

The Battalion

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Court decision in Ft. Worth shooting evokes rallies, protests

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH - More than 6,000 people rallied peacefully Sunday to protest the probated sentence handed to a white supremacist who was convicted in the murder of a black man.

"There were no violent incidents, no arrests," said Fort Worth Police Lieutenant Ralph Swearingin.

Racial tensions have simmered here since last week's decision that gave Christopher William Brosky 10 years' probation for his part in planning the June 1991 drive-by shooting death of Donald

Thomas, 32, of Arlington. Some jurors said they meant to sentence Brosky to five years in state prison plus 10 years' probation, but they were confused by legal wording in sentencing documents. Texas law prohibits stacking probationary sentences on jail terms.

Brosky, 18, had been convicted

of murder a day earlier by the all-white jury.

The Coalition of African-American Ministers, a group of 60 pastors, planned Sunday's "death march" to signify that it is "mourning for justice," said the Rev. Michael Bell.

Sen. Bob Krueger, D-Texas, and several Dallas-area lawmakers

have written U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno asking that the sentence be fully investigated. Also sending letters were Reps. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, and Pete Geren, D-Fort Worth.

State attorney general Dan Morales is expected to meet with Reno as early as Monday concerning the case.

Justice officials said a request for review of the Brosky case was referred to civil rights attorneys. Prosecutors say Brosky and two other skinhead white supremacists picked Thomas as a random victim because he was a black man socializing with white friends.

BIG Event

Over 200 helped by service project

By SHELIA VELA

The Battalion

About 4,500 Texas A&M students worked to fulfill more than 200 community job requests Saturday during the 11th annual Big Event.

Nicole Newbury, a junior elementary education major and director of Big Event, said the project was a success.

"The students and community cooperated really well, and the community appreciated what was done," she said.

Students organize and conduct the Big Event, a one-day community service project in which students work on job requests from the public. Throughout Bryan-College Station, students painted houses, raked leaves and mowed lawns.

Big Event kicked off at Kyle Field Saturday morning following entertainment from the Aggie Wranglers and a motivational speech from former student Cliff Dugosh.

Newbury said no injuries or accidents were reported, and the sunny weather cooperated with the effort. "It was a beautiful day to be working, and one or two groups worked until 7 p.m.," she said.

More than 20 students from the University Tower and The Forum helped a College Station resident clean and sort her garage.

Lorie Forchia, a sophomore psychology major who was at the site, said, "It's good when you get together to do something unselfish for the community. It brings Aggies together, and I think all Aggies should do this at one time."

Miriam Anderson, a freshman genetic engineering major, said she felt good about her involvement in Big Event. "You learn

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DAWN WEINER/Special to The Battalion

Freshman Rachel Chauweker uses clippers to trim hedges at a house outside of Bryan. Chauweker was one of more than 4,500 students who participated in the Big Event Saturday.

DEC holds press conference seeking state funds

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

Texas A&M members of the Diversity and Equality Coalition '92 (DEC) want the University to incorporate a 10-point plan for diversity into its legislative budget, even though officials say A&M's diversity efforts are adequate.

Students for DEC held a press conference in Austin Wednesday to bring publicity to their recent

efforts to get A&M to seek state funding for their 10-point plan.

Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, who complained about the lack of diversity at A&M last fall, helped DEC set up its Austin press conference. Joseph Gourrier, A&M's NAACP leader, said Wilson was chosen to help bring attention to the diversity issue.

"Ron Wilson has been the only one to stand up and say that we need to do something about this,"

said Gourrier, a senior psychology major.

In a written statement, University President William Mobley said A&M has many programs addressing diversity and expressed his disapproval with DEC's press conference.

"I am disappointed that this small group of students used this media forum to express their legislative issues and to inaccurately and incompletely report positive

actions and new strategies being taken by Texas A&M University and the System," Mobley said.

Gourrier said this kind of statement aggravates the diversity problem at A&M.

"A&M doesn't know what the problem is because they're so busy saying 'We've done these things and they're positive things' that they lose sight of the fact that

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Russian Congress unable to impeach Yeltsin

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW - Both President Boris Yeltsin and his chief political rival claimed victory Sunday after surviving an attempt by the Russian Congress to remove them from office.

But the secret ballot by the Congress of People's Deputies left the country's political crisis unresolved after a dramatic day of rejected compromise and huge street rallies.

"A communist coup has failed. The people have won," Yeltsin told thousands of cheering supporters outside the Kremlin after the vote.

Waving his fist, he then led the crowd in a chant of "Russia! Rus-

sia! Russia!"

Despite the euphoria, Yeltsin is now in the same predicament he faced before the Congress convened Friday. He vowed to press ahead with an April 25 referendum to resolve his power struggle with the parliament, dominated by former Communists who want to slow his free-market reforms.

The parliament's electoral commission announced 617 legislators cast their ballots for Yeltsin's ouster, short of the 689 votes, or two-thirds of the Congress, needed to remove him.

Only 339 lawmakers voted to replace his rival, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. At least 517 votes, a simple majority of the 1,033-member Congress, would have been needed to re-

place the 50-year-old parliament leader.

The vote followed Congress' rejection of a compromise proposed by Yeltsin and Khasbulatov in an effort to end their political battle.

The compromise enraged the legislators because it would have eliminated the Congress - and their jobs - in favor of a smaller, bicameral legislature.

After the vote was announced, the Congress adjourned until Monday. Khasbulatov thanked the legislators for their support and said he was surprised by the outcome.

"During the three years that I have filled this post... I thought

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Failed upheaval sparks rally, support for 'people's' leader

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW - Tens of thousands of President Boris Yeltsin's supporters surged through the streets Sunday with a spirit that evoked the defense of democracy during the failed hard-line coup of 1991.

Appearing before the throng massed outside the Kremlin, an invigorated Yeltsin declared that "Moscow has awakened at last."

Farmers, workers, intellectuals, priests and politicians were among the estimated 50,000 pro-

A&M hosts Thatcher

Former British Prime Minister speaks about communism, defense budgets

By JEFF GOSMANO

The Battalion

The tactics used to defeat Nazism and communism, the two great tyrannies of the 20th century, should be remembered as all nations move into the next century, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday in Rudder Auditorium.

In a speech sponsored by the MSC Wiley Lecture Series, Thatcher, Britain's first woman prime minister, said the world must remember how absolute rulers were defeated in the past. She said nations must maintain a strong defense while working for



Thatcher

democracy throughout the world.

She said the United States and other countries should not scale down defense budgets during peacetime because "it is when you disarm that tyrants like Hitler think they can beat you."

Although the United States may not face any current military threats, it must maintain a strong

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