

# THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 141 • 12 pages

Texas A&M University

www.thebatt.com

Monday, April 28, 2003

## Student involved in hazing may be expelled

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M officials have recommended the expulsion of a Corps of Cadets student and the suspension of several others in a continuing investigation into alleged hazing within the 60-member cavalry.

The investigation opened in October after A&M senior Ty Keeling, commander of the Corps' Parsons Mounted Cavalry, reported the alleged hazing to Corps Commandant Lt. Gen.

John Van Alstyne. Juniors in the 60-member cavalry were accused of forcing sophomores to do push-ups and sit-ups, beating them and even dousing them with urine and horse feces, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Saturday editions. The alleged incidents took place over a number of years, according to a student who was recommended for a one-year suspension and didn't want to be identified.

Brazos County District Attorney Jim Kuboviak conducted a five-month criminal investigation of the alleged hazing, which is a Class A misdemeanor. A grand jury declined to issue indictments in March, but Kuboviak said at the time that he believed hazing had occurred.

The Parsons Mounted Cavalry fires the cannon at A&M football games and Midnight Yell Practices. Since October, A&M officials have

banned about half of the cavalry members from participating in its activities. The others take care of 40 horses and participate in other events.

Recommended punishments for some students were first announced this week, said the student who didn't want to be identified.

Dave Parrott, A&M's dean of student life, said it's unclear how many students will be sanctioned in the investigation because the matter is

"evolving." Parrott said he did not know how many suspensions have been recommended; the students will have the right to appeal their recommended punishments.

"No sanctions are complete until you've exhausted your appeals," Parrott said Sunday night. "We have a large batch of cases that will be handled by the end of the semester, a few this summer and some even in the fall."

## Corps institutes weight requirement

By Esther Robards-Forbes

THE BATTALION

Beginning next fall, overweight Corps of Cadets members will have to shed excess weight or face removal from the Corps.

The new maximum weight limits implemented by Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne are intended to "promote a healthy lifestyle among the cadets," said Col. Anthony Groves, the assistant commandant for training and operations.

The weight limits were compiled using military and insurance industry standards and are fairly lenient requirements, Groves said.

The weight requirements are based primarily on a weight-to-height ratio chart. However, this measurement is not always acceptable, especially for those with a high percentage of muscle mass, Groves said. In those cases, a second set of standards using body fat percentage is used.

An example of the new requirements is a maximum 33 percent body fat for female cadets and 24 percent body fat for male cadets, or a maximum weight of 189 lbs for a 5-foot-9 male.

"There are a lot of people who feel that the Corps

should be within these requirements," Groves said.

Cadets who just barely meet the Corps' body fat requirements are still within the obese category on a scale developed by the American Exercise Council.

Cadets who do not meet the requirements will be referred to a weight loss program that will focus on proper nutrition and exercise. The program itself will be run by the commandant's office. In this program, cadets must lose four pounds a month until they meet their requirement or face removal from the Corps. Grace periods will be given under certain circumstances.

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VAN ALSTYNE

## Flying colors



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Johnson Elementary school student Irma Rodriguez, 11, performs Dancing Jaguars to the song "Palea de Gallos" in front of a large crowd at the George Bush Presidential Library and

Museum. The dance is part of the Cinco de Mayo celebration on campus Sunday afternoon. The festivities included dancing, crafts, music and a jalapeno eating contest.

## Jobs decreasing for grads

By Janet McLaren

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Career Center Executive Director Leigh Turner said the number of jobs for graduating A&M students have decreased in the last two years.

"Opportunities have continued to be fewer for students," Turner said. "There are more students upon graduation who are not employed and we have more students after graduation still using our services than last year."

While Turner said statistics from this year's graduates have not been reported yet, the slowing economy has factored into the low count of jobs available, affecting student employment after graduation.

"Two years ago, about 50 percent of our students were employed at gradua-

tion," she said. "Last year that number dropped to 36 percent."

Turner said the number of on-campus interviews sponsored by the Career Center declined 20 percent compared to the statistics for May 2002 graduates.

"Our interviews to date declined from 24,341 to 19,234," Turner said, "and the number of companies who come here looking for graduates declined 10 percent."

Turner said there are usually more jobs available for engineering and technical majors, but job opportunities have also declined for them recently.

Turner said education majors were especially desirable in the job market right now.

"Last week, we had 152 employers

See **Jobs** on page 2

## Coalition arrests key players in continued attempt to govern

By Charles J. Hanley

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military arrested a political pretender in Baghdad on Sunday, while a Shiite Muslim group signaled a new willingness to cooperate on the eve of a pivotal U.S.-sponsored conference to help form a provisional government for Iraq.

The arrest of Mohammed Mohsen al-Zubaidi reflected U.S. determination to brook no interlopers in its effort to build a consensus for administering Iraq. Timed just before Monday's high-profile conference, it sent a clear message: Don't meddle.

Al-Zubaidi was a returned exile associated with the opposition Iraqi

National Congress who had declared himself mayor of Baghdad without sanction from U.S. occupation authorities. U.S. Central Command on Sunday accused him of "subversion."

His activities, including designation of "committees" to run city affairs, had complicated the efforts of postwar U.S. civil administrator Jay Garner to reorganize political life. A U.S. military spokesman said al-Zubaidi was arrested "for exercising authority which was not his."

Central Command accused al-Zubaidi and his associates of "obstructing the normal means of governance for their own self-interests," particularly by claiming control over the power company and other utilities.

In a statement, the command said it warned al-

Zubaidi to stop his actions. "He instead ... continued his subversive actions," it said.

Monday's conference, second in a series likely to extend well into May, was expected to attract 300 to 400 delegates from political organizations that had opposed Saddam Hussein and from other Iraqi interest groups, said a Garner deputy, Barbara Bodine.

The first meeting was held April 15 in Ur, in southern Iraq, just a week after U.S. troops took control of the Iraqi capital and ousted the Saddam government. Fewer than 100 Iraqis participated, many of them exiles, as some Shiites and others stayed away in protest of potential U.S. influence over selection of a new Iraqi president.

But in a sign that Shiite resistance may be easing, one key Shiite group that

## IRAQ'S MOST WANTED Amin in custody

Lt. Gen. Hossan Mohammed Amin, chief Iraqi liaison with U.N. weapons inspectors, is in coalition custody, the U.S. Central Command announced Sunday. Amin was No. 49 on the U.S. list of the 55 most-wanted members of the former government.



Amin

► Former air force communications engineer

► In 1980 became a committee member for a weapons research and development think tank

► Committee later expanded to produce all of Iraq's most lethal weapons

► National Monitoring Director for more than a decade

► The six of clubs in the U.S. military's card deck of top Iraqi leaders

SOURCE: Associated Press AP

shunned the Ur conference — the Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq — indicated it might attend on Monday.

"No definite decision has been taken so far. We have been invited and will most probably attend,"

See **Arrest** on page 2

## Survey shows most Aggies value campus involvement

By Melissa Fowler

THE BATTALION

Eighty-seven percent of Texas A&M students surveyed said it is important to be involved in University-sponsored activities outside of class, according to a Student Involvement survey conducted in November by Student Life Studies.

The telephone survey polled a representative sample of almost 700 students concerning student involvement.

Results from the survey will help departments and student organizations determine the needs of students and how to provide programs that better meet students' interests, said Darby Roberts, assistant director of Student Life Studies.

"The survey will improve what we learn about students and in turn improve the programs and services provided for students," Roberts said.

According to the survey, 95 percent of students say A&M is successful in providing and supporting a wide range of extracurricular activities and events on campus.

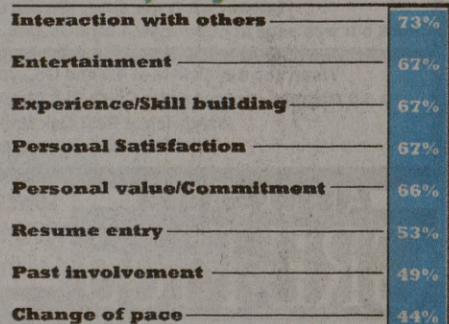
In addition to gathering opinions on the range and level of involvement, the survey

probed the motivating factors in students' decisions to attend university-sponsored events.

Based on these findings, 92 percent of students said that conflicts with academic priorities were important factors in determining whether to attend university-sponsored events. Alcohol was not a factor in such a decision, according to 82 percent of students surveyed.

See **Survey** on page 2

### EXTRA Reasons for joining curricular activities



SOURCE: STUDENT LIFE STUDIES • TRAVIS SWENSON