



84  
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TODAY



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TOMORROW

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## RHA forms task force for extended visitation

By AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Residence Hall Association appointed a task force to look into extending visitation hours in single-sex residence halls Wednesday.

Crocker Hall Council sponsored the proposal. Single-sex halls have visitation hours from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Toan Duong, Crocker Hall resident and a junior computer science major, said similar proposals resurface every year with little or no action taken.

"We created the bill because we wanted to get RHA to support the bill as a whole," Duong said. "It is very general because the task force will be responsible for coming up with a proposal outlining that proposal."

RHA President Eric Williams, senior biomedical science major, said the proposal has a number of opportunities for extended visitation hours in single-sex dorms.

"The possibilities are endless," he said. "I think that flexibility will be the key. The task force right now is going to look at what the residence halls are interested in. It could be that visitation hours are extended to 8 a.m. or from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. could remain the same."

The task force will be responsible for collecting the information from residence halls to determine the need for a proposal to submit to the administration.

David Rickerson, the RHA facilitator and operations chair and a junior computer science major, said the task force committee will evaluate the proposal through a number of measures.

"This is a fact-finding mission," Rickerson said. "We are going out to see what students think (about extended visitation hours). We are going to look at visitation hours on campuses of other universities. We will do a lot of talking with Residence Life and residents. The focus of the committee is to see where there is interest."

Rickerson said resident interest may be determined through communication with RHA members in single-sex dorms and surveys.

Co-ed halls can approve 24-hour visitation by 90 percent vote of its residents.

Duong said he would like to see the task force organize a proposal soon but cautiously.

## INSIDE lifestyles

Local group tries to educate students about the importance of the rainforest.

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## sports

The Texas A&M Cross Country Team comes up big in its home tournament.

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## opinion

Houston: Technology takes the place of letter writing to low level of electronics.

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## online

http://bat-web.tamu.edu  
Look up with state and national news through The Battalion, AP's 24-hour online news service.

# A&M students injured in plane crash

By ROBERT SMITH  
Senior staff writer

Three Texas A&M students were hospitalized after a plane carrying four students crashed early Sunday morning at Easterwood Airport.

Columbia Medical Center officials said Christopher Kazmierski, a senior kinesiology major, and Michael Heath, a senior kinesiology major, are at Columbia for back and neck pains and remain in stable condition.

Officials also said Christopher Schwark, the pilot of the plane and a senior business administration major, was released from Columbia yesterday after receiving medical care for back and neck pains. Shane Floyd, a junior business analysis management major, suffered a cut lip and did not require medical attention, hospital officials said.

The Federal Aviation Administration in Houston is investigating the cause of the plane crash.

The plane was a Moonie M-20 fixed-wing plane.

The College Station Fire Department responded to an emergency call at 2:15 a.m. Sunday. The College Station Police Department, the University Police Department, the A&M Emergency Medical Services and Easterwood Airport personnel arrived at the scene of the accident around 2:30 a.m.

Bob Wiatt, director of the UPD, said Schwark prepared to land the plane on the

runway, but lifted the plane after he thought the plane was going too fast to land.

Wiatt said the plane's engine stalled after it lifted, causing a skidding land in a grassy field near the Easterwood Airport office.

Wiatt said the plane's front end and engine were ripped off, but the plane did not catch fire.

The four students were returning from the A&M-Kansas State University football game in Manhattan, Kan. The students are members of the A&M Flying Club.

## Free fallin'



Brian Reichle, a freshman at Cy-Creek High School in Houston, jumps off the steps in front of the Quad on his skateboard Saturday morning.

ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

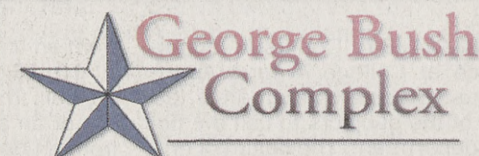
## Presidential corridor

### City officials push for highway expansion

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Bryan-College Station officials are hoping one plus one can equal four in their effort to improve highway access to the area, including visitors to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in November.

Officials said since getting an interstate through Bryan-College Station



seems unlikely, backers of four-lane access have been focusing their energies on widening Texas 21/U.S. 190 from Bryan northeast to Madisonville where it intersects with Interstate 45.

U.S. 190 is a 40-mile two-lane road between I-45 and Texas Highway 6, a major artery through Bryan-College Station.

This stretch has been designated by the state as the "Presidential Corridor" because it provides access to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on the Texas A&M campus as well as to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin.

PLEASE SEE EXPANSION ON PAGE 6.

# Ceremony opens annual mini-Olympics

By RACHEL DAWLEY  
Staff writer

The International Mini-Olympics began Friday with opening ceremonies at Rudder Fountain.

The event was highlighted by international music, cultural dances and different speeches from A&M faculty and staff.

During the next two weekends, more than 1,000 Texas A&M students representing countries from around the world will participate in the games.

Vinay Ramanathan, vice president of the International Student Association and a management information systems graduate student from India, said the annual event reflects the diversity and friendliness of an Olympic event on the A&M campus. Ramanathan said the students' desire to promote their heritage and countries on campus has made the event a success.

"The International Student Association hosts the event each year," he said. "It's main objective is to allow all international students to interact with one another as a cul-

tural exchange. We believe that the spirit of sports is a good place to begin."

Belita Siu, a senior industrial engineering major from Panama, coordinated this year's ceremonies. Siu said Friday's ceremonies united students from different countries before the games began Friday night.

"The opening ceremonies turned out really good," she said. "It is important to represent the different countries and cultures at A&M and it allows students to get to know people. The most important thing is to have fun."

The mini-Olympics has been an event at A&M for almost two decades. More than 30 countries are participating in 14 sports, ranging from bowling to chess to soccer.

Danny Guindi, director of mini-Olympics and a senior computer science major from Panama, said international students often have problems adjusting to American culture and the Olympics are a way to encourage exchange between students.

"The mini-Olympics is very important for the interaction between students," he said. "It is a way to get students together to get to know each other."

Guindi said he wants to make the mini-Olympics a more well-known tradition at A&M with a larger audience and more campus awareness of the event.

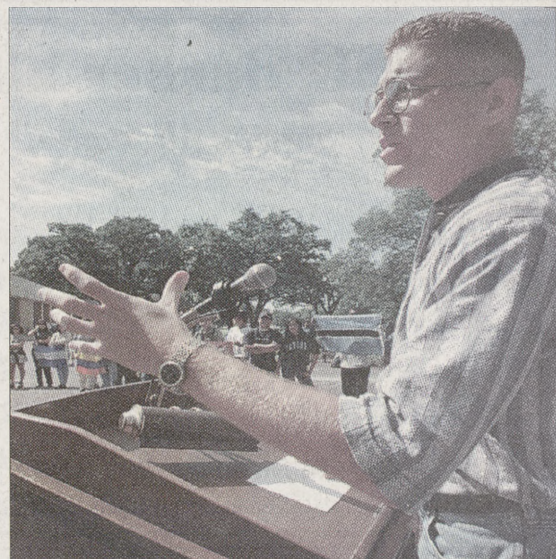
Ballet Folklorico Celestial performed Friday. This group of A&M students perform Mexican dances that promote the culture and history of Mexico.

Grissel Sanchez, a junior international studies major from Mexico City, performed with the group.

Sanchez said the mini-Olympics are an event allows students to enjoy one another and meet other students.

Norberto Chaclin, president of the International Student Association and a junior chemical engineering major from the Dutch Caribbean, said international student are encouraged to participate in the events through organizations representing their country.

"I'm really excited about the number of people participating in the event," Chaclin said. "It is an opportunity for international students to show that we can represent and share our culture with A&M. We work together even though we all come from different backgrounds."



Danny Guindi, director of International Mini-Olympics and senior computer science major from Panama, thanks those who assisted with the events.

AMY DUNLAP/THE BATTALION

## PROFILE:



Thompson

## Barry Thompson

By ROBERT SMITH  
Senior staff writer

Dr. Barry B. Thompson may not be a familiar name with many Texas A&M students, but his work as the chancellor of the Texas A&M University System reaches across the state.

Since becoming chancellor in August 1994, Thompson has made it his mission to ensure that the A&M System is producing quality education from citizens' tax dollars.

Thompson has implemented different programs in an effort to improve education in Texas.

He led the establishment of the Texas Higher Education Coalition, a group that focuses on the graduation and retention of more college students in the state.

Thompson said he is concerned with how citizens' tax dollars can best be used and believes too much money is spent building prisons and not enough is spent on education.

PLEASE SEE THOMPSON PAGE 6.

# Campus Leaders

## Curtis Childers

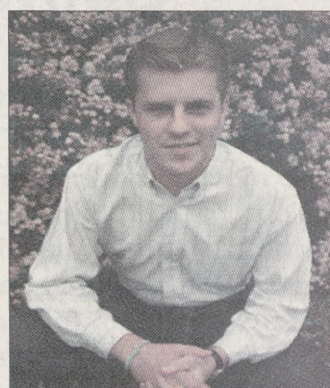
By BRANDYE BROWN  
Staff writer

Student Body President Curtis Childers attributes some of his success to growing up with three sisters in the small, close-knit community of Glen Rose, Texas.

"Growing up as the only boy in a family of women was unique," he said. "It helped me learn that it is okay not to be in charge all the time. Sometimes they would team up on me. It helped me to understand what it was like to be in the minority."

Childers, a senior agricultural major, said the quality school system of Glen Rose helped him to excel by providing opportunities and encouraging him to take them.

"I had the opportunity to travel often for school-related activities," he said. "This was a mind-opening experience that was especially important since I grew up in such a small town."



Childers

PLEASE SEE CHILDERS ON PAGE 6.