

# The Battalion

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## weather

Mostly cloudy, warm and humid Wednesday and Thursday with afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Rain probability both days is 40 per cent decreasing to 20 per cent tonight. High both days in low 90s. Low tonight in the mid-70s.

## Officials expect apartment surpluses, higher rents

By SARAH E. WHITE  
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University officials predict a surplus of student housing for this fall accompanied by higher rents and more apartments with individual electricity meters.

"We are going to have vacancies," Director of Student Affairs Karen Switzer said. "The thing is the later it gets the less choice a person will have."

Local housing is becoming more scarce for this fall. Most apartment complexes have leased many of their units already for the fall. In a recent telephone interview The Battalion found that most of the large complexes are filling rapidly. But the majority still have openings.

Martell Properties totalling 960 units which includes Scandia I, Scandia II, Taos, Aurora Gardens, Sevilla, Sausalito and Sundance (now under construction), have approximately 200 vacancies for the fall.

Scandia I, with 152 units, has 40 apartments available for the fall, assistant manager Alda Shaw said. Taos, with 54 units, has 13 vacancies, and Aurora Gardens has two, she said. Shaw said she expects more apartments to be available when summer leases expire in July.

Scandia II, with 204 units, has about 30 apartments left and Sevilla, with 198 units, has less than 100 available.

Sausalito, 148 units, has five apartments available and Sundance, 168 units, has 28 apartments left for the fall, the assistant manager said.

Other large complexes surveyed include Old College Main, The Oaks, Doux Chene, Willowick I and II, Travis House, Boyett Townhouses, Southgate Village

and Southwest Village. Those complexes total approximately 1751 housing units. Of those, approximately 135 are definitely available for the fall but some availability is pending expiration of summer leases in July or August.

Old College Main, with 179 units, has 40 apartments available and The Oaks, has 33 of 248 units left for the fall.

Doux Chene, a 352-unit complex, has approximately 20 apartments left. Willowick I and II, totalling 318 units, have two apartments left to be leased for the fall. Travis House, with 118 units, has about 20 units left.

Several apartment managers said they could not estimate the number of available apartments for this fall.

Boyett Townhouses, Southgate Village and Southwest Village, totaling 536 units, are almost completely filled at this time. Some managers explained that they could make no estimation about fall apartments because leases expire throughout the summer. Those apartments then become available if the current tenants choose not to renew their leases.

Because it is getting closer to the beginning of the fall semester apartments will be less and less plentiful but there will be more than enough housing this fall, Switzer said.

"There were vacancies last year," she said. "There will be more this year for sure because we have so much more construction this year."

Several apartment complexes are now under construction and almost all of them are equipped with individual meters which means the tenant pays for electricity, Switzer said.

Those now under construction include

Hyde Park, Arbor Square, Sundance, Villa West, Parkway Plaza, Willowick II, Lexington, and Mark XII. Most managers for those apartments said they hope to complete construction by mid-August.

Hyde Park, owned by A. P. Boyett Jr., has 87 units, 20 of which are leased for the fall. Boyett said August 20 is the expected date of completion but added that there is no ironclad guarantee that rain will not postpone the date. He said that if the apartments are not finished by the fall semester he will make temporary housing arrangements for people leasing in Hyde Park.

All of Arbor Square's 176 units are leased. Villa West, with 40 units, has plenty of open apartments because only 10 to 15 have been leased for the fall, the manager said.

Parkway Plaza is really expanding, Switzer said. The plaza includes Durango and Parkway Plaza totalling 168 units, which are 100 per cent leased and 75 of Cheyenne's 84 units are leased for the

fall, said Dan Sears. He is a partner in Spearman, Sears, and Murphy, Co., which is developing Parkway Plaza. Phase I Duplexes, with 24 units, are 100 per cent full. Fifty eight units more are being built on Georgia Street, he said, and about 30 per cent are leased.

Most apartment dwellers will be paying higher rent this fall. Rent has gone up an average of 20 dollars from last fall, Switzer said.

"The variance is considerable," she said. "I know of a couple that didn't go up at all. A couple decreased their rent which is misleading because they also went to individual meters. The individual meters is probably the biggest trend in town."

While this tends to be true in the apartments being constructed, the survey showed more of the established complexes are not adding individual meters.

Shaw, the assistant manager of Scandia I

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## A&M shuttle bus service to be reduced for summer

Shuttle bus service for Texas A&M University summer school students will be reduced and rescheduled beginning June 27.

The change comes because fewer than expected signed up for the bus service.

"This being the first year we have operated in the summertime, all we could do is take the long semester numbers and massage them around and come up with the best estimate or guesstimate," said Col. E. C. Oates Jr., chairman of the shuttle bus committee.

A shuttle bus subcommittee suggested nine buses run to accommodate 2500 students this summer, he said. Oates said only 567 students are signed up for the service now.

Oates said students find it easier to park close to class in the summer and therefore do not wish to ride the shuttle bus.

He said six buses have been in use this session running all five routes. Most of the day hardly anyone is on the buses, he said. The biggest load a bus may carry during any time of the day is 20 people, half of the seating capacity of the bus, Oates said.

"The cost of the buses from the first semester of summer school, to have continued on as we were operating, would have cost us \$15,390," he said. "And we took in a total of \$3,400. So the first Monday after classes started we were broke."

Measures begin Monday, June 27 to remedy this situation, Oates said.

"Routes One and Two should have been combined all along," Oates said. "We were thinking in terms of Plantation Oaks

and Briarwood and their bigness because during the regular session there are about 1350 students at those two locations."

Routes one and two run east of the University.

Routes three, four and five will run as before. Route three runs north into Bryan and routes four and five run south.

"At the balance of the second session there will be routes covering what is now called five routes," he said. "And the time of day will be reduced."

On the revised schedule the last bus will leave campus at 4:45 p.m. On the previous schedule the last bus left at 6:45.

"This is going to save us 20 hours of bus operation per day which at \$9.50 an hour is \$190 a day," Oates said. "It reduces our loss."

For the second summer session all routes will be served with a total of 30 hours per day, Oates said. This means using less equipment and serving the same territory.

There should be better shuttle bus service this fall because there will be more buses, Oates said. Last spring 17 buses ran. This fall 22 buses will run.

Oates said there are some plans to expand routes to encompass newly constructed apartment complexes.

There is an expected increase of 1000 riders this fall over last fall because of the construction and the subsequent demand for more service, he said. The buses should be serving 8000 persons this fall, Oates estimated.

— Sarah E. White



### LUV's triangle

Savoring his moment of triumph, Milt (Steve King, standing) gives his blessings upon the intended marriage of his wife Ellen (Tricia Cox) and his friend Harry (Dave Rich). The three characters illuminate, through parody, the behavior of adults in the Aggie Player's production of Murray Schisgal's "Luv." The play opens tomorrow in the Memorial Student Center.

Battalion photo by Steve Goble

## Presnal 'didn't do his job'; considered as one of Texas' 10 worst legislators

By RUSTY CAWLEY  
Battalion Staff

Texas Monthly magazine has released its July issue which contains its list of "The 10 Best and the 10 Worst Legislators" from the last session of the Texas House and Senate. Included in the list of the 10 worst is Bryan Representative Bill Presnal.

In a televised interview Monday night, Presnal dismissed his position on the list as a "cheap shot" at his political career. But Texas Monthly senior editor Paul Burka defended the article yesterday, saying he could not imagine any magazine doing a more thorough job.

Burka said Presnal is on the list because he failed to provide leadership in his position as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. The office is considered the most powerful in the Texas Legislature

next to the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor.

"I think the story speaks for itself as far as Mr. Presnal's concerned," Burka said. "He's a nice man, but he didn't do his job."

Neither Presnal nor his assistant, Bill Krueger, were available for comment.

The story accuses Presnal of losing control of his committee, claiming that resulted in over a half a billion in pork-barrel legislation.

"Pork-barrel" legislation is an unnecessary, self-interest appropriation of state money. It also attacks Presnal for overzealous money appropriation to Texas A&M University and the City of Bryan.

The Texas Monthly staff interviewed over one hundred lobbyists, legislators, staff members and state agency represen-

tatives Burka said. They combined the interviews with the staff's own observations to compile the list, he said.

"We had someone covering the session from beginning to end," Burka said. "I can't imagine that anybody could think he could do it more thoroughly than this story was done."

Burka added that most of the magazine's staff writer's who worked on the story had previous experience with the legislature. Burka said he had served for eight years as a lawyer at the capital and co-writer Richard West had been on the staffs of both the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor.

"It's not like we're going over to the legislature as novices," Burka said. "We

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PRESNAL

## Married student housing: hazardous but cheap

By GLENNA WHITLEY  
Battalion Campus Editor

The College View Apartments are a blessing in disguise for some married students at Texas A&M University.

Dilapidated, some say dangerous, the two bedroom apartments cost \$65 per month unfurnished, and \$78 per month furnished.

"If you ask anyone who lives here, it's not that they like it, or they want to stay here, but they appreciate them because they're so cheap," said Steve Labuda, who

was graduated in May with a Masters degree in Wildlife and Fisheries. "If we didn't have these places we couldn't have afforded to live here without dipping into our savings."

Labuda's brother Joe also lives in the married student apartments.

"They're not much to live in, but that's about all a student can afford," Joe said. He added that his fire, theft, and storm insurance was cancelled after he wrote the insurance company describing the apartment.

Four of these apartment buildings were destroyed this summer. Four have been destroyed per year for the last several years, said F.K. Nicolas, the manager of married student housing.

"The reason they're being taken down is that they're hazardous. They have dry rot and are totally inadequate for housing any longer. All of these old College View Apartments should be taken down," Nicolas said.

One resident said the apartments were

an eyesore and an embarrassment to the University.

They are ugly. Shingles are falling off the roof. The siding has aged to a fungus-like green and gray color and is chipping off in many places.

Inside, the walls are dingy and cracking in many apartments. The wiring and plumbing is old. Roaches flourish.

However, maintenance is surprisingly good, resident Susan Hogge said. "If it's an emergency, they'll come real fast." She and her husband have lived in the College

View Apartments for five years.

She laughed and said, "I think it's funny that anyone would have lived here five years. The price is good. That's why we stay, I suppose."

Almost everyone agrees that the apartments should be torn down. But many worry what will replace them as low rent housing.

"If they were going to replace them with something comparable, it'd be alright," Steve Labuda said.

There are no plans right now to build more married student housing, said Ed Davis, director of management services. But the idea is being considered.

"It's really impossible to build anything these days and price them as cheap as those built in the past," Davis said. He added that if anything were built, the rent would be very competitive with local rates.

"Sixty-five dollars a month is an unrealistic figure anyway," Roger Polston said. "You couldn't rent a slum for that."



Renters moved out, emptied, stripped of furnishings, utilities turned off and roofs removed, these venerable frame structures were literal pushovers for a bulldozer. Private contractors knocked down and hauled



off more eight-family apartment units in the College View section of Married Student Housing. The university is planning to eventually tear



down all of the old wooden buildings but has no project underway to replace them.

Battalion photos by Steve Goble