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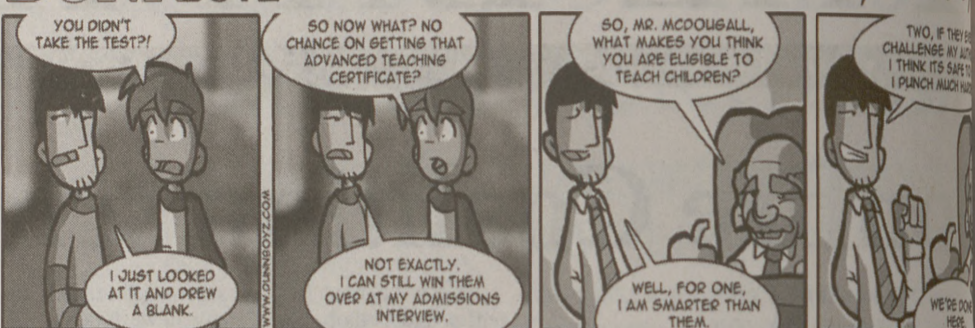
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Tuesday, June 8, 2004

DUNNBOYZ



Graduation

Continued from page 1

only surpassed by the University of Texas, which awarded 11,704 undergraduate degrees.

"We are, of course, pleased to see that these figures validate our own long-held assessment that students who choose to attend Texas A&M not only receive an outstanding education but also have a better chance of graduating from A&M than from any public university in the state," said University President Robert M. Gates. "We attribute that high degree of success to the caliber of students we attract and to the quality and dedication of our faculty and staff."

These numbers can be interpreted as a move in the right direction toward successful campus diversity, but numbers can be misleading. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Data and Performance Report, only 2.4 percent of all students that attended A&M in 2001 were black, and 8.2 percent were Hispanic.

"It's a smaller population of minorities so they are more pressured to perform and," said Westley Ashley, 2004 A&M graduate in Anthropology and minority student. "With 2004 population diversity, it doesn't guarantee diversity in the classroom."

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Alice Reinartz said the statistics should be seen a bit differently because A&M is striving to increase representation of minority groups. This data suggests that students are successful in larger proportional numbers than other state universities, Reinartz said.

"The graduation rates for underrepresented minority students show prospective minority students that they can be successful at Texas A&M," Reinartz said. "This is something about which we are very proud."

Sprague

Continued from page 1

an exceptional feat, but in 1925?" Kalmus said.

Williams said the music industry had been recording jazz, classical music and so-called hillbilly music for about 10 years when Sprague's cowboy music caught the industry's attention.

"When Sprague had his big monster hit with his song about a cowboy getting killed on a trail drive and not being able to see his ringer up," he said.

Sprague was born in Manvel, near Houston, in 1895. As a teenager, he learned cowboy songs from his uncles during cattle drives.

Sprague entered A&M in 1913 but did not graduate until nine years later because he took time off to join the army during World War I. He also pitched for the Aggie baseball team.

Williams said D.X. Bible, literary A&M and football coach, hired Sprague as an athletic trainer immediately after his graduation in 1922.

While working for Bible, Sprague sang cowboy songs for his family and friends as a hobby.

Acting on encouragement from his wife-to-be, he recorded 10 songs from the recording

machine Co. in 1925 and was soon recording "When the Work's All Done This Fall."

The album was recorded with two men who were also Aggies, Kalmus said.

Sprague has two great-nephews who currently live in Bryan: Travis Bryan III, attorney, and Tim Bryan, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of First National Bank.

Tim Bryan said he remembers Sprague playing his guitar and singing, but he mostly remembers him as a kind man.

"He was a second father who taught me how to hunt and fish and water ski and go camping," Bryan said.

Williams said Sprague has not received the recognition he deserves because his career was short and overshadowed by later stars.

"He lit the fuse and the explosion was so big that people forgot about him because people came along like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers," he said.

Williams never met Sprague, but he plays his music on his local radio show, "Swing-N R.F.D.," which is on KAGC-AM 1510 Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Visitors can view the Sprague display at the Corps center from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil prices renewing demand for veterans

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — The high price of oil is increasing exploration and well redevelopment in the Permian Basin, but a few factors are suppressing the size of the apparent boom.

A shortage of steel, workover rigs and experienced oilfield workers are limiting the industry's growth, said Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Victor Carrillo.

"Some crew and rig availability may be a limiting factor," Carrillo said. The lack of oilfield veterans has been a persistent problem, said Willie Taylor, executive director of the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board, the employment agency and job-training arm of the Texas Workforce Commission. Industry downturns in the 1980s and late 1990s drained the large pool of talented drillers, riggers, roustabouts and toolpushers, he said.

Independent producer John Bell of Kermit estimates the oil industry nationwide has lost about 800,000 workers since the early 1980s. Another producer told Bell the 1998-99 bust took about 60,000 oil-patch jobs, Bell said.

al-Qaida

Continued from page 1

Arabia and urge Americans to take that into account when making their travel plans.

The Internet statement warns all Muslims to "contact with the American and Western crusaders and nonbelievers in the Arabian peninsula."

Muslims should stay away from Americans, Westerners "in their compounds, movements, means of transport — shapes and forms."

The statement said the aim was to spare Muslim blood. "We act only to protect them, their religion, honor and life," the statement said.

Militants have stepped up attacks on foreigners in Arabia in past weeks, including a shooting in Saudi Arabia that killed an Irish man and wounded a British Broadcasting Corp. reporter.

On May 29, gunmen attacked a complex housing oil workers in the eastern oil province of Khobar, killing 22 people, most of them foreigners. During that assault — claimed by al-Qaida — the gunmen reportedly separated and killed non-Muslims.

Previous bombings by al-Qaida that killed Muslims raised an outcry in Saudi Arabia against the terror network.

The statement called for "all security personnel, guards of crusader compounds and American bases and all those that have been recruited by America and its allies to return to the right path, to separate themselves from non-believers, to become their enemies and to fight holy against them by money and weapon."

"This enemy must be fought," the statement said. "There is no other way but fight it and eradicate it."

Scholarship

Cont. from page 1

Suel said. "This is the first time the Brackenridge foundation has partnered with us in 20 years."

Brackenridge has donated to other schools in Texas to enhance educational opportunities and around San Antonio, Suel said.

Scholarships have been funded at Texas A&M University of Texas through some youth education programs at Texas A&M University with focus on minority education.

"We feel these young people will come back to the community and be role models and teachers here," Thuss said. "We want to demonstrate to students that they can go to college and influence peoples lives."

The two Brackenridge foundation scholarships awarded will be in the amount of \$2,000 per year.

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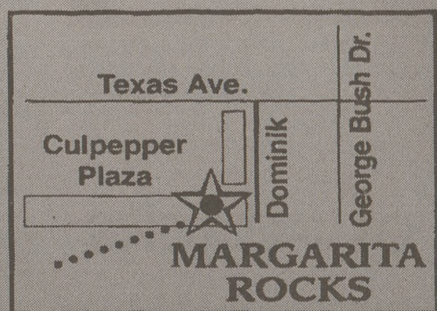
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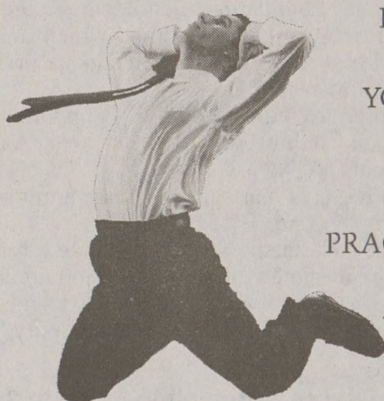
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