

## Students 'iron' sandwiches

# Popcorn poppers, coffee pots, used to cook 'legally' in dorms

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Battalion Staff

For them cooking in the dorm is a skillful game where the main rule is to not get caught. And the veteran players rely on their resourcefulness to whip up tasty delicacies.

Most of the newer popcorn poppers have a Teflon skillet at the bottom. Some students use this handy "hot plate" to scramble eggs, fry bacon, toast bread, brown ground meat for tacos, and make nachos.

The rules for cooking in the RA manual say that "popcorn poppers are to be used for the exclusive purpose of preparing popcorn." Coffee pots and "hot pots" can be used to boil water only for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and instant soup.

Many students use their "hot pots" to cook hard-boiled eggs and hot dogs. One student, who wished to remain unidentified, gave her recipe for "uncooked" cookies: Boil sugar, cocoa and milk together, then add crunchy peanut butter, coconut and oatmeal. Spoon it out to harden while cooling and you'll have delicious, nutritious cookies, she said.

Other tricks of dorm cooking seem a little far out, such as "ironing" a grilled cheese sandwich. This is done by putting a piece of cheese between two slices of bread, the top one buttered, and placing an iron over it. While the butter is cooking and browning the bread, the cheese melts in the middle.

Some students have even tried cooking canned vegetables by running hot water over them in the sink.

The real pros of the cooking game usually don't bother with the "legal" appliances, though. They will smuggle sophisticated equipment such as broiler ovens, hot plates and grills into their rooms. Then anything from frozen pot pies, cookies and fish sticks to steak and baked potatoes might be on the dinner menu.

RA's can confiscate any illegal cooking equipment they see in a room. But without the cooperation of those involved, it's almost impossible to enforce the no-cooking rules. When an RA knocks, residents usually have time to hide their cooking appliances before opening the door. No matter how strong the odor, they can simply deny they

were cooking, since RAs cannot search the rooms in some of the dorms.

Sandy Rentel, an RA in Spence dorm, said that the majority of girls she has caught have admitted they were cooking even though their appliances were hidden.

Most residents stuff a towel or blanket under the door and cook by an open window to minimize the smells. Nevertheless, cooking odors frequently linger through dorm halls.

"I've gone down halls and smelled stuff but can't tell where it's coming from," said Julia Humphries, head resident of Spence. She said some residents think they should be able to cook on window boxes, arguing that it's cooking "outside the dorm."

Other residents say that popcorn poppers are messier than the little utensils specially designed for making hamburgers and hot dogs. They argue that if one is allowed, the others should be too.

"The more utensils you have in the dorm, the more chance you'll have that something will happen," Rentel said. "You have to draw the line somewhere. If you give people an inch, they're going to find ways to stretch it."

"They're lucky they get hot pots and popcorn poppers," she said.

There are a variety of dishes and snacks residents can mix up in their rooms without cooking, including jello, pudding, fruit salads, green salads, tuna fish and ice box pies.

So if you find yourself getting sick of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, try out some of these "legal recipes" to spice up your life:

**Cheese Popcorn** - immediately after popcorn is popped, sprinkle grated Velveeta cheese over it and toss it like a salad to melt the cheese throughout the whole batch. If your tastebuds crave more flavor, pour in a dash of tobasco sauce.

**Bartlett's Ice Box Pie** - mix together frozen pink lemonade, condensed milk and Dreamwhip. Pour into graham cracker crust and chill.

**Graham Cracker Cookies** - mix together condensed milk, lemon juice and powdered sugar to an icing consistency. Spread over graham crackers and chill. Share these cookies and you'll make quick friends in the dorm.

## Learning ropes of A&M's phone system is easy

How often have you needed a campus phone number, but you can't find a directory? To help solve the problem, here are some numbers you may need during your stay at Texas A&M.

To dial on the Texas A&M campus to another phone on campus, use the last five digits of the number. An example would be 811 to call the Battalion from a dorm room. Off-campus students use to dial the entire number: 845-3811. To call off-campus, dial 9, then a dial tone, then dial the number. To get an on-campus operator dial 7. To get Bryan-College Station information, dial 9, then a dial tone, then dial 441. The campus emergency number is 911. The off-campus emergency number for fire or police is 911.

### ADMINISTRATION:

- Office of the President — 845-2217
- Vice President for Academic Affairs — 845-4016
- Vice President for Agriculture and Renewable Resources — 845-4417
- Vice President for Business Affairs — 845-1911
- Vice President for Development — 845-7123
- Vice President for Student Services — 845-4728

### GENERAL LISTINGS:

- Admissions — 845-1031
- Corps Guard Room — 845-6471
- Health Center — 845-1511
- Housing Office — 845-4744 for off-campus and 845-1741 for on-campus.
- Financial Aid Office — 845-3236
- Fiscal Department — 845-6711
- International Students Adviser — 845-1824
- Intramurals — 845-2624
- Legal Adviser — 845-5821
- Library — 845-3733
- MSC Box Office — 845-2916
- Personal Counseling Center — 845-4427
- Placement Office — 845-6551
- Student Activities — 845-1134
- Student Affairs — 845-3111
- Student Government — 845-3051
- Student Locator — 845-4741
- Student Programs Office — 845-1515
- University Police — 845-2345

### ACADEMIC DEANS:

- Agriculture — 845-3711
- Architecture and Environmental Design — 845-1221
- Business Administration — 845-6551
- Education — 845-5311
- Engineering — 845-6434
- Sciences — 845-3651
- Graduate — 845-3631
- Liberal Arts — 845-5141
- Medicine — 845-3431
- Nursing — 845-7361
- Veterinary Medicine — 845-5051



Soup's on

Risa DeLosSantos, a senior in microbiology, uses her popcorn popper legally as she fixes herself an afternoon snack. Other residents have learned how to stretch the uses of the

three "legal" appliances they may have in their dorms. Some quick dinners include grilled-iron sandwiches and ironed steaks.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

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