

## Plans continue for Bush library

By Chris Carroll  
The Battalion

Fund-raising efforts for the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum will continue as planned regardless of the outcome of the presidential election this fall, library officials said Tuesday.

The fund-raising campaign for the library, which began in late March, has raised \$600,000. Library director Dr. Perry Atkinson hopes to raise \$10 million by the end of this year.

Most of the contributions so far have been small donations from former students, Atkinson said.

"We started by asking in the April issue of the Texas Aggie Magazine for former students to contribute \$1000 over the next four years," Atkinson said.

After the November election, the focus will shift to national and international donors. Whether Bush wins or loses will not influence these plans, Dennis Prescott,

acting director of development for the library, said.

"I really can't speculate about the future, but I do know that the basic principles of our campaign will remain the same," Prescott said. "The basic principles of the campaign are that we use volunteer workers and focus on major gifts."

There have been three contributions in the \$50,000 range, one of which was a \$50,000 gift presented last week by the Class of '92. A large foundation has promised \$1 million.

The campaign must raise \$42 million by 1995 to begin construction of the library and museum facilities. Another \$45 million is to be raised for the academic programs that will be part of the library.

These programs, in the College of Liberal Arts, are the Center for Presidential Studies, the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Institute for Public Leadership Studies.

## CPAs campaign to simplify tax returns

By Christi R. Ray  
The Battalion

The Brazos Valley Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants is joining other CPAs in Texas to support Texans for Tax Simplification.

"The ultimate goal is obviously tax simplification," Dianne Wayland, executive vice-president of Better Idea Development Company Inc., said Tuesday. "CPAs, along with taxpayers, feel it (filing income taxes) has become so difficult that people who used to attempt to do their own taxes don't now."

It seems strange that CPAs are supporting a cause that would decrease the amount of taxpayers seeking professional assistance in tax filing, but CPAs have to spend so much time researching the laws and their clients do not see the benefits, Wayland said.

"Frankly, they would rather spend less time on compliance and spend more time on services that are beneficial to their clients," she said.

The American Institute of CPAs is also promoting a national campaign, but Texans wanted to do their own campaign with the Republican Convention being held in Texas this year.

Postcards have been distributed across the state for signatures to communicate to President Bush that tax laws need to be simplified. The postcards will be presented at a Houston press conference on August 16 during the convention. After the presentation, the postcards will be bundled up and dropped on the president's desk, Wayland said.

"The overall state-wide goal is to receive at least 50,000 signed postcards," she said. "The goal for our community is at least 1,000 to 1,250 postcards, and so far we have had a really good response."

Individuals currently spend an estimated \$20 billion to \$40 billion

a year in completing tax returns including the value of time spent by taxpayers and the cost of professional help. There are more than 400 types of tax filing forms and the Internal Revenue Service Code has doubled in size since 1980.

"The local CPAs are visiting with clients and issuing the postcards, and we have had a number of presentations made to clubs," Wayland said. "We have received a lot of support from other groups."

"I don't know where Congress is as far as doing a tax bill, but maybe this will at least get the attention," she said.

## Overnight service benefits Texas

Former student's company offers regionalized delivery at reduced costs

By Erin Bradley  
The Battalion

In March 1991, Gary Gunter, Class of '81, and his partner founded Lone Star Overnight, a Texas-only delivery service which has the highest reliability rate in the industry, and offers prices that are approximately half those of the national delivery firms.

Lone Star Overnight, located in Austin, is currently operating between 22 Texas regions, but should be expanding to Laredo, San Angelo and Victoria this fall.

"We were originally going to serve only the 20 largest metropolitan areas in the state," Gunter said. "That is, until I discovered that Bryan-College Station is the 22nd largest."

Gunter and his partner Jack Long discovered during their former banking

careers that they had a common desire to manage a company which would provide reliable service at a low cost.

While doing research, they found that approximately one-third of packages delivered in Texas had been sent out from another location in Texas, yet the cost was the same as sending the package out-of-state.

So, Lone Star Overnight did for delivery service what Southwest Airlines did for air travel. It regionalized the service and met the objectives Gunter and Long had set.

Lone Star Overnight began with 29 investors from around Texas, and after eight months of fund-raising, was able to hire people with backgrounds in national delivery service as managers.

With 151 employees and 18 offices around the state, Lone Star Overnight delivers 35,000 packages each month, using its own

transportation fleet: three aircraft and more than 200 drop boxes around the state. Uniformed carriers in all areas, an 800-number and a standard drop-off time of 10:30 a.m. company can also make an 8:30 a.m. drop-off for \$10 more, and is the only delivery service to offer the earlier time. They will pick packages anytime in the afternoon.

"We pick up later, deliver earlier and keep costs down," Gunter said. "Our objective is to continue to gain market share while continuing to benefit those companies who use us."

Lone Star Overnight predominantly serves law firms, title companies, printing companies and real estate property management firms.

"I like to brag about the fact that we're able to save Texas companies \$9500 per day," Gunter said.

### Correction

In the July 27 issue of The Battalion, it was reported incorrectly that the Higher Education Coordinating Board recommendations had been passed and would go into effect August 1.

There will be a 1 percent increase on August 1, but that increase is linked to the

appropriation provisions of the 1992-1993 budget. The recommended 1 percent increase in the Texas A&M faculty salaries budget has not been voted on as yet by the Texas Legislature. The Battalion regrets any confusion the incorrect information may have caused.

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## Seminar costs vex disability rights activists

AUSTIN (AP) — A \$206,000 seminar funded by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is drawing criticism from disability rights advocates who say the money should be spent on improving services to the disabled.

MHMR officials, however, have defended the four-day management training seminar that started Tuesday, saying it would improve the workings of the mammoth agency. The seminar features a videotaped program by W. Edwards Deming, a quality improvement expert whose methods are often used in private industry. MHMR Commissioner Denny Jones said, "With the governor's leadership in total quality management, this is the time to rethink and retool our fundamental approaches to management and leadership."

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— Judy Sehen  
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## Business students earn scholarships

By Julie Chelkowski  
The Battalion

The College of Business Administration continues to raise interest in international business by awarding \$1000 scholarships to 16 Texas A&M business students.

The Mitsui Scholarship Award, organized by the Center for International Business Studies, was established in 1989 and has awarded scholarships every year since then.

Karen Burke, associate director at the Center for International Business Studies, said the scholarships assist students who are focusing on international business.

"The goal of the scholarships is to recognize people who have an interest in international business for a career," she said.

The interest for international business at A&M is growing with the help of a new international business certification program and more specialized classes, said Dr. S. Kerry Cooper, director for the center. There has been strong student response to classes with an international focus and about 50 students are participating in the six-month-old program, Cooper said.

An important and beneficial

factor to students who want to work internationally is involvement in A&M's study abroad program. The scholarships help recipients finance their trip, Burke said.

"The scholarship is an additional incentive for more people to study abroad," she said.

Fifty students applied for the scholarship and the 16 recipients, Burke said, were selected on a "broad list of factors" such as academic standing, the number of international business courses or language classes taken, overseas experience and an essay.

There are several reasons for the increasing attention on international business, Dr. Julian Gaspar, director of research at the center, said. Events in Latin America and Europe, such as the break up of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the Commonwealth of Independent States, stimulate students' interests.

"Countries are becoming increasingly interdependent, and everything they (foreign countries) do will affect the United States," he said. "There is a combination of interest in the international environment, and we want to emphasize the importance of this globalization."

## Sluggish economy hits home

Wages feel crunch

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' wages and salaries failed to keep up with inflation in the year ended in June, posting the smallest increase in at least a decade, the government reported Tuesday.

"It's part of the reason for the funk that people feel they're in," said economist Robert G. DeLoach of the Northern Trust Co. Chicago. The "funk" appeared to have continued into July, when widely followed survey found Americans expected little improvement in the economy in the months ahead.

The Labor Department said wages and salaries edged up just 2.9 percent in the 12 months ended June 30, less than the 3.1 percent inflation rate for the year, measured by the department's Consumer Price Index. The 2.9 percent advance was down from a 4 percent gain a year earlier and was the smallest increase since the department began keeping track of earnings in 1982, near the end of the 1980-81 recession.

Overall, the department's employment Cost Index rose 1.4 percent when benefits were included. Still, that was down from a 4.6 percent overall gain in the year ended in June 1991 and the smallest gain since a similar advance in December 1987.

"Total compensation excluding inflation, but what a person walks home with didn't," DeLoach said.

One of the biggest boosters of compensation was the ever-increasing health care costs. While company-supplied health care benefits don't show up in workers' paychecks, increased costs of the population's health care benefits were included in the department's analysis.

While the anemic increase in wages and salaries adversely affects household budgets, it's good news for employers trying to hold down costs in an effort to attract buyers in a sluggish economic environment. It also reflected the labor market.

Unemployment rose to 7.5 percent in June, the highest in eight years, and provided more employees with little leverage to seek pay increases. Benefits increases also were slowing, rising 5.3 percent in the 12 months ended in June compared with a 6.1 percent increase a year earlier.

Over-the-year compensation cost increases in private industry were about the same for blue collar and for service workers.

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