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Friday, October 11, 2002

Nobel winner lauded for holocaust writing

AP — After Auschwitz, to write poetry is barbaric, a philosopher once concluded. A long line of poets and novelists have thought otherwise, and on Thursday, the Nobel Prize in literature went to Imre Kertesz, a and Hungarian novelist Auschwitz survivor.

Honoring the 72-year-old Budapest Jew for his uncommon, single-minded gift for saying the unsayable, the Swedish Academy singled out his 1975 debut novel, "Sorstalansag" ("Fateless"), about a young man who is taken to a concentration camp but conforms and survives.

Kertesz was deported in 1944 to Auschwitz in Nazioccupied Poland, then to the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany, where he was liberated in 1945. Of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, some 600,000 were Hungarian.

Kertesz is the first Hungarian to win the award, worth about \$1 million.

"My immediate reaction is one of great joy. It means very much to me," he told The Associated Press in Berlin, where he is on a teaching scholarship.

There is no awareness of the Holocaust in Hungary. People have not faced up to the Holocaust. I hope that in the light of this recognition, they will face up to it more than until now," he added.

Since the end of World War II, writers and scholars have debated how to make art out of the Holocaust and whether they

even can and should. "Tow poetry after Auschwitz is h baric," the philosopher Theory Adorno wrote in 1949.

Kertesz was honored writing "that upholds the fran experience of the indivi against the barbaric arbitra of history," in the citation by Swedish Academy.

Wiesel, an Auschwitz Foot vivor who won the Nobel P Prize in 1986, applauded award.

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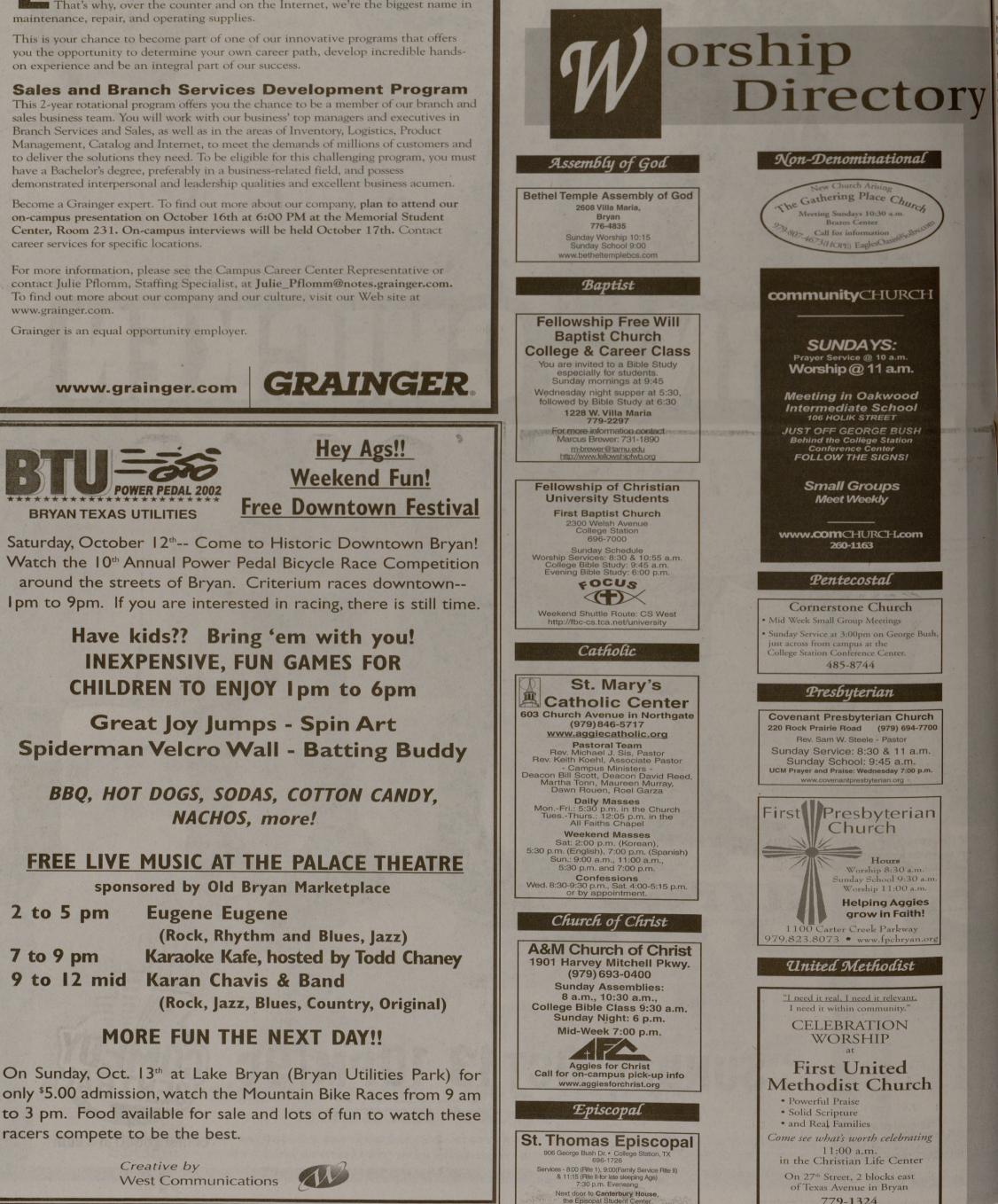
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"He is a great writer," West said. "His style and approach are of such high qu ty that he deserved to be gi the highest prize in literature "Fateless" and "Kaddish

ward to the 1 a Child Not Born," his o in Waco. novels available in English, The Bears part of a trilogy on Holoca off their firs themes. win in 29 gar



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