

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Nicaraguan rebels free 29 activists

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Twenty-nine American peace activists, allegedly kidnapped by Contra rebels, were freed Thursday, a spokesman for the Witness for Peace group said.

Raquel Pina said in a telephone interview the activists were on their way to San Carlos, a town on Lake Nicaragua, where the government had organized a reception for them and 18 journalists who had disappeared Wednesday.

The Witness for Peace group and the Nicaraguan government said the 29 American activists, who oppose U.S. policy toward Nicaragua, were kidnapped along with 18 journalists further down the San Juan River Wednesday.

The government and the group said the kidnapping had been carried out by Contra rebels led by Eden Pastora, a former Sandinista who broke with the Managua government when it turned to Marxism.

In San Jose, Costa Rica, government spokesman Armando Vargas said Costa Rican officials flying over the area saw the boat traveling in Nicaraguan waters.

The peace group said the activists radioed their Managua office Wednesday and reported Nicaraguan rebels forced them off a boat in which they were traveling on the San Juan river, near the Costa Rican border.

The Witness for Peace activists are in Nicaragua to protest the Reagan administration's expressed support for the rebels and to campaign for peace between the United States and Nicaragua, the group's Washington office said.

The Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, led by Pastora was one of four rebel groups known as Contras, was the group blamed by the government and the activists for the kidnapping.

The RDA had earlier warned that its fighters would fire on the activists if they entered the area.

But a spokesman for the group, known by the Spanish acronym of ARDE, denied any involvement in the alleged kidnapping.

ARDE, the second-biggest Contra group, is made up principally of people who once fought in the Sandinista revolution, which toppled the late dictator Gen. Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Security

False sense of safety exhibited on campus

By KAREN BLOCH
Staff Writer

The atmosphere on the Texas A&M campus lends itself to feeling of security — a false feeling of security.

"The students feel like everyone at A&M is nice and friendly," Monica Christen, housing area coordinator for the Commons said Thursday. "They think they can leave their doors unlocked and not worry about anything," she said.

But, the residents of Krueger Hall have discovered that the dormitories may not be as safe as they seem.

During the last two weekends, several women in Krueger have reported that men have entered the dorm and entered some rooms after visitation hours.

Debbie Owensby, assistant area coordinator for Krueger, said the men seem to be entering the dorm after the local bars close.

"They (the men) are a problem between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.," she said, "and, they seem to be inebriated."

This weekend, resident advisers will be keeping an exceptionally close watch for men in the dorm after hours, Christen said. Also, the combinations of the outside doors of Krueger were changed Tuesday.



Not Just Dogs

Veterinary students Jessie Buel, Glynn Echerd and Anton Hoffman prepare this White Tail doe for surgery as Kevin Shurtleff looks on. The right front leg is being prepared for amputation because of a loss of use and feeling. The fawn was found on Southwest Parkway about a month ago and has been under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Russo at the Texas A&M Small Animal Clinic.

Photo by SUSAN MERCER

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19 blacks killed as riots continue in South Africa

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Riot and arson swept the townships around Durban on Thursday. At least 19 blacks were killed in South Africa's bloodiest violence in months, and Indians fled fiery devastation in their communities.

The government imposed night curfews in the eastern Cape province, another flashpoint, and threatened tougher action to quell the year-long tide of violence against white domination. At least 500 blacks have been killed.

Foreign Minister R.F. Botha went to Vienna, Austria, for talks with U.S. officials who want South Africa's white rulers to talk with jailed black leaders.

News reports said as many as 22 blacks were killed in the Durban rioting since mid-day Wednesday. Hospitals confirmed 19 violent deaths and said 16 were riot victims. More than 250 people were reported injured since Tuesday night.

Rioting persisted in the Durban townships into Thursday night. An official report in the evening said police had killed two more blacks since midday and that a black woman was shot to death by a civilian firing from a car that was being stoned.

The townships of the Indian Ocean port city had been an area of calm in South Africa's racial storm, and were not among the 36 localities put under a state of emergency. Riots began Tuesday in apparent response to the murder last week of a

prominent black civil rights lawyer. As many as 500 terrified families of ethnic Indians fled their homes in Durban's Inanda and Phoenix townships, parts of which had been set afire by rioting blacks.

"They are going quite crazy, especially in Inanda," a local reporter said. "Indian families are rushing out carrying as many possessions as they can."

A police source said the attacks on Indians reflected "an age-old Indian-black" conflict. Leaders of the Natal Indian Congress, which has long supported black majority rule, blamed hooligan elements taking advantage of political protest.

Armed Indians escorted people fleeing the Inanda township.

Smoke rose from blazing shops, factories and schools. It hung in a pall over Inanda. Gangs of as many as 1,000 rock-throwing youths rampaged through the giant black townships of Umlazi and Kwa-Mashu, stoning every vehicle in sight.

Police raced from riot to riot in armored cars, spewing tear gas, birdshot and rubber bullets into the crowds, but witnesses said the mobs of young blacks surged on.

In Pretoria, the capital, President P.W. Botha declared, "If necessary we can introduce even stronger steps."

He said that, "if necessary," he would extend the 19-day-old emergency to Durban and the rest of Natal province. Most of the areas in which the emergency was imposed are near Johannesburg and in Cape province.

Police link local car thefts to crime ring

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

A recent rash of car thefts and burglaries has been attributed to a crime ring operating between here and Houston, a College Station Police Department spokesman said Thursday.

Sgt. Larry Johnson said nine cars have been stolen and about 30 have been burglarized within the past two weeks.

He said most of the car thefts have been in a region one mile west of the University Drive — Texas 6 east bypass intersection. At least three thefts were reported in the Vassar Court-Wellesly Court area.

Michele Giacone, a senior marketing major from Houston, almost had her Camaro stolen from that area early last Saturday morning.

After going out with some friends, Giacone returned to her car at 12:30 a.m. It was parked near Vassar Court.

Giacone was told a woman had seen two black men attempt to steal her Camaro.

Giacone said the woman had called the police, but the police said they couldn't investigate until she returned.

"The men saw the witness and I guess they got scared," Giacone said. "They could have stolen it but they didn't."

"I thought I could come up here

(to Texas A&M) and these things wouldn't happen. I thought they only happened in Houston."

Johnson said police assume the stolen cars are being taken to Houston because they are found there.

At least three of the cars recently stolen have been discovered in Houston.

Johnson added cars stolen in Houston sometimes end up in College Station.

Stolen cars are brought here and "totally stripped." The parts then are transported back to Houston in a vehicle stolen locally, he said.

The area where the thefts occurred now will be under surveillance, he said.

Johnson also said about 30 additional burglaries, not related to the nine car thefts, have been reported within the past two weeks. He added that the crimes probably were done by 17- and 18-year-olds.

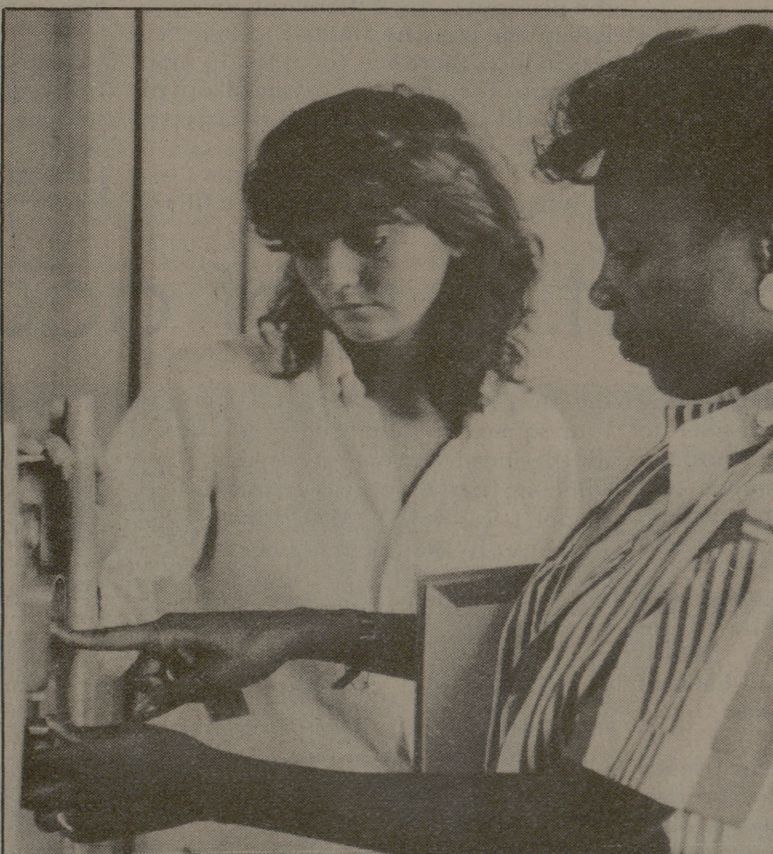


Photo by Barbara Henry

Lock combinations were changed on some dorms to deter intruders.

dorm and check for unlocked doors." Christen said the hall staff is

handling the problem and the University Police have not been contacted.

Lawyers investigating Delta Air Lines crash

Associated Press

GRAPEVINE — Lawyers who say they represent at least a dozen clients in the aftermath of the crash of Delta Flight 191 returned to the accident site Thursday to gather more evidence.

An eight-person team from the firm of San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli planned to examine tire marks left by the jetliner near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport when it crashed last Friday.

The crash killed 133 people, including one person on the ground. Thirty-one passengers and crew members survived. The Dallas County medical examiner's office said Thursday that all but three of the 133 fatalities had been identified.

Members of the National Transportation Safety Board team investigating the accident said Wednesday that the pilot of the jumbo aircraft apparently applied the brakes and reversed the engines seconds before the fiery crash.

NTSB member Patrick Bursley said the agency's nine-member operations group had completed its work and would reconvene Monday in Atlanta, Delta's home city.

A federal judge in Miami on Thursday issued a temporary restraining order preventing Delta

from conducting any destructive testing of aircraft parts and requiring preservation of records for a pending lawsuit.

"This is a substantial victory in terms of the preservation of the evidence," said Richard E. Brown, a Belli associate. "We are very pleased with the judge's order and we will be able to go in with our experts and inspect, tag and test the parts of the airplane we are interested in."

Brown said the Belli team wants to examine spoilers, the spoiler linkage, on-board radar and instrumentation and a ground proximity warning device for the wide-bodied L-1011 to determine questions of liability.

He said evidence indicates the warning device, which is designed to give the pilot enough time to recover from an impending crash, sounded in the plane before impact.

"Obviously, it sounded and he (the pilot) was not able to pull up," Brown said. "There must have been either a problem with the ground proximity warning system or something wrong with the aircraft's ability to respond."

He said the wingtop spoilers, which flip up during a landing to act as a drag over the wind surface, apparently deployed upon first impact, about 1,700 yards north of Texas Highway 114.