

## MSC SCONA speaker says death penalty violates human rights

By Karen Broyles

THE BATTALION

An Amnesty International official said governments need to re-think their policies on capital punishment and human rights during the MSC Student Conference on National Affairs Saturday.

Curt Goering, acting executive director of Amnesty International, said the United States and 60 other countries have subjected their citizens to the most cruel punishment, the punishment of death.

"Executions without trials in China and executions in the United States after lengthy trials have the same result," Goering said.

"The destruction of a human being has occurred."

Goering also stressed the importance of non-government organizations promoting and defending human rights.

"There must be pressure on the United Nations by outside groups to counter the government pressure on them to leave things alone," Goering said.

Non-government organizations have been more vocal in promoting human rights than government officials, he said.

"The actions of these organizations and the public have made a difference," he said.

"The lobbying and the submissions that have been made have helped where government officials alone can't or won't get things done."

Goering said some governments think human rights should be left up to the governments to protect.

"But there are still men, women and even children who are being held prisoner because of their beliefs," he said.

"As long as there are still prisoners of conscience, there is a need for groups like Amnesty International."

Despite the continuing violation of human rights in many countries, Goering said progress is being made.

The establishment of a temporary bureau for prosecuting international war crimes was one example.

"It will be an important step if this temporary committee is replaced by a permanent one," he said.

Goering said the creation of a new position, High Commissioner of the United Nations, serves as a warning signal to areas of the world with increasing violations of human rights.

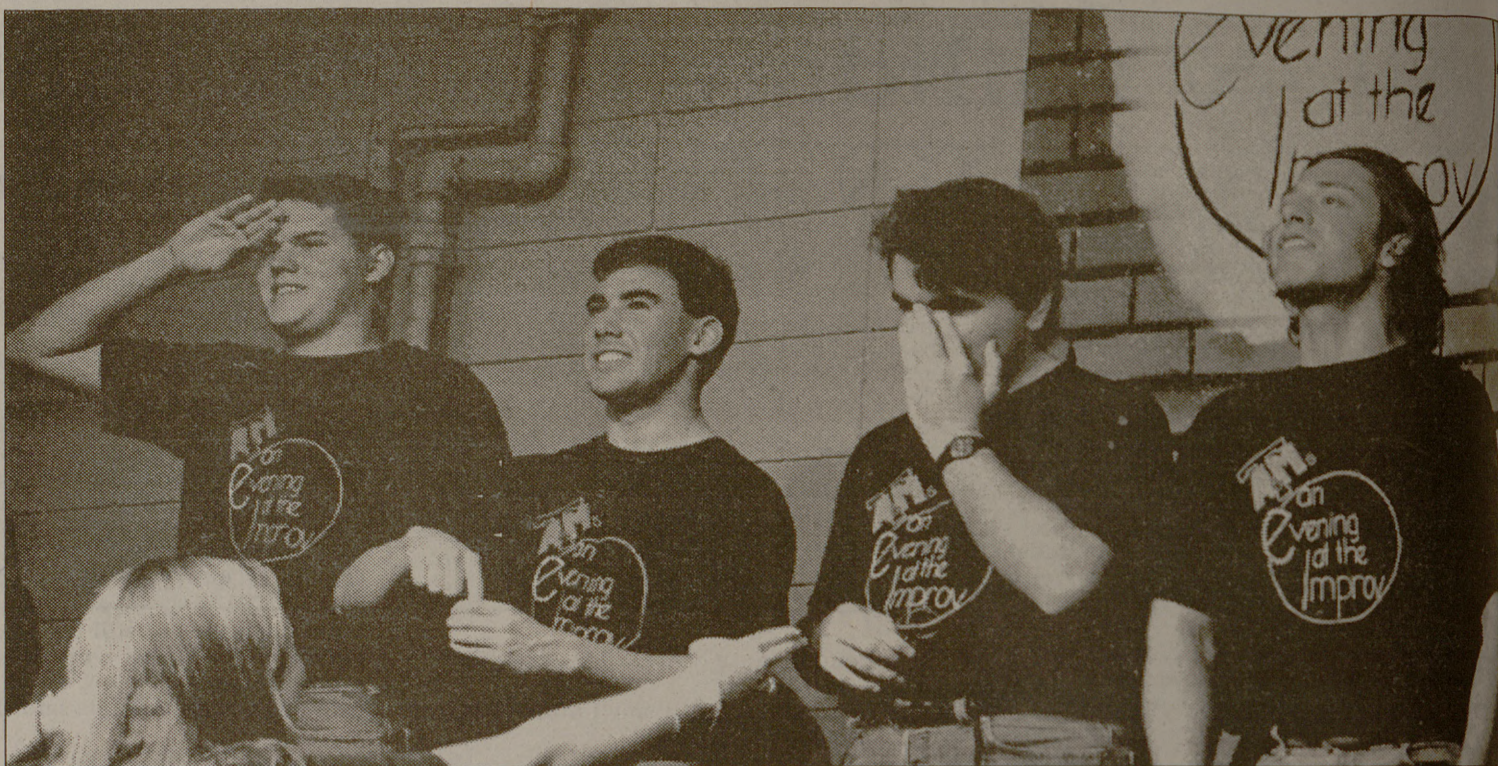
"The high commissioners job will be to pinpoint areas where human rights violations could escalate if no intervention takes place," he said.

Goering said procedures for responding to human rights violators are being created and standards for enforcing human rights have been drafted.



Goering

## How many Aggies does it take to be funny?



Sam Rose, Jeff Nolan, Randy Nichols and Jim Leary perform skits A&M's "An Evening at the Improv" Friday night in Rumours deli.

## Bosnian diplomat: unrest result of fascist policies

By Eloise Flint

THE BATTALION

Officials from the United Nations tried to make sense out of the war in Bosnia at a panel discussion Friday during the MSC Student Conference on National Affairs.

Ambassador Muhammed Sacirbey, permanent representative of the Bosnian mission to the United Nations, said the war in Bosnia has been misunderstood. It is actually a war of genocide and aggression, not a civil war.

Sacirbey said the war stems from the transition of Eastern European countries from com-

munist societies to free market societies.

Some societies made the transition successfully, but Sacirbey said the old communist regime of Serbia and the old communist military are still in control and have undertaken nationalism and fascism to continue their authority.

Sacirbey said tougher remedies are necessary to solve the problems in Bosnia.

"Let them know that the military won't be able to run free," he said.

Charles Patterson, deputy director of the U.N. Office of Political Affairs and the U.N. Bureau of International Organizations Affairs, said there are many issues to consider before

any U.S. troops are sent to Bosnia.

"Unfortunately while we grope for answers people are dying and societies are tearing apart, but we have to be responsible to American people," Patterson said.

"The cost of peacekeeping increasing, as well and good to call on the United States there are other forces that need to participate."

Patterson said deciding whether to be involved in foreign affairs isn't a simple issue.

"It's difficult to impose your will on an international group, because ultimately must be willing to fight," Patterson said.

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