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Amnesty symposium takes place in MSU ballroom

Rose-Avila expresses concern for prisoners in foreign countries who are continually tortured

by Tina Crinite

"The powerful hold hammers in their hands, and those with hammers see everything as nails," said Magdalena Rose-Avila, Western regional director of Amnesty International, at a human rights symposium April 23 in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom.

Sponsored by Amnesty International and Student Government, various people spoke about current conditions in modern China.

During the evening, Rose-Avila expressed concern for prisoners in foreign countries who are tortured on a continual basis.

"The countries and top leaders think they can intimidate

people into not speaking their minds by keeping them in prison for a long time," Rose-Avila said. "And I understand now how important it is to be non-partisan and non-political ... to protect the sanctity of life of these individuals."

Rose-Avila said the main purpose of Amnesty International was not to judge governments, but its goals include the release of prisoners of conscience (men, women and children imprisoned for their beliefs, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence), fair and prompt trials, and an end to torture and executions in all cases.

"We want the governments to respect peoples' rights to be who

they are," Rose-Avila said. "Our challenge is not to make a judgment on the color of skin or the politics of the person, but to ensure that everyone in every coun-

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try has the right to exist and the manner in which to exist."

Rose-Avila stressed that unless human suffering is seen publicly through the media, people

usually contend that it doesn't happen. While years have passed after the Tianamen Square massacre and although the major networks are not there, torture and abuse of human rights still exist.

"We cannot just go with the headlines of the time or the popular country at the moment," Rose-Avila said. "Amnesty tries to protect all the prisoners, of all the worlds, all the time."

Ting Huang, spokesperson of the American Chinese Human Rights Activists, acted as interpreter for LinXinhu "John," and MO Fengjie "George," former Chinese political prisoners. Currently both men live in Los Angeles as political refugees.

"John" was arrested at the age of 13 and remained in the labor prison for 25 years, while "George" spent seven years in a factory and labor farm. Both men were tortured through starvation, disease, repeated whippings, terrible working conditions and solitary confinement.

"There is never a way to know everyone who is a prisoner because there are secret arrests and torture," Huang said. "This is common policy to have these things happen and once they are in a prison there is virtually no way to get out."

Huang was told by "John" and

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Top teachers honored by Student Government

by Tricia Ciaravino

The CSUN faculty awards ceremony was held Thursday in Moyer Student Union.

The top honor was given to Dr. Marilyn Ohlhausen, assistant professor of education, who received the Most Excellent Teacher of the Year award.

Other nominees included Dr. Simon Crawford-Welch, assistant professor of tourism and convention administration; Dr. Hans-Herman Hoppe, assistant professor of economics; Dr. Warren McNab, professor of health; Dr. Rama Venkatasubraman, assistant professor of electrical engineering; Dr. Jerry Simich, assistant professor of political science; Dr.

Everett W. Wischusen, lecturer of biological sciences; Mary Koithan, R.N., nursing instructor; and Victoria Dale, lecturer of dance arts.

The faculty are nominated by students, who inform their senators of their choice, and turn in a resume stating the qualities that make this teacher special. The faculty excellence award committee chooses the winner based on this information.

"The administration and faculty reward students for their excellence," said Student Government President Joe Bunin, in congratulating all the nominees. "This is our one small way to repay you for the excellent job you've done."



Dr. Marilyn Ohlhausen (right) with Senator Fields (left).

UNLV will lose ROTC unit

by Morgan Fisher

As of May 19, the last day for the spring 1991 term, the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) will no longer exist at this campus.

Before Iraq's attempt to dominate the Middle East and before the USSR's attempt to keep control of its Soviet Republics, there was a euphoric feeling of peace when the Berlin Wall came down. Being faced with, and still looking at, a ballooning deficit, the U.S. government had to make some tough economic decisions. One of those decisions was to reduce military spending by cutting the number of ROTC units.

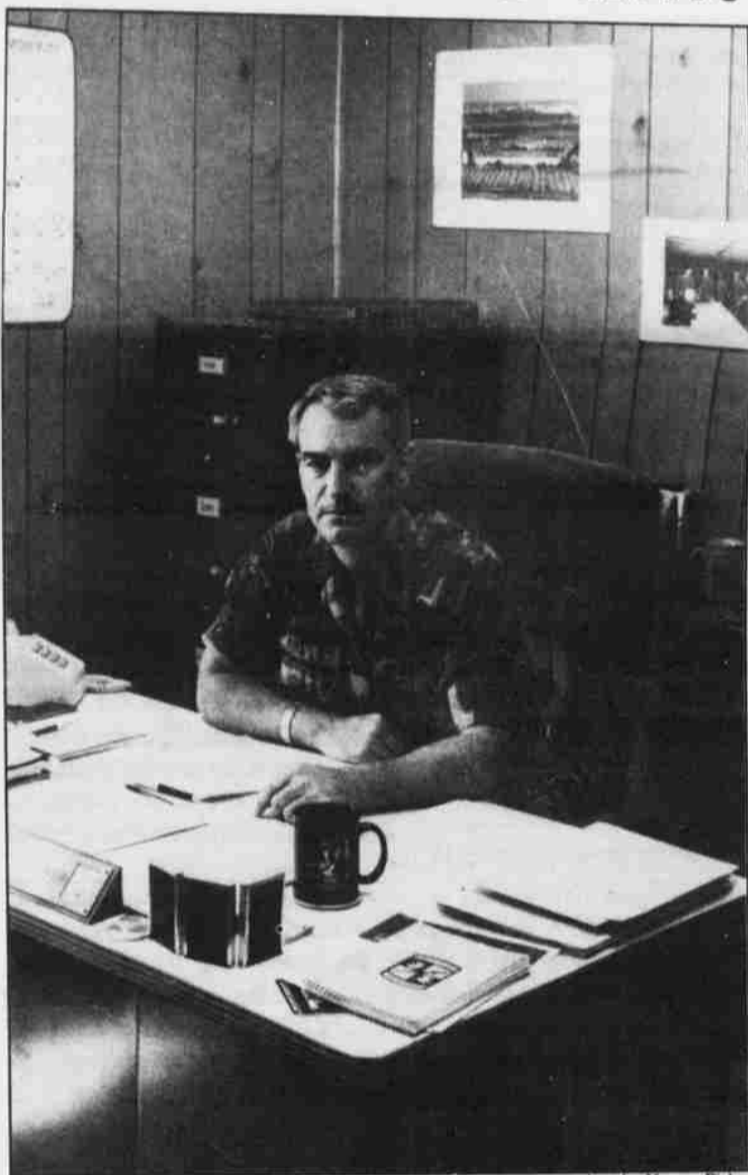
This meant that by cutting a total of 50 units it would save \$23 million annually. UNLV was one of seven schools in the western U.S. to lose its ROTC program.

"For the freshmen and sophomores, if they wish to continue in ROTC, they will have to find a unit at another university. We will help them look for one if they want to continue," said Lt. Col. Michael W. Dunegan. "The seniors in the program are graduating. The only problem we had was how are the juniors going to finish," said Dunegan.

After a cadet, who has a scholarship, completes two years of ROTC and wants to continue he is contractually obligated to the Army and will have to fulfill some form of enlistment.

"The juniors were given an exception to Army policy and were allowed to complete the junior and senior classes at the same time, basically taking a double load," said Dunegan. "After the cadets have gone to the ROTC advance camp in Fort Lewis, which is their last official act with ROTC, they will return to UNLV to complete their studies," said Dunegan.

The University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) has had an ROTC program since ROTC was founded 75 years ago. The ROTC program at UNLV started out very much like the beginnings of UNLV. In



Lt. Col. Michael W. Dunegan

photo by Morgan Fisher

1980 the unit was activated as an extension of the Army ROTC unit from UNR to offer Las Vegas cadets military science courses. Two years later, in 1982, the UNLV unit was given full status by the Board of Regents. Now with the closure of the unit, UNR will again act as the overseer for the juniors who still have to complete their education at UNLV.

From a July 17, 1990 article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* President Maxson stated that he favored cutbacks in federal spending but that the government shouldn't look at a snapshot of the program from the past. He referred to the years 1987 and 1988 where only six cadets completed the program for each year. The

unit needed to have at least 15 cadets complete the program.

More recently Maxson said, "It saddens me that the program will have to be shut down. We fought to keep it here and if they ever want to reinstate it we will absolutely welcome back a new unit."

On May 2, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. the ROTC unit will have a closure ceremony. During the ceremony Cadet Rosette Wirtz will be commissioned before the retirement of the unit's Guidon. The Guidon is the unit's flag and Cadet Wirtz will be the last cadet commissioned under it. Also at the ceremony will be Brigadier General Richard Siegfried.