University News Service

Halley's Comet is about to disap-pear from view until the end of Feb-ruary, leaving thousands and perhaps millions of frustrated stargazers who still haven't spotted it. They shouldn't fret — there will be another chance in the spring, says a Texas A&M graduate student. City lights, clouds, moonlight and

unfamiliarity with the constellations that act as signposts kept many from

sighting the comet in the fall. But it will be visible to the eye in April and the celestial rarity can be followed through much of May with binoculars, said Paul Bradley, one of the first Texans to report seeing the comet in September with A&M's

Amateur sky watchers also may find numerous bargains in May and June as stores and one-time users

Halley's passage, Bradley said.

He said much of the publicity has focused on April viewing, when the

comet is closest to earth.
"In May, Halley's will be a binocular object throughout the month as it sweeps through Crater, Hydra and Sextans," he said. "For most people, this will be the last month to see it, and the moon-free periods will be during the first week and last days of

As the comet fades, there may be a virtual bargain basement sale on good telescopes either left over in the stores or being unloaded by peo-ple who bought the instruments just

After the comet disappears behind the sun for most of February, it will begin to be noticeable as a large will be morning glare during bridge with binocular moon will occur May 23. Bradley said, the comet will be use object in the morning glare during March, Bradley said. Its tail should be quite prominent through binocu-

Some early risers may be with a view of both the o

the waning crescent mode March 8, he said. A problem is that for mor Halley's will be low March — some 32 degrees a

southern horizon at arms Full moon in March isn't up 26th, Bradley said. Early April, when the to brightest and closest, it will be moonless, and viewers early (perhaps as early as get the best view and pio said. Again, Halley's will be degrees or about one han

idly fading and will be tracked July only by those with decen

## A&M researcher predicting less housing construction

**University News Service** 

With an estimated population of annual production is about 15 per-18.2 million by 1990, Texas will cent." need an additional 786,000 homes, although the average number of rose from 11.2 million in 1970 to homes built yearly will decline dras- 14.2 million in 1980 and current estically in some areas, predicts a re-search economist with the Texas

of the decade," says Dr. Arthur Wright, a research economist and

specialist in housing trends.
The 1980-85 average annual construction of site-built and manufactured dwellings was 209,700 units.

"If demographic and housingproduction expectations for 1990 are correct, the total housing stock required will be nearly 7,525,000 ings, he says. That amounts to an anounce of 15,000 units, or 11.2 percent less than the most current annual production rate.

"The 1980-85 average annual more than needed to meet potential 1990 demand," he said, "but if pro- San Antonio is expected to drop by values.

duction levels for the last three years are considered, the potential excess

Wright says Texas' population rose from 11.2 million in 1970 to timates moderately predict nearly 18.2 million people in Texas by

"Moderate housing production tial implications for home builders," will be adequate for the remainder he says.

Excess production in Austin and San Antonio appears to be moderate, while much of the potential excess in Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth results from overbuilding in the multi-family market, the econo-Wright estimates the average annual production for the nexty five years will decrease to 196,500 units.

mist says. The situations in Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth are being corrected, he says.

With an estimated population increase of 138,300 by 1990, Austin

expected to increase 116,000 by 1990, resulting in a need for 49,100 production of new housing units in 1990, resulting in a need for 49,100 tion and employment in Texas is approximately 6.3 percent additional housing units (14,600 a dential sector will decline year). The annual production rate in inventories will suppress

calculations based on Cens reports and building act kept by the A&M's Real Es search Center.

Dallas-Fort Worth's populexpected to increase by 444 sulting in an estimated 71,600 additional units by average production of 17,7 Average production over five years will be down 73. from its 1980-85 levels.

Houston's population to increase 451,600 by Wright projects the addit ber of units needed ove five years will be 83,100 mated annual product 20,800 units in Housto 54.8 percent from 1980-85

"Current production lev below those of past years, says, pointing out that du first eight months of 1985 the ber of building permits is single family homes in Texa percent less than the 19 Multi-family permits were most 42 percent.

Wright maintains total



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