Horseback riding helps handicapped students



Sherry McDonald walks the horse riden by Mary Koenig and Rachel around the arena at the TAMU Horse Center.

Houston votes today in mayoral showdown

HOUSTON — Voters decide sheriff - endorsed by the Ku Klux Klan — or a city controller — supported by the gay community nayor of the nation's most popu-

And the contrast between City Controller Kathy Whitmire and Harris County Sheriff Jack Heard

Whitmire 35, smiles little, dresses conservatively, and speaks in a high-toned voice.

versation with one-line jokes, anecdotes of his long public ser-vice career, and relishes his image

lärgest city, has never had a woman mayor. Whitemire was a two-term controller, running un-

the city.

She said she accomplished runoff. many things as controller, but said she lacked authority in certain areas. She said if she were to have a chance to unravel additional problems of the city, she must be its chief executive

certified public accountant, he has welcomed. the ability to attract qualified people to run departments.

In the Nov. 3 primary election in which a quarter million people voted, Whitmire placed first, gathering about 36 percent of the votes and Heard about 24 percent.

Third-place finisher, incumbent Jim McConn, who fired one of his top aides and left the city to

opposed for reelection for the vacation in Mexico shortly after second most powerful position in his defeat, said he would not support either candidate in the

> Heard has received an unsolicited Ku Klux Klan endorsement, which he has rejected.

Whitmire has been criticized by schief executive.

Heard said that although he dorsed Heard — because she has lacked the accounting and business experience of Whitmire, a tical Caucus, an endorsement she

In the primary election, Heard spent more than \$1.3 million, appealing to voters as "Jack Heard, the man," in a variety of

print and broadcast ads. Whitmire spent less than \$400,000 on her campaign. Most of her television ads were narrated By JOYCE HALLBAUER

Battalion Reporter range from 6 to Physically and mentally hand-McDonald said. icapped people may not have opportunities to enjoy the simple activities of walking, talking and learning new things that are taken for granted by many.

But they can learn to enjoy horseback riding through the annual Special Riding School, started in 1978 through the efforts

Horseback therapy, which can improve muscle movement in husarted in 1978 through the efforts of Dr. Doug Householder, a Texas A&M horse specialist.

Sherry McDonald, a junior animal science major, helps hand-icapped high school students with horseback riding at the school, which is held at the Texas A&M Horse Center on Jersey Street and sponsored by the Texas A&M Horseman's Association.

The 40 students in October's clinic, with physical or mental Bryan High School in May.

range from 6 to 19 years of age,

The horseback therapy clinic gives the kids an opportunity to do something special, McDonald said. "They learn to turn the horses, stop, hold the reins and give commands," she said.

countries, including England, since the 1950s.

The action of the horse serves to relax the muscles," McDonald said. "For the physically hand-icapped that's important, because their muscles are normally stiff."

Linda Alford, 19, paralyzed from spina bifida, was able to return to this year's riding clinic even though she graduated from

"I would ride every day if could," she said. "When I'm the horse I don't feel handica ped. I feel free. I want to stay @

McDonald and clinic C Chairman Diana Johnston ha added new ideas to the basic ri ing skills and exercise program The students now hold relay rac and go through an obstacle cours

Johnston said The horses adapt to the limit tions of the handicapped studer and seem to understand the situ tion, McDonald said. The horse provided by the University for t three-weekend clinic, were cal and gentle, she said.

Not only did the students lea to ride horses, but they learned groom them as well, McDona

today whether to make a county

could hardly be more striking.

Heard, 63, punctuates his con-

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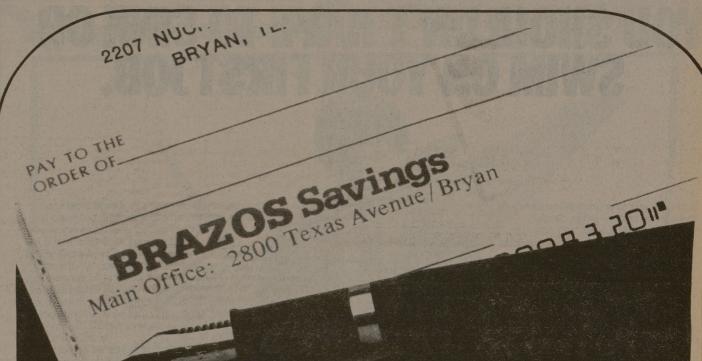
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