

Happy 200th birthday, Beethoven!

The Battalion

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845-2226

Cloudy,
cold
days

THURSDAY—Cloudy to partly cloudy. Wind South 10 to 12 m.p.h. High 71, low 44.
FRIDAY—Cloudy. Wind South 10 to 15 m.p.h. Becoming Northerly 15 to 25 m.p.h. High 68, low 46.



LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS by local elementary school students, on display in the A&M library, draw smiles from students busy wrapping up the semester. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)

Minorities want ways 'righted'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the White House Conference on Children agreed

Tuesday to present personally to President Nixon a list of demands by black and Spanish-speaking delegates.

Chairman Stephen Hess agreed also to a request for a special session for minority groups Wednesday night and to the naming of a permanent committee by delegates to advise and assist in the followup of recommendations agreed on by the conference.

"We consider this... the opening of a communications conduit to funnel to the President the order of priorities as we see them," Charles G. Hurst Jr., of Chicago, spokesman for the black caucus, told a news conference.

He added: "We feel the chair-

man is as desirous of righting wrongs as we are."

Black and Spanish-speaking caucuses had criticized what they said was a lack of attention to minority-group problems at the conference, held every decade to make recommendations to the president concerning the welfare of children.

"How many poor children have you seen in the films shown here?" asked Emelio Rivera, spokesman for the Spanish-speaking caucus. "How many rats? How many slum homes? A migrant worker couldn't get in the door here. You have to pay ten dollars just for a badge."

Three dorms to remain open during break

Three residence halls will be open during the Christmas holiday period for students who will be on campus, Housing Manager Allan Madeley said Tuesday.

Schumacher and Hotard Halls and ramps C, D and E of Hart Hall will be available, Madeley said, and all other halls will be locked at 3 p.m. Tuesday. Students who expect difficulties in clearing their hall by 3 should make arrangements with their hall counselor, Madeley said.

Students who will be on campus and who will need a place to stay during the holidays must contact the Housing Office and make arrangements to live in Hotard, the housing manager said. Students already living in Schumacher, Hotard or Hart who wish to stay there between semesters must tell the Housing Office so they may be located if necessary.

There is no charge for staying in a hall room between semesters, Madeley said, but any student—including a permanent occupant—found living in a hall who has not registered with the Housing Office will be subject to disciplinary action.

This also applies to students found in one of the locked halls, Madeley said.

Students finding it necessary to enter a locked hall during the break must secure permission from the Housing Office, Madeley said, adding that all halls will be unlocked at 1 p.m. Jan. 10, and students who had moved to one of the open halls for the break must move out at that time.

University dining halls will close after Tuesday's noon meal and will not serve again until the breakfast meal Jan. 18.

MSC hours for holidays announced

Most departments of the Memorial Student Center will be closed during the holidays.

The fountain room will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 18. The bowling and billiards room will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 17.

Closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 4 will be the cafeteria, the gift shop, the guest rooms, the browsing library, the barber shop and the general offices.

The travel service and Western Union will close Dec. 25 through Dec. 27 and Jan. 1 through Jan. 3. The former Students Association will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Please drive safely.

Today's Batt last until 1971

This is the last issue of The Battalion for the fall semester. The Batt staff now takes a well-deserved break to cram for finals.

We will publish on Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, and resume our regular schedule Jan. 19.

The entire staff of The Battalion wishes you a merry Christmas, a happy new year and safe conduct home.

Please drive safely.

Stores suffering; sales down in '70

NEW YORK (AP)—Many major retailers across the country are expecting a blue Christmas this year, reporting holiday sales down from a year ago.

Some department stores say the only items selling well are the inexpensive things.

Hardest hit are stores in areas like Dallas and Seattle which are suffering from the slump in electronics-aerospace industries and cutbacks in defense spending.

A spokesman for Frederick and Nelson Department Store, a Seattle store owned by Marshall Field Inc., put it this way: "Why rehash a painful subject? Everyone knows things are bad all over, especially in the Northwest."

An executive at Sears' Roebuck and Co. in Seattle candidly admitted: "We're uptight."

Department stores in Dallas are faring no better, with a few predicting a sales drop by as much as 25 percent. The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said sales have been down all year in Dallas and were down three percent for the week through Dec. 5.

U.S. Department of Commerce figures show that for the first two weeks of the Christmas shopping season retail sales were up from 1969 in terms of dollar value. For the week ended Nov. 28 they were \$7.2 billion, about the same level they were running at last year. For the week ended Dec. 5 total retail sales were \$7.97 billion, up 3 percent from 1969.

But with a cost of living increase of between 5 percent and 6 percent this year, these figures actually reflect a decrease in the physical volume of sales, economic observers say.

Forum requests budget increase

The Student Senate and Great Issues are making a supplemental budget request for public relations material concerning the soapbox forum.

"It's my opinion that it's a good program, and would get more support if people could just hear about it," Senate President Kent Caperton said.

Caperton said that in a meet-

ing with the Great Issues executive committee Monday, a policy for getting the public relations out was set and will be adhered to.

Soapbox forums have been set for Jan. 20, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25, and April 15.

GREAT SAVINGS PLAN made even better by new legal rates at FIRST BANK & TRUST. Adv.

Calley witness says

Medina told company, 'be quiet'

FT. BENNING, Ga. (AP)—Capt. Ernest L. Medina was quoted Tuesday as advising his infantry company to "be quiet" about the so-called My Lai massacre, and telling one of the GIs not to take it up with his congressman.

Testifying as a defense witness at Lt. William L. Calley Jr.'s court-martial, former rifleman Michael Bernhardt, 24, of Harpoon Springs, Fla., said:

"Capt. Medina addressed the company and said an investigation was under way. He said he advised us to be quiet because he'd back up anybody who might be in trouble."

"He took me aside and said it would not be a good idea if I wrote my congressman or the inspector general and not to do it."

Under questioning from the judge, Bernhardt said, "It was

my platoon sergeant that gave Medina the idea that I was a letter writer." Bernhardt said he had told the sergeant he might write.

Calley, 27, is accused of the premeditated murder of 102 Vietnamese old men, women and children during an infantry sweep through the village, March 16, 1968, by Charlie Company of which Medina was commander. A former company platoon leader, Calley faces a maximum sentence of death if convicted.

Calley's defense is based in part on a contention that his actions in My Lai were based on orders received from superior officers, including Medina. The latter currently is undergoing the equivalent of a grand jury inquiry into his actions at My Lai, but has not been ordered to trial. It was a year after My Lai

assault before the allegations of atrocities in the village came to Washington's attention. A House investigating subcommittee subsequently found evidence which it said tended to substantiate a "coverup" of the incident.

Earlier at the court-martial, a former squad leader in another of Medina's platoon, Charles A. West, Chicago, testified he took part in the killing of 10 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai because "according to our orders everybody in the village was to be killed."

A series of defense witnesses has testified that Medina, during a briefing on the eve of the as-

sault, gave an impression that My Lai was to be leveled—in West's words, "leaving nothing walking, crawling or growing in the village."

However, none of them was able to say there was any specific order directing the execution of men, women and children. West was the first to say he had actually killed anyone in carrying out the purported order.

Arts magazine now published by A&M prof

The first issue of "Quartet," a magazine of the arts, to be published from Texas A&M has gone on sale.

The magazine was founded in 1962 at Purdue University and obtained in 1968 by Dr. Richard H. Costa, Associate Professor of English here. "Quartet" was published for two years at Syracuse University before Dr. Costa joined the A&M faculty this fall.

The 32-page issue (Fall '70, Vol. 4, No. 32) contains short fiction, verse, sketches, and book reviews.

All fiction and verse is free-lanced to the magazine. Nonfiction material is assigned by the editor.

The new issue contains a lead review of the poet May Swenson's new volume, "Iconographs" (Scribners) by Dr. Harry P. Kroitor, professor of English at Texas A&M. Editorial assistance in preparing the final proofs was given by Mrs. Elizabeth R. Turbin, a doctoral candidate in English.

Next issue will be published in February.

The magazine is being printed by the Texas A&M Press.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.

A PASSERBY notices an exhibit of Iranian art in the Memorial Student Center this week. The exhibit was

placed there by the Society of Iranian Students. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)



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Merry Christmas, happy new year and drive safely