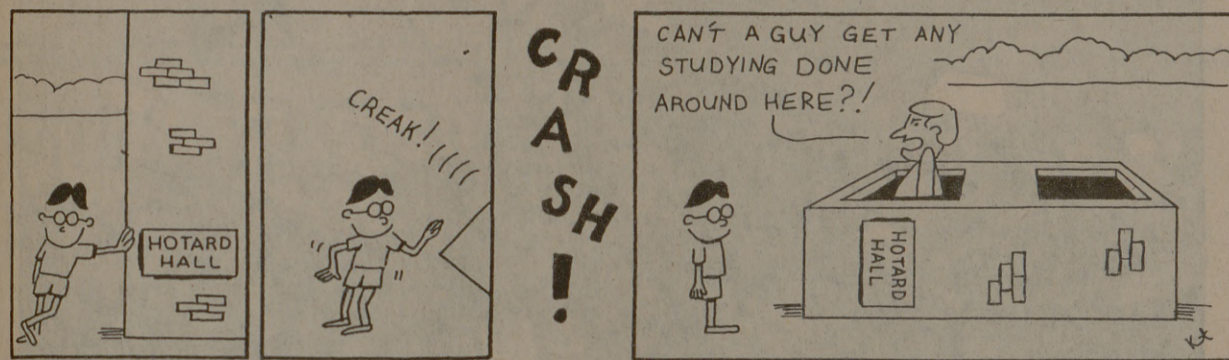


Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



## Riding school provides fun for handicapped children

By SYLVIA PENA  
Reporter

Horseback riding can be hard work, but for handicapped children the work can be all fun.

Tanya Walker, a handicapped student, says, "Riding the horse was fun, but I was too scared to let it run."

A riding school for handicapped students, sponsored by the Texas A&M Horseman's Association, began Saturday at the Animal Science Pavilion.

The clinic will continue for the next two Saturdays.

Christine Corn, co-chairman of the clinic, says there are several horseback riding programs offered at every clinic.

"We like to show the students various activities that involve horses," Corn says.

Sherry McDonald, a volunteer in the event, says she has worked with the program for three years.

"The program was started in 1977 at A&M because the association wanted to provide a public service activity for handicapped students," McDonald says.

McDonald says she has enjoyed working as a volunteer for the pro-

gram so much that she chose a career path teaching handicapped students.

"My work with the program for three years influenced me to change my major from animal science to special education," McDonald says.

Corn says each child rides with several aides on both sides of the horse so the student is in no danger of falling off.

"Each Saturday we will progress up to more difficult tasks," Corn says. "On the last Saturday of the program we will have a horse show."

Corn explains that they want to make the participants feel important. "The goal of the clinic is to make the kids feel like they can do something special," Corn says. "Unfortunately, there is not much physical benefit because the clinic lasts for only three Saturdays."

She says explained that the participants' parents see the clinic as something special and different for their children.

Nancy Walker, mother of one of the students, says that this was her daughter's first time at the clinic.

"Tanya puts on a big smile and is on top of the world when she is on the horse," Walker says.

Simple as it may be, the students just like to learn how to ride the horses.

Tanya Walker says the part she liked most was getting up on the horse and riding.

Terri Estes, co-chairman, says the students quickly learn that they are capable of riding and handling a horse.

"When the children are on the horse, it gives them more confidence that they are able to move around without the help of a wheelchair," Estes says.

"Our main concern," Corn says, "is not that they learn how to ride, but that they develop the courage to get on the horse."

"We also show the students how to groom and saddle the horses."

The two co-chairmen have worked with handicapped children before, and they says they look forward to helping these children learn how to ride and enjoy themselves during the clinic, Corn says.

Corn says most of the participants are regulars with the program, and the association looks forward to seeing them every year.

The Horseman's Association does not make a profit from the event, Corn says.

## Man hijacks bus; girl killed during chase

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A man commandeered a city bus Wednesday, then led Balcones Heights police on a chase that triggered four accidents and killed a child, authorities said.

Shaunte Green, 3, of San Antonio was killed in the fourth crash that also left her aunt and uncle injured.

Another man and a woman were treated and released for minor cuts and bruises after the third collision, a spokeswoman at Humana Metropolitan Hospital said.

VIA Metropolitan Transit spokesman Ray Dudley said the incident began about 9:40 a.m. when a VIA driver stopped his bus at Wonder-

The driver, Richard Chadwell, 56, left the bus to call his dispatcher, Dudley said. The man got in the driver's seat after all the passengers had gotten off the bus, he said.

Chadwell ran up to the bus, but the man inside slammed the doors in his face and tried to run over him, Dudley said.

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