

Pack it up

Students can bring the necessities on vacation without straining muscles

by BROOKE HODGES

The Battalion

More college students will be packed into cars, hotel rooms and tents next week than any other time of the year. Full of dreams of beach bunnies and snow bunnies, spring breakers' minds may be on everything but packing.

Mike Morgan, a graduate student in the wildlife and fisheries sciences department, said one should pack lightly unless carrying a heavy bag sounds like fun. He said this advice is especially important if camping is the plan instead of a hotel.

"You have to carry around everything yourself," he said. "And there aren't any bellboys in the woods."

The idea of packing lightly for a week of adventure is easier for guys to grasp than girls. Guys could bring two pairs of shorts, three shirts, one pair of shoes, a dirty cap and a toothbrush and survive for more than a week.

This scenario is a little stereotypical, but remember that packing a whole closet into one or two bags is not necessary. Instead, bring versatile clothes that can be mixed and matched and worn more than once.

Even though the beach is the hottest spot on the map, do not forget to bring at least one warm sweater or jacket because coast nights can get chilly, even if you are cuddled up with someone. Also, sudden rain showers are common along the Texas shores.

If you are going camping or skiing, wear layers of clothing so you can remove or add a layer if the temperature changes, Morgan said this is a good in case a hiker falls in a river and gets wet. It is easier to dry thin layers.

FreeTravelTips.com suggests taking sample sizes of toiletries that will last the trip instead of taking a huge bottle of shampoo. Call and ask the hotel what toiletries they provide to be sure everything needed will be there.

Another suggestion for campers is putting toiletries in plastic baggies and rolling them inside of clothes. This keeps bottles from breaking and conserves space.

This works not only for camping, but also for any traveler who wants to combine a toiletry bag with a clothes bag.

Not all of the toiletries will fit into one shirt, so space them throughout the wardrobe, and

the rolls will be thinner.

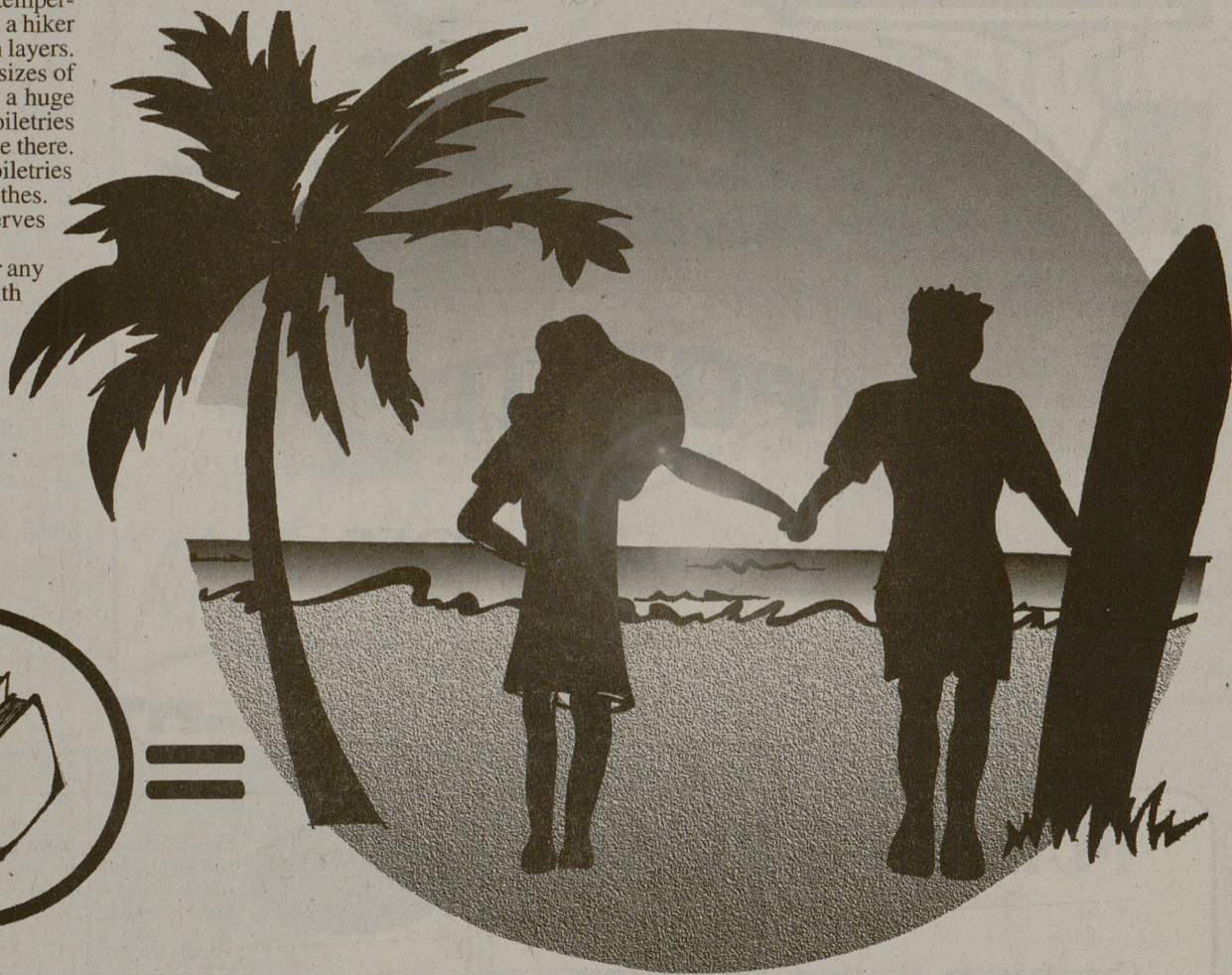
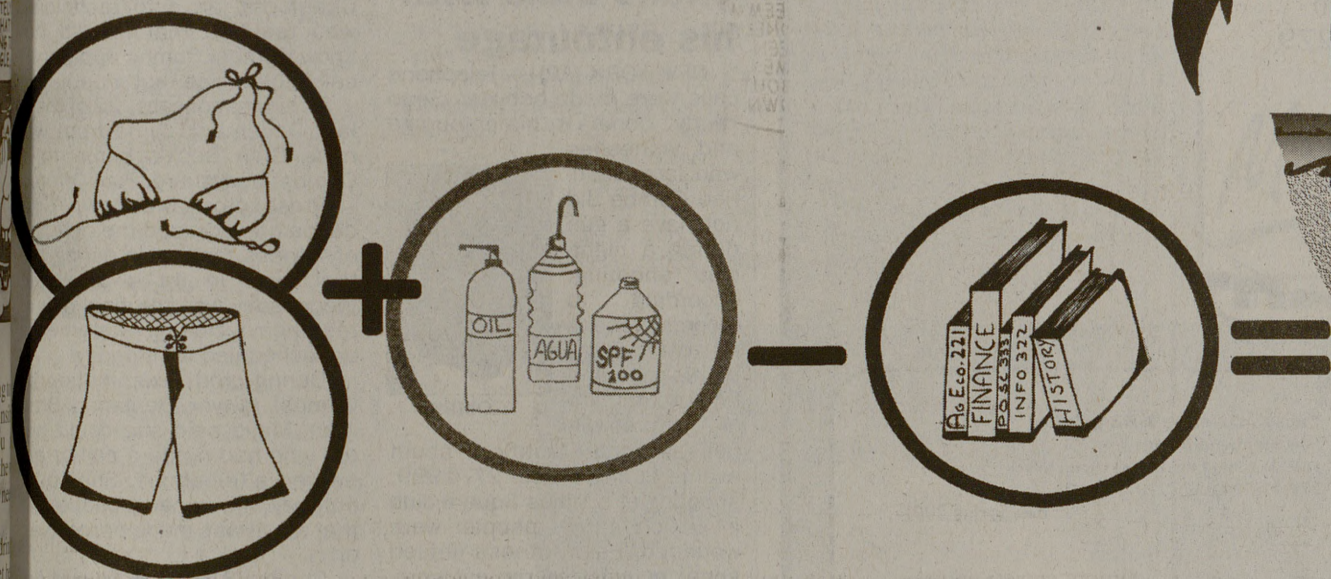
Stuff underwear and socks inside shoes to save space and keep the shoes from bending.

If leaving on a jet plane is part of the travel plan, experts and moms alike suggest bringing a change of clothes, clean underwear, a toothbrush, toothpaste and all

important documents in a carry-on bag.

Check luggage restrictions for the airline.

Another way to save space is to combine bags with a roommate. Just be sure to not give any embarrassing items to the person just in case he or she is a prankster who is always looking for a laugh.



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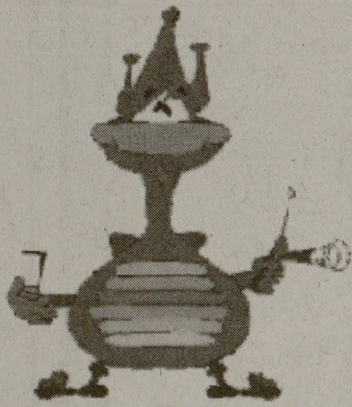
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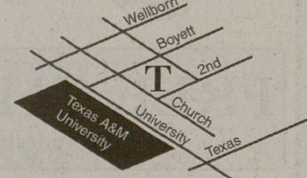


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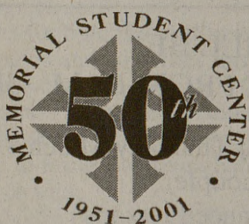
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