

Local

Artist stuffs, arranges birds

Wildlife art on sale at MSC

By MARTY BLAISE
Battalion Reporter
Wildlife enthusiasts looking for that extra special gift may find it at the wildlife display in the Memorial Student Center.

The Texas A&M Poultry Science Club is selling wildlife art work, paintings and furniture to raise money for agricultural scholarships.

The wildlife arts display, across from the MSC Gallery, will be exhibited through Nov. 6, and the items will be on sale through Thanksgiving, said Bill Lovette, president of the Poultry Science Club.

Items on sale include desks — available in ash, birch or oak — end tables, sofa tables and domes or bars with stuffed wildlife arrangements enclosed in glass.

Joe Hibler of Kingsville builds the furniture and raises and stuffs quail and pheasant, which he uses as part of the scenery in the glass domes and bars.

Lovette said the small domes

have from one to three birds, while the bars may have as many as seven.

The club also is selling wildlife paintings by artist David Drinkard of Corpus Christi.

"There are a variety of paintings for sale," said Adele Sosa, chairman of the Wildlife Arts Committee, "and prices start at \$18 for the unframed 9 x 12s."

"The paintings are reasonable as far as students are concerned — as far as Christmas gifts go."

Lovette said interested buyers can pick up the pricelist/order forms at the display in the MSC, at a display in the Aggie Inn or in 418 Kleberg.

Sosa said the art displays and prints will be delivered between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Poultry Science Club holds monthly meetings and sponsors speakers and agricultural programs. The club also takes field trips each year to different poultry science industries.

The club is an affiliate of the Southeastern Poultry Science Club, which is part of the Southeastern Poultry and Agriculture Association, an organization that has members in 21 universities in the United States.

Aggies can rodeo, rope this weekend in Snook

By LAURA WILLIAMS

Battalion Reporter
Any past or present faculty, staff or student of Texas A&M can win a keg of beer Friday or Saturday night at the All Aggie Reunion Rodeo in Snook.

The Texas Aggie Rodeo Association is sponsoring the steer-riding contest to give everyone on campus an opportunity to participate, regardless of whether they've ridden or not, Jane Armstrong, club sponsor and team coach, said.

"We would like to challenge sororities, fraternities and any other group to enter and compete," Armstrong said. "It's much more fun than riding a mechanical bull."

Armstrong said the team with the best combined score of three members will win the keg.

Other events will include bare-back, saddle-bronc, bull-riding, tie-down calf-roping, team-roping, steer-wrestling, goat-typing, girls barrel racing and break-away roping. Each event will be held twice nightly so finals rounds won't be required, Armstrong said.

"We have two days because of the large number of people," she said.

"Last year we had over 300 entries and made \$1,000."

"We get a little travel money from the extramural services, but it costs us at least \$7,500 to

put on our collegiate rodeo the Spring."

Armstrong said the team hoping to be invited to the national intercollegiate final, Montana this June.

"Our girls won the women's team award at Southwest Junior College in Utah," Armstrong said, adding that the men's team has also won several events.

A dance will be held in Snook's Starlight Room both nights, Oct. 31 and Friday, and Vince and the Valiants will play Saturday.

Entries will be taken during the hall of the MSC and are \$3.

GRE preparatory class subtracts fear of failure

By ERICA KRENNERICH

Battalion Reporter
A preparatory Graduate Record Examination class will begin Monday at A&M Consolidated High School.

Dr. Ed Guthrie, class instructor and Texas A&M University assistant director of academic services, said the class, offered through College Station Community Education, mainly shows students how to prepare for the math and analytical reasoning portions of the GRE. Most students' anxieties about the test stem from the math portion, he said.

Guthrie said he tries to establish a relaxed, friendly tone to make the class an enjoyable experience for students while he prepares them for the test.

"The idea is to have fun and make it enjoyable," he said. "We talk an awful lot, in all the sessions, about various strategies and ways to work particular types of math problems. Everybody understands there is always more than one way to approach a problem and I continually learn from these people about innovative ways to solve particular types of problems."

"We start at a very elementary level and I proceed at a slow, comfortable pace, taking a sufficient and necessary amount of time to answer any questions they might have. Everybody understands there is no such thing as asking a dumb question."

Guthrie, who taught 12 years in the Texas A&M math department, said he discusses necessary math fundamentals with students and tries to refresh their memories. Students practice under pressure on short, timed tests with questions similar to GRE questions.

The GRE is usually offered five times a year, twice in the fall and spring, and once in early summer. In the past Guthrie has taught two fall GRE preparatory classes and two spring classes. The session, which starts Monday, will be about his 10th class, he said.

The next GRE testing date is Dec. 12. Guthrie said the ideal time for students to take the GRE is on the Saturday after their last Thursday class. The prep class meets Mondays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for five weeks. Registration has already closed.

The GRE is scored similar to the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the highest possible score is 1600 points, and the test is composed of math and verbal sections.

GRE grading procedures changed this year, Guthrie said. "Students will no longer be penalized for guessing, but I think this is an encouraging positive thing."

Guthrie said that students have taken the GRE and not well enough to get into graduate school often improve their scores after they take the class.

Class size varies, Guthrie said. Monday's class has about 30 students. Smaller classes help get the input they need and are not intimidated, he said.

"If we did work with a number of students, say, 50 or more, I believe some of the camaraderie and freedom of learning might suffer," Guthrie said. Guthrie, who has a doctorate in math education from Texas A&M, began teaching the prep class in 1979.

"Sometimes I think the positive thing that comes out of these GRE sessions is the group people getting together discussing math, discussing particular types of working problems," Guthrie said. "I think just by osmosis probably the leading factor contributes to higher scores students would normally have."

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