

College Station asks consumers to voluntarily cut electrical use

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

With the cooperation of consumers, the city of College Station will be able to save \$250,000 to \$500,000 on its electric bill — a savings that will be passed on to consumers.

During the period between Aug. 20 and Sept. 20, the city of College Station is asking its electrical users to join in a voluntary load management program and to conserve energy between 4 and 8 p.m.

The city is suggesting several actions which can lower energy consumption during the peak hours, said Valerie Bauer, energy specialist for the city of College Station.

Consumers are being asked to use fans instead of air conditioning and if they use air conditioning, keep the

thermostat at 78 degrees. Not using appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves or dishwashers until after 8 p.m. also will help cut the peak consumption, Bauer said.

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Gulf States Utilities, which provides energy to College Station, will bill the city 75 percent of the peak consumption whether it is used or

not. This charge is passed onto consumers as the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge on the bill.

The PCA charge is found in the lower left corner of the monthly electric bill. It is added onto the bill in addition to the regular electricity rate.

"We're asking for cooperation, however the portion saved (on the bill) is very small," Bauer said.

The PCA charge, which the load management program will affect, is only a small part of the electric bill. Currently it is less than one cent per kilowatt hour. In January, the PCA charge will rise to three cents per kilowatt hour.

Even if consumers cut back, they should not expect monthly electric

bills to go down. Gulf States will put a 30-50 percent rate increase into effect Jan. 1, 1985.

The increase is needed because of the termination of Gulf States long term contracts with natural gas companies. Under the old contracts, Gulf States was able to purchase gas at old prices, but with the new contracts, Gulf States will have to pay the current market price, Bauer said.

Bauer said consumers can do a lot to save energy and cut electricity bills all the time. Pamphlets about energy saving ideas, such as caulking and weather stripping, are available from the College Station Energy Department.

Place to gather with their friends

Community teen center planned

By CARL BECKER
Reporter

A center for College Station teenagers, designed to give the teenagers a place to go and get together with their friends, is scheduled to open in early October. The center, to be named Shenanigans, is located next to the community center on Jersey Street.

"The purpose of the center is to provide a place for teens to gather, under supervision, to interact with peers and share experiences as well as responsibilities," says Peggy Callihan, community center director. "The center will provide a place for the teens to go instead of hanging out at the mall or at Pepe's. It will give them a place to dance and meet people, kind of like what the RoxZ and Teazers are doing now by having special nights where they let only kids from 13-18 years old in. It's obvious the kids want this kind of place because those clubs are full on those nights."

Besides having the support of teenagers, Callihan said, the center also has the support of the community. A survey was conducted last year in College Station and the results indicated a need for such a center.

The idea of opening a teen center here is not new.

"About 10 to 12 years ago, Bryan tried to open a teen center, but it never got off the ground," Callihan said. "One of the reasons it failed was that adults planned it and made all the decisions — the teenagers never got to input any ideas into the center. This teen center is not going to be like that."

Callihan said that to help the center succeed, planners came up with the idea of a supervisory committee consisting of 16 teenagers and two

adults. Twelve regular members and four alternates from grades 6 through 12 were selected to compose the Teen Center Advisory Committee. Callihan and Parks Program Supervisor Susie Dashner are the two adults on the committee.

Callihan said the board has had three meetings so far and has accomplished many things.

"At the first meeting, the committee members got to know each other and set up the philosophy and goals of the teen center," she said. "At the second, they set up fees, determined

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Chuck Benedict, a 12th-grader at A&M Consolidated High School

who was elected chairman of the committee, said the committee sent out letters to local clubs and businesses asking for support. So far, Bryan Paint and Glass has offered to draw a mural of the committee's choice on one wall and help them paint it. Another business, W&W General Contractors Inc. of Bryan, offered to sell them solar film for the center's windows at cost, show them how to apply it and lend them the necessary tools.

Benedict said working on the committee is teaching the students a lot.

"We are learning how much things cost because we had to price all the items we need to get the center started," he said. "We also learned about parliamentary procedure and how the city council operates when we went to a city council meeting."

Benedict said he believes the center will succeed.

Groups wishing to become involved with the teen center are encouraged to contact Peggy Callihan at the community center at 764-3768.



Photo by LESLIE YODER

Cutting it down to size

Ground maintenance workers are finishing up the last bit of painting on the visitors parking lot across from the Memorial Student Center. Only a portion of the lot has undergone change. The parking slots were repainted so that the width will be 8 feet 6 inches rather than 9 feet. The reserved slots will remain 9 feet.

Budget seminars help students control cash

By JAN WUTHRICH
Reporter

When Ben Franklin said a penny saved is a penny earned, he must have had college students in mind.

Budget seminars, designed to help students save money, will be offered this fall by the Office of Student Financial Aid, says administrator Lynda Gilbert.

The seminars will be Sept. 11-13 and Oct. 23-25, and each will be open to about 35 students.

The financial aid office will begin each seminar by explaining how it distributes grants and loans.

When students receive a large

sum of money at the beginning of a semester, they often have difficulty in making it last, Gilbert says. The best way to keep track of cash flow is with a checking account, she says. Therefore the next step covered at the seminar is how to open and maintain a checking account.

The financial advisers at the seminar will offer additional hints on saving money and catching bargains, she says.

Sticking to a budget is hard for students because it requires self-discipline, she says.

Students interested in the seminar can contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 845-3981.

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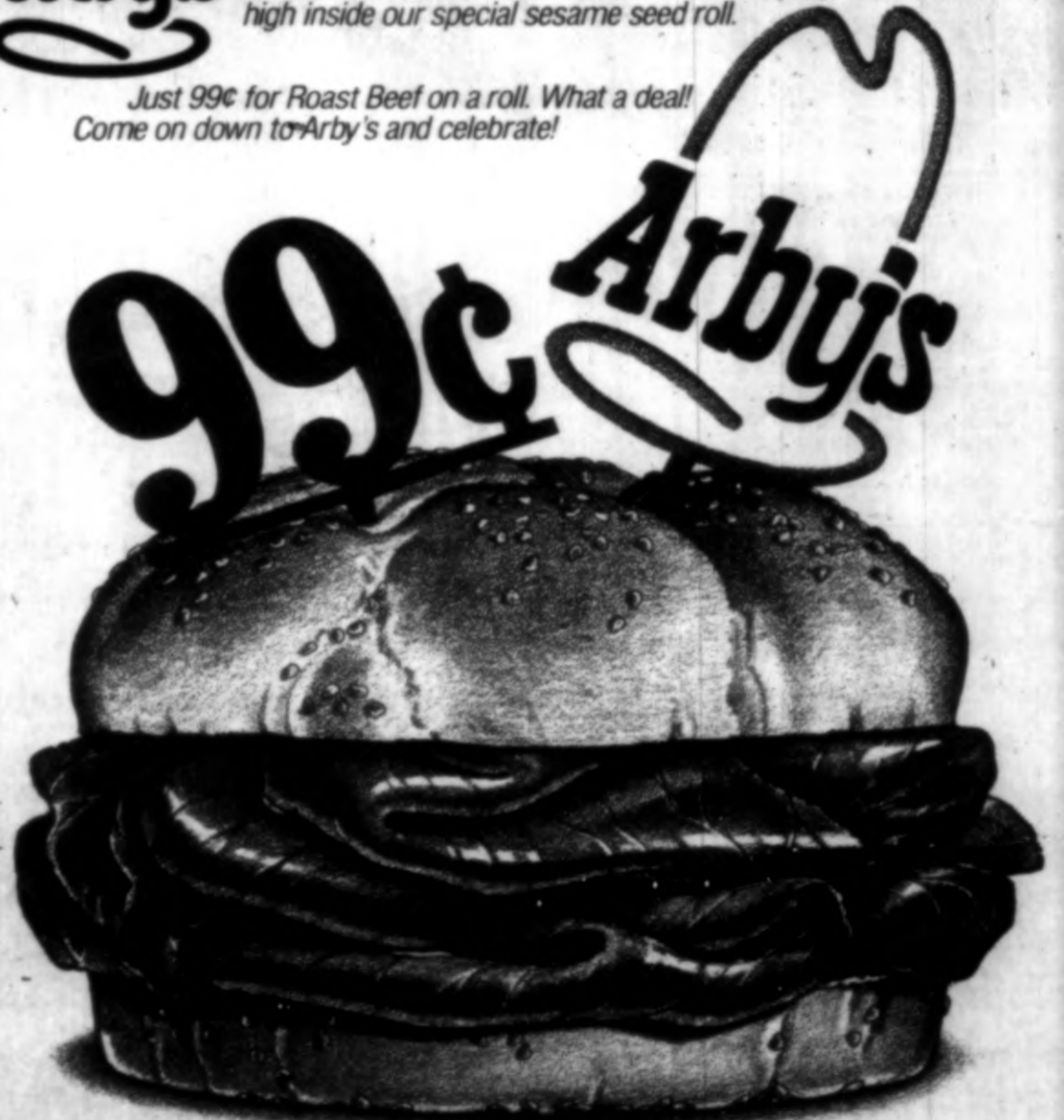


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