

Prizes, awards given

Annual 4-H state roundup ends

By KAY WALLACE



It was easy to spot the 4-Hers who were attending the state roundup on campus this week. Many came dressed in matching outfits as that part of their competitive requirement.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Armed with sheep, cattle, horses, macrame, bug collections, plants, electronic components, song and dance acts, grins and high hopes, more than 1,500 Texas 4-H club members converged on the Texas A&M University campus this week for the annual Texas 4-H Roundup. Parents, family members, friends and county extension agents were on hand to help with the Roundup, where 4-H club members bring their individual and group projects for judging in the statewide competition, said George McArthur, Texas Agricultural Extension Service 4-H and youth specialist.

Ribbons, prizes and cash awards were given in categories which ranged from animal judging, dairy demonstration, community improvement, clothing, foods and nutrition to safety, soil judging, and public speaking.

"These contests are a climax to what members have done through the year with their projects—whether it be raising cattle, maintaining a bicycle or learning to cook," George McArthur, Texas Agricultural Extension Service 4-H specialist, said.

Thirty-seven private organizations donated special awards for 32 of the contests. Cash and prizes were awarded to encourage future work on projects in fields such as beef cattle, dairy, poultry, livestock judging, entomology and safety.

"We have printed literature for over 70 projects for 4-H members to work on," 4-H youth specialist Luciana Callahan said. "If a child wants to do something we have no literature for, there is always the open class" category. Then again, they just might get something started."

This is the second year that a cats category has been included in roundup competition, McArthur said.

There are 103,562 4-H members in 14 districts in Texas. They are from 9 to 19 years old. The Roundup features projects done by the senior group, ages 14-19, McArthur said.

In the opening assembly held Tuesday night, special recognition was given to "Friends of 4-H" by the Texas 4-H foundation. These are the people who have contributed time, effort, encouragement, equipment, property, in some way, to 4-H in the past year, McArthur said.

Three hundred thousand dollars in scholarships were also awarded Tuesday night to 63 4-H members.

"These scholarships were awarded based on academic and scholastic achievement," Callahan said.

Activities were underway bright and early Wednesday morning. While livestock exhibitors gathered at the Horse Center to show their know-how in raising animals, others were showing their expertise in public speaking and with natural resources.

Exhibits featured wooden stacking tables, a diagram of a home's safety hazards, a board of lights demonstrating electrical circuits, creepy-crawly insects mounted on cardboard, exotic and intricate seashells from someone's summer vacation, a hanging chair made from macrame, a multi-colored hand-hooked floor rug, and hand-made bridle ropes.

Just down the hall in Rudder Auditorium, duos, trios and quartets primped and hummed and coughed in anticipation of the Share-the-Fun category. This is the entertainment category in which groups sing, dance, or act out a skit. Some groups wore makeup and costumes and others wore matching shirts and, of course, their hats and boots.

A recognition assembly was held Wednesday night. First, second and third place winners in each of the 36 categories were announced and recognized with this final corraling of winners.

While parents, friends and county agents reloaded pick-ups with projects, costumes, props, pets, livestock and awards, tired and weary but satisfied club members awaited "lights out."

TAES is the parent organization of 4-H in Texas. Texas was one of the first states in which 4-H — which stands for "Head", "Hands",

"Heart", and "Health" — was organized. The 4-H section of TAES is responsible for educating youth, McArthur explained.

Originally, the organization was set up because in rural areas the younger people were more responsive to new ideas and methods than were their parents. So these early youth clubs were established to teach the youngsters the newer technology being developed for farming as well as new concepts in home economics, such as canning procedures.

The extension service hoped that a youth organization would spur interest in education for the rural farmer and prevent the overwhelming number of children leaving the farm for jobs in the city.

But now 4-H is involved everywhere, in big cities like Houston and Dallas. The majority of members live in rural areas and towns with less than 10,000 population, but cities boast a large percentage also.

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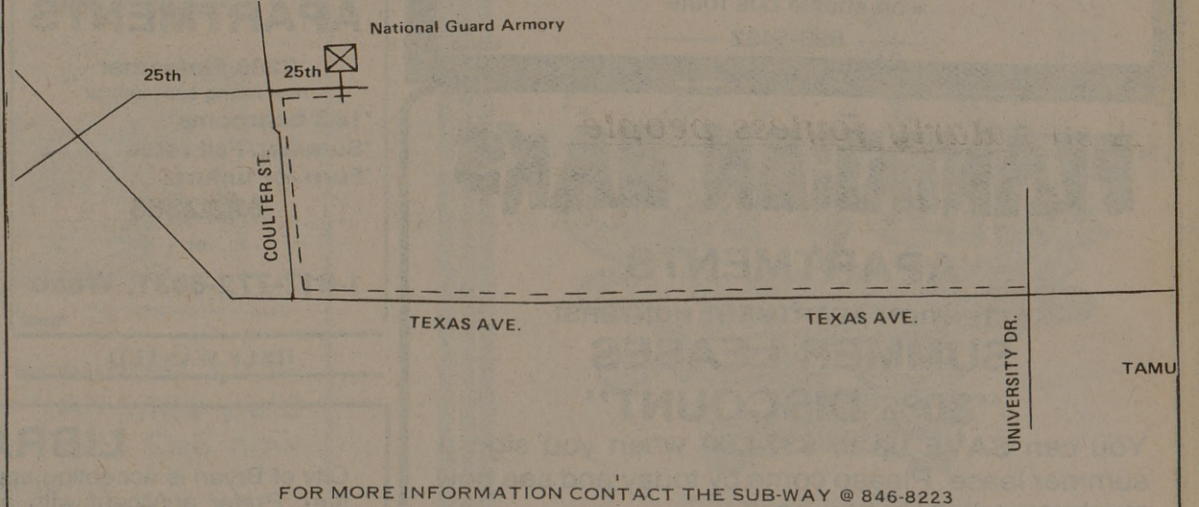
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Free U registration opens this Friday

From bartending to sexuality, Frisbee to Bridge and Disco to Yoga, the Free University will offer courses this summer to appeal to just about everyone.

Free University is one of the twenty MSC committees and has been in operation for several years, but this will be only the second year courses have been offered during the summer.

"Our purpose is to program non-credit courses fun courses," said Free University chairman Katie Blute said.

Courses are open to students, faculty and staff. The classes have enrollment limits of 20 to 25 people. Most of the classes will last through the first summer session.

A fee of \$3.50 is required for most classes.

Three dollars will be refunded to the student if he attends three-fourths of the classes. The deposit refund is an incentive to attend the class.

"When there was no deposit, students would sign up and then didn't show up for class. This way we get the students who are really interested," Blute said.

Some of the courses also have a materials fee which is not refunded. "We try to keep costs unprohibitive. Most of the instructors are

paid volunteers," Blute explained. "The Free University operates on the funds from the classes."

Registration for classes which begin June 12 will be held Friday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first floor of the MSC. Registration will be held again July 14 for the second summer session.

Classes offered are:

- Arabic — Tuesday & Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Astrology — Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Bartending — Wednesday, 7-8, 8-9 p.m.
- Bridge — Monday, 7:30 p.m.
- Disco-Exercise — Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Frisbee — Wednesday & Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Human Sexuality — Thursday, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Italian — Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Yoga — Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m.

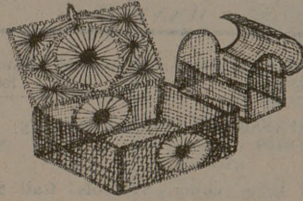
Two special programs will be co-sponsored by Free University:

Defensive Driving Course—begins Friday, June 23, 6-10 p.m. continues Saturday, June 24, 8 a.m.-noon

Flying—Wednesday, June 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

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BASKETS



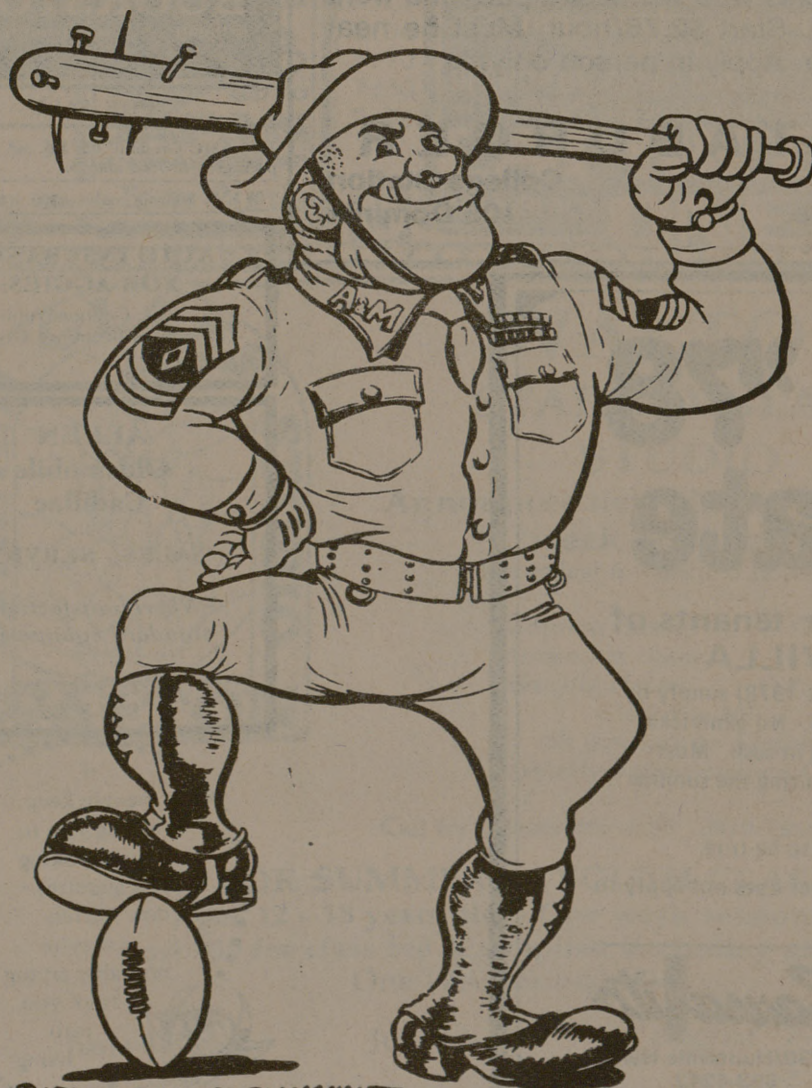
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