

# Rape not common in community; officials say 'potential's there'

Editor's note: This is the final part of a story on various aspects concerning rape. This part concerns how the Texas A&M University administration deals with rape.

By KAYCE GLASSE

What does the administration of Texas A&M University have to say about sexual assault on the campus? "There is danger," said Director of Student Services Charles Powell, but he is "hard pressed to come up with one (rape) per year."

Rumors abound among students, male and female, about attacks, assaults, and rapes on campus, but they are rumors and the facts stop there. The police will provide the Battalion with statistics only, and reports of offense the day after the crime, but only when asked for.

Sgt. John R. McDonald of the University Police said if there are rapes, the girls just don't report them. There have been no rapes reported on campus in the past year.

But said McDonald, "The potential's always there."

Powell said there may be increasing foot patrol by the campus police on campus. He said there are relatively few rapes in the Bryan-College Station community and that most assaults of students occur off-campus.

"We do occasionally get weirdos. If we have assaults, we just don't hear about it," Powell said when speaking about the on-campus situation.

Last year there was one assault reported in the Battalion, but others have not been reported to the police or have not been reported to the Battalion through the police.

College Station Police reported no rapes for 1977.

Bryan Police said between January and February 1978, there were two reported rapes. "As to whether they are actual or not, this hasn't been decided," said a spokesman for the force. This means rapes are still under investigation.

If rapes do occur more often than the police say, they need to be reported to keep accurate records, and perhaps provide better protection.

Confidentiality is the key. The University Police keep the victim's name confidential and counselors

use that policy too. The Battalion does not seek to exploit victims, as was exemplified in yesterday's article on this subject. Women should report the crime for the protection and knowledge of others who may face the problem of rape in the future.

## Buildings get new roofs, lots blocked

By ANA QUINTANA

Many buildings on the Texas A&M University Campus will receive new roofs on Monday consisting of polyurethane foam and a urethane material.

form and can adhere to the surface of cars and employees, students and visitors of the campus will be warned as to where to park their cars during this time.

Buildings receiving the new roofs are the Geosciences building, the

Animal Industry building, Harrington Hall, Moore Hall, C. Rollie White Coliseum and the laundry.

Warning signs will be posted and placed around those parking facilities that will be closed and to those areas where work is being done.

# Bigfoot: mystery, myth—and hobby?

Does Bigfoot really exist?

That's the question Texas A&M University's Dr. Vaughn Bryant and 35 other scientists, sociologists and folklorists will be asking themselves at the world's first "Sasquatch and Similar Phenomena Conference" which started Tuesday and goes through Saturday at the University of British Columbia.

The Texas A&M anthropologist will present a paper at the Vancouver meeting on research he's done on samples of alleged Bigfoot droppings and hair.

"I've been interested in the creature called Bigfoot for about the last decade," Bryant said. "I can't yet conclusively say it exists or doesn't exist, even after examining samples of hair and droppings."

"I am, however, very open-minded. I try to objectively examine the information sent me. And I'm in hopes of someday seeing evidence that will either prove or disprove its existence."

Bryant, who claims Bigfoot as his hobby, has examined several hair and fecal samples supposedly belonging to the mammoth creature.

"Out of the three hair samples I've received, two were bear and one was cow," he commented. "I haven't been able to completely decide what made the fecal samples."

"As a scientist I consider all the samples sent me to be what they represent until I can prove otherwise."

Proving otherwise is exactly what

the Texas A&M scientist set out to do in the beginning of his study.

"When I began my interest in the creature 10 years ago I was trying to prove he was a fake," Bryant said.

"I've run across a mass of circumstantial evidence during that time. I'm not ready to say it (Bigfoot) exists, but there is some kind of phenomenon appearing primarily in the Pacific Northwest."

"There are people firmly convinced the creature exists. There are others afraid of having the mystery solved for fear of bringing the creature harm in the process."

"Of course the minute there is conclusive evidence one way or another interest will wane," Bryant said. "Bigfoot is one of the three great unknowns we have left today; the other two are UFOs and the Loch Ness Monster."

"The only way the mystery can be truly solved is through the discovery of some hard physical evidence—not fuzzy photos, blurry motion picture film or tape recordings of the animal's supposed sounds."

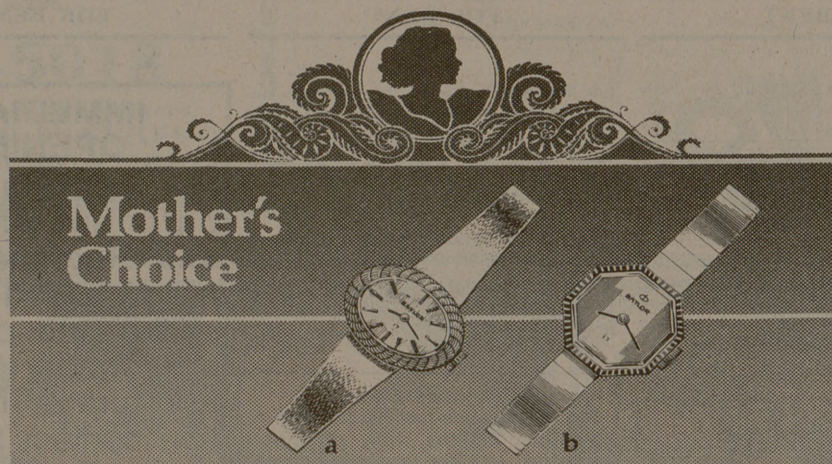
"If we had in our possession one of the creatures thought to be Bigfoot, some bones or even a good hair or blood sample, then we would have the possibility of knowing the truth."

"I'm willing to listen to theories and look at samples of hair and droppings," Bryant said. "But, I don't want to end up looking at every cow chip in the Pacific Northwest."

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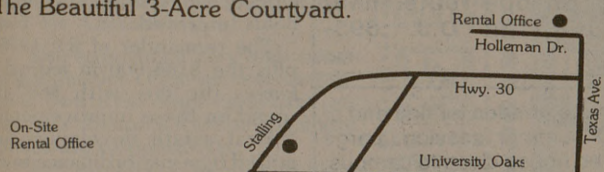
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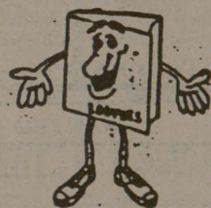
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