

THE BATTALION

102, No. 148 (6 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

Thursday • June 13, 1996

Families benefit from apartment's tax credit program

Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

An apartment complex in College Station provides affordable housing for low-income families. Windsor Pointe may be income housing, but it is not a government subsidy. The residents pay full rent.

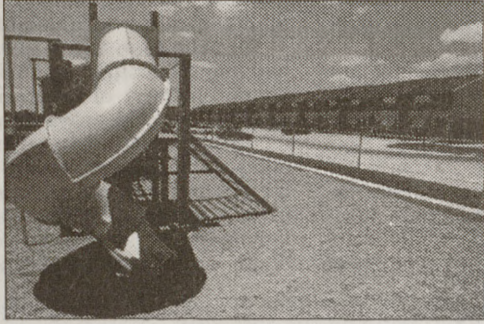
Rent at Windsor Pointe is \$428 per month for a two-bedroom apartment, \$493 a month for a three bedroom apartment.

The owners charge lower rates with benefit of a tax credit.

Carroll, Administrator of Community Development in College Station, said tax credit is a federal tax program.

"The federal government allocates credits to states," Carroll said. "The state of Texas administers the credits through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which sets the policy on how credits are distributed."

Carroll said a construction subsidy comes in the form of a rebate to the property owners. Once owners lease the property to low-income families, they receive credit applied to their taxes.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Windsor Pointe apartments in College Station receive tax credits for providing low-rent housing to families.

Dan Mueller, assistant manager of Windsor Pointe, said the state approves an application based on the need for low-income housing in a particular area.

Carroll said applicants who want to build in areas where development is expensive and the population has a low income get extra points in the application

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Program increases diversity awareness

'AggieCulture' will be presented at new student conferences

Melissa Benson
THE BATTALION

Throughout the summer, future Aggie and parents will gather in Rudder Forum to learn about a special event in Aggieland.

'AggieCulture', a program designed to increase awareness of the many differences among students on campus, gives students information on the various organizations.

The New Student Orientation and Registration Conference has restructured the program to be viewed through the eyes of students.

In the past, the program was read by a staff person from a script and lacked a personal perspective.

The students presenting the program are orientation leaders, selected through an application process.

Mayla Jeter, a sophomore elementary education major, said Texas A&M is

one of the most diverse gatherings of people one could ever find.

"I think new students should realize that there are cultural differences here, and if they are exposed to those differences now, then they'll be one step ahead," Jeter said.

The program not only introduces ethnic differences, but also touches on religious beliefs, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and physical disabilities.

The structure of the program is interactive, and audience participation is strongly encouraged.

The activities are designed to make the audience comfortable and help them to become aware of the many diverse groups represented in the room.

In addition to the activities, new students watch a video about campus diversity narrated by Brook Leslie, former student body president.

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How SAFE are you?



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Robert Wright, a graduate genetics student, secures his bike on West Campus Tuesday night.

By Jeffrey Cranor and April Towery
THE BATTALION

"Aggies do not lie cheat or steal."

It is easy to feel safe in the small community of Bryan-College Station. A small community, however, does not make a safe community.

A University Police Department report indicates that not everyone subscribes to the Aggie Code of Honor.

There were 1,876 total offenses reported on campus in fiscal year 1995 compared to 1,741 in 1992.

UPD Lt. Bert Kretzschmar said measures are being taken by A&M to deter an increase in campus crime. These measures include new lighting, more blue phones and access to crime prevention information.

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Kretzschmar said with so many students coming in for orientation this summer, the biggest problem is theft.

"The most common type of theft is what we call opportunity theft," Kretzschmar said. "You're playing racquetball and leave your wallets outside or leave your belongings in the library while you walk around for an hour."

Kretzschmar said theft can be prevented with a program called Operation ID.

Operation ID involves writing down the serial numbers of cameras, bicycles and VCRs; the numbers are then entered into a nationwide computer.

"People also need to take an electrical engraver or marker and mark property with their driver license number," Kretzschmar said.

"If your bike is stolen and you see someone riding it on campus, you can go to the police department and say, 'Hey, that's my bike.' The police department will say, 'Prove it,'" he said. "If you have your driver license number engraved, it just takes a minute to prove that it belongs to you."

Similar to other college campuses, textbook theft is a problem at A&M toward the end of each semester.

Kretzschmar said students can write their initials on the first page or on the side of a book.

Kretzschmar said these preventative measures should be taken because only 20 percent of the property stolen on campus was recovered.

Alumni magazine shuns spotlight

By Heather R. Rosenfeld
THE BATTALION

Former students may not be getting their full dosage of authenticity when the inoculator is Texas Aggie, the alumni magazine of Texas A&M.

Jerry Cooper, editor of Texas Aggie, said he tries not to offend his readers.

"Issues have people on both sides and we are very careful to try and not do things to antagonize the constituents," Cooper said.

This concept is the problem, according to Anne Diffily, editor of the Brown Alumni Monthly.

"A magazine that contains nothing that disturbs or even offends anyone is printed Cream of Wheat — bland mush," Diffily told the magazine Linguafranca, a review of academic life.

Deputy Director of University Relations Lane Stephenson disagreed with the accusation.

"I don't think the Aggie sees its role as writing exposés or covering every controversy on this campus," Stephenson said. "We leave the controversy to publications like The Battalion."

Marc Wortman, writer for Linguafranca, commented on the balancing act editors of alumni magazines must understand between being a journalist and being a public relations person.

"They (editors) know full well that the more applause they get from their peers, the more trouble they might have with their employers," Wortman said. "Indeed, a reputation for putting out an independent, hard-hitting magazine can cost an editor his job."

Cooper said he agrees that the juxtaposition of the two jobs is a difficult task to accomplish, but he knows where his paycheck comes from.

"I'd like to consider myself a journalist, but I'm really a public relations man," Cooper said.

... I'm not concerned about my job, because I know who I work for."

According to Wortman, both the Stanford Magazine and the Pennsylvania Gazette's editors lost their jobs last year as a result of producing, "independent, hard-hitting" magazines. However, both editors received the Robert Sibley Magazine of the Year Award. The award, the top honor for an alumni magazine, has never been given to the Texas Aggie.

Cooper attributed the oversight to the Aggie's conservative style.

"Our stories are stories that don't get those outside the Aggie family really excited," he said. "Why would 300 different meetings around the world in April catch the attention of anyone outside (the University) ... we try and preserve traditions."

Stephenson defended A&M's style in approaching the magazine.

"Rice's magazine ... has a reputation just like its marching band, irreverent and sassy," he said. "That is just not the forte of the Texas Aggie."

Cooper said the strength of Texas Aggie is not controversy, but instead, lies in the hands of what former students and donors to the University want.

"We are trying to work for the promotion of A&M ... we are in the fund raising business," Cooper said. "The magazine shouldn't take stands on controversial issues."

Alec Horn, Texas Aggie subscriber and class of '83 agent, realizes he does not receive all current issues through the Aggie, but said he is very pleased with the publication.

"I have found the Texas Aggie to be an invaluable resource to keep in touch with what's going on in the University," Horn said.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

EATIN' THE HEAT

Alle Smith, 11, and her sister Katie Smith, 5, sell lemonade from their stand on Southwest Parkway Wednesday afternoon. They are going to split the profits.