

STATE AND LOCAL

# Aggies volunteer to aid Texas Special Olympics

By VERONICA MUZQUIZ  
Reporter

The Texas Special Olympics in Bryan High's Viking Stadium will host about 730 athletes Saturday participating in wheel-chair races, gymnastics and a wide variety of track and field events.

Anne McGowen, coordinator of the adaptive physical education program at Texas A&M, said anybody classified by the state as mentally retarded can participate in the Special Olympics.

Besides the athletes, who range in age from 8 to 42 years old, about 730 Texas A&M students have volunteered to help.

Coaching, presenting awards and timing the different events are among the responsibilities of the volunteers. McGowen said a volunteer also is responsible for getting his assigned athlete to the event and will be in charge of him for the entire day.

Maria Cobos, an A&M student volunteer, said, "Everybody is looking forward to the Olympics but at the same time it's going to be a relief when it's over because tests are coming up."

Participants are separated into

*The opening ceremonies are important to the athletes because it gets them in the mood. Nobody in the Special Olympics is a loser. — Anne McGowen, coordinator of the adaptive physical education program at A&M*

dance will follow the ceremonies in 303 East Kyle.

Groups of six for each event according to their age and qualifying-heat times. Ribbons will be presented to those athletes placing first through sixth along with certificates of participation.

McGowen said, "Nobody in the Olympics is a loser."

Other activities for participants when they are not competing include listening to a jazz band, visiting Pooh's Park or watching the other participants compete.

Opening ceremonies will be Friday at 6 p.m. at Viking Stadium. A

"The opening ceremony is very important for the athletes because it gets them in the mood and it is very, very rewarding," McGowen said.

The activities Saturday begin at 9 a.m. when the athletes recite the Special Olympics oath. Events will continue through the day until 4 p.m.

McGowen said the most rewarding part of the Special Olympics is seeing the athletes, who have worked hard preparing for the event, have an opportunity to compete with other athletes.

This year the Special Olympics has spent \$4,800 preparing for the weekend activities, McGowen said.

Funds were provided by A&M clubs, a golf tournament sponsored by KBTX-Channel 3 and community donations, McGowen said.

Athletes winning the regional meet will be eligible to go to the state meet in Austin. National and international meets will follow the Special Olympics in Austin.

Students wanting to volunteer to help with the Olympics should report to the information desk at Viking Stadium Saturday.

# Saddle and Sirloin club to hold annual livestock show, auction

By CHERYL CLARK  
Reporter

The Saddle and Sirloin club will sponsor the annual Little Southwestern Livestock Show Saturday at the Swine Center and the Louis Pearce Animal Science Pavilion.

Patterned after an actual livestock show, the event is a competition for students to gain experience in showing and judging animals, said Emilie Overmann, secretary of the club.

"The competition deals strictly with showmanship and the ability of the exhibitor," Overmann said. "The quality of the animal is not taken into

consideration, just how well it is shown."

Students will be showing sheep, pigs, horses and cattle, she said.

After the competition, a ham luncheon and auction will be held, Overmann said. Everyone is invited to attend both the luncheon and the auction.

The hams have been trimmed and cured by members of the Saddle and Sirloin club and will be auctioned to

the highest bidder, Overmann said. Last year, one ham went for \$1,475.

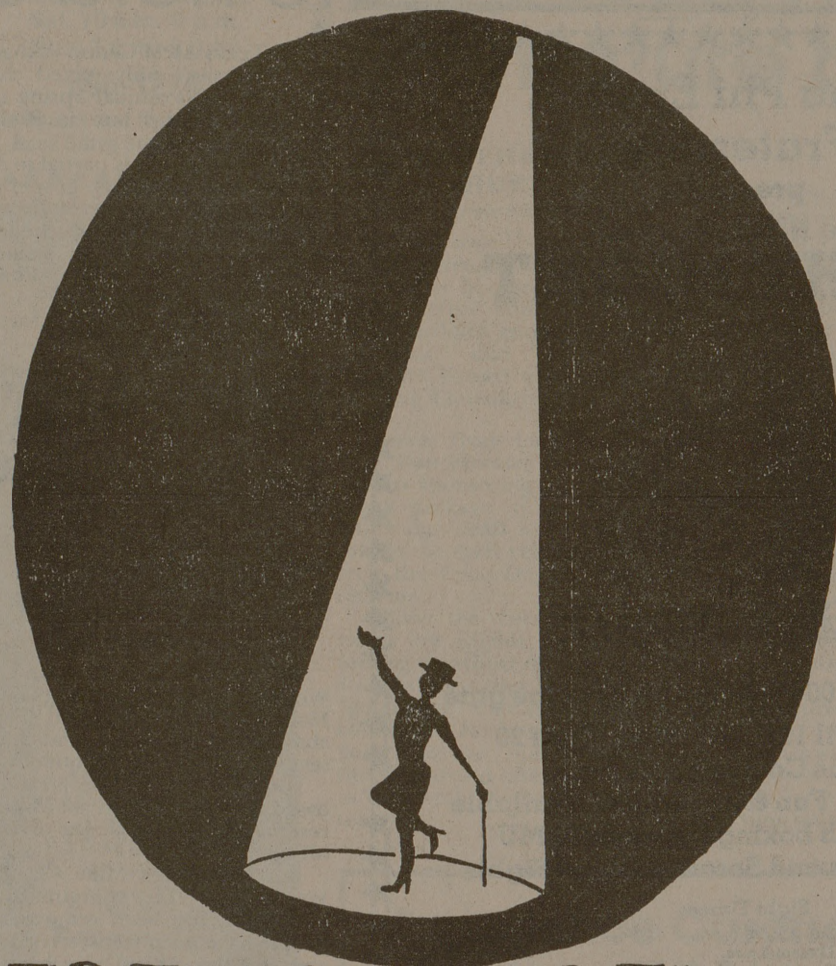
"The proceeds from the auction

provide the main part of the funds to maintain the club for the upcoming year," Overmann said. She added that the auction bids actually are more of a donation.

Awards will be presented to a champion and reserve champion for the four types of animals shown. An overall champion and reserve champion picked from the eight winners after another competition, Overmann said.

Awards to the top 10 trimmers in a ham trimming contest held earlier this week also will be presented at the show.

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