

"Hate Crimes"

Guest Speaker - Gary Norman

An educational and interactive discussion including film clips of hate crimes.

April 7, 1999
Rudder 601, 7pm

Gender Issues Education Services
The Department of Student Life in the Division of Student Affairs

For more information, please contact us at 845-1107.

Gay Awareness Week, April 5-8

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Mathematics Contest

Annual Freshmen and Sophomore Mathematics Contest

Wednesday, April 7, 1999
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Room 317 Milner Hall

Σ Π Σ Π Σ Π Σ Π

It is intended to award at least six prizes:

1. \$150 for paper judged to be best overall
2. \$125 for second place
3. \$100 for third place
4. \$ 80 for fourth place
5. \$ 60 for fifth place
6. \$ 50 for sixth place

Contest problems will cover topics through Math 152 (Engineering Calculus II) for Freshmen contestants, and through Math 308 (Differential Equations) for Sophomore contestants.

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Contact Doug Hensley, e-mail: doug.hensley@math.tamu.edu or check the Math Dept. Home Page: <http://www.math.tamu.edu>.

(For purposes of this contest, freshmen are first-year undergraduate students, and sophomores are second-year undergraduate students.)

Rhyme and Reason

National Poetry Month revives art of verse

BY MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

Letting feelings flow
Forming verses from your thoughts
Making some lines rhyme

Certainly there is more to poetry than what this haiku suggests, but it holds some truth. An ever-popular form of literature, poetry is meant to stir emotions in the same vein as music. These days, there is no avoiding poetry: On the Web, posted at bookstores in the mall, around campus on the walls, in the halls, even in the stalls!

The recent proliferation of poems is a subtle reminder that April is National Poetry Month. Along with the usual April images of Easter are popular poets such as Robert Frost, Sylvia Plath, Allen Ginsberg and William Carlos Williams.

National Poetry Month was begun by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to celebrate poetry in American culture through the combined effort of literary clubs, poets and profit, as well as nonprofit, organizations. Events around the country include poetry contests, giveaways, readings, lectures and workshops.

Last month, a group of poetry enthusiasts began to hold weekly poetry readings at Bahgi's in Bryan.

Robyn Autrey, the organizer of the group, said the location provides a relaxed atmosphere where poems are not censored.

"It isn't a place where you have to have classical poetry," she said.

Autrey said the group began by participating in poetry readings held at Barnes and Noble bookstore, but she decided to start her own group because there were too many restrictions

at the bookstore.

"I couldn't read my real angry stuff," she said, "and I like to smoke while I read my poems."

The group, made up of about 12 people, most of them friends, receive mixed reactions from the crowd.



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

Autrey said most of the time, Bahgi's clients seem interested in their poetry but are apprehensive about stepping into the limelight.

"A lot of people don't join in," she said. "I wish they would."

One of the poets who draws attention from

onlookers is Joel. He is known for his reading style, which Autrey describes as "preacher-like."

Joel said his style is very mixed and explain or describe.

"It's kind of beatnik meets heavy metal," he said. "Forceful, with a real heavy beat."

Joel said he writes and reads poetry because he loves it and encourages everyone to do the same. He competes in slam poetry competitions in which contestants give a three-minute reading of an original piece.

Joel said the judging is half on content and half on presentation.

"You can't use props," he said, "but you can use sounds and hand movements to help tell the story."

For aspiring poets, National Poetry Month offers a number of opportunities where winners can receive prizes or publication in magazines like Poets and Writers magazine. National Poetry Month issue that includes information on competitions.

The MSC Literary Arts Center is having a Shakespeare Week, which will feature a competition for those who are interested in iambic pentameter.

Janet McCann, an English professor, said students should take advantage of the awareness raised by National Poetry Month by taking time to read and write.

"I think it would be wonderful for everyone who has the slightest interest to do so, should read a book or poem," McCann said.

McCann would not push poets who really did not want to write, but it is easy to develop a love for it.

"I'm always ready to talk about poetry," she said. "For me, National Poetry Month is everyday."

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Rudder Hall Room 707

Visit Campus Representative Patrick Niemeyer
East Bizzell Hall Room 110
(409) 845-5499
for more information