Local



Photo by Dave Einsel Singing in the rain? Chris McVady, a sophomore accounting major, does a little catch-up work during the rainy weather Monday by the Harring-ton Center.

Grade Factory workers lift state rank in product-wage ratio

ced their counterparts nationwide by 34 percent during the late 70s, lifting the state to fourth in terms of value produced per dollar paid in wages, a Texas A&M in-dustrial researcher says.

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Production workers in Texas dded an average of \$4.99 for ev-

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"Where satisfaction is standard equipment"

Texas factory workers outpro- ery dollar they received during vision of the Texas Engineering 1977, compared to the national av-erage \$3.72, Dr. Charles Zlatkovich said at the 31st annual Texas System. Industrial Development Conference. The conference was held at the Greenspoint Marriott Hotel

north of Houston. Zlatkovich developed the figures in conjunction with the Industrial Economics Research Di-

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Experiment Station, a branch of the Texas A&M University The chemical industry is largely responsible for lifting the

overall productivity level of Texas industry so far above the national average," Zlatkovich said. "Chemicals and alloid products

account for more than 22 percent of all Texas manufacturing value, compared with less than 10 percent nationwide. The Texas chemical industry has posted a level of production per wage dollar, 35 percent higher than the national chemical industry.

Satellite photos help A&M assess timberland tax value

A Texas A&M University labor-atory is using high-altitude aircraft and satellite photos to help tax value, which could be anywhere assessors determine timberland values in 48 East Texas counties.

photos from the National Aero-NASA), the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forestry sciwide appraisal boards and school districts to more accurately - and evenly — determine land values. "Under 1979 tax laws timber-

land owners are given incentives to produce wood, since they can reduce their tax assessment by means of production," explained Dr. Robert Baker, a Texas A&M

of any

Stock!

between \$800 and \$1,000.

lues in 48 East Texas counties. "This value is commonly called With the aid of remote sensing timber-use value," Baker said.

'Timber growers in Texas nautics and Space Administration know from experience that pine is worth more per unit than most hardwood, that timber grows best ence lab is drawing maps outlining where pine, hardwood and a mix-ture of the two grow in East Texas. The maps will be used by county-the maps will be used by countystance, pine growing on the best soil could have over 20 times the value per acre of hardwood timber growing on the poorest soil. The values which the local

assessor computes for the categories of timberland is a method for ranking the timber use values per acre." The Texas A&M forestry scien-

drawn to outline soil types. "Our work will lead to more standardized procedures for asses-sing the value of forest land," Bak-

er said, explaining that the project began in 1976 through a joint effort of the agricultural experiment station and the Governor's Office of Educational Resources. The State Property Tax Board has

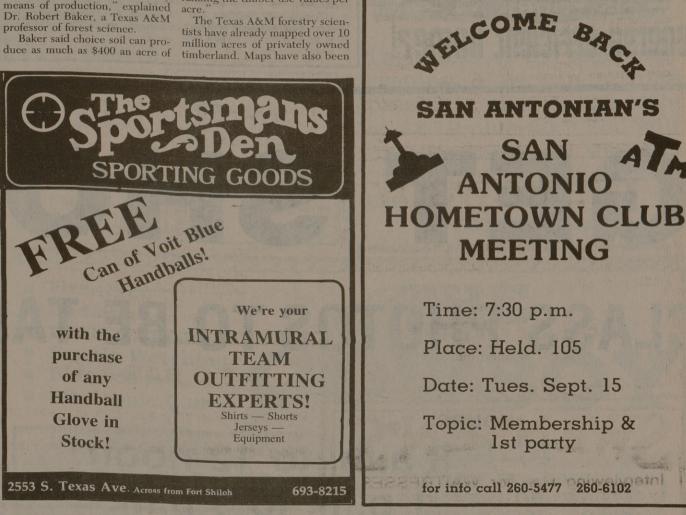
joined the project "The data will help us make decisions we have not been able to make before," Baker said. "It would be useful to industry for determining which lands would be best suited for growing trees or it could help determine where federal wilderness areas should be

placed so they wouldn't compete with areas that would be better suited for production.

By using infrared satellite photos, the researchers can also keep an update on which timber lands have been harvested and where new trees are being planted.

About 50 school districts of the almost 300 in the area that have been surveyed are already using maps from Texas A&M for assessing property values, Baker said, and 20 of the 48 counties have been supplied the drawings. Maps for additional school districts and counties will be available upon request.

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