

THE BATTALION

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Grads hunt for jobs in slow market

By Eric Ambroso
THE BATTALION

Though a sluggish economy has left many December graduates wondering where they can find a decent job, students like Amjed Ladak said the Career Center at Texas A&M can provide many graduating seniors with opportunities.

"I know the job market is down," said Ladak, an industrial engineering student graduating next week. "But the Career Center gives us ample opportunity to get our foot in the door. After that, it's all up to us."

Ladak plans to take a position in operation resources at Frito-Lay in San Antonio after graduation. He said most of his success in the job market is due to the Career Center, reportedly using

the Web site at least once or twice a day. Ladak used the Career Center to take part in 13 interviews throughout his senior year with a wide variety of companies. The center is unique because it allows students to look for jobs inside and outside of their major, he said.

In 2001-2002, there was a 15 percent decrease in on-campus interviews at A&M. This fall that number has decreased another 15 percent, said Marti Boerema, director of experiential education at the Career Center. Approximately 11,000 interviews were held on campus this fall.

Over 7,000 students reported their post-graduate plans to the Career Center last year, and 46 percent of them had a job or a viable offer, Boerema said. Another 15 percent of graduates decided to go to graduate school.

"Employers are making every effort not to curtail all hiring from college campuses," Boerema said. "But companies are coming to campus with more limited hiring needs. They are hiring in smaller numbers and in less disciplines."

Though hiring at Texas A&M is significantly decreasing, students at A&M are finding better than most other students at universities in Texas and across the nation, Boerema said. While the number of interviews at A&M has decreased 15 percent from last year, many colleges are down 25 to 48 percent.

"Overall, the process has been a little slower this fall, but comparatively, we are still faring better," Boerema said.

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Top 10 places employers find new hires

1. Internship program
2. Co-op program
3. On-campus interview
4. Employee referrals
5. Career/job fairs
6. Faculty contacts
7. Internet job postings (company Web sites)
8. Job postings to career offices
9. Student organizations/ clubs
10. Internet job postings (campus Web site)

Source: www.jobweb.com

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

Hittin' the books



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

Mascot corporal **Jordan Cadduck**, a sophomore industrial distribution major, helps **Reveille VII** study biology notes before final exams. Finals begin today and run through Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Graves presses on through cancer

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Chancellor Howard Graves announced that while his lung nodules have still been growing at a slow rate, the cancerous tumor in his abdomen appears to be under control.

The primary tumor appears to have shrunk and is not currently active, Graves said. The growth rate of the lung nodules has been very slow. The largest one is about an inch in diameter.

Graves was diagnosed with a rare form of the sarcoma cancer in January of 2001 and underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

In September of 2001, he was scheduled to undergo surgery to remove the tumor from his abdomen, but at a Sept. 11 appointment doctors informed him the cancer had grown and spread to his lungs.

Graves is now receiving all of his treatment for his soft-tissue sarcoma cancer at St. Joseph's Regional Health Center in Bryan, Texas.

Graves' primary physician at the health center is Dr. Avi Markowitz. He still makes the trip to the Anderson Cancer Center in Houston to be treated by Dr. Robert S. Benjamin once a month.

Dr. Markowitz has been specially authorized by M.D. Anderson to administer the experimental drug thrombopoietin (TPO), that only recently became available for clinical evaluation, Graves said.

"The initial treatment damaged my bone marrow," Graves said. "I am receiving experimental stimuli to cause the bone marrow to produce white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets."

TPO is the primary regulator of platelet production and a single dose of TPO can increase platelet production 3- or 4-fold, according to work published on the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Web site by researcher Dr. Saroj Vadhwan-Raj.

Graves said he is lucky to receive the TPO treatment.

"It's available only three places in the world: College Station, Houston and New York," he said.

According to the American Cancer Society Web site, once sarcomas have metastasized, or spread, the 5-year survival rate is between 10 and 15 percent.

The Rev. Dwight Edwards, Graves' pastor at Grace Bible Church, said he was at the hospital with Graves when he got his biopsy results back and found out he had cancer.

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N. Korea says it will reactivate nuclear reactor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Thursday it will immediately revive a Soviet-designed nuclear power plant the United States suspects was being used to develop nuclear weapons before it was frozen in 1994.

A dismayed South Korea urged its neighbor to reverse the decision. In Washington, a spokesman for President Bush called the situation "regrettable" but said the United States had no plans for military action in response to the North Korean decision.

With a bitter winter ahead, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said his country had no choice but to reactivate the reactor and resume construction of other nuclear facilities to supply desperately needed power after a U.S.-led decision last month to suspend annual oil shipments of 500,000 tons.

KCNA, the North's state-run news agency, quoted the spokesman but did not name him. A South Korean government official said it would take about two months for North Korea to reactivate its old nuclear plant.

The North Korean announcement followed the seizure and release this week of a ship carrying North Korean Scud missiles to Yemen. North Korea's missile customers have also included Libya, Iran, Syria, Pakistan and Egypt.

It wasn't clear whether the interception influenced the decision, but an editorial in the North's official newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said: "It is necessary to heighten vigilance against the U.S. strategy for world supremacy and 'anti-terrorism war.'"

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the United States would continue to seek a peaceful resolution of the issue of North Korea's nuclear program.

U.S. military helicopter crashes in Honduras

SANTA CRUZ DE YOJOA, Honduras (AP) — An American Black Hawk helicopter crashed in the hills of central Honduras during a night training exercise, killing five U.S. soldiers.

The helicopter, from Soto Cano Air Force Base in Palmerola, Honduras, crashed about 9 p.m. Wednesday while on routine training, said Lt. Col. Bill Costello, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command in Florida.

"Right now, we are classifying it as a training accident," Costello said Thursday. "It is being investigated."

The names of the dead were being withheld until their families could be notified. The crew belonged to the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, based at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

There had been heavy rains in the area over the past three days, but the

cause of the crash was not known.

Pieces of metal and other debris were strewn across a hillside, which was guarded by both Honduran and U.S. military officials. The helicopter crashed in a remote, agricultural area near a small highway.

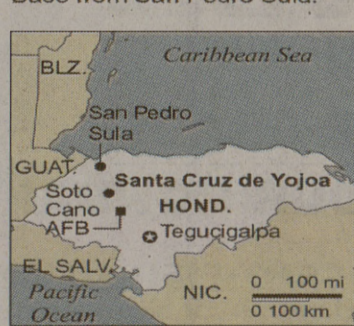
U.S. Army South spokesman Maj. Rich Crusan confirmed that five crew members were aboard the helicopter. He said the bodies were taken to Soto Cano Air Force Base on Thursday.

The unit involved in the crash was assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo, the U.S. military command that conducts training, counter-drug, and humanitarian missions in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Many of its members helped Central America recover after Hurricane Mitch killed thousands.

Five U.S. soldiers killed in crash

Five U.S. soldiers were killed when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras. The helicopter was en route to Soto Cano Air Force Base from San Pedro Sula.



UH-60 Black Hawk

Primary function: Infantry squad transport helicopter

Length: 64 ft., 10 in. (19.76 meters)

Height: 16 ft., 10 in. (5.13 meters)

Max. speed: 184 mph

Ceiling: 19,000 ft. (5,790 meters)

Range: 368 miles (592 km)

Accommodation: Three crew members and 11 fully equipped troops

SOURCE: Associated Press; ESRI

AP

Officials warn students to take precautions over break

HOLIDAY BREAK SAFETY TIPS

- have newspapers cancelled or held
- ask a neighbor to collect mail
- put lights on timers
- take valuable items home
- leave a TV or radio on
- notify police department when residents will be away for an extended period of time

MANDY ROUQUETTE • THE BATTALION

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

The College Station Police Department (CSPD) and the University Police Department (UPD) are encouraging students and faculty to take precautions before leaving their apartments, residence halls and offices for the winter break.

For 10 years, CSPD has offered a program called Dark House, which allows residents living off campus, mostly in subdivisions, to have a patrol officer drive by their home while they are gone, said Lt. Rodney Sigler, public information officer for the CSPD.

"If someone is going to be gone for a period of time, let us know and if time permits we will go by and check the residence," Sigler said.

Most college students live in apartment complexes which are already patrolled, he said. But

regardless of where you live, everyone should make arrangements with neighbors for things such as pets and mail before leaving for the holiday, he said.

"Have your newspaper canceled or held, otherwise they will stack up on the doorstep and it will give away someone is not home," Sigler said.

Have a neighbor watch your house and collect your mail if possible, Sigler said.

Sigler also suggests using timed lights and keeping the television or radio on so there is always noise in the house.

UPD officer Allan Baron said students living on campus also need to take caution, even though they are required to turn in their keys prior to leaving.

"The big thing is to lock things in your dorm, but take high value items home. I know it's a pain,

See **Safety** on page 2