

15 per cent annual price rise expected for food

(AP)—Housewives can expect their tight food budgets to be further strained during the first six months of 1975 as food prices climb to new highs, Agriculture Department analysts forecast Tuesday.

J. Dawson Ahalt, a staff economist, predicted food prices

will continue rising at an annual rate of 15 per cent, and may go higher if bad weather reduces next year's harvest.

"The prospect . . . is mind-boggling," said Ellen Zawel, president of the National Consumers Congress and the USDA-chosen

consumer representative at the annual National Agricultural Outlook Conference.

Retail food prices, which jumped about 14.5 per cent from 1972 to 1973 as grain reserves dwindled, are rising this year at a rate about 15 per cent higher than a year ago.

Ahalt expressed uncertainty about the last six months of next year.

"If weather cooperates in the U.S. and around the world, and economic activity weakens even more than is anticipated," slowing demand as people have less to

spend, then the expected harvest of 12 to 16 million more acres could lead to "significant slowing in price increases," he said.

An extraordinarily good harvest, he told a reporter, could pull the over-all 1975 average price rise down to about 10 per cent. But that

would require sharp price cuts by supermarkets and wholesalers in the last three months, an extraordinarily quick market response, he said.

On the other hand, Ahalt said, "with world grain stocks at precariously low levels, another year of

poor growing conditions when world food needs are expanding could ignite a rapid pace of food price advances throughout 1975."

On Monday, a private economist, Wilfred Lewis Jr., said consumers might get "substantial food price relief" next year.

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UC Board reverses MSC priority ruling

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

The University Center Board unanimously decided Tuesday afternoon to rescind its previous recommendation that the MSC Council and Directorate and the Student Government be given scheduling priority in the University Center.

The board acted on the priority question again because Tom Cherry, vice-president for business affairs, requested the board to give further thought. The board, at its first meeting, approved the recommendation.

Cherry asked for the reconsideration after The Battalion printed an article on the subject. The article was followed by complaints from numerous student groups stating that they had not been informed of the priority issue. Aggie Players were particularly vocal about the issue.

Bob Wenck, Aggie Players adviser, addressed the board, giving reasons for the priority system to be abolished. Reasons cited were that semester to semester scheduling was discriminatory against the Aggie Players and other groups.

Kent Brown, president of the Aggie Player's Club, said, "This axe over our head may stop our rehearsals and plays. We are the only organization that needs a theater as a theater."

Doug Thorpe, Town Hall chair-

man, defending the recommendation, said "You are looking at the MSC as an elitist group and we're not trying to force anyone out."

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said the University Center should start scheduling the year before.

Hal Gaines, Town Hall adviser, sitting in for MSC director J. Wayne Stark, said it was impossible to schedule a year in advance.

Koldus replied, "I know it can be done, from my past experience at East Texas State."

A suggestion of student run scheduling was proposed by Mike Hatch, MSC vice president of administration. In student run scheduling student groups would come to the MSC Council and coordinate the time schedule at one time.

Wenck protested, preferring scheduling to be done by professionals on the University Center (UC) staff. John Beckham, faculty representative, asked Hatch why UC staff couldn't do the scheduling. Hatch replied that the MSC could do "the best job."

Bill Davis, MSC president and original author of the MSC priority request moved to table the recommendation until a further date. Charles Cargill, board chairman and UC manager, said that a decision would have to be made on the disposition.

With this statement, Beckham moved that the original request be rescinded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board, in subsequent action, turned down a request by Aggie Players to have control over the Theater Center workshop and the Forum. The board also approved the revision of the U. C. fee schedule.

Wenck made a request of the board in an effort to secure space for Aggie Players and the Theater Arts section.

Some board members were concerned that this would be priority scheduling and assign space to a "special interest" group. Wenck said, "Our special interest is to the 20,000 students of this university. We provide an opportunity for students to participate, and not be a spectator."

The board turned down Aggie Player's request for a permanent space assignment, on a 7-2 vote. John Tyler, SG representative and Harrison Hierth, faculty representative, voted in favor of Aggie Players.

The board also considered Aggie Players' request for the use of a storage room, presently used by William Pahlmann, interior designer for the Center. An agreement was made by the board giving the Players the room after Pahlmann leaves next year.

The board ended the three-hour long meeting with the setting of a policy describing the paging procedure during theater performances. Previously, the paging was done by whoever happened to be available. The new procedure says that the sponsor of the event will be responsible for all paging.

Raid nets 45 pounds from local apartment

sophomore; Roger Wittie, a sophomore; Larry Vickery, a graduate student; and Maxwell McKaye, a junior.

The search took place about 8:30 p.m.

All four were released Tuesday from Brazos County jail on \$5,000 bond each.

Four A&M students were charged with possession of 45 pounds of marijuana and 10 ounces of hashish Monday night.

It was found during a search of their Scandia apartment by local police and Texas Department of Public Safety narcotics agents.

Charged were Stewart Fowler, a



Bob Wenck addresses University Center Board meeting.

Photo by Glen Johnson

Today

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Weather

Fair and cool Wednesday with a high of 58°; low tonight 34°. Continue fair Thursday. High tomorrow 59°.

The Battalion will not print until next Wednesday so that the staff will have a chance to study before finals.

Library switches to no-fine system

By WILL ANDERSON
Assistant Editor

A form of a no-fine system for students will be used by the library beginning next semester, says Dr. Irene Hoadley, director of libraries.

The new system resembles the policy toward faculty members with overdue books and was suggested by the Library Council. The council is made up of three students and faculty representatives from the various schools.

The system was accepted unani-

mously by the council Dec. 2 and Dr. John C. Calhoun, vice president of academic affairs, approved its use Monday, Dr. Hoadley said.

The system states that only one notice will be sent to a student with an overdue book. A book turned in late will not cause a fine unless another student has requested the book. However, students with extremely overdue books will have their loan privileges curtailed until the books are returned.

If a book is requested while it is checked out, a notice will be sent to

the student that has the book, warning that he is subject to a fine if the book is returned after a certain date. The date will be 14 days after the book is checked out or four days after the book is placed on hold (requested by another student), whichever comes later.

The fine structure will be a quarter if one day late, one dollar if two days late, two dollars if three days late, three dollars if four days late, etc. There will be no "day of grace" nor will there be any discount on

overdue fines.

The replacement cost for a lost book will amount to the sum of the book's value plus a \$5 processing charge. Overdue fines may not count toward replacement costs.

Dr. Hoadley said the new system would not hassle students with overdue books if they were not excessively overdue or requested by another student. The steep fine rate gives the library a method of motivating the return of books placed on hold, she said.

The library will not be losing money on the new system, she said. Fines will go into a general operating budget and any money collected in fines will probably be spent on attempts to collect books, such as notices.

Dr. Hoadley said students will determine the success or failure of the no-fine system by how they accept it. It will be used at least a year, she said, and if it doesn't work, a return to the present fine system is unlikely.



New lanterns

Sixteen of these wall light fixtures are to be installed in the MSC student lounge. Eight of the lanterns will hang from each of the five chandeliers in the high-ceilinged lounge.

'Just tenants' MSC lacks student input on many policies, projects

By JIM PETERS
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center is a misnomer.

The new "living room of campus" is now being run by a University Center Board, rather than the student-controlled MSC Council as the past. (Ten of the 17 members of the MSC Council are students, whereas there are four students on the 12-member University Center Board.)

"It was a management decision," Col. H. W. Gaines, associate director of the MSC, said of the new setup.

"Now we are just tenants of the building," Gaines commented on the ironic relation of the MSC Council to the MSC.

There are two general concepts in union management, he said—self-government and a separate management system.

"Both in theory work equally well," Gaines said.

J. Wayne Stark, director of the MSC since its inception in 1947, said the management change was made partially to allow him more time for student programming.

The only sections of the building now under the aegis of the MSC are the student programs and finance offices, the MSC offices and the Browsing Library.

Stark said when the original MSC was being planned student committees were involved in all aspects of the building.

Several committees were consulted about the new building design, he said, but no input was given as to the furnishings. That was left entirely up to the interior designer, William Pahlmann.

Robert L. Boone, director of the Singing Cadets, was an MSC Council student advisor for 14 years.

He said planning for additions to the MSC and construction of the Rudder Tower and Theatre Arts complex began in 1966.

At that time the projection was to continue the relaxed atmosphere and mood of the old into the new MSC. "But it hasn't worked out that way," Boone conceded.

"The new MSC is hokey as hell," Boone said. "It's vanilla, sterile, systematized, lacking any warmth or coziness."

"It doesn't seem to be a place you

would want to come to relax in."

The student lounge area "reminds me of castles, cold granite and torches on the walls back in the days of knighthood," he said.

"There's no question that there are some lovely, lovely things," Boone stated, referring to the numerous antiques in the center. He said he questioned their appropriateness in a student center.

"Perhaps it will be better when the rest of the building is opened," he mused. "But I kind of doubt it."

Bill Davis, student president of the MSC Council, and Vice President Mike Hatch have also expressed regret about the lack of student input into certain design phases, particularly interior furnishings.

"Unusually the administration is very receptive to student input," Davis said. But students were generally out of touch with the MSC design.

"As a result, we've ended up with a lot of things that don't relate to a campus . . . and are not conducive to a good student union."

"The center should be union-oriented, as opposed to business-oriented," Davis suggested.

Rocky past Senate in VP confirmation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted 90 to 7 Tuesday to confirm Nelson A. Rockefeller as the nation's 41st vice president.

The vote completed the first half of the procedure set down under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to fill vice presidential vacancies.

Next is a vote by the House of Representatives, expected next week.

If confirmed by the House, Rockefeller, 66 a former New York governor, will become the second vice president in U.S. history to be cho-

sen outside the normal popular election process.

The first was Gerald R. Ford, who became President on the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon and in turn nominated Rockefeller last Aug. 20.

House Speaker Carl Albert told newsmen that it is his impression that Rockefeller will be confirmed.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., said his panel will meet Thursday and consider putting the nomination up for final approval in the full House next week.

Mills' withdrawal also ended an extraordinary 16-year career as head of the committee that handled a large portion of Congress' most important legislation and for nearly all that time made the strong-

handed Mills one of the top powers in Congress.

Still open are the questions of whether Mills will remain in Congress and on the committee and, if so, what part he will play.

The new chairman almost certainly will be Rep. Al Ullman of Oregon, next senior to Mills on the Democratic side of the committee.

Albert called newsmen to his of-

fice Tuesday morning to tell them he had just received a telephone call from Bethesda Naval Hospital in which another congressman, close to Mills, passed on the word that "without going into details, due to his health and on the recommendation of his doctors, Mr. Mills is not going to seek the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee."

Mills, complaining of exhaustion, entered the hospital last week a few days after publicly renewing his association with Mrs. Battistella by appearing briefly on stage with her in Boston.

Albert said he also spoke with a doctor who attended Mills and was told "in his judgment, Mr. Mills is not able to perform the duties of the chairmanship."

Albert said he was also told Mills

would make no further announcement of his intentions until his physical condition was determined to see whether he could carry on duties as a member of the House or of the Ways and Means Committee or both.

Albert said he was given no details of Mills' condition or of further medical procedures to be undertaken.

The intermediary was later identified as Rep. Joe D. Waggoner Jr., D-La., a member of the committee and close associate of Mills.

It had already been assumed by Albert and others that Mills would not be renominated for chairman and it was known that efforts were under way to reach Mills, in seclusion at the hospital, and persuade him to withdraw gracefully.

Mills bows out . . . 16-year career at committee chair ends

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark., bowed out Tuesday as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in the new Congress after holding that post for 16 years.

Mills' decision, relayed through a friend to Speaker Carl Albert and by Albert to newsmen, came after a series of events involving Mills and stripper Annabel Battistella, who