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TOMORROW

Crisis hits students

Asian financial market woes drives foreign students to look for alternative means to cover their tuition costs

BY STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

The economic problems in Asian countries are putting a financial strain on Texas A&M University international students, requiring some of them to find alternate ways of financing their college education.

In many Asian countries such as Indonesia, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, currency rates are unstable, which is having an effect on the ability of families to finance international students.

Susan Drolensky, director of international student services, said the economic problems in these countries are affecting international students across the nation.

"It's a microcosm because all U.S. institutions are having this problem," she said. "We hope all international students will apply for scholarships,

grants and loans for which they are eligible. We will help anybody who needs assistance."

Drolensky said U.S. institutions are putting these students on installment programs, delaying payment of tuition and fees, providing scholarships and loans and locating jobs. A&M already has an installment plan and emergency tuition and fees loans available to all students having financial troubles.

"A lot of institutions are planning on doing things A&M already has in place," she said. "I think it speaks well of A&M."

Drolensky said people who work in international student offices are trying to get Immigration and Naturalization Services to allow international students to fall below the full-status requirement so they will be able to save money.

Gwanghyeok Ju, president of the Korean Association and aerospace engineering graduate student, said he had

to take out an emergency tuition and fees loan for the first time this semester.

"Tuition is a problem for my wife and me right now, so we had to take out a loan for the first time," he said. "It isn't enough though. Most Koreans in this town are facing the same financial problems."

Ju said many Korean students are having problems because they rely on their parents to pay for school.

Asia has the highest percentage of students who study abroad, and many of them come to the United States.

Norberto Chaclin, president of the International Student Association and a junior chemical engineering major, said they want to make sure students explore all financial assistance options so they will not have to leave A&M.

"We want to make sure if international students are enrolled in A&M, they will not have to drop out for financial reasons," said.

A&M prof indicted, receives death threat

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

A Texas A&M University tenured professor said he received a death threat over the phone Friday morning, the day after he was indicted on two felony counts that charge him with misappropriating state funds for personal profit.

Dhiraj Pradhan, once the school's highest paid computer science endowed chair who was suspended with pay last August, said he believes the death threat is a response to several quotes that ran in a Feb. 27 article in the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*. The quotes were taken out of context from private faxes he had sent to his colleagues, Pradhan said.

"These comments were off-the-cuff remarks," Pradhan said in a phone interview. "I apologize to anybody who was offended by the comments but somebody called and threatened my life."

Pradhan said he testified in an unexpected grand jury hearing on Feb. 26 to dispute the accusations made against him by the county. Texas A&M University is also conducting a separate investigation of Pradhan.

"The district was not going to indict me the night before (on Wednesday)," Pradhan said. "They told me that I was free of possible charges. Then, on Thursday morning I got a call about the grand jury hearing, but I have nothing to fear. I have done nothing wrong."

District Attorney Bill Turner said Pradhan's attorneys received a letter postmarked Jan. 30, which announced the grand jury hearing.

"They are wanting to indict me to get rid of me and to protect somebody in the chain of command."
Dhiraj Pradhan
Computer science professor

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Better late than never



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Jerald Brown, a sophomore guard for the A&M Men's Basketball Team, wildcats after the Aggies won their first conference game of the season against the Baylor Bears. The win also marks the final basketball game to be played in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Please see page 4 for *The Battalion's* special section commemorating the Coliseum.

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Dark City and The Apostle give audiences two films with thoughtful storylines.

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Texas A&M Men's Basketball team wins historic game over the Baylor Bears concluding G. Rollie White Coliseum's tenure.

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http://battalion.tamu.edu Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Fish Camp kicks off

Counselors announced today in Koldus

BY KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

Fish Camp planning leaders will be chosen today as the 1998 counselors are announced beginning at 8 a.m. in the Koldus Governance Room.

This year's theme is "Dreams Becoming Reality."

The Fish Camp office received over 1,500 counselor applications this year, up 100 from last year.

Jessica Wallace, assistant Fish Camp director and a senior biomedical science major, said the focus of this year's camp is a return to the basics and less of a production.

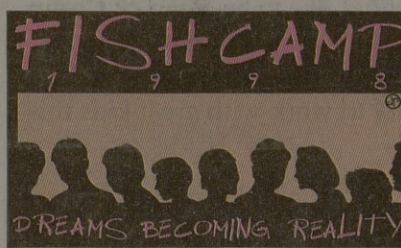
"We want to focus more on the fears and problems of the freshmen and how we can help them," she said.

B.J. Egenes, Fish Camp director and a senior marketing major, said an additional 72 counselors will be added this year to reduce the discussion-group ratio.

"This will allow for more one-on-one interaction between counselors and their DG (discussion group)," he said.

The counselor results are no longer posted on a list as in previous years. Each applicant now receives an individual envelope containing either a camp or regret letter. The regret letters also include information about Fish Co., formerly called Fish Crew.

Fish Co. is the official hospitality and



welcoming committee for Fish Camp.

Applications for Fish Co. will be available this month in 131 Koldus. Fish Co. is open to anyone with Fish Camp qualifications.

Qualifications include being in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least 6 hours in either classes, student teaching or co-oping in the spring and fall semesters. It is not required to be in Bryan-College Station during the summer and camp experience is not necessary.

The 24 Fish Co. members also pay to attend camp, but their charge is less, Egenes said. They welcome guests, speakers and University officials and run the mixers.

Fish Camp runs its entire program through student fees, Egenes said. Fish camp is \$100 for new students.

Fish Camp staff consists of the director, who has a two-year commitment; an associate director who takes over the following year; six assistant directors; 72 co-chairs; and 902 counselors.

Week showcases array of international cultures

BY JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Cultures from all over the world are being celebrated during the 19th annual International Week, which begins today.

The celebration is sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA) and features cultural displays, an international buffet, entertainment and fashion.

Norberto Chaclin, president of ISA and a junior chemical engineering major, said International Week is an opportunity for the entire campus and community to come together and learn about the 116 countries and cultures present at Texas A&M University.

"A&M is an extremely diverse campus and has the potential to be the most diverse university in the nation," he said. "This week is organized for people to experience unity and acceptance while sharing their diversity."

Chaclin said the theme of this year's celebration, "A Kaleidoscope of Cultures," is intended to show how cultures are different and similar.

"Many cultures have origins that overlap just like images in a kaleidoscope overlap," he said. "When you bring all these cultures together, they form one image of many different things, as if you were looking through a kaleidoscope."

The festivities begin today at 10 a.m. with an opening ceremony in the MSC Flag Room. After the ceremony, arts and crafts representing the cultures of more than 40 countries will be on display in the MSC until Wednesday.

Fen-Ju Tsai, vice president of MSC programs and a junior architecture major, said the cultural displays are presented by international clubs at A&M who will be representing their country.

Tsai said the displays provide a chance to travel around the world without leaving the campus.

She said over 2,000 students from 116 countries will represent their country by making models, displaying flags, presenting travel information, baking food or writing participants' names in their country's language.

"The cultural displays promote multiculturalism and are a

way for the community, especially children, to learn and experience new things," she said.

A televised symposium on China-U.S. higher education will take place Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center, followed by an international buffet at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the MSC.

Tatsuki Ohashi, director of the buffet and a junior international studies major, said the buffet is one of the most popular events of the week.

He said 30 countries will be represented and each country will bring 300 servings of three dishes for a total of 900 servings of food from each country.

"There will be some very uncommon and unknown foods that people will be able to enjoy without having to actually visit that country," he said.

Thursday, delegates from countries represented at A&M will attend a consuls general luncheon.

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Free library entry lures COSGA

BY HELEN CLANCY
Staff writer

Free admission to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum attracted not only Texas A&M students, but representatives from universities across the nation.

"Student Weekend" at the Bush Library coincided with the Conference On Student Government Associations, which drew visitors from as far as Hawaii.

Brandon Garrett, a COSGA host and a sophomore international studies major, said the delegates responded enthusiastically to the exhibits.

"They loved the Southern hospitality," he said. "We got great feedback from the delegates."

Visiting the library was the last activity COSGA planned for the delegates before their departure Sunday evening.

Naomi Rodriguez, COSGA delegate and stu-

dent body president from Long Beach State University, said her strong ties to the Democratic party did not hinder her appreciation of the Bush Library. A photo of George W. Bush even brought her to tears, she said.

"[The library] brings you into the life of our former president," she said. "I'm a hard-core Democrat, but it changed my opinion of what I thought of George Bush as a president."

Rodriguez said she was hesitant to tour the facility, but consented when she was offered free admission.

Bush Library directors organized the weekend to encourage students from A&M and Blinn College to feel welcome at the facility, Museum Curator Patricia Burchfield said in a press release.

About 400 students toured the Bush Library Friday and Saturday.

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HELEN CLANCY/THE BATTALION

Brandon Garrett, a COSGA host and sophomore international studies major, examines an exhibit on Bush's '92 campaign during Student Weekend at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.