

Rush for apartments starts early

OCA coordinator urges students to begin hunt for fall housing

By JILL BUTLER
Of The Battalion Staff

It's the time of year when all students seem to come down with spring fever, and responsibilities suddenly can lose importance when it's sunny outside.

Reality strikes, however, when finals are a week away and roommates look at each other and ask, "Where are we going to live next year?"

Nancy Thompson, coordinator of the Off Campus Center, said the best time to begin looking for a new place to live in the fall or summer is the week after spring break.

"Students should start looking early because they are under a lot of stress in April with finals and papers," Thompson said. "Sometimes because of this stress students make unwise, hasty decisions about their living arrangements."

However, Thompson said, she does believe it's possible to begin looking for a new place to live too early.

"I don't think there's a need to begin looking for a new apartment before spring break, unless you have your heart set on a particular apartment," Thompson said.

She said many students panic because they feel like there will not be any apartments available later in the spring semester. Thompson said this panic starts because some apartment managers ask residents in February if they are returning in the summer or fall.

"There's not a time that's too late to look for housing, unless you have to have the perfect place," Thompson said. "There are still excellent opportunities (for fall leases) in the summer."

Thompson said some apartment complexes are simply more popular than others and these complexes do fill up and have waiting lists.

She said, however, that this is a very small portion of complexes. This past fall there were more than 500 empty apartment units in Bryan-College Station, not including duplexes or complexes with less than 20 units, Thompson said.

"There are still apartments available on the first day of fall classes," Thompson said.

But Carolyn Lambright, a leasing agent at Parkway Circle Apartments, said she recommends looking for fall-semester apartments early in the spring.

"If you want a place really bad, start looking at the beginning of February," Lambright said.

She said all 48 of Parkway Circle's three-bedroom apartments already are rented for the fall.

Parkway Circle managers ask residents at the end of January if they plan on renewing their leases, Lambright said.

She said when students start looking for apartments they should call complex managers first and make sure there are available apartments.

Kevin Kelley, a leasing consultant at Plantation Oaks Apartments, said if students wait too long to look for an apartment they will be disappointed with the available choices.

Kelley said students should start looking for apartments the week before spring break and should have their minds made up by April 15.

"There are a lot of factors to consider," Kelley said. "Many students want a specific carpet color, cost, floor plan, location and other amenities."

"The sooner students look for apartments, the more choices they will have. If students wait until the end of the semester, they will be lucky to find a floor plan they like, not to mention cost considerations."

He said as soon as residents of any apartment complex

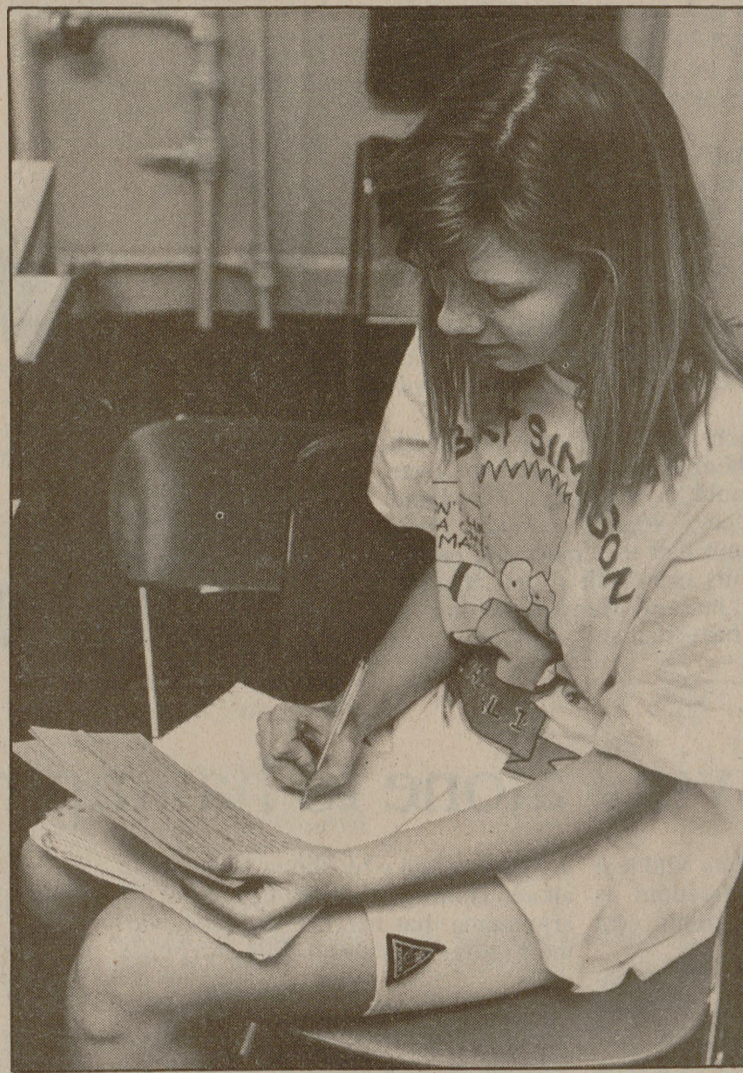


Photo by Steven M. Noreyko

Jennifer Nottingham, a junior chemical engineering major takes down phone numbers of prospective roommates from cards in the Off Campus Center Tuesday afternoon.

know they will not be renewing their lease, they should tell their apartment managers. This will speed up the process of returning residents' security deposits, Kelley said.

Students living on campus who will not live there next fall had to notify the housing office of their plans on their housing contract renewals March 27 and 28.

If they notify the housing office that they will be moving off campus after April 15 and

before May 30, they will receive 75 percent of their deposit. Fifty percent of the deposit will be refunded until June and 25 percent of the deposit will be refunded until July 30.

If students filled out their contract renewals and stated they would be living on campus again, but changed their mind, they have until April 15 to notify the housing office and receive 100 percent of their \$200 housing deposit.

Share

(Continued from page 13)

older, between the ages of 26 and 30, Owens said. The majority are male, and they are not heavily involved in extracurricular activities.

"They're here to get an education," she said.

One such student is David Ernestes, a sophomore wildlife and fisheries science major from Fayette County. He has participated in the program for four semesters.

"It wasn't one of those things I knew about," Ernestes said. "It's kind of a funny story."

Ernestes was a Smithsonian Intern the summer before his freshman year, and he failed to get in the lottery system for dorm rooms. But his participation in the Aggie Elder Share Program has worked out well.

"I have a place to stay (and) it's quiet," he said. "It's like the Hilton. I check in and out."

Ernestes lives with Joyce Heiman, whose husband died a month and a few days short of their 55th wedding anniversary. Her grandson, who had been living with her, moved to

Florida and she had no relatives in town.

"It was pretty lonely," Heiman said. So she called Owens and decided to invite someone into her home who could assist her.

Ernestes and his mother came over and they hit it off, she said. Her grandson, who is back in town and living with her again, also gets along with Ernestes.

Heiman said Ernestes studies a lot, and she doesn't need him to do a lot of things, but he helps out when she asks.

"He lets the cats in and out for me and the dog in and out if I ask him," she said. "Just knowing there's someone here (helps). He's just somebody nice."

Ernestes goes home every weekend to work, and he eats in Sbsa, so he is really only in town for four days during the week. But he said Heiman is fit and able to take care of herself.

"She can do anything she wants," he said. "It's a symbiotic relationship. We both benefit."

Owens said the Aggie Elder Share Program is not a program for everyone. She stressed that students are not medical assistants for the elderly person.

"The main need is for companionship (and) security," she said.

Owens said she gets a big rush of students in April, May and August. She said she needs to better market the program to the community.

"I have (two to three times) more students interested in participating than homeowners," she said.

Heiman said she remembers reading about the program in the newspaper, but Owens said program information is spread in the community through the grapevine.

Most of the participating homeowners support A&M, Owens said, and by boarding a student, feel they are doing their part.

There is a national home-sharing program which matches anybody, she said. But the Aggie Elder Share Program is different.

"This is a unique program," Owens said. Matching students and older homeowners is not easy. In Houston, 50 matches a year is considered good, she said.

Ernestes said a successful experience with the Aggie Elder Share Program is a matter of matching up the right people.

Apartment complexes offer units equipped for disabled students

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

While the majority of disabled students live on campus for convenience, three apartment complexes in College Station have facilities for the disabled.

Susan Libiak, student development specialist for Texas A&M's Handicapped Student Services said Oakwood Apartments, Treehouse Village Apartments and Eastmark Apartments have units equipped with wheelchair ramps, wide doorways, pull bars and other features making the apartments accessible for a wheelchair.

Oakwood Apartments has 23 accessible units, Treehouse Village has 12 units and Eastmark has four units. Most of the apartments are efficiency units.

Some disabled students find living with an attendant makes life easier.

"The attendant is a person hired by the (disabled) student to take care of their physical needs," Libiak said.

An attendant helps the person dress, shower and cook meals and also is there in case of an emergency, she said.

Attendants for disabled

students are coordinated through Handicapped Student Services. Libiak said applicants are screened and interviews are arranged between the students.

The disabled student hires the attendant, and Handicapped Student Services coordinates the interviews, Libiak said.

Providing transportation is another job for attendants. None of the University buses are equipped with wheelchair-lift equipment. Doug Williams, bus operations manager said.

Libiak said many students also use the services of Med-Trans and Brazos Transit, private transportation services, to get around town.

Lyle Nelson, associate administrator for the Inner Urban Transit System said Med-Trans and Brazos Transit provide transportation for the disabled to the grocery store, doctor or other destinations besides the A&M campus. Nelson said Med-Trans and Brazos Transit need special permission to go on campus.

"All they need to do is call us 24 hours in advance so we can save them a seat," Nelson said.

Roommate

(Continued from page 14)

together when they got to college.

"People who went to high school together don't realize how much someone can change in a college environment between August and December of the freshman year," Rausch said.

"Anyone can change each year depending on what they come in contact with and who their friends are. Their values about modesty, propriety and sexual relationships can change drastically so the other people in the apartment need to allow for some change. Don't expect them to stay static. Keep the lines of communication open."

Rausch said the biggest complaints from roommates about their roommates involve overnight guests of the opposite sex, refusal to pay bills,

noise level conflict and lack of respect. Communication is the key to overcoming these problems, she said.

To avoid the most prevalent roommate conflicts, OCC recommends asking potential roommates the following questions before the lease is signed.

- How much sleep do they need?
 - How do they like to spend money when they have it?
 - What kinds of habits do they have that might be important to know about?
 - What do they like to do to relieve stress and when do they prefer to do it?
 - What annoys them?
 - What are their religious values?
- The best way to avoid problems is to treat your roommate how you would like to be treated, she said.

Pets

(Continued from page 15)

for the furniture, the management doesn't allow residents to have pets.

"About 25 percent of the people we show (the apartment) to, are turned away because they have pets," Westbrook said.

Ava Hill, a Doubletree Condominiums representative, said all of the condos have different owners and they belong to a home owners association.

"The home owners just decided they didn't want to allow pets," Hill said. "I am sure that's because they don't want their things all torn up and don't want the yard full of dog mess."

Trudi Carpenter, a senior environmental design major from Fort Worth, is a cat owner. Carpenter's roommate Lisa Evans, a senior safety engineering major from Eules, owns a dog.

Carpenter doesn't predict that she and Evans will have

their pet deposit returned full.

"Casper (the dog) is still in his chewing stage and he's chewed up the cabinets and made holes in the wall," Carpenter said. "One of the problems I have with Casper is that he is a little too big for an apartment."

Carpenter and Evans, who occupy a two bedroom apartment, agree that Casper is growing a little too aggressive. "Lisa is getting upset with him (and) it may be time to change Casper from a 'he' to an 'it,'" Carpenter said.

Carpenter's cat, Tommy, and Casper are buddies, she said.

She said the biggest problem is that Carpenter and Evans don't get to spend enough time with the pets because of their classes, camp activities and working schedules.

Charlotte Walker, a sophomore psychology major from Plano, said her roommate owned a dog last year but doesn't any longer because it was too difficult to care for.

ECONOMICAL APARTMENTS
Academic Village-3900 Old College Rd 846-9196
2 Bdrm/1 Bath \$285
Casa Blanca-4110 College Main 846-1413
2 Bdrm. \$275
Scholar's Inn - 401 Cooner 846-3050
Efficiency \$215 furnished
All well maintained • Professor owned • Student managed
Reasonable rent

NOW LEASING
For Summer, Fall & Spring
Eff., 1 & 2 Bdrm. Units
Special Summer Rates
TREEHOUSE VILLAGE APARTMENTS
pools tennis
jacuzzis basketball
volleyball gazebos
and more!
800 Marion Pugh, College Station, Tx. 764-8892

T
Vol. 89 No.
A &
By JILL BUTLER
Of The Battalion Staff
Texas A&M admission will
1991 because
this past year.
Dr. Erika
coordinator a
said the Texa
memo requir
enforce immu
sion.
Every inco
dent plannin
cal history fo
&M offic
requirement
for they are
Facu
By CHRIS VA
Of The Battalio
Despite dis
Texas A&M f
how they are
tors say its pa
plex to chang
Many A&M
pecially prof
is teaching, a
nine months.
But faculty
with getting i
they are upse
of getting pa
since long-te
quired to m
months.
Some teach
Par
com
By ANDY KE
Of The Battalio
Parents'
Texas A&M
family mem
off Friday
through Sun
Parents'
began as an
ers' Day in
check up on
Over the y
developed in
end. In 197
flict with
Weekend w
Generally, t
weekend in
date does
Weekend.
The foll
schedule fo
1990:
FRIDAY:
• Federat
ers' Club B
p.m. in the
• Picture
from 1 to 5
room.
• Who's V
p.m. in 205
• Basebal
versity, at 7
• MSC
Night Unde
10:30 p.m.
rium.
• 1990
Spring Co