

# A&M residence halls get checkup

By Brandon Hausenfluck  
THE BATTALION

Residence halls across campus are getting a checkup.

On July 15, crews started work on studying the stability of the halls.

The Texas A&M Department of Residence Life and Housing has hired two out-of-town firms to examine all the dorms and University apartments. The firms will inspect the buildings to see if they are structurally secure and develop a long-range plan to improve student housing.

Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Residence Life and Housing, said in a press release the study will shed light on areas that need improvement.

"Before we can chart a course for the future, we have to know the condition of the ship we'll be sailing in," he said. "This study will give us that insight."

Half Associates, an architectural engineering firm in Dallas, and R.G. Vanderweil of Boston will conduct the examinations, which should be finished by the beginning of the fall semester.

Kim Walter, an assistant to the director of Resident Life and Housing, said the study will determine what needs to be done to

upgrade the residence halls.

"They (contractors) are in the middle of the studies right now," she said. "The rent increase will be used to fund cable TV for all the dorms. The study will let us know how we can get cable to the halls."

About 2.6 million square feet of residence halls and University-owned apartments will be examined.

Although some students say the study could be beneficial, some have doubts.

Jeremy Hubble, a former Dunn Hall resident and senior civil engineering major, said some changes should not be made.

"I think the cable thing is a big waste," he said. "Most people on my floor didn't even have TVs."

Hubble said the rent increases on campus should be avoided.

"It's beginning to be more economical to live off campus because the rent (on campus) is always increasing," he said. "It's starting to cost the same (to live off campus) without the perks."

Curtis Pete, a sophomore computer engineering major, said the problem is that students who live in the dorms do not take care of them.

"There are a lot of people who don't care," Pete said.

Other students think the



Pat James, The Battalion

Schumacher Hall and other dorms across campus are being checked to see if they are structurally secure.

dorms could use some work. Brett Sawyer, a freshman general studies major, said although he has not lived in any dorms before this summer, he thinks some improvements can be made.

"The walls don't look like they're in good condition," Sawyer said. "But the attention is great."

The study will be completed before the beginning of the fall semester.

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## Unfaithful husbands may take cervical cancer home to wives

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unfaithful husbands may give their wives cancer.

That's the conclusion of a study that found women are five to 11 times more likely to develop cervical cancer if their men frequent prostitutes or have many sexual partners. The cancer is directly linked to human papillomavirus, or HPV, a virus that is commonly spread by sexual intercourse.

"Male behavior is the important thing in this cancer," said Dr. Keerti V. Shah, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He said men who have many sexual partners are very likely to carry home the HPV virus and that up to 97 percent of cervical cancers are infected with virus.

"In effect, the husband takes cancer home to his wife," said Shah, co-author of a study on cervical cancer to be published Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Although the study showed that men

brought the virus home to their wives, any woman can put herself at increased risk by having many different sexual partners, said Shah. The cancer risk for women, he said, increases with the number of either direct or indirect sexual exposures.

The study, conducted in Spain, compared the sexual patterns of husbands whose wives have cervical cancer with a control group of husbands whose wives were healthy. The study took into account other lifestyle influences, such as smoking. The study also took genital swabbings to test for the presence in both spouses of the HPV virus.

In the study group were 183 women with cervical cancer and their husbands. The control group had 171 couples.

Risk of cervical cancer was increased 11 times for wives of men who had 21 or more other sex partners. The cervical cancer risk was eight times greater among wives of men

who frequented prostitutes, the study found.

Dr. Willard Barnes of Georgetown University School of Medicine said the study reinforces evidence that cervical cancer in many ways is similar to other venereal diseases.

"HPV is a very common type of virus," he said. "It has been known for some time that it places women at a higher risk of cervical cancer. The message from studies like this is that men should stay home."

There are more than 75 different strains of HPV virus. Some cause ordinary warts on the hands, arms or legs. At least two, number 6 and 11, cause genital warts. Cervical cancers are related to HPV numbers 16 and 18.

In the study, Shah said the researchers found all different types of HPV strains in genital specimens from the husbands.

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