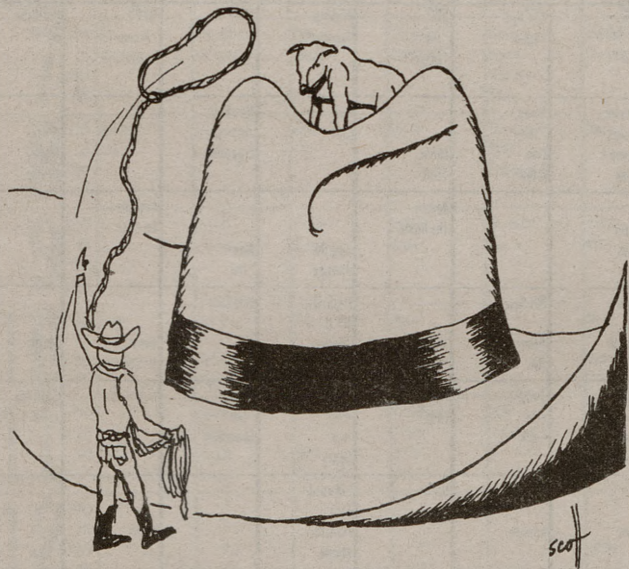


Pull your boots out of the closet

Houston going Texan for rodeo



A morning parade through the streets of Houston and fireworks across the night sky mark the opening of the Houston Livestock Show Saturday.

The rodeo kicks off in the Astrodome Wednesday.

This year is the 50th of the show, and once again a full two weeks of entertainment for cowpokes and dudes alike is planned.

City meets country in the show rings of the Astrohalls, where 29,000 livestock entries will vie for honors and probably help break in some city slicker's boots between judging events.

The first week of the show is reserved for competition between professional breeders and livestock producers from throughout the country. When their awards are all handed out, junior exhibitors from around the state show their animals,

which usually represent a year's work for them.

The animals aren't the only ones competing; the human element will battle in barbecue cooking, hay-hauling, whistling, fiddling and horseshoe pitching.

The two come together in the rodeo, which has one of the richest purses in America. This year, 16 performances feature the basic man versus animal events, plus specials like the chuckwagon races and calf scramble.

The rodeo features a bevy of performers this year: Eddy Arnold, Anne Murray, Larry Gatlin, Merle Haggard, the Oak Ridge Boys, Charley Pride, Mac Davis, The Statler Brothers, Moe Bandy and Joe Stampley, Conway Twitty, Dolly Parton, Kool and the Gang and Don Williams. Tickets for the rodeo are \$4 and \$8.

Performers and riders are projected on large screens in the Astrodome, so all the seats in the house can be considered good seats, even if they are a little closer to the ceiling than you might like. The screen used is the same size as the Astrodome scoreboard. Besides giving a close-up of performers, it shows slow motion and instant replays of rodeo action and taped highlights of judging events and contests around the grounds to the rodeo audience.

The carnival midway features 40 rides, attractions and numerous games to test your skill.

The city of Houston officially proclaims the two weeks of rodeoing "Go Texan" Days, and the city participates by turning out in its finest western wear. No matter that the duds probably hang in the closet from February to February, appearing only briefly each year.

Natural foods on club's menu

by Pam Barta
Battalion Reporter

One club at Texas A&M University probably won't have chocolate ice cream and soft drinks at its meetings.

The Texas A&M University Whole Foods Club is interested in sharing information on the nutritional benefits of health foods.

Club president Bruce Pace started the organization, which became a recognized student group in October. He said he had been thinking about such a club for the past two and a half years.

Pace said he thought there was a need for it, and he saw that other people also had such an interest.

One of the club's goals is to get fresh fruit in campus vending machines and in the MSC. Pace said they also would like to see labels on the food served at the MSC in order to inform patrons.

For example, he said, many interational students aren't aware or don't understand what's in cafeteria food. This may result in them eating something that goes against religious beliefs, Pace said.

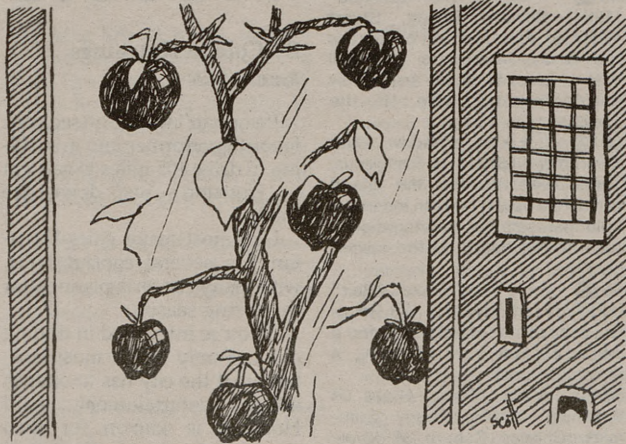


Traces of the club can already be seen in the Memorial Student Center Browsing Library, where its subscription to "Vegetarian Times" is available to the public.

"The magazine filled a gap in the browsing library and gives a pretty broad spectrum of different diets," Pace said.

Club members also are trying to reach the community and let people know what is available to them, Pace said. One way to do this is with a monthly newsletter, the "Brazos Garden Patch."

The "Brazos Garden Patch" provides information on nutrition, dieting, alternative diets,



and other such matters that may be of interest to the community.

"Information is our main goal right now," Pace said.

Next month's issue will cover places to eat in the community.

"We're going to address any place that has anything good to eat, like a good baked potato or a good salad," Pace said.

The newsletter also includes an "odds 'n ends" section that gives information on nutritional value of popular foods. For example, he said, one pound of popcorn has 1,751 calories, 57.6 grams of protein and 347.9

grams of carbohydrates.

As one of its short-term goals club members hope to add 20 members to their present five by

the end of next month.

"I think we can do it; that's a reasonable goal," Pace said. He said the club already has a list of 35 people who have shown interest in the organization.

Some of the long-range activities of the club include a bake sale, a vegetable plant sale and the creation of a cook-book.

Pace said the plant sale would be an especially good idea for on-campus students, who aren't allowed to have animals in their dorm rooms. The plant would give the students something to snack on while studying, Pace said, as well as add something special to the surroundings.

For more information on the Texas A&M University Whole Foods Club, contact Pace at 693-5989.

Relive the days of Rome

The Texas Greco-Roman festival is sort of like a Renaissance festival for the times of the Greeks and Romans.

Held weekends from May 22 through June 27, the festival is a celebration of the gods of mythology and their lives, held in an oak forest north of Dallas, near Terrell.

The gods themselves will be

there, roaming the grounds to hobnob with mortals who pay \$5.50 to get in.

The festival also features artists and craftsmen showing and selling their wares, including jewelry, pottery, woodwork, etchings, paintings and weavings.

The daring may throw the javelin or fight gladiators, or

even have a tug-of-war with Hannibal's elephant.

And what would any self-respecting Roman gathering be without food? Stuffed grape leaves, souvlaki, baklava and spumoni, all washed down with your choice of drinks.

Entertainment includes wandering musicians, jugglers and the like, or dramas on stage.

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