

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Situation of students is common

Do you live in a student ghetto?
Do you wish you could sell your
roommate to the gypsies?
Do the folks above you give

By
**Art Keewey
and Mark Willis**

square dancing lessons at two in the morning?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, this column is for you. It will not improve your condition in the least, but it may make you feel less alone.

Probably the worst housing avail-

able is in the dorms. No, not those by the golf course, but all those others that give the Texas A&M University campus a little bit of that good old Harlem atmosphere.

Those of you who live in these monuments to the forties, you have our deepest sympathy, we have been there. We have known that feeling of actually living in the same room your father once lived in as a student himself. We have tasted mystery meat, coming and going. Unfortunately, there is little chance of your living conditions improving; they have become tradition.

Dorms will probably always have the intellectual atmosphere of a swamp. Legett Hall will probably always serve as the breeding ground for experimental rats used by the biology department. And Sbisla will probably always rate slightly below McDonald's in the gourmet's handbook.

Yet, there are certain advantages to living on campus. You're close to your classes, a questionable advantage, we admit. But, where else can one see and hunt the mythical 12-point buck roach, never discover that your roommate can't cook, and find prehistoric ruins right in your own room? If you still insist on moving off campus, despite these advantages, there are some things you should consider.

First, apartment rent is expensive. Yet, the price is reasonable compared to your fuel adjustment bill, which for those of you who don't know, can steal the book money right out of the hand of a baby-faced freshman.

The benefits of apartment living, however, may well be worth the price. The social life is great. You will know this because inevitably, your next door neighbors will be the area's social leaders. The sound always gives it away. There are tennis courts, where you can sit and watch others play all day, knowing you will not have to tire yourself because you won't get to the front of the line until after graduation. Then there

are the pools, heated, of course, by more than 2,000 human bodies at any one time. And last but not least there is the joy of shuttle bus riding, where you really get close to your neighbors. So close in fact, that sexual satisfaction can be attained without detection or even recognition.

Your third choice of living accommodations, is in real honest-to-God houses. Yes, those things your parents live in, with rent, and bills, and upkeep, and everything. They may be a dying breed, but occasionally you will meet someone who lives in one.

They will tell you of the hardships of lawn mowing, frozen pipes, no A/C, and terror of terrors, local landlords.

Again, however, there are advantages. No one lives on the other side of the wall. You have a yard, although many are better described as swamps during the rainy season, Jan. 1 through Dec. 29. Often houses are actually cheaper than apartments, despite bills for everything from gas to sewer improvement (which means they make your toilet run the right way).

It all depends on what you're looking for—economy, privacy, or even luxury, and how hard you work. You won't find any of these things, but the longer you look, the fewer that are available, so that in the end the choice makes itself.



Pardon opens wound again

Editor:

President Carter's attempt to heal one of the last of the national wounds caused by the Vietnam involvement has only torn open another. By unconditionally pardoning draft evaders, he has angered not only veterans and Legionnaires, but many other citizens as well, myself included.

I recognize that the move into Vietnam by the United States was a naive, ill-advised one, and perhaps these draft evaders were justified in their resistance to the war effort. But regardless of the reasoning, they broke the law.

If a society is to function efficiently, its citizens cannot be allowed to decide which laws they do or do not wish to obey. If we obeyed only the traffic laws we believed in, our streets would be littered with wreckage.

President Carter's pardon sets a dangerous precedent in the case of our Selective Service laws. How are we to raise an army in the future, if need be, with this pardon hanging over us? Nobody wants to be shot at, and this pardon just offers an excuse not to serve for that reason.

But perhaps more important is the case of those men who faced the consequences of their beliefs by serving time in prison. How does the President propose to make up that lost time of their prime years?

And then there are those men who bravely went and fought in Vietnam regardless of their personal opinions of the war and suffered loss of limbs, sanity, and even life. Who will pardon them from their wheelchairs, hospital wards, or cemeteries?

Former President Ford took these ideas into consideration in formulating his amnesty program. Those men who truly loved the country were glad to perform alternative duties to return, and many

took advantage of the program.

Maybe those who did not take advantage of Ford's program felt they didn't owe the country anything for living here. They were wrong. This great country of ours doesn't ask a great deal of us in return for all the freedom and opportunity it offers. We are asked only to pay our taxes, serve on juries, and serve in the military if our leaders feel it is really necessary. Not much if you think of the return on that investment.

Perhaps if President Carter can resolve these issues, he can indeed heal the wounds of Vietnam. I hope so. It would be nice to finally leave the Vietnam matter to the historians.

Scott Perkins, '77

More seats for left-handers

Editor:

I have attended Texas A&M Uni-

versity since the fall of 1976. I noticed that the University had made adjustments for the handicapped. Mainly, ramps for the wheelchairs, elevator ramps, Braille for the blind, and special accommodations for the visually impaired. But it seems to me that the A&M has forgotten one area: they are by no means handicapped left-handed people are different. They need special desks to write in. It is very difficult to take a class when the desks are handed.

I believe that adjustments for left-handed students would be a great improvement in the room. There are a lot of left-handed students here who are bent out of shape by trying to form to a right-handed world.

I think A&M should maintain amount of left-handed desks in each room so they will not be discriminated against.

—Sandra

Slouch by Jim Earle



"I FEEL MORALLY OBLIGATED TO WRITE A LETTER IN REBUTTAL TO YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR THAT YOU'RE WORKING ON. WOULD YOU TELL ME WHICH SIDE OF THE ISSUE YOU'RE TAKING SO I CAN START MINE?"

Over the wall

President chosen at Lamar University

LAMAR PRESIDENT INAUGURATED

Dr. Charles R. Kemble took the oath of office Tuesday as president of Lamar University.

Kemble has been president of New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell since 1972. The selection of Kemble ended a 100-day search according to a report in the "University Press."

The 30-member selection advisory committee included students, faculty, staff, alumni, and regents.

SIDEWALK LETTERING A DILEMMA

The NoZe Brotherhood, a sort of anti-fraternity fraternity on the Baylor University campus has been victim of a mad sidewalk stenciler, and no one knows what to do about it.

Approximately 35 "Unrush" announcements appeared mysteriously on Baylor sidewalks in September. The reversed lettering, applied with blue spray paint, an-

nounced the NoZe's unrush meeting, said an article in the "Baylor Lariat."

After the announcements appeared, a spokesman for NoZe said the group was not responsible for the writing.

The lettering is still there. No decisions have been made concerning what to do about it. The NoZe group has offered to paint the rest of the sidewalks blue. So far the administration hasn't taken the members up on their offer.

UTA EDUCATION HEAD RESIGNS

Jon Wiles, education department head at the University of Texas at Arlington has resigned. He said his reasons for resigning were organizational problems.

In a report in the "Shorthorn", Wiles said he was limited in financing, staffing, and establishing certification standards. He said there was not enough support on campus to establish and maintain a quality education program.

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