

# New meters operative, students receive bills

by Rusty Roberts

**Battalion Staff**  
Residents of married student housing this week received their first electrical bill of the semester. The bills had been delayed since September after newly installed meters appeared to be defective. But, an investigation by University officials has shown the meters to be "99 percent—plus accurate."

Residents say they noticed some meters registering higher electrical usage rates than others. Their complaints were heard and the University began, what officials call, a successful three-month investigation that uncovered the problem.

Don Powell, Texas A&M's director of business services, says the discrepancy in certain meters occurred because of wiring problems. He says some meters registered electric use on apartment-owned floodlights as well as on individual apartment usage. Powell says it's the apartment complexes' responsibility to pay the floodlight bill, not the residents'. So, reimbursements have been awarded to that expense.

But, Powell says the uniquely wired meters are an exception rather than a rule. He says the other meters register electricity usage for each individual apartment and says they are working properly.

Chuck McCullough, president of the married student apartment council, says the University readjusted monthly bills to eliminate electric charges. But, McCullough says the readjustment has resulted in higher bills, rather than lower ones.

Electricity for the apartments is supplied by the Texas A&M Physical Plant and rent is set by the Board of Regents. The board decided last September to lower rents by an amount proportional to each apartment's average monthly electric bill. McCullough says these adjustments are inadequate.

He says tenants who went to the manager this week have received their bill. But, he says

the billing adjustments don't equal the payments residents used to pay when electricity was included in the rent.

"The College View Apartments have central heating and air," Powell says. "The residents who are very conservative use a sufficient amount of electricity to cool or heat their apartment, while the wasteful ones use extremely too much. The estimated average considered all residents for the entire 12 month period."

Powell says the University separated the electric bill from the rent to avoid charging everyone for a few residents' wasteful habits.

# Subleasing a substitute for breaking contracts

by Karen Hoefle  
Battalion Reporter

Looking for an apartment for the spring semester? Or thinking of breaking an apartment lease? Before taking the plunge either way, consider subleasing.

Nancy Ludwig, adviser of the Off-Campus Center, says subleasing an apartment can be an advantage for both the student who leases out the apartment and the student who leases it.

The advantage to the sublease, Ludwig said, is that if people are really interested in getting a good deal on an apartment, where there may be no deposits and rent is negotiable, then a sublease is just what they need.

Ludwig said one of her jobs in the center is to work with students who come in and want to break their apartment leases.

She points out that usually they cannot legally break a lease.

"There is no way to get out of it and the students are held responsible for that lease for the entire leasing term."

However, there are other options, one of which is subleasing the apartment, she said. In the

sublease, the student becomes the "manager" of the apartment and is responsible for it during the time the other person occupies it.

The updated sublease files in the Off-Campus Center are filled with the names of 150 students who want to sublease their apartments, she said.

# A&M disciplinary officer splits time between roles

by Chris Cox  
Battalion Reporter

For Bill Kibler, assistant director for student affairs, no day is ordinary. Much of Kibler's day is spent working with the student disciplinary department and student disciplinary problems. The next hour he could be working to organize Silver Taps.

"I've really got two titles," Kibler says. "I am the assistant director for student affairs and I am also the disciplinary officer for the University. I spend most of my time working as the disciplinary officer."

Kibler said up until this semester he was responsible for disciplinary problems. Because of the number of hearings you die involved, he said, the department has now hired a student disciplinary affairs supervisor. He said the case load had gotten to where it was impossible for one person to handle.

"Our office is one of the first notified when a death has occurred," Kibler said. "We are then responsible for notifying other offices on the campus that need to know immediately."

He says an official detailed notice then comes out of the department and the death immediately becomes a part of the University records.

"Silver Taps is then conducted on the first Tuesday of the month," Kibler said. "We send out notices that go out to all of the offices notifying them that Silver Taps is scheduled."

Kibler says he also takes care of inviting the parents of the deceased student. He says he makes sure the parents know specifically all important details

such as time and location of the ceremony. A letter supplies that information or sometimes just a phone call will do when there is not enough time for notification, he said.

"On the Tuesday of Silver Taps, the department prepares a card or cards for deceased students which is placed inside a special Silver Taps board," he said. "The board is then placed at the base of the Academic flagpole first thing on Tuesday morning. The flag is lowered to half-mast the entire day."

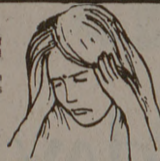
At the end of the ceremony, Kibler says he removes the card from the flagpole. He said the card is mailed to the parents along with a letter from the University the next morning.

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By Dr. Stewart Stephenson

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A good portion of my job is involved in conducting hearings on students that are allegedly involved in violations of University regulations," Kibler said. "I then make decisions on whether or not a student is guilty of these violations. If a student is guilty, I take appropriate disciplinary action. However, I am not an attorney."

Kibler says his job is an informal administrative process. He says there are definite rights afforded to students that the department must protect. And, he said, the department follows strict procedures in carrying out disciplinary actions.

"I am also involved in a number of administrative chores," Kibler said. "I work with the department's budget and the recruitment of the staff."

"Silver Taps is another 'function' Kibler handles. He says his department handles the administrative end of Silver Taps.



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