

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 87 No. 101 USPS 045360 8 Pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, February 23, 1987

Anti-apartheid hut built on campus

By Richard Tijerina
Reporter

Protesters erected an anti-apartheid shanty on the Texas A&M campus early Monday morning, but the Grounds Maintenance Department tore it down that afternoon.

Members of a group calling itself the "Bothabusters" — in reference to South African President Pieter W. Botha — said they wanted to send the message that A&M students are aware of the political situation in South Africa. Group members were interviewed on the condition that they not be identified.

Director of University Police Bob Wiatt said that Grounds Maintenance dismantled the shanty at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Wiatt said early Monday afternoon that he had received no calls about the shanty until *The Battalion* called to ask about it.

"So far, it seems that everyone has taken it for granted," Wiatt said.

A member of the "Bothabusters" said the group sneaked onto campus about 2 a.m. Monday and assembled the small shanty between the Academic Building and Harrington Tower.

The shanty — which had messages painted on it saying "Abolish Apartheid" and "Free South Africa" — was a signal of awareness rather than a form of violent or nonviolent protest, the group member said.

"There's nothing personal that we want to gain," he said. "Instead, we

want to bring more awareness to the problem and show that A&M is not a school that doesn't care. It's not apathy, but a general lack of knowledge of the problem in South Africa."

He said group members built the shanty in two hours and stored it in an area near Wellborn Road before bringing it to campus.

Glen Maloney, assistant dean of students in the University of Texas Campus Activities Office, said several shanties have been erected at the school's Austin campus in the past few years.

Maloney said a shanty put up in October 1986 is still standing because it meets the university's guidelines for posting an exhibit.

Jo Hudson, chairman of A&M's University Concessions Committee, said the A&M shanty could have remained had it received a permit. But no permit was requested by or granted to the "Bothabusters" group, she said.

Group members say they will accept any repercussions that result from their actions because they believe in their cause. They stressed that they did not intend to offend or hurt anyone, but merely wanted to make a statement of awareness.

According to Students Against Apartheid, A&M had about \$5.5 million invested in companies with holdings in South Africa as of last semester. South Africa's system of apartheid provides no legal representation for the millions of blacks in the country.



Lucy Son, a freshman architecture major from Fort Worth, examines an anti-Apartheid shack behind the Academic Building on

Monday. Other messages asking for the recognition and removal of apartheid rule were on the other sides of the shack.

Palestinians demonstrate to recognize Martyrs' Day

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Angry, defiant Palestinians marked Martyrs' Day in the occupied territories Monday with graveside speeches and several stone-throwing demonstrations as they remembered the 61 Arabs killed in clashes since December.

Attorney General Yosef Harish, meanwhile, released a letter to Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, criticizing Rabin's policy of allowing soldiers to beat protesters.

"You cannot use force as a means of punishment, abuse or humiliation," Harish said.

One Palestinian was shot and wounded Monday in this West Bank town 10 miles north of Jerusalem and another was shot during a demonstration at Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, according to hospital sources. The army said it was checking the reports.

About 1,500 additional police officers, brought in from throughout Israel, flooded Jerusalem in advance of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, set to begin Thursday. The reinforcements will back up the holy city's normal contingent of 1,000 officers.

Authorities fear Shultz's presence will lead to an upsurge in violence by Arabs pressing their case for an end to 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, seized during the 1967 Middle East war.

The latest spate of unrest started Dec. 8 and has resulted in scores of deaths, hundreds of injuries and arrests.

In Kfar Naami, a village of 2,000 inhabitants six miles west of here, about 1,500 Arabs marched through the streets chanting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans.

In a fiery speech at the graveside of one of the two village residents who have died from army bullets, a speaker rejected the Shultz trip.

"From this grave we condemn the Shultz visit and the United States," he said gesturing to the crowd. "These masses are led by the PLO. We will continue to achieve our goals and not satisfy American policy in the region."

Graffiti in Kfar Naami read: "No for the visit of Shultz; yes, to the Palestinian government. Yes to the PLO."

Despite the rhetoric, Palestinian moderates are trying to per-

suade PLO leader Yasser Arafat to lift his ban against local Palestinians talking to Shultz. If Washington's peace plan is to succeed, Shultz needs to bring Palestinians into the talks.

In an interview Monday in Tunisia, Arafat said the Palestine Liberation Organization was ready to meet with the United States.

"We have declared that we are ready to meet with all of the permanent members of the Security Council, including the American administration," Arafat said, speaking on CBS-TV's "This Morning."

"Without a meeting with Palestinians, the Shultz initiative is bound to fail," said Sari Nusseibeh, a university professor and one of six Arabs originally slated to meet Shultz.

Conservative Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has expressed strong reservations about the American initiative. While saying he is willing to listen and consider any ideas from Washington, he clearly does not like the American initiative which revolves around swapping land for peace. He also is worried about moving too quickly.

Court: Hospital must give names of suspect donors

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Supreme Court's refusal to allow a hospital to withhold identities of blood donors to a woman who claimed her baby contracted AIDS through transfusions will assure a safer blood supply, her attorney said Monday.

Without comment, the court let stand a ruling that donors' privacy rights do not override Belinda Jackson's need to find out their identities in a wrongful-death lawsuit.

In a 1986 suit against the Tarrant County Hospital District, Jackson alleged her daughter, Tristainne, died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome after receiving blood transfusions in 1983 at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Jackson's attorney, Lowell Dush-

man, said the ruling allows him to seek depositions from donors on their conduct during the time they donated blood.

"I'm not interested in suing any blood donors," he said. "I wasn't then and I'm not now. What I'm interested in is what was done then — to assure a safer blood product."

In pretrial discovery proceedings, Jackson sought to find out the identities and addresses of all blood donors whose blood had been used in the treatment of her prematurely born daughter.

"We were disappointed" about the ruling, Van Thompson Jr., a Tarrant County assistant district attorney, said. "We will comply with the court's order."

Hospital district officials asked for permission to withhold the information, contending that releasing it would violate the donors' privacy rights and threaten the future availability of a volunteer blood supply program.

In response to the latter, Dushman noted a 10-year-old law exists that blood donors can be sued.

"I'm not aware of any drop (in blood donors) because of that," Dushman said.

Dorm offers escort service for women

By Todd Riemenschneider
Staff Writer

A new service has been started by Aston Hall to escort women across campus in the evening.

"It is a service to walk girls across campus," said Frank Krekeler, a sophomore civil engineering major and chairman for the escort service in Aston Hall.

Krekeler said women can reach the escort service by calling a dispatcher at the front desk of the Commons. The dispatcher, in turn, will call an escort who is waiting in his room.

He said the service can be reached seven days a week, between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.

The service, which was started last Monday, has about 50 men participating in the program. Each man was interviewed by the resident director and Krekeler to determine if his character was desirable for the escort service.

Krekeler stressed the point that the men in the program are all volunteers.

"We are doing this because we like to, because we want to," he said. "We have concentrated our advertising on the south side (of campus) and have been surprised at the way it has started, and now we are trying to spread the word on the north side of campus."

Krekeler said each of the men participating in the escort service will be wearing a special jacket. The jackets will be accessible only to men who are on duty.

Krekeler also said Aston Hall is not trying to compete with the Corps of Cadets' Guard Room.

"We are trying to provide an alternative service; we are not trying to compete with the Corps," Krekeler said.

He said anyone wanting an escort can call the dispatcher at 845-9822.

University gives honor to Vandiver

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver was appointed an honorary professor of the Universidad Nacional de Asuncion in Paraguay Monday in recognition of his efforts to promote cooperation among the world's intellectual leaders.

The Paraguay university's rector and faculty dean signed the designation that noted Vandiver's contribution to higher education.

A&M and the university worked together on such worldwide problems as pestilence and famine. This work, as well as work with several other universities around the world, is part of Vandiver's "world university" concept.

Since Vandiver became University president in 1981, A&M has entered agreements with almost 50 universities and research centers abroad to collaborate on research and studies of basic nature.

Vandiver was out of town and couldn't be reached for comment.

High court ruling supports use of 'godless' books

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court dealt a blow to religious fundamentalists Monday when it killed a challenge to the required use of "godless" textbooks in Tennessee public schools.

Ending one of the most widely publicized freedom-of-religion cases in recent years, the justices, without a recorded dissenting vote, rejected an appeal by seven families.

Today's action left intact a federal appeals court ruling that said it was constitutional to require fundamentalist Christian children to read the objected-to books.

Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women for America, a conservative group that aided the families' legal battle, said following Monday's ruling, "a dark cloud of religious oppression looms over America's schoolhouses today."

"Religious tolerance in our nation's classrooms has been dealt a devastating blow," LaHaye said. Mike Farris, a lawyer for Con-

cerned Women, called on born-again Christian families in the school district involved to remove their children from public schools.

"I hope there is a mass exodus from the public school system tomorrow, or at least by next fall," Farris said.

Tennessee Attorney General W.J. Michael Cody praised the court action, saying, "Any alternative disposition would have been the cause of chaos in the school system."

At full strength for the first time in eight months as Justice Anthony M. Kennedy took his place at the bench, the court also:

The Tennessee textbook controversy began in 1983, when the Hawkins County Board of Education adopted a new reading list for students in grades one through eight.

Pupils initially were allowed to read from other textbooks if they desired, but the school board later eliminated that alternative.

MOSCOW (AP) — The United States and Soviet Union told their negotiators Monday to draft anti-cheating and other key provisions of a new arms agreement within a month so the treaty can be signed this spring.

Defense Minister Dmitri T. Yazov said the Soviets would begin withdrawing shorter-range SS-12 missiles from East Germany and Czechoslovakia late this month as a display of goodwill. The missiles must be eliminated under the intermediate-range arms pact signed in December.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz reported progress on human rights and emigration, and professed not "the slightest doubt" that Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev would make good on his pledge to pull Soviet military forces out of Afghanistan.

A joint statement said progress was made toward banning chemical weapons and verifying nuclear test limits set by unratified 1974 and 1976 treaties. A report by the official news agency Tass, however, quoted Gorbachev as telling Shultz the U.S. stand on a chemical weapons ban "hampers the working out of an international convention."

Addressing a news conference about arms negotiations, Shultz said it was "extremely important" to accelerate work in Geneva if President Reagan and Gorbachev are to sign the treaty at their fourth summit, planned for May or June in Moscow.

He spoke after two days of talks with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. Shultz said anti-cheating measures especially were "an extremely important thing to get nailed down" in a pact on strategic, or long-range, nuclear weapons.

Shevardnadze told his own news conference later that the meetings produced headway toward agreement to cut strategic nuclear weapons, which he said "can be accomplished" before the summit.

Both men said their Geneva negotiators were instructed to work out the key elements in time for their next meeting, March 22-23 in Washington.

Shultz said U.S. and Soviet negotiators were ordered to prepare three documents dealing with:

- Inspection of the projected 30-50 percent reduction in overall numbers of long-range bombers, missiles and nuclear-armed submarines.
- How the banned weapons can be eliminated or converted into other nuclear arms that would remain legal.
- Agreement, in a memorandum of understanding, to exchange information about strategic weapons as another way to prevent cheating.

According to the secretary, negotiators will try to resolve "some misunderstandings" about the U.S. program to develop a defense system in space.