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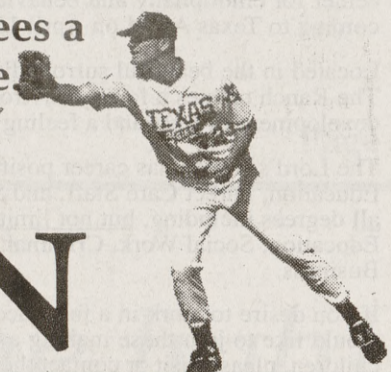
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### RAISING AWARENESS

Gay Awareness Week helps to improve tolerance. AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3

Valdez: The University could do more to help employees. OPINION, PAGE 11

A&M first baseman Jeff Bailey employees a unique hitting style. SPORTS, PAGE 7



# THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 128 (12 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

Friday • April 12, 1996

## Parents experience Aggie traditions

By Johanna Henry  
THE BATTALION

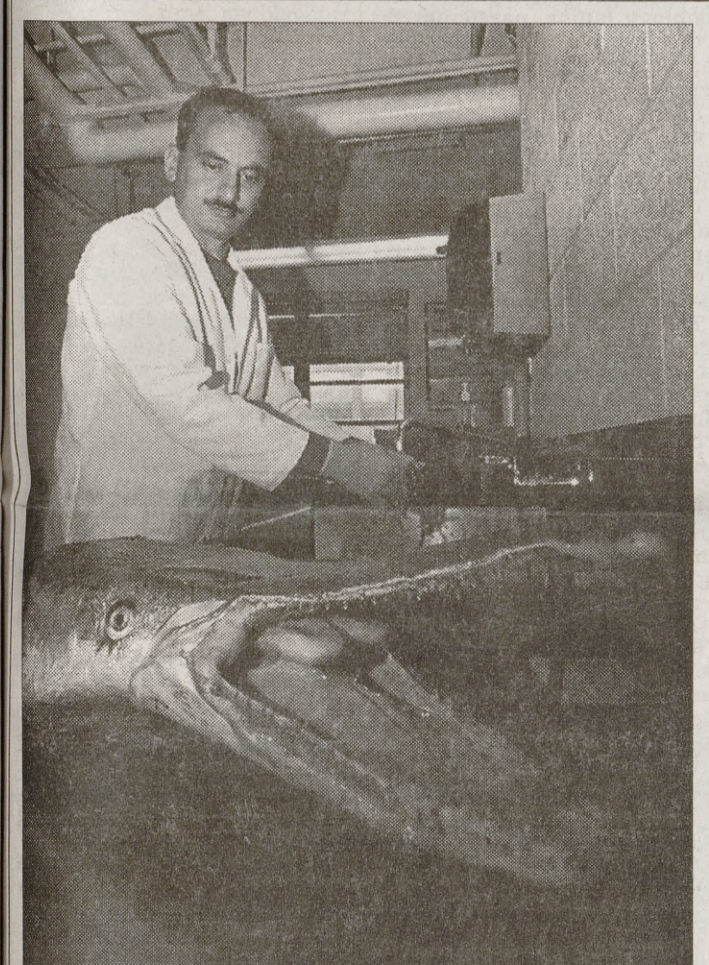
Thousands of parents will arrive at Texas A&M today and Saturday for Parents' Weekend. Parents' Weekend, held for the first time in 1919, has grown in size with the student body. In recent years, Bryan-College Station hotels have been filled to capacity, forcing parents to make reservations in cities as far away as Huntsville. Tonight, A&M students and their families will have a chance to attend yell practice and the MSC Variety Show. The Singing Cadets will give a concert at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium following the Variety Show, and the Residence Hall Association Casino Night will run from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The Aggie Moms Clubs will sponsor an arts and crafts boutique in Duncan Dinning Hall on Friday and Saturday. Anne McElroy, Parents' Weekend Committee chair and senior speech communications major, said turnout for the Bevo Burn Barbecue, which will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., has increased dramatically in the past three years. "Last year, there were 2,500 people at the barbecue," she said. "This year we expect between 2,500 and 2,800." Also on Saturday, the U.S. Marine Silent Drill Team will perform at noon on Simpson Drill Field and at 4 p.m. on

Olsen Field. A&M Parents of the Year and Buck Weirus Spirit Award winners will be named at the All-University Awards Ceremony at 9 a.m. Sunday. McElroy said the weekend's events are not just for A&M students whose parents are in town. "This is a campus and University weekend, and we encourage students to attend the events even if their parents are not in town," she said. "It is a chance late in the year, when everyone is getting stressed about school, for the students to relax and fo-

cus on Aggie traditions." This year's yell practice, featuring former yell leaders and the 1996-1997 yell leaders, will be held at Olsen Field because Kyle Field is under construction. The Aggie Band will play from the stands in order to preserve Olsen Field for Saturday's baseball games. Sunday's Corps Military Review and Ross Volunteers and Fish Drill Team performances, which begin at 1 p.m., have been moved from Kyle Field to the Simpson Drill Field. McElroy said Parents' Weekend, which began as a Mothers' Day open house, was moved to April when graduation ceremonies began to be held in early May. Mark Evans, a University Relations

representative, said Parents' Weekend is unique to A&M. "Other schools have homecoming or programs where alumni come back," he said, "but I've never heard of another school hosting a weekend just to honor parents." Cristy Cox, a member of the Student Government Parents' Weekend Committee and sophomore agricultural development major, said the committee has been working since last September to organize this year's program. The '96 Parents' Weekend Committee printed a listing of the weekend's activities, including times and locations, which is available at the Student Government Office, the Parents' Weekend table in the MSC, and various other places on campus.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

## Survey says: Local housing needs facelift

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

A survey conducted by Texas A&M professors concluded that 38 percent of A&M students are dissatisfied with one or more aspect of their off-campus living situations. The survey, conducted last summer by Dr. Charles Graham, associate professor of construction science, and T. H. Kwa, Graham's research assistant, will supplement the city of College Station's efforts to improve apartment and housing policies and building codes. Graham said the 1,020 students who turned in surveys were a random sample of students living off campus. Eight hundred undergraduate students and 220 graduate students participated. Graham said he was surprised that more than 40 percent of the students said they would pay higher rent in return for improvements on the property where they live. Most apartment owners do not think students would be willing to face a rent increase, he said, particularly because the average rent in College Station is already \$526.

The survey indicates that students are most concerned with improving pest control, acoustics, carpeting and air conditioning. It also shows that students have strong preferences based on housing cost and location. Matt Thomas, a junior civil engineering major, said he is dissatisfied with the maintenance and management at his residence. He said he soon will be looking for another place to live that will provide him with better services. Thomas said College Station housing prices are higher than in many other towns. "Everything here is a little high relative to other places," he said. "I guess I'm getting my money's worth. For College Station, I'm getting what I pay for." But Thomas said that in other cities, a resident could pay less money for a better apartment. Edwin Buzzell, a senior journalism major, said he prefers living in a house rather than an apartment. Buzzell said that when he lived in an apartment, bugs and noise created unbearable problems. "Living in an apartment, you always had someone above you

See Survey, Page 12

## Class presidents aim to improve

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

difference."

Nolan Barkhouse  
Class of 1998 president



The newly elected Texas A&M class presidents represent a wide variety of backgrounds. They come from different parts of Texas, from the northeast corner of the state to the grasslands west of San Antonio. They participate in a variety of organizations, from the Student Government Association to the Corps of Cadets. Despite their differences, all three class presidents have one common goal: to leave their classes better than when they took office. K.C. Allan, Class of 1997 President

K.C. Allan  
Class of 1997 President

Nolan Barkhouse, Class of 1998 president, has long-distance, long-term plans. An international studies major, Barkhouse plans to visit Japan to fulfill part of his degree requirement and hopes to parlay the experience into a career in international business. Barkhouse, however, does not have his foot in the airplane yet. He has his sights set on first improving his Class Council. "One thing I'd like to see is everyone in the entire class at Elephant Walk," he said. "I'd also really like to help the Class of 2000 and improve the stature of Class Council by mentoring with the incoming freshman Class Council." When Barkhouse recalls his fondest memories, he conjures images of the Class Council's Howdy Barbecue in Fall 1995 and his experiences on the Fish Drill Team. "Performing for the crowd during Parents' Weekend was really great," he said. Away from the office, Barkhouse plays soccer, participates in the Corps of Cadets and stays involved with the MSC. Barkhouse considers himself a hard-working, approachable person. "I'd say I'm a nice guy, but a little busy," he said. "But if anyone wants to approach me and hear about what Class Council does, I'm always willing."



Greg Nichols  
Class of 1999 president

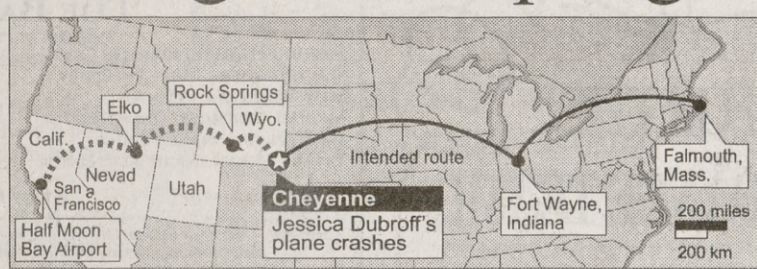
As for the future, Allan said she has her eyes on the world of corporate law. She has secured a summer internship working for U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas, in Washington, D.C. Allan said that whatever she does, she wants to make a big splash. "I don't want to be stuck in the back at a desk," Allan said. "I want a chance to wear the white hat and make a

Greg Nichols, Class of 1999 president, enjoys working with people. Nichols, a freshman agricultural business major from Nacogdoches, served as vice president of his class in the fall, later deciding to run for president, as a way to use his people skills. "I got involved as vice president and really enjoyed the people I was working with," Nichols said. "I enjoy meeting

See Presidents, Page 10

## Plane crash kills girl attempting record flight

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A 7-year-old girl trying to become the youngest person to fly across America was killed Thursday when her plane crashed into a driveway shortly after taking off in a storm. Her father and her flight instructor also died. The crash that killed Jessica Dubroff, her father, Lloyd, and Joe Reid happened on the second day of their flight. The single-engine plane, a four-seat Cessna owned by Reid, crashed in a residential area, missing a house by 25 feet, a half-mile from the runway. Police Chief John Powell, who



was first on the scene, said the bodies were still strapped into the Cessna when he arrived, but he couldn't tell who had been operating the plane. "It was very fortunate it didn't hit any houses in the area," he said. "There was a last-minute attempt by the pilot not to hit houses." Shortly before takeoff this morning, Jessica told a reporter

for Cheyenne television station KKTU she thought about one thing when flying: crashing. But she went on to say she did not worry about it. Dawn Salyards, who lives nearby, said the plane struck the ground nose first. "From the looks of it, you could tell pretty much right away that there would be no survivors," she said. Tom Johnson, a 15-year pilot, said he saw the plane shortly after takeoff, and it appeared the pilot was trying to the

See Crash, Page 12

## Clinton veto propels abortion issue forward

Dole pegged the president's action to deny the banning of partial-birth abortions as 'extremist'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Dole's placement of President Clinton on the "extremist fringe" for his veto of an anti-abortion bill sharpens battle lines for the 1996 presidential election. But for all the strong rhetoric from both sides, polls show a majority of American voters don't want a ban on abortion. Dole's sharp comments, made after Clinton vetoed legislation Wednesday to ban partial-birth abortions, could make it harder for him to win support from the political center as he moves beyond the GOP primaries into the general-election campaign. Asked about Clinton's veto as he campaigned in Pennsylvania late Wednesday,



Clinton

Dole said: "Big mistake. He's out there on the extremist fringe." Dole renewed his contention during a campaign stop Thursday in Memphis, Tenn., saying, "He is out there on the extreme edge." Dole's point was that the bill, which would ban a seldom-used late-term procedure, had considerable bipartisan support in Congress — even if not enough to override a veto. Clinton contended the procedure was

sometimes necessary to protect a woman's health or save her life. The president's veto and the Senate majority leader's caustic response are helping propel the entire abortion debate forward as a major fall campaign issue. The last time Dole used the tag "extremist" was against since-vanquished GOP rival Pat Buchanan, whose anti-abortion views Dole largely echoes. But even though Dole, like Buchanan, favors a constitutional ban on abortion, exit polls show most Republican primary

See Abortion, Page 12