

Friday, March 31, 1989

Muslim: 'Verses' insults Mohammad

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

Muslims are most offended by "The Satanic Verses" because of the language used in reference to the prophet Mohammed, not because of its attack on Islam, a representative of the Muslim Students Association said Thursday.

Hamed Ghazali, central zone representative for MSA and a professor at Kansas University, spoke at a Muslim Student Association's critique of Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

"My feeling as a Muslim is he has to be punished severely for the language he's using to hurt other people," Ghazali said.

"I don't blame anyone who says he should be killed. Muslims try accord-

ing to the law, not feelings. I won't feel sorry if someone kills him." Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini has called for Rushdie's death.

Muslims object most to two chapters in the book, titled "Mahound" and "Return to Jahilia," in which Mohammed is portrayed as opportunistic and ready to compromise for his personal advantage, Ghazali said.

Ghazali said Muslims are most upset with the wording of the book — wording which they think is often sacrilegious.

"The word 'offensive' is not enough," Ghazali said. "As you go further into the book, Muslims become angry because of the language in the book. I started believing the book is attacking Islam."

The Islamic faith grants certain freedoms of speech as long as you do not hurt others, and this is where

Rushdie's book becomes offensive, Ghazali said.

"We have freedom of speech in Islam," he said. "You are allowed to say whatever you want to say. However, you are not allowed to hurt others, to use pornography or to hurt your neighbor."

Ghazali read several passages from the novel which he said offend Muslims, including the renaming of their prophet Mohammed, the description of the prophet Abraham as a "bastard" and the description of Mohammed as drunk, nude and having sexual relations with a woman.

Ghazali said although Muslims can respond to criticism of Islam, they do not like vulgarity toward others or attacks on their faith and revered personalities of Islam.

Rushdie knew controversy would arise over his book, Ghazali said.

"Salman knew what was going to happen to him," he said. "He predicted it right here in this book. He was completely aware. He was fully conscious of what he was doing."

Ghazali said that in the book, Rushdie writes of the problems of a poet named Baal, who writes against Islam. The Muslims manage to capture him and sentence him to death.

Ghazali said that in Islam, three crimes are punishable by death: when a Moslem kills someone, when a Moslem is married and commits adultery and when a Moslem changes his religion before reaching maturity.

Salman Rushdie would be tried for apostasy — leaving his religious faith, Ghazali said. He said the only question surrounding the charge is

when Rushdie officially turned his back on the Islamic faith.

Ghazali said there is no problem changing religion once a person has reached maturity.

Ghazali stressed that although he would not be sorry if someone killed Rushdie because of his book, he was not advocating anyone to do it. He also said the majority of the Islamic faith is not calling for Rushdie's death.

"I would say we (Muslims) believe Salman should not be killed," he said. "We would like to have a fair trial for him."

"This trial should be done in a Muslim country, but we would be satisfied with having it elsewhere. We respect international law and would not violate it."

Clocks move up 1 hour Sunday to 'save' light

It's that time again. Daylight-saving time is upon us.

Although it only happens twice a year, it seems that we just recently turned them back one hour. But now it's time to turn them ahead one hour. We're talking about clocks.

Tomorrow night before you go to bed, or at 2 a.m. Sunday for those of you still up, turn your clocks AHEAD one hour.

By turning clocks ahead one hour, the sun will rise and set later in the day, thereby "saving" daylight.

One of the major reasons behind daylight-saving time is to provide more time for afternoon and evening activities during the spring and summer months so you can get out there and enjoy the "extra" daylight.

Endowment will fund future Aggie Musters

By Juliette Rizzo

STAFF WRITER

The Aggie Muster Endowment Fund has been established to raise funds to support the continuing tradition of Aggie Muster.

Scott Creecy, 1989 Muster endowment sub-committee chairman, said the program was established in September as a means for funding future Aggie Musters.

The Aggie Muster Committee is allotted funds by Student Government. Creecy said the funds have been sufficient in the past, but in planning this year's Muster, the committee determined that to maintain the high quality of the ceremony, other sources of funding are necessary.

Creecy said additional funds are needed to increase local and nationwide public relations efforts and to provide a memorable

reception for family members of those honored during Muster.

As a student organization, the committee is exempt from the rental costs of G. Rollie White Coliseum, but set-up costs for the ceremony deplete most of the allotted funds. Creecy said donations for programs, flowers and candles, the most crucial items to the ceremony, are not always guaranteed, causing the need for back-up funds.

The endowment, set up by the Texas A&M Development Foundation, enables donated funds to be invested and to accrue interest, which will be applied to each year's ceremony. The portion of the interest not used for the actual ceremony is reinvested and added to the original invested funds, which are never with-

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Bryan applies for HUD grant to build shelter for homeless

By Kathy Haveman

CORRESPONDENT

Bryan homeless women and children could have a shelter in which to live if the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awards Twin City Mission a \$200,000 grant.

Twin City Director Bob Good applied for the grant March 29. He said he has chosen a multi-building site in Bryan, the exact location of which he could not reveal until the deal has been closed.

He said he wants to renovate the buildings to create a shelter for women and children only.

Twin City now has a shelter in Bryan that accommodates homeless men and homeless families. An extension of Twin City houses battered women.

The mission has \$90,000 and must raise a minimum of \$140,000 in addition to the grant to cover building costs. Resale shops will help raise revenue, but Good said he also will appeal to civic organizations, private individuals and corporations for financial support.

After HUD announces its decision concerning the grant on July 10, Good will have six months to buy the land and buildings and occupy the site.

"If we agree with the owners on a price, we'll be able to close within 30 days," he said. If negotiations fall

through, Good said he'll be looking for a different location, possibly a 50-unit motel.

The structures on the preferred site are not connected, which will facilitate the separation of the 150 women and children into individual problem groups.

Good said he wants to separate substance abusers, the mentally ill, women with older children and those with young children into different buildings. Those within each section will support one another because they share a common problem, he said.

"It's awfully hard to get sympathy from someone who's never had your problem," Good said.

Homeless women and children will be able to stay at the shelter a maximum of 24 months. During that time they will be counseled, taught basic skills such as how to balance a checkbook and will be required to save money, Good said.

He wants to help the women build a nest egg in order to pay the deposit on an apartment when they leave the shelter, while teaching the women skills that will enable them to get a job, he said.

Good said he is optimistic about getting the grant because HUD recently removed restrictions that made it difficult for private, non-profit organizations such as Twin City Mission to receive money.

"They (HUD) have more money now than ever before," he said.

Part of Joe Routt closes Saturday for three weeks

A small section of Joe Routt Blvd. on the Texas A&M campus will be closed for approximately three weeks starting Saturday morning, Tom Williams, director of parking, transit and traffic, said Thursday.

Williams said both lanes of the street will be closed.

The section affected is between Coke and Throckmorton Streets.

Traffic will be altered in the area of the Military Sciences Building. Williams said traffic normally using Coke or Throckmorton streets to enter or exit the Memorial Student Center area from Jersey St. also will be affected.

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This program is presented for educational purposes, and does not constitute an endorsement of any speaker

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Saturday, April 1st
Sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Proceeds donated to United Cerebral Palsy

Each team shall consist of three members, one being team captain.
The entry fee is \$15.00 dollars per team.

The team divisions are Men's Collegiate, Men's Open, Fraternity, and High School.

Late registration will be held starting at 9:00am on Saturday morning with play beginning at 10:00am on the 4th floor of the Rebel Bldg. (East Kyle)

For more information contact Chris at 693-9157

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