

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Monday, February 23, 2004

Show me the money

In an effort to save money, students learn different ways to scrimp and save

By **Tori Foster**
THE BATTALION

When the thermostat in Candice Matula's house begins to drop in the winter, it means that it is time to put on more clothes and pile on the blankets.

Many college students such as Matula are learning ways to save money and prioritize on tight budgets as they fight to achieve a higher education.

"To save money, my roommate, Kara, and I don't use the heater, and live in blankets," said Matula, a freshman psychology major. "In the fall and spring when it is pretty outside, we just leave the air off and open the windows. This cuts out a lot on costs."

Matula's parents began a savings account for her when she was young so she would have the opportunity to go to college.

"They have saved up just enough money to get me through four years, so I can't be on the five- or six-year program, or I will have to take out a student loan," Matula said. "All my living expenses come out of my 'pot' that my parents have saved up, so I have to be frugal because once the money is gone, it's gone."

While her parents do pay for most of her school and living expenses, Matula works during the summer to try and help out with the finances.

"I will work in the summer and put the money in savings to help with the bills and other things that come up throughout the school year," Matula said.

For Stacey Calhoun, her second semester of college is non-stop, on-the-go as she works part-time and goes to school full-time.

"I work about 20 to 25 hours a week," said Calhoun, a freshman English major. "I know I could work more, but I still want to have a life and time to study. I work to pay bills and for a little spending money. Pretty much all of my money goes toward bills and food."

Calhoun shares an apartment with her boyfriend, who also helps with the monthly bills.

"He pays the full rent, and I just pick up the few other

bills like electricity, Internet and credit cards," Calhoun said. "We try and split the groceries, but he mostly buys those too. We help each other out a lot money wise; we're a good team."

Learning how to handle money was nothing new to Calhoun when she came to college.

"My mom let me open my own checking account when I was 16, and I also got my first job (at the same time)," Calhoun said. "She told me that anything extra I wanted I had to pay for. That really helped me learn early to manage my money."

Even though Calhoun's mom is a single mother, she tries to help her daughter out whenever she can.

"She does little things like paying to get my cat fixed or sending me a check in the mail when I'm short one month," Calhoun said. "She pays my car payment and insurance, which saves me because I never could do it without her help."

Calhoun said that as soon as she can, she will try to pay her mother back.

"She has a tab on me that I really need to start paying, but she understands how hard things are sometimes, and she doesn't expect me to pay her back right away," Calhoun said.

Learning to live on a budget was not something Michael McCullough gradually learned to do when he came to college.

"I lived in an apartment by myself my freshman year, and so I had to dive right in on the responsibilities of paying rent and bills," said McCullough, a senior journalism major. "I actually think I handled it better when I felt the pressure of getting stuff in on time. I had to learn to do it because there was no one there to hold my hand, so I got it done."

McCullough said his way of saving money is to avoid going to restaurants and to let the College Station weather dictate the temperature in his home.

"I try to buy as much at the grocery store that I can," McCullough said. "Eating out is so expensive and burns a hole in my wallet, so I need to live off groceries for as

long as I can. It is just more cost-efficient."

Living on a limited supply of money has meant that McCullough has had to decide what extravagances he would allow himself to buy.

"I spend my own personal money on toys for myself," McCullough said. "I love playing music, and so I sometimes hunt through Ebay for guitar equipment, pedals and other things. I guess if I had a girlfriend she would be an extravagance worth investing in, but since I don't, I will continue to buy things for myself."



See Save on page 4

RYLIE DEVOE • THE BATTALION

Student Services working for YOU!

DID YOU KNOW

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band:

- Is the largest collegiate military marching band in the nation, performing throughout the United States.
- Formed in 1894, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band represents one of the oldest traditions on campus.
- The band department provides instrumental opportunities to approximately 600 students each semester.
- The symphonic band has given numerous performances at national music conventions and represents Texas A&M abroad.

For more information on the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, please visit their web site at <http://band.tamu.edu>.

The programs and services of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band are funded by your Student Service Fee.

0 lives will be saved if you do NOTHING

African Americans are at risk for illnesses that can lead to the need for an organ transplant, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. Of the patients awaiting a kidney transplant, 35% are African American. Transplant success increases when organs are matched between people of the same racial and ethnic group. You can help by becoming an organ and tissue donor and talking to your family about your decision.

Come talk to us at the MSC or the Blocker Building on March 11 from 10am-3pm.

GET THE FACTS
SIGN A CARD
TELL YOUR FAMILY
SAVE LIVES

For more information:
www.donorworld.com
www.organs.org
TOLL FREE 1.800.788.8058
<http://www.shareyourlife.org/africanamerican>

Organ Donor Card

I have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. I wish to donate the following:

Any needed organs and tissue
 Only the following organs and tissue: _____

Date _____

The following individuals have witnessed my commitment to being a donor:
