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Bruce Boyd

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Enjoy three special menus served in the
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Every Wednesday evening, it's just a short
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Every Friday evening, get the very best *Aggie made*
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Reservations or more information,
www.messinahof.com or call 778-9463, ext. 31

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Michael Martin Murphey
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Cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphey
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JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Under the cover of the Century Tree, senior German
major Eric Brown proposes to his girlfriend of two
years, junior interdisciplinary studies major Stacey

Johnson. The couple was soon surrounded by
friends who were watching from a distance. Stacey
said "Yes."

Farm workers, industry agree to proposal

By Suzanne Gamboa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The
agricultural industry and farm
worker advocates have agreed to
a legislative proposal that
would allow about 500,000
undocumented immigrant farm
workers already in the country
to become legal residents and
make employing farm labor
easier.

The groups, which for years
have fought over wages and
working conditions, hailed the
proposal. The bill could help
ensure a stable work force for
the nation's farms, while also
bringing undocumented farm
workers and their families "out
of the shadows," said Rep. Chris
Cannon, R-Utah, one of the
sponsors.

"Time is running out for
American agriculture, farm-
workers and consumers. What
was a problem years ago is a
crisis today and will be a catastro-
phe if we do not act immediat-
ely," said Sen. Larry Craig, R-

Idaho, another sponsor, along
with Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-
Mass., and Rep. Howard
Berman, D-Calif.

About 7 million undocu-
mented immigrants, mostly
from Mexico, are believed to be
in the United States. U.S. nego-
tiations with Mexico for an
agreement on hiring migrant
workers stalled after the Sept.
11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when
U.S. focus shifted to enhancing
border security to prevent the
entry of terrorists.

The agriculture proposal
would reform the H2A visa
program under which agricul-
tural employers can hire immi-
grants as temporary farm hands
after showing they can't find
U.S. workers. Growers have
often complained that the pro-
gram is too bureaucratic and
burdensome.

The legislation would ease
some of the program's rules.
The bill also proposes to freeze
wages for certain farm workers
for three years at the level in
place on Jan. 1, 2003 while

Congress studies what their
proposals should be.

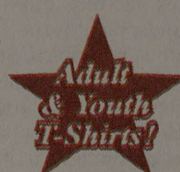
The bill would allow eligi-
ble undocumented workers already
in the United States to apply for
temporary worker status. Their
spouses and children also would
be allowed to stay in the United
States, but could not work.
Eventually, after a longer period
of work, these workers and their
families would be eligible for
permanent residency.

Immigrants not already in
the country would be allowed
to come to the United States as
temporary workers for up to
three years. After that they
would have to return to their
country of origin.

Farm worker advocates have
pushed for years for legalization
to help protect workers from
abuse and exploitation.

The new bill, said Arturo
Rodriguez, United Farm
Workers president, "grants free-
dom from fear to hundreds of
thousands of the hardest work-
ing, lowest-paid, taxpaying
workers in America."

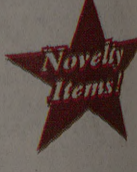
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BLOWOUT SALE



**PITTSBURGH
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Thursday, September 25th
8a.m.-8p.m.
Friday, September 26th
8a.m.-8p.m.
Saturday, September 27th
8a.m.-One Hour Prior To Game Time
Sunday, September 28th
9a.m.-5p.m.



112 Holleman Drive • College Station, TX

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Volume 11

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By THE

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