



Keathley Hall is one of the three balcony dorms on the Northside of campus.

Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Balcony residents prepare for change

By Marisa Demaya
THE BATTALION

History is in the making. Starting in the fall of '96, three Northside residence halls, Keathley Hall, Fowler Hall and Hughes Hall, will go co-ed by organization of floor. Chareny Rydl, associate director of Residence Life and Housing, said the idea of going co-ed is not a new one, since a proposal was originally submitted in 1992. Rick Cobos, president of Fowler Hall Council, said the decision to go co-ed has many positive outlooks. "They've always been three separate halls, but we've always done stuff together," Cobos said. "So now it'll make it one hall. One hall council for the complex will make things easier too." The three residence halls, built in 1965, are named after honorary war veterans who graduated from A&M.

Keathley, which was originally a male civilian dormitory, was named after Army Sgt. George Dennis Keathley, Class of '35. Keathley was awarded the Medal of Honor for assuming command of his company in 1944. Fowler was named for Lt. Thomas W. Fowler, Class of '43. Fowler was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry action in Italy on May 23, 1944. Hughes got its name from Air Force 2nd Lt. Lloyd D. Hughes, Class of '43, who received a Medal of Honor for crash landing his aircraft and saving the lives of most of his crewmen.

Throughout the year, the halls have joined forces in different social activities and programs, ranging from scavenger hunts to ice cream socials. Amy Day, resident director of Keathley, said there have been many social events involving the three halls.

"One event that's been really popular is 'S'mores in the Quad,'" Day said. "Basically, they took a grill, put it out in the quad, and they let people roast marshmallows. That got a lot of

people together."

Cobos said the balconies are a key to making the area a little bit more sociable. "It feels like one big hall," Cobos said. "Since it has balconies, people are always outside and stuff."

Fowler residents participate in social events that bring all three halls together.

"We had an ice cream social called 'Tie One On' where all the guys from Fowler came down, laid out all their ties on the table and left the room," Day said. "Then the women from Keathley and Hughes came in, picked a tie, matched it up with whoever it belonged to, and they went to Baskin Robbins."

Scott Wegner, hall council secretary of Fowler, said the hall recently tried to increase the number of participants in hall events.

"We had a pizza party for the A&M-Colorado game," he said. "We had a barbecue last fall with Moses and Lechner Halls."

In addition, residents participate in community service, which allows them to interact with people beyond the campus.

Hughes residents sponsored a T-shirt sale and donated all proceeds to the Brazos Valley Girls Club.

Christie Richardson, Hughes president, said any left-over shirts were also donated to the Girls Club.

"We've had a lot of activities and programs," she said. "All the halls are very active now, and hopefully, when they get their (new) council implemented, it will continue to be more active."

Wegner said Fowler residents will participate in Replant '96 on Feb. 10.

"It's a relatively new effort to replant trees in the area," Wegner said.

Day said halls also provide informational programs covering topics such as sexual assault, alcohol awareness and CPR.

"The programs here tend to be a bit more informal," Day said. "The years that I've been here, the turnout has been terrific."

Like a Second HOME

'Mod-Quad' residents create new Southside activities and traditions

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

The modular dorms on Southside are commonly referred to as the "Mod-Quad" and have a reputation for being the quietest dorms on campus because of the high number of upperclassmen living in them.

These dorms have not yet developed the kind of traditions Puryear and Law did during their time. Nor have they earned the reputations like Lechner for its nerds or Leggett for its different doors that lead to different floors. However, the newest dorms on campus are trying to develop some traditions of their own.

The "Mod Quad" consists of the most recently opened dorms on campus, including Appelt Hall, which opened in 1989, and Wells Hall, Rudder Hall and Eppright Hall, each of which opened in 1990.

Cindy Yaklin, vice president of Eppright

and a senior business management major, said the influx of freshmen overassignments last fall has added to the spirit on the Southside.

"The overassignments brought in new blood and have helped us," Yaklin said. "It is not just burnt-out seniors anymore. The freshmen have brought in a lot of life."

Eppright was one of the first co-ed dorms at A&M and has been named co-ed Hall of the Year for the last five years by the Residence Hall Association.

Jeff Cruz, Appelt president and a senior international business major, said even though freshmen were introduced into traditionally upperclassmen dorms this year, they have been able to adjust and become involved in many traditions at A&M.

"The way it worked out was that we got a lot of freshmen through overassignments," Cruz said. "A lot of freshmen liked the dorm and stayed on, and one actually became the crew chief (of the dorm for Bonfire)."

One of the most distinguishable features

about Appelt is its residents who play frisbee on the grass between Wells and Eppright both on the weekends and between classes. These residents are part of the Ultimate Frisbee Team.

Cruz said Appelt is concentrating more on dorm-oriented activities and has not gotten into the more intra-dorm activities.

"The other dorms seem pretty quiet, although they each have their own traditions," Cruz said. "We are more hall-oriented, not so much community-oriented. For example, we took a river trip on the Guadalupe and had a lot of fun. About 20 to 25 people went."

Jennifer Wiccorver, Underwood president and a sophomore accounting major, said one of the reasons for such a stalemate in traditions on Southside seems to be the preponderance of upperclassmen who have already had the experience of living in a tradition-oriented dorm and are ready to concentrate solely on school.

"We have more upperclassmen than say, the Commons, where there is more interaction," Wiccorver said. "We don't have as much of that here. We have Hall Council meetings, and the RAs have programs like Bonfire Buddies, but it is hard to get people involved."

Yaklin said the presence of upperclassmen in the dorms helps the freshmen become acquainted with the A&M way of life.

"They (freshmen) use living with upperclassmen as an advantage," she said. "They use them for guidance and to help show them the ropes."

One of the activities that has helped the dorms come together is the Southside Bash, which unites the dorms with a barbecue each fall and spring semester.

"We have the Southside Bash and other dorm activities with Wells," Yaklin said. "Last fall, we cut for Bonfire with Aston, and there is a lot more unity now."

Wendy Stewart, president of Eppright Hall and a junior wildlife and fisheries science major, said although these dorms have only existed for six years, they will soon be in a league of their own by developing their own traditions.

"Northside has been there for such a long time, they have had time to develop their own traditions," she said.

"I believe Southside will become a strong force on campus because of the impact we have made in such a short time. Events such as Bonfire and Big Event will show that we are now and will become an active part of the campus."

The Commons' uniqueness sets it apart from other halls



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

The Commons' courtyards offer students a place to sit and relax.

By Tab Dougherty
THE BATTALION

Most students at A&M have probably heard of the Commons.

Cathy Collins, resident director of Krueger Hall and a graduate administrative higher education student, said it is not easy to miss four huge dorms — Krueger Hall, Dunn Hall, Aston Hall and Mosher Hall — centered around a central dining and recreation area.

"The Commons are basically four large buildings holding 474 residents or more that are connected to a main central facility used for student groups to meet for recreation or food and all kind of different things like that," Collins said.

Greg Asaf, resident director of Dunn and a graduate finance student, said the Commons is unique because many students congregate there, giving them a chance to interact with people from other dorms.

"The Commons is a pretty neat living environment," he said. "When I think of the Commons, I think of the four buildings and the main lounging area. And I think that's what allows people to interact — to me

that's the Commons."

Collins said the Commons is unique because it is filled with mostly freshmen.

"It's a good opportunity for them to get to meet each other," she said. "We still have the returning students that introduce them to the traditions, but because of the high freshman population, you have a bunch of students that are relating on the same level."

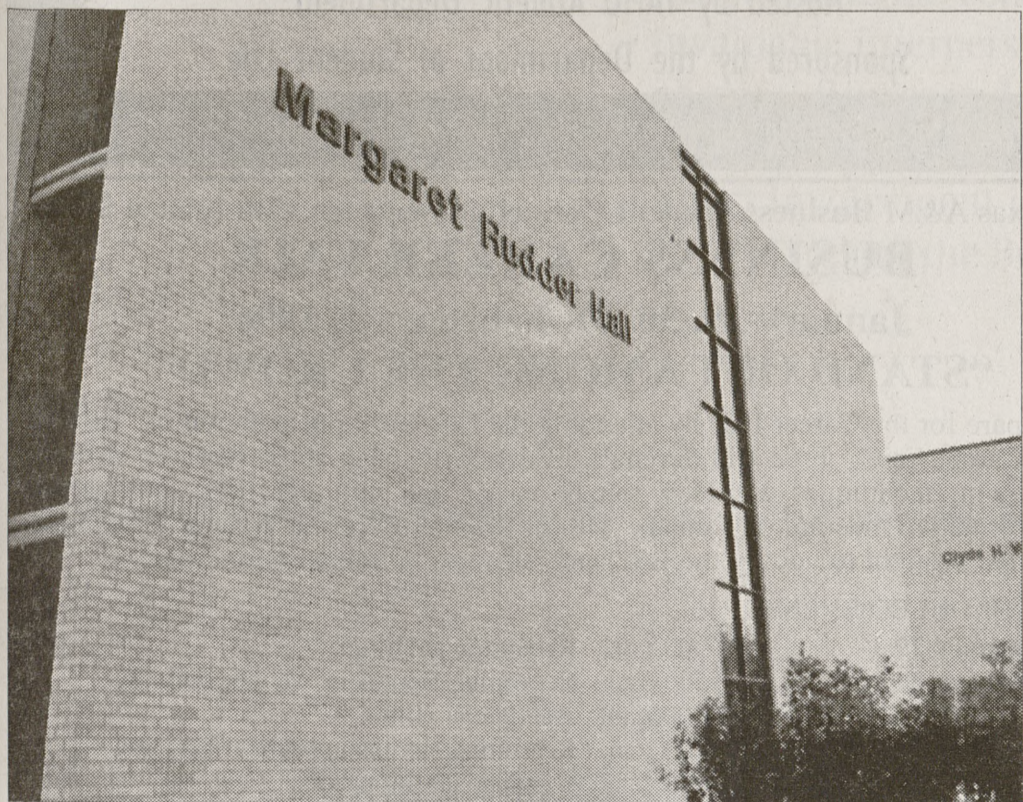
Mickey McFee, a sophomore biomedical science major, said one of the best things about the Commons is not having to go outside.

"If it's really pouring outside, you can just walk downstairs and eat," McFee said. "You don't have to throw a coat on."

The Commons has its own computer lab, two restaurants, a downstairs cafeteria, free pool and ping-pong (with an A&M ID), two TV lounges and even a store where students can buy school supplies and groceries.

Elaine Villarreal, a senior history major, said she likes the convenience the Commons offers.

"I like being so close to the mail," she said. "I like being able to get my mail really close. I do my e-mail on the computers that are really close. Living on campus is fun."



Rudder Hall is one of the four dorms on the "Mod Quad."

Amy Browning, THE BATTALION