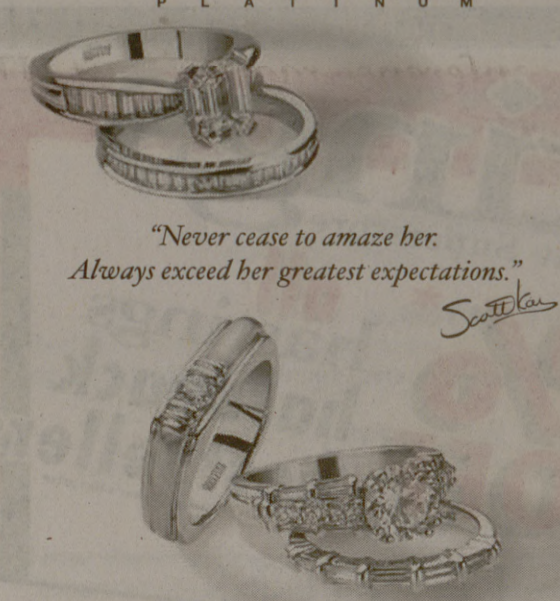


Legacy Mortgage
 A subsidiary of RealNet Financial, Inc.
Why pay rent for 4+ years!
 Exclusive Parent/Student Purchase Program with 3% Dn Payment
 5% Down Program on investment properties with no PMI Required
 Use 1 of 6 Mortgage Calculators (Rent vs. Own) on our web site
www.Legacy-mortgage.com
 We will be open this weekend for appointments 846-9242
 Jack Valerius Jr. '87

MEET ME AT SACHELS
\$1³⁰ Longnecks
 all day / every day
 Across the street from Traditions Dorm
 260-8850
 FREE PARKING BEHIND SHADOW CANYON

Mariya's
 Re-Opening
 Greek and American Grill
 Authentic Greek Food
 • Vegetarian Dishes • Gyros
 • Texas Size Hamburgers • Baklava
5% off w/purchase
 w/this coupon*
 Expires 5-12-02
 Open 6 days a week. Closed Monday, Sun, Tues, Wed 11-9 pm, Thurs - Sat 11-10 pm.
 *1 coupon per person, please
 1804 Welsh A&M Consolidated
 693-2337
www.mariyas.com

SCOTT KAY
 PLATINUM

 "Never cease to amaze her.
 Always exceed her greatest expectations."
 Scott Kay
DAVID GARDNER'S
 JEWELERS + GEMOLOGISTS
 522 UNIVERSITY DRIVE E • COLLEGE STATION • 764-8786

Parent's Weekend Triple Header
3 BIG DAYS 3 GREAT SALES 3 SUPER STORES
Spring Clearance Sale
 25% Off Selected Spring Merchandise
 340 George Bush Drive
Greek Clearance Sale
 70% Off All Sorority Merchandise
 907-C Harvey Road
\$10 Stuff-A-Bag Sale
\$10 Buys the Bag-You Stuff it Full
 303 College Ave
ROTHER'S BOOKSTORES

Amtrak rivals East Coast air shuttle

BOSTON (AP) — Seven months after the terrorist attacks, Amtrak's high-speed Acela Express train appears to be running neck-and-neck with the Delta and US Airways shuttles along the heavily traveled Boston-to-Washington corridor.

Backed-up airport security lines, fear of flying, and the comforts of the new train are among the reasons given for the steadily growing number of business travelers trying the 15-month-old Acela service.

The train, which serves Boston, New York and Washington, got a big boost after Sept. 11. And according to the best available records from Amtrak and the airlines, the advantage appears to be holding, with the shuttles yet to rebound fully from the terrorist attacks.

The attacks, though tragic, "did give us the opportunity to showcase our product and the amenities we offer," said Amtrak spokesperson Karen Dunn. She said Acela ridership is 5.5 percent ahead of projections for the current fiscal year.

Still, Acela's initial projections of 3.9 million annual riders at full capacity look rosy. And nobody knows how Acela Express will fare once the novelty wears off and airport lines shrink. Amtrak also faces enormous financial problems.

Acela ridership stood at 96,037, or 218 passengers per train, in August, the month before the attacks. It jumped to 201,176 or 340 per train, in October, according to Amtrak figures. The numbers dipped in the fall as the airlines rebounded and Reagan National Airport near Washington reopened, but they passed 200,000 again in February and last stood at 219,917, or about 300 per train.

The airlines do not release shuttle statistics, but Bureau of Transportation Statistics filings show that last December, Delta and US Airways reported 215,366 passenger boardings on the shuttle routes, down from 330,040 in December of 2000.

Airline figures for the first three months of this year are not available. But both airlines acknowledge that traffic remains below its pre-Sept. 11 level.

The airlines are trying to respond.

US Airways spokesperson David Castelveter said an express security line has passenger check-in down to 20 minutes. Delta is tripling its number of electronic check-in kiosks and rebuilding its shuttle terminal in Boston.

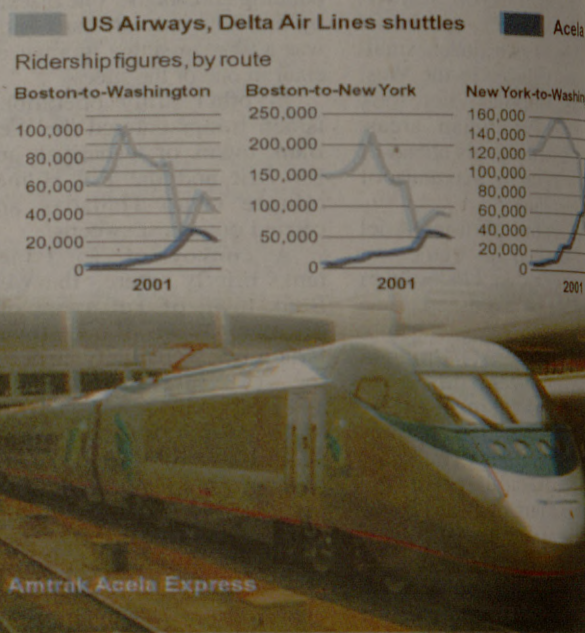
"We need to convince our customers that the airport experience really is something that can be hassle-free," Castelveter said.

Acela Express trains use an advanced tilting system to take turns at higher speeds. But because of track conditions, they reach 150 mph for only 18 miles in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and go no faster than 135 mph between Washington and New York.

That cuts less than 30 minutes off both routes, compared with Amtrak's more conventional trains, to about three hours, 30 minutes on the New York-Boston run and 2:44 between New York and Washington. So Amtrak has tried to lure customers with comfortable seats, leg room and audio outlets.

Amtrak's rising ridership

Amtrak's Acela ridership has increased while US Airways and Delta Air Lines shuttles still have not fully rebounded from the Sept. 11 attacks.



SOURCES: Amtrak; Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Amtrak runs 10 daily Acela Express round-trips between New York and Boston and 13 between Washington and New York. Airlines offer 14 to 17 round-trips daily.

A next-day, same-day return Acela ticket between Boston and New York cost \$236 on Amtrak's Website this week. A comparable flight on both airlines cost \$411.

For business travelers, Sept. 11 altered the train-versus-air equation.

"It boils down to, 'How much time is it going to take to leave my office in Boston to when I arrive in New York?'" Thomas Nulty, president of Navigant International, an Englewood, Colo.-based company.

Kevin Mitchell, chairman of the Business Travel Coalition, research shows that among business travelers who have cut back on flying 25 percent or more, 36 percent cited airport hassles as the 1 reason, followed by costs at 27 percent. Safety was a distant

Gas truck crashes into Tunisian synagogue

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A truck filled with natural gas crashed into a wall surrounding a synagogue on the Tunisian resort island of Djerba on Thursday, killing five people and injuring about 20, the nation's official news agency reported.

The TAP agency said the blast appeared accidental. The explosion killed the driver of the truck, a police officer and three others, the agency said.

Perez Trabelsi, the president of the historic Ghriba synagogue, identified the victims as four German tourists and the truck driver. The German Foreign Ministry had no immediate information.

Trabelsi said the synagogue's facade was damaged.

Helicopters brought the injured, who suffered from burns, to Djerba's regional hospital.



SOURCES: Associated Press, ESRI, AP

Djerba is a popular tourist destination off the southeast coast of the North African

nation. Its blue-and-white Ghriba synagogue, set in the middle of an olive grove, is a site of pilgrimage for Jews and is built on the foundations of one of the oldest synagogues in Africa. It was open to visitors at the time of the blast Thursday.

Security services and judicial authorities opened investigations to find the causes of the blast.

As tensions have escalated in the Middle East, synagogues in Europe, particularly in France, have been attacked. In the most serious case, a synagogue in the southern French city of Marseille was burned to the ground March 31.

Tunisia, a predominantly Muslim nation with a population of about 7.5 million, is not known

as a hotbed of Islamic terrorism. Tens of thousands lived in Djerba in the early 20th century, but tensions in the world prompted many to leave. Today, the Jewish community numbers about 2,000.

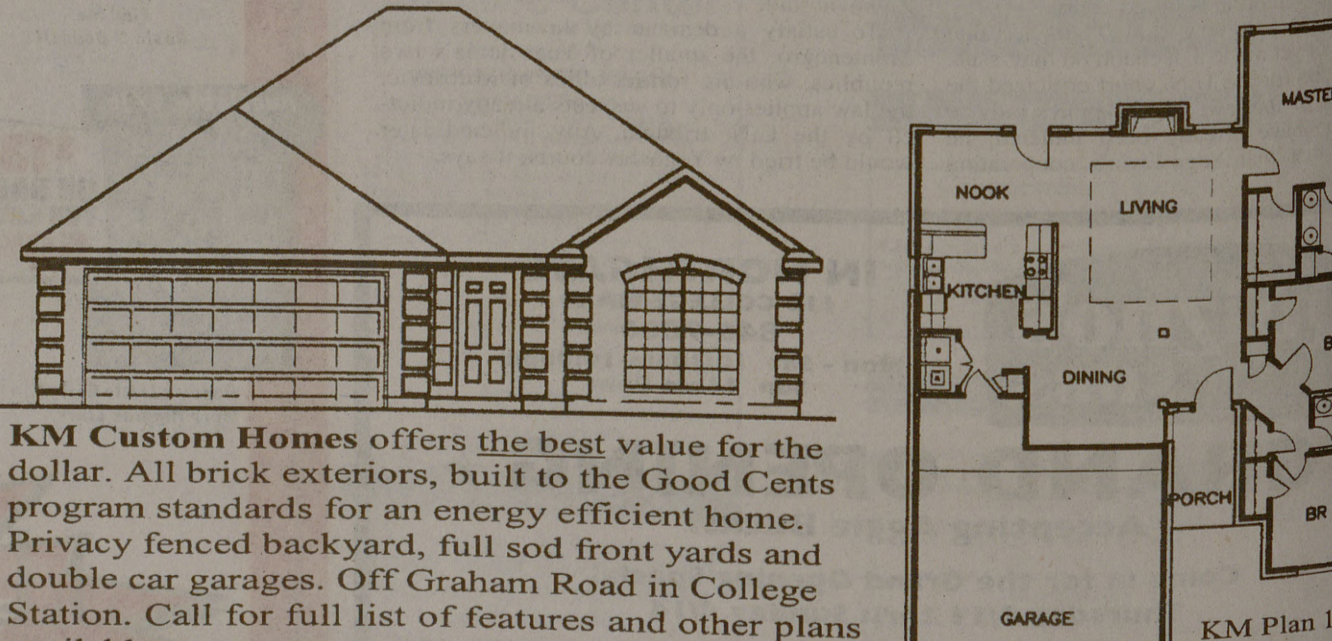
According to tradition, the first Jews came to Djerba biblical times, bringing a stone from the ancient temple in Jerusalem that was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The stone is kept in a grove on Djerba's synagogue.

The first documented evidence of a Jewish community in Djerba dates from the 10th century A.D. By the 18th century, Djerba was an important Jewish cultural center and home to traders, craftsmen and

SUN MEADOWS PH II

AGGIES OR FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS!
 Just in time for the 2002 Fall Semester

Starting at \$116,000.00
 Low move-in. 3/2/2, All Brick
 Just minutes from TAMU or CSISD



KM Custom Homes offers the best value for the dollar. All brick exteriors, built to the Good Cents program standards for an energy efficient home. Privacy fenced backyard, full sod front yards and double car garages. Off Graham Road in College Station. Call for full list of features and other plans available.

Call Mike Caldwell '77, GRI, CRS
 (979) 777-5446, (979) 846-2894
 Email: mikecald@tca.net

COVENTRY GLEN REALTY