

Abused, neglected animals offered refuge in Texas rancher's menagerie

MURCHISON (AP) — Billy Saxon is a man who genuinely loves his animals — all 420 of them. The bond between them is obvious, whether he's smooching it up with a chimpanzee named Nim Chimpsky, feeding apples to an elephant called Conga or caring for any one of the 260 horses and burros that roam the Black Beauty Ranch three miles north of this small East Texas town. The animals, which also include goats, wild hogs, deer, racoons, coyotes, a couple of llamas and a few scraggly mutts, react whenever Saxon saunters along the rolling grassland of the 602-acre ranch. They follow him everywhere, as if he played some sort of magical flute. "I guess the animals just sense that I'm not going to hurt them," says

Saxon, 53. "I just got a feeling for them. I know what they're thinking." Recognized nationally as a one-of-a-kind operation, the Black Beauty Ranch takes in abused and neglected animals from all over and nurses them back to health. Begun in 1979, with less than half its current acreage, the ranch is run by the Fund for Animals, a New York-based animal rights organization that has rescued thousands of animals. The organization operates in 28 cities. Its president is writer Cleveland Amory, who travels the country promoting the fund's causes on talk shows and in courtrooms. The Fund, and the ranch, operate solely on donations. (Contributions can be sent to P.O. Box 367, Murchison, Texas 75778.)

Many of the animals at the ranch are put up for adoption, but only to folks Saxon is convinced will provide better homes than from where they came. "We have forms to fill out, but five minutes after talking to someone I can tell whether they can take care of the animal," says Saxon, who's been managing the ranch since 1985. Horses can be adopted for \$125, and burros go for \$75. Saxon has seen the abuses animals suffer. Once a hunter, he says he couldn't imagine killing now. Life is too important, he says. "When the animals first come in and you see them bad off and then later see them fat and happy, that's what really makes you feel good," Saxon says. Nim Chimpsky, who now shares a

life of leisure with a female chimpanzee named Sally, was rescued from a laboratory experiment in which he would have died. Conga, too old and sunburned for a roadside circus in Florida, would have been put to sleep. Instead she spends her days frolicking in a 230-by-50-foot playpen complete with shelter for shade. Deer and goats were brought in from Washington State, where a circus had left them abandoned for nine days. In "one of the worst cruelty cases in Texas," Saxon says, 135 starving mustangs were rescued from a ranch near Pittsburg. Another group of about 17 mustangs were brought in from Nebraska, where they were to be sold to slaughter.

In the late 1970s, hundreds of wild burros were about to be shot by the National Parks Service, which wanted to rid the Grand Canyon of the creatures. An experimental rescue mission began. A year and a half later, 530 burros had been airlifted out of the canyon, and the very first one rescued found its way to the Black Beauty Ranch. In Ridgecrest, Calif., at a naval weapons center, the Navy began sponsoring weekend shoots to exterminate wild burros officials said were causing a nuisance. The Fund for Animals went to court to stop the shootings and eventually rescued 4,000 of the animals. Some still live at the ranch. The ranch also took in wild goats rescued from San Clemente Island off the coast of San Diego. Again,

the Navy was shooting the goats until the Fund for Animals stepped in with a court order. A llama came to the ranch after ranch for exotic animals went bankrupt. A 30-year-old police dog worked too hard on the streets of New York now grazes happily in a pine-dotted pasture. People who abuse animals are dangerous, Saxon says. "I think anybody who abuses animals would abuse anything — including people," he says. Tougher state laws would help, says, but the real key is educating children not to abuse animals. To that end, the ranch's spring welcomes children's groups from all over to come out and see the animals.

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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FOOTNOTES

- Monday, March 20: **Swim Meet:** Corps & Fish Prelims at the Woford Cain Outdoor Pool.
- Tuesday, March 21: **rainout date for Swim Meet.**
- Tuesday, March 21: **Table Tennis and Badminton** begin.
- Thursday, March 23: **Innertube Water Polo Captain's Meeting,** 5:00 PM, 164 Read.
- Thursday, March 23: **Volleyball Triples Captain's Meeting,** 6:00 PM, 164 Read.
- Friday, March 24: **Tennis Doubles, and Golf Singles** posted after 1 PM.
- Softball playoffs** will be posted Monday, April 3. Play begins Wednesday, April 5.

SPORTS CLUBS

- The Handball Team** won the first place combined team award in a tournament held March 1 - 5 in Austin. The Women's Team captured first place in the nation, while the men came away with third.
- Eric Brumlow of **The Archery Team** placed second at the indoor nationals.
- The Judo Team** placed third the Texas State Collegiate Tournament at the University of Texas, Arlington. Placing for A&M was Bobby Perez - first, 132lb class; Matt Kirk - fourth, 172lb class; David Schmidt - third, 189 class; John Hughes - third, 209lb and over class; and, Sally Schmidt - first, women's 158lb class.

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES CLOSE: MARCH 21

GOLF SINGLES CONTEST DATE: Sunday, April 2, Monday April 3, Tuesday April 4. **GREEN FEES:** Students \$5.50 Faculty/Staff: \$6.75, payable at registration. Anyone holding a membership card to the TAMU Golf Course does not have to pay the green's fee; however, they must have their card with them at the time of registration. Tee times begin at 9:00 am. Participants can sign up for a tee time at registration. They must sign up for a tee time within their class. **TOURNAMENT TYPE:** All classes will play an 18 hole scratch tournament. **DIVISIONS:** Both Men's and Women's divisions will be offered. **EQUIPMENT:** Participants must furnish their own equipment. **AWARDS:** Class A Champions will receive t-shirts and Class B Champions will receive certificates. No awards will be given to Class C. ***Any participant who has won a Class Championship in singles must play in the next higher Class in all future competitions.***

INNERTUBE WATER POLO PLAY BEGINS: Thursday, March 30. **ENTRY FEE:** \$20.00 per team. **DIVISIONS:** Men's, Women's and CoRec. **COMPETITION:** Class A - highly skilled; Class B - moderately skilled; Class C - novice. All tournaments are Round Robin with single elimination playoffs. Class A All-University Champions will receive t-shirts; Class B All-University Champions will receive certificates; Class B CoRec Champions will receive a General Motors t-shirt. **RULES:** A copy of the rules may be obtained in the Recreational Sports Office, Room 159 Read Building. **EQUIPMENT:** Innertubes and Caps will be provided at the game. **ELIGIBILITY:** One TAMU Water Polo Player is allowed per team. No TAMU Swimmer may compete in this sport. **TEAM CAPTAIN'S MEETING:** Will be held on Thursday, March 23 at 5:00 pm in Room 164 Read Building. All Team Captain's should plan to attend. Schedules will be available at this time!

ARCHERY DOUBLES CONTEST DATE: Tuesday, March 23 beginning at 6:00 pm in 304 Read Building. **EQUIPMENT:** A limited number of bows are available for use. Participants should reserve equipment at time of registration. **RULES:** FITA Rules will apply. Each partici-

pant will shoot one round (30 arrows) at a distance of 40 yards. The target is 40 cm with 10 scoring rings. For practice arrows will be allowed. **RESTRICTIONS:** Archery Bow with optional standard sights and stabilizers to be used. No Compound Bows. Bow must not exceed 45 lbs actual draw. No string peep or bow lever. No releases, no field or broad head point. Target points only. No mechanical releases. **GENERAL MOTORS:** General Motors T-Shirts will be awarded to the CoRec Class Champions.

TENNIS DOUBLES PLAY BEGINS: Tuesday, March 21. **ENTRY FEE:** Free!!! **SCHEDULES:** Posted after 1 pm on Friday March 24. Check the bulletin boards outside the Recreational Sports Office to see when you play. **DIVISIONS:** Men's and Women's Residence Hall, Men's and Women's Independent, and CoRec. **COMPETITION:** Class A - highly skilled; Class B - moderately skilled and Class C - novice. All tournaments are single elimination. Class A All-University Champion will receive a certificate. Class B CoRec Champions will receive a General Motors T-Shirt. **RULES:** Matches will consist of the best out of 3 sets. Games are played to 4 points (no deuce). Set games win a set except when there is a tie at 6 games each, in which case a 12 pt tie breaker is played. **EQUIPMENT:** Participants must furnish their own racquet and new unopened can of balls or they forfeit. The winning team keeps the unopened can for their next match, the losing team keeps the used ones.

VOLLEYBALL TRIPLES ENTRY FEE: \$20.00 per team. **PLAY BEGINS:** Monday, March 27. **DIVISIONS:** Men's, Women's and CoRec. **ELIGIBILITY:** One TAMU Volleyball Club Member or Former Varsity Letter Winner is permitted per team. That team must compete in Class A competition. **RULES:** USVBA Rules with intramural exceptions. Rules may be obtained in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building. **TEAM CAPTAIN'S MEETING:** Thursday, March 23 at 6 pm in 164 Read Bldg.

ENTRIES OPEN: MARCH 20

ENTRIES CLOSE: MARCH 28

PUTT-PUTT GOLF ENTRY FEE: Men's or Women's Singles \$2.00/person; Men's or Women's Doubles \$4.00/team; CoRec \$4.00/team. All fees will be collected at registration in the Recreational Sports Office. All equipment is available at the course. **CONTEST DATE:** Wednesday, April 5, 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM. **LOCATION:** Putt-Putt Golf Course, Texas Avenue South, College Station, North of K-Mart. ***Bring your student ID or recreational ID.*** **TYPE OF COMPETITION:** One round, 18 hole contest with medalist (stroke) scoring. Ties will be decided by comparing totals of back nine holes. If a tie still exists, a match of holes from #18 backwards will determine the winner. Local course rules with Intramural exceptions will be in effect. **ELIGIBILITY:** All TAMU students, faculty, staff and spouses if they meet the eligibility requirements in the Recreational Sports Calendar/Handbook. **DIVISIONS:** Men's Singles & Doubles, Women's Singles & Doubles, CoRec Doubles. **AWARDS:** All-University T-shirts will be awarded in each division.

Intramural Rules will be enforced. **AWARDS:** Intramural championship t-shirts will be given to the winners of Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec divisions. **TEAMS:** Teams consist of 7 players per team. Co-Rec teams consist of 4 men and 3 women or 3 men and 4 women. **ELIGIBILITY:** Check the Recreational Sports Calendar for policies concerning eligibility. **TOURNAMENT DATE:** March 31-April 1.

SUPERSTARS ENTRY FEE: Free!!! **DIVISIONS:** Individual - Men and Women. **ELIGIBILITY:** Superstars competition is open to all TAMU students, faculty and their spouses. **COMPETITION:** The competition will be held April 1 & 2. Participants must choose 10 of the 12 events: (Everyone must participate in the obstacle course.) Softball Throw, 1600 M Run, Weightlifting, Cycling**, 100 M Dash, Frisbee Toss, 50 M Swim, Volleyball, Free Throw, Shuttle Run, Bowling, Obstacle Course. *Participants who bowl will need to pay for their games at the alley. **Participants who enter Cycling will be required to provide their own bikes. **AWARDS:** High Point Man and Woman in Individual Competition will receive the Dan Copp Memorial Award and an Intramural Champion t-shirt. **MEETING:** There will be a meeting for all participants at 10:00 am Sat., April 1 in 164 Read Bldg to discuss rules for the competition. This meeting is mandatory!!!

ULTIMATE FRISBEE TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS: Men's, Women's and CoRec. **ENTRY FEE:** \$10.00 per team. **SCHEDULES:** Schedules may be picked up at the team captains meeting in 167 Read at 5pm on Thursday, March 30. **LOCATION:** All games will be played at the Penberthy Intramural Complex or the Intramural Sports Center. **RULES:** Ultimate Players Association Rules and

ALL UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS

WRESTLING

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 134lbs: James Allen | 142 lbs: Lane Farley | 150 lbs: Earl Allen |
| 158 lbs: Tony Glace | 167 lbs: Jamie Bell | 177 lbs: Tad Mulder |
| 190 lbs: Charles Mulder | | Unlimited: Bryan Croft |

3 POINT SHOT - JEFF JOHNSON



Jeff Johnson begins his turn in the finals of the Nike 3 Point Shot at the half-time of the Aggie-Texas Basketball game on Sat., March 4. Johnson won the competition with a score of 15 in the final round. The competition, sponsored by Nike and the Dept. of Recreational Sports began with 302 competitors in the preliminaries.

10th Annual Penberthy Softball Tournament

Registration for this double elimination softball tournament to be held April 14-16 continues in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg. The \$40 entry fee includes lots of extras and great prizes for the champions. For more information come by the Recreational Sports Office or call 845-2826.

TAMU-OUTDOORS

Kayak Roll Instructional Clinics

Date: March 23, 6:15 - 8:30 PM Registration: February 27 - March 20

Learn the mechanics of the Eskimo roll!!! Experienced guides will be on hand to instruct and assist you in sessions at the Outdoor Pool. The \$8(\$10 non A&M) fee covers instruction, kayak rental and pool time. Limited to 10 participants.

Climbing Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

Dates: April 7-9 Registration: March 20 - April 3

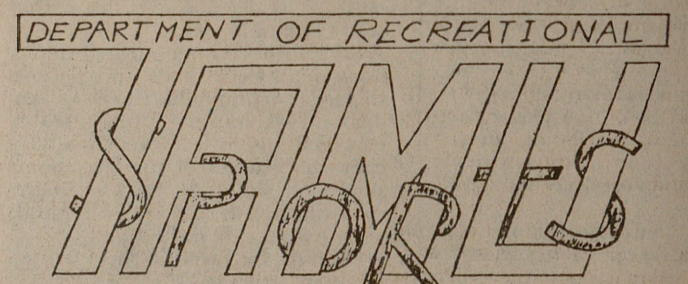
Join us at the Rock for an introduction to the thrills of rock climbing!!!

Experienced guides will teach a variety of climbing techniques and safety systems. Spend the weekend testing your new skills. The \$30 (\$35 non A&M) fee for this adventure includes rental of group camping equipment, climbing equipment, camping permits and experienced instruction. The trip is offered to beginning and intermediate climbers and is limited to 10 participants.

Register for these trips in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg. For more information about these trips or TAMU Outdoors contact, Patsy Greiner, 845-7826.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Steve Harding, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Lynda Bottos.

Congratulations to David Srygley for entering the winning logo in the Department of Recreational Sports Logo Contest.



GOLF DRIVING RANGE HOURS

The Driving Range located at the Intramural Sports Center is now open for operation Mon-Thu, 3 PM - 6 PM; Fri, 12 PM - 6 PM; Sat, 10 AM - 6 PM; and Sun, 12 noon - 6 PM. Individuals with student ID or TAMU Recreational ID may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$3.00 and a small bucket of balls for \$1.50. Without an ID individuals may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$4.00 and a small bucket for \$2.00. Club rental is also available. For more information, contact the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read, or call 845-7826.