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Aggie powerlifters 'sweat' to the beat of a different drum

By ROD RICHARDSON
Reporter

The clanging sound of steel crashing against steel and people huffing, puffing and sweating to the beat of rock and roll music are common sights to the 650 members of the Texas A&M Powerlifting Club.

The A&M Powerlifting Club is one of the most successful organizations on campus — its record proves it.

The club recently finished third in the National Collegiate Powerlifting Championships held at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

The team, consisting of five men and two women, captured two first place trophies, one by Laurie Greene in the 114-pound weight class and one by Steve Lumpee in the 220-pound class.

Lumpee added this title to the Junior World Championship trophy he won last September.

A&M's effort was also highlighted by Dodd Adams' second place finish in the 198-pound class and Rick Popp's sixth place finish in the 242-pound division.

Kim Holtz, Charlie Gonzalez and Robert Ott rounded out the team's roster at the meet.

Skip Gjolberg, a senior exercise technology major, serves as president of the A&M Powerlifting Club and says that about 13 people from the club compete on the team.

Gjolberg says that some lifters like competing only in meets that test competitors for drug usage.

"Some of our lifters would rather compete in meets that require drug testing, because this eases the pressure they feel to make a decision on taking drugs," Gjolberg says.

With the widespread use of steroids as an aid to better one's performance, Gjolberg says some powerlifters become frustrated when they see smaller people come in and lift more than they should be able to.

Gjolberg says that meets that test for drugs are the best, since they provide equal opportunities for each competitor to win or lose on his own merits — not through using drugs.

The A&M Powerlifting Team hosted the National Collegiate Powerlifting Championships, April 13-14. This meet was sanctioned by the American Drug Free Powerlifting Association and a polygraph drug testing procedure was used on all entrants.

Greene collected another first place in the women's division and Mark Garrison represented the men's team in the winners circle in the 220-pound class. Holtz was second at 111-pounds and Gonzalez finished fourth in the 165-pound division.

Gjolberg has been a member of the powerlifting club for over three years and he says that club's membership could be increased, if more space was available.

The club currently works out in Room 256 of G. Rollier White Coliseum.

"The (weight) room is small and overcrowding can be a problem," Gjolberg said. "I know we could have 1,000 members if we had a bigger room."

The club is open to the first 500 people at a cost of \$30 per semester. The next 100 people pay \$45 per semester and anyone signing up past 600 is charged \$60 per semester.

The membership fee entitles a person to use of the weight room, free admission to any club function, a reduced price on supplements, such as protein and vitamins, and access to the club library.

Gjolberg says that the library has books that can help educate people on bodybuilding, steroids and other related weight training subjects.

The bulk of the club's \$20,000 a semester income goes into updating equipment, Gjolberg says. He says about \$7,000 goes toward paying club members who work as desk monitors and about \$12,000 pays for new weights, mirrors and special floors.

"We also use about \$2,000 to throw a big party during the semester," Gjolberg says.

The powerlifting club was started in 1980 and has shown steady growth since then. Gjolberg plans to keep his club near the top of A&M's intramural club list by trying to get some well-known powerlifters and bodybuilders to come in and talk to club members.

Gjolberg recently attended the Texas High School Powerlifting Meet where he did some recruiting. He hopes to someday be in a position to offer powerlifting scholarships to high school students.



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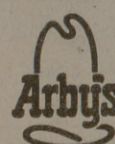
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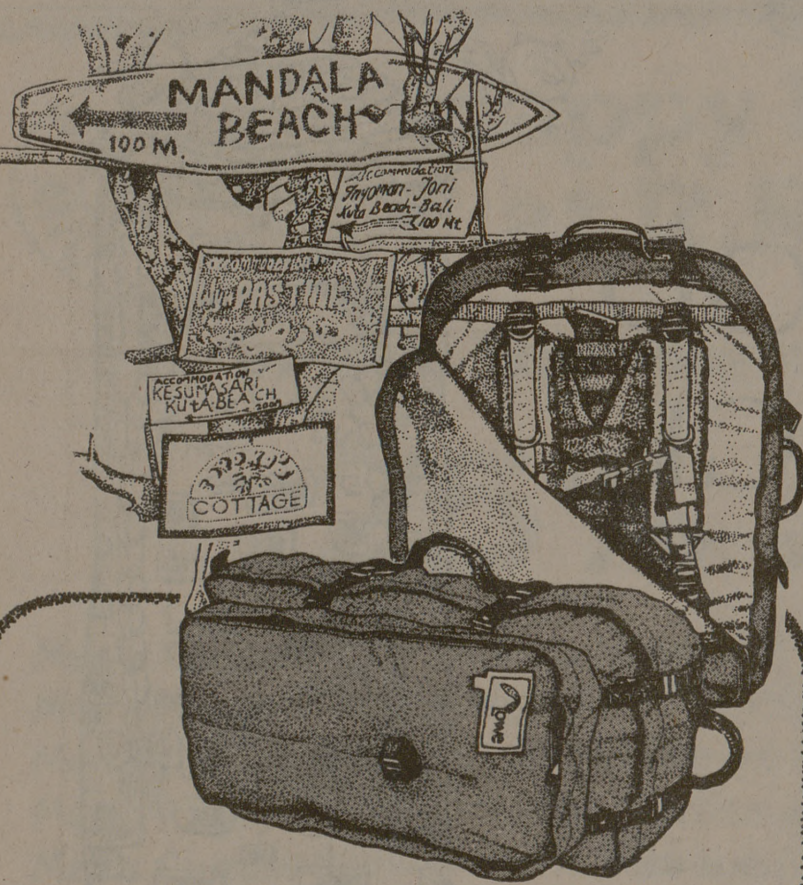
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