

# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY

June 22, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 156 • 8 Pages

College Station, Texas



## aggielife

• A new exhibit at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries shows Mexican culture through masks.

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## today's issue

Nation ..... 8

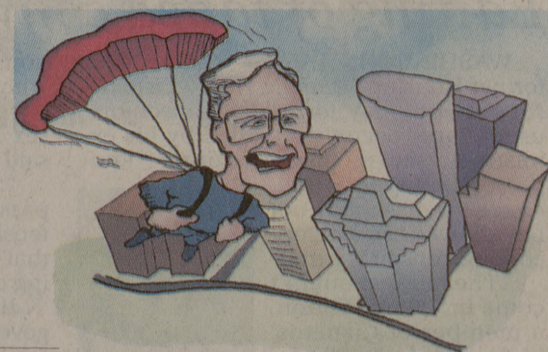
## Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on a Tokyo official's visit to the Texas A&M Department of Architecture.

## opinion

• George Bush's popularity shows how former presidents can strengthen public image.

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# Aggies caught in Mexico quake

BY BETH MILLER  
Special to The Battalion

MEXICO CITY — Texas A&M's journalism summer study abroad program was rattled for the second time in six days yesterday when a second earthquake hit the city.

Yesterday's earthquake shook the city at approximately 1 p.m. at a magnitude of 5.7, compared to the 6.7 earthquake that hit June 15. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The first of the two earthquakes killed 16 people and destroyed much of Puebla, south-east of Mexico City.

Seventeen A&M students and one professor have been in Mexico City since May 23, studying journalism at Universidad La Salle and traveling throughout the city and surrounding area.

Dr. Lynn Walters, an associate professor of journalism, and six of the students will return to the United States this Sunday. The other 11 will remain to intern at public relations offices in the city.

Anne Hoar, one of the students who will stay in Mexico City and a junior journalism major, said she had never been in a major earthquake until last week.

Hoar, who is from Katy, said the quake was comparable to her experience during Hurricane Alicia, which devastated Galveston and Houston in 1984. She said the effects of the earthquake were similar, but the difference was there was no warning.

"In a hurricane, your house moves and the lights go out, but you knew it was going to happen because there is more warning," she

said. "A hurricane doesn't just pop up out of nowhere."

Juan Carlos Pineda, a senior business administration major at Universidad La Salle, was on the Metro, the Mexico City subway system, during the June 15 earthquake. Pineda said the crowd panicked as the electricity went out, the train halted in the tunnel and the cars began to shake.

"Sometimes, the electricity goes out, but [the crowd does not usually panic]," he said. "It was shaking, and you could hear a thunder, and I guess that is what scared the people."

Residents of Mexico City said they believe the June 15 earthquake to be one of the strongest since the 8.1 magnitude earthquake that caused more than \$4 billion in damage in 1985.

## Rainy day people



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Orientation Leaders **Oliver Sims** (left), a senior sports management major, and **Beth Abelson**, a senior elementary education major, lead a group of incoming freshmen and their parents on a campus tour through the rain Monday. The third session of freshman orientation continues over the next three days.

# Rank suggests college success

BY SUZANNE BRABECK  
The Battalion

The director of the Office of Admissions and Records Admissions said one of the reasons Texas A&M has a high retention rate of its students is because applicants are screened heavily, allowing only the most prepared students to enter the University.

Joe Estrada said the best indicator of success in college is class rank.

"A&M doesn't look at grade point averages (GPA) of applicants," Estrada said, "we consider class rank."

Last fall approximately 45 percent of incoming freshmen were in the top-10 percent of their class.

Not only are grades important to the admission process, but A&M looks at course work and

college entrance exam scores.

Estrada said the most important thing high-school students can do to prepare them for the rigors of college is to take advancement placement or college preparatory classes.

"A good indication of the success level students will have in college is based upon the types of courses that students took in high school, especially in the math and science fields," he said.

He said college preparatory classes teach students how to study, the difficulty of college courses, how to discipline oneself and how to develop critical thinking abilities.

With Vision 2020 in motion, Estrada said the admissions department's standards for appli-

SEE SUCCESS ON PAGE 2.

# Dream job

## Engineering leads careers in demand

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Changes in society's needs create demands for careers once unpopular, and as college students decide on a major and career path, job placement is often a consideration.

Glen Payne, associate director of placement services for the Career Center at Texas A&M, said the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business and Dwight Look College of Engineering rank among the top two colleges at A&M from which students are recruited.

He said the industrial distribution program under the College of Engineering is the "most desired major" by recruiting companies and usually has 100 percent job placement. He said management information systems under the School of Business is ranked second.

Heather McNeil, academic adviser for the industrial distribution program, said out of the 91 students who graduated in May, the program had 95 percent job placement. She said the other 5 percent were offered jobs, but for various reasons, they had not accepted offers yet.

"The average number of offers were three per student," McNeil

said. "The average starting salary is \$39,500 per year."

She said students are recruited for jobs most heavily in Texas but are also sought nationally and worldwide.

There are currently 700 students in the industrial distribution program.

McNeil said the industrial distribution program, which began in 1956, is one of the oldest programs in existence at A&M. The program also has the largest student enrollment among industrial distribution programs in the nation.

McNeil said industrial distribution is an applied engineering with a focus in business. She said the major has become increasingly popular during the last eight years.

"The increased popularity grew out of the industries need to train employees," McNeil said.

Brant Jones, a senior industrial distribution major, will graduate in August and has already accepted a job offer with Cutler-Hammer Eaton.

Jones said the program is diverse because it offers classes in

SEE CAREERS ON PAGE 2.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Educators prepare for AP geography

Fifteen geography teachers from across Texas and around the nation have gathered at Texas A&M to prepare to teach the nation's first advanced-placement geography courses by attending a two-week workshop. The teachers from Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, Georgia and Oklahoma are preparing to be the first in the nation to teach AP geography when the curriculum becomes available at the beginning of the 2000-01 school year.

A&M geography professor Robert Bednarz, who specializes in geography education, said he expects many of the workshop participants to become teacher trainers in their home districts.

High-school juniors and seniors who complete the course and pass the AP test would enter college with geography credit.

### Vet school to host high-school camp

The College of Veterinary Medicine will host a veterinary enrichment camp to give upper-level high school students the opportunity to explore veterinary medicine as a career.

Two sessions of the camp will be offered. The first will be Tuesday through Friday, and the second will be June 29 through July 2.

The camp is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school who have an interest in science, mathematics and veterinary medicine. Participants will attend special classes, observe clinical diagnoses and treatment of animals, and learn about careers available for graduates with medical degrees.

Campers will attend lectures on topics such as veterinary dermatology and pathology. Students also will attend tours of the Large and Small Animal Clinics.

# A&M license brings funds to students

BY STUART HUTSON  
The Battalion

Licensing the Texas A&M logo is a lucrative deal for both companies who use the logo and students who attend A&M.

Toby Boenig, coordinator for the A&M collegiate licensing program, said A&M's licensing program has raised \$8.2 million since 1981, which has been donated to numerous student programs such as the A&M athletics program, the Corps of Cadets, the Aggie Band and Muster.

Boenig said A&M has issued licenses to more than 500 companies, which are required to give 7.5 percent of the money earned by selling logo-bearing items to the University. This amounts to an average of more than \$800,000 a year.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University's Aggie Pride licensing program last year became the first collegiate license-plate program to reach \$1 million in sales.

"The amount earned each year varies greatly depending on how A&M's sports teams are doing," Boenig said. "In 1993 and 1994, our football team was doing great, so the licensing program brought in \$1.1 million."

He said for the last five years, 65 percent of the money earned from licensing A&M products has gone to the stadium revenue fund, a fund

designed to aid the athletic department so A&M does not have to charge the student body an athletics fee, which many other universities charge.

Any item featuring an A&M logo must be submitted to the licensing department to ensure

SEE LICENSE ON PAGE 2.