

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Andersen ends recruiting efforts

Struggling accounting firm will not look for employees at A&M

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

Arthur Andersen LLP, the 89-year-old Big 5 accounting firm, appears to be losing status as a viable company, leaving many A&M students without a promised job and fewer job options.

Andersen recently lost large-profit clients and Chief Executive Officer Joseph Berardino resigned, leaving certain sectors of the company struggling to stay afloat during the turmoil caused by the collapse of Enron.

In the midst of many uncertainties, Andersen decided last week not to actively recruit at A&M, canceling all interviews and not reporting whether the company will honor commitments offered to students regarding promised internships or permanent jobs, reversing earlier promises.

Despite the national attention on Andersen and former lead auditor David Duncan concerning ethical reviews, recruiters continued to assure jobs to many A&M students and graduating seniors throughout January and February.

Duncan, Class of 1981 and a member of the Lowry Mays College of Business Graduate School advisory board, was fired from the firm in January after accusations that he ordered the destruction of key Enron documents.

Dr. James Benjamin, professor and Department of Accounting head, said Andersen is still hoping to be a viable firm in the long term. But with the current

uncertainties in the company, Benjamin said, Andersen does not think it is appropriate to actively recruit and offer internships right now.

Benjamin said questions surrounding the canceled interviews and Duncan's continued presence on the graduate school advisory board are not related. He added that he has not addressed the issue because the advisory board only meets twice a year and has not met since last November. The board is scheduled to meet this May.

"Since [Duncan] has been dismissed from Arthur Andersen, we expect he will not be a part or involved at this point. The position on the board was derived from him being at Andersen," Benjamin said. "Keep in mind that [the accusations] are still simply charges, he is not guilty. We still value him."

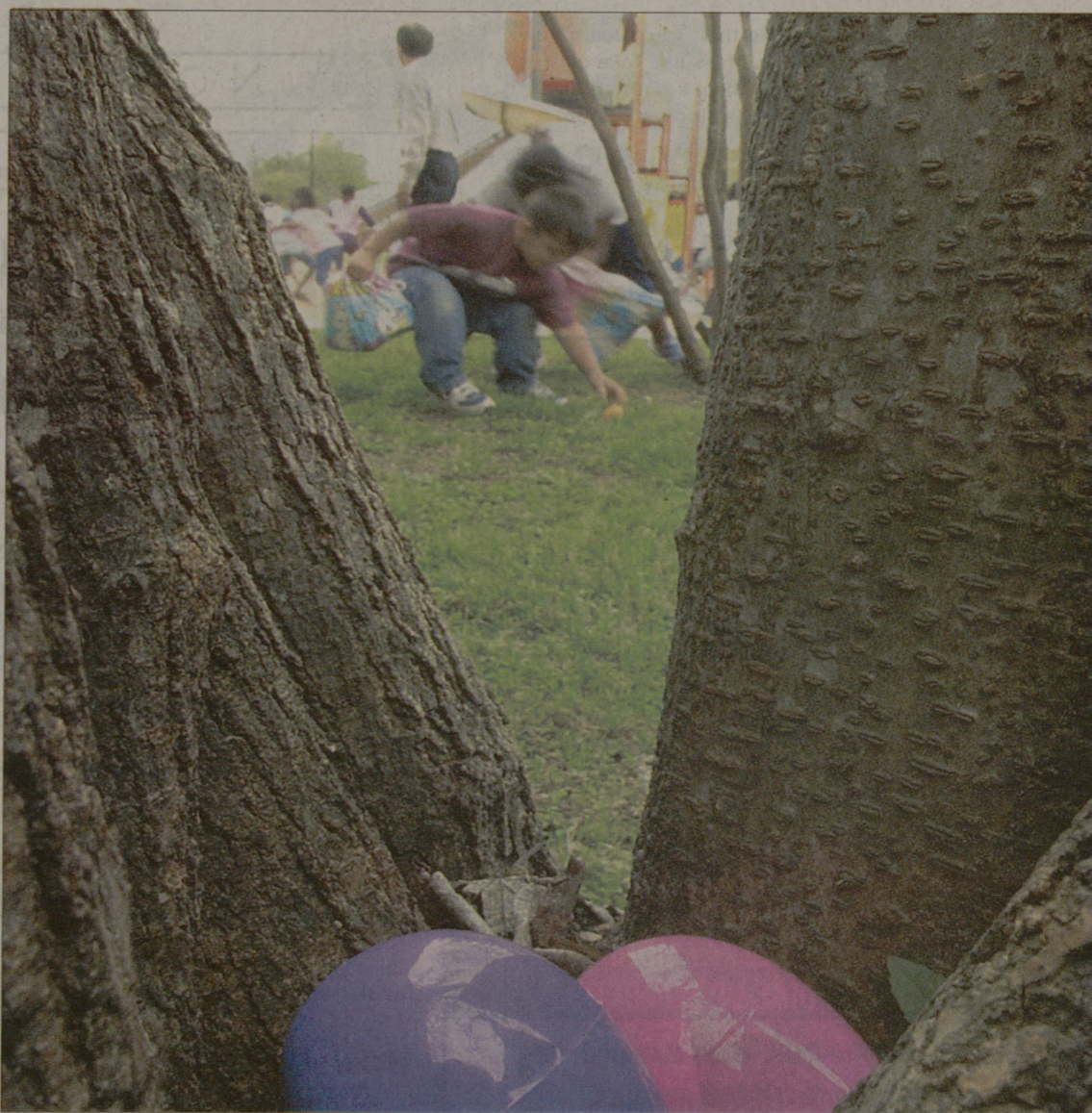
He added that if Duncan is guilty, they will be disappointed that an A&M graduate was involved in the Enron scandal.

But many students, especially students in the five-year master's degree accounting program, are only concerned with Andersen's current status. Benjamin said the news will mainly affect accounting students, since the accounting sector of Arthur Andersen is under the most scrutiny and historically was one of the largest recruiters for accounting students at A&M.

Benjamin said three main groups of accounting students, all in the five-year master's degree program, would be affected.

See Andersen on page 2

Hunting season



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Seven-year-old Alex Castillo stoops to collect an egg during an Easter egg hunt at the Lincoln Center in College Station on Friday. Area children raced to gather about 600 candy-stuffed eggs provided by the Zeta Phi Beta sorority and the Lincoln Center.

Coventry wins SBP election

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

Zac Coventry scored a landslide win against Lara Pringle in the race for student president Thursday, capturing 70 percent of the vote.

Coventry, a senior agricultural development major, received 6,373 votes to Pringle's 2,675.

A large crowd of students gathered in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue Tuesday night to hear Student Government Association Election Commissioner Caytie Smith announce the results.

"This is an incredible blessing from

God," Coventry said. "Our motto was, 'All that matters is what we do as a team,' and I have a great team."

Coventry also expressed his admiration for Pringle and her campaign.

"Her heart is in the right place," Coventry said. "They (Pringle's campaign team) are a classy bunch of individuals; my hat's off to them."

Friends and supporters surrounded and consoled a teary-eyed Pringle after the results were announced.

"We did the best we could," said Pringle,



COVENTRY

a junior finance major said. "I'm proud of what we did, and I wish the best of luck to Zac. It was an amazing experience."

Yell leaders Cardo Walthall and Bo Wilson cruised to victory in the senior yell contest, each winning 27 percent of the vote. The winner of the third spot will be determined in a runoff between Scott Goble, the Corps of Cadets nominee, and Matt Giese. Goble won 4,506 votes (18 percent) and Giese won 3,766 votes (15 percent).

"I'm extremely flattered," Wilson said. "I'm going to keep working hard and do my very best."

None of the 10 candidates running for the

See Elections on page 2



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Texas A&M presidential candidate Jon Whitmore met with media and the public at the Stark Gallery on Friday. Whitmore is the second of three candidates to visit scheduled to visit A&M.

'Vision' to be focus for Whitmore

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

With a hopeful look to the future, Texas A&M's second candidate for president, Jon Whitmore said his focus would be on finding the resources necessary to allocate the Vision 2020 plan.

"Vision 2020 is a terrific view for the future," Whitmore said. "I would put my energy behind seeing many aspects of the plan coming together. It will take a lot of resources from many different streams."

The University's next president needs to advocate his attention to A&M's goal of

becoming one of the top 10 universities in the nation by 2020, Whitmore said.

Whitmore has been the provost at the University of Iowa since 1996, following six years as dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas-Austin.

Whitmore is the second of three candidates scheduled to visit the campus selected by a 24-member committee. Richard Herman, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, visited and spoke at a similar reception last week. The third candidate,

See Whitmore on page 2

Sharon declares 'war on terror'



KRT CAMPUS

Agency personnel work at the scene of a suicide bombing inside a restaurant on Sunday. Fifteen people were killed.

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Saying Israel is in a war for survival, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to smash Palestinian militants in an uncompromising offensive, as he addressed a nation rattled by five suicide bombings in five days, including back-to-back attacks Sunday that killed 14 Israelis.

In an expansion of Israel's "Operation Protective Wall," more than 100 Israeli tanks entered the West Bank town of Qalqiliya late Sunday, Palestinian witnesses said. Electricity was cut off and exchanges of fire could be heard. Armored vehicles also amassed near biblical Bethlehem.

In the first of Sunday's two suicide blasts, a Palestinian from the Islamic militant group Hamas blew himself up in a restaurant, killing himself and 14 diners, and wounding more than 40.

The blast tore away much of the roof and shattered tables and windows. Twisted piles of metal covered the floor. "Even the moderately injured were on fire," said a witness, Shimon Sabag, who

See Bombing on page 2

Queen Mother remembered

LONDON (AP) — The State Bell of St. Paul's Cathedral tolled today in remembrance of Queen Mother as people across Britain prayed for her at Easter services. Admirers lined up at palaces to sign books of condolence.

Queen Elizabeth II, who has lost her mother and her only sister, Princess Margaret, within seven weeks, attended a private service at Windsor Castle, grieving a much-loved royal matriarch who died Saturday at age 101. Prince Charles and his sons flew home from a ski trip to Switzerland to join the rest of the royal family. Crowds of admirers

gathered outside Windsor Castle's gates, and some left flowers and notes. More than 50 bright bouquets of spring flowers rested against a St. James's Palace wall in central London where hundreds of people lined up on a chilly and overcast morning to sign books of condolence.

The Queen Mother's

Westminster Abbey funeral was set for April 9, following three days in which she will lie in state in Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament under ceremonial guard.

Great Tom, the State Bell at St. Paul's, rang for an hour Sunday afternoon to mark the Queen Mother's passing.

	<p>AggieLife Pg. 3</p> <p>Fools rush in</p> <p>Students celebrate April Fools with pranks and practical jokes</p>	<p>WEATHER TODAY</p> <p>HIGH 78° F</p> <p>LOW 50° F</p> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>HIGH 82° F</p> <p>LOW 57° F</p> <p>FORECASTS COURTESY OF WWW.COLLEGEWEATHER.COM</p>
	<p>News Pg. 4</p> <p>Battalion honored for journalistic excellence</p>	