

Security is tight for Dalai Lama's visit here

By Katjusa Cisar

Special to The Capital Times

If the Dalai Lama's fans ever become less than Zen, police are ready.

Agents with the State Department will keep a "moving security bubble around" his Holiness Tenzin Gyatso at all times while he's in Madison this week, said Kurt Rice, special agent with the Chicago field office of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, which provides protection in 13 Midwestern states.

"Because he is so incredibly popular and such a magnetic figure, people want to touch him and be near him. We have to protect him from the mob," added Rice.

The Dalai Lama is "a very different kind of protectee" for the State Department, according to Rice, "because he is not a diplomatic head but an important world religious figure."

This is complicated by Gyatso's role as what Rice called "a former head of state" and his connections to the Tibetan politi-

cal scene. Rice said he doesn't anticipate any rioting from groups representing Chinese national concerns.

No protest applications have been filed with the city, according to Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Madison city clerk.

But security will be present at all three major locations that Gyatso visits: the Kohl Center, the Coliseum and Deer Park Buddhist Center, located near Oregon and considered one of the major Buddhist

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DALAI LAMA IN MADISON

Dane County residents have several opportunities through Friday to see and hear the Dalai Lama, spiritual and political leader of Tibet. He is giving teachings open to the public at the Coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center at:

■ 1:30 p.m. today; 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursday; and 9:30 a.m. Friday. Tickets are \$44 to \$32 for adults, \$25 for students and senior citizens and \$13 for children.

■ A speech at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Kohl Center is sold out.



DAVID SANDELL/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Tibetan children sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" followed by the Tibetan anthem this morning as the Tibetan flag is raised at the City-County Building. The local Tibetan community's request to fly the flag in honor of a visit by the Dalai Lama drew criticism from the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation on constitutional grounds and from the Chinese Consul, which claims Tibet has been part of China since it was occupied in 1950. One onlooker this morning called the raising of the flag a good thing. "It's an expression of people's yearning for freedom," he said.

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centers in the United States.

Deer Park will be "locked down and closed for the week unless you're preapproved" for entry, said Tina Frailey, a volunteer with the center.

People who go see the Dalai Lama at the Kohl Center will need to relinquish material possessions and just

bring their bodies and their spirits. Audience members are prohibited from bringing food or beverages, cans, bottles, coolers, backpacks, large bags, strollers, laser pointers, banners, flags, signs, noisemakers, weapons, balloons and beach balls into the hall.

In addition, the Office of Tibet is requesting that no one bring cell phones or recording devices with them when they come to hear the Dalai Lama speak.