

# State and Local

## Bombing of Libya subject of forum

By Rodney Rather  
Staff Writer

Contrasting views on the United States' bombing of Libya on the terrorism issue were aired Monday during an opening forum at Rudder Foun-

The crowd fluctuated between 40 and 60 people during the event, which was sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's Political Forum committee.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Reisner, who was the only scheduled speaker at the event, introduced the topic.

According to Reisner, "Terrorism is not greatly different from war. Each seeks to gain political goals by killing some people and intimidating the rest."

He said a nation is at its best when it acts on moral grounds, rather than out of expediency.

Palestinian Qussama Qawasmi, former A&M student, said terrorism is directed at the United States because U.S. policies supporting Israel are responsible for the frustration and deaths of many people in the Middle East.

Qawasmi said, "When you find people who are very frustrated and don't know what to do about the formidable force and very strong military machines of Israel, and when it's all funded and supported by the United States, these people are going to resort to one way or another."

Terrorism is the only outlet some people have to force the United States to change its policies, he said.

Qawasmi later agreed that killing Americans is wrong.

"It's wrong to kill any human being," he said. "Nobody justifies terrorism, but one has to realize the underlying issues and why these people are willing to strap themselves to bombs and blow themselves up. The problem is, people have been pushed far enough."

Todd Hulsey, a junior political science major and a sergeant in the Marine reserves, said terrorism is an ancient form of warfare, and it is the right of all nations to defend themselves against terrorist acts.

Hulsey said, "When there can be no consensus to act among the allies, when diplomacy and economic sanctions have no effect, when our only resource is force, resort to it."

The bombing of Libya, he said, wasn't designed to stop terrorism or convince people not to commit acts of terrorism against Americans.

"What it does is show the world the United States is willing to use that which it is capable of using against those nations who support acts of murder, aggression and violence against Americans abroad," he said.



Photo by John Tate

Steven Grape, a senior petroleum engineering major, presents his views on the conflict between the United States and Libya at a forum held Monday at Rudder Fountain. About 40 to 60 people attended the forum, which was sponsored by MSC Political Forum.

## MSC Council makes plans for endowment

By Olivier Uyttebroeck  
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center Council made preliminary plans Monday for administering the Jordan Institute endowment.

The council approved the creation of an ad hoc committee whose members are to be selected from several MSC committees by the MSC executive committee. The ad hoc committee will establish guidelines for use of the \$1 million endowment.

The suggestions made by the ad hoc committee will be screened by the MSC executive committee and presented to the council at its June 28 meeting.

The recommendation originally put before the council would have placed the Jordan Institute under the auspices of the International Programs Committee, whose leadership is in doubt despite five attempts to nominate a chairman.

According to the original suggestion, the "IPC could accept proposals for funds from other MSC committees presenting programs of international scope" as well as use the funds for its own purposes.

But several council members expressed concern over past leadership problems in the committee and said it could create a conflict of interest since the IPC would both allocate and use the funds.

But MSC Director Jim Reynolds said allowing the committee to serve both functions could "kill two birds with one stone" — attract stronger leaders to the IPC and put the Jordan Institute to work.

"I don't think it's above an MSC committee to both use and dispose of funds," Reynolds said.

The council also approved a number of speakers proposed by Great Issues and Political Forum for the fall, including Sen. Phil Gramm, Lee Iacocca and Dr. Ruth Westheimer.

Political Forum also announced that "Biotechnology and Medical Ethics" would be the topic for the E.L. Miller Lecture Series.

## D-FW airport 'improperly' weakened runways

DALLAS (AP) — Strength requirements for runway pavement were improperly reduced by engineers at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, officials with the port and the Federal Aviation Administration say.

According to staff members and contractor who poured the concrete, the concrete specifications

were changed in 1983 without the approval of the airport board and in violation of an FAA funding agreement.

Bill Meyer, the supervisor of the project for California-based Kasler Corp., said the specifications lowered the "flexural strength" requirements for two runways from 750 pounds

per square inch to as little as 595 pounds per square inch.

George Bonna, who was appointed chief of the airport's planning and engineering section last fall, said the weaker concrete isn't unsafe, but it will wear faster and cost more for maintenance.

Tom Graves, director of the

FAA's Southwest region standards office, said the FAA has calculated that the airport staff failed to impose \$3.3 million in substandard concrete penalties.

He said the FAA would be eligible for a \$2.47 million refund from the airport because the agency paid 75 percent of the paving costs.

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