

State and Local

Amnesty organization director condemns execution as torture

By Todd Riemenschneider
Staff Writer

Execution in the United States is a form of torture to prisoners, Steve Herrick said Monday.

"How sensible is it for a government to kill people who kill people to prove that killing is wrong?" Herrick, who is southern regional director for Amnesty International-USA, said Tuesday at Rudder Theatre.

"People often assume that the death penalty deters," he said. "There have been endless studies and none have convincing evidence that the death penalty deters."

Herrick said he believes that when a murder is committed, the people are in a moment of rage.

He said many murders are committed by people under the influence of drugs or alcohol or by people who are mentally disturbed. He said

he believes the death penalty does not deter people from committing murders.

Herrick said some people favor the death penalty as a form of self defense, believing that if a murderer is killed now, he will not be able to kill later.

He blames some of this opinion on the media.

"The news media reports the exceptional," Herrick said.

He was referring to the media's portrayal of a murderer as being newsworthy after the prison term.

Herrick said the less than one percent of murderers kill again after prison.

Herrick said some people also take the opinion that a murderer needs to be murdered for their crime. This eye-for-an-eye opinion is not good in Herrick's view.

"If a person rapes, does the government arrange for that person to be raped?" Herrick said. "If a person is convicted of arson we don't go burn their house down."

"Society doesn't gain anything by committing the act it condemns." Herrick also talked about much of the oppression of prisoners around the world.

Sexual assault, electric shock, beatings and injection of pain—producing drugs are the methods of torture used by over a third of the 180 countries in the world, Herrick said. And not all of the victims of the torture are murderers.

"People are jailed because of their beliefs," he said.

"It is not just political beliefs that can get one in trouble around the world, religious beliefs as well," he said.

Herrick, who was presented by Memorial Student Center Great Issues, said that in some countries the judicial system is so poor that a person cannot have a good defense even when the person was legally arrested.

He said that in those countries, the defense may be given only few minutes to prepare, or there possibly may be no trial at all. Some trials may be no more than a military tribunal in which the judge has little or no judicial training. He also said the trials may last only a few minutes, with torture sometimes being used to get confessions.

"Confessions coerced under torture may be admissible as evidence in court" (in these countries), he said.

Vandals, marches mark assassination of Reverend King

Associated Press

Racist vandalism, marches by prominent black leaders and rallies for community support for the 20th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

King, who was 39, was gunned down April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn., where he was supporting a strike by sanitation workers.

Monday in San Antonio black leaders marching in support of a state holiday commemorating King ended in violence when a white vandal threw paint on an statue of King while an accomplice shot at a black man who tried to stop him.

"I'd like to thank President Reagan for signing into law Jan. 15 as a holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King," the Rev. R.A. Callies, the march organizer said. "We can't say the same thing for Gov. (Bill) Clements."

State law now allows for state employees to take off King's birthday if they work on an official state holiday. However, King supporters feel that the black leader deserves to have a state holiday named in honor of him with no stipulation for missing the work day.

Late Monday night, in the same plaza where Callies spoke, a drunken white man threw a bucket of white paint at a statue of King while two accomplices waited nearby to help him in getting away from the scene, witnesses of the incident that caused an uproar told police.

One of his companions fired a pistol at a black man who stopped his car to ask the three men what they were doing and why they were running. No one was hurt and the three men fled the scene, police said.

Only King's foot and the lower part of his robe were stained by the paint, police said. Much of the paint landed on the pavement, but it did cover the word "dream" in the

phrase, "I have a dream," and other areas on an 8-foot pedestal beneath the statue.

Ethel Minor, president of the San Antonio chapter of the NAACP, may have summed up the mixed sentiments of the city.

"It's tragic that we are still marching and carrying banners," Minor said. "We have to ask ourselves, 'Did Martin die in vain?' Racism and poverty still exist."

In Dallas, meanwhile, more than 20 national leaders testified at a conference that the same kind of economic and social woes that prompted King to found the Poor People's Campaign still exist. Some of the problems are homelessness, poverty, high black infant mortality, an increase in the hungry and a lack of affordable housing.

A Tennessee physician testified at the Dallas Poor People's Hearing, one of 14 sponsored nationwide by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

"A holocaust is being executed in slow motion, whether it is intended or not," said Dr. Michael Byrd of the Mcharry Medical School in Nashville, Tenn. He said blacks are being killed by poverty and a discriminatory health-care system.

Amnesty deadline extended for illegal aliens

INS says immigrants don't appeal denials

HARLINGEN (AP) — The deadline for illegal aliens to apply for permanent U.S. residency is only one month away, but late applicants will be allowed up to two more months to prove their eligibility, government officials said.

Beginning Monday, illegal immigrants seeking U.S. residency will be given 60 days after the May 4 general amnesty deadline to produce the necessary documentation and medical examinations, Omer Sewel, district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said Monday.

Illegal aliens applying for amnesty must prove they have lived in the United States continuously before Jan. 1, 1982.

Previously, the INS required applicants to document their residency when they filed for amnesty.

Now, all they have to come up with initially is the filing fee and ac-

EL PASO (AP) — About four-fifths of undocumented immigrants who are denied amnesty in the Immigration and Naturalization Service's southern region are not appealing their denials, officials said.

Nevertheless, INS officials said Tuesday that those denied amnesty are given plenty of opportunity to appeal.

INS officials also said immigrants are not hampered by amnesty denial forms and appeal applications that are printed only in English. Applicants have 30 days to appeal and must mail the appeal forms to Dallas instead of to the office where they applied.

As of last week, 6,706 immigration amnesty applicants in the INS' southern region had been denied amnesty, and 1,707 of them had appealed the decision, William Chambers, director of the regional processing facility in Dallas, said Tuesday.

He said a dozen or two of the appeals had been processed and returned to Dallas from Washington, and that all upheld the denials.

As of March 26, the southern region had received 304,099 amnesty applications, and 180,395 had been processed. So far, 3.7 percent of the processed applications have been denied.

tual application. Then they'll be scheduled for an interview sometime in July or August, at which time documentation must be provided.

Sewel said the extension is part of a nationwide effort to encourage il-

legal aliens to come forward and apply.

"A number of people have waited until the last minute, and we're hoping this skeletal process will help a number of people here in the Valley," Charlie Perez, chief legalization

officer at the Harlingen amnesty center, said.

Perez said interviews will begin 60 days after the May 4 deadline and continue at a rate of about 40 a day until all applicants have been processed.

Correction

In an article in Tuesday's *Battalion*, it was incorrectly reported that two nonvoting members would be added to the MSC Council next year. Three new nonvoting members — the president of the Interfraternity Council, a representative of the Faculty Senate and a representative of the Multicultural Services Center, were added to the council when a new constitution was approved at Monday night's meeting.

OPAS 15
Music Series



The All-Star chamber orchestra.

The Marlboro Music Festival has been called, "the highest concentration of artistic activity...in the U.S. and possibly in the world." Each year some of the world's most distinguished and gifted musicians gather to prepare and perform chamber music. Then they take to the road.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society presents Music from Marlboro, **Monday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.** in Rudder Auditorium. Nine all-star musicians performing chamber works by Mozart, Janacek, Ligeti and Beethoven. There are still a few good seats available for this season's Music Series finale.

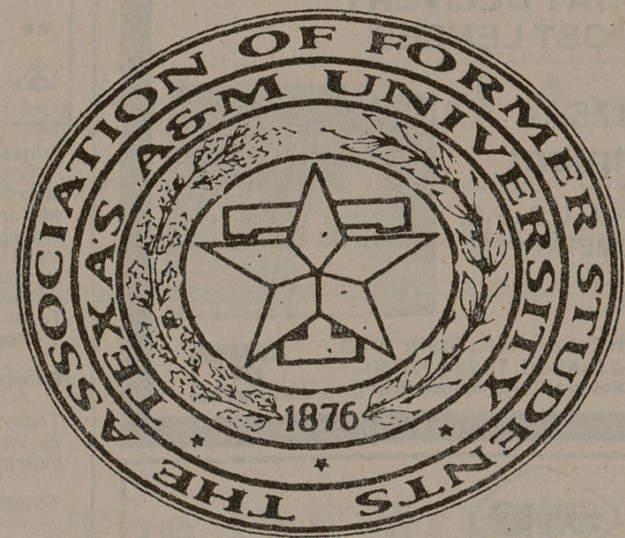
MSC Box Office • 845-1234 • Dillard's Ticketron

OPAS

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society

Memorial Student Center • Texas A&M University • Box 11 • College Station, TX 77843-9001

GATHRIGHT AWARDS AND BUCK WEIRUS SPIRIT AWARDS



ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION

9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10
RUDDER AUDITORIUM

All applicants should attend!