

Waste increases dining costs

By ROSEMARIE ROSE
Battalion Reporter

Some students on the board plan are wasting their own money every time they eat.

According to Lloyd Smith, assistant director of Food Services, the extra napkins or extra packets of salt and pepper students take but never use contribute to the cost of the board plan.

Each person eating in the campus dining facilities — Sbsa, the Commons and Duncan — takes an average of 3.2 napkins per meal, Smith said. Each napkin costs Food Services .3 cents, so napkins cost a penny per person per meal.

That doesn't sound like much until you consider that we serve a million meals per year in Sbsa alone," says Smith.

Thus, he says, Food Services spends \$40,000 a year on napkins alone. Reducing waste would help keep costs down.

The same problem exists with the number of salt and pepper packets taken at each meal. "People will grab handfuls of each one and use only one or two packets," Smith said.

If waste were prevented or reduced it would slow the increase in the cost of the board plan, Smith said, though due to the inflation rate, prices will probably continue to grow.

The 1979 price of the five- and seven-day board plans increased 5 percent over the 1978 cost. In April 1979, the cost of serving a meal had increased 21 percent over the cost of serving a meal in September, 1978, Smith said. In 1978 it cost Texas A&M \$1.78 to serve a meal, compared to \$2.27 in 1979, he said.

Students on the five-day board plan are charged \$1.82 per meal and those on the seven-day board plan pay only \$1.57 per meal. The difference in cost and price is made up by the missed meal factor, an estimation of the number of meals a student will pay for but not eat.

Food Services put up posters about the salt and pepper dispensers last year urging students to "enjoy a complete meal" but not to waste food. Food Services also carries out other programs to combat waste.

"We've let the student leaders know about the problem," Smith said. Each facility manager meets weekly with what is called a "mini menu board." The manager chooses four or five students at random each week and talks with them about the problems concerning Food Services, including waste. The managers ask the students for comments or complaints about the Food Service system.

Food Services is also making management changes to combat the

rising cost feeding hungry Aggies, Smith said. He said the cost of a meal includes not only the price of food, but the cost of labor, utilities,

supplies and facilities. Smith said Food Services has changed buying procedures so food and supplies can be bought in bulk,

avoiding the middleman. In addition, Smith said, every article discarded by Food Services personnel must be approved by a manager to avoid wasting materials like brooms, mops, portions scales and utensils.



Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

These trays full of wasted food are costing students more money each year. The 1979 price of the five- and seven-day board plans was 5 percent higher than 1978's. The increase was due to waste and inflation, according to officials in Texas A&M's Food Services Department.

Portillo to address U.N. on energy

United Press International
MEXICO CITY — Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo travels to the United States today to address the U.N. General Assembly on his vision for a world energy plan and to hold two rounds of important talks with President Carter.

The Mexican chief of state believes that petroleum and other fuels are a patrimony of mankind that should be shared among all nations and he will attempt to sell his idea to the world body during his address Thursday.

Though Lopez Portillo has yet to explain his plan in detail, dozens of foreign dignitaries who have visited Mexico this year, including Carter himself, reportedly have endorsed his ideas.

Lopez Portillo and Carter will huddle twice over the weekend at the White House — their second meeting in seven months — to formalize a natural gas deal and discuss the delicate issue of undocumented workers.

Last week, after it was announced that a U.S.-Mexican gas deal had

been taken off the Washington agenda, Mexico agreed to sell the United States 300 million cubic feet a day at \$3.62 per thousand cubic feet.

The price was pegged to oil prices, meaning that when petroleum goes up, so will the natural gas.

Both men are also expected to tackle an array of problems affecting the neighboring nations and review overall relations that apparently have improved somewhat since Carter visited Mexico in mid-February.

Single-family homes still preferred

United Press International
LINCOLN, Neb. — Even with escalating housing and energy costs, most potential home buyers still prefer conventional, single-family homes, says Ardis Hutchins, an Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources extension housing specialist.

Recent surveys have indicated people strongly prefer single-family homes to mobile homes, apartments or pre-fabricated homes, she said.

The most popular style appears to be the one-story ranch, and most buyers also want a basement. Although many say they are willing to purchase a rehabilitated older home, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln specialist said few are interested in older homes that need substantial renovation.

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