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The Real World, Texas A&M

Students find adjusting to college life not as expected

Through a constant barrage of beautiful images from television and film, many students begin their college careers somewhat disappointed.

The grim realization that not everything is as presented as on *Animal House* comes as a shock in the midst of a "freedom high." Responsibility comes when students realize college is not all basketweaving classes and keggers. But, resilient as always, students have proven themselves deft wonders at making due with shortcomings concerning all aspects of student life.

Many students find that their dorm rooms leave something to be desired from both the eyes and the nose.

Because of the rancid odors, one can rarely greet a visitor without being assailed with the question "Do you work at a petting zoo?"

Furnishings for the average dorm room are of at least moderate concern for the average student.

When faced with a shortage of furniture, many students excel in creating "improv furniture." By simply draping a sheet over everyday items, students can make an excellent armchair out of anything from a cardboard box to a hay bail to a traffic cone.

Blessed are the students who find furniture bargains. Students are quick to snatch up a piece of furniture or an appliance that is priced quite reasonably; anything from recliners to clothes hampers to refrigerators. But the thrifty must be cautious and constantly inquire as to why the said discounted item is as such.

Finding the truth behind the bargain requires some investigative skills because no hopeful merchant will warn the student of the recliner's curse of the everlasting mayonnaise stain or the clothes hamper's unexcusable demons or the refrigerator's "hidden tuna surprise."

The dorm's facilities are also a common concern among students. It is usually upsetting to find that the water supply does not come in hot and cold, but is found only in brown and thick.

Efforts have been made to improve the quality of water by utilizing water filters, which successfully eliminate any unwanted

wetness they can be found in the room.

Efforts have also been made to improve the availability of water. As a result, it has been announced that the best time to run a faucet is while the people upstairs shower; this way the water is already soapy!

For the many who are unfamiliar with the means and mannerisms of dorm life, there is apartment-dwelling. But even this hybrid form of campus and suburban living leaves something to be desired, especially in the form of a roommate.

The roommate is an essential component of the apartment and thus must meet the strictest of specifications. One way to determine whether a potential roommate is worthy is to conduct a simple interview (note: if

friendly—but, this could very well be something from *Single White Female*).

It would be a dream come true to find an ideal roommate, one who portrays all the qualities—but, this could very well be Jerry Falwell.

A special disappointment lies in the commuter student, the daily advertiser known as campus parking. Many believe about the parking conditions and possibilities because they have not accepted a fundamental aspect of student parking: competition.

It is common knowledge that campus parking is a two-tiered system. Where there is smoke, there must be fire. Where there is freedom, there must be responsibility. There are 4,300 parking spaces, there are 43,000 students.

One aspect of the profound college experience common to all students is the commiseration and hoopla over the food issue.

Many believe that universities nationwide hold the dogma "Higher learning. Lower nutrition." But the salty and parched students craving better food are not unheard. Campus cuisine is undergoing a major overhaul in order to offer students a better variety of foods.

In the near future, students will be able to choose between burgers, hot-dogs, milkshakes, waffles, soy, soy, soy soft drinks, soy fries, soy beans and...

Ever resilient and discontent,

the average student does have the right to his or her concerns with those in charge. Through an effective petition, students can make profound changes in school policy practice.

In the hands of a professional administrator, a petition can go a long way. Especially when it is crumpled appropriately and lobbed into the trash can like a basketball.

Here is a bare bones example of what an average student's successful, eventful and mature petition should look like.

Dear Sir or Madam Stinky pants,
I am in college. But I do not like college. It's really bad. There are not enough commodities or facilities (note: consult a thesaurus when needed) for me to learn about things. I am appalled at the complete lack of readily available coeds.

This is so far nothing like what all the movies show about college. Maybe we need more parties and stuff. I like peanut butter.

Love,
Concerned Student

Jacob Huval
sophomore English



JACOB HUVAL



GRAPHIC BY
ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

the interviewee begins with "I work at a petting zoo," it's a dud). If the question "What makes you feel good?" is answered with "I like to serve the elderly," this is an agreeable fellow.

If the question "What do you do in your spare time?" is met by "I like to serve the elderly," this is an acceptable chum.

However, if the question "Do you cook?" is responded to by "I like to serve the elderly," it's time to move on.

The ideal roommate is hard to find. Indeed, what might seem to be a redeeming quality could actually be a terrible flaw and ruin any chance at happiness.

Everyone wants a roommate who is intelligent and knowledgeable—but beware, this could very well be an English major and therefore will not have any money to help pay the rent.

Everyone wants a roommate who is fun to be around—but, this roommate could be a highly irresponsible, destructive and immature individual.

Everyone wants a roommate who is

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WHAT: MANDATORY - Pre-Student Teaching Informational Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, September 7, 1999

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: Rudder Tower Room 601