

## State and Local

### Education majors receive real classroom experience

Course gives students taste of teaching

By Lawson Reilly  
Reporter

Anyone watching Mary Nesmith's kindergarten class in Ben Milam Elementary School will notice that one of the "pupils" is larger than the average 5- or 6-year-old.

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, Debbie Vaughn, a sophomore education major, drives to the Bryan school to spend two hours with the kindergartners. While the pupils learn how to count and say the alphabet, Vaughn learns how to teach, she says.

Her work in the kindergarten class is part of a Texas A&M course, EDCI 227, Field Experience in Elementary Education. The course is open to non-majors.

Bob Wright, the course's lecturer, says EDCI 227 is unique because it shows education students what teaching in a public-school classroom is like early in their college education.

Each student gets 72 hours of elementary-classroom experience, working with a teacher in the Bryan or College Station school districts, Wright says.

"Most of them are given a pretty extensive exposure to teaching," he says. "The largest percentage of the students have their dedication to teaching solidified."

But some of the students complete the course and decide they do not want to teach, Wright says.

"That's what we want," he says. "That's what it's for."

More than 2,000 students have completed the course in the eight years Wright has been teaching it, he says, and upon completion they knew whether or not they wanted to teach.

*"I've really learned a lot about the good and bad of the administration. I've learned that teachers have a real problem with discipline."*

— Education major  
Debbie Vaughn

In most colleges, he says, the first time education majors get classroom experience is during their last semester, when they student-teach. But then is too late for them to change their major, Wright says.

"You've got to meet the state standards," he says. "But you can do more than that, and we have."

Modern programming during the creation of the A&M College of Edu-

cation in 1968 and the cooperation of the Bryan and College Station independent school districts made EDCI 227 possible, Wright says.

The schools help the education students and the students help the teachers, he says.

Vaughn says part of her time is spent helping Nesmith with paperwork, but she also works with children individually. During the semester she must teach the class two lessons and create a project for the students to work on.

The education majors are evaluated by the teacher they work with, Vaughn says. The course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

"I've really learned a lot about the good and bad of the administration," she says. "I've learned that teachers have a real problem with discipline."

Vaughn says when she came to A&M she never intended to teach kindergarten. However, she loves working with the children and now has decided to teach kindergartners, she says.

Wright tells his students teaching elementary school is not for everyone.

"It really takes a deep caring," he says. "They have to really care for the child's welfare and the child has to know that they do."

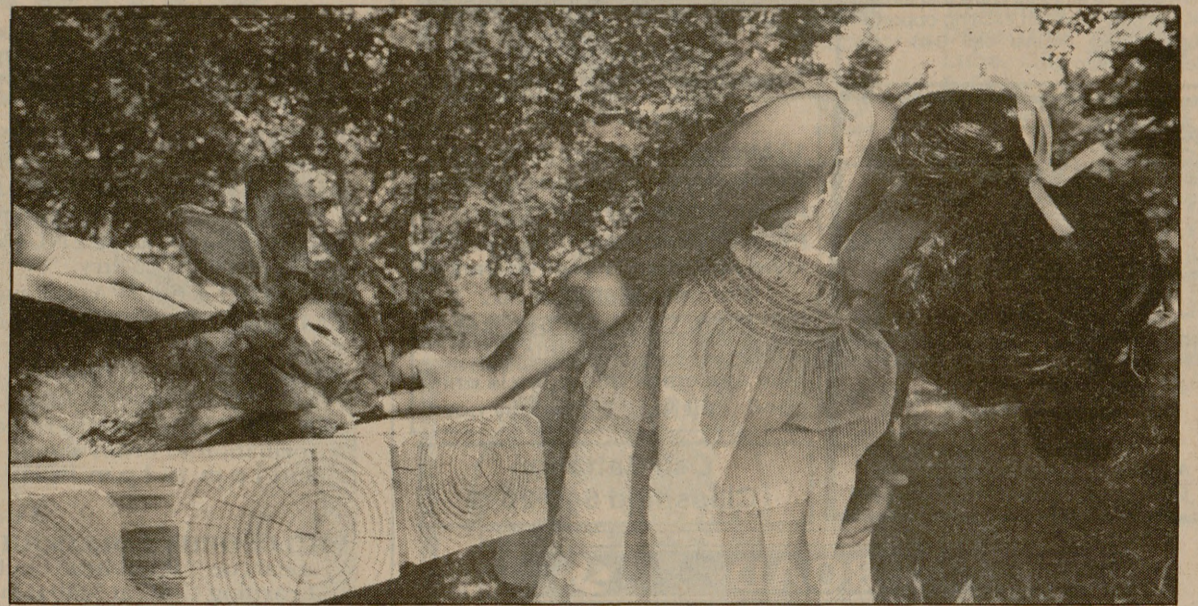


Photo by Tracy Staton

### Anybunny Home?

Sharmeen Esmail, 7, tries to feed a finicky rabbit at the Brazos Valley Museum's Baby Animal Day.

The museum sponsors the petting zoo each Easter to entertain the children after they hunt eggs.

### Shark attacks girl; beaches remain open

PORT ARANSAS (AP) — A girl whose arm was bitten off by a shark remained hospitalized Sunday, but local officials said they will not close beaches to the thousands of Easter weekend visitors.

April Dawn Voglino, 16, of Kingsland, underwent surgery Saturday evening at Memorial Medical Center in Corpus Christi. She was in the intensive care unit in serious but stable condition Sunday, said nursing supervisor D. Brown.

The teen-ager was in chest-deep water near Mustang Island when the shark attacked her Saturday. She was swimming with her father, who pounded on the shark

and carried her ashore after the shark swam away. Voglino's arm was severed about six to eight inches above the elbow in the attack.

Nueces County Commissioner J.P. Luby said the attack was probably an isolated case and would not order the beaches closed.

Luby said Sunday he planned to fly over the area with Coast Guard officials to make observations of any sharks.

"We'll take some action if we see a lot of sharks out there," Luby said. "We've had people bitten before, but nothing as major as this."

# SENIOR WEEKEND 1987

## Senior Bash

Friday, May 1, 8 p.m.  
Texas Hall of Fame, \$5/couple  
Featuring Texas Highriders

## Senior Banquet\*

Saturday, May 2, 7 p.m.  
College Station Hilton, \$30/couple  
Cocktail Hour, 6 p.m.  
Guest Speaker Jack Rains, '60,  
Texas Secretary of State

## Ring Dance

Saturday, May 2, 9 p.m.  
MSC and Rudder Exhibit Hall, \$35/couple  
Featuring Michael, Michael and the Maxx  
Ed Gerlach Orchestra

\* Tickets for Senior Banquet must be purchased by Noon Friday, May 1.

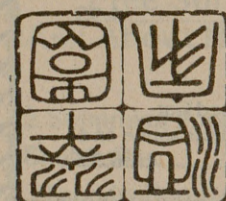
The Senior Weekend Package at \$65/couple, includes all three events. Tickets are on sale at Rudder Box Office at 845-1234. All tickets are presale.

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