

Aggielife

SAFE PASSAGE

Crime always a threat on college campuses

By Amber Clark
THE BATTALION

Don't expect it to be lurking in dark, empty parking lots. Crime affects everyone at A&M.

Watch for it in broad daylight, at night and in every nook and cranny of the campus. Sgt. Betty LeMay of the University Police Crime Prevention Unit said no one should take safety for granted. People on campus — including students, faculty and staff — must realize the threat of crime is always present.

"I think anybody can be at risk," LeMay said. "It's just a matter of being in the right place at the right time."

During the 1994 fiscal year, 1,988 offenses were reported to the University Police Department. Included in that total are 2 sexual assaults and 15 weapons violations.

LeMay said theft is probably the biggest problem on campus, with 678 cases of larceny and motor vehicle theft in the past fiscal year. People steal Aggie Bucks, wallets, books and bicycles, LeMay said. But there has been a slight decrease in the rate of backpack thefts.

"We try to educate people to keep things locked up so they are not providing an opportunity for theft to escalate," LeMay said. "It really takes a concentration of people on campus trying to stop theft."

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, a certified crime prevention specialist with the UPD Crime Prevention Unit, said knowledge of personal safety is a necessity for everyone on campus. People must be alert and aware of their surroundings at all times and report any suspicious activities to the proper authorities.

Kretzschmar said people must understand that crime can happen anywhere,

and a person who feels threatened should follow instinct.

"If your instincts tell you something is wrong, it probably is," Kretzschmar said. "Trust that."

Since its establishment in 1989, the Crime Prevention Unit has developed a series of programs to increase safety awareness on campus. Residence halls, student organizations, faculty and anyone seeking information on personal safety can use the services of the Crime Prevention Unit and its programs, LeMay said.

Programs cover problems ranging from robbery prevention to sexual assault to con artists. LeMay said the unit is always willing to specially design programs for groups wanting information on crime issues not on the standard list of programs.

Kretzschmar said the main purpose of the programs is to educate the A&M community of the continuous threat of criminal activity.

"People, especially freshmen, don't realize that a college or university is part of the real world, and with it comes real world problems and responsibilities," Kretzschmar said. "We want to educate people here on personal safety. We want to prepare the students for when they leave."

The programs also attempt to teach people to be prepared for criminal threats. Kretzschmar said that even if a person does everything correctly to ensure personal safety, a crime still can occur.

People should have a plan for the event of a threat or crime, Kretzschmar said, and they should know their options when dealing with criminal acts.

"It's everything your mother ever taught you when you were growing up," Kretzschmar said.

The response to programming has been

overwhelming, Kretzschmar said. He and LeMay have remained busy with the public. In 1993, because of the unit's work in the community, the Texas Crime Prevention Association recognized A&M as having one of the best crime prevention programs in the state.

The Center for Drug Prevention and Education also hosts safety programs, although these are targeted more specifically at drug- and alcohol-related issues.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, the coordinator for the CDPE, said the organization will show films, create role playing situations and educate on issues whenever two or more students get together and are willing to learn.

Reardon said the CDPE programs tend to focus on the effects of drugs and alcohol on inhibitions and perception. People must be on guard against possible criminal activity involving alcohol and sexual assault, he said.

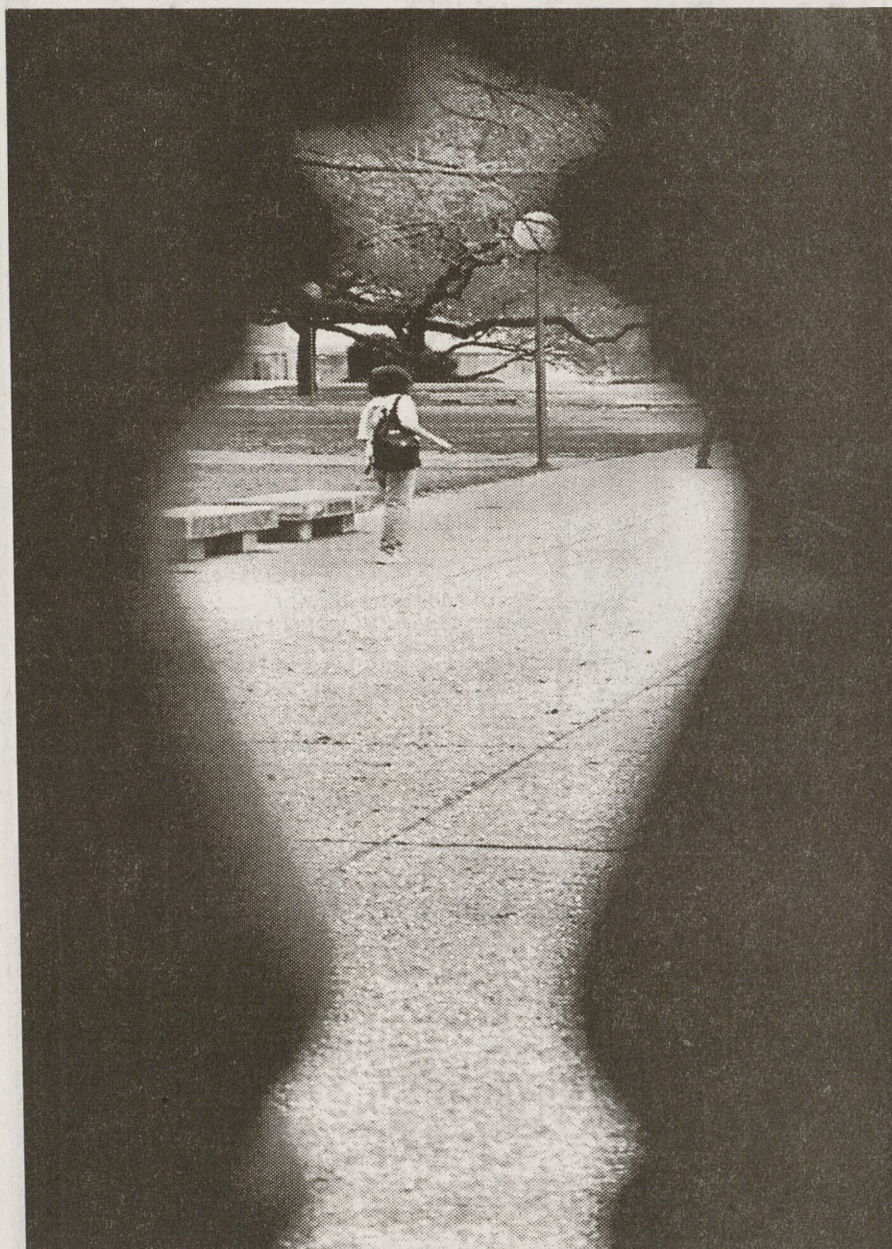
"People don't like to think about the possibility that someone they go out with could be a perpetrator of acquaintance or date rape," Reardon said. "It's denial, and they don't want to be aware."

"It's not going to happen to us," is often the mentality of young people. We make them think twice about using alcohol."

Kretzschmar said people on campus also should be aware of the physical safety features of A&M, such as the presence of police and security guards.

The Corps of Cadets provides a 24-hour escort service, Dial-a-Ride provides after-hours transportation, and 21 blue light emergency phones on campus provide immediate connection with emergency services.

"The name of the game is to reduce the risk of crime," Kretzschmar said. "The more we are proactive, the more the risk is lessened."



Stew Milne / THE BATTALION

Even walking alone on campus can prove to be dangerous, especially at night.

Indigo Girls bring folk styles to Rudder Auditorium tonight

By Erin Hill
THE BATTALION

They went to the doctor, they went to the mountain. Now they're coming to Aggieland. Indigo Girls will bring their special brand of folk music to Rudder Auditorium tonight at 8 p.m. as a part of their *Swamp Ophelia* tour.

Indigo Girls is made up of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, two guitarists, vocalists and songwriters with disarmingly different, yet compatible musical styles.

Ray is known more for her driving, aggressive music and a robust alto voice, while Saliers usually delivers tender melodies and a pure soprano voice.

Saliers and Ray first met as sixth-graders in Decatur, Ga., and started singing together in high school. They continued their musical partnership as students at Emory University in Atlanta.

It was during their tenure at Emory that they began performing local acoustic gigs,

and even tried their hands at recording. They released their first full-length album *Strange Fire* in 1987, on their own independent label, Indigo.

The duo was soon noticed, however, by the music world, and were picked up by Epic Records, with whom they released their major label debut, *Indigo Girls*, in 1989, as well as *Nomads, Indians, Saints and Rites of Passage*.

With the release of each album, they have continued to please fans as well as spread their progressive political message, which includes public support of organizations like Greenpeace, PETA, Coalition for the Homeless and Amnesty International.

The duo is considered a folk-rock band, a category Saliers and Ray are happy with. As they said on a recent episode of VH-1's "Naked Cafe," they don't mind being thrown into the nebulous 'folk' category, because it gives them a lot of room to experiment.

They both pursue their vastly different music styles and provide back-up for one another, such as their trademark harmonies and Ray's punk riffs on

the guitar.

The meanings of their songs are often subtle, but Saliers and Ray don't allow themselves to rely on cliches. Instead, they write words for the thinking listener.

Ray is direct and hard-edged, as in "Land of Canaan" in which she sings "I'm not your promised land / I'm not your Land of Canaan, sweetheart / Waiting for you under the sun."

In contrast, Saliers seems less assertive and questions everything, especially relationships and love.

In "Mystery," a track off of the *Swamp Ophelia* album, Saliers sings "I could go crazy on a night like tonight ... every thought's a possibility / Why do you spend this time with me?"

This concert will be an acoustic set — just Saliers, Ray and their guitars — just the way they want to be heard.

No fancy dance steps or exotic set are needed when Indigo Girls take the stage. With their music and their message, the performance promises to be a unique experience.



Emily Saliers and Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls.



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PHYS 218 11 PM - 1 AM	CH 10	CH 11	CH 12	CH 16
BEGINS SUNDAY	SUN. MAR. 26	MON. MAR. 27	TUE. MAR. 28	WED. MAR. 29
PHYS 202	9 PM - MID CH 31, 32	6 - 9 PM CH 33, 34	7 - 9 PM PRAC TEST 1	7 - 9 PM PRAC TEST 2
	MON. MAR. 27	TUES. MAR. 28	WED. MAR. 29	THURS. MAR. 30
PHYS 201 7 - 9 PM	CH 10	CH 11	CH 13	CH 14
PHYS 208 9 - 11 PM	CH 31	CH 32	REPEAT CH 31	REPEAT CH 32
PHYS 219 11 PM - 1 AM	CH 30	CH 31	REPEAT CH 30	REPEAT CH 31
	MON. MAR. 27	TUES. MAR. 28	WED. MAR. 29	THURS. MAR. 30
ACCT 229 7 - 9 PM	CH 7	CH 8	REPEAT CH 7	REPEAT CH 8
ACCT 230 9 - 11 PM	CH 6	CH 7	REPEAT CH 6	REPEAT CH 7
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