

In 'Da House: Living Room

Marium Mohiuddin & Leah Templeton
Staff writers

Senior year in high school is spent studying on the couch, watching television or hanging out with the family in the living room. When college arrives, however, the living room no longer holds the significance of family bonding. Whether it's a residence hall room, an apartment or a house, all students try to incorporate a little bit of the living room into their lives.

• WHEN IS A LIVING ROOM NOT A LIVING ROOM?

The first day of school arrives. Students are busy in classes, studying and attempting to gain a social life. Odd weekends roll around when a student might want to lounge around and watch a favorite television program, but friends crash in and this is when the living room is not a living room.

Matthew Powell, a junior civil engineering major, said the weather can have an effect on what can be done in a living room.

"One day my friends and I got together to watch a big game," Powell said. "We began to barbecue and it started raining outside. That is when our living room turned into our patio. We moved the barbecue inside."

Jason Day, a sophomore geography major, said when he was younger he lived in an apartment where there was not much space. This caused the living room to also be used as the kitchen, and there was always plenty of action.

Along these lines, Day said living in Walton Hall means not having much space for a living room.

"My living room here is not much different than my bedroom," Day said. "In the dorm, the living room is the lounging area. It's my bedroom and I guess also my living room. I wouldn't call it something different because they are both the same."

Elizabeth Harris, a freshman elementary education major, said in a residence hall, the living room can be used for everything.

"You sleep, eat, cook, dress, dance, exercise and have guests all in the same small dorm [room]," Harris said. "My roommates and I really like dorm life and we have had a lot of fun, but we are ready for an apartment because it is hard to do everything in that one room."

• WHAT IS THE CRAZIEST THING YOU HAVE DONE OR HAVE HEARD DONE IN THE LIVING ROOM?

Since the living room is the common room to hang out in, people always will end up in this space. When gathered in a confined area, naturally something mischievous will occur.

Powell said the craziest thing to happen in his apartment occurred during the week of finals.

"Me and my roommates were studying way too much for finals and we needed to take a break," he said. "So we converted our couch and tables into forts and declared war. We spent the next few hours pretending to battle each other."

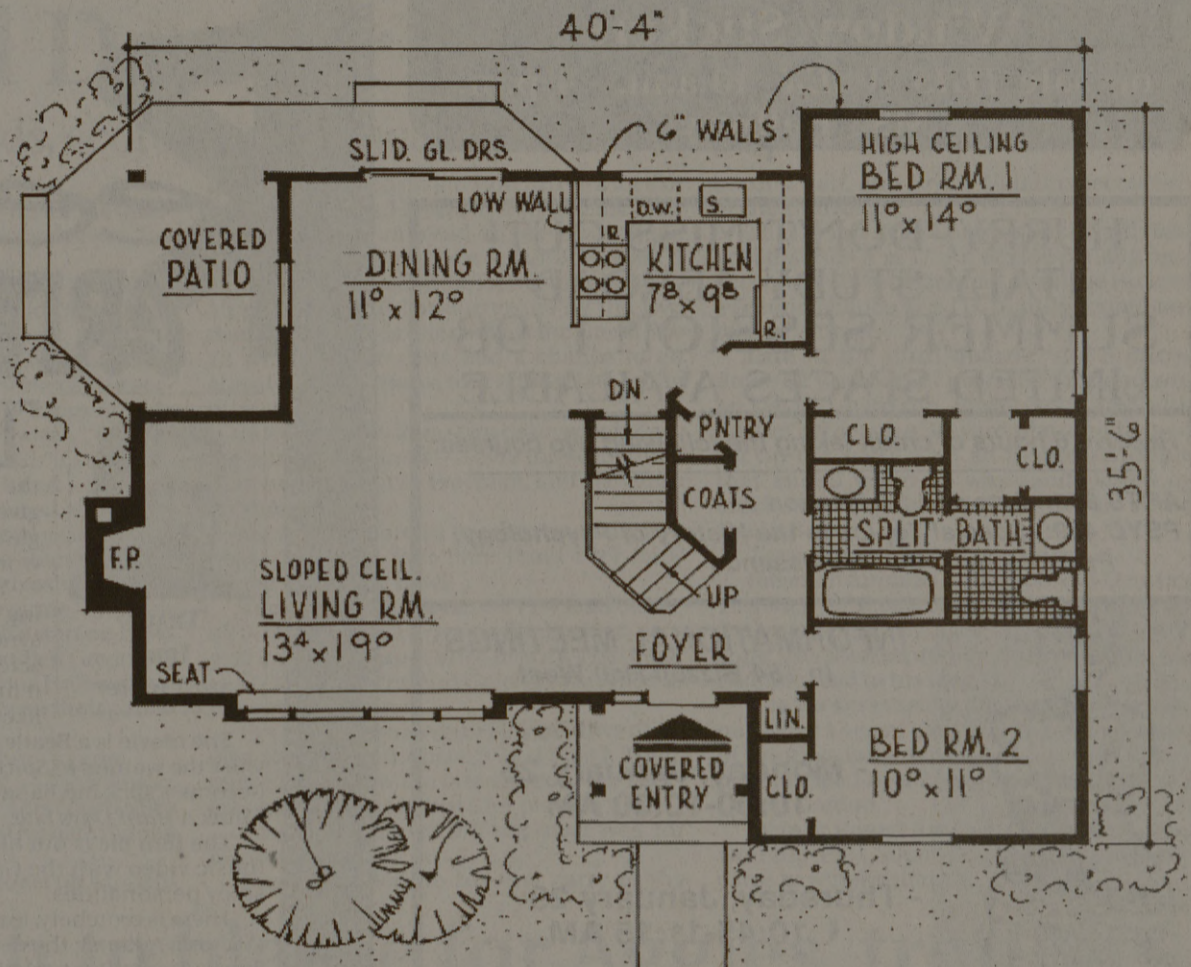
Day said he has not had many crazy adventures in his living room.

"The craziest things I have ever done are typical teenager things," Day said. "Your parents go away and your friends come over. They are 17 to 18 years old, so they search for your parents' stash of alcohol."

Day said not many crazy things happen in a living room because it is a room families hold sacred for bonding.

"At home your family spends a lot of time in the living room," he said. "When friends come over, you usually don't go to the living to hang out with them. You go straight to your bedroom. So most of the crazy things happen in other rooms. Maybe because the living room is familiar and reminds you of family time."

Harris said Vanilla Ice's arrival in Bryan-College



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Station caused her and her roommate to become creative in their living room.

"Before the Vanilla Ice concert, my roommate and I put on 'Ice Ice Baby' real loud," Harris said. "People from all over the hall came to our room and we started dancing to the song."

• WHAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE LIVING ROOM THAT REFLECTS YOUR PERSONALITY, OR IS PERSONAL TO YOU?

Even with the excitement of college, there are lit-

tle and big things missed from the comfort of a living room. To make their residence halls, apartments and houses more comfortable, students equip them with personal touches.

Powell said personal belongings in a living room can tell a lot about a person.

"The personal touch in our living room is the carpet covered with books," Powell said. "Books tell a lot about a person — what they do or don't like or even how they may act."

PLEASE SEE ROOM ON PAGE 4.

Flashback

Footloose

When *Footloose* was released, it was a hit. Many years later, poring over the movie, makes you wonder "What was so good about it?" It is the typical '80s scenario: a girl is bad and rebels against

parents, he/she falls in love, overcomes the odds, the enemy is beaten and everyone is happy. In typical '80s style, there are cheesy song moments, tacky dance numbers and tight clothing.

Watching the movie after these years brings roars of laughter, but one has to remember the decade to appreciate the movie. The movies of

the '80s set the standard for what is being done today. Many scenes in *Footloose* (a girl playing chicken with a Mac truck) have been adapted in recent movies. Criticism put aside, we can use a break from the seriousness of '90s films and enjoy an '80s flick. After all, *Footloose* is what made the '80s an unforgettable decade.

— Marium Mohiuddin

As soon as those dancing feet appear during the opening credits of *Footloose*, you know that you're about to watch one of the most popular movies of the '80s. So what is it about this movie that keeps it great today? Is it a frustrated Kevin Bacon dancing around a warehouse and swinging from rafters in the middle of the night? Or is it every kid's

dream to play tractor chicken with his or her dad's farming equipment?

Whatever it may be, *Footloose* was a cult hit right from the start. Who knows if teenagers in these small towns actually wore ripped T-shirts and maroon tuxedos. How many girls at your high school wore the same pair of red boots everyday? Despite the styles, *Footloose* has lasted throughout the '90s, and it will probably be around another 10 years.

— Leah Templeton

Two guys dancing in seclusion against a powerful religious force ... no, it isn't a movie about a couple of priests, it's the '80s "gem" known as *Footloose*.

A good guy, who everyone thinks

is bad, tries to win the heart of a good girl. He faces opposition from her minister father and various surly townsfolk.

Kevin Bacon does his best Leonardo DiCaprio impression as the puberty-deficient rebel. John Lithgow has gone onto better things and Lori Singer is probably lap dancing in a Mexican truck stop.

This is the kind of movie that makes Reagan wish Alzheimer's had hit him a decade earlier so he couldn't remember it.

— Travis Irby

In second grade, my friend Victor called this kid named Dwayne "footloose" on the playground and got in big trouble. I never understood why this was such an insult until some 13

years later when I actually sat down and watched the movie.

Footloose, which ironically came out in 1984, features a land where dancing and rock 'n roll are strictly forbidden by the ruling class.

New-kid-in-town Ren rebelliously blasts Men at Work from his Bug while laying rubber to the school parking lot.

Long live the glorious struggle!

The only saving grace of *Footloose* is that it brought the song "Let's Hear It for the Boy" to the cultural identity. No song back in the day could rock the roller rink quite like it, except for, of course, "Ghostbusters," by Ray Parker, Jr.

— Chris Martin

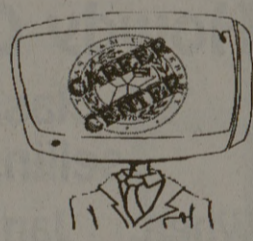
PLEASE SEE FOOTLOOSE ON PAGE 4.

AGGIELAND CREDIT UNION

a branch of Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union
201 Southwest Pkwy. E & 501 University Dr. W

ASK ABOUT STUDENT LOANS

AGGIELAND CREDIT UNION FREE CHECKS!
Open a new account & receive 1 box of Custom AggieLand checks (175) checks FREE! Plus, you'll receive a maroon AggieLand Pulse Card, AggieLand checkbook cover and 1 dozen starter checks - all FREE!
Unlimited Check Writing, No Minimum Balance, and No Monthly Service Charge
201 Southwest Pkwy. E & 501 University Dr. W Offer expires 1/30/98 696-1440

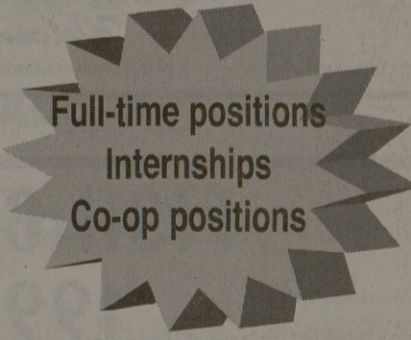


Over 600 employers will be on campus this spring looking for Aggies - Don't miss out!

Register with the Career Center to participate in on-campus interviewing. The first registration deadline for Spring is January 29. Purchase *DiscResume for Windows* at the MSC Bookstore.

Submit your disk today!

209 Koldus <http://aggienet.tamu.edu/cctr> 845-5139



IDEAL NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCE

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY GENERAL LIBRARIES AND MEDICAL SCIENCE LIBRARY

IDEAL, a new service which brings full-text research journals directly to the users' digital desktop through Academic Press Journals Online is now available to employees, students and faculty at Texas A&M University.

The Academic Press provides access to 175 journals in fields including:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Applied mathematics | Economics |
| Physics | Chemistry |
| Biology | Medicine |
| Psychology | Religion |

The IDEAL service allows browsing of individual journals, or an authorized user can search by key word across all 175 journals.

Access to these journals can be found on the Library's webpage under "Electronic Journals" (<http://www.tamu.edu/library/elecjour.html>).

Online help is available to assist users.