

away-from-campus.

There are many options available to these 26,000 students looking for off-campus housing. The Bryan-College Station area has an abundance of apartment complexes available, as well as mobile home parks, townhouses and condominiums, houses, rooms in local family homes, and fraternity and sorority houses. Each type offers different options, including swimming pools, pet allowances, access to the shuttle bus route and on-location security.

There are well over 100 apartment complexes in the area, some within walking distance of campus and some more than six miles from campus.

Once again, price is a determining factor in choosing a place to live. Whatever the size of the apartment, splitting the cost with one or more roommates is the most economical system.

Most apartment complexes offer several floor plan options, including efficiency models. Either furnished or unfurnished apartments are offered in most complexes. In addition, some complexes offer rates which include all utilities.

Efficiency models are designed for one person living by himself who doesn't need as much room as do two or more people sharing an apartment. The average price for an unfurnished efficiency model is \$251.33 per month, while a furnished efficiency apartment runs \$286.71 per month, on the average.

But say you want a little more room, or you want a small place to share with one person. In this case, you might want to try a one-bedroom apartment. You could have a one-bedroom place of your own for an

average of \$280.11 per month unfurnished, or \$299.97 per month furnished.

Two-bedroom apartments allow two roommates to share the costs, but not the bedroom. If the two roomies don't mind sharing a bathroom, they can rent an unfurnished apartment for \$327.64 per month on the average, or a furnished one for the average price of \$369.77 per month. If there are four roommates sharing the apartment or if two roommates each want their own bathroom, two-bedroom apartments with two bathrooms are also available, for a slightly higher price. Such a place averages \$388.38 per month unfurnished or \$424.62 per month furnished.

Finally, there are three-bedroom apartments available in some complexes. The average price for a three bedroom, unfurnished apartment is \$483.68 per month or \$546.25 per month with furniture.

Most of these prices do not include utilities, so these expenses should be added on. For the average apartment dwellers, not overly frugal but not excessively wasteful, electricity runs \$30 to \$40 per month and phone bills run \$15 to \$20 per month, not including long distance service.

Outside the realm of apartment complexes lie even more opportunities for off-campus housing. If you are willing to pay a little more in return for extra privacy and space, you might want to look into houses, condominiums, townhouses, duplexes and fourplexes. However, along with the yard, the bigger rooms and the homelike atmosphere

come more responsibilities such as making small repairs or mowing the lawn.

There are also rooms for lease in family homes. Living thus might enable a person to feel a part of a family, but might also include unexpected duties such as cleaning and babysitting. If you are looking into such an arrangement, the Off Campus Center advises that all responsibilities and privileges should be agreed upon prior to moving in to ensure satisfaction for both the tenant and the family.

Yet another option to consider is a mobile home. With close to 30 parks in and around the Bryan-College Station area, you can make a choice based on accessibility to campus, grocery stores and washaterias as well as other factors. Although living in a mobile home can be cheaper, with lots averaging \$111.50 plus utilities, trailers do not offer much space and are not very energy efficient.

Finally, if you are a member of a fraternity or sorority, you may choose to live in your organization's house. Rooms in sorority houses are normally rented on a semester basis. Rent averages \$1565.62 per semester, which covers room and board. Fraternity housing, on the other hand, averages only \$159.42 per month, which includes bills, but no meals.

Whether you choose to live on or off campus, there will be disadvantages as

Right: A junior business major from Houston has given new meaning to interior design by decorating his apartment with unusual acquisitions.

well as good points. Living on campus gives students a chance to be more involved in campus life, seeing A&M both by night and by day. There's also the opportunity to run home between classes to change clothes, books, or your mind

