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FORECAST

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Highs in the 80s

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The Battalion

Student group monitors political bias

By Gina Howard
The Battalion

A conservative student group this week began placing student monitors in selected classrooms to check for possible political bias.

The Texas A&M chapter of the Young Conservatives of Texas began monitoring classes Monday. The monitoring is taking place mainly in the history,

political science and English departments.

Andy Keetch, chairman of YCT, said the organization feels professors may be allowing personal biases to affect lectures and grading.

"Students pay money to Texas A&M for an education, not an indoctrination," Keetch said. "We want Aggies to know which professors teach with academic honesty and which largely preach ideology — especially

when their grade might lie in the balance."

He said professors being monitored will not be aware a student from YCT is present in the room.

"We will not be announcing ourselves," Keetch said. "At least two different people will sit in on the targeted classes for about three class days each. After the information has been collected, a general meeting will be held where members will dis-

cuss what has been found.

"We will get together and decide which professors and classes deserve annotation based on the criteria we've made decisions by," Keetch said.

Keetch said at this time the chapter's standards for measuring classroom bias have not yet been explicitly defined.

"We do have some criteria developed, but it will be changed."

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Campaign trail ends for Nebraska senator

WASHINGTON (AP) — On paper, Bob Kerrey was perfect presidential material. But in person, he often fell short.

The Nebraska senator ended his Democratic candidacy Thursday with wit and warmth that he didn't always show on the campaign trail, and with bottom-line honesty that did come through — often to his detriment.

Kerrey's credentials were unsurpassed: Vietnam Medal of Honor, self-made millionaire businessman, former governor, slayer

of two Republican incumbents in a conservative state, former boyfriend of actress Debra Winger.

But the magic that worked in Nebraska was missing in his first national campaign. Kerrey admitted as much at a wistful and sometimes emotional news conference as he abandoned the race.

"A campaign depends upon the... candidate's capacity to communicate and to establish trust."

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KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Me and Mario down by the schoolyard

Gary Peterson, a freshman general studies major, plays a game at the traveling Nintendo show Thursday. The tour is sponsored

by the MSC Recreation Committee and will be there be on campus today from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Democrats meet in Dallas

Presidential hopefuls debate plans to revive nation's ailing economy

DALLAS (AP) — The Democratic presidential candidates clashed over economic-revival plans Thursday in a pre-Super Tuesday debate. Paul Tsongas' pro-business plan was labeled "trickle down" and a boon to the rich at the expense of the middle class.

The economy dominated the first half-hour of the 90-minute ABC-TV debate, with all four candidates scoring President Bush's policies. When they got around to debating their own, Tsongas took the heat.

Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton said Tsongas' plan to offer a capital gains tax break mirrored the Reagan-Bush 1980s policies he said cost 2 million manufacturing jobs and directed 60 percent of the income gains in the last decade to the richest 1 percent of the population.

"That's exactly what we did in the 1980s and the economy went downhill and it's wrong," Clinton said.

"Average wages went down, the work week lengthened, poverty exploded and we lost our competitive edge," he said.

Clinton supports many of the investment incentives favored by Tsongas but said the money the former Massachusetts governor would spend on a capital gains tax break should go for a middle-class tax break, job training and education programs.

"Put people first," Clinton said.

Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, whose campaign is teetering and could end if he does not finish well Saturday in South Carolina, echoed Clinton, saying Tsongas' plan was Reaganomics revisited.

"That's really trickle down," Harkin said.

Tsongas was resolute, saying the wealthy would pay for his capital gains tax break and that the venture capital created would help struggling small and start-up businesses.

"There is an inevitability to what happens if you don't invest," Tsongas said.

Tsongas said the middle-class tax cut would give families 97 cents a day but not a job. Clinton retorted that the cut was not designed for job growth, but was a downpayment on tax fairness.

Animal rights activists clash with researchers

By Robin Roach
The Battalion

Animal testing for medical research has escalated into a controversial issue over the past decade. Researchers and animal rights advocates are debating the issue as to who is morally and logically correct in their stance.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the largest animal rights organization, is deeply involved in protecting animals from being used in any type of research.

"Our main goal at PETA is to educate people of animal suffering and urge them to do something about it," said Emily Oesterling, assistant mail room supervisor at PETA in Washington D.C.

PETA encourages people to demonstrate for the prevention of animal suffering including not eating meat or avoiding purchases of leather and fur,

Oesterling said.

"Utopia for us (PETA) would be to have no animals in cages and no animal suffering as a result of medical research," she said.

Supporters of animal rights argue that animal testing is unnecessary, and that there are alternatives to every experiment done with animals that would not require animals to be involved in experimentation.

But people on the opposite end of the spectrum who support animal testing for medical research argue that medical research still requires the use of animals to gain insight to the human body.

Elvin E. Smith, associate dean for research at the College of Medicine and associate vice president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, expressed the absolute necessity of animals for experimentation.

"Animals are an essential component to research, and it would be impossible without them," Smith said. "There are no true substitutes or alternatives with most studies."

Animal rights advocates suggested that computer modeling of the human body, cell

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B-CS employment opportunities grow

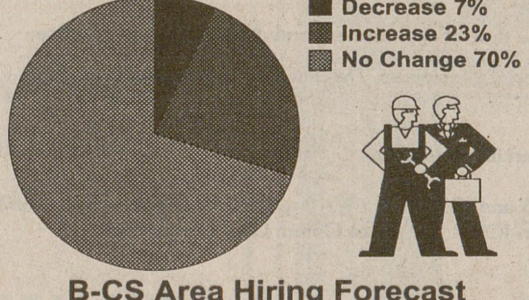
By Matari Jones
The Battalion

More job opportunities will be available for Texas A&M students in the Bryan-College Station area with solid hiring activity and fewer employment cutbacks according to the latest employment outlook survey.

"There is a potential for almost 1,000 new jobs," said Frank Murphy, director of the Small Business Development Center. "At least 600 already have been filled."

With the addition of Sam's Club, three new restaurants and grocery stores, job potential will continue to grow, he said.

"Bryan-College Station is becoming more and more regional," Murphy said. "We en-



compass eight counties and people come here to shop, eat and seek health care."

Murphy also pointed out that most of the jobs will be part-time because of the student

population.

He credits the population explosion as the reason for this economic development.

"Once we reached the magic plateau of 100,000 (in population), businesses started flooding in," he added.

This employment outlook survey was conducted by Manpower Inc., the world's largest temporary help firm.

Through telephone interviews with local businesses the survey measured employers' intentions to increase or decrease their permanent work force.

The springtime outlook appears most promising in durable and non-durable goods

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AP survey shows people say 'no, thanks' to Bush's plan Workers reject lower withholding

WASHINGTON (AP) — Large numbers of American workers are saying "no, thanks" to President Bush's election-year offer of a bit more take-home pay now in exchange for smaller tax refunds next year.

An informal survey by The Associated Press of large employers and payroll-preparation services shows that in some companies nearly half the workers are filing new W-4 forms to keep income-tax withholding at last year's level.

If that trend holds, it would do

serious damage to Bush's idea of injecting an extra \$2 billion a month into the economy simply by giving workers part of their tax refunds in advance.

"Something tells me a number of taxpayers may take me up on this one," Bush said when he announced the change during his Jan. 28 State of the Union message.

Families, he said, need the extra money now "to help pay for clothing, college or to get a new car."

The change generally took ef-

fect March 1. It turns out that while a lot of families might be able to use an extra \$6 or \$7 a week, they prefer to let the government hold it and send it back in a lump sum early next year. The difference in refund is about \$172 a year for a single person, \$345 for a married person and \$690 for a two-earner couple.

"Large numbers of our workers are having their withholding changed to nullify the effects of the reduction," said Paul Allen at Eastman Kodak headquarters in Rochester, N.Y.

"We can't quantify it yet, but the payroll department tells me it's the majority" of the 39,600 employees.

A significant number of DuPont's 20,000 employees in the Wilmington, Del., area won't accept lower withholding, a spokesman said.

Hallmark Cards employs about 6,700 at its Kansas City headquarters and as many as 40 percent of them have requested that last year's higher withholding rates be retained, said spokesman Adrienne Lallo.