

THE BATTALION

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Officials change housing allocation to avoid vacancies

Construction of off-campus housing units during the past two years and the allocation of on-campus housing will prevent housing shortages for A&M students this fall.

500 vacancies on campus, primarily because of students who canceled housing contracts and others who ended up not attending A&M.

Jennifer Evans, summer coordinator for on-campus housing, said the housing office has changed the allocation of on-campus housing to prevent this from occurring in the fall.

"Last year, 10 percent of housing spaces went to transfer students and 10 percent went to returning students," Evans said. "This fall, 5 percent will go to transfer students, 5 percent will be for returning students, and the rest of the housing will go to freshmen."

All 8,000 residence hall spaces are filled for Fall 1995, with 1,000 students booked to fill vacancies as they occur. Those students will be assigned

to study rooms or will be assigned three people to a room until a permanent space for them is found.

Unlike many other universities, freshmen at A&M are not required to live on campus. As a result of last year's housing discrepancy, many freshmen lived off campus.

Ann Goodman, assistant director of Student Life Programs, said they worked closely with the on-campus housing office to make sure freshmen were aware of their options.

"We tried to be very proactive last year," Goodman said. "We got every single address of students rejected for housing and sent them our survival guide and price list [for off-campus housing]. That took a lot of the pressure off the students having to worry about where to live."

Although there were a larger number of students turned down for housing last fall, students were easily able to find housing off campus, Goodman said.

"Our worst time, as far as off-campus housing is concerned, was in the summer of 1993," Goodman said. "There were just not enough units available. A lot of private builders came in and ended up building at the same time, so now we have more than enough housing to accommodate the number of people coming in."

Several recently-constructed apartment complexes include amenities such as security gates, microwaves and ceiling fans. This makes it difficult for older apartment complexes to compete, Goodman said.

"We are seeing a slight decrease in

rent rates at the older complexes that just can't compete with all the amenities offered at the newer complexes," she said.

The latest construction of new apartments and duplexes filled a need for housing in this area but will probably begin to level off, Goodman said.

Tanya Mendez, building technician for the city of College Station, said there have been fewer building permits issued in College Station this year than last year.

From January to June, building permits were issued for 173 single family homes, 21 duplexes and 238 individual apartment units. During the same time period in 1994, permits were issued for 248 single family homes, 31 duplexes and 400 individual apartment units.

Honors program meets students' specialized needs

Courses taken through the honors program allow more individual contact and group discussion than regular course sections.

Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

The flexibility of the Texas A&M Honors Program offers a unique opportunity for students to excel academically.

Dr. Dale Knobel, director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, said the program's goal is to meet students' specialized needs.

"We can't assume that a one-size education fits all," Knobel

id. "The honors program shows at students are ready to take responsibility for their education."

More than 100 sections of honors courses are taught each year. Honors classes usually are smaller than regular classes, with class enrollment limited to 25 students. The workload often features more individual interaction and group discussion than regular course sections.

Brian Tees, a senior journalism major, said he takes honors classes for the benefit of the class format.

"Most of the [honors] classes I take are great," Tees said. "You get a lot more out of the class material and discussions."

The A&M honors program differs from those at other schools because students do not enroll in the program or commit themselves to a single honors track.

There are two distinct tracks within the honors program. Foundation Honors students must complete one honors course in each of the core curriculum categories, for a total of four honors credits. University Honors students must complete two hours of honors course credit, of which must be in upper-level courses.

In 1994, 81 students graduated as University or Foundation

Honors graduates or University Undergraduate Fellows.

Dr. Susanna Finnell, associate director of the honors program, said students do not have to pursue either of these tracks to enroll in honors courses, but can take one or two courses if they choose.

Knobel said there are several advantages to the honors program.

"When you take honors courses, you are providing evidence that you have experience in fast-paced courses," he said. "It's also very flexible and isn't a membership program."

Students who enrolled at A&M before Summer 1995 must have a 3.25 grade point ratio or higher to enroll in honors courses. Students who enter the University after Summer 1995 must have a GPR of 3.4 or higher.

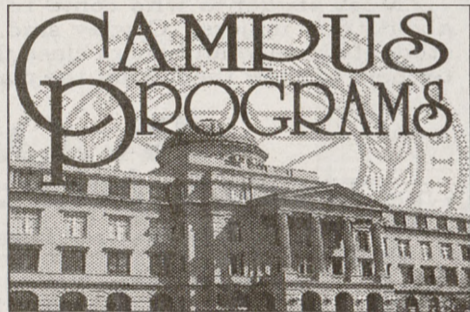
To enroll in honors classes, incoming freshmen who enter the University in Fall 1995 must graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class and score at least 1150 on the SAT or 28 on the ACT. Freshmen who enter in 1996 must graduate in the top 10 percent of their class and score 1250 on the SAT or 28 on the ACT to enroll in honors classes.

Each year, 3,000 students enroll in honors courses, with an average class size of 19 students. Of students eligible for honors courses, 15 to 20 percent register for the classes.

Knobel said there is room for improvement in the honors program.

"Right now the demand for honors courses exceeds supply," he said. "The honors classes fill more quickly than other courses, so we would like to see more

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Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

MISSED ... AGAIN!

Mike Williams, senior biomedical science major, is scored on by one of his buddies who were out with him Sunday afternoon on Simpson Drill Field. They were playing a game of soccer, but more balls missed the net than went in.

Rebel Serbs pledge to stop attacks, but don't

U.N. reports Croatian Serb attack in Bosnia's Bihac region Monday.

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Rebel Serbs from Croatia reneged on an hours-old agreement, attacking Bosnian government forces Monday in a northwestern enclave that threatens to become a flashpoint for more widespread Balkan warfare.

The United Nations reported a Croatian Serb attack in Bosnia's Bihac region early Monday — an assault that showed Croatian Serbs remained in border regions of neighboring Bosnia despite a partial pullout.

Croatia's Serbs, in a verbal agreement with U.N. mediators Sunday, had promised to stay away from Bihac and not to attack Croatian troops unless provoked.

They also said they would allow the United Nations "unhindered access" to areas around Bihac and to let aid convoys from Croatia travel through their territory to Bihac.

The Croatian Serbs also proposed holding talks with the Croatian government. But Croatia, flush with recent battlefield victories, swiftly rejected the offer.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said in a letter to U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi that he would not negotiate with the Croatian Serbs' leader, Milan Martić, or "any other war criminal."

Serb rebels in Croatia and Bosnia are allied against the Croatian and Bosnian government and have been involved in the fight for the Bihac region in northwestern Bosnia.

Croatia has sent thousands of troops across the border into

Bosnia, where they joined forces with Bosnian Croats and seized two strategic towns, Grahovo and Glamoc, from the Bosnian Serbs. They also cut the main supply route between Knin, the Croatian Serb stronghold, and Serb-held Banja Luka, the second-largest city in Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serbs vowed to retaliate. "Croatia has made a decisive mistake and shall pay dearly for it," their military commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, said Sunday during a visit to Knin.

Serb-held villages 10 miles northwest of Knin came under sporadic rocket attack Sunday. Croat commanders also reported that their troops took a strategic hill north of Gornji Vakuf, at the far east of the Croat advance into Bosnia.

War broke out in the former Yugoslavia in 1991.



1 Bosnian Croats and the Croatian army took Glamoc and nearby Grahovo, moving into Bosnian Serb heartland and opening a southern front in Bosnia.
2 Bosnian Croat soldiers also severed the chief road linking Knin, the self-proclaimed capital of rebel Serbs, with territory held by Bosnian Serbs.

Associated Press

Tropical storm brings much-needed rain, break from heat

Tropical Storm Dean hit the Texas coast near Galveston Sunday evening and brought heavy rain and minor street flooding.

Houston (AP) — The remnants of short-lived Tropical Storm Dean drenched parts of Southeast Texas early Monday with flash-flood producing rainfall.

The rain began spreading across a vast area of Texas Monday with flash flood watches posted from Southeast Texas northward and westward into the Hill country, portions of South Central Texas and into southeastern areas of North Texas.

A flood and flash flood watch was in effect today for the area north and east of a line from Rockport to Beeville to Hondo to Junction. It included the cities of Houston, Galveston, Beaumont and Port Arthur as well as San Antonio, Austin and Victoria.

Rainfall was expected to spread into most of West Texas by Monday night and continue through Tuesday.

In North Texas, forecasters said the clouds and rainfall from the storm system would give residents a break from the heat wave with temperatures to remain in the 80s Monday and in the 80s and 90s on Tuesday.

Authorities said the storm system, a full-blown tropical storm for only four hours on Sunday, provided coastal emergency teams a chance to check out their

emergency preparedness plans. But the tropical depression produced flash flooding in Chambers and Liberty counties.

A flash flood watch was in effect through the night for Southeast Texas along and south of a line from Columbus to Newton and included the cities of Houston, Beaumont, Port Arthur and Galveston.

Chambers County authorities said portions of Interstate 10 and Texas 61 west of Winnie were closed.

The National Weather Service estimated that 8-13 inches of rain fell in Chambers County during an eight-hour period ending early today. Liberty County received 4-7 inches of rain in the same period of time, the NWS reported.

The storm, which earned its name just

before making landfall at Galveston, buffeted the upper Texas coast with 45 mph winds and much-needed rain Sunday evening.

By early Monday, the depression was some eight miles east of Angleton in Brazoria County, National Weather Service meteorologist Josh Lichter said.

"It will lose its wind strength. We expect the winds to diminish," Lichter said of the storm's expected ferocity. "We still have general 15 to 25 mph winds forecast through (today)."

"There's still a threat of very heavy rains and there's still a threat of isolated tornadoes," Lichter said.

The fourth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season spurred heavy rain in Galveston and nearby Bolivar Peninsula but caused only minor street flooding.

Clarification:

A Page 1 story in The Battalion Wednesday about the Graduate Student Council's stance on the proposed general use fee increases did not present fully the organization's position.

A press release from GSC President Stephen Stephenson Moore states the GSC supports an increase in the general use fee, but is aware of the adverse effects that the increase would have on students.

According to the statement, the GSC is "attempting to arrive at the best solution to the budget problems facing the University — both for graduate students and the University as a whole."