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Human Resources offers new intern program

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

Students can gain professional-level work experience with internship positions now available through the Texas A&M Human Resources Classification and Compensation Office.

Departments can create student intern titles that can be filled by undergraduate and graduate students. Students from other universities may also be hired into non-affiliated student intern titles.

"This program will allow students to utilize the lessons and the skills they learn in class, specific to their major, to assist specific departments with projects framed at enhancing the A&M community," said Narietha Carter, executive director of Experiential

Education for the Student Government Association.

The office announced the program on Oct. 1 and developed it with the Office of Student Financial Aid and the Career Center.

Manager of Classification and Compensation Elizabeth Schwartz said the idea came up last fall and became a priority project in the spring because of high interest.

"There were a lot of interested constituents, but with all of the budget issues, it took awhile to get it underway," Schwartz said.

The internship positions will be posted with the Career Center and Student Financial Aid. Participating departments can post positions at JobsforAggies.tamu.edu as well.

"It was critical for the Office of Financial Aid to be involved because this is student employ-

ment," Schwartz said.

The internship titles in this program are not meant for routine clerical duties, but to provide work experience that will prepare them for professional positions after graduation, as stated in the program's summary posted on the HR department Web site.

The program is for paid internships only, and it is recommended that student interns work a minimum of 20 hours per week and no more than 25 hours per week during fall and spring semesters, so students can obtain their education while participating in the program.

Students may work up to 40 hours a week during breaks between semesters and during the summer.

Many A&M degree programs consider giving course credit for internships. The number of hours given and eligibility requirements differ by pro-

gram, so students should consult the undergraduate catalog, graduate catalog, their department or adviser.

"This program is far reaching, and it hopes to encompass as many departments as possible," Carter said.

Kevin Cazalas, a sophomore business major, said he is excited about this new opportunity because he likes to spend his summers doing non-school related activities that do not offer professional experience.

"The fact that I can get professional experience at the University during a semester sounds like an unbelievable deal," Cazalas said. "In the summer, the last thing on my mind is school, so I can keep it that way by taking care of building my resume during the academic year."

New Student Internship Program

The Human Resources Classification and Compensation Office announced the introduction of a new student internship program.

► Student Intern titles provide professional-level work experience under staff in A&M departments.

► It is recommended that student interns work a minimum of 20 hours per week for at least one semester.

► The program is for paid internships only.

► Positions are available to undergraduate or graduate students at A&M or other universities.

SETH FREEMAN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: HTTP://HR.TAMU.EDU

See Interns on page 8

Racin'



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior nuclear engineering major Aaron Moreno, left, and junior engineering technology major Mike Roberson begin their ride at the flagpole in front of the Academic Building Tuesday afternoon. The two were rid-

ing with about 10 other riders who are part of the Texas A&M Men's Cycling team. They are practicing for a criterium race this weekend which will take place outside Reed Arena.

Court turns down Bush appeal over medical marijuana

By Gina Holland
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court cleared the way Tuesday for state laws allowing ill patients to smoke marijuana if a doctor recommends it.

Justices turned down the Bush administration's request to consider whether the federal government can punish doctors for recommending or perhaps just talking about the benefits of the drug to sick patients. An appeals court said the government cannot.

Nine states have laws legalizing marijuana for people with physician recommendations or prescriptions: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. And 35 states have passed legislation recognizing marijuana's medicinal value.

Federal law bans the use of pot under any circumstances.

The case gave the court an opportunity to review its second medical marijuana case in two years. The last one involved cannabis clubs.

This one presented a more difficult issue, pitting free-speech rights of doctors against

government power to keep physicians from encouraging illegal drug use. A ruling for the Bush administration would have made the state medical marijuana laws unusable.

Some California doctors and patients, in filings at the Supreme Court, compared doctor information on pot to physicians' advice on "red wine to reduce the risk of heart disease, Vitamin C, acupuncture, or chicken soup."

The administration argued that public health was at stake.

"The provision of medical advice — whether it be that the patient take aspirin or Vitamin C, lose or gain weight, exercise or rest, smoke or refrain from smoking marijuana — is not pure speech. It is the conduct of the practice of medicine. As such, it is subject to reasonable regulation," Solicitor General Theodore Olson said in court papers.

In states with medical marijuana laws, doctors can give written or oral recommendations on marijuana to patients with cancer, HIV and other serious illnesses.

Even some supporters of the laws had expected the Supreme Court to step into the case. They

See Marijuana on page 2

China prepares first manned space flight

By Christopher Boden
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIUQUAN, China — Keeping his identity secret, China prepared its first astronaut for space travel Tuesday and loaded his rocket with fuel — but said the public and the world would have to wait to learn whether the flight succeeds.

State television scrapped plans for a live broadcast of the launch, which the Web site of the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said would "most probably" happen Wednesday morning — Tuesday evening EDT. A Hong Kong newspaper

said the cancellation was prompted by fears of the "political risks" of something going wrong.

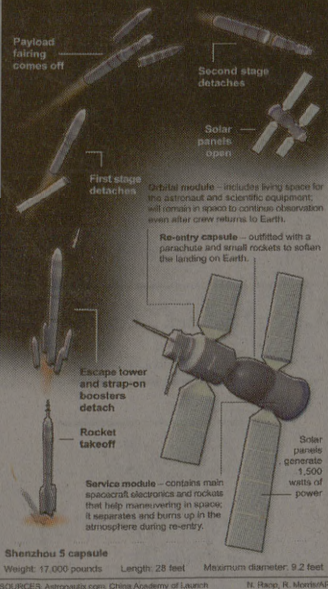
A successful flight would make China the third nation to put a human into space on its own — a propaganda prize in which communist leaders have invested 11 years of secretive preparation and untold resources.

Communist leaders hope the history-making launch will boost China's standing abroad and, more important, help the party's image among a populace weary of corruption and other abuses.

See China on page 8

China plans first manned mission

Under a veil of secrecy, China was expected to launch its Shenzhou 5 capsule this week, attempting to become only the third nation to put a man in space. However, news of presidential travel kept the mission, which is expected to last 14 orbits of the Earth, or about 28 hours.



Shenzhou 5 capsule
Weight: 17,000 pounds Length: 28 feet Maximum diameter: 9.2 feet
SOURCE: Associated Press; China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology

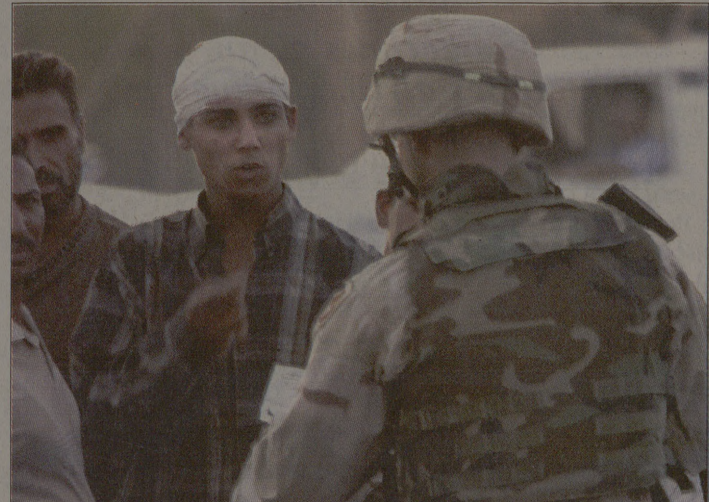
Suicide car bomber targets Turkish Embassy in Iraq

By Charles J. Hanley
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Suicide car bombers struck in Baghdad for the third time in a week Tuesday, this time outside the Turkish Embassy in yet another blow against those who would help the U.S. occupation. Witnesses said the driver and a bystander were killed, and hospitals said at least 13 were wounded.

In the southern city of Karbala, meanwhile, gunmen of rival Shiite Muslim factions clashed and witnesses said several people were killed or injured. It appeared to be part of a power struggle between forces of the firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and followers of religious leaders who take a more moderate stand toward the U.S. occupation.

Just who is behind the car bombings in the capital — including two killing 18 other people in Baghdad in recent days — remained a mystery, although Iraqis converging on the scene Tuesday began chanting pro-Saddam Hussein slogans.



DAVID P. GILKEY • KRT CAMPUS

An Iraqi man who was injured during the second suicide car bomb in three days talks with a U.S. soldier in front of the Turkish embassy in Baghdad Tuesday.

"This is the act of those who want to turn Iraq into a terror paradise," said Turkish Ambassador Osman Paksut, whose government has offered peacekeeping troops to reinforce the U.S. military presence here, a move strongly opposed by Iraqis.

Much of the blast was absorbed by concrete barriers outside the embassy, U.S. offi-

cials said. The bomber might have caught U.S. troops if he had struck last weekend, when they were deployed outside the mission in northwest Baghdad, apparently because of a threat.

"About three days ago, we received indications that there might be increased danger on the Turkish Embassy," said Col.

See Bomber on page 2

Redistricting battle shifts to courthouse

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The battle over congressional redistricting has shifted from the Capitol to the courthouse.

Democrats are asking a federal court in Tyler to stop the state from implementing a new Republican-backed congressional redistricting map, at least before the 2004 election cycle.

The court motion alleges that using the new map

would be disruptive because it moves more than 8.1 million Texans into new districts, that there are strong arguments that the map violates federal law and that the court has little time to consider such questions before the 2004 election cycle.

U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, D-Arlington, said the new map, signed into law Monday by Republican Gov. Rick Perry, violates the federal Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on racial

See Redistricting on page 8