

**Back to the Batt**

Despite the video games in the basement of the Memorial Student Center, Rickey Crane, a

junior pre-dent major from Mt. Pleasant takes a minute to catch up on things in *The Battalion*.

staff photo by John Makely

# UT housing booms

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The rental housing market around the sprawling University of Texas campus has loosened up, making it easier for the more than 48,000 students who began classes Monday to find a place to live this fall.

"There is much less desperation, not as much sheer utter frustration as there was two years ago," said Jenny Arnold, operator of Apartment Finders Service. "My agents are less frustrated. We feel much less like the prophets of doom."

Property managers and rental agents agreed that there are more rental houses and apartments in the campus area because of a boom in apartment and condominium construction and a cap on university enrollment.

And students appear to be benefiting from the oversupply of housing.

At least one apartment complex offered two months of free rent to students who signed a 12-month lease. And some off-campus dormitories lowered their rates slightly to draw more renters.

In addition to the increase in rental units, Solt and other property managers said condos have removed thousands of students from the rental market.

And they said the ceiling on university enrollment of freshmen has lessened demand, while some students appear more willing to live in the numerous

apartment complexes on the outskirts of the city.

Off-campus dorms have been hard hit, prompting some to reduce their rates.

"Probably every dormitory in town had space last year," said David Stapleton, a property manager. "It seems that the same thing exists this year."

But the university-owned dorms are full.

"We have 360 people on a waiting list," said Robert Cooke, who is in charge of UT's 5,187 student rooms and 700 apartment units. "It's been that way for about the past five years."

Cooke said location and price are the biggest selling points, noting that room and board at the Jester Center, the university's largest dorm, costs \$2,844 for nine months.

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# West Texas businessman running for U.S. House

LUBBOCK — Republican businessman Larry Combest is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives seat of Democrat Kent Hance, but Sen. John Montford said he would not seek the post.

Hance last week said he would run for the Senate seat being vacated by Sen. John Tower, R-Texas. Tower said he would not run for re-election.

Combest, 38, has owned and operated a wholesale electronics distributorship in Lubbock for five years.

He worked with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in 1971 before going to work as Tower's agricultural

cultural legislative assistant from 1971 until 1978.

Combest grew up and worked on family farms near Memphis and Panhandle.

"I believe my experience in the agricultural and business community qualify me to serve as your representative in Washington," Combest told reporters at the first of several news conferences he has scheduled to announce his plans.

"I know the problems facing agriculture from the farming angle, the administrative angle and the legislative angle," Combest said.

He said he favored a strong national defense, but believed some cuts could be made in the federal Defense Department's

budget without hurting national security.

Montford, a Democrat, had talked with Hance about possibly running for the House seat. Montford said Monday he was contacted by many people urging him to run for Congress.

"For the past week we have witnessed a political upheaval here in West Texas, an upheaval that has launched many rumors and much speculation," Montford told reporters at a news conference.

"When the voters of this senatorial district sent me to Austin less than a year ago I took that as a vote of confidence and trust and not as an opportunity to launch a political career by hoptochting from one job to the

next every time there was an open rung on the ladder," Montford added.

He said he wanted to continue his work on water legislation and other issues important to residents of West Texas.

Montford served as Lubbock County district attorney before he was elected to the Texas Senate last year.

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# Jury selected for trial of alleged wife killer

**United Press International**  
EASTLAND — Lawyers picked a state district jury to hear a murder trial of a Cisco man charged with the shotgun slaying of his second wife — 15 years after he was tried for killing his first wife.

Selection of the 91st District Court jury for the trial of Loyal Lundstrom, 59, was completed Monday after 6 days had passed and 63 candidates had been considered.

A Cisco businessman and former mayor pro-tem of the Eastland County community, Lundstrom is accused of killing his 27-year-old wife, Doris, with a single shotgun blast of birdshot to the abdomen.

Authorities allege she died March 3, the day Lundstrom disappeared.

When the murder investigation began, Cisco police denied that the missing Lundstrom was a suspect.



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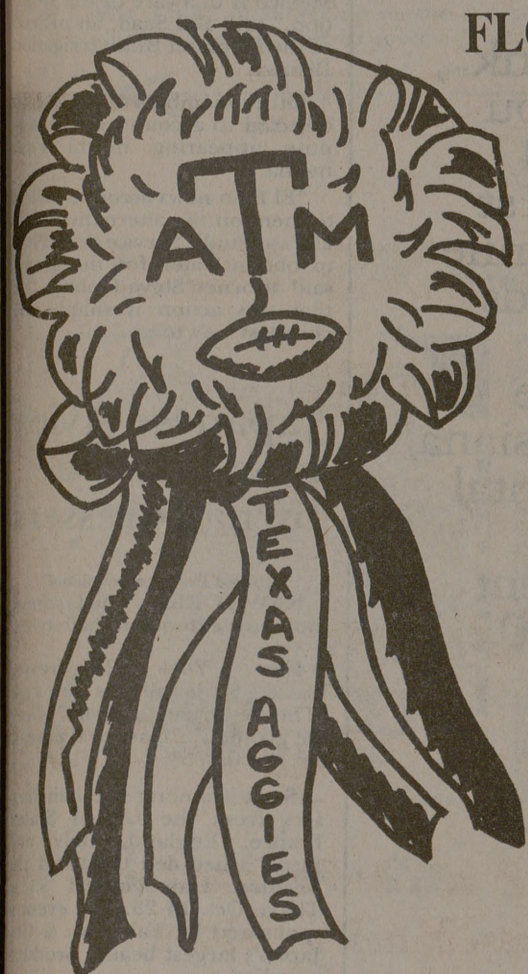
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