

AGGIE life

THURSDAY
June 20, 1996

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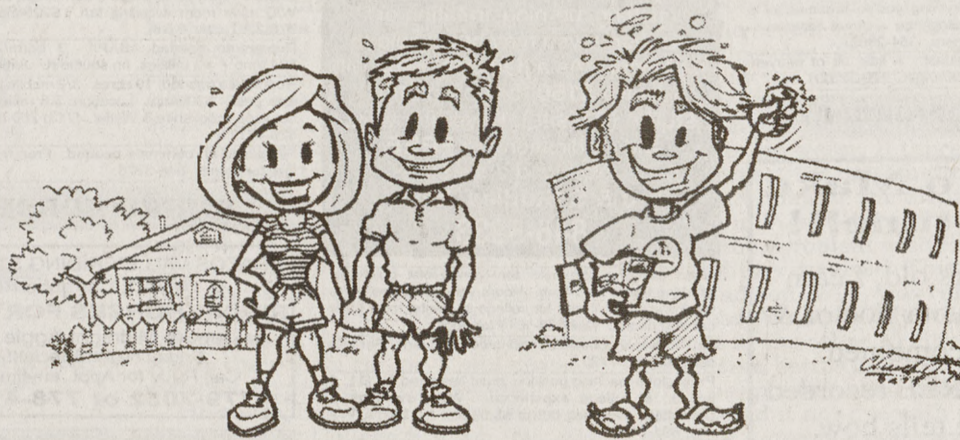
No place like home

Texas A&M provides a home away from home, whether students are living on or off campus.

By James Francis
THE BATTALION

And for those searching for off-campus residences, there is help. The Department of Student Life aids students in finding housing and also provides them with information about living off campus. One of the department's main resources is The Texas A&M University Off-Campus Living Survival Manual. The publication, an in-depth source for off-campus living, answers questions about roommate disputes and small claims court situations to transportation services. In essence, the manual is an A-to-Z guide for acclimation to off-campus living. Allison Smith, Coordinator of Off-Campus Student Services, said the department tries to provide students with information on apartments, duplexes, houses and other forms of housing. The department houses a database of information that is constantly updated and produces a price list for about 85 percent of the local

housing complexes. Smith said students generally have a broad range of questions. "The most common thing," Smith said, "is that they (the students) are completely starting from scratch and trying to find housing in the community." She said the increase in students looking for off-campus housing is attributed to the large student turnover at the end of each semester. The turnovers occur as students graduate and leave College Station after each semester. Smith said there are also peaks in times of lease and roommate disputes. Victor Romero Jr., a leasing agent for the department, is one person who can assist students in leasing problems. Romero said students have concerns about signing lease agreements. "Usually it's tenant-landlord issues," Romero said, "or questions on roommate problems, like what to do if one moves out or [the roommates are] just not getting along." Another set of inquiries includes maintenance or deposit issues. Sometimes there are emergency situations when physical fights break out between roommates. Legal counsel is often offered and/or elicited at these times. Other services provided by the department include a roommate referral service, a computerized housing search service and socializing programs. Plus, the department has its own internet web-page listing of all the off-campus services provided. Smith and Romero both agree students should first visit the Department of Student Life or call the office if they have any questions concerning off-campus housing before making any moves off campus. After housing is found and students move off



campus, individuals begin mapping out a new way of life. Off-campus students include what some people would label novelties of the nineties, the single student and the married couple. Dima Gonzales, a junior chemical engineering major, and her husband Mike Gonzales, a sophomore business analysis major, have been married for a year. Marriage was the central reason for moving off campus for Dima and in doing so, she lost a few of the bonuses from the time she was housed in Davis-Gary Hall. "It's hard at first, because you miss your friends and I miss being able to wake up late and go to class in five minutes," she said. Overall, it is more of a convenience to live on campus and easier to make friends and get to know people, Dima said. Not having to cook and having residence hall costs paid by her parents was yet another loss in the move off campus. Two things Dima does not regret leaving be-

hind are the small rooms and the loud, distracting residents. "Sometimes, when you were studying, you had to go to the library," she said. And Dima said getting to the library was not as strenuous an ordeal as it is now, having to drive around looking for a parking space. Mike said the stress moving from campus to off-campus housing is not something he has had to deal with as much as his wife. "I haven't had any complaints, because I've always lived off campus," he said. Mike and Dima both agree such added incentives as privacy, a nice kitchen, more living space and the pleasure of a private bathroom are strong draws to off-campus housing for students. Yet the two are also not a typical married couple. Like other students, they have roommates to help with the bills. "I enjoyed it when it was just us two," Mike said, "but everyone is courteous to each other's

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Loose Diamonds

Marquise Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.31	I	SI1	\$475 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	1,579 ⁰⁰
.49	J	SI2	1,050 ⁰⁰
.68	J	VS2	1,900 ⁰⁰
.69	K	VVS2	1,750 ⁰⁰
.71	H	VS2	3,100 ⁰⁰ UGA CERT.
.83	H	SI1	3,150 ⁰⁰
.94	K	SI1	2,650 ⁰⁰
1.21	K	SI3	3,750 ⁰⁰

Round Diamond

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.91	J	SI2	\$2960 ⁰⁰
.95	I	I1	2,275 ⁰⁰
1.00	G	I1	2,600 ⁰⁰
1.16	J	SI1	3,950 ⁰⁰

Pear Shape

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.49	H	SI1	\$1,253 ⁰⁰
.59	E	I1	995 ⁰⁰
.79	K	SI1	1,675 ⁰⁰
.92	K	VS2	2,300 ⁰⁰
1.02	J	SI1	3,250 ⁰⁰

Princess

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.49	K	SI1	\$875 ⁰⁰
.53	K	VS1	975 ⁰⁰
.92	H	VVS2	3,500 ⁰⁰
.93	H	VS2	3,200 ⁰⁰

Emerald Cut

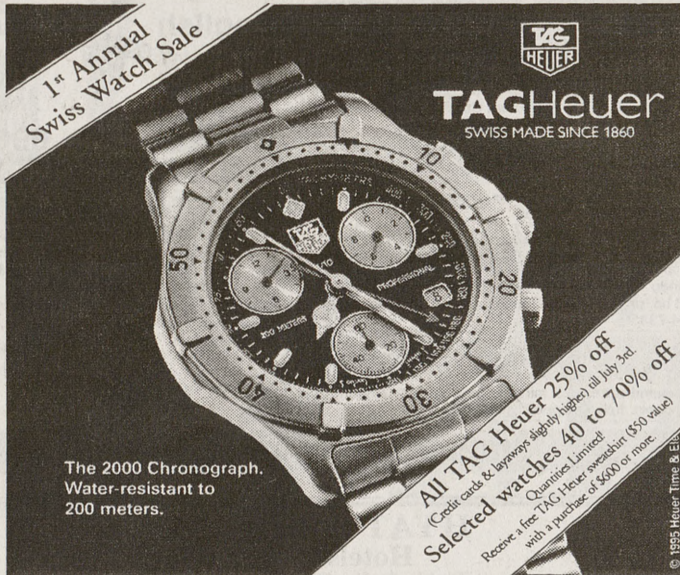
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.71	H	SI2	\$1,675 ⁰⁰
.74	H	SI1	1,500 ⁰⁰
.83	H	SI3	1,575 ⁰⁰
.88	G	SI2	1,750 ⁰⁰
.93	G	SI3	1,950 ⁰⁰
1.28	I	VS2	4,650 ⁰⁰

Round Diamond

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.23	H	VVS1	\$400 ⁰⁰ I.D.G. CERT.
.27	H	VVS1	475 ⁰⁰ I.D.G. CERT.
.31	H	VVS2	745 ⁰⁰ I.G.L. CERT.
.33	H	VVS2	790 ⁰⁰ I.D.G. CERT.
.34	G	VVS2	895 ⁰⁰ I.D.G. CERT.
.37	G	I1	350 ⁰⁰
.70	I	SI1	2100 ⁰⁰
.71	H	SI1	2,200 ⁰⁰
.71	H	VVS2	2,985 ⁰⁰ I.G.L. Cert.

Oval

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.32	H	SI1	\$550 ⁰⁰
.40	J	VS1	675 ⁰⁰
.56	K	VVS2	1,075 ⁰⁰
.66	K	VVS2	1,252 ⁰⁰
.81	I	VS2	3,225 ⁰⁰ UGA CERT.
.93	I	SI2	2,860 ⁰⁰ UGA CERT.
1.00	G	I1	2,700 ⁰⁰
1.12	I	SI1	3,950 ⁰⁰



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