

State and Local

Resident director housing inadequate, official says

By Judy Black

Reporter

Texas A&M's resident director accommodations are behind those of other universities, Debbie Owensby, the area coordinator for the Department of Student Services, said, but renovations are under way to correct at least part of the problem.

"Resident director" is the University's new term for the live-in residence hall supervisors who used to be called "resident advisers."

"Most of the professional staff, area coordinators and assistant area coordinators had live-in accommodations with a full-size apartment, a bathroom and a kitchen and sometimes two bedrooms at other universities," Owensby said. "Resident directors come here to come to A&M not to be resident directors, because we can't recruit RDs on the basis of our accommodations."

Resident director accommodations for McGinnis and Schuhmacher halls were renovated last summer, which is a vast improvement over what they used to be — and better than several other halls at A&M — but the apartments are still much smaller than what a lot of campuses have, Owensby said.

"It's been difficult to get the renovations approved, because it usually

involves taking a student out of a room, and we have to justify the loss of revenue," she said. "We say better accommodations attract better RDs who run the halls better."

"As it is, we put our strongest staff in the most difficult halls. Unfortunately, that usually equals the worst accommodations."

She also said resident directors from other schools have come here to be resident directors and discovered they were taking a step down in accommodations.

"It makes it very hard for us to recruit RDs," she said. "Our goal is to renovate the RD apartments in all the dorms. Keathley-Fowler-Hughes will be done by August 1988, beginning with Hughes this spring."

"The Corps-style dorms — Davis-Gary, Moore, Moses and Crocker — will be done as the halls are renovated," she said.

Work begins on these four dorms in May 1988 and is expected to be completed in August 1989.

"In these dorms it will be easier to renovate the RD accommodations because the whole dorm will be closed," Owensby said. "It will be more difficult for Keathley-Fowler-Hughes because those buildings will not be closed."

Some students are being moved

out of a suite into places elsewhere in Hughes so the resident director will have a suite for her room and office while the old one is being renovated.

"We decided to begin the renovations on Keathley-Fowler-Hughes during the spring because only two dorms were done this summer — McGinnis and Schuhmacher — and the schedule was tight," she said. "We didn't see how we could get three done. We may have to move students again when we do Puryear, Law and Hart halls."

Owensby also said some work will have to be done on some of the modular dorms.

"They were built with the intention that one RD would oversee Haas and McFadden halls and another would oversee Hobby and Neely halls."

"That didn't work out, so now the RDs in McFadden and Hobby only have a (normal dorm room), while the RDs in Haas and Neely have an apartment."

"The apartments include a bedroom, bathroom and living and dining room, with an adjacent staff room," she said.

Owensby thinks it's difficult when an RD in a dorm room sees an RD with an apartment and says she is working to remedy the situation.

State officials schedule meeting to discuss SMU football scandal

AUSTIN (AP) — An assistant state attorney general is scheduled to meet this week with Southern Methodist University officials to discuss the investigation of the SMU football scandal. Assistant Attorney General John Vasquez, who has been directing the probe, will discuss the attorney general's inquiry with the SMU board, said Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Attorney General Jim Mattox.

"He's going to go up there and talk to them about what our plans are, what he's discovered so far," Dusek said Monday. "He's the guy who has been doing all the investigating."

Mattox ordered the investigation into SMU earlier this year, following public revelations about the school's pay-for-players football scandal.

SMU received the harshest football penalty ever from the National

Collegiate Athletic Association after it was discovered that players received cash payments for playing. The NCAA banned SMU from playing football in 1987 and the school dropped its 1988 season as well.

Gov. Bill Clements admitted in March that, while chairman of the SMU board of governors, he and other officials approved continued payments to players after SMU was placed on NCAA probation in 1985.

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Applicants must include samples of work. Photographers, graphic artists and cartoonists should submit portfolio samples. Writers should submit writing samples, preferably published, and columnist applicants must submit a sample column. The new staff will be announced by 5 p.m. Friday and will start work Sunday, Dec. 6.

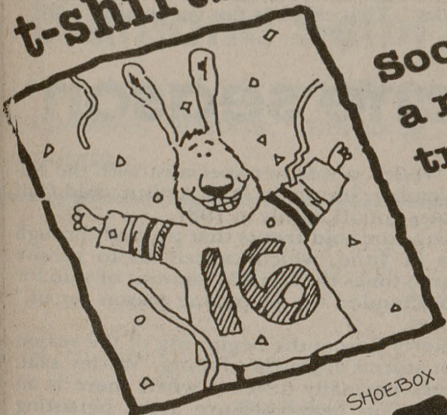
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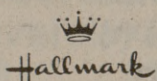
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