



THE BATTALION

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Weekend rap-up

Massacre ignites West Bank rioting

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank - A Jewish settler's massacre of at least 40 Muslims in a West Bank mosque set off rioting across the occupied territories and imperiled the Mideast peace process.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat summoned Palestinian peace negotiators back to Tunis to discuss a response to the killings, PLO officials said today.

Scattered stone-throwing clashes were reported Sunday despite a military curfew in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Troops in riot gear threw up barricades around Jerusalem, barring Palestinians from entering.

Violence swept the occupied territories Friday after an American doctor gunned down rows of worshippers at a tomb, revered by both Muslims and Jews as Abraham's burial place.

Clinton opposes exporting toxics

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration wants to stop U.S. companies from sending toxic wastes overseas, especially to Third World nations where environmental and safety controls often are less stringent.

Administration officials said the White House will ask Congress this week to impose the ban, and plans to press other industrial countries to take similar actions at a conference on toxic waste next month in Geneva.

"We're taking a strong position and it's going to have an impact on what Europe does and what other industrial countries do," said one of several senior officials who spoke on the condition they not be identified.

The policy on waste exports represents a marked shift from the Bush and Reagan administrations, which opposed interfering with toxic-waste exports.

Branch Davidians claim trial victory

SAN ANTONIO - The remnants of David Koresh's flock won a measure of vindication Saturday when a jury acquitted 11 cult members of murder, rejecting claims they ambushed federal agents. Five were convicted of manslaughter.

Two other Branch Davidians were convicted of weapons charges. Four were acquitted of all charges.

The verdict came almost exactly a year after a botched raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that left four agents and six cultists dead and escalated into perhaps the nation's most closely watched law enforcement fiasco.

Defense lawyers promptly declared victory Saturday, noting the longest prison sentence any of the seven convicted Davidians can receive is 10 years.

-The Associated Press

DA says more to come in A&M probe

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The two Texas A&M Board of Regents secretaries indicted Thursday on felony charges of tampering with government documents surrendered to local authorities Friday and are expected to return to work today.

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Vickie Running, Board of Regents secretary, and Sasha Walters, an administrative assistant to the Board, were released Friday afternoon on their own recognizance after posting bonds of \$20,000 each set by U.S. District Court Judge J.D. Langley.

The indictments follow an ongoing investigation by the Texas Rangers and FBI into allegations of misconduct by several University administrators.

Indictments leave A&M community with questions

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The indictments last week of two Texas A&M Board of Regents secretaries is yet another controversy to rock the University and has left many students and others with ties to A&M with doubts, confusion and many unanswered questions.

The A&M system released a statement regarding the indictments saying, "We are shocked and disappointed that

this action has occurred.

"Mrs. Vickie Running and Mrs. Sasha Walters are fine employees and are universally respected by their colleagues and friends throughout the A&M System. We have sought to fully cooperate and will continue to fully cooperate with the Brazos County grand jury and the Texas Rangers in this matter and in the investigation."

Ross Margraves, chairman of the Board of Regents, said he was greatly saddened by the matter.

"I've known these women since I became a regent five years ago and have known them to exhibit nothing but high moral character," he said. "Every board member loves them, supports them and will continue to do so even if they're convicted."

Margraves added the only thing Running and Walters were guilty of was doing their job.

"They were only handling things the way they had been handled prior to

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Bill Turner, Brazos County district attorney, said the indictments should not be taken as a conclusion to the investigation, and both the FBI and Rangers antici-

pate that further presentations will be made to the grand jury.

"This is not the end of it by any means," Turner said.

Running and Walters were charged in two separate indictments and, if convicted, the two women could face punish-

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Coaches, students say Big Eight move will benefit A&M

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

THE BATTALION

Athletic and student leaders at Texas A&M said they were pleased A&M's Board of Regents accepted the Big Eight's invitation and leave the Southwest Conference.

A&M, with its many traditions tied to football season, probably won't have a problem persuading head coach R.C. Slocum, who has coached in the SWC 21 years, about the move.

"I do have a lot of sentimental feelings," Slocum said, "and any change is difficult, but this option holds a lot of promise."

"It seems to have a natural alignment and it will give us more exposure by playing in different states."

Head basketball coach Tony Barone also was pleased with the move.

"With these schools (Texas Tech, Baylor, Texas and A&M) the Big Eight is adding," Barone said, "it will give the conference - whatever they end up calling it - tremendous credibility in basketball."

"I don't think it will have any effect on traditions. Traditions at Texas A&M will be known by a larger base of people because of this new league."

Barone said he hopes A&M's new exposure will help recruiting those players who shun SWC basketball because of its all-Texas makeup.

"One of the reasons kids say they don't choose A&M is that they want to play in a conference that includes more than one state," Barone said. "Kids seem to be interested in playing outside of Texas."

A&M student body president Brian Walker said he saw the change as a way for A&M to spread Aggie spirit.

"The change will not affect our traditions," Walker said. "Our traditions will never waver. It is an opportunity to forward the Aggie spirit to other parts of the country."

"I think it is an opportunity for A&M to grow and associate with fine academic institutions. Overall I think this is a fine step. There is an opportunity to grow and change, and I think the regents were wise for that."

Student leaders in Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets also were pleased with the decision.

Regiment executive officer Tony Polendo said he was waiting for the move to come a long time ago and not affect the Corps or its support for the Aggies.

"It is a good move for us, both athletically and economically," Polendo

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Aggie Band turns 100



Stew Milne/The BATTALION

The Aggie Band played Friday night in Rudder Auditorium also played at the Myerson Symphony Center in Dallas on Saturday and performed in Houston on Sunday.

Fliers warn students about safety

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

The Department of Student Affairs is posting fliers around the Texas A&M campus warning students to take precautions after a female student was kidnapped and assaulted Thursday night.

The student, who is 20 or 21, told the Bryan and University Police Department that she was abducted at knife-point as she approached her car at the Northgate Post Office at about 10:40

p.m. The man forced her into her car and told her to drive.

He took her to the 2100 block of West Villa Maria Road, where he choked her until she lost consciousness. He then stripped her of her clothing, stole some jewelry and scratched her, police reported.

When the victim regained consciousness, she put on a jacket and drove to a convenience store to call police.

The fliers, which are titled "An Urgent Message for Safety's Sake," remind stu-

dents that A&M is not a "safe haven."

Also on the flier, Student Affairs advises students to never walk alone on campus, especially at night, and to report any suspicious people to UPD or their residence hall staff.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said the student was assaulted, but she was not sexually assaulted.

Wiatt said University Police are now investigating the incident.

Assault victim receives \$418,000 in lawsuit

By Angela Neaves

THE BATTALION

An assault victim was awarded \$418,000 in a civil suit involving five Texas A&M students and former students.

John Morris Walker, a former student currently attending Sam Houston State University, sued two A&M students and two former students for assault.

A 12-person jury decided the four men, Kevin Neil Ormston, a former student, Stephen Swan, a senior finance major, Gregory Pappas, a graduate agricultural economics student, and Earl Amerman Dyke, a former student, conspired to assault Walker and all actively participated in the assault.

The jury deliberated all day Friday and came out of deliberation late Friday evening.

The distribution of the settlement between Ormston, Pappas, Dyke and Swan will be decided in the two weeks, Walker's attorney, Chris Kling said.

Swan says he plans to appeal the decision.

"I can't speak for everyone, but I'm planning to appeal," Swan said.

"I still never hit him. I never touched anyone."

A&M's International Week '94

Students open 15th annual event today, 'Discover the World' theme

Opening Ceremony

Feb. 28 - Speeches and music introduce the week's theme, "Discover the World at A&M."

Cultural Displays

Feb. 28-March 1 - Over 45 international student clubs will have craft and art displays throughout the day in the MSC.

International Buffet

March 2 - Food from over 30 different countries

and live entertainment. Starts at 7 p.m. in the second floor of the MSC.

Consuls' Banquet

March 3 - Consuls General from over 45 countries will come to A&M to attend a luncheon with international student leaders (By invitation only).

Talent Show & Fashion

March 4 - A two hour presentation of cultural fashion, music and dances from various countries. The show starts at 8 p.m. The expected attendance

will be 2,500 people.

Closing Ceremony

March 4 - Awards will be given to outstanding country displays and performances. Food and refreshments will be served. The ceremony will begin at 11 p.m. in Northgate Cafe.

All proceeds from sale of arts and crafts will be donated to U.N.I.C.E.F. and the Watkins International Loan Fund. Tickets prices: \$8 - Buffet, \$4 - Talent show or \$11 - combined.

Children tickets for the buffet is only \$4 at the door. Tickets available at Rudder Box Office. Call 845-1234 for more information.

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