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Zulus defy state of emergency as death toll rises

The Associated Press

EMPANGENI, South Africa — Nationalist Zulus brandishing spears, clubs and sticks defied a state of emergency to march Tuesday in this Natal province city. Police said Tuesday that 88 people had been killed in political violence in the Zulu-dominated province since Thursday, when the state of emergency was declared. The death toll could climb as casualty reports

from far-flung rural settlements reach regional police.

Despite earlier vows to disarm marchers, police and troops did nothing as the Zulus arrived in buses Tuesday to support their king's demand for a sovereign Zulu state.

The emergency regulations give troops broad powers to detain troublemakers and keep weapons off the streets.

"You couldn't disarm them ... without a lot of bloodshed," police Maj. Margaret

Kruger said after 10,000 people swarmed through Empangeni, about 90 miles north of Durban. "They would go for the police ... and the police would open fire."

She said the province-wide state of emergency had "clearly been contravened" by the weapon-wielding marchers and police planned to press charges.

Zulu tribal chiefs called for the show of force at Empangeni to protest the deaths of Zulus in political violence in the area and to

commemorate those killed last week after a Zulu march in Johannesburg.

An all-Zulu army battalion was able to take stronger action at a smaller commemoration near Wembenzi, a black township 100 miles southwest of Empangeni. About 100 Zulu soldiers set up a roadblock to search 400 Zulus entering the rally site, and confiscated spears and clubs, as well as a few firearms.

Zulus say the traditional weapons they

carry at rallies and other public gatherings are an essential part of their culture, and any attempts to seize them insults Zulu tradition. The ANC has pressed for the weapons to be banned, saying their display intimidates rivals and increases tensions.

Among the 88 people killed since the emergency was imposed were 10 people shot Sunday in Ndvedwe, north of Durban. Police had few details, and Tuesday's report was the first word of the killings.

Palestinian exiles return home to work for peace in occupied territories

The Associated Press

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — The first exiled leaders of the Palestinian uprising allowed to return home got a tumultuous hero's welcome Tuesday in the occupied territories.

The returning exiles will help build an autonomous government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and try to dispel perceptions among Palestinians that the historic Israel-PLO peace accord has failed to bring change.

"People are seeing some changes with their own eyes now. This has had more impact on the people than months of negotiations," said Saeb Erekat, a senior PLO figure in the occupied territories.

At the crossing from Egypt to the Gaza Strip at Rafah, hundreds of youths waving the black, red, white and green Palestinian flag carried 23 returnees on their shoulders to

waiting cars. Gunmen from the PLO's Fatah Hawks fired into the air.

Crowds lined the road to Gaza, waving black and white checked kafiyahs, the Palestinians' trademark headwear.

Palestinian officials said 26 other exiles crossed into the West Bank over the Allenby Bridge from Jordan.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, in Amman, Jordan, to hold talks with King Hussein, described Israel's decision to let the deportees return as "another positive signal."

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the returnees were "pioneers in the implementation of this new rapprochement between the Palestinians and ourselves."

The returnees face a local PLO leadership fractured by fighting, and will have to deal with attempts by the armed underground to continue attacks on Israel, demands for jobs, and general disillusionment with the peace accords.

Most of the deportees were university students and professors expelled by Israel for organizing the Palestinian uprising, or intefadah, which started in December 1987. They are the first of those exiles allowed to

See PLO/Page 3

Preserving the past, seeing the future



David Birch/The Battalion

Leland Tieh, a sophomore history major, helps arrange a display commemorating the 50th anniversary of the activation of the cadets of the Class of '44 for active duty in World War II.

Corps Center Guard bridges gap between public and Texas A&M

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

The gap between old and new is being bridged at Texas A&M University's Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center by the Corps Center Guard.

David Carey, Corps Center Guard Commander and a senior in Company E-1, said guard members act as liaisons between the public and the Corps Center.

"Old Ags get to see the past through the Corps Center and the present and future through the Corps Guard," Carey said.

Guard members take care of the center and its artifacts, give tours of the center, and work at special events.

"The Corps Center is the first impression that an old Ag gets of the Corps now," Carey said.

Joe Fenton, curator of the Corps Center and adviser for the guard, said many former students visit the center because it is where they feel most comfortable.

"A lot of them would give anything to have these kids give them a tour," Fenton said. "The members of the guard are the living part of the center."

Fenton said the main purpose of the guard is to meet the public, welcome former students, and act as historians for the campus and the Corps.

He said the guard, which has 27 male members and 5 female members, offers the cadets tremendous experience.

"The program fills in the gap for students who might not fit anywhere else," Fenton said. "It's an opportunity for them to find out what they are made of."

Members of the Corps Center Guard recently received new uniforms that Fenton said bring back the old style of the Corps.

"The main purpose for the distinct uniform is to set them apart," he said.

Carey said the new uniforms are similar to the style worn by cadets in the 1940s.

"The uniforms set them apart from the regular C.T.," Carey said. "They will be a distinctive presence in the Corps Center."

Senior and junior guard members wear a full dress uniform, and sophomore members wear olive drab pants and a khaki shirt. He said these uniforms bring back the old style of the 1940 uniforms.

The Corps Center Guard is chosen in the spring by an interview process.

"Cadets are screened mainly on their desire to work," Fenton said. "This is a lot like an honor guard."

Members are chosen for being charismatic, outgoing, and a desire to promote the Corps and the center, Fenton said.

"The group fills the need for students who love Texas A&M, want to learn the history, greet the public, and have a desire to do a little extra," Fenton said. "The kids make wonderful contacts and have an opportunity to represent the school and the Corps Center as well as protect it."

He said recruiting is a big part of being in the guard.

"The center generates interest in the Corps," Fenton said. "We're trying to preserve the past, protect the present, and promote the future."

"The members of the guard are the living part of the center."

—Joe Fenton, curator of the Corps Center and adviser for the guard

More inside . . .

- Campus Briefs Pg. 2
- Extra Mail Call Pg. 10
- Sports Pg. 5

A&M examines possibility of Central Texas university

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

Texas A&M University officials are working with individuals from the Fort Hood and Killeen area to decide if another institution of higher education is needed in Central Texas.

David Sanchez, vice chancellor for academic affairs, said Texas A&M is acting as an interested, but neutral, party in determining the needs of that part of the state.

"We're trying to find out exactly what the educational needs of the area are," he said. "There is a whole series of questions that need to be answered."

Sanchez, who is head of the Central Texas Task Force on Education, said many pressures, including a number of civic boosters and economic influences, are pushing for the establishment of a university in Killeen.

"They've got this idea that they have been neglected and they want this attention," Sanchez said.

The task force is currently trying to determine how much support a new school would receive in the area.

"We need to find out if there are enough people to support it," Sanchez said. "Are there enough bright-eyed, bushy-tailed kids up there interested in a school there? The junior college up there (Tarleton State University) is doing a good job, and we don't want to dismantle it."

Sanchez said the group is also running into a problem with the military.

"The Army wants this delivered, and they want it cheap," he said.

The educational needs of the Temple and Killeen area also are still in question.

Sanchez said adults in the area have shown an interest in programs in business, computing, teacher preparation and nursing.

"But you can't form a four-year college based on those four programs," Sanchez said.

See School/Page 4

Library to remain open until 2 a.m.

Sterling C. Evans Library will now be open until 2 a.m. after numerous complaints from students who wanted the library to remain open longer.

The library had been closing at

12 a.m., but will remain open to accommodate student's needs.

If enough students utilize the library's new hours, the library will continue offering extended hours.

With a passion for the presses . . .

Summer, fall Battalion editors work together to improve newspaper

By Melissa Jacobs
The Battalion

Texas A&M students may be seeing a few changes when they pick up a copy of The Battalion this summer and fall.

Editors have been chosen for the summer and fall semesters. Mark Evans, a senior biology and journalism major, will be the summer editor, and Belinda Blancarte, a senior journalism major, will be the fall editor.

Blancarte and Evans are working together to make some changes to The Battalion.

Blancarte said she and Evans have worked well together in the past and that will help them with their plans for The Battalion.

"I'm restructuring the job descriptions, so the editorial board will be different," she said. "I'm trying to make it a little more uniform so people will work together more instead of at their own desks."

Evans said that with the high turnover at The Battalion every semester, changes made by editors often don't stick.

"There are some changes that I want to make," he said. "Belinda and I have been bouncing ideas off of each other. If we can get stuff to stay for two semesters, it will probably be around for a while."

Evans applied for the editor's position because he has seen so many editors come and go that he wanted to try his hand at it.

Blancarte said she had considered applying for the managing editor's position, but she is now glad she changed her mind.

"There weren't that many people applying for editor," she said. "It's a good opportunity, so I gave it a shot."

The interview to select an editor was somewhat of an ordeal for Blancarte. Five minutes before her interview, Robert Wegener, manager



Kevin Ivy/The Battalion

of student publications, asked if she was applying for the position.

"I told him I was, and he said they didn't have my application," she said. "I was all dressed up, and I had to run back to my dorm in heels and print out my resume and run back."

Evans said he was happy when he found out he had gotten the position, but it hasn't really hit him yet.

"There were four of us applying for the two editors' positions," he said. "I consider the other three to be friends of mine. It's tough when you go up against friends. I felt sorry for the two that didn't get a position."

Both editors said their jobs will be demanding, but Evans said the summers are a lot less demanding than the fall or spring semesters.

"Usually, the summer is a lot more laid

back," he said. "There isn't a lot of controversy, so I want to focus a lot more on the staff, the paper and training during the summer."

Evans has worked for three years at The Battalion in the positions of reporter, assistant opinion editor, assistant city editor, managing editor, city editor and copy editor.

Blancarte has worked for The Battalion for a year and a half. During that time, she has held the positions of copy editor, assistant night news editor and night news editor.

Blancarte will work for the San Antonio Express-News this summer as a general assignment reporter.

Evans, who graduates in December, plans to study environmental studies in graduate school and pursue a career in science journalism.

Blancarte, who also graduates in December, would like to be a religion writer.