

# Northside Highlander

## A&M student adds a touch of Scottish culture to campus by playing bagpipes

By Travis Irby  
Staff writer

As the afternoon stretches into dusk, the cool fall air is filled with the sound of bagpipes. It is not Scotland, it is somewhere on the Texas A&M campus, thanks to the efforts of John Scholl, a freshman history major. Scholl has been playing the bagpipes since he was in grade school. "My school was a small private one encompassing grades K-12," Scholl said. "Our band only really had the bagpipes and the drums, so I chose the bagpipes." Scholl said he has had many years to hone his skill with the pipes. "I have been faithfully practicing since the fifth grade," Scholl said. The bagpipes are not a common instrument for American high school kids, even though the instrument's imagery is apparent in society. Films like *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy* have romanticized the musical instrument along with kilts. Cody Lemons, a senior nuclear engineering major, said the sound is a unique experience. "I think for many people who enjoy bagpipes, it takes them to another place, so to speak," Lemons said.

Scholl enjoys taking listeners to another place. "My favorite thing is performing," Scholl said. "If the conditions are right, I'll be there." Scholl said he has performed in numerous places around campus. He has played in front

**"I think for many people who enjoy bagpipes, it takes them to another place, so to speak."**

**CODY LEMONS**  
SENIOR NUCLEAR ENGINEERING MAJOR

of his residence, Hart Hall, the Northside Quad and many others.

Scholl said one of his favorite performances took place a couple of weeks ago on campus.

"Several weeks ago I played at Rumours," Scholl said. "It was great just to get up there and play."

While the pipes can play both lively upbeat music as well as slow melancholy tunes, they can be hard to learn and handle.

"It is different from your typical wind instrument," Scholl said. "You have to fill the bag with air and as you expel the air, manipulate it through the reeds. If you don't do it correctly, it just isn't going to work."

Scholl said when he plays depends on the weather.

"If it is very cold, it is hard to get a feel for the reeds," Scholl said. "If it is rainy, the reeds and bag might get damaged."

While avoiding bad weather is a practical reason, Scholl's preference for playing during the day has a more personal one.

"It's no fun to play in the dark," Scholl said. While many may marvel at the exotic nature of Scholl's musical choice, he said he thinks of himself as just another guy with an instrument who enjoys making music.

"It really isn't a big deal to me, I just like to play and I've been doing it for awhile," Scholl said.

Ian Supak, a senior English major, said he enjoys hearing the bagpipes.

"It is very cool to hear them playing, it is something unique on this campus," Supak said.

Supak said while the music is not for everyone, many people like it.

"I know some people think the sound is akin to fingernails scratching on a chalkboard," Supak said. "I really like the sound of bagpipes."



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION  
John Scholl, a freshman history major, learned to play the bagpipes in grade school.



The following are several haunted houses in the Bryan-College Station area hosted by campus organizations:

**Hotard From Hell:**

Date: Friday, Oct. 31

Time: 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission is \$2 or 3 canned goods.

**Kappa Sigma Wicked Woods:**

Dates: Oct. 30, Oct. 31, Nov. 1

Time: Dark till 1:30 a.m.

Located at the woods behind Kappa Sigma house on feeder road off of Highway 60.

Purchase tickets through Marooned Records and Rothers Bookstores

**Texas A&M Vet School:**

Dates and Times:

Oct. 29 - Kids' Night 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Oct. 30, 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.  
Oct. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Nov. 1, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Located at the Vet School on the corner of Agronomy Rd. and University Dr.

Purchase tickets at the door.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL

Dear Student,

The quest for diversity in education has been a challenge for Texas law schools recently. In the aftermath of *Hopwood*, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals case which determined that race or ethnicity could no longer be used as a factor for admissions purposes, law schools in Texas have seen a troublesome decline in applications by minority students - a decline we hope is temporary.

As deans of Texas law schools, we are concerned that the publicity flowing from the *Hopwood* decision is misleading. Here is the truth: we want you to apply to our law schools, which provide welcoming and supportive environments for all people of all cultures and beliefs.

A minority presence in our law schools allows a variety of interpretations on legal issues. Students of color, of varying cultures and socio-economic status, bring to the classroom perspectives drawn from their varied experiences. People of diverse backgrounds bring different interests, ideas, values, and causes that serve all members of society. Law schools thrive on the free and constructive exchange of differing viewpoints.

Admissions policies and financial aid policies will be continually reviewed and fine-tuned to help us achieve the diversity we feel is important to legal education. Minorities are needed in Texas law schools and in the legal profession. We urge you to apply.

**Dean Bradley Toben**  
Baylor University School of Law

**Dean Stephen Zamora**  
University of Houston Law Center

**Dean Harvey Wingo**  
Southern Methodist University School of Law

**Dean Frank T. Read**  
South Texas College of Law

**Dean Michael Sharlot**  
University of Texas School of Law

**Dean Frank Newton**  
Texas Tech University School of Law

**Dean Frank K. Walwer**  
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law

**Dean McKen V. Carrington**  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law