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Pre-Wed at A&M

by Karen Kroesche and Nancy Neukirchner

All female students majoring in liberal arts, business or education at Texas A&M are really working on an M.R.S. degree. They are enrolled in this institution of higher learning for one purpose and one purpose only — to get a ring on their finger and a man by their side.

So the story goes.

The pre-wed myth is a sensitive subject on the A&M campus. It's rare to find anyone, either guy or gal, who willingly admits that they are actively seeking a spouse. Yet dating and mating are undoubtedly popular pastimes among college students, and the question

remains: Does a pre-wed program exist on this campus?

Ginger Maples, a senior community health education major, says definitely yes.

"I think it (marriage) crosses everybody's mind," she says. "Once students reach their senior year, they realize that they are going to be out of college and that at one point in their life they have to settle down and have a stable life. And they're going to wonder who it's going to be with.

"I think probably everybody goes through that fear," she adds.

Maples has no immediate

plans for her left ring finger, but says she has friends who fit the stereotypical image of the husband-hunter perfectly.

Giving an example, she says one of her pals, who is tying the knot right after graduation in December, has always been preoccupied with thoughts of marriage.

Maples says her friend reads *Bride's* magazine, has always talked about wedding plans, and has known what kind of dresses her bridesmaids will wear — even before she *had* bridesmaids. She doesn't have any major career plans for the future, but instead opts for the

traditional homemaker role.

"A guy I'm dating asked her, 'What are you doing to do when you get out of school?' and she said 'Do you want to know the truth? I want to have a kid,'" Maples relates.

But Maples says her friend is probably the exception rather than the rule.

"I think most of the girls here at A&M, since it's such a difficult school to get into, are the type who make really good grades and want a career first," she says. "They're not so concerned with getting married."

The prevailing notion among students of both the male and

PLEASE SAY "YES," BIFF. THERE ARE ONLY TWO WEEKS TO GRADUATION AND I'M NOT EVEN ENGAGED YET! I'VE WASTED THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF MY LIFE STUDYING WHEN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND WITH THE WIT, CHARM, INTELLIGENCE AND MONEY ... UH, MANNERS THAT YOU HAVE!

