

CS Council to stop drainage flooding

By Steve Thomas
Battalion Staff

The citizens of the Southwood Valley subdivision in College Station will breathe easier now when it rains. The City Council promised in its meeting Thursday to clear out a city drainage ditch that has been flooding lawns on Todd Trail.

Dr. Jeffrey Kern spoke on behalf of a group of citizens who had signed a petition asking the council for immediate action.

Kern said the ditch is currently so full of vegetation that flooding is a constant danger. "The next time it rains moderately heavily there's going to be a flood," he said.

Speaking in calm, quiet

tones, the doctor described his five years of watching the weeds grow and the water rise in the ditch. Two years ago the water at its highest levels began lapping over the ditch's banks, he said, then over his lawn, and most recently, into his house.

And his home isn't the only one affected by the water.

Kern said that every family whose home is along the drainage ditch, except the ones out of town, signed the petition.

"We really feel that the drainage system is adequate if it would just be maintained," he said. In his five years of residence, he had never seen any maintenance performed on the ditch.

City Manager North Bardell said the city had recently leased a "new machine" that could take care of the problem, if the money were allocated.

Mayor Gary M. Halter asked for a motion that the money be set aside, received one, and a unanimous vote of the council approved the action.

"The immediate problem can be corrected," Halter said. Whether this will take care of the long-range problem, he said, remains to be seen.

Bardell pointed out a problem: the machine he intends to use will make it necessary to remove some of the residents' willow trees.

Campus rapes increase

by Julie Ennis
Battalion Reporter

A national trial lawyers publication says the occurrence of rape is increasing on college campuses and suggests that universities could be held liable if they fail to take adequate steps to prevent rape.

Precautions include investigating specific campus areas where past crimes have occurred. If those areas are found to have inadequate lighting, security or emergency telephone services, the college or university can be held liable.

But at Texas A&M, the head of security says reported rapes are rare on the campus and that preventative measures are taken regularly.

Robert E. Wiatt, Texas A&M director of security and traffic said the idea of liability is nothing new.

"Anyone can sue a party if it is found negligent," he said.

Wiatt said the University Police are aware of problem areas and work constantly to correct specific problems such as lighting, overgrown shrubbery, and inadequate police patrols. Patrol officers always are noting areas on campus that might need help, he said.

Wiatt said that in the past two years only three attempted rapes were reported to the University Police, but, he said, only one out of every ten rapes is reported to the authorities.

A retired FBI special agent, Wiatt served two years with the Bryan district attorney's office before joining the University Police in February.

Wiatt described rapists as violent, obtrusive, nocturnal predators who wait for the opportunity to dominate a woman, not necessarily for sexual pleasure.

Wiatt has lectured to organizations and police officers throughout Texas about rapists.

Dealing with a rapist is different than dealing with other criminals, he said. The rapist is a disturbed individual who enjoys humiliation and defilement of women, he said.

Anyone can be a victim, he said, and avoiding the opportunity is half the battle.

Texas A&M has many safety precautions to guard against attackers, he said. The entrances to the modular dormitories are locked after visitation hours. Only the residents have keys. But often they will prop objects in the doors to let their friends enter after hours, he said.

"This defeats the purpose, it is just as easy for a potential rapist to enter," he said.



staff photo by John Makely

No, He Won't Bite

The Saddle and Sirloin Club is sponsoring a Children's Barnyard Wednesday through Friday at the swine, sheep, beef, horse, dairy and poultry centers. Kim

Schraeder, a junior animal science major from San Antonio, shows these first graders from the South Knoll Elementary School a pony at the horse center.

Weekend on horseback Ranch plans trailride

by Edye Williams
Battalion Reporter

There are still 29 spaces available in the third annual trail ride sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Association

of Equine Practitioners. The ride, sanctioned by the North American Trail Ride Committee, will take place Saturday and Sunday, on the Turk and Gowen ranches about two miles off of Highway 30. Students with their own horses, or access to a one, are invited to join in the fun.

SCAAEP will provide a barbecue dinner Saturday at the campsite, riders are required to provide anything they might need.

Ilene Tipton, spokeswoman for the trail ride, said the purpose is to promote good showmanship, to demonstrate proper methods of training and conditioning a horse for such an event, the care of a horse during and after a trail ride and, of course, to have fun.

A \$38 fee and a refundable \$3 deposit, which covers the participants number, information about the ride, a rule book and the barbecue dinner, is all that is needed to enroll in the ride.

Sign in begins at 2 p.m. at the Gowen Ranch. Horses must be checked by the veterinarian before they will be allowed to participate.

The campsite will be Friday night but food will be provided. Tents are suggested but Tipton said most people sleep in their trucks or trailers instead of setting up a tent.

Applications are available through Michelle Glover at 0608 and will be taken until dark.

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The open division, for experienced trail riders, is mapped at 30 miles on the first day and 20 miles on the second day. The novice trail is 18 and 12 respectively.

The trail, which took five weekends to map out, is a series of loops, figure eights and circles that eventually lead back to camp.

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