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 April 9

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Fair offers chance for students to learn about off-campus life
 Representatives provide insight on apartments

By Laura White
 Reporter

Approximately 45 apartment representatives displayed information booths yesterday in Rudder Exhibit Hall at the fourth annual Housing Fair.

The fair, sponsored by the Texas A&M Off-Campus Center and Off-Campus Aggies, gave students the opportunity to visit with several Bryan and College Station apartment representatives as well as representatives from furniture rental companies, the Bryan and College Station utility companies, the Office of Students' Attorney, A&M Bus Operations and University Food Services.

The Bryan-College Station representatives presented a well-prepared forum for the housing fair, titled 'Avoid the Mad Dash.' Apartment representatives brought photographs and displays of their complexes and floor plans. Price sheets were available for students to compare rates and options on various locations and candy was provided as incentive for the people who stopped by the tables.

One of the most innovative attempts at recruiting apartment tenants was the limosine service provided by Jamespoint Properties to transport interested students to and from their complex for a look at what they had to offer to prospective leases.

The students who visited the housing fair gained knowledge that may have been unknown or not understood beforehand, and the majority of people who attended the fair had good comments about the fair's effectiveness and the information they obtained.

"The housing fair was definitely worth my time," Gary Dotzler, an electrical engineering major from Bryan, said. "Being able to see all the apartments together in one place was really convenient . . . even though it took us awhile to get through all the tables, it is going to save us a lot of time in the long run."



Photo by David Elmer

Pamela Runyon, right, property manager for Jamespoint Properties, relates the benefits of living in the Sausalito apartment complex to A&M students at an information booth at the Housing

Fair Wednesday. The fourth annual fair was at Rudder Exhibit Hall, and representatives from more than 45 apartment complexes had information booths.

Margaret Chow, a graduate student from Los Angeles, said she got a lot of information from the representatives. "We still have to go look in person at the apartments we're interested in because not all the places had pictures of the apartments, but the housing fair has helped us narrow our choices and it's going to save us a lot of time."

Representatives that sponsored apartment complexes in the booths at the fair also thought that the event was a worthwhile venture for informing the students and gaining prospective tenants who were defin-

ately interested in apartment living. "Being represented at the housing fair is a good way to generate business," said Derrick Jones, a junior sociology major from Spring representing Stonewood Village Apartments. "It makes people more aware of our apartment complex and its benefits, and we are likely to sign a lot of new leases as a result of being here today."

Betty Davidson, manager of Westgate Apartments, agrees with Jones.

"The housing fair gives us lots of publicity with the A&M students and enables us to tell about our complex

face-to-face instead of through an advertisement in a newspaper or something of that kind of like free advertising. Participating in the housing fair is a profitable venture for everyone involved."

Nancy Thompson, a representative from the Off-Campus Center, was pleased with the turnout.

"There are more people here than ever before — it just keeps getting better and better," she said. "Even though we had 53 tables here, I would like to be able to expand it and have even more information about campus housing to the students."

SELF CARE FOR CHILDREN

I'm In Charge

Part of St. Joseph Hospital & Health Center "Learning to Live" Series



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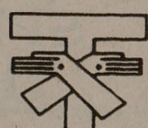
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