

Love Run to be in May MD Drive starts May 4

By Todd Woodard
Battalion Staff

Throughout May, runners will log miles and collect pledges for people afflicted with muscular dystrophy during America's Love Run.

To begin the charity event started in Brazos County, Texas A&M University track coach Charlie Thomas will conduct a running clinic May 4 at 2:30 p.m. at Texas A&M's aerobics track.

Thomas will teach runners how to build a running program and help them with running skills. After the clinic runners can enter a race which begins fund raising in Brazos County.

Thomas serves as the local program chairman.

"We would like to make \$30,000. Bryan and College Station are virtually untapped areas for us," Ann Plunkett, program director in Austin, said.

Over \$17,000 in contributions

came from a triangular area formed by Austin, Waco and Bryan-College last year. In addition, entertainer Jerry Lewis collects millions of dollars every year during his telethon.

Muscular dystrophy is not one disease. The term includes 40 neuromuscular diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Duchenne's disease.

The diseases turn muscle fiber into fat. People with muscular dystrophy must take care to avoid other diseases.

"Colds can be deadly, they can't cough," patient service coordinator Debbie Sigler said.

ALS is often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, and Duchenne's is the most common muscular dystrophy in children, Sigler said.

She explained Duchenne's is often diagnosed around a child's fifth birthday. She said people with Duchenne's usually die at around 20 years of age, usually of respiratory or heart failure.

There is no treatment or cure, Sigler said.

The money from the program goes for therapy and research.

"Therapy is not a cure, but the more active they are, the longer they'll live," Sigler said.

This is how the "Love Run" works. Someone who wants to participate may sign up at the clinic, at radio station WTAW, or at the race site on May 4.

For the \$2.50 entry fee, the runner receives a log book and some sponsorship forms.

Then the participant asks for pledges at five cents or more per mile run during May. The money collected is sent to a Muscular Dystrophy Association office.

Runners receive bronze, silver and gold medals for \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 collections.

Spring Festival

By KATHLEEN HARTNEY
Battalion Reporter

A group of children laughed with delight when a skeleton puppet danced across the grass at the Second Annual Spring Arts Festival held Saturday at Oaks Park.

While Willa Evans, the puppeteer from Houston, amused her young audience, parents were free to buy or admire paintings, pottery and jewelry at the show, sponsored by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department.

The idea for the festival was brought to the department by Rebecca Hirsch, a local potter who

has entered her works in other art shows.

Hirsch said this show gives the local talent a chance to exhibit and sell their creations.

In addition to the puppet display, the other big attraction for the children was a huge rubber globe of the earth. Painted in rich greens and blues, the globe was bounced and rolled around by the children.

The 18 artists and craftsmen each donated one work to an auction that helped pay for the festival. The auction brought in \$218. Each exhibitor paid a \$15 booth fee also, to help defray costs.

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Small crowd sails with Bees Knees

By RICHARD OLIVER
Battalion Staff

For one night in the midst of finals, term papers and graduation worries, a group of Aggies took a trip to the Caribbean.

The Bees Knees, a six-man musical group from Dallas, led the excursion on the S. S. Basement Coffeehouse, much to the happiness of everyone involved.

The group, which is well-known in the north Texas area and has opened for such acts as Loggins and Messina and Linda Ronstadt in the past, jazzed and rocked their way into the hearts of approximately 50 Texas A&M University students Friday night.

From the haunting, strange melody of "Wasted" to the Calypso beat of Ramsey Lewis' "Brasilica," the Bees Knees proved once again why they are considered one of the finest bands in Texas.

Roger Burton, lead singer and songwriter for the group, was vaguely similar to Steve Porcaro of Toto in his amazing vocal range, and the band played cleanly and professionally, more than compensating for the lousy acoustics of the Coffeehouse.

The Bees Knees, who appeared at Texas A&M last semester to a partially full Coffeehouse, were met by even less this time, which was too bad. They were — simply put — excellent.

"We play all sorts of crowds," said Steve Fawcett, the keyboards player, "and we enjoy playing to all of them. Still, this crowd is better than average."

Fawcett said the band has been together for four years, but a large turnover rate has produced four new members in just the past year.

Despite this, the group played as if they had played together all their lives.

The group has released two albums, and another is planned in the summer.

Brad Baylis, the opening act, was mellow and soothing in tuning up the crowd for what was to come.

Baylis, a Texas A&M student who was singing without his regular stage partner-roommate, Steve Schulte, mixed his tunes well. He sang several Christian-oriented songs, and also added a few by B.W. Stevenson, Pure Prairie League and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

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