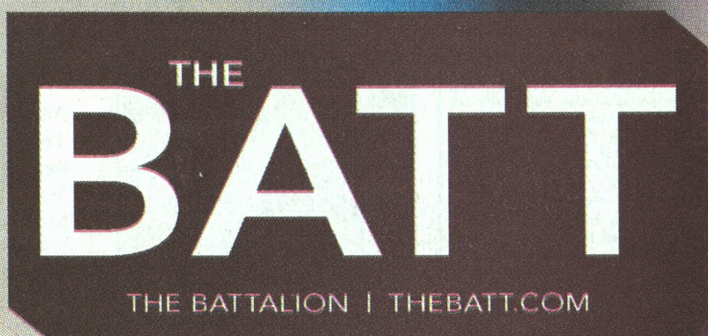


Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION



THIS MUST STOP

A&M sees an uptick in reported sexual assaults, but how many stay quiet?

By Aimee Breaux

While the data show an upward trend of reporting, victim advocates on campus say there is still a significant difference in the number of sexual assaults and those that are reported, a disparity fueled by social stigmas.

There were nine instances of sexual assault reported to the University Police Department in 2013, up from six reports in 2012 and three in 2011, according to a 2014 UPD annual report.

By Student Services' February count, sexual assault, harassment, stalking and dating violence reports have increased from eight reports in Fall 2013 to 27 in Fall 2014. By mid February, the count for Spring 2015 was already 12.

Angela Winkler, assistant director of Student Assistance Services, said the increase in reports could be related to Student Assistance Services' sticker campaign and the the national media's attention to sexual assault on campus.

Risa Bierman, student development specialist at Student Assistance Services, said many of the reports she gets come in the form of calls from parents who are at a loss for how to help their son or daughter.

"Or we'll get calls from academic advisors, too, because a lot of students will go into academic advisors or faculty and say, 'I just can't take this test, I had this incident that happened over the weekend,' and the faculty member doesn't know what to do, so they'll call us," Bierman said.

Stephanie McBride, program coordinator for Victim Services at UPD, said most people who

REPORT ON PG. 3

The national conversation is centered on sexual assault and university response. At A&M, resources tailored to the issue work to spread awareness.

PAGES 2-5

Programs, resources at A&M work to comply with Title IX standards in higher education

By Jennifer Reiley

Sexual discrimination, harassment and assault — three issues to which the Aggie community is not immune. The university works with state and federal governments to combat sexual violence through the lens of compliance with Title IX.

Title IX, a federal sex equality law, is part of a larger piece of legislation, the United States Education Amendments of 1972. On its fundamental level, Title IX's purpose is to protect all people against anything that stops them from taking part in educational opportunities on account of their gender.

In the past, Title IX was used in court cases relating to equality in athletics. It wasn't until about 20 years ago that another issue began to employ Title IX more frequently — sexual harassment and violence cases.

While A&M is not currently under investigation under Title IX, incidents involving sexual harassment or violence continue to crop up. In Spring 2014, there were two reported instances of sexual harassment, two of sexual assault and two of sexual abuse. In Fall 2013, there were four reported cases of sexual harassment, four of sexual abuse and one of sexual contact.

There are likely more that have not been reported. A&M professors and staff said while A&M has programs in place to assist student and staff, there are still obstacles that need to be addressed further.

TITLE IX ON PG. 2

GUEST COLUMN

Survivor: 'Ready for the day when all of us can breathe easily'

Editor's note: The Battalion does not publish identifying information of rape and sexual assault victims. The names in this article were omitted to protect the subjects' identities.

"I'm sorry," he said. "Are you okay? It just seemed like the thing to do."

I turned away. Finally, I said, "It's okay. I'm just thinking. It's been a long day."

It was 3 a.m. We'd been up talking about God only knows what. He'd kissed me, but I didn't want more. We'd been dating for only a short time, virtual strangers. I was naïve enough to think that he shouldn't drive back to his apartment at that hour; it had been a long football game day, and we were tired and exhilarated by the victory. At least, I was. But he was conscious enough to put his hand around my throat, hard and unforgiving, and bite my lip until I bled. If I'd had the breath to say no, I don't think I could have. I felt empty, and he pulled my hair, he clutched my throat, and I was gone, somewhere else. I do not know where.

Of course there was further context, other details. But my identity and my past have no bearing on what happened to me, because it was something that was done to me, by another human being. No one asks survivors of robberies whether they were asking for it.

I was numb afterwards. Afraid to draw attention to what happened, I deflected his questions, unable to think, somehow, of a way to ask him to leave. By morning, watching him sleep, I'd convinced myself that it was a miscommunication, and that what was done, was done. I moved on because it was the only thing I could do to remain emotionally intact; it was the least complicated option.

But a year later found me racing out of a lecture on sexual assault, with a constricted, tight feeling in my throat that wouldn't leave. With shaking hands, I dialed HelpLine. I started seeing a counselor. I saw my doctor, who explained the legalities. I saw a trusted mentor, who remains unwaveringly supportive. I saw my friends, who were, many times, the reason I got out of bed. I kept going to class; this was nearly all I did.

Now, I still sometimes feel like it's all I can do to survive. My experience isn't uncommon, nor is it representative of all survivors' experiences, so I can only speak on what I know. I know that it is not easy to speak up within a system that is largely distrusting at best. I know that we must educate ourselves on what consent looks like, because I wouldn't wish my pain on anyone; no daughter, brother, friend, or stranger. I know that we must rehabilitate our survivors, conscious that one solution doesn't fit all, and we must remember that while I am the one in five, I am more than a statistic. And I am ready for a day when all of us can breathe easily.

Anonymous '16

BASEBALL

Win nets best start for A&M since 1989



Sarah Lane — THE BATTALION

Catcher Mitchell Nau, who leads the team in batting average, celebrates during the A&M win Tuesday.

By Andre Perrard

Texas A&M protected its undefeated record in the friendly confines of Olsen Field on Tuesday night as the No. 7 Aggies defeated the UT Pan-American Broncs 4-1.

It is the best start to the season for A&M since the 1989 team started 26-0.

Texas A&M (17-0) struck quick. In the first inning, A&M scored two runs off RBIs from Hunter Melton and Nick Banks. After another RBI from Michael

Barash, A&M led 3-1 after five innings of play. Banks was 2-for-3 on the day with 2 RBIs.

A&M added insurance in the seventh inning with an RBI from Banks to extend the advantage to 4-1 after seven. The bullpen shut down the Broncs (8-4) from the fourth inning to the end. Mark Ecker came on to close the game in the ninth inning for his third save of the year.

MORE AT TX.AG/BATT16

TRADITION



PROVIDED

Twix, a 16-month-old collie from Ohio, will assume duties as Reveille IX after being selected from a national search.

'Twix' earns honor of being the next Reveille

By Trey Reeves

Texas A&M's search for a new mascot came to an end Tuesday when Interim President Mark Hussey supported the nomination of "Twix," a 16-month old female collie from Overland Collies in Ohio. The selection continues the tradition of selecting a purebred collie, which has been in place since the selection of Reveille III in 1966.

Twix will become Reveille IX and begin her duties as the First Lady of Aggieland and the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets on May 9.

Tom Reber, interim vice president for Student Affairs and chair of the Reveille IX search committee, said Twix was se-

lected over many other qualified dogs from breeders and shelters around the United States. Four finalists were selected from hundreds of applicants and were reviewed by two students and two vet school faculty members who reported their recommendations back to the committee.

Upon receiving the recommendation, Twix was invited to campus to be seen by the entire committee.

"Everyone agreed it was a great dog that was well behaved with good temperament, and had all the characteristics we were looking for," Reber said. "We then asked the family if they would donate their dog, and they agreed."

REVEILLE ON PG. 6

M. BASKETBALL

HOUSE, JONES EARN ALL-SEC RECOGNITION

Juniors Jalen Jones and Danuel House were voted as All-SEC performers at the men's basketball coaches' postseason awards Tuesday.

House, a transfer from the University of Houston, was the Aggies' primary scorer with an average of 14.8 points per game while shooting 40 percent from 3-point range. Jones averaged 13.6 points and a team-leading 6.6 rebounds on the season.