

## Centerpole rolls into Aggieland



Mary Macmanus/THE BATTALION

Senior Redpots and a senior Centerpole Pot roll half of Centerpole off the Gray Ghost on Thursday afternoon at Bonfire site. Centerpole will be assembled this weekend and put up next Thursday. Work on stack will begin soon afterward.

## Doctoral students to face possible tuition increase

By Andrea Taormina

THE BATTALION

Students who exceed 130 hours beyond their master's degree while working on their doctoral degree will not pay the same tuition rates as other doctoral students beginning in the fall of 1995.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, executive associate provost, said a perception exists in the state Legislature that some students were taking too long to finish their degrees.

"Some students were reported as having 200 hours, and they did," Gaston said.

The perception is that if the state is giving money to these schools for graduates with excessive hours, it would be better to take it back and put it in the big pot for higher education in Texas, Gaston said.

Gaston said a coordinating committee estimated the amount of money that A&M would lose to be \$463,000. This figure was based on calculations for doctoral students with more than 130 hours. The Board of Regents must authorize the tuition change, Gaston said, and there has been no decision made yet because the policy does not take effect until 1995. The regents ordinarily act on matters of changes and costs at

their March meeting, he said.

The coordinating board calculated cost that students with hours in excess of 130 would have to pay based on the tuition rates of out-of-state residents. A typical non-resident pays \$206.85 for first credit hour, and nine credit hours typically costs \$1716.00 per semester.

Dr. Dan Robertson, director of the office of graduate studies, said it usually takes about 32-35 hours to complete an M.S. M.B.A. at A&M. The typical doctoral program takes about 96 hours to complete without a master's degree and a minimum of 64 hours with a master's degree.

It can take up to 10 years for some students to complete their doctoral degrees, he said.

Doctoral students enroll in research classes that do not meet with instructors. They look for a topic they want to use for their dissertations. The research involved in the dissertations is what takes them so long to finish their degrees, Robertson said.

The Legislature amended its original position on the subject by enacting legislation, and it reserved the right to change its mind again when it convenes in two years.

## Execution date set for pickax killer

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Convicted pickax killer Karla Faye Tucker faces lethal injection Nov. 19, but a prosecutor said Thursday the courts likely will delay what would be the first execution of a woman in Texas since the Civil War.

State District judge Pat Lykos this week set the execution date, which falls just one day after Tucker's 34th birthday.

But Tucker still has an appeal pending before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and there are other legal avenues available to her should the court refuse to grant her a stay.

"I would not really look for her to be executed Nov. 19," Harris County prosecutor Shirley Cornelius said.

"It's still got to go through the federal courts. I'm not going to say that it couldn't happen. But normally the first time through the federal appeals process,

they'll get a stay somewhere," she said.

Since 1982, Texas has executed 69 men, by far the highest total among states with capital punishment. But a woman has not been put to death in Texas since Chipita Rodriguez was hanged in 1863 for the murder of a horse trader.

Velma Barfield, executed in North Carolina in November 1984, is the only woman who has been put to death in the nation since the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed the death penalty to resume.

But Cornelius said she believes it's just a matter of time before Texas executes one of the four women now on death row.

"I don't think the citizens of Texas really care about the gender issue when it comes to death row inmates," she said when asked about public reaction to putting a woman to death.

"I think the crimes really speak for themselves," Cornelius said.

Tucker was convicted of capital murder in the June 13, 1983 slaying of Jerry Lynn Dean, 26.

## Post Oak Mall upgrade nears completion

By Jennifer Kiley

THE BATTALION

After four months of construction, the renovations to Post Oak Mall will be complete Nov. 1.

Tami Wood, manager of Post Oak Mall, said the renovations were done to upgrade the 10-year-old mall.

"We needed to look brighter and fresher and offer a pleasing environment to compete and increase our sales," Wood said.

Renovations to Post Oak Mall include repainting the mall, adding bands of neon to the skylights, installing new plants, ash cans and trash cans

and upgrading the three entrances and landscaping.

"We are also redesigning the Food Court," Wood said. "We have put in new skylights, new planters and new seats. It will look totally different when it is finished."

Scott Thompson, a mall customer, said the renovations are an improvement to Post Oak Mall.

"The renovations will improve the look of the mall, which will attract more business and help the community," Thompson said.

Despite construction throughout the mall, Wood said the number of customers has increased.

"I did a report for September and traffic throughout the mall was up 8 percent," Wood said. "We have fared well through the dust and dirt."

Post Oak Mall has tried to make shopping as convenient as possible for customers during the renovation period, she said. Most of the construction takes place at night when customers are not present.

Chris Halbrook, a mall customer, said he does not think renovations are necessary.

"It seemed OK to me before," Halbrook said. "I don't know why they're spending the money to change it."

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Juniors: Nov. 15-Dec. 3  
Sophomores: Dec. 6-14

Pictures are being taken at A R Photography, located at 707 Texas Ave. S., near Taco Cabana, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
For more information, call 693-8183

If you did not purchase your picture in the Aggieland during teleregistration, it can be purchased in 230 RDMC for \$1.  
1994 yearbooks can be purchased in 015 RDMC for \$25.

**AGGIELAND 1994**

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