



THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

University settles dispute with Gilbert

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION
Texas A&M announced Wednesday it has mailed priority season football tickets to Pattie Gilbert, wife of disassociated booster Warren Gilbert.

"After months of being in an extremely difficult situation, we now hope that this matter will be resolved," said Wally Groff, A&M athletic director. "We were caught in the middle of a complex situation that involved individual rights, Texas contract law and sanctions imposed by the NCAA."

In 1978, Warren and Pattie Gilbert of Dallas gave a \$30,000 endowment to the 12th Man Foundation, entitling them to four preferred tickets and parking for Aggie football games for life.

On Jan. 5, the University disassociated Mr. Gilbert in order to comply with

12th Man Foundation bows down, express mails football tickets to wife of disassociated booster

sanctions handed down by the NCAA because he had violated that organization's rules.

Mr. Gilbert broke NCAA rules between 1990 and 1992 when he paid nine student-athletes for work that was never performed. As a result, the NCAA placed the Texas A&M football program on probation for five years.

Mr. Gilbert was banned from A&M athletic programs for the five-year period. He is also prohibited from receiving benefits or privileges that the public cannot receive, including preferred seating at

football games. To attend a home football game, Gilbert would have to buy a general admission ticket.

Mrs. Gilbert said she wrote the 12th Man Foundation earlier this year asking them about her tickets because she had not received them.

Mrs. Gilbert said her family's endowment was a legal and binding contract and because she had not violated any NCAA rules she could not be denied her rights.

She said the matter has nothing to do with her husband or attending foot-

ball games. "Legal contracts are more important to me than a football game," she said. "The whole thing is over the fact that they need to honor their contract with me."

Frank Shannon, executive director of A&M's 12th Man Foundation, said the tickets were sent to Mrs. Gilbert Tuesday via express mail.

"She should have received them by noon on Wednesday," Shannon said.

This week the University mailed out a new policy to priority ticket holders reminding them: "A disassociated member

of the Texas A&M athletic program cannot utilize priority tickets or other benefits not generally available to the public at large."

Groff said because Mrs. Gilbert did not violate any NCAA rules, the University could issue her the tickets, provided they are not used by her husband.

"Since Mrs. Gilbert is considered a representative of the University's athletics interest," Groff said, "if she provides priority tickets to Mr. Gilbert he would be indirectly receiving an improper benefit and not only would jeopardize her right to future tickets but could cause the University to violate NCAA rules."

"We want to do what is right for all concerned. We have every intention of complying in every way with NCAA regulations as well as the laws of the state of Texas."



Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

"Howdy sir!"

Jack Easter (left), a freshman business major from Duncanville, whips out to Caleb Rackely, a sophomore political science major from San Antonio, as Ryan O'Connor (center), a freshman from

Copperas Cove looks on. "Whipping out" is a way for underclassmen to meet and introduce themselves to upperclassmen within the Corps of Cadets.

West ready to accept challenges as Regents' first chairwoman

By Amanda Fowle

THE BATTALION
For Mary Nan West, Texas A&M's first woman Board of Regents' Chairman, stepping into an historically male role is nothing new.

West, 69, said she has never felt discriminated against because she is a woman.

"My grandfather told me that I could do anything I wanted to and still be a lady doing it," she said.

West was raised by her grandparents on the Rafter S Ranch in South Texas. She became the ranch manager when she was 18.

She worked with the San Antonio Livestock Exposition for many years, and became its chairman in 1981.

Since she has been chairman, the Exposition has raised more than \$5.2 million in scholarships for students.

Keith Martin, executive director of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, said West is a great asset for the livestock show.

"She not only spends her time on the project," he said, "but also her money. She buys the kids' animals."

Before being appointed to the Texas A&M Board of Regents, West was on the Board of Regents for Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, the Marine Military Acad-

emy in Harlingen and the Texas Animal Health Commission.

She was also the first woman to serve on both the Marine Military Academy Board and the Texas Animal Health Commission.

West became involved with Texas A&M when she was asked to join the Agricultural Development Council, through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She also worked with A&M students through the San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

West graduated from St. Mary's Hall, a private high school for girls in San Antonio. She attended the Universities of Colorado and Arizona, but did not complete her degree.

She has two daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her grandson, George West Bodden, Class of '93, graduated from A&M and now manages the Rafter S Ranch.

West was appointed as a Regent in 1985 and is now serving her second six-year term.

"When I was asked to join the Board of Regents, I didn't know if I had the time to commit," she said. "When I accepted, I didn't realize it would take this much time."

West's busy schedule keeps her hopping from her ranch in South Texas, to College Station, to the other schools in the A&M system, and to San Antonio to run the livestock exposition.

"I'm pretty busy," she said.



West

See West/Page 14

IRA calls cease-fire, hopes to halt religious upheaval

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—The IRA declared a cease-fire Wednesday, and Northern Ireland now waits to see if the long-sought truce will hold and bring talks to end a quarter-century of sectarian bloodshed.

The Irish Republican Army's supporters called the declaration a historic opportunity for peace in the British province. But it disappointed British officials and majority Protestants in Northern Ireland who wanted explicit assurances of a permanent truce.

There also are worries about whether Protestant gunmen will hold their fire.

Many militant Protestants fear the British government has made secret concessions to the IRA to win a peace, and the extremists could try to provoke renewed IRA violence by attacking the province's Roman Catholic minority.

Hours before the IRA's declaration, the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force kidnapped a 37-year-old Catholic, shot him in the head and dumped his body on a roadside.

In recent years, Protestant extremists have killed more people than the IRA in "The Troubles," which have brought the deaths of more than 3,100 people.

"I welcome this IRA cease-fire in the sense that for some months no one will be murdered by them—but don't expect me to be grateful," said Alan McBride, whose wife, Sharon, was among 10 people killed by an IRA bomb at a Belfast fish shop last October.

The governments of Britain and Ireland pledged last December that there would be no change in the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its people.

The IRA has sought for 25 years to end British rule and join the province with the Irish republic.

Helping a country torn by violence

Two A&M students, Red Cross work to provide relief for Rwandans

By Susan Owen

THE BATTALION
Two Texas A&M graduate students have started a group to raise money for the Rwandan refugees living in camps in Africa.

The group, called Rwandan Relief Volunteers, opened an account Tuesday for contributions through the Brazos Valley Red Cross chapter.

Co-chairmen David Oehl and Gerald Emesih said they plan to host a guest speaker this fall and to publicize information about the Rwandan situation.

Oehl, a graduate student in aerospace engineering, said the idea for the group came after he and Emesih watched a television newscast about Rwanda a month ago.

"We saw all the mass murders and the kids without parents and all the horrendous images on TV, and we were just moved," Oehl said.

Emesih said he was concerned by the carnage and the plight of the people he saw on the screen.

"You see 2- or 3-year-old kids, all of a sudden, becoming the head of the family," he said.

More than 500,000 Rwandans have been massacred in the fighting and more than one million refugees have fled the country into Zaire and other neighboring countries.

The death rate in the refugee camps is now down to about 300 per day, but the camps faced an initial scourge of cholera, dysentery, meningitis and other diseases

which killed some 45,000 Rwandans.

Emesih and Oehl founded their group, which now has 10 members, to raise awareness of the situation in Rwanda and funds for the refugees.

Oehl said the members are not all A&M students, but come from diverse backgrounds in the community and want to help for similar reasons.

"We want this to be a community effort, not just for students," he said.

Emesih, a graduate student in agricultural engineering, is from Nigeria and is the president of A&M's African Students Association.

"There are so many people that are touched and looking for a way to help," Emesih said.

He said that according to his records, there are no Rwandan students at A&M, but there are students from neighboring countries.

Emesih said he thinks the Red Cross will be involved in sending aid to Rwandans for a long time.

"The health epidemic is spreading and might get over to neighboring countries," he said. "They can only do so much."

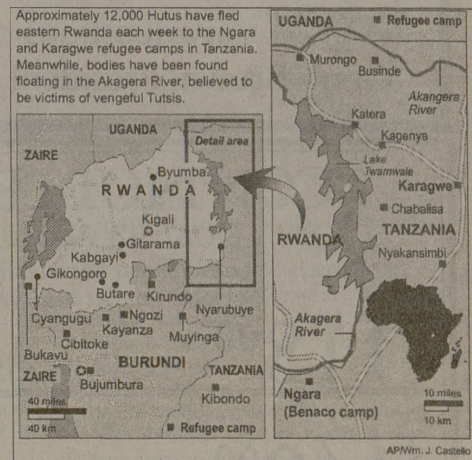
Oehl said they chose to affiliate with the Red Cross to ensure that the money raised would go directly to help the refugees.

Bill Thomas, executive director for the Brazos County chapter of the American Red Cross, said all contributions designated for the Rwandan relief effort will be forwarded to the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Red Cross takes their administrative costs out of money from non-earmarked donations and the United Way, Thomas said.

"All the monies that do come in will be sent on to International Red Cross," he said.

As of Aug. 12, the American Red Cross



Approximately 12,000 Hutus have fled eastern Rwanda each week to the Ngara and Karagwe refugee camps in Tanzania. Meanwhile, bodies have been found floating in the Akagera River, believed to be victims of ventufuli Tutsis.

The Red Cross opens and operates refugee camps, sends food, provides medical supplies and personnel, and works to improve sanitation and water purification in the tent cities set up to house refugees.

Thomas said the national Red Cross concentrates on raising money from major corporations.

He said that in the Brazos Valley, some individual contributions for Rwandan aid have been made, but there has been no organized program to raise funds.

"This would be the first fund-raising effort that has been undertaken here," he said.

See Rwanda/Page 14

Today's BATT

Aggielife	3
Campus	2
Classified	8
Opinion	15
Sports	9
Toons	10
Weather	14
What's Up	5