campus

What's up at A&M

Monday

AGGIE CHRISTMAS CARD SALES: The Class of '80 will be selling Christmas cards in the MSC and at the MSC Box Office in Rudder Tower through Dec. 14. A package of 10 is $2.50, and there are two designs to choose from.

GIFT WRAP SERVICE: The Student "Y" will be wrapping gifts 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through Dec 21 in Room 216-A, MSC. Free for all "Y" members; a small charge for non-members. Bring your own boxes.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The A&M Consolidated High School Honor Mixed Choir will perform from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the University National Bank lobby. The first of five daily concerts sponsored by the bank.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE: Today is the last day to buy a Christmas Tree from Lambda Sigma. They will be sold 3-7 p.m. in front of the Commons.

OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES: The first of three informal programs on securing your apartment during the Christmas break will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the party room at Old College Main Apartments. Sponsored by the University Police and the Off Campus Center.

FISH CAMP APPLICATIONS: Chairman applications will be accepted in Room 216, MSC through Jan. 18.

MARKETING SOCIETY: Will meet at 9 p.m. for Aggieland pictures. Wear suits or dresses.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Will present programs on Human Rights Day at noon at the Rudder Fountain, the MSC (main floor), and Room 302, Rudder. There will be speakers, films, and a panel discussion.

COLLEGIATE 4-H: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Lounge for a short business meeting and to take Aggieland pictures.

Tuesday

SAFETY ENGINEERS: Will meet at 7 p.m. at 3-C Barbecue in College Station. W.J. Davis, chief of security and fire protection for Alcoa Rockdale, will speak.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The A&M Consolidated Middle School 8th Grade Choir will perform from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the University National Bank lobby.

CALCULUS HELP SESSION: The Math Club will have a help session today and tomorrow to aid all calculus students prepare for finals. Will be held 7-10 p.m. in Room 203, Academic Bldg. Admission — $1 at the door.

RANGE CLUB: Will have a Christmas Party at 7 p.m. in the Quonset Huts (maps available in Animal Industries Bldg.). There will be a professor talent show, and refreshments will be served.

Wednesday

"MONKEY BUSINESS:" The Marx Brothers star in this comedy as stowaways on an ocean liner. All four try to disembark by passing themselves as Maurice Chevalier. Will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission — $1. (G)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The A&M Consolidated High School Concert Choir will perform from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the University National Bank lobby.

LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT: Will hold a short meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 502, Rudder. Christmas carrolling will follow.

Student-tenant suits increase in CS

By JON HEIDTKE
Battalion Reporter

One roommate sues another because she ate her last can of Campbell's Tomato Soup. Another sues a roommate because he is a slob and never does his share of cleaning around the apartment.

Funny as it sounds, legal suits such as the ones mentioned above, brought against fellow roommates are a growning problem among Texas A&M University students who live off campus.

The past year there have been an epidemic of cases concerning student-tenant vs. student-tenant appearing in College Station's small claims courts, said Justice of the Peace Mike Calliham.

Student-tenant vs. student-tenant cases have grown so rapidly that the only student cases heard in court anymore are those involving tenant vs. landlord.

Calliham said a typical student-tenant case involves one or two roommates sue another roommate for his portion of the rent.

After their petition is filed the defendant has 10 days to file an answer. If no answer is given, a default judgment is issued saying the defendant owes the money.

If he still doesn't pay, the plaintiffs can lay execution on non-exempt property (property other than homestead property). Most students have homestead property, so if the dependant does not pay, the plaintiffs have a hard time getting the money owed them.

"The basic cause of these cases is personality conflicts," Calliham said. These personality conflicts usually fall under two headings — misunderstanding and marriage, he said.

Calliham said misunderstandings arise when there is a lack of communication between roommates. Marriage conflicts occur when one roommate moves out to live with someone else.

But as Jim Locke, Texas A&M's student legal adviser said it all boils down to who pays the rent.

"Our offices can't handle student vs. student cases. We can advise them and give them an idea of contract law," Locke said.

Another aid for students with roommate problems can be found in the Off-Campus Center. One of the services offered by the OCC is roommate counseling and conflict mediation.

"Off campus living presents a different kind of problem for the student," said Jan Winniford, OCC coordinator.

Students in a dormitory environment don't have to worry about rent and are able to change roommates with less problems, she said.

She also said other students are available to discuss problems in the dorm.

Even though the OCC offers roommate counseling, on the average only 20 students use the service each month to discuss their roommate conflicts, Winniford said.

"Many times they talk and let it all out," Winniford said. Lack of communication in proably the biggest reason for these conflicts, she said.

Another big problem in student-tenants vs. student-tenants cases is that roommates usually have agreements based on oral terms.

"These contracts are binding," Locke said, "But not nearly as as specific as leases."

From a legal aspect, cases involving oral agreements concerning students are the hardest to decide, Calliham said.

"They turn into swearing matches, and I can't tell who is telling the truth," he said.

Some of these situations, such as sub-leasing from a former tenant, can get extremely technical and these are made more difficult when only oral evidence is presented, he said.

The OCC now provides a tenant agreement for roommates which define their obligations toward each other. The student legal advisers will also draw up contracts for roommates.

The OCC also provides a pamphlet for students who will be living with each other for the first time which will set up a better understanding between them.

Although student-tenant vs. student-tenant cases are steadily increasing, landlord vs. tenant cases involving security deposits still represent the majority of cases brought to court.

The reason for continuing problems with security deposits, according to Leroy Balmain of the Better Business Bureau, is that students do not read the lease.

Winniford agreed with Balmain.

"It is amazing how many junior and seniors come in the OCC and don't know about their contracts," she said.

When students sue landlords they get some of their deposit back about 35 percent of the time, Calliham said. But the new Texas Apartment Association leases favor the landlord. he said.

The new leases clearly define the rights and responsibilities of both parties.

A&M professor aids in development

Drug may help cancer victims

A drug developed in part by a Texas A&M University medical researcher holds promise for treating a nerve cancer that usually kills children between ages 1 and 5.

The drug is bromacetylcholine, know in medical circles at BrACh, which has inhibited the disease known as nueroblastoma in animals and prolonged the lives of test mice 200 percent and more, said Dr. George C. R. Chiou, head of pharmacology in the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Chiou has begun an 18-month American Cancer Society study to fine tune research data in order to determine which levels of BrACh seem most effective and how the drug should be administered.

Chiou has been involved in synthesis and development of bromoacetylcholine for more than 10 years, first as a post-doctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University and later as a University of Florida researcher.

The nerve cancer, he said, can spread almost anywhere in the body and is usually fatal if not discovered and treated before an infant is 1 year old.

The disease basically results from failure of nerve cells to differentiate as the body grows.

When test results on animals have been compiled, proposals for research on human volunteers will be forwarded to the Food and Drug Administration for approval, said Chiou.

"One major obstacle of using anticancer drugs is toxicity," he explained. "The main side effect anticipated with use of bromoacetylcholine is an action which resembles stimulation of the parasympathetic nerves, but this can be eliminated with other compounds," Chiou said.

In many cases he has studied, the drug inhibited growth of large nerve tumors and prolonged the lives of lab mice one year, almost half the normal life span of a healthy test mouse.

Kennedy could lose some black support

United Press International

BOSTON — A group of black Boston politicians has told President Carter that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's role in last year's defeat of the nation's only black senator could return to haunt Kennedy.

The Boston Herald American said today that the blacks held a brief private meeting with Carter in the Oval Office Thursday.

Rep. Mel King, D-Boston, Sen. William Owens, D-Boston, and Boston School Committee member John D. O'Bryant told Carter of Kennedy's impact on the defeat of former Republican Sen. Edward W. Brooke.

They all attacked his support of Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., who won Brooke's Senate seat in 1978.

"Kennedy played a significant role in removing the only black from the U.S. Senate," said O'Bryant, "and he will be held to account for that."

King told the newspaper the impact of Kennedy's support for Tsongas, including appearances at fundraisers and TV commercials, "was enormous. I'm surprised that some people have forgotten that. But they will be reminded."

Kennedy, a Democrat, still has support of many blacks in Massachusetts, including the Bay State Caucus for Equality.

"I look at it (Kennedy's support for Tsongas) as a political act that shouldn't wipe out Kennedy's 17-year record of serving the needs of minorities and poor people," said caucus member Clarence Dilday.

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