

# Beaumont joins in challenging utility charges

**Associated Press**  
**BEAUMONT** — The city of Beaumont may join a group of other Southeast Texas communities that have rolled back the rates Gulf States Utilities charges local residents for electricity.

Many local Gulf States customers are upset because they are paying more for their power than the utility's Louisiana taxpayers are charged.

The Beaumont City Council held a public hearing Tuesday on Gulf States' rates. Councilman Joe Deshotel said the panel will probably vote in about two weeks on whether to cut the rates.

The cities of Port Arthur and Port Neches Grove have passed rollbacks to Gulf States rates and Vidor officials are considering similar action. Gulf States officials have said they will appeal the rollbacks to the Texas Public Utility Commission.

Texas residential customers of Gulf States paid \$85.35 for 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity last month, compared to the \$68.42 Louisiana residents paid for the same amount of power.

Alzie Swearingen, head of the Texas Senior Citizens Association, said many Gulf States customers are cutting back to keep up with the

higher rates. She said some retired residents cook on outdoor cookers because electric ranges are too costly to use.

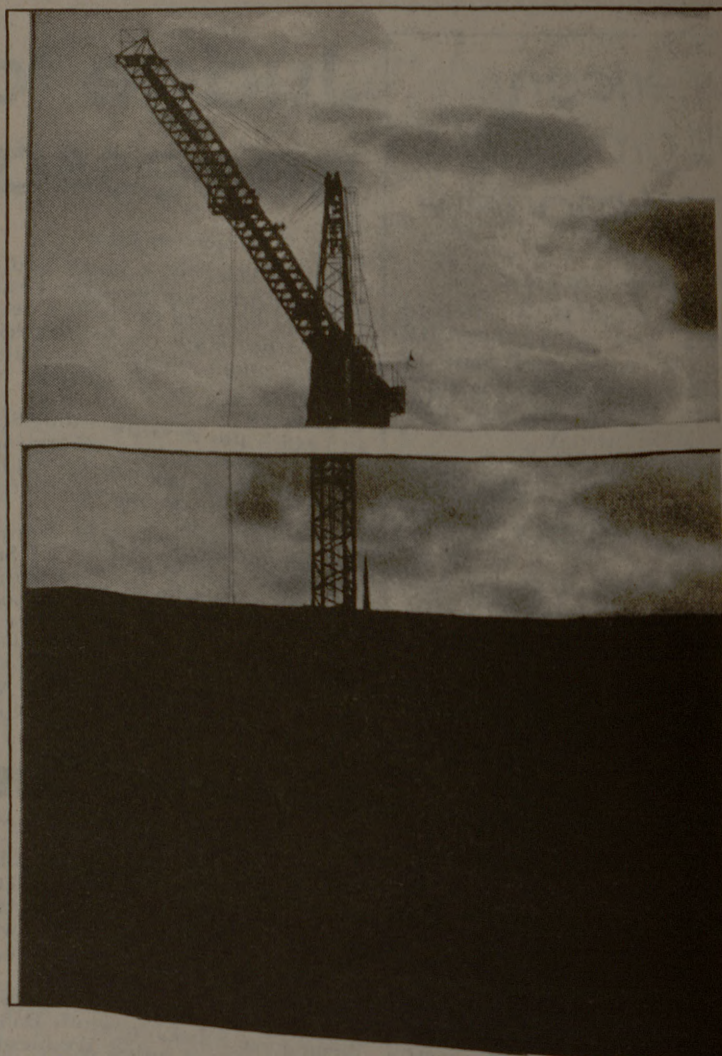
Beaumont Mayor Bill Neild, who opposes the rollbacks, said it would be difficult for council members to approve the cuts based on emotional appeals.

Gulf States president E. Linn Draper said the main reason Texas customers pay more is because state utility regulations allow the company to pass along the cost of construction projects to customers.

Louisiana law does not allow such costs to be passed on to ratepayers until the project is finished, he said.

Gulf States has begun testing at its \$3.8 billion River Bend nuclear plant near Baton Rouge and has also built a coal-powered generating plant near Lake Charles. The company also owns almost half of another coal-powered plant in Louisiana.

Joseph Donnelly, Gulf States executive vice president of finance, said proposed rollbacks in Beaumont would cost the company more than \$100 million.



One of many construction cranes on campus is reflected in a window in the Langford Architecture Building. Photo by GREG BAILEY

## You Could Be Qualified For An Internship

In LONDON, BONN, PARIS OR MADRID

If you have the language fluency, the right GPA plus a positive attitude you could work for MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, BUNDESTAG, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY or CORTES

Why not go this Spring quarter (April 14-June 29)  
 Programs each Semester also

In addition there are places in Law, Medical Research, Business, Museums, Town Planning, The Arts and Communications.



FULL DETAILS FROM EPA, MARYMOUNT COLLEGE, TARRYTOWN, N.Y. 10591 Phone (914) 631-3200 or the INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE on Campus.



## DELTA Upsilon FRATERNITY

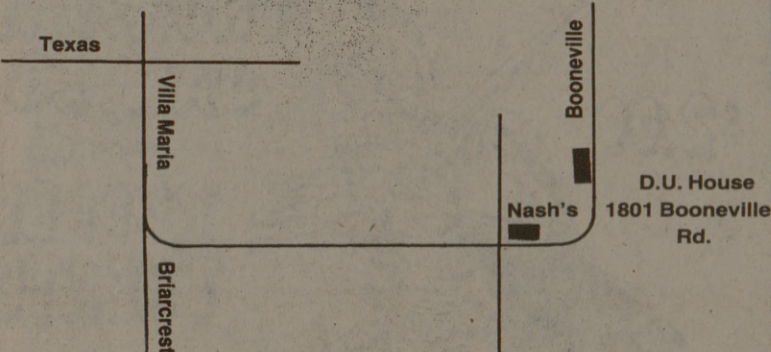
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SPRING RUSH 1986

WITH

"THE GANGSTER PARTY"

Jan. 24th — 8 P.M. at the D.U. House



For more information call 776-5831  
 NON SECRET — NON HAZING

## Oasis House

Home helps schizophrenics learn to cope in outside world

**Associated Press**

**SAN ANGELO** — "I felt I was lost and there was no hope for me."

Joe Carter is a 29-year-old schizophrenic living at Oasis House. His life, filled with hallucinations, bizarre behavior, and hospital stays for nine years, has evened out with drug therapy.

Carter (whose name has been changed to protect his privacy) still has a long way to go.

"I'm establishing myself again," he said. "It's going to take time. I'm not going to rush. I can't function if I rush."

Carter is depending on Oasis House to help — for as long as it takes.

Oasis House helps people like Carter cope with life outside a mental institution. There is a day program and the apartment project. According to director Carol Jeffers, no member has returned to a mental institution directly from Oasis House since its reorganization in 1982.

Carter was released from the state mental hospital in Big Spring in September. Carter works part-time at a store in the evenings.

Carter is among 15 former mental patients who live in apartments on Magdalen Street. Their expenses are paid by the Big Spring hospital until

"People have to regain social skills. Most schizophrenics need that help."

— Carol Jeffers, director of Oasis House.

they are able to move into the community.

Director Carol Jeffers said the apartment program is not a halfway house, it is a program of mutual support among the staff and Oasis House members.

Since the apartments opened in April 1984, about 20 people have successfully moved into their own homes, Jeffers said.

Oasis House also is a mutual support group for people who have mental health problems and live in the community. Most are schizophrenic, according to Jeffers.

"It's like a club," she said.

About 60 members connect with the center on a daily basis. They learn vocations, such as clerical, kitchen or maintenance work. They join group therapy and socialize. The staff helps members find part-time jobs, manage money, or help with problems which arise in members' lives, according to Jeffers.

Living away from a hospital is not easy for a schizophrenic. In a recent

episode of CBS' "60 Minutes," the increasing numbers of street people who are schizophrenic was discussed. Jeffers, a professional counselor, said she does not believe San Angelo has any street people who are schizophrenic.

"We know who is around," she said.

Each day the center buzzes with activity.

In the morning, members work in the vocational programs. At noon a

"We deal in reality here. People have to learn to live with their hallucinations. They have to cope with symptoms the rest of their lives."

— Carol Jeffers

nutritious lunch is served for 50 cents. Afternoons are filled with classes such as conversational Spanish, exercise and relaxation techniques.

The center also runs an active social program for members.

"People have to regain social

skills. Most schizophrenics need that help," Jeffers said.

The members meet once a month to plan social events such as trips, games or get-togethers.

For those who are ready for outside work, the center arranges it.

"We never turn anything down," Jeffers said.

Members and staff support one another for this phase, she added.

The final phase involves outside part-time jobs for members. The center helps members find jobs, get to interviews or any help they may need.

Some Oasis House members may never move into the community. They may prefer to restrict themselves to the center, which is fine with Jeffers.

"Even if we don't agree with that decision, we keep quiet," she said. "We will support them. Our goal is to keep people from returning to the hospital."

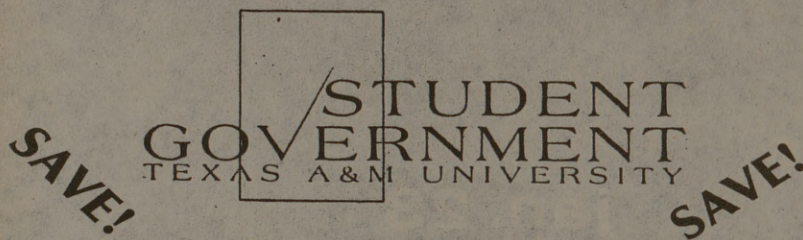
About 10 similar programs exist in Texas, Jeffers said.

"We deal in reality here," Jeffers said. "People have to learn to live with their hallucinations. They have to cope with symptoms the rest of their lives."

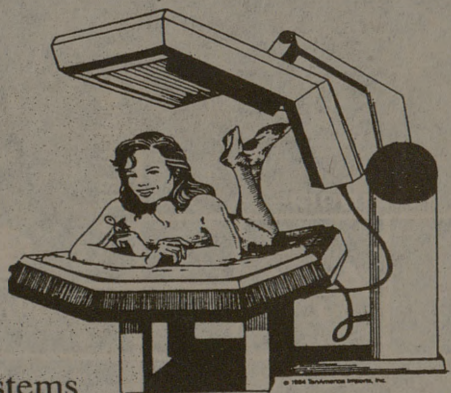
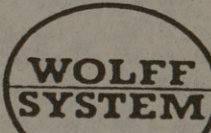
## SAVE! New and Improved Student Book Exchange SAVE!

In the Spring, a listing of all books for sale will be made available free of charge!

Come by 2nd floor Pavillion January 16-24 and register your books to be sold!



for the TOTAL tan that never has to fade again



- Facial tanning
- Automatic beds
- Pioneer stereo systems
- Complimentary juices
- First visit free
- Best packages available

for the Total tan that never has to fade again

Chimney Hill Plaza Mon-Sat 9:00-9:00  
 701 E. University Dr. - Suite 401 Sunday 1:00-6:00

846-2573



INTRODUCING LOW IMPACT AEROBICS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SALE

EXERCISE SPECIALS ONE WEEK ONLY  
 JAN. 20-26

BEGIN YOUR NEW YEAR WITH Bryan-College Station's #1 Workout!

STUDENT RATES AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION

CALL 846-1013

402 TARROW

