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The views expressed are not necessarily those of Texas A&M University, the Memorial Student Center, or MSC ICONS.



Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

Presented by ICM Artists LTD, Lecture Division

This Week

Wednesday:

Seth Walker and the Mojo Hands
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Thursday:

W.C. Clark

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Friday:
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CAMPUS

THE BATTALION

Wednesday, February 15

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Industrial production is strong

WASHINGTON (AP) — Industrial production leaped ahead in January at its strongest rate in nearly 1 1/2 years as the output of a wide range of goods including cars, computers and carpets all posted big gains.

The booming U.S. economy and a pickup in overseas demand for U.S. goods as countries continue to recover from a global financial crisis were the main factors behind the surge, economists said.

"The need for manufacturers to keep up with torrid demand both foreign and domestic had factories running full throttle during January," Richard Yamarone, an economist with Argus Research Corp., said.

Output at the nation's factories, utilities and mines jumped 1 percent in January, the fastest growth spurt since a 1.8 percent increase in August 1998, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday.

Gains were widespread. Car and light truck makers boosted output by 2.9 percent last month. Output of computers and office equipment rose 3 percent and output of household appliances grew by 4 percent. Makers of carpets and household furniture increased production by 1.7 percent.

"While the old economy is revving up, the new economy remains red hot," First Union economist Mark Vitner, said.

The bigger-than-expected 1 percent gain in overall industrial output, which followed a 0.4 percent rise, gives the Federal Reserve additional ammunition to boost interest rates again in March, economists said.

The Fed has raised interest rates four times since June in an effort to slow the sizzling economy and keep inflation at bay.

Even though the Fed's rate increases have made borrowing more expensive for businesses and consumers, analysts believe the economy is still growing at a too rapid pace that probably can't be sustained without sparking inflation.

For the entire manufacturing sector, output rose by strong 0.9 percent in January, the biggest gain since October. "We're blazing off a flight deck," said National Association of Manufacturers' economist Gordon Richards.

Tuesday's report provides fresh evidence that U.S. manufacturers have put the darkest days of the global financial crisis behind them, economists said. The crisis, which struck in 1997, severely depressed overseas demand for U.S. goods. At the same time, U.S. manufacturers had to compete against a flood of cheap imports.

At utilities, output grew by 1.8 percent in January aided by harsh winter weather that raked parts of the country and increased demand for electricity and natural gas. And, output at mines grew by 1 percent as higher oil prices boosted oil and gas extraction.

Total operating capacity of manufacturers, utilities and mines rose to an expected 81.6 percent in January, the highest since August 1998. Still, the capacity rate was below levels associated with a pickup in inflation.

Generally, an operating capacity of 84 percent would alarm economists, indicating that factories just can't produce fast enough.

Time for camp



BRIAN SMITH/THE BATTALION

Sophomore elementary education major **Martha Dent**, left, and sophomore general studies major **Marisa Scully**, middle, look around for summer jobs as a representative of Camp Bacones Springs talks to them during the Camp Day 2000 in the MSC.

JUBILEE

Continued from Page 1

Senghor said that it would cost the American citizen less than one cent a day to relieve Third-World countries of the debt they owe.

Senghor said that 8,000 Africans are dying every day because paying the country's debt leaves no money for health care.

Governments in developing countries spend nine times more to repay

"[The pope] is challenging those more prosperous nations to forgive international debt."

—Martha Todd
Campus minister

foreign debt than they do on health care, according to a video presented by Jubilee 2000.

Senghor said the issue of relieving debts not only stems from the demand for mercy and justice, but also because the environment is suffering.

Huge debts with soaring interest rates have forced Third-World countries to deplete their natural resources rapidly to pay the debt, he said.

The pope is among the supporters of the concept of Jubilee, according to Martha Todd, campus minister at St. Mary's Catholic Center.

"The pope has given speeches and written extensively about the matter. He is challenging those more prosperous nations to forgive international debt," she said.

The pope sees the current debt situation as "unjust," Todd said. Western nations have more than they need in terms of resources and wealth and it is "not fair to cripple developing countries with this debt."

Jubilee 2000 has collected 17 million signatures for a petition to be handed to the United Nations to help ensure debt relief for the poorer countries, Senghor said.

They are hoping to collect 27 million signatures.

STUDENT SENATE

Continued from Page 1

considering the student needs," Will Hurd, student body president, a senior computer science major.

Dennis Coorington, director of Recreational Sports, will be attending the meeting to present information concerning the Recreational Sports Center Fee Increase bill.

The proposal would attempt to invite state legislature to prevent University from imposing a 10 percent increase in the Recreation Center without consulting the student body, a referendum.

This bill will be voted on for the first time, and if approved, will be sent to committee for further discussion.

The senate will also consider a bill which would modify the appointment of the student body vice president nominees.

"In the past, the procedures for appointment approval board were clear," said Paul Jackman, Rules Regulation Committee chairperson, a junior aerospace engineering major.

"The goal for this bill is to give committee an outline of what to do on when approving nominees, and change how the meetings are run." The Student Senate meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 144 John J. Kelly

Campus calendar

Wednesday

Agnostic & Atheist Student Group: There will be a discussion on why people believe in God at 7 p.m. in Rudder 707. Contact Jason at 731-1126 for details.

TAMU Collegiate 4-H: We will be holding a general meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 117 Kleberg. For more information contact Abby at 680-0932.

Mexican Student Association will have a meeting to discuss International Week and future events at 5:30p.m. in MSC 145. For more information, contact Gaby Avila at 691-7486.

Thursday

Texas A&M Emergency Care Team: There will

be a general meeting at 7 p.m. in MSC 206.

Business Student Council: There will be pictures at Zachry at 7 p.m.

Campus Ministry International: Come be a part of Campus Ministry International's ACTS meetings! ACTS meetings are up close and personal meetings discussing issues we all deal with today. Basically, we're just students like you discussing life, God, and how to combine the two. Thursday, February 17, MSC 203 at 8:30p.m.

Muslim Students' Association: There will be a meeting and we will discuss Christian-Muslim Dialogue on Social Justice. It will be at 7 p.m. at MSC 224-225. For more information call Arsalan Haque at

693-5463 or e-mail at arsalan@tamu.edu

Friday

Catholic Students Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. "Crispin" will be performing for a free Christian Concert open to everyone. Tickets are available at MSC box office. For tickets call 845-1234. For more information concerning the event send an email to mary_79@yahoo.com.

Monday

Neal Recreation Center, located at 600 N. Randolph, is having an in-line hockey league registration through the 29th of March. For more information, contact Jimmie at 821-3971.

SAVE TIME! USE THE LIBRARY FROM HOME!

Want a quick hands-on introduction to the Library's online catalog and web pages?

Library Orientation Sessions -

TARGET GROUPS:	Students or faculty who need to learn the basis of searching our new catalog. Anyone who wants time-saving ways to access library resources and services from home, campus computing labs, or offices.									
WHAT:	Introduction to LibCat, our new online catalog.									
WHERE:	Student Computing Lab (behind Evans Library Annex)									
SCHEDULE:	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tuesday February 22nd, 29th</td> <td>Room 210F</td> <td>11:10 a.m. - 12:00 noon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday February 16th, 23rd</td> <td>Room 114</td> <td>3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday February 17th, 24th</td> <td>Room 114</td> <td>5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tuesday February 22nd, 29th	Room 210F	11:10 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Wednesday February 16th, 23rd	Room 114	3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	Thursday February 17th, 24th	Room 114	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
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All orientation sessions offered on a walk-on basis. Participants should set up a LABS account before attending the session.

Questions?

Call: 862-1048 or 862-1060

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THE BATTALION

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