Garbage pileup warning issued

By GIBBS ADAMS
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Apartment complexes, left out of
free garbage collection when the city-
parish hired private companies, were
being warned Friday that permitting
garbage to pile up may create health
problems.

Four employees of the Department of
Public Works were following up on
letters previously mailed to apartment
owners who had relied on the city-parish
to pick up their garbage in the past, Bill
Howe, director of public works, said.

He said he hopes it will not be
necessary for the city-parish to pick up
the garbage and file liens on property as
a result of the failure of apartment
owners to comply with the new ordinance.
In fact, he anticipates about 90 percent of apartment owners
probably already have made
arrangements for private pickup.

Some apartment complexes,
however, have absentee owners and
managers on the premises, making it
difficult to get those units to comply
with the new garbage law, Howe said.

Dennis Strickland, sanitarian for the
East Baton Rouge Health Unit, said the
sanitarians will respond on individual
complaints they receive. Through
Friday, however, no formal complaints
had been lodged with the health unit
regarding the build up of garbage
around overflowing bins at some of the
larger apartment complexes.

The city-parish service is free to
owners of single-family dwellings,
duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes.
Larger apartment complexes, which numbered
more than 10,000, were served by the
city-parish until Jan. 1.

Though there were reports the East
Baton Rouge Apartment Association was
considering filing suit in an effort to
force the city-parish to continue to
serve the apartments, a spokesman for
the association said its president, Brad
Aucoin, was out of town and there was
no other source to respond to questions
about possible litigation.

Brown-Ferriis Industries Inc.
manager Harley Brown, whose
company formally took over residential
garbage and trash collections Thursday,
said four trucks were out Friday
collecting from 24 apartment complexes
that have signed up with his
company.

Other private companies in the waste
collection business also are competing
to secure the new contracts with
apartment owners.

Brown said that BFI is replacing the
1-cubic-yard dumpsters common at
many apartment complexes with
bigger containers holding 2, 4, 6 and 8...