

'Hope in a Changing World' International Week provides cultural awareness

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Students from all over the world will have a chance to show off their native country's traditions and customs as International Week 1992 begins Monday.



Opening ceremonies for the 13th annual event will begin at 10 a.m. Monday in the MSC Flagroom. International week is sponsored by the International Students Association (ISA).

ISA President Rhonda Bolich says the purpose of the event is to let Texas A&M students and the community know about the wide range of people at A&M.

"If there was one thing that International Week is about, it's awareness," says Bolich.

Bolich says there are several

people in the community who anticipate the event each year.

"You would be amazed at how many people have international experience in this community," she says. "They mark it on their calendar and look forward to it (International Week) every year."

This year's theme is "Hope in a Changing World" and it will be the second year for a model United Nations, with 70 delegates representing 30 different countries. Bolich says although the event is fairly new, it should be a big success.

"A lot more people are involved this year, although it's still small compared to other schools," she says.

Edward Kellerman, director of the ISA Discussion Series, says ISA has been very successful at getting delegates from a variety of countries.

"There are many international students who know a lot of information about their countries," Kellerman says. "Delegates will

try to be as true to their countries' policies and customs as possible."

The model United Nations General Assembly and Security Council discussions will begin Wednesday at 7 p.m. and will last until 10 p.m. in the Student Congress Room in the new University Center. It will continue all day Thursday.

The discussions are also sponsored by the Student Government and the Jordan Institute.

Cultural displays featuring 42 countries will be exhibited all day Monday and Tuesday in the MSC and an international buffet will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday on the second floor of the MSC.

The buffet will feature foods from different countries and will be prepared by students from those nations. Tickets for the buffet and all other International Week events are \$8 and are available in the Rudder Box Office.

A talent show and dress parade featuring 20 different countries will conclude International Week

Friday. It will begin at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium and tickets are \$3.50. Joint tickets for the talent show and buffet are \$10.

Director of the talent show Karen Koestoer says the different acts include singing, dancing, skits and mock ceremonies such as weddings.

"It's going to be very interesting," Koestoer says. "Last year it was sold out, so get your tickets fast."

Following the show, an awards ceremony will begin at the College Station Conference Center on George Bush Drive. Tickets are \$2 for non-ISA members and \$1 for members.

Awards will be presented to the five best talent performances. Ten professors and community leaders will judge the performances.

Two other awards, the E-pright International Student Award and the Outstanding Community Volunteer Award will also be presented at the ceremony.



ORTRUN GINGERICH/The Battalion

Bearer of strength

John Baker, Company I-1's guidon bearer, practices for the annual "bloody cross," a three-mile (6 lap) run around the quadrangle. The guidon bearer carries the company flag during the entire race. Baker is a sophomore engineering major.

Black greek organizations hold olympiad Event showcases talent, devotion

By Matari Jones
The Battalion

Whether the organization's colors are red and white, crimson and cream, purple and gold or pink and green, black sororities and fraternities from as far as Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana anticipate the third annual "Greek Olympiad" sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi.

The Kappas call their Greek show "The Greek Olympiad" to differentiate it from other University Greek shows.

What is a Greek show? The event, held throughout the country at various times of the year, gives black fraternities and sororities a chance to showcase their artistic talents and demonstrate their undying love, devotion and pride for their organizations.

"It's a talent show that demonstrates a marching, stepping style rooted in African-American history," said J. Frank Hernandez, former president of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Stepping, which originated in Africa, was historically limited to pledges. Now, however, it has progressed to being used by all sorority and fraternity members.

Step, or Greek, shows evolved from sing-alongs in which fraternities and sororities would get together and sing chants and hymns demonstrating their dedication to their organizations.

The Olympiad premiered February 10, 1990 in Rudder Auditorium and is usually held in February in recognition of Black History Month.

"This Olympiad allows us to be included in the university without losing our heritage," Hernandez said.

It is one of the major ways to get all of the African-American sororities and fraternities together in one place to really show off one of their many facets, he added.

The Greek show also serves another purpose as a fund raiser. The proceeds will be donated in the form of a \$1,000 scholarship to the most deserving high school African-American male in the Bryan-College Station area.

"We are trying to encourage all minorities to go to college," said Andre Bradley, a Greek show co-chairman and Kappa Alpha Psi member.

Texas has six large-scale Greek or step shows each year. Shows also take place at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas Southern University in Houston, Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and Lamar University in Beaumont.

"One of our main advantages to having a Greek show at Texas A&M is the central location," said James Quarles, current president of Kappa Alpha Psi. "Plus, ours is the first to be held in the spring."

On the West Coast, sororities and fraternities usually collaborate to hold Greek shows, but in the South, individual organizations usually host them, Kappa Alpha Psi member Connie, Miller said.

Last year's Greek show, held in G. Rollie White Coliseum, started almost two hours late.

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Opponents advocate open adoption limits

Editor's note: This is the last in a five-part series in The Battalion on adoption in Texas and how it has changed over the years. Today's article focuses on opposition to open adoption.

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Adversaries of open adoption, despite the positive experiences of agencies in Texas, see the practice as a threat, and are working to limit the policy's spread to other areas of the nation.

Mary Beth Seader, vice president of the National Committee for Adoption, a Washington, D.C. national advocacy group, said her group harbors serious reservations about the practice of open adoption.

Although open adoption may be appealing at an emotional level,

there may be negative long-term effects, she said.

"The last five years have seen an increase in the attention the loss associated with adoption has received, but everyone must remember to keep the loss in perspective," Seader said. "Over-emphasizing loss, like open adoptions are doing, is not positive."

"If contact between birth mothers and adoptive families continues the way it is now, there are going to be major problems down the road," she said. "Open adoption seems way out of control."

Birth mothers gave up their child under the promise they would never be contacted, and the majority of adoptees have no interest in finding their birth parents.

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