

Metric system better, says EMU math prof

Eastern Michigan University mathematics professor Donald Buckeye predicts the demise of the antiquated English system of weights and measures now used in the U.S. by 1980.

"They just don't measure up to the more logical, internationally used metric system," he said.

Children now in Michigan's elementary schools will never use the English system when they get older," Buckeye said. Michigan is one of 15 pilot states which has committed itself to teaching the metric system. The department of education

has already set up a number of clinics for the metric system for teachers.

Buckeye, author of "I'm OK, You're OK, Let's Go Metric" and "Introducing the Metric System with Activities," has been conducting workshops on the metric system around the country. He emphasized that in order to learn the system, you have to think metric.

"The only way to learn the metric system is to use it," he said. "Converting English units and measurements into metric equivalents is often difficult, so we try not to teach conversion at all."

Buckeye bases his methods on the activity approach, and has come up with projects and games which teach the metric system by using it. Many of these games and teaching aids are available for teachers to

borrow from Buckeye's Metric Center on the EMU campus.

Buckeye said he might begin an introduction to the metric system by drawing an analogy between it and America's monetary system.

A dollar, he said, might be equivalent to a meter. One tenth of a dollar is a dime, one tenth of a meter is a decimeter. One tenth of a dime is a cent; that portion of a decimeter is a centimeter. A cent broken down into tenths is a mill, a tenth of a centimeter is a millimeter.

"It's much easier than most people think," he said. "It's all based on tens. Once you're using the metric system, to do conversions, you simply divide or multiply by 10."

For instance, 256 centimeters equals

25.6 decimeter, which equals 2.56 meters. Try doing the same thing with inches, feet and yards.

A GOOD ACTIVITY for metric system beginners, said Buckeye, is to have children make a metric string complete with markings from a metric tape measure. The students would then measure their height and various parts of their bodies.

Among his other think metric exercises are the following activities:

- Have a millimeter worm and an inch worm crawl along the same measured distance—compare the number of units each travels.
- Make a daily weather report entirely in metrics, with temperature in Celsius degrees, windspeed in kilometers per hour

and visibility in meters or kilometers.

• Have a bad word contest, in which each person who uses an English unit of measure is assessed a simple, humorous penalty.

An Ohio public school teacher for 15 years before coming to EMU, Buckeye said children should have few problems learning the metric system if they are taught properly.

"It will be a larger problem for adults and teachers who have learned the English system."

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Dressage show benefits New Horizons programs

The second annual New Horizons Benefit Dressage Show will be held at Cornerstone Farms in Clarkston, Friday through Sunday, July 11 and 12.

Exhibitors will begin competition each day at 8 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Admission is \$1 per day or \$2.50 for the three days.

Cornerstone Farms is located on Clarkston Road just northeast of the I-75 South exit, east, and around the corner from Pine Knob.

On Saturday afternoon, Honorary Chairman John Kelly, WXYZ-TV news anchorman, will give a short demonstration of his dressage skills, riding a large palomino called "Liberty's Image." And also act as presenter of the President's Cup. Prior to this competition, Mike Sutton, last year's winner of the High Point Trophy and the President's Cup, will give a demonstration of a dressage event called a Musical Kuer.

All proceeds will go to New Horizons of Oakland County, Inc., a non-profit organization which serves about 15,000 physically and mentally handicapped residents of Oakland County, aged 16 years or older.

Chairman of the benefit dressage show is Marjorie Deuel, President of the New Horizons Women's auxiliary.

David Lackey, nationally recognized dressage instructor, is assisting the auxiliary as technical advisor.

One hundred twenty riders and horses are expected from the midwest, east and other parts of the United States. Sunday competition will be climaxed with a 1980 Grand Prix.

Dressage is a French word meaning training or schooling. It is an equestrian competitive event that evolved out of cavalry tactics and maneuvers of a bygone time. Well known in Europe, it is gaining popularity in America. Dressage has been part of the summer Olympics since 1912, and will be well represented this summer in Montreal.

Dressage refines the natural gait of the horse, making it capable of performing difficult physical movements through imperceptible movements of the rider. One moment the horse is in an animated trot with periods of suspension and prouettes,

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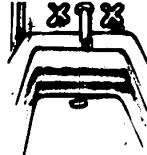
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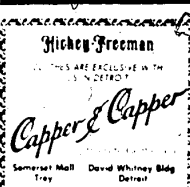
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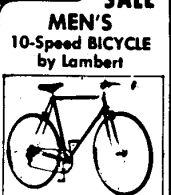
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