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Self defense class teaches awareness

Instructors provide possible life-saving techniques, attitude

By Stephanie Dube
The Battalion

Participants in a self defense seminar Wednesday night learned the best weapon against assault is awareness.

The Women's Safety Awareness and Self Defense seminar, held on the A&M campus, was presented by the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center.

Chris Kirk, president of the center, said he hopes the program will heighten women's awareness of the alternatives available to them in different situations.

Kirk, who gave a presentation on the pros and cons of weapons available for self defense, said the center does not advocate the use of weapons.

"But we hope those who do will use the weapon lawfully and become proficient in its use," Kirk said. "The greatest weapon is the mind."

Bert Kretzschmar, lieutenant supervisor in charge of the Crime Prevention Network of University Police Department, said women should use common sense and judgment in a potentially dangerous situation.

"The best advice I can give you is that there



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Melissa Robles (left) and Sara Lewis (second from right) learn self defense techniques at the College Station Rape Crisis Center Wednesday night.

Raymond Montoya, an officer in the Police Department brought several women self defense techniques.

"If you decide to fight, please get the thing you need so you will be successful," said. "But if you decide to submit and then I applaud you too because you survive."

are no absolutes," Kretzschmar said. When approached with a gun or knife, Kretzschmar said a woman has a two percent chance of being killed if she fights at once.

Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said sex offenders range from peeping toms to actual rapists, and he stressed that all offenders are potentially dangerous.

"Awareness is your best defense," Wiatt said.

Doctor wants regulation of genetics field

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

A visiting professor from the Stanford University Medical Center told a group of Texas A&M students Wednesday that the government needs to get more involved in the field of genetic engineering.

Dr. Aaron Hsueh, director of reproductive biology in the department of gynecology and obstetrics at the Stanford University Medical Center, said in his "Brave New World" speech that a consumer-oriented industry has been built in the field.

"The government needs to come in and regulate that," Hsueh

said. "There is a lot of money involved and a lot of things at stake."

"I think the government needs to take a more active role."

Hsueh is visiting Texas A&M as a part of the Burroughs Wellcome Lecture series, a program sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome, a pharmaceutical company. Texas A&M is the only institution in the state hosting a Wellcome visiting professor.

Hsueh spoke to a group of professors and students on recent advances in technology in the field of genetic engineering.

"We have become more and more dependent on our technology," Hsueh said. "If the techniques continue to be available, I

don't think we can stop it from advancing."

Hsueh also discussed the ethical issues involved with genetic engineering and the responsibilities those issues place on scientists.

"We have to decide how far we can go," he said. "Are we going a little bit farther than we should? How much do we want to know and how much do we want other people to know?"

The world of science has an obligation to society, Hsueh said.

"I think scientists have a responsibility to communicate with the general public. We have to be open and tell people what is going on."

Hsueh said this can be a prob-

lem because many scientists do research.

Many advances are being made in the field of genetic engineering. Hsueh discussed techniques being used to alleviate problems with infertility.

He said one out of five infertile couples have problems with fertility and much research is being done in the field.

"We have learned a lot about production," Hsueh said. "I know about a woman's menstrual cycle. We know how to regulate ovulation by using hormones."

Hsueh said this can be a prob-

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for more info, please contact:

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The Battalion

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The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring sessions Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Journalism, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

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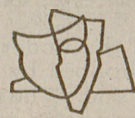
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