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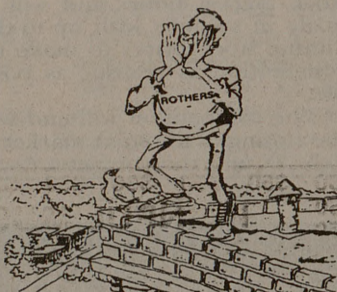
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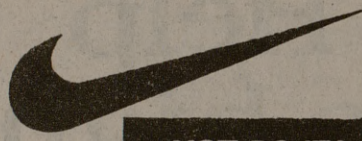


FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

OCT. 13, 14, 15

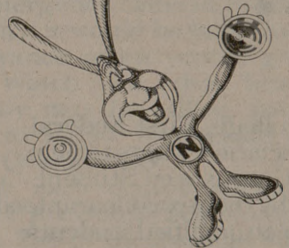
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Oil industry snatching grads

Petroleum engineering students in high demand

By Holly Becka

Of The Battalion Staff

Those who have just entered the petroleum engineering field can look forward to more job offers when they graduate because of improvements within the petroleum industry.

Thirty-six of 39 spring graduates with petroleum engineering degrees had jobs when they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, said Dr. Doug Von Gonten, head of the petroleum engineering department.

"In the last three or four years prior to this, the number (of graduates with jobs) has been in about the 50-percent range," Von Gonten said. "So this is a considerable improvement over what it has been."

"It appears that with the economics of the petroleum industry definitely improving, the job situation is going to get better for petroleum engineering graduates."

"Each graduate will have a job offer before he graduates and a number of graduates will have multiple job offers," Von Gonten said.

Von Gonten said stability within the petroleum market accounts for the increase in job offers.

"The stability with the price of oil has put oil companies in positions where they can make plans for the future and in making those plans, obviously they need people," he said. "That is what has stabilized the job situation."

"Also, most people feel the price of gas is probably going to be increasing within the next year or so, which is going to create additional activity with the petroleum companies in the area of natural gas. They're starting to drill a number of

additional gas wells these days," he continued.

He said the number of petroleum engineering majors has decreased significantly over the past five years and still is low compared to what it was before the recession.

Von Gonten, however, said the number of jobs is increasing.

Enrollment in the petroleum engineering department's bachelor of science program was at its highest in 1982, according to department records.

Enrollment dropped significantly after 1983, continued to decline after that and has been at a low since. A&M's total number of students seeking B.S. degrees in petroleum engineering during the past nine years, however, is similar to national enrollment figures.

Although the number of those enrolled in A&M's petroleum engineering department has decreased in past years, the number of women has stayed relatively the same during the last five years, Von Gonten said.

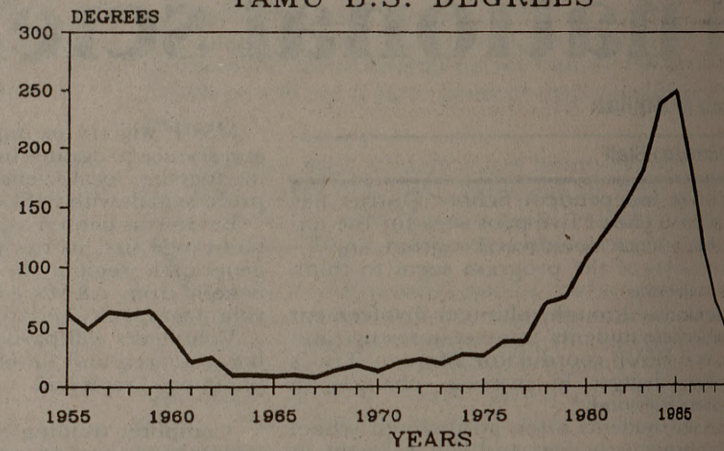
During 1988 to 1989, the department had 12 percent minority, 15 percent women and six percent foreign students enrolled in the bachelor's program.

Von Gonten said he is confident more students will enroll in the department in upcoming years.

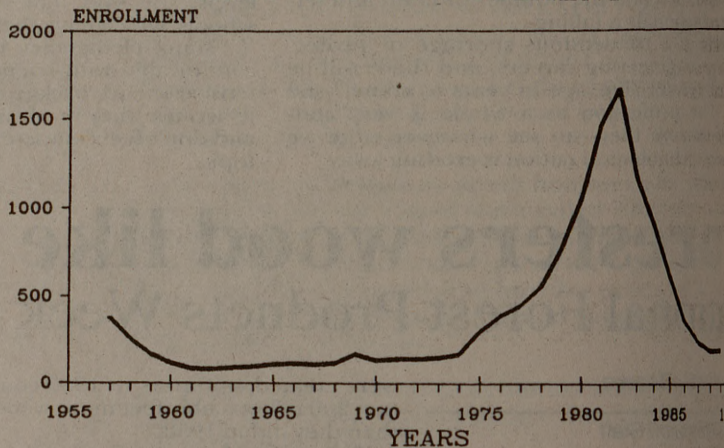
The starting salary for petroleum engineering graduates is still the highest of any graduates on campus, he said.

The average beginning yearly salary for a petroleum engineer is about \$34,000.

PETROLEUM ENGINEERING TAMU B.S. DEGREES



PETROLEUM ENGINEERING TAMU B.S. ENROLLMENT



Letter claims superiors lied about nuke plant

DALLAS (AP) — Federal regulators have accused their bosses of manipulating reports to create the "false impression" the Comanche Peak nuclear plant is almost ready to load nuclear fuel.

Some Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors allege in an unsigned letter that a pending NRC report of the 13 months before Aug. 31 gives the misimpression that plant owner Texas Utilities performed well during the period.

The twin-reactor power plant near Glen Rose won't be ready for at least six months, the inspectors say.

The allegations were sent in a two-page memorandum to the NRC chairman on Oct. 4. The memo was released Wednesday.

David Fiorelli, a spokesman for TU Electric, said the utility believes that the plant isn't yet ready

to load fuel but that it is making progress.

The memo criticizes the Sept. 19 vote of NRC managers who gave the plant a passing grade of "2" in a report considered to be one of several indicators that NRC managers will use to decide whether the facility is ready to load fuel.

A "3" on the three-step report would indicate serious problems and require increased utility and NRC management attention. A "1" is considered excellent.

The "2" rating the plant received is "neither accurate nor complete" and was the product of "manipulation and the exclusion of factual information," according to the memo.

The memo also charges that five of the 10 NRC managers didn't have direct knowledge about Comanche Peak. The managers who were

most familiar with the plant had no vote, the memo says.

Upper-level NRC managers requested an investigation by the inspector general's office after they received the memo. A routine NRC operational readiness review is scheduled to begin Monday.

The top NRC supervisor at the Comanche Peak site said he was surprised and discouraged by the memo.

"Nobody hesitates to say negative things, and nobody hesitates to say some things differently," said Robert Warnick. "It's been a very open and-and-take atmosphere. So when I see this memo say, 'Gee, things just don't add up.' So I'm a loss on it."

How Texans voted. . .

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here is how Texans voted in the 371-43 roll call Thursday by which the House approved a statutory ban on burning and defacing the American flag.

A "yes" vote is a vote to ban flag-burning by statute.

Voting yes were 217 Democrats and 154 Republicans.

Voting no were 25 Democrats and 18 Republicans.

X denotes those not voting.

There are two vacancies in the 435-member House.

Texas Democrats — Andrews, Y; Brooks, Y; Bryant, X; Bustamante, Y; Chapman, Y; Coleman, Y; de la Garza, Y; Frost, Y; Geren, Y; Gonzalez, Y; Hall, Y; Laughlin, Y; Leath, Y; Ortiz, Y; Pickle, Y; Sarpaluis, Y; Stenholm, Y; Wilson, Y.

Texas Republicans — Archer, Y; Arme, Y; Bartlett, Y; Barton, Y; Combest, Y; DeLay, Y; Fields, Y; Smith, Y.

Top 3 USA Today academic teams will be featured in national paper

By Julie Myers

Of The Battalion Staff

Applications for the Today ALL-USA Academic Team are now available from the College of Liberal Arts.

Students selected to the first, second and third teams, strictly honorary in nature, will be featured in a USA Today special section planned for mid-January. No contest occurs between the teams once chosen. The 20 first-team members will be invited to receive their awards at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Although any full-time undergraduate is eligible for consideration, nominees will be judged on outstanding individual academic endeavor, grade point average, community/campus activities and leadership roles therein, awards, honors and demonstrations of initiative.

Students may nominate themselves by completing

the nomination form and having a dean sign it. In addition, students must include at least one, but not more than three, letters of recommendation from faculty members who are familiar with the student's individual academic endeavor.

Academic Team coordinator Carol Skalski said faculty recommendations and student essays are critical to the nomination. The student essay should demonstrate the personal significance of the individual academic endeavor such as a research or science project.

Criteria for the team were developed by USA Today and its cosponsors: the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Nominations must be submitted by Nov. 6, 1989. Final judging will take place in December.

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