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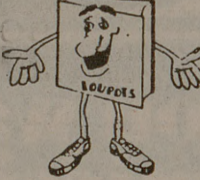
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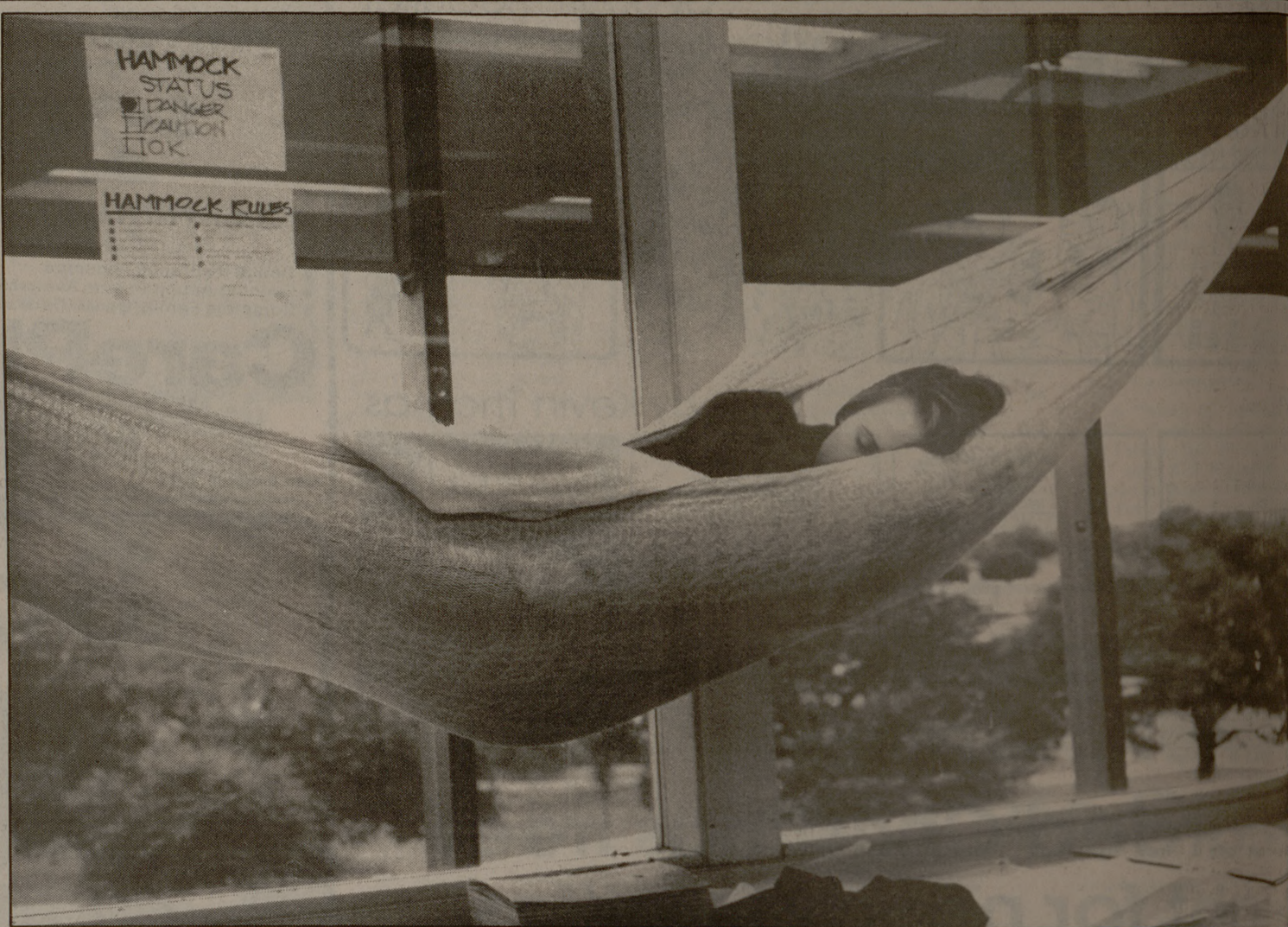
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Not-So-Sweet Dreams

After a hard night's work, junior environmental design major Lisa Alfonso takes to a hammock Thursday in the Langford

Architecture Center. Final project deadlines bring changes in sleeping habits around the architecture building.

Dorm visitation hours to extend temporarily

By Rodney Rather
Assistant City Editor

Texas A&M students will have more time for visiting and romancing during the week before the spring semester because visitation hours between dormitories are being extended temporarily, said Thomas Murray, director of student affairs.

The extra visitation hours will be implemented Monday, Jan. 12, which is the first day students are allowed to move into their dorms for the new semester. The hours will remain in effect through Thursday, Jan. 15. The new hours extend from 10 a.m. to midnight, whereas normal visitation on weekdays is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The hours revert back to normal that weekend, when they will be from 10 a.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday.

The extra visitation hours not only enable family and friends of the opposite sex to help residents move into their dorms, but also give students more time to visit with their dates without leaving their rooms, Murray said.

"There's a lot of need by the residents . . . to have parents, friends, girlfriends and boyfriends help with the move-in process," he said.

Philip Baker, head resident of Walton Hall, said his resident advisers often have faced the problem of having female family members come

into the hall outside of visitation hours.

"I can't tell you how many mothers we've (Walton residence staff) had come in early or late," Baker said. "Should we let them help the students bring their stuff in? It's not really visitation, but it's just a guy's mom helping him move his stuff in."

Extension of the hours may help alleviate that problem, he said.

Baker originally conceived the idea for alteration of the hours and headed development of a proposal from the North Area head residents that was submitted to Murray, he said.

Final authorization for the plan was given by Ronald Sasse, director of student affairs.

Murray said another point discussed while the plan was under consideration was the lack of academic demands the week before the semester starts. Rules concerning quiet hours in the dorms can be relaxed, he said.

"It gives students a little bit of a break on visitation rights during a time when we (student affairs) don't feel like there's a lot of problem with having an extra hour or hour-and-a-half visitation," he said.

Baker said current visitation hours are set at the times they are because many students need a quiet atmosphere in which to study or sleep.

But the week before classes are in session there's no studying to be done, Baker said.

Murray said another reason hours are extended is because students ignore the rules during the pre-semester week.

"I think the attitude tended to be 'aren't in effect, there are no visitation hours,' he said. "Consequently, it turned into a problem for our residence hall staff to convince mind students that there are visitation hours."

Included in the extended visitation plan were the results of 148 surveys completed by members of the Residence Hall Association, resident advisers. Overall, 60 percent of those surveyed were for the plan and 20 percent against it.

Joe Knight, a resident adviser in Miller Hall, said he participated in the survey and that a time change is a good idea, but he has experienced more visitation problems during the preceding each semester than during the time.

Security risks are a potential problem, Murray said it shouldn't create an atmosphere.

"We'll probably end up still locking the doors normally lock at 10 o'clock," he said. "We won't leave those open until midnight, but we don't feel like we'll have any change in problems."

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