

Family Tree provides home for retarded



Photo by PETER ROCHA

Bill Dobson mows the front yard of the Family Tree as part of his Saturday chores. Right: Bill Dobson helps David Swilley fold a sheet. Both men live in the Family Tree.

By RENEE HARRELL
Reporter

Friday is the big day. He'll be moving out. After four years of living at the Family Tree in Bryan, Conway Perry is getting his own apartment.

The Family Tree, a branch of the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley, is a halfway house for men at least 18 years old suffering from mental retardation.

"I've been here too long," Perry says. "I'm ready to get out in an apartment."

Perry, 28, came to the Family Tree from the state school. He will be moving in with John Sanford who also lived at the Family Tree. Sanford has been on his own for two years.

"It was pretty rough for me when I first came here (to the Family Tree)," Sanford says. "I had some problems learning. I talked to Wendy and Roy when I had problems. They really helped me out. I

used to be real quiet. Now I talk. It's just a habit."

The three-bedroom brick facility, which houses nine men, provides an opportunity for them to prepare for independent community living and develop vocational skills.

"All the guys that live here have some kind of work or vocational training that they are in," says Jack Rush, director of the Family Tree. "Some of them work on contract with the state highway department."

The Family Tree, which opened in 1975, has a waiting list of 10 men. Most of them come from state schools or home, although, Rush says, some do refer themselves.

"We try to emphasize a normalization principle," Rush says. "We work on the principle that you have to do things for yourself."

The residents plan and prepare meals, do household chores, pur-

chase and care for personal belongings and manage money.

"The concept of money is a problem," Rush says. "All of the money they earn goes into separate bank accounts under their name. Before they leave we try to have them save up enough money for it. They start buying household items too. We make sure they have enough income."

Follow-up care is provided for residents who move into the community. Sanford comes back to the Family Tree every week for classes.

A social worker, two psychologists, a nurse, seven house managers and the director help staff the facility 24 hours a day. Because the residential program is a step between dependence and independence, there is a need to get out into the community.

"We went to Dr. G's last New Year's Eve," Sanford says. "About four or five of us went. We just went there and had fun."



Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
• A G.T.E. telephone was stolen from 205 Halbouty.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:
• A Xerox copier, two solid state 40-channel radios and two solid state three-channel radios were stolen from the Gulf States Construction Shed.

Consumer group files complaint

United Press International

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. is artificially inflating local service costs, and the U.S. Department of Justice should take necessary action against the company, a Missouri consumer group said Tuesday.

The Missouri Public Interest Research Group, a St. Louis-based organization, filed a complaint Monday with the Justice Department, alleging Southwestern Bell has violated the consent decree which broke up AT&T.

Tom Ryan, MoPir's executive director, and Tim Hogan, a member of group's board of directors, announced Tuesday they sent a letter of complaint to Jeffrey Blumenfeld, with the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department. He is handling administration and enforcement of the AT&T divestiture agreement.

"Our complaint is that Southwestern Bell is artificially inflating the cost of local telephone service by using a cost methodology prohibited by the consent decree," Hogan said.

"The continued use of the prohibited cost methodology will have a long-range effect on telephone policy and a wide-ranging impact" on all customers served by Southwestern Bell in Missouri, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, the letter said.

The consent decree, according to MoPir, requires a division of costs between local and long distance when facilities are used for both services.

The Justice Department must now respond to the complaint, Hogan said. If MoPir is unsatisfied with that response, or the department has failed to deal in good faith, MoPir can then go directly to the federal judge in Washington

Kunkel

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academic and experiment station replacements alone," Kunkel said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the single largest employer of agricultural scientists in the country.

"If retirements take only half those reaching eligibility for full federal retirement provisions and replacements require agricultural scientists, another sixth or more of the annual Ph.D. output would be taken,

leaving 500-550 or so a year for extension services, industrial organizations and agribusiness, regulatory agencies, other federal research laboratories, consultancies and a lot more and with the redundancy needed," Kunkel said.

Redundancy is the over production of graduates to assure there are enough quality graduates to keep positions filled as people drop out of the profession.

Such shortages will result in competition for graduates students for faculty members among colleges and universities.

"Competition for good Ph.D. fac-

ulty is going to get tough, really tough," Kunkel said.

Though smaller schools, smaller land grant colleges and non-land grant colleges will suffer more, Texas A&M will suffer, Kunkel said. Texas A&M has lost several tenured faculty members to other institutions.

"We never had that problem before," Kunkel said.

In addition to the expected surge of vacancies, other factors also play into the increased need for graduate students. One factor is dropping undergraduate enrollment.

"Competition for quality is getting

tougher," Kunkel said.

Another factor is that the field of agriculture is moving into a biological and informational revolution.

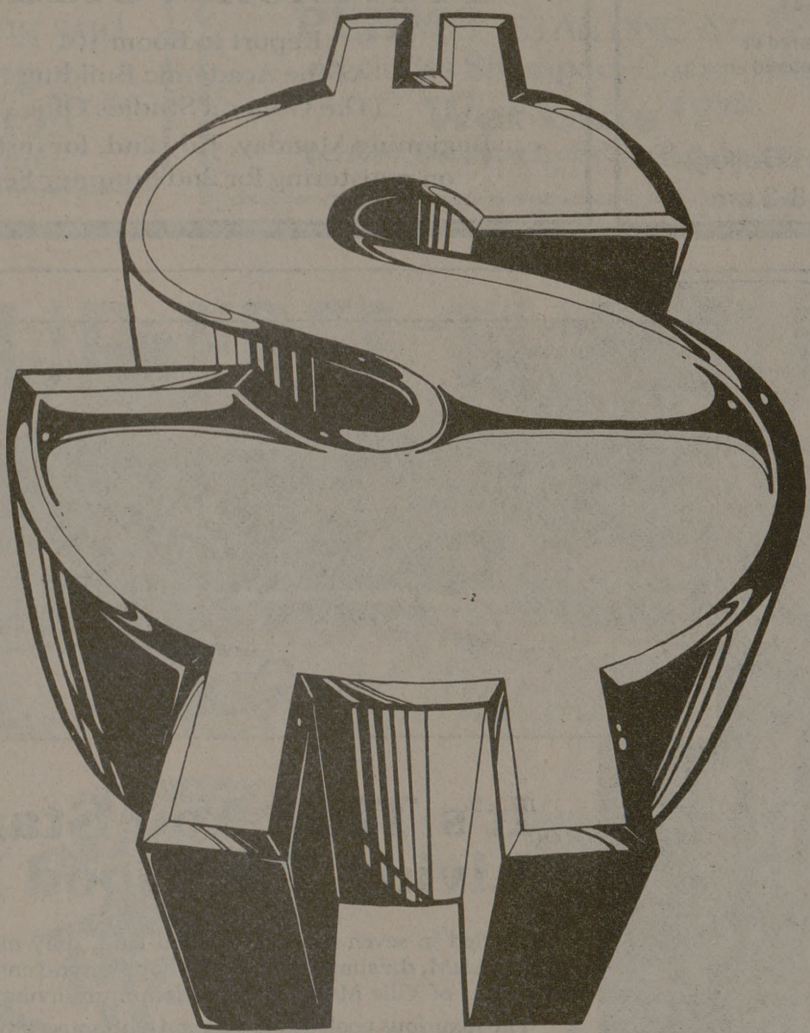
"At Texas A&M, we're weathering it well, because we are moving faster," Kunkel said. "I can't judge the rest."

Three faculty members were moved to biochemistry positions and the College of Agriculture is requiring freshmen to learn about computers and is changing the courses to be fully computerized, Kunkel said.

"We're moving in that direction," he said.

The responsibility for training the needed agricultural scientists falls mainly to colleges and universities, Kunkel said.

"It follows that the academic system must be central to respond to further demands," he said. "I expect it will need considerable help from federal agencies, industries and state governments. A ready supply of would-be agricultural scientists has been taken for granted. It can no longer be. We must now be concerned that the new cohorts are recruited and trained."



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