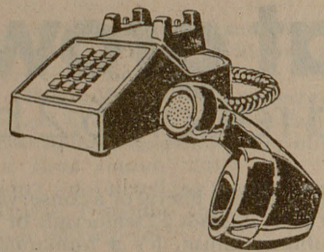


# Students experience problems with long-distance relationships

By Becky Weisenfels  
Reporter



When students leave home for college, not everything can go with them. Often, much is left behind. Their parents. Their bedroom. But the hardest thing to do may be leaving that special person.

Many A&M students are involved in long-distance relationships that create special problems.

Sophomore biological science major Sue Ellen Faver has been dating her boyfriend Billy long-distance for almost a year and a half.

"He thought I chose A&M over him," Faver said. "He didn't resent me. He resented A&M. But I chose it so we could have something in the future. He could have his career and I could have mine."

Faver did not come back to A&M for the fall semester, but returned this spring.

"It made a lot of difference when I was there (in the fall)," she said. "I was so dependent on him. My world revolved around him. I thought I was happy. I thought that was what I wanted. But I was really unhappy. Then I resented him. I had given up everything I had always wanted and that would have hurt us in the long run."

Jeff Simpson, A&M assistant professor of psychology, said few long-

distance relationships in the dating stages last.

"What we have noticed is that distance definitely does not make the heart grow fonder," he said.

Freshman general studies major Ann Stooksberry agrees. Distance made a great difference in her relationship, she said.

"It made a lot of difference because I was the one who was more devoted," Stooksberry said. "We broke up because he cheated on me. If I had been there, he would not have cheated on me. He felt he could not go on without someone always there by his side. And I wasn't there."

"I was planning for a future together. I would have stayed with him (if the relationship wasn't long-dis-

ance). We would have stayed together, I'm pretty sure."

Usually a man is more devoted than a woman in long-distance relationships, Simpson said. These relationships can work, but they depend on how long the couple has dated, how close they are, and if they have any plans together.

Sophomore general studies major Karen Charba dated junior Brian McDonough long-distance for almost two years. He attended Texas A&I University before joining her here this semester.

"Nothing really bothered me because I trusted her," McDonough said. "The only time I really got angry was when I wanted to talk to her and I couldn't get hold of her. I don't believe in bed-hopping. I couldn't do that. Knowing there was someone I really cared about, I couldn't date someone else."

Simpson said, "Trust is an important thing. Also the extent to which their future plans and goals involve each other. Another thing is if one of them has alternatives. If there is someone that person finds attractive, then that could be an omen. So those three things, plans, trust and lack of alternatives, are probably the most important."

Students who have dated long-distance said it also affected their grades.

"I was constantly thinking about what he was doing, where he would be," Charba said. "I worried more about him than about my studies."

Faver agreed, saying it was especially hard to try to study after a fight.

Stooksberry said, "At times I found I couldn't study just because I was thinking about him. It hurt my grade point. If we wouldn't have been dating, my mind would have been clear of that worry and I could concentrate on getting things done. I got things done, but since it wasn't quality time, the assignments took more time."

The dating situation also affected the students' social life.

Stooksberry and Faver said they rarely went out socially. Charba and McDonough said they each went out but always discussed it first.

"If I ask, then it's my way of asking 'Is this OK with you?'" Charba said. "I didn't want to jeopardize the relationship. A lot of people can't handle asking. For us, it was just a mutual understanding thing."

McDonough said, "The only time we ever went anywhere was when we asked each other. I'd rather spend a little extra time and energy on what I've got than to try and make something out of what I don't have."

## Chain letters make big hit in West Texas

ODESSA (AP) — The chain letter is alive and well and apparently thriving in the depressed West Texas oil patch.

Print and copy shop owner Jack Hampton says customers have been coming into his shop and asking him to reproduce chain letters for them, hoping the chains will free them of their financial problems.

Hampton, who owns two PIP Printing shops in Odessa and one in Midland, says he won't print chain letters, though it is legal for him to do so, because he feels they defraud the people who participate in them.

"The people who bring them in are the victims," Hampton said.

The letters often purport to sell for about \$5 the secret of getting rich, and the secret turns out to be sending out a chain letter like the one that fooled them into sending money in the first place.

Kyle Scarborough, manager of customer services for Odessa's Main Post Office, said all chain letters are illegal, even if they don't ask for money.

"The person who starts one of these is guilty of mail fraud," he said. And he said most people who participate lose their money.

## 2 A&M groups offer support to Adopt-a-School program

By Angela Cobb  
Reporter

Adopting children and pets is common fare, but a new twist on adoption is the Adopt-a-School Program.

Businesses and other organizations can adopt a public school and support it on a one-time or ongoing basis by contributing time, creative skills or materials.

Two Texas A&M organizations — Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority — participate in the program, contributing time each week to South Knoll Elementary School.

Members work one-on-one for 30 minutes with students, tutoring and offering support. Teachers choose children who would benefit most from the program to participate.

"They choose children whose families may not be able to spend a lot of time with them," says Georgia Chiles, a counselor at South Knoll. "Many come from single-parent homes, and their parents work more than one job to support the family."

The Adopt-a-School Program in Bryan-College Station is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and was patterned after an Austin program begun in 1985.

Committee Chairman Hazel Holland says, "I feel it has accomplished nothing but good. The potential for support is fantastic, and our children are our greatest resource."

*"I feel it has accomplished nothing but good. The potential for support is fantastic, and our children are our greatest resource."*

— Hazel Holland, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce education committee

Of the 22 schools in the Bryan and College Station school districts, Holland says all but two or three have been adopted. The committee plans to recruit adopters this summer, she says, and hopes to have all the schools adopted by the next school year.

The committee sends a needs assessment list to the schools, which select the resources they need, Holland says. The list is returned to the committee, which then looks for adopters.

## Student Specials

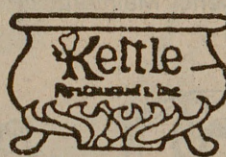
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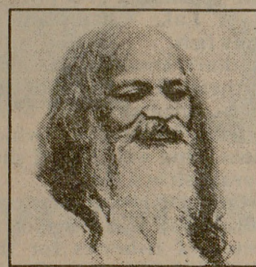
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Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Founder of the Transcendental Meditation Program

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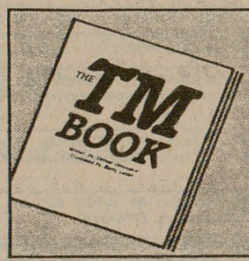
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