

Go, Donkey Racer!

Texas A&M veterinary medicine professor Nora Matthews teaches the world championship in pack burro racing

By GRAY WHITTEN
Staff Writer

During the last week of July, Waylon, Willie and Tammy will make their way up a 16-mile trail through the mountains surrounding Fairplay, Colo., ultimately reaching an elevation of 3,000 feet and a possible victory over the other competitors in the 50th Annual World Championship Pack Burro Race. They won't be going alone, however. The three donkeys, trained for the event by doctors at the School of Veterinary Medicine, have been preparing for the race for several months now, along with their human counterparts.

Dr. Nora Matthews, an experienced marathon runner and anesthesiologist with a specific interest in the care of donkeys and mules, earned of the race from a 1993 article in Runner's World magazine. Matthews kept the article and continued to gather information on the event.

In the past two years, Matthews learned more about the event from a veterinary student here at A&M and from an A&M graduate living in the Fairplay area. When some support became available

"Donkeys and mules are used extensively in almost all parts of the world today, excluding North America," Matthews said.

"There is a lot of research done with horses in America, and many people assume that treatments and drugs will work the same for donkeys, but that isn't always the case," she said.

Matthews said that she and her associates at the School of Veterinary Medicine are hoping that the race will increase interest and support of donkey studies here at A&M.

The donkeys, named for well-known country music stars, were purchased at auction by the University in 1992 and have been used for research purposes in the summer months of past years. In preparation for the event, some uncommon training methods have been used, including treadmills, heart-monitoring equipment and circular walking pens.

see DONKEY on page 4



from private parties in the form of money, feed and other supplies, Matthews realized that Texas A&M could be represented for the first time in the race this year.

Matthews hopes that this race will result in the increased visibility of donkeys and mules and demonstrate their usefulness which might help more Americans in the field of veterinary medicine realize the demand for research and information about donkey physiology.



Photo courtesy Dr. Nora Matthews

Dr. Nora Matthews guides two of her donkeys on an afternoon walk in front of the George Bush Presidential Library. Matthews works with the donkeys daily through endurance and obstacle runs.

A CONCERT EXPERIENCE 500 YEARS IN THE MAKING:

Authentic medieval music made by local muses

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
Staff Writer

In the land where the VCR dominates, a boring Friday-night can be hyped up by running down to the local Blockbuster. Now, imagine a world where the juice of electricity runs dry. Having fun on a Friday and Saturday night narrows down to a good book or a conversation with parents. However, if a traveling band happens to strum through the castle doors, entertainment is sure to be on hand.

Early medieval, renaissance and baroque music usually bring to mind Gregorian chants or a man strumming his little guitar. These ideas are only a few facets of the multitude of sounds associated with this time. To aid in the experience of this era, the St. Cecilia band is holding their summer solstice concert on Sunday, where an estimated 500 years of music will be on display.

The band is named after the patron saint of music, St. Cecilia. Bonnie Harris-Reynolds, director of the band and music director at St. Thomas Episcopal Church said early music has a rich sound which has fascinated her since college.

"I began playing when I attended U.T. and I also got my masters in organ and harpsichord performance," she said. "When I moved to College Station I found some kindred spirits. There a quite a number of people in town who play and sing this type of music."

Harris-Reynolds said she loves the music because it is a combination of people compared to one person in charge.

"There is no king or conductor; we all play together," she said. "The music blends beautifully with voices. I love the sound of the music. The text of the melodies is lighter and more intimate than big orchestral songs."

Harris-Reynolds said many people think the songs are religious, but songs from the past contain many subjects.

"Some of the songs are religious, such as the songs for Christmas and mass," she said. "However, most of them are secular. Most of them are about love. Our concert is about the summer solstice-songs about the change of the seasons and the return of spring and

summer. This may seem odd for Texas where the seasons don't change, but these songs came from northern Europe where the summers are beautiful."

Harris-Reynolds said the big difference in the music are the instruments played. The quality of the instruments changed and now have become stronger.

"Instruments made now are much louder and stronger so they can fill the big music halls," she said. "The early instruments were used for more intimate settings."

Dr. Robert Boenig, member of the St. Cecilia band and an English professor, said the sound is different from what most people are used to hearing, but it is a link to the past.

"The tones are richer than modern chamber orchestra," Boenig said. "There is more variety. It gets you in touch with the past and how things were."

"We learn when we get out of our set, and when we are no longer trapped in your world. We are stuck in boxes, so we need to get out and find ourselves and find something wonderful."

Harris-Reynolds said early music is part of our common heritage.

"It opens windows into this music," she said. "It is a beauty that enriches our lives. It is a delight for the senses. It puts people in harmony with nature and with each other."

"Today for entertainment we can watch a video, or go to a concert," Harris-Reynolds said. "Back then that was it; there was no electricity, so there would be traveling musicians who would put on court productions. It was all live."

Today, there is a wide variety of music for listeners. There are also various instruments used to attain many sounds. However, the instruments used in the concert have gone out of style.

Boenig said in the 17th to 18th centuries there was a musical revolution about taste which demanded a different style.

"People wanted a more smooth and elegant sound," he said, "so loud and raucous were out of use. Times change and all of the instruments fell out of use and they were changed from one to another."

see DONKEY on page 4

Reflect and Rejoice

Juneteenth Celebration

Commemoration of Black Freedom

"The People of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free..."

General Gordon Granger
Galveston, 1865

MSC Flag Room
Friday,
June 19, 1998
12:30 P.M.
No Charge

Co-sponsored by:
Dept. of Multicultural Services
& National Pan-Hellenic Council

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

MSC Student Programs

LEARN TO FLY NOW

AT UNITED FLIGHT SYSTEMS

We're now located at College Station Easterwood Airport. Learn to fly the Cessna Pilot Center Exclusive Integrated Flight Training System at United Flight Systems, the experienced flight school.

- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental, Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA Eligible Benefits

United Flight Systems, Inc.
Easterwood Airport
College Station, TX
409 260-6322

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

10% off all shakes, cakes, malts, banana splits, apple pie a la mode, and all coffee menu items.

Starts Friday, June 19th - Sunday, June 21st.

(409) 694-7850
Valid only at
2010 Texas Avenue
(HEB Shopping Center, College Station)

Spring '99 Study Abroad in Italy

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS
in 154 Bizzell Hall West

-Wednesday, June 17
5:30-6:30 PM

-Thursday, June 18
1:00-2:00 PM

Pick up an application at the meeting or drop by the Study Abroad Program Office.

Study Abroad Program Office, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544

Volunteers Needed...

PARAMEDICS, EMT'S, & DISPATCHERS

- ✓ Excellent experience
- ✓ Enhance your resume
- ✓ Training available

Individuals interested in a challenging volunteer experience, call TAMU EMS at 845-1525.

Accredited by Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.