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## University's scholars up 14 percent

By PAMELA WENTWORTH  
 Reporter

Last year Texas A&M had the largest number of National Merit Scholars of any public university in the nation. This year it has a total enrollment of 622 merit scholars.

Texas A&M is still first in enrollment, but the University of Texas — which last year ranked second — has not announced its total number of merit scholars for this year.

Among freshman merit scholars, last year's figures placed UT second behind Harvard with Texas A&M ranking fourth nationally. Of the total 622 merit scholars enrolled here this year — a 14 percent increase from last year's total — 163 are freshman recruits.

UT doesn't announce merit scholar figures until the 12th day of classes are over, said June Burke, former director for the Honors Colloquium at UT. The Honors Colloquium is a three-day orientation for merit scholars.

"That way we can assure correct results," she said.

Until UT announces its figures, tentatively Sept. 19, Rice University runs a close second to Texas A&M with 605 merit scholars this year.

"I don't think it's a competition," said Lawrence Cress, director of the Honors Program at Texas A&M.

The National Merit Program here at the University is part of a larger effort to actively recruit academic achievers through the Office of School Relations, he said.

"My view is that UT is a good school, Texas A&M is a good school and Rice is a good school," Cress said. "We all have different things to offer. We're all anxious to get the best students we can possibly get."

He stressed that national merit is a comparative statistic. It doesn't indicate that one school is any better or any worse than the other, it just shows how many national merit scholars one has enrolled, Cress said.

"We don't recruit merit scholars," said Richard Stabell, the dean of admissions at Rice. "I would say the size, quality of the student body and the quality of the staff influence our applicants."

Stabell said that because Rice has an undergraduate enrollment of less than 2,600, he does not try to compare it to Texas A&M and UT.

"I don't plan to compete with UT or Texas A&M because I can't promise admission to every student," he said.

## Warped

by Scott McCullar



## Man speaks on wife's side during murder for hire trial

United Press International

DALLAS — A man whose wife has pleaded guilty to hiring an undercover policeman to have her husband killed, testified Tuesday that he thought alcohol caused the woman to develop the plot.

Dorothy Watts Scrivano, 53, and Lawayne Watts Bancker, 64, admitted Monday that they plotted to have their husbands killed to claim \$15,000 in insurance money.

The women, from the Dallas suburb of Garland, have asked state District Judge Ed Kinkeade to place them on probation but the prosecution is seeking the maximum sentence of life in prison for the women.

Frank Scrivano testified on his wife's behalf Tuesday that "when she's not drunk, she's the sweetest thing you ever saw."

Scrivano said he felt Dorothy Scrivano was drinking the night she

tried to hire the undercover police officer to kill him. When asked if his wife was still welcome in his house, Scrivano said she definitely was.

Further testimony is expected today from Bancker and her husband, Adrain Bancker, 64.

The two men, who have visited their wives in jail, said they do not believe the women sincerely wanted them killed. Frank Scrivano said he thought his wife was "set up" by police officers.

In tape-recorded testimony presented to the court Monday, the sisters, former employees of a consumer loan company who were arrested on April 24, were heard telling officer Charles Jackson they wanted their husbands killed because their marriages were unhappy.

They said the deaths should appear to be accidental so they could collect on their husbands' insurance policies.

Bancker was heard telling Jackson that her husband had taken away all her money and credit cards and was planning to take her off his insurance policy.

She said she did not care how her husband was killed but did not want Jackson to harm her German shepherd dog.

Scrivano was heard telling Jackson her husband had beaten her during drunken rages. "I can't take this kind of life anymore. Life's too short to spend in misery."

The women's arrests came after they made a \$1,000 down payment to Jackson, police said.

Shawn Stohlmann, an unemployed commercial artist, testified the women approached him in April and asked him to kill their husbands. Stohlmann said he first revealed the plot to a Dallas newspaper, then informed police.

## 'Go native — plant Texas'

United Press International

AUSTIN — Much of the \$4.3 million that Texas spends annually on plants will go to buy drought-resistant native shrubs and trees under a program launched Tuesday by Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower and Lady Bird Johnson.

Hightower said he began the statewide campaign, dubbed "Go native — plant Texas," partially to encourage water conservation but primarily to create a market for Texas' 209 native plant producers.

"Texas plants not only are survivors, they are good water users and happen to be pretty," Hightower said. "Why use our taxpayers' money

to buy plants from California, Florida or even Japan when we can find harder, cheaper and prettier plants right here at home."

The former first lady, referred to by Hightower as "the Johnny Appleseed of Texas" for her work with wildflowers, said her neighbors snickered when she planted native trees on her Stonewall ranch 17 years ago.

Those plants and trees, she said, were among the few that survived last winter's freeze and the current drought.

"The program appeals to me from the economic standpoint," Johnson said.

Hightower said the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation agreed to spend at least 60 percent of its \$1.5 million landscaping budget for native plants.

Homer Forester of the State Purchasing and General Services Department also said his agency would strive to use Texas plants for landscaping at all state buildings "when ever feasible."

Hightower said he hoped county and local governments would follow the state's example and eventually convince homeowners and private businesses to purchase the native plants.

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Mon.	Swimsuit Contest	75¢ Beer all nite
Tues.	Air Vocal Contest \$75.00 - \$50.00 - \$25.00 prize money 7-10 p.m. 50¢ Bar Drinks 75¢ Beer all nite.	
Wed.	LaBare Women only 'till 10 p.m. Four for One at 7 p.m. Free Champagne for Ladies after 10 p.m.	
Thurs.	Comedy Workshop Professional comedians from around the country 2 great shows 9:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. 4 for 1 drinks - 7 p.m.- 8 p.m.	
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Sat.	4 for 1 at 7 p.m.	

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