

Fashion, food, talent show spark International Week

By JANA SIMS
Campus Reporter

Some usually barren Memorial Student Center hallways today are colored with culture, beginning the sixth annual International Week sponsored by the International Student Association.

The ISA, which began in 1969, is the organization linking the international clubs and students of Texas A&M University. Its governing general assembly and administrative council are chartered similar to the United Nations.

Displays prepared by students from 19 international clubs and six individuals representing countries such as Turkey, Spain and India are open to the public today and Tuesday until 3 p.m., following today's opening ceremony with guests President Jarvis Miller, State Sen. William Moore, State Rep. Bill Presnal and others.

At the end of today's exhibition, an International Center Open House begins in Bizzell Hall. Nancy Simmang, a member of several committees for International Week, described it as a faculty-student "get together."

In addition to exhibits of handicrafts, posters, costumes, music and country background information, a "Mini Folklore Show" will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the MSC lounge, offering a preview of a talent show — one of four events on Wednesday.

The first event, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Rudder Tower, is an open reception for consuls from about 50 different countries. Students are free to talk with the representatives while sampling international snacks.

Tickets go on sale today in the ISA cubicle in room 216 in the MSC for the remaining three events on Wednesday.

Five dollars allows the ticket bearer to enter into a gala of international food, fashion and talent from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the MSC. Visitors can sample native foods of Europe, Hong Kong, Lebanon and other countries in a food fair, an event which Simmang said is usually the highlight of International Week. The food will be prepared by students, and they will compete for a trophy. Rosie Hassoun, vice president of social affairs for ISA, said the competition will be judged on appearance, presentation and taste by community citizens with some cultural exposure.

At 7:30 p.m. a fashion show presenting the clothes of various countries will begin. Gaby Eisele, chairperson of the fashion show committee, said Colombia, Venezuela, Korea and other countries will be represented.

In charge of the talent show committee, Vietnamese Que Tran said auditions were held for interested students.

Twenty-four performances, representing 20 countries, will comprise the talent show, including a flamenco dance and classical Indian and Chinese dances.

Simmang said about 15 free films will be shown Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and the schedule will be printed in fliers. Film topics will range from Europe to Thailand.

"This week marks the first time the administration has given its total support to the ISA," Chakmakchi said, "both financial and moral." He credits Miller and international affairs vice president T.R. Greathouse and staff with the change.

From China to the "Boat People" of Cambodia.

The week's final event will be an all-night party on Friday in LULAC Hall complete with a band and, of course, international drinks. A limited number of passes are available at the ISA cubicle in 216 MSC.

Chakmakchi said he feels the 1,300 international students representing 85 nations, attending Texas A&M are a vast and helpful resource of culture and language for American Aggies. Also, he feels in the past the administration has not been responsive to international student needs.

The administration has given its total support to the ISA," Chakmakchi said, "both financial and moral." He credits Miller and international affairs vice president T.R. Greathouse and staff with the change.

He said there are problems between the ISA and Texas A&M — problems of image and communications. The ISA is planning and holding events to improve its image which he feels has been damaged by recent foreign events such as the Iranian situation. Chakmakchi said he hopes to create a better understanding among international and Amer-

ican students, not only for the present year, but as a trend that needs to be continued. He said he is increasing contact with other student organizations, MSC committees and MSC directors to improve the process of education exchange of culture, knowledge and experience."

He stresses that the ISA is open to American students because "the association's foundation is to get everyone world-wide together."

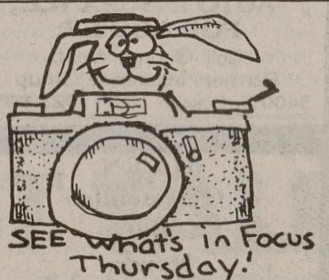
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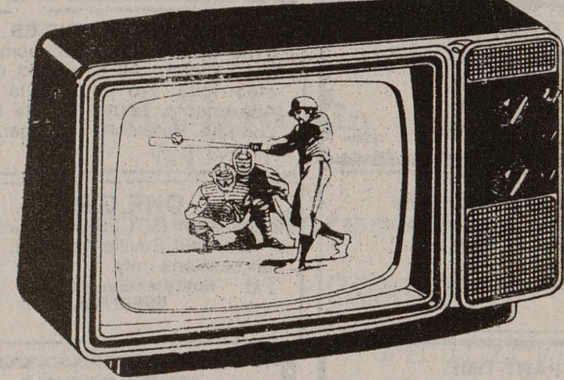
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Speaker: Iran news distorted

By DIANE BLAKE
Campus Editor

Both the media and the government in the United States are guilty of distorting America's view of the Iranian crisis, a former foreign correspondent for the New York Times said Friday.

In a speech co-sponsored by the Center for Free Enterprise and Sigma Delta Chi-the Society of Professional Journalists, Harrison Salisbury said the U.S. government officials, "from Carter on down," did not understand the seriousness of the Iranian crisis from its beginning.

"We have yet to comprehend the enormous force of the revolution," he said.

"There was a continuous effort (by the government) to minimize the crisis in Iran. And it watered down a good deal of the press coverage."

Salisbury said both the editor and the reader thought, "Gee, they ought to know in the White House," and did not listen to the foreign correspondents' reports.

"The man on the scene knew what he was writing about and the man in the White House and the people writing about him did not know what was going on. We got a distortion in coverage and a distortion in viewpoint which to a considerable extent has colored the whole reportage of Iran — even down to the present time."

Calling the Iranian crisis a "Per-

sian version of the Russian revolution," Salisbury said Americans do not realize Iran is in the most explosive time a country can be in — "when power falls into the hands of anyone who can wave a fist or wave a flag or shout a slogan."

He also criticized the federal government for what he called "a deliberate effort to blame the media for the bad tidings."

However, Salisbury said he is a strong advocate of straight-out reporting regardless of the consequences.

"It is the duty of the media, the newspapers, the correspondents to tell it like it is and if the consequences are bad, that is part of the job."

Salisbury, who won a Pulitzer prize in 1955 for a series of reports on Russia, said the media in other countries "don't come within a country mile to our press."

He said Russia's newspapermen do not report facts, but try to decide "what kind of plastic smile they want to paste on events."

Salisbury was a foreign correspondent in Russia during the Stalin years and said he could not do a good job then because of the censorship there.

He also said that the United States would not get good coverage in Afghanistan until good correspondents could get into the country.

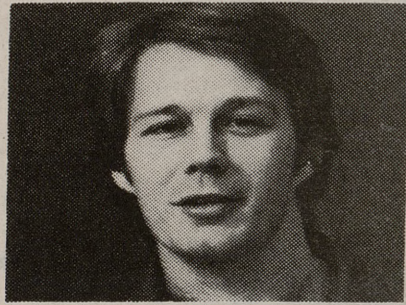
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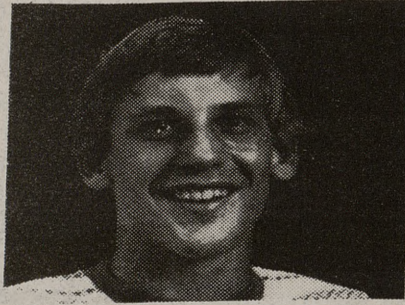
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