

Guinness limits weirder categories

NEW YORK (AP) — For a quarter century, people have eaten fire, swallowed swords, slept between beds of nails, even devoured a bicycle and a tree, just to get into the world's most famous record book.

Now the Guinness Book of World Records is "closing the book" on some of its records, declaring some winners for eternity in categories the editors consider life-threatening or particularly dangerous.

No more sword-swallowing. No more bike-eating. No more bodies sandwiched between beds of nails.

"There is sufficient planned lunacy on television without our having to add to it," says Norris McWhirter, the book's co-founder and editor in London.

"Something eventually reaches a point that we don't want to include it," McWhirter

says. "People can do what they like, but we're not going to chronicle it. Maybe the obituary columns will, but we won't."

The 1982 American edition of the book is being released Thursday. Since it was first published in 1955, it has been the superlative book of superlatives. But there are a few things it's never been, namely a place for what the editors call "gratuitously dangerous" feats like the lowest height from which a handcuffed parachutist has dived or the thinnest burning rope ever to suspend a man in a straitjacket from a flying helicopter.

"We are 3 or 4 percent zany, 25 percent sports achievements and the rest almost academic — the sciences and the like," McWhirter, 56, says.

Among the new zany entries: • M. Lotito of Evrey, France,

who ate a bicycle during a 15-day period in 1977. He ate the frame in the form of metal filings; the tires were cut into strips and "stewed."

• Joe Swaltney, 19, who ate an 11-foot birch sapling — branches, leaves and a 4.7-inch diameter trunk — in 89 hours to win a Chicago radio station's "most outrageous" contest.

• Count Desmond, of Binghamton, N.Y., who swallowed 13 23-inch-long sword blades.

Desmond's sword-swallowing feats are the final word in that category. "We don't want him trying any more, saying he cut his guts out for Guinness," says David Boehm, 67, American editor of the book.

The bike-eating category, which the book calls "the ultimate act of stupidity," was recorded because "it is unlikely to attract competition." No other entries will be considered in that category.

This year the fire-eating category is followed by a warning: "Fire-eating is poten-

tially a highly dangerous activity."

Among eating records, McWhirter says the book will not list records for potentially dangerous items such as live ants, goldfish, chewing gum or raw eggs in shells.

The "Iron Maiden" category is another being stopped. Vernon Craig of Wooster, Ohio, set the record in 1977 by lying between beds of nails with 1,642½ pounds of weight on top.

"It's quite extraordinary, but I think if they go up much higher there's a great danger someone will be impaled. We feel that's something we shouldn't encourage."

Other new entries include:

• Picasso was a prolific painter, but Morris Katz, 49, of New York City made the new book after finishing his 82,000th saleable painting. Katz says he sells his paintings "cheap and often."

• Walter Cavanagh of Santa Clara, Calif., has the world's largest credit card collection — 1,098 cards with a combined line of credit of \$1.25 million.

• The world's most prolific living mother is Leontina Albina, 57, of San Antonio, Chile, who has produced 44 children and was pregnant when the book went to press.

One record holder is the book itself, the "all-time copyrighted best-seller and world's fastest selling title," with 44 million copies in print increasing by 60,000 to 80,000 a week. It's published in 23 languages, and a Chinese edition will come out this year.

McWhirter and his twin brother, Ross, were 29 when Arthur Guinness, Son & Co. Ltd. — brewers of Guinness stout — hired them to compile a book of facts that would help settle arguments in pubs. The McWhirters already were running a research bureau that fed newspapers with obscure sports records.

Boehm became the book's American publisher and editor in 1957. When Ross was killed by Irish terrorists in 1975, Norris took over their firm, Guinness Superlatives Ltd.

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Personals

CHI-O PEGGY: You're the greatest! TASHA 10-16

PEGGY MENEICE, How was Denmark? Where are you? Hope to hear from you soon. KELLY 10-16

CHI-O KIM: You're the best! Get psyched for some good times this year. Love Your Big Sis'. 10-16

LUAN STAUSS: Cousin, Twin, Big Sis'. What's next? HAPPY EARLY 20. Remember, the eyes have it! 10-16

ORK! KATHE:

Happy Birthday and other warm sentiments to great SM and Slim! 10-16

RIKKI: Happy two years Sunday! They've been great—let's go for 99 more! Here's to our future. I love you LYNN 10-16

MAXIE: Meet me at 1 pm for an egg salad sandwich at Lenny's Nosh Bar in the Courtyard. LUIGI 032.tfn

TO THE FIJI MEN

I'm proud to be a member of your court, and I'm looking forward to a great year. Love ya! LIZ 10-16

GAMMA PHI KATI: Thanks for being such a super big sis! Love, LESLI 10-16

ATTENTION SUPER BUNSI! Jack Upton, we love your size 22 white briefs. Your two favorite Morton women, LIANE AND SUZY 10-16

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LAMONT: Meet me at 2 pm for a chocolate rum cheese cake at Lenny's Nosh Bar in the Courtyard. LOLITA 128.tfn

GAMMA PHI HOPEFULS: Hang in there! You're getting closer. With lots of love, THE MEMBERS 10-16

ATTRACTIVE, SENSITIVE MAN age 25, wishes to share Sunday evenings with woman, age 20-25. Ability to share and express thoughts and feelings essential. Send note and photo (optional) to PO Box 2067, Eugene, Oregon 97403. 10-16

NEED A BAND for your next party? We handle several bands. BUTTERFLY MUSIC 343-8151. 230.10-27

A.P.O. Party

Alpha Phi Omega members, let's get back together - this Friday, Oct. 16, at 8:30. Call Jim for information. 345-5112. Don't forget meeting on Sunday, Forum Room, 6 pm. 10-16

HAVING A DANCE OR PARTY? Need sound and lights? Call Darrell, 747-6727. 10-16

ALPHA CHI OMEGA ANNOUNCES: Big Bro' Court Tryouts Monday, October 19, 1981 8 pm

All interested gentlemen are invited to attend at 850 E. 15th. 266.10-16

CUDDLEABLE: 14 months have passed and "I do love you" "Still" J.M. 10-16

BUCK! Take care, have a super time, enjoy the sun, but don't come back a bum. Keep your head high; things can only get better for both you and I. Missing you already! I love ya...Spanky! 10-16

ALPHA CHI OMEGA FALL PLEDGES:

There is no doubt we've got the BEST. It's you fall PLEDGES, over the rest. With your spirit and gleam, this term will be great! We'll lead you through pledgship, the initiation awaits! Get pumped for this Homecoming weekend, because there's more to come!!! Yeeowww!! Love, your sisters. 262.10-16

TO THE MEN OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON:

Looking forward to tailgating fun. Because SAE'S and AXO's are number one. We'll party at Autzen rain or shine. Come Saturday night we'll have a great time. Let's ROCK... Love, the Alpha Chi's 262.10-16

STILL AWAITING WORD from local democrats when to begin campaign for ERA. Mot 10-16

FAGGOTS, DYKES AND FRIENDS unite. Show your pride, wear a pink triangle. 10-16

LESBIANS AND GAYS UNITE. We are not invisible. Be blatant. 10-16

KAREN: It's been a bad week. Let's get together tonight for happy hour! Meet at my place at 4:00. I love you. Me and Herman. 10-16

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS!

Interested? Contact Al at 345-6112. 10-20

ALPHA PHI'S: I'm going to be so G.O. So don't bogue and go vague. Get psyched for all the party girls!

Bob Lally, Accounting Major 10-16

DEE GEE

Looken for a great room-to-room Friday night...The way they did it in the go's.

SIGMA NU

10-16

Phi Gamma Delta PRESENTS AN INCREDIBLE COURT:

Liz Berry	Julie Gertenrich
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Maria Lindgren	Susan Granichor
Anne Tomlinson	Meghan Mahoney
Mary Maguigan	Courtney Alexander
Renee Pense	Susan Basham
Wendy Wells	

CHUMPERS: Love is for those who love, you deserve all I can give. GYMEE 10-16

DAN: The day has come you turn 21, so go out and party and have a lot of fun. Eat, drink and be merry, 'cause in the morning you'll be looking shakey! Happy Birthday to you I hope you, I hope it's the best, aspirin, Bloody Mary and me is what the Dr. suggests. Happy 21st. I love you. FRAN 10-16

Friday, October 16, 1981