

• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the suspension of the Somerville police chief.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



• Aggies meet their match

Matchbox Twenty performs in front of a crowd of 6,000 at Reed Arena.

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Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 96 and a low of 63.

THE BATTALION

FRIDAY

September 15, 2000
Volume 107 - Issue 16
12 pages

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Aggie arrested for harrassing Internet messages

By BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

A Texas A&M student was arrested Friday and charged with sending harassing Internet messages.

James Fenner Montier, a junior business administration major, admitted to the University Police Department (UPD) that he sent the messages to a woman via a Website created as a memorial for her 14-year-old daughter, who died in a 1999 car accident, said Bob Wiatt, director of UPD.

"We contacted [Montier] Friday," Wiatt said. "He admitted doing it, and we arrested him."

Wiatt said the first occurrence was an "obscene" text message sent on Aug. 8. A second message was sent later that day and in-

cluded a "very horrible" image in addition to a text description of Montier's sexual fantasies, which included the girl's corpse.

"The text that accompanied that [second message] was about the most revolting thing I have ever seen in my life," said Wiatt, a retired FBI veteran. "He was talking about what he was doing with her daughter."

Montier could not be reached for comment.

Wiatt said the girl's mother contacted him on Aug. 17 and claimed that the message came from an A&M lab.

Wiatt said the woman's claim was inves-

tigated and both messages were traced to the A&M campus. The first was sent from Montier's residence hall room in Hobby Hall, a Northside coeducational residence hall. The second message, sent later that day, was sent from the student worker office in the Student Computing Center (SCC), Wiatt said.

Wiatt said UPD investigators were able to pinpoint Montier because he was logged on to the computer from which the message originated at the time it was sent.

A student supervisor at the SCC, who requested anonymity, said the student worker office is the Help Desk located in the center of the SCC. The source said SCC student workers do not have special access privileges that would allow them to hide their identity or impersonate random students any more than student users can. He said student work-

ers are required to logon to their work accounts while on duty at the SCC, but do not have administrative access.

"They have certain privileges to manage the print queues, but those are only granted to their work account," he said.

Wiatt said Montier intended the messages as a prank, but discovered he had sent Internet messages to other people.

"We were able to verify that [Montier] sent similar messages to a lady in Indiana and England, who also had Websites for their child who had been killed recently," he said.

Montier sent "similar graphics and text" to the other two mothers, Wiatt said.

Not only did Montier send messages to the Indiana and England mothers, but he hid his identity by posing as the Maryland mother, Wiatt said.

Montier's case is the first Internet harassment case to be prosecuted in Brazos County. Montier has been charged with a Class-B misdemeanor, which could carry a punishment of 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine. The case is being prosecuted by the Brazos County attorney's office.

"The problem with the Internet is that it is hard to control," Wiatt said. "Freedom of speech allows people to have a lot of access."

"The Brazos County attorney does not prosecute Internet harassment because it is difficult to prosecute unless it is [child] pornography or bestiality. However, the messages were so disgusting that he decided to prosecute."

Wiatt said Montier posted \$10,000 bail and was released shortly after his arrest.



MONTIER

Condom dispensers suggested

By STEPHEN METCALF
The Battalion

Despite its many resources, Texas A&M on-campus housing lacks at least one amenity found in almost any gas-station bathroom — condom machines.

For sexually active on-campus residents, the problem goes far beyond any desire for glow-in-the-dark "novelty" items or "love kits." It is a matter of having access to safety.

Officials at A.P. Beutel Health Center said that the A&M campus is not free of the dangers of unprotected sex, which include unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, human papillomavirus (HPV) and AIDS.

"Across the board, chlamydia is more common than any of the other bacterial infections on campus, although we have seen pockets of gonorrhea cases," said Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator and HIV/sexual health specialist at the Health Center. "As far as viral infections that are common on campus, HPV and genital herpes are kind of kind of neck and neck."

"They have them in the dorms in snack machines. So you can get a coke and a condom for under \$2. It's a pretty good deal."

— student worker
University of Texas-Austin

In order to combat these dangers, Griffith, chairwoman of the A&M HIV/AIDS Committee, said she would like to see "health vending machines" in residence halls. The machines would distribute condoms, painkillers, antacids and other common medicinal items.

Other college campuses have similar systems of condom distribution. A female student worker at the University of Texas-Austin Student Health Center who requested anonymity said UT residence halls are equipped with condom machines.

"They have them in the dorms in snack machines," she said. "So you can get a coke and a condom for under \$2. It's a pretty good deal."

In 1990, the HIV/AIDS Committee recommended to then-A&M President William Mobley that condom machines be put in residence halls and other heavily populated buildings. Mobley opted for a different approach that

See **CONDOMS** on Page 2.

Making the moves



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Erwin Thomas, a 15-year employee of the Physics and Electronics Department, makes his move during a midday chess match. Thomas and his fellow employees have been spending their lunch breaks playing chess for the past two years.

Class of 2000 council initiates gift plans

By SOMMER BUNCE
The Battalion

In the Spring 2000 student body elections, the Class of '00 voted upon decorative clocks strategically placed around campus and a donation to the Bonfire Memorial Fund to be the class gifts.

The clocks will be old-fashioned with "Class of 2000" printed on the tops, said Katie Hanselka, Class of '00 Council president and a graduate student in the agricultural education department, adding that she hopes to eventually

place a larger clock at the site of the Bonfire memorial.

The class council is working on clock details, such as cost and placement, said Peggy Holweiss, Class of '00 student program adviser and a student development specialist for the Memorial Student Center.

The class plans to purchase between three and eight clocks, depending on Physical Plant recommendations, bid

See **GIFT** on Page 6.



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Chris Burke, better known as Corky from the show "Life Goes On," signs autographs after his performance in the Brazos Center. Burke and fellow singers Joe and John DeMasi travel around the United States and Canada.

'Corky' performs at Brazos Center

By PATRIC SCHNEIDER
The Battalion

Known for his four-year portrayal of Corky on the television show "Life Goes On," Chris Burke took the stage at the Brazos Center Thursday at a concert for people with mental impairments sponsored by Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR) of the Brazos Valley.

Opening the concert with the Beatles' song "Life Goes On," the theme song of "Life Goes

On." Burke was joined by twin brothers John and Joe DeMasi, professional musicians and published song writers.

The musical trio travels around the United States and Canada performing 200 shows per year to emphasize that people who are mentally impaired have abilities, not disabilities.

"Everyone should be included in society, and if everyone is not included, then all we have is segregation," Joe DeMasi said.

fireworks shot from the bridge's anchorage. Five helicopters and the Goodyear Blimp — rechristened the "G'Day Blimp" for the games — hovered overhead.

"It's all happening," enthused Lawrence Nethery of Sydney. "The rings look fantastic, but the moon looks even better. One of the best things I've ever been to."

"A lovely day on the harbor," said spectator Lorraine Askew.

Half of the seats outside the opera house went to the general public; the other half went to those attending the Thursday opera program. It created an odd juxtaposition: On one side, rowdy youths held Australian flags aloft and chanted "Aussie! Aussie!" while opera-goers in formal garb applauded sedately on the other.

In the crowd on the quay, chants and shouts erupted after a clarinet player in the crowd performed a slow, haunting rendition of "Waltzing Matilda," the unofficial national anthem.

Afterward, downtown erupted into an exuberant festival of happy anticipation. Exuberant fans popped champagne, guzzled beer and sipped wine in the streets in a manner both jubilant and mellow.

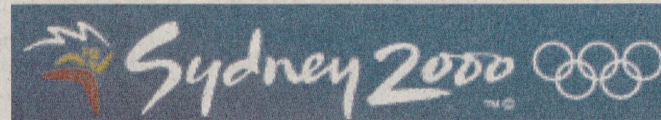
Bocelli was a surprise guest in the torch ceremony. The tenor was driven in a golf cart to the podium, where Gainsford-Taylor, who will be competing in the Sydney Games, brought him the torch. Newton-John,

known best in America for her role in "Grease" and her hit song "Physical," then ran in. The three stood triumphantly, with the torch blazing.

The Olympic torch has been making its way across the world's only island continent since June, carried by a variety of Australians from Aborigines to athletes to a 109-year-old man. Along the way, it has survived a theft attempt and a teenager's novel if ill-conceived attempt to douse it with a fire extinguisher.

Australians who turned out to see the harbor spectacle Thursday night said such events can bring people together and help present their country's best face to the world.

"Anything important always happens right here at the



opera house," Garton said. "Nighttime, it's like fairyland down here."

Added her husband, Allan: "It helps people to forget all the world's troubles."

The opera house, Sydney's signature landmark, opened in 1973 after 14 years of construction. Its unique three-pronged design has drawn comparisons to everything from palm fronds to sails to a Mayan temple.

The torch, which has consistently drawn large crowds as it makes its way to Olympic Park, was passed from Newton-John to tennis pro Patrick Rafter, who carried it on to Sydney's Town Hall, where it blazed overnight.

sing-along album for children, was released in the summer of 1998 and received the Parent's Choice Gold Award for Excellence, the highest award given by the Parent's Choice Foundation.

The group talked about Burke's success story in acting by becoming the first actor with Down syndrome to be cast on a television show.

Burke said his role opened the

See **MHMR** on Page 6.