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Prof: Students learn new ag methods

## **Tropical horticulture class offered**

## **By LAURIE MATUSEK** Reporter

A tropical horticulture class is beg offered in the spring semester teers in developing countries. or students interested in international agriculture or who want to work in the tropics, says Dr. J. Ben-ton Storey, professor of horticulture cience.

Storey, the class' instructor, says

Seatbelt law grace period ends Sunday

Texas A&M students should be certain to buckle up come Sunday since this is the date fines begin to be imposed for violations of Texas' mandatory seat belt law. Although the law has been in effect since Sept. 1, a grace pe-riod was extended until Dec. 1. The law requires mandatory use of seat belts by the driver and front seat passengers of all automobiles, van and trucks with a ca-pacity of less than 1,500 pounds.

Horticulture 423 (Tropical Horticul- altitude, rainfall, length of day and dents in all majors with junior or seture) will provide an excellent op-portunity for students who someday want to become Peace Corps volun-

Special attention will be given to tropical fruit and vegetable crops such as bananas, coconuts, tea, coffee, Brazil nuts and macadamia nuts, he says

Students will learn about cultural factors that include planting techniques, post-planting care, methods of propagation, yields and storage, he says. Climate and soil adaptability are

says. Examples include temperature,

## soil preference. "Students taking this class will be

able to bring modern agriculture methods to people in a developing area, who for no fault of their own, have been deprived of technical information," Storey says.

"It may be something as simple as introducing new varieties of plants to the area," he says.

The new varieties of plants, called cultivares, are a group of plants within a species that perform in a predictable manner, Storey says.

It is important to discover the predictable manners of plants so a crop important to understand also, Storey can be produced effectively and efficiently year after year, he says.

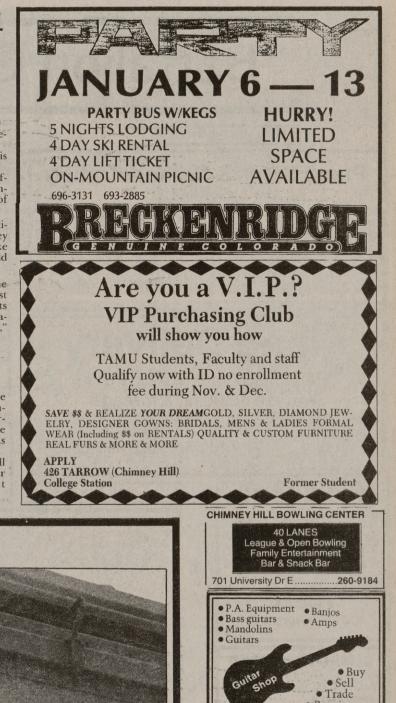
Storey says the class is open to stu-

nior classification. "The only thing you need to be is

a generalist," he says. Storey says the class is being offered pass/fail for those apprehen-sive about taking a course out of their major.

"As long as the students are moti-vated, that's all that matters," Storey "Most of the students who take says. the class pass/fail probably could make an 'A' anyway."

"Taking this class won't make the students specialists, but at least they'll be aware of how certain plants are grown and how to get information pertaining to those plants," Storey says.



## Goddess of Liberty readied for foundry

**Associated Press** 

AUSTIN - The Goddess of Lib- Graham said Tuesday. erty statue, which has been viewed close-up by hundreds of Texans shipped to the American Art Goddess has s since a helicopter lifted it off the Ca- Foundry at Rhome, Texas. The and corrosion. pitol dome Sunday, will be taken to a statue will undergo repairs required The replica should be installed

atop the 311-foot dome within four to six months, Capitol architect Roy statue had become so weather-dam-Graham said the Goddess will be

a duplicate can be made. a duplicate can be made. new Goddess will be cast, he said.

aged over time that officials determined it was a safety hazard. The Goddess has suffered major cracks He said the new statue likely will

another alloy with sufficient The 1.5-ton zinc statue had strength and corrosion resistance.





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Photo by Bill Hug

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