

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Up next ... your local forecast

Students get paid to have their head in the clouds, experience on the resume

By Lydia Adams
THE BATTALION

An old saying goes, "Do something you love, and you'll never work a day in your life." For Travis Herzog and Conley Isom and Kevin Walter, nothing could be more true as they share their passion for weather with the community working at College Station news channel, KBTX.

Although going to sleep at 7 p.m. and getting up to work at 4 a.m. may sound like quite a lot of work to some students, Herzog, senior meteorology major, doesn't mind the routine that allows him to influence people each day with his enthusiasm and knowledge of the weather.

"I love interacting with people," Herzog said. "It's really rewarding. It's about getting to connect and make a positive impact."

When Herzog, like each of the weather team, gets in front of the camera, it's all improvisation, which allows him to really reach audiences in a special way.

"(The viewers) get along with the weatherguy," he said. "They see you as a friend."

But Herzog says he strives to bring more than just rain predictions to the Brazos Valley.

"It's my goal not only to bring people the weather, but to bring a bit of joy as well," he said.

Herzog says he had a dream and took every opportunity to reach it. After hearing a guest speaker in his broadcast journalism class, he was inspired to seek an internship with the weather team at KBTX.

Instead of sitting back and waiting for it to happen, Herzog took the initiative and called Chief Meteorologist Bob French directly to inquire about the internship.

"You'd be surprised what you get if you just ask for it," Herzog said.

After only three months, he was hired as a fill-in and four months later applied for the morning show as a full-time weatherman and got the job.

Working 40 hours a week and taking a full-time course load hasn't slowed down Herzog, who has maintained a 4.0 and will graduate in time this May. He is also the president of Texas A&M Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (TAMSCAMS).

"I have to be very disciplined," he said. "I knew I was making a sacrifice to invest for the future."

After graduation, Herzog plans to continue at KBTX through his contract and stay in South Texas throughout his career.

"My heart's in Texas," he said. "I love the weather here; you get so many extremes."

Texas is also where Herzog found his interest in the weather. Hurricane Gilbert sent some fierce tornadoes near his San Antonio home when he was in the first grade, and Herzog became a weather



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Senior meteorology majors **Conley Isom** (left) and **Travis Herzog** work for KBTX as weathermen. Conley has been working for KBTX since October and he does the weekend weather reports. Herzog has been working for almost

channel junkie.

After his senior year in high school, he had an opportunity to intern with the weather crew at KENS in San Antonio and returned the following summers.

Now, as a senior in college, Herzog's advice is, "Dream big, be assertive, aggressive and don't underestimate the value of an internship—take advantage of those opportunities."

Isom also followed his dreams to KBTX. After interning with CBS

a year and is now a full-time employee in charge of weather reports Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and a lunchtime report.

and ABC in Dallas, Isom was ready for his opportunity, going from intern to the fill-in position after only a month. He now also helps coordinate with the current interns.

Like Herzog, Isom wanted to be a weather forecaster for as long as he can remember. He recalls watching the news just to see the forecast, which later turned into a passion that he loves to share.

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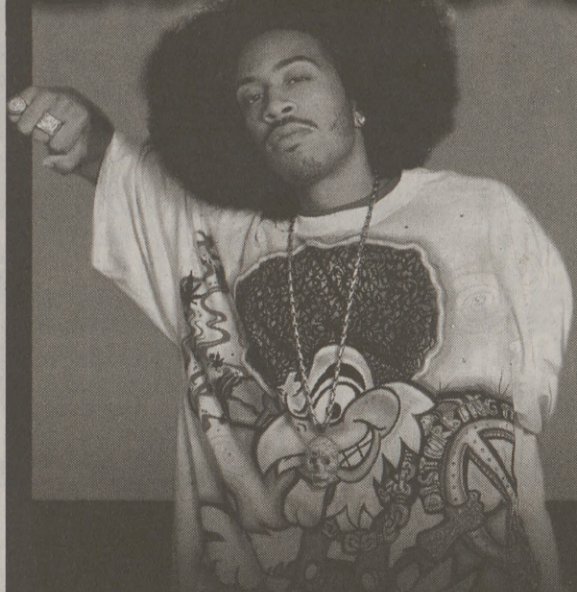
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