

# State and Local

## CS may face higher utility bills

Rates could rise 40 percent now; 75 percent over 3 years

By Rodney Rather  
Staff Writer

College Station residents may face higher utility bills this year while Bryan utility rates might drop, city officials say.

Gulf State Utilities, a privately-owned company which supplies College Station with electricity and water, may raise its rates 40 percent if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorizes it, says Kris Rose, utilities billing supervisor for College Station.

The increase would be an interim rate until the commission decides whether or not to let GSU raise its rates 75 percent over the next three years, Rose says.

College Station residents currently pay a \$4 minimum charge every month plus a rate determined by the number of kilowatt hours used in a given month, she says.

The rates per kilowatt hour used are:

- 9.5 cents for each of the first 100 kilowatt hours.
- 6.5 cents for each of the following 400 kilowatt hours.

• 5.8 cents for each kilowatt hour more than 500 hours.

During the off-peak months of November through April, a 5 cent rate is charged after the usage of 500 kilowatt hours. Water rates charged by GSU consist of a monthly charge of \$4 plus \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons, she says.

In contrast to GSU's potential rate increase in College Station, rates for Bryan's municipally owned Bryan Utilities have gone down in the past year, Bernie Fette, public information officer for Bryan, says.

"The rate went down in February," Fette says. "Also, there's... winter and summer rates."

From 1985 to 1986, winter electricity rates went down 6.7 percent and summer rates decreased 5.8 percent, Fette says.

Prices for each kilowatt hour used were not available.

Bryan water rates consist of a monthly \$3.60 charge and \$1.04 for every 1,000 gallons used, he says.

Another service often needed by students living off-campus is natural gas, provided by Lone Star Gas in both Bryan and College Station.

Robert Shearer, credit and accounting supervisor for Lone Star Gas, says gas rates are based on usage measured per thousand cubic feet. Lone Star also has summer and winter gas rates, Shearer says.

"Summer rates are applicable between May and October," he says.

Summer rates are \$4.21 per thousand cubic feet and winter rates are \$4.56 per thousand cubic feet, he says, adding that both rates are the same as last year.

A customer service charge also is added to the bill, Shearer says.

"In winter, the customer service charge is \$6.50," he says. "In summer, the charge is \$4.50."

Local telephone service and cable television service also are essential for many students.

General Telephone handles local phone service in the Bryan-College Station area and monthly charges depend on the type of phone the customer uses, says Roberta Seymour, residence account representative for GTE.

The monthly charge for a rotary-dial phone is \$12.40 and the charge

for a push-button phone is \$14.40, Seymour says.

Rental prices for phones also differ according to the type of phone desired, she says. The price ranges from \$2.50 to \$3 a month for rotary-dial phones and from \$3 to \$4.50 for push-button phones, she says.

McCaw Cablevision is the only television cable company in the Bryan-College Station area, and it offers various cable packages for different prices. In College Station, the Family Pac is the most inexpensive package, offering 30 channels for \$15 a month, says John Southard, McCaw's system manager.

The Family Pac does not include premium channels such as The Movie Channel or Cinemax. Premium channels are each \$10 per month, Southard says, but if two premium channels are purchased, their combined cost is \$18 per month.

Bryan customers have all the cable options College Station customers have, Southard says, but they are also offered a five-channel package for \$6 a month.

## In Advance

### Student Senate to discuss boosting involvement in SG

By Rodney Rather  
Staff Writer

Student involvement will be a key topic of discussion at the Student Senate's first fall semester meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Harrington.

The senate is scheduled to discuss the new "Get Involved" program, which is geared toward increasing involvement in Student Government, said Mike Cook, executive vice president of the stu-

dent body. Student Government also is hosting "Get Involved Night" Thursday at 7 p.m. on the first floor of the Pavilion.

In addition, changes in "Project Availability," a program designed to help student senators make themselves available to their constituents — by attending dormitory council meetings and other organizational meetings — also will be considered, Cook said.

## State Briefs

### House OKs anti-income tax proposal

AUSTIN (AP) — The House Ways and Means Committee Tuesday approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit the Legislature from imposing an income tax on corporations or individuals.

The vote was 9-1.

If approved by the House and Senate the constitutional change would be placed on the November 1987 general election ballot for a statewide vote.

### Texas may join regional primary in '88

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill that would have Texas join other Southern states in holding a regional presidential primary in 1988 has been introduced in the Legislature.

Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, introduced the measure in

hopes of getting it passed in the session that began Monday.

Gov. Mark White, who sets the agenda, has said he wouldn't allow consideration of the bill.

But Edwards said he was hopeful White might reconsider if the current session completes work on balancing the state budget.

### Phony defendant prompts complaint

DALLAS (AP) — An ethics complaint has been filed against a judge who let a phony defendant go on trial on assault charges to test the credibility of the prosecution's main witness.

Dallas County Criminal Court Judge John Hendrik says his action was a "search for truth."

But a complaint against Hendrik was filed with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct by the district attorney's office, the Dallas Times Herald reported Tuesday.

On May 8, Hendrik had arraigned an impostor on assault charges, accepted his plea of innocence and then let him waive his right to a jury trial.

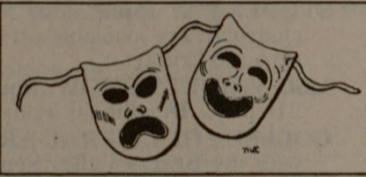
## Aggie Players opening 42nd season

By Mona Palmer  
Senior Staff Writer

Next week the Texas A&M Aggie Players open their 42nd consecutive season in Rudder Forum with "Luv," a satire of modern love by Murray Schisgal.

A release from the company describes the play as a "ludicrously absurd lampoon of love, loneliness, lost identity... wife-swapping... and just about anything else you can imagine."

The Aggie Players also will sponsor the second annual Spring Semester of Shakespeare featuring a return engagement of five members of Great Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre as a



part of the Alliance for Creative Theatre Education and Research.

At regular prices the productions would cost over \$22 for students and \$30 for non-students. Season tickets are \$17.50 and \$24, a savings of 20 percent. They may be purchased on Mastercard, Visa or by phone and are available at the Rudder ticket office.

"Luv" will open Sept. 19 and run Sept. 20, 25, 26 and 27.

Roger Schultz, director of the Aggie Players, said auditions for "Forum" will begin Sept. 22. Interested students can contact the director at 845-2426.

"Forum" is the successful Broadway musical comedy about a romp through the streets of ancient Rome. The play is based on the comic masterpieces of Plautus and has won several awards, including the Tony Award.

The play will be presented Nov. 12-15 in Rudder Theater.

The company's third production will be "Medea." The play, according

to a release by the Aggie Players, is a chilling tale of a woman obsessed with vengeance and is guaranteed to provide an evening of sustained suspense and horror coupled with dignity and eloquence.

"Medea" will be presented in the Rudder Forum Feb. 18-21.

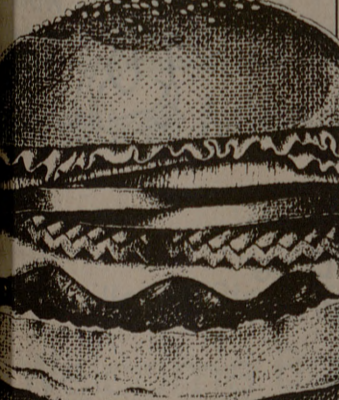
The Aggie Players will close their season with a presentation of "Picnic." The play, written by William Inge, depicts four lonely women living in small-town America and their quest for emotional release. The play has won the Pulitzer Prize.

The company will present "Picnic" April 10, 11, 16, 17, 23 and 25 in the Rudder Forum.

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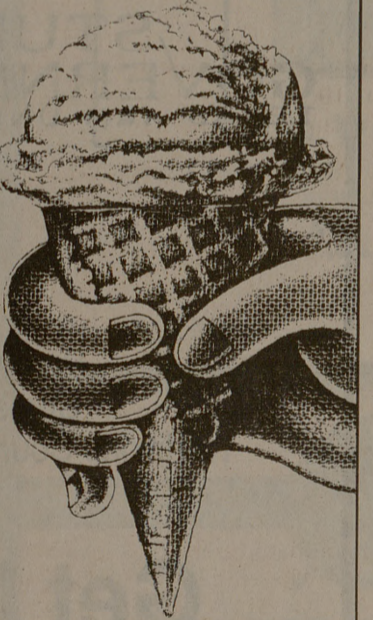


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