

## False indications

# Teacher's market not so bad

By CINDY TABER  
Special to the Batt

Teacher surplus statistics could falsely indicate that unemployment awaits many education majors after graduation, indicated J. Malon Southerland in a recent interview.

Southerland, coordinator of Educational Placement Services, said he predicts that most 1975 TAMU graduates who will be seeking teaching positions will find them.

"The teacher surplus in Texas is much less startling than some national surplus statistics indicate," Southerland said.

For example, in 1973 over 20 per cent of the teacher graduates in the Pacific, West North Central and New England states couldn't find jobs, according to an article in the Fall 1974 issue of the Journal of Teacher Education. In Texas, the percentage is five to 10 per cent, one of the lowest percentages in the nation.

At A&M, the market for teachers may be even better, Southerland said. Last year out of 450 graduates registered for placement, all but 15 had found positions by the end of the year.

"That's darn good in my opinion," Southerland said.

Although there is reason for optimism, finding a job may require

settling for less pay than desired, or living in a "second or third choice" geographic location, Southerland said.

Reasons for the surplus are complex, said Dr. Robert E. Shutes, educational curriculum and instruction department head.

"There has been a decline in the number of school children largely due to the concern for zero popula-

tion growth," Shutes said.

As federal funds based upon pupil population decline, so do school districts' incomes. Couple this with inflation and school districts save money by cutting salaries, which traditionally compose 85 to 90 per cent of school budgets, Shutes explained. As a result, class sizes have gone up.

In Texas, foreign language

teachers at the elementary level (where not mandated) have been most heavily cut, Shutes said.

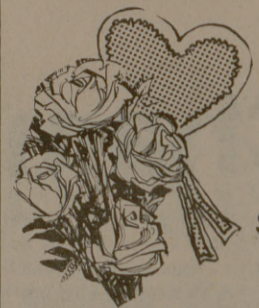
Social studies teachers — which Shutes described as a "glutted market" — and music, art and modern language teachers are in lowest demand, he said.

"English, math, and science teachers usually show a high turnover rate. As long as a teacher with

one of these specializations is 'mobile,' he should be able to find a position," he said.

In very high demand are vocational, industrial arts, reading and special education teachers, Shutes said.

"Also, when competing for jobs, males at the elementary level and bilingual teachers in 'need' areas have the edge," he concluded.



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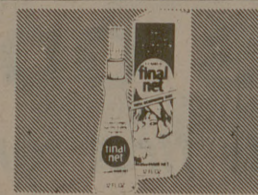
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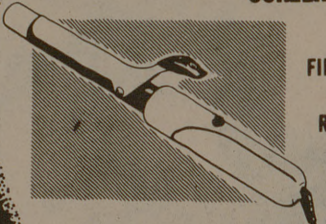


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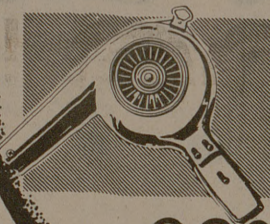
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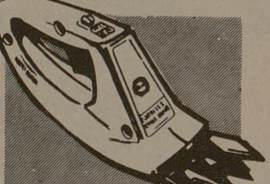
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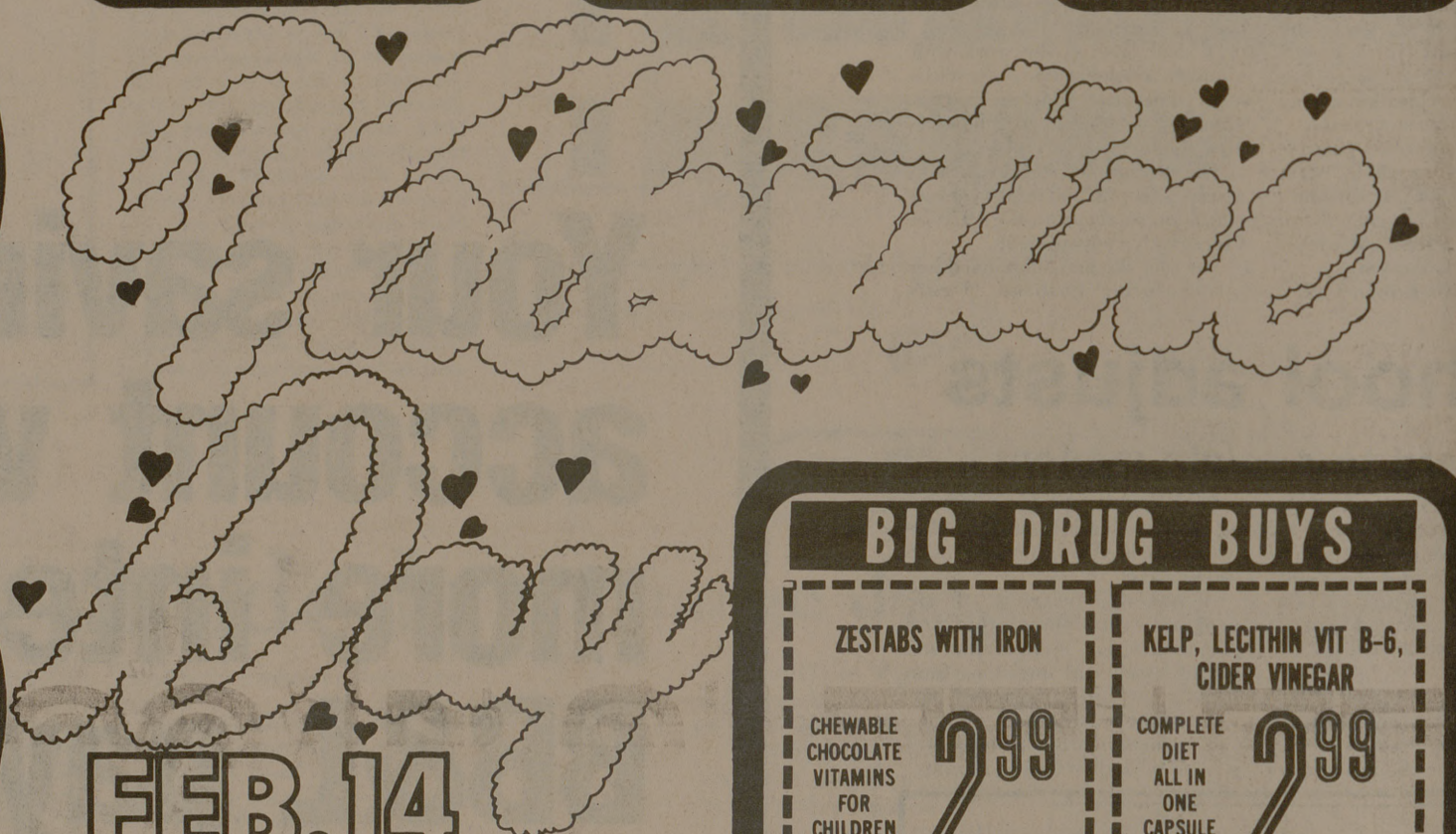


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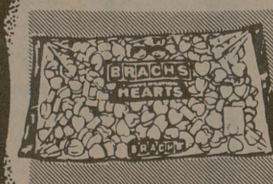
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