

# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY

June 3, 1999

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College Station, Texas

## aggielife

• Big Apple Trio to bring New York-style jazz music to Bryan-College Station.

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## today's issue

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## Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for details about this month's Texas Music Festival.

## opinion

• Sensationalism, community involvement among issues facing today's media.

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## Crash of Flight 1420

American Airlines Flight 1420, a Super MD-80, crashed at Little Rock National Airport just before midnight, killing at least nine people.



# Weather blamed for crash

## Aggie Band leader among injured

BY VERONICA SERRANO  
The Battalion

Texas Aggie Band Director Lt. Col. Ray E. Toler was injured when an American Airlines flight from Dallas to Little Rock, Ark., crashed while landing during a hail storm Tuesday night.



TOLER

Toler, who made the trip to Little Rock to visit his

son, is being treated at Baptist Memorial Center in North Little Rock. A press release from University Relations said Toler was in an intensive care unit and has sustained a broken arm and possible internal injuries.

Officials at Baptist Memorial said Wednesday evening that Toler was in satisfactory condition.

Toler, who conducted bands during his career in the Air Force, became the fourth director of the Aggie Band in 1989 since the title was created in 1924.

Bob Baker, the airline's executive vice president of flight operations. One flight attendant had a broken leg and another had hip or pelvic problems. Two others were not injured.

At least 83 people were injured and taken to hospitals. Fifty-one others did not require hospital treatment. Two people were not immediately accounted for.

"You don't know if anyone on impact was thrown into the swamp," American Airlines spokesperson John Hotard said.

Barrett Baber, a student at Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia, said the plane made a fast approach to the airport as lightning raged. Hail pelted him once he got out, he said.

"The plane was going so fast, when we hit the ground, we went off the end of the runway," Baber said at a theater-aerospace museum near the airport where survivors were taken to meet with families and friends. "We hit a huge pole, and it split the plane in half. A fire started at the front of the plane and spread back."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### University to unveil Vision 2020 plan

Texas A&M University will formally unveil Vision 2020, its concept for attaining status as one of the top-10 public universities by the year 2020, Friday at Reed Arena.

The unveiling comes after two years of planning and a year of work by a 260-member task force.

The Vision 2020 study was initiated by Texas A&M President Ray M. Bowen and Jon L. Hagler, a partner in a Boston-based investment firm and Class of '68.

At the event, Bowen and Hagler will explain what the report's findings and recommendations mean for A&M and Texas.

### 6 Aggies selected in 1999 MLB Draft

Six members of the Texas A&M Baseball Team were selected in this week's 1999 Major League Baseball Draft.

Junior pitcher Chance Caple was taken in the first round (30th overall) by the St. Louis Cardinals.

The righthander has compiled an 8-4 record this year with a 4.21 ERA.

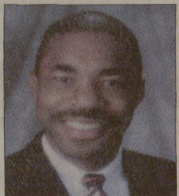
Fellow junior pitcher Casey Fossum was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the second round with the 48th overall pick.

Also drafted were senior first baseman John Scheschuk (232nd - San Diego), senior catcher Shawn Schumacher (252nd - St. Louis), junior outfielder Steven Truitt (424th - Milwaukee) and junior shortstop Steve Scarborough (544th - Milwaukee).

## New assistant provost takes post

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

This week marked a transition for Rodney McClendon as he moved from being assistant director in the Department of Multicultural Services to the Office of the Provost as the newly appointed assistant provost for Texas A&M University.



MCCLENDON

As assistant provost, McClendon will provide guidance and advise Ron Douglas, executive vice president and provost, other associate and assistant provosts, college

## Student Senate looks at parking, evaluation

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

The 1999-2000 parking arrangements, changes in the student evaluations of instructors and prerequisites for upper-level classes were among the topics discussed by Student Senate at its first meeting of the summer.

Brian Minyard, speaker of the senate and senior biochemistry major, said the senate will look into the Faculty Senate's decision to change entry requirements for 300- and 400-level classes for Catalog 123.

Minyard said when a new 300- or 400-level course is created or reviewed, prerequisites may be added which will affect the Class of 2004 and could possibly affect current students who want to change majors.

"[For example] if a freshman wants to take a 300-level political science course they can now, but if this [change in entry requirements] goes into effect then they won't be able to," Minyard said.

Student Body President Will Hurd said the Academic Operations Committee is also considering changing the application date for incoming freshman from March 1 to Feb. 1 and from April 1 to March 1 for transfer students.

"U.T. [students] got their acceptance letters back a month earlier than we did," Hurd said.

"This change will make A&M more competitive."

Minyard said the senate will also be working to change the format of student evaluations of instructors by creating a package that would include course syllabi, teacher evaluations and grade distributions in the evaluation.

He said the change would include creating short-essay evaluations, instead of relying on multiple-choice evaluation forms in order to get a better idea of the instructors' abilities.

"This process will help to screen out students that are failing, who are bitter about their grade and might not give an accurate report of the professor's teaching abilities," Minyard said.

Senator Peter Schulte, senior business administration major, said the parking map for the 1999-2000 school year will be finalized soon. He said the faculty will no longer have assigned parking spots, but will instead have their own parking lot.

"There will not be numbered 24-hour reserved parking spots next year," Schulte said. "The spots will be turned into reserved lots which will be used on a first-come, first-serve basis."

Schulte said the gravel lots by Reed Arena will be expanded for more parking, and construction on the new parking garage on West Campus will begin in November.

lege deans and other academic advisers.

"I will see to it that A&M is on a firm foundation, both from a moral and ethical standpoint, on decisions for both the faculty and students," McClendon said.

McClendon said he feels it is not only his formal academic training, but also his education which qualify him for the position.

"I was a banking and finance major at Morehouse College," he said. "They taught us to think on our feet and to analyze things thoroughly. I also attended Emory University for law school, which improved both my interpretation and communication skills."

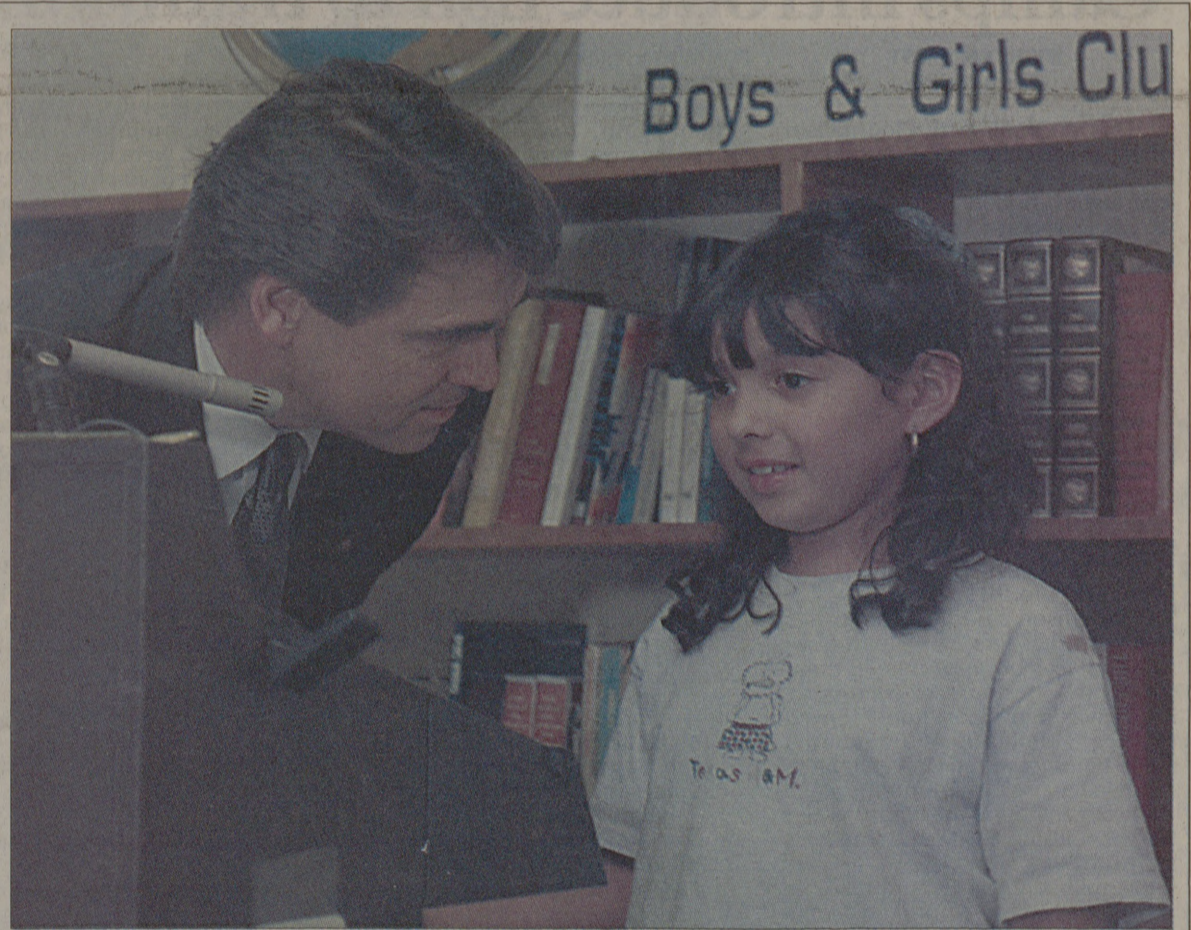
Wanda Williams, senior secre-

tary in Multicultural Services, worked with McClendon for the past four and a half years. She said that she is confident McClendon will do well in his new position.

"He was always wonderful to work with," Williams said. "There was never a question too petty for him to answer."

Felicia Scott, director of multicultural services and a former co-worker of McClendon's, said he always encouraged students to find their strengths.

"He has a knowledge of students because of his student affairs background," she said. "That, along with his legal background will bring a fresh perspective to his position as assistant provost."



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Fourth-grader Chenta Castillo of Bryan presents Texas Lt. Gov. Rick Perry with a keychain Wednesday at the Bryan Boys and Girls Club.

## Perry stresses importance of education in Bryan visit

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

Texas Lieutenant Governor Rick Perry, Class of '72, discussed his legislative session concerning teacher pay raises, school funding increases and tax cuts at the Boys and Girls Club in Bryan yesterday.

"I think this was the best legislative session for the students of Texas, the schoolteachers of Texas and the taxpayers of Texas," he said. "We had a substantial budget surplus of which 75 cents of every dollar went to children."

Perry said he was proud of the cooperation and bipartisanship with which the Senate operated.

"We had some talent in the Texas Senate that has been unsurpassed for many years," he said. "No matter how you grade it, the Texas legislature gets an 'A.'"

Perry said there are thousands of reasons for the Boys and Girls Clubs to focus on education.

"For some, it is their only alternative to the streets," Perry said.

Perry discussed the implementation of a new program in which new teachers will be mentored by more experienced teachers.

"We will be using the newest technology and the newest science," Perry said. "We will also give a \$5,000 dollar yearly bonus to those teachers who volunteer for the program."

Ron Rolett, director and president of the Brazos Valley Boys and Girls Clubs, said Perry chose the Bryan location both because he is an Aggie and because of the clubs' reputations.

"We're proud he chose us," Rolett said. "It shows he has done his research and knows that our program, with its nationally recognized students and staff, is top notch."

At the end of Perry's speech, Chenta Castillo, a fourth grade Boys and Girls Club member, presented Perry with a club membership and key chain.

"We chose a keychain so every time Rick uses it, he will be reminded that the Boys and Girls Clubs are the key to Texas' future," Rolett said.