

Local

Kitchenette proposal well-received by officials

Mosher residents claim discrimination because snack kitchen is only open to athletes

By JANE G. BRUST

Battalion Staff
Students living on the Texas A&M university campus have never been able to warm up a pizza or prepare a party snack because none of the 35 residence halls are equipped with kitchens.

However, kitchen facilities in residence halls are a distinct possibility. Mosher Hall has a proposal to convert kitchenettes in that dormitory, and it has received preliminary approval from Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs.

Sasse said that he attached his letter of approval to the proposal which was passed on to Ron Blatchley, director of student affairs. Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he will give final approval or disapproval of the proposal.

The Residence Hall Association also received a copy of the proposal for their endorsement.

The kitchenette idea involves the conversion of two study carrels or two drafting rooms into two cooking areas, each equipped with a microwave oven and a toaster oven on Formica tables.

Mosher's dorm council voted to accept the proposal after discussing the plan at their next meeting, which will be held in the basement area to have a kitchen for their exclusive use.

Some residents, displeased with

the kitchen being off-limits, said they should have use of that facility or be provided with comparable facilities of their own.

Cathy McCabe and Kay Mann are the two council members who helped Sheryl Knuth, assistant area coordinator for the Commons, to write a proposal, including provisions for checkout procedure, reg-

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ulations, safety measures and enforcement.

McCabe said Mosher residents would be able to use the kitchenettes through a key checkout at the Commons front desk. She said this would keep a check on the cleanliness of the area by keeping a list of residents who use the facility.

McCabe also said no meat will be prepared in the ovens.

Knuth pointed out that the broil-

ing of steaks and hamburgers would be too great a fire hazard. The toaster ovens would be for baking only, she said.

Also, a time limit on the use of the kitchenettes would limit the kinds of foods which could be prepared, Knuth said. The suggested time limit is one 30-minute period.

"I see it as a self-monitoring system run by the residents," she said. "I believe the students can handle it."

Knuth said the actual purchase of the appliances would not be complicated or costly. She said microwaves cost approximately \$300 each and the toaster ovens are less than \$50 each. That cost could be covered by Mosher's Coke fund, she said.

The Coke fund is a portion of the University's vending machine profits that is reapportioned to the residence halls.

Knuth said the kitchenettes would satisfy the residents' need for a facility to prepare simple meals and snacks.

Knuth also pointed out that the kitchenette facilities would be open only for specified hours each day and those hours would in no way take the place of a board plan for Mosher residents.

"I see it as an additional service, something nice to have," Knuth said.

"This would just be to heat up snacks, to make cookies for boy-

friends. It's unrealistic to think it could serve the whole dorm."

Mosher has 674 residents. In an interview, Blatchley said one reason why dorms with kitchens have not been built before is that the University has already made large investments in the three existing dining halls.

"We would have the added ex-

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pense along with the deduction from board plans," he said. "We'd be cutting off our noses to spite our faces."

Fred Dollar, director of Food Services, said even though board plans became optional seven years ago, the number of students paying for board has increased each year.

However, Blatchley said he believes kitchenettes in the dorms would decrease the number of students eating in the dining halls.

New kitchen and lounge facility being built for Mosher athletes

By JANE G. BRUST

Battalion Staff
By January the athletes living in Mosher Hall's basement should have a kitchen, lounge area and study room all to themselves.

The kitchen has an oven, stove, refrigerator-freezer, dishwasher, sink and disposal and plenty of cabinets. Groceries will be provided for the athletes, who will also do their own cooking.

A bar area with more counter and cabinet space extends from the kitchen into the lounge, which will have a television set, electric fireplace and possibly a trophy case. A study area with 20 desks and two blackboards will be ready for use within the

next few weeks, said Kay Don, assistant athletic director.

Sheryl Knuth, assistant area coordinator for the Commons, explained that the athletes' facilities are a result of Title IX, which sets the Department of Education's anti-sex discrimination rules for educational institutions. Failure to comply with Title IX can result in an institution's loss of federal funds.

Don said she has consulted LeRoy Sutherland, supervisor of the men's athletic dorm, Cain Hall, for policy suggestions to monitor the kitchen area.

Don said a supervisor, probably an upperclassman athlete, will open the kitchen for two hours three times a day.

Only athletes will use the kitchen,

but they will be allowed to bring guests into the lounge and study areas, Don said.

Don said she realized some other Mosher residents might be opposed to the kitchen facilities for the athletes only.

"Some people may be upset by it," she said, "but if they understood athletics, they'd understand the project."

She explained that athletes' schedules often conflict with dining hall hours when they have games and late practices.

A former student of Texas A&M University, Don Morris, donated money two years ago to build a separate residence hall for women in athletics, Don said.

However, Don said, the expense was greater than the donation and there were not enough women to warrant a separate dormitory.

Don said the athletic department still felt a need to designate a special place for the athletes in order to com-

ply with Title IX. She said Morris approved of the kitchen-lounge-study area idea last fall.

Dr. Jarvis Miller, then University president, decided to use the storage area in Mosher's basement for the athletes' facilities.

Construction of the facilities, which Don said will cost \$75,000 with furnishings, began last summer.

RHA's last meeting of the year is tonight

Dena Todd, coordinator of student services, will present the policies for reserving the Quonset Huts in 1981 at the Residence Hall Association's final meeting of the semester tonight at 7 in 204 Harrington.

Also on the agenda is a report from the committee investigating the requirement for fifth-year seniors and graduate students to live off campus, beginning next year, to make more room for freshmen. The committee was formed at the last RHA meeting with Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, serving as coordinator.

Tonight's meeting, a "wrap-up of the semester," will be followed by a Christmas party, said RHA President Sherrie Balcar.

The first meeting next semester is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

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