

Student poll...

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More than 44 percent of those polled rated science/computer skills as very important. Women placed a much higher value on science/computer skills than men did. Only 38.7 percent of the men said science/computer skills were very important, while a 50.5 percent of the women said they were.

When asked to rank writing/communication skills, reasoning/math skills, and science/computer skills in order of importance for obtaining a job after graduation, writing/communication skill was the easy winner. More than 68 percent said that skill was the most important in obtaining a job.

Although students said science/

computer skills were important, these skills received little support when compared to writing/communication skills. Only 17.7 percent rated science/computer skills first in importance.

Although the computer age is here, this poll indicates students still place more importance in the "old fashioned" skills of reading and writing.

Senators...

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Boren, who is on the agriculture committee, said that although Exon is not on that committee, "he might as well be. He has co-sponsored amendments to the farm bills over the last four or five years that have made a real difference."

Exon's challenger, Nancy Hoch,

has said that he has not accomplished much in his term. Boren disagreed and said Exon just doesn't "blow his own horn."

"He's a workhorse, not a showhorse," he said.

Boren said he is leading his opponent in Oklahoma by about 60 percentage points. Although the Exon-Hoch race is much

closer, he said, Exon would win even without help from outside campaigners.

Exon prefers it that way.

"It's been my determination not to bring in troops of people from outside to try to tell people how to vote," Exon said.

"He can run on his own merits," Boren said.

Thingsville disguises partiers

It's not too late to come up with that costume to make you the talk of the Halloween party or the trick or treat route, according to Dave Engberg of Thingsville, located in the Centrum and Gateway shopping centers. Those people still undecided about who to portray on Halloween need to begin now, he said.

People come into the store, look around and come up with an idea, he said, or they want to

dress up like one of Thingsville's employees, who also don costumes.

Once the type of costume has been decided, he said, the rest is easy. Thingsville employees help customers decide what type of makeup to use and which accessories to use.


Costs can range from under \$5 to more than \$80, he said, depending on the costume's detail and if a mask is included.

This Halloween, punk rocker costumes are "hot," he said. Other costumes, he said, are the perennial clowns, witches, vampires, devils and harlots.

Engberg said business at Thingsville has been brisk for three weeks with Halloween enthusiasts and shouldn't die down until after Halloween, he said.

"We've had billions and billions of people," he said, joking.

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Israel plans to remove military from Lebanon

JERUSALEM — Israel Sunday officially proclaimed its aim to withdraw its troops from Lebanon within a short period through U.S.-mediated negotiations with Syria and direct military talks with Lebanon.

A statement issued after a cabinet meeting devoted to Lebanon said Israel would try to reach agreement with Syria through the United States and with Lebanon through direct talks on security arrangements. It did not elaborate on the timing of the withdrawal and said this would be determined by the government.

A senior official said U.S. Undersecretary of State Richard Murphy was due in Israel this week as part of attempts by Washington to see what role it could play as a mediator between Israel and Syria. The United States has not been enthusiastic about entering the Lebanese quagmire again without a clear prospect of results.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said that for Israel to withdraw its estimated 12,000 troops, Syria must agree not to occupy positions vacated by Israel and must guarantee to stop guerrilla infiltration from its lines. Syria has rejected these demands saying Israel must withdraw unconditionally.

On talks with the Lebanese, the government repeated that they could not be within the framework of the 1949 Israel-Lebanon Military Armistice Commission, as demanded by Beirut. Israeli cabinet spokesman Yossi Beilin said the cabinet did not discuss a partial unilateral withdrawal, which Beirut fears would lead to a sectarian bloodbath. But a senior official said such a possibility still existed if no progress were made through other means.

Another Israeli demand rejected by both Lebanon and Syria is that the South Lebanon Army, a 2,000-man militia armed and trained by Israel, should continue to function along the international border. Beirut and Damascus demand that the force be disbanded and replaced by U.N. troops and Lebanese Army soldiers.

Jackson calls for Ethiopian relief

NEW YORK — The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sunday proposed a National Citizens Committee to help relieve the famine in Ethiopia and other African nations. He also announced that he will visit Ethiopia in the next month to learn how bad the situation is in the drought-hit country, and how his committee can help.

Too few Americans, he told a news conference, had been involved in ending the death and suffering in Africa. Jackson said he will meet with Wolde Giorgis Dawit, chairman of the Ethiopian Commission for Relief and Rehabilitation, at the United Nations on Wednesday.

Dawit flew to New York Sunday to plead at the U.N. and with U.S. officials for more aid to feed the estimated six million people starving in his country. Dawit had earlier accepted an offer from Britain of civil and military aircraft to airlift food into the country "subject to the regulations within Ethiopia." Sunday, however, he appeared to reject the offer, suggesting in a radio interview that the offer was a propaganda stunt and saying the proposed package of assistance was "undesirable."

British Defense Ministry officials were infuriated by Dawit's change of mind, which came only hours after he provisionally accepted the help.

"Either his people are bloody starving or they're not," one official was quoted as saying.

Baker: Retaliation not automatic

WASHINGTON — The United States would consider retaliation against new acts of terrorism in Lebanon, but such a strike would not be an automatic response, a top Reagan administration official said Sunday. James Baker said a speech by Secretary of State George Shultz last week on terrorism, which sparked controversy, reflected U.S. policy. Shultz said the United States should use force to stop terrorists. Baker said Shultz raised the possibility of civilian deaths but did not say they were inevitable.


Bush's wife apologizes for remark

WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush said his wife Barbara is sorry about her "rhymes with rich" remark about Geraldine Ferraro, but he has no regrets about his use of a vulgarity when talking about his Democratic rival.

"My wife's a lady and she didn't think she was speaking for the record," Bush said of his wife's remark. Barbara Bush sparked controversy earlier this month by referring to Ferraro as "that \$4 million — I can't say it, but it rhymes with rich." She later telephoned Ferraro at home to apologize.

Speaking in an interview taped last week and broadcast on NBC television's "News Forum" program Sunday, Bush said he did not regret his own remark to a dockworker that he "tried to kick a little ass" during his Oct. 11 debate with Ferraro.

Ferraro suggested Bush's comment was a sexual putdown.



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