

WBC, Roadhouse sponsor Bonfire benefit

□ Proceeds from the benefit will go toward concessions for those who work on Bonfire.

By Lisa Johnson
THE BATTALION

The Women's Bonfire Committee and the owners of the King of the Roadhouse bar are sponsoring a Bonfire benefit at 7 p.m. tonight.

Rebecca Fields, a WBC coordinator and a junior environmental

design major, said the bar owners are former students who pledge their support for Bonfire.

"We're really lucky to get a place like the Roadhouse to hold the benefit," Fields said. "The owners are old Ags and are kind enough to volunteer their place of business to help us raise money for Bonfire."

Tickets are \$2, and proceeds will be used by WBC to pay for fuel for water trucks at cut site and provide food for the redpots and coordinators.

The money will be used to buy the concessions that the

WBC provides to those participating in Bonfire activities on the polo field.

Laura Wheelis, a WBC coordinator and a junior animal science major, said she expects a good turnout based on the attendance of previous benefits.

"Last spring, it was packed," Wheelis said. "We had at least 250 to 300 people there, and I'm hoping that at least as many people will attend this benefit."

The Roadhouse hosted the last WBC Bonfire Benefit in the spring.

Hans Betten, a brownpot and

a junior agriculture and life science major, and his band will provide music for the benefit.

"I couldn't really tell you what kind of music they play," Fields said. "Mainly, everyone just gets up there and has a good time. It's all in fun and really gives the benefit a good party atmosphere. We're really looking forward to seeing how many people come out to the Roadhouse."

In addition to the benefit, the WBC is making plans to hold a Thanksgiving dinner for students who are staying over the break to work on Bonfire.

Report shows many hate crimes remain unreported

□ Crimes aren't being adequately reported or prosecuted and are increasing against homosexuals in Texas, according to a report released Wednesday by the Texas Civil Rights Project.

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite a report that shows hate crimes are decreasing in Texas, the legal director for the Texas Civil Rights Project said Wednesday the crimes aren't being adequately reported or prosecuted.

James Harrington, legal director for the TCRP, released a report examining hate crimes in Texas from 1992 to 1994.

He said if not for substantial progress being made in Dallas and Fort Worth, hate crime statistics would be up across the state.

"We cannot take much comfort from the report for two reasons," Harrington said. "In the first place, the total numbers are still unacceptably high."

"Secondly, the reason that raw numbers of hate crimes have tended to level out is because of very aggressive anti-hate crime activity by law enforcement in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas."

Harrington said prominent hate crime

cases in the Metroplex, including a black man's shooting death by a group of skinheads in Arlington in 1991, have prompted authorities to step up efforts against such crimes. The efforts have resulted in a 41 percent decrease in hate crimes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Harrington said. "This shows that good law enforcement techniques and effective prosecutions can, and do, lessen hate crime in a community," Harrington said. "This, in turn, should provide the model for law enforcement agencies in Texas."

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, there were 389 reported hate crimes in 1994, down from 436 in 1993 and 484 in 1992. Overall, there was a 19.6 percent decrease in hate crimes from 1992 to 1994.

But Harrington said the report only deals with a fraction of the hate crimes being committed. He said poor reporting of the crimes by both police and victims have left many hate crimes undetected.

"There is no uniform training for police officers who investigate crimes to determine if it could have been motivated by hate," Harrington said.

He also added that many victims are afraid to come forward out of fear that they will be stigmatized.

"Hate crimes continue to be a very pervasive problem in Texas," Harrington said.

He said reforms in the state's hate crime law approved by the 1995 Legislature should prevent prosecutors from refusing to take a case to court out fear that convictions wouldn't hold up on appeal.

"There is still a reluctance by district attorneys to do enhanced sentencing under the hate crimes law," Harrington said.

The report recommends several ways to help reduce hate crimes, including new police guidelines for addressing and deterring such crimes and amending public school curriculums to address prejudice and hate violence.

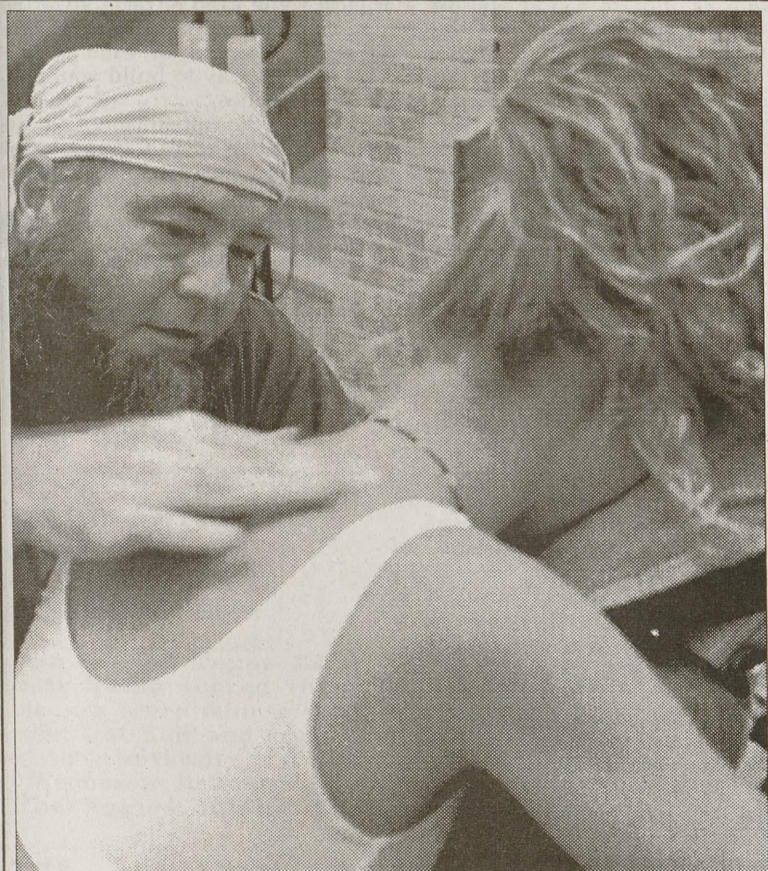
According to the report, blacks are most often the victims of hate crimes in Texas. Department of Public Safety data showed that 41.7 percent of the hate crimes reported between 1992 and 1994 resulted in bias against blacks.

Anti-white crimes (22.2 percent) are followed by anti-gay crimes (12.6 percent), anti-Hispanic (7.5 percent), anti-Jewish (6.5 percent) and anti-Asian (3 percent).

According to the report, crimes against homosexuals continue to rise while hate crimes against whites have decreased dramatically.

There were 64 crimes against homosexuals in 1994 compared to 51 in 1993 and 59 in 1992, according to DPS records.

Crimes against whites totaled 73 in 1994, a drop from 103 in 1993 and 129 in 1992, according to DPS records.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

MASSAGE THERAPY

Nikki Willis, a junior kinesiology major, gets a free massage from massage therapist Dan Arnold as part of the Health Fair that was held in the MSC on Wednesday.

Hurricane Roxanne roughs up Mexico's Yucatan resorts

□ The storm had 110 mph winds which ripped through Cozumel, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

TULUM, Mexico (AP) — Uprooting trees, toppling streetlights and leveling a concrete stadium, Hurricane Roxanne swept through a southern Mexican provincial capital Wednesday during a daylong march across the Yucatan.

Roxanne's 75-mph winds tore through Campeche, a state capital of 175,000 people. There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries in the city or anywhere else in the hurricane's path.

Three thousand residents sought shelter from the storm, and television footage showed people wading through waist-high water.

The storm drifted westward late Wednesday, sending shrimpers and oil workers fleeing to shore before it hit the city of Campeche, on the western Gulf coast of the peninsula, flinging tin roofs into the air.

The U.S. National Weather Service said Roxanne would probably gain strength as it heads west over the Gulf of Mexico and

menaces a broad swath of coastline. It said flashfloods and mudslides in areas already soaked by Hurricane Opal last week could occur without warning.

The oil-rich lowlands of Mexico's southern Gulf Coast are still recovering from floods caused by Opal, which killed at least 11 people in Mexico before veering north to hit the Florida Panhandle.

The National Weather Service posted a hurricane watch the Gulf on Mexico's eastern coast as far north as Tuxpan, about 350 miles south of the Texas border.

Before the hurricane hit, Campeche state Gov. Jorge Salomon said about 150 shelters were ready to receive 15,000 people, offshore shrimpers had headed to port and rail and highway traffic were disrupted by approaching winds and rains.

"We are taking all the precautions necessary," he said.

The Weather Service said that by 1 a.m. Thursday (2 a.m. EDT), Roxanne's center was about 70 miles northeast of Ciudad del Carmen.

The hurricane has lost force since it hit Tulum on the Yucatan's Caribbean side late Tuesday with 110-mph winds. Telephone links with the island resort of Cozumel remained cut Wednesday, and plane and ferry services were still suspended, leaving hundreds of tourists as well as some 35,000 local residents isolated.

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