

No restrictions

'Almost anything goes' this Sunday in RHA madcap contests

"Almost Anything Goes," describes the fun and games scheduled for Sunday, April 4, at 1:30 p. m. on the Drill Field at Texas A&M.

The contests being sponsored by the Resident Hall Association (RHA) will give A&M students the chance to participate in events similar to those seen on the "Almost Anything Goes" television show.

Entries are limited to teams consisting of four male and four female team members. The

teams can be made up of dorm students (one team per dorm), off-campus students, corp members, faculty members or any other independent group wishing to participate.

The events to be held are as follows:

1.) An obstacle course will be used to narrow the field down to eight teams.

2.) Tire Roll — One member of each of the eight teams will be placed in four car tires, then their teammates will roll them around an obstacle course.

3.) Ice Box Race — One team member will be placed in a refrigerator box and then be required to run around a course with one of his teammates guiding him.

4.) Confetti Dive — Team members will try to find a poker chip hidden in a baby pool filled with confetti.

5.) Tramp Toss — One team member will jump on a trampoline while one of his teammates throws golfballs into a bucket he is holding. This sounds easy enough except the

golfballs will be thrown over a ten-foot fence.

6.) The last event will be another obstacle course to test the endurance of the contestants.

Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. A prize will also be given to the team (including the cheering section) with the most spirit and enthusiasm.

Events will be judged by AAG officials and rules for each event will be posted.

— Randy Dusek

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Tree rings tell of environment

Constructing past environmental conditions and determining the exact date of a tree's existence are two aspects of studying tree rings, said Professor Bryant Bannister, director of laboratory tree ring research at the University of Arizona.

The Visiting Centennial Professor explained to Texas A&M University students the basic principles and application of dendrochronology (the science of dating trees). "Dendro" is the Greek word for tree and "chronos" means time.

"The study of annual tree rings is becoming an important scientific re-

source," he said, because each ring can be dated within a year of its formation and past environments are reflected in the chemical properties of the rings.

Not all trees are suitable for tree ring study, he explained. Coniferous trees are best for study because they have layers that are easily distinguishable in a ring series. Coniferous trees (those which produce cones) are found in temperate regions.

The rings of trees vary in width depending on the amount of moisture received during the year. With

decreasing amounts of moisture, the ring size decreases. "Ring variability is very important as it shows that trees have been responding to climate," Bannister said.

The key to interpreting tree rings is the "concept of matching ring patterns from tree to tree," Bannister said, with a process called cross dating. The ring patterns will not repeat over long periods of time, so patterns can be matched.

Bannister said the age of a tree cannot be determined by the number of rings because some of

the rings may be missing or removed by erosion. The process of cross dating eliminates this problem.

In order to date a tree, a researcher begins with a living tree and works out the ring chronology for a geological area. Old tree stumps are then cross dated with the tree ring patterns of the living trees, by comparing the outer rings of the stump with the inner rings of the living trees. By knowing the year the last ring of the living tree was formed and finding the place where the rings match, the year of the older tree can

be determined. "You can have confidence every ring is accounted for," Bannister said. "It is the most accurate dating method yet developed."

"Dating from tree rings is a neat, nice tool used in archeological situations," Bannister said. Geologists can determine how much the contour of the soil has changed from dating trees and determining when they put out their roots.

"The application of tree ring research covers as diverse range of fields as law, social sciences, climatology and agriculture," he said.

—Holly Hutchison

Centennial prof:

'Hunger will change the world'

A large majority of the world's population is hungry and unless they are fed, the world may be a vastly different place, said Gregory Sullivan, A&M student.

Sullivan spoke during a panel discussion, "The World Speaks on Hunger," in the Rudder Tower last night. Panel members were Rami Kamal (Saudi Arabia), Enrique Ospina (Columbia), Sullivan (United States), and Ali Cinar (Turkey).

Chaired by Cinar, the discussion was sponsored by the International Students Association at A&M.

Sullivan said much of the political unrest in the world's under-developed nations can be attributed to hunger, and that it's time for the rich and poor countries to get together to solve the problem.

The U.S. can no longer consider itself self-supporting in agriculture because it imports many foodstuffs, oil, minerals and phosphate fertilizers, Sullivan said.

Sullivan said ways to improve the world food situation include establishing an international agency for stockpiling food surpluses, increasing international research programs, setting up channels of information distribution and educating the American people.

The rest of the world often seems to expect America to feed the hungry and they blame America for not doing so, Sullivan said.

In Tanzania, where Sullivan recently worked with the Agency for International Development, the government policy was to ship all foodstuffs in government vehicles. He said that in some areas people starved because of the policy.

"It is easy to find Coca-Cola in remote villages of poor countries, but it is often hard to find powdered milk there," Ospina said. Distribution of food is often as much a problem as producing it, he said.

Most of the cost of food is transportation and storage costs, and better roads and storage facilities are needed to overcome the problem, Ospina said.

To feed the world, food must be moved from the surplus countries to the deficient ones, Ospina said.

Crash industrialization and farm workers moving to cities has compounded the hunger problems, said Kamal. Since the early fifties, Egypt has built

more than 700 factories. More than half now stand idle and workers are starving in Cairo and Alexandria.

In 1975 Cambodia made the wisest move of any nation when it returned the peasants to the farmland," Kamal said. The Khmer Rouge forces conquered Cambodia last year, sending most workers to work in farm communes.

Land reform is very important to increasing the world food supply, Kamal said. To produce food and use land efficiently, farmers must feel motivated. Absentee landlords, controlling much of the arable land in the Third World, destroy motivation and initiative. The land must be redistributed giving the worker his fair share.

The amount of aid to poor countries is greatly exaggerated, Kamal said. Last year only 7 per cent of India's total caloric intake came from aid from the United States.

"The world spends more to kill people than to feed them,"

Kamal said. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, \$140 billion, spent between 1972 and 1985, would solve the world food problem. He said both the United States and the Soviet Union spend nearly that much each year for armaments.

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