

# Battalion Housing Guide

Wednesday, April 4, 1990

## Aggies share rent with elder residents

### Students sign up for housing deal

By PAM MOOMAN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Sometimes different is better.

Some Texas A&M students have chosen not to live in apartments with their peers but in the homes of older community residents as part of the Aggie Elder Share Program.

"Mainly it's for low-cost or no-cost housing," said Dr. Peggy Owens, program leader for consumer sciences and housing specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The housing program matches students with older residents who have space in their homes and helps both parties, she said.

The older person can get their lawn mowed, chores done and rides to the store or doctor, as well as companionship and security, she said.

Owens said the student gets low-cost housing, a quiet, home-like atmosphere for studying and a bridge in the generation gap that helps dispel myths and stereotypes. Student participants in this program usually have had experience with a grandparent or older employer, she said.



Joyce Heiman (Left) shares her home with freshman David Ernest (Right) as part of the Aggie Elder Share Program.

"They know kind-of what they're getting into," she said.

Owens knows quite a bit about the program because she is the go-between for students and elderly residents.

Interestingly enough, Owens has never met any of the elderly homeowners. She

conducts all necessary business with them over the telephone. She has, however, met all of the students.

Senior citizens register with Owens, who then tries to match them with students who have contacted her. The students go to the elderly per-

son's home, and then it's up to each party. Two to five students may go to one home before a good match is made, Owens said.

"It's a renter-tee situation," she said.

It's like looking for an apartment and having certain

criteria in mind, Owens said.

The average age of participating homeowners is 68, Owens said, although ages range from 60 to 95.

The typical student who participates in this program is

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## Coed housing available for grad students

By BILL HETHCOCK  
Of The Battalion Staff

On-campus, coed housing for graduate students will be available during both sessions this summer.

Thomas Moorman, summer housing coordinator, said Haas Hall, a modular style residence hall, will house graduate students and those older than 24.

Applications to live in Haas Hall are available today at the housing office in 101 YMCA.

Students living in this hall will have 24-hour visitation privileges, Moorman said. Noise limitations will be in effect throughout the hall, he said.

Moorman said the housing office does not anticipate any problems enforcing the noise limitations.

"Graduate and undergraduate students over 25 years old tend to be less noisy," Moorman said. "This will be a hall where people can get a lot of studying done."

"No loud music will be allowed, but we don't expect problems with that because people in this hall will be people who like a quieter environment and chose to live in a quieter hall," he said.

Graduate students always have been allowed to live on campus during the summer, Moorman said. However, there is no on-campus housing for graduate students in the fall or spring semesters because priority is given to undergraduates and all available space generally fills up, he said.

Students living in Haas Hall this summer can live in a private room or a double room. Each room has a private bathroom and the hall is air-conditioned. The cost of a private room is \$848 for both summer sessions or \$424 for one session. A double room will cost \$636 for the entire summer or \$318 for one session.

Residence halls will open for the summer May 30. Summer classes begin June 4. The deadline to apply for on-campus summer housing is the first day of classes, Moorman said.

## Dorms go coed to compete with off-campus housing

By KEVIN M. HAMM  
Of The Battalion Staff

To compete more effectively with off-campus housing, three Northside residence halls will be coeducational this summer, Texas A&M's assistant director of housing said.

"During the summer we're trying to accommodate more with all the special groups of students that we have, and compete more effectively with the apartments," John T. White said. "It's really a marketing or recruiting tool."

"Summer school housing has been decreasing in enrollment the last several years and we were trying to think of ways to make housing on campus more attractive."

Although Schuhmacher, McInnis and Hughes Halls all will be considered coed, the suites themselves will be same-sexed. In past years, different floors were same-sexed, not suites, White said.

"If you go coed by suite, people get the wrong impression, like you're going to have a male and female sharing a bathroom," he said. "And that's not true. The floors are going to be coed, but the suites will stay sequence-sexed."

Also, since the halls will have private rooms only, visitation will be extended to 24 hours, White said. Another reason for the private rooms and extended visitation is the lack of study space on Northside, he said.

To cut down on confusion in assigning rooms, White said, students currently living in these halls and who will be here during the summer may keep the same room.

Private rooms in the three coed halls will cost \$303 per summer session.

The housing office also is coordinating with the Residence Hall Association to determine students' wants and needs.

"We ran it by the Residence Hall Association," White said. "They recommended and also supported the idea. They were extremely pleased it was going to go through."

RHA President Leah Hanselka said RHA and the housing office have

been working on more coed-hall proposals for the future.

The two organizations are looking into converting Northside halls into coed housing, possibly as soon as Fall 1991.

But for the time being, this summer is a testing period.

"We thought it would be something good to try during the summer," she said. "There will definitely be more coed housing on Northside in the years to come."

Students can apply for summer housing now. Applications are being accepted in the North and South Area offices and the YMCA building.

## Off-Campus Aggies helps students get involved

### Leaders place top priority on representing members, providing useful services

By STACY E. ALLEN  
Of The Battalion Staff

For students living off campus who don't feel a part of campus life, an organization exists that can give them just the push they need to get involved in campus activities—Off-Campus Aggies.

Keith Powell, a senior economics major at Texas A&M and president of OCA, said the organization's top priority is to represent off-campus students' views on campus.

Powell said OCA works closely with Student Government and the Resident Hall Association (RHA) to ensure representation. He said OCA recently completed a proposal with the two organizations which could create more parking spaces for off-campus students.

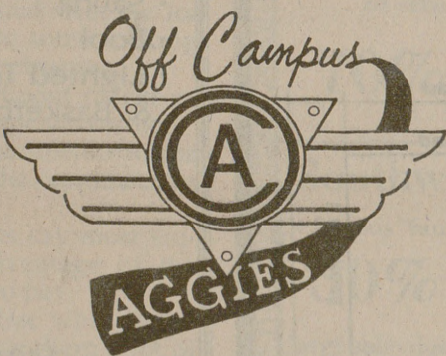
In addition to representation,

OCA offers other services that help students in different areas of off-campus life, Powell said.

Speakers often are invited to come to OCA meetings and address topics of direct interest to off-campus students. Powell said speakers might include apartment managers, representatives from the campus police department who give tips about apartment safety and speakers from various campus organizations.

Powell said that because fliers often are displayed in dorms to give information concerning campus organizations, off-campus students are at a disadvantage in finding out what A&M organizations have to offer and how to get involved.

He said representatives from organizations who speak at meetings



give off-campus students information they need to become involved with campus activities.

Emphasizing the "other education" and giving freshmen an outlet to meet people is an important func-

tion of OCA, Powell said.

"It's a lot harder to meet people

when you live off campus as opposed to living on campus, so we act as a supplement to off-campus students," he said. "We stress building friendships as one of our top priorities."

Powell said there are about 250 OCA members at the beginning of the year, but the number usually dwindles to about 75 active members later in the semester. He said members are divided into committees to work on the various activities sponsored by OCA throughout the year.

Some activities include a Christmas formal, spring theme dance, a haunted house and an an-

nual Aggie Olympics between all campus organizations.

OCA also tries to get a representative from each apartment complex to sponsor various activities such as movies or parties for members.

Powell said if students are moving off campus for the first time and enjoy meeting people, he highly recommends OCA.

"If students are active in OCA, they will get just as much out of A&M and the 'other education' as those living on campus," he said. "If you enjoy meeting people and are willing to give some of your time, we in turn will offer you leadership skills, long-lasting friendships and a higher quality of life than just going on campus during the day and going home at night."