

TEC expert, deans concur

Labor market is improving

by Brigid Brockman
Battalion Staff

The job market is better now than it was three months ago and it may continue to improve, says a Texas Employment Commission expert.

O.H. Patterson, a labor market analyst for the Texas Employment Commission, says "the Class of '84 will have an easier time finding jobs than did the Classes of '82 or '83."

"Probably a lot more students went to graduate school because of the economy."

But G.W. Kunze, dean of the

graduate college, says the economy isn't the only reason why graduate enrollment has increased slightly.

"There has been an increase of about 300," Kunze says. "We have also been active in recruiting more graduates to our school."

He says the job market will continue to improve as long as the oil industry is able to show a profit. Many oil-related markets that involve manufacturing jobs have high unemployment rates because the oil industry is hurting.

He says Dallas has a better job market than Houston right now

because Houston is so petrochemical oriented, but by next year the Houston job market in should improve.

Even though Bryan-College Station has the lowest unemployment rate in Texas, Patterson says that doesn't mean it has the best job market in Texas. As of July, the Bryan-College Station area had an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent, but 14 percent of the employees are government workers. There is no lay-off in government.

"Texas A&M has about 14,000 employees — that's a lot of government workers," Patterson says. "One out of every three jobs here is a government job, and that kind of employment works as insulation against unemployment."

The sagging economy has indeed hurt the job market, and some department heads at Texas A&M say it also has hurt the enrollment in their colleges.

H.O. Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture, says the sagging economy that forced many farmers out of business also has caused the enrollment to drop. He said many people see an agriculture degree as leading to farming, and are afraid they won't be able to make a profitable living off the land anymore.

However, freshman enrollment in the College of Agriculture is up about 20 percent this year, and Kunkel says this is a good sign. He also says applications for graduate study at the college are slightly lower this fall, another signal of an improving economy.

In contrast, the College of Engineering reports that their freshman enrollment is down about 13 percent.

Leland Carlson, associate dean of the College of Engineering, says he does not attribute that figure to the job market, but to the economy. "Many people may not be able to afford college right now," he says.

Students graduating this year

may find they will have to demonstrate that they have some versatility when applying for a job, since the job market is so tight.

Dr. Candida Lutes, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, says this is one advantage liberal arts graduates may have.

"When the economy shifts, liberal arts majors can adjust and 'sell' themselves better because they have more versatility."

The economy may be rather unstable, but Texas A&M offers a very stable service to graduating seniors through the Placement Center.

Ann McDonald, assistant director of the Placement Center, says Texas A&M is among the top five placement centers in the nation and is "really number one in Texas," based on the number of interviews arranged through the center.

She says The University of Texas is the only competitor that Texas A&M has in the state, but as far as business and engineering majors are concerned, Texas A&M does more recruiting for these technical fields.

During the 1982-1983 academic year, the Placement Center set up nearly 25,000 interviews.

80 rooms in men's dorms are available

by Chappelle Henderson
Battalion Reporter

Because of an unusual number of no-shows and late cancellations, on-campus housing for male students is available, the Texas A&M housing supervisor says.

The 80 vacancies are a result of more no-shows and late cancellations than expected, Tom Murray said.

"We use statistics from past years to estimate or project the no-show rate. This year the rate was unusually high," Murray said.

The overassignment situation went well, Murray said. If the high rate of no-shows could have been predicted, he said, it probably would have gone more smoothly.

Murray doesn't foresee any problems filling the vacancies because he said students like living on campus to get involved — especially on Texas A&M's tradition-oriented campus.

More than 4,700 freshmen apply for on-campus housing a year, Murray said, but only half of those students are assigned a

room because of the high number of students who remain on campus. He said the number of male students who stayed on campus decreased this year, which is another reason for the vacancies.

The apartment boom at Bryan-College Station does help keep students on campus, Lesley Stoup, staff assistant housing services, said.

Apartment are having problems, which attract potential on-campus residents, Murray said.

The University has been competing to keep students on campus for the past five years, improving the residence hall, Murray said.

"We spend about \$1 million per summer on painting, carpentry and furniture repair and placement," Murray said.

The 80 vacancies are in various dorms and range in price from \$313 to \$778 per semester. To be eligible to reserve a room for the spring all students must be in a room by Oct. 1.

For more information about on-campus housing contact the housing office in 101 YMC.

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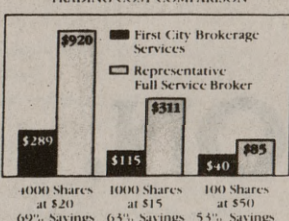
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Mexican independence celebrated here today

by Kay Mallett
Battalion Reporter

Viva la independencia! Long live independence was the cry heard in Mexico on Sept. 15, 1810. The declaration marked the beginning of the Mexican Revolution against Spain for independence. That independence is celebrated each year on Sept. 15-16 in Mexico and is being observed this year at Texas A&M.

"It's really a type of festival," Josue Leos, chairman for the Mexican Student Association, said. The two-day event, including Mexican national song and dance and a live mariachi band, will con-

clude today with the mariachi band. The festival is being held jointly by the MSA and the Committee for Awareness of Mexican American Culture.

"Even though we are students everything is professional," Leos said. Thursday the MSA entered the crowds with singing and dancing.

"The song and dance is all made by students," he said.

Children were taught the Mexican national dance especially for the occasion, Leos said.

CAMAC has brought the Mariachis Continental from Kingsville to Texas A&M. They

will perform around the Fountain today between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

"It's not really the independence day we're celebrating today, it's the first day of the revolution," Acosta, the public relations man for CAMAC, said. The peasants and Indians first decided to revolt against the Spanish monarchy around 11 p.m. on Sept. 15, 1810, and they declared independence the next day.

The Revolution was first led by Father Miguel Hidalgo. Mexican independence from the Spaniards was finally achieved in 1821.

Spirit line being organized

by Leslie Yoder
Battalion Reporter

Residents in Law and Keathley

halls are organizing a "spirit line" to give support to the football team before the Arkansas State

game on Saturday.

"This spirit line is not for RHA members though, but for Aggies to be a part of," Ron Colquhoun, president of the Residence Hall Association, said.

Everyone is encouraged to meet on Clark Street in front of Cain Hall at 4 p.m. on Saturday just shortly before the football players walk into Kyle Field.

"Even though the spirit line is not considered an actual rally," Golub said, "there will be a lot of screaming and hollering to cheer the players on."

He said the idea for a spirit line was discussed at an RHA meeting before last year's final home game but it "never got off the ground."

RHA decided at its last meeting to coordinate a spirit line, but did not know how to go about doing it, he said. Assistant Athletic Director Allen Jones was quite helpful in the planning stage of the line, he said.

Randi Reid, vice president of Keathley hall, said RHA members hope the spirit line will serve as a basis for which Aggies can show the tradition at Texas A&M.



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