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# Move off campus should be planned, adviser says

By Laura White  
Reporter

Living off campus can be a great experience if its gone about in a carefully planned and responsible way, an off-campus adviser said Tuesday night.

Nancy Thompson, from the Texas A&M Off Campus Center, talked about finding a place to live off campus, dealing with leases and choosing roommates to approximately 50 students in a presentation titled "Making the Transition."

The Off Campus Center is a good place to start finding information on roommates and apartments, and it's often an untapped resource, Thompson said.

Locator services also are good sources of information on available apartments, she said.

"You've got to be careful, because some locator services are free of charge and some are not, but generally, locator services are very, very helpful," she said. "You can give them specifics about what you want in an apartment and they can provide you with a list of places they think would suit your needs."

"Things to keep in mind are the number of bedrooms you want, the

number of people living in the apartment and the location to campus."

A little research can help a student make the final decision about where to live.

"Walk around the complex and talk to people already living there," she said. "Ask them about the management, the condition of the apartment and grounds and about the repairs they've needed. Also, it's a good idea to look in the Off Campus Center and see if anyone's registered any complaints about the complex before you sign a lease."

"Keep a copy of your lease and your apartment condition inventory form, and also all repair requests in writing so the landlord can't mistakenly blame you for something you didn't do - that can sometimes lead to the management reporting you as a bad credit risk."

"The important thing to remember about a lease is that it is a legally binding contract," she said.

"Promises made by management - like for new carpeting in the apartment by the time you move in - don't always come through so you want to

make sure you get everything in writing and on the lease before you sign it," Thompson said.

The lease is a legally binding contract between you and your landlord, but also between you and your roommates, so you want to put a lot of thought into who you're going to live with before you sign a lease, she said.

"Usually, two roommates are out better than three or four - there are just fewer things to worry about," Thompson said.

"Things to keep in mind when choosing a roommate include: habits, cleanliness, spending habits, and security consciousness. Some of those things may seem like kind of trivial, but when you have an outrageous electricity bill because your roommate never turned the lights off, it blows up into a very important issue," she said.

"Try to find a roommate before signing a lease anywhere," she said. "The Off Campus Center has a roommate referral service that is very helpful; also after the semester conferences there are people who need roommates."

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# White separatist defends viewpoint during sedition trial

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP) — A "whites only" sign posted outside the Hayden Lake, Idaho, compound of Aryan Nations is part of the group's "territorial imperative," Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler testified Tuesday.

Butler, 70, founder of the Aryan Nations' white separatist compound in Idaho, testified in U.S. District Court in a trial in which he and eight other white men are accused of seditious conspiracy, which is plotting the violent overthrow of the government.

The government says a conspiracy developed in July 1983 at Butler's compound in Hayden Lake at a gathering of leaders of white supremacist groups at the Aryan Nations Congress. Their aim was to establish an all-white nation in the northwestern United States, the government says.

Butler testified that he believes that it is a biological fact that every living thing needs a territorial imperative to survive.

When asked by Justice Department lawyer Martin Carlson whether he believed a war was going

on now in the United States, Butler replied, "I believe there's a continual warfare, yessir, going on in this country against the white male."

He defined it as "a propagandist war" and said the enemies of what he called the white-Aryan race include people in power. Butler specifically mentioned that some members of Congress — he gave no names — were enemies.

Key defendants in the trial include Butler and two others who are regarded as major figures in the white separatist or white supremacist movement — Robert Miles, 63, of Cohoctah, Mich., who leads The Mountain Church of Jesus Christ, Christian, at Cohoctah, and Louis Ray Beam Jr., 41, of Houston, Texas, a former Ku Klux Klan leader. Beam rested his case without taking the stand.

The trial involves 13 defendants, including five who are charged with plotting to murder a federal judge and an FBI agent in Arkansas, and two who are accused of transporting money that was stolen in a California armored car robbery.

# Educators say judge's ruling will help them

DALLAS (AP) — Educators say a state district judge's ruling that a mother acted maliciously in repeatedly suing a teacher to protect them from unfair complaints.

"It tells the teachers that if they act in good faith in disciplining their students, they will be protected by a court of law," Debra J. Eichelbaum, an attorney for the DISD, said.

A Dallas mother who repeatedly tried to have a third-grade teacher prosecuted for allegedly choking her son was ordered Monday to pay the teacher's legal expenses, which is about \$1,500.

State District Judge John McCall ruled that Betty Phillips "acted with malice" in her long pursuit of unfounded charges against teacher Sandra Adkisson.

Phillips had filed complaints against Adkisson with the county, state and federal agencies. Each agency or court cleared Adkisson, who filed for malpractice prosecution with DISD backing.

Phillips said she plans to appeal the ruling and file a civil lawsuit against the DISD.

"I just feel sorry for the children," Phillips said.

# House seeks high-tech themes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Republicans' conference in Houston last weekend was supposed to be a retreat, but lawmakers joked that it was more like an advance.

They led an invading army that included 42 U.S. Capitol police officers, the House clerk, the office physician, the House clerk, office assistants, reporters, camera crews and the staff of the National Republican Congressional Committee, which helps run their campaigns. Many brought their families.

They traveled with a legion of lobbyists, many of whom helped finance the three chartered jetliners, lawmakers' hotel rooms and ban-

quets paid for under the auspices of The Congressional Institute Inc., a tax-exempt corporation set up for these occasions.

Sam Richardson, a spokesman for the conference, said the total cost had not yet been calculated. He said one of the banquets — canceled later because of a bomb threat — cost \$12,000. Reporters each were charged \$413 for travel and meals, with hotel bills extra.

One of the goals of the three-day conference was for the 70 lawmakers attending to let their hair down. But the program listed suit-and-tie or women's business attire for three

straight days, even at a Texas dinner.

"They're going to think we're a bunch of stuffed shirts," complained one member, who got no argument from his wife nearby.

While in Houston, the Republicans sought some high-tech themes for their national agenda. They sought camaraderie. They sought strategy in their marathon battle to take control of the House back from the Democrats for the first time in 34 years.

The thing they surely know which isn't in evidence in Washington, was some humor.

# ISLAM

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