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Aggie GOP Voter Registration
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Time: 10-3
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Libraries fear U.S. policy changes may hurt services

By Mona Palmer
Senior Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Commerce may propose a change in the structure of the National Technical Information Service that could affect Texas A&M libraries.

The possible changes in the NTIS structure are in keeping with the Reagan Administration's philosophy that the government should not perform functions that the private sector can do itself, said David Gay, A&M's U.S. documents librarian.

Susan Tulus, chairman of government documents at the University of Virginia, explained that the department has two options — it could let the NTIS become a private corporation or it could structure the service as a government corporation.

Janet Swanbeck, head of documents at the Sterling C. Evans Library, said that A&M spends \$30,000 a year for the research information collected, printed and distributed by NTIS.

She said research libraries are concerned that a private corporation would publish on a for-profit rather than a need basis. If the corporation publishes for profit only, then libraries will end up paying more for the service, she said.

Gay added that the data published by the NTIS is generated for the national good and for basic research —

there is no money in generating this kind of information.

Swambeck said librarians also are concerned that a private company won't keep the back files that the NTIS keeps.

She explained that when the NTIS publishes research material it is always available and never goes out of print. This is important to researchers so they can see the results of specific research and won't duplicate what's been done, she said.

Information from the NTIS shows that the agency's collection is approaching 2 million titles and all of these remain permanently available. Between 70 and 80 publications are added annually and over 2.5 million reports are distributed each year.

On July 30, about 100 people gathered in a meeting called by the Department of Commerce to discuss the proposed changes in the NTIS.

Tulus said that no one spoke in support of complete privatization of the service and that private, for-profit information companies represented also spoke in favor of retaining some government role in the service.

Tulus said if the service became a government corporation it would increase its administrative and legal flexibility. She added that a dual corporation between private business and government would also maintain the NTIS backfiles.

Texas efforts help plant rose as national flower

TYLER (AP) — An intense East Texas lobbying effort on Capitol Hill, which included giving a rose bush to every congressman, helped plant the rose firmly as the nation's official flower, a lawmaker says.

The House, after just two minutes of discussion, approved the Senate-passed bill Tuesday. The measure now goes to the White House, where President Reagan is expected to sign it next week.

U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall, D-Rockwall, lauded Tyler rose bush grower Larry Burks and other area residents for their energetic lobbying.

"It couldn't have been done if Larry Burks hadn't spent a great deal of time, effort and money on this bill," Hall said. "He really camped out up here."

In Tyler — home of a nationally recognized rose festival, the world's

largest municipal rose garden and a major rose-producing area — Burks said the bill makes the self-proclaimed rose capital of the world the home of the national flower.

Hall said lobbyists distributed rose bushes to every one of the nation's senators and congressmen during the campaign.

"It had a lot of impetus behind it," Hall said. "They took the roses around and reminded them (the bill) was in the hopper. Of course, this isn't Gramm-Rudman or Ways and Means, but it's important to our area because of the attention it will get for the rose industry."

Burks said passage of the bill stemmed from a three-pronged cooperative effort between professional cut-rose and garden-rose bush producers and amateur rose enthusiasts.

University Plus classes filling quickly

By John Jarvis
Reporter

Classes are filling fast for the arts and crafts, business, aerobics/dance and special interest courses being offered by the Memorial Student Center University Plus Craft Center this semester.

The classes, which are open to the public, range from aerobics to bartending to Appalachian basket weaving, and include almost everything in between.

Forty-eight courses are scheduled for this fall, including 65 separate classes.

Pat Garrison, assistant supervisor of the MSC University Plus Craft Center, says registration will continue for each class until it begins or fills. The starting dates ranged from Sept. 16 for two beginning aerobic exercise classes to Dec. 9 for a three-hour interviewing course.

Garrison says University Plus, a combination of the old After Hours Free University Community and the MSC Craft Shop, has existed for one year.

The name was changed, she says, not only because of the merger, but also because University Plus offers more than just craft courses.

About 85 percent of the people who attend University Plus classes are students, Garrison says. However, she adds, the ratio of students to non-students varies from class to class.

Cost for the classes ranges from \$5 for a three-hour interviewing class to \$36 for a four-and-a-half week bartending class.

A special feature University Plus offers this semester, Garrison says, are the business section courses. The classes are new and include such topics as interviewing, resume writing, and investing.

Advertising and marketing strategies for small businesses also will be included in the new program.

Garrison says the aerobic courses are the most popular. She says that five out of eight aerobic courses offered are full, and spaces in the others are filling fast.

About half of the people who teach University Plus courses are students, Garrison says. The students are hired not because it's more convenient to use them, but because they have proven themselves as being able to teach the courses, she says.

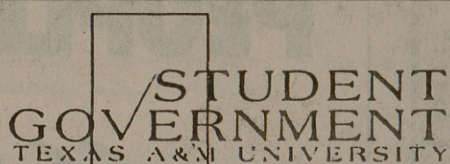
Garrison says the classes offered are a result of people's requests for them. However, some of

the classes requested can't be offered because they're "just too strange," she says. "Some one request that comes to mind," she says.

Not all of the courses offered are on campus, Garrison says. One off-campus course is Texas Hall of Fame for country-western courses. The reason, she says, is that there's not enough campus space to handle all the classes. However, all of the arts and crafts classes are taught in the University Plus Craft Center, she says.

Garrison says that in addition to the classes that are offered each fall and spring, the center also offers special classes and workshops to help people make gifts for the Christmas holiday season. The registration for this mini-session begins Nov. 3. The classes meet from Dec. 1 to Dec. 11 for this semester.

University Plus Craft Center is open to the public seven days a week. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information on classes and fees, call the University Plus Craft Center at 845-1257.



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