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A Hunting

BY MARIUM MOHUIDDIN Staff Writer

The fall semester is just around the corner. Apartments and houses are coming on and off the real-estate market, leaving students in an tious pursuit of a place to live. This predicament sound familiar to many, but there are solutions to e problems — they just have to be uncovered. son Scott, staff assistant for the Department of Stut Life, said living off campus is something all stuts should experience

I personally would like to live off campus," he said. ur first years you should stay in the dorm, but offpus life shows you the real world.

There are about 32,000 students who live off-camand they are caught off guard because they have eal with the grown-up world. You have to do the es, pay the rent and keep up with school," he said. When the choice has been made to move off camanother question arises: "where do I live, and how get started?'

cott said off-campus housing provides students h a great wealth of information. All the students e to do in knock on the door.

We offer all sorts of information about living off pus," he said. "There is a campus manual providssistance for all types of questions, a conflict meor, a lease specialist, a student attorney and a datawith information about finding a roommate. Most

Rated R

Lethal Weapon 4

so often and so poorly.

Chinese action star Jet Li appears as one of the most

Starring by Mel Gisbon and Danny Glover Showing at Hollywood 16

Lethal Weapon 4 brings back the familiar

cast for more of the same, with more ex-

plosions, comedy and the addition of

younger audiences that may not al-

In a story involving modern-day

slave trade from China and the "Tri-

ads" gang, Mel Gibson and Danny

Glover continue to develop the

"buddy cop" idea that has been copied

Chris Rock in an effort to bring in

ready be loyal to the series.

students take advantage of the lease specialist, but we deal with all problems from clogged commodes to leaky roofs." Carol Cienega, manager of Briarwood apartments, said the most renters

of apartments are college students or are affiliated with the University. "There are numerous ways of

finding a place to live," she said. "Off-campus housing has a lot

of information and

they make a survival manual about the things to do and not to do. It includes a list of apartments and help-

"In February, at the MSC, there is a housing fair, where we (apartment complex renters) hand out fliers informing students about what is out there.

Andrew Smith, a realtor with Century 21, has incorporated a different approach to inform the buyer about what is available.

'Talking house" is a small a.m. broadcaster that sits in front of the house and transmits a description about the house," he said. "When you drive up to the house, there will be a sign that says tune to this radio station to hear about this house and the radio will tell you about the things that can not be seen from the outside."

Smith said a lot of students buy houses or condominiums because their parents feel it would be better if their child had a house to live in which they could resell when they have have finished their studies.

"Apartments have many rules," he said. "There is much more freedom in a house. If you want to have a dog, you can't have one in an apartment, but in a

Small Soldiers

comes pretty close

Playing at Hollywood 16

effects and there is Small Soldiers

with intentions of creating the ultimate toy.

up in a small town, where all hell breaks loose.

Starring the voices of Tommy Lee Jones and Frank Langella

It is every child's dream for the toys they play with to come alive play

with themselves. Take that dream, add about \$1 billion worth of special

The movie doesn't play out like a 90 minute toy commercial, but it

A military industrial conglomerate takes over a small toy company

The term action figure takes on new meaning as military technology

The titanic toyline is composed of the peaceful Gorgonites and war-

The effects are great, with some inspired scenes. However, the rest of

mongering Commando Elite. When a shipment of the action figures end

the movie is fairly pedestrian and predictable. It's also a shame that the

and plastic playthings are joined in a match made in toy heaven.

Rated PG-13

house you can do whatever you want. Of course there are advantages to both; it just depends on what you are looking for.'

GGIELIFE

Jennifer Coulthurst, a junior sociology major, said she began looking for her apartment in the newspaper, but ended up using the Internet.

'My mom found a site where all the Bryan-College Station apartment complexes are listed, including the prices and what makes the apartment," she

said. "It was helpful because I did not have to call about the information; I found it all from the Internet. It may not be as convenient as living on campus where everything is right in front of you, but it is a lot bigger.

THE BATTALION

Looking for the ideal place to live off-campus can be a tiring and hot process. The temperature may be rising, but future renters should pay attention to what lies ahead down the road. Scott said students should re-

search the property thoroughly and use the resources provided by off-campus housing.

"Students should view a property first of all and

check out the reputation of the building," he said. "We have a resident reaction file, which is a file filled with comments and complaints about where the students have lived. If there are a lot of complaints about a place they should rethink where they are going to live. Look for the warning signs. Stop a problem before it gets worse by coming in and asking us for help."

- Travis Irby

Cienega said stu-dents face problems with landlords when they rent properties, but they have to realize the landlord has rights as well, so the students have to be responsible, too.

A lease is a legally bound contract between the landlord and the tenant," she said. "It is not fair when a tenant wants to break the lease, just as we can not kick them out because we found



someone who will pay more.'

Coulthurst said there are many factors students need to realize when selecting a place to live.

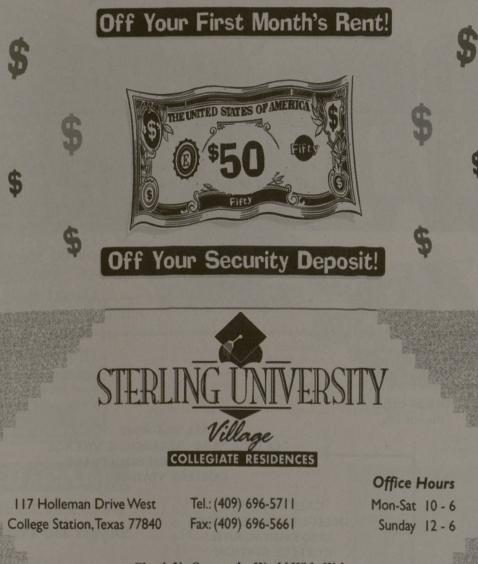
"Students should not restrict themselves," she said. "Everybody wants an apartment that is near their friends or in College Station, but those apartments are the ones that are hard to get because they are the popular apartments. You have to broaden your horizons about living."

Coulthurst said many students do not like the idea of living in Bryan, but in her opinion living there has a lot of advantages.

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