



White people to become minority

By Suzy Green and
Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

White people are likely to be the minority in Texas by spring 2005, according to a report on population trends released June 21 by Steve Murdock, Texas state demographer.

The white population is growing more slowly because the 1990s flood of newcomers to Texas has declined, while the Hispanic birth rate has kept

a fast pace, Murdock said.

The new population numbers use birth and death records and government records indicating where people are moving to estimate the population and the trend for future years.

The shift in Texas' racial and ethnic diversity means the state will have to find ways to improve education, access to health care and job training to remain competitive economically, researchers said.

"A company doesn't want to put

itself in a place where it has to hire from a population with more health and education problems," said Mitchell Rice, director of the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute at Texas A&M. "This affects how we compete not only with the other 49 states but within the global arena."

If official counts could estimate the number of undocumented immigrants, whites would probably already be a minority in Texas, Murdock said.

Improving the education of Texas' Hispanic children should be a top priority, said Terry Clowder, associate director of the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas in Denton.

"We're going to have to work on giving students of all colors the kind of multicultural skills needed to work in an increasingly diverse

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Texas' Demographic Shift

- ★ Last week, the Texas State Demographer released a report regarding Texas' ethnic diversity.
- ★ By spring 2005 whites will be the minority
- ★ The rate of people moving to Texas has declined since the 1990s
- ★ The Hispanic birthrate has kept a fast pace

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: STEVE MURDOCK, STATE DEMOGRAPHER

Start your engines



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Vince Shepherd, a senior mechanical engineering major, tightens a nut to secure the cover that goes over the chain on a Yamaha YZF-600 engine. Shepherd's Formula SAE team is using this motorcycle engine to test the

intake and exhaust in order to create a fuel injection map to be used in future engines. The team finished second in this year's championship tournament in Detroit, Mich.

State Senate meets to discuss future of top-10 plan

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

The Texas Legislature met Thursday to hold a hearing on Texas' top 10 percent plan.

The policy grants any Texas high school senior who graduates in the top 10 percent of his class automatic admission to the public university of his choice.

Representatives from Texas A&M, The University of Texas and interest groups around the state gave their opinions on the matter in a meeting with the Senate subcommittee on higher education.

Troy Johnson testified as the previous president of the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions officers. He said the rule is valuable because it provides hope for students no matter where they're from.

"One of the main problems is that we only have two flagship universities to send these top 10 kids to," Johnson said. "California has eight. Two just isn't enough for everybody to feel like they're going to a first-rate school."

A&M Assistant Provost for enrollment Frank Ashley told the committee that the law has had little impact on the demographics here at A&M.

"The bottom line is that before the rule, 99 percent of those kids were admitted anyway," Ashley said.

"The official stance of the University is that we're not looking to do away with the law," Ashley said. "We think it could be an effective tool, but I don't know if we have utilized it effectively."

Ashley said the rule is flawed because high schools do not have a unified curriculum or ranking system.

"If everyone had to have the exact same courses it could really put some teeth into (the rule)," Ashley said. "We've had schools with graduating classes of 150

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Al-Jazeera claims that militants have killed U.S. soldier

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi militants killed an American soldier they have held hostage for nearly three months, saying the killing was because the U.S. government did not change its policy in Iraq, Al-Jazeera television reported Tuesday.

News of the killing of Spc. Keith M. Maupin, 20, of Batavia, Ohio, came hours after the United States returned sovereignty in Iraq to an interim government. The report did not say when Maupin was killed.

Maupin was captured during an ambush on a convoy west of Baghdad on April 9.

The Arab satellite station aired video showing a blindfolded man sitting on the ground. Al-Jazeera said that in the next scene, gunmen shoot the man in the back of the head, in front of a hole dug in the ground. It did not show the killing.

Maj. Willie Harris, public affairs spokesman for the Army's 88th Regional Readiness Command, said the videotape is being analyzed by the Department of Defense.

"There is no confirmation at this time, that the tape contains footage of Matt Maupin or any other Army soldier," he said, adding that the Maupin fam-

ily was briefed "as to the existence of a videotape."

Al-Jazeera said a statement was issued with the video in the name of a group calling itself "The Sharp Sword against the Enemies of God and His Prophet." In the statement, the militants said they killed the soldier because the United States did not change its policies in Iraq and to avenge "martyrs" in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

The bodies of four civilian employees of Kellogg Brown & Root — a subsidiary of Vice President Dick Cheney's former company Halliburton — were later found in a shallow grave

near the site of the attack. The body of Sgt. Elmer Krause, of Greensboro, N.C. was later found.

One civilian driver, Thomas Hamill of Macon, Miss, was kidnapped but escaped from his captors nearly a month later. The others are missing.

Maupin was promoted in absentia on May 1 from private first class to the rank of specialist, said Maj. Mark Magalski, a spokesman for the 633rd QM Battalion, based in Cincinnati.

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Aggie women finish strong in Miss Texas USA Pageant

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

Many young women are attracted to the glitz, glam and beauty of pageant life. But some, like Elizabeth Jones, have an entirely different reason for wanting to compete.

The loss of her mother to breast cancer at a young age was one of the driving reasons Jones, a senior communication major, was inspired to compete in pageants.

"She just wants to reach a lot of people," said Starla Sorrell, a senior education major and Jones' roommate. "Her platform was breast cancer, and this is her way to get the word out for women to prevent breast cancer."

Jones was one of two Aggies represented at the Miss Texas USA Pageant on Sunday night in Laredo. Jones placed in the top 16 and Cassandra Meyer, a senior journalism major, finished in the top 10.

"We were all watching (Jones) last night and she did really well," said Casey Brown, a senior



JONES



MEYER

finance major. Brown said she has enjoyed watching beauty pageants for years.

After the loss of her mother, Jones was raised by her father. She credits her strong moral beliefs to her father, Sorrell said.

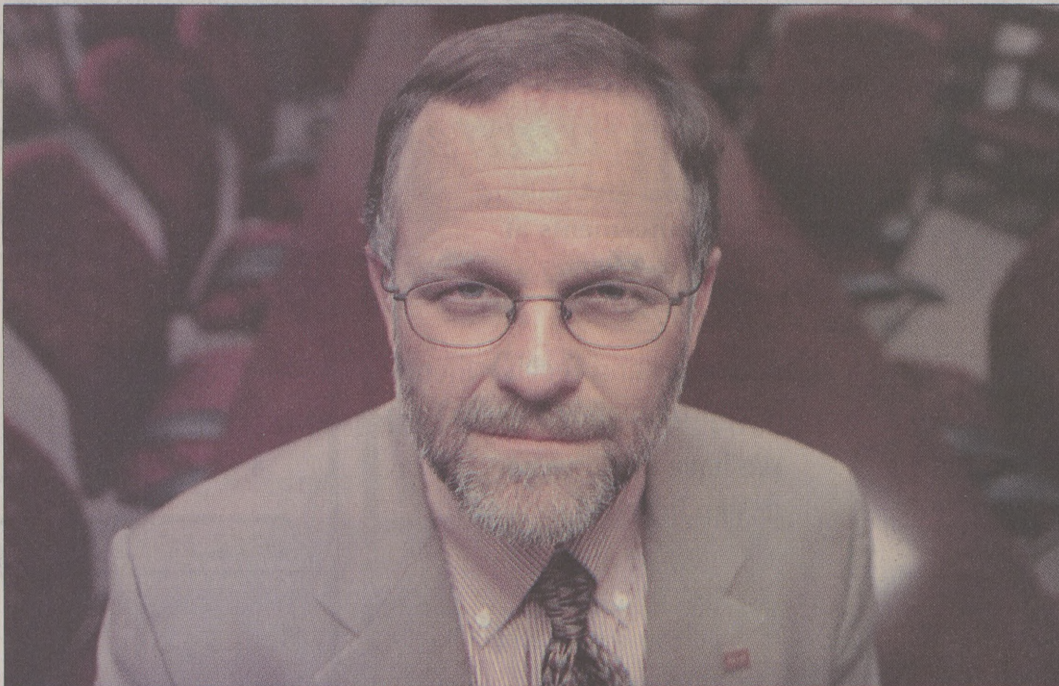
"You know some people get caught up in pageants, but Elizabeth is not like that at all," Sorrell said. "She is a nice, fun, outgoing, Christian girl."

Jones has been competing in pageants for five years. She was crowned Miss San Antonio in 2003 and Miss Aggieland in 2004.

Young women from all over the state com-

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Howdy!



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Vice President of Student Affairs Dean L. Bresciani began his first day of work at Texas A&M June 28. Formerly interim vice chancellor for student services at

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bresciani has been recognized nationwide for his success in furthering faculty-student relations.