



# THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Clinton kicks off second term

WASHINGTON (AP) — William Jefferson Clinton began his second term as president Monday, promising a turn-of-the-century government that "does more with less." In a day of inaugural fanfare and political reflection, he pledged an end to Washington's "petty bickering and extreme partisanship."

The nation's 53rd inauguration stretched from a morning prayer service to all-night revelry at 15 black-tie balls.

Five minutes after noon, as a warming sun shone down on the chilled Capitol audience, Clinton put his left hand on the family Bible held by his wife and raised his right hand to recite the 35 words spoken by every president since George Washington.

"Good luck," Chief Justice William Rehnquist said when the president finished the oath.

The crowd broke the silence with a roar of cheers. The president turned and swept up Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, in a two-armed hug. Cannons fired a military salute. Clinton will be the first president of the 21st

century and the approach of a new millennium was very much on his mind at the rebirth of his presidency. Clinton's vision of his second term was one of practicality.

"As times change, so government must change," Clinton said. "We need a new government for a new century." He said government cannot solve everyone's problems but it should offer the tools for people to help themselves.

In a 22-minute inaugural address, he envisioned a government that "is smaller, lives within its means and does more with less."

"Our land of new promise will be a nation that meets its obligations, a nation that balances its budget but never loses the balance of its values; a nation where our grandparents have secure retirement and health care."

In a capital city often torn by dark political



Clinton

division, it was a bright day of unity and reconciliation. Republicans and Democrats tipped hats. Clinton was ushered to the podium by Republican nemesis, House Speaker Newt Gingrich among them.

Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla., praised the tone and the substance of Clinton's speech. "It was clearly one given with an outreached hand, I believe, to all of us to work together. I thought the inaugural was very positive, almost spiritual... and hopefully a healing event as well."

In the spirit of the day, Gingrich presented Clinton and Vice President Al Gore with flags that had flown over the capital that morning. At a lunch in Statuary Hall, Gingrich said the flags were a reminder that "while we may disagree about some things, here you're among friends."

Gingrich would benefit from political reconciliation. On Tuesday, the House was to vote on penalties for Gingrich over ethics violations.

Clinton's first official act was to sign a proclamation declaring Monday a national day of hope and renewal.

## President looks to 21st century

By GRAHAM HARVEY  
THE BATTALION

Yesterday at the U.S. Capitol, President Bill Clinton began his second term as the 42nd President of the United States.

Under cold, cloudy skies, thousands of visitors gathered in Washington, D.C., between the Washington Monument and the Capitol building, to witness the 53rd Presidential Inauguration.

Sen. John Warner, chair of the Senate Joint Inaugural Committee, served as master of ceremonies, proclaiming the peaceful event to be a "tribute to the Providential vision of our Founding Fathers."

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham delivered the invocation, in which he recognized Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

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## Apartment fire kills student, forces residents to relocate

By MARISSA ALANIS  
THE BATTALION

An early morning apartment fire killed one Texas A&M University student and injured two other residents of Kensington Place Apartments in College Station Saturday.

Twenty-three students were forced to relocate to vacant units for safety reasons after the blaze caused the electricity to be cut off in 10 apartments. One upper-level apartment unit was destroyed, and two lower-level units received water damage.

Paul L. Meloeny, a sophomore electrical engineering

major from Seabrook, Texas, was found lying dead on his bedroom floor.

His roommates, Alexander Clinton and Brandt Beal survived by escaping through a back-bedroom window from the second floor.

Jon Mies, the College Station Fire Marshal, said the preliminary autopsy performed on Meloeny ruled cause of death as smoke inhalation and hot fire gases.

"It appears he was awakened," Mies said. "He opened his bedroom door, and he was exposed to the fire."

Clinton, a sophomore environmental design major,

was transported from Columbia Medical Center in College Station to Hermann Hospital in Houston.

Micheal Togliatti, a media marketing specialist at Hermann Hospital, said Clinton suffered from first- and second-degree burns over 35 percent of his body.

Togliatti said Clinton is listed in stable condition, but that it will be difficult to determine when he will be released, since his injuries are unique.

"With burns, you just take it by a day-to-day basis," Togliatti said.

Beal, a sophomore electrical engineering major, re-

ceived medical treatment for smoke inhalation and was released from Columbia Medical Center.

Mies said the fire originated in the proximity of the living-room sofa. Since the damage is extensive, the cause of the fire will never be determined, he said.

"Due to the damages, we've ruled out an electrical malfunction," Mies said.

The American Red Cross of Brazos County provided beds, toiletries, food and clothing for the residents who had to evacuate their units.

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## NAACP Group promotes 'no fear' attitude

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

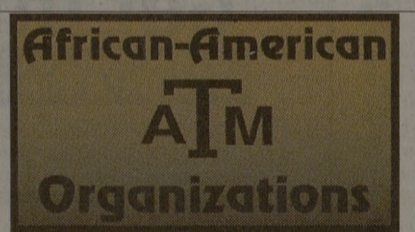
The Texas A&M chapter of the NAACP supports the organization's theme "no fear of violence" through on-campus and community efforts as they continue to protect personal rights.

Donavan Wheatfall, president of the A&M and state chapter of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People and a junior business analysis major, said the A&M chapter of the association endorses the theme of no fear of violence, crime, gangs or poverty.

"We've adopted that same philosophy by giving back to the community, and helping younger people understand the choices they have," Wheatfall said.

During the fall semester, the A&M NAACP sponsored a canned food drive for the Brazos Food Bank.

This April, the University chapter will hold a local book drive during the NAACP's national book drive called "Books for Tots." The book drive encourages giving books, which last a lifetime, to children rather than toys.



The organization is raising funds to erect a statue in honor of Matthew Gaines, a Texas senator during the 12th legislature, who helped obtain the land grant for Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M.

A Bryan-College Station firefighter, police officer, teacher, clergy member and an outstanding student will be honored at the NAACP Image Awards during NAACP week in February.

Wheatfall said they are trying to establish a civil-rights officer in the office of the University President. This officer would aid people who feel their personal rights have been violated.

Wheatfall said the NAACP considers itself the guardian of individual's personal rights, despite race or gender.

"What we have been fighting for is not just for black people, but the end of a white, male-dominated society," he said. "Everybody plays a part."

Wheatfall said the NAACP wants to help anyone who has been discriminated against, not just African-Americans. The chapters want to change their image of being primarily a black organization.

"Everybody has color, from flesh-tone peach to mahogany brown," Wheatfall said.

Kyana Herbert, a NAACP member and freshman sociology member, said the NAACP does not just focus on assisting African Americans.

"There are many things we are trying to do," she said, "not just for African-Americans, but for the entire campus."

Historically, the NAACP has responded to perceived injustices by openly questioning laws and politicians and bringing crucial cases to court.

The A&M chapter has been involved in protesting the decision of the Hopwood case, which does not allow Texas universities to use race as criteria for

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Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

## Heads Up

Christy Reinoehl, a sophomore biomedical science major, throws a disc past Michael Haughey, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, in an Ultimate Frisbee game Monday afternoon at Simpson Drill Field.



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

Gillian Williams speaks with several students who attended the Southwest Black Student Leadership Conference Saturday.

A total of 1,100 students, from as far as California, attended the conference at Texas A&M last weekend. Students attended luncheons, an oratorical contest, religious services and workshops with guest speakers.

One of the highlights of the weekend conference was the appearance of Sharon Pratt Kelly, the former mayor of Washington, D.C., who spoke Saturday in Duncan Hall at the conference luncheon. The former mayor gave an inspirational speech, applauding the conference for this year's theme, Unity of spirit to soar beyond an uncertain future. Kelly urged students to remain active in their communities, and to be leaders of America in the next millennium.

## Long weekend hurts Open House attendance

Laura OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

MSC's Spring Open House gave 9,500 Texas A&M students the opportunity to find their niche at a university with over 900 organizations.

Sunday's turnout was half that of Fall Open House.

Laura Frnka, vice president of MSC public relations and a senior journalism major, said the decreased attendance was not surprising.

"It was a lot less packed than the fall," she said. "The two ice days, the three day weekend and the fact that it is just smaller in the spring all contributed to the low attendance. But considering those three factors, all went well."

Harvey Castro, president and founder of American Medical Student Association Premed and a senior biomedical science major, said those in attendance were fresh targets.

"The three-day weekend killed us, but we are a new group," he said. "We are trying to recruit the



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

Heather Johns performs with the Singing Cadets at the MSC Open House on Sunday.

people that are here and those coming in from Howdy Camp."

Matt Rosin, an active member of Fledging Records Supports Local Music and a sophomore philosophy major, said their organization pursues students following local music.

"We help advertise and book local bands," he said. "There is really no one around that touches the local music scene. So we are here to

fill that niche."

TAMU Judo Club enticed hesitant passers-by with a film that showed kicks and punches from judo competitors.

Jackie Bayard, an active member of TAMU Judo Club and a freshman psychology major, said this visual brought many students to their table.

"Some people were not sure about Judo Club," she said. "They did not know how organized it was."

Business majors were able to visit the Hispanic Business Student Association.

Velda Peña, vice president of the association and a junior management major, said their organization is obligated to many social events in the fall.

"Spring is directed toward professional career development more so than in the fall," she said. "We are trying to maintain our current members and recruit new members."

Throughout the day, students were entertained by Silver Spurs, Ballet Folklorico and the Singing Cadets.

Kyle Gibson, a Singing Cadet

and a senior industrial distribution major, said Open House gave them an opportunity to entertain as well as promote their organization.

"We love to sing for people, and right now we are taking auditions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity to reach a lot of people."

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