

The Battalion

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UPD has busy day during Bush visit

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion



NICOLE ROHRMAN/The Battalion

Former President George Bush and his wife Barbara had a busy day Wednesday while visiting the Texas A&M University campus, and that meant a busy day for University Police Department (UPD) Director Bob Wiatt as well.

"A certain responsibility would be mine if anything went awry," Wiatt said. "So I was right there with them the whole time."

Wiatt said Bush has visited the A&M campus before, but this time the atmosphere was much more relaxed.

"He wanted to be just another citizen," Wiatt said.

Mary Helen Bowers, deputy director of University Relations, said the Bushes appeared to have

had a good visit.

"Anytime there was a camera they would take a picture," Bowers said. "They both seemed very comfortable. I had the feeling they enjoyed it this way much better."

Bush took the time to take pictures and sign autographs throughout the day, something the Secret Service would not let him do while he was president.

"As a former president, the amount of Secret Service was curtailed dramatically," Wiatt said. "There were only six or eight agents this time, yet the responsibility for his safety was still paramount."

Wiatt compensated for the small number of Secret Service agents with UPD personnel.

Steve Hodge, manager of the University Center, said everything about the Bush visit was

pretty routine.

"There were really no more security and preparations (for Bush) than for any other VIP guests we have," Hodge said.

Before Bush could go anywhere on campus, the officers had to go to that place first and make sure the area was secure, Wiatt said.

During the one-day visit, Bush accepted a four-foot-long, 2 1/2 ton piece of the Berlin Wall that will eventually be included in the Presidential Library Center to be built on the A&M campus.

Bush had lunch with the University System Board of Regents, spent part of the afternoon touring parts of A&M research facilities and visited the site of the future library center.

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Ku Klux Klan rally

Officials say curiosity-seekers should stay away from weekend protesting

By MARY KUJAWA

The Battalion

The best course of action for Texas A&M students, anti-Klan protesters and curiosity-seekers is to stay away from the Klan rally this Saturday, said officials from various towns who have had to handle the Klan and Klan rallies.

"Usually three groups go to the rallies," said Lt. Jim Fife, Department of Public Safety Officer with the Beaumont office in Orange County. "Those are the pro-Klan, the anti-Klan and those who want to know what's going on."

Fife has recently worked at Klan rallies in Orange and Austin.

"My belief is the best thing (for students) to do is to totally ignore it," he said.

Other law officials agree that going to the rally may only com-

pound problems.

"The best way to prevent problems is to stay away," said Chief Deputy Johnny Beddingfield of the Smith County Sheriff's Department. Smith has worked at Klan rallies in Tyler.

The Klan held three rallies in Tyler during 1992. Beddingfield said the first rally attracted 300 people, many of which were curiosity-seekers. The second rally attracted 15 people while the third rally attracted only eight people.

"The curiosity-seekers need to stay away," Beddingfield said. "They only make the crowd look bigger. The Klan always claims the crowd is bigger than it is."

He said the Klan itself will not start any physical problems, al-

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Ozone depletion

Ultraviolet protective layer at record low, Goddard space center reports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The ozone layer that protects the Earth from ultraviolet radiation has dropped to record low levels globally, with the biggest decline over areas that include North America, Europe and parts of Asia.

The finding strengthens the concern about the effects of man-made chemicals on the natural ozone layer, researchers said, although they also said the dip in the concentration may be related to a 1991 volcanic eruption.

J.F. Gleason, a scientist at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, said that measurements last December and January by a NASA satellite showed that the ozone layer surrounding the Earth was thinner than in any previous measurements. The Nimbus 7 satellite has been taking measurements since 1979.

"During December 1992 and January 1993, global ozone was at the lowest level ever recorded," Gleason said Thursday at a news conference. "We had never seen global ozone under 280 Dobson

units." Readings taken as recently as Sunday, he said, show that ozone in the upper atmosphere is still depleted.

"The global ozone levels are still way below normal and they have not recovered," said Gleason.

Readings in the northern hemisphere, he said, were still 10 to 20 percent below normal.

Ozone is a molecule of three atoms of oxygen. It forms a layer in the upper atmosphere that blocks much of the ultraviolet radiation streaming from the sun. Ultraviolet rays from the sun are powerful enough to cause possible genetic damage and to kill some forms of plant life. The radiation also causes sunburn and is thought to be one of the major causes of skin cancer.

Man-made chemicals — principally chlorofluorocarbons used in some spray cans, as refrigerants and in some industrial processes — are thought to destroy molecules of ozone by chemically stripping away oxygen atoms.

Earth Day festival at Rudder Fountain



JOSEPH GREENSLADE/The Battalion

Greg Marmolejo performs "Blood and Fire" by the Indigo Girls at the Earth Day Festival at Rudder Fountain. Marmolejo is a member of the local band Slap Dash. Marmolejo is a junior

mechanical engineering major from Lubbock. Marmolejo was giving a solo performance, but he said Slap Dash, in its entirety, will be at Aggiepolooza on Saturday May 1 at the Grove.

Search for student services VP begins Committee set to find Koldus replacement

By HEATHER WINCH

The Battalion

University President William H. Mobley announced the Search Advisory Committee which will compile a list of candidates to replace Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president of student services. Koldus will retire Aug. 31.

In a memo released April 19, Mobley said the committee should consider "internal and external" candidates for the student services position. Ron Sasse, director of student affairs, will lead the committee.

The following are the students, faculty and staff who have been asked to work on the committee:

- Peggy Erickson, Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs and past Parent of the Year
- Dr. Richard B Griffin, Faculty

Senate and professor of mechanical engineering

•Will Haraway, Corps Commander.

•Heather Hartman, president of the MSC.

•Dr. David Hinojosa, professor in the College of Education.

•Randy Matson, executive director of the Association of Former Students.

•Hugh McElroy, associate director of Human Resources.

•Stephen Ruth, former student body president.

•Emily Santiago, multicultural services.

•Dr. Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for Undergraduate Programs and Academic Services.

•Brian Walker, student body president.

•Dr. Jan Winniford, associate vice president for student services.

A&M Consolidated to host Special Olympics

By JENNIFER MENTLIK

The Battalion

Volunteers are still needed for the Area Six Special Olympics to be held this Friday and Saturday at A&M Consolidated High School.

"We have about 500 people signed up to volunteer this weekend," said Gin Griffy, a student volunteer recruiter. "Last year, we had over 2,000 volunteers but some came because of Big Event."

Nearly 600 students from 18 schools are registered to participate.

Bonnee Lieuwen, a special education teacher for College Station Independent School District, said

Event at local high school in need of volunteers for athlete escorts, 'buddies'

her students have been preparing for nearly eight weeks.

"They learn and practice warm up exercises, then hold an actual practice event and then a cool down," Lieuwen said. "We mainly emphasize a fitness program, such as getting the body in shape and taking care of the body."

Kick-off events begin today at 4 p.m. A dinner and '50s theme dance will be held immediately following the opening ceremonies.

Saturday activities will start at 8 a.m. and run through 4:30 p.m.

Those wishing to volunteer

should register at tables near the front of the stadium. Griffy said they still need escorts or buddies.

"The buddy is the most important."

—Gin Griffy
student volunteer
recruiter

"The buddy is the most important," she said. "They interact with the participant, making sure

they get to the events, drink plenty of water and escort them around Olympic town. The buddy ends up being the big fan."

Representatives from Alpha Phi Omega, Aggie Alliance, Aggie Partners and several community organizations will assist with the event.

The Aggie Men's Club also will serve as host Olympic Town, similar to a carnival, in which participants can play games and win prizes.

Griffy said anyone who wishes to help is welcome to attend. "We would love to have anyone who wants to help," she said. "We really appreciate enthusiasm because volunteers make it happen."

Experts disagree FBI's actions at compound

By MARK EVANS

The Battalion

Texas A&M University cult and crime experts disagree whether the FBI's decision to take action against the Branch Davidian cult in Waco earlier this week was the right one.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department and a former FBI special agent, said the bureau did everything in its power to coax cult leader David Koresh and his followers out of the compound before sending in agents.

"The Bureau used every weapon in its arsenal of negotiations, but when you try to deal ra-

tionally with an irrational person, you don't accomplish anything," he said. "The FBI tried everything I know of, and it failed."

"This would have been the result whether 50 days or 250 days had passed because, I think, this is what Koresh was looking for," he said.

However, Dr. Richard Stadelmann, Texas A&M philosophy professor, said the FBI mishandled the entire situation. The bureau should have remained patient and waited out the cult, he said.

"I found the initial attack on the compound appalling," he said. "You simply don't charge an apocalyptic group that's expecting

the end of the world."

Stadelmann said when Koresh was faced with a life in prison or a reign with God if he committed suicide, his choice became clear.

"He (Koresh) wanted to go to heaven," he said. "He intended to be a martyr because martyrdom assures him of a leading place in heaven."

Wiatt said the bureau's action was appropriate because Koresh has continually broken his promises of surrendering and releasing all of the children that remained in the compound.

Throughout the two-month period, the cult leader toyed with ne-

Special agent Ricks defends move, says cult leader was a 'madman'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — FBI Special Agent Bob Ricks, who spent many hours negotiating with cult leader David Koresh, describes the self-proclaimed Christ as a madman who took the lives of 85 followers in Monday's inferno at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

"There was never any concern about the kids or their welfare, concern for the women in there, or

the pain and the misery he caused anybody else. Everything revolved around him," Ricks said Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ricks, the head of the Oklahoma FBI who was one of four special agents called to Waco to lead FBI operations, said Koresh was a classical sociopath, who knew right from wrong, but had no concern for cult members.

Koresh and his followers had

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