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# AGGIELIFE

Page 3 • Monday, October 13, 2003

# Boy meets girl

Living with the opposite sex poses challenges, offers rewards for students

By Katie Wigginton THE BATTALION

Another long and stressful day of classes faces Jane. She manages get to class and sit back in her chair to retain as much information possible. Eventually, her day ends and she cannot wait to get home. ssoon as she walks in the door, she is comforted and consoled by her

On the other side of campus, Andrea Nichols finishes up her asses and heads off to work. After completing all her bustling hours be gets to head home for a quick nap before returning, but not before boxes more items belonging to her former husband.

Opposite sex cohabitation works for many people but is not the hipath for everybody. Much of the lasting capability depends on the mparison and contrast of the individual's goals for college, persony traits and maturity.

"I'm really enjoying the time spent with him," said Jane, a senior nentary education major.

Jane and John, who did not want to give their real names, have ared an apartment for five months now.

While John has already graduated and is looking for work, Jane is ow dealing with the hard effects of still having tests to study for and "It does get hard and the big problem for me is self-discipline,"

She said that while dealing with the living habits of a male room-

ate can present problems, the shock is minimal. "As long as you are in a mutual, monogamous relationship and have exp trust with each other, everything should work out and the fights

ould be minimal," Jane said. Kristin Hill, a graduate communications student, feels those guidenes proved just as true for her.

Hill has been living with her husband, David, for more than two ears and made the transition from an all-girl residence hall to a house nd husband appear easy and smooth.

"After we got married and began living together, our grades actualgot better. It was like having a built-in study partner," Hill said. While Kristin is still facing the pressures of a graduate's schedule,

wid has already graduated and is working for the Saturn dealership College Station. Hill and her husband did not live together before marriage primarifor religious reasons. To prepare, they attended a marriage preparaon seminar through their church and had a trained counselor assist

hem in deciding several of the important factors that cohabiting cou-"We've succeeded because of who we are together and that does malways work for all couples," Hill said.



IVAN FLORES • THE BATTALION

Nichols, a senior education major, can attest to Hill's statement. Nichols lived with her husband for a little more than one year and is in the process of filing for a divorce.

"It was more of personality clashing than anything else," she said. 'Being in school and working full-time did not help the situation either." Nichols began married life by making her husband home cooked meals every night. That all changed, she said, when her job became a

Now, Nichols is looking at single life again with an optimistic view despite the loss of a roommate and husband.

"I still believe that you can work out anything if you try hard enough and I would wait until the both of you are done with degrees before making the move," she said.

Joe Medina, a senior accounting major who lived with three women last year, said he and his former roommates would never fight about things like leaving the toilet seat up or whether the house smelled like vanilla. If they fought, he said it would be about personality differences. "You don't get along with people because of personality, not

because she's a girl," he said. Medina grew up sharing a bathroom with a sister, so it wasn't difficult for him to adjust to women's habits.

'It might be a shock to someone who wasn't used to things like lots of soaps in the bathroom or something, but I had been accustomed to that so I was OK," Medina said.

Gabriela Cantu, a senior biomedical sciences major, decided to live with a man because of convenience and safety.

"If something broke, I felt like a guy would be more equipped to

She said she felt safer at night because she thought she would be protected if someone broke in. However, she said it might be awkward for some women to live with the opposite sex. 'Guys tend to be more crude, "Cantu said, "so some girls might be

uncomfortable if you don't know them well and don't set ground rules

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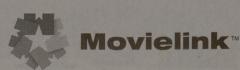
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