

Zionism not religious matter

UN adviser speaks at banquet

An attack on Zionism is not an attack on Jews, Abdelwahab Messiri, an adviser to the United Nations office of the League of Arab States, said in a speech at the Arab Students Banquet at Texas A&M Sunday.

The banquet, which opened International Week at A&M, also featured Arabic food, music and Arabic belly dancing.

Messiri spoke on "Zionism and Racism." Zionism is the movement

to establish a Jewish state in Palestine.

Although Zionism is harmful to the Arabs, and must be contained, Messiri said that it is possible for both Arabs and Jews to live together peacefully.

"Zionism is a political matter, not a religious one. Only Christ can lead Jews back to the Promised Land, not (former Israeli prime ministers) Golda Meir or Ben-Gurion," he said. The return of the Arab lands cap-

tured by Israel during the 1967 war would not solve the problem, Messiri said. The conditions which created the war still exist, he said.

To achieve peace in the Middle East, Israel must change its isolationist policies, Messiri said.

"The civil rights of the Jews are sacred insofar as human rights are sacred, but there is nothing inherently sacred or profane about any political ideology, even if it is Zionism, or any state, even if it is

Israel," Messiri said. He stressed that the rights and human dignity of both Jews and Arabs must be recognized before a solution is found.

After Messiri's talk, traditional Arab food was served. The meal included taboula (a tossed salad), kofta (meatballs stuffed with parsley, onions and spices), kabza (rice and lamb), roast beef, Arabic bread and pastry stuffed with dates.

Fatima, a belly dancing teacher at the University of Houston, per-

formed after the banquet.

"The thing I like about the dance is the music. The music creates the dance," Fatima said. Of the three types of belly dancing, (Greek, Armenian and Arabic), she prefers the Arabic the most.

"Arabic dancing is full of soul and feeling, almost sensual," she said. Judging from the audience's reaction, they felt it too.—Richard Chamberlain

Advice for women begins conference

The Women's Career Conference began yesterday with speaker Gaye Brown-Burke leading the 30-member female audience to an active discussion about life planning for women.

Gaye Brown-Burke, supervisor of counselors with the Vocational Guidance Service in Houston, told the audience, "One of the biggest things while you are in school is to gather information."

The audience was diversified in its types from young student women to women who have been married twenty years and say they're tired of an aimless life.

Three questions every woman should ask herself, said Brown-Burke, are: 1) Who am I, 2) What do I know about my assets, and 3) What are my alternatives in career choice

and life style?

"Career and life planning is something that you suddenly find you must keep up a continuous process of looking at it to make it for you," said Brown-Burke.

The career conference will continue until Friday, April 2. The schedule for the week is: Tuesday, March 30, 12:30 p.m.—Women's legal rights; 301 Rudder Tower, Wednesday, March 31, noon p.m.—Speaker Barbara Briggs; 301 Rudder Tower, Thursday, April 1, 12:30 to 2 p.m.—Panel on obstacles and alternatives for women, 601 Rudder Tower, Friday, April 2, noon to 2 p.m.—Panel of the experiences of the speakers to the audience.

—Denise Edgerly

NSA

Lobby convention disappointing

A&M representatives went to Minnesota last weekend to possibly help organize a new national student lobby, but left midway through the convention "antagonized," according to Jeff Dunn, student body president.

The four day meeting, held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, was to be purely organizational, Dunn said. It was attended by student representatives from large universities across the nation. Rajesh Kent, vice president of academic affairs; Stan Stanfield, an A&M student; and Dunn attended from A&M.

The University of Minnesota sent information to large schools last January stating their interest in forming a national student lobby organization to act as an alternative to the National Student Association (NSA), also a national campus lobby group.

"In the past," Dunn said, "NSA has not met the needs of large universities. As a result of this, most of these universities, including A&M, are not members of NSA. So the University of Minnesota decided to get these schools together to decide whether or not to start a new organization."

The convention pointed out two alternatives the schools could pursue in order to meet their needs. The first was to form a new organization and the second was to form a caucus of all large universities and land grant schools and with this caucus join NSA. "By doing this," Dunn said, "we would have such a strong voice in NSA that they would have to listen to us."

Dunn commented, however, that there was a faction at the convention that didn't want to consider forming

a caucus and joining NSA. These wanted to form a new organization regardless of how other representatives felt. He said the issue of joining NSA was never fully discussed.

The convention as a whole voted against starting a new group, but that same faction decided to form such an association anyway, passed a resolution to organize, and began writing a constitution on Saturday.

Dunn said that upon this action A&M representatives, who were ignored as far as input after the major vote had been taken and who by now felt antagonized, left the convention.

"I guess now we wait and see what they have to offer us. We have to make a choice to either join this new organization which has no credentials whatsoever and never really discussed the alternative of joining NSA, as opposed to maybe joining NSA, or maybe not joining either," Dunn said. "We haven't decided to go with them, but we haven't decided to go against them either."

Forming this organization will cost an estimated \$30 thousand which will come from fees and dues of member schools, Dunn said. He then added, "NSA is at least an established organization with established funds."

Dunn said he expects feedback from this new group in a month or so, and based on this, the A&M representatives to last weekend's convention will make a recommendation to next year's leaders as to whether or not they think A&M should join the organization.

Dunn said, however, "Now, I don't think the convention was conducive to beginning a new organization. The group is just not as strong as we wanted it to be."

—LeAnn Roby

Godbey dissatisfied with policy

The U.S. Congress was never designed as a final resting place, said Congressional candidate Ron Godbey Sunday. Godbey is seeking election against U.S. Congressional District Six incumbent Olin Teague.

"Mr. Teague said in November or December that he would run on his record, and that," said Godbey, "is exactly where we want Teague: on the record."

Godbey said he decided to run because, "I got angry and frustrated all at the same time...with my congressman."

Godbey told seven Texas A&M Young Democrat members that Teague's attendance record had

dropped from 50 per cent to 58 per cent in the last two years.

Teague has missed votes on the anti-busing bill, the oil depletion allowance, various tax bills and the automatic congressional pay raise measure, claims Godbey. "Yet, he will tell you that the only votes he has missed are unimportant ones," Godbey said.

Godbey said there are two great problems facing the United States today—inflation and energy. "The federal government, just as you and I, must function on a fixed income," he said.

HEW's budget this year equals the budget for the entire country 10 years ago, said Godbey. "We can't afford it."

Coal is a short-term answer to a long-term energy problem, said Godbey. However, he did not rule out the development of other energy sources as energy solutions.

"We are going to have to get into other areas," said Godbey, "and certainly nuclear power is one of them." He also suggested exploration of

hydro-electric and geothermal power sources as other possible solutions.

"Agriculture will probably be the next crisis this country will face," Godbey said. High land prices and rising property and inheritance taxes are major problems faced by the farmer, he said.

"We've got to have some tax relief for the farmer to keep him in business," Godbey said. "It's the same for the dairyman and the rancher."

Godbey favors fluctuation of farm prices on the open market in order for the farmer to make money.

Agriculture is important in maintaining the United States' role as an international leader, Godbey said. "Russia is dependent on us for food and as long as they are dependent, they won't bomb us."

Godbey, however, contends we must look after the needs of Americans. "If it comes to feeding Americans or feeding any other country you would care to name, I'd have to vote for America first."

—Dave Johnson

Fitch

(Continued from page 9)

them from lamp posts and leaving them there for the buzzards, this is my respect for them.

The trouble is that you have to go through a lot to prove their guilt and, in the meantime, they're out intimidating the people that they sell to.

I propose to thoroughly back our police department and encourage them in every way, but as a school board member, I don't see there's anything that we can do about it.

Have you been satisfied with the performance of the current school board?

One of the things that's wrong with the past board in my opinion, is they have failed to set out a clear policy. They have published a policy statement, but it doesn't say anything, it garbles on for paragraphs.

They get up there and argue at these school board meetings for hours, can't come to any conclusions, they don't allow any audience participation.

I think I'd start each school board meeting by permitting people to stand up and say what they want to say. I would recommend to them, but not necessarily require them, to come with a written statement to present as they say it.

Poetry contest features editor

Poet Robert Bly, founder-editor of Sixties Magazine and Sixties Press, will be featured March 31 when Texas A&M University honors winners of the second poetry and fiction contest.

The 49-year-old Minnesota native has been a leading figure in a "revolt against rhetoric" and was a critic of Southeast Asian policy, co-editing in 1962 "A Poetry Reading Against the Vietnam War."

He has been represented in such anthologies as "New Poets of England and America" and "Contemporary American Poetry."

—LeAnn Roby

TSA

Board tables Willie Nelson issue

Willie Nelson's 1976 Fourth of July picnic will probably not be sponsored by the Texas Student Association (TSA), according to Jerri Ward, vice president for external affairs. The issue was discussed last weekend at the student lobby group's Spring Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

The issue was tabled by TSA's Board of Directors at the convention. "At the time, we didn't have enough information on the legal aspects to make a decision on whether or not to sponsor the picnic," Ward said.

Student Body President, Jeff Dunn, said that TSA will probably end up selling tickets to the concert, instead.

"Tickets would be sold on each campus of member schools and a large part of all profits made will go to TSA," Dunn said.

"This would be a service to the students in a way," he continued. "They could get tickets on their own campus and the proceeds would benefit them through TSA."

Other action taken at the convention included elections of next year's officers and Board of Directors. The new president is Julie Margin from Texas Tech University and the vice president is Alton Porter from Sam Houston State University.

Texas A&M was re-elected to the Board of Directors for next year. A&M will represent all large schools in Texas having an enrollment of 15,000 or over. There are nine members on the TSA Board of Directors.

Members attended the usual workshops on lobbying and other projects the association has been working on this year, and they passed three resolutions at a general assembly.

The first resolution supports student regents, and the second supports liquor on campus for all state universities. The last supports the rights of left-handed students, meaning that the association agreed to pursue educational freedom for left-handed students in the form of writing materials, left-handed desks, etc.

U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen attended the convention Saturday afternoon and spoke briefly at a small reception on the importance of the student vote.

—LeAnn Roby

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