# Group holds vigil to support church refugee harboring

#### **By JEFF BRADY** Reporter

andlelight vigil for three hours Benito refugee center to a Har-sunday night in support of a lingen bus Station in 1984. novement allowing churches to har-Elder's defense contended that inor Central American refugees.

About a dozen members of the inerdenominational group Sanctuary Advocates stood on the steps of St. Mary's Catholic Church in 21° deree weather and listened as each xpressed personal concern for the aliens.

rancis Episcopal Church.

The incident spurring the local er for Central Americans at San Be-

**By CATHIE ANDERSON** 

Staff Writer

parents puzzled, children cried

This is an excerpt from "Dog in the Dust" by Brad M. Whalen, a ju-nior English major. A year ago Wha-en entered the Texas A&M Poetry

Contest sponsored by Sigma Tau

Three of his poems were pub-lished by Sigma Tau Delta in the booklet, "Nine Poems." Now Whalen

s preparing his poetry again, but

this semester he is pursuing two ave-

Demand for original poems, com-

positions and short stories has in-creased with the creation of Litmus,

Delta, the English honor society.

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Battal-Texas

curled up on the driveway

"Remember the day old Flapjack

Elder was tried earlier this year on federal charges that he transported Concerned local Christians held a three Salvadoran aliens from a San

> ternational law and the 1980 Refugee Act made the Salvadorans bona fide refugees and that his religious right to grant sanctuary to war victims was violated by the law against harboring or transporting illegal

responsibility of U.S. churches. "We are here as a testimony to the brotherhood of man," said the Rev-erend Jeffrey Schiffmayer of St. The jury acquitted him Jan. 24. His acquittal was the sanctuary movement's first victory in its con-flicts with U.S. immigration law.

Now Elder faces a second federal trial, this one involving fellow sanctigil is the upcoming trial of Jack uary worker Stacey Lynn Merkt. Set Elder, 41, Director of the Catholic-in Brownsville, the two are to be ponsored Casa Oscar Romero shel-tried today for transporting two illegal aliens in an unrelated case. Ms. Merkt was convicted on such a

azine. Both organizations are having

separate literary competitions. Both Litmus and the Texas A&M

Poetry Contest will be publishing

students' works in 1985. The Memorial Student Center Literary Arts Committee, which cre-

ated Litmus, is accepting short sto-

He said Litmus would be 60-90

pages long and would be published

**Contests offer students chance** 

to display their literary talents

committee chairman.

Feb. 12.

Stewart said.

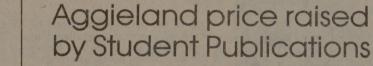
once a year

Members of the Sanctuary Advocates stand on the steps of St. Mary's Catholic Church. charge last year and placed on pro-

bation. A local spokesman for Brazos Valley Peace Action says most refugees come to this country because they are chased out of Central or South America by civil war.

home nations," says spokesman Dale European and Soviet refugees get asylum in this country easily, he says, Nave. "A large portion of the civilian population has to flee — considered because they are classified as political refugees. But those who arrive to be rebel sympathizers by the government and government sympahere from countries in this hemisphere are supposedly economic ref-ugees, and Nave says therefore rarthizers by the rebels."

"They are not wanted in their unilaterally applied," says Nave. East ely get asylum.



### **By LYNN RAE POVEC**

The price of the 1986 Aggieland will increase from \$15 to \$20, the Student Publications

son, director of Student Publications. "We've been trying to keep the cost down because we wanted to be as fair as we could to students.

The Aggieland is currently the least expensive yearbook in the Southwest Conference at 1.8 cents a page, Johnson said. Rais-ing the cost per page to 2.4 cents for the 1986 book will keep the Aggieland the least expensive yearbook in the SWC, he said.

Aggieland Editor Vanell Lee said the price of the yearbook hadn't been changed — the last

price increase was in 1976 - because the book was making money. But costs are increasing,

Photo by DEAN SAITO

The 1983 and 1984 yearbooks cost more than \$16 each, Johnson said, and the 1985 book will cost more than \$17.

The Aggieland is not subsi-dized. In addition to the \$15 a book that students pay, the year-book gets \$20,000-\$25,000 in revenues from Yearbook Associates, the photographers that take individual class pictures for the book. "It's been a very real benefit to us the last five years," Johnson

The Aggieland's contract with the company is renewed each year, but Johnson said Student Publications is not sure the contract will continue to be renewed.

## Group sponsors handicapped awareness

#### **By KIRSTEN DIETZ** Staff Writer

To increase awareness of the problems facing the handicapped, the Texas A&M Student Council for Exceptional Children will be sponsoring several activities this week

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for Student Services, will carry out his regular afternoon routine sitting in a wheelchair Tuesday.

Koldus said he has done something similiar in the past, but has never had to negotiate a wheelchair in his office. He also has played in wheelchair basketball games for several years.

'As a person who has no obstacles, you don't recognize the obstacles there are around the campus," Koldus said

The different thing for me is it's very tiresome, in terms of my arms and shoulders."

Tentatively, a panel of supervisors or owners who employ the hand-icapped is scheduled for 7 p.m. in 113 Heldenfels.

Wednesday night, parents will dis-cuss what it's like to have a handicapped child. The panel will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder .

In "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," students can try out wheelchairs and crutches or mimic blindness in the Memorial Student Center Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Junior Jeff Scott, who is in a wheelchair, says "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" is a good idea.

"You can look at somebody and see how they act, but you can never really understand it unless you experience it," he said.

Scott said his wheelchair does not deny him access to many buildings, as most have ramps or elevators. The biggest problem is the lack of electric doors, he said.

Most Texas A&M students and faculty are understanding of the problems he faces and are willing to help, he said.

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#### the University literary arts mag- its contest this semester. Submissions can be taken to the English depart-Staff Writer ment mailroom until Feb. 15. Neither of the contests wants names put directly on the submissions. Instead students should write their names on a 3x5 card and attach Board decided Friday.

it to their work "I would definitely encourage students to enter their work in both competitions," Romine said.

ries, poems, topical essays, and graphic art in mailbox G-9 of room 216 in the MSC, said Paul Stewart, The preface to "Nine Poems" says The deadline for submissions is that the English honor society hoped that the interest in the contest would "We're really excited about this .. flourish into the creation of a litproject because it's a new way to open up writing to the students," erary magazine for Texas A&M and for Brazos County.

> At the end of last semester, several students approached the Memo-rial Student Center Council with this idea, which brought about The Memorial Student Center Literary Arts Committee.

"We've been talking about this for three years," said Don John-

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