

it's april. do you know where you're living next year?

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MSC Variety Show

April 16th, Parents' Weekend. 7:30 pm.

Rudder Auditorium

- Aggies in Motion Dance Team
- Mountain Aire
- Lindsey Kane
- Mariachi Anillos de Oro
- Micah Sims
- Aggie Wranglers
- Gabe & Taylor
- Institution Soul
- Mourning After & Co

With special performances by the
Singing Cadets and Percussion
Studio

Tickets on sale now for \$8 at the MSC Box Office!



Parents' Weekend

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



April 16-18, 2004

- University Awards Ceremony
- Maroon & White Game
- Bevo Burn BBQ
- Midnight Yell
- More...

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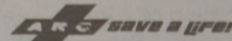
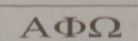
Pi Phi Playoffs

Homerun Derby Contest
Registration ends
April 16
www.aggiepihi.com

Bleed to Read

American Red Cross Blood Drive
sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega

Help educate local youth!
For every unit of blood
donated this week, a book
will be donated to a local
school.



April 12-16

Monday - Friday

Rudder Building
10:00am - 4:30pm

Sitka
11:30am - 7:00pm

The Commons
12:00pm - 7:00pm

Bio Bio Building
10:00am - 4:00pm

Zachry Building
10:00am - 3:15pm

Wegner Building
10:00am - 4:30pm
(Tuesday and Wednesday only)

Join the challenge and do your
part to

BEAT T.U.

(Picture ID Required to Donate)

PAPA JOHN'S

Better Ingredients • Better Pizza

Wednesday Special

1 Medium up to 3-Toppings \$8.99

Get a second Medium 1-Topping for \$5.00

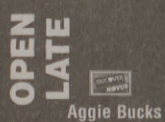
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 LARGE 1-TOPPING \$5.99 pu/only	2 MEDIUM 2-TOPPINGS \$12.99	1 Medium up to 3-Toppings or Specialty Pizza \$8.99 Get a second Medium 1-Topping for only \$5.00	1 LARGE 2-TOPPING & Breadsticks \$12.99	2 LARGE 2-TOPPINGS & 2 liter drink \$20.00	1 LARGE 1-TOPPING \$8.99 or up to 5 Toppings \$11.99	1 LARGE 1-TOPPING \$8.99 or up to 5 Toppings \$11.99

Northgate
601 University Dr.
979-846-3600

Post Oak Square Center
100 Harvey Rd., Suite D
979-764-7272

Rock Prairie
1700 Rock Prairie
979-680-0508

Sunday: 11 a.m. - midnight
Monday - Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.



More individual rooms offered by U.S. hospitals

By James Prichard
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A day after suffering a heart attack, Bob McAuliffe was resting comfortably in his private room at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

The large window allowed in plenty of sunlight and provided a panoramic view of the outdoors. A chair near his bed could be converted into a sleeper for an overnight visitor, a special room service menu and an errand-running concierge were only a phone call away.

"It's airy, it's light — it's really like a resort or a hotel," the 64-year-old retired sheet-metal worker from Marshall said while surveying his surroundings from his bed.

For McAuliffe, who underwent quadruple bypass surgery to repair his heart, his favorite room feature was a bathroom he could call his own.

Bronson is among a growing number of new or renovated hospitals in Michigan and throughout the United States whose patients recuperate in private rooms. Besides increased privacy, hospital officials say other benefits to not having wards or semiprivate rooms include less risk of acquiring an infection from another patient and no risk of getting an incompatible roommate.

"We have found that this has had a wonderful, positive impact on patient satisfaction," said Frank J. Sardone, president and chief executive officer of Bronson Healthcare Group, which operates the hospital. "Patients and families absolutely love the private rooms. None of them ever want to go back to having a semiprivate room."

The 348-bed hospital opened in December 2000 at a cost of \$181 million. From the time of its conception in the early 1990s, Bronson officials never wavered in their desire for addressing patients' privacy, Sardone said.

The advantages include some significant cost savings for the hospital, including about \$500,000 per year in patient-transfer costs. A four-year study by Dr. Richard Van Enk, an epidemiologist on staff, found that the number of hospital-acquired diseases and infections dropped by 11 percent between 1999 and 2002, resulting in further annual savings of \$1.2 million.

"There's quite a reduction in operational costs if you can reduce your infection rate," Van Enk said.

The extra cost required to construct an all-private hospital has almost been recovered in the savings

after a little more than three years, Sardone said. Private rooms allow doctors to speak candidly with their patients without worrying about violating the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, a sweeping overhaul of health care privacy laws that took effect last August.

Perhaps most importantly, patients in individual rooms find an environment that's more restful. UCLA Medical Center is building a new campus hospital with 525 rooms, all of which will be private. Each room will feature a built-in window seat that will convert into a bed for a patient's loved one.

A planned expansion of Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., is to feature a new, 240-bed pediatric hospital and an outpatient services complex. Except for half the neonatal intensive care unit, all the patient rooms will be private.

"Over the last 25 or 30 years, I've been in this business, and it's been becoming more and more prevalent here and there," said Tim Strouse, vice president of operations and the person overseeing the construction program.

The February edition of *Spotting American Demographics* magazine spotted all new hospital rooms being built as single rooms.

"As there becomes more transparency in the whole health care structure, I think private rooms will become sort of a function of that because people will make demands of what their dollars are worth for," said John McManus, the publication's editor-in-chief.

It costs more for hospitals that have only private rooms because fewer patients can be cared for at one time, but Bronson officials "feel the benefits outweigh that cost," Sardone said.

The rate for one night of room and board at Bronson is \$1,459, a cost covered by Medicaid and most private insurance plans because the hospital has only individual room rates.

"As far as we're concerned, we can create a benefits package that includes those things," said Mohit Ghose, a spokesman for the merged American Association of Health Plans and Health Insurance Association of America.

The trade group represents nearly 1,300 companies that provide health insurance coverage to more than 200 million U.S. residents.

"It's just a question of what the market will bear and what employers, employees and consumers in general want to pay for in their health care coverage," Ghose said.

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— Richard Van Enk
epidemiologist

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Meet The Battalion

1-3 P.M.
Today

Rudder Fountain

Meet the writers, photographers, artists and editors who produce your campus newspaper.

THE BATTALION