



THE BATTALION

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1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Monday, September 27, 1993

Weekend rap-up

Three U.S. soldiers killed in Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya - Three American soldiers were killed Saturday in Somalia when militiamen fired a rocket-propelled grenade that brought down their helicopter.

Jubilant crowds surrounded the downed craft, holding up pieces of the wreckage. Reporters who went to the scene several hours after the crash said some Somalis displayed what they said were pieces of flesh from the dead crew.

It was the first time a helicopter was downed during the 10-month U.N. operation in Mogadishu and the worst loss of U.S. life since four American soldiers were killed Aug. 8 by a land mine.

The deaths Saturday bring to 11 the number of U.S. servicemen killed in action in Somalia.

Evidence sparse on Amtrak wreck

MOBILE, Ala. - Investigators retrieved a data recorder that could pinpoint the time of Amtrak's worst disaster, but they had no luck trying to interview the crew of a towboat whose runaway barge struck a railroad bridge.

Another locomotive was removed from the bayou below the wrecked bridge Saturday morning. Authorities expect to have three remaining cars cleared by Sunday, said CSX Transportation spokeswoman Donna Rohrer in Jacksonville, Fla. CSX owns the track.

One thing the National Transportation Safety Board wants to know is who was steering the towboat that lost the barge, NTSB spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said Saturday. But investigators were referred to the crew members' attorneys when they tried to ask questions Friday.

VMI to establish women's program

RICHMOND, Va. - The all-male Virginia Military Institute said Saturday it would create a program for women at a private college to comply with a federal court order.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the state-supported college last October to either admit women, go private or establish a program for women elsewhere.

The program approved by the VMI Board of Visitors would be established by the VMI Foundation at a cost of \$6.9 million. The state would subsidize a portion of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College, but details have not been worked out.

Sixth Street: open containers banned

AUSTIN - Sixth Street, once compared to Bourbon Street in New Orleans for partying between the curbs, has been forced to move its revelry indoors.

As recently as May, partiers on the capital's most famous nightclub strip could stroll up and down the neon-lit, music-filled sidewalks, grabbing a beer from a curbside vendor.

Those days, however, are over. Open containers no longer are permitted on Sixth Street.

A city ordinance prohibiting the outdoor consumption of alcohol in downtown Austin went into effect this summer after being ruled constitutional by a federal judge.

The ordinance was an effort by city officials to reduce violence, panhandling and loitering on Sixth Street.

-The Associated Press

Yeltsin enjoying mass public support

The Associated Press

MOSCOW - Thousands of Russians cheered Boris Yeltsin at a concert on Red Square on Sunday and at least 10,000 people marched in the biggest demonstration of support for the president since he disbanded parliament five days ago.

Across town, hard-liners who have defied Yeltsin by refusing to leave the parliament building dug in their heels.

"If need be, we will stay here for a year," said parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of about 100 lawmakers who remain holed up in the building, known as the White House.

Yeltsin, accompanied by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, waded into surging crowds on Red Square for a free concert by the Washington-based National Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, former dissident Mstislav Rostropovich.

The president waved and smiled, then



Boris Yeltsin has disbanded the Russian parliament and set new parliamentary elections for December.

took his place at the front of the crowd. He cracked a smile again when earblasting cannons went off during Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

An announcer urged "faith in the president and in Russia's future," and the crowd responded "Hurrah! Hurrah!"

A longtime backer of Yeltsin, Rostropovich has said he wanted the concert to give Russians hope and confidence during the transition to a post-Soviet democracy.

"Yeltsin is one of us and he must suc-

Alexander Rutskoi, the Russian vice president, has condemned Yeltsin and declared himself president.



ceed," said Nina Shtanina, a 69-year-old pensioner who arrived on Red Square at 8 a.m., four hours early, to get a good view of Rostropovich. Temperatures were near freezing.

"I took part in the Second World War, and if we won that fight, we can win this one," she said.

Later, pro-Yeltsin demonstrators chanting "Yeltsin! Yeltsin!" linked arms and marched down broad Tverskaya Street - Gorky Street in Soviet times. A small band headed the procession.

Marchers carried Russian flags, pictures of the president and placards with slogans such as "Shame on the White House," "Boris, You're Right Again" and "Elections are the Will of the People."

Yeltsin has set new parliamentary elections for December and says presidential elections could be held in June. The hard-line Congress wants simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections in March.

Khasbulatov's parliament, elected in Soviet times, opposed the president's free-market reforms, saying they were causing undue hardship. Lawmakers also whittled away at Yeltsin's presidential powers.

Outside the White House, Yeltsin's rebellious vice president, Alexander Rutskoi, urged 3,000 to 4,000 anti-Yeltsin demonstrators "to stand till the end." Rutskoi has condemned Yeltsin's actions as unconstitutional and declared himself president.

The demonstrators are a mix of Communists and extreme nationalists, and are mostly older than Yeltsin's supporters.

Circulated Daily To 90 Per Cent Of Local Residents

The Battalion

Published By A&M Students For 75 Years

PUBLISHED DAILY IN THE INTEREST OF A GREATER A&M COLLEGE COLLEGE STATION (Agg.) TEXAS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1954

Price Five Cents

Battalion Co-Editors Resign Jobs In Face of Publication Committee

1954 censorship controversy led to mass staff resignation

First in a series of articles previewing The Battalion's 100th anniversary issue

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

Before walking out on their jobs as co-editors of The Battalion in the spring of 1954, Jerry Bennett and Ed Holder wrote one last story.

In the story, Holder and Bennett charged College administrators with trying to censor the content of the newspaper through the creation of a "publication committee."

In the end, 12 members of the newspaper's staff tendered their resignations in an incident that made news nationwide.

At a meeting of the Student Life Committee to discuss the issue, College administrators insisted the committee would simply "advise" and "assist" the editors of The Battalion.

Bennett and Holder, both Class of '54, said in the same issue of The Battalion that this was censorship because the editors could be removed for not following the advice of the committee.

When Bennett asked someone at the Student Life Committee to explain the difference between advising and censorship, he was answered by someone at the meeting who said, "If it means you could be kicked out for incompetence, you would have been kicked out long ago."

After it was apparent the words "advise" and "assist" would not be removed from the plan to create a special committee, Bennett and Holder announced their resigna-

tions and left the meeting.

Also in the Feb. 23 issue of The Battalion, 10 other staff members gave their resignation letters in the "Letters to the Editors" section of the newspaper.

Chuck Neighbors, managing editor and Class of '54, said he could no longer work for a publication called a newspaper if it no longer was a newspaper.

"A student newspaper, if it is to function effectively as a training ground, must be free and uncensored to provide the most realistic atmosphere for the novice journalist," Neighbors said.

Many administrators said students are too young to cope with the problems of operating a newspaper, but the purpose of a college newspaper is to be a training ground, he said.

Harri Baker, campus editor and Class of '55, said a "newspaper was killed last night," and he hoped The Battalion would one day be free to tell the truth.

Bob Boriskie, managing editor and Class of '55, said to continue working at The Battalion under the special committee would be "offensive" to him.

"The light has been turned out on the campus, and I certainly do not choose to remain with those who



Holder



Bennett

prefer to grope about in the dark," he said.

Gerold P. Estes, basic division editor and Class of '55, said it is not a newspaper's job to print stories that are pleasing to the readers.

"Its job is to print the news, whether pleasing or unpleasing to certain institutions and individuals," Estes said.

The Bryan Daily Eagle, criticized The Battalion in its Feb. 24, 1954 issue for seeking freedom of the press, saying it would be irresponsible to turn editorial control over to "a group as relatively immature as college students."

The Eagle also called the special committee that would oversee The Battalion a "stable force."

In this issue of The Eagle, Bennett and Holder said censorship is hidden within the words "advise" and "assistance."

"To us, it still means the same thing," Bennett and

Holder told The Eagle. "This committee has been set up to stop The Battalion from printing the truth about things at A.&M. which are embarrassing to some individuals."

"All we have done is try our best to print the truth. Maybe the truth hurts. It certainly looks that way."

After about a month without a full student staff, The Battalion editorial board, a committee made up of The Battalion's section editors, wrote an editorial on March 23, 1954 titled "No Change for Batt: Truth Still Policy."

By this time, many of the staff members who quit a month earlier had returned to The Battalion, and Baker and Boriskie took over as co-editors.

In this editorial, these staff members explained the threat of censorship was not as severe as they had thought when they resigned, and "we felt we could return without sacrificing any of our principles concerning a free press."

The editorial board also added that A.&M. administrators favored a free press, and they would not tolerate censorship in any form.

"So The Battalion will remain the same - a newspaper, not an organ of any special group."

THE BATTALION 1893-1993

- Monday: The Battalion vs. The Administration
- Tuesday: Cartoonists of The Battalion
- Wednesday: Fired Editor Thomas DeFrank
- Thursday: The Battalion Anniversary Issue

Haden looks forward to taking over as A&M System vice chancellor and dean

By Cheryl Heller

THE BATTALION

Dr. C. Roland Haden, who will take over as Texas A&M University System vice chancellor for Engineering and dean of the College of Engineering on Oct. 15, said he has big plans for his new positions.

"I couldn't be more pleased that I was chosen," said Haden, former Louisiana State University provost. "I think this may be the best engineering job in the country, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity."

"As far as dean of engineering, I think Texas A&M is already one of the best engineering schools in the country. I think we'll strengthen the areas we need to strengthen,

and then let everyone know how good the program is."

As dean, Haden said he will emphasize good teaching and research in the College of Engineering.

"We're going to make it a friendly place for students and faculty," he said. "It will be a great place to work and go to school."

As vice chancellor, Haden plans to work with System Chancellor William H. Mobley to improve interaction between A&M campuses.

"I think there are some magnificent tools available," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Mobley as he strives to strengthen ties with other schools in the A&M system."

See Engineering/Page 2

ATF director faces threat of dismissal for Waco raid

The Associated Press

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Director Stephen Higgins will likely be replaced following the release of federal reviews of the ATF's botched raid on the Branch Davidians' Waco home, according to a published report Sunday.

In The Dallas Morning News' copyright story, federal officials said Higgins, the ATF chief for a decade, will probably be eased out of his position.

The News and the Houston Chronicle also reported Sunday that several other ATF officials will be removed or reassigned. Reviews by the Treasury and Justice Departments of the raid are expected to be released late this week.

However, ATF spokesman Jack Kilorin declined to comment on reports that the investigation concludes ATF agents knew members of the armed cult had been told before they launched the raid in February.

Other ATF officials in Washington and in Dallas didn't immediately return telephone calls Sunday to The Associated Press.

Associate ATF Director Dan Hartnett, Deputy Assistant Director Dan Conroy and Intelligence Chief David Troy were expected to be transferred or placed on leave, officials said.

Hartnett and Conroy are accused of lying or making disingenuous statements about whether an undercover agent recommended the raid be called off because cult leader David Koresh had been informed, according to the Chronicle.

Troy also has been criticized reportedly for making false or misleading statements at news conferences.

Sources told the Chronicle that Charlie Thomson, special agent in charge of the ATF office in New York City, and George Rodriguez, special agent in the Los Angeles office, have been tapped to replace Hartnett and Conroy.

Three Texas ATF officials are reportedly likely to be transferred or placed on administrative leave: Philip Chojnacki, head of the Houston ATF office and commander of the Waco raid; Ted Royster, his Dallas counterpart; and Charles Sarabyn, Chojnacki's assistant who was the tactical commander of the raid.

Chojnacki and Sarabyn have said that they began the raid to serve warrants for possible weapons violations because they didn't think the secrecy had been violated.

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SPORTS

- Barone, A&M basketball throw 'House' party
- Martinez leads Aggie netters at home tourney

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OPINION

- Editorial: G. Rollie White renovation a mistake
- Column: keep your feet on the floor, not in your mouth

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WEATHER

- Monday: sunny & windy, highs in the 80s
- Forecast for Tuesday: sunny w/ highs in the 80s

TEXAS LOTTO

- Saturday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 32