

GPN library one of only two in United States

By Barb Bierman

The Great Plains National (GPN) Instructional Television Library is closing out its second decade of service to American education.

According to Richard Spence, information coordinator for GPN, the library was founded in 1962 "to identify and to duplicate and distribute video-taped instructional television courses to educational institutions and agencies."

The library, in the Terry Carpenter Telecommunications Building at 1800 N. 33rd St., was one of three tested on a regional basis and was originally sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education. However, within four years' time the response was so enthusiastic that the service is now self-supporting, Spence said.

Other libraries were tested in Boston and in Bloomington, Ind. The library in Boston did not survive the test, so the Agency for Instructional Television in Indiana is GPN's only counterpart in the United States, he said.

"We distribute material that has already been produced and can be used by others. We save money on production of materials this way as it is cheaper to lease," Spence

said.

Elementary schools

Spence estimated that 65 to 70 percent of the material they produce is used in elementary schools. Use of their audio-visual material in colleges is low, he said.

To obtain materials from GPN an instructor must first obtain an annual catalog. About 5,000 people in the United States receive the catalog, Spence said.

Pricing materials is the hardest part of their job, he said. Variables such as student population and the number of transmitter points in a general broadcast area all play a part in determining costs.

Educators have the option of buying video cassettes or leasing them for a week. It takes about a month from the time an order for a show or series is placed for them to begin distribution, Spence said.

In 1972 GPN converted its video tape and film offering to video cassettes, which was a pioneering endeavor for them, he said.

Videodiscs used

Now GPN is experimenting with videodiscs. Four pilot videodiscs have been successfully tested and demonstrated around

the country.

A video-disc looks like an ordinary record, but can hold two hours of video materials and is extremely durable, said Spence. A special machine is needed to play the material for classroom use and different models are on the market. Some use a stylus and play the material much like a conventional record, while others use a laser beam scan to reproduce the material for viewing.

"By the end of the decade we may see the use of video-discs in the classroom," Spence said. "Already companies are pushing home use of this new teaching aid."

They also have explored using satellites to give educators around the country a chance to preview their material.

"We used this in November 1979, and it has lots of potential," said Spence.

Advertise services

To make the public more aware of their

service, Spence said they are using audio-visual representatives around the country to advertise the classroom use of movies and tapes.

"It's also becoming harder to find new material and we have hired a person to be involved in acquisition of materials. Although we haven't before, we may become involved in production of new series or lessons on a cooperative basis with others."

Spence said Nebraska doesn't use many of GPN's materials but a large portion goes to California for broadcast use there.

"This could be due to a difference in the curriculum philosophy in these areas," he said.

"Use of these materials is not total education, but it provides valuable supplemental information. The opportunity for a student to see a certain experiment or concept magnified is a big plus."

Draft resistance discussed

Civil disobedience, registration as a conscientious objector and informing congressmen of students' refusal to enlist in the service were methods of draft resistance discussed Wednesday at the Progressive Student Union meeting.

Sally Cottonwood of Nebraskans for Peace spoke to members of PSU about draft resistance.

Cottonwood said that NFP is just beginning to organize for efforts of resistance to registration and anti-draft activities.

PSU members decided to coordinate efforts with Cottonwood's group. PSU plans to sponsor a booth in the Nebraska Union which would offer background information on the issue and list options available to potential draftees.

Cottonwood and PSU members stressed that the draft is not an isolated issue and should be treated in the context of the situation.

"Unless the internal political climate and U.S. foreign policy change radically, it is likely that America will go to war, and soon," Cottonwood said.

"It is easier to go to war with Russia than to deplore the Gestapo torture techniques of the CIA-trained SAVAK and of the CIA itself. It is easier to send young people to die like cattle than to stand before Iran and the world and say: We are ashamed," she said.

Cottonwood said that to encourage others toward peace, students themselves must be peaceful.



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Presentation in the Nebraska Union Ballroom by Paul Stefanik, Manager of Special Products of Marketing in the International Division of Marketing, Mobil Oil Corporation; Topic: "Energy Crisis, Fact or Fiction,"
Open Forum

1:30-5:00
2:00-3:00

Business Booths
Presentation in the CBA third floor lounge by Dr. Earle B. Barnes, Chairman of the Board-Dow Chemical; Topic: "The Cost of Government Regulation on Business"
Business Booths

6:30-8:00
Tuesday February 5
9:30-10:45

Presentation in the CBA Auditorium by Lewis W. Lehr, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the 3M Corporation; Topic "The Global Role of a Multi-National Corporation"

10:00-12:00
1:30-5:00
6:30-8:00

Business Booths
Business Booths
Dinner Banquet with a presentation by Paul Stefanik of the Mobil Oil Corporation. Entertainment provided by the UNL Scarlet and Cream Singers.

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