



Easy listening music

Sandra Sutphen, Battalion photo

Drawing listeners to the "original student radio" are Chris Dominy, Griff Bludworth, and Martha Glenn. They set up their

equipment outside of Rudder Tower on Tuesday to attract listeners to KANM, the 24-hour music station.

International group to sponsor Olympics

by Darla Bucaram
Battalion Reporter
Next semester, students from the 106 countries represented on campus will match opposing forces during the International Mini-Olympics.

Vui Le, president of the campus Vietnamese-American Association and chairman of the International Students Association sports committee, says the event should help bring international students closer together and increase student awareness of the different nationalities.

The success of the Vietnamese-American Association Olympics at Texas A&M last year, prompted Tina Watkins, the international student campus adviser, to start the International Mini-Olympics, Le said.

"Last year was the fifth consecutive year (first time at Texas A&M) that the Vietnamese-American Associations of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana got together to have our own mini-olympics," Le said.

"Over 1,200 people showed

up," he said. "It was a lot of fun. It was a two day affair and everyone had a good time. It gave us the chance to see and get to know each other."

The date for the mini-olympics hasn't been set, but Le

said the association plans to hold it in late February.

"There will be two days of games," Le said. "The first day, Saturday, will be for indoor games, the second, Sunday, for outdoor games."

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Program develops motor skills, aids a child's physical fitness

by Brenda Bivona
Battalion Staff

Acquiring physical fitness skills at a young age hopefully could increase a child's chances of remaining physically fit later in life, a Texas A&M associate professor of health and physical education says.

The Texas A&M Motor Development Lab Program works with children to help them learn the physical fitness skills that could help them later in life.

Associate professor Dr. Carl Gabbard started the program four years ago.

The program is based on research of child psycho-motor behavior, service to the community by developing physical fitness in local children and teaching.

One division of the program focuses on early motor development in three and four-year-olds. The Early Childhood Motor Development and Research Lab is in the Child Movement Center in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The sights and sounds of laughing, running, giggling and climbing emerge from the center which is stuffed with equipment. A large blue gymnastic mat with the alphabet and numbers printed on it, red and yellow hoops, ladders, red balls, a small blue trampoline, balance beams, hula hoops and swinging ropes fill the room.

"One, two, three, GO!" proclaims Noah, a four-year-old in his second year in the program. "I want to practice some more."

Noah was "twinkling," a rhythm exercise in which children jump over two long sticks as student teachers tap out rhythms on the floor.

During the eight-week program, student teachers conduct activities which help improve such skills as locomotion. The exercises include rolling, running, and climbing, body and space awareness, rhythm and visual motor control.

The skills are learned through elementary activities like rolling balls across the gym, rolling on the floor "like a log" and crawling under things.

The objective of the physical fitness program is to enhance

fundamental motor efficiency, perceptual motor awareness, fitness, confidence, creativity, a positive self-image and joy and appreciation of movement, Gabbard said.

Parents can accompany their children to the Child Movement Lab. Some of them offer encouragement to their three or four-year-old child. Most of the parents sit around talking about their child's latest accomplishments.

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"The program is excellent for many reasons," Eileen Homer, a mother whose daughter is in the program, said. "It builds motor movement skills, develops socialization, and teaches the children to follow directions."

mother whose daughter is in the program, said. "It builds motor movement skills, develops socialization, and teaches the children to follow directions. They also gain basic knowledge, such as learning their right from their left."

"The kids here have no fear because the activities are low-keyed. It is very non-threatening."

Kathleen Richardson has a five-year-old son who has completed the program, a three-year-old daughter who is now in the program. Another son is on the waiting list.

"I like the program because you get feedback on what skills your child is doing well at and which ones he needs help with," Richardson said. "Through the program we discovered that our five-year-old was having trouble distinguishing his left from his right. We had no idea until the program brought this out."

At the end of each session, the instructor pins an animal cutout to each child's shirt. The cutout lists what the child did in lab that day, how he excelled and areas

that need improvement.

"Physical fitness skills are easier to learn when you're little," Cheryl Holloway, an Elementary Education major and student teacher in the lab, said. "By learning physical fitness skills the kids also learn how to do things in front of others without being embarrassed."

"Another important thing is they learn to play without their parents being right next to them. It helps develop confidence and independence."

People are beginning to realize that children who are good athletes in grade school will be a better athlete later, Marilyn McCormick, a student teacher, said.

"After learning how to kick and throw, the children have the primary skills," she said. "Then

they will be better prepared to learn advanced skills."

Parents of local three and four-year-olds can get their children involved in the program by calling Dr. Carl Gabbard at the Department of Health and Physical Education.

Twenty-six openings are available each session. Currently 70 children are on the waiting list. The program cost \$10.

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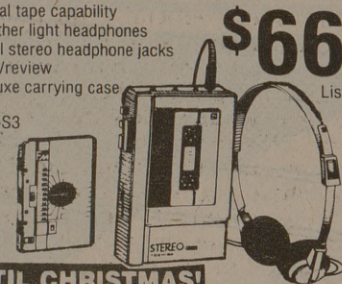
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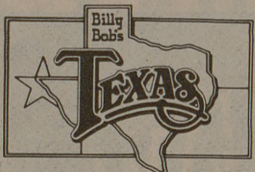
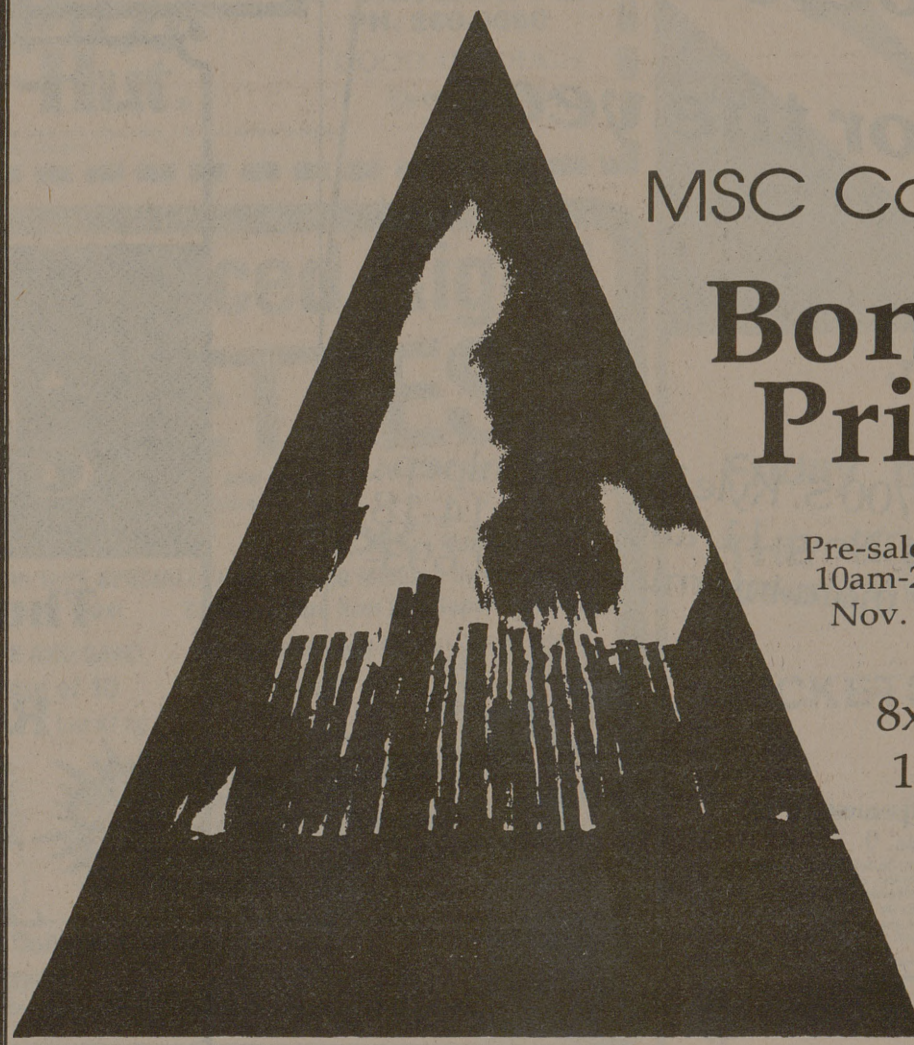
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