

Engineer says America's future depends on desire to compete

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Dr. James Earle, division head of Engineering Design Graphics, told an audience of about 100 Monday night that the economic future of the United States is dependent on America's willingness to compete. "We're at a crossroads; this is no longer a cliché, this is true," Earle said. "We're in a situation where we've got to do something drastic. We've got to compete."

Earle told members of Texas A&M's chapter of the National Engineering Society, Tau Beta Pi, and other students in a Zachry building lecture room that America has lost its competitive edge in international business and many Americans don't have the will to compete to regain it. He challenged the audience members to work towards recapturing America's status as the world's economic leader.

He said one trend in American business hurting the economy is the

focus on services instead of manufacturing.

"The service industry is like playing poker, money just changes hands," he said. "Manufacturing is how we make a profit and create more wealth. But Americans' objectives (in the recent past) have been not to have an everlasting product, but to take the money and run."

To highlight his point that America is in the midst of serious economic problems, Earle presented slides of newspaper articles featuring bank failures and companies in financial disarray.

Earle said the commonplace occurrence of two companies merging together to make themselves look richer is another practice in American business that is detrimental to the economy. A merger can make a company look a whole lot richer but in actuality no real economic growth is accomplished by two companies combining, he said.

"Have you ever heard of jobs being created once two companies

merge together?" Earle stated rather than asked.

"They start at the top," Earle said, referring to heads of the merged company firing employees. "They start with the management, and the people that are left are running around scared. This could be an escalating snowball right here; there will be more and more mergers."

"A lot of people on Board's of Directors of companies that merge don't really own a piece of the business or have a commitment to it, they're just there as fair-weathered friends and a lot of these folks are setup to be taken over," he said.

Earle called for people to support American business, as well as make money, through the purchase of stock.

"This is America," Earle said of a slide picturing a graphic display of stock market trends. He told the students they should all own stock in American companies and not think getting rich is something to be ashamed of.

"We have gone through an era of time when people thought that making money was sinful, they thought that making money indicated the establishment to which they were opposed," he said. "That is an upside down way of looking at things."

"Our country is based on earning money, so everything we do has to be based on capitalism."

Another problem area in the economy that must be dealt with is the growing number of failing financial institutions, Earle said. He said that although many people are snickering at the misfortune of America's financial institutions, it is essential that people support the banks if America is going to recover from its economic woes.

Earle stressed four basic factors as essential to an individuals' and to America's recovery. Work hard, be honest, work with integrity and take risks are the secrets to success, he said.

Group brings music, ministry to A&M

By Kim Sanders
Reporter

The Heritage Singers, an interdenominational Gospel singing group, brought their upbeat music ministry to an audience of all ages last night in Rudder Auditorium.

Adventist Christian Fellowship, a campus organization, invited the singers here because "they travel worldwide to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their music ministry," Maxine Dawes, a sophomore premed major and the vice president of Adventist Christian Fellowship explained.

Audience participation was encouraged by the singers and enthusiastically returned. The program included children's songs, humorous songs and spiritually uplifting songs. This year they have begun to do songs written specifically for them by composers in the Gospel field, music director Bruce Grecco said.

Eight singers and three band members, ages 20-35, make up the Heritage Singers. Their style ranges from a Manhattan Transfer-type of jazz and harmony to Gospel. The group travels 11 months out of the year and does approximately 300

concerts on each tour. Since they began, the singers have been to 40 countries and won nine Angel awards from Religion in Media.

The Heritage Singers was started by Max Mace 17 years ago and is

based in Placerville, Ca. Mace traveled with and directed the group until when he was forced to stop for health reasons recently. Both his daughter, Val Mace, and son, Greg Mace, still tour each year.

Proposal to merge B-CS causes conflict

By Kimberly House
Staff Writer

Travis Bryan said that his proposed merger of Bryan and College Station would be advantageous to A&M because one large community would be supporting the University.

However, others, such as former mayor of College Station Gary Halter, College Station Mayor Larry Ringer and Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate, said the merger would have little effect on A&M.

Bryan, whose ancestors founded the city of Bryan, is a local banker and current member and past president of the Bryan school board.

Bryan said he thinks the one large city would have a better chance of getting industry to the area and A&M would have a better "drawing card" for getting students if Bryan-College Station were one town of 110 thousand people rather than one town with 50 thousand and one with 53 thousand.

"One community would be more likely to be able to attract industry which would make for a larger town and make for more things to do for the students of Texas A&M," Bryan said.

either one or both cities were declining in population. Halter said he suspects this to be one of the reasons for the sudden action.

Halter said that nationwide, mergers generally do not fare well mainly because people would rather have small decentralized governments, not large centralized ones.

Tate also said he does not see that the merger would have any effect on A&M getting professors or students.

"I really don't think the students would be effected as much as you might think they would be and I don't think it's going to have anything to do with A&M getting professors or students," Tate said. "I think Texas A&M, on its own, has a great reputation from the standpoint of research and so forth, but they're going to come because they think they have a better opportunity for whatever field of endeavor they're in. It's not going to make any difference to them if Bryan-College Station is a better place to live in than somewhere else."

The city of Bryan, incorporated in 1871, is older than the 1938 incorporated College Station. Bryan is considered by most to be more conservative than College Station, and is an "old family" type of town. College Station is considered by most to be the more progressive of the two.

According to the Brazos Valley Almanac, William Joel Bryan's family was one of the first 300 families in Stephen F. Austin's initial colony.

Bryan was an important cotton and trading center in its early days and the city developed and prospered greatly.

The almanac said Brazos County residents donated \$50,000 and 2,000 acres to establish a land grant college in what is now College Station under the Morrill Act of 1862. In October 1876 the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas opened.

College Station eventually became a city with an early population of professors and college students.

When Post Oak Mall came to College Station, it put College Station in the dominant position of the two cities while downtown Bryan was fighting hard times with their oil-industry businesses and crude prices at their lowest in years.

Ringer said he has not been told of any and does not see any direct effects on the University by the merger.

"I've heard that the merger might attract people to A&M but I can't see anything that would suggest what it would be about a large city that would attract people to the University in terms of programs that couldn't be supported by the combined communities and still remain two cities," Ringer said.

Halter, a political scientist and expert in municipal government, said he does not think this would effect A&M because most of the city ordinances do not apply to the university. However, he said, the fire protection provided to A&M by College Station would effect the cities.

"College Station now provides fire protection to the University and if the cities merged then Bryan would have to begin to pay for the services that College Station provides to A&M," Halter said.

Halter said he did a study several years ago on 18 cities in the U.S. that had consolidated and in every case

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Weather Watch

Key:

- ☁ - Lightning
- ☔ - Rain
- ⚡ - Ice Pellets
- ☁ - Fog
- ❄ - Snow
- ☔ - Rain Shower
- ⚡ - Thunderstorms
- ☂ - Drizzle
- ❄ - Freezing Rain

Weather Watch

Sunset Today: 6:01 p.m. Sunrise Wednesday: 7:14 a.m.

Map Discussion:
An arctic air mass, being pushed southward by the high to the north of the Great Lakes, will gradually move thru the Ohio valley, New England, and into the Carolinas. Overrunning precipitation is expected from the Mid-Mississippi valley to New England with some convection ahead of the front through the Southern tier of states. A new surge of arctic air will push through the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Plains over the next 48 hours bringing colder air to Texas Friday.

Forecast:
Today: Cloudy and mild with a weak cold frontal passage, high 69, winds southerly at 10-16 mph through the morning, becoming northerly at 12 mph gusting to 18 mph in the afternoon. Expect a 30 percent probability of rain.
Tonight: Continued Cloudy and cooler. Low temperature of 53 degrees, with light northwesterly winds.
Wednesday: Becoming partly cloudy and mild, high 67, winds will be southerly at seven to 10 mph.

Weather Fact: Equations of Motion - A set of hydrodynamical equations representing the application of Newton's second law of motion to a fluid system. The total acceleration on an individual fluid particle is equated to the sum of the forces acting on the particle within the fluid.

Prepared by: Charlie Brenton
Staff Meteorologist
A&M Department of Meteorology

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