

campus & city

Married housing 'low-rent'

By MARJORIE McLAUGHLIN
Battalion Reporter

For some 886 Texas A&M University students and their families, home is a large apartment complex north of the Zachry Engineering Center.

The university-owned apartments, which include buildings on Jersey Street, offer lower-rent accommodations for married students enrolled in either undergraduate or graduate programs at Texas A&M.

The one or two bedroom apartments, ranging in price from \$99.50 to \$224 a month, are fully furnished with all utilities paid, except for metering on some apartments with window units air conditioners.

The 781-apartment complex is self-sustaining and does not receive any state or federal funds.

"We don't have a large profit margin," said Ken Nicholas, "We are not in the business to make money. We are providing a service and we try to keep it (the rent) as low as possible for Aggies."

The university-owned apartments provide washaterias, play areas for children, a locked boat yard, and areas for tenants to make gardens.

School buses take children to and from local schools.

In addition, part of the motor maintenance shop in the complex is set aside for tenants to work on their cars.

"My approach is that you do for the tenants, not to them," Nicholas said. "We try to help the students save any money that they can."

Security for the complex is provided by the University Police, who make regular patrols of the area.

"Our biggest continuing crime problem is theft of bicycles," Nicholas said. "But it is very rare to have an apartment broken into here."

Students have to apply up to a year in advance for an apartment. At the beginning of the fall semester, there were 450 applications for 175 apartments.

"We can never take care of all the applicants," Nicholas said.

"We had trouble getting in be-

tion," she said.

Dan and Angeles Martinez, who have lived in the apartments for over a year, also like the idea of living with other married couples.

"Married couples seem more responsible," Angeles said. "And, when I call the office when something is wrong, they come and fix it. For me, the service is fine."

The first accommodations for married students, the Southside Apartments, were built before World War II. Originally designed to house

returning to school after the war.

The buildings were shipped in pieces from Texas Army bases and reconstructed at their present site.

As the number of married students increased, three more sets of apartments were built. The newest, College Avenue, was completed in 1974.

The university is in the process of tearing down the old barracks buildings to make room for a new 88-unit complex called the College View Apartments.

Nicholas said that poor wiring, termites, and thin walls make the low-rent barracks unpopular with most tenants.

"They were only meant to last 18 months at the most, and they are still here," Nicholas said. "But they've gotten many a poor Aggie through school."

Tenants still living in the barracks are given plenty of advance notice when their building is going to be demolished. Nicholas said that the tenants have first priority when apartments are available for their relocation.

The new apartments are built facing the prevailing winds, and each has a large set of windows, both front and back, to allow for good air circulation.

Nicholas said that the apartments are also arranged so that the need for artificial lighting will be reduced.

"At no time will the sun shine directly into the apartments," he remarked. "But, they are arranged so that the apartments receive the maximum amount of indirect light. On a sunny day, the tenants will rarely have to use artificial lights."

The new apartments will be unfurnished, with moveable divider walls on rollers so the tenants can rearrange the living space as they please.

"I think these are really the apartments of the future," Nicholas said. "We hope to have 32 of them ready for occupancy by the spring."

Mayor authorized to seek contract

Bryan to share health funding

By FLOYD WILTZ
Battalion Reporter

The Bryan City Council Monday night authorized Mayor Richard Smith to work out a contract with the city of College Station and Brazos County to determine the city's share of funding for the Brazos County Health Unit for fiscal year 1979-80.

The health unit provides county-wide services including restaurant sanitation inspections, septic tank inspections and venereal disease control. Smith said after the meeting Bryan's share would be out \$50,000.

In other business, the council approved payment of \$82,578 to the for renewal of an insurance policy covering boiler machinery in the Utility Administration; City Hall, Bryan Public Library, Waste Water

Administration and Rural Electric Division.

The council also approved payment to First City National Bank of \$16,667 for its in issuance of \$2.7 million City of Bryan Rural Electric Bonds, and approved payment of \$1,718 to Wixon Water Supply Corp. for relocation of a water line.

The council also approved awarding a contract for life insurance for city employees to the Southwestern Life Insurance Company and approved a change order for a supply increase in the city's contract for fuel oil totaling \$66,000.

A public hearing was also held concerning improvement costs to portions of Apple, Peach, Plum, Stevenson and George streets, but no one showed up to address the council.

Council settles squabbles

Residents of the married student apartments get a chance to voice their opinions about how the complex is run at the twice-monthly meeting of the A&M Apartment Council.

Cus Wilson, council president, said that the group, consisting of elected representatives from each apartment complex, handles all complaints brought by the tenants.

"Most of the problems are minor," he said. "We either solve the problem, or tell the tenant who he can call to get help with the situation."

The council, which is funded by the MSC Bookstore, the Texas A&M Association of Former Students and by the Texas A&M Parents Fund, also sponsors projects and activities for the residents.

"We have projects such as the garden plots and the auto garage," Wilson said. "We also rent camping equipment to the residents for a nominal charge."

cause they don't always stick to their waiting lists," said Lois Matus, who has lived in the apartments for six months.

"But, we wanted cheap rent and paid utilities, and we also like living around people in the same situa-

male students, the buildings were later converted into housing for married students.

In 1946, the College Avenue Barracks, located north of campus, were brought in by the United States Army to house the influx of veterans

'Chicago' brings back vaudeville

Musical different, delightful

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

MSC Town Hall brought something new to Texas A&M last night—a touch of vaudeville, in the style of 1920s Chicago.

You didn't have to be on your toes to notice "Chicago" was different from normal musical fare. Oh, the songs, dances, comedy, and melodrama all were present, and just as enjoyable as in any other musical—but this musical was different.

The show's unique air came from the dichotomous manner in which it was written, produced and staged.

"Chicago" is a vaudeville show, and so its players are not only actors

in a musical story, but participants in the vaudeville framework.

Slick production values, excellent technical work and an energetic cast combined to set an atmosphere that

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gave an initially skeptical audience a good show, and a message as well.

"Chicago" was an excellent parody of the media hype that often enables criminals to make a mockery of the American judicial system by turning their fame into fortune.

The plot was basically a series of some-dialogue-and-one-musical-number sketches tied together by an emcee in true vaudeville fashion. Once I realized this, it wasn't hard to get involved in the storyline, which revolved around the efforts of a woman to escape a murder rap and use her notoriety to catapult her to vaudeville stardom.

Melanie Adam and Kristen Childs both gave energetic performances as

the woman, Roxie, and her friend Velma.

They were overshadowed though by Bill McCauley's melodramatic performance as defense lawyer Billy Flynn.

Donald L. Norris, as Roxie's wimpy husband, headed a fine supporting cast, which was just as much a part of the vaudeville act as it was of the musical.

Backup choreography is just as it should be—dynamic enough to add to the show, but subordinated to the main action. The surreal dance costumes, though identifying the dancers as minor participants, were a little distracting to my eye—they didn't seem to fit the surroundings.

But add a simple stage setting, more than adequate lighting, a surprisingly well-microphoned sound system, and a polished band backing the song and dance, and you've got an evening full of a kind of entertainment that's just not around anymore.

Check letter size for holiday mail

A Bryan postmaster reminds customers to check the size of envelopes before mailing Christmas cards. Effective last July 15, envelopes must be at least 3 1/2 inches high and 5 inches long.

A 7 cent surcharge was also placed on first class mail weighing one ounce or less, and single piece third class mail of two ounces or less that measure more than 6 1/8 inches high, 11 1/2 inches long or 1/4 inch thick.

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