

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy, cooler

HIGH: 58 LOW: 40

Care package from R.C.

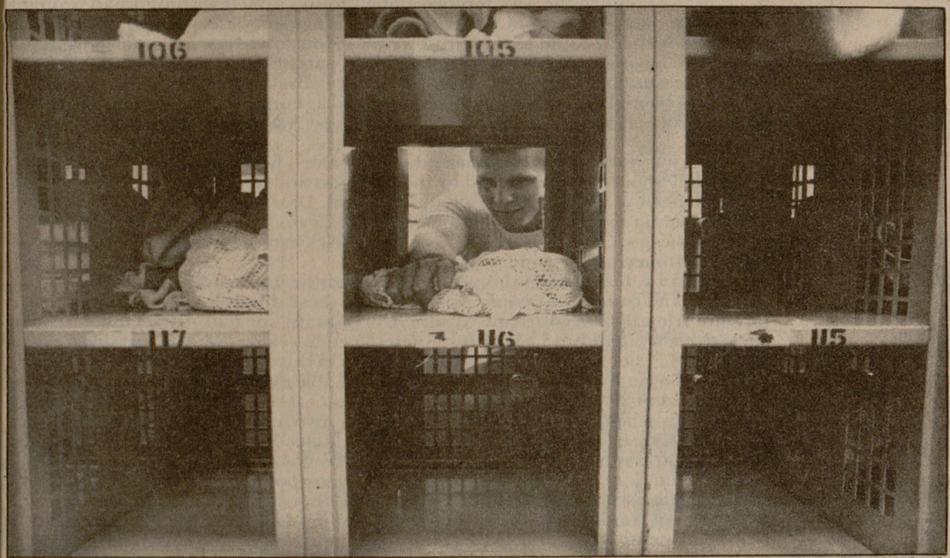


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Dan Debenport, a junior at Texas A&M and a member of the 12th Man kickoff team and Corps of Cadets, reaches for his practice jersey in the football locker room before working out with the team Monday afternoon. The Aggies do not play another game until Nov. 24.

Committee plans program to slow drinking at bonfire

By Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

The Bonfire Subcommittee on Alcohol Awareness and Safety is planning to "Keep Alcohol From Shattering the Tradition" by discouraging alcohol use at the bonfire site. The group also hopes to decrease the number of persons who get drunk before going to watch the burning of bonfire.

"The concern of a lot of people — administration, community, students and former students — is that in the past few years, due to the size of bonfire, we've had an increased problem with alcohol at the site, as well as people coming to bonfire intoxicated," said Jo Hudson, coordinator of the Bonfire Subcommittee on Alcohol Awareness and Safety.

Hudson, assistant to the vice president for student services, credits the increase in number of persons at bonfire to successful Aggie football teams and the increasing student enrollment at Texas A&M.

The biggest complaint against bonfire has been from College Station residents who live across from Duncan Field, Hudson said.

She said it is not from fear of their homes catching fire from the bonfire's flying embers, as bonfire leaders have been told in the past. The residents are angry because bonfire

watchers loiter and leave trash, such as beer cans and bottles, strewn across yards in the community.

Hudson said if the situation is not resolved, then there is a very good possibility future bonfires will not be held at its present site at Duncan Field, but will be moved to one where such problems will not create these disturbances within the surrounding community.

A&M's Office of Public Information has sent a release to all Texas newspapers concerning alcohol awareness at the site. The message also is being printed on billboards along roads leading to Bryan and College Station, announced during future A&M sporting events and yell practices and spread by word-of-mouth by leaders of student and faculty organizations on the A&M campus.

Hudson said she wants the subcommittee's message to be a positive one.

"I'm not here to tell people that they shouldn't go out and have a party before bonfire or that they shouldn't go and have pizza and beer before they arrive (at Duncan Field); I don't have a problem with that at all," Hudson said. "I do have a problem with people who are unmanageable and bring alcohol to bonfire, which is against University regulations."

"We have, I think, eradicated al-

cohol from the cutting site and I think we have eradicated it from the construction on Duncan Field," Hudson said.

"This has been a very positive move, but I think we want to go a little bit further in trying to discourage people from bringing alcoholic beverages to the site on bonfire night (Dec. 1) as well as discourage them from coming in a state of intoxication, in which they can't take care of themselves and are disruptive and a problem for everybody else," Hudson continued.

Hudson said that any student interested in helping the subcommittee perform its task is welcome to attend the next meeting, which is Monday, Nov. 13, at 5 p.m. in 208D Pavilion. All student organizations are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Jo Hudson at 845-4728 or Anne Coombes at 845-0280.

Silver Taps ceremony to honor 2

The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as two Texas A&M students who died during the past month are honored in a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building.

The deceased students being honored are:

- James Gregory Foley, 33, a senior engineering technology major from Tomball who died Oct. 22.

- Jan Ellen Hering, 22, a senior elementary education major from McGregor who died Oct. 22.

Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, when necessary.

Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies.

The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence toward the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times — to the north, south and west.

Crowds pack E. German streets demanding free elections, travel

BERLIN (AP) — A half-million East Germans thronged the streets of Leipzig in a hard, cold rain Monday night to demand free elections and unlimited freedom to travel abroad.

More than 135,000 people rallied in other cities, including Schwerin, Halle, Cottbus, Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt, the news agency reported.

While East Germans at home pro-

tested, mass flight continued. The official news agency ADN said 23,200 citizens had gone to West Germany since the suspension of exit rules Saturday.

Lutheran Church sources said some marchers in Leipzig shouted "The Wall must go!" — demanding demolition of the Berlin Wall, symbol of East German repression for three decades.

ADN said banners demanding "Free elections" and "Travel law without restrictions" waved above the crowd, and others challenged Communist Party supremacy.

It said "several hundred thousand" people took part in the biggest rally so far in Leipzig, where some of the largest protests of the pro-democracy campaign have been held.

Michael Turek, a Lutheran pastor in the southern industrial city of 650,000, said by telephone about 500,000 people marched. A rally Saturday in East Berlin, where the crowd was estimated at 1 million, was the largest protest in the communist nation's 40-year history.

Members of New Forum, the largest pro-reform group, addressed the crowd in Leipzig, ADN said.

Dresden's march was authorized by authorities and led by Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer and the reform-minded local party chief, Hans Modrow. ADN said it was the first officially approved demonstration in the city.

Earlier Monday, the government published a new draft law that is expected to take effect before Christmas and will permit travel abroad for up to 30 days a year.

Rioters flock streets to protest president

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A strike called by Gen. Michel Aoun, the Christian army commander, virtually closed down east Beirut on Monday and his followers filled the streets to protest the election of a Syrian-backed president.

Rioting Aoun loyalists stormed the residence of Nasrallah Sfeir, the Maronite Catholic patriarch, who supported Rene Mouawad's election as president Sunday, and forced him to kiss a portrait of the general. Mouawad, 64, and Aoun, 54, are Maronites, the main Christian sect in Lebanon.

Aoun declared a "war of liberation" this year on the 40,000 Syrian soldiers stationed in Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League. He issued a statement Monday urging supporters to "limit your protests to civilized and peaceful methods."

Schools, shops, restaurants, banks and government offices closed in Christian east Beirut and many parts of the 310-square-mile Christian enclave north and east of the city.

Patriarch Sfeir, 68, fled to his summer home in an area of north Lebanon under Syrian control and

said he would not return to his official residence on the wooded slopes of Bkirki "until peace prevails."

Lebanese police issued a statement saying they "ensured the patriarch's safe drive" early Monday to Diman, 52 miles north of Bkirki.

"We plead with God to forgive" the attackers, Sfeir said at Diman, where he was greeted by Mouawad, Parliament speaker Hussein Hussein, Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim of Algeria and many legislators.

A police spokesman said 100 supporters of Aoun drove to Bkirki in 30 cars after midnight Sunday and stormed the walled compound. A 40-man unit of Aoun's command assigned to protect Sfeir did not try to stop them, said the spokesman, whose name was withheld under standing regulations.

"The rioters broke into the patriarch's bedroom, dragged him out of bed, forced him to kneel with two senior aides who rushed to help him and forced them all to kiss posters of Aoun," the spokesman said.

Other Aoun loyalists broke into at least six churches in the Christian enclave to protest Mouawad's election.

Child shot at day care conscious, improving

Kenny Archer, the 3-year-old who shot himself accidentally on Oct. 31 at a Normangee day care center, is no longer on a ventilator and listed in guarded condition, a spokesman for Texas Children's Hospital in Houston said Monday. A friend of the Archer family said that Kenny was conscious and showing improvement. He said the doctors have given Kenny a strong chance of survival.

Kenny shot himself above the right eye with a .22-caliber pistol carried by Kenda Mahaffey as part of a

Halloween costume. Mahaffey, an employee of the Twice As Nice Play-school, where the shooting occurred, believed that the gun was unloaded.

Leon County Deputy Attorney Tuck McLain said that Mahaffey was indicted Friday morning by a Leon County Grand Jury. Mahaffey was indicted on two third-degree felony charges of reckless injury of a child and unlawfully carrying a weapon where prohibited. McLain said that he expects Mahaffey will be arraigned Nov. 27, when the court meets for its regular docket.

Anti-apartheid group ends rally in chancellor's office

By Bob Krenak

Of The Battalion Staff

Students Against Apartheid followed a rally at Rudder Fountain Monday with a march to Texas A&M University Chancellor Dr. Perry Adkisson's office, where they left a signed statement of their position after being turned away by a secretary and told the chancellor was out of town.

A group of about 25 students filled the waiting room of the executive offices in the Systems Building before being told that only the group leaders could remain. The president of SAA, Irwin Tang, read from a poster board that said: "We, the concerned students and faculty of Texas A&M University, hereby demand that Texas A&M University, in order to promote human rights and democracy in South Africa and Namibia, disinvest from all firms doing business in South Africa."

Tang signed his name along with other members of the group and included phone numbers after requesting that Adkisson call them to discuss the University's position on divestment.

"We left our names and numbers, so he will call us if he cares at all," Tang said. "We have never actually been able to talk to the chancellor, although we have tried to make appointments in the past."

The rally began earlier with the choral group Voices of Praise and featured several anti-apartheid speakers. They were offset by representatives from the College Republicans and Young Conservatives,

who oppose divestment as a method of ending apartheid.

The student demonstrators were encouraged by Dr. Larry Yarak, an assistant professor of history at A&M.

"I am very glad to see that your moral consciousness has not been lost in the midst of busy schedules and school life," Yarak said.

Yarak said he also supported the continuation of efforts against the South African government.

"We need to keep up the pressure," he said. "We see the release of a few prisoners, but 3,000 remain behind bars. We see 70,000 South Africans rallying against their government, but they were all breaking the law to do so."

South Africa is beginning to respond to international pressure, Yarak said, but many of the government's concessions are only superficial.

"Pressure means sanctions," Yarak said. "A&M must divest itself of its holdings in South African companies. That is the only thing the Pretoria regime will respond to."

The next speaker was Chester Wilson, one of the 16 anti-apartheid demonstrators who were arrested last year after staging a sit-in in the University of Texas president's office. Wilson spent six months in jail as a result of the incident.

One of the three main "lies spread to prevent divestment," Wilson said, is that divestment will not work.

"Why would the South African government make it against the law to advocate divestment?" Wilson asked. "The leadership knows the importance of preventing divestment."

The second misconception, Wilson said, is that divestment would hurt the companies with South African holdings.

"The UT regents said divestment would hurt the university, but financial management experts concluded it would not hurt at all," he said. "The financial experts proved that divestment stock portfolios outperformed non-divestment portfolios."

Regardless, Wilson said, it is not wise to invest in a country as troubled as South Africa.

"To invest in an avowed Nazi state — now that is risky," he said. "The prudent thing to do is to pull the money out of there."

The third lie is that divestment would hurt the people of South Africa, Wilson said.

"The corollary to this is that we should promote policies to combat racism," he said. "But this has been tried and it failed miserably."

"We need to look at who does advocate divestment, primarily the people of South Africa," he said. "Every major organization in South Africa makes this demand."

The anti-apartheid fighters face a difficult struggle, Wilson said, but they must continue.

"They will only give us what we fight for," he said. "We have a difficult road ahead but we have masses of people and the momentum of history on our side."

Tang spoke last and proceeded to criticize the U.S. government for its lack of action in the apartheid issue. "The present government is extremely apathetic," he said. "How many of you really think George Bush cares about the South African people?"

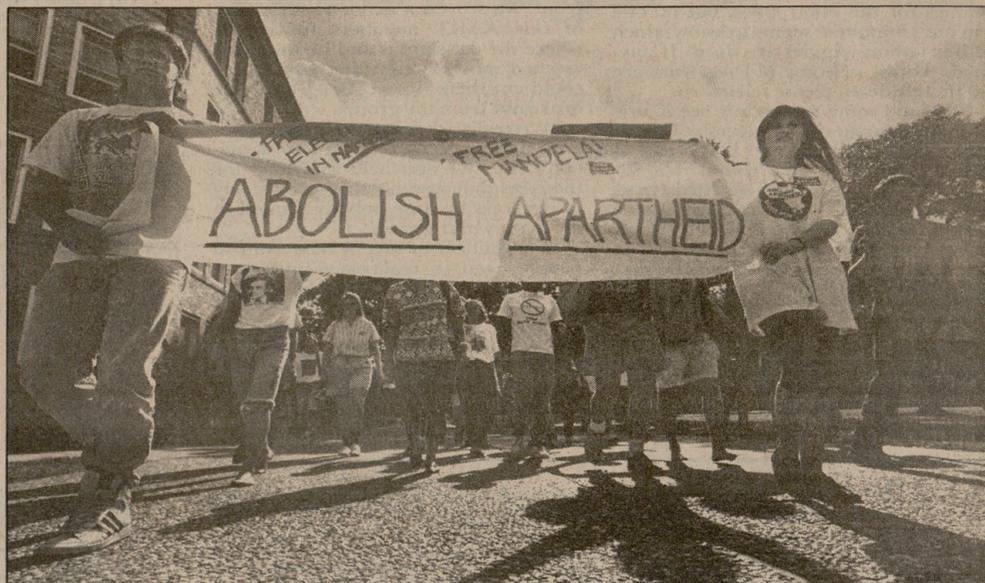


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Members of Students Against Apartheid march to the chancellor's office Monday.

"Bush can say what he wants but he has done nothing for the South African people," he said. "We need a change in government."

The College Republicans and the Young Conservatives set up a table next to the anti-apartheid group be-

cause they oppose views such as these.

"Our purpose is not to make a case for the support of apartheid; we think apartheid is reprehensible, but we feel that divestment is not the way to abolish it," said Scott Kibb,

College Republicans chairman. "We think that divestment and sanctions will upset the government and lead to a revolution," Kibb said.

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