## Women's rights seminar planned

By SUZANNE BLACK Special to The Battalion

"I moved here nine years ago. My irst impression was that this was a very oppressive place for women. Nine years ago, the population of Bryan-College Station was just over 50,000. There was a shortage of reources for women — no crisis hot the spirit of local cooperation, not mes, no shelter, few child care or activism.

Today, the population of Bryan-College Station is about 90,000. Women from all over the country make up a large percentage of the migration to this area. When they noved here, they brought their problems and needs with them.

"The conference is designed from an objective approach, rahter than an emotional one,' Rita Marsh-Birch said.

"It's only natural for women to and together for support and to pool their efforts."

These quotes come from Bryan-College Station residents who have mething distinctive in common. They're part of a collection of omen who have joined in an atempt to help women help themselves. The culmination of their efforts is the upcoming conference, "The Legal Rights of Brazos County

Saturday at Bryan High School from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will focus on how state and national laws affect women in terms of family, employment, credit, education and crime. Participants will be familiarized with the county-wide resources available to them. It will be held in

lines, no shelter, tew child care or lamily planning services, few women's organizations and few career opportunities.

"Our divorce was in Dallas.

When he stopped sending the child support payments I thought I'd have to return there to file suit."

"The conference is designed from an objective approach, rather than an emotional one, to give a comprehensive coverage of different issues and problems," said Rita Marsh-Birch, the program coordinator. Marsh-Birch is a member of dinator. Marsh-Birch is a member of dinator. the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the group that initiated the conference.

"The AAUW branches in San Antonio, Houston and Dallas had similar conferences and some of our members who went to one were very impressed," explained Marsh-Birch. That was last April and by June, plans for a local program were under way.

"The other conferences had the cooperation of the local bar association and maybe one or two additional groups. Ours is a bigger conference. Besides the bar associa-

tion, we have 12 other co-sponsors. "Another difference," Marsh-Birch said, "is that Texas A&M University is not officially sponsoring us and our conference isn't being held on the University campus. Each of the other conferences was on a university campus and had the school somehow involved. We decided to get away from the University so we could also reach women other than those at A&M."

Greta Fryxell, president of the Bryan-College Station branch of the AAUW, said there is no doubt that the conference was designed for a coalition, to seek information and services," Shakeshaft said. community audience. "It has been organized by a community-based coalition of groups," she said. "The University would limit our accessi-

Participating in any kind of coalition of groups is new to at least 10 of the 14 sponsoring organizations. It is also their first involvement in organizations as well as the commu-

'Our members aren't involved enough in the community and I think this will help motivate them," said Vera Martinez, president of the Ladies LULAC (League of United

Latin American Citizens) Council. We have our own planned activities, but we thought this conference was a worthwhile project to announce to the Spanish commu-

"We decided to get away from the University so we could also reach women other than those at A&M," Marsh-Birch said.

'We're organized for the purpose of promoting women's studies as a discipline and would only become involved in a project involving wo-men," said Charol Shakeshaft, pres-ident of the student chapter of the South Central Women's Studies As-

There's a need for women to

Shirley Plapp, president of the Altrusa Club, said, "We're definitely interested in things for women and in assisting others in the community through vocational services and scholarships." Altrusa is an executive and professional women's organization.

We haven't been involved in such a community-wide project.

However, the members all seem to feel there will be benefits to their to participate.

such a large group effort before," Plapp said, "We were very anxious to participate.

> "There's a need for women to know more about everything, including legal rights," said Charol Shakeshaft.

"We're certainly interested in ensuring that as many women as possible are aware of their rights," said Merrill Whitburn, president of the Brazos Civil Liberties Union.

Merrill said the Civil Liberties Union recently had its largest meeting ever. He said he thinks many other organizations are going to have a resurgence in membership, and the conference is an example of growing community interest.

"It's in the interest of these different organizations to cooperate in order to be more efficient and effective. I think the community will see more of this," he said. What the AAUW members would

like to see is a continued cooperation between women's groups and between groups concerned with women's rights. Referring to the legal rights conference, AAUW president Fryxell said, "We'd like to use this as a beginning. The conference isn't the end of our objectives.

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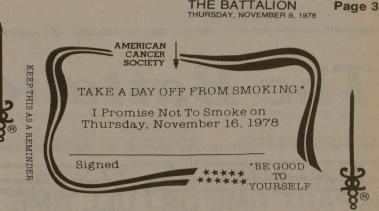
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## Wood cutting begins for '78 Aggie bonfire

By CLAY WEBER

With the Texas A&M Universitythan three weeks away, preparatruck tions are being made for the 1978

All

The bonfire, which symbolizes the ggie students' love for their school and their "burning desire to beat e hell out of t.u. , will be at 7:30 m. Nov. 30, at the intramural

The center pole for the 60-foot-tall bonfire will be raised Friday, at

The cutting of bonfire wood has

et up a "pot dispensing machine" at

Detective Tom Fisher said Wed-

esday the "machine" was in the rm of a booth, and buyers would lide their money through a slot cut

n a door. Police said many of the

stomers were high school stu-

Fisher said a person sitting on a stool on the other side of the door

ould slide a quantity of marijuana and change through the slot and was

Police raided the house, located

ne block from Manual High School,

ever seen by the buyer.

students arijuana, police said.

Denver police raid

pot 'vending machine'

DENVER — Four suspects at a from neighbors, Fisher said. Three adults and a juvenile were arrested

wood for the bonfire from land outside Carlos on Highway 30. Wood is cut at the Carlos area and exas football game a little more transported to the bonfire site by

All Aggies may help with the bonfire preparation. In order to cut wood a person should go to the animal science pavilion between 5:30 and 6 p.m. during weekdays. He will receive a brief course in cutting safety and will receive a "cutting card" which will enable him to work on the bonfire.

The origin of the bonfire is hazy but there is some indication in old Texas A&M yearbooks that the bonalready begun. The Texas Municipal fire began between 1908 and 1912.

Power Agency has allowed Aggies to The old bonfires were made of

adults and a juvenile were arrested

trash, old lumber and outhouses, supposedly unoccupied.

The height of the bonfire tra-

ditionally rose a foot each year and in 1969 reached a height of 109 feet. Concern over the safety of sur-rounding buildings from falling ashes blown in the wind has resulted in bonfires since staying at a maximum height of around 60 feet.

Corps members are required to work on the bonfire. Non-reg students living on campus who wish to work may contact Wendell Pool at 845-1948. Off-campus students desiring to participate may contact Tim Meier at 693-4121.



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