

University Plus offers Aggies fun

By Don Kopf

Of The Battalion Staff

Perhaps you've always wanted to try something new, different and exciting, such as bellydancing, beer brewing or herb gardening, but you never knew where to learn about these things.

Well, have no fear — University Plus is here. In fact, it has been here since 1985. The organization offers a number of classes that teach new hobbies, crafts and skills to anyone who is interested in learning about them. Some of the more unusual classes offered include those previously mentioned as well as yoga, Tae Kwon Do, wine tasting and improving assertiveness.

More popular classes include aerobics, country and western dancing, and computer and business classes. Although these courses fill up quickly, other less conventional classes, such as yoga and bellydancing, fill up even more rapidly, often by the first class meeting.

Classes are held once a week for one to eight weeks depending on the nature of the material taught. For example, while defensive driving programs can be taught in two

classes, beginning accounting for small businesses requires eight meetings.

University Plus does not just offer classes either. Located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center, the office also operates a craft center. Within the craft center are a pottery area, a fully equipped woodshop, a sand blaster, a full set of bicycle tools and many craft supplies for various hobbies.

For a small fee, usually about \$5 per semester, students and others may use the center's facilities. Supplies for the various hobbies are sold almost at cost and generally are cheaper than supplies available from local retailers.

The two areas within the center that receive the heaviest use are the bike shop and pottery center. While the pottery area has the heaviest use because of the long term hobbyists involved, the bike shop has the most number of people signed up to use it. Both the bike shop and pottery area have nearly every tool necessary to make a pot from scratch or to mend a broken bike.

Wayne Helton is MSC programs manager in charge of running the University Plus office. Helton helped start the organization by

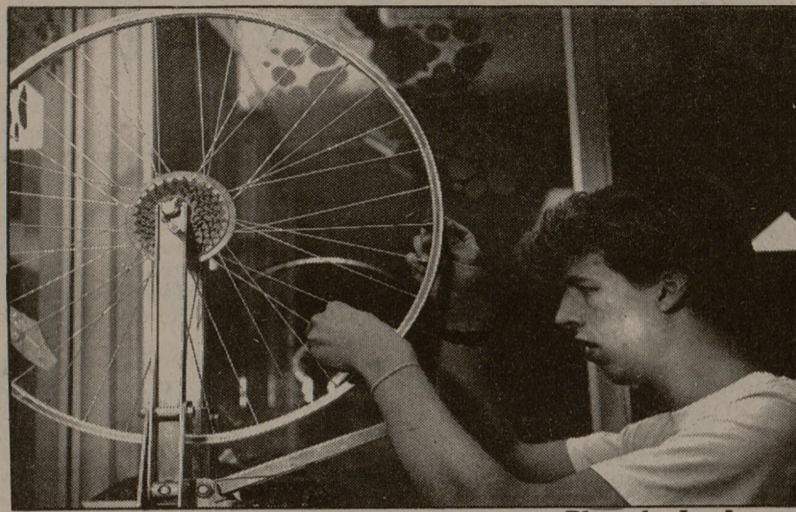


Photo by Jay Janner

John Laskowski, a junior civil engineering major from London, England, checks his bicycle wheel at the MSC craft center.

bringing two programs, MSC After Hours and the MSC Arts and Crafts Center, under one roof. The MSC After Hours Program ran classes for various skills while the craft center ran programs for hobbies and crafts.

Under pressure of state budget cuts, it was decided that the two programs could be run more efficiently under the management of one office. Helton has been director of the program since its beginning in the summer of 1985.

New programs are constantly being added, and old ones are reworked to keep them fresh. Helton said that new programs are created through a number of different ways. Sometimes students request that a

particular program be offered. If enough students request the same program, Helton tries to find an instructor for the class. Other times, people approach him and request to teach a class, he said.

In either case, the prospective teachers are interviewed to make sure they are qualified to teach the class and to make sure they have a personality suited to teaching. If they are qualified, then a class is set up.

Funding to run University Plus comes from two sources. Office employee salaries are paid for by the student service fees while all class instructors and supplies are paid for by students enrolled in the programs.

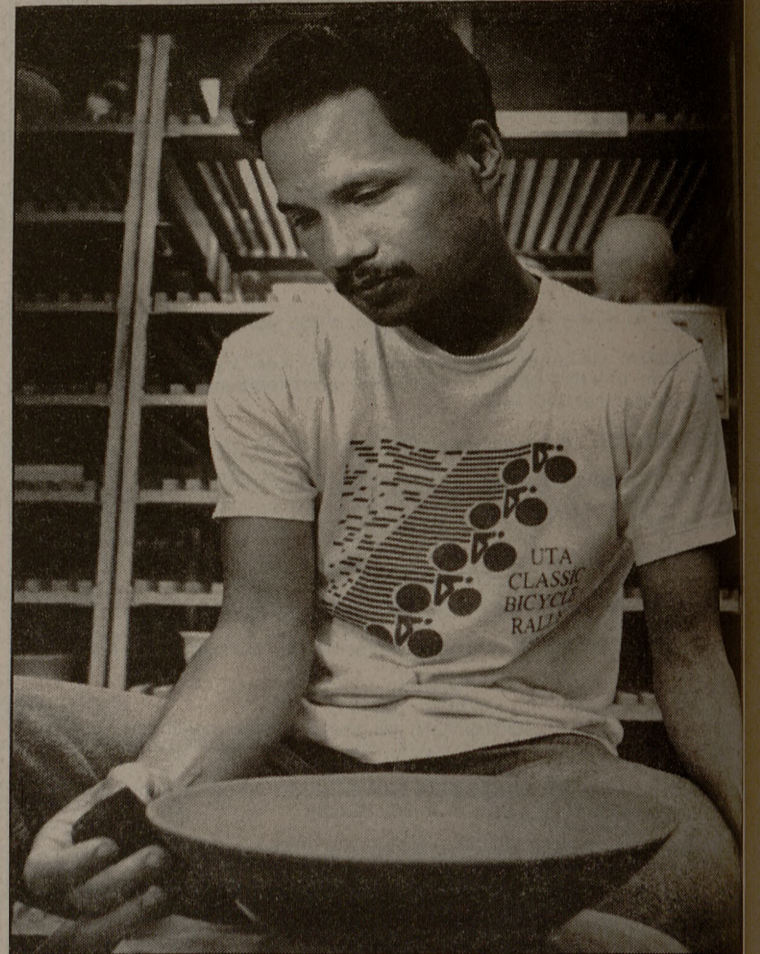


Photo by Jay Janner

Derek Gay, a civil engineering graduate student from Trinidad and Tobago, makes a stoneware bowl at the MSC craft center.

A&M University Press publishes more than professors' efforts



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

John F. Setter, Texas A&M University Press director, displays one of many books awaiting distribution across the country.

By Katsy Pittman

Of The Battalion Staff

Although some people might think otherwise, the sole purpose of the Texas A&M University Press is not just to produce a pile of publications for A&M professors seeking to improve their credentials.

In fact, only a small percentage of its literature comes from local authors. Currently included on its publication list are books by a Japanese economist and a French environmental historian.

Local author's occasionally do get their work published, however. For instance, "The Frontier Experience

and the American Dream," recently released by University Press, was edited by Mark Busby, an associate professor of English at A&M.

According to Gayla Christiansen, marketing director for University Press, it does not matter where the authors come from, as long as their books are top-notch.

Christiansen said publishing a large quantity of books is not the organization's primary goal. "We would much rather advance knowledge than make big bucks," she said.

And it's a good thing, too, because University Press has been a non-profit organization since its beginning in 1974.

"A sign of maturity to a college is a university press," Christiansen said. "But most university presses are not that big. I'd say 90 percent of them are rather small.

"Most people have heard of the big ones, like Oxford and Cambridge. As far as A&M goes, we're pretty much in the middle. That's why we don't cover all topics. It works better for us to specialize."

Although only of average size compared to other university presses, A&M's University Press has grown a lot in the past 15 years. It originally published 16 to 20 books a year; now it publishes about twice that many.

If that amount doesn't bowl you over, consider this: the University Press rejects more than 90 percent of its submissions.

Hopeful authors can increase the chances of having their books published if the books' themes center around Texana or Western America. A popular subject is history, including American, environmental, military and natural history. Nautical archeology and women's studies are also in heavy demand, but so far, not a single book on poetry has been published.

All hope is not lost, however, for submissions that do not follow popular book themes.

"Each book is looked at on its own merit," Christiansen said. "The most important things we ask ourselves are 'Is it well-done?' and 'Does it fit the audience's demand?'"

One of the University Press' newest books to hit the stands certainly breaks the nautical archeology mode. It's called "Safe at Home" and is an autobiographical account of a professional baseball player's family and their demanding life on the road.

University Press officials are hop-

ing that the book, already drawing rave reviews, will become another one of their best sellers.

One of their previous best sellers has been "Landscapes of Texas" which is adorning coffee tables across the state.

Their other biggie is "Fishes of the Gulf of Mexico," contributing to both scientists' knowledge and fishermen's catches throughout the Southwest United States.

These big sellers are only two of 300 books available through the University Press.

Surprised that A&M's own Uni-

versity Press publishes so many books? Then you also might be interested to know that University Press distributes books for four other schools, including Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, Rice University and The University of North Texas. University Press also distributes books for the Texas State Historical Association.

If you are an A&M student and interested in purchasing a book published by the University Press, luck is on your side when it comes to money and convenience.

All A&M students get a 20 percent discount on the books, and books can be found at the MSC, bookstores, and at the University Press.

If you are curious about University Press, why not go ahead and take a tour?

"We love visitors," Christiansen said. "But we do prefer scheduled appointments for groups."

The University Press building located on Louis Street behind the Dean Dining Hall. For reservations call 845-1436.

Bad acting, lack of plot make 'Kickboxer' a movie disaster

By Todd Stone

Of The Battalion Staff

"Kickboxer" is a terrible movie. An "El stinko." The kind of film that stays bad no matter how much beer you drink.

"I feel dumb coming in here," said one person in the theater before the movie started. His worst nightmares about this film probably came true.

Karl (Jean Claude Van Damme) is the brother of the U.S. Kickboxing champion. When Karl's brother is paralyzed by Thailand's champion, Tong Po, Karl learns the ancient ways of fighting to get revenge.

The acting is pitiful. Take, for example, the dialogue when Karl worries about his brother fighting Tong Po:

Karl: "I gotta bad feeling about this one."

Brother: "A kick is a kick. We came to fight. Now go get some ice."

This was one of the better acted scenes.

Of course a movie like this is not made for plot or acting. The film is for people who want to see Van Damme, the new Chuck Norris, beat the stuffing out of everybody for a couple of hours. "Kickboxer" fails to satisfy this demand as well.

The first hour of the film mean-

ders through horrible acting and develops a plot that only exists to get from one fight scene to another. However, the filmmakers appear to



take the plot seriously, which would be laughable if you weren't paying \$5 to see the movie.

There are only two fights before the final battle. In those two fights, Van Damme briefly slaps around a few guys who put up less of a fight than my grandmother would. Boring!

The one hope of the movie is the final battle with Tong Po who looks mean enough to give Van Damme a

good fight. This battle doesn't cause pulse rates to soar and is likely to be a better tranquilizer than valium.

However, the filmmakers did remember the blood-thirsty moviegoer in one respect. The fighters glue broken glass on the top of their wrapped hands to make the fight interesting. If you want a little blood, you at least get that.

The film was directed by Mark DiSalle and David Roth. They succeeded in providing little action throughout the film and also failed to take advantage of the exotic scenery of Thailand.

Van Damme is an abysmal actor, but that would not have mattered if the action and fighting was as exciting and constant as the advertising promises. The supporting cast of unknowns is completely inept and will probably stay unknown after this movie.

How bad is this movie? You would probably rather watch the Washington-A&M game again, pick up broken glass with your tongue or stick your hand under the refrigerator and see what you find before you would risk wasting your time to see this film.

How're you going to do it?

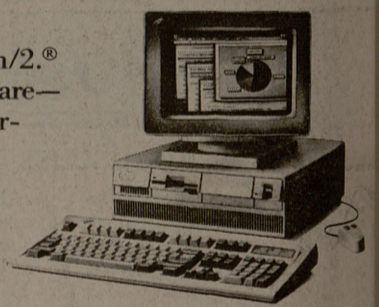


"My chem lab report is due Monday. My English lit. paper is due Tuesday. My economics paper is due on Wednesday. And the big game's tomorrow."

Now, super savings on PS/2's.

Be ready for this semester with the IBM Personal System/2.® Choose from five complete packages of hardware and software—all at special low student prices. What's more, when you purchase a PS/2,® you can get the exciting new PRODIGY® service at less than half the retail price.* Strike while the prices are hot. Pick the PS/2 that's right for you.

PS/2 it!



	Model 25 8525-001	Model 30 286 8530-E21	Model 50 Z 8550-031	Model 55 SX 8555-061	Model 70 386 8570-E61
Memory	640Kb	1Mb	1Mb	2Mb	4Mb
Processor	8086 (8 MHz)	80286 (10 MHz)	80286 (10 MHz)	80386SX™ (16 MHz)	80386™ (16 MHz)
3.5" diskette drive	720Kb	1.44Mb	1.44Mb	1.44Mb	1.44Mb
Fixed disk drive	20Mb	20Mb	30Mb	60Mb	60Mb
Micro Channel™ architecture	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Display	Monochrome	8513 Color	8513 Color	8513 Color	8513 Color
Mouse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Software	DOS 4.0 Microsoft® Windows/286 hDC Windows Express™	DOS 4.0 Microsoft Windows/286 Word 5.0* Excel* hDC Windows Express hDC Windows Manager™ hDC Windows Color™	DOS 4.0 Microsoft Windows/286 Word 5.0* Excel* hDC Windows Express hDC Windows Manager™ hDC Windows Color™	DOS 4.0 Microsoft Windows/386 Word 5.0* Excel* hDC Windows Express hDC Windows Manager™ hDC Windows Color™	DOS 4.0 Microsoft Windows/386 Word 5.0* Excel* hDC Windows Express hDC Windows Manager™ hDC Windows Color™
Price	\$1620	\$2499	\$3025	\$3799	\$5199

IBM Printers Proprietary™ III w/Cable (4201/003) \$399
Proprietary X24E w/Cable (4207/002) \$549
Proprietary XL24E w/Cable (4208/002) \$729

MICROCOMPUTERCENTER
Computer Sales and Supplies
Located on the main floor of the Memorial Student Center
Monday thru Friday 7:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(409) 545-4281

*Microsoft Word and Excel are the Academic Editions. This offer is limited to qualified students, faculty and staff who order an IBM PS/2 Model 8525-001, 8530-E21, 8550-031, 8555-061 or 8570-E61 on or before October 31, 1989. Prices quoted do not include sales tax. Check with your institution regarding these charges. Orders are subject to availability. IBM may withdraw the promotion at any time without written notice.
IBM Personal System/2 and PS/2 are registered trademarks and Proprietary and Micro Channel are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. PRODIGY is a registered trademark of Prodigy Services Corporation. Equipment of IBM and Data, hDC Windows Express, hDC Windows Manager and hDC Windows Color are trademarks of IBM Computer Corporation. 80386 and 80486 are trademarks of Intel Corporation. ©IBM Corp. 1989

