

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Shanty will not be rebuilt despite vandalism

By Drew Leder  
Staff Writer

On the final day of Texas A&M's Students Against Apartheid's display of their anti-apartheid shanty, it was once again the target of vandalism.

Two A&M seniors were apprehended by University Police Friday after they were seen near the shack about the time members of Students Against Apartheid found two dead pigeons on wooden crosses hanging from its roof.

A search of a dumpster where the men had been seen dumping a bag also revealed two doves that had been shot and were attached to branches in a similar fashion, with their wings extended.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the police will ask the county attorney's office to accept criminal mischief charges against the two students,

whose names were not released. But Wiatt said he doubts that the charges will be accepted.

"I don't see that criminal charges are going to be appropriate," he said. "No damage was done to the shack and I don't think this case is going to fly."

Members of A&M's SAA organization, who constructed the shack, filed charges against the men Friday after initially declining to do so.

The shanty, which was the target of several incidents of vandalism during the month-and-a-half it stood on the A&M campus, was dismantled by members of SAA Friday and the group has no plans to display it again this semester. The third permit from the University Police allowing the shack to stand on campus expired Friday and neither the anti-apartheid group nor the police want to prolong the life of the shanty any longer.

Vint said the group has made its point and accomplished what it set

out to do — to make people aware of the situation in South Africa and get them thinking about it. And Wiatt said he would not grant another permit this semester because the group has been given ample time to make their statement.

Vint said the group may try to get a permit to build another shanty next semester.

Although Wiatt says it is unlikely that misdemeanor charges will be brought against the two students who were detained Friday, he said the men may face charges brought by the state game warden for killing doves out of season.

Janelle Lewis, a spokesman for the state game warden's office in Bryan, said Friday it is likely that some kind of charges will be filed against the men for killing the game birds out of season. Lewis said the office is in the process of deciding what, if any, charges will be filed.

The students involved in the incident also may face punitive action by

the Department of Student Affairs, which is investigating the matter.

Friday's incident was one of several acts of vandalism perpetrated against the shanty since its original construction Feb. 22. The shanty has been vandalized several times and two weeks ago a makeshift bomb made out of a paper towel and gunpowder was attached to the shanty. The bomb exploded while no one was near the shack. No damage was done to the structure.

To guard the shack from vandals, members of SAA began keeping watch on the shack around the clock. Early Friday morning, six of the watchers told police that, from the steps of the Academic Building, they spotted the two white men near the shanty. The members said they approached the shanty to see what the men wanted, at which time the men began walking northward.

When the SAA members went in-

side the shanty, they discovered the pigeons hanging from the roof and a sign attached to the side of the shanty which read, "There will be no peace until all niggers are dead." The pigeons had been stapled to wooden branches, giving the appearance of having been crucified, Wiatt said.

The group members told police they followed the two men to the Northgate area and reported the incident to a College Station police officer who was in the area. The police officer took custody of the men and notified the University Police of the incident.

The men were brought to the University Police Station and one of the men was then released. It was discovered the other man had some outstanding traffic warrants from the University and he was taken to the College Station Police Department. Wiatt said both of the men live off campus.

Wiatt said one of the men ad-

mitted to having participated in the incident while the other man denied any involvement. He said the man who admitted to the act of vandalism wouldn't give an explanation as to why it was done.

According to an article that appeared in the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* Sunday, one of the men involved in the incident called the *Eagle* and explained why he had placed the pigeons and the sign on the shack. The story quotes the man as saying, "The reason I did it, personally, is because of a break-in at my house and it involved black people, and we have a lot of problems with them around where I live." The article states the man said he and his friend had no particular interest in Students Against Apartheid.

Susan Vint, president of SAA, after hearing of the man's statement, responded, "(For him) to be so ignorant is frightening. It would have been better if he had some kind of basis for what he did."

## Corps leader commends cadets for defending flag

By Stephen Masters  
Staff Writer

Three Texas A&M Corps of Cadets members were commended Friday by the Commandant of Cadets for attempting to prevent a College Station teen from singing while draped in the U.S. flag.

Michael McPherson, a general studies major from Bryan, Trey Hood, a business administration major from Waco, and Marck Hopkins, an aerospace engineering major from Riverside, Calif., all freshmen in Company G-2, were commended by Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Darling for "standing up for what they thought was right," Hopkins said.

Darling said he didn't hear about the incident until station officials called him.

"I called them (the cadets) in and asked them to tell me what had happened," he said. "They went over what happened and I told them they had done a commendable job as far as upholding the law as they saw it."

The events occurred after McPherson heard on local radio station KKYS-FM Thursday night that Rebecca Presley, a sophomore at A&M Consolidated, would sing "Born in the U.S.A." while wearing only the U.S. flag. Presley wore the flag over her clothes at the actual event.

The three cadets discussed the

matter and decided that wearing the American flag as clothing was not right, and might violate a state law against "the desecration of a venerable object."

Presley was participating in a contest sponsored by the radio station where people called in and said the most outrageous thing they would do to win tickets to the Bruce Springsteen concert in Austin Friday.

Presley could not be reached for comment Sunday.

McPherson called the Bryan Police Department to ask what action to take and was told to call at the time of the incident. When he did, police were dispatched to the radio station in Manor East Mall.

Hood said the police at the scene interpreted the law differently than the cadets and no action was taken.

As of Sunday, no report on the incident had been filed with the Bryan Police Department.

A spokesman answering the phone at KKYS said only general manager James Reeder could officially comment on the matter. Reeder could not be reached for comment Sunday.

An anonymous caller identifying himself as a representative of KKYS later told *The Battalion* that he felt the entire story had been blown out of proportion.

The cadets said their purpose was to uphold the principle of the law prohibiting disrespect for the flag.

"Our point was not to get someone arrested but to have an authority figure inform the girl that what she was doing (with the flag) was wrong," Hopkins said.

Hood said they wanted to prevent the scene.

"I don't think it should have been allowed to happen at all," he said. "People just don't consider these things to be wrong."

"The police told us that since she wasn't desecrating the flag they couldn't do anything. I think they're just interpreting the law too loosely."

When the three cadets returned to their dorms, they were informed that Darling wanted to see them, Hopkins said.

"The Commandant called us in and told us that he was glad to see people stand up for what they thought was right," he said. "He commended us for our actions and for doing what was right."

Hood said the three have gotten a positive reaction from other Corps of Cadets members.

"We haven't gotten in any kind of trouble — actually it's been just the opposite," he said. "All the upperclassmen have been congratulating us and saying what a good job we've done."

## A&M takes I.D. pictures for 1988-89

By Kimberly Motley  
Reporter

Texas A&M students can take pictures for their 1988-89 I.D. cards now in a service meant to eliminate long lines the week before the fall semester, Assistant Registrar Willis Ritchey said.

Ritchey said the service, which began last week, will be conducted on an ongoing basis from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Pictures will be taken in the open area of the Pavilion at the former location of the Ring Office.

"We'd especially like to encourage folks on campus to come by now so they don't have to worry about coming by the week before school starts," Ritchey said.

Although he encourages on-campus students to take their pictures now, he said everyone who is reasonably sure they will be back next fall should go ahead and get an I.D. picture taken. 1987-88 I.D. cards are good through both summer sessions, he said.

"It will be a real time-saver for everyone involved," he said, adding that even students who are blocked from registration can come get their picture taken.

"It's not being done by classification, alphabetically or any other way," Ritchey said. "It's just on a first-come, first-serve basis during the working hours."

The I.D. cards cost \$5, he said, but this cost will be included students' fall fees.

"The cost will be billed to students in July," he said, "and it will be itemized on their fee slips."

## Israeli sources say own agents killed leading PLO official

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli sources said Sunday that Israeli agents had assassinated PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, the No. 2 man in the organization who headed the uprising in the occupied territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declined comment.

The sources said the operation was carried out jointly by the Mossad intelligence service, the Israeli navy and an elite commando unit. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said it had been postponed several times before Saturday.

Al-Wazir, who was in charge of the PLO's military operations against Israel, was shot to death Saturday at his home in the Tunis suburb of La Marsa by an eight-member squad.

Palestine Liberation Organization officials blamed Israel, saying the killing was designed to demoralize Palestinians and end PLO-directed protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I'm not ready to relate to these matters," Shamir told the Associated Press at his office in Jerusalem when asked about reports Israel was behind the operation.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, co-leader of the coalition government, said in an interview on Israel radio that he hoped al-Wazir's assassination would not affect peace efforts.

Peres added, "We have to uproot violence as a . . . factor that delays a political development. People who use violence will in the end see the limits of violence. It leads nowhere."

The issue came up only briefly in Israel's regular Cabinet meeting Sunday. Israel radio said that when Shamir was asked what happened, he said he had heard the details on the radio.

Former intelligence officials and Israeli newspapers compared the assassination to Israel's 1973 raid on PLO offices in Beirut in which three top PLO officials were killed.

## Prairie View naval ROTC program honored

By Stan Golaboff  
Reporter

Prairie View A&M's naval ROTC unit was honored Thursday as the oldest naval ROTC at a predominantly black college.

"Thursday was the celebration of our program turning 20 years old," said Lt. Mark Morris, the public affairs officer for Prairie View A&M's naval unit.

The midshipmen performed a review in honor of the unit's birthday, Morris said. The reviewing officer was Vice Adm. Leon Edney, deputy chief of naval operations.

Edney is a former commandant of the Naval Academy, a former commander of the aircraft carrier *Constellation* and he is chief of personnel of the Navy, Morris said.

The significance of Prairie View's program is that in its 20 years, it has produced more black naval officers than all the other colleges in the

South combined, Morris said.

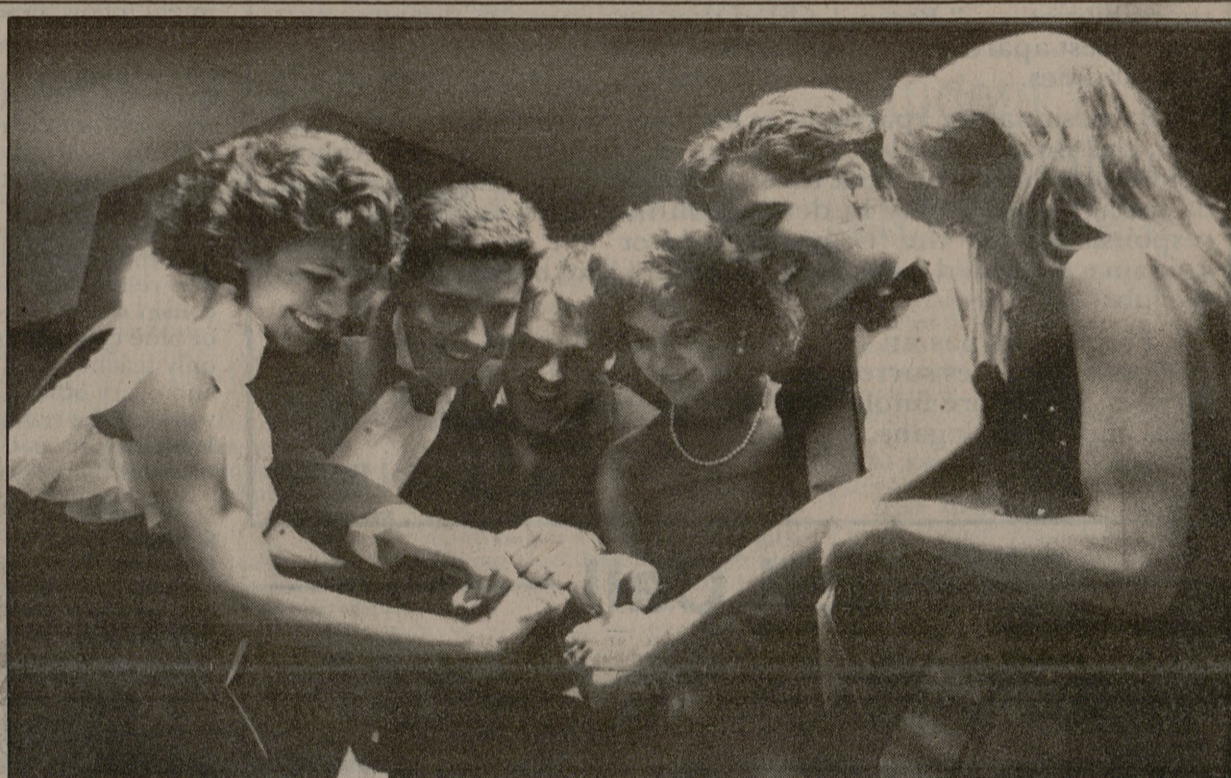
"One hundred and eighty black naval officers have graduated from Prairie View in the last 20 years," Morris said. "This includes both the Navy and the Marines. The 180 officers include 132 male Navy officers, 32 male Marine officers, nine female Navy officers and one female Marine officer."

Currently, Prairie View is one of the nation's largest producer of black naval officers, Morris said.

"We have 62 cadets enrolled in our program now, and we look forward to almost doubling our size in the fall," Morris said. "We estimate that we will have 50 freshmen cadets joining our unit."

One reason for this large influx of cadets is a scholarship offered by Prairie View's president that will pay room and board of any freshmen who enrolls in the naval unit, Morris said.

"We are very fortunate because our president has a deep feeling of commitment to our pro-



From left to right, Missy Houston, Scott Jackson, Steve Heldenfels, Shelley Hoge, John Muschalik and Jeanie Sinclair turn each others' rings at Ring Dance Saturday night in the MSC.

## Bash, banquet, ball provide seniors chance to celebrate

By Deborah L. West  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M seniors said goodbye to friends and celebrated their impending graduation this weekend at a bash, a banquet and a ball.

Andrea Beshara, the Class of '88 president, said Senior Weekend went well.

"Everything was a success," she said.

Roni Hermes, a senior special events chairman, said about \$1,000 was raised at Senior Bash, which was held at the Hall of Fame Friday night.

The money — collected from the sale of about 800 Senior Bash tickets at the MSC Box Office — went to the Class of '88, she said.

Melissa Prescott and her band, who were scheduled to play at the bash, canceled because of a contract dispute, so another band was hired, Hermes said.

Gina Sandoval, a Senior Banquet chairman, said about 400

people ate dinner and listened to Gene Stallings, the coach of the Phoenix Cardinals, at the Senior Banquet Saturday night at the College Station Hilton.

Rachel Hill, a Ring Dance chairman, said people did not want to leave Saturday night's dance when it ended at 1 a.m. because they were having too much fun.

"The bands quit playing, but no one wanted to leave," she said.

The Ed Gurlack Orchestra and Michael Michael & the Max filled up both dance floors, she said. The orchestra played music from the 1940s, '50s and '60s in Rudder Exhibit Hall and the rock 'n' roll band played in the MSC ballroom.

Souvenir table centerpieces provided at the dance — which were Messina Hoff champagne bottles with the Aggie ring crest and the first verse of "The Spirit of Aggieland" on their labels — disappeared in the first ten minutes of the dance, Hill said.

"People must have liked them, because they didn't stay on the tables very long," Hill said. "They were nice souvenirs."

Lines for senior formal pictures — in which the couple stands inside a large replica of an Aggie ring — were the shortest they have ever been, she said.

"Thirty-eight minutes was the longest anyone had to wait to get their picture taken," she said.

"That's a record. Last year some people waited two and a half hours in line." Seniors were allowed to prepay and to make appointments for portraits this year, she added.

Benson, the class gift chairman for the Class of '89, said people got angry because they had to show their dance tickets whenever they changed rooms.

"They didn't understand we were just trying to keep people who hadn't paid \$35 for a ticket from getting in," she said. About 2,000 seniors attended the dance, Benson said.

gram and with this new scholarship we should be able to attract a lot of new recruits," Morris said.

Another reason for the large influx can be attributed to the success of Prairie View's graduates in the military, Morris said.

"For the 1987 fiscal year, we had 12 Navy graduates," Morris said. "One of our three female graduates is currently training as one of the four female naval flight officers in the country. When she finishes her training she will be the first black female flight officer in the Navy."

Other examples of the success of Prairie View's officers is the high number of cadets that get surface warship training slots, Morris said.

"We placed seven of our twelve graduates in surface warship training slots last year," Morris said. "You could say that Prairie View is an excellent place for a black officer to receive his training and that the training he receives here is some of the best he can get in the nation."