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What's Up

Wednesday

BUSINESS CAREER FAIR BANQUET: Tickets are on sale (\$5 per person) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through Friday in the foyer of the A&A Building. Reservations for companies are available.

A&M RUGBY CLUB: Practice and training is held every Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m. on the Main Drill Field.

BRYAN HOSPITAL: Bryan Hospital is sponsoring a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course, certified by the American Heart Association, today and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Bryan Hospital Conference Room. The course is taught by Naomi Giroux and costs 50 cents per person.

POLITICAL FORUM: Sign up now for the annual trip to Washington D.C. A \$200 deposit is due by Feb. 9. For more information, call 845-1515.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Today is the last day to interview for membership. Get your applications in the Hospitality cubicle in 216 MSC (SPO office).

STUDENT GOVERNMENT (STUDENT BOOK EXCHANGE): Today is the last day to pick up books or money from the Student Book Exchange from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 216 MSC.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY: Local attorneys, William R. Vance, Steve Rodgers and Gaines West, will participate in a panel discussion at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

CANADIAN CLUB: A new semester, new prime minister and new events will be discussed in a meeting at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder. All newcomers welcome!

ABILENE HOMETOWN CLUB: Club pictures will be taken at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Main Lounge.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS: Lillian Elgie Shell Oil will speak, plans for a conference will be finalized and registration for the regional conference will be held at a meeting at 7 p.m. in 102 Zachry.

PSI CHI (PSYCHOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY): The first meeting of the semester will be held at 7 p.m. in the Academic Building. Old members and anyone interested in psychology are welcome.

INTRAMURAL-RECREATIONAL SPORTS: A machine weight lifting clinic and guest speaker will be presented at 7 p.m. in 262 G. Rollie White Coliseum.

FLORICULTURE CLUB: A general meeting with guest speaker Dr. David Reed will be held at 7 p.m. in 106 Zachry.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: A Candlemas Communion Service will be held at 10 p.m. at the University Lutheran Chapel, 315 N. College Main in College Station.

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS: A discussion on mini-Indy car, alcohol car and upcoming regional meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 127-B Zachry.

BLACK AWARENESS: Black History Month plans will be discussed in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

Congress considers aid Jobless lose health benefits

WASHINGTON — Congress is considering aid to the nation's more than 5 million laid-off workers who have lost their health insurance, but budget officials warn any program will be costly.

Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office, told a House Energy and Commerce Health subcommittee Monday, 10.7 million laid-off American workers and dependents had no health insurance as of December.

Twelve million Americans were unemployed last month, and the jobless rate was the highest since the Great Depression. Rivlin said 7.4 million of those workers had been laid off, and 5.3 million of them lost their health insurance.

Health benefits usually continue for up to three months after job loss. But Rivlin said almost 70 percent of those who lost their jobs have been out of work five weeks or more, and most have exhausted extended health benefits.

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser, representing the labor-backed Security Action Council, said Congress to act. He is requiring longer coverage for laid-off workers and other workers, expanding Medicare to include the unemployed and providing funds for group-term life insurance or a basic one-year benefit package.

"Literally thousands of thousands of people are postponing their health care," he said.

But Rivlin warned: "Any program for coverage to those who are currently unemployed, whether public or private, would be costly."

It would cost \$6 billion in the current fiscal year to provide Medicare health coverage for laid-off workers, which she said "add significantly to the deficit," she said.

The panel heard from laid-off workers who lost their health insurance.

Isaac Emerson of York, who lost his truck-driving job last April, said he cannot take his two children to the hospital for their heart murmur, filed for bankruptcy in December.

Mary Williams of Bates, laid off from Bethlehem last April, said she has not paid the \$2,300 in medical bills she incurred for gallstone removal.

"Your story is being repeated all over the country," Chairman Henry Waxman of Calif., told the laid-off workers.

Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., said in a statement he will propose a bill creating emergency health coverage for laid-off workers and incentives for employers to provide insurance for laid-off employees.

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