

Recruiters look for honesty in Aggie grad's answers

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

Although students can't guess what they might be asked in an interview, it's helpful to know what goes on in the minds of recruiters. Recruiters at the Texas A&M Placement Center are glad to offer suggestions that will improve students' chances of having a successful interview.

"The question A&M students seem to have the most trouble with is really a very trite little question, but one I really think is important," said Kim Treadaway, a recruiter from Sanger Harris in Dallas.

"I always ask students what they consider to be their strengths and what they consider to be their weaknesses."

"Too often, she said, students only answer with their strong points believing that will impress recruiters. But recruiters want to hear what students think are their weaknesses, she said.

"It's important to me to see that they have spent time analyzing themselves," Treadaway said. "I'm

not saying overdo it, but it's important to think about those things. Just be honest."

Bob Waxdahl, a recruiter for Shell Oil Co., says he hasn't noticed any particular question which gives A&M students problems. But he did suggest that students be well prepared for interviews.

Treadaway and Waxdahl said they notice that students who already have interviewed a couple of times are the best prepared.

Both recruiters said they look forward to coming to A&M and hiring more Aggies.

"I like coming to A&M," Treadaway said. "A&M is very comparable to a northern university I visit. We find a good old fashioned work ethic is instilled in A&M graduates. I believe that is due to the great deal of discipline and tradition that exists here."

Waxdahl said recruiting at A&M gets his company results.

"Our company has always been successful in coming here and finding students with a high-quality education," he said.

Treadaway said she has seen a lot of well-directed students at A&M.

"I was surprised at how well A&M students have a sense of where they want to be in five years," she said. "I go to SMU and I ask a student what they want to be doing for our company in five years and they say 'I want to be a manager.' And I want to say 'Well, so does everyone else.'"

Judy Vuilleit, associate director of the placement center, said recruiters often look for students to fill particular needs.

"Of course recruiters looking for people in technical fields are looking primarily for good grades," Vuilleit said. "But recruiters who need sales reps say they are more concerned with how you handle people rather than grades."

But Vuilleit said when students get to their interview, there is something that all recruiters are looking for.

"I think the single most important thing recruiters are looking for is motivation and enthusiasm. Students who don't have those two really lack the essential ingredients for a good job."

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White: Texas in race to be chosen as nation's first Toyota factory site

Associated Press

TOKYO — The race is on to be the state chosen for Toyota Motor Corp.'s first U.S. car factory, and Texas Gov. Mark White is determined to win.

"Japan will have the best-built autos if they build in Texas, while we would learn from seeing Japanese management up close and become more competitive," White said Wednesday.

White arrived Sunday for a four-day trip, his first visit to Japan. He said he is here because Toyota will decide where to set up shop very soon, and will declare its plans by the end of this year.

Since July, when Japan's largest automaker announced plans to open a U.S. plant in 1988, leaders of more than 25 American states have sought to be its home.

Toyota would invest more than \$500 million in the plant, which would create 2,000 to 2,500 jobs in the factory and many more in the community, said David Nesenholtz, associate director of the governor's Office of Economic Development.

Toyota officials expect the plant to produce 200,000 to 250,000 Camry passenger cars a year, Nesenholtz said.

Texas has proposed El Paso, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Marshall-Longview as sites promising

quality labor, transportation, central location and low energy costs.

"We've got good weather and a good business climate overall," White said.

Nesenholtz said, "We felt Toyota would never choose a state unless the governor made personal contact — that's the Japanese way — and knew we had to come now or it would be too late."

Neither Toyota President Shoshiro Toyoda nor Chairman Eiji Toyoda was available to meet White, however. Company spokesman Masato Yoshimoto said White met top officials during his two-hour working-level talks Tuesday in Toyota city in western Japan.

To woo other potential Japanese investors, White said he invited a delegation of Parliament members to visit Austin next week.

He said he is also seriously considering opening a state representative office in Tokyo, where 28 states now have liaison offices to promote business ties here. At present 240 Japanese companies operate in Texas, including 30 manufacturers.

White said he is not worried that the recent plunge of the dollar against the yen will make investment in Texas less attractive to Japanese businessmen, nor that protectionist sentiments will make Texans hostile to them.

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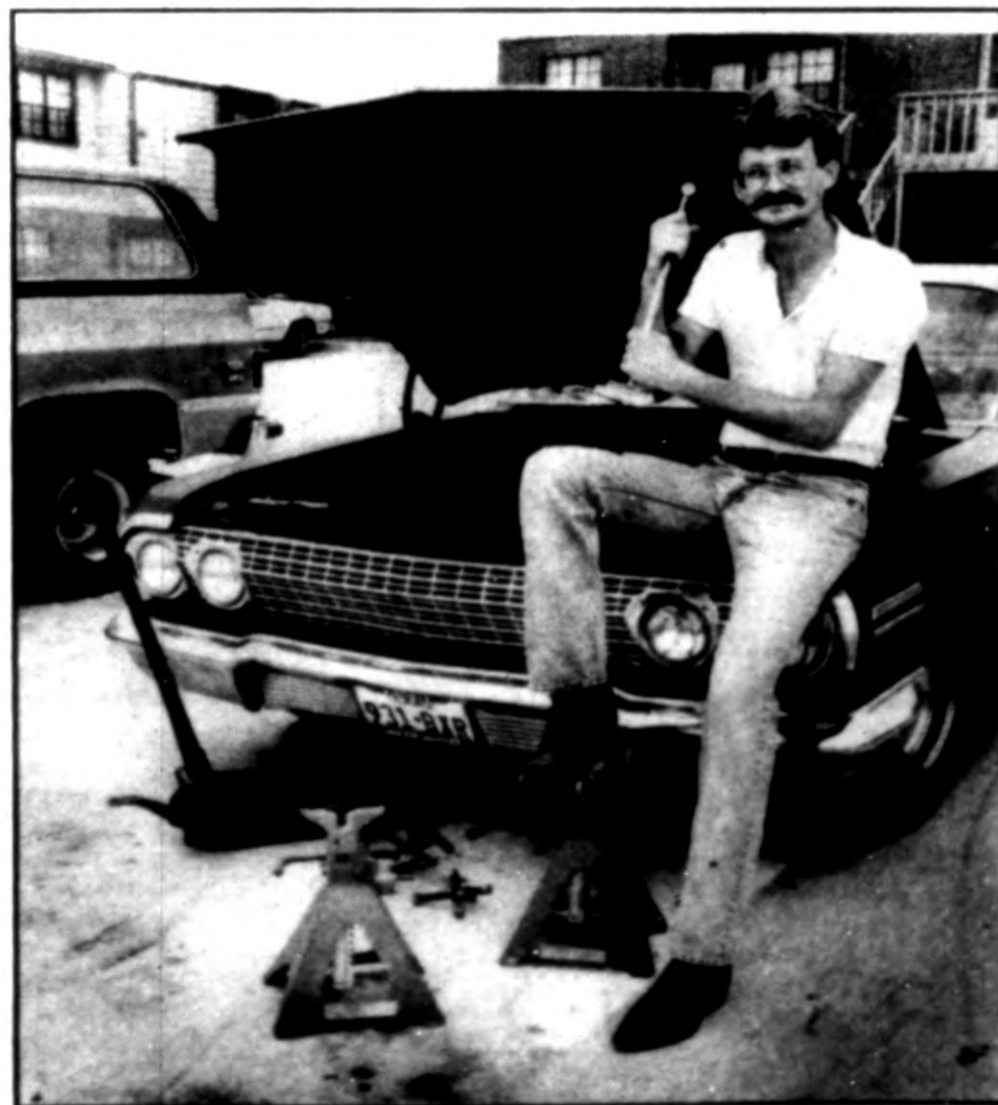
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