

Prof: Students learn new ag methods

# Tropical horticulture class offered

By LAURIE MATUSEK  
Reporter

A tropical horticulture class is being offered in the spring semester for students interested in international agriculture or who want to work in the tropics, says Dr. J. Benton Storey, professor of horticulture science.

Horticulture 423 (Tropical Horticulture) will provide an excellent opportunity for students who someday want to become Peace Corps volunteers in developing countries.

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 important to understand also, Storey says.

Examples include temperature,

altitude, rainfall, length of day and 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 cultivars, 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 can be produced effectively and efficiently year after year, he says.

Storey says the class is open to stu-

dents in all majors with junior or senior classification.

"The only thing you need to be is a generalist," he says.

Storey says the class is being offered pass/fail for those apprehensive about taking a course out of their major.

"As long as the students are motivated, that's all that matters," Storey says. "Most of the students who take 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.

## 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 period 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 capacity of less than 1,500 pounds.

## Goddess of Liberty readied for foundry

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Goddess of Liberty statue, which has been viewed close-up by hundreds of Texans since a helicopter lifted it off the Capitol dome Sunday, will be taken to a foundry today for repairs needed so a duplicate can be made.

The replica should be installed

atop the 311-foot dome within four to six months, Capitol architect Roy Graham said Tuesday.

Graham said the Goddess will be shipped to the American Art Foundry at Rhome, Texas. The statue will undergo repairs required for making a mold from which the new Goddess will be cast, he said.

The 1.5-ton zinc statue had

topped the Capitol for 97 years. The statue had become so weather-damaged over time that officials determined it was a safety hazard. The Goddess has suffered major cracks and corrosion.

He said the new statue likely will be made from bronze, aluminum or another alloy with sufficient strength and corrosion resistance.

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