

Monday, November 19, 1990

International Week interaction

Model U.N. imitates real assembly; students debate terrorism

By BRIDGET HARROW
 Of The Battalion Staff

Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nicaragua and Syria are among the 33 countries to be represented at Texas A&M's first Model U.N.

Model U.N. acts out activities that could occur during a real U.N. assembly, says Lisa Cash, special assistant to International Student Affairs for Student Government.

Cash says Model U.N. will be during International Week in February and is a collaborative effort by International Student Association, MSC Jordan Institute and Student Government.

Sriran Vadlamani, ISA coordinator for Model U.N., says the ISA president's council voted to have Model U.N. in place of International Forum to promote interaction between international students and American students at A&M.

Vadlamani says international students will be grouped with U.S. students to represent different countries. Assembly members will debate a resolution on terrorism and how the U.N. will deal with terrorist acts, he says.

"The countries that have been picked to be represented in the Model U.N. are countries that have been affected by, sponsored, or are in any way connected with terrorism," Vadlamani says.

The five permanent U.N. Security Council

"It's a real hands-on, intensive way of promoting international awareness."

— Michael Burguires,
 MSC Jordan Institute

members — China, France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the United States — also will be represented, Vadlamani says.

Michael Burguires, international awareness director of programs for the Jordan Institute, says the institute is sponsoring Model U.N. because of the cultural aspect.

"It fits in very well with programs the Jordan Institute wants to participate in," he says. "It's a real hands-on, intensive way of promoting international awareness."

Burguires says there will be a lot of role-playing during the mock assembly. Students

will dress in native costumes of countries they represent, and announcements will be made of countries attacking one another. Students even might speak in their native tongues and use interpreters, he says.

Vadlamani says professors also will be available as part of a "think tank" to present different scenarios to students.

"The Model U.N. should be as realistic as we can make it," Vadlamani says. "We ask that people have an open mind and represent their chosen countries to their full ability."

Cash says she knows of no other Texas university or college which has held a Model U.N. Many students participated in Model U.N. in high school, she says.

"Our Model U.N. will be a balance of emotions and knowledge," she says. "Students will have to take on the complete attitude and the whole thought process that go along with the culture they are representing."

Applications for Model U.N. are due Nov. 26, and can be picked up at:

- the Student Government office, second floor of the Pavilion
- the MSC Jordan Institute booth in the Student Programs Office, MSC second floor
- the ISA office, Bizzell basement

New editor offers work opportunities

By SEAN FRERKING
 Of The Battalion Staff

Nominated by the Student Publications Board as The Battalion's spring semester editor, Lisa Robertson says she wants to improve Texas A&M's student newspaper by creating more opportunities for students to gain experience in a professional newsroom setting.

Robertson, a senior journalism major from Irving, says she has several ideas for improving The Battalion and the public's perception of the student paper.

The creation of a new "writing coach" position would be one way The Battalion could improve its overall quality, she says.

"Our journalism department does a great job of teaching students the basics of journalism," she says. "But my plan is for the writing coach to take writers we hire and improve their writing by working with them individually."

She says the writing coach, a position which will be filled by a student, will critique each writer's stories to help the staff develop more professional writing skills.

"I think if we improve the writing at The Battalion, we will improve the public's attitude toward our paper," Robertson says. "But that's not the only thing I have in mind to help improve the quality of The Battalion."

She also says she plans to use non-paid stringers, reporters not on staff, to help cover more of what is happening at the University.

She says she believes people will want to be non-paid stringers because of the experience the job offers.

"I have plans to hire non-paid stringers because we have so many people who apply for positions on staff and don't realize they will get paid," Robertson says. "With this new position, they will get experience in a professional setting."

She says she plans to assign stringers to areas where they are most needed.



Lisa Robertson

"The Battalion does a remarkable job covering what happens on campus," Robertson says. "I only want to cover more of what is going on, to improve what we already are doing."

Robertson has worked for The Battalion since Fall 1989. She served as a copy editor and was news editor for two semesters. She was lifestyles editor this semester.

Graduating in May, Robertson says she wants to pursue a career in newspaper journalism and eventually teach.

However, immediately after graduation, she says she wants to work as a copy editor during the summer. She also says she wants to travel the fall.

As Battalion editor, Robertson is responsible for setting Battalion policy and representing the paper to the public. She will oversee the managing editor and section editors while also holding meetings with editors and the entire staff.

Applications for spring semester Battalion staff can be obtained in the newsroom and can be submitted through Nov. 27.

Fan buys Beatle's birth certificate

HOUSTON (AP) — A 26-year-old Beatles fan who became interested in the rock group almost a decade after they broke up paid \$18,000 Sunday for singer Paul McCartney's birth certificate.

"I'm just a Beatles freak and I had to have it," Brian Taylor, of Washington, D.C., said. "It's a hobby that's gone a little too far."

After paying Simpson's auction house a 10 percent fee and Texas's 8.25 percent sales tax, Taylor will pay \$21,285 for the document.

It took less than a minute for Taylor to outbid his two competitors, one at Simpson's and one bidding by telephone.

The birth certificate took the long and winding road from Liverpool to Houston via McCartney's stepmother, Angela Williams, who sold it to an American investor for an unknown amount.

The certificate shows that on June 18, 1942, at 107 Rice Lane, James Paul McCartney was born to James McCartney and Mary Patricia McCartney, of 10 Sunbury Road, Liverpool, England.

Government regulators review Gibraltar Savings' expenditures

DALLAS (AP) — Sixteen months after its creation in the nation's largest federal thrift bailout, First Gibraltar Bank has been criticized for excessive personal expenses.

Government regulators said First Gibraltar, created in 1988, has spent more than \$1 million on a private hunting lodge, a plush New York City condominium and a private plane for its senior officers.

First Gibraltar last year alone received more than \$461 million in taxpayers' money. It cost \$5 billion to bailout the five thrifts from which First Gibraltar was created.

Examiners from the Office of Thrift Supervision, the federal agency charged with regulating S&Ls, criticized the personal expenses last spring after a routine review of the Dallas-based institution's books, the Dallas Morning News reported Sunday.

First Gibraltar chairman Gerald J. Ford defended the questioned expenses, saying that each was incurred for legitimate purposes.

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"In a different set of circumstances, I don't think these items would have ever been questioned by regulators."

Gerald J. Ford,
 First Gibraltar chairman

stances, I don't think these items would have ever been questioned by regulators," Ford told the News.

But his thrift and others remain under tight supervision because of ongoing federal subsidies. The government pays First Gibraltar to manage undervalued real estate and loans that the government could not afford to take over directly in 1988.

The expense in maintaining the \$7,000 per month condominium, as well as the \$728,370 hunting lodge is borne by the thrift's owners — primarily Revlon Corp. chairman Ron-

ald O. Perelman — not the institution itself, Ford said.

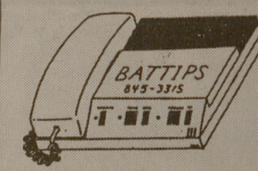
Besides the lodge, condo and jet, regulators also questioned \$80,000 spent on a consulting contract with former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros.

Several government officials expressed particular dismay with the S&L's personal expenses. The thrift remains a sensitive issue for the administration because of repeated congressional criticism that it amounts to a sweetheart deal for its owners.

Ford ran afoul of federal regulators soon after First Gibraltar was created in the largest deal completed by the now-defunct Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. in its much-maligned Southwest Plan.

Under the Southwest Plan, FSLIC merged 88 Texas S&Ls into 15 institutions in an effort to stabilize the state's industry. The plan also sought to rid the state's thrifts of lavish lifestyles and bad lending rampant in the mid-1980s.

BATTIPS



Anyone with story suggestions call BATTIPS. The Battalion phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

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