

Future of Law, Puryear residence halls uncertain

Demolition of the two Northside non-airconditioned halls will not be decided until Fall 1995.

By Katherine Arnold
 THE BATTALION

The future of Law and Puryear residence halls will remain in question until a third structural analysis of the buildings is completed.

The report was not completed in time to make the agenda of the Texas A&M Board of Regents' Aug. 31 meeting. The Board will make the final decision to either renovate or demolish the two halls.

The third structural analysis began in January after the regents turned down A&M administrators' requests to demolish the buildings.

University officials had planned to tear down the halls this summer. Two prior reports indicated that the buildings had extensive structural damage

that had to be repaired.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said the recommendation to demolish Law and Puryear is based strictly on safety issues.

"The issue for us is that we have reports from engineers saying that the buildings have faulty foundations," Southerland said. "Something has to be done."

Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Student Affairs, said structural reports indicate that renovating the buildings will cost about as much as

the cost of a new building.

Renovations would include foundation repair, asbestos removal and updating facilities to be accessible to disabled students as required by the American Disabilities Act.

"It would cost about \$6 million to renovate the dorms, which does not include bringing the buildings up to code for the American Disabilities Act," Sasse said. "We could build a new dormitory for about the same amount."

Although the costs of renovation and a new building are comparable, the University has no plans to construct new residence halls, Sasse said.

Last March, the Residence Hall Association proposed rent increases to help pay for renovating Law and Puryear. Despite RHA's recommendation, Sasse said demolition must be looked at from a financial perspective.

"This is all students' money that we are working with," he said. "Everyone would be paying for the renovation. We just don't think renovation would be a wise use of students' money."

Demolition of the halls would cost \$650,000, which includes asbestos abatement and demolition. The money

for demolition already has been set aside, Sasse said.

Demand for non-airconditioned halls like Law and Puryear has decreased in the past three years. In Fall 1993, 208 students requested to live in non-airconditioned halls, and 289 spaces were available. The University received 139 requests for 443 available spaces in 1994 and 50 requests for 166 available spaces in 1995.

If the regents decide to renovate rather than demolish the halls, air conditioning systems will be installed.

Chareny Rydl, assistant director of student affairs, said students have not been assigned to Law and Puryear halls for fall, and the halls will remain empty until a decision is made.

"Either way you look at it, students can't live there," Rydl said. "If they demolish them or renovate them, we can't have students occupying the rooms."

Law and Puryear combined have 402 resident spaces. In Spring 1995, 279 students lived in Law and Puryear. Of those students, 141 renewed their housing contracts. All students were

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Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

Regents have yet to make the final decision to either renovate or demolish Law and Puryear halls.

Providing a Helping Hand School Re-entry Program encourages chronically ill kids to return to school

A&M graduate students will participate in this program, created by Texas A&M and Scott and White Hospital.

By Javier Hinojosa
 THE BATTALION

Texas A&M and Scott and White Hospital have created a program that makes returning to school easier for children with chronic illnesses.

The School Re-entry Program for Chronically Ill Children will begin this fall at Scott and White Hospital in Temple.

The program's research team consists of two A&M professors, Scott and White doctors and five A&M graduate students. The team will work primarily with children who have cancer and sickle cell anemia, but the program will expand to include diabetes and cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Frances Worchel, a member of the research team and an A&M associate professor of educational psychology, said going back to school is difficult for chronically ill children because of medical and emotional reasons.

"It may be that a child has had an amputation of a limb or air loss and feels embarrassed to go to school," Worchel said.

"They don't know how to explain things to their friends."

Dr. Robert Heffer, a member of the research team and an A&M assistant professor of psychology, said prolonged absences make children hesitant about returning to school.

"They don't feel connected to their peers," he said. "We try to lower the emotional and physical barriers that keep these kids from being successful by creating an atmosphere where they can feel successful and confident."

The other two members of the research team are Dr. William Rae, a psychologist at Scott and White, and Dr. Lawrence Frankel, a pediatrician at Scott and White.

Worchel said that the program administrators work with the school, at the children's request, to set up a program for their peers.

The program includes a videotape of scenes from the hospital and the treatment so the children's classmates can see what the experience is like. A question and answer period also can be arranged.

"We follow up to make sure that any concerns of the child or family have been met," she said, "and to make sure that there is a plenty of open communication between the teacher and the hospital personnel."

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A&M Creamery kicks the bucket

Due to the Creamery's closing May 31, the Retail Sales Outlet on West Campus will be selling only Blue Bell ice cream for the next two years.

By Libe Goad
 THE BATTALION

People are screaming for ice cream, and the storekeepers at the west campus Retail Sales Outlet for the animal science department can't take it anymore.

Workers at the Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center, famous for its generous scoops of Aggemade ice cream, are bearing the brunt of the blame for a dwindling supply of the popular dessert.

Jennifer Wahrmond, a storekeeper at the center and a junior animal science major, said customers are not pleased when they discover the west campus store is starting to carry only Blue Bell ice cream instead of ice cream from the A&M Dairy Production Laboratory.

"People get angry at me," Wahrmond said. "All I can say is, 'Hey, I just work here.'"

Since the laboratory, or "Creamery," closed May 31, the Retail Sales Outlet has been dishing out its last containers of the creamy dessert and replacing them with flavors from the Blue Bell creamery in Brenham.

The creamery closed after the Parking, Transit and Traffic Services took over the building to turn it into a five-story parking garage to accommodate the proposed library, computing and study complex next to the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The Retail Sales Outlet continues to sell meat products leftover from animal science department activities and brand-name dairy products Monday through Friday and during home football games, various cuts of beef, lamb and pork can be purchased at reduced prices, even with Aggiebucks.

Though the meat will continue to be sold, nothing will satiate the appetite of ice cream lovers until a new creamery opens.

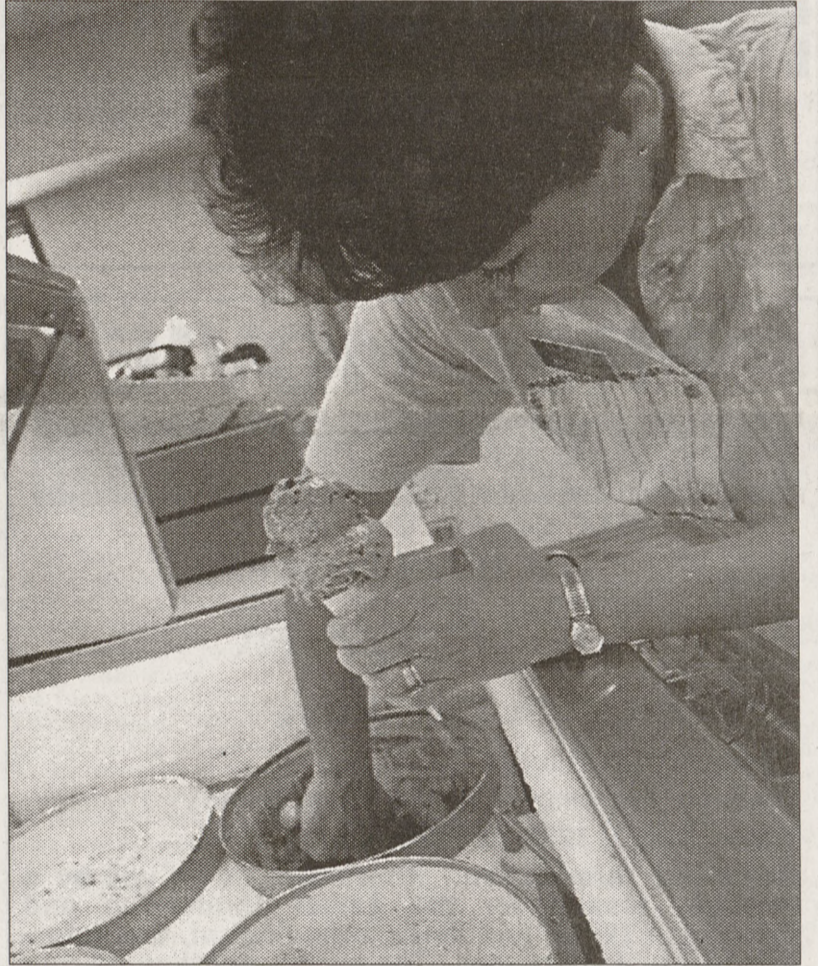
The Creamery's manager and dairy science graduate student Hector Astorga is planning and coordinating the opening of a similar research facility in 1997.

Astorga said the new facilities will compensate for the two-year loss of production since milk trucks could barely drive through the congested streets near the creamery.

"There will be a long down time, but it is good that we're getting away from the main campus," Astorga said.

When people learn that the regular ice cream flavors will not return for two years, Julie Hodges, another employee, said that people demand names and numbers they can call to complain.

"They drive us all crazy," she said.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Julie Hodges scoops into one of the last flavors of ice cream made at the Creamery. All other flavors sold are made by Blue Bell.

Wahrmond said the remaining cartons of french silk and chocolate ice creams will last until mid-August and then the

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Students can guard against slamming

Students' long distance service cannot be switched without their consent if they sign a restriction form with GTE.

By Bill Saunders
 THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students can prevent unauthorized switching of their long-distance carriers, called slamming, by signing GTE's long-distance restriction form.

Bill Erwin, public relations manager of GTE, said that GTE is one of the local phone companies that gives equal access to long-distance carriers, and it can easily stop slamming.

"To prevent slamming, GTE customers can sign a

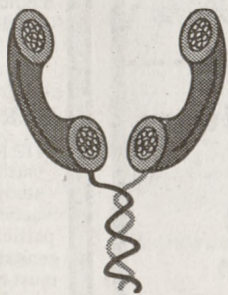
form to block changes in their long-distance carrier without their written permission," Erwin said.

A&M students should suspect that slamming has occurred if they receive a bill from a company they do not recognize, he said.

Annette Eslick, senior computer science major, said she was a victim of slamming.

"It really made me mad when my long-distance company was changed without my consent," Eslick said. "I'm glad GTE offers some protection to keep it from happening again."

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently amended its rule on slamming, making it more difficult for the unauthorized switching to occur. The amended rules require approval forms authorizing the



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ACS establishes minority scholars program

Scholarships from the American Chemical Society and A&M encourage minorities to seek chemical professions.

By Michael Simmons
 THE BATTALION

A new minority scholars program established by the American Chemical Society will increase the number of undergraduate scholarship incentives offered by Texas A&M's Department of Chemistry.

The ACS recently selected 201 recipients to receive more than \$600,000 in scholarships for the 1995-96 school year.

Dr. John Hogg, undergraduate advisor for the Department of Chemistry, said Noe Tamze will receive the University's first ACS minority scholarship this fall.

Although not a chemistry major, Noe Tamze, from Edinburg, Texas, will be the first ACS scholarship recipient to attend A&M, Hogg said.

ACS scholarships are awarded based on a student's financial need and academic performance.

"The scholarship programs available to [Chemistry] majors are a good incentive for students to continue studying in various fields," Hogg said. "A lot of students don't realize that chemistry is good, if not better than other majors, to prepare them for medical school."

The chemistry department also offers scholarships for undergraduate students and graduating seniors who will be continuing their educations.

The Monsanto Company, based in St. Louis, Mo., annually donates \$35,000 to the chemistry department for undergraduate students and those students who wish to pursue graduate degrees in chemistry, Hogg said.

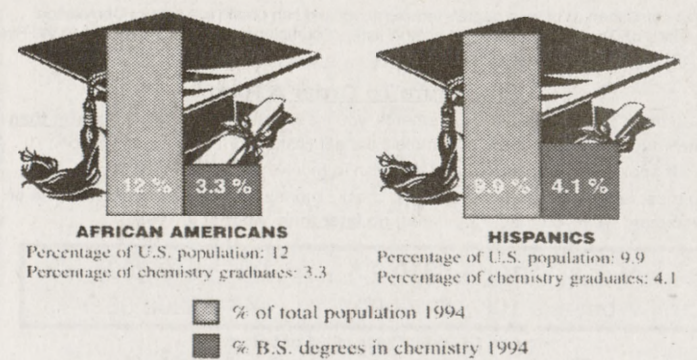
Monsanto awards 20 undergraduate scholarships awarded each year to chemistry majors of all classifications at A&M. The scholarships, each valued at \$500 per semester, are renewable based on a student's academic performance.

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American Chemical Society Minority Scholars Program

Chemistry Scholarship Program will benefit African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans.

Three minority groups are underrepresented in the chemical professions. The graphs below show the percentage each group represents in 1) our overall population and 2) the overall number of 1994 B.S. chemistry graduates. The American Chemical Society's new Minority Scholars Program is designed to bring more of these minorities into the science workplace.



Courtesy of 1994 ACS Starting Salary Survey and 1994 U.S. Census projections