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Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 79 No. 186 USPS 045360 26 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, August 28, 1984



12th Man chants for 'Cotton' at All U night; team set to go

By Lynn Rae Povec
Staff Writer

"Cotton" was the word at All University night Monday, and nearly 8,000 Aggies filled G. Rollie White Coliseum to chant it.

The first students — most of them freshmen — arrived about 5:30 p.m. to save places for the upperclassmen in their dorms or organizations. They spent the next two hours trying to outshout their peers and clapping in time as the Aggie Band played familiar songs.

As the coliseum filled to near capacity by 7:30 p.m., All U night began on a solemn note. Head Yell Leader Kelly Joseph asked the crowd for a moment of silence to remember Battalion Editor Bill Robinson who died Monday. Robinson was fatally injured in a one-car accident last week.

The invocation followed, sev-

eral university leaders addressed the crowd, and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill introduced this year's team.

Student Body President David Alders spoke first, and his rousing speech — interrupted by two standing ovations — was met with thunderous cries of "We want cotton! We want cotton!"

"Cotton's in the picture, Aggies," said Head Yell Leader Kelly Joseph before introducing Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student affairs.

"This is the beginning of my twelfth year at Texas A&M," Koldus said. "The 12th Man spirit is very much alive, and 12-0 is the way to go."

University President Frank E. Vandiver also addressed the group, saying that Texas A&M has got something other universities don't have.

"We've got you," Vandiver told the crowd. "If I weren't so glad you were here, I'd feel sorry for them."

After Koldus' speech, Joseph preceded his introduction of Coach Sherrill by telling the history of the 12th Man tradition. He told the crowd how E. King Gill suited up to play in the Dixie Bowl Classic because the Aggies "were losing players like flies."

"It'd be great to end the story by saying he caught the touchdown pass and won it," Joseph said, "but at A&M that kind of stuff just doesn't matter."

Concluding his anecdote with the short history of the 12th Man Kick-Off Team, Joseph introduced Sherrill, who apologized to Aggie fans about the change of kick-off time for the Aggies-University of Texas at El Paso game Sept. 1. Because the game is be-

ing televised, it will begin at 11:20 a.m.

Amidst applause, whoops and comments of approval from a few enthusiastic Keathley residents seated in the front row, Sherrill began introducing the 1984-85 varsity squad as cries of "cotton" once again filled the coliseum.

The last 20 names he called belonged to the members of this year's 12th Man Kick-Off Team whom he said "have worked awful hard and they've already covered over 100 kick-offs."

With the 12th Man and football teams assembled on stage, three players presented Joseph with a maroon jersey that sported the number 12.

Joseph and the other yell leaders then led the crowd in several yells.

Rescue begins for sunken load

United Press International

PARIS — Owners of a French freighter that sank in the North Sea with a 225-ton cargo of radioactive uranium hexafluoride — which could explode if water reaches it — organized a risky operation Monday to retrieve 30 sealed drums holding the toxic material.

Compagnie Generale Maritime's president Claude Abraham said the operation to salvage the cargo aboard the Mont Louis would begin today and would be completed "within the next two or three weeks."

He said divers would be sent down to break open a hole in the hull of the 5,800-ton freighter lying in 50 feet of water 12 miles off the Belgian coast. A Belgian and a Dutch ship will haul the cargo to the surface with cranes, he said.

The salvage operation was described as "complex and risky" by experts at the French environment ministry.

The Mont Louis sank Saturday after colliding in fog with a passenger ferry from West Germany and took with it to the bottom of the sea the sealed drums of uranium hexafluoride — a highly toxic, radioactive liquidified gas.

The Mont Louis was bound for

the Baltic port of Riga in Soviet Latvia when it hit the ferry bound for Sheerness, England with about 1,000 passengers from Belgium. No one was hurt.

The material had been partially processed in France and was on its way to be enriched in the Soviet Union. It was to have been returned to Belgian and French companies for use in nuclear power plants, said Comuhrex, the French firm that produced the uranium hexafluoride.

The Greenpeace environmental group, which first released reports that the capsized vessel was carrying a radioactive cargo, said it was common practice for many Western nations, including the United States, to enrich yellow-cake or uranium hexafluoride in the Soviet Union, because it was far cheaper than elsewhere.

French and Belgian authorities stressed the cargo hold had not been damaged in the accident and there was no immediate risk or evidence of pollution.

They said the uranium hexafluoride was only about 3 percent radioactive, but if the substance mixes with water, it produces an acid that could trigger an explosion.

Ship hit by rocket in Persian Gulf war

United Press International

KUWAIT — A warplane hit a Panamanian-registered oil tanker with a rocket that sparked a blaze Monday as the tanker sailed in the Persian Gulf. It was the 32nd confirmed air attack on commercial shipping this year in the Iran-Iraq war.

The attack by an unidentified warplane came amid reports of clashes between Iranian and Iraqi ground troops in the nearly 4-year-old war.

A spokesman for the Greek Piraeus-based Troodos Shipping Co. confirmed that the 20,000-ton Cleo I had been hit by a rocket and caught fire as it sailed from India to the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tannura to load oil.

The ship was hit about 70 miles northeast of Qatar, said the official Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA. There were no reports of injuries among the ship's crew.

In London, a spokesman for Lloyd's, the shipping insurer, said the fire was under control, but that the vessel's steering was damaged in the attack and the tanker was heading for the Qatari port of Doha using an emergency guidance system.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that the American guided

missile destroyer USS King was about 50 miles from the stricken ship at the time of the attack and offered assistance.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said the warship was in the area at the time but could not confirm that assistance had been offered.

The incident was the 32nd confirmed hit on a neutral ship this year in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq have been at war since 1980. Dozens of unconfirmed attacks also have been reported.

On Friday, an Iraqi missile tore into a Cypriot-registered freighter, setting it ablaze and forcing its crew to abandon ship south of Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island.

An Iraqi military spokesman in Baghdad said that Iraqi forces had killed four Iranian soldiers in fighting east of the southern Iraqi city of Basra. There were no reports of Iraqi casualties.

Iraq invaded Iran in September 1980 because of a long-standing dispute over navigational rights to the Shatt el-Arab waterway. The war spread with both nations attacking the Gulf shipping lanes in an attempt to cut off each other's oil shipments.

Battalion editor dies; funeral on Wednesday

By Melissa Adair
Staff Writer

James William "Bill" Robinson, 22, editor of The Battalion, died late Monday morning in St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

Robinson was a senior journalism major at Texas A&M and was from Round Rock near Austin.

Robinson was in a one-car accident last Monday night at about 10:45. The Fiat sports car he was travelling in flipped over on Dowling Road and he was trapped underneath it. He had severe head and brain injuries and had been in a deep coma since the accident.

Robinson was born on Jan. 17, 1962 at Texas City Memorial Hospital. In 1967, his family moved from Alvin to Austin and in 1977 they moved to Round Rock.

Robinson graduated from Round Rock High School in 1980 and attended Southwest Texas State Uni-

versity between his junior and senior years in high school under an advanced placement program.

When he graduated, he was offered a full ROTC Navy scholarship but instead decided to come to Texas A&M.

He helped organize the Acacia fraternity here in College Station. He was president of the fraternity when he died.

Robinson was a delegate to the Republican State Convention from Williamson County and was active in civic affairs. He attended Hyde Park Christian Church in Austin.

He was gaining experience in journalism and was planning to work as a writer after graduating.

Robinson served as editorial page editor for The Battalion this summer. He was the assistant sports editor in the spring and was a sports reporter for the newspaper in the Spring and Fall of 1982. He also

worked at KAMU-TV as a reporter for a semester.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Robinson of Round Rock; his mother and stepfather, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) and Mrs. Prescott A. Stark, also of Round Rock; his sister, Susan Robinson; his stepsister, Stacy Macadoo; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Andrews and his maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Bond.

His father was a public information officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety for 13 years and his grandfather, Odell V. Robinson, graduated from Texas A&M in 1938. His sister, Susan, attended Texas A&M for two years and now attends the University of Texas in Austin.

Mr. Robinson said Bill had recently tried to get him to sign the back of his driver's license to donate his organs for transplants if he died.

"I told him I just couldn't do that," Mr. Robinson said. "But Bill really thought that was important ... so his kidneys will be donated for transplant."

Robinson's father said he was always a "good kid" and he was extremely proud of him.

"He's the kind of kid that I'll never have to look back and say I'm sorry about anything he did," he said. "He's a great guy all around. He always wanted to help others."

Robinson's parents have set up the Bill Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund to help journalism majors at Texas A&M. Contributions to the fund in lieu of flowers may be made to the Texas A&M Development Foundation, care of the Department of Communications, TAMU.

The funeral will be Wednesday at Central Christian Church in Austin at 2 p.m., Wednesday.

In Today's Battalion

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National

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- Reagan speaks to honored students. See story page 4.

World

- Arabs want to ban rally. See story page 6.