

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Back To Bass-ics

David Brodrick, a sophomore building construction major from Dallas, waits in front of Rumours snack bar for the other members of his band to arrive.

The bass player said his band, "Self-Employed," practices there on weekends, though it doesn't play there when the snack bar is open.

Photo by Tracy Staton

Civil rights leader vows to return for march despite violent crowds

ATLANTA (AP) — The white organizer of a biracial civil rights march halted by violence in an all-white county vowed Sunday to return, and black leaders on the eve of Martin Luther King Day condemned the attack.

Civil rights leaders discussed taking part in another march in Forsyth County north of here, where Saturday's "brotherhood anti-intimidation march" was stopped by Ku Klux Klan members and supporters.

"There's definitely going to be another march in Forsyth County," said Dean Carter, the white resident of nearby Hall County who took over the planning for Saturday's march after it was abandoned by a Forsyth County man who had received death threats.

About 75 people, black and white, who marched Saturday became the target of rocks, bottles and racial slurs from hundreds of Klan members and supporters. Several marchers were hit but no serious injuries were reported.

Eight people from the hostile crowd — seven of them Forsyth County residents — were arrested on charges including obstructing officers, terroristic threats and weapons charges. All were released on bond.

Carter, who was hit in the face by a rock, said he would welcome the continued help of Atlanta City Councilman Hosea Williams, who helped organize Saturday's march, and other civil rights leaders.

"But with or without anyone else, I'm going back," he said. "I still haven't made my statement. There's a lot of good people in Forsyth County who are being hampered by this kind of threats and intimidation."

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, presi-

dent of the King-founded Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said Sunday that he and other civil rights activists would decide whether

to stage a second march. "We're not prepared to lay out the details of our strategy at this time," Lowery said.

Blacks may face problems at 'white' university

Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series on blacks at Texas A&M. This part examines how black students cope with attending a predominantly white university.

By Cathie Anderson
Special to The Battalion

Black students at Texas A&M are settling in at a university that many Texas blacks still consider a haven for the state's white elite. But the small number of black students — only 780 out of 36,570 in Fall 1986 — has kept them from becoming too comfortable.

Dr. Bernadine Duncan, a counseling psychologist at the A&M Student Counseling Center, says black students at predominantly white universities run into a variety of problems because the environment they may be accustomed to changes drastically.

"Blacks who come from a large urban area to a community they perceive as small would be greatly affected because of the... lack of the socio-cultural activities or background they're used to," she says. "When they're at home and they go away somewhere and interact with another race, they can return home to their own people."

"Here (at A&M), they go home (to their rooms) and they're not with their own race, and some-

times that can be hard to adjust to because they're on their guard all the time.

"The things they're used to doing and the openness they're used to showing with their own people is no longer possible. They can't be that way because a lot of people don't understand them or their culture."

Barry Davis, an associate director at the Office of School Relations, says this is one of the most difficult adjustments for inner-city minorities. (School Relations was established in 1979, and, as one of its duties, the office coordinates recruitment of black and Hispanic students.)

"It's a heck of a thing when you live all your life within one particular ethnic background," Davis says, "and then when you go to college, you're placed among different groups. Even if that happened in high school, you were able to go home and be in a different environment. When you're here, you're with other ethnic groups on a minute-to-minute, hour-to-hour, day-to-day, month-to-month, year-to-year basis, and some people can't make that adjustment."

Duncan says that since slavery, blacks have had to develop coping mechanisms to deal with society, and black students who at-

Abduction may be try at trade for hijacker

BONN, West Germany (AP) — A West German businessman was kidnapped in Beirut, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. Two newspapers said the kidnapers apparently hope to trade him for a Lebanese jailed as a terrorist in West Germany and wanted in the United States.

West German authorities said it was too early to say if Saturday's ab-

duction of Rudolf Cordes, 53, was linked to the arrest Tuesday at Frankfurt airport of Mohammad Ali Hamadi.

Hamadi, 22, who was carrying a fluid used to make explosives, was later identified as a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut. In that hijacking, the terrorists killed a U.S. Navy diver and held 39 other Americans hostage for 17 days.

Police in Beirut said Sunday they could not confirm that a West German had been kidnapped. The West German Embassy in the Lebanese capital was unstaffed.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn said an anonymous telephone caller told its embassy in Beirut that Cordes had been taken hostage.

Cordes is Beirut manager for Hoechst Ag, a major West Germany chemical company. A company offi-

cial, commenting on condition of anonymity, said Cordes does not live in Beirut, but travels there frequently from his Frankfurt base.

West German newspapers said Cordes arrived in Beirut from Frankfurt Saturday evening, went through passport control and has not been heard from since.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the telephone caller told the embassy Cordes and three Lebanese accompanying him were kidnapped. The three Lebanese were later released, the caller said.

The caller did not identify himself or make demands, the ministry said.

Ministry sources, insisting on anonymity, said Bonn authorities last week warned West Germans living in Beirut or traveling there to take extra precautions following Hamadi's arrest.

About 200 West Germans live in Lebanon. Most are married to Lebanese citizens.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Reinhard Bettzuege said: "We cannot assume the two (Hamadi and Cordes) are linked because the (kidnapers) have not identified themselves or placed any demands on us. It could be a criminal act, or someone looking for ransom."

But *Bild* and *Die Welt* newspapers, of Hamburg and Bonn respectively, said senior government offi-

cial fear the kidnapping is aimed at blackmailing West Germany into releasing Hamadi.

The United States has asked for Hamadi's extradition.

West German Justice Department spokesman Juergen Schmid on Sunday indicated Hamadi could be extradited to the United States "relatively soon" to stand trial for murder and conspiracy to commit air piracy.

Schmid made the comment after learning that American officials had pledged not to seek the death penalty for Hamadi.

A U.S.-West German treaty would bar the extradition of Hamadi without an assurance that there would be no death penalty.

Texas prisons may reopen doors today

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas prison system may start admitting inmates as usual this week after releasing about 250 convicts over the weekend, officials said Sunday.

The nation's second-largest system closed its doors to new inmates on Friday after exceeding a state law limiting the prison population.

"With the number we released today and yesterday there's a good possibility we'll be below 95 percent, but by how many I just don't know," Texas Department of Corrections spokesman Charles Brown said Sunday.

On Saturday, 80 prisoners were released on parole and another 135 inmates were freed Sunday, Brown said.

Authorities recorded 38,414 inmates throughout the state's 26 prison units as of midnight Thursday, 38 over the limit of 38,376. Under state law, the prison system is restricted to 95 percent of its capacity.

The system's population count from midnight Friday and the weekend will not be available until today, Brown said.

As part of a prison reform order, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ordered that steps be taken to reduce overcrowding.

The Legislature passed a law setting the 95 percent capacity limit in 1983.

In 1982, the prison closed its doors for a week because of overcrowding.

Interim prison director Jim Lynaugh said if the prison system is allowed to re-open today, it may initiate an admissions system to strictly regulate the number of convicts the largest counties send.

Justice has issued a contempt order against the corrections department, saying the agency failed to live up to agreements made in 1980 to improve inmates' living conditions and staffing in the prisons.

Aquino offers talks to Moslem rebels during island tour

COTABATO CITY, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino, touring violence-ridden Mindanao island Sunday, offered peace talks to a Moslem rebel faction whose attacks last week killed 46 people.

In Manila, troops went on alert to keep Moslem violence from spreading to the capital.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front gave no immediate reply to the offer.

The group on Saturday ended five days of attacks on the island which left at least 46 people dead and 89 injured.

It said it launched the attacks because it had been shut out of talks between the government and a rival Moslem faction, the Moro National Liberation Front.

Both groups seek Moslem self-rule on Mindanao, but disagree on the terms.

Of Mindanao's 11 million people, about 60 percent are Christian and the rest Moslem.

Two Manila newspapers reported that the military fears Moslem rebels might join forces with dissident officers and supporters of deposed President Ferdinand E. Marcos in a plot against the government before

the ratification vote for the draft constitution Feb. 2.

About 800 Marcos loyalists burned Aquino in effigy Sunday at a Manila rally as part of their campaign against the constitution, which guarantees her a six-year term.

Aquino met for 10 minutes with Haji Murad, deputy leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, during a stop in Cotabato City, a Moslem stronghold on Mindanao.

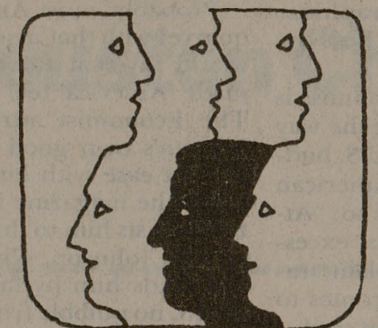
It was her fourth stop on a five-city, weekend tour of the island designed to muster support for the constitution.

Murad said he would have to check with the organization's chief, Hashim Salamat, who is in Saudi Arabia, before responding to the invitation for talks.

He said later he gave Aquino a flower "as the symbol of peace" and handed her a paper containing his group's demands.

"She thanked us and invited me to a longer talk in Malacanang," Murad said. Malacanang is the presidential palace.

During a brief speech in Cotabato City, Aquino appealed for peace. Hundreds of armed troops stood guard and police frisked spectators.



culture doesn't understand where they're coming from, many times they just don't show that side of themselves."

Thus blacks on predominantly white campuses become more reserved, Duncan says.

She says a very supportive family structure also helps blacks cope with their positions.

"This is one thing that keeps blacks here hopeful," she says. "Parents give them a lot of support. The father and the mother are standing behind them."

These families instill in them the will to succeed no matter what obstacles may be thrown in their way, she says, and students build up a kind of determination.

"They are determined to come through it despite those negative influences that are out there," Duncan says. But if someone continues to put them down and there's no motivation, she says, they may drop out.

"They say, 'Hey, I don't need this. I'll go somewhere where someone will show me the right models,'" she says. "But if the students can get motivation from friends, parents or significant role models, often that will be enough because they can stay down for only so long... before their problems lighten."

Often students' religious faith can bring them through a bad period, Duncan says. Religion remains a source of hope for blacks of today as it was for their ancestors, she says.

Other students have a strong desire for a comfortable future and believe that their present sacrifices are only temporary, Duncan says.

"They say, 'OK, I'm going through this right now, but when I have my degree, I'll be better off,'" she says.

Duncan says that while black

students are undergoing many of the same stresses that white students are, blacks — who represent only 2 percent of A&M's total student population — aren't a part of the norm at A&M, so their academic and personal problems escalate.

Duncan says other complications arise for minority groups on predominantly white campuses because of the different attitudes these groups have.

Some of the potential for problems is evident when talking to A&M students.

One student, who wished to remain unidentified, said some blacks at A&M have a problem in accepting blacks who have white friends.

"I like mixed friendships," she says. "That's nothing to me, but a lot of people here think you have to mix with other blacks, and if you don't, then something's wrong with you."

"I'm not used to that. I think it's stupid for people to make judgments just because you have white friends..."

There's always going to be a barrier because all races of people speak and behave differently, she