

MATHEMATICS CONTEST

The annual Freshman and Sophomore Mathematics Contest will be held Thursday, April 14, 1988 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Freshman Contest will be in Room 216 Milner Hall and the Sophomore Contest in 304 Milner Hall. No calculators—all test material will be provided. Prizes for winners of first place will be \$100, second place \$60, and third place \$40. Prerequisite for Freshman contest is knowledge of calculus through Math 151 or equivalent, for the Sophomore contest knowledge of calculus through Math 253 or equivalent.

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Amnesty International members fight for worldwide human rights

By Pam Mooman
Reporter

Does every individual have a right to be free? While some foreign governments may not think so, Amnesty International, a non-profit, worldwide human rights organization, does.

Jill Natowitz of College Station, a member of AI-USA for about four years and president of the Texas A&M chapter, believes AI's work is important.

"I was in it when I was in high school," the junior French and Spanish major said. "I think it's one of the most important things anybody can do—save someone's life."

Natowitz added that AI mostly helps prisoners who cannot help themselves.

Steve Ridge, a junior political science major from Geneseo, Ill., said that AI acts on behalf of the UN Declaration of Rights and other UN laws.

"Amnesty International works for the release of anyone retained for beliefs, ethnic origin, language or religion, as long as they haven't used or advocated violence," Ridge, who is vice president of the A&M chapter, said. These people are called prisoners of conscience.

"In every instance we oppose torture or any cruel and unusual punishment; in every instance we oppose the death penalty," he said.

Natowitz added that AI also worked to obtain fair trials for prisoners. Ridge said some of the actions AI focuses on is documentation of and efforts to end illegal detention.

"Our main approach is non-confrontational," he said. "AI members

"Amnesty International works for the release of anyone retained for beliefs, ethnic origin, language or religion, as long as they haven't used or advocated violence."

— Steve Ridge, vice president, A&M chapter of AI

don't appear to these governments to be hostile."

Natowitz said all the AI groups become involved in letter-writing campaigns.

"All the groups write letters to governments, either to the president or whatever he calls himself," she said. "Something like 10 percent of the prisoners they write about get released."

It is not a big number, but it is better than none, Natowitz added.

Ridge said that AI works in an advisory status with the United Nations, which takes AI's information seriously.

"Governments, therefore, know that our documentation will be taken seriously in the international community," he said. "Almost any government is responsive to international pressure. Almost."

Ridge stressed the importance of AI's impartiality.

"That impartiality is probably our greatest strength," he said. "It tends to make our statements credible."

AI has what it calls an Urgent Action Network consisting of worldwide monitors, Ridge said.

"This, I think, is the most important thrust of AI," he said. "When our worldwide monitors have been made aware of human rights viola-

tions, they quickly investigate it, document it, double check all the facts and seek independent verification and then report this to the international secretariat in London."

London is headquarters for AI. The information then is sent to individual chapters, such as the one at A&M. Individuals will write appeals to the government of the person being detained or tortured.

Ridge said the A&M chapter will be involved in diverse activities this year.

"At every meeting we will write these urgent actions and people are given a choice of how many they want to write out of three different countries," Ridge said.

A benefit concert is planned, and on April 20 a former political prisoner held by the Sudanese government will speak at A&M.

"We will also show films at meetings," Ridge said. "Things are just basically in the rough stage."

Although the A&M chapter of AI still is trying to establish itself, Natowitz and the other members believe it will become better known.

"When I got in college, the group wasn't very active," Natowitz said. "A lot of it is public awareness."

Ridge, who has been a contribut-

ing member of AI-USA for the years, said he wants to draw a large and diverse a crowd as possible.

"I know of no other group on campus that is at the same time partisan-geared toward human rights that's not focusing on one part of the world and has a chance to draw as wide a range of students as AI," Ridge said.

Robert Villarreal, a sophomore philosophy major from San Antonio, said he has been aware of AI two years and became a member two weeks ago.

"I think I've always been concerned with human rights," Villarreal said. "For me, as a student, it's the most convenient avenue."

Kelli Rodgers, a junior biology science major from Richardson, said that although she had heard of AI for several years, she waited until early March to become a member.

"I didn't know of a chapter before this one came to the school," Rodgers said. "I just thought it important to get involved in something that was making a difference in the world. Personally, I thought it was time to do something outside my cozy academic world and be concerned about things that were going on in the rest of the world."

Ridge said he wants AI to appeal to different kinds of people.

"I want AI to provide even with an opportunity to match the skills with the degree of involvement that they want," he said. "I want to make this organization as grass-roots as possible."

New drum majors aim to recruit more, increase discipline

By Deborah L. West
Staff Writer

Three juniors were chosen to lead the "Pulse of Aggieland" in the 1988-89 school year on Tuesday night.

Chad Corbett, a junior engineering technology major from Irving, will be head drum major for the Aggie Band. Will Nabors, a junior history major from Houston, will lead the artillery band and Kevin P. Roberts, a junior economics major from Austin, will lead the infantry band.

Eighteen juniors originally competed for the drum major positions, but only a few made it past the preliminary tryouts, Nabors said.

The candidates direct the band as it plays "The Spirit of Aggieland" and the national anthem, he said.

The candidates also create a drill and lead the band on the field.

"The drum majors create their own drills for the conference games, so it is an important part of tryouts," he said.

Corbett said most of the committee members that chose the drum majors were juniors, because they will be next year's leaders.

Derrek Hryhorchuk, a junior in the band, said the committee was composed of Col. Joe T. Haney, the director of the concert and marching bands, Capt. Jay Brewer, the three current drum majors, the current combined band commander, the combined band sergeant major, the infantry band's sergeant major, and the artillery band's sergeant major.

The first sergeants of all four band companies and sophomore

and freshmen representatives from both batteries were also on the committee.

Corbett said two of the band's main goals are recruiting and retaining new members.

"The Aggie Band and the Corps of Cadets are the freshmen. Without freshmen, there would be no Aggie Band."

Roberts said recruiting blacks to the band is one of his main goals.

"I am interested in recruiting blacks for the band, because there is a need for balance," he said.

Many freshmen quit after their first semester because their grades are bad, Corbett said.

"The freshmen don't know what to do or when to do it. Ultimately they don't do anything well," Roberts said.

Other goals are to increase field expertise and discipline, Nabors said. The band will travel a lot next year.

"When we travel, we have an opportunity to create a good impression of the University," he said. Good impressions can help recruiting.

The band will start practice during freshman orientation week, he said.

The bugle rank, 12 men that lead the band's lines, and the drum majors will teach the freshmen how to march.

The full band will start practice the next week.

"We don't have much time to practice before school starts, so we will really have to get ourselves in gear," he said. "We want to march a perfect drill every weekend."

Dallas art collector takes sculptures to Spanish exhibit

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A renovated 18th century hospital will be home for the next two months to a major modern sculpture collection, one that Dallas architect, developer and art collector Raymond Nasher called "members of our family."

At the Queen Sofia Art Center prior to the opening of the exhibit entitled "A Century of Modern Sculpture: The Patsy and Raymond Nasher Collection," Nasher said he and his wife considered the pieces acquired over the past 30 years "members of our family, and now we're having them visit with you here in Spain."

Curator Steven Nash of the Dallas Museum of Art said the exhibit of 70 pieces from the Nasher collection, which he called "the most important in private hands," was the first traveling exhibition of modern sculpture to tour Europe.

AT&T Spain, a subsidiary of the U.S. telecommunications giant, is sponsoring the April 6-June 5 Spanish leg of the tour that will later go to Florence and possibly Munich, Tel Aviv and Moscow.

Nasher said the exhibit, to be inaugurated by Queen Sofia, looked "superb in these incredible white open spaces."

The Queen Sofia center opened two years ago after extensive renovation in what had been a grubby, marginal area now rapidly becoming a fashionable neighborhood for the creative arts.

The five-story marble and pink

stucco building has an inner courtyard filled with benches and flowering trees and is intended to be Spain's premier modern museum, four blocks from the world-famous Prado and its collection of 14th to 19th century Spanish and Flemish masterpieces.

Center director Carmen Jimenez called the exhibit "of utmost importance to the Spanish public."

Nasher emphasized the importance of Spanish artists in his collection, pointing out that Pablo Gonzalez (1876-1942), who painted "Femme au Miroir" is part of the show, was the first sculptor to "take up the welding tool and apply it to sculpture."

He said the Spanish-American relationship in the art of sculpture was represented through pieces by Gonzalez, Picasso and Miro, who he said "introduced a sense of humor into art."

On Monday, thieves broke into the Miro Foundation in Barcelona and stole six paintings by the Catalan artist who died in 1983.

The opening of the Nasher collection came the day before the art collector Baron Hans Heinrich von Thyssen was to sign an agreement with Spanish authorities to transfer 700 pieces of his 1,200-piece, \$2 billion collection of Old Masters and modern art to the Villahermosa Palace in Madrid across from the Prado in the next 10 years.

Both events underline a growing role of Spain, and Madrid in particular, as a world art center.

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