

Home sweet home

Nine former residents of Crocker Hall have taken their Aggie spirit off campus, and made a home in the name of tradition.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Nine former residents of Crocker Hall live in the Cock House, located on College Main. Members of the house are avid supporters of Bonfire.

BY APRIL TOWERY
THE BATTALION

The "Crocker Cocks," as they call themselves, have transformed on-campus camaraderie into friendships that will last a lifetime.

Nine former residents of Crocker Hall, a Northside residence hall, moved into the Duck House, the former Delta Upsilon fraternity house, on College Main Street on Aug. 20.

The Cock House projects an aura of Aggie tradition. Wall to wall Bonfire and Texas A&M paraphernalia decorate the living room, along with a poster of Seinfeld character, Cosmo Kramer.

The eight-bedroom house has been around for about 50 years. This year, the Cock House has been renovated to accommodate the new tenants.

"When we first saw it, the place was trashed," Loy said. "There were six bedrooms, but the property manager was great and did everything to our specifications. They built two more bedrooms and changed things up a little."

Loy said one of the themes of the Cock House is to promote Crocker hall and the benefits of on-campus living.

"There's no way we'd trade our years in the dorm," he said.

The men of Crocker said they would like to return in several years and see former Crocker residents still occupying the Cock House.

"We're hoping to become well-known and encourage other Crocker residents to move in after we graduate. We want this to be the norm. We're also hoping to make the transition from 'the place that used to be the Duck House' to just the Cock House."

Loy said the men living in the house have a common bond.

"Tradition holds us together," Loy said. "We attend every Bonfire, Muster and Silver Taps."

Clinton Hale, a sophomore business major, said Bonfire is also a significant part of the Cock House.

"Three of us were crew chiefs last year for Crocker Hall, so we have a

lot of involvement in Bonfire," Hale said.

Andy Solis, a junior biomedical science major and a high school classmate of Loy's, said he came to A&M because of what he heard about the traditions, and specifically, Crocker Hall.

"I wanted to be a part of that," Solis said.

Although these nine Aggies have moved off campus, they plan to attend Bonfire with Crocker Hall this year.

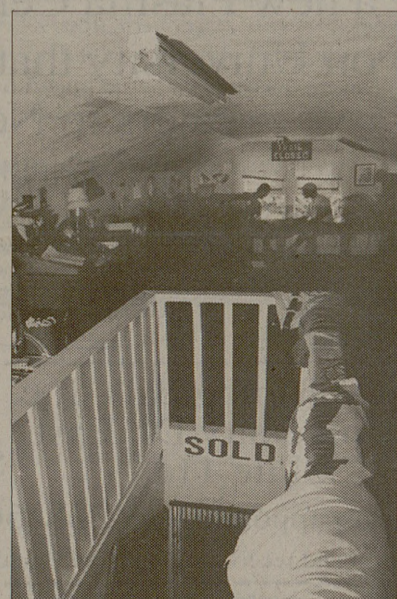
"Just because you live off campus doesn't mean you can't support Aggie activities," Loy said. "A lot of people that move off campus say it's a hassle to go to Muster or Bonfire because of parking and all, but we can stay involved because we're so close to campus."

The location of the house has been beneficial to all of its residents.

J.C. Bennett, a sophomore agricultural systems management major, said living in the house is as convenient as living on-campus.

"It's the same distance to get to campus from here as it is from a dorm," Bennett said. "I'm actually closer to some of my classes."

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Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Travis Loy, (left), wildlife and fisheries sciences major, and Andy Solis, (right) a junior biomedical science major, sit in their room.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Helicopters hurt Brinkley wedding

NEW YORK (AP) — It was the bride's OTHER wedding. With media helicopters clatter overhead, supermodel Gisele Bündchen was married for the fourth time, this time to architect Peter Cook.



Brinkley

The Saturday noon ceremony in Bridgeport, Conn., was about the time, without helicopters, John G. Bessette Jr. married to Gisele Bündchen in a ceremony on a Georgia island. Cook and Bündchen released a statement but no details of their island wedding. The New York Post reported that helicopters made it difficult for the guests to hear the service. Among the guests were Bündchen's second husband, Billy Joel, and her date, artist Carolyn Beegan.

Meat and cheese stars of new film

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stanley Tucci spiced up his new movie, "The Untouchables," with a little meat, a little cheese, and a little pasta.

The movie is about two brothers who rely on one big dinner to solve their Italian restaurant in the 1930s. One of the stars is Tucci, a dish of meat, cheese and pasta specific to the Tucci family's hometown in the Calabria region of Italy.

"I just wanted to make a movie that tells a simple story, that takes its time and that doesn't rely on violence and sex to sell tickets," said Tucci, who won an Academy nomination last year for his role as sinister businessman Vincent "Murder One." Tucci said his upbringing was Italian — the kind of family where people live to eat, rather than eat to live.

The character actor co-wrote the \$4 million movie with his brother Joseph Tropiano. He also directed it and starred in it.

Naked socks bench O'Grady

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (AP) — Being bugs was tough enough, Capt. Scott O'Grady says rainforest squeezed from his socks was even worse.

"I don't recommend that to anyone. That's the most awful-tasting thing in the world," the Air Force flier said in a speech Sunday. O'Grady's F-16 fighter was shot down over Bosnia in 1995. He parachuted to safety and stayed alive by eating insects and leaves for six days. He used a hand radio to contact his American rescuers. "I'm alive, I'm alive," he repeated into the radio. "It was the moment I was rescued again."

"It was God's love that got me through this," O'Grady said.

Little Richard makes big scene

MACON, Ga. (AP) — Little Richard loves big entrances, and he had one saved up for the opening of the Georgia Music Museum of Fame.

"This is the greatest for me because this is home," whooped Richard, decked out in a red-and-black sequined jacket Sunday. "This is the place. Hello, Macon." The museum has exhibits on stars as Ray Charles, the Allman Brothers and Otis Redding, a Macon native like Little Richard.

Country singer Travis Tritt and members of R.E.M., the B-52s and others turned out for the \$125,000 gala at the museum.

The museum, built with \$6.6 million in state money, founded by its chief boosters in Gov. Roy Harris Miller, a country music buff who has written about Georgia's musical roots.

Technicolor Dreamcoat explodes onstage tonight

BY JOHN LEBAS
THE BATTALION



Special to The Battalion

Brian Lane Green stars in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which will play tonight, Wednesday and Thursday.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* debuted in 1968 at an English church with Webber's family playing the instruments and performing for the half-hour, one-act musical.

The once humble production opens today at Rudder Auditorium, hauled here in five trailer trucks, bringing the biblical story of Joseph and his 11 brothers to life with a two-hour barrage of color, energy and music.

OPAS is presenting *Joseph*, the first touring production to visit A&M since Lloyd Webber's "Cats" came here in the late '80s.

Time has expanded the scope of the play but has not worn the energy and wide appeal of *Joseph*, said those who have seen this production. It is the Broadway version of the musical — with Lloyd Webber's highly acclaimed production crew at the helm — showing tonight, Wednesday and Thursday.

Composer Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice revamped *Joseph* for Broadway in 1993, and it has toured nationally for the past two years.

Stephen Llano, OPAS director of public relations and a senior history major, said *Joseph* is not just for adults and theater lovers.

"It's a very dynamic show," Llano said. "It can appeal to anyone because it's a story that anyone who's been to Sunday school knows."

For those who need a biblical refresher, Llano offered the following synopsis:

Joseph lives in Egypt at the time of the Pharaoh. His father favors him over his 11 brothers, and the jealous brothers sell Joseph into slavery and tell their father that he is dead.

Joseph is jailed by his owner and meets some of the Pharaoh's servants in jail. He interprets their dreams, and the impressed servants bring him to the Pharaoh.

The Pharaoh has been having disturbing dreams, which Joseph interprets as signs of a famine. The Pharaoh makes Joseph second in command of Egypt and...

"I don't want to give away the end," Llano said.

Sound familiar? If not, Llano said, the mix of country and western, Calypso, '50s rock 'n' roll and other music genres joyfully guide the audience through the story.

"The music is what makes it unique," he said.

Jeffrey Cranor, OPAS director of audience education and development and a senior journalism major, said the play is almost entirely musical, and the course of events is told through a narrator.

The narrator in *Joseph* is played by local children's choirs from each area the show visits. In July, a producer and a director of the play selected Brazos Valley Troupe and Shiloh Baptist Youth Choir for the A&M performance.

Cranor said the children's choirs play an integral role in *Joseph*.

"They're on stage for most of the show — 18 out of 22 songs," he said.

Llano said one of his favorite characters in the show is the Pharaoh, played by Jeffrey Scott Watkins.

"He sings his songs in a way any king would be proud of," Llano said.

Watkins recently played Pontius Pilate in the national tour of Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The actor, who portrays *Joseph's* Pharaoh as an Elvis impersonator, said he loves playing his popular "psychotic" character, although the all-music format of the show makes portrayal a little difficult.

"He's a nut," Watkins said. "It's kind of hard because it's all songs. All of the acting has to be done through the songs."

Watkins, who has toured with *Joseph* since January, said the Lloyd Webber crew makes a good show even better.

"They're wonderful," he said. "The crew is very organized and

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