

## Prankster, Prankster

On-campus students reveal pros and cons of playing practical jokes

BY AMANDA PALM  
The Battalion



Resident hall pranks can range from things as extreme as tossing microwaves out of fourth-floor windows to harmless ones such as stealing a person's towel and clothes while they are in the shower. Whatever the prank may be, they are usually done in good fun and involve some sort of retaliation.

Tim Duvall, a junior speech communication major who lived in Hart Hall his freshman year, said pranks were a usual occurrence with the guys in his residence hall and that he was more than willing to participate.

Duvall said sneaking in through suitemates' rooms or just going into rooms left unlocked were easy ways to gain access.

Duvall said the worst prank he pulled was on the yellowpot in his residence hall.

"I snuck into his room and put catfish bait under his sheets," he said. "He couldn't find it for the longest time and the room stank for the rest of the semester."

But no good prank goes unpunished, and the yellowpot quickly sought revenge.

"I was walking out of the dorm for class one day," Duvall said, "and I got a shaving-cream balloon dropped on my head. I had to go back to my room to shower and change and ended up being late for class."

Duvall recalls another instance of having a prank pulled on him.

"Another time, I left a pair of shoes sitting outside my door to dry out," he said. "Somebody stole one of them. They took just one, and I have never seen the shoe since."

Food has been a popular item to use when pulling pranks. Duvall said he saw some guys in the dorm fill Ziploc bags with rotten chili and then stick the opening of the bag under the crack of the door. He said someone would stomp on it, and chili would spray all over the room, making a huge mess.

Mack Paradowski, a senior environmental design major who lived in Moses Hall his first three years on campus, said the pranks he and his buddies pulled in Moses Hall had a tendency to be crazier and messier than those in any other hall.

Paradowski said there was not usually a specific reason for pulling a prank.

"Sometimes we just did it out of boredom," he said. "Or sometimes we would do it to show a freshman who thought he was pretty cool that he wasn't as cool as he thought."

Paradowski said a common prank in his residence hall was to prop a trash can full of dirty water against the door.

"We'd lean the cans against the doors of our next victim so that when he opened the door to leave, water flooded into the room," he said.

Ben Braly, a senior industrial distribution major who also lived in Moses Hall, said he recalls a legacy known as the "Fourth Floor Empire."

Braly said the name was around long before he moved into the dorm. He said he it applies to the upperclassmen who live on the fourth floor because they are known for their crazy actions and pranks.

Braly said even though it sounds strange, most pranks were pulled on his friends.

"We usually didn't mess with people who weren't our friends," he said. "Sometimes we'd pick on someone, but most of the time, it was people who knew one another."

Paradowski recalls one of the worst pranks he pulled as an all-out attack on a room.

"We had a buddy lure a guy out of his room with the latest Playboy issue," he said. "Then me and my friend went into the guy's room and covered it with the brown paper towels from the bathrooms. It was September, and we cranked up the AC as cold as it would go. We also put clear deodorant all over his stuff, like his toothbrush. Then we used a couple tubes of toothpaste to write all over his walls."

Braly said one of his favorite pranks occurred during Bonfire. Braly said the upperclassmen would award a freshman with a "Fish Pot." Then the upperclassmen would steal the pot from the freshman.

"We had it my sophomore year and were hiding in another sophomore's room," he said. "We cut it to pieces with tinsnips and gave it back to the fish one piece at a time."

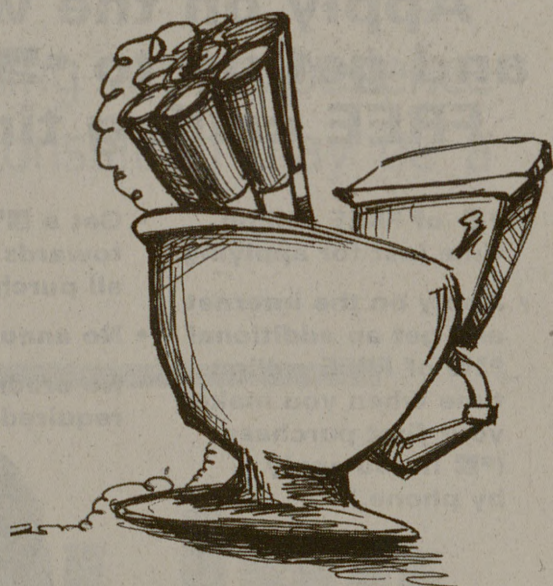
Sometimes simply hanging out in the dorm would lead to pranks or water fights.

"Something piddly happened and a water fight with guns and balloons started," Braly said. "Somehow a fire alarm was set off, and this was at 3 a.m. during finals, and the RA came to check things out and we told

him something else happened. I think we lied and said a toilet flooded."

Though he did not participate, Paradowski recalls some destructive behavior that occurred after class was out.

"It was before we had to be out of the dorms, and people were cleaning out their rooms," he said. "Guys were cleaning out fridges and throwing rotten jars of mayonnaise and stuff out of the windows. Then it progressed to computer monitors that people didn't want anymore and then microwaves started going, too. Then the first toilet went, and the next thing I knew there were about four toilets being tossed out of the fourth-floor windows. The College Station PD and UPD showed up, but I think the worst that happened was everyone who was still in the dorms got billed for the damage."



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

# WIN ZONE TICKETS

area-wide.com has great news!

Goodbye long-distance bills • Hasta la vista e-mail  
Hellooooo Chat!

It's Brazos Valley Chat from area-wide.com, your local informational, entertaining web site.

Log on to <http://bvaw.area-wide.com>, click on AREA WIDE CHAT.

Now you're ready to chat with friends across campus or around the world...

or even chat with mom and dad. It's AREA WIDE CHAT only on area-wide.com

It's fun...easy and available 24/7 • Plus saves you time and most important, MONEY.

Tell your friends, family and classmates to log on & start chatting.

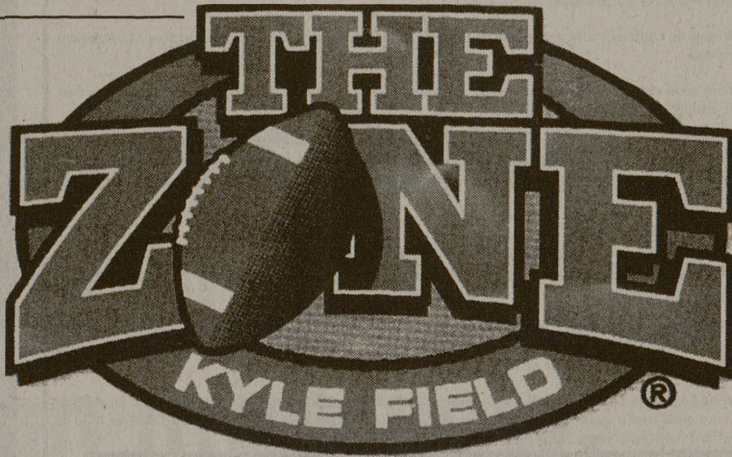
Soooooo...Make [bvaw.area-wide.com](http://bvaw.area-wide.com) your start page and bookmark your favorite pages!

Win Tickets To  
The Zone!

Go to Brazos Valley Area-Wide Website @  
[bvaw.area-wide.com](http://bvaw.area-wide.com)

Find The Zone logo on the Brazos Valley  
Area-Wide Chat Page.

Click and register to win 2 tickets to the  
next Aggie home football game in *The Zone*.



BRAZOS VALLEY  
AREA-WIDE  
PHONE BOOK  
[www.area-wide.com](http://www.area-wide.com)