

Getting a kick out of life



Raun Nohavitzka/The BATTALION

Students and faculty play an informal soccer game Monday on Simpson Drill Field. The student vs. faculty soccer game has been played three days a week for nearly 15 years. New players are always welcome.

Coping with rape Local police, counselors offer help to rape victims

By Melissa Jacobs

THE BATTALION

Although the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center receives more than 150 cases a year, only about two rape cases are reported to University Police Department every year.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said only one out of 10 rapes is reported to the police.

"The Rape Crisis Center has so many calls about rapes because of the reluctance to report the crime to a law enforcement agency," he said. "Some victims feel too much embarrassment and guilt when the rape happens. Then, six months later, they want to talk and call the Rape Crisis Center."

Of the six rapes reported to UPD in the past three years, five were date rapes. "Usually the scenario is the girl goes to the boy's room, or vice versa, and things get out of hand," Wiatt said. "Intoxicants are usually involved."

The most recent rape reported to UPD occurred about three weeks ago when a woman got into a man's car on campus and was driven to Bryan where she was raped, Wiatt said.

UPD only handles rapes that happen on the A&M campus. When A&M students are raped in Bryan or College Station, that city's police department handles the case.

"All law-enforcement agencies have specific jurisdictions," he said. "UPD is a full police agency. We all work together but can only investigate in our jurisdiction."

Wiatt helped establish the Rape Crisis Center, which opened in 1983, and served as president for three years.

Susan Vabre, a counselor at the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center, said the center provides support and information to rape victims.

If sexually assaulted, the victim is taken to the emergency room and hospital officials call the center.

"We send out volunteers to support the victim while they are going through the rape exam," Vabre said. "We provide information about pregnancy testing and AIDS testing, and we are also a liaison between family and friends who are in the waiting room during the exam. We keep them informed."

The Rape Crisis Center is staffed by volunteers who must take a 40-hour training class three times a year. The course is state-certified, and everyone who answers the hot line must take the course.

The rape crisis center recommends that victims report the crime to the police so the rapist may be caught.

"The first thing we tell them is to report it and we give them their options of reporting," she said. "If they don't want to give their name, they can use a pseudonym or just give the details of the rape."

Dr. Janet Winniford, assistant vice president for student services, stressed the benefits of reporting rapes to the police.

"People involved in sexual assaults may be repeat offenders and by reporting rapes, the police at least have some record," she said.

However, the decision is completely up to the victim.

"We try to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of the survivor," she said.

The rape center offers advice to anyone who is put in an uncomfortable situation.

"We stress following instincts," Vabre said. "Most of the time the gut reaction is the right thing to go by, but it depends on the situation. Screaming and hollering may be good in some situations but not in others."

The Department of Student Affairs distributes a booklet on rape to faculty and staff who come in contact with rape victims. It contains recommended procedures for helping students who have been assaulted.

Winniford said the booklet also provides information about psychological services, counseling services, medical services, judicial services and legal options.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the UPD is also active in rape prevention.

In 1993, they received the award for the Best Crime Prevention Unit in Texas.

Local polls open today for primary elections

By Melissa Jacobs

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students can vote for county, state and national offices in the Democratic or Republican primary elections today from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Phil Meuret, president of Texas A&M College Republicans, encourages students to vote in the primaries.

"We are one of the main reasons College

Station is on the map, and anything that affects College Station affects us," he said. "We should have the largest voice in what goes on."

Meuret said candidates are aware of the impact students have in this area.

"Students could decide on all of the candidates if they all voted," he said.

Mary Ann Ward, county clerk, said there was a very light turnout in early voting this year.

"The percentage of students that do vote

varies," she said. "They usually vote heavier in presidential elections than they do in gubernatorial elections."

Angie Scarmardo, coordinator of the Democratic Party of Brazos County, said it is important to vote in the primary elections.

"You see a need to vote," she said. "Maybe something has not been done that another candidate can do."

Mary Elaine Galloway, Bryan city secre-

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The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor
1995 AGGIELAND

The editor of the 1995 Aggieland yearbook will serve from August 1994 through August 1995.

Qualifications for the position are:

- Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office.
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible position on the Aggieland or comparable college yearbook.
- Have demonstrated ability in writing through university coursework or equivalent experience.
- Have completed or be registered in JOUR 210 (Graphics) or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications office, room 230 Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Monday, March 21, 1994. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994.

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