

The Battalion

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Bonfire problems minimal, police say



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Deadpots shout at senior Redpots prior to the lighting of bonfire. While it is the Redpots' duty to light bonfire, Deadpots (previous Redpots) return to ensure bonfire is up to "old army" standards.

By GINA HOWARD

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The new location of the 1992 Texas Aggie Bonfire brought no unexpected surprises, said local law enforcement officials.

The biggest problem was pedestrians refusing to use the crosswalks manned by College Station police, said Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department.

"The only real problem was after bonfire people were running helter skelter across University (Drive)," Wiatt said. "No injuries occurred, but it scared many drivers."

The new location worked better than expected, said Maj. Mason Newton, coordinator of bonfire night for the College Station Police Department.

The biggest problem for the police was pedestrians crossing at whim instead of using the crosswalks, Newton said.

"It went better than I thought it would," he said. "I credit the drivers because the pedestrians didn't help anything."

Next year, the CSPD will consider the possibility of closing off Texas Avenue completely.

"In comparison to the other location, this bonfire was much more visible from University Drive and Texas Avenue," Newton said. "This presented a big traffic and public safety concern."

Closing off Texas Avenue would possibly be safer, but it also might hurt businesses located on the street, he said.

UPD issued 115 citations, mostly for minor in possession, and made 16 arrests.

"The majority of those arrested were not Aggies," Wiatt said.

"Overall, the behavior was far better than in past years."

"It seems that students are starting to listen to 'no alcohol on campus.'"

However, Wiatt said three bonfire attendees were taken to the hospital for excessive alcohol consumption.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he agrees the efforts to reduce alcohol consumption on campus have helped.

"We have done really well at educating the student body (about keeping alcohol away from bonfire)," Koldus said. "I really felt good about what took place at bonfire."

Overall, Wiatt said, this year's bonfire was more subdued than bonfires of the past, but either way he was happy to be done with it.

"I'm glad it's all over for another year."

"The only real problem was after bonfire people were running helter skelter across University (Drive). No injuries occurred, but it scared many drivers."

- Bob Wiatt, director of UPD

Aggie Band players leave performance

By GINA HOWARD

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Seven members of the Texas Aggie Band refused to share the field with the University of Texas Band during the A&M-Texas game Thursday at Memorial Stadium.

The protesting band members, six seniors and one freshman, marched during the regular halftime drill but refused to stay on the field after the A&M band returned to play several songs with the UT band, said Jerry Gonzalez, a senior engineering technology major.

"A couple of us started talking beforehand and we decided we didn't want to go down in history as the only Aggie Band to share the field with another band, especially with t.u.," Gonzalez said.

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- Jerry Gonzalez

"Some of us felt we shouldn't play with the t.u. band; we didn't want to lower ourselves to their standards."

Toler declined to make extensive comments on the event, but did say that this was a personal decision made by the band members.

"Seven members of the band chose to walk off of the field," Toler said. "This was an individual act on their part and is not what the Aggie Band stands for."

The decision to walk off of the field was an ethical one, said Blake Clappfer, a senior agricultural economics major.

"I had pledged I would go along, and we had all agreed," he said. "When it all came down to it, I re-

alized that not everyone who said they would do it really was leaving.

"I had to do it to show those that had already walked away that I was with them."

Clappfer said that everyone he talked to beforehand felt the same way about being on the field with Texas, but the threat of being kicked out of the band kept them from leaving.

However, many members protested in ways other than leaving the field, he said.

"A lot of people didn't even put their horns up, and many of those who did were not playing," Gonzalez said.

Several of the members who left the field said they were also upset that no one considered how the band felt about performing with the UT band.

"The main reason I protested was because I didn't want to go down being disgraced on my last performance with the Aggie Band," said Jeff Gibbs, a senior biology major. "Col. Toler didn't give us a chance to voice our opinion."

"The Aggie band is supposed to be alone."

When the band returned to the stands, Toler told them they were no longer a part of the organization because they had embarrassed the band on national television, Gonzalez said.

Later, Toler had the drum majors announce over the megaphones that all members who participated in the protest should leave the stands.

The band members said they plan to go talk to Toler on Monday to explain why they took the action they did.

"I think what he (Toler) did was irrational and in haste," Gibbs said. "He embarrassed us and the Aggie Band by announcing out loud that we should leave."

Gibbs said that he does not regret what he did even if it means not being a part of the band for the remainder of his senior year.

"I am tired of being a follower," he said. "If that is the punishment, then I don't want to be a part of the organization."

Racist attack kills 4

South African blacks open fire on country club

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Blacks burst into a country club dining room and bar and opened fire with automatic rifles and hand grenades, killing four whites and wounding 17, officials said Sunday.

The Saturday night slaughter in King William's Town, 625 miles southeast of Johannesburg, was a rare mass attack on whites. No one claimed responsibility for the assault, which appeared to be racially or politically motivated.

Blood splattered the floor and dining tables at the King William's Town Golf Club. A grenade blew a hole in the floor and shrapnel

brought down part of the ceiling. Drinking glasses and windows were shattered.

The assailants escaped, and police announced a massive manhunt and offered a \$17,000 reward for information leading to arrests.

The bloody attack was the realization of many whites' worst fears in this racially divided nation, where black-on-black violence has taken thousands of black lives in recent years. Whites — outnumbered 30 million to 5 million — have feared for generations that the black majority could turn on them.

The attack came at a sensitive time politically. The government and the African National Con-

gress, the leading black group, are scheduled to meet this week to try to restart derailed talks on ending white minority rule.

The government, reacting to the country club deaths and other weekend violence, said in a statement that it "cannot successfully deal with violence alone."

It called for the cooperation "of all our communities and of all political leaders. . . . There must be a common resolve that our society will no longer tolerate violence."

Ray Radue, a member of parliament, and his wife were attending the dinner and wine-tasting at the club when an undetermined number of blacks attacked the dining room and a bar just before 10 p.m.

Historians not sure where 'West' is

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Mont. — When Horace Greeley urged Americans to "Go West" in 1851, nobody wondered where that was. But a survey of western writers and historians finds little agreement now on what's West.

It starts somewhere between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountain foothills. And it extends either to the western edge of the Rockies or to the Pacific Ocean, the survey of 251 writers and editors indicates.

Western Canada and western Mexico may or may not be part of the West. It depends on who you ask.

Walter Nugent, a western history professor at Notre Dame University, asked members of the Western History Association, Western Writers of America and a sampling of western editors and publishers about the West.

The responses, published in Montana, The Magazine of Western History, are as far apart as Sutter Creek, Calif., and Dodge City, Kan.

Only four entire states — Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Idaho — were unanimously agreed upon as the "unambiguous West," along with western Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, eastern Washington and Oregon, and the northeastern corner of California.

Thirty percent of the western writers and 22 percent of the historians responding said Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota were part of the West; only 8 percent of editors agreed.

The Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon and the Sierra Nevada of California were accepted as the western boundary by many. Some were willing to go to the coast, although California raised some eyebrows.

UPD tightens security for Wilson

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

State Rep. Ron Wilson's visit to Texas A&M University tonight will be under the watchful eye of the University police, said Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department.

All security measures for Wilson's address in Rudder Theater tonight are at the request of Wilson, and will be handled by University officers and members of the Memorial Student Center Black Awareness Committee, Wiatt said.

"We'll have officers there at Wilson's request," Wiatt said. "We are not requiring these security measures — our participation is at the request of the Black Awareness Committee."

Members of the Black Awareness Committee will be administering hand-held metal detector tests for all audience members attending Wilson's forum. Wiatt said if any of the magnetometers register a response, the officers will be there to take control of the situation.



Wilson

In conjunction with the metal detector tests, side exit doors will be locked, and the audience will only be allowed to enter from the main entrances located at the rear of the theater.

"Wilson's office called and requested these security measures from Florence Rice, adviser to the

Black Awareness Committee, and she in turn called us," Wiatt said.

Although he does not expect any trouble from A&M students, Wiatt said he did not know if Wilson's concern for security was a preventative or a reactionary measure, but the University police will be handling this event with utmost seriousness and sensitivity.

"I don't understand his concern, but Rep. Wilson said he has received threatening phone calls, and feels he needs this amount of security," Wiatt said. "I don't share his opinion, but I will be working with the Black Awareness Committee to ensure his safety."

When asked if Wilson felt he was going to be in danger during his visit to A&M, Rice said, "I have no comment."

Wiatt said he tried to contact Wilson's office regarding the security measures, but Wilson was not available.

Rene Henry, Jr., executive director of University relations at Texas A&M, said all the information he and University President William Mobley receive comes through the

Black Awareness Committee.

"There has been no contact at all between Mr. Wilson's office and my office or the president's office," Henry said. "Everything we know we get from the Black Awareness Committee."

Henry said he is not aware of any harassing phone calls made to Wilson, or any other events that would warrant such security measures.

Regardless, Wiatt said he expects Wilson's visit to go off without a hitch.

"I feel certain that (Wilson) will show up, do his thing, leave, and that will be it."

All backpacks and packages will be searched, so those planning to attend are encouraged to not bring any such items to the forum as the searches will slow down the admission process.

Because of Wilson's request for extraordinary security measures, the Black Awareness Committee will begin admitting people at 7 p.m. from the second floor entrance.

In Advance

By GARY P. CARROLL

City Editor of THE BATTALION

State Rep. Ron Wilson will respond to incidents that have affected minority relations at Texas A&M University during an open forum tonight at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Wilson told Texas legislators last Monday that he is concerned with the University's handling of an A&M fraternity that held a party with a "jungle" theme — a party Wilson thought was culturally insensitive.

Wilson also will discuss an anonymous letter sent to him by "friends of the University" threatening him with a war like he has never seen.

Michelle Boldon, chair of the Memorial Student Center Black Awareness Committee, said Wilson's visit is meant to serve as a proactive example of the University's and the legislature's joint concern for calming of racial ills at A&M.

"The forum is being held to

discuss corrective measures that we can take as students to better our racial situation on campus, and to heighten awareness of cultural sensitivity," Boldon said. "It's an educational forum more than it is a bashing session."

Wilson will begin the forum with a speech, and following his speech he will take questions from the audience.

Wilson's visit is a matter of principal regarding cultural sensitivity, and is not solely a response to an editorial and cartoon appearing in The Battalion, Boldon said.

"He's not coming just because of that article — it's more than that one issue," Boldon said. "A lot of people are misunderstanding what's going on, but this is an educational forum focused on cultural sensitivity."

Boldon said she hopes Wilson's visit will encourage everyone at A&M to become more aware of multicultural issues.