

Texas A&M *The Battalion*

Vol. 93 No. 119 (16 pages)

Serving Texas A&M since 1893

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

Zulu nationalists' protest ends in bloodshed

The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Black factional fighting spread to the heart of South Africa's main city for the first time Monday when a march by Zulu nationalists set off gunbattles, stabbings and beatings that killed at least 31 people. Gunfire echoed off skyscrapers and shattered windows around a park near city hall where thousands of Zulus carrying spears rallied to protest the all-race

election next month. Several blocks away, guards fired on more Zulus outside offices of the rival African National Congress.

Leaders of the ANC and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party accused each other of starting the violence.

People sprawled in the dirt and under cars, covered behind pillars and trampled each other trying to escape the shooting. There were blood stained streets and sidewalks in at least three areas. Hospitals re-

ported more than 200 wounded.

Late Monday, leaders of the main political parties were trying to arrange a summit between President F.W. de Klerk, ANC leader Nelson Mandela, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. They were expected to meet later this week to confront the worsening crisis over Zulu demands for autonomy after the April 26-28 election.

The ANC rejects Zulu demands for a

separate homeland, saying the country's racial and ethnic groups must learn to live together after generations of segregation under apartheid.

ANC leaders are demanding that troops of the white-minority government take over KwaZulu to ensure the election can proceed.

Soldiers recently seized control in two other black homelands.

Monday's march was intended as a show of force by Zulu nationalists,

whose ethnic group is the largest in South Africa, and many stores did not open for fear of violence.

Reports of clashes linked to the march and to a Zulu strike call began filtering in at dawn from nearby black townships where factional fighting has gone unchecked for years.

Zulus trying to stop people from going to work fired along the streets of the Soweto and Kagiso townships, police said.

Fortune 500 companies make comeback with \$63 billion 1993 profits

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After losing money in 1992, America's biggest industrial companies earned \$62.6 billion in 1993 while slashing thousands of workers, Fortune magazine reports.

The profit figure in the magazine's annual ranking of the top 500 corporations would be enough to wipe out the 1993 U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

The magazine called the results a business-comeback version of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's World War II return to the Philippines, Richard Nixon's 1968 resurrection and "the reheating of aging rock star Meat Loaf in time to win a 1994 Grammy Award."

Extolling what it called the ingenuity of U.S. business, Fortune attributed the improvement largely to "American industry's steady, relentless drive to raise productivity, improve quality and boost competitiveness."

Also helping were a decline in long-term interest rates that lowered the cost of borrowing, a broad pickup in the U.S. economy and the expensive Japanese yen, which made U.S.-built products ranging from cars to computers more affordable than comparable Japanese goods.

The improvement didn't benefit the U.S. job picture, however. Total employment among the 500 fell for the ninth straight year, from 11.8 million to 11.5 million. The trend confirms a pattern of dwindling employment opportunities as businesses get more efficient with fewer workers.

Fortune's annual corporate ranking, which appears in April 18 editions on newsstands next Monday, is one of the twice-monthly business glossy's best-selling issues and has been widely emulated by competitors. The list helped spawn the term "Fortune 500" to describe corporate size and stature.

Fortune said the earnings improvement was especially significant because it was achieved despite stagnant growth in sales. In 1992, by comparison, the 500 lost \$196.2 million, the first time the roster as a whole has ever lost money.

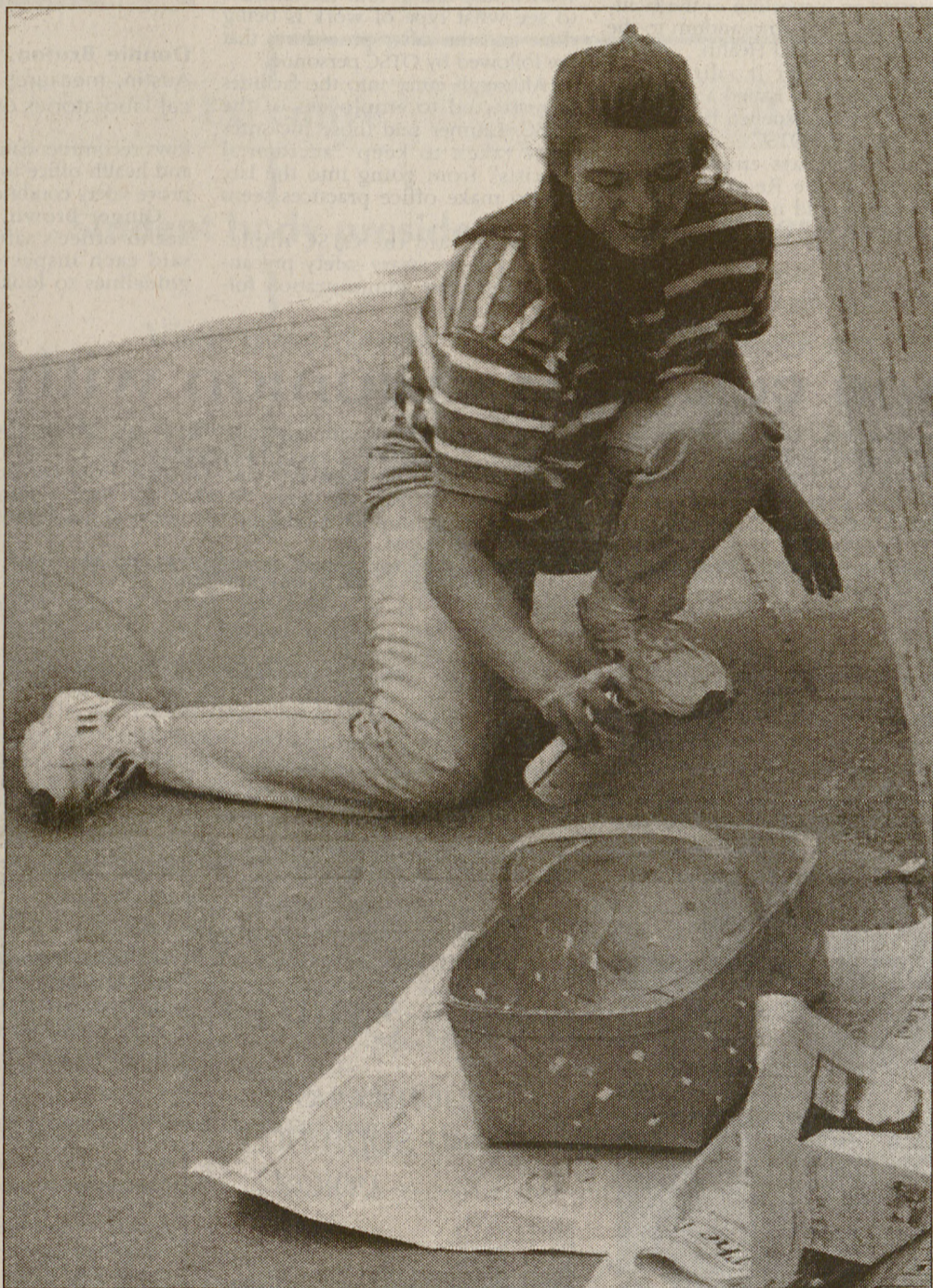
Much of the 1992 loss was due to a required accounting adjustment that changed the way companies report retiree health benefits, and that same adjustment also detracted from earnings in 1993.

When the effects of the accounting adjustment aren't included for both years, the Fortune 500 earned \$81.7 billion in 1993 — 15 percent more than the comparably adjusted \$71 billion in 1992.

The rankings of the 500, based on annual sales, contained no significant surprises this year.

See Fortune 500/Page 7

Get well soon



Amy Browning/The Battalion

Brendy Schellhase, a sophomore biomedical science major from New Braunfels, spray paints a basket Monday afternoon to make a get-well gift for her Fish Camp DG partner. Her friend is about to undergo a root canal.

Rally supporters march for 'strength'

Group hopes to make campus safer

By Angela Neaves
The Battalion

Texas A&M students and faculty members marched through the campus Monday during the "Take Back the Night" rally in an effort to create a safer environment for women and children.

Tiffany Farha, president of the Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women which sponsored the event, said participating in the rally was the first step for women to demonstrate their strength.

"We live in a country which prides itself on freedom," Farha said. "We need to create a voice that will be heard throughout this campus and show that we have the inner strength to walk without fear."

The group marched through campus and to Northgate. Although most comments received by the group were favorable, some negative comments were also expressed, Farha said.

"When walking by Walton Hall, someone said, 'Come up here and let me show you what rape is,'" Farha said. "Whoever made that comment must not have a mother, definitely doesn't have a sister, and hopefully not a girlfriend. I pray he doesn't have a wife. When he's

"There is no difference between being raped and being pushed down a flight of cement stairs."

— Tiffany Johnson, rape survivor

holding his newborn daughter in his arms, I pray that he changes his mind."

Speakers also addressed the group before the march.

Tiffany Johnson, a sophomore biomedical science major, is a survivor of rape.

"There is no difference between being raped and being pushed down a flight of cement stairs," Johnson said. "There is no difference except that when you are raped, the wounds bleed inside."

"There is no difference between being raped and flying through a windshield, except that instead of only being afraid of cars, you're afraid of half the human race."

Johnson was stalked and eventually raped in 1991.

See Rally/Page 5

Student body presidential candidates debate issues

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Student body presidential candidates Jeb Jones and Brooke Leslie squared off Monday night to debate issues facing Texas A&M.

Candidates were given four minutes to introduce themselves and explain their platforms. Introductions were followed by a question and answer session moderated by Election Commissioner Michael Crain.

Seven representatives from various campus organizations asked questions that concerned them and their organization.

Don Belknap, a member of the Corps of Cadets, asked the candidates how the student body president could assist in recruiting to strengthen the Corps.

Jones said he thought high school students could benefit from spending the night with Corps members when visiting A&M, and he said he would also embark on a

campaign to increase good publicity about the Corps.

Leslie responded to the question by citing one of her platform issues, the strengthening of student government's Public Information Office.

See Related Story, Page 12

She proposed having PIO members establish contacts with major newspapers such as the Dallas Morning News and Houston Chronicle and television stations to publicize and improve the perception of A&M.

"I'd have PIO contacts publicize the positive event the Corps takes part in such as March to the Brazos and Military Weekend," she said.

Mark Evans, summer editor of The Battalion, asked the candidates which issue in higher education they will address when the Texas Legislature convenes next January.

See Debate/Page 12

Violence causes some gang members to quit

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Marcus Davenport used to run with a neighborhood gang where he sold guns and crack, had shootouts with rival factions and sometimes robbed people.

Now that he's out of gangs, Davenport's advice to gang members is to examine the lures that may have attracted them, like the opportunity for quick cash.

"The fast money, it's a circle," he said. "You make fast money and it goes fast, because we were involved in the drug trade, too, and we made a lot of money, but right to this day, I don't have anything to show for it."

Davenport said he was literally scared from the gang by the fear of God.

"I don't want to be fighting against the almighty creator," he said.

Police say the fear of death or injury has

many others looking to sever their ties to gangs, which are becoming increasingly violent.

Yet, getting out is tougher than it seems. The threat of retaliation from hard-core gang members is a significant deterrent to those hoping to escape.

"More and more of them are becoming

See Gang/Page 7

Officials may shut down facility involved in Brenham explosion

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — State hearings' examiners Monday recommended revoking Seminole Pipeline Co.'s permit to operate an underground hydrocarbon storage cavern near Brenham that was rocked by a fatal explosion in 1992.

"Seminole failed to prove that the Brenham storage facility is a safe facility that will be operated in a safe and prudent manner to protect fresh water, the public welfare, and physical property," the examiners' report to the Texas Railroad Commission said.

Seminole, a Tulsa, Okla.-based company, did not have an immediate comment.

"We have not had a chance to really read it," said Rick Neal, a Seminole spokesman said. "We are not in a position to give a substantive response."

The company will have 15 days to file a response to the hearings' examiners' recommendation. The three-member commission will make the final decision on the permit.

Seminole is seeking permission

See Brenham/Page 8

Students search for off-campus bargains

Apartment prices expected to rise despite growth in construction

By Margaret Claughton
The Battalion

May is coming — the month when school is over and housing leases come to an end. Now is the time students must strike forth and stake claim on their future dwellings.

In both Bryan and College Station, 95 percent of rental units are occupied during the spring and 99 percent during the fall, according to local experts. With so few apartments to go around, any veteran B-CS renter knows it's

first come first served and every Aggie for himself.

The peak leasing months of May and August find most students searching the city for fairly inexpensive housing.

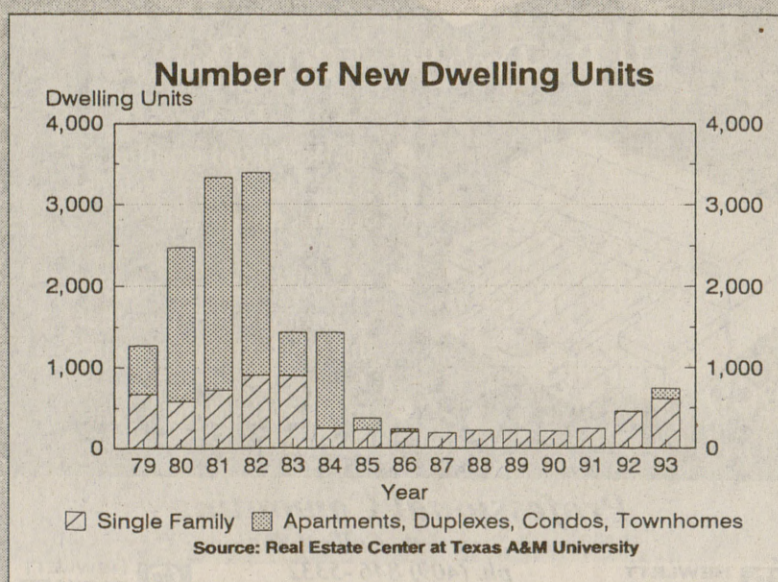
"Students are looking for a place as cheap as they can get, but in an area they like," said Carol Thomas, a graduate student with Off Campus Housing.

But in the past few years, the high demand for rental housing has caused rent prices to soar.

Dr. Ted Jones, chief economist of the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M, said rent prices saw a significant increase in 1989 and have continued to rise.

According to Jones, one factor increasing demand is the lack of new building activity in Bryan-

See Apartments/Page 4



More inside . . .

Aggielife pg. 3
Health Tips pg. 12

Opinion pg. 11
Sports pg. 8