

Children explore sea books

By ROBERT LEE
Campus Reporter

Many children may never see the ocean or the Great Lakes, but they can travel the seas in their imaginations, through literature.

For two days last week elementary school students and teachers had a chance to do that at the Fifth Annual Children's Literature of the Sea seminar at Texas A&M University.

The seminar, sponsored by the Sea Grant Program and the Department of English, was developed to "make children aware of the marine environment," said Norma Bagnall, director of the event held in Rudder Tower.

Inland children should not be "denied the opportunity of learning the

beauty, mysteries and importance of the sea," said Bagnall, an English research assistant at Texas A&M.

According to a seminar booklet Bagnall wrote for educators, "American education has concentrated primarily on land. It has not stressed the importance of our marine resources."

The booklet contains a guideline for teachers on how to integrate marine-related children's literature into the classroom. By combining readings on the sea with educational games and even a hurricane tracking map, the booklet makes a comprehensive marine teaching plan for elementary and secondary school educators.

In addition to educational aids, the

seminar featured two well-known children's authors and some good times for area grade school students.

Peter Spier, an artist and author, opened the seminar Thursday morning with a presentation on his homeland entitled, "Holland: Carved from the Sea." Spier won the Caldecott Medal in 1979 for best children's-book illustration for "Noah's Ark."

Friday morning he held an autograph party for over 300 children from South Knoll Elementary School in College Station. So many young people came that an afternoon session had to be added to the program.

Between the morning and afternoon parties the children created marine-related pictures using sea-

side materials, sand, glue and paints.

The other prominent children's author at the sea seminar was Bernice Kohn Hunt. She has written over three dozen young people's books.

As a children's writer, Hunt said she speaks to children in a way they can understand. She never talks down to her readers. Instead, she gets them interested in what she is talking about in her first paragraph. "It's important to grab a child's in-

terest early with a book," Hunt said.

Hunt, who lives in New York, said the keys to good children's writing are to know your audience, know your subject and keep yourself organized.

Another important part of good children's writing is keeping the book short. Hunt said there is a saying in her business that tests quality: "I wrote a long book because I didn't have time to write a short one."

Dissident's wife says rights restricted by Taiwan leaders

By RICHARD OLIVER
Staff Writer

All the rights of the Taiwanese people have been restricted by the Taiwanese government, Linda Arrigo Shih said in a speech Sunday night.

Arrigo is the wife of noted Taiwanese dissident Shih Ming-teh, who is currently imprisoned in Taiwan and charged with plotting against the government.

Arrigo, speaking before approximately 150 people in the MSC, said the Taiwanese government is responsible for numerous arrests of opposition supporters, and has "very structured and tight control of all information" in the country.

"All the rights have been abrogated by martial law," she said. "Much of the population knows the things they are being told are not true."

Arrigo said several noted Taiwanese people formed an opposition coalition in 1978 to voice their disapproval of governmental actions and support their own candidates for governmental offices.

One of the main topics of the discussion was a December demonstration in Kuoshing led by the opposition-founded Formosa Magazine. The demonstration turned into a riot, leaving several policemen in-

jured. Arrigo said reports that only policemen were injured in the riot are false.

"The situation here is the fact that any injured civilians are not going to report their injuries to anyone," she said, "because they know they will be arrested for participating in the riot."

Arrigo said reports that the leaders of the riot urged the rioters to injure police are also false.

"I heard no person tell anyone to injure any police," she said. "The magazine stopped the fighting after ten minutes."

Arrigo, who spoke for 70 minutes, said the Taiwan people are currently enjoying higher standards of living

than in the past, but they are politically still behind the times.

"There are forces against a democratic movement in Taiwan," she said. "The country is developing; but with this development, there has not been commensurate political development."

Following her speech, several people in the audience voiced their opinion about the situation. Some questions from the crowd often touched off inter-audience squabbles concerning two Battalion articles written recently about the Taiwan situation.

Arrigo said the international community seems to condone the governments actions.

Flower prices thorny issue

United Press International
DENVER—Florist John Hackett wants to take the roses out of Valentine's Day.

A veteran of 44 years in the flower business, Hackett was appalled to see growers boost rose prices to \$50 and \$60 a dozen last week in preparation for the Valentine's holiday rush.

The charge is up considerably from last year's \$30 a dozen, Hackett said, and he expects the price to drop after Valentine's Day.

In protest, Hackett said he has ordered about a fourth of the roses he could sell, and he urges customers to buy instead only one rose and a bunch of white carnations.

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