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Photo by GREG BAILEY

Shop Around

Texas A&M students talk to recruiters at booths in the Blocker Building Tuesday during the first day of the College of Business Administration Career

Fair. Mike Billingsly of Foley's tells students about career possibilities with his company. The career fair continues through Wednesday.

Reagan seeks to break welfare dependence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan told Congress on Tuesday the breakdown of the family structure among America's welfare recipients has reached crisis proportions and ordered his administration to devise a strategy by December to break "the spider's web of dependency."

While proclaiming "a Great American Comeback" from a land of broken dreams, Reagan directed new attention to social concerns, pledging to work with private insurers to develop affordable insurance against the costs of catastrophic illness.

In a State of the Union address delayed a week by the explosion of the shuttle Challenger, Reagan asked Congress to pause with him to "mourn and honor the valor of our seven Challenger heroes." He then delivered, as expected, a relatively brief and upbeat report on a nation that he said is "growing stronger every day."

The president suggested few initiatives in his fifth such address, boosting again his tax reform proposal and extolling Congress to cut the federal deficit by reducing spending. His remarks included an emphatic thumbs-down on tax increases.

Reagan also suggested that in his proposed budget for fiscal 1987, which he will send to Congress Wednesday, several programs and agencies will be pegged for sharp funding cuts.

Saying heavy federal deficits cloud the future, Reagan said, "We cannot win that race held back by horse-and-buggy programs that waste tax dollars and squander human potential."

In laying out his hopes to reform welfare programs, Reagan said: "In the welfare culture, the breakdown of the family, the most basic support system, has reached crisis proportions — in female and child poverty, child abandonment, horrible crimes and deteriorating schools."

The Democrats, echoing the words of Republican Senate leaders earlier this week, said that any proposals to increase taxes to reduce the budget deficit would have to come from Reagan.

"After hundreds of billions of dollars in poverty programs, the plight of the poor grows more painful," Reagan said. "But the waste in dollars and cents pales before the most

tragic loss: the sinful waste of human spirit and potential."

At the end of his speech Reagan saluted four "heroes of our heart" who were in his audience in the chamber of the House of Representatives. They were: Richard Cavoli, whose high school experiment to make X-rays less harmful was destroyed aboard the Challenger; Tyrone Ford, a gospel music singer and pianist; Shelby Butler, who risked her life to pull a youngster out of the path of a schoolbus; and Trevor Ferrell, who saw homeless people on television and left his home to deliver food and blankets to them in what has become a Philadelphia custom involving hundreds of volunteers.

Saying "we can ignore this terrible truth no longer," Reagan ordered his Domestic Policy Council to re-

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Democrats denounce Reagan's optimism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic Party leaders said Tuesday night that President Reagan's upbeat State of the Union speech sought to hide a devastating budget deficit, a floundering farm economy and a sea of foreign trade red ink.

In a nationally televised response to the president's address, they said these are symptoms of serious economic troubles ahead, which threaten the jobs and the stability of the very American families Reagan maintains his policies are devised to protect.

To present the Democratic view, the party turned to former Virginia Gov. Charles S. Robb, and to Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, Harriett Woods, the lieutenant governor of Missouri, and Reps. Tom Daschle of South Dakota and William Gray of Pennsylvania.

Mitchell, chairman of the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee, said, "We can no longer rely on rhetoric which refuses to face the real world — which pretends that we can have unlimited military spending and unrestrained tax breaks and a balanced budget — all at the same time."

When Reagan says that can happen, "the president is wrong. And the American people know he's wrong," said Mitchell, who served as the program's moderator.

Robb said that no one wants to undermine the nation's military strength. But he said that strength depends not so much on more and more dollars but "a clear strategy, weapons that will actually work in combat and troops trained to use them."

"Strength also requires a healthy economy, but we won't have one much longer if we don't have the will to balance our federal checkbook," Robb said. "What our government desperately needs is discipline. If defense spending has to be reduced, let's reduce it. If domestic spending has to be cut, then let's cut it. If tax breaks have to be stopped, then let's stop them."

Daschle introduced viewers by video tape to the McBrayers, a South Dakota farm family whom he said face the loss of their land.

"Many policy makers are now saying they (farm families) are no longer needed," Daschle said.

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Miles of water mains to remain intact

EPA asbestos ban won't affect B-CS

OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK Reporter

The proposed Environmental Protection Agency ban on asbestos pipe and other asbestos products announced Jan. 22, will not require the removal of miles of asbestos-cement water mains now in use in the Bryan-College Station area.

The proposed ban, which would restrict the production and sale of a number of asbestos products, is largely a response to health risks posed to asbestos industry employ-

ees, rather than concern over asbestos contamination of drinking water, says Dr. Peter Lassovzky, a drinking water specialist at the EPA's Washington bureau.

The plan would be gradually implemented over as many as ten to fifteen years, Lassovzky says.

Asbestos-cement pipe accounts for 30 percent of Bryan's 400 miles of water mains, says David Simmons, division manager of water distribution and waste water collection in Bryan.

David Pullen, an engineer for the

city, says asbestos-cement pipe has been in use in College Station for many years. But figures aren't available on the amount of the pipe in use, he says.

Asbestos-cement pipes are commonly used as water mains. And recently concern has arisen as to whether, if damaged, they might admit asbestos fibers into the water supply and present a health risk.

Fred Albee, an official with the Texas Water Commission, says, "You don't usually test groundwater

for asbestos. I've never seen any statistics."

He says that asbestos is associated mainly with respiratory diseases resulting from inhalation.

Asbestos is a proven carcinogen blamed for numerous diseases, including the respiratory disease asbestosis and a suffocating lung cancer, mesothelioma.

Pullen says he is sure there is no asbestos in College Station's water, although the city doesn't test for it.

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Oil price slide prompts 2nd look at revenue

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The worldwide slide in oil prices Tuesday prompted the Texas comptroller to take another look at the state's financial position and left the governor saying he doesn't yet see the need to call a special budget-cutting session of the Legislature.

Oil prices on the spot market tumbled to below \$18 per barrel Monday for the first time this decade, causing increased worries for state officials.

Some 13 percent of state government revenues come from taxes on oil and gas.

Comptroller Bob Bullock said Tuesday that "Mexico's decision, over the weekend to drop oil prices to \$20 a barrel may have been the straw that broke the

camel's back in terms of relatively stable prices."

Bullock said Mexico's oil exports account for about 17 percent of the imported oil used in the United States, and that fact, alone, will have a strong influence on the prices of Texas oil.

Bullock said he had written White, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, telling them of plans to update the state's financial position.

"Even though world oil prices have been volatile, I'm not ready to throw out the current revenue estimate," Bullock said. "But the oil situation that has unfolded in the past three weeks has serious implications for Texas and its finances."

Friday last day to apply for diplomas

By Brian Pearson Senior Staff Writer

Friday is the last day graduating students can apply to receive diplomas during May graduation ceremonies, a representative of the Registrar's Office said.

Don Gardner, assistant registrar, said students who have paid the \$15 diploma fee must go to 105 Heaton Hall and fill out two graduation application cards by Friday if they hope to walk away from graduation ceremonies with a diploma.

"This is actually applying for the diploma and graduation," Gardner said.

"They (students) are not official degree candidates until they do that," he said.

Students can pay the diploma fee in the Coke Building, Gardner said.

Students must show the diploma fee receipt or show the fee was paid on spring semester fee slip in order to fill out the application cards.

"Everyone that has applied for graduation in the spring is already a degree candidate as far as

the (computer) system is concerned," Gardner said.

He said the student is put on a finals exemption list and his diploma is ordered soon after the cards are filled out.

Students applying late can still receive diplomas, but they will have to be mailed after the ceremony, Gardner said.

Gardner said students can still apply for graduation after Friday's diploma deadline, but the absolute deadline will occur when grade sheets for degree candidates go out.

"When those grade sheets are generated, then anybody that comes in after that, they won't be able to graduate until the next semester," Gardner said.

"Anybody that comes in after April 24 is not going to graduate for sure," he said.

Gardner said each graduation candidate will be notified by a letter sent out April 1 of any academic needs — such as grade points, courses, grade changes and petitions — that the student must take care of or straighten out with the Registrar's Office before graduation.

Graduating students must sign the letter and return it to the office, Gardner said.

"That way we know they got the word," he said.

Gardner said the students have about a month to clear all academic and fiscal problems.

On May 7 at 8 a.m., a clear list will be posted outside of Heaton Hall.

On that clear list, graduation candidates that still have academic or fiscal problems will have a dot by their names, Gardner said.

If there is no dot by the name, the student is cleared for graduation.

"All the undergraduates need to check that clear list and they've got until noon Thursday (May 8) to get everything cleared up," Gardner said.

"If they're not cleared for graduation by then, then there won't be a graduation for them," he said.

Gardner said rough figures indicate that about 3,000 undergraduate students and about 500 graduate students will receive their diplomas in May.

NASA: 1 booster may have been found

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Researchers may have found one of Challenger's two rocket boosters Tuesday, which could be "a very valuable piece of evidence" in the investigation of the space shuttle's explosion, NASA said.

Sonar soundings indicate a solid

rocket booster may have been located," a NASA statement said. There was no information on the precise location.

There also was no indication whether it was the right booster, which is the chief suspect in the lift-off explosion that destroyed the

shuttle and killed its seven astronauts Jan. 28.

Challenger had two such boosters to help propel it into space.

"It would be a miracle if we could find the right hand segment we saw in the films and everybody has a hypothesis about," Jim Mizell, a space agency spokesman, said. "There are

many things you could tell engineering-wise if you recovered that data."

CBS, meanwhile, reported that "at least a portion" of the shuttle's main crew compartment has been located and that some of the personal effects of the astronauts floated to the ocean surface.

NBC said some of the human remains brought to shore in recent days have been identified as belonging to the seven astronauts.

NASA spokeswoman Sarah Keegan denied "categorically" that the cabin has been found and said she

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Correction

The Battalion incorrectly reported Monday the dates of a workshop sponsored by the Landscape Architecture Society.

The workshop will be held this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Also, Lane Marshall is the department head of Landscape Architecture.

The Battalion regrets the error.