

Council rejects budget

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

The College Station City Council, approved unanimously a resolution disapproving the 1983 budget proposal of the Brazos County Central Appraisal District on Thursday night.

The proposed budget totaled \$617,645, a 47.3 percent increase above the 1982 budget.

The council is the third of the five taxing entities served by the appraisal district to vote for disapproval, which forces the appraisal district to prepare another budget.

The five taxing entities are College Station, Bryan, the Bryan Independent School District, the College Station Independent School District and Brazos County. This is the majority needed to reject the budget.

The move by the council follows the resignation Wednesday night of the chief appraiser for the appraisal district, Johnny Neece.

The council also discussed a Community Cablevision rate increase request.

A Community Cablevision spokesman said rising costs, recent copyright laws and a high turnover rate are a few of the major reasons an increase is needed.

He also said College Station's rates are the lowest in Texas and the United States for comparable communities.

In accordance with the franchise of Community Cablevision, the company must abide by the rates set by the council if the council so chooses. The council never has set the rates in the past. The proposal was tabled until the council's regularly scheduled workshop meeting on Wednesday.

The council also considered a transfer of funds from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund to the Bryan/College Station Athletic Federation.

Councilman Larry Ringer proposed \$7500 be transferred to the athletic federation with a portion of this money to be used to hire a part-time coordinator for community athletic events. The motion was not seconded.

Councilman Robert Runnels proposed an alternate motion in which \$5000 would be transferred to the federation with the stipulation none of the money be used for salaries. The motion was passed.



Is it over yet?

staff photo by David Fisher

Kathy Golley, a computer science major, decides not to look until Inge L. Vasovski, a medical technician, finishes drawing the blood from her arm. Teams from

the Baylor College of Medicine have been at the University this week, obtaining blood samples for influenza research. Golley is a freshman from Conroe.

Plane crashes; students arrested

by Jennifer Carr

Battalion Staff

Three Texas A&M University students were arrested and charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor Thursday morning after a plane belonging to the Texas A&M Flying Club crash-landed at Easterwood Airport.

Chuck D. Holdridge and Saumya Kanti Sanyal — both sophomore electrical engineering majors — and Holly Louise Raif, a senior finance major, were released on \$850 cash bond each after being charged with burglary of a building, unauthorized use of a vehicle and evading arrest.

The charges carry minimum penalties of two years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine. The maximum penalty is 20 years and/or \$10,000.

Holdridge had no comment on the situation. Sanyal and Raif could not be reached for comment.

Greg Bates, president of the flying club, said the group will press charges. The University also could press charges since the incident occurred on University property.

Detective William S. Scott of the University Police said the crash occurred at about 2 a.m. The keys to the plane were missing from the offices of the flying club, he said.

"The door was apparently open to the Aggie Flying Club area or one of the hangars that houses the keys to the airplane," he said.

Scott said someone got into the key box and took the keys to one of the flying club's Cessna 172 airplanes.

The plane was apparently flown around "for some period of time," he said.

Patrolman Ed Forsom was making rounds at Easterwood when he noticed a plane trying to land without using lights, Scott said. Forsom said the

plane was having difficulty and made a mild crash-landing.

Scott said three people got out of the plane and began to run. He said Forsom identified himself as a police officer and told them to stop. After calling for a back-up, Forsom chased and caught them.

"Fortunately nobody was hurt," Scott said. "It could have been disastrous. (He) didn't really know what he was doing — the one who was flying the plane — not very well."

Bates said he didn't know the students who were arrested and said none of them are members of the flying club. He said he was told the person flying the plane was not a licensed pilot, but apparently had some knowledge of planes.

Damages to the aircraft initially were estimated at \$10,000, Scott said. Bates said the incident is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Prices drop overall

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Consumer prices dropped overall in August with some important products getting cheaper, prompting analysts to predict inflation would be even lower this year than expected.

At the same time, administration officials acknowledged the recession was deeper than anyone thought it would be, but that recovery was still on the way.

The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index turned in an exceptionally modest increase Thursday of only 3.3 percent, at an annual rate, for the month of August.

So far the year has had an inflation rate of 5.1 percent and some analysts are predicting even more improvement before the year is out.

Previously the administration and private analysts had forecast a 1982 inflation rate between 6 and 7 percent.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said the progress against inflation came largely because the administration refused to force farmers to cut their harvests and because the price of domestic crude oil was decontrolled.

"Again, the free market system has worked," he told reporters.

Regan acknowledged that the Federal Reserve's tight money policies, backed by the administration, also helped bring down prices by slowing economic activity.

"The impact of monetary and fiscal policies has led to a decline in the inflation rate," he said.

Food prices actually declined for the month, as did gasoline prices and auto finance charges. Altogether, prices climbed only 0.3 percent for the month.

In other economic developments Thursday:

— The government announced another half percentage point drop in the allowable FHA (Federal Housing Administration) federally-insured mortgage interest rate, bringing it to the lowest level since March, 1981, — 13.5 percent. The same rate applies to VA (Veterans Administration) guaranteed loans.

— The United States also explored a series of moves to break the trans-Atlantic deadlock over the Siberian gas pipeline project.

Lebanese Aggies talk about civil war's woes

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

For many students, picturing recent events in Lebanon is a difficult task. But it isn't for at least five Texas A&M students — they're Lebanese.

Elias Rmeili, Nabil Abokhair, Sami Raphael, Tony Prince and Ali Khalil have one thing in common: they were all born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon.

They describe pre-war Beirut as a wonderful place to live — a place where one could snow-ski in the morning, swim on the beach in the afternoon and sample the diversions of a metropolitan city at night.

"Beirut was called Paris in the Middle East," said Rmeili, a senior civil engineering student. "You could get whatever you wanted — the best hotel, the best disco. All the tourists from all the countries went to Lebanon and lived it up in Beirut."

The war has changed all this. Present-day Beirut bears little resemblance to the old Beirut, where people were friendly and carefree, Rmeili said.

"You go on the street and see a woman wearing black clothes," he said. "Probably her husband died or her child was killed by a sniper. It's pretty bad."

"One hundred thousand Lebanese people have been killed. It's hard to find a family in Lebanon that doesn't have any body hurt, or at least their property or home destroyed."

Prince, a graduate student in mechanical engineering, said the civil war is said to have started in April 1975. But the fighting began in 1969 with a clash between the militia of Bashir Geymayel, the re-



cently assassinated president-elect of Lebanon, and a rival force.

A popular misconception about the civil war is that it is primarily between Moslems and Christians, the students said.

"Everybody says that the problem is between the Moslems and the Christians," said Raphael, a freshman electrical engineering student. "But I don't think the problem has ever been between the Moslems and Christians."

Prince agreed.

"This fact of Christian and Moslem is more of an artifice used by one external force on another to bring people against each other," Prince said. "It actually doesn't exist. In the Phalange Party there are a lot of Moslems. I know Phalangist militiamen who are Moslems. It's not the fact whether you

are Moslem or Christian, it's the fact whether you are Lebanese first — then Moslem or Christian. I am Lebanese before being anything else."

The students agree the war probably would not have begun without the Palestine Liberation Organization's occupation of Beirut.

"When the war started, it was between the Lebanese Christian forces and the PLO," Prince said. "Like four guerrillas hijacked a plane, the PLO hijacked the city. They took it hostage. They took 500,000 people hostage."

Raphael said he doesn't consider the PLO a liberation organization.

"I never saw them liberating any of their land," Raphael said. "They are fighting in Lebanon, and I don't know what is the connection between Palestine and Lebanon."

Rmeili said the wrong people are paying the price for the PLO's fight for its own land.

"I wouldn't mind for the PLO to have their own state," Rmeili said. "But I don't (want to) see my country — where I was born, where I was raised — destroyed to pay the price for the PLO."

The students also hold Israel responsible for Beirut's destruction.

"The invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli army has caused a lot of unnecessary casualties in the civilian life in Lebanon," said Abokhair, a graduate student in biochemistry. "They have destroyed our third and fourth major cities and now they are destroying the capital of Lebanon."

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Inflation rate slows again

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The government's broad measure of consumer prices rose only 0.3 percent in August, as falling food and gasoline costs helped temper the August inflation rate, the Labor Department said Thursday.

The Consumer Price Index for August, if spread over 12 identical months, would show an annual inflation rate of only 3.3 percent, department analysts said.

But more impressive was actual past performance of the price index so far this year. If the moderate inflation through the first eight months holds steady through December, as most analysts expect, 1982 will produce a rate of only 5.1 percent, the

Labor Department said.

The White House welcomed the latest CPI figure. Deputy news secretary Larry Speakes said, "It indicates the inflation figure has returned to the excellent performance we had in the first four months of the year."

A Georgia State University economist who specializes in the price index, Donald Ratajczak, said August was only "the beginning of a series of good months on the inflation front," primarily because "mortgage rates will be declining significantly."

A combination of good weather, the oil glut, the recession, and the decline in interest rates has helped keep prices from accelerating at anything near the 8.9 percent of last year.

Regents to discuss automatic tellers

One of the obstacles to commercial banking on campus will be removed if members of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents approve a proposal for the installation of automatic teller machines on campus.

The teller machines will be discussed during a meeting of the Committee for Academic Campuses at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The full Board will vote on the proposal Tuesday.

If the proposal is approved, University President Frank E. Vandiver will be authorized to negotiate a contract for automatic teller machines with local banks.

The machines would be located

under the walkway between the Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower.

An expansion of electrical utilities at Texas A&M will be discussed during the meeting of the Planning and Building Committee at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

The \$5.5 million expansion, which will be completed in two phases, calls for the campus to receive power from the Brazos Electric Power Cooperative.

The regents will meet as a committee of the whole at 8:30 a.m. Monday in the MSC Regents' Annex. The full Board will act on committee recommendations at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Correction

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff

There was an error in a caption of a picture in The Battalion Thursday. The accident reported was one that occurred in the same area a few hours earlier that day.

The accident pictured involved Debra Six, a freshman secondary education major, and Chris Toney, who is also a student.

According to the accident report, Six was driving north on Houston and hit Toney while attempting to turn onto PA 48. Toney was headed south on Houston on a bicycle at the time.

Toney sustained a fractured right leg, multiple abrasions and a face laceration from the collision, the report said.

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forecast



High in the mid- to upper-80s, low in the lower 60s tonight. Clear skies.