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**VIOLENCE**

Continued from Page 1

know less about government systems and help than their poorer counterparts, Vorachek said. Women in lower socioeconomic situations have an easier time escaping to welfare programs and public assistance, she said.

Vorachek, who deals with abuse in families on a daily basis at the Women's Center, said the issue of domestic violence receives a lot of publicity during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but is virtually ignored by the press the rest of the year.

When domestic violence is mentioned, the real causes are ignored, she said. Citing a recent case in Houston in which a man shot his wife in both knees and the Houston Chronicle headlined the article "Anger, joblessness create tragic mix" she said, "His joblessness did not cause him to batter her. It was just another excuse."

Women should be aware of the possibilities of violence in a relationship when it starts, Vorachek said, and should investigate the men they date more carefully.

"What we better do is check these guys out," she said. "You better call their ex-girlfriends. If it's someone that you meet for

the first time, you'd better do some investigating."

Women can also protect themselves by knowing the patterns that most batterers follow, she said.

An early, intense commitment and romantic possession are both warning signs of a possibility for violence in the relationship, Vorachek said. Unexpected violent outbursts followed by profuse apologies and an increase in violent activities on the part of the man are signs that he may be a batterer.

Vorachek said batterers are not always easy to spot, and she had dated a man who was convicted of violent crimes against two women.

"He was very charming, even after having committed two rapes and murders," she said.

The community can be involved in preventing domestic violence in four main ways, Vorachek said. Education, intervention in abusive situations, sanctions for those who abuse and a combined effort involving the entire community of men and women can stop domestic violence, she said.

"Women are not going to do it alone," she said. "We've got to have men beside us, speaking with us. Not speaking over us, but with us."

Students attending the lecture said they gained support and knowledge during the presentation, and some offered their own experi-

ence with domestic violence.

Nishawn Hanif, a graduate chemical engineering student who belongs to Women in Science and Engineering with his wife, said the lecture improved his understanding of American culture.

"It's education," Hanif said. "To come and learn about how women are trying to overcome oppression in all these different forms."

A woman attending the lecture who asked that she not be identified came for the information offered in the session.

"I just got out of a relationship that was seventeen years of abuse," she said. "My biggest fear now is how to avoid that again."

Nika Van Tilburg, a graduate plant pathology student, said the advice Vorachek offered was helpful, but hard to implement in real-life situations. The investigation of intimate partners would be tough, she said.

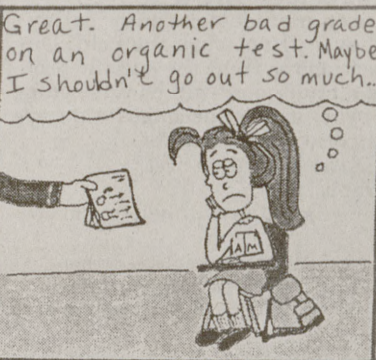
"It's difficult to find out what people are really like," Tilburg said.

Women in Science and Engineering will present two more lectures as part of their Women's Health Month series. "Reproductive Health and Preventative Medicine" will take place today at 3:30 p.m. in 413 Heep Building, and a presentation on breast cancer will be given on Monday, Oct. 30 at 5 p.m. in 222 Chemistry Building.

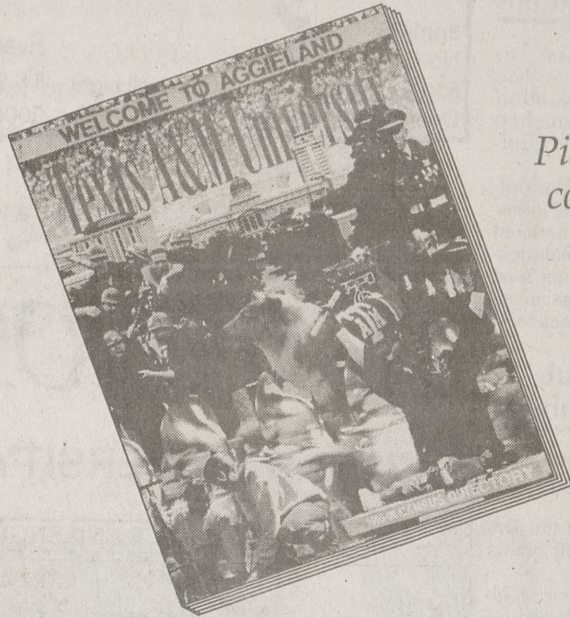
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