

Students look to private housing as alternative

Aggies weigh differences in dorms, off-campus housing

By ARATI BHATTACHARYA
The Battalion

Parita Sampat had to repaint her room and cover her cracked walls and missing floor tiles to make her Keathley Hall room look decent for living conditions. She is not the only student who has had to make her old dorm room into a home.

"There are electrical wires hanging from the ceiling and loose ceiling tiles right above our heads," said Sampat, a freshman business major. "We had to work really hard to repaint our room and use contact paper to cover the holes and the cracks in the walls, along with the peeling door paint and rotting wood."

The greater number of students turning away from on-campus housing opportunities is allowing private dorm living to become a popular alternative for college students. The past two years have been the first time Texas A&M has been able to accommodate all incoming freshmen with housing facilities, said Mack Thomas, assistant director of residence life. A decline of on-campus housing applications for the 1999 and 2000 school years has led to less than maximum-capacity occupancy in residence halls.

"The decline in housing is not a source of concern yet, but the boom of private dorm living is probably a source of competition," said Tom Murray, manager for custodial and maintenance services for Residence Life.

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Off-campus dorm to be erected on Mud Lot site

By RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

The Blinn College board of trustees is considering an agreement with the developers of Jefferson at Northgate, a private, student-housing development on the site of Northgate's Mud Lot.

Gena Parsons, public information officer at Blinn, said the agreement would allow JPI, an Irving-based developer building the Jefferson housing complex, to secure a lower rate on bonds issued to finance construction. In return, Blinn would market the housing to its students and earn profits from the operation.

"If JPI can link to Blinn College, it can get a lower bond rating, which means it can get financing for less because it is linked with a tax-exempt entity," Parsons said. "What Blinn gets out of it is some of the profits from that development, if there are any. All we have to do is some marketing, like if they want to put their [advertisements] in our course catalogs."

The Blinn board of trustees and the legal department are examining the proposal to make a decision, Parsons said.

"Right now our legal department is reviewing the proposal," she said. "The board of trustees took it up Tuesday night and decided they just needed more information and wanted to make sure everything was in its proper place and that we had all the



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

The Mud Lot behind Northgate will become the new site of private student housing.

information we needed before we decide whether or not to go with this."

JPI has submitted its plans to the city of College Station to convert the Mud Lot, at the corner of Church Avenue and Nagle Street, from a parking lot into a 225-unit upscale housing project.

According to the initial building plans, the structure will contain 34 one-bedroom units, 152 two-bedroom units and 39 four-bedroom units. Neither the room sizes nor the rent prices have been finalized.

JPI originally offered to team with Texas A&M, but the University declined the offer.

"If we're going to use our marketing and our debt capacity at the University, we're going to build additional on-campus housing," said William Krumm, A&M's vice president for finance and controller.

Krumm said the University would turn its attention to on-campus housing before it invested in off-campus projects.

"We tore down Law and Puryear [Halls]," he said. "We might choose to replace that before we would spend time and effort worrying about an off-campus facility."

JPI owns student housing projects across the country, including developments in Lubbock, Austin, San Marcos and Denton.

Clinton hails fallen, vows retribution

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Alternating between words of grief and retribution, President Clinton sought Wednesday to comfort the sailors and families of the USS Cole. He praised the fallen as patriots and sternly warned the "hate-filled terrorists" whose attack killed 17 aboard the Navy destroyer: "We will find you and justice will prevail."

Under a gray sheet of sky, Clinton addressed a memorial ceremony at a Norfolk Naval Station pier crowded with destroyers and aircraft carriers. Sailors in white dress uniforms lined every deck of every ship, listening to Clinton praise the colleagues lost in Thursday's explosion at a Yemeni harbor as "our finest young people, fallen soldiers who rose to freedom's challenge."

"They all had their own stories and their own dreams," Clinton said. "In the names and faces of those we lost and mourn, the world sees our nation's greatest strength: People in uniform, rooted in every race, creed and region on the face of the Earth."

Clinton described the attackers — still unknown — as "hate-filled terrorists" who "envy our strength" while holding warped religious, political, racial or ethnic views of the world.

"For them, it is their way or no way," he said. Addressing those attackers directly, the president warned: "You will not find a safe harbor. We will find you and justice will prevail."

One by one, Clinton called out full names and ranks of the 17 dead, including those whose bodies have yet to be recovered.

In the end, a lone Navy trumpeter played "Taps" from the deck of the destroyer USS McFaul, one of two Cole sister ships docked nearby. A wounded sailor saluted from his front-row stretcher, his wife at his side.

The military's top civilian and uniformed leaders also took part.

"Death snatched them away in one violent, unsuspecting moment while they

were making sure America and its friends slept easily in a dangerous world," said Defense Secretary William Cohen. He warned those responsible for the bombing, "Our search for you will be relentless."

Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was more blunt: "Those who perpetrated this act of terror should also never forget that

America's memory is long, and our reach, longer."

Wounded sailors, 36 in all, came to him on gurneys, on crutches, in wheelchairs, with legs in casts or faces pocked with injury.

Two sailors injured in the attack remain in Germany undergoing treatment, and another was recovering from surgery performed Tuesday night.

The president spent more than an hour visiting with the wounded and making his way slowly around adjoining rooms, talking with new widows, childless parents and parentless children, many of whom wore blue-and-gold lapel ribbons and clutched photographs of their loved ones.

"There were, obviously, some tears and sobbing," said White House spokesman Elliot Diringer.

The president then went to the ceremony at Pier 12, which was surrounded by the USS Enterprise and USS Ross and aircraft carriers USS Enterprise and Eisenhower.

In the stories told by the families, Clinton said, he could hear the pride of the first time they saw their loved one in uniform, or "the last time you said goodbye."

Clinton pointed out that the dead included Electronics Technician 1st Class Richard Costelow of Morrisville, Pa., who had worked with the White House Communications Agency, helping to update its communications systems.



CLINTON

Program raises driving awareness

By ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

The consequences of sleep deprivation are nothing to yawn at, say organizers of Drowsy Driving Awareness Week.

"People need to understand that getting behind the wheel when you're sleepy can be just as dangerous as driving drunk," said Laura Pack, chair of the Lupe Medina Program (LMP) and a senior biomedical science major.

In addition to raising awareness of the dangers of drowsy driving, LMP promotes a hotel discount program for students. LMP started in 1998 and now includes 57 hotels in nine states. The hotels offer discount rates to students during late hours on weekends and during heavy traffic times such as winter and spring break.

Baylor University, the University of Texas-Austin and Texas Tech University have joined A&M in LMP, and other schools have expressed interest in participating, Pack said.

In its first year as a separate organization in the Student Government

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Reptilian exhibit



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Elder Hardy, a volunteer at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, treats Carey, an iguana, to a meal and a walk on the museum grounds on Wednesday. Carey, who lives at the museum, is part of an exhibit that allows visitors to get up close and personal with various wild animals.

Nader plants roots in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Across the railroad tracks from George W. Bush's sleek campaign headquarters, an old house sits behind tangles of trees where young people plot a different kind of campaign.

In this part of east Austin, Spanish is frequently spoken and roosters crow in the afternoon hum of barking dogs and crying babies. It is also where the Green Party lives and where presidential candidate Ralph Nader's grass roots are being planted.

"It's a totally different world here," said Adrienne Boer, chairwoman for the Green Party in Travis

County. "We moved here because we wanted to be part of the community."

Many issues in east Austin, such as poverty and education, have not been addressed by most politicians, she said.

Elsewhere in Austin, the city where Bush has presided as Texas governor for nearly six years, Green Party advocates have flung themselves behind Nader, who arrives for a rally Wednesday.

Nader's supporters realize his bid for the presidency is destined to fail. But that is not the point, say students campaigning for Nader at the University of Texas.

A&M professor named as Nobel Prize winner

By RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

Donald L. Parker, a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, will remember Jack Kilby as a quiet, intelligent man who enjoyed photography and won awards for his freelance work. The world will remember Kilby as a Nobel Prize winner.

Kilby, a distinguished professor at Texas A&M from 1978 to 1985, is one of three scientists who received the Nobel Prize in physics for their contri-

butions to the development of the integrated circuit. The other two scientists who worked with Kilby are Russian scientist Zhores I. Alferov and German-born researcher Herbert Kroemer, from the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Since Kilby developed integrated circuits in 1958, microchips have be-



KILBY

come smaller, cheaper and faster. They are used in many electrical devices, including cellular phones, satellite communications and computers.

"My goal was simply to make things more efficient," Kilby said in a press conference after the Nobel Prize winners were announced on Oct. 10. "While the original idea was mine, what happened since is the result of hard work by tens of thousands of the world's best engineers. It's been gratifying to see what other people have done with this idea."

Dr. Chanan Singh, head of the A&M electrical engineering department, said Kilby's contributions to the information age make him worthy of the award.

"The contributions that he made have had such an enormous impact on the information technology that we felt that the Nobel Prize committee has done the right thing," he said.

Kilby's associates said he was a man who spent much of his time reading. "He was quiet," Parker said of Kilby.

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TAMUG asset to A&M main campus

By COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

Many students and faculty do not realize that Texas A&M-Galveston (TAMUG) is not a branch of the Texas A&M University System, but a department site of A&M's main campus. Students can transfer from one school to the other without skipping a beat or reapplying for admission.

"The relationship between the College Station campus and Galveston can be defined as an organic

extension of Texas A&M-College Station, just on the gulf," said Dr. Walter M. Kemp, vice president and CEO of TAMUG.

Kemp said TAMUG is subject to the same rules, regulations and admission processes set for the College Station campus.

Russ Graves, an academic adviser in the General Academic Programs Office, said there are programs that involve students taking courses at both campuses.

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ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

As a campus removed from the main campus, Texas A&M-Galveston is tucked away on Pelican Island.