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MATHEMATICS CONTEST

Annual
FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORE
MATHEMATICS CONTEST

TONIGHT
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Six prizes from \$50.00 to \$150.00 will be awarded!

Contest problems will cover topics through Math 152 (Engineering Calculus II) for Freshmen contestants, and through Math 308 (Differential Equations) for Sophomore contestants.

Contact Doug Hensley, e-mail: dhensley@math.tamu.edu
For more information and sample problems, check
Dr. Hensley's Home Page: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~doug.hensley>

(For purposes of this contest, freshmen are first-year undergraduate students, and sophomores are second-year undergraduate students. All majors are welcome.)

Innovative angling

Students' mech-fishing rod helps the handicapped

By Steve Kuchera
KRT CAMPUS

DULUTH, Minn. — A group of University of Minnesota Duluth students are going into business.

In just one semester, four engineering students are trying to develop a working prototype of a mechanized fishing rod and reel that physically disabled anglers can use.

Four marketing students are working with them, doing extensive market and product research, and developing plans for selling the one-of-a-kind device, named HandiCast.

"It's nice to work on something that will bring value to society," said Mariia Kouznetsova, one of the School of Business and Economics students involved in the project.

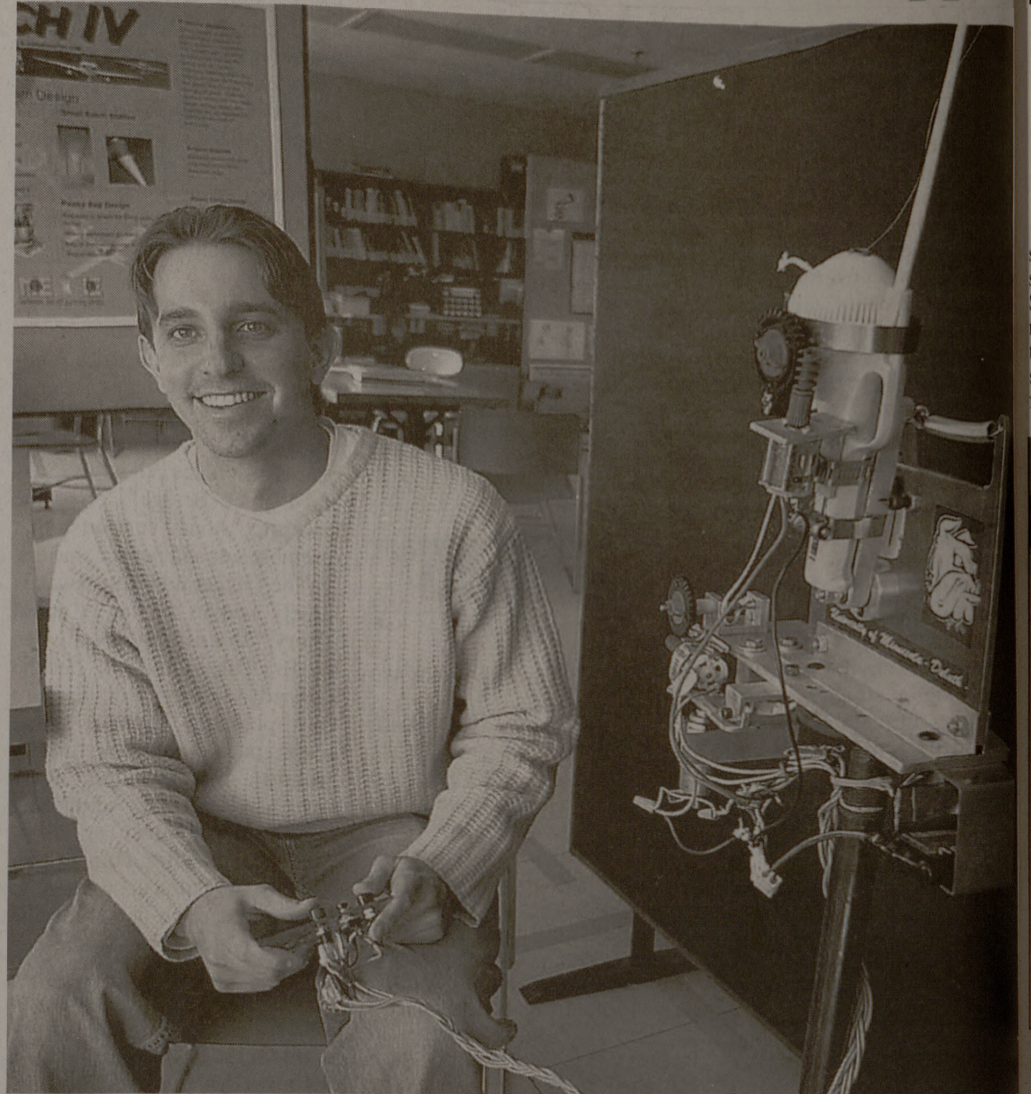
This is the first time students from different schools at UMD have worked together on such a project. It may not be the last. If all goes well, the students will work with UMD to create a company named "Limitless Opportunities," where future groups will improve existing projects or design, create and market new ones.

The whole idea is to give students from marketing and from the College of Science and Engineering a foretaste of the business world, where people from different disciplines commonly work together on projects, said marketing instructor John Kratz.

Students began this year with a 2001 prototype rod and reel. The device — cobbled together from a Snoopy rod and reel, a couple of motors, a few gears and switches and some wires and duct tape — was designed and built by a previous group of UMD engineering students to allow a quadriplegic person to accurately cast a fishing lure. In November 2001, it took first place in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers international design competition.

The prototype had to meet strict competition guidelines. That's no longer the case.

"The engineering students are free to alter it in any way to



Cullen Boyd, a University of Minnesota student at the Duluth campus, is a senior industrial engineering major. He holds the controls of a prototype device to help physically disabled anglers cast a fishing rod.

make a better piece of equipment," marketing student Chris Bremner said.

"We're aiming for a 20 to 35-meter casting range," up from the few yards required for the competition, engineering student Eric Hesse said.

"From the original rod, we ordered larger motors and a longer casting rod," engineering senior Andrew Eldien said. "We're also putting the whole device on a rotating base."

The students are refining the controller, aiming for a 4-by-6-inch box similar to a video game controller. Anglers will use the box to control the base's rotation, the drawback of the rod, the cast and retrieval speed.

"I try not to get too involved in the details," said mechanical and industrial engineering professor David A. Wyrick. "I let the students do the design and then ask questions that make them think about what's going on."

While the engineering students are developing and refining HandiCast, the marketing students are trying to determine whether people would buy it.

"Our whole goal is to develop a comprehensive business plan and test the feasibility of this product from all perspectives — cost, marketing, price, distribution," Kouznetsova said.

Toward that end, students

have talked to people who work with the disabled. They will present the HandiCast idea at a conference this month.

They're also researching possible patent for HandiCast, making sure they're not infringing on an existing product.

There have been some problems along the way. During the first few weeks, the engineering and marketing students didn't understand each other's jargon, said marketing senior Megan Vesaas.

"It's been a real learning experience for students and teachers because it's all new," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Experts recommend pills to stave off radioactive fallout

CHICAGO (AP) — Households, schools and child-care centers near nuclear power plants should keep potassium iodide pills on hand to protect children from an accidental or intentional radiation release, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends.

The pills protect people from getting thyroid cancer.

Bioterrorism concerns and the war in Iraq helped prompt the new policy, Dr. Sophie Balk, a New York pediatrician who heads the academy committee that wrote the policy, said Monday.

The policy is aimed at families, schools and child-care centers within 10 miles of nuclear plants. Schools and child-care facilities within that distance should stockpile the pills and

develop plans for how to distribute them in the event of a disaster, the academy said.

"It may be prudent to consider stockpiling potassium iodide within a larger radius because of more distant wind-borne fallout, as occurred after Chernobyl," the 1986 Ukrainian nuclear plant catastrophe, the academy said.

The academy posted the policy late last week on its Web site, and plans to publish it in the upcoming June edition of its medical journal, Pediatrics.

China turns to animals in search of SARS beginnings

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — China disclosed Monday that a deadly respiratory illness had struck in more of its provinces than previously reported, while experts in the south looked into whether the disease came from animals

on farms or in the wild.

In nearby Hong Kong, officials said they were preparing for a worst-case scenario of 3,000 cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, amid fears its health system could be stretched beyond its limits. There are 700 cases and 22 confirmed deaths in Hong Kong.

Also Monday, the Beijing office of the Geneva-based International Labour Organization was sealed, and an employee of the diplomatic office building said it was disrupted after a Finnish official of the agency fell ill with severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, in Beijing. The official died Sunday.

China's death toll rose by one Monday to 53, state television reported, citing the Health Ministry. It said that included 43 deaths in the southern province of Guangdong, where experts suspect SARS originated. Other deaths had been reported in Beijing and the Guangxi region.

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

Sponsored by TAMU Student Health Services (847-8910) (<http://shs.tamu.edu>)

The Quilt is on display at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries, Memorial Student Center @ Texas A&M. Admission is free.
Gallery hours are 9am - 8pm Tuesday thru Friday 12 noon to 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

<p>TUESDAY, APRIL 8</p> <p>12:00pm - 1:00pm Living with HIV: A Student's Perspective Stark Galleries (Student Health Services)</p> <p>8:00pm - 9:00pm Candlelight Vigil Rudder Fountain (GLBT Professional Network)</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00pm History of the Quilt: HIV/AIDS Today Stark Galleries (Student Health Services)</p> <p>7:30pm Viewing of movie <i>And the Band Played On</i> G. Rollie Coliseum Room 267 (MSC Film Society)</p>	<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 10</p> <p>9:00am - 11:00am Personal Perspectives and Remembrances Stark Galleries (GLBT Professional Network)</p> <p>10:00am - 2:00pm Free HIV Testing Memorial Student Center (MSC) Room 139 (AIDS Services of Brazos Valley)</p>
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