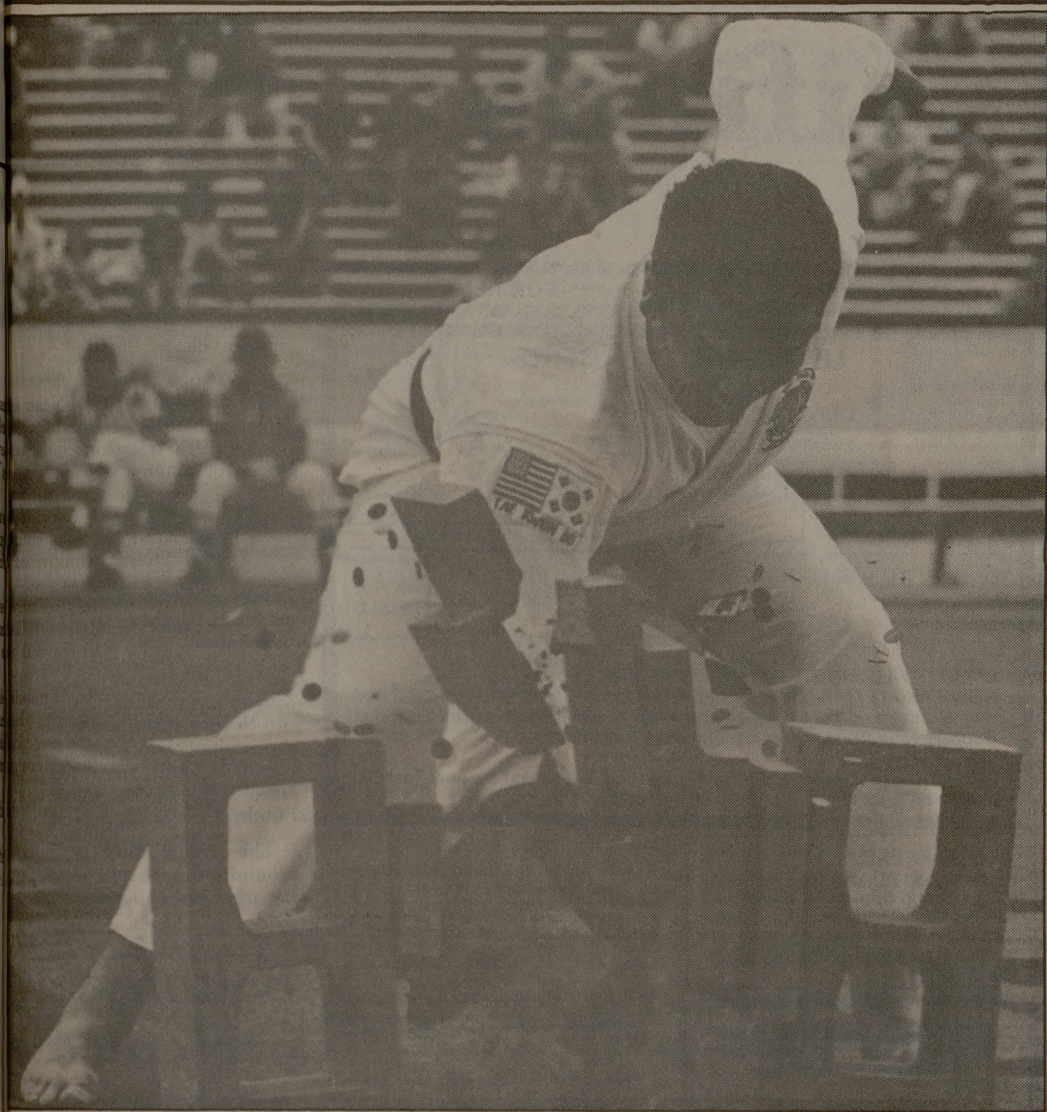


Local



Chop bricks?

Senior Phil Porres splits three cinder blocks and a piece of plywood in a half-time performance at the Elephant Bowl Sunday afternoon. Tae Kwon Do members entertained the crowd with various martial arts techniques.

Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

Nags pull all-nighters

'Horse sense' tested

Some horses appear to have a lot more horse sense than others. That's one reason why Dr. Gary Potter and a team of Texas A&M University researchers are putting a special group of experimental horses through a set of laboratory tests of pulling levers and traversing complex mazes.

"There must be a standard to measure progress. Some horses learn quickly and others never learn," he said. In the past, horse trainers and other professional horsemen have relied largely on trial and error. If a horse does well, thinks well and trains easily, then that training style is copied until something better comes along. After years of horse learning tests, the Texas A&M professor said there

is little doubt of tremendous learning variation from horse to horse. "Several test horses were so sharp you would think they had reached the point of reasoning, while others never learned the task assigned," said Potter. In one series, experimental tests revealed that emotions of the horse had a direct effect on its ability to learn. The quiet, more docile horses learn much faster than their high-strung counterparts, he said.

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