphasis in the dorms means that social circles often center around house life—with house-cest,

O-mances, and Max parties abounding. Groups of friends are often formed by proximity, and some students notice divisions between different floors or sides of the hall. The friendships entice many students to stick around past their first year, and the Office of Undergraduate Student Housing is changing the quotas to make staying in Max a bit easier.

Max seems a bit out of place on a campus peppered with gothic structures and ivy-lined walls, but this refusal to blend in strikes some as more daring and in line with the quirkiness that defines the campus. On particularly clear autumn days, the building's orange brick looks striking against the blue Chicago sky.

The brand new facilities make the singles and doubles of Max some of the cushier spots in the housing system. The faucets do not leak, paint does not flake off of the walls, and the desks have extra writing space that makes studying easier. Though this does avoid unnecessary headaches, some find the immaculate building to verge on being sterile.

—Kat Glass

Pierce Tower 5514 South University Avenue

TANSTAAFL, the beloved snack bar in Pierce Hall's basement, is an acronym for "There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch." In TANSTAAFL, there ain't no such thing as a free mozzarella stick, as five of those babies will set you back \$2.50. Factor in the joy of being able to nosh in your pajamas, though, and the price is a steal.

Like TANSTAAFL, Pierce Hall is a lot cooler than it initially seems. Heard the rooms are small? Well, fair enough, but that only makes you more social—because you'll want to head to the lounge or the Reynolds Club to study.

Heard the dining hall leaves much to be desired? The same principle applies as for TANSTAAFL—never underestimate the allure of heading down for dinner in your loungewear.

You can play pool in the basement and enjoy video games in the second-floor lounge. You can hit up the vending machines if you get the munchies even after TANSTAAFL closes. You can watch TV while you do your laundry and check your e-mail at the computer stations on your way

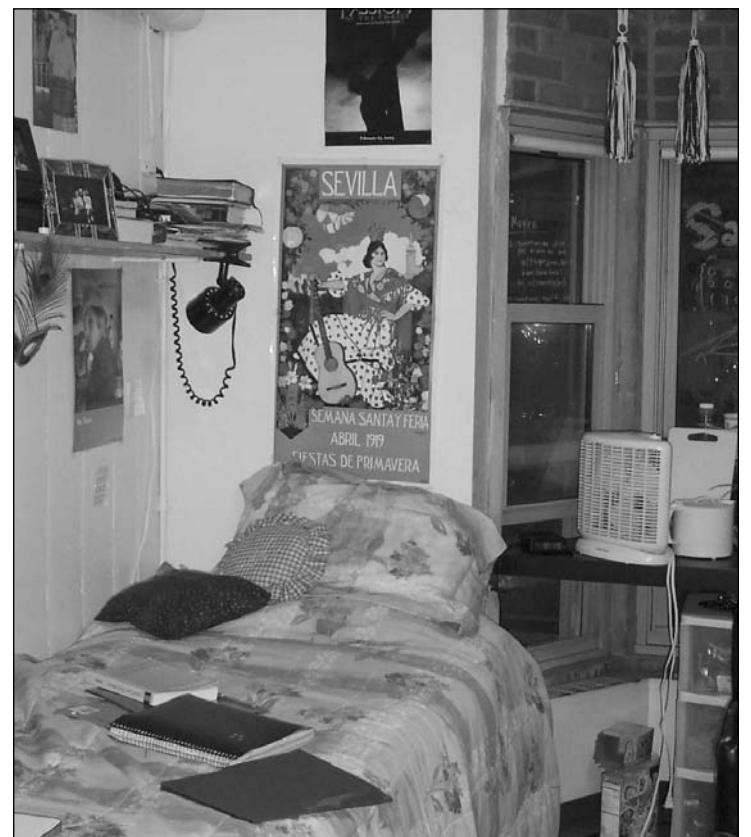
to all-you-can-eat meals.

As a resident of Pierce, you'll be in one of the best locations on campus—you're close to the Reynolds Club, *really* close to the Reg (without having to live on top of it, like those in Max P.), and not too far from anything. Henry Crown and Ratner are also both nearby, in case you're not getting enough exercise walking to and from classes.

Pierce Tower residents tend to be very active in University life. Pierce functions as Scav Hunt central this year, and there are plenty of silly traditions wherever you turn, from from Shorey House's annual Drag Show to Thompson House's Fort Night. Every year, houses compete in an athletic reverie known as Sports Frolic.

And let's not forget that the CTA 55 stops right in front of Pierce. After waiting 30 minutes at the Garfield stop at three o'clock in the morning, this benefit cannot be overvalued. And duh! Jimmy's is right across the street!

—Matt Zakosek



Student Housing at the U of C



Broadview 5540 South Hyde Park Boulevard

Broadview Hall, located at South Hyde Park Boulevard and 56th Street, is the ideal place to live if you want quiet, house-oriented living-conditions. Because the building was once a hotel, most of the rooms are decently sized singles, and every room has its own bathroom. This allows those who want to hide away ample opportunity to do so, but those who enjoy house life as well as their privacy may also be comfortable. It is generally quiet in the hallways and social in the lounges.

The building is divided into three houses, Palmer, Talbot, and Wick. Each of these houses regularly sponsors movie

nights, house dinners, house trips, and study breaks for its residents. There are also many building-wide events, such as Sunday morning breakfasts, Friday night DDR, trips downtown to the theater, and study breaks every night of finals week. The community kitchen is available for everyone's daily use and comes equipped with abundant cooking utensils and supplies. The building also has an exercise room with stationary bikes and an elliptical machine, a music practice room with a piano, a series of comfortable work spaces, pool and ping-pong tables, areas set aside for smokers (with smoking permitted in private rooms), and a well maintained computer lab.

Some may have reservations about the 10-block walk from Broadview to campus. While the building is well served by both the CTA (6, 55, X28) and campus buses (171, Shoreland, three night buses), campus access can periodically be difficult for those who do not like to walk. In addition to this, Broadview, like all old buildings, has its share of structural problems: The heating clanks, the plumbing is difficult to maintain, the walls are thin, and the elevator malfunctions regularly. Despite this, Broadview remains a comfortable spot to return home to.

—Sascha Fishman



Stony Island 5700 Stony Island

In many ways, Stony Island is the ideal dorm for upperclassmen. Originally intended as faculty housing, the Stony Island rooms offer four-person apartments with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large living room, a full kitchen, and a balcony. Stony Island is also closer to campus than Shoreland or Broadview. The 10 to 15-minute walk to the Reynolds Club is made enjoyable by the 57th Street scenery. As a result, Stony residents get to know the Florian, Harper Market, and Powell's pretty well. A nice but relatively unused park and the Museum of Science and Industry are just across the street. What's more, when the winter months strip the trees of leaves, many residents have

what constitutes a lake view (although Shoreland residents would scoff at it).

Probably the best asset of Stony is its access to transportation. The dorm is spitting distance from the Metra (a fast commuter rail that can get you downtown in 15 minutes for only \$2.05). The 6, 55, and Route D buses also stop in front of the dorm. Plus, there is a parking lot behind the building, allowing students who are lucky enough to have a car to park it there during the academic year.

That being said, Stony does have some weaknesses. Stony is expensive, even for housing. And in terms of space and amenities, what's common to Stony is also common to countless apartment buildings in Hyde Park. As the name suggests, Stony Island is somewhat isolated. There are fewer than 80 students in the dorm, and when compounded by the fact that all residents are upperclassmen, this leads the dorm to lack the house spirit of, say, Max or Pierce.

If you want crazy study breaks, people running around the halls, and plenty of house-cest, then Stony is not for you. But if you and your friends want an apartment-style dorm with a great location and without the hassle of utility bills, then perhaps you should give Stony a chance.

—Andrew Hammond



Maclean 5445 South Ingleside Avenue

The rumors are true: The doors are metal, dorm-cest is rampant, and the smell of non-tobacco smoke has been known to percolate through this former retirement home. With these few idiosyncrasies—and also its location outside of the Palevsky-Shoreland-B-J triangle—misconceptions about Maclean abound (for the record, not all room doors are metal—only those located in

the wing that was formerly used as a “psych ward”).

Nonetheless, located at 54th and Ingleside, it's well worth a look from students considering on-campus housing options. Besides being a block from Ratner, house amenities include several nook-and-cranny lounges (including the “war room,” a favorite late-night studying spot, and the solarium, a window-paneled reading room), as well as a communal kitchen loaded with several ovens, microwaves, stoves, and sinks.

And since all but one of the rooms are singles, living in Maclean almost ensures at least a 10 by 11 foot broom closet of privacy, though open doors and chummy neighbors often keep procrastinators sitting and talking in the hallways past closing time at Bart Mart. Notable house activities include quarterly barbeques (there's nothing like a Pierce burger grilled up by Mike, the live-in handyman); both a fall and spring auction, drawing the priceless talent of Macleaners (mostly the procurement or preparation of food, and often for fewer than \$10); and several trips to posh restaurants.

—Isaac Wolf



Snell-Hitchcock 1009 East 57th Street

Snell-Hitchcock, composed of the sister-houses Snell Hall and Hitchcock Hall, occupies the northwest corner of the academic quad. Sheltered from the rest of the riffraff that traffics the area, Snell-Hitchcock is enclosed on the south by the Searle Chemistry Laboratory and the Kent Chemical Laboratory and on the east by Culver Hall. The building

footprints give Snell-Hitchcock its own mini-quad equipped with nothing but the best: picnic tables and benches, a tire swing, a hand-carved wooden swing built to commemorate the hall's centennial, and a seasonally refreshed flowerbed. Although Snell and Hitchcock are often thought of as a pair, they are two very distinctive houses. Each is adorned with a kitchen, laundry room, and recreation room featuring TVs, DVD players, ping-pong, pool, and classic video games. In addition, Hitchcock's Green Room and Snell's Tea Room provide the ambiance of grandeur, with paintings, carved-wood moldings, and classical piano. You can look forward to many, if not all, of the following: waking up at 10:15 A.M. for your 10:30 A.M. class, shower Connect-Four, “bad movie night,” actually knowing your resident masters, living in Enrico Fermi's old room (no joke), and beating the Orange Monstrosity by 1500 points to win Scav Hunt. Come to think of it, there's no reason you actually need to be reading any of this. The rooms are already all taken—don't even bother trying.

—George L. Anesi



Blackstone Hall 5748 South Blackstone Avenue

Do you want to live in a less noisy, more private dorm? Do you want to have your own kitchen and a better bathroom, as well as easier access to the sights and sounds of 57th Street? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then Blackstone Hall may be the perfect place for you.

Blackstone Hall, located just south of 57th Street on Blackstone Avenue, is one of the smallest U of C dorms, with around 80 residents. The dorm offers single rooms, kitchens, and private bathrooms. However, the bathrooms and the kitchens are shared by two suit-mates in all but a few of the rooms. Residents who smoke are permitted to do so as long as they keep their smoke within their own rooms and do not bother others with it.

The dorm is approximately a

10 minute walk from campus. Blackstone is also one of the few U of C dorms that doesn't have first-year residents; as a result, only transfer students and upperclassmen call the dorm home.

Disadvantages of Blackstone include the age of the building, the hermitic attitude of some of the residents, and the cold walk to campus during the winter. To sum it up: You get a single, a kitchen, and a more private bathroom. In return, you have to live in a much smaller, quieter dorm. Prospective residents should note that Blackstone has become much more social in recent years. Ultimately, however, the dorm is as social as you want it to be. This is definitely a very mature dorm.

—Ben Hellwege

Housing Lottery

Every spring, students scramble to arrange their housing situation for the following year in an annual ritual known as the Housing Lottery. Here is the basic schedule for the lottery events:

- House lotteries for all dorms; times and places TBA by resident heads
- Intra-dorm lotteries
- General (Inter-dorm) lottery

General housing information can be found at rh.uchicago.edu, and check in with the MAROON for more housing coverage in the spring.

SHORELAND BY JEREMY GUTTMAN; PIERCE BY LIN LI;
ALL OTHERS ARE FILE PHOTOS