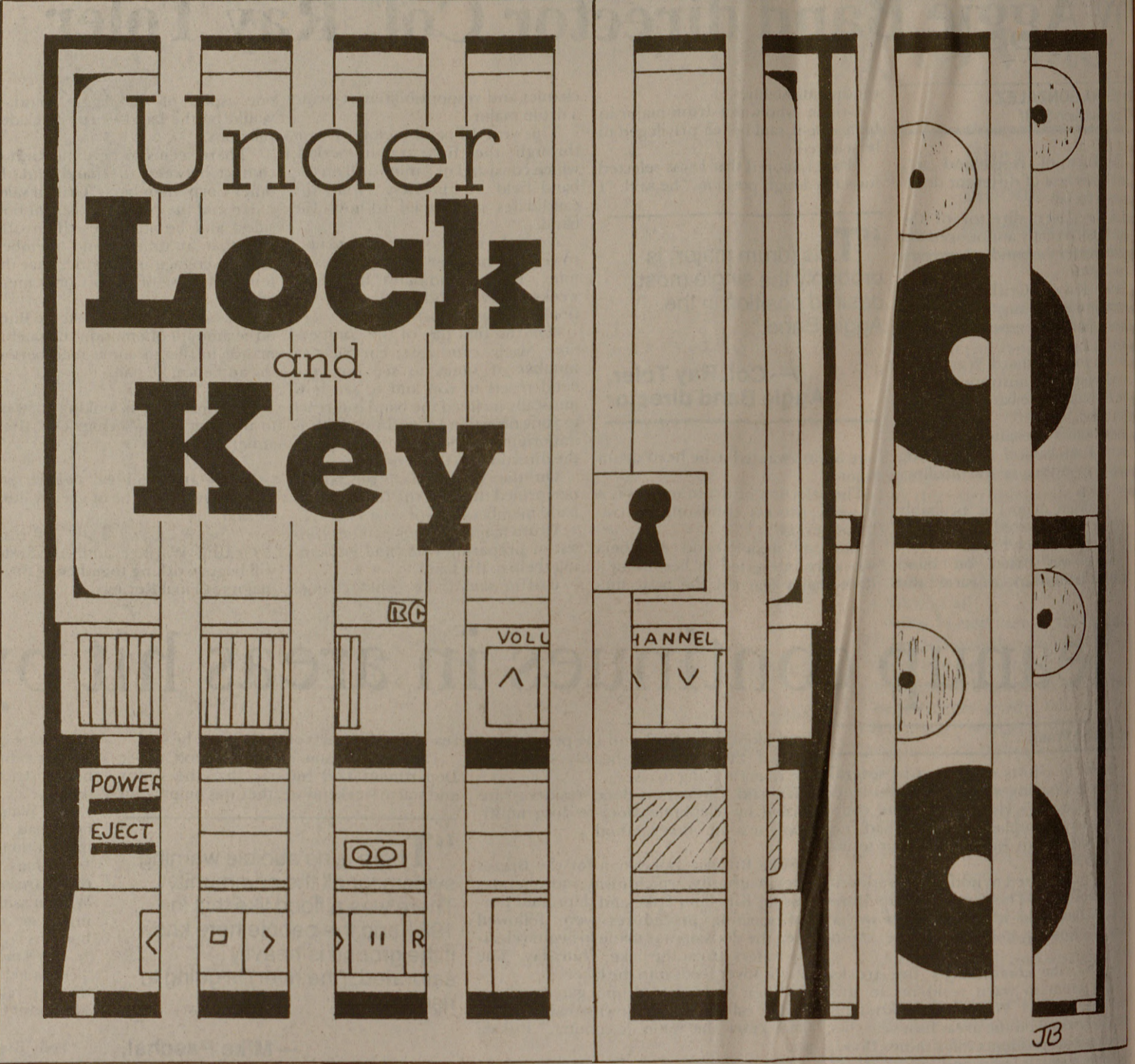


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Graphic by Jayme Blaschke



## Summer storage veterans shed light on space, costs

By HELEN WOLFE  
Of The Battalion Staff

**The nightmare keeps coming back.** It haunts students leaving town for the summer. You run down a misty road toward something you can't quite reach. You wake in a cold sweat. Then it hits you. You're hunting for storage space.

The importance of getting an early start is obvious for those who've been through the storage nightmare before.

"I'm glad I won't have to worry about storage this summer because I'll be here for summer school," Demetra Andrews, senior marketing major, says.

Waiting until the last minute is where the trouble begins, she says. "If students start looking early, they can avoid all the hassle."

Sometimes, though, it takes learning the hard way for students to act.

Patrice Simmons, senior accounting major, went through the nightmare of searching late for summer storage space.

"I'll never get caught in that position again," she says.

Getting an early start is the most important thing to do, Simmons says.

"Finding someone to help you move is a good idea, too," she says.

Renting storage space does not have to be as torturous as it sounds.

Students need to accommodate their belongings for the summer, though, as soon as possible.

Candy Hopkins, office manager at Foxx Moving and Storage, says spaces fill up around the first week of May.

Martha Starns, office manager at Pack Rat Mini Storage and the Storage Center, says renting at the beginning of the month is best.

"To have a choice of sizes," Starns says, "rent as soon as possible."

The size of the storage space can prove to be one of the most important parts of rental options.

Glenda Childs, office manager at Security Plus Mini-Warehouses and Storage, says they're promoting "Aggie-Share Space."

"We've taken some of our largest warehouses and partitioned them into spaces for storage," she says.

The storage special begins May 1 and ends Sept. 1, and no security deposit is required with a student I.D., Childs says.

Southwest Storage also has a student special that lasts from May 1 to Aug. 31.

Bubba Gamble, an employee at Southwest Storage, says students can receive the special upon rental and do not have to pay a security deposit.

Another storage option available lies in apartments.

Most apartments allow storage only if a future-lease agreement has been signed.

Paige Beal, assistant manager at Arbor Square Apartments, says students can store things in the apartments they have a lease for in the fall and spring.

With a nine-month lease, the storage cost is \$50 a month, she says.

Lorri Walker, an employee at Briarwood Apartments, says students can store their belongings if they are already living in the apartment and have a lease for the fall. Summer storage in Briarwood costs \$100 a month, she says.

There are some exceptions to the storage-only-if-pre-leased-rule.

Yvonne Redding, assistant manager at Lincoln Square Apartments, says anybody can store their furniture at Lincoln Square.

Redding also said the renter gets to keep the apartment key over the summer.

**When storing in an apartment or storage space,** students should find out about any find out about any special conditions.

Assistant manager Derrick Jones at Pepper Tree Apartments, says Pepper Tree also allows storage in apartments if the student has a lease already.

Jones says, though, that students "have to turn in the keys and keep the electricity on, in their name, over the summer."

In order to secure a storage space after 6:00 p.m., Childs says an appointment must be made with a \$5 entry fee.

Starns says the security gates are locked at night and storer will not be able to get to their spaces.

Storage space sizes and prices vary from company to company depending on availability.

With most of the spaces, there is also a refundable security deposit that must be paid before the initial rental.

Therefore, shopping early gives students the advantage of price comparison.

Hopkins says, "We don't anticipate as much of a problem as last year because we're ready for them."

Let's hope so.

## Pro movers ease hassles for a price

By HELEN WOLFE  
Of The Battalion Staff

Finding a storage space is not a problem for those who plan ahead.

The main difficulty lies in choosing how to get the items to a rented space.

The least expensive way might be to recruit family members, friends or even strangers, if you're really desperate.

However, if storage space and moving assistance is a problem, a professional-moving company may be the answer.

"It's cheaper than moving yourself," Wendy Christensen, a billing clerk at Conlee Moving and Storage, says.

The items are also stored in wooden vaults, she says.

Christensen gave a rough breakdown of the prices charged for moving and storage.

The general idea is to charge on a per weight basis, she says.

The minimum weight that Conlee Moving and Storage will handle is one thousand pounds.

It costs \$14 for the first thousand pounds and \$1.40 for each additional one-hundred pounds.

The company then assesses a \$5.25 pick-up and storage fee with a one-hundred pound minimum.

A warehouse handling fee of \$1.75 and an evaluation charge of \$1.40 a month is added with a two-thousand pound minimum.

"An approximate monthly fee for storage and evaluation is \$15.40," Christensen said.

For an entire summer that's about \$50. For some students the price more than pays for itself by avoiding the hassles of moving yourself.

## Safely Stored

*UPD officer, locksmith give tips to protect caches of storage stuff*

By KRISTI LORSEN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Finally. Everything is boxed up and stored safely. Or is it?

Students getting ready to go home for the summer need to take the time to make sure that their stuff is burglary-proof.

University Police Department officer Burt Kretzschmar offered suggestions for safe summer storage of personal belongings.

He says apartment dwellers should let the manager and close neighbors know when they are leaving. He also says residents should lock all doors and windows and close the curtains to prevent thieves from viewing valuables.

"While you're window shopping at Post Oak Mall, they're window shopping at your apartment," he said. "Don't create the opportunity by advertising your belongings."

Minnie Garcia, owner of Duncan Storage in Bryan, offers another way for students to secure their belongings between semesters.

"I think storage units are definitely the safest way to store things over the summer," she said.

Duncan Storage offers fifty-five concrete storage units which are protected by a tall fence and two large dogs at night.

While Garcia says 10 to 15 units

are now available at Duncan Storage, other places in College Station are already booked for the summer.

Becky Wedube, an employee at the Space Station on S. Texas Avenue, says the units are almost always full. "During the summer, we are usually filled to capacity and it stays that way until the fall semester," she says.

The Space Station and most other College Station storage-unit businesses require customers to provide their own lock.

Howard Robinson, owner of Brazos Valley Lock and Key, warns against trying to save money on inexpensive locks.

"Many people go out and buy a two-dollar lock for these units, and you get what you pay for," he says. "It's worth the extra money to protect what you're locking up."

Protecting personal belongings may be the last thing students are thinking about at the end of the school year, but for thieves, finals is the prime time to make big profits.

University Police Department officer Burt Kretzschmar says that students who are preoccupied with finals forget to guard their belongings and often find them stolen.

"We've experienced an increase in personal-item thefts like books, backpacks, wallets and purses during the month prior to graduation,"

he says.

Kretzschmar, who has worked for UPD for five years, says books which are stolen and sold back to bookstores are also a hot item.

"To prevent stolen books, don't leave backpacks unattended, and mark a certain page in each book with your initials so it can be identified if it's found," he says.

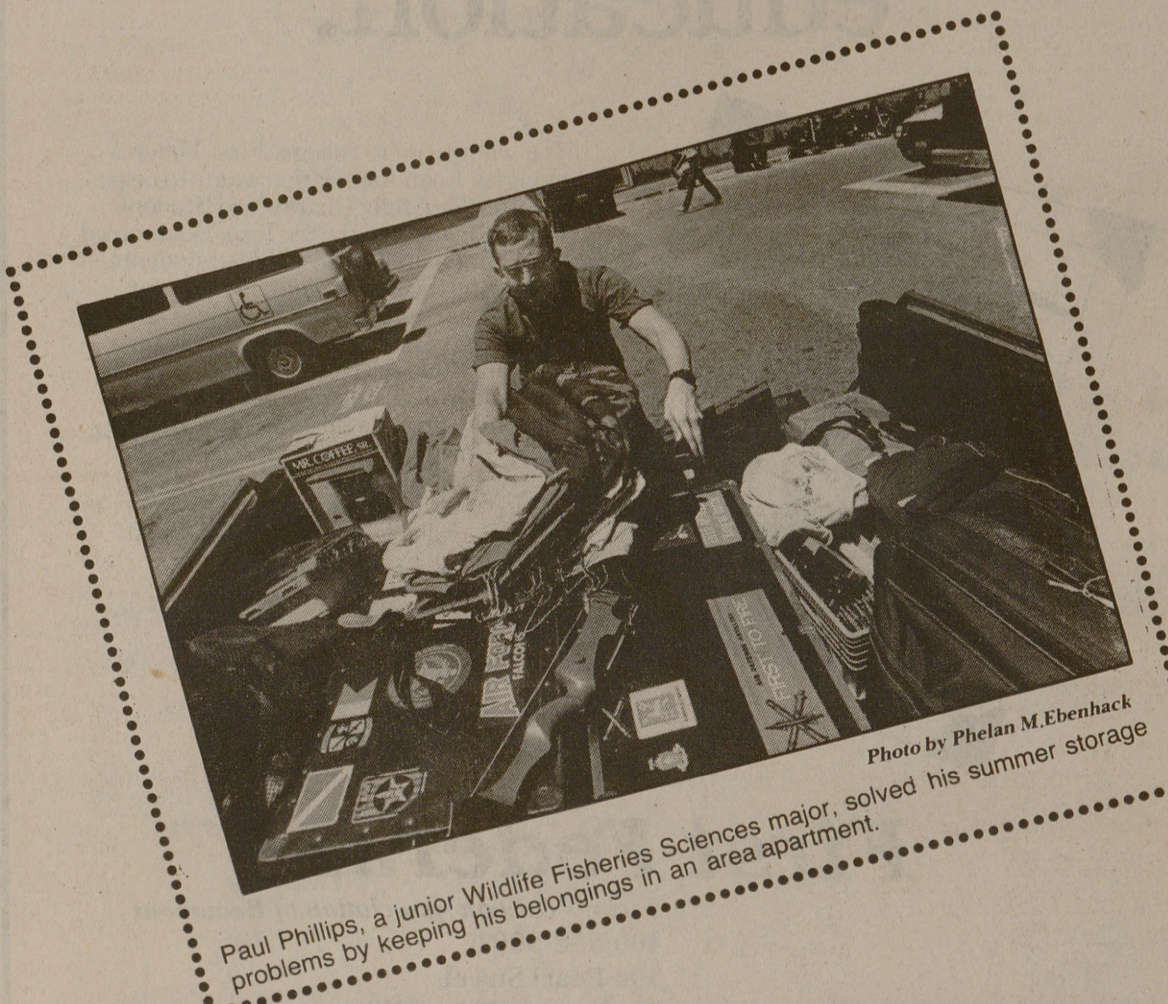


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack  
Paul Phillips, a junior Wildlife Fisheries Sciences major, solved his summer storage problems by keeping his belongings in an area apartment.