

## RUSH

Continued from Page 3A

Douglas Williams. "The beginning of the fall semester is definitely a challenge."

During move-in days, PTTS sets up warning signs, barricades and protected lanes to make moving into the residence halls much easier.

"We work closely with the Department of Resident Life to send fliers to incoming freshmen to warn them about parking and traffic issues," Williams said.

PTTS faces many challenges throughout the semester but especially during freshman move-in days on the Southside of campus.

"The biggest problem we have is with short-term parking," Williams said. "It's difficult to satisfy the needs of both new students and returning students who come back to campus and expect to have a parking space."

PTTS also must deal with one of the biggest A&M traditions of all — Aggie football — and the traffic problems it brings. With the closing of John Kimbrough Boulevard and the demolition of the crosswalk over Wellborn Road, pedestrian traffic will need to be controlled

and safe.

"We will urge students and visitors to use the shuttle buses," Williams said. "The buses will run until 2 a.m. and if they are utilized, will cut pedestrian traffic drastically."

Another business affected by the return of students are local bookstores that must work with the transition from summer to the fall.

"We have had a very smooth transition this year," said Texas A&M Bookstore General Manager Mark Eckhart. "Book reservations have gone well and people are doing their book shopping earlier."

During summer school the bookstore does not experience much activity, but when the residence halls open, business picks up.

"Customer traffic really started to increase when the dorms opened last Wednesday," Eckhart said. "Things will start to slow down during the second week of classes."

Certain measures are taken to help make the first few weeks of classes easier for both the students at A&M and the employees at the bookstore.

"Normal staff at the store is about 100 people, but during back-to-school and football season, we hire more people," Eckhart said.

As well as hiring more staff, the bookstore also has extended their usual hours of operation. The bookstore will now be open from noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays, and until 8 p.m. on the first three days of classes.

"We usually are not open on Sundays," Eckhart said. "So this should be really helpful and convenient for a lot of people."

In addition to supplying students with their academic needs for their classes, the Texas A&M Bookstore also helps Aggies with their financial needs. Each year the bookstore gives a minimum of \$1.5 million back to the students. The money goes toward funding scholarships, the Rec Center, study abroad programs and numerous other activities.

"We enjoy giving back to the school that gives us so much," Eckhart said. "We just want students to know that by buying their books from us, they are actually helping themselves in the end."

It's true that Bryan and College Station are crowded when students return after summer vacation, and yes, the lines are longer. There is more traffic, and parking rarely is available in the Zachary lot. However, there is a silver lining to this dark cloud. These long lines and overcrowded parking lots mean that Texas Aggie Football is right around the corner.

## TRANSITION

Continued from Page 3A

ration was a difficult transition.

"It was really hard because [my boyfriend and I] were so close during the school year, and then all of a sudden, we were 180 miles apart," she said. "Long distance relationships, when all you have is the phone, are not fun."

Students are not only missed by their peers but also by employers.

Elizabeth Neff, a library specialist in the Library Annex, hires student workers every year and depends on their help.

"I depend on my students heavily [and] without them I would not have a job," Neff said. "I always miss them and am glad to have them back in the fall."

Many students also miss the busy lifestyle Bryan-College Station has to offer. From clubs to late night restaurants, Aggies miss the constant action.

Christina Polemenakos, a sophomore business major, returned to her hometown for the summer and said she craved the constant bustle of student life.

"I missed clubs and other fun places being open late, and I really missed the Rec Center," Polemenakos said.

As another year dawns on campus, the bustle of academic, social and personal exploration begin once again. In eager anticipation for the start of a new year, students return from their maroon-starved summers to the place all Aggies call home.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### R&B Singer Aaliyah loses life in plane crash Sunday

NEW YORK (AP) — From the moment the 15-year-old Aaliyah burst onto the scene in 1994 — an R&B singer whose sultry voice, striking good looks and sexy attitude belied her young age — it seemed as if everything she touched became a success.



AALIYAH

Her debut album sold more than 1 million copies, she was nominated for a Grammy twice and even her foray into the movies yielded a surprise hit.

Her career had barely begun to peak when she was killed in a plane crash in the Bahamas on Saturday.

Eight others on board also perished when the twin-engine Cessna they were traveling in went down shortly after it took off; Aaliyah had been filming a video for the next single off her album.

A statement released Sunday by the singer's publicist, PMK, said: "Aaliyah's family is devastated at the loss of their loving daughter and sister. Their hearts go out to those families who also lost their loved ones in this tragic accident."

She is survived by her mother, father and brother.

Aaliyah Haughton was born in Brooklyn

on Jan. 16, 1979, and was raised in Detroit.

Aaliyah's career appeared to be predestined: Her mother, Diane, was a singer, and her uncle, Barry Hankerson, was an entertainment manager who was once married to Gladys Knight. By age 6, she was already on stage, appearing in a production of the musical "Annie."

"I was an orphan, I had one little line," she recalled. "But what I loved about it was just putting the production together, being in the chorus, learning the routines, singing, and doing a little bit of acting."

"That's when I said, I've got to do this forever," she added.

By age 11, she was polished enough to earn an invitation from Knight herself to perform with her in Las Vegas.

But the singer who would have the greatest impact on her career was R&B superstar R. Kelly.

Kelly produced Aaliyah's debut album, "Age Ain't Nothing But A Number."

Aaliyah's next disc, "One in a Million," did even better as she began a partnership with producer/rappers Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott and Timbaland. Among the hits off of that album included the title track and "If Your Girl Only Knew."

Her latest record, the self-titled "Aaliyah," debuted at No. 2 on Billboard's Top 200 albums chart when it was released last month.

**Howdy Ags!**  
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The Texas A&M Campus Ministerial Association provides non-denominational pastoral care for students Monday-Thursday from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at All-Faiths Chapel. Our code of ethics includes:

- Respect for the values of all people regardless of religious background.
- Affirmation of the right of every person to retain his/her own belief system, to privacy, to be left alone, to survey other belief options, and to make their own decisions in freedom.
- Disavowal of behaviors which seek to promote one religion by publicly demeaning another.
- Defense of the human dignity and freedom of all people while rejecting manipulative appeals intended to bypass one's right to critical thinking.
- Commitment to work with administration, faculty and staff to fulfill the educational goals of the university.

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