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- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of Graduate Studies (302 Administration)
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th Floor Rudder)
- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd Floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- West Campus Library

<http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/whoswho>

Completed applications are due to the Office of Graduate Studies or the Department of Student Activities no later than 5 p.m., on Friday, October 24, 2003. Applications may be personally delivered or sent through US Mail or Campus Mail to either:

Office of Graduate Studies ATTN: Who's Who 1113 TAMU 302 Administration Building College Station, TX 77843-1113	Dept. of Student Activities ATTN: Who's Who 1236 TAMU 125 John J. Koldus Building College Station, TX 77843-1236
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Questions may be referred to:
Kim Widdison (845-3631)
kwiddison@vprmail.tamu.edu

Sandy Briers (862-1973)
sandy@stuact.tamu.edu

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NATION
THE BATTALION

Growing share of uninsured workers employed at biggest U.S. companies

By Leigh Strope
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A third of the nation's workers without health insurance are employed by large companies, a study says.

Thirty-two percent of all uninsured workers in 2001 were employed by big companies, up from 25 percent in 1987, according to the report released Tuesday by The Commonwealth Fund.

Researchers cited as factors soaring health care costs, declines in manufacturing and union jobs and the changing structure of large corporations — those with more than 500 employees — and the benefits they offer.

"Policy-makers seeking solutions to the growing uninsured problem must look beyond workers in small firms, or they risk leaving out a large group of low-wage uninsured workers," said Jeanne Lambrew, an author of the study and an associate professor of health policy at George Washington University.

The study also noted that seven out of 10 uninsured workers at large companies were not offered health insurance, and 15 percent were ineligible.

Low-income workers were the most likely to be without coverage.

The Census Bureau estimates that 44 million Americans were uninsured last year.

While researchers found a growing number of uninsured workers at large firms, they said the opposite was true for small and medium-sized companies.

The percentage of uninsured employees in small businesses — those with fewer than 100 workers — dropped from 67 percent in 1987 to 57 percent in 2001. Similarly, the number of uninsured workers at medium-sized companies fell from 14 percent to 12 percent during the same period.

Access to health care and employers' rising costs have been debated in Congress and by the nine Democrats seeking to challenge President Bush next year. The issue also is at the center of numerous labor disputes in California and elsewhere.

Striking grocery workers and public transit mechanics have caused widespread inconvenience and economic losses in Southern California. Thousands of Kroger Co. grocery workers also walked out in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri last week. Unions are fighting to retain top-of-the-line medical benefits while employers want workers to pick up more of the cost.

Uninsured workers

Thirty-two percent of all uninsured workers in 2001 were employed by big companies, up from 25 percent in 1987.

Share of uninsured workers, by firm size

Firm Size	1987	2001
Large — 500 or more employees	25%	32%
Medium — 100-499 employees	14%	12%
Small — Less than 100 employees	61%	57%

*Does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: The Commonwealth Fund

Scientists recover the remnants of the supposedly lost Erie Canal

By Alicia Chang
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COHOES, N.Y. — In its 19th century heyday, pioneers, immigrants and cargo swarmed the Erie Canal, a bustling, fluid gateway that opened up the country's heartland and the West.

When the canal faded from prominence at the turn of the last century, a myth arose that it had been destroyed.

Armed with old maps and shovels, a group of scientists have set out to prove otherwise. Since 1999, their careful detective work has yielded promise: They have recovered two original canal locks and other remnants from when the man-made waterway expanded.

But they face their greatest challenge when they try to unearth the canal's holy grail — the eastern terminus of the original 363-mile Erie stretching from Albany to Buffalo.

"The beauty of the Erie Canal is that it's there," said F. Andrew Wolfe, an engineer at SUNY Institute of Technology. "It's a matter of finding it."

Wolfe and his colleague, Denis Foley, an anthropologist at Union College, hope that recovered artifacts will be a reference point to other buried structures from the canal that established New York City as the nation's leading port.

"They have put a flashlight

on these sites that have long been neglected and forgotten, but that do tell about the heritage of the state," said Craig Williams, a senior historian at the New York State Museum.

Working this past summer, the duo dug down 13 feet in this former textile city just north of Albany and uncovered an intact foundation of Lock 37 and fragments of Lock 38 of the old canal. The original locks were numbered west to east starting in Rome, in central New York.

The discovery of a quoin post — a wedgelike piece of stone where oak lock gates swung back and forth — proved it was a canal lock, Foley said. The locks ushered mule-drawn boats through changes in water levels in the canal by opening the gates and flooding the chambers with water.

The limestone-topped locks were discovered in a cavernous tunnel that was later used for hydropower. Wolfe and Foley spent three months studying the locks, trying to answer why they were built on shale instead of clay and why there were feeder culverts to raise boats in the locks — fixtures thought to exist only in Lockport, north of Buffalo.

Trying to relocate all the old locks is hard, they say. Archaeology is an inexact science full of discoveries and dead ends. One afternoon in late September, Wolfe and Foley tried to find the original Lock

42, figuring if they climbed down a manhole opposite a knitting factory near locks 37 and 38, they'd hit it.

Clad in rubber boots, Wolfe descended into the darkness of the manhole while Foley waited in the sunlight. Shining his flashlight ahead, Wolfe stepped on the slippery rocks, careful not to slip into a gushing waterfall, and perched on a ledge. Up ahead he could see an arch, an entrance to the old canal. The arch had been bricked up.

"I think we got a dead end," Wolfe said, snapping a digital picture anyway before climbing out.

The construction of the Erie Canal, begun in 1817 under New York Gov. DeWitt Clinton, was an engineering marvel, built by the muscle of farmers and horses without the convenience of modern technology. Critics dubbed the \$7 million canal "Clinton's Ditch."

The original 83-lock canal was 40 feet wide and 4 feet deep and opened up the interior of the nation by connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

Since Clinton's inaugural trip on Oct. 26, 1825, the waterway carried a million settlers to America's heartland, created a cheap route for shipping lumber, wheat and flour, and spurred a canal-building boom in the state.

By the mid-1800s, the canal was widened to 70 feet and deepened to 7 feet to keep up

NEWS IN BRIEF

States report on teacher quality

WASHINGTON (AP) — Teachers in many of Alaska's rural districts teach several subjects. Under new federal standards, to claim "highly qualified teacher" credentials they would have to hold bachelor's degrees in each subject they teach or pass tests that show full knowledge of all the topics.

States are reporting widely varying starting points as they make public the percentage of classes taught by "highly qualified teachers," those who have bachelor's degrees, state certification and demonstrated mastery of every subject they teach.

Democrats, White House joust over record \$374 billion deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Bush administration figures that show a record \$374.2 billion deficit for the federal budget year that just ended prove that the president's economic policies have shoved the country in the wrong direction, Democrats say.

White House officials and their Republican congressional allies counter that the numbers show just the opposite: The economy is on the mend, even as deficit still has further up to go.

The political fencing, barely a year before the next presidential and congressional elections, came as the White House's Office of Management and Budget announced the final 2003 deficit figure Monday.

Because the figures were lower than the White House's July projection of \$455 billion, administration officials cited it as evidence that their attempts to fortify the weak economy were working.

Woman recalls seeing headless child's body in Rubio murder trial

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A woman sobbed Monday as she recalled entering her friends' apartment and finding the body of their 1-year-old son lying headless and naked on a bed, the father appealing drugged and the two other children nowhere in sight.

Mary Elena Alvarez was one of seven witnesses to testify during the first day of the capital murder trial of John Allen Rubio. The 23-year-old is accused of killing and decapitating the children, two of which were his own, with the help of his common-law wife.

Rubio's attorneys entered pleas of not guilty by reason of insanity to the four-count grand jury indictment naming Rubio in the murder of 3-year-old Julissa Quezada, 1-year-old John Esther Rubio and 2-month-old Mary Jane Rubio.

Officials have not determined whether 23-year-old Angela Camacho, the mother of all three victims, is mentally competent to stand trial.

NEWS I

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