



Yvonne Francis, a senior elementary education major, student teaches 1st graders at College Hills Elementary school.

SÓNDRÁ N. ROBBINS

Student teachers train for future

By Terri Welch

Have you ever thought about how Texas A&M University is preparing the students that may teach your kids someday?

It is an important idea to consider, especially since our children will be "the leaders of tomorrow."

"Teaching and education apply to everyone. I want to teach my students to be a good part of society, leaders, people who excel," says Margaret Heffner, an elementary education major from Corpus Christi currently student-teaching second grade at Navarro Elementary School in Bryan.

She says A&M is doing the best job possible.

"I think they have a good education program overall, I really do," Heffner said.

The student teaching program is a 12-credit-hour course taken pass or fail. A coordinating teacher and a supervisor evaluate and work closely with each student teacher.

Susan Kelley, Class of '77 and Heffner's coordinating teacher, says,

"A&M has very good student teachers. They are innovative and always are looking ahead."

Dr. Timothy R. Blair, coordinator of field experience, says, "I think we have one of the best programs in the state and one of the most cooperative relationships with the schools."

Opportunities to teach through A&M include three urban areas and various local and rural areas.

"Administrators from all over say our students are the best they've had," Blair said.

He says this is because the program is demanding and not an automatic pass to teaching.

"Contrary to popular belief, student teaching here is tough. That is because teaching is tough today," he said.

Heffner feels the same way and gave some advice to people wanting to get into education.

"Make sure that you know it is going to be extremely hard work," she says.

The job is time-consuming, requiring an abundant amount of planning

and organization, Heffner said. Then she stressed planning again.

"Planning is the key to teaching. If you can have all of your materials ahead of time and plan, then you will be organized," she said.

She is thankful for the opportunity to find out what the classroom situation will be like and says the evaluations are important.

"They usually tell me the good and bad things I am doing and suggest improvements or give encouragement," Heffner says.

Field experience prepares students for the real thing, Blair says.

"Teachers aren't born, they are made. Knowing your content is not enough; you need knowledge of how to teach," Blair says.

He says no recipe exists for a sure way of teaching, so A&M implements current research on teaching effectiveness, and the student teachers are evaluated on that basis.

"Student teachers are given a lot of written feedback. One quality of our program is that students know they

will have people tell them what is right and what can be changed," Blair said.

The benefits of teaching are worth all of the hard work, Heffner says.

"I love my kids," Heffner says. "They are well-behaved and love to learn and read. My cooperating teacher is wonderful and we get along great."

"The rewards, as far as helping the kids and seeing them grow, far outweigh anything else," she says.

It is easy to see the joy of teaching in Heffner's expressions and her cooperating teacher has only positive remarks to make.

"I have been really impressed with Margaret," Kelley said. "She brings in extras and keeps the children up to date on what's going on around the world."

Heffner wants to teach in inner-city Dallas eventually.

"I think there is a real need there. I think God has really blessed me and I want to give some of that back," Heffner said.



Christy Claxton (left) and Stacy Leider (right) of Dream Horse entertain a small crowd Friday night at AnNam Teahouse.

SÓNDRÁ N. ROBBINS

AnNam serves up musical variety with Coffeehouse

By Rob Newberry

A mix of acoustic music, humor, and relaxed performances by local talent was on the menu at AnNam Tea House Friday. AnNam held the second of its weekly Coffeehouse shows; this one began around 8 p.m. and lasted well past 1 in the morning.

To open the show, Don Hancock was joined by Dream Horse's Christy Claxton for "Blowin' in the Wind." Hancock continued with a mix of covers and some of his own tunes, plus a few

words about political and world events, before yielding the stage to Dream Horse.

Dream Horse ran through a set of their regulars — songs from their release *Primitive Dreams*, some other originals and basic acoustic folk-rock covers. Stacy Leider, the other half of Dream Horse, introduced her "Jesus Loves the Little Children," explaining that the band hoped people of other faiths would share some of the ideas

in the song. And that was how most of the evening was scheduled. Hancock would play a short set and converse with the crowd, then Dream Horse took the stage for a longer set of their material.

Later in the evening, Hancock joined Claxton and local musician Todd Martin on violin for a few songs.

The treats were a few impromptu performances by local talent. Carrie Decker took the mike for some origi-

nal folk music. Later, Chris Carroll played some acoustic country-rock songs, plus the funny "Copenhagen," that had the audience laughing all the way through.

According to AnNam's proprietor T.C. Nguyen, the Coffeehouse shows are living up to expectations. "The open mike lets us be open to all differ-

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Band With No Sleep wakes up fans at Kay's

By Rob Newberry

Bryan-College Station's own Band With No Sleep rocked audiences at Kay's Cabaret on Saturday night. With a fair balance between originals and cover tunes, these guys entertained the audience by playing old favorites, and maintained originality with some strong numbers of their own.

The Band With No Sleep's sound draws on the standard rock four-piece setup, with one exception — with Scott Eddy and Don Overby both playing lead and rhythm, they might as well just flip a coin to see who is going to show off with some interesting solo work. The band rounds out its rhythm section with Mark Pollard on bass and backing vocals and Dave Goff on drums.

Overby and Eddy are regulars at Kay's. According to Eddy, the two of them play there on Thursday nights without the band once or twice a month. "We really just like to have a good time on those nights," Eddy said. "We'll play Johnny Cash songs with

words from The Who."

So that explains the crowd's reaction at Kay's — they already know about these guys. Eddy and Overby warmed up their guitars before the show to fans in the balcony yelling, "Scott Eddy Rules!" But the fact that the band didn't have to prove anything to the crowd didn't slow them down; they still put on a great show.

They opened their set with "She's Like the Wind" — Overby announced after it was over that it was just a sound check, but the song came off well anyway. Eddy and Overby both contribute a lot to the guitar work on the tracks; in most of the tunes, each of them will do a solo, trying to outdo each other within the rules of a clean blues-rock style.

The band also threw in covers like CCR's "Susie Q" and the Stones' "Under My Thumb." Classic songs like these are easy material for a band, but the Band With No Sleep manages to pull off something

more than average with standard tunes; they throw in a little more jamming and always make room for two solos — one for Eddy and one for Overby.

Pollard took the microphone for ZZ Top's "She Loves My Automobile," a favorite with the crowd at Kay's. But they swept back into some of their own stuff with the bluesy "Johnny" and "Holding Back," as well as "Down By the River."

The Band With No Sleep has recorded an eight-track cassette scheduled for release Feb. 28 at Tip-py's. They've also signed up to participate in Austin's South By Southwest Music Conference, but Eddy says they haven't been confirmed yet.

For some good rock jamming to classic rock that's more than just a drunken sing-along, check out the Band With No Sleep — you'll also get a taste of some decent original tunes with lots of blues-rock influences. And if clean guitar work is what you like, this band is a must-see.

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