

# State and Local

## Journalist talks of his imprisonment in Sudan

By Tracy Hamm  
Reporter

Even though he knew he would face imprisonment, a former journalist in the north African country of Sudan insisted on relating the starvation and political conflict in the country.

Michael Kilungson talked Wednesday night about his experiences reporting the famine and civil war in Sudan during a program sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of Amnesty International.

Kilungson, who now has political asylum in the United States, was tor-

mented and imprisoned by the Sudanese government because of stories he smuggled to the British Broadcasting Corp. describing the conditions of the people.

"The people were walking skeletons and many were dying from starvation," he said. "I had to tell the truth about what was happening."

Journalists are responsible to the government in Sudan, so they are expected to write only favorable stories about the government, Kilungson said.

"As long as you do what the government says, you have no prob-

lems," he said. "If you are Sudanese you are supposed to protect the government, but I recorded history."

The famine in Sudan is worse than in Ethiopia because it has not been publicized, he said. Vehicles' passage is blocked because of the civil war. The roads are mined and planes trying to fly in food are shot down, he said.

"I have seen people dying almost every hour," he said. "People were lying along the roads waiting for food from the government which was not coming."

Kilungson explained that the civil

war is causing many people to suffer. The conflict in Sudan is between people of African origin who want Sudan to become an African country and the Arabs who rule the country, he said.

After Kilungson released stories about the conditions in Sudan, he was warned by the government about his actions.

"I was told to keep quiet and if I did it again I was in big trouble," he said. "But, I had to make my own contribution and make sure the outside world knew what was happening."

On March 14, 1986, Kilungson was imprisoned because of his attempts to expose the famine among the people.

He was beaten daily and almost starved to death during his two-month imprisonment. The government demanded that he reveal the spies who had assisted him or to turn over a device on which they claimed he sent his broadcasts to the BBC, he said.

"It is amazing that a person can go two days without food," Kilungson said. "Eventually, I was brought food, but I shared it with others who were dying."

Kilungson described how he was forced to watch other people be tortured and killed. He and the other prisoners had to carry away the dead bodies after people were executed or collapsed in the cell.

Since the BBC and several embassies knew of his imprisonment, the government did not execute him, Kilungson said. Representatives of the BBC and Amnesty International tried to visit Kilungson in April.

Kilungson was released on May 12, 1986 and instructed to write a statement to the BBC that he was all right and had been treated well by the Sudanese government, he said.

After friends convinced him that he must leave the country, Kilungson escaped to Uganda where Amnesty International and Red Cross representatives were waiting, he said. Kilungson described how he used cigarettes and beer to gain the trust of the border guards so that he could cross into Uganda.

Kilungson moved on to Kenya and worked for the BBC while he recuperated from the many medical problems created by his treatment during imprisonment, he said.

Kilungson then applied for political asylum in the United States.

"My name and my cause were well known, so I had no problems getting into the United States," he said.

Kilungson now lives in Houston and is sponsored by the YMCA International Services Resettlement Program.

## Man left with collection of 9 Cadillacs

ODESSA (AP) — Some people collect baseball cards, some old coins and some antiques. The oil industry boom-that-went-bust, you might say, has made H.C. "Brownie" Brown a collector of Cadillacs by default.

Brown, owner of Brown Well Service & Supply Co., has been a "Cadillac man" for a great many of the more than 40 years he's been in Odessa operating his oilfield service and supply business. During the "good years," Brown provided all of his salesmen with Cadillacs to cover their wide-ranging territories.

"We needed good, sturdy, dependable cars that we didn't have to worry about," he said, noting they've never had to do much work on any of the cars.

Today, Brown has about nine Cadillacs, ranging from a 1959 model to a 1978 model. A 1979 Ford LTD sticks out like a sore thumb as it sits next to a near-classic maroon 1959 Cadillac Eldorado Fleetwood with its distinctive soaring rear fins.

The 1959 Fleetwood has 99,069 actual miles on it, and there's a 1977 2-door Biarritz on the odometer. Another 1977 2-door Eldorado shows more than 74,000 miles.

## Students square off over question of A&M divestment in South Africa

By Holly Becka  
Reporter

A debate is never a calm thing, and Wednesday's discussion between Texas A&M's Students Against Apartheid and Young Conservatives of Texas concerning the question "Is divestment a desirable course for A&M to pursue?" was an example.

Two SAA representatives, David Luckenbach and J.J. Martinez, took the stand that A&M needs to withdraw its \$3.3 million investments in South Africa to produce results.

"Anyone can say apartheid is bad or evil, but unless you try to stop it, you utter weak, hypocritical words," Martinez, a freshman business-finance major, said. "Ask how to help, and I'll tell you 'divest.' We feed in money that supports apartheid."

Luckenbach said even the threat of divestment causes a change, which might make the white government push for human rights.

"We need to pull out of South Africa, and make them (the government) weak so they will push for reform," Luckenbach, a freshman political science major, said.

On the flip side were Dick Lonquist and James Cecil, representatives of YCT.

"America needs to invest in South

Africa, provide economic aid and loans," Lonquist, a senior petroleum engineering major, said. "Pulling out takes away positive influence. We can't have models for a constitutional democracy leaving."

Cecil agreed, and said U.S. corporations benefited black workers.

"U.S. corporations provide a chance for blacks to make progress, and the white government is forced to recognize them as a political force," he said. "Under the Sullivan Principle, (a work program first implemented in 1977), blacks were trained and educated, trade unions were recognized, and there was an improved quality of life because of pensions, health care and housing."

Luckenbach said only one percent of the blacks in South Africa are influenced by the Sullivan Principle, and apartheid has not been weakened because of the principle.

"The Sullivan Principle hasn't produced a change," he said. "There is no concrete evidence apartheid has been weakened. It's more logical to assume divestment would affect more people, and more than sanctions (would)."

Martinez said the United States is South Africa's number one trade partner and investor, and therefore, change would occur by divesting.

Lonquist retorted, saying the Sullivan Principles were a good example of Americans promoting the democratic form of government.

"Democracy is easier to understand while you sit here with five dollars in your pocket, rather than none," he said. "If we invest, we show the blacks work and production. It's a good example. If we divest, the South African government and private investors buy the American companies for four cents on a dollar, and America loses out. The South African whites get it."

Luckenbach compared the South African government to the German Nazi Regime. He said even the prime minister of South Africa said Nazis and the Botha government were "brothers under the sun."

"No Western measures were taken then," Luckenbach said. "We allowed what happened to happen. We shouldn't just stand back this time."

Lonquist said Luckenbach's parallel was like comparing apples to oranges.

The debate was moderated by political science professor Dr. Norman Luttbeg. He posed questions to the representatives.

In answer to Luttbeg's question,

## Correction

A cutline accompanying a photograph on Page 1 of Wednesday's *Battalion* incorrectly identified Democratic state Sen. Kent Caperton as a Republican.

Caperton — who was honorary ringmaster for Tarzan Zerbini's Circus — was shown in the photograph with an elephant rather than a donkey. But representatives from Caperton's office assured *The Battalion* on Wednesday that the senator has not changed parties.

In addition, the photograph was taken on Tuesday, not Wednesday, as the cutline stated.

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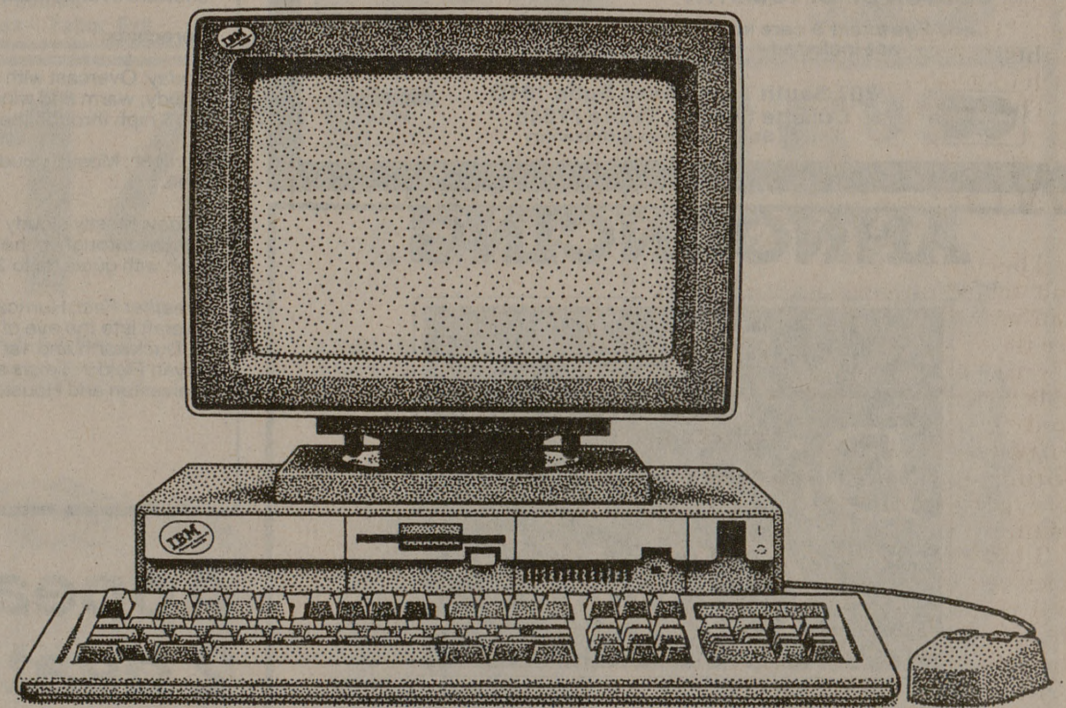
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