

# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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College Station, Texas

## sports

• Home was not so welcome for the Aggies in their visit to the College World Series.

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## today's issue

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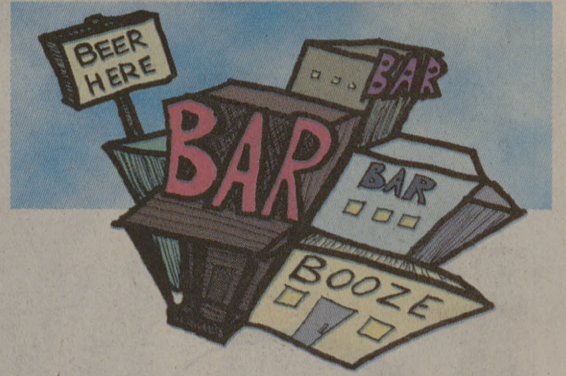
## Battalion Radio

Listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. to hear how the College Station Police Department is renovating its fishing pond.

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## opinion

• Northgate bars fail to reflect the diverse attitudes of the A&M student body.



## Take a swing



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

William Heldenfels, 14, takes pointers on his grip from coach Randy Mann of Clark High School Tuesday at Texas A&M University's John Jacobs Golf School. The school, being held this week at the Polo Fields, hosts 13- to 16-year-old golfers.

# Crash survivor praises fellow Aggies' support

BY NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

During a lunchtime interview from his home while feeding his grandchildren, Lt. Col. Ray E. Toler, director of A&M's marching and concert bands, said the positive response from the Aggie community has been phenomenal and overpowering.

Toler was aboard American Airlines Flight 1420 when it crashed in Little Rock, Ark., June 1. He said he still has to see one more surgeon before any final prognosis on his injuries are made.

Toler said he hopes to return to work later this week.

He said the support from Aggies has truly amazed him and meant a lot to him and his family.

The number of cards, gifts and flowers Toler has received since the incident total 500, he estimated.

"I received cards from former students and from Aggies around the world. I even received a card from an Aggie in the Class of '25," Toler said.

He said there were a couple of

Aggies up in Arkansas who sent gifts to his son's home.

"This just goes to show the true Aggie spirit," he said. "Aggies will always be there to support fellow Aggies in a time of need."

*"Aggies will always be there to support fellow Aggies in a time of need."*



— LT. COL. RAY E. TOLER

Toler said prior to the landing there were talks about diverting the plane to Memphis.

"As severe as the weather was in the area, we shouldn't have been landing," he said.

He said there were severe storms entering the area every 20 seconds.

"When you're landing at night, they always have the outside lights on," he said. "I was looking

out the window while we were landing, and the spoilers never did come up.

"As reported in the newspapers, they (the pilot and first officer) did not go through the landing checklist properly."

Toler said it was not until the plane came to a complete halt that the rush to the exits began. He said he was sitting in row 29, which was across the aisle from an exit, and the fire had started in row 18.

By the time the plane came to a complete standstill, smoke had begun to fill the entire cabin.

"The door had caved in on top of the overhead bin where I and two others were sitting," he said. "We tried to head for the back door exit, but there was a fire at that end too."

"The three of us together kept jerking the exit door down so it would give way, then we jumped 12 to 15 feet to the ground head first."

Toler said after the plane had stopped it took approximately four to five minutes for him to exit the plane.

# Forum to examine violence

BY VERONICA SERRANO  
The Battalion

The dean of the College of Education Dr. Jane Conoley will host a discussion on the many facets of violence in the nation, such as violence in schools and the workplace today at 3 p.m. in 292 MSC.

The format of the event, which is presented by MSC Education Exploration, will allow the audience to ask questions and comment on the topic following an introduction made by Conoley.

MSC associate director Deryl Richmond said violence in schools, including the massacres at Littleton and other small town schools will be part of the discussion, as well as the role adults have played in contributing to the destructive climate.

"Adults have proven they are good at violence themselves," she said. "It's not just teenagers."

She said adults may also face violence in the work-

place and said examples include the string of postal worker shootings that took place a few years ago and a recent shooting at a Las Vegas grocery store in which a man shot four workers for unknown reasons.

The way society reacts to violent acts will also be addressed as well.

"When it (violence) is in inner cities, we don't tend to notice even though it happens everyday, but when it happens in the suburbs, we respond to it," Richmond said.

She said society has also chosen to respond by placing responsibility on gun laws, TV and video games.

Richmond said the forum is likely to center on juvenile aggression because school violence is a topic Conoley has specialized in.

"[The purpose of the forum] is to talk about the situation and to educate ourselves," Richmond said. "It may cause us to think more deeply on the issue."

# College students run higher risk of meningitis

BY SUZANNE BRABECK  
The Battalion

According to a study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, college freshmen, especially those living in dormitories, face a higher risk of contracting potentially fatal bacterial infection that may lead to meningitis more than others in their age group.

Karen Muehe, a registered nurse at A.P. Beutel Health Center said four people at Texas colleges died last year from this infection.

Meningitis is an infection which can cause dangerous swelling of the brain and the membranes which enclose the brain and spinal, which are called meninges.

There are two types of meningitis, bacterial and viral. Viral meningitis is less severe and treated more easily than bacterial meningitis, also referred to as meningococcal meningitis, which is spread more easily and has more severe effects on the nervous system. Antibiotics are used for treatment.

Both forms of the disease are contracted similarly to the common cold. Germs are diffused through the air and travel to those close in proximity.

Early symptoms include rash, fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, lethargy and a stiff neck. Stiffness of the neck when bending forward is one of the key symptoms of meningitis.

## Symptoms of meningitis:

- Fever
- Headaches
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Impaired consciousness
- Stiff neck and back

A pamphlet provided by Beutel reports that since the early 1990s, there has been an increase in meningitis outbreaks in the United States. In fact, the number of cases has nearly doubled among young adults (15 to 24 years of age) from 1991 to 1996.

"In addition to getting the required shots before entrance into A&M, it would be a good idea to get a meningitis vaccination," Muehe said.

Meningitis vaccinations are available at Beutel for \$57. No appointment is needed to receive a vaccination. Students can go to the check-in desk where they will be directed to preventive medicine.

Muehe said the vaccinations are safe, but some reactions may be redness or swelling around the injection site. Students must wait for 20 minutes after their vaccination to make sure no reactions take place.

If meningitis goes untreated it can cause permanent hearing loss, brain damage, seizures or death. However, if it is caught early, it is usually curable.

Meningitis is passed through the direct contact of oral secretions that may be transferred by coughing, sharing utensils, smoking and kissing.

# Free laundry offered in halls

BY KRISTIN STOCKTON  
The Battalion

Five residence halls on the Northside of campus are offering residents free use of the laundry facilities as an incentive to live on campus during summer school.

The halls are Hotard, Hobby, Crocker, Moore and Leggett.

Michael Krenz, student development specialist of the dormitories administration, said the program was implemented last summer in an attempt to make residence halls more desirable to summer school students.

Gerald Smith, associate director of the dormitories administration, said the University does not lose any money with this program.

"You could call it part of a marketing strategy to expand services that are available to summer school students," Smith said. "Texas A&M has a year-long contract with Web Laundry Services (a nationwide laundry provider) and we receive a standard commission throughout the year."

He said Web Laundry Services does this for A&M as a statement of appreciation.

Web Laundry Services does not lose money on the program either. The dorms have fewer residents in



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Freshman business administration major Marla Seargeant gets ready to do her laundry Tuesday. Five Northside residence halls are offering free use of laundry facilities this summer.

the summer, so the machines generate less money.

A representative of Web Laundry Services visits the campus once a week to check on the condition of the machines and to collect the money.

"With no money to collect from

each machine, the job takes a lot less time," Smith said. "They may spend one day checking the machines, whereas it usually takes two or three days."

"If anything, Web {Laundry} Services saves money."