



Daily Texan questions A&M business school rank

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

Officials at Mays Business School are furious over questions about its record being questioned by an article Monday in the University of Texas' student newspaper, The Daily Texan.

Daily Texan writer Lomi Kriel questioned the validity of the school's ranking in April's U.S. News and World Report graduate school rankings. Mays Business School earned 23rd place, the same as UT's McCombs Business School.

Kriel said the rankings were suspect because re-

CORDS of A&M's graduate placement, which ranked first in the country in job placement at graduation and job placement three months after graduation, were not made available to her.

A&M ranked 62nd and 74th, respectively, in the same categories last year.

"But after outshining even schools such as Harvard, A&M could not verify any of its data," Kriel wrote in the article. "An open records request yielded figures that backed up UT's 2003-2004 results, but A&M officials said no such records exist at their school."

The Faculty Senate will hold a faculty/staff

meeting today to discuss the article and allegations that the school embellished its records to score high in the prestigious U.S. News rankings. The meeting is set for 2 p.m. in Wehner 160.

"Honestly, this was an attempt by (Kriel) to tarnish the image of our program," said Associate Dean for Masters Programs John Dinkel. "And I consider it to be outrageous and unfounded."

Dinkel said the article was an attempt by The Daily Texan to deflect criticism directed toward UT's dismal placement record for 2003-2004. Texas beat out only Penn State.

Graduate Business and Career Services director Jim

Dixie was directly quoted by Kriel as saying A&M did not keep graduate employment placement records.

"I have no clue what she's talking about," Dixie said. "I never told her we didn't have the records. She would be a good candidate to write for The New York Times."

Dixie said Kriel asked for records containing students' names, contact information, employer, supervisor's contact information, salaries and bonuses. He said giving her access to the records would constitute a violation of privacy and

See Rank on page 2

TS to eliminate free parking for select events

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Transportation Services wants to eliminate free parking for entertainment-related events on campus, TS director Rodney Weis said.

Previously, students attending Fish Camp were able to park for free on campus, but this August, a \$5 Fish Camp Parking Pass is needed for students who have not purchased a semester-long permit.

"We're trying to be consistent," Weis said Tuesday. "There is no free parking; everybody who uses the facilities pays for the use of the facilities."

Lacey Lynch, Fish Camp director and a senior industrial distribution major, said she is trying to be considerate of TS' goals and policies.

"It's just business, as far as TS making the freshmen pay," Lynch said. "(TS) is just trying to get by, just the same as we are."

Weis said most free parking has been eliminated on campus.

"Some areas are still free at football games," he said. "There are discussions going on right now to change that."

Eliminating free parking is good for students because it helps keep the cost down for parking permits, Weis said.

"We're trying to expand our customer base so the faculty, staff and students don't have to bear all the financial burden of paying for facilities and maintaining facilities," he said.

Michelle Harness, a freshman elementary education major, said she will attend Fish Camp in August and

See Parking on page 2

Squeaky clean



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Still Creek Ranch intern **Chelsie Kay** loads a tray full of clean glasses at the Faculty Club in Rudder Tower. **Kay** is helping a group of Still Creek Ranch students coordinate a meal to celebrate the students' graduation

from a six-week course with Chef Mike Chornyak where they practiced planning meals by purchasing the ingredients and preparing the meal from scratch.

Gates to address A&M convocation

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

On Friday, Aug. 27, President Robert M. Gates will speak at a formal academic convocation. Gates will address the students, faculty and staff of Texas A&M in a state of the University address.

Convocations are a traditional event in academic life. A&M re-established the practice of holding an academic convocation in 1997. It is seen as a celebration of the year's success and a discussion of the University's future. Prior to 1997, the last convocation was held in 1976.

"1976 was the celebration of the Centennial for the University," Nancy Sawtelle, director of communications in the Office of the Vice President and Provost said. "Then, in 1997 we wanted to raise awareness of the academic mission and begin preparation for the 125th anniversary. The faculty and administration all felt it was a good focus for the University, and we have done it ever since (1997)."

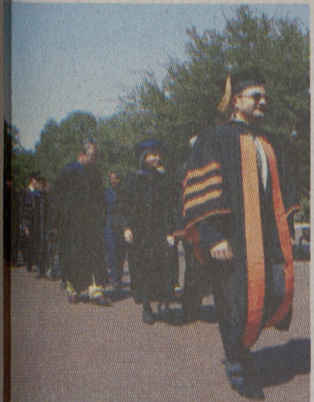
Previously, convocations were held in October to coincide with the University's opening in 1876. This year the decision was made to hold convocation prior to the school year because 2004 does not mark a significant anniversary for A&M. It also helps the University focus on fulfilling the mission of upcoming year, Sawtelle said.

"Every chance I get I go hear Dr. Gates speak," Sean Strong, a junior political science major, said. "He is by far one of the best speakers I have ever heard and probably the greatest man at our University."

See Address on page 6

Academic Convocation

President Gates will speak at a formal academic convocation Aug. 27



- Academic convocations are celebrations of the past year's successes and discussions of the future
- Convocations have been a rediscovered tradition at A&M since 1997
- The convocation will begin with an academic procession at Cushing Library
- New faculty and newly tenured and promoted faculty will be recognized

ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION
FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: NANCY SAWTELLE, OFFICE OF THE VP AND PROVOST

NAACP says Austin police abuse black rights

By Jim Vertuno
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — This hip, easygoing college city is generally regarded as one of the most progressive communities in conservative Texas. But some blacks believe a large cultural divide dating to the Jim Crow-era still exists, and they say tensions have been enflamed by a string of police shootings of black suspects in 2002 and 2003.

The shootings have led to weekly protests and federal civil rights investigations.

"We talk a good case here, but we don't carry through on the promise of a city that reflects all communities and cultures," said the Rev. Sterling Lands II, a civil rights leader.

Police Chief Stan Knee has defended his department and vowed to improve its relations with minorities.

"We've had to rebuild some bridges," said Knee, who is white. "But we have construction well under way."

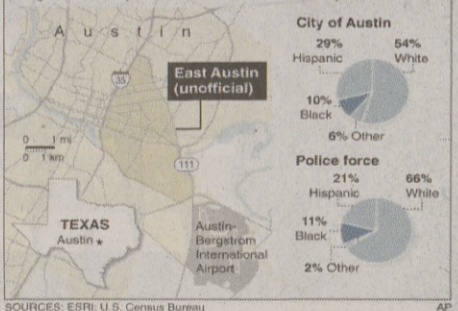
Tensions peaked when the Austin American-Statesman ran a series of articles this year that reported that between 1998 and 2003, police were twice as likely to use force against blacks as they were against whites, and 25 percent more likely to use force against Hispanics than against whites. During that period, 11 people, all but one of them minorities, have died at the hands of police. Some were shot, others were beaten.

"Those were the issues we had been screaming about, but nobody paid attention to them," Lands said. "When reporters started to look with diligence, all of a sudden, now all the things came to the surface."

The Justice Department, FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office are all conducting investigations to determine if the shooting victims' civil rights were violated.

Police killings rile racial tensions

In Austin, Texas, between 1998 and 2003, 11 people died at the hands of police. All but one of them was a minority. The three most recent slayings occurred in East Austin, the city's historically black neighborhood separated from the rest of Austin by Interstate 35.



SOURCES: ESRI; U.S. Census Bureau

The NAACP filed a complaint last month with the Justice Department that outlined other alleged civil rights abuses by officers and requested that federal funds for the police department be put on hold until those cases were investigated.

Video shows hijackers passing screenings

By John Solomon and Ted Bridis
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Surveillance video from Washington Dulles International Airport the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, shows four of the five hijackers being pulled aside to undergo additional scrutiny after setting off metal detectors but then permitted to board the fateful flight that crashed into the Pentagon.

The video shows an airport screener hand-checking the baggage of one hijacker, Nawaf al-Hazmi, for traces of explosives before letting him continue onto American Airlines Flight 77 with his brother, Salem, a fellow hijacker.

The disclosure of the video comes one day before the release of the final report by the Sept. 11 commission, which is expected to include a detailed accounting of the events that day.

Details in the grainy video are difficult to distinguish. But an earlier report by the commission describing activities at Dulles is consistent with the men's procession through airport security as shown on the video.

No knives or other sharp objects are visible on the surveillance video. But investigators on the commission have said the hijackers at Dulles were believed to be carrying utility knives either person-

ally or in their luggage, which at the time could legally be carried aboard planes.

All 58 passengers — including the hijackers — and six crew members, along with 125 employees at the Pentagon, died when the flight crashed into the Pentagon at 9:39 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001.

The video shows hijackers Khalid al-Mihdhar and Majed Moqed, each dressed conservatively in slacks and collared shirts, setting off metal-detectors as they pass through security. Moqed set off a second alarm, and a screener manually checked him with a handheld metal detector.

The pair were known to travel together previously and had paid cash to purchase their tickets aboard Flight 77 on Sept. 5, 2001, at the American Airlines counter at Baltimore's airport.

Al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi had been known to be associated with al-Qaida since early 1999 by the National Security Agency, and were put on a terrorism watch list on Aug. 24, 2001.

Only Hani Hanjour, believed to have been the hijacker who piloted Flight 77, did not set off a metal detector as he passed through Dulles security that morning, according to the video.

Moments after Hanjour passed alone through the security checkpoint, wearing dark slacks and a short-sleeved shirt, the final two hijackers, the al-Hazmi brothers, walked through the checkpoint.