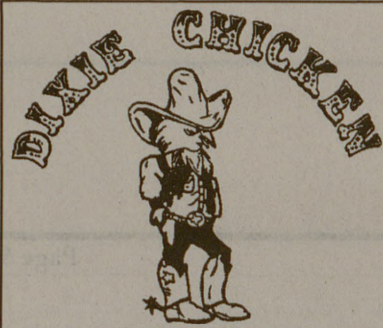


News

Page 10

THE BATTALION

Friday, October 16, 2003



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Soldiers take revenge in eastern Nigeria

ZAKI-BIAM, Nigeria (AP) — The smell of death lingered Thursday over the deserted streets of this burned out village — one of seven where state officials say soldiers bent on revenge destroyed homes and killed at least 130 people in eastern Nigeria.

Bloated bodies scarred by bullets lay in the empty streets, where stores, schools and homes were looted and burned to the ground. A military helicopter whirled overhead.

State officials say the raids were in reprisal for the abduc-

tion and killing of 19 soldiers by Tiv tribal fighters earlier this month in the state of Benue, where villagers have been waging a decade-long ethnic feud.

just one village, state Gov. George Akume said Thursday. The figures could not be independently verified.

Defense officials deny they ordered any revenge attacks.

The soldiers who arrived in Zaki-Biam on Tuesday told residents they were peacekeepers and instructed people to stay in their homes, according to the few residents who started straggling back Thursday.

"We thought they were coming here to protect us, but suddenly they took up positions and started firing at us," said Titus Madugu, a nurse, hovering nervously in the garden next to his burned house.

Madugu's uncle was killed; his five children and one of his two wives disappeared in the mayhem, as villagers fled into the forest. Also missing were 12 patients he had been caring for at a clinic when the rampage began, and Madugu said he had no idea of their fate.

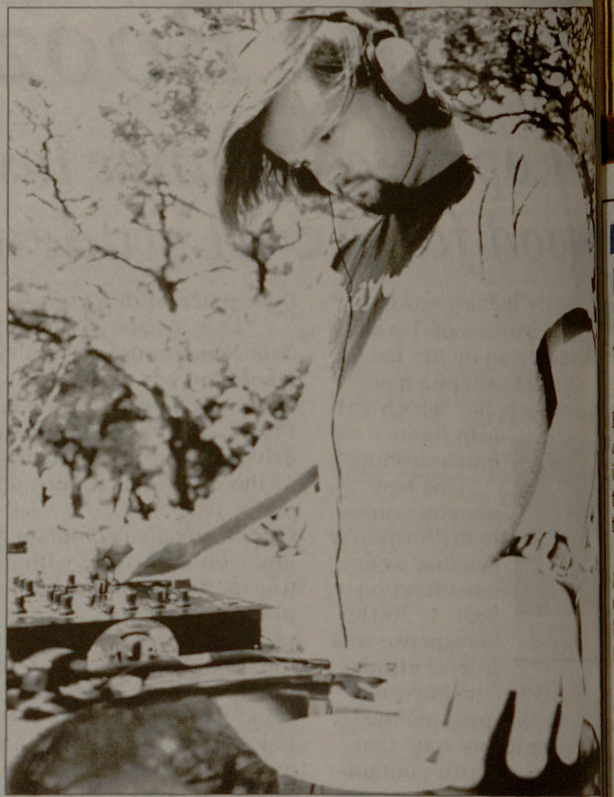
Outside Madugu's clinic, the bullet-ridden bodies of five men lay in the sun near a taxi that was also pocked with gunshots. Residents said the vehicle was caught in the shooting and the passengers gunned down as they tried to flee.

Fearing another attack, some of the residents who returned on Thursday to ruined homes went back into the forest to spend a third night in a row.

"We thought they were coming here to protect us, but suddenly they took up positions and started firing at us."

— Titus Madugu
Nigerian citizen

Farmers spin!



ANDY HANCOCK • THE BATTALION

Jason Darr, senior journalism major, performs Thursday afternoon at the Rudder Fountain plaza. Darr was spinning for the Thursday lunchbox concerts held every Thursday.

TURNAROUND

Continued from Page 7

after ISU won nine games for the first time since 1906. Iowa State also jumped into the national polls last season for the first time in 19 years, finishing the season at No. 25.

The Cyclones, who won just 27 games during the 1990's, have won 14 of their last 19.

One of those losses was a 30-7 loss to A&M last season in Ames, Iowa, and the Aggies have yet to lose to ISU.

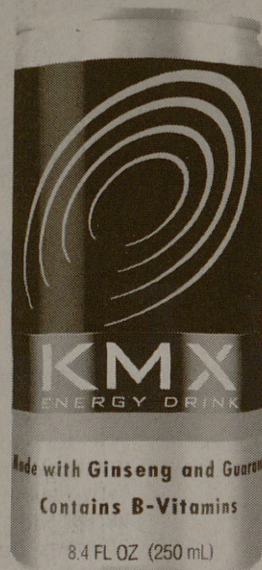
Despite a solid 2000 campaign, ISU failed to win a game against ranked opponent. The Cyclones only lost this season was to hands of No. 3 Nebraska.

"They had a good year," said junior linebacker Ed Gamble, who is doubtful for Saturday's game with a sprained MCL. "But the one thing we didn't do is beat one of the upper echelon teams or one of those teams that is nationally renowned. What better thing for them to do than to come down to Kyle Field in front of 80,000 people and win the football game?"

Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

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