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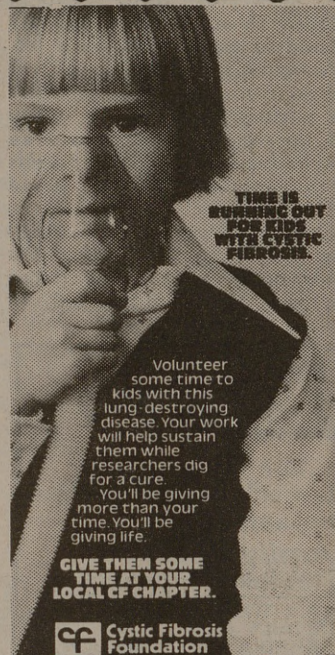
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Sign up in MSC March 19-22 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

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- Auto Repair
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- Defensive Driving
- Jitterbug
- First Aid

Registration: Thursday, March 22

Noon - 5 p.m.

Rudder Fountain

NO PRE REGISTRATION

For more info call: Free U at 845-1515

CS City Council hears new student loan plans

By KEVIN D. HIGGINBOTHAM Battalion Reporter

The College Station City Council heard recommendations Wednesday for the creation of a joint non-profit corporation with Bryan to finance federally insured student loans.

Ralph Rushing, vice president of Hatcher and Company of Dallas, who are acting as financial advisors for the program, said that the program should increase Texas A&M University's student loan capabilities by about \$12-15 million.

Under the program, a non-profit corporation would be established to issue tax-exempt revenue bonds. The money generated by the bonds would be used to buy the student's loan note from the local bank which first issued it.

Rushing said that many bankers were initially skeptical of the program due to past problems in making educational loans. Most local bankers, though, expressed a desire to participate in the program after receiving a thorough explanation, Rushing said.

The city's only function in the program is in the establishment of the corporation. According to Rushing, the corporation or authority "must be created by a political subdivision with home rule powers." This is due to a stipulation in tax laws.

Rushing stressed that the city would be in no way liable for any of the loans.

According to Rushing, the loan program will set no income limits on students applying for one, though its emphasis will be toward the middle income student who doesn't quite qualify for other financial aid.

Robert M. Logan, director of financial aid at Texas A&M, said the new program would be a great help to students who otherwise couldn't receive financial aid due to the income level of their parents.

Logan said his office processes about 2,000 applications for federally insured loans every year, but estimated that twice that many initially apply for the loan and are turned down.

The council agreed to place recommendation on the agenda for its next meeting.

The council also discussed Star Gas Co.'s proposed rate increases.

According to A.L. Bartley, Star's area manager, the rate increases are due to increased purchasing natural gas and increased operation and maintenance costs.

The new rate would call for a 20 percent increase in connection fees to \$20 and an increase in service charges from \$13.50 to \$15 per hour.

Bartley said the increase in connection fees would apply only to customers who move and change service from one house to another, not to new customers hooking up for the first time.

This is necessary in order to bring the fee paid closer in line with actual cost of the service, Bartley said.

The council will vote on the increase during today's next meeting.

African official has proof

U.S. to investigate bribes

WASHINGTON — The House ethics committee is investigating whether members of Congress took money from the South African government, and a similar inquiry may be undertaken in the Senate.

Rep. Charles Bennett, D-Fla., the new chairman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, confirmed Tuesday his panel is investigating possible bribes alleged by former South African official Eschel Rhodie.

Rhodie said he had provided government contributed money to campaigns of American politicians in an effort to win friends in Washington.

"I made the decision that should be investigated. Every investigation on it immediately happens to look evil, whether it's only ones you know about or not," he said. "It's not just South Africa, but believe they're not alone," Bennett said.

His reference to Iran involved earlier disclosure of a committee inquiry into allegations that Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's government offered bribes to low level politicians and reporters. The Senate ethics committee has not decided whether to investigate South African bribery, but said staff members are gathering available press reports to determine whether any sitting senators may be involved.

Senate sources said there have been hints the South African government may have targeted Democratic senators for bribery. Dick Clark of Iowa and John T. of California — and given money to their opponents.

Those charges conceivably bring current senators under scrutiny because both men were defeated — Clark last fall by Sen. Jepsen, R-Iowa, and Tunney by S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., in 1978.

And the Rand Daily Mail reported Tuesday Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., received a contribution of \$294 in 1977 from the South Africans.

Direct or indirect campaign contributions from a foreign government or a foreign national are prohibited by federal campaign laws. However, Moynihan's race for the Senate in 1976 so the contribution had not violated any statutes.

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FILING PERIOD MARCH 26-31

FILING FEE \$1.00 PAYABLE IN ROOM 216 MSC

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GSC President, AUBREY JOHNSON

845-4016

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