

Volunteer work for students provides on-the-job training

By KIM TYSON
On-the-job training is now available for community minded students through the University's Student Volunteer Services.

The service cooperates with businesses to find volunteer jobs for Texas A&M University students who want to get involved for career or personal reasons, Karen Switzer, sponsor and student development coordinator, said Monday.

Presently some 100 students are involved in the program.

The organization publishes newsletters, finds businesses needing volunteers and notifies individuals and service organizations of projects.

"The nice part about Student Volunteer Services is there is nothing demanded except volunteer work," Switzer said.

She explained that there are no meetings or organizational work for those who volunteer. A seven-member board, divided into six interest areas and one public relations area, runs the organization.

"Most people think it's just hospital work. But we're trying to expand it to business, journalism, recreation and other areas," said Denise Prihoda, chairman of the organization.

Volunteer work might include processing complaints at the Better

Business Bureau, teaching children pet care at local schools, playing the Easter Rabbit in a city-wide egg hunt and adopting a grandparent at one of the local nursing homes.

"Not all the projects last for a semester," Prihoda said. "Some are one-shot deals like stuffing envelopes for the Easter Seal campaign." She added that some volunteer work is seasonal such as coaching basketball at the Boys' Club.

Although no scholastic credit is given for the work, Switzer said students can be rewarded with experience and personal contacts that can help get a future job.

Volunteer work also gives students a chance to find out about related fields of study, such as anesthesiology, said senior Elizabeth Carter, who works at Bryan Hospital.

Although Carter said she usually works four-hour shifts, she said she'd hate to see scholastic credit given for volunteer work. She said credit might attract students looking for grade points.

Switzer said students interested in signing up for volunteer work can come by her office in YMCA 108.

Now is the time to find the largest selection because by the first of the month the board has lined up new jobs, Switzer said.

Book on Blacks of 1800s Prairie View historian brings new perspective

Prairie View A&M University's leading historian has taken a look beyond the purely black-and-white antebellum South, and what he has found is a chromatic life in which free blacks lived freely and fully among Indians, Mexicans, and German and Anglo immigrants.

Dr. George R. Woolfolk's findings have been compiled in "The Free Negro in Texas, 1800-1860: A Study in Cultural Compromise," a book published this year by The Journal of Mexican American History at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Woolfolk, chairman of history at Prairie View A&M and the university's de facto historian, has presented a study of free blacks rarely seen. In doing so, he said, the book attempts to provide historians with a new historical perspective of blacks.

Woolfolk first traces the motivating forces which brought free blacks into the Spanish borderlands, then examines how the groups worked out cultural compromises to maintain justice and peace.

Rock concert hall to open in London

United Press International
LONDON — Showman Bob Dick is reopening the Royalty Theater on Portugal street, off central London's Kingsway, in late March as a rock concert hall.

Dick said it will be London's first medium-sized concert hall devoted to rock.

He is calling his venture "Sounds Circus" and plans to decorate the theater to give it the atmosphere of a circus. The theater will seat more than 900 persons, have two bars, a disco-dancing area that will remain open until 2 a.m. There will be no membership fee.

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Top of the News

Campus

AGGIE PARENTS OF THE YEAR applications are available in the Student Programs Office, MSC 216, and are being accepted now through March 25.

Texas

A **LUBBOCK** representative says he believes a more businesslike approach to state government would be for the legislature to meet in annual sessions, restricting sessions in even-numbered years to budget matters. Rep. Froy Salinas, D-Lubbock, filed a proposed constitutional amendment yesterday which would set a 90-day budget session in even-numbered years while leaving the regular, odd-numbered year sessions to budgetary and general legislation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL John Hill has challenged the authority of the Water Rights Commission to decide if water will be saved for fish and wildlife or used for irrigation and power plants. Hill filed a motion with the commission contending the Parks and Wildlife Department actually has authority to cut off

any surface water users during a drought to protect fish and wildlife along the San Antonio and Medina Rivers. Water Rights Commission officials are expected to fight the claim in court to retain their jurisdiction.

ATTORNEYS in the murder trial of millionaire T. Cullen Davis have not found a single acceptable juror, despite questioning 20 persons in five days. Davis is charged with murdering his 12-year-old stepdaughter, Andrea Wilborn. He also awaits trial on related charges of murdering Stan Farr, the lover of his estranged wife, Priscilla, and wounding Mrs. Davis and a family friend.

STATE COMPTROLLER Bob Bullock says Texas has lost \$126.4 million in tax revenue in the past three years as a result of federal regulation of natural gas prices. Since January 1974, when in-state gas prices increased more than prices allowed for gas sold interstate, 7.25 billion thousand cubic feet of natural gas produced in Texas was sold out of state, Bullock said yesterday.

SENATOR Jack Ogg, D-Houston, filed a bill to ban smoking in grocery stores, nursing

homes and department stores except in designated areas. "The right of a person to smoke ends when his smoking interferes with the rights of others to breathe clean air," he said.

REPRESENTATIVE Tom Schieffer, D-Fort Worth, introduced a bill to establish a permanent presidential primary in Texas and let political parties decide how to take the preference poll. Schieffer, sponsor of legislation establishing the one-time winner-take-all primary in 1976, said under his new bill Democrats and Republicans will have their choice of a straight proportional primary or a district by district winner-take-all.

National

THE WHITE HOUSE has received 901 telephone calls from persons opposed to the B1 bombers. The callers, taking part in a call-in rally organized by the National Campaign to Stop the B1 bomber, are upset because President Carter included money for the plane in his new budget.

FORMER President Ford arrived in the Colorado Rockies for a weeklong vacation yesterday

and immediately plunged into a hot, whirlpool bath to ease the ache from a back muscle pulled playing golf. Ford said he hoped to begin skiing today if he felt well enough.

World

TENS OF thousands of government workers boomed and jeered Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at a campaign rally yesterday only two weeks before national elections. Hours later, three times as many Indians turned out to cheer two of Mrs. Gandhi's chief political foes — former cabinet minister Jagjivan Ram and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the prime minister's aunt.

THE MAJORITY of Americans living in Uganda are expected to remain there despite a five-day drama in which they first were barred from leaving, then abruptly told they could travel anywhere, Western diplomats said. Uganda President Idi Amin coupled his dramatic turnabout on the fate of the Americans with a renewed warning that any U.S. invasion of landlocked Uganda would be crushed by his Russian-equipped armed forces. He also accused

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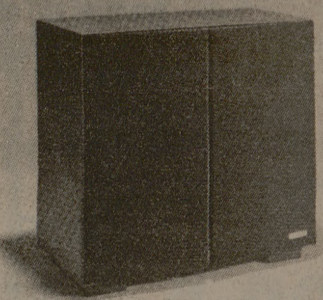
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