

# FORUM

THE BATTALION

Page 4B • Thursday, March 25, 2004

## The new global economy

Now more than ever, students must be aware of effects of international issues

Our increasingly global society and economy creates an environment in which we can no longer disregard what happens in other countries.

In 2004, issues such as Mad Cow Disease and Avian Influenza are impacting our agriculture and economy on a global scale.

A disease continents away caused the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to restructure its poultry show. With the Avian Flu outbreak in Southeast Asia and the concern over its presence on domestic soil, Houston banned all live poultry from its facilities this year; however, the show did take place. To accommo-



JULIO CEZAR JANA

date poultry exhibitors and to ease the minds of the public, judging was held in Rosenberg, Texas.

The effects of such occurrences extend far beyond livestock shows. Anytime health issues arise, consumers become skeptical and often stop purchasing the product or commodity. As

Mad Cow Disease affected the beef markets, Avian Flu is affecting various sectors of the poultry market worldwide.

John Penson Jr., professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M, said that if we build a wall around the United States, prices of commodities and products would

steeply increase — because of the increase in product demand and their limited supply.

“Today, multi-national companies seek potential employees who share a globalized view. As Aggies, we have numerous opportunities and resources in our University to excel at what we do ...

When there is an overproduction of oranges in Brazil, the prices of orange juice in the United States, may decrease, or when the “Mad Cow Fear” spreads in the United States, the foreign beef industry benefits. Either with positive or negative effects to the domestic economy, globalization is here to stay.

As seekers of higher education, we must be aware of our interrelated economy — the country’s progress depends on it.

The U.S. food and fiber system is deemed the safest but also most efficient due to its capacity to trade internationally. Knowledge of this global exchange is demanded in today’s workforce.

Today, multi-national companies

seek potential employees who share a globalized view. A&M has the advantage of offering international learning experiences through internationally focused classes and organizations, such as the International Student Association.

As Aggies, we have numerous opportunities and resources in our University to excel at what we do as we pursue a better understanding of our globalized economy and the world, and we would be foolish not to take advantage of them.

Julio Cezar Jana is a senior majoring in economics and is president of the International Student Association.

### MAIL CALL

#### Bush not guilty of flip-flopping

In response to Collins Ezeanyim's March 24 column:

Not quite Mr. Ezeanyim.

Mr. Ezeanyim's latest column attacking President Bush is just another example of the left's inability to handle the truth. Let's start from the top assessing the validity of his accusations.

First, the “Priceless” ad produced by Citizens United was specifically targeted at countering Kerry's claim that he is a man of the people. Nowhere has this group (who by the way has no direct ties to the Bush-Cheney campaign or the RNC) denied that President Bush is very wealthy or that he comes from a wealthy family. In fact, if Mr. Ezeanyim had done his homework, he would know that the president of Citizens United is on record stating this very fact. The point of this ad was to reveal the truth about John Kerry's financial status which his campaign has tried significantly to downplay.

Second, Sen. Kerry's unintentionally heard comments were targeted directly at the president of the United States and his administration (by the way, while there are troops in combat overseas) not some reporter. Very nice senator, I'm sure the men and

women who are in harm's way this very moment are appreciative of the unified voice of support that is being presented by our elected officials.

Third, let's take a look at the latest Associated Press/Ipsos Poll results to counter Mr. Ezeanyim's comments on the issue of flip-flopping. More than 60 percent of Americans feel that President Bush will stand firm on what he believes, and only 40 percent feel the same about Kerry. I ask, is this because President Bush has a record of being indecisive? I think not.

President Bush has consistently proven that when he says something, number one, he believes it; and number two, he will do everything he can to see it through to fruition. Kerry, on the other hand, has a record of more than 6,000 votes cast which includes flip-flop after flip-flop. These changes have not been on petty issues either; they are on significant issues such as gay marriage — was for it, now against it; No Child Left Behind — was for it, now against it; the Patriot Act — was for it, now against it; and the list goes on and on. He also voted against funding our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan after he voted to send them there.

John Kerry's own words concerning his lack of support for the troops exemplifies his stance on many issues. Kerry said, “I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.” When I first

heard this, I laughed out loud. I thought maybe he was taking a shot at himself, just joking or something. It turns out he was not. Maybe the troops serving abroad will find it humorous too, because as far as I can tell, a laugh is about all John Kerry is offering them.

Andy Thaxton  
Class of 2006

#### “Outstanding Mentor Award

This is just to name a few of the ones I am supporting. I think it will benefit her as a candidate and as a fair and unbiased publication to publish this information about her as it has been done in the past on the other candidates.

Tyam Bozeman  
Class of 2006

#### Carter more than advertised

In response to a March 24 news article:

This is in response to the article printed on SBP candidate Narietha Carter. I feel that while this article included her platform and direct quotes, reflective of her opinions, it failed to present her as a credible candidate for the position by leaving out the current positions and awards that voters may see as an edge she has as a candidate.

Her credentials and qualifications include:  
\*Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant Winner  
\*2002-2003 55th Session of SGA Student Senate (off-campus senator)  
\*Executive Director of Experiential Education on Executive Council of SGA

#### TS moving for more parking

In response to a March 24 news article:

After reading the article about Transportation Services relocating off campus, we could only chuckle. They're probably moving because they can't find enough parking on campus. Perhaps TS employees can park at Olsen field and take a 15-minute scenic shuttle ride around residential College Station to get back to their new office at University Drive. The TS name change didn't work. PTTS is still an organization deaf to the concerns of A&M students.

Katherine “Kat” Kramer  
Class of 2006

### STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS Available Now!

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Applications are due April 2, 2004 at 5pm to the Department of Student Activities.

Questions?

Please contact Risk Management & Organizational Development at 458-4371 or [risk@stuact.tamu.edu](mailto:risk@stuact.tamu.edu)

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