



Ready, willing and able?

A Wednesday night exercise session seems to be a little too much for Mosher Hall residents Anne O'Connor, top, and Lori Kessler, bottom. The only one in the group who has enough

energy left to really stretch those muscles is Robin Corbell. The girls say they try to exercise every night in a dorm lounge.

Battalion photo by Karen Cornelison

It's the pits for Municipal Lake

Arsenic must be dredged from lake

By CHARLES HARPER  
Battalion Reporter

Whatever happened to Municipal Lake, the once scenic spot that's now a maze of weeds and mud at the corner of South College and Villa Maria? Area residents remember the lake the way it was and wonder what happened.

The lake was ordered drained and dredged after the Texas Department of Water Resources found unacceptable levels of arsenic there. Municipal Lake was drained earlier this year, but dredging has not yet begun.

Dr. Jay Williams, director of the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, says the lake has been contaminated for some time.

"It's been at least 20 years," says Williams, "although people have been swimming and fishing in the lake."

Contamination actually first occurred in the 1930s in Finfeather Lake, which is connected by a channel to Municipal Lake. Cotton Poison Inc., an insecticide producer, stored waste water containing arsenic in clay pits near Fin-

feather Lake. Despite efforts to the contrary, the poison seeped from the pits into the water. In 1950, when Cotton Poison was purchased by Pennwal Corp., the company attempted to improve the storage process by adding lime to the waste water. But the lime failed to seal the pits and arsenic continued to seep into the lake, and eventually into Municipal Lake.

In 1975, judgment was issued against Pennwal, charging the firm with the responsibility of draining and dredging the lakes. The estimated cost of the project was \$500,000.

Completion of the project is not

in the foreseeable future. "There's no telling when they'll be through," says Williams. "They're only 90 percent through with Finfeather."

The sediment from the bottoms of both lakes will be removed and buried in clay pits now under construction. Clay for construction of the pits will be removed from Municipal Lake. Upon completion of these pits, dredging operations will begin for Municipal Lake.

The finished lake is not only expected to be poison-free, but deeper as well. The bottom of the lake will be about three feet deeper, according to Parks and Recreation sources.

The changes in the lake won't stop with the depth, Williams says. Plans for the park include straightening and repouring the concrete spillway, and construction of parking facilities and a group shelter.

Although there have been minor complaints of mosquito infestation from area residents, Jack Cornish, director of public works for Bryan, says there is no mosquito problem around the lake.

"We've had only minor complaints," he says. We usually spray an area of standing water with diesel oil if it has mosquitos. We've had no real problem."

Midnight run  
Ags celebrate  
jogging early

By DIANE BLAKE  
Battalion Reporter

Added to the usual crowd on the streets Friday night were 110 people taking a three-mile run.

The Texas A&M University Roadrunners Club sponsored the run, which began at 12:01 a.m. Saturday hopes of being the first group in the country to celebrate National Jogging Day.

Speed wasn't important in this run, said Mike Fred, Roadrunner spokesman. "We wanted this to be a fun run."

Why would someone run at midnight?

"Why not?" asked Mike Waxler, Roadrunner major.

Kathy Taylor said, "I like running. It's good for you and it's a lot of fun."

Marcia Fluker, accounting major, ran because "I never ran a race before."

"Night-time is a good time to run," said Esther Ingram, biomedical science major.

Dennis Maloney tried the three-mile run "just to see what I could do."

"When they said the Aggies would be first to celebrate National Jogging Day, I figured I wanted to be part of it," said Kathy Weight. "It kind of inspired me. I finished. That's the good part."

Other participants ran to prove themselves or to their friends that they could endure the three-mile jog.

The Roadrunners Club was formed about a month ago to promote running. It meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and runs between one and five miles.

Members of the club plan to go to the White Rock Marathon in Dallas Dec. 2.

A few Roadrunners went to the Huntsville Half-Quarter-Marathon Oct. 7. Don Kirby won second place in the half-marathon for the 21-29 age group. Mike Fred won third in the 15-20 age group. Jennifer Rush placed first in the women's quarter-marathon and John Bradbury won third place overall in the quarter-marathon.

A marathon is 26.2 miles, a half marathon is 13.1 miles and a

quarter-marathon is 6.6 miles.

Roadrunner members hope to sponsor another run in early spring as a prep race for the Texas A&M Marathon to be held in late April.

Fred expects about 1,500 participants in the 1979 marathon, which will be the third Texas A&M marathon. The first one drew 467 runners and the second race had 1,100 participants.

For \$5 a semester Roadrunner Club members receive a T-shirt, a membership card and a mileage booklet.

For Saturday morning's race, a drawing was held for prizes donated by local merchants.

Esther Ingram, Kathy Weight and Mark Carter ran off with top prizes, each receiving a pair of running shoes.

Dennis Maloney won a pair of running shorts and Mary Coggin, David Bergeren and Clay Jobs each won a T-shirt.

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'Top' convict  
hurt in rodeo  
in Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE — The leader in the 47th annual Texas Prison Rodeo was dumped from his mount during the saddle bronc riding contest Sunday and will miss the rest of the season.

A prison physician said Willie Craig, 58, serving 30 years from Greenville, broke his collarbone during the rodeo's third performance.

Craig, who has participated in the prison rodeo for 21 years, was named champion cowboy in 1976.

Until his accident, he had maintained a comfortable lead among the top contenders in this year's series.

Rodeo officials said there is a slim chance Craig can maintain the No. 1 spot, despite two more rodeo Sundays.

Leslie Benford, serving a 5-year term from Bryan, snatched a top prize sack off the horns of a charging bull to win a \$400 cash prize in the Hard Money event.

More than 23,000 fans attended Sunday's performance.

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