

Bike rider wants equipment back

Editor:
 Until today, I had great faith in the idea that "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, nor does he tolerate those that do." However, today the pump on my bicycle was stolen either during class or during lunch. Not only that, but the lens on the rear light was stolen, also. Due to the

nature of their attachment to the bike, they could not have fallen off, so they must have been stolen.
 If whoever took the pump (I'm not worried about the lens) has any common decency, I would like the pump returned to me.
 Brian Ehni '74
 ★ ★ ★
Editor:
 In the last week or so, the

Batt has been filled with articles concerning the dismissal of ex-coach Gene Stallings. They have ranged from several columns by a pro-Stallings sports editor to letters-to-the-editor by alumni and students.
 The majority of these people have said that the firing of Stallings was untastefully handled by the Board of Directors, which is

probably true. However, to say that by firing Stallings we have "moved toward an impersonal mediocre status from which we may never recover" (Listen Up, Dec. 7th) just because Gene Stallings is a loyal Aggie is being totally unrealistic. Granted, having an Aggie as A&M's football coach is nice to have, but when

this same person can only manage one winning season in seven years, I think we must begin to look forward instead of dwelling in the past.
 Gene Stallings is gone, and with him the hearts of many alumni who have felt that A&M will never lose a game if an Aggie is at the helm. We haven't "turned our backs on a part of A&M" but instead we have moved forward in realizing that A&M can and does occasionally lose football games. Let's get behind the new coach, whether he be an Aggie or not, and give him the support that he and the football team fully deserve.

James Peters
 ★ ★ ★

Editor:
 We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the young ladies of Omega Phi Alpha for their renditions of Christmas merriment Sunday night, Dec. 12. It was a pleasure to find that they could set aside time in their schedule of studies to carol our dorm. We sincerely wish Omega Phi Alpha, as well as all Aggies, a merry Christmas and the happiest of New Year.

Faron W. Evans '75

Prisoners return from China

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (AP) — An energetic young woman, showing few signs of her ordeal, and an Army civilian employe expressed wonderment Tuesday at U.S. technological advances during their imprisonment by the Chinese Communists.
 "Have you put any men on the moon yet?" Mary Ann Harbert asked during the 27-hour, 10,000-mile flight that brought her and Richard G. Fecteau to the United States following their release Monday in Hong Kong by the Chinese Reds.

"I told her yes, we had put six men on the moon," said Col. Leonard W. Johnson Jr., commander of the 9th Aeromedical Evacuation Group at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.
 Johnson, who accompanied them half-way around the world, said Miss Harbert told him "I really don't know, I hadn't heard about it. Many people in China don't know that. The last thing we knew about space was that Russia had something circling the

moon."
 The two Americans checked into the Valley Forge Military Hospital, about 20 miles northwest of here, then fell exhausted into their first sleep in freedom.
 "I feel great," said Miss Harbert, 25, who came home in time for a Christmas birthday celebration. She had been held nearly four years following capture on a yacht off the mainland in 1968.
 "It was a fine trip and I'm glad to be home," she said.
 Fecteau, of Lynn, Mass., said he was "very happy" after alighting from a helicopter on the grounds of the hospital. Then he remained silent over his long ordeal.
 Fecteau spent 19 years in prison, mostly in solitary.
 Doctors delayed a physical examination until Wednesday. They said the two were tired but were "in good physical condition."
 Over the Pacific, after leaving Honolulu where the plane crew bought her an orchid, Miss Harbert placed a telephone call to her parents.
 Until the Chinese announcement of her release, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Harbert of Palo Alto, Calif., had thought she was dead.
 Johnson said it was not known how long the pair would remain at the hospital but that "Miss Harbert probably would be released first."
 "Fecteau will stay some time," Johnson said of the 43-year-old Army civilian employe who along with John T. Downey, 41, of New Britain, Conn., were aboard a plane shot down on a flight from Japan to Korea in 1952, during the Korean War.

The Chinese said the two were on a mission for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The United States denied the accusations.
 Fecteau's divorced wife, Margaret Fecteau, however, said at her home in Lynn that "the Chinese haven't been lying."
 Miss Harbert, a slight, attractive woman who celebrates her 26th birthday two days after Christmas, was captured while sailing in Chinese waters north of Hong Kong on April 21, 1968.
 The Chinese announced in releasing Miss Harbert that her yachting companion, Gerald Ross McLaughlin, committed suicide on March 7, 1969.

Peace

In East Pakistan there is a war raging. The nation that has suffered hurricanes, oppression, starvation and disease is now going through the throes of a civil war and a war with a neighboring country.
 In the morning's mail there came a letter from Captain Jack E. Danel. It was a Christmas card saying on the outside of "Season's Greetings from South Vietnam." The inside said "We're still here, what are you doing about it?" There was also a newspaper photo of a many bandoliered man sitting on some olive-drab machine and staring at the camera.
 Somewhere in the highlands of New Guinea a nude black man climbs a watch tower. He watches for his neighbors, the enemy. If they and the weather decree it, he and they will meet on the crest of a small hill and fight. They will launch spears and arrows until either the rain starts or somebody dies.
 And thus it is in the world Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1971.
 And thus it has been and seemingly always will be. Thus it is that nobody seems to care anymore.
 It little matters that Christmas is only ten days away, Hannuka only slightly farther, and other days and celebrations too numerous to mention. It little matters because the affairs of the world must go on.
 It little matters that in a moist and green jungle a man falls screaming to the ground. The world does not note to any great extent that thousands died today in Pakistan and that thousands more will die.
 Nor does anybody, except the villagers and perhaps a curious and saddened anthropologist, note that a child was killed in the highlands of New Guinea because a death was demanded for revenge.
 Since no one seems to care anymore, it might mean that this all means nothing. It might mean that the dying, the pain and the suffering are all just happening and must be accepted as the way of things. It might mean that.
 Then, again, it might mean that mankind has taken leave of what little reason he has left and has seen fit to ignore it all. That he will not let anything such as another person dying affect him. After all, it is all far away.
 The latter, if there is any truth in this mess, is probably correct. It is far away.
 But what of it? A man is dead, but nobody cares. A thousand are dead, but nobody cares. A million are dead but nobody cares.
 There is little to say about it. But to borrow from Christian tradition, and those of all other religions, we must say one thing, thousands of years old but still needed to be known and worked for by man, including you.
 Peace on earth, good will toward men.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"Remember that big push you were going to make to bring grades up? It's about time to start it!"

The Battalion

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STUDENT WRAP

A&M students get your Christmas packages wrapped FREE in Room 102, YMCA Bldg. But hurry, wrapping only lasts till December 17. Buy your gifts early and wrap with us.

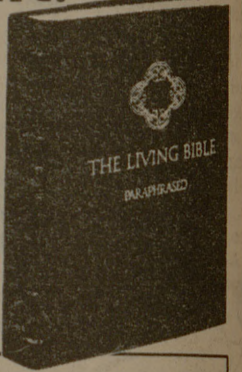
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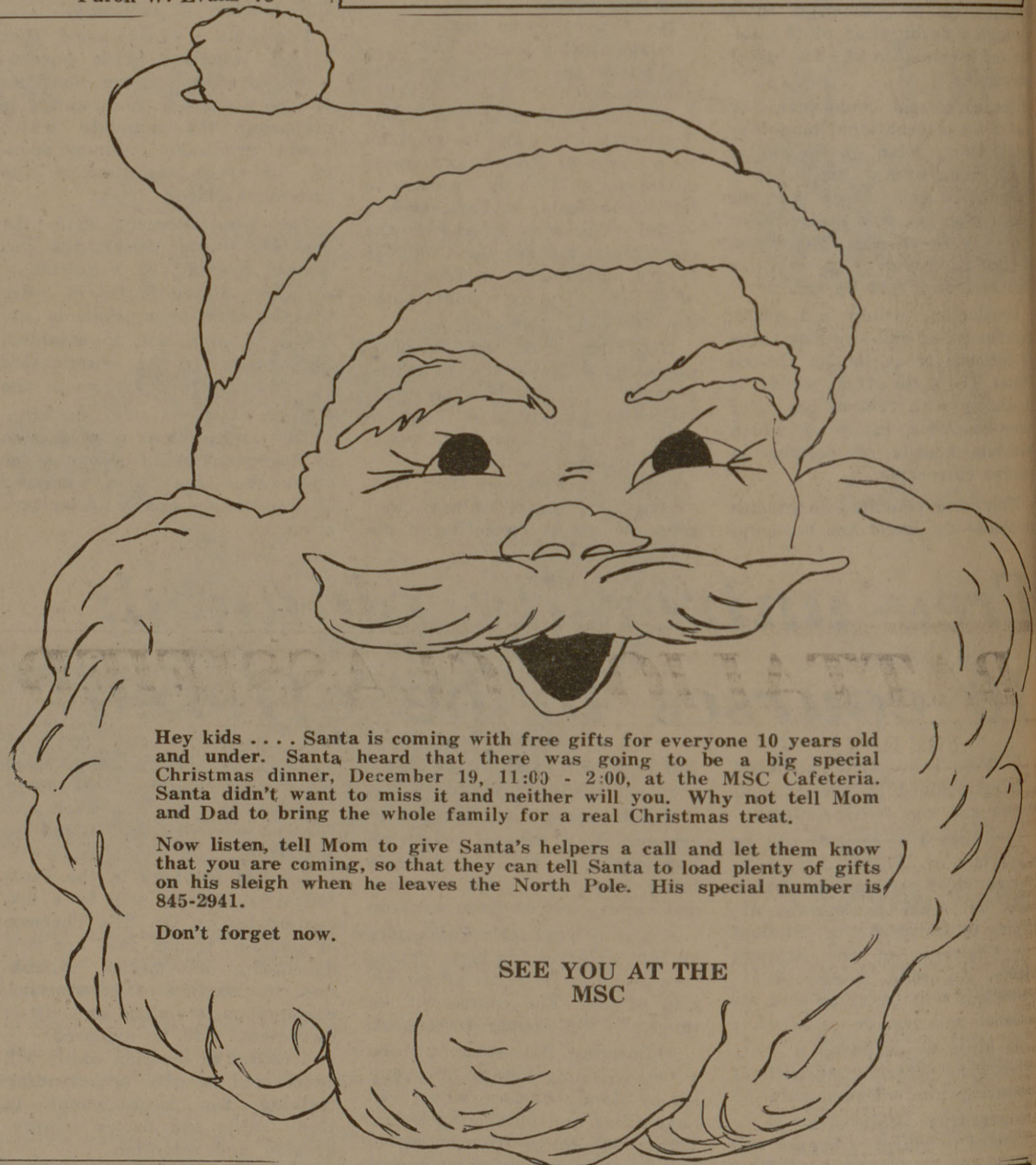
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Hey kids . . . Santa is coming with free gifts for everyone 10 years old and under. Santa heard that there was going to be a big special Christmas dinner, December 19, 11:00 - 2:00, at the MSC Cafeteria. Santa didn't want to miss it and neither will you. Why not tell Mom and Dad to bring the whole family for a real Christmas treat.

Now listen, tell Mom to give Santa's helpers a call and let them know that you are coming, so that they can tell Santa to load plenty of gifts on his sleigh when he leaves the North Pole. His special number is 845-2941.

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By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS

WAKE UP YOU STUPID BEAGLE, IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK!

OH, NO!

IF WE'RE GOING TO SKATE IN THE CHRISTMAS SHOW, WE'VE GOT TO PRACTICE AND PRACTICE AND PRACTICE!

WHILE THE STARS ARE STILL OUT?

STOP COMPLAINING... GETTING UP EARLY IN THE MORNING IS GOOD FOR YOU...

I HOPE IT'S GOOD FOR ME BECAUSE IT'S KILLING ME!

HERE'S THE WORLD-FAMOUS SKATER PRACTICING HIS OUTSIDE EDGES.

THE ICE IS GETTING A LITTLE ROUGH...

MOST ICE ARENAS HAVE A RESURFACING MACHINE...

WOODSTOCK RESURFACES OUR ICE WITH A WET TEA-BAG!

TOMORROW'S THE BIG ICE SHOW, PARTNER.

I JUST KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE GREAT!

RIGHT ON!

I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT I SHOULD HAVE MY SKATES SHARPENED BEFORE THE SHOW...

I REFUSE TO HAVE MY FEET HOLLOW GROUND!