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## Earth Day: Groups work to gather petition signatures

Continued from Page 1

lawmakers accountable for keeping the United States' environment safe and healthy.

The petition also includes an Earth Day 1995 Action Agenda, a 25-point plan of actions to continue preserving the American environment.

"The goal is to get one million signatures on Newt Gingrich's desk," Thompson said. "Apparently one million signatures is phenomenal. It's going to have a big impact because it lets Congress know there's a tide of concerned people out there they aren't aware of."

Thompson said many students want to be pro-environment but need to be educated on some of the issues.

"If you vote in the Brazos County, right now you are represented by Phil Gramm, Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Jack Fields," Thompson said. "Each one has an environmental rating of zero. If you're interested in the environment, you aren't being represented here."

Thompson said the city of College Station has donated the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater for an Earth Day concert April 22. Dah-veed Garza will be performing and students can get free tickets from the booth in the MSC during Earth Week and from Marooned Records.



## Prison industries prove to be booming businesses

Officials gather in Houston for the first annual convention on prison industries.

HOUSTON (AP) — Howard Skolnik gloats over a car collector's dream, a 1965 Shelby Cobra built with original parts just this year, while making his argument for putting more prison inmates to work.

The immaculate, sparkling-blue-and-shiny-chrome sports car has only three miles on its odometer. It's the only newly built '65 Cobra in existence and car designer Carroll Shelby will sell it for around \$500,000.

It also was assembled top-to-bottom by 50 inmates living in a prison near Las Vegas.

Skolnik, assistant director for industrial programs for the Nevada Department of Prisons, says the car is proof enough that felons can do more than pick cabbage and enter data in computers. They can be trained

as fine craftsmen.

"If there is any question about quality, this should answer it," Skolnik says.

Skolnik is among hundreds of prison officials from 47 states who gathered in Houston Monday and Tuesday for what was called the first national convention on prison industries, the Correctional Industries Association Summit '95.

Prison industries is a \$1 billion business in the United States and Canada, according to the group. About 80,000 inmates — 8 percent of an estimated prison population of 1 million — are employed by various prison industries, making everything from the 1965 Cobra on display to the license plates that would go on it.

Companies generally supply prison factories with raw materials or partially assembled products that the inmates finish. The prisons then either sell finished goods to state agencies or turn them back to the companies for public sale.

## Job Market: Future looks brighter for college grads

Continued from Page 1

Turner said employers are also looking for motivated students with good oral and written communication skills.

The demand for bilingual workers is also increasing.

The February 1995 issue of the Black Collegian listed computer, chemical, retail, sales, accounting, banking and finance industries among those showing the most growth and available jobs.

The Career Center officials agreed with these projections, but encouraged students of all majors to actively pursue jobs in all fields.

Turner said that many business-

es, government agencies and legislative bodies hire students with a variety of majors.

"Employers are looking for skills and willingness to work," Turner said, "not a specific major."

Dr. Glenn Payne, associate director of the Texas A&M Career Center, said preparation will make finding a job easier.

"Many students do not actively pursue jobs," he said. "Career decisions are put off until the last second. Students should come into the Career Center before their senior year so they know what they're facing."

Turner said students should actively pursue jobs.

"It's a crime to have good job op-

portunities unfilled," Turner said, "because students are not trying."

Turner reminded students not to forget to do their homework when it comes to the job search because research is crucial.

"Research yourself first," she said. "Determining your values, interests and the lifestyle you want to lead will help you decide what careers and employers to research."

Overall, Turner said, the current job market looks promising for students who prepare themselves.

"Irrespective of major, if students plan ahead, get experience, network and take advantage of services offered to them," Turner said, "they should do well."

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