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Down-home dancing praised

Aggies clogging to beat of feet

By ERICA KRENNERICH

Battalion Reporter
Instead of plodding around campus caught up in an old, boring routine, why not take a tip from Alan Logan and Sandi Parriott and try clogging?

The American folk dance requires no partner and no music, and, its fans say, can improve the sense of rhythm, concentration and body condition.

Logan and Parriott, pre-med majors from San Antonio, teach clogging for MSC Free University.

Early Americans living without the pleasure of musical instruments in the Appalachian mountains began stomping their feet on the ground to beat out a dance rhythm.

"It's a combination of a lot of different cultures and dance steps like the Irish jig, and has Scottish and black influences," Logan said.

A class of 19 students has met one night a week throughout the semester in G. Rollie White Coliseum to learn the American folk dance, which originated in North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Traditional cloggers don't wear taps on their shoes, Parriott said. However, exhibition clogging groups wear taps to make a louder, clearer sound.

The sight and sound of clogging are equally important, Logan said.

"What you see and hear are important," he said. "The music is what first gets people's attention. Then they hear the sound of the taps and gather around to watch."

The music is mostly country and western, fiddle or banjo, but clogging can be done to other types of music. All of the music is fast with a definite bass beat.

Although some cloggers use square dance movements, Parriott said, cloggers don't use a caller, and the dancers can either invent their own steps or learn steps to match the music.

Logan and Parriott are members of the Cadence Cloggers, a San Antonio precision exhibition group, which performs at festivals and conventions. Parriott said the Cadence Cloggers performed in the soon-to-be-released movie "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" starring Burt Reynolds.

Logan said his group performs differently from some groups in



Sandi Parriott, a pre-med major from San Antonio, demonstrates clogging to Michael Shrank, a senior recreation and parks major from Aleman.

North Carolina because the members prefer to raise their knees high instead of keeping their feet flat to the floor.

"A lot of them like to do the clogging step very fast — faster than we do it," he said. "They keep their feet very flat to the floor. You never see their taps because they keep their feet so low." Parriott said the basic clogging

step has three parts: A double toe, which is two toe brushes on the floor in one beat; a step on the heel; and a toe stomp. There are many specialty steps and variations on the basic step, she said.

Aside from a sense of rhythm and an agile foot, Parriott said, cloggers need to have endurance. "After you do it (clogging) for a certain period of time, you get

conditioned," she said. "It's like jogging because you lose your breath at first. It's like any other dancing. When you first start it's kind of hard and takes concentration."

"It's an enthusiastic dancer who motivates people. I've never known anyone who has done it and doesn't like it."

Village's water radioactive

United Press International
JERSEY VILLAGE — Laboratory tests show that drinking water in Jersey Village and three other water districts near Houston exceeds the maximum levels of radioactivity allowed by federal law.

The radioactivity probably

occurs naturally, officials said Tuesday, and doctors specializing in internal medicine say it is not harmful in the detected levels. High levels of radioactivity have been linked to certain types of cancer, such as bone cancer and some forms of leukemia.

City officials are looking for an economical method to remove the radioactivity from the water, but

said they will request a variance from the state health department which would allow the city to continue using its water supply.

The four water systems serve about 8,000 residents. The municipal water supply comes from two wells, which are supplied by ground water.

Composite tests taken every three months during the last year

showed that Jersey Village's municipal water exceeded the maximum allowable level of radioactivity, 226, Bob Moore, public works director, said.

But in accordance with federal law, Jersey Village residents receive notification of the radioactivity in their next water bill, which were to be mailed Wednesday, Moore said.

Dr. John Burdine, professor of internal medicine and radiology at Baylor College of Medicine, said the federal standards for radioactivity in water are far less than anything ever known to produce harmful biological effect in humans.

"This is an exquisitely small amount of radiation," Burdine said. He said people receive radiation from a number of sources, including the sun.

Radioactivity is measured in units called curies with a pico representing one-trillionth of a curie. The maximum allowable level of radioactivity in water is five pico curies per liter.

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