

# Friends

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Guard Room for off-campus students.

Stratton encourages the University to get involved by both signing the letter and by calling him to request a gold MIA bracelet.

Interested faculty members and students can buy a bracelet at cost for \$4 by calling Stratton at 847-1577.

Craig Williams, executive officer for Squadron 1 in 1988 and close friend to Bland, says he last spoke

with "Cliff" when Bland was stationed in Florida. Williams says Bland was excited about the Air Force and enjoyed being a pilot.

Williams says that as an upper-classman, Bland was tough but at the same time, he was well-liked.

"We all respected him because he was involved in everything and did well," Williams says. "It showed us how he got along with different circles of friends."

Bland was a member of the A&M

Student Government, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Fish Camp and was the recipient of the opportunity scholarship.

Williams says he suspected Bland was missing after he had heard reports of a missing C-130 aircraft.

"I knew it was a good chance it was Cliff's because there are very few C-130s in the U.S. Air Force," Williams says. "I knew he was the pilot of one of them."

Williams says he immediately

called the U.S. Air Force which confirmed Bland missing in action.

Air Force officials, however, would not give the location, confirm the type of aircraft or confirm the nature of the crash for security reasons.

The days since Bland had been listed "missing in action" have been tough for Williams but he says he believes Bland is alive.

"I have faith Cliff is still alive," he says. "He is a survivor."

# Gramm

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dents about terms of their loan, McCormick said.

Gramm also credited A&M with having the lowest student default rate in Texas.

A&M's cumulative default rate is 4.5 percent, compared with statewide average of 17.8 percent.

Gramm said a probable reason for A&M's low default rate is that A&M's Financial Aid Office has done a good job explaining the terms of guaranteed student loans.

Not only do A&M students have a desire to repay their loans, they have the capability to pay them due to the

high-quality of education at A&M he said.

A&M President William Mobley credited A&M students with having a high level of commitment to pay their debts.

Mobley said loans are available to present A&M students because former students repay their loans.

"For every dollar that's defaulted, another student is hurt or denied a loan," Mobley said.

Don Engelage, director of A&M Student Financial Aid Office, said A&M students borrowed more than \$35 million last year.

# Clip Coupons Save Money

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**COLLEGE STATION** Texas Ave. & Southwest Pkwy 696-0191

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**Little Caesars Pizza**

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- + LARGE SOFT DRINK
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