

Local

Spring brings flowers, new apartments, more costs

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

A spring ritual at Texas A&M University has started again — deciding where to live next semester.

But before making a definite decision, students should be aware of all of the costs involved in both on- and off-campus housing. The obvious expenses involved include a dorm room and board fee or apartment rent. But other costs aren't as obvious.

Texas A&M students who live in dormitories next fall face a 20 percent increase in room rates, making the average cost of a dormitory room \$488 a semester or \$122 a month.

But off-campus students also

face increases. According to figures supplied by the Off Campus Center, the average apartment rate will increase 12.9 percent in the fall. With this increase, the average cost of a one-bedroom furnished apartment will be \$277 a month, according to a center brochure.

However, because off-campus housing costs are computed per unit as opposed to on-campus housing which is computed per person, the cost of living off campus will vary according to the number of apartment occupants. For example, with one roommate, the one-bedroom furnished apartment would cost \$138.50 a month per person.

The increase in dormitory rates

was recommended by the Committee for Academic Campuses last week and approved by the System Board of Regents.

In a story published in The Battalion last week, Howard Vestal, vice president for business affairs, was reported as saying that the dormitory increase can be attributed to salary increases for residence halls' staff and higher utilities.

Similarly, the 12.9 percent increase in the average cost of apartments is due to inflation and the rising cost of utilities, Louann Schulze, off-campus adviser, said.

Board rates will increase 8.9 percent in the fall, from \$462 to \$503 for the five-day plan and \$517 to \$563 for the seven-day plan.

This makes the cost of food \$126 a month for students on the five-day plan and \$141 a month for the seven-day plan.

There is no way to determine the average cost of food for off-campus students because they can economize by changing their eating habits.

However, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is predicting a 12 percent increase in the cost of food from September 1980 to September 1981, Carl Anderson, an economist with the agricultural economics department, said.

Other fees will eat up more money. The University is billed by General Telephone of the Southwest for local telephone service for on-campus students. This charge is passed on to students through room rates. There will be a 58.4 percent increase in this rate next fall, from \$5 to \$7.92, Bill Erwin, GTE division manager, said. This will be the first increase in this rate since 1967, he said.

It now costs \$20 for an on-campus student to get long distance service. Erwin predicted that this rate will decrease in the fall but said it would be impossible to give the exact rate until the statewide rate increase request is approved by the Public Utilities Commission. GTE filed this request Jan. 23.

Off-campus students now pay \$8.65 a month for local service plus an instrument charge for a one-party residence telephone. It

is impossible to tell whether this rate will increase until the PUC rate case is settled, Erwin said.

Off-campus telephone deposits are another factor students should consider. However, the deposits are based on local service and tolls and are not quoted until a service application is filled out, Lois Koontz, GTE customer service representative, said. Since deposits may differ, it is impossible to forecast an across-the-board increase, she said.

But television rates should stay about the same. Cathy Pledger, Community Cablevision office supervisor, said cable hook-up rates for on- and off-campus students will not change.

Cable rates for Commons residents will be \$10 a semester for television or FM radio, or \$15 for both while all other dorm residents will pay \$5.50 for television or FM radio or \$10.50 for both.

On-campus students who want Home Box Office, a pay-television service that shows movies, variety shows, specials and sporting events, will pay \$27 a semester plus a \$25 refundable deposit.

Cable rates for off-campus students will be \$4 a month for television and FM radio and \$6 a month for HBO.

Both on- and off-campus students face the same cost if they wish to park a car on campus at any time. But there will be no increase in the cost of parking permits next fall, Col. Thomas Parsons, dire-

ctor of University traffic and security, said. The rates will be: one semester — \$15, two semesters — \$27 and for the entire year — \$36.

However, there will be a 5 percent increase in the cost of shuttle bus passes, from \$38 to \$40 for an individual student and \$55 to \$58 for a student and spouse.

Other optional expenses facing dorm residents include activity fees and the cost of renting a refrigerator for the room.

The average activity fee is \$15 for two semesters. Payment of this fee entitles the resident to partici-

pate in any dorm-sponsored activity.

Refrigerator rental rates are not expected to rise, Renee Vermaelen, manager of University Refrigerators, said. Current rates are: two-cubic-foot refrigerator — \$27.15, three-cubic-foot refrigerator — \$32.30.

Other expenses for off-campus students include the cost of laundry services and the amount of gas used commuting to and from the campus if they do not ride the shuttle bus. However, these expenses will vary for each student and it is impossible to determine the rate of increase.

Estimated living costs

	On-campus (per month)	Off-campus (per month)
Housing	\$122.00	\$138.50
Food	\$126.00	Varies; students can expect a 12% increase next year.
Telephone — local service	\$7.92	\$8.65
Telephone — long distance hook-up	(Fall, 1980) \$5	N/A
Telephone — Deposit	N/A	Varies
Cable — TV and FM	Commons \$3.75 Others \$2.63	\$4.00
Parking permit	(One semester) \$3.75 (Two semester) \$3.37	\$3.75 \$3.37
Activity fee	\$1.90	N/A
Refrigerator rental	(2 cu. ft.) \$6.78 (3 cu. ft.) \$8.07	N/A

Pearl's Film Developing

by Fox

1 day service on color rolls brought in by 1:00 p.m.

Monday-Thurs.

3837 Old College Rd.
across from the Triangle Bowling Alley.

ACCOUNTING MAJORS

GAAP IS HERE!

Sponsored by Accounting Society and Beta Alpha Psi

Greater Annual Accountant's Playday ~ (and banquet)

Thursday April 16, 1981

Events

5-K RUN

TENNIS

GOLF

Reception

Awards Banquet

Dance following

Students, compete with professors and professionals!

More information available at the Accounting Department at the Old Hospital Building. Tickets are on sale from 9:00 - 1:00 everyday.

APRIL 8 LENTEN SERVICE

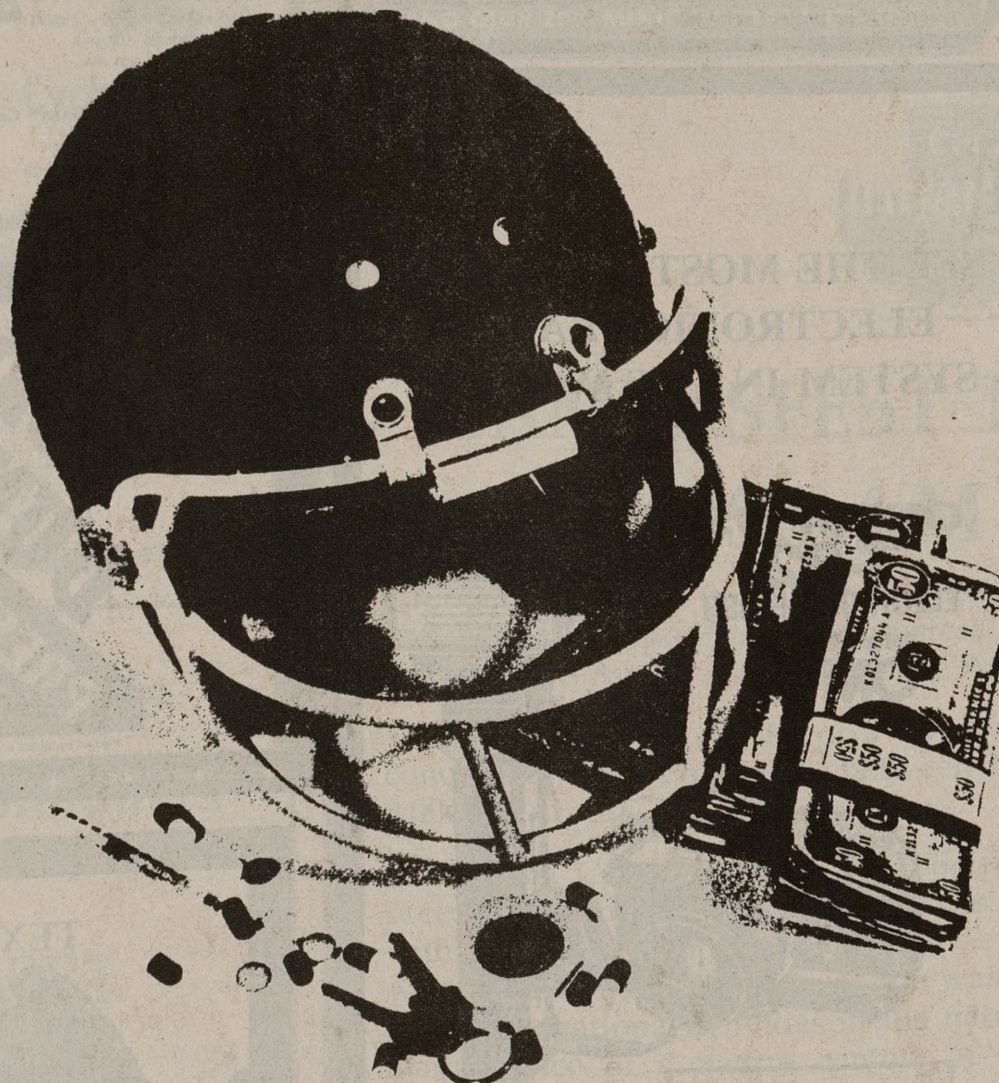
11:15-10:50

ALL FAITHS CHAPEL

HOLY COMMUNION

Michael Miller, UCM Campus Pastor
Presbyterians — UCC — Disciples

"COMPROMISING ETHICS IN COLLEGE SPORTS"



Dan Devine

Former Athletic Director,
Notre Dame University

Jack Gallagher

Houston Post
Sportswriter

Steve Morgan

SWC NCAA Representative

8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 8

Rudder Auditorium

\$1.00 A&M Students, \$1.50 Non-Students

Tickets at MSC Box Office

