

**HAUNTED HOUSE**  
Northgate frightfest offers scare-lovers a haven of haunts.  
AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3



**TRICK OR TREAT**  
• Aggies ready to take on Oklahoma State University's Cowboys in Halloween showdown.  
SPORTS, PAGE 7



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**FRIDAY**  
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# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Texas A&M student indicted

*Sophomore faces charges of indecency with a child.*

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

A Texas A&M University student was indicted in Brazos County for indecency with a child after receiving an indictment for the same charge in Brazos County.

Nathan George Howard, 19, was released on a \$100,000 personal recognizance bond after he was arraigned on Tuesday to Brazos County authorities.

Howard faces accusations in two incidents reported June 24 in Burleson County, in which a boy and a girl said Howard had touched their "private areas" when he was babysitting the children, according to police records.

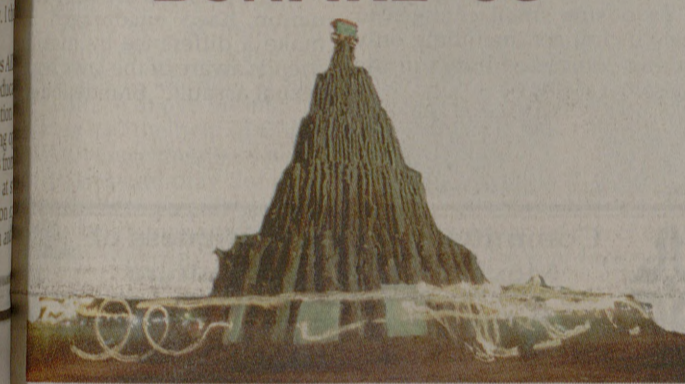
A grand jury indicted Howard on Oct. 8 for indecency with a child, a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, and if convicted, he may be eligible for probation on the first felony conviction.

Jim Locke, assistant district attorney for Brazos County, said the arraignment and pretrial hearing have been scheduled for November but no trial date has been set.

Howard, a sophomore electrical engineering major, volunteered at Grace Bible Church and led AWANAS, a Bible study and activity program for youth.

Travis Bryan III, Howard's attorney, declined to comment on the indictment Thursday.

## BONFIRE '98



## Centerpole arrives today

BY KRISTIN STOCKTON  
The Battalion

The construction of Bonfire will kick off with the delivery of Centerpole to the Polo Field today at 4 p.m. Blaine Lewis, head stack for Bonfire and a senior management and finance major, said the arrival of Centerpole is an exciting moment because it signals the beginning of the building of Bonfire.

Centerpole is the backbone of Aggie Bonfire," he said.

Centerpole is made of two poles of southern yellow pine that are tied together to make one pole. The poles are donated from a mill in Lufkin, Texas.

Members of the Aggie Bonfire committee sent people to Lufkin Thursday to pick up the poles. When they return to College Station the poles will be hidden until they are delivered to the Polo Field this afternoon.

Rusty Thompson, assistant director of the Department of Student

Activities and staff adviser to Aggie Bonfire, said both the delivery and erection of Centerpole are big moments for Aggie Bonfire.

"The arrival of Centerpole is the official beginning of the stack activities out at Bonfire," he said.

Until Centerpole arrives and stack begins, most of the work involves cutting the wood that is used to build Bonfire. The first cut was the weekend of Oct. 3, and cut has taken place every weekend since then. Those working on Bonfire have also been unloading the wood from trucks and "swamping," arranging the logs according to size so that when building begins, the proper size logs are easy to find.

Saturday morning, the Centerpole will begin splicing the poles together to make Centerpole. The splicing process will continue through next week and will be completed by Thursday.

SEE CENTERPOLE ON PAGE 2.

## Congress grants student tax exemption

BY AMY DAUGHERTY  
The Battalion

Congress recently passed legislation that will exempt Texas public university students from paying federal Social Security taxes. The bill was authored by U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm and U.S. Rep. Bill Archer, both of Texas.

Gramm said in a press release 47 states, excluding Texas, have had payroll tax exemptions for 15 years. He said the new legislation will help Texas schools recruit the best students by making Texas' schools more financially attractive.

Larry Neal, Gramm's press secretary, said Texas university administrators have expressed concern about the tax and say they have been at a disadvantage because other states have had this legislation for years.

"It left Texas colleges at disadvantages in trying to recruit students and more than that, it was an issue of equity," he said. "It simply wasn't right to the kids in Texas and it needed to be fixed."

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for the Department of Student Affairs, said the new tax exemption will benefit students.

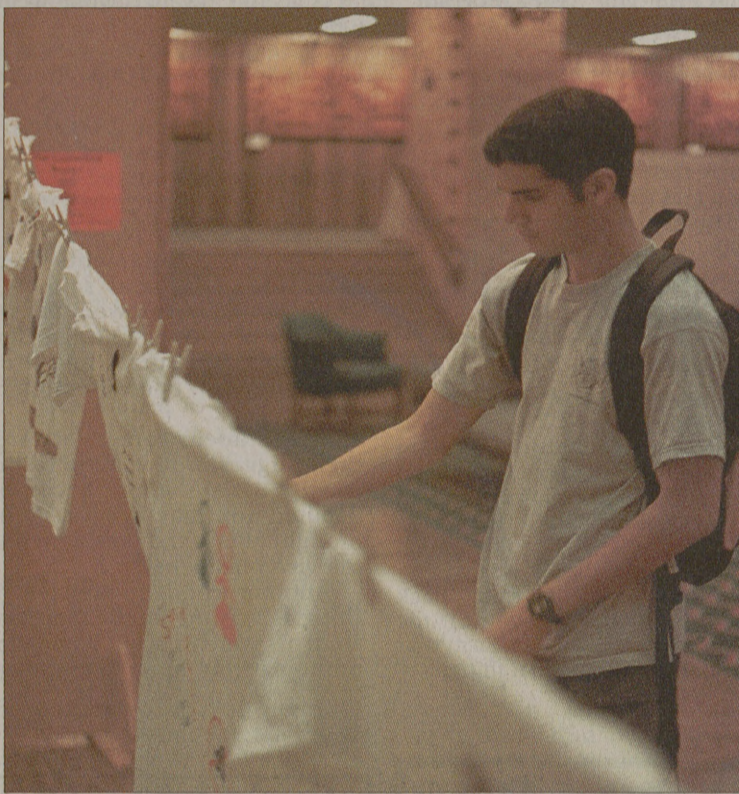
"[The passing of the bill] should be a good thing," he said. "It puts a little more money in the students' pockets."

Bill Krumm, vice president for Finance and Controller, said with the tax exemption, student workers will benefit financially.

"It puts more cash in their [students'] pockets when they have full-time [academic] status," he said. "It saves the University and the state, but eliminates FICA deduction."

SEE TAX ON PAGE 2.

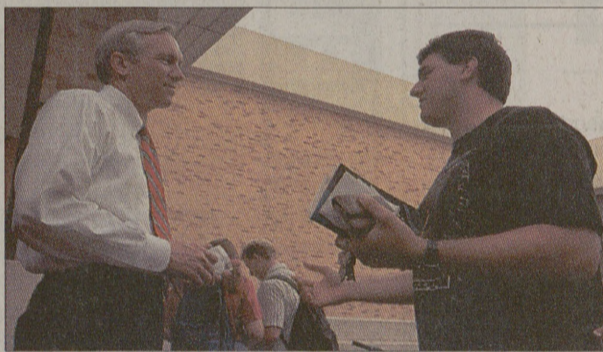
## Airing their laundry



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Richard Smart, a senior wildlife and fisheries sciences major, views the Clothesline Project at the MSC Flagroom Thursday. The project allowed students to paint T-shirts to raise awareness of domestic violence.

## Ogden visits campus



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

Texas Sen. Steve Ogden said the 5th District, in which he is running for re-election, is particularly important to the Texas Legislature because it includes higher-education institutions like Texas A&M University.

"Higher education is a very big deal in the 5th District," Ogden said. "Our tendency is to focus on national government. There is no other district in Texas that has a greater interest in state government than ours."

Ogden said the 5th District includes 19 counties, 600,000 people and more than 10 percent of Texas' public school districts. The 5th district is the home of Sam Houston State University, Prairie View A&M, Blinn College and other junior college campuses.

Ogden said there is interplay between school districts and the way communities identify themselves. "Government is a big deal," Ogden said. "There is a direct and close correlation between the kind of state government we want and the private sector that ultimately has to pay for it. I can't think of another government entity that plays a bigger role in the lives of the people of this district than the state government does."

Shawn Stewart, a senior bioenvironmental sciences and agricultural systems management major, talks politics with Steve Ogden outside the MSC Thursday afternoon. Ogden was on campus campaigning for Tuesday's election.

SEE OGDEN ON PAGE 2.

## Survivor speaks out about rape

BY NONI SRIDHARA AND JOE SCHUMACHER  
The Battalion

Aggies Working for a Rape-free Environment, MSC Great Issues and Gender Issues Education Series presented a forum called "He Said/She Said" Thursday in Rudder Theater to discuss sexual assault issues with realistic scenarios presented by Katie Koestner and Brett Sokolow.

Koestner was a victim of rape during the third weekend of her freshman year at the College of William and Mary. Since her attack, Koestner appeared on the cover of Time magazine and has spoken out against "a crime of silence" by making appearances on television shows such as "Oprah" and "Larry King Live," as well as making speeches at over 600 colleges, high schools and military institutions in the



ERIC NEWMAN/THE BATTALION

Katie Koestner speaks to students about surviving date rape at the "He Said, She Said" presentation in Rudder Theater Thursday night.

United States.

Koestner said when she was 18 years old, date rape was not recognized because most rape incidents were thought to be committed by strangers, but now it is known that in 84 percent of rape occurrences, the victim already knows the attacker.

Koestner said she hopes the presentation prompts awareness about date rape.

SEE RAPE ON PAGE 2.

## Panel discusses Q-drops, copy costs

BY MEGAN WRIGHT  
The Battalion

Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and a panel of five University vice presidents fielded questions from students and faculty about topics such as the possible changes in the Q-drop policy last night on the television program "Ask the President" on KAMU.

Vice President for Administration Dr. Jerry Gaston, Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Ronald Douglas, Vice President for Development Dr. Robert Walker, Vice President for Finance and

Controllor Dr. William Krumm and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland participated in the question-and-answer session.

Issues discussed during the broadcast included the current Q-drop policy, parking on campus and the 170-hour cap, also known as the "slacker bill."

Questions were solicited from a studio audience, as well as from viewer calls.

Douglas said no definite plans had been made regarding the possible changes to the current Q-drop policy.

SEE PANEL ON PAGE 2.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Garth Brooks books Reed Arena concert

A College Station stop on the Garth Brooks World Tour is expected to be announced at a special press conference today at Reed Arena.

The country musician is expected to book three dates at the arena and to be joined by fellow country musician Trisha Yearwood.

The concerts are scheduled to take place Nov. 19-21.

### RHA opens doors to trick-or-treaters

The Residence Hall Association is sponsoring an RHA Halloween night for the community Saturday.

Residence halls will open their doors to children wanting to trick-or-treat on the Texas A&M campus from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Parents and their children may gather in the Rudder Fountain area between 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. to play at the game tables and win prizes.

Texas A&M students wanting to help escort trick-or-treaters to the residence halls can meet at Rudder Fountain at 5:45 p.m.

### Contest focuses on healthy eating

"Make Five Come Alive," a poster and bookmark contest sponsored by the Health Education Department, will give students an opportunity to promote healthy eating habits.

Cheryl Martin, a nutrition student assistant at A.P. Beutel Health Center and a nutrition major, said students entering the contest must design a poster or bookmark promoting eating five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Judges will select one poster and one bookmark to receive an award.

Martin said the entry deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and judging will be on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Winners of the contest will receive cash awards.

Martin said the contest has been made possible because of the Graves Award grant the Health Education Department received.

The department has decided to use the grant to emphasize the importance of eating fruits and vegetables to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

### Committee member discusses Olympics

Brian Dougherty, a former Texas A&M student, will speak Monday to the Sports Management Society about his experience working on the U.S. Olympic committee.

Dougherty interned with the committee as an undergraduate and was later offered a job that allowed him the opportunity to work the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. in 274 Read Building.



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray M. Bowen takes a question from Adrienne Ballare, a junior journalism major, at Thursday night's "Ask the President" presentation.