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Area summer job outlook not good, may improve

By JULIE SPEIGHTS
Battalion Staff

Local summer part-time jobs are not abundant, but if a position becomes available, an Aggie stands a good chance of getting the job.

R.M. Logan, financial aid director at Texas A&M University says the summer job outlook for students is not good.

Their are fewer summer jobs this year than last year, he said.

He said more jobs may become available soon, because many on-campus employers have held positions open for students returning for summer school.

The financial aid office in the YMCA building keeps a bulletin board listing job openings, Logan said.

John Dillard of the Texas Employment

Commission (TEC) says there is a chance some jobs will be available this week.

Most of the jobs deal with food services and pay the minimum wage (\$2.30 per hour), Dillard said.

He said that if a student files a job application with TEC and a position is not available then, TEC will find a job by contacting prospective employers.

"We can in many cases find jobs for students," Dillard said.

With increased expansion lately in the Bryan-College Station area more jobs should become available, he added.

The unemployment rate in Brazos County is two per cent according to a TEC report for June.

That unemployment figure does not include students who have never held a job locally.

Dillard said TEC expects to have numerous openings in August for the fall semester.

A spokesman for another local employment agency said jobs dealing with clerical work and food services are available, most paying minimum wage.

The Battalion interviewed several merchants in Bryan-College Station and found few openings for summer employment.

Of 11 restaurant owners and managers interviewed, four had job openings. Most said they pay the minimum wage.

Ken Martin, owner of several area restaurants said he nearly always has a job for someone who sincerely wants to work.

Seven of the restaurant owners and managers said they definitely prefer to hire Texas A&M students instead of high school students.

Most said that A&M students show more maturity in their work. The students show more desire to work and are more dependable and educated.

There were no job openings in the four department stores surveyed.

Two mentioned problems with student employees demanding holidays off and quitting without notice.

Only one department store representative said he preferred to hire A&M students, explaining that college students are more mature, reliable and can arrange their schedules to the employer's advantage.

A local representative from a convenience store chain said he has no job openings.

He said he prefers to hire A&M students because they are usually more mature. Part-time workers are paid more than minimum wage, he said.

No jobs were available in three grocery stores surveyed.

Two of the grocery store managers said they liked to hire students because of their maturity and schedule flexibility.

One manager complained that students leave the job without advance notice.



Battalion staff photo

Richard Petty in a Datsun??

No, this No. 43 does not belong to the darling of Darlington, Richard Petty, stock car driving great. The car was one of three used at Texas World Speedway yesterday in a special race for members of the media. The car driven by Martin Sebastian of KBTX-TV, Bryan, was the winner of the special race. The media race preceded the main event, the Texas 500. (See related story on page 6)

NASA making plans for 1984 improving exploration of Mars

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The space agency is developing a planetary exploration plan that proposes a 1984 launch of two roving Mars vehicles, a possible robot landing on Mercury, and flights to Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Halley's Comet and four asteroids.

The plan also envisions a 1990 launch of automated ships to land on Mars, collect samples of rocks and soil, and return them to Earth.

"These are possible candidates for the future — high priority mission opportunities," said A. Thomas Young, head of

planetary and lunar programs, in an interview following a series of presentations to a meeting of the American Geophysical Union last week.

In addition to the Mars expeditions, the plan includes:

✓ A spacecraft for launch in 1986 at the earliest to orbit Mercury and possibly land a simple exploratory robot on the surface of the planet nearest the sun.

✓ A satellite to set out in 1983 to orbit Venus and map its cloud-shrouded surface with advanced imaging radar.

✓ A spacecraft to be launched in early 1982 to orbit Jupiter and send an instrumented probe deep into its dense, hot atmosphere.

✓ A spacecraft for launch in 1985 to orbit Saturn and launch two probes, one to study the planet's atmosphere and one to examine the atmosphere of the Saturn moon, Titan.

✓ A spacecraft to set out in 1982 to rendezvous with and examine Halley's comet.

✓ A probe for launch in 1985 to survey the 240-mile thick asteroid Vesta and three smaller asteroids.

Young emphasized only one of those missions is currently approved by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the White House. It is the \$285 million Jupiter orbiter-probe mission and it has run into budgetary trouble in Congress.

As it now stands, NASA has two planetary exploration projects in the works. One is the launch of two Voyager spacecraft this summer from Cape Canaveral, Fla., to explore Jupiter, Saturn and possibly Uranus. The other is a flight of a Pioneer spacecraft and an atmospheric probe to Venus next year.

Teamsters attack 3 Dallas journalists

United Press International

DALLAS — Three newsmen attempting to cover a Teamsters meeting were beaten yesterday outside the Local 745 offices, and several thousand dollars worth of television equipment was smashed.

Cameraman Jack Weber of KDFW-TV was sent to the union hall to help cover the return of two dissident union members who for two years have been challenging expenditures by officers of the local.

Weber said as he and KDFW reporter Greg Lefevre attempted to cover the return of Weed and Hall several persons in the parking lot attacked him and smashed his camera.

Shortly after the attack, WFAA newsmen Byron Harris and cameraman Mike Coscia arrived at the hall to cover the same story and find out why Weber was beaten.

"I asked a bunch of guys standing around what had happened," Harris said. "They told me to leave. Well, I said, 'just tell me what happened.'"

Then one guy took a poke at me, and then two other guys hit me. Coscia was in the car filming the incident and they pulled him out of car. One guy grabbed the camera, held it above his head, and slammed it into concrete."

All three newsmen had to be treated at a local hospital for facial wounds.

Man in wheelchair attempts hijack; is overpowered by commandos

United Press International

KUWAIT — A young man carried aboard a Middle East Airlines jet in a wheelchair yesterday hijacked the plane from Lebanon to Kuwait and demanded a \$1.5 million ransom for his 110 hostages. He was overpowered by army commandos at Kuwait airport and all the passengers were freed unharmed.

An official at Kuwait airport said no shots were fired when the commandos

entered the Boeing 707, which had been on a flight from Beirut to Baghdad.

He said it was not certain how the commandos managed to get inside the jet, which had been parked on the tarmac while the hijacker negotiated the ransom with Kuwaiti authorities.

Kuwait had at first agreed to pay the money, but only if the hijacker left the plane to collect it, official sources in Beirut said. The gunman reportedly refused.

Beirut authorities said the hijacker — believed to be a 27-year-old Lebanese named Nasser Mohammed Khaled — boarded the plane in Beirut in a wheelchair. They said he apparently had concealed some kind of weapon in the wheelchair.

He demanded the \$1.5 million ransom from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq and asked that a negotiating panel be set up comprised of the ambassadors to Kuwait

from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, along with a Kuwaiti representative.

Kuwait's Al Seyassah newspaper said the government had guaranteed the gunman safe passage out of the country but there was no official confirmation.

There was no indication whether the piracy was politically motivated. It began late yesterday, the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the Six-Day Arab-Israeli war.

Wild Animals International opens

By MARY BECKER
Battalion Staff

The carpenters were still driving nails. The ticket booth did not have a roof. The sign pointing to Chimp Island was propped against the fence. But nothing stopped the opening of Wild Animals International (WAI) Saturday morning . . . not even a hippo roaming loose the night before.

The new park, zoo and exotic animal breeding farm opened its gates on schedule even though the gates themselves were not hung until half an hour before the park opened.

Richard LaBlue, owner and manager of Wild Animals International was at another part of the 110 acre park moving tigers. The ribbon cutting ceremony was delayed while he greeted visitors and gave last minute instructions on ticket selling and balloon vending.

LaBlue and John Anderson, vice-president for WAI were lined up with the other dignitaries as LaBlue cut the red ribbon with the gold-sprayed scissors.

The "Compound" is 1 1/2 miles from Bryan along FM 2818. A sign off to the left marks the turnoff along Leonard Road. A smaller sign detours zoo visitors on a dirt road which passes in front of the entrance gate to the picnic area.

A Mexican-American watered the white gravel with a garden hose to keep down the dust as cars parked under the trees and lined up along the front gate.

LaBlue admitted that Bryan was picked by chance for the site. He had been looking for a place with room for expansion, low-cost land and a subtropical climate.

"The people who owned the 14 acres around the lakes said they would be willing to sell," LaBlue said. "I called them on the phone and asked them because I was mainly concerned with the atmosphere to do something like this. I did not want a flat piece of land in the desert like West Texas."

"I called them and asked them 'Do you have trees there in Bryan?' I had no idea what we were talking about, I had never been to Bryan," LaBlue said.

LaBlue did not think he would like the location but he was flying through Houston and decided to see for himself.

"When I got to Conroe and saw how green and pretty it was, I took one look and . . ."

"Called me," Anderson broke in, "and said get out here and a few hours later I was out here to look at it. I could not believe it myself. I thought Texas was nothing but sagebrush."

Construction on the Compound began the first week of January but LaBlue and Anderson came to Bryan in September as the animals began coming in. The animals were kept in holding pens and then moved into the permanent cages when they were built.

LaBlue and Anderson are both from Montana. LaBlue moved to California six years ago where he set up a zoological park similar to the one now in Bryan. Starting out with one acre of birds, it built up to 14 acre, zoo and park.

Zoological parks supplied 70-80 per cent of the animals at the Compound.

"We trade, buy or sell back and forth," LaBlue said. Private individuals who raise the animals for a hobby provide 10-15 per cent. Only about 5 per cent of the animals are captured wild.

The park has celebrities behind its bars. Pattycake, a female bengal tiger, and a cervel cat from the petting zoo were in a movie called "Monroe's Island."

"They (the film company) call you and say 'Hey look, we are going to film this and we need a tame this or this,'" LaBlue said.

The park's animals are also used by Texas A&M's vet school for veterinarian studies.

Texas A&M vets have been able to study exotic animal nutrition and ostrich egg fertility. They even had a chance to put a metal rod in a kangaroo's broken arm.

In return the park is able to obtain veterinarian services at a lower cost.

A pet store is planned for the future. Birds such as cockatoos and parrots, and some smaller animals will be offered for sale. LaBlue hopes to sell T-shirts, animal art and plants at the store.

LaBlue said he does not like to sell the larger cats to individuals. The price on a lion cub is \$600 but the ani-

(See ANIMALS, Page 4)



Battalion Photo by Mary Becker

These swans are two of the many different animals that are at the new Wild Animals International.