



AP Laserphoto

Young Beijing police marched to their shift of guard duty in Tiananmen Square on Sunday.

Beijing quietly marks uprising

Police arrest lone protester

By The Associated Press

BEIJING — Authorities arrested a lone protester in Beijing on Sunday, but hundreds of police discouraged other shows of dissent on the anniversary of the beginning of last year's student democracy movement.

Surprisingly, security was only marginally increased at the university campuses in northwestern Beijing which were centers of dissent last year.

At Beijing Normal University, crowds gathered around recently posted notices announcing the expulsions of movement leaders Wu'er Kaixi and Chai Ling, both of whom have fled to the West.

Sunday marked one year since the death of former Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang, who was popular among students for his

relatively liberal views.

Students took to the streets then to mourn Hu and criticize the Communist leadership that ousted him from power in 1987 for failing to stop previous student demonstrations.

The marches grew into a movement demanding democratic reform and an end to corruption that lasted for seven weeks and drew crowds of more than 1 million people. It ended when troops shot their way to student-occupied Tiananmen Square on June 3-4, killing hundreds and perhaps thousands on the way.

Tiananmen Square was open to the public Sunday, unlike on April 1 and 5 when police sealed off the plaza to block protests. Overseas dissidents had urged people to silently stroll through the square on those days in honor of those killed in June.

The only incident Sunday occurred when a man in his 30s began to pin white paper flowers on his sleeve, a traditional sign of

mourning. Streamers from the flowers read "To mourn Hu Yaobang" and "Heroes who die for democracy and liberty."

Police quickly arrested the man, who told onlookers he was a scientist from the southern province of Guizhou and had come to Beijing "to mourn our great general secretary (Hu)."

The man, who was not identified, was earlier stopped by police when he tried to mount the steps of the monument to revolutionary heroes in the middle of the square. He carried suitcases and said he had come to Beijing with everything he owned in anticipation of being arrested.

Twenty police stood guard around the monument throughout the day, forbidding entry.

The monument, usually open, was covered last year with wreaths brought by students and others to mourn Hu. It was also the headquarters for student leaders during their occupation of the 100-acre square in May and June.

AMTRAK

Continued from Page A1
contribute to Amtrak's federally subsidized deficit.

"Unfortunately, our studies to date do not indicate that the route you suggest would meet this requirement," Norman wrote.

All this does nothing to discourage Ellington, who is convinced that Amtrak's plans to bring a study train through Evansville is excellent news.

"Our route is best," Chris says. "It's better than the Cincinnati route."

Chris bases his assessment of the route's chances on conversations with railroad workers. He spends at least one afternoon a week visiting the CSX Transportation yards in Howell, a regional hub of railroad activity. He believes the quality of track along the line through Evansville and Nashville, Tenn., is far superior to the line on a competing route through Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

Amtrak needs good quality track to run trains at the speeds required for passenger service, Chris says, but doesn't have the money to improve long sections of track.

Chris has covered a surprising amount of track in his 15 years, including "countless" trips from

St. Louis to Chicago and Kansas City, Mo. An ardent Cardinals fan, he frequently manages to mix train travel with a baseball game.

Chris feels that Amtrak has a large untapped market in the Evansville area. More affluent travelers may be able to afford to drive to St. Louis, Indianapolis or Carbondale, Ill., to catch a train, but he believes the distance puts Amtrak out of reach for many disabled, elderly or low-income travelers.

"My grandparents would love to see Amtrak come through here so they could go see my sister in Atlanta or my uncle in Florida," he says.

Vacation time in the Ellington household invariably means an Amtrak journey to somewhere, planned entirely by Chris.

"I don't have anything to do with it. I just pay the bill," says Chris' mother, Gayle, who was widowed when Chris was 3. She and he son enjoyed a week-long trip to Seattle two years ago. Their plans for this summer include a train trip to Glacier National Park near the Canadian border in Montana.

Mrs. Ellington considers Chris' railroad interest to be one of the most positive forces in his life. Spending time with railroad

workers has helped compensate for the loss of his father.

"To me, this is the best thing in the world," Mrs. Ellington said. "It's developed him. It's developed his ability to research and to talk to adults."

When an Amtrak official suggested political support would be the key to bringing Amtrak service to Evansville, Mrs. Ellington said Chris even contacted local party officials, hoping to take an active part in politics.

"They told him they really didn't have an organization for someone his age," Mrs. Ellington said.

Chris has consulted one of his most frequent Amtrak contacts, Director of Customer Relations Calvin Craft, about his desire for a career in railroading. He plans to seek a degree in transportation to pursue a career in Amtrak's corporate communications department.

Chris' great-grandfather was a railroader on the Louisville & Nashville, and Mrs. Ellington can offer no other explanation for her son's fascination with railroads.

"He just loves trains," she said. "He says trains built this country and they will be the future of this country."

BRIEFS

From wire reports

PEOPLE

Chuck Norris pilots boat to win

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Actor Chuck Norris piloted a 50-foot speedboat to victory in an offshore powerboat race, while a second actor-laden boat came in fourth.

Norris, the martial arts film star, averaged 81.2 mph Saturday in the 140-mile Super Boat class of the 1990 Offshore Powerboat Races. Fellow tough guy actors Don Johnson and Kurt Russell were aboard the fourth-place boat, "Team USA."

The race was marred by two unrelated accidents in which boats overturned. Their occupants were rescued by Long Beach lifeguards and medical teams from the Offshore Professional Tour, race officials said.

Old records helped Michael Bolton

NEW YORK — Grammy-winner Michael Bolton says he learned about music from his older brother's rhythm and blues records.

"I grew up singing along with Smokey (Robinson), Marvin Gaye, Ray Charles, Otis Redding and Stevie Wonder," the raspy-voiced singer said in the April 23 People. "I had hair down to my waist and I sounded like a 50-year-old black guy."

Bolton, who had a successful career as a songwriter for stars like Barbra Streisand and Cher, said his own singing career took off when he returned to his R&B roots.

His album "Soul Provider" has gone platinum and he won a Grammy in February for his song, "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You."

"What I'm doing is keeping the songs I used to give away," he said.

Sandra Bullock may return as star

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — When Sandra Bullock graduated from East Carolina University in 1986, she headed for New York to become a struggling actress.

When ECU celebrates its homecoming this October, she will return to the Greenville, N.C., campus as star of the NBC series "Working Girl." That is, unless her Wall Street sitcom crashes in the ratings this spring.

"Then I'll come back as a struggling actress," Ms. Bullock told The Charlotte Observer in a telephone interview from her Los Angeles apartment.

The show — a spinoff of the Oscar-winning movie starring Melanie Griffith — is in a spring tryout to see if it will become a part of NBC's fall lineup. Ms. Bullock, 25, beat out Tatum O'Neal and other better-known actresses for the part of Tess McGill, a secretary turned junior executive.

Veteran prom-goers are for hire

BISMARCK, N.D. — Two hospital orderlies are hiring themselves out as dates for high school girls left high and dry on prom night.

The two Medcenter One hospital workers are asking \$100 a date. For the price, Yancy or Mike will rent a tuxedo, pick up the girl, meet her parents, present her with a corsage, take her to dinner and go to the dance.

"We're not looking for a profit," said 21-year-old Mike. He and Yancy spoke to The Bismarck Tribune on condition that their last names not be used to save a girl's friends from finding out she is with a rent-a-date.

"It seems like all the high school guys want to ask out the same beautiful girl," said Yancy, 19. Yancy said he attended four proms during his high school days and Mike three. They both said they knew how to show a girl a good time.

Tree sprouts from boy's candy bar

WOODWARD, Okla. — A wayward nut from a candy bar may someday bear fruit for Lorene Arnold.

The almond tree in her back yard apparently began as a nut in her grandson's candy bar, she said.

She recalled that she first noticed a weed growing in a planter by the front door about five years ago. When she pulled it, she discovered an almond-like seed attached to the roots.

"It kind of shocked me," she said. "I poked my finger down in the hole and replanted it to see what it would do."

She said their grandson, Rocky Arnold, then 9, heard his grandparents discussing the "weed" and confessed.

The seed came from a candy bar, he said, "because I don't like the nuts."

Mrs. Arnold let the tree grow in the planter for a while, but eventually moved it to the back yard, where it has thrived and is now taller than she is.



Law Review chief Barack Obama

Harvard's first black Law Review president doesn't want cushy job

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — His boyhood friends in Indonesia were street peddlers, and his grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house in Kenya. But Barack Obama is another world away, presiding over the Harvard Law Review as the first black president in the prestigious journal's 103-year history.

The charismatic 28-year-old, ensconced in the halls where tradition reigns, is taking aim at another custom: Obama's sights are set on the South Side of Chicago, not on a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship or a fast-track career with a cushy firm.

"I'm not interested in the suburbs. The suburbs bore me. And I'm not interested in isolating myself," Obama said in a recent interview. "I feel good when I'm engaged in what I think are the core issues of the society, and those core issues to me are what's happening to poor folks in this society."

His passion is rooted in his background. He was born in Hawaii, his father an Oxford- and Harvard-educated economist from the African nation of Kenya, his mother a white anthropologist from Kansas. Obama moved to Southeast Asia at age 2 when his parents divorced and his mother married an Indonesian.

Until the fifth grade, Obama attended Indonesian schools, where most of his friends were the sons of servants, street peddlers and farmers.

Concern for Obama's education led his mother to return him to Hawaii, where he attended public schools through high school. In 1983, he graduated from Columbia University with a degree in political science.

At a recent meeting in a Harvard cafeteria, his affinity with the underdog was readily apparent.

"I lived in a country where I saw extreme poverty at a very early age," Obama said. "Parts of my family in Kenya remain very poor. My grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house with no running water or electricity."

"That's who I am, that's where I come from, not always literally, but at least emotionally."

Obama entered Harvard Law School in 1988, and through a combination of grades and a writing competition, was elected to head the Law Review this February. He succeeded Peter Yu, a first-generation Chinese-American.

Obama cautions against reading too much into his election.

"It's crucial that people don't see my election as somehow a symbol of progress in the broader sense, that we don't sort of point to a Barack Obama any more than you point to a Bill Cosby or a Michael Jordan and say 'Well, things are hunky dory,'" Obama said.

"There's certainly racism here. There are certain burdens that are placed, more emotionally at this point than concretely," Obama said.

Teens might have to float loan to make big splash on prom night

OAKLAND CITY, Ind. — Let's talk high finance. Let's talk the Junior-Senior Prom.

I wanted to find out how much fashion-conscious teen-agers spend these days when they attend the social highlight of their high school years.

Meet Bob Smith and Lisa Pflug, datemates and seniors at Wood Memorial High School in Gibson County. Smith, 18, will attend Purdue University this fall and major in chemistry. Ms. Pflug, also 18, will go to Indiana University and take the courses one takes if one wants to be an optometrist. They insist they are just friends and that each could be in someone else's arms the week after the big night.

The prom is Saturday night at the Ramada Inn in Evansville. Dinner is served shortly after 6:30, the disc jockey cranks up his music box around 8 and the youngsters are supposed to vacate the premises before midnight. The junior class sold oranges and operated concession stands at athletic events to finance the formal dance. This is no piddling amount of fund-raising. It cost the juniors \$350 to reserve the Ramada and they have to spring for the \$14 worth of eats for each of the 180 people expected to attend.

Now, for the individual price breakdown: Smith will shell out \$90 to rent tuxedo and shoes. He paid \$12 for a scarf and an additional \$8 to have it embroidered. Five couples are shar-



Garret Mathews

Columnist

ing a post-prom suite at Evansville's Executive Inn and his portion of the tab will come to \$15. He also wants to rent a limousine to make a grand entrance, but demand is running ahead of supply.

"The cars in Evansville are all taken, so I'm going to try to find one in Mount Carmel (Illinois) or Owensboro (Kentucky). I figure it'll cost \$200 and maybe even \$250. My mom (Lynn Neukam, a coal miner) said I'm OK as long as the total for everything doesn't run over \$400."

Ms. Pflug's parents (Donald, a miner, and Patricia, a nurse) paid \$200 for a prom gown that has a short skirt, sequins and "puffy sleeves." She still has the equally expensive dress she wore to last year's dance, but she told me wearing the same outfit two years in a row "just isn't done." Rhinestone shoes cost \$30. Silk flowers — complete with ribbons and silver beads — retail for \$35. A necklace is \$20, earrings are \$10 and a bracelet is \$7.

That's not all.

"If you're really going to add it up, you need to put down \$65 for 16 tanning sessions."

Aren't the two of you being a wee bit extravagant, I asked.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," Smith said. "I don't have any guilt feelings."

"My parents like to see me dressed up. It makes them happy," Ms. Pflug said.

Smith summed it up. "We just like nice stuff." What about the kids in Afghanistan who can't afford to go to the prom?

"When I get out of college and have a good job, I'll send them some money," Ms. Pflug said. "I promise."

Ms. Pflug works part-time at a flower shop. Her earnings helped finance the tanning sessions.

Smith has yet to enter the job market. It might happen this summer and, not surprisingly, he says it could be at a clothing store.

I didn't think Smith and Ms. Pflug would be interested so I didn't tell them about my senior prom.

May 1967. Judy Wilson looked better in a sweater than any girl at school. I'll take it a step further. She looked better in a sweater than any female in North America.

I asked her to the prom right after Joe Friday ended the episode of "Dragnet" by arresting the heartless criminal who swiped the Virgin Mary statue out of the cathedral. She turned me down

so fast I got back to the TV set in time to see the credits.

So I asked Cathy, a balding sophomore who didn't look much better in a sweater than I did. The night was a washout. She said she was sick — it might have been of me — and I took her home before the first band break.

A tuxedo was optional, so I chose the option that said I didn't have to wear one. I didn't buy a scarf, embroidered or otherwise. I didn't buy fancy shoes. Limos were unheard of. Getting a motel room for a post-prom party was a wonderful fantasy but probably a felony.

My bottom line? Whatever it cost to put gas in my father's car and the \$5 I paid for a two-for-one corsage special. My prom night was a social bust, but it was an accountant's dream.

I'm sure Cathy's dress didn't cost more than \$50. If she wore jewelry or bracelets or earrings, they didn't make an impression. If she paid for tanning sessions, she should have sued to get her money back.

What if you only had \$100 to spend on the Junior-Senior prom, I asked Lisa Pflug.

"My first reaction would be, 'Oh, my God. You can't even get a church dress for that.' Then I'd probably scream."

Garret Mathews' column appears Sunday through Thursday.