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# Ramada tower opens in July

## Hotel has condos on upper floors

by John P. Lopez  
Battalion Reporter

The \$7 million renovation and tower addition of the Ramada Inn on University Drive and Texas Avenue is expected to be ready for occupancy July 15.

"We will only open the first 11 floors then," Joe Ferreri, owner and contractor of the project, said.

Those 11 floors will be guest rooms; the remaining six floors of the 17-story structure will be condominiums. Ferreri will live in the penthouse on the top floor.

Randy Goldsmith, construction manager of the project, said all the amenities in the rooms have received a five-star rating, which means the hotel is classified as a first-class structure.

"The rooms have synthetic

marble baths, full-mirror closet doors, vinyl wall covering in every unit, oak doors and oversized baths," he said.

The condominiums also will be fully equipped and can be furnished if the purchaser desires.

The floor plans in all the guest rooms will be identical, but the condominiums will have five different floor plans — the largest covering 2,400 square feet.

When completed, the tower will stand 173 feet high, will cover about 145,000 square feet of space, and will have a 13,000-square-foot glass-enclosed swimming pool.

The tower also will be well-equipped with fire protection devices.

"The city of College Station has as stringent a fire safety code as any city in Texas," Goldsmith said.

"All of these requirements have the maximum insurance rating you can get for a high-rise structure," he added.

Fire marshal Harry Davis said the strict requirements will make the tower one of the safest structures in the area.

"We want to make it as safe as possible for people to get out if the building is on fire," he said.

Some of the fire-protection devices to be installed in the tower include a complete sprinkler system throughout the building, smoke detection devices in every room, two charged fire hoses on each floor, fire-retardant doors, drapes and beds, fire resistant sheet rock, fire resistant ceiling tiles and pressurized stairwells.

Goldsmith said the pressurized stairwells will help eliminate the problem of stairwells being easily filled with smoke if a fire occurs.



photo by Todd Woodard

Construction continues on the Ramada Inn at the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive. The 17-story structure will contain 10 floors of guest rooms, five floors of condos and one penthouse floor.

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## Spirit Award honors students' contributions

by Joe Tindel Jr.  
Battalion Reporter

A new Spirit Award, to be presented by the Association of For-

mer Students, will honor students who have made outstanding contributions to the student life program at Texas A&M

University.

Jack Fritts, president of the Association of Former Students, Carolyn Adair, director of student activities; Ed Davis, president-elect of the former students association; and Student Body President Ken Johnson worked together to arrange the award.

Students who apply for the award must furnish information about their activities, accomplishments, leadership positions and other involvement in student activities.

Applicants must have a minimum overall grade point ratio of 2.0 to be eligible and must not be on disciplinary or scholastic probation.

Up to five freshmen, 10 sophomores, 15 juniors, 20 seniors and two graduate students will be selected for the award.

A committee of faculty, staff and students appointed by Dr. John J. Koldus III, vice president for student services, will make the selections.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony May 5. Recipients will receive a framed certificate and a wrist watch.

## Now You Know

United Press International  
The only actor to win an Oscar in a monster film was Frederic March for 1932's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

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