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One dead, three hurt in state fair shootout

DALLAS (AP) — As gunfire broke out at the Texas State Fair, leaving one dead and three wounded, police were about to order an emergency closing of the fair because so many people were jammed into the midway, authorities said.

"I was going to close the park," said Deputy Police Chief Richard Schifelbein, head of fair security. "There were just too many people on the midway. It was inevitable something was going to happen."

The midway and the surrounding grounds were packed with an estimated 50,000 visitors about 11:45 p.m. Friday, when Schifelbein said he decided to ask fair officials to close the midway immediately. Rides normally would have operated until 1 a.m.

Schifelbein said the gunfire erupted as he was walking toward the fair information stand.

Bobby Joe Nabors Jr., 18, of Dallas died after suffering multiple gunshot wounds in the fracas, police said. Joey Henry, 23, and Richard Vasquez, 35, both of Dallas, suffered gunshot wounds and were both in serious condition Sunday at Parkland Memorial Hospital, officials said.

Police Sgt. Manuel Vasquez, 37, was shot in the left hand and lost part of a finger, according to Dallas police Detective John Westphalen. Westphalen said the sergeant remained in Baylor University Medical Center Sunday.

The fair closed Sunday night. Eight pregnant women and several bystanders also were injured Friday night as they were pushed and shoved when the shots were fired and the crowd scurried for shelter.

Westphalen said police interviewed Richard Vasquez and Henry Sunday about incident. But, Westphalen said, police are not ready to say what sparked the shootout.

Dallas police Capt. John Holt said Richard Vasquez was shot on the midway near a restroom. Off-duty police Col. J.T. Dailay, who was working security

at the fair after his regular duty, heard the shots then went to the scene. He saw the movement he saw in the crowd, he said.

Nabors suffered five gunshot wounds, although Holt said it was not known how many bullets struck him or how many were fired at him.

The shootings culminated in a riotous violence in which police broke up several fights and confiscated three handguns in a 15-minute period before the shooting, Schifelbein said.

He said police arrested at least one person with weapons as fighting broke out about 11 p.m. on the Cotton Bowl

patrols on the midway. Several other patrols patrolled the area.

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Band

(Continued from page 1)

sponsible for actions that happened so many years ago.

"No one that was in school then is still around now," Fisher said. "Besides, if you think about it, we make fun of other schools in the stories at Midnight Yell. The MOB was entertaining and the whole crowd loved them. We know it was all in fun."

George Boyett, Class of '57, said he thought it was a shame that any resentment exists between the bands.

"That whole mess that happened in 1973 took place when the band was first trying to be different," Boyett said. "Many of the members were not even students at Rice at the time; some were professional musicians. It was kind of a fun, beer-drinking, party thing to do. It's really too bad the show was taken so badly. But it's time to look at it as a point in history and move on."

Currently, all members of the band are Rice students, but not all members of the band play instruments. Ken Dye, director of the band, said that about 30 people join the band each year as show assistants, who build props, wear costumes and act out routines with the band. Twenty-seven show assistants were chosen by the band this year, he said.

"As an average school band, we just couldn't drum up enough interest," Dye said. "We had to try something different."

To Vicky Sanchez, a MOB clarinet player, "different" means never knowing what to expect.

"We always have something spontaneous in the show," Sanchez said. "Sometimes we don't even know about it until we see the videotape of that week's performance."

Spontaneous or not, band members said it is not likely that the MOB will make fun of A&M again — at least not in front of an A&M crowd.

Jennifer Sigler, a MOB cymbals player, said the band will not repeat a performance.

"But that didn't stop us from making fun of A&M at our Oct. 1 game with the University of Texas," Sigler said. "But it wasn't about Reveille. It was about the 'sheep school' in College Station and was one of our best shows." Sigler said the show made sexual innuendos about sheep used for research at A&M.

Sanchez said she wishes that the Aggie Band and the MOB could get along better.

"Sure, we make fun of other schools," Sanchez said. "But we're just trying to have some fun, getting away from the high stress of school and work. We shouldn't be taken so seriously."

In Advance

MSC Hospitality sponsors holiday party

MSC Hospitality will sponsor a children's Halloween party Monday from 6-7:30 p.m. in 225 MSC.

The party is open to the children of Texas A&M faculty, staff and retired students.

Club to hold bake sale Thursday, Friday

Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow will have a Halloween bake sale Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The sale will be held in the atrium of the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center and on the 2nd floor of

the Reed McDonald Building. The group will sell Halloween cookies, chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies, cupcakes, pecan pie and cheesecake.

Items may be ordered in advance by calling 696-1992 or 845-4111.

Hospital plans Halloween bash for kids

Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley will give its second annual Halloween Trick or Treat Party on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The party, part of a "Safe Halloween" promotion, will be held in the main entrance of the hospital, at 1604 Rock Prairie Road.

Children 10 years and younger will be invited to play games and will receive trick or treat goodies. Activities will include fortune telling, a slime

line, a crawl-through, game and a spook house. Refreshments will be provided.

The hospital will distribute emergency room minor registration cards to parents. The cards will be available to allow faster treatment in case of emergency.

Admission is free and open to the public. Children should wear Halloween costumes.

Conference to discuss historical change

By Sharon Maberry
Staff Writer

Texas A&M will sponsor a conference titled "What is the Engine of History?" Wednesday through Saturday to discuss forces that cause historical change. Dr. Bruce Dickson, associate professor of anthropology and a coordinator of the conference, said the title is a question asked by Karl Marx.

"He knew the answer when he asked it," Dickson said. "Technology is the engine of history. Social and political (institutions) are forced to change as a result of technology."

"But a lot of people don't buy that. We are trying to represent as many approaches as are plausible. People will stick their necks out (proposing possible causes of historical change)."

Speakers will propose different reasons for historical change including climate, resource struggles, war and population, Dickson said. The last day of the conference will focus on ideas, values and beliefs as factors causing change.

The conference will feature speakers from all over the United States, Great Britain and Pakistan.

The diverse group of speakers includes geographers, anthropologists, economists, political scientists, historians, engineers, philosophers and sociologists.

"The purpose of the conference is to discuss the impact of change on the community at large," Dickson said. "We are anxious to have students involved. Also, we think it is an opportunity for us, as professors, to showcase Texas A&M and Texas."

Dickson and another coordinator of the conference, A&M Associate Professor of Geography Dr. Peter Huggill, will show the 20 speakers in Texas by taking them to the Oil Co. and the Texas Hall of the Friday night. Huggill will lead a three-hour field trip Sunday around Brazos County, Dickson said.

"This one is twice as big," Huggill said. "It's a lot bigger and longer. In 1984, we didn't advertise as much and perhaps the theme was a little more narrow. The last conference was rather technical. This one is general."

Huggill said the conference is a historical social science is essential academic conference.

"Part of our aim is to address a problem that disciplines tend to talk to each other well," Huggill said. "I'm trained as a geographer and tend not to talk too much to the economists and political scientists and other disciplines."

"We're trying to get people to talk to each other."

The Opera & Performing Arts Society MSC OPAS presents

The Little Tailor

The classic Grimm's fairy tale performed by
LYNDA MARTHA DANCE COMPANY

Enter a world of towering giants, fierce dragons, even magic unicorns, coming to life on the Texas A&M stage. And meet a tiny superhero smart and brave enough to defeat them all and claim a fair princess as his reward. Before "Willow", before R2D2, even before Alf, there was The Little Tailor. MSC OPAS presents this special family performance of the classic Grimm's fairy tale, performed by Lynda Martha Dance Company. Bring the whole family and share the magic.

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