

THE BATTALION

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Class of 2007 swarms campus

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

First-time Aggies and returning students living on campus made their way back to Texas A&M on Sunday, the busiest move-in day of the year.

"Lots of parents work and can't get off during the week," said Krueger Hall resident adviser Jennifer Romaszewski. "So the weekend is busier."

Many students opted to move in Sunday rather than the weekend before school starts so they can get settled, buy books and make some new friends, Romaszewski said.

Move-in officially began Sunday morning and will run through the weekend, she said.

See related story on page 3A. Cars lined up near the

Southside dorms where bike lanes have been designated as temporary parking for unloading. Traffic directors helped control some of the chaos as students and their friends and families struggled to get their belongings into their rooms.

"It took a lot longer than I expected," said freshman education major Susana Seidel. "I think I brought too much stuff."

Seidel and her roommate, Candace Mokwa, both from Katy, Texas, said they encountered a few frustrations throughout the day.

Mokwa, a freshman engineering major, said she thought she knew where to park, but ended up navigating her family to the MSC. After arriving at 8 a.m., it took until noon to assemble the loft her father had built. Later, the girls' computers blew out their surge protector. The two families didn't break for lunch until well into the afternoon.

Still, both girls said they were excited to be moving in for their first year at A&M.

Seidel attended Muster after her grandfather, Kurt Seidel, Class of 1936, died last year. She said the experience made her decide to be an Aggie.

Mokwa said she had planned on attending The University of Texas at Austin but decided on A&M after an orientation visit.

"I didn't want to go to UT after coming here," she said. "We didn't even stay at the whole UT orientation."

Her mother, Marilyn, agreed. "As soon as we set foot on campus, we were sold," she said.

In Dunn Hall, freshman architecture major Gus Starkey and his parents said they weren't too overwhelmed by the difficulties of moving in.

"We came organized; we brought our own dolly and everything," said



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Gus' mother, Monica. "We looked at the room before and did whatever the Container Store said to do."

Despite having many friends at A&M from their hometown of Kerrville, Texas, Gus and his friend Michael Cordova both decided to go potluck to find their roommates.

"I decided to go potluck because it's a good way to meet new people," said Cordova, a freshman mechanical engineering major.

Starkey said going potluck seemed to turn out well after he met his roommate, Drew Peebles, a freshman nuclear engineering major.

"And I was the first one here, so I got the good side," Starkey said.

Drew's mother, Lori, said she had been crying for the past two days at the thought of her son going off to college, but she doubted he was as sentimental.

"Drew can't get us gone fast enough," she said.

Candace Mokwa and Susana Seidel's parents said they had been preparing all year for their daughters to leave.

"She's not sad to go, and we're not sad either," said Mercedes Seidel. "She's ready."



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Above: After enduring a three-hour road trip and a one hour hunt for parking, freshman education major Courtney Graf moves the first of seven loads of assorted necessities into her room in Krueger Hall located on the Southside of campus. Temperatures in the high 90s made for a grueling move-in.

Journalism seeks options

By Sarah Szuminski & Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

A second committee will be asked by College of Liberal Arts Dean Dr. Charles Johnson to give specific alternate pathways for students at Texas A&M who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

Rick Street, a communications professor and department head, will chair the Committee to Recommend New Initiatives in Journalism Education. Members of the committee have yet to be named, but will include working journalists who will recommend courses and internship opportunities for students.

After his recommendation on July 10 to close the Department of Journalism, Johnson named a Committee to Effect Change in Journalism to give recommendations concerning the journalism department and options for studying journalism at A&M.

Johnson shared the final report of the first committee with the eight permanent journalism faculty members on Monday. He will ask that the second committee submit a report of its suggestions by Sept. 30.

Included in the first committee's report are recommendations to continue offering essential journalism courses while students still in the major are completing their degrees. It also recommends that faculty and staff be kept in their present locations and computers and equipment for journalism classes be maintained.

Members of the committee presented options for the future of A&M journalism, including the possibility of creating an interdisciplinary major, minor or certificate program.

Journalism associate professor Howard F. Eilers said the job of the new committee will be

See Options on page 2A

Redistricting attempt fails

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A second special legislative session that never got off the ground ended Tuesday, 30 days after 11 Senate Democrats broke a quorum by fleeing to New Mexico to prevent passage of a congressional redistricting plan.

The fight over control of the Texas congressional delegation seemed far from over, however. Republican Gov. Rick Perry said he will call another special session, though he would not say when.

"When I call that session is strictly up to me, and I'll give the appropriate notice on the appropriate day," Perry said.

The issue also moves into federal court Wednesday, when a lawsuit filed by the Democrats gets a hearing in Laredo. Several boycotting Democrats said they will return to Texas to attend.

Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, sent a warning Tuesday to self-exiled Democrats, who along with House Democrats have defeated redistricting three times this year.

"Let me pass on a very clear message to our 11 colleagues out in Albuquerque. The mood in the Senate is changing. We're tired. We're tired of sitting here and waiting," Dewhurst said. "At the end of the day, and I am saying this to our colleagues out in Albuquerque, don't let yourself win two skirmishes and lose the war."

Dewhurst would not offer details on how the stalemate could be resolved, but said, "I did lay out a specific new proposal to our Democrat senators yesterday."

The Democrats, though, said they hadn't heard an offer that would bring them back.

They gave no indication they would return

See Redistricting on page 2A

Campus construction nears completion

By Lindsay Broomes
THE BATTALION

Most of the campus-wide road construction should be completed by the end of the month and before the fall semester begins, said Transportation Services officials.

On Aug. 18, the intersection of Wellborn Road at John Kimbrough Boulevard and Joe Routt reopened for public use. Construction on Coke and Throckmorton Streets is now completed, and the right lanes of West Lamar Street in front of the Memorial Student Center are expected to be finished this week.

"I think the construction will be a positive thing. During the summer it wasn't all that annoying since not that many people were here," said Shiloh Venable, a junior business major.

Associate Director of Transportation Doug Williams said there were not many complaints regarding construction.

"I believe that we have done a good job communicating with the public. People seem to accept the construction as long as they are aware of the work prior to implementation," he said.

The West Campus Parking Garage and Passageway

are two major projects that have been completed recently. The garage will open in conjunction with the Pedestrian Passageway. According to the Transportation Services web site, the passageway will allow for uninterrupted travel under the railroad tracks and Wellborn Road between main and West Campus.

The garage will be open for use to all, said June Broughton, communications coordinator for Parking Administration. According to the Transportation Services Web site, permits for the West Campus Parking Garage include football game day parking and are priced at \$390 for 12 months.

Broughton said Transportation Services is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 5 for the passageway along with other events to promote the tunnel.

"We have been working with the Memorial Student Center Student Programs Office, Town Hall and others to provide entertainment in the passageway area prior to the first two home games, as well as the first week of classes," she said.

Transportation Services officials said they encourage everyone to observe traffic signals and proceed through the area with caution as traffic patterns are reestablished.

West Campus Parking Garage

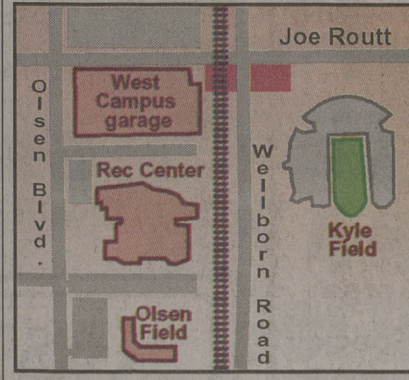
Permits:

- \$390 for 12 months
- Available to faculty, staff and students
- Includes football game day parking

Short-term parking:

- \$1 / hour until 5:30 p.m. all week
- \$.50 / hour after 5:30 p.m. all week

Location of underground passageway



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Columbia's investigators blame NASA management for crash

By Marcia Dunn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — NASA's overconfident management and inattention to safety doomed Columbia every bit as much as the chunk of foam that struck the shuttle with deadly force, investigators concluded Tuesday. Without drastic changes, they said, another disaster is likely.

In a scathing 248-page report coming almost seven months to the day after the spacecraft disintegrated over Texas, the Columbia Accident

Investigation Board said the shuttle was not "inherently unsafe," but issued a series of recommendations for a safe return to flight.

"The board strongly believes that if these persistent, systemic flaws are not resolved, the scene is set for another accident," the investigators wrote.

They added: "NASA's blind spot is it believes it has a strong safety culture."

The board said the space agency lacks "effective checks and balances, does not have an independent safety program and has not demonstrat-

ed the characteristics of a learning organization."

Board member John Barry put it this way: "NASA had conflicting goals of cost, schedule and safety. Unfortunately, safety lost out."

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, prepared in advance for the sharp criticism, pledged to make the necessary changes. "We are, all of us at NASA, a part of the solution," he told space agency employees.

And President Bush declared, "Our journey in space will go on."

The board concluded that safety engineers

used "sleight of hand" tactics even before the Feb. 1 Columbia tragedy to play down the frequency of strikes by fuel-tank foam insulation and managers pressed ahead because of intense pressure from high up to stay on schedule. Even shuttle managers said the rationale for continuing to launch in the face of foam strikes was "lousy."

In all, the Columbia investigators issued 29 recommendations to NASA, six focusing on organizational change.

See Columbia on page 2A

NATION

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SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS
they give a speech outside
submitted his candidacy

Ballot

Newcomers will probably
Paul Ryan of the Center
is in Los Angeles.

fully is a very big burden
prove," Ryan said. "It's
criminal cases in these
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ely there would be crim-

mise to be all over the map
bounty hunter from
ot the experience to be
all about key issues like
migration during his year

big mistake and spent
h was very educational,
served time for failing in
e years.

d cap state salaries
nalize drugs and deport
rs. "If we don't do this
California sink into bank-

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for Governor" through
nugs on her Web site
icture of herself in a

auty, Leadership."
al to twentysomethings
clean energy, marijuana
riage.

year-old electrical engin
epes his name will "open
platform: stopping an
grants. His ultimate goal
ke my name back and
quality to it, instead of

Public Defender Paul
call — that's why he's
democrat, has his own
party to power if Davis

ou would be voting for
st act as governor would
of staff," Mariano said.
for me, too. Who else is

at 57

dies of cancer

Hines, 57, known for
ancing in movies, has
ay and recent roles on
ms, has died of cancer.

career
Feb. 14,
New York
was
by the
k with his
other,
at the

Hines
4 they were cast in the
y musical "The Girl in
ts."

ed Tony nominations for
"Comin' Uptown" and
"Cated Ladies." He won
1992 for his role in
"Last Jam"

st film role was in the
Brooks comedy of
the "World Part I" and
eared with Mikhail
kov in "White Nights"

ated for several Emmy
most recently in 2001
nd role in the mini-series
es" and had a recurring
"Will and Grace"

so won a Daytime
ward in 1999 for his
e voice of "Big Bill" in
Cosby animated TV
ttle Bill," and NAACP
wards for "Bojangles"
ing Scared."

was engaged to
yde and, in addition to
and brother, is sur-
s daughter Daria, son
andson Lucian and
ter Jessica Koslow.