

Sharing the joys of long life

Student volunteers and elderly people find treasures in time spent together

By AARON MEIER
 THE BATTALION

The video of the Elvis Costello song "Veronica" depicts an elderly woman sitting in a wheelchair remembering the past. Some students at Texas A&M spend time with people like Veronica and listen to the stories they have to tell.

Students in Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity volunteer at the Crestview Methodist Retirement Community.

Sean Lambert, chair of the Crestview project and a junior history major, said he started spending time at Crestview because he knew what the elderly had to offer.

"My grandmother lives in a retirement community," Lambert said. "That got me interested because I knew they (senior citizens) have a lot of history and interesting facts to share."

Bess Sprague, a 96-year-old resident of Crestview, lived parts of Aggie history. Sprague's husband worked as a trainer for the Aggie football team, and while her husband worked on the field during football games, she sat next to E. King Gill, the originator of the

Twelfth Man legend.

Sprague said she likes to recount stories of A&M to the volunteers.

"They sit patiently and listen to me prattle on," Sprague said. "We talk and listen, and they do a wonderful service here."

From pushing residents in wheelchairs to painting their fingernails, the volunteers perform a variety of services.

Lambert started painting fingernails as a joke, and it grew into a weekly activity.

"I painted one of the resident's nails and the other women thought I did such a good job, they asked me to do theirs," Lambert said.

Angie Garrett, a member of Alpha Phi Omega and a junior biomedical science major, said painting fingernails is one of the most popular services the students offer.

"They are like little kids when it is time to paint their nails," Garrett said. "They argue about who's next in line and what color they want."

Even though the service is free, Garrett said sometimes the residents settle for nothing less than the best.

"Some of them can't see a thing," Garrett said. "But you mess up on one of their nails, and they let you know it. It is all in good fun, though."

Sprague said residents and volunteers eagerly await Fridays, when they gather for sing-a-longs.

Sprague plays the piano and is accompanied on the organ by Margaret Rudder, wife of James Earl Rudder, former president of the University. The two friends lead the music.

"The first time we saw her (Rudder), it was totally amazing," Garrett said. "You hear about her, but when you get to meet her and she remembers your name, it is amazing. She is amazing."

Sprague said the volunteers bring more than charity to the sing-

a-longs — they bring their voices.

"A lot of us old ladies used to sing, but age has caught up with us," Sprague said. "Our voices are not what they used to be. The Aggies help us remember what it was like when we did have voices."

Aaron Sugalski, a member of Alpha Phi Omega and a junior biomedical science major, said residents who cannot sing, participate in other ways.

"One woman dances during the sing-a-longs," Sugalski said. "She hides behind a wall and thinks no one sees her, but she has a great time."

Garrett said visits to Crestview have gone beyond a service project for the veteran volunteers.

"When you come week after week, you end up doing it less for the residents and more for yourself," Garrett said.

Sugalski said the most difficult part of volunteering was getting over nervous feelings about meeting the residents.

"I was really apprehensive about going at first," Sugalski said. "Then I saw how their faces light up when the volunteers they know walk in, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Some of the Crestview residents do not have family close by, and visits by them are infrequent. Garrett said these residents adopt the volunteers as a part of their extended family.

"The long distance makes seeing their families difficult," Garrett said. "I go to Crestview and talk to them, and they are genuinely interested in how I am doing. They ask questions and honestly care. It seems like they get to know us as their families."

Lambert said he hopes the volunteers have made a positive effect on the lives of the Crestview residents.

"If they were to pass away that day, at least they knew they had a friend," Lambert said.

"Our voices are not what they used to be. The Aggies help us remember what it was like when we did have voices."

Bess Sprague
 Crestview Methodist
 Retirement Community
 resident



Above: Bess Sprague entertains fellow Crestview Methodist Retirement Community residents by playing the piano.
 Right: Gene Adam provides the music for weekly sing-a-long with other residents and Aggie volunteers

Photos by Amy Dunlap

music review

Redd Kross loses with B-flick-esque tunes

By BRANDON TRUITT
 THE BATTALION

The latest Redd Kross album *Show World* proves the 1980s was a great decade for both movie and rock roll industries.

It was not until the '80s that the art of the B-movie was perfected by Troma Studios, which released numerous classics like *Surf Nazis Must Die*, *Redneck Zombies* and *Class of Nuke 'em High*.

It is from the '80s and Troma movies that the album *Show World* was born.

When the first song on the album, "Pretty Please Me," begins, the mental picture created is similar to the beginning scenes to a fine Troma "cult" film.

The Twisted Sister-sounding guitar riffs and the sexually frustrated lyrics try to persuade some young woman to "please" lead singer Jeffrey McDonald. It is meant to get credits rolling and re-



★ (out of five)

minds the listener of Corey Haim (or is it Feldman?) trying to get his hand up some vixen's bra in the back of his dad's car.

The next song continues this saga as McDonald, backed by the same Twisted Sister guitar, now complains about how his girl is "always stoned," thus explaining why he cannot get to third base.

The timeless themes of pot, breast fondling, and how to get to third base run through *Show World* like all good '80s films.

For example, in *Class of Nuke 'em High*, an entire subplot is devoted to the "atomic weed" that grows under a radiation

leak in the Tromaville nuclear power plant.

Another subplot is devoted to the fantasies of one teenager who constantly daydreams about making out with his teacher. Unfortunately, his third base plans are thwarted when his teacher chooses to become a lesbian biker sadomasochist.

The similarities between *Show World* and *Class of Nuke 'em High* are so striking that this album could be the long awaited *Class of Nuke 'em High* motion picture soundtrack.

Show World even sounds like the annoyingly Beatlesque "Follow the Leader" that plays in the background of the movie as a mob of crazed bikers (including the aforementioned lesbian teacher) rides down the halls of Tromaville High School on their motorcycles vandalizing the entire school.

The album's infinitely giddy "Ugly Town" could have been

playing when all the heroes and heroines hold hands and French kiss at the end of the movie, using an atomic joint to help laugh off their near-death experience with mutated sub-humanoids.

The album cover even looks as though it was designed at about the same time as the filming of *Nuke 'em High*, and perhaps the cover even was produced under the same measly budget conditions as the film.

The cover is designed in conflicting colors (reminiscent of the clashing wardrobe from the movie).

The only thing the design reminds me of is the opening credits to *Nuke 'em High* which were done in a sick shade of yellow — probably by a kindergarten on a Big Chief tablet.

In short, this album is nostalgic. It possesses the ability to transport its listener into the artistic mecca of the '80s with its timeless themes and beautiful Twisted Sister undertones.



Redd Kross

Highs & Lows
 Today's Expected High 59°F
 Tonight's Expected High 50°F
 Tomorrow's Expected High 52°F
 Tomorrow Night's Expected Low 38°F

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 Balloon
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