

Local

Foreign students fear spread of communism

By SHARON D. RENFROW
Battalion Reporter

The threat of communism was one of the major concerns of five international student speakers during a seminar on world issues Tuesday night in 102 Zachry.

The seminar was the third of a seven-series program sponsored by the International Student Association and the International Awareness Committee at Texas A&M University. In these seminars students tell their viewpoints on world issues concerning their countries.

The student speakers from Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua expressed strong disapproval of communism and concern for the conflict in El Salvador.

Rudy Kraeher, worried about the strife going on between his government in El Salvador and the communist-supported guerrillas, said that there was a great need to keep communism out of his country.

"If El Salvador goes communist, so does Central America," Kraeher said, "because our problem has become international — there are guerrillas from all over in our country now."

Kraeher saw a great need for American aid in El Salvador. "The most important thing for El Salvador is freedom and the United States is needed to help us keep it," he said.

Guatemala, located above El Salvador, is being affected by the chaos also. Central America is a small world, Carlos Zuniga said, and what affects one country affects its neighbors. "Communism is not wanted in Central America; it's being imposed," Zuniga said.

Guatemala does not like Communism, he said. The Guatemalan constitution forbids any communist party, or other parties to overthrow the democratic process in the country.

Ecuador, too, supports a democratic government. It was under a dictatorship for eight years before it changed, Enrique Cobos said.

Jeff Cadena, the other speaker for Ecuador, said that his country has severed relationship with Cuba due to its lack of respect for human rights. Ecuador made this move after Cubans entered into the Ecuadorian embassy without their permission and took 31 dissident Cubans seeking asylum there.

In Honduras, some of the people fear the threat of guerrilla warfare. With El Salvador and Nicaragua as neighbors, Jorge Valle said, Honduras tends to be a playground for the right and left forces.

However, the military government seems to be the best for the country right now and, as long as there is this absence of the common enemy, radicals can't find support, he said.

While El Salvador is undergoing strife, Nicaragua is trying to repair itself. After the 1979 revolution, Nicaragua has been undergoing a serious economic depression, Federico Holmann said. Attempts by the Sandinista government to fix the situation have failed due to its instability and the lack of confidence by private enterprises, he said.

Senate to try to cut old bill load

The student senate will try to cut down its load of old legislation before upcoming elections in a meeting tonight at 7:30 in 204 Harrington.

Thirteen bills currently listed under "old business" must be acted upon before student representatives chosen in the March 31-April 1 elections can begin legislative operations.

Measures that may be acted upon tonight include:

— A bill proposing official University recognition of the Inter-Fraternity Council and the Pan-Hellenic Association.

— A measure requesting that a modular dormitory be assigned to male students.

— A bill proposing establishment of a University-sponsored outdoor recreation facility.

— A proposed request that would raise fines for illegal parking without a University permit to \$20.

However, the senate does not take action on all old legislation tonight.



Photo by George Dolan

Carlos Zuniga, a Guatemalan student, spoke Tuesday night in 102 Zachry at the International Seminar on World Issues. Students representative of Central America presented viewpoints on issues concerning their countries.

Library to sponsor index explanations

The Sterling C. Evans Library is sponsoring a speaker who will give a presentation on the use of citation indexes today in 204C of the library.

Arthur Kennedy, a representative from the Institute for Scientific Information, will focus on the content and format of citation indexes, as well as providing hints on doing a literature search. A packet containing detailed information about these indexes will also be distributed.

Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. The presentation on Arts and Humanities Citation Index will begin at 1 p.m. and Social Sciences Citation Index is scheduled at 2 p.m.

Oscars are film PR, Houston critic says

By SUSAN DITTMAN
Battalion Reporter

The Academy Awards is a public relations event for the movie industry, Eric Gerber, movie critic for The Houston Post, said Tuesday night.

He said, "I was going to bring a visual aid tonight, but Robert Deniro couldn't come." Gerber spoke to about 30 persons in Rudder Theater sitting on a chair in front of the first row.

Gerber said box office success, actor/actress charisma and an established studio name often determine the Oscar nominees.

However, Gerber said, "The nominations (for Best Picture) this year are pretty good."

"I can't think of another year when every one of the nominees are of equal merit."

The five nominees for Best Picture are: "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Elephant Man," "Ordinary People," "Raging Bull" and "Tess."

"I really have no preference which one wins," the native Houstonian said.

Gerber did, however, say that he thinks "Ordinary People" will win although he prefers "Raging Bull."

He said the film nominees are all people-oriented — three of them are biographies while the other two are mainly about people.

Gerber said he thinks members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are re-evaluating what is important to them by nominating films that aren't necessarily big box office successes.

Other nominees Gerber has picked to win are: Robert Redford — Best Director (Ordinary People), Robert Deniro — Best Actor (Raging Bull) and either Mary Tyler Moore (Ordinary People) or Sissy Spacek (Coal Miner's Daughter) — Best Actress.

Gerber said that although Spacek is his personal preference, Mary Tyler Moore has a big advantage because she is older

and her son just killed himself a few months ago."

People tend to be sympathetic to age and tragedy, Gerber emphasized.

Gerber said the awards began in 1929 and "only a dozen awards were made." Now the awards include 22 categories.

The name Oscar was first used when one of the members of the academy exclaimed that the 14 inch high statue looked just like her cousin Oscar, Gerber said.

The academy is made up of 3,800 members who must belong to organizations such as the Screen Actors Guild, the Directors Guild or the Writers Guild.

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