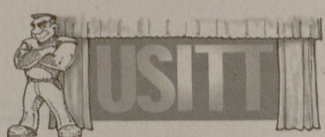


**THE ART OF THEATER**  
New organization caters to technical side of stage productions.  
GGI LIFE, PAGE 3



**LAUNDRY DAY**  
• Student Senate's Aggie Bucks washer proposal deserves support of student body.  
OPINION, PAGE 9



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# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Freshman cadet files sexual assault complaint

BY JENNIFER JONES AND AARON MEIER  
The Battalion

A freshman member of the Corps of Cadets reported to University Police Department he was sexually assaulted by a sophomore cadet. Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said the freshman filed a complaint with the department Wednesday against the sophomore. Wiatt said the sophomore was questioned Friday and de-

nied the allegations.

Bryan Hager, commanding officer of P-2, the outfit of which both male cadets are members, and a senior industrial distribution major, said the freshman alleged the sophomore propositioned to perform oral sex on the freshman.

Hager said the sophomore had been drinking prior to alleged incident.

Hager said after the complaint was registered with UPD, the sopho-

more cadet was removed from the dorm and placed on suspension from the Corps.

Wiatt said the freshman cadet decided not to pursue the matter criminally and signed a non-prosecutive affidavit Monday, which withdraws the complaint from UPD.

Wiatt said the freshman wants the matter to be looked into by University administration.

The matter will be investigated by Student Conflict Resolution Services.

As of Monday, Dr. Brent Patterson, director of the Department of Student Life, said the matter had not been formally tendered by UPD to SCRS, but he has been informed of the matter.

Patterson said the freshman will be briefed about the procedures involved in a SCRS investigation and must express the desire to have the University pursue the matter.

SEE CADET ON PAGE 2.

## Forum to address Northgate violence

• Merchants, administrators and University leaders to gather for discussion.

BY JOE SCHUMACHER  
The Battalion

MSC Great Issues and the Northgate Safety Awareness Committee are sponsoring an open forum tonight at 7 in the MSC Flagroom to discuss safety awareness in the Northgate area.

Students, University officials, representatives from local police and other members of the Bryan-College Station area are expected to be in attendance.

"The forum will give [students] a chance to voice opinions in front of an attentive audience," Amy Magee, speaker of the Student Senate and a senior psychology

major, said. "This will allow us to move past being a sounding board and to focus on solutions."

Tatsuki Ohashi, president of International Student Association and a senior history and international studies major, said the purpose of the forum is to let students speak out on this issue. He said then the organizations can look at all their options and decide what needs to be done.

The forum will start with a brief history of the situation in the Northgate area. Students will then be given the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Possible solutions to the violence in the Northgate area will also be discussed.

The Northgate Safety Awareness Committee has compiled a list of 42 possible solutions that it will present to those in attendance. Ohashi said the solutions are arranged into three categories: public relations, diversity awareness and physical means.

SEE NORTHGATE ON PAGE 2.

## Suicide attempts increase at finals

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

As finals and term-project due dates near, suicide attempts become more common on many college campuses, the associate director of Student Counseling Service said.

Kerry Hope, an associate director of Student Counseling Service, said at the end of each semester there is an increase in suicide attempts because of stress building up and finals approaching. She said the holidays are also a time when the number of suicide attempts increase, but there is no way to generalize the cause of suicide attempts because situations affect each person differently.

"The important thing to remember is that what may be stressful for [one person] may not be for [someone else]," she said. "The holidays may be a nice break for some people."

Hope said for the 1997-98 academic year, Student Counseling Service recorded 19 suicide attempts and 18 suicide threats, and she said the numbers have stayed fairly consistent in recent years.

**"The critical thing is to not be scared to talk about it. It's a temporary crisis"**

— Kerry Hope  
Associate director of Student Counseling Service

Hope said it is important for people who have thoughts about committing suicide to seek help. She said Student Counseling Service is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and HelpLine, a student-volunteer hotline, is available to students after regular hours during the week and 24-hours during the weekend.

She said a common myth about suicide is that people who express thoughts about suicide will not actually attempt it, and she said that is not true.

"The one thing we know is that suicidal crises are time limited," she said. "If [people experiencing suicidal thoughts] have some intervention, they're not going to want to [fulfill the thoughts]. The critical thing is to not be scared to talk about it. It's a temporary crisis."

Ann Reed, associate director of medical services at A.P. Beutel Health Center, said Beutel physicians not only work with students who have attempted suicide, but they also counsel students.

"If for some reason they can't get into the Student Counseling Service, we do see them over here," Reed said. "Sometimes we work with the Student Counseling Service. [They work with the students from] the counseling angle, and I, for example, prescribe medicine. We both follow the patient's progress. We see them back periodically."

Reed said part of the reason students go to the Health Center rather than to Student Counseling Service is they do not want others to know they need assistance.

"Here they can be seen along with the colds and sore throats, and nobody knows what they're here for," she said.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said suicide attempts are not often reported to UPD, but in the event of an attempt, officers report to the scene to offer assistance.

## Memory lane



BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Bill Wuestenfeld, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, views presidential memorabilia at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex Wednesday afternoon. Wuestenfeld is in Texas visiting friends in Houston and drove to College Station to take a tour of the library.

## Crisis center offers online counseling

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

The assistant director of the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center said the anonymity and the confidentiality of the online counseling services have provided an outlet for rape victims seeking counseling without revealing their face, name or phone number.

Sherry Hostetter, assistant director of the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center, responds to clients who seek online counseling and said victims can log on to the Website without disclosing their names, residence or perpetrator's identity.

"Victims are more likely to seek help online than through a phone call or a walk in the door," Hostetter said. "A lot of times people refrain from calling hotlines because they fear caller ID. People do not want to walk through the door because they fear they will be seen."

The Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center Website went online in February 1997 and received its first online client in May 1997. Since then, the Web page has received more than 12,000 hits. Hostetter said more than 500 people have sought online counseling — with 206 clients in 1997 and 300 clients to date in 1998.

Hostetter said clients from France, Spain, England, Thailand and Ireland have used the online services.

"We have people from all over the world write us," Hostetter said. "Another area of people we wanted to target were people living in rural areas and people living in other countries who do not have access to counseling services."

Hostetter said the online counseling seeks to reach out to teen-age rape victims and male victims who are less likely to seek counseling for fear of revealing their identities.

"Our ultimate goal is to use this as short-term support counseling and to get them counseling in the area," Hostetter said. "We try to get them to open up to us and then recommend a rape crisis center in their area."

SEE COUNSELING ON PAGE 2.

## Organization lights up campus

BY AMANDA STIRPE  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M campus will glow tonight when the Winter Spirit of Aggieland, sponsored by the Student Government Association, lights the trees along New Main Drive, the Jack K. Williams Administration Building, the parking garages on Northside and Southside, and the residence halls with white lights for the holiday season.

The event will begin at 6:15 p.m. with entertainment provided by the Texas A&M Jazz Band, the Aggie Wranglers and Dance Arts Society. The yell

leaders and redpots will attend the event, and people will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Reveille.

A press release provided by University Relations said the goal of the event "is to promote hospitality between Bryan-College Station residents and the student population of Texas A&M."

Businesses, individuals and groups on and off campus had the opportunity to purchase a decorated tree on New Main Drive for \$100 to benefit the event. In return, a plaque is placed next to the tree to recognize the donation.

Refreshments will be available for attendants of the lighting ceremony, and door prizes will be given away for people who donate nonperishable food and clothes for the "Camping for a Cause," a 24-hour food drive sponsored by SGA.

The food drive will benefit the Brazos Food Bank and Twin City Mission. Drop-off points are at the MSC, Reed Arena, Sbsa Dining Hall, Commons Lobby and the Wehner Building.

The lighting ceremony will follow the entertainment and is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

## Comet debris at root of meteor shower

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN  
The Battalion

Every year around Nov. 17, the earth collides with debris from the Comet Tempel Tuttle, and part of the world may experience a fireworks display known as the Leonid meteor showers.

Dr. Ronald A. Schorn, a visiting assistant professor of physics, said the most intense showers happen every 33 years, and this year Earth should get a pretty good show.

Schorn said the Tempel Tuttle is a typical short-period comet which is similar to a big snowball made of snowflakes

and particles of dust.

"No particles from a meteor shower have ever made it to the ground," he said.

Dr. George W. Kattawar, a professor of physics at Texas A&M, said the only potential damage the shower can cause are to the satellites which orbit the earth.

"The particles are tiny, but they travel at a velocity 200 times that of a speeding bullet," he said. "These little grains can penetrate the thin layer of a satellite and damage the electronics."

Schorn said engineers have already taken precautions and turned some satellites off or away from

the direction of the meteors, including the Hubble Space Telescope.

Kattawar said before the particles enter the atmosphere, they are called meteoroids, and once they are in the atmosphere, they are called meteors.

"Most people call them shooting stars," he said.

Kattawar said the showers may last up to 12 hours and will climax at 1:45 p.m. today.

"Unless, the shower is exceptionally large, our part of the world will probably not see anything because of the daylight," he said.

SEE METEOR ON PAGE 2.



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STUDENT \$4  
NON-AFFILIATED \$6  
OV. 26-28