



JENNIFER LOCKARD/The Battalion

Hollie Greer and Dearest Nutall, second graders at Ross Elementary School, write a story about frogs as Alice Prendergast, of Houston, looks on. Prendergast is a participant in Writing Buddies, which is a project affiliated with other members of her reading 467 class.

## Sexual assault seminars offer tips for prevention

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The first of a four-part workshop held to educate students about the risk of sexual assault and avoiding such encounters was held Tuesday night in The Grove.

The workshop is sponsored by several campus organizations, including the Golden Key National Honor Society, the National Organization of Women, the Off-Campus Aggies, the Panhellenic Council and the Residence Hall Association. The workshop, which combines both verbal and hands-on instruction, is the first of its kind at Texas A&M.

"We're co-sponsoring the workshop as one of our campus projects," said Tawny Britton, president of the Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women. "Our organization is fo-

cus on rape prevention and awareness, and this opportunity came along at the right time."

Monday's session included presentations from Cpl. Betty Lemay and Lt. Bert Kretzschmar of the University Police Department, as well as a discussion from William Harrison of Kappa Sigma.

An officer of the Guard Room spoke about the escort service that the Corps of Cadets provides to students, and representatives from the Hotard Escort Service were present as well.

**"A woman is at the most risk for attack from the time she steps on this campus in September until Thanksgiving vacation."**

- William Harrison, President of Kappa Sigma Fraternity

Lemay and Kretzschmar discussed general safety measures, focusing on the definition of rape, the profile of a rapist and active and passive resistance, including the use of mace, tear gas, stun guns and body alarms.

"We need practice working on personal safety," Lemay said. "It's necessary to build an attitude of survival, and always value yourself above the criminal."

Harrison spoke about the problem of acquaintance and date rape. He provided statistics about date rape and emphasized the need for holding the seminars this



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Cpl. Betty Lemay speaks at the first of a four-part assault workshop Tuesday night.

time of year. "A woman is at the most risk for attack from the time she steps on this campus in September until Thanksgiving vacation," Harrison said.

Additional workshop sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. until Oct. 15. The sessions will focus on the fastest way to flee from an attacker, basic techniques for terminating an assault and practice for perfection under panic.

A Rape Speak-out held in conjunction with the workshop will take place Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Rudder fountain area, and a film festival entitled "Street Smarts" will be sponsored by the University Police Department on Oct. 19 and 20.

## Mud damages Fish Pond, official says

By MACK HARRISON

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Student enthusiasm on Fridays before home games has filled the Fish Pond with excited Aggies — and a great deal of mud.

Melanie Vanlandingham, project manager for landscape design for the Physical Plant, said students are jumping or being thrown into the Fish Pond the day before the Aggies take to Kyle Field. She said the mud from students' clothes costs the school over \$1,200 to clean it up each time, and could end up damaging

the system. "Part of the problem is students have begun jumping in on the Friday before a game," Vanlandingham said. "That's not a part of the tradition."

Rusty Thompson, Northside area coordinator, said he had not been told about any students, with the exception of the yell leaders, being dunked in the Fish Pond.

"That could be considered hazing," Thompson said. "The only people to be thrown in are the yell leaders. That's the only activity (at the Fish Pond) that has been approved by the University."

Texas A&M strives to present a favorable impression to the thousands of visitors here for home games. Vanlandingham said the school was lucky that maintenance workers were able to clean up the fountain that evening.

"The first time we were able to catch it," she said. "But if we don't and no one reports it, (the Fish Pond) will be black for the football game. That would just be a black eye to the University."

Students need to be aware of the history behind the Fish Pond, Vanlandingham said. The pond and the area around it have been

developed as a park and been designated as a memorial site to Aggies killed in wars.

"It has a lot of meaning to the campus," Vanlandingham said. "I don't think students realize the importance of the Fish Pond to A&M."

The Fish Pond was built as a gift from the Class of '38. Recently, the Class of '77 donated \$15,000 to renovate the pond and another \$35,000 for upkeep.

"Their whole purpose was to have the fountain working year-round," she said. "Before, it only ran during football season."

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