

Area apartment rents will increase this fall

By DEBBIE NELSON City Staff

Fall 1980 rents will be higher than fall 1979 rates in 73.3 percent of the Bryan-College Station area apartments surveyed by The Battalion this week.

Several of the remaining 26.6 percent of the 45 apartment managers surveyed said they have not been notified of a rent increase yet, but there may be one by fall.

In apartments with rate increases, rents will be \$5-\$20 higher for a one-bedroom, one-bath apartment and \$10-\$45 more for a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment.

Explanations for the increases varied. Most apartment managers attributed higher rents to inflation and a higher cost of living.

Jenny Pitts, president of the Apartment Association of Bryan-College Station, explained the higher rates: "It's not that we want to go up. It's everyday life. We have to go up."

Pitts, who owns the Echols Street apartments in Bryan, said owners have to raise apartment rents because of taxes, inflation,

higher utility rates, and the rising cost of everything from light fixtures to carpeting to maintenance workers' salaries.

Janis Johnson, leasing clerk for Village Oaks Apartments, said costs of garbage pick-up and water also cause higher rents.

Linda German, assistant manager of Willow Oaks, attributed part of the inflation problem to rising insurance rates.

Some managers of apartments including utilities in their rents said College Station's new utility ordinance forced them to raise rents to keep up with higher utility costs.

The new ordinance changed the method of calculating the average kilowatt-hour usage per apartment and total monthly bill per apartment complex.

One manager estimated \$20 per apartment was added to the total utility bill of the complex when the ordinance was amended.

Some apartments are not raising their rents next fall. Barcelona apartments is charging lower rates than last fall, but utilities

were paid then. Now they aren't.

Gail Mills, assistant manager of Barcelona, said when the complex was switched to individual meters, it more than compensated for other causes which would have made rents rise, so rents were lowered.

Some apartment owners are raising rents only for new residents. Old residents will maintain their present rates.

Others simply decided not to raise rents. Linda Grinnell, resident manager of Pepper Tree Apartments, said no rents will be raised there.

"The company was hashing over whether to raise them or not," she said, "and they just decided not to."

On the other hand, Brad Etter, manager of Casa Blanca Apartments, said his 10 percent increase in rents is "modest, considering an inflation rate of 13 percent." He said inflation doesn't refer to money sitting in the bank, but to rising costs of hired help and materials and a generally higher cost of living.

Clayton says he'll talk to grand jury

United Press International AUSTIN — Speaker Bill Clayton, under investigation for allegedly accepting bribe money left on his desk as part of the FBI's Brilab operation, said Wednesday he probably will answer questions from a federal grand jury March 17 rather than invoke his Fifth Amendment right to silence.

Clayton has acknowledged labor leader L. G. Moore and Joseph Hauser, who was working undercover for the FBI, visited his office in November and Hauser sought the speaker's help in obtaining a multi-million dollar state insurance contract for Prudential Insurance Co.

When the two left the office,

Moore left an envelope containing \$5,000 in \$100 bills on the speaker's desk. Clayton told reporters after the news broke on the Brilab investigation that he had not intended to keep the money.

He also said Hauser had suggested up to \$600,000 in campaign contributions for Clayton and his political friends if Prudential was given the contract.

Clayton's attorneys had suggested to him that he take the Fifth Amendment in his appearance before the grand jury rather than answer questions about the Nov. 8 meeting and risk giving answers that might conflict with secret recordings of the conversation.

Clayton said Wednesday, however, he is prepared to answer the grand jury's questions.

"That's the tentative plan," he told reporters after a meeting on another matter with Gov. Bill Clements and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

"I think we've got the attorneys to agree to let me testify," Clayton said he has been informed

his grand jury appearance will be March 17, and said, "I'll be there unless they tell me it's the 18th or some other day."

While Clayton's attorneys have advised him against answering the grand jury's questions, some of his political advisers have disagreed and suggested Clayton's only chances for surviving the allegations politically are to answer any questions put to him.

"I said, 'if you go in there and plead the Fifth you can forget about everything else politically from this day forward,'" one close political associate of Clayton's said. "I think he probably knows that. I think he ought to go in there and tell his side of it, and I think the sooner the better."

Jack Gullahorn, a former administrative aide to Clayton, said last week, "Clayton feels like he can go before the grand jury and tell his story, and surely if there are 23 honest people there, they won't have any reason not to believe him. That's all he wants to do is tell his story."

Cold food nutritious

United Press International SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Hot food may taste better, but cold food can be just as nutritious, says Doris Derelian, executive director of the 4,000-member California Dietetic Association.

Class of '81 announces gift of \$12,000 MSC chimes

By MICHELLE MORREY Campus Reporter

Remember the days when chimes would be heard every hour throughout campus?

The old chimes have not worked for two years, but the Class of 1981 has decided to change that. The class's gift to the University will be carillons, or chimes, for the Memorial Student Center.

"They will be a constant reminder of what the Class of 1981 did," Class President Jess Mason said. "The gift will benefit the entire University."

The chimes will work like a player piano, Mason said. They can be programmed to play 180 songs, including Christmas carols, songs for Silver Taps, Parents' Day and football games.

Gift Committee Chairman Mark Klemm researched several different

chime companies. "We chose Schulmerich Corporation in Pennsylvania because the chimes will have a good quality and a wide variety of program selection."

Mason said the chimes should work for a minimum of forty years.

The chimes will be installed this summer and may be dedicated the day of the first home football game, against Penn State in September.

The chimes will cost \$12,000, Klemm said.

"We have earned the money through class balls, T-shirt sales, summer dances and Christmas card sales," Mason said.

The contract will be submitted to Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, and Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller today for official approval.



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More use food stamps

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department says 20.2 million Americans received food stamps during December 1979, a 3 percent increase from the month before and a 27 percent increase from the previous year.

The difference resulted from eliminating a cash requirement to get stamps, adding elderly and rural poor to the food stamp rolls.

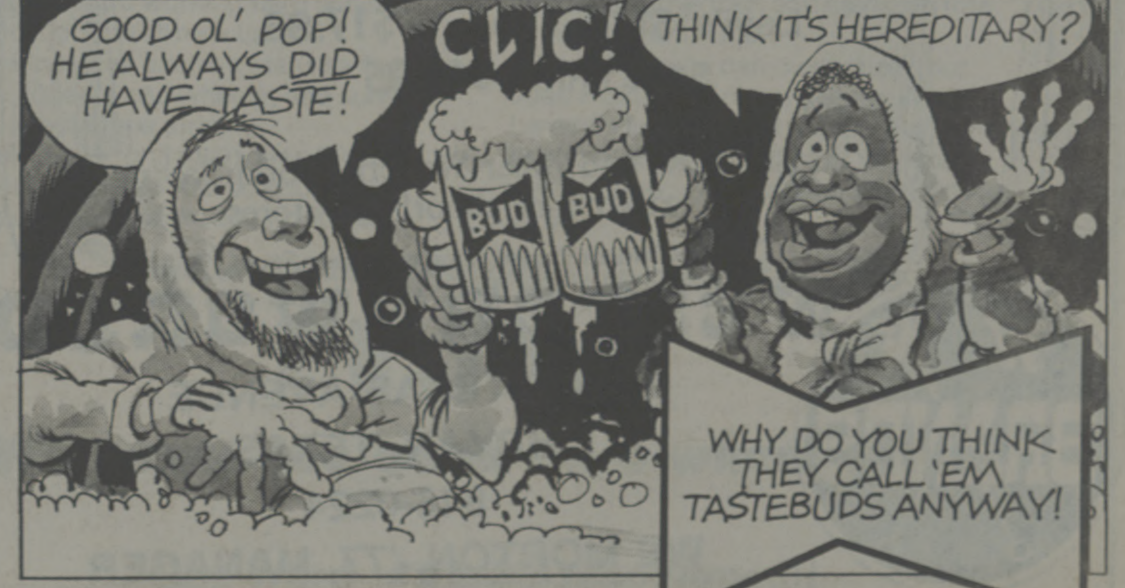
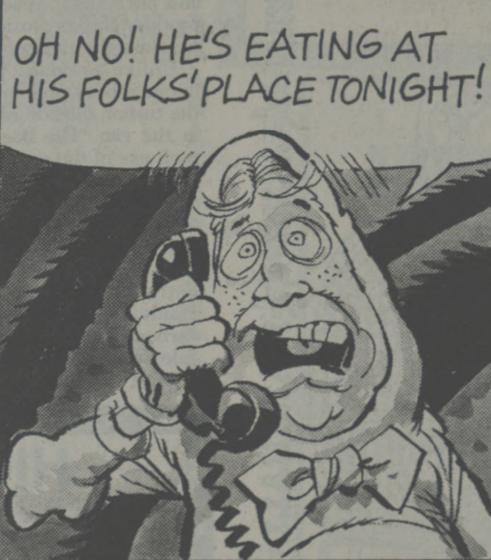


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