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UPD investigates possible hazing



This is one of several photographs found on the Aggield computer server. [Faces have been blurred in the photograph to maintain the anonymity of the participants.]

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

The University Police Department (UPD) began an official investigation Monday morning into a possible hazing incident after photographs of Corps of Cadets members who may have been involved were found on the Aggield computer server June 11.

Bob Wiatt, director of the UPD, said the results of the investigation will be released to the Brazos County District Attorney's Office, which will determine if charges should be filed.

According to an Aggield source, who asked not to be identified, yearbook staff mem-

bers found photos of what appeared to be Corps members in A-Battery hazing someone.

The photos involved men stripping the person of his clothes, blindfolding him and duct taping his hands, arms and legs together.

The photos were taken by Anthony Vasser, a former Corps member and senior engineering technology major, the Aggield source said.

Vasser worked for the Aggield. The photos were saved in Vasser's personal folder on the server in late April, according to the Aggield source.

"It was my understanding that the pictures were shot with an Aggield camera," said

Maj. J. H. "Doc" Mills, media relations coordinator for the Corps of Cadets.

Wiatt said they have yet to determine the exact dates the photos were taken.

The photos could possibly be linked with an alleged hazing incident by junior officers in the Aggie Band that also occurred in late April.

Authorities caught several juniors in Hensel Park when they found sophomores blindfolded and their hands duct taped behind their backs.

The Brazos County District Attorney's office did not file charges from the April incident, Wiatt said.

"There is some confusion to

whether if it was the same incident or a different incident," Mills said. "It has not been established 100 percent yet."

Wiatt also did not confirm that there was any connection between the photos and the possible hazing incident from April. He could not say whether the dates of the photos and the reported hazing incident corresponded.

When the pictures were found, they were first handed over to Dr. Leroy Dorsey, interim head of the journalism department on Wednesday. Dorsey then gave them to Dean

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Gates appoints interim provost, executive dean

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President-designate Robert Gates announced Monday that David Prior, the current dean of geosciences, will serve as the interim provost and executive vice president beginning Aug. 1.

Prior will replace Ronald Douglas, who stepped down from the position last week in an effort to allow Gates to choose who would serve in the position.

"I am delighted to be able to work with President Gates in my new position," Prior said. "[Gates] has great vision and a list of things he hopes to accomplish when he begins, and I look forward to assisting him in any way possible."

Gates announced that Douglas will remain at A&M to serve as a counselor to the President through the fall semester.

"I have worked with Ron Douglas for several years now and I have great respect for

him and for what he has accomplished for this University," Prior said. "President Gates and I look forward to working with his counsel to create a smooth transition for the next school year."

Prior will be responsible for overseeing all academic programs, University operations and creating budgets for each of the University's

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Texas A&M Mother's Club donates scholarships

By Ruth Ihde
THE BATTALION

Money raised throughout the year by the Texas A&M Mother's Club, also known as the Aggie Moms, will be given to many incoming freshman and new students in the form of scholarships.

Since 1922, Aggie Moms have provided a network of support for students enrolling at A&M. Each year, the mother's club raises thousands of dollars to give to new students, freshman and some returning students at the start of the academic year.

This summer, the mother's club is continuing to provide support with a Howdy party for new students, transfer students and their parents in order to get better acquainted with each other and familiarize themselves with A&M student life and traditions.

Becky Erikson, president of the Baytown Aggie Mom's Club for 2001-2002, said the Yell Leaders and Reveille usually make an appearance at their Howdy parties to explain

all of the A&M traditions to the new parents and students. The newcomers also get a chance to learn some of the yells and practice with the Yell Leaders before football season starts.

The Aggie Mom's Club is a non-profit organization that utilizes the funds raised to give scholarships and financial support to organizations on campus.

Currently, the Federation of Aggie Mom's Clubs includes 120 organizations and an estimated membership of 8,700 women, located primarily in the state of Texas.

A&M is the only university in the United States that has an organization of mothers dedicated to the support of students and the promotion of the University.

The funds raised throughout the year are used in various ways by each organization depending on how much is raised, but they all donate a substantial amount of scholarship money to A&M students, said Diane Grey,

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Police games



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Austin police officer, **Michelle Gish**, guides her horse through the tire step portion of the horse obstacle course at the Freeman Area in College Station. The obstacle course is one of many competitions for the annual Police Games held

in College Station. The Police Games last the whole week and include golf tournaments, track and field and other competitions and celebrations. The games involve police from all over Texas.

Bookstore, sweet shop improves

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

Renovations have been made to the MSC Bookstore and Sweet Shop, making them more welcoming to students and visitors.

The most noticeable change is the absence of the software department and the expansion of the Sweet Shop.

"The school supply section was reduced and software became a component of school supplies," said Mark Eckhart, general manager of the MSC Bookstore. "This allows us to serve our customers better without having a separate store staffed."

Students can now enter through the sweet shop, renamed "Aggie Express," and walk directly into the bookstore.

The impact of the changes will be most noticeable and beneficial during home football game days.

"The change during game days will be huge," Eckhart said. "The checkout counters used to block both entrances and employees had their backs to the customers. Now we've added more checkouts on the sales floor and reconfigured them to



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

In the newly renovated Aggie Express, **Matthew Ede** rings up purchases made by senior management major **Sophie Olynic** and senior math major **Robert Duong**.

improve customer traffic flow."

The main hallway of the bookstore now has six registers where previously there were three.

"This allows for more products to be accessible to shoppers while eliminating customers fighting to get in and out of the bookstore," Eckhart said.

Another main improvement to the bookstore is the environment.

"The store has the look and feel of what our customers are expecting to shop in. Everything [in the store]

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Church group stranded in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A helicopter flew 11 American missionaries to a military base Sunday after they were stranded by anti-government protests in a city in Peru's Andes Mountains, authorities said.

The members of the Cash Point Baptist Church in Ardmore, Tenn. had been trapped in the airport at Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, over the weekend after demonstrators opposing the sale of two state electricity companies rioted, blocked roads and hurled rocks on the runway, forcing the cancellation of flights.

Eight other missionaries had earlier caught a flight to Lima.

The government declared a state of emergency Sunday in the department of Arequipa, meaning the region will

be under military rule for 30 days. Rioting over the weekend left 96 people injured, but the Americans were reported safe. The airport remains closed.

Pastor Kevin Shearer, his wife, three daughters and church members had flown to Lima on June 7, and went to Arequipa, about 465 miles to the southeast, to offer Bible study classes to locals.

They were scheduled to fly home on Saturday, but on Friday the protests against the sale of the regional electricity companies erupted. A general strike has also paralyzed Arequipa.

"Mr. Shearer and the other missionaries were flown to La Joya by helicopter," said Vanessa Obando, an official at Arequipa's airport. "From there they will go to Lima when it is possible."

The La Joya base is about 30 miles outside Arequipa.

The eight church members who made it to Lima planned to stay in the country until all of them could be reunited, church member Deda McCown told The Associated Press.

"One of the girls in the group just called and told us they were safe," McCown said. They were among some 30 Americans moved from the airport, "which had become unstable," said McCown of Toney, Ala.

"Our prayers are that they'll get out of there soon," McCown said.

Clayton Allen of Lincoln County, Tenn., one of the missionaries, had managed to call his county executive Sunday morning, who then contacted the office of Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn.