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Speaker offers insights on Taiwan elections

By Lily Aguilar
THE BATTALION



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

The direct presidential elections held in Taiwan on March 23 were a step in the right direction, a spokeswoman for the Center for Taiwan International Relations in Washington D.C., told about 60 Texas A&M students Tuesday night.

But the media and U.S. government may be giving Taiwan more credit than it deserves. Kristie Wang, who was brought to campus by the MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, said the election was the product of years of protest by Taiwanese freedom fighters, but the victory for democracy was a bittersweet one.

Lee Teng-Hui, the nation's newly elected leader, was the candidate of Taiwan's ruling government party, Kuomintang.

The KMT, she said, is responsible for years of military rule and violence toward dissidents. Until 1992, students were being arrested for rallying for direct presidential elections, and throughout the 1980s the government terrorized people who spoke out against the KMT.

"Parents would tell their children not to talk about Taiwan or attend conferences on Taiwanese affairs," Wang said. "There were mysterious disappearances and car crashes. Students were blacklisted and could not return home (from the United States)."

Wang said the KMT was forced to liberalize and democratize, adopting the policies of the nation's first opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, in 1986.

But the elections still reflected the KMT's overriding power, she said. "Seventy-five percent of the eligible voters participated in the Taiwan's first democratic

election," she said. The media (touted) the elections as the final step toward Taiwanese democracy. But I found myself disappointed.

Wang said the election results were problematic because the KMT was well financed, controlled media coverage, and played on the Taiwanese people's weak sense of nationalism.

"The obliteration of the Taiwanese language, which is a powerful connection to the culture, and the 'I am Chinese mentality' led to a problem," she said. "Elections should reflect nationalism, but there is a sense of that."

Cheng-Non Hsu, a native of Taiwan and graduate civil engineering student, said he thought the election was positive for the people of Taiwan. Although Hsu, who will return to his family in Taiwan after he leaves A&M, supported another candidate in the election, he said he is pleased that the nation is becoming more democratic.

"People in Taiwan still seem happy with the election results," Hsu said.

Chin B. Su, a professor of electrical engineering who attended the speech, said the native Taiwanese, who comprise 87 percent of the nation's population, are divided because they have strong historical ties to China.

Taiwan wants to be recognized as the public of China, he said, despite its wish for an independent government.

See Elections, Page 1

POLICE BEAT

Supplemental Information - Misdemeanor Theft

Reynolds Medical Sciences Building - The victim's backpack and contents were stolen on 4/14 from the lounge area. On 4/16, the victim received a package from Austin with a portion of his stolen property returned. The unsigned note in the package stated the items were found in a grocery store parking lot. Koldus Building - The same victim called to report that in addition to the previously reported stolen property, two gift certificates valued at \$40 were stolen from her handbag.

Supplemental Information - Indecent Exposure

Dormitory 5 - After consultation with the County Attorney's Office, the suspect was issued a citation for disorderly conduct by exposure.

Misdemeanor Theft

Blocker Building - A set of keys and a maroon leather wallet containing \$14 in cash were stolen from a first-floor room. Two shirts and a denim "1995 Alamo Bowl" jacket were stolen. Parking Area 56 - A blue 12-speed Cannondale SR800 bicycle was stolen from the northeast corner of the parking lot. Legett Hall - A subject was arrested in possession of a bicycle stolen from Sbsia Dining Center and for an outstanding theft warrant by the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. Criminal Trespass Warnings were also issued to two individuals who were observed in the company of the suspect. Langford Architecture Building - A black Case Logic compact disc case containing 47 compact discs was stolen from a second-floor room.

Theft of Service

Transportation Center Communication Office - A subject has placed approximately \$1,000 in unauthorized calls by manipulating the toll free 800 service.

Criminal Trespass

Southeast side of Walton Hall - A subject who chose to ignore a previously issued Criminal Trespass Warning was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Kyle Field Practice Area - Two individuals were found inside the Kyle Field practice area. They were issued criminal trespass warnings and released.

Driving While Intoxicated

Southside Parking Garage - An intoxicated subject was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Lubbock Street - An intoxicated motorist was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

North Bizzell Street - An intoxicated motorist was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Harassment

Keathly Hall - The victim reported that for the last two to three years she has been receiving hang-up telephone calls at her residence hall room and parent's home.

Criminal Mischief

G. Rollie White Coliseum - A subject kicked a second-floor door, damaging the door vent. With the aid of witnesses statements, a suspect was identified. The suspect, who was contacted, admitted his involvement. An arrest warrant will be requested from the County Attorney's Office.

Northgate Post Office Parking Lot - A subject was observed as he walked across the hood of a 1994 Plymouth, damaging the vehicle. The subject was apprehended. The victim was contacted and wished to file criminal charges. The subject was transported to the Brazos County Jail and incarcerated.

Fowler Hall - A subject kicked and damaged the water fountain on the third floor of the residence hall.

University Center Garage - The victim reported that between the end of March and April 12, her Chevrolet Blazer had been

"keyed" on three separate occasions. Civil Engineering Building - The past two mornings feces was found on top of or in a trashcan outside a basement room.

Vehicle Fire

Polo Road - A faulty electrical conduit between the engine compartment and dashboard was the apparent cause of the fire involving a 1988 Chevrolet Blazer. College Station Fire Department personnel extinguished the fire.

Disorderly Conduct

Post Office Parking Lot - A citation was issued to a subject detected urinating in public.

Public Intoxication

University and Asbury Street - An intoxicated pedestrian was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Parking Area 40 - An intoxicated subject was released to a responsible adult.

Simpson Drill Field - An intoxicated subject was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

False Statement to Obtain Property or Credit

Davis-Gary Hall - Someone opened a long distance credit account using the victim's personal information without authorization.

Burglary of Habitation

Walton Hall - A Panasonic compact disc player was stolen from the victim's room.

Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage

Various Campus Locations - Citations were issued to three individuals.

Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage/Failure to Identify

Parking Area 3 - Two citations were issued.

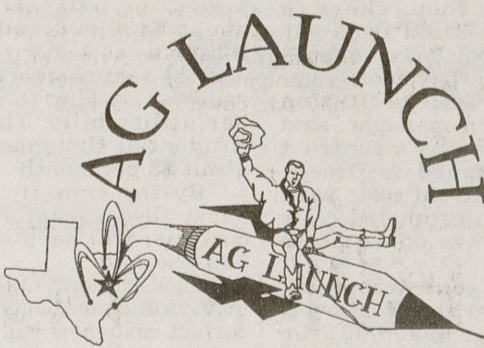
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