

## Around town

### Who's Who applications now available

Applications for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will be available at boxes located at eight different campus locations from 8 a.m. today through 5 p.m. Sept. 27. Applications can be picked up at the Commandant's Office, Memorial Student Center, Student Activities Office, Zachry Engineering Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, Kleberg Center, the Office of the Dean of Veterinary Medicine and the Office of the Vice President for Student Services.

### Land commissioner to hold hearing here

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro will hold a public hearing in Bryan on Sept. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Details of Proposition 8 will be discussed. Proposition 8 calls for a constitutional amendment that will provide \$500 million in continued bonding authority for the Texas Housing Assistance Program. The hearing will be conducted at the Brazos Center, room 106, 3232 Briarcrest Drive. The public is invited to attend.

## Welfare officials to take steps to make department aware of missing children

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas welfare official said Monday steps will be taken to make staff members more aware of missing children following the mistaken return of a kidnapped child to his abductor last month.

The child, 21-month-old Michael Fitzgibbon, is now back with his real mother in Waldorf, Md., after a six-week odyssey with a hitchhiking 14-year-old babysitter.

Their reunion might have taken place earlier had he not been mistakenly turned over to Tammy Lynn Giles, of Waldorf, the babysitter who, according to police, took the boy from his family while baby-sitting him.

Bob Hayworth, program director for child welfare in the Texas Department of Human Services, said there are no plans to reprimand the case workers who returned the little boy to Giles about a month ago.

Hayworth said he does not expect to make changes in the documentation required of people claiming to be a child's parent.

"I can't think of anything of hand" that could be done, Hayworth said.

"We're going to review with the staff the situation of children that are missing," he said. "I hope that

will make us more aware. . . . We attempt to look at whether a child is maltreated. When they're not, it's difficult."

Hayworth noted that there are so many missing children it is difficult to be aware of every case.

He said he was unable to discuss the specific case of the Fitzgibbon child. But earlier, Bill Betzen, a night supervisor with the welfare agency, had said the little boy seemed to know Giles when she arrived to get him.

He said no documentation other than personal identification is required.

"This one obviously slipped through," Betzen said.

Workers did not question Giles on the basis of her age, he said, because "there are many 14-year-old kids that can pass for older." Plus there are people that age that have children in this town, Betzen added.

Police records show that on Aug. 14, four days after Giles arrived in Dallas, the child was found wandering on a busy south Dallas street. Police turned him over to welfare workers.

The following day the boy was returned to Giles because she was able to identify the boy, Betzen said. He said the child also seemed to know her.

## Beetles destroy \$51 million in Texas timberland

Associated Press

NEW WAVERLY — Southern pine bark beetles in East Texas forests have infested about 55,000 acres of pine forests during the past year, destroying a record \$51 million worth of timberland, officials said.

The loss represents 55,000 acres of pine forest, including about 25,000 acres of national forest land, experts said. The lost acreage equals about 15 percent of the forest's new growth each year.

"The general public does not realize this beetle is destroying more wood than forest fires," said Gordon Steele, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

Steele said that since Oct. 1, foresters have detected 5,460 acres of pine beetle infestation in Texas' 665,112 acres of national forest, 2,400 more acres than the previous year.

The problem, however, is not limited to national forest lands. Bruce Miles, director of the Texas Forest Service, said about 14,960 infestation spots in about 12 million acres of commercial forest land in East Texas has been detected.

Officials said the Sam Houston National Forest, which cuts through parts of Montgomery, Walker and San Jacinto counties, has been hit hard with 2,516 reported infestations — more than double that of any other forest in the state.

Many believe the outbreak can be explained by the history of national forests in the South. Steele said most pines in the national forests are nearing 60 years of age and therefore more susceptible to insect diseases.

Pine beetles mate and nurture young in a pine tree's cambium layer and strips the tree of its water and nutrient supplies in the process. The beetles can kill a mature pine in a week, and a swarm of the insect can move 50 feet per day, officials said.

George Russell of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter said national foresters made the forests even more attractive to pine beetles by emphasizing pine cultivation over other types of trees.

"By destroying the natural diversity of the forest, they are creating a natural environment for the beetles to thrive," Russell said. "We don't have an epidemic of pine beetles; we have an epidemic of pine trees."

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and M.B.A.'s with technical undergraduate degrees:

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## PROCTER & GAMBLE

will be hosting an open house  
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7:00 p.m.  
MSC, Room 201

Sign up for interviews Sept. 23-Oct. 2

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

### Student Senate Vacancies

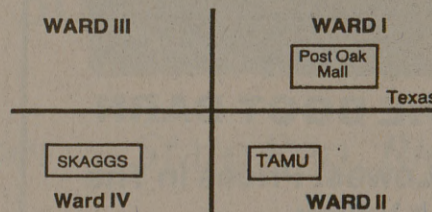
Now is your chance to be a part of a Dynamic Student Voice with Genuine Influence! If you are concerned about the policies that govern your University and your fellow students, don't pass up this opportunity. The quality of student representation at Texas A&M is dependent upon the quality of legislation our senators enact.

- Requirements Of A Student Senator:
- (1) Attend all senate meetings. Fall schedule: Sept 25, Oct 9, Nov 6, Nov 20, Dec 4 7:30 PM 204 Harrington.
  - (2) Participate on one of five legislative committees (Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Finance, Rules and Regulations, Student Services).
  - (3) Report to a student organization that is representative of your constituency.
  - (4) Maintain a GPR of a 2.25 or higher and post at least 2.0 every semester while in office.

### Senate Vacancies:

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Geosciences at Large | 1 Mosher/Underwood |
| 1 Ward II              | 2 Ward III         |
|                        | 1 Ward IV          |

### OFF-CAMPUS WARD SYSTEM:



If you have any specific questions about the senate or student government in general, please feel free to call us.

Laurie Johnson, Speaker of the Senate (696-0760)  
Miles Bradshaw, Speaker Pro Tempore (696-4387)  
(Deadline is 5:00 PM Friday Sept. 20th)