

Friday, November 17, 1989

Priests seek assistance from U.S.

AUSTIN (AP) — Three Jesuit priests called for help from the U.S. government Thursday after six former colleagues were killed and mutilated in San Salvador by armed men.

"We fear for the lives of our brothers" who remain in El Salvador, Father Joe Berra, who worked in San Salvador before coming to the University of Texas at Austin in August, said.

"They have asked us to do what we can and make this message known, to ask for protection, to ask the U.S. Congress and State Department to bear down

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Debate society examines pros, cons of abolishing Social Security system

By Andrea Warrenburg

Of The Battalion Staff

The furthest thing from the mind of a college student is the issue of Social Security. But a debate presented by the Texas A&M Debate Society on the abolishment of Social Security contended it is an issue that affects every American citizen.

A crowd of more than 200 people attended the parliamentary debate where arguments were given for and against the abolishment of the U.S. Social Security System.

The arguments for its abolishment, presented by pro speaker Lisa Nickel, included the fact that younger generations will no longer be able to support the rapidly growing elderly population

without a future tax hike, a person who pays into the system will eventually lose money and that the system encourages people to retire.

"It is clear that Social Security has its problems," Nickel said. "The benefits promised don't exist anymore."

The con speaker, Shannon Sparks, argued for the continuation of the federal program. She argued that the middle-aged and young people would also be hurt if the system were abolished.

She said they would have no protection in their old age, and they would have to take on the financial burden of their elderly relatives.

"Each generation supports his elders with the understanding the next generation will do the same," Sparks said.

"Social Security isn't perfect, but its advantages greatly outweigh its disadvantages."

The Social Security System was established in the 1930s. Every working American citizen pays 7.5 percent of every paycheck into the system with employers required to match that sum.

The debate became heated as the crowd was asked to participate after the principal speeches were delivered.

Some argued that citizens have a social obligation to take care of the elderly are not financially independent.

Others argued that in a capitalist economy, the government has no right to tell them what they do with their money.

After short rebuttal speeches, the debate concluded with an audience vote on the resolution. The majority favored the continuation of the Social Security System.

Students respond to shanty

Some say it's useless, others believe it helps

By Todd Connelley

Of The Battalion Staff

Most people on Texas A&M's campus have walked by it. Some believe in it. Some think it's an eyesore. But regardless of personal opinion, the Students Against Apartheid shanty always solicits a response.

"Judging on the fact that it always gets torn down, I really don't think it serves its purpose," said LaTonya Bennett, a senior finance major and member of the Black Awareness Committee and Delta Sigma Theta.

"Maybe another approach should be taken," she said. "If they must talk about South Africa, they should start some program, maybe distribute some literature. I just don't think the shanty is working out too well."

Todd Honeycutt, a junior psychology major and member of SAA, said that the purpose of the shanty is to make students and faculty aware of the oppression in South Africa.

"People don't want to think that anything's wrong," Honeycutt said. "They don't want to look at it, they don't want to know it."

Students Against Apartheid has approximately two dozen members. Ironically, there are only a handful of black members, he said.

"Perhaps blacks on campus are apathetic in a way," he said, "but basically our numbers are representative of the people on

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Interfraternity Council gets new interim adviser

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

Mike Leese, former associate vice president of Dean of Students at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, is now the Texas A&M University interim Interfraternity Council adviser.

After working at Tarleton for the past 20 years in various positions, Leese said he is looking forward to working with A&M's well-organized Greek system.

Leese will serve as adviser for the remainder of this semester and the Spring 1990 semester while A&M searches for a permanent replacement for former IFC adviser Charles Goodman.

Goodman left in September and Zack Coaland, Fish Camp adviser, worked with the Greeks until now.

Leese said he sees the IFC adviser position as a consulting opportunity.

"I've worked with fraternities for about the last five or six years and I think I could do some things to contribute to it (the Texas

A&M Greek system) and maybe make a difference," Leese said.

The dry or alcohol-free rush policy, taking effect in the spring, will provide plenty of new challenges and opportunities, Leese said.

"You have to give them credit that IFC voted to institute dry rush when there wasn't any pressure from the University."

— Mike Leese

"The intent (of dry rush) is not to be any kind of a game, and I think they are serious enough about it," Leese said. "You have to give them credit that IFC voted to institute dry rush when there wasn't any pressure from the University."

The administration is glad that the fraternities voted to have a dry rush but it did not pressure them to vote on the policy this early, Leese said.

Leese predicted that dry rush will be suc-

cessful, although there will be minor infractions, he said.

"When you are rushing people, you rarely ever rush anybody that is 21," Leese said. By virtue of the law, dry rush is necessary.

Another advantage of a dry rush policy is that the actives will have better conversations with the rushees, Leese said.

The new Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA) committee is not to be a police group trying to find a violation that a fraternity has committed.

"They (GAMMA) will be evaluating the parties in order to see what can be done to minimize risk," Leese said.

There is a misnomer about fraternities being labeled "social," Leese said. The Greek system is highly service- and leadership-oriented as well as social.

After graduating from Tarleton State University in 1967, Leese worked as the director of Financial Aid, dean of Men, Alumni Association and Development director, Dean of Students, vice president of Student Services and the associate vice president of Dean of Students.

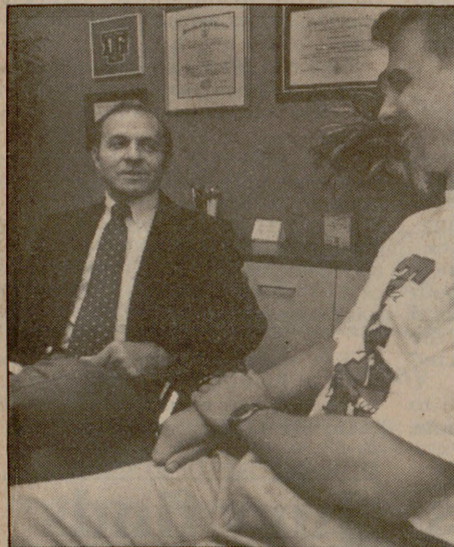


Photo by Frederick D. Joe

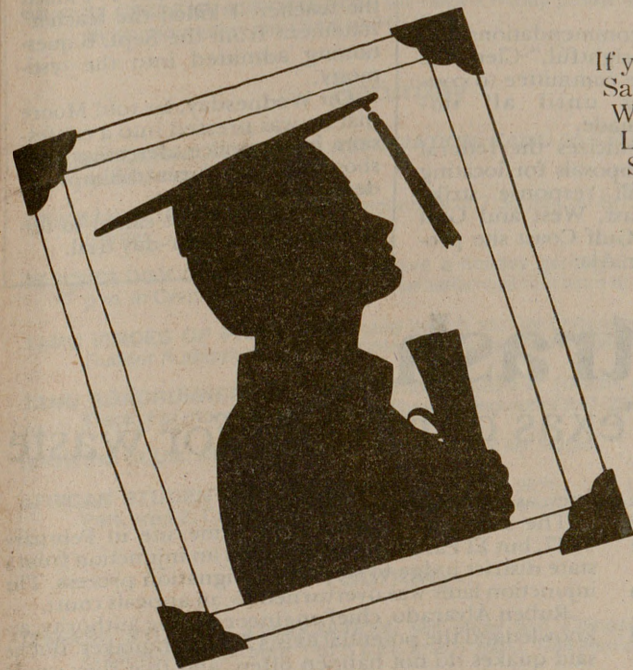
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