

CAMPUS

AI protests capital punishment

BY JULIE POUCHER

This week the Trinity chapter of Amnesty International joined in the international organization's campaign against the death penalty by co-sponsoring a soapbox forum on the issue and joining in a vigil held outside the Bexar County Courthouse.

Gerald Goldstein, general counsel to the Texas affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke out against the death penalty at Tuesday's soapbox forum, which was co-sponsored by the Coates Center Program Board.

The forum was held in conjunction with Monday's formal announcement in London of AI's worldwide campaign against the death penalty. News conferences in New York and other cities across the United States kicked off the campaign that will last until Human Rights Day, Dec. 10.

Goldstein said the justice system is a fallible one, and innocent lives may be taken as a result of the death penalty. "We make mistakes. We must protect the innocent," he said.

He said atrocities such as rape and murder naturally enrage people, and public opinion

can sway a judge's decision. "There is a need for a scapegoat," Goldstein said.

Students at the forum questioned the possible ramifications of abolishing the death penalty. Their concerns were gun control and prison overcrowding. Goldstein said he favored some forms of gun control, and

stressed that abolition of the death penalty was not going to increase violent crime.

He added that while increased use of the death penalty would ease overcrowding on death row, it would not help the problem in the Texas Department of Corrections. He said he is worried about state approval of

killing as a punishment for crimes.

Goldstein said that the death penalty implies "violence is permissible. [It is] permissible for the state to take a human life."

Christie Sprinkle, anti-death penalty coordinator of Trinity's chapter of AI, helped coordinate the soapbox forum. She was also instrumental in bringing students and citizens of San Antonio together for the vigil held Tuesday in front of the Bexar County Courthouse. According to Sprinkle, the vigil's goal was to raise consciousness over what AI perceives as the discriminating practice of the death penalty.

Anti-death penalty coordinators Hector Sequerra of St. Mary's University and Andre Huykman of the University at Texas at San Antonio, along with 20 members of their AI chapters also attended the vigil.

During the vigil, students passed out AI literature to participants and on-lookers, and also wrote birthday cards to inmates on death row.

Some of the demonstrators received an unexpected opportunity to speak with Ed Shaughnessy, Chief of the appellate section of the district attorney's office. At about 2:15

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Trinity students join an AI vigil against capital punishment at the courthouse

Graduation brings honors and activities

BY LAURA DE ANDA

While high school graduation usually means parental freedom, college parties and Spring Break, college graduation means facing the "real world." This May 13 at 10:30 a.m. in Laurie Auditorium, approximately 390 Trinity seniors will be given a piece of paper documenting their four years here.

Approximately 70 graduate students will also receive their diplomas, although about half of these will graduate *en absentia*. The audience will include up to eight guests per student.

Arturo Madrid will speak at the ceremony. Madrid is the president of the national Tomas Rivera Center, an institute that analyzes the effect of existing or proposed policies on the Latino community.

The number of students graduating with honors is not yet known. "We don't know the honors until hours before graduation commencement," said Registrar Richard Elliott. Assistant Registrar Judy Walker said, "[The honors] are figured out Friday, May 12 because of spring semester grades."

Several events are scheduled before and after commencement. On Friday, baccalaureate vespers will be offered in the Margarite B. Parker Chapel. According to Elliott, the vespers were at one time

"required for all students" when the school was still officially tied to the Presbyterian church. A hooding ceremony for graduate students will take place in the chapel Saturday before graduation.

Following the commencement, a luncheon will be held under a large tent on the football field to honor seniors. "Last year [the luncheon] was a tremendous success," said Elliott, adding, "It is the best thing done around Trinity in terms of success and bringing in people."

After the luncheon, initiation for new members of Phi Beta Kappa will be held in the Great Hall in Chapman Graduate Center. Running concurrently with the initiation will be the Military Science Commissioning at the Holt Continuing Education Center. Students who graduate from Trinity's Reserve Officers' Training Corps will be commissioned into the Army as second lieutenants.

For many seniors, receiving a diploma is both happy and sad. Senior Martin Hoffman said graduation will mean both "sadness and hope." To Heather Davidson, commencement means more confusion. "I expected to come here and have all my questions answered. But instead of answering them, I have ten times as many questions," Davidson said.

Bryan wins scholarship

BY JEFF ABRESCH

Trinity junior Angie Bryan was one of only three students from Texas to be awarded a \$28,000 Harry S. Truman scholarship this year.

The scholarship, which is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to a career in public service, will provide Bryan \$7,000 per year for her next two years at Trinity, plus \$7,000 a year for two years of graduate work at any college or university.

"My interest in this really started at the beginning of this year," said Bryan. "I wanted to pursue a career in Middle Eastern relations, and the poli-sci department was promoting the scholarship pretty heavily. So I decided to give it a shot."

Bryan and two other Trinity students were chosen by members of the political science department as candidates for the national award. Bryan and sophomore Ray Robertson were granted interviews.

Robertson, who is originally from Minnesota, was flown to Chicago by the Truman Scholarship Foundation for the final interviews. Bryan, a Texas native, competed against nine other students in the Texas finals in Dallas.

Russell Acker from Texas A&M and Miriam Ma from Rice University were the other winners from Texas.

According to Bryan, many of the students compet-

ing for the scholarship were interested in careers in politics. However, Bryan said she has found her niche in foreign relations.

"I want to work in the Middle East," said Bryan. "I think we need a lot more people there that consider that their main concern."

Bryan is no stranger to foreign relations or the Middle East. She won a scholarship to study in Amman, Jordan, the summer after she graduated from high school, and spent her first year in college at Oxford University.

"When I studied in the Mideast, I fell in love with the place," said Bryan. "At my age, I got a truly objective view of what's going on there."

Bryan said she plans to spend two more years at Trinity, earning majors in international studies and political science and a minor in French. After that, she would like to study at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service and earn a master's in Middle Eastern Studies.

The Truman scholarship is awarded to 92 students from around the country, including at least one from each state and three from American territories.

Faculty representatives appointed from over 2,200 colleges and universities select 1,400 potential candidates for the award. Thirteen regional review panels then decide which applicants will be granted interviews at the regional level.



Angie Bryan