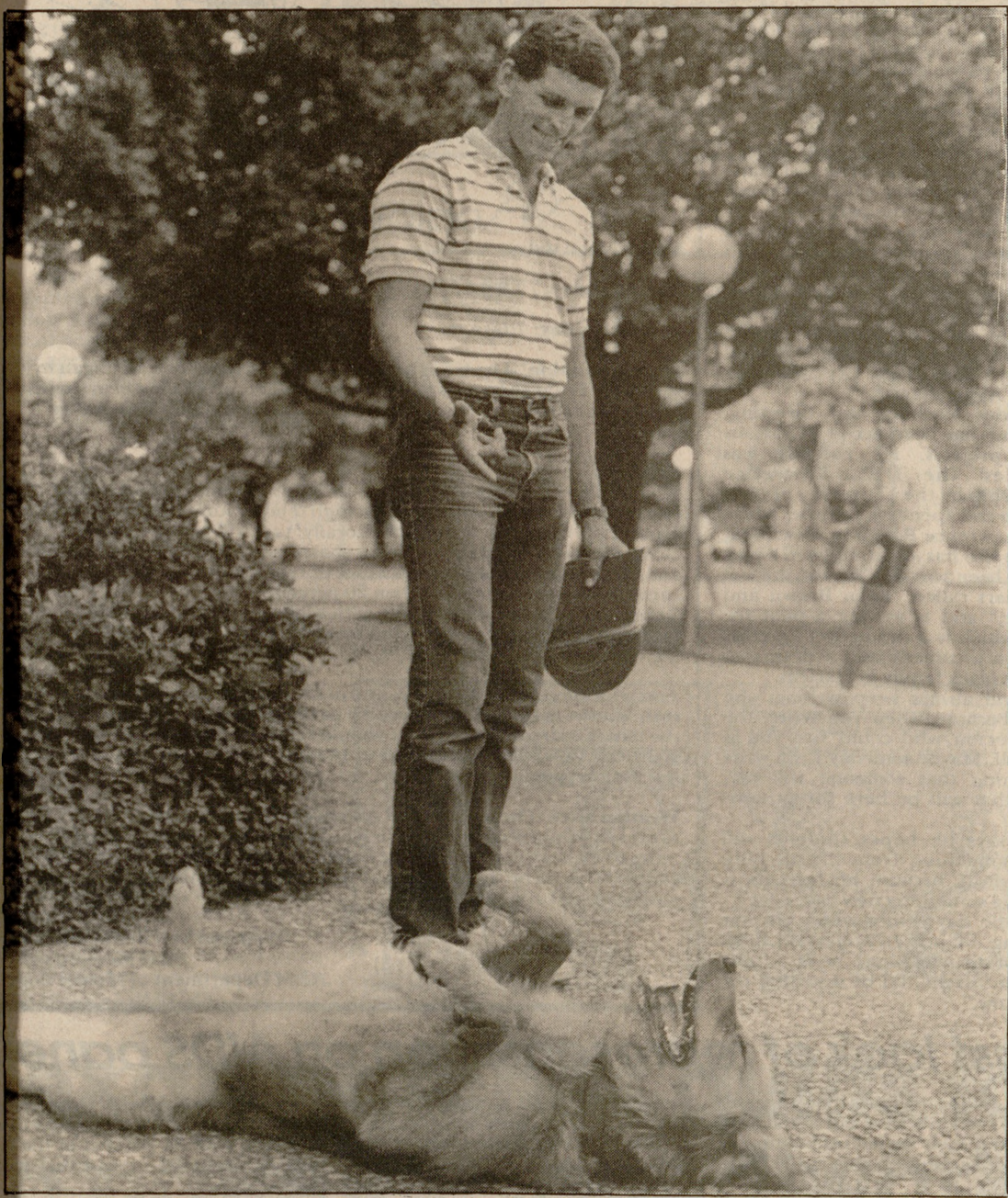


## State and Local

# Crafty canine entertains students with capers



Jim Chesshir tells his dog, Beau, to play dead.

Photo by Marie L. McLeod

By Marie L. McLeod  
Reporter

Entertainment at A&M doesn't always occur on a stage. Many A&M students have been amused by the performances of an entertainer they've seen on campus who performs many feats from catching a Frisbee to a trick called "Bang."

Sitting attentively at his "spot" in front of Nagle Hall, the entertainer awaits commands from his owner, Jim Chesshir, as many students sit anticipating his next trick.

"Do you want to play Frisbee?" Chesshir says to Beau, his 4-year-old registered golden retriever.

Excitedly, Beau goes to his owner, who has a Frisbee in his hand. Chesshir throws the disc and says, "Catch the Frisbee, Beau."

As many students watch in amazement, silently cheering him on, Beau takes off, keeping a close eye on the Frisbee until he snatches it with his mouth. He then proudly carries it back to his master, sits and gives the Frisbee back.

After the Frisbee is put away, Chesshir turns to Beau and says, "Bang."

Beau immediately falls down, rolls over and plays dead for onlookers.

Chesshir, who earned a master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in May, says while he attended A&M, he brought Beau with him when he needed to see a professor. He says he would tell Beau to go to his spot, the left concrete banister of the stairs leading into Nagle Hall, and then would tell him to stay.

Upon Chesshir's return, usually about 20 minutes later, he would take Beau to a nearby fountain to swim, a privilege Beau enjoys, he says.

There, too, he would entertain many as he followed Chesshir's commands. He would dive when told, catch the splash and get out upon his command, Chesshir says. Beau would not shake off the water until he saw his master do a wrenching motion with his hand, he says.

"He's got an incredible vocabulary," Chesshir says. Beau knows many tough tricks outside of the basic ones like "sit" and "stay," he says. Beau is able to follow hand signals as well as verbal commands.

To train his dog, Chesshir says he used the book "Water Dogs," by Richard Wolters, for guidance. The training method he applied was developed at a Seeing-Eye-dog laboratory, he says.

Laboratory researchers identified critical periods of a dog's mental development, he says. Two periods take place during the first 49 days of a dog's life, he says.

On the 49th day, the beginning of the third critical period, it is vital to remove the puppy from its litter because that's when a "pecking order" begins and personality development takes place, Chesshir says. Therefore, he says, he got Beau when the puppy was 49 days old.

The last two critical periods start on the seventh week and continue through the 16th week, he says. That is when the hard-core training takes place, he says.

He says the training is like programming a mind; there is a need for repetition, consistency and association.

While the dog is on a leash, one-syllable commands should be used repeatedly and consistently, he says, stressing the importance of using the same word each time.

Along with a verbal command, a hand signal should be used allowing the puppy to associate the two, he says. Eventually, it will respond to either command, Chesshir says.

Hand signals are vital to a hunting dog, since they enable the owner and dog to remain quiet in a hunting environment, he says.

In order to learn its commands, the puppy needs to spend a lot of time with its master, Chesshir says. He says he felt fortunate because when he first got Beau, he was doing field work as an environmental technician and was able to bring Beau with him. That allowed them a lot of time together, he says.

"It is important to work with the puppy on a daily basis," he says. "I try to take him everywhere I go."

He says he takes Beau running with him frequently. But unlike most dogs, Beau doesn't need to be on a leash because he stays close by Chesshir's side. The only drawback to taking Beau, Chesshir says, is that he knows when they are on the final stretch of the course and sprints it — leaving his master in the dust.

Beau, described by his owner as "a friendly dog and fellow Aggie," has spent a lot of time on campus entertaining students and making friends.

Beau is definitely an Aggie — he wears a Texas A&M collar bought for him by Chesshir's wife, La Dean, Class of '86, and he even has met Reveille.

When Chesshir says, "If you're an Aggie, bark," Beau sits up proudly and barks.

## Court rules cigarette maker must disclose ingredients

AUSTIN (AP) — The makers of Lucky Strike cigarettes must disclose their secret ingredients to a woman who claimed 36 years of smoking "Luckies" killed her husband, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The court rejected American Tobacco Co.'s request to overturn Austin State District Judge Peter Lowry's January order forcing the company to release the ingredient list sought by Nadia Leanora Dyer.

The Austin woman has sued American Tobacco in connection

with the lung-cancer death of her husband Gerald Wayne Dyer, who was 62 when he died last year.

Lowry's order says that only Mrs. Dyer's attorney and expert witnesses can see the ingredients.

American Tobacco argued that even that limited disclosure amounts to a "drastic ruling." According to court records, the company did not want to list the ingredients as anything more specific than "flue-cured tobacco, air-cured tobacco, oriental tobacco, humectants, proprietary flavoring and paper wrappings."

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Troy McDougald  
Richard Moore  
Terri Remmert  
Lanny Shope

Cynthia Webb  
Sarah White  
Kristina Zinke

### HOUSTON

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Scott Bryant  
Vincent Burkett  
Scott Cloud  
Nancy Coleman  
Peter Czerniakowski  
William Despaign  
Shawn Drummond  
Brian Elliott  
Barry Garrett

Sandra Goeking  
Deborah Haass  
Elizabeth Hardin  
Dwayne Hart  
Naomi Hewitt  
Liz Hill  
Beth Janssen  
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Karla Kroiss  
Maria Melgosa  
Jennifer Monroe  
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Steven Savitz  
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Jacqueline Sentmanat  
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Julie Stremmel  
Sandra Tanner  
Beth Thompson  
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Buff Weathersby  
Patricia Weber  
Fritz Weiss  
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Leslie Whitmeyer  
Ronald Wood  
Joan Woodward  
Nadine Zeigar

### OTHER

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Kathryn Cedeno  
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