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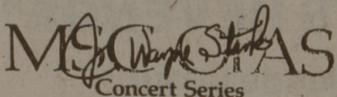
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Students are judged in stock show

By CHERYL CLARK
Reporter

Imagine being prodded, pushed, poked and pulled — all while trying to maintain your animal dignity.

At the Little Southwestern Livestock Show and Ham Auction Saturday, that's exactly what happened to cattle, hogs, sheep and horses as students from the Saddle and Sirolo Club competed against each other showing the animals.

The livestock show is patterned after the major livestock shows, said Robert Kuck, co-chairman of the show. The one difference between this show and the others is that the students are judged, not the animals.

Participants are judged for their showmanship and how well the animal is groomed rather than for the quality of their animals, Kuck said.

Awards went to a champion and reserve champion in each of the categories. The eight winners then showed each type of animal and an overall champion and reserve champion were chosen.

The overall champion was Alan Harrison from Muleshoe, and the reserve champion was Charles Krackau from New Braunfels.

In the swine division, Krackau was champion, and Susan Kuck from Gonzales was named reserve champion. In the sheep division, Mike Phillips from Williston, Fla., was named champion, and reserve champion was Joe Shelby from San Angelo.

In the horse division, Wionana Anhauser from Sugarland was chosen as champion, and Joe Harris from Buckholts was chosen as reserve champion. In the cattle division, the champion was Harrison and reserve champion was Steven Lastovica from Belton.

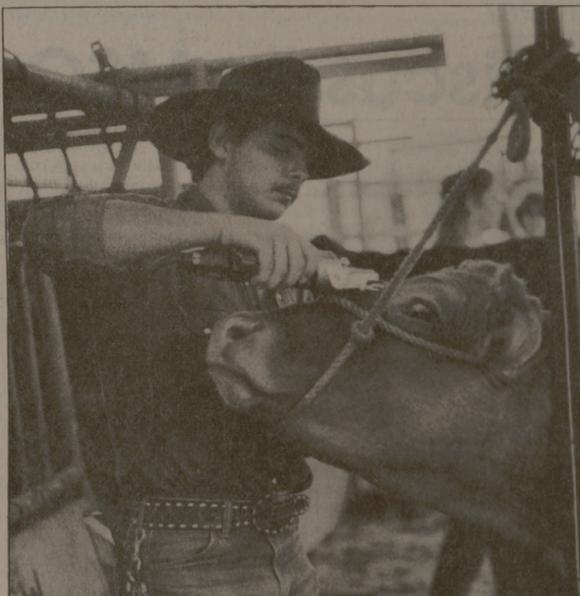


Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Joey Hogan, a freshman animal science major, trims the steer he showed in the Little Southwestern Livestock Show held at the Louis Pearce Animal Science Pavilion Saturday.

The animals used for the show are owned by Texas A&M, Kuck said. Some of the animals are donated to the University for breeding and some for research. For the show, the animals are matched to the contestants in a random drawing.

The students then have one to three weeks to work with an animal, Kuck said. For instance, the handlers take three weeks to work with the cattle, while hogs only take a week, he said.

Then the big moment comes when the contestants take their animals into the show ring. Kuck said composure is everything when trying to handle an unruly animal. The judge also takes that into consideration if the animal appears to be difficult, he said.

"The key thing to remember is to maintain eye contact with the judge and hope your animal does not move out of its square (position)," Kuck said.

Former Houston fire chief says 1st class department not priority

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former Houston Fire Chief Robert L. Swartout says he left his post after only 3½ months on the job because of Mayor Kathy Whitmire's attitude about the fire department.

"There's so much ill feeling between the administration and the department it amazes me," Swartout was quoted as saying in a copyright story Sunday in The Houston Post.

The newspaper interviewed Swartout at his Seattle home Saturday.

Swartout, who previously was Seattle fire chief, resigned on April 12. At 4:25 p.m. he left a letter in the mayor's office saying he would resign, effective at 4:30 p.m.

City officials who sought Swartout for an explanation of his action were unsuccessful. The former fire chief could not be reached at his Houston apartment over the weekend after his resignation, and he began a 1,500-mile drive back to Seattle on Sunday.

Whitmire said she was surprised by the resignation and that Swartout's departure was "bizarre."

"There are a lot of ways to handle what I did," Swartout said. "If I was going to call her (Whitmire), I would have gone by and talked to her before I left. But I don't think I owe her or the city of Houston anything."

Whitmire said she was surprised by the resignation and that Swartout's departure was "bizarre."

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They got their dollars' worth out of me while I was there."

Whitmire has refused to release the contents of Swartout's letter, but the Post on Sunday published a copy obtained from the ex-fire chief.

The letter said that during his term as fire chief, Swartout realized "that having a first-class fire department is not a high priority" in the Whitmire administration.

Furthermore, the letter read, many city administrators "who have an impact on the ability of the fire department to function have very little understanding of fire department operations, even though they feel they are experts in the subject."

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Senate budget for education needs last vote

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Senate Finance Committee completed work Sunday on a proposed budget for the Texas Education Agency but quit for the day before reaching a final vote on an overall state spending bill.

After 4½ hours, the committee recessed until Monday afternoon.

With the major work completed, Sen. Grant Jones, committee chairman, said the Senate bill includes about \$36 billion for the next two years, which is about the same amount as in the House bill.

A big difference is that the House bill would raise state employees' salaries by 3 percent each year of a biennium if seven fee bills also passed. The Senate bill has no raise for some 180,000 state employees.

Jones said balancing the proposed Senate appropriations bill would require a tuition increase plus an increase in numerous state fees.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby sat in the committee session as senators questioned new State Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby for 4½ hours.

Kirby said afterwards that the Senate bill would provide the agency with about \$36 million a year to administer public school programs. This is about \$2.3 million less than the House budget bill, he said.

Much of the Senate committee discussion centered on what to do with a \$10,370,280 savings, resulting from a postponement of a competency test for teachers on their salaries, and \$1,670,840 that would be raised by certain education fees.

A motion was accepted to use money for other TEA projects, including recertifying and assessing teachers and reviewing school programs to see if they are working.

A total of \$325,120 was marked for school guidance counselors and \$1,505,000 was added for community education, much to the chagrin of Sen. Bob Glasgow, who claimed, "I'll be damned" when amendment passed 7-4.

The committee also approved special provisions, called riders, that would restrict hazardous waste pay for state prison employees to \$660,000 a year to reimburse counties that prosecute inmates committing crimes while in prison.

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Bell employees give 'Christmas in April'

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — With arthritic legs stretched in front of her, Annie Levias talked of happiness and miraculous visions while Southwestern Bell employees, working outside, repainted her home's flaking white coating.

Just down the street, more telephone employees sawed on the fresh boards of Rita Bean's new porch, while she reclined in a bedroom and spoke of her devotion to God.

Those were two of 18 houses that drew the attention Saturday of 270 Southwestern Bell workers, who donated their day off to help those less fortunate: the elderly living on scant incomes and the handicapped who cannot help themselves.

The volunteers call their program "Christmas in April."

In addition to the telephone employees, members of three churches and workers for an area newspaper also participated.

Richard Wyatt, Jefferson County's "Christmas in April" chairman, said about 16 more groups, representing area businesses, will paint and clean more homes next Saturday.

Wyatt said area merchants donated all materials for the program. Carey Mason, a member of the Southwestern Bell planning department and organizer of the phone company employees, said he originally expected only enough workers to repair three homes.

"It was surprisingly easy to get volunteers," Mason said of the turnout that included nearly half of the employees of Southwestern Bell in the county.

"I just talked to a few key individuals, and they just started spreading the word. I always say there are two things people like to do. They like to help children and they like to help

A widow and retired housekeeper, Mrs. Levias is a typical Christmas in April recipient. She cares for her handicapped daughter and depends solely on Social Security benefits.

people who can't help themselves."

Last week, program volunteers visited Levias, telling her of their Saturday repair plans in time for her 77th birthday Thursday.

"I'm so happy, I don't know what to tell you," Mrs. Levias said in a muffled voice, while outside grinding drills prepared her front door for a new screen. "This has got to be one of the happiest (birthdays) I've had."

A widow and retired housekeeper, Mrs. Levias is a typical Christmas in April recipient. She cares for her handicapped daughter and depends solely on Social Security benefits.

A lack of both money and mobility resulted in a rotted home porch with flaking paint. But volunteers, laugh-

ing and joking with each other, repainted her house, repaired the porch and added a railing to the steps so she could climb them more easily.

"Did I need help ... a little like me that don't have any," Levias said. "I thank you. When I went to bed that night, I told me, I was praying. And I'm happy. I'm so happy, I'm happy," she said.

Bean, a friend and neighbor, also received a new porch. Workers hauled away the mite-infested lumber. And phone volunteers provided Bean's 36 years with repaired knickknacks.

"I think it's good, I like it. I wasn't able to do it myself," Bean, also a widow and housekeeper, said.

Bean was concerned that the porch might prevent some of her much-needed repairs, but a phone company employee helped her someone would return Saturday to complete any remaining work.

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