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SLOSH

SLOSH

by Scott McCullar

LOVE IS WEIRD ...

Banjos, nature spell success to musician

dried and aged. The finished ban-

ponytail and wearing torn khakis, Mathews rolled a cigarette from a

can of Bugler tobacco as he recited

the history of his business, official-

ly known as the Phippsburg Banjo

Walsh, a novice banjo maker.

Always musical, Mathews said

alike in appearance or tone.

the Ozarks.

Co

l prices," said Jea the Los Angele and Conven

r of here.

set

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S

s his family back in St. Paul, who think they n., thinks he's a little crazy to thousands of dol well in the Ozarks and make banheir homes for t osfor a living, but he rates himself idding themselve California — w success - personally and profesattractions as isnevland and

Making banjos, after all, has os — normally pported Mathews for nine years tors in July. Or w. It allows him to stay close to day there nusic and nature, involves some of-town guests, a ravel and performing, introduces him to obscure country musicians and makes him part of America's r is expected to in only 50,000 during usical history c message to peop

will be accomed ble," Spalding sa "We'll never run out of work. m not going to be unemployed, o don't have ticke Mathews said, perched on a stool here, they will ty n his dusty workshop. "I'm not ich or anything, but I can con-tinue to do what I want to do, and that's success, really." real, their hotelsdi capacity when the mpics were then

> His neighbors know him as Banjo Bill." Any of them can give irections to his house, starting at he old stone general store near he wooden bridge at Osage and wing the rutted, rocky roads or miles through the trees.

Mathews, 31, was looking for someplace that hadn't been con-erted into civilization yet" when trikes in Was affected 16,600 settled in the northwest corner of Arkansas in 1975. His 35 acres of earing was sche and support hardwoods that can be used to make banjos and also Pierce County Su a request by par wided the raw materials for his hand-built solar home. to end a strike in 0

is, teachers in the In a concession to civilization and Wheeling and business realities, Mathews munity Consult on the algo has clustering four years ago. He also has electricity in the house now, but he and his wife and three daughters still drink ict 21 will strike M contracts agreen om a spring and bathe in pond

He works alone in a shack 50 you know wards from the house and does most of his business by telephone and mail order.

Press Internationa est meat eaters "I just have to go meet the maile people of the U han and there's my money," he an average co 9 ounces per

owing incidents the University

United Press International OSAGE, Ark. — Bill Mathews doors

said, swatting at summer bugs first shop was four miles away in an flying through the shop's open old mortuary at Oak Creek, he said. They sponsored jam sessions In the spring and fall, Mathews and square dances and sold their travels to crafts fairs to show off his first banjos. banjos and sell tape recordings of his old-fashioned banjo and fiddle But Colorado land near hard-

woods and sawmills was too exmusic. Some people at the fairs order banjos, but the \$7 tapes pensive to buy, Mathews said, so in 1975, the partners finally set-tled on the Ozarks with its abunusually pay for the trip. When Mathews is home, he said, "I fill orders, cut firewood and take care of the kids." dant walnut, cherry, ash and maple. With Walsh back in Colorado Warped

SLAM!

AH, SO YOU ROMANTI FOOLS ARE BACK. HO

WAS YOUR SILLY "MOONLITE" WALK BY THE FOUNTAIN?

A&M refs get

added benefits

by Maria Gautschy

Association is offering benefits for

intramural sports officials to make

Officials will be offered free

refereeing more than just a job.

aderie between officials.

work and each other.

an extra chance to practice.

\$5 to play in the tournament.

ciation

said

making guitars now, Mathews goes to sawmills to buy wood — Mathews makes just 16 banjos a Arkansas walnut, Vermont white maple and African ebony for the year, carefully carving and polishing wood that has been kiln fingerboards. The metal "hardware" around

jos have the deep gloss of fine furniture, and he said no two are the rim is made by commercial music companies along with the plastic drum heads, although Mathews will use animal skin if it "I've learned a lot since I moved to Arkansas from the oldrequested. In his workshop, Mathews steams and bends four or five thin timers. Be very patient," he said. Those old-timers have also

layers of wood to make the circular taught Mathews more about the banjo, invented in 1834 by an rim and sands it by hand. Then he American improvising on a threereinforces wooden blocks with steel and uses a hammer and chisel to cut the smooth curve in string African instrument played by slaves. The banjo was later adapted to ragtime and the bluegthe back of the neck. He cuts mother-of-pearl inlays by hand to rass music that is still popular in place in the ebony. His thinning hair tied into a

His prices range from \$400 to \$950 for the "Black Beauty II, made from aged walnut and equipped with a resonator — a curved wooden back behind the banjo head. Without a resonator, the backless banjo head resembles a tambourine

None of them sound exactly he won permission from the rather alike because every piece of wood is different," he said. mystified music faculty at the University of Minnesota to teach him-It takes two years to "age the sound" in some banjos, so they self to play the banjo while attending school. After two years, he took his new skill to the Colorado sound better after they have been mountains and there met John used, he said. Consequently, he

will offer 100 percent trade-in value on any of his banjos if the They were dissatisfied with standard Japanese banjos and couldn't afford the more expencustomer wants a new one. Mathews will also make free repairs and pay for shipping. "People can deal directly with sive kind that run \$2,000 to

"We both decided we could do better," Mathews said. "We just me," he said. "That turned out to be a real good way to do it, begot some wood and some parts and cause people trust you. Once you started doing it by trial and error.' do an adjustment or something, they know they're secure in their They named the company for Phippsburg, Colo., although their investment.

hopes the association will encour age relationships between officials that will make training more en-Battalion Reporter The Texas A&M Sports Officials

LOSH SLOSH SLOSH

The association, after three years of existing only in name, was

Tom Weis, director of intramuthe the new freshmen and sopho-

equipment, opportunities for so-cial functions, scholarships and annual awards through the assowill keep the program from dying a second time.

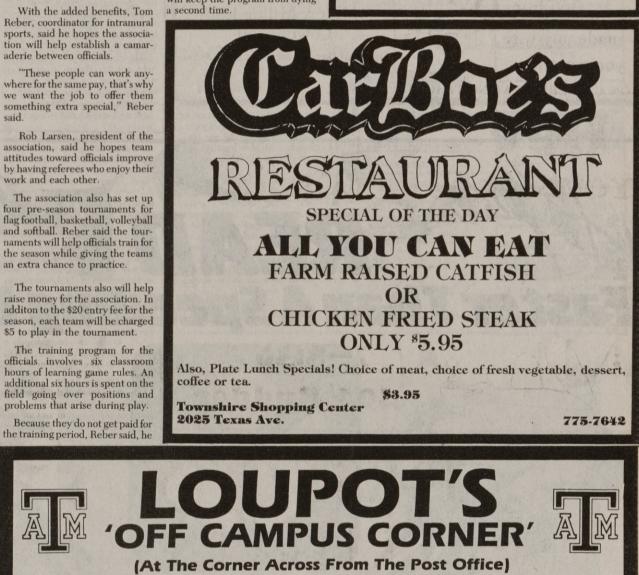
joyable.

revived this year by Reber.

ral sports, said he is confident that mores involved in the association

Attention All Recognized Student Organizations

Check your boxes for a copy of the 1984 Aggieland yearbook contract. If your organization has not received a contract, contact our office at 845-2681 or 845-2682 or come by Room 0012 in the basement of the Reed McDonald Building and pick up a contract.



Post Oak Mall shoppers ce beat can win big at auction

\$4,000, he said.

by Leslie Yoder

t through Friday. **Battalion Reporter** allets were stolen Oak Mall to bid on a variety of merchandise at the mall's auction. hile their owners sketball. One w The event will be held at 7 p.m. 35 and the other oon 1982 Oldsmo uesday in the courtyard area be-ween Dillards Department Store rra was stolen for and Zales Jewelers king lot west of

Assistant Mall Manager Maria Id Railroad Dep \$10,000 worth of merchandise, bonus, Polites said. Road was ranse from a 1983 Pontiac T-1000 to a "The Mall Bucks Auction is was stolen." In Shirt, will be auctioned by quite involved as opposed to other

from any Post Oak Mall merchant can be validated on the day of pur-It's not too late for shoppers to chase at the Information Booth in

ect some big bucks from Post exchange for "mall bucks." Mall to bid on a variety of Post Oak Mall bucks also can be obtained from the Ted Wilkinson, Inc. service department for service work worth up to \$200. The bucks are equal in value to

the receipts. Shoppers can redeem double olites said Tuesday more than mall bucks on Tuesdays as an extra bonus, Polites said.

ago, she said. CBL Management, contract developer and owner of the mall, re-

commended having the auction because of its success at other malls, Polites said. MEXICAN

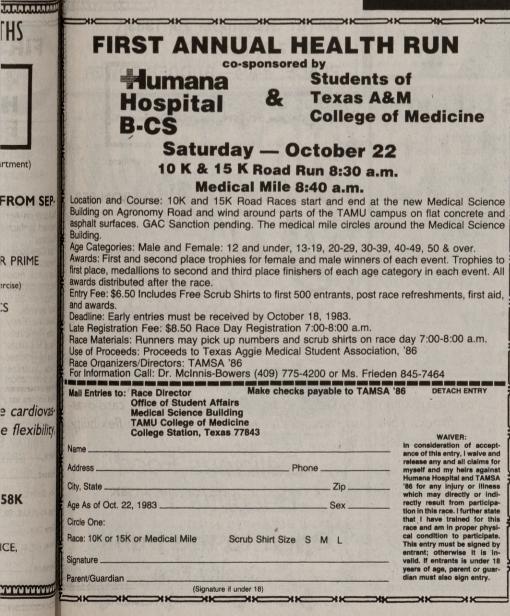
DRESSES

was stolen. Loyd Joyce, a local auctioneer mall promotions because of the sixth level at adformer mayor of Bryan. was stolen. people were tra

University Police Dass warning.

length of time and planning it We believe that this auction is sort of back-to-school bonus for our shoppers," Polites said. Cash receipts and charge slips were contacted about six months

^{\$}24⁹⁸ Summer **Clearance Sale** at ALFREDO'S



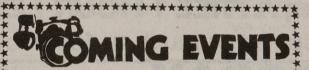
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS-

YOU AND YOUR ROOMMATE

For most students, coming to Texas A&M is a well-planned adventure that holds promises of new and exciting experiences Different routines, stimulating lectures, mind-expanding ideas, new friends, and ROOMMATES! Perhaps one of the richest learning experiences that you can have outside the classroom is living in close quarters with another person, a roommate. Through these "close encounters," you will discover a multitude of personality traits about yourself and your roommate; some are good, some are bad. At some point in your relationship, these personality traits may be in conflict, so you should be prepared to handle the problems.

Some quick tips:

-Know what your roommate is all about, consider knowing him or her as a learning experience. Even if the clod doesn't



OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 p.m. in Room 601, Rudder Tower

- OCA APARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECTIONS: Balloting will be held Wednesday, September 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the OCA office, Room 222 Pavilion and outside the Pavilion. Also, balloting will continue at the regular OCA meeting that evening at 6:30 p.m. in Room 601, Rudder Tower.
- OFF CAMPUS FISH NIGHT: Off Campus Freshmen are invited to attend a party in their area. Hot dogs, sodas, and fun will be provided! See ya'll there!

Tuesday, September 20 Scandia Apts. Pool 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 22 Casa Del Sol Apts. Pool 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 27 Southwest Village Apts. Pool 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29 Plantation Oaks Apts. Pool 7:00 p.m. ****

bathe and spits on the floor, keep in mind that you are learning to handle new situations and discovering more about people. -Accept your roommate without trying to change him or her.

-All initiative will not come from your roommate. You may find yourself thinking, "She never opens up to me. I don't know anything about her." Well, have you opened up to your roommate? Have you brought him or her into your life?

-If you need a space of your own in the room or apartment, talk to your roommate about it, rather than announcing, 'This is my area, keep your fat mitts out of it." Ask your roommate if it is alright for an area or corner to be yours alone. Explain why you feel you need it.

-Try not to let your load friendships get in the way of your new relationship with your roommate. Your new roommate could teach you something new. Cutting your roommate out because he or she is not like you eliminates half the adventure of living with someone new.

If you and your roommate cannot work out your differences, come see us at the Off Campus Center. Our advisors are trained to handle roommate conflicts and will be glad to help you examine your options. We're located in Puryear Hall, directly across from the YMCA Building, or give us a call at 845-1741. Feel free to call or come by Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



ADOPT-A-FISH

The Residence hall Association (RHA) will once again sponsor the "Adopt-a-Fish" program. Through this program freshmen and first semester transfer students can participate in residence hall life. Those students taking part in the program will pay the hall's activity fee and will be assigned to a particular floor, wing, or ramp. The off campus students may attend social functions, educational programs, and fundraisers of the "adopted" residence hall. RHA hopes that through this program, off campus students will become more active in campus events and learn more about what it means to live on campus. If you are interested, go by the RHA Office in Room 215 of the Pavilion or sign-up at the Off Campus Center in Puryear Hall, across from the YMCA Building.

Loupot's Off Campus Corner is sponsored each month by Loupot's Bookstore at Northgate as a service to Texas A&M students. Stories and artwork are provided by the staff of the Off Campus Center.