

Gas bill decreases planned in four southwestern states

United Press International

EL PASO - Gas bills will be decreasing in at least four southwestern states, thanks to a \$100 million annual reduction in the price of natural gas, it was announced Thursday.

The rate reduction was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said John McFall, public relations director of El Paso Natural Gas Co.

Bud Quimby, spokesman for the Southern Union Gas Co., said his firm will pass on the reduction to domestic customers in West Texas and southern New Mexico.

McFall said the reduction is the largest sought by El Paso Natural Gas since 1973. As of Oct. 1, 1984, the firm will receive a reduction of 11.5 cents per thousand BTUs, or \$100 million a year. Quimby said he did not yet know how much the average home gas bill will decrease. Southern Union's portion "is tiny, compared to what El Paso Natural sells in southern California," he said.

McFall said the reduction reflects El Paso Natural's "continuing program to reduce overall costs, including the cost of gas purchased by the company from producers for even-

tual sale to its customers.

"El Paso Natural has exercised 'market-out' options contained in its purchase contracts and has otherwise renegotiated certain high-priced gas purchase contracts, all of which have contributed to the announced rate reduction," McFall said.

El Paso Natural sells gas wholesale to distribution companies that serve El Paso, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, as well as other areas in California, southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas.

Ft. Bliss to move from the pencil to computers

United Press International

EL PASO - The pencil, once the mainstay of tedious office work, is on the way out at Fort Bliss, Army officials reported Thursday.

The change is due to the new "information center" established by the Directorate of Automation Information Management to increase use of computers at the Army's Air Defense Center, said Ralph Woodbridge, chief of the information resources division.

On Wednesday, computer experts at the center made the first official presentation of their services. Representatives of the civilian personnel office, who will be getting three new personnel computers to help relieve them of tedious work they once had to do by pencil, were the first customers.

The new center came about as a result of a study last year of problems presented by the numerous computer systems at Fort Bliss, Woodbridge said.

The study grew from the recognition that "the functions of data collection, processing and reporting across Fort Bliss were fragmented,

often redundant, and not being centrally managed," according to the preface of the study.

The report offered a program to bring centralized management of information to the post, and established a list of offices which should be automated in the future.

Because of the great variety of systems, the lack of coordination between existing systems and poor planning in adding new ones, managers often did not have timely information to use in making decisions and had trouble getting the current status on projects, according to the report.

Also, managers often lacked valid information for planning purposes, sometimes had conflicting information from different sources and incurred excessive costs because of multiple data processing activities, the report indicated.

Woodbridge said the new information system plan at Fort Bliss will take about five years to solve all the problems.

Lt. Col. Charles Raney will direct the new data center.

Old 'footprints' questioned

United Press International

GLEN ROSE — A rancher who worked for biblical researchers seeking to debunk the theory of evolution now insists that, contrary to their claims, no ancient human footprints were found alongside dinosaur tracks in a Texas riverbed.

The footprints have long been used by literal believers of the Bible as evidence that humans coexisted with the dinosaurs whose prints litter the Paluxy River bottom south of Fort Worth.

Creationist Carl Baugh has repeatedly claimed 47 different "man tracks" were found along the river-

bank. But rancher Alfred West, who sold Baugh and his associates the site where they built their Creation Evidences Museum and then helped with the excavation, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Thursday the prints were contrived from Baugh's imagination.

"I can safely say I have seen no science in their (creationist research) activities," West said. "The facts have flat been dismissed.

"In the face of all this evidence he (Baugh) has continued on telling the public he has man tracks when they're not," said West.

Most scientists believe dinosaurs existed long before man and have long disputed Baugh's findings.

"When wetted they (Baugh's 'man tracks') show they are much larger prints (than those of humans) and have the familiar three toes of a dinosaur," said Kyle Davies, who studied the region. Davies holds a master's degree in paleontology.

Baugh, who was unavailable for comment Thursday, reported the human tracks ranged from 16 inches to 25 inches. He said that probably meant giants and normal-sized people coexisted 4,800 years ago, roughly the time at which he placed the great flood described in Genesis.

To every roommate about to become a friend.



Right now, about the only thing you have in common is the same room. But you and those strangers who moved in with you are going to crack a lot of books and burn a lot of midnight oil together.

You're going to discover the people behind the nametags, the ones inside the roommates. And who knows? Before the term is over, your roommates may very well turn out to be good friends.

To each of you we say, let it be Löwenbräu.



Löwenbräu. Here's to good friends.



THE RICHARD SMITH STORY

Last Spring, Bill Press, our former State Representative resigned from office in order to go to work for Texas A&M. This allowed Gov. Mark White (Dem.) to call a Special Election to fill the vacancy. Would you believe he set the election during A&M Spring Break? He did. Why? To keep the Aggies from voting. He knew we could make a difference. There are only 45,000 registered voters in Brazos County (which alone makes up this State Representative District.) There are 37,000 students at A&M, so obviously if we register to vote and we can make a difference. As it turns out, many Aggies did register to vote and vote absentee for Aggie Richard Smith '89. He is the only experienced conservative independent candidate who can go to Austin and get the job done. To Richard Smith A&M is just a part of the district. A&M is a commitment and a concern that all Aggies share. It ended up that over 13,000 people voted last March. Our candidate, Richard Smith, lost by 29 votes (to force a runoff). By two tenths of one percent of all the votes cast last March our candidate lost. The conservative Republican lost to Mark White's chosen Democrat, Neeley Lewis. That was the Special Election. The Battalion Editorial Board called the scheduling of the Special Election by the Democrats "an attack on Texas A&M students, staff and faculty members." The Student Senate passed a resolution in opposition to the setting of the election date when Aggies could not vote. Governor White (Dem.) refused to even see the student government leaders concerning the issue. The Bryan-College Station Eagle Editorial Board said, "Let's face it, this whole thing smacks of partisan politics at its most petty level." "...Democrat Party officials had described March 10 as a 'convenient day' for the election." Convenient to keep the Aggies from voting. Convenient for the Democrats to unfairly help Neeley Lewis. On Nov. 6, we have a chance to prove that we won't be pushed around again. Richard Smith and Neeley Lewis are on the ballot again--this time in a fair fight. We will determine the winner, if we register to vote (the deadline is Oct. 6) and then vote on Nov. 6. Mark White and the Democrats can't set this election when the Aggies can't vote. It's up to us!

MORAL:
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

If you want to help make a difference, join Aggie GOP or call the Smith headquarters at 846-0047.