

**STUDENT**

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"Ever since he started scout-  
ing, I've taught him how to  
think positive and quit being  
negative," he said.  
Gonzalez went on to make a  
video for United Way portraying its  
support of scouting and the com-  
munity. He said when the video

was presented to members of For-  
tune 500, he was approached by  
LLP-KPMG-Peat Marwick, a "Big  
Six" accounting firm, which later  
offered him an internship.  
Gonzalez was awarded the Eagle  
Scout Court of Honor Badge the  
summer before his senior year  
in high school. He said becoming  
an Eagle Scout was an honor.  
"Eagle Scout is one of the

most prestigious awards you can  
receive," he said. "Eagle Scouts  
have been presidents, astronauts  
— the first man on the moon was  
an Eagle Scout."  
Gonzalez now volunteers at the  
Boys' and Girls' Club of Brazos  
County and is a pledge with the  
Omega Delta Phi fraternity.  
He said he does not go home  
often, but when he does, he tries

to influence neighborhood chil-  
dren who are in the position he  
was once in.  
Gonzalez said the changes in  
his life have surprised people.  
"People always tell me, 'You  
can't do this or you can't do that,'"  
he said. "They say 'You aren't going  
to college because you're not smart  
enough to go to college.' I always  
like to prove people wrong."

**SMOKEOUT**

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Programs have been geared  
toward youth during the past 20  
years because an increasing  
number of smokers began the  
habit during adolescence.

The American Cancer Soci-  
ety estimates more than 70 per-  
cent of adults who smoke be-  
gan smoking daily by age 18,  
and 14 percent of high school  
students are frequent smokers.  
"The programs are to plant a  
positive message in their head that they  
should never start smoking in  
the first place — but in a fun,  
lighthearted way," Boone said.  
Nationwide, teachers will  
teach their middle school students  
a certain time for the Great

**"People look at  
you different  
when you smoke  
on campus than  
they do in the  
bar."**  
Danielle Daly  
Senior computer science  
major

American Smokeout Scream, in  
which they will scream as loud  
as they can against smoking.  
For high school students, a  
nationwide Great American  
Smokeout Pledge asks students  
to sign a contract saying they  
will either stop smoking or nev-  
er start.

The Texas A&M Cancer  
Awareness Society is working  
with the Bryan-College Station  
chapter of the American Cancer  
Society to find a local bar to  
sponsor a night of games and  
socializes. The bar has not yet  
been chosen.

Rhonda Simper, vice presi-  
dent of the A&M Cancer Aware-  
ness Society and a senior biolo-  
gy major, said the goal is to  
encourage people to put down their  
cigarettes.

"If they can be distracted  
and concentrate on getting  
their minds off having a ciga-  
rette in their hand for 20 min-  
utes, maybe tomorrow they can  
stop for 40 minutes and pro-  
gressively stop completely," she  
said.

To help reduce smoking in  
public areas, the University, lo-  
cal businesses and restaurants  
have implemented no-smoking  
policies.

Smoking is banned from all  
buildings on the A&M campus,  
along with certain University  
vehicles and outdoor arenas  
such as Kyle Field.

Simper said the A&M Cancer  
Society and local chapters  
make a small impact, but it is  
hard to make a significant one  
because cigarette ads are so  
pervasive.

"Just the other day I saw an  
ad where you can get a nice  
cigarette for so many proofs of  
purchase," Simper said. "Pro-  
motions like that just make it  
really hard to compete." When  
A&M instated its smoke-free  
policy, students who smoked  
found themselves standing out-  
side to have a cigarette or  
stopped smoking on campus.

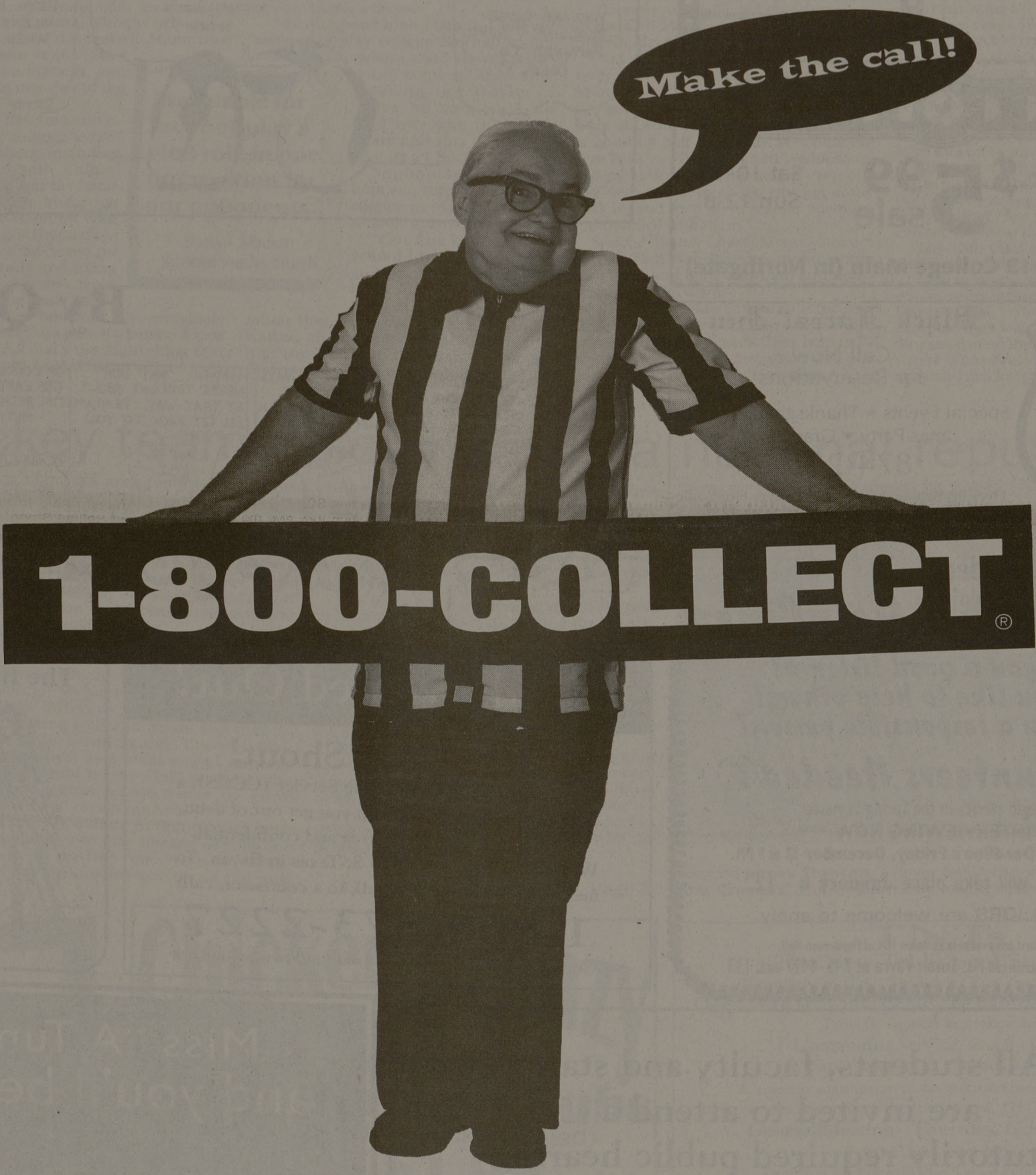
Valerie Nethery, a sopho-  
more biology major, said she  
hoped there were more ash-  
trays so she wouldn't have to  
throw cigarette butts on the  
ground, but the policy or lack of  
ashtrays will not keep her from  
smoking.

"I'm going to smoke any-  
where, anytime I please," Neth-  
ery said.

Danielle Daly, a senior com-  
puter science major, said she  
does not usually smoke on  
campus because she notices  
that people are judgmental.

"People look at you different  
when you smoke on campus  
than they do in the bar," Daly  
said. "A lot of people only like to  
admit they smoke when they  
are in a bar."

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