

Around town

Cotton pageant tickets available

Tickets are now available for the **50th Annual Cotton Pageant** sponsored by the Student Agronomy Society. The pageant will be April 7 at 7 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are \$1.50 for students and \$3 for non-students and are available from any Agronomy Society member or at the MSC Box Office. Following the pageant will be the Cotton Dance at the Hall of Fame. Tickets for the dance cost \$2.50 and are available only from Agronomy Society members. For more information, call 260-5760.

Battalion hiring summer, fall staff

The Battalion is now accepting applications for **summer and fall staff**. All staff positions are open. Anyone interested in a staff position should come by 216 Reed McDonald for an application and interview appointment. Deadline for applications is April 11 at 5 p.m.

Students hold conference in Austin

The **Fourth Annual Student Conference on Latin America** sponsored by the Institute for Latin American Studies will be this weekend in Austin at the University of Texas. The conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Thompson Conference Center rooms 2.110 and 2.120 on the UT campus. For more information contact 322-3270.

Underclassmen compete in math

The annual **Freshman and Sophomore Mathematics Contest** will be April 17 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. First place winners will receive \$100, second place winners will receive \$60 and third place winners will receive \$40. No calculators will be allowed. Test material will be provided. The prerequisite for the freshman contest is knowledge of calculus through Math 151 or the equivalent and for the sophomore contest, knowledge of calculus through math 253 or the equivalent. The freshmen contest will be in 216 Milner Hall and the sophomore contest will be in 201 Milner.

Art League hosts spring market

The Brazos Valley Art League is sponsoring its annual **Spring Art Market** today and Saturday at Post-Oak Mall from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. More than sixty exhibitors have been confirmed for the market.

Alpha Phi Omega helps at festival

Alpha Phi Omega will be assisting at the **Senior Citizens' Festival** Saturday at Central Park. The event will be from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will involve students playing checkers, dominos and other activities with senior citizens.

After Hours offers driving course

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a **Driver Safety Course** April 13-14 and April 20-21. The course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10 percent discount on automobile insurance. Registration is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-9352.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Thursday.

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- A blue Huffy ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Haas Hall bike rack.
 - A white and red Raleigh ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Academic Building bike rack.
 - A student's Stellar wrist watch and his wallet were stolen from the third floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. The wallet contained his driver's license, student I.D. card and \$5 in cash.
- HARASSMENT:**
- A student in Krueger Hall reported she has been receiving harassing telephone calls from an unidentified male.

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Presented By TAMU Theatre Arts

April 10-14

Budder Theatre
8:00 PM

Ticket Info: 845-2916

Aquaculture

Research shows value of salt water rainbow trout

United Press International

GULF SHORES, Ala. — Rainbow trout and shrimp raised in salt water ponds may one day become cash crops in coastal Alabama if commercial ventures are as successful as a recent research project, a marine biologist said Thursday.

John Hawke, a marine biologist at the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Peteet Mariculture Center, said commercial aquaculture projects already exist in Texas and Florida.

He said rainbow trout mostly

are grown in the fresh water mountain streams of Tennessee or states farther north, but research at Peteet indicates the fish can survive in salt water and can endure Alabama's warmer temperatures.

The Peteet project involved 13 dirt-bottom ponds filled with salt water. A record harvest of about 3,200 pounds of rainbow trout was completed Wednesday. The fish, which were fed commercial trout pellets, averaged a half-pound and 10 to 12 inches in size.

"That's well-accepted by the

restaurants in this area," Hawke said. "I personally don't think there's any difference in the taste of these fish and those those from fresh water."

A South American variety of shrimp was raised at Peteet from May through October. Then six-inch rainbow trout fingerlings were placed in the man-made ponds in December.

Hawke said the experiment generated about 1,000 pounds-per-acre of shrimp and 1,300 pounds-per-acre of rainbow trout.

The shrimp sell for \$2.50 to

\$3.50 a pound dockside. A pound can be anywhere from 21 to 30 shrimp. The trout sell for \$1.90 a pound dressed and \$1.40 a pound if they haven't been cleaned.

"We feel the shrimp alone would show a profit and the trout will be icing on the cake," Hawke said.

He said it was no surprise that the trout were able to thrive in salt water.

"Up north and in Canada, trout may stay at sea a year or make a spawn run similar to salmon," he said. "What some

people call a steelhead trout is a rainbow that's gone to sea and come back heavier and grayer in color."

The Peteet biologists have been experimenting with four different strains of rainbow trout to see which has the best survival rate in warm water. Hawke said one strain is said to thrive in water temperatures as warm as 80 degrees.

Hawke said he didn't know when commercial trout farming in Alabama would become a reality.

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