

Housing offered for cadet recruitment

Michelle Lyons
of the BATTALION

Members of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets can receive discounted on-campus housing this summer in exchange for recruiting new cadets.

About 40 rooms in one of the residence halls on the Quadrangle have been allocated for cadets selected by their units or affiliates to participate in a summer recruiting program.

These cadets will pay half as much rent in the summer as other on-campus residents. This is the second year the discount has been offered to the cadets in exchange for recruiting.

Dr. Jan Winniford, assistant

vice president for Student Affairs, said the program and the special on-campus housing provisions were approved because the rooms on the Quad otherwise would not have been occupied during the summer.

offering the discounted Quad rooms seems like a good idea.

"They are recruiting for the Corps, which is a vital part of the University," Lyons said. "Since the Corps dorms wouldn't have been used in the summer

Satterwhite said involvement in the program involves assisting in the recruiting process by talking to cadet prospects and attending summer conferences.

The discount on housing, Satterwhite said, is given in exchange for their help.

"It was an incentive to get them to stay over here," he said.

Ron Sasse, director of Residence Life and Housing, said reduced on-campus housing is a means to encourage participation in the recruiting process, which requires many cadets to be at new student conferences and orientation activities.

"It takes a number of cadets to help with the summer orientations," Sasse said.

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— RON SASSE
director of Residence Life and Housing

Winniford said the program is the only one like it on the A&M campus.

Suzanne Lyons, a former Residence Hall Association president and senior geography major, said

anyway, I think it's a fair deal." Lt. Col. Mark Satterwhite, Corps recruiting coordinator, said 80 cadets will be accepted to the program, and more than 80 cadets have applied.

Austin preserve receives federal approval

AUSTIN (AP) — The federal government Thursday approved a permit for the country's first major urban habitat, a 30,000-acre, oak- and cedar-covered area that is home to eight endangered species.

U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt joined local officials at a ceremony issuing a permit for the Balcones Highlands Preserve.

Officials said the \$160 million preserve plan, which took years to forge, will protect endangered species while allowing development to occur in the fast-growing western part of

Travis County.

"We can find the balance. We don't have to select one or the other. We don't have to say growth at the expense of the environment, or protecting our natural heritage at the expense of development," Babbitt said.

The plan, named for the balcony-like slopes on the southern and eastern edges of the Texas Hill Country west of Austin, seeks to set aside a total of 30,428 acres.

Some environmentalists said too little land was being acquired too late. They also are unhappy with the trade-off that makes the plan attractive to

business — development being allowed in habitat outside the designated preserve, even if it causes some loss of species.

About two-thirds of the preserve already has been set aside through public and private expenditures. The permit authorizes Austin and Travis County to stitch together about 9,000 more acres by offering the owners of habitat outside the preserve boundary a potentially attractive option.

Such landowners will be able to secure development rights by paying fees of as much as \$5,500 an acre. In return, they won't be subjected to federal enforcement


action or destroying species habitat. The city and county will use the fee money to buy more preserve land.

The plan drew fire from Republicans, who said land use would be severely restricted and questioned the fees required for development.

The Balcones plan is an unconstitutional seizure of private property rights," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

"It seems the president and secretary Babbitt are more concerned about protecting birds and bugs than about protecting the rights of landowners," added Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas.

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