

The Battalion

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Top of the News

CAMPUS

DEAD WEEK begins Monday.

APPLICATIONS for Texas A&M University's first medical school class are now available in the Doherty Building 300. The classes are scheduled to begin in the fall of 1977.

TEXAS

A CHILD, who was sitting on the knee of one of Santa's many helpers in a Houston department store's parking lot, listed the things he wanted for Christmas. Then two men walked up to the man in the red suit and white beard and placed handcuffs on him. Sheriff's deputies identified the man as Mark D. Pluff, 38, whom they arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery of another man's car. Authorities said Pluff did not resist arrest, but the children who were waiting in line to see the bearded man were shocked.

They didn't say too much of anything, but they couldn't believe we were arresting Santa Claus. They were shocked," said Sheriff's Deputy W.C. McDuffie.

HOUSTON ATTORNEY Wesley Hocker, an unsuccessful write-in candidate against convicted State District Court Judge Garth Bates, says Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe is required to name Hocker to fill Bates' new term. Hocker today said he should be appointed because he had the necessary bond on an election lawsuit against Bates.

NATIONAL

ABOUT 20 MAYORS, all but one from Iowa, are expected today for the first National Rural Communities Mayors Conference in Shenandoah, Iowa. The national designation was meant as a parody of the recently televised national conference of big city mayors, according to its organizer, David Childs, part-time mayor of Shenandoah. The problems facing small communities are real, Childs said. The agenda calls for the delegates to discuss their problems for two to three hours, snack on cookies and coffee, and then drive home.

COMMON CAUSE, the public interest lobbying organization has charged that the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy was a "huckster for the nuclear power industry" and should be abolished. In its report titled "Stacking the Deck," Common Cause accused the committee of ignoring safety issues and costs to protect federal investments in its members' states and districts. Common Cause said that in the past 23 years the committee has heard only 98 public-interest group witnesses compared to 2,531 government witnesses and 1,109 industry representatives. The 18-member panel is the only joint committee with power to draft legislation.

THE NATIONAL League of Cities is expected to elect Phyllis Lamphere of Seattle, Wash., as the league's first woman president during its 52-year history. Mrs. Lamphere, who has promised more "punch and action" in pursuing an aggressive urban policy, headed the Resolutions Committee when it endorsed the proposal to decriminalize drugs, including heroin. About 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the final session of the 1976 Congress of Cities in Denver, Colo.

SUSAN DONNER has become the first woman to win a varsity sports letter from the Coast Guard Academy. Miss Donner is one of 31 women who broke the century-old all-male tradition at the academy. Spokesmen at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies say their first classes of women aren't far behind the men on the athletic field or in the classroom.

WORLD

MEXICO'S President-elect Jose Lopez Portillo, who takes office today, faces Mexico's worst economic slump in decades and a land reform confrontation between farmers and landless peasants. President Luis Echeverria, who is seeking election as secretary-general of the United Nations, has promised to avoid national politics once out of office.

WEATHER

Cloudy to partly cloudy and cold tonight. High today in 60s, low tonight in low 30s. High tomorrow in mid-60s. No precipitation likely through tomorrow.



Susan Weber looks on while Brad Wakeman and another student assemble Texas A&M University's international Christmas tree which will be lit tonight at 7 during a ceremony in the MSC student lounge. The tree consists of an aluminum frame with noble fir cuttings from the state of Washington.

Battalion photo by Mike Barnett

Songs, decorations to highlight ceremony

An international Christmas tree will be lighted today during a Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate ceremony at Texas A&M University.

The 18-foot tree decorated with ornaments made or furnished by many of the international student organizations at Texas A&M will stand in the MSC student lounge.

Lighting ceremonies featuring the Century Singers and brief remarks by Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services will start at 7 p.m.

Students, faculty-staff and area residents are invited to participate, according to Carolyn Johnson of the MSC Council. The public is also invited to a reception in MSC 206 after the 30-minute lighting ceremony.

The Century Singers will present Christmas music under the direction of Robert L. Boone.

Johnson said the tree is built of northern fir boughs attached to a synthetic trunk. Decorations, made in homeland fashion or supplied from their homes by international students, will represent 69 countries that have students at Texas A&M.

Elderly shouldn't be forced to retire, committee says

Associated Press

AUSTIN — It's unjust to put a person out to pasture at age 65 if he or she wants to continue working and is able to, the House Social Services Committee says.

The committee said, in its final report to the 1977 legislature, that the state should take the lead in giving the elderly the right to work.

"Age should not be used as the basis for discriminating against an entire group of workers," the committee said.

Chairman Lane Denton, D-Waco, said

"a bill of some sort" will be introduced to carry out the recommendation. Denton did not seek re-election but instead ran unsuccessfully for railroad commissioner.

"Aside from the disastrous effect on income, often the sudden disappearance of the work role around which so much of life is built is a shock from which people do not recover," the committee report said.

In all, the committee made 21 recommendations designed to make life easier for old people.

The report said all services for the el-

Chinese may announce new Politburo members

Associated Press

TOKYO — The ruling body of China's parliament is meeting to ratify the government shakeup that has followed Mao Tse-tung's death and the purge of Mao's widow and other radicals.

The session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which opened yesterday, was expected to publicize the new government lineup that the Communist party Politburo has worked out. The only announced change has been the elevation of Premier Hua Kuo-feng to succeed Mao as party chairman, a change in the party leadership, not the government.

Speculation centered on which government figures would become the latest victims of the purge that began two months ago with the arrest of Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, and the other three radical members of the party Politburo on charges of plotting to prevent Hua from succeeding Mao.

Hua may have decided to relinquish the post of premier as well as the post of minister of public security. Press reports from Peking have said that Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien is expected to become premier.

Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua also may be removed. Reported ill in recent weeks, he may be in disfavor because his wife was once closely associated with Chiang Ching. Hsinhua, the official Chinese news agency, did not list him among those attending the session yesterday.

The leading candidate to succeed Chiao appears to be Huang Hua, who has been China's chief delegate to the United Nations. He returned to Peking Monday, and sources in his office said he would be assigned to another post.

We were wrong

Because of an Associated Press reporting error, a story about the Palestine Liberation Organization's attitude toward Israel erroneously reported in yesterday's edition of The Battalion that Herman Edelsberg was the director of the B'nai B'rith International Council. Edelsberg is former director of the B'nai B'rith International Council and is now part-time consultant to the organization, a B'nai B'rith spokesman said.

Texas Mexican Demos ask to talk with Carter

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Texas Mexican-American Democrats have asked President-elect Jimmy Carter for a meeting within the next two weeks to discuss what he plans to do about a promise that he would bring Mexican-Americans into the decision-making process under his administration.

Former State Sen. Joe Bernal of San Antonio, chairman of the Mexican-American Democrats (MAD) said yesterday that the group drafted a letter to Carter this week asking for the meeting and reminding him of the overwhelming support he received from Mexican-American Democrats in the recent election.

Bernal said the group met in Corpus Christi to analyze the election and determine what kind of impact Mexican-

Americans can have in the new administration.

"What we want is proportionate representation at all levels of government. We want to become involved in the decision making process," Bernal said.

Bernal recalled that during a campaign speech in Houston Carter promised to bring minorities into his administration.

"We are not looking for handouts, but involvement," he said, noting that Mexican-Americans want Carter to do what Gov. Jerry Brown did in California.

"Brown started an austerity program," he said, "but he involved everyone. Participation is the meaningful thing for us."

Bernal said that both federal and state governments have failed to get the Mexican-Americans involved.

"I am waiting for the day in Texas when we will have a Mexican-American on the

board of regents of the University of Texas, of Texas A&M, of the Board of Pardons and Parole."

Bernal said MAD analyzed the vote in the recent election and found that, on the average, about 87 per cent of Mexican-Americans in Texas voted for Carter.

"In some precincts in Corpus Christi," he said, "the percentage was 95 per cent."

He said the percentage never has been so high for a single candidate.

"We had conservative, moderate and liberal Mexican-Americans united in this campaign," he said. "We did not have the division of 1972 when many felt that McGovern was to liberal."

"We have had eight years of inflation and unemployment under the Republicans. And inflation and unemployment hit our people hardest, especially in South Texas."

Six hundred Aggies pay tribute

Silver Taps solemn occasion, held last night for three

By RUSTY CAWLEY

Battalion Staff

They gathered last night in the front walk of the Academic Building, forming a circle before the bronze statue of Sul Ross.

About 600 Aggies, corps and civilian, stood silent in the chilling air to pay respect to fellow students who had died the week before.

Silver Taps were held for Mark Kevin Dean, Robert Steven Cornforth, and Mary Ramsey Kenemer.

All surrounding lights had been switched off. The three-quarter moon bathed the yard in an eerie milk-white.

From a distance came the staccato clap of military shoes striking the sidewalk. Slowly and with grandeur, the Ross Volunteers stepped from the darkness between Bolton

and Legett halls, and passed into the pale light.

Step by step they paced, shouldering their rifles on their white uniforms, the black brims of their white caps drawn down close to their eyes.

They seemed faceless. Moving as one, their footsteps together resounded a single crack.

The crowd parted along the sidewalk, allowing the platoon to enter the circle. The men came to a halt. A left-face command brought the Volunteers around confronting the monument of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, for whom the unit is named.

Twenty-one soldiers bearing rifles stood at attention.

"Ready," ordered the commander.

Mechanically, the cadets brought their rifles to their chests.

"Aim."

They pointed toward the sky.

"Fire."

The first volley sent hordes of grackles flying from the trees.

Three times the cadets fired their rifles into the November night.

From the Academic Building, a choir of bugles played the military dirge, "Taps." In long, three-note phrases, each chord passed wearily over the head of the crowd.

Three times the bugles played the dirge. The final chord dispersed the Aggies in the same manner the first volley had scattered the birds.

The Volunteers stood alone at parade rest.

They closed ranks, turned and moved with quiet smoothness into the shadows.

Diplomat cooperates in probe of Korean influence-buying

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FBI agents are guarding a South Korean diplomat who has defied orders to return home and has begun cooperating with the Justice Department's probe of alleged South Korean influence-buying among U.S. congressmen, according to reports.

Sources identified him last night as Kim Sang Keun, who is officially listed as a counselor at the South Korean Embassy, but who reportedly was the top Korean

Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) officer here.

FBI agents were guarding Kim, his wife and family at an undisclosed location near here. Agents were also stationed at Kim's apartment in suburban McLean, Va.

Kim, 43, who had been named in recent news reports about the Korean influence-purchasing probe as a KCIA officer, reportedly feared the Seoul government would make him a scapegoat in the U.S. investigation of its lobbying activities.

The South Korean government has ordered home several officials to prevent them from cooperating with U.S. investigators, reports show.

The alleged influence-purchasing scheme reportedly was directed from the highest echelons of the Seoul government with the knowledge of the South Korean president.

Although Kim and other South Korean officials at the embassy and other consular offices in the United States have diplomatic immunity, they could cooperate voluntarily with the prosecutors.

The South Korean Embassy issued this statement last night:

"Counselor Kim has never asked for political asylum and he made this clear not only to us but also to the U.S. authorities."

But a source said that Kim, while not technically a defector since he is from a nation friendly to the United States, has

been allowed to change his visa status in return for his cooperation with the Justice Department probe.

Kim was said to be well-informed about the activities of Tongsun Park, a South Korean businessman with wide interests here, and Pak Bo Hi, president of the Washington-based Korean Cultural and Freedom Foundation and a top aide to Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon. Pak is also a former military attache at the embassy here.

Tongsun Park, who owns a posh club and an export-import business in Washington, reportedly is in England, where he told reporters recently that he was cooperating with the Justice Department probe.

Park reportedly has admitted giving cash and gifts to some congressmen, but he has denied he was a Korean government agent or that he did anything illegal. An attorney for his Washington firm, Pacific Development Corp., recently told the Justice Department he has advised Park not to cooperate with the probe because of repeated leaks to the press.

The Washington Star reported yesterday that Park was not planning to return to the United States and that he has put two of his lavish Washington properties up for sale.

In Seoul today, the Foreign Ministry refused to comment on Kim's action. The South Korean government has denied that there was any influence-peddling scheme.

Wish to come true soon

Gilmore's death date to be reset today

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Gary Mark Gilmore, his death wish granted by the state pardons board, could face a firing squad soon after his 36th birthday Saturday, barring appeals by death penalty opponents who ignored his demand to "butt out."

Gilmore was to appear before 4th District Judge J. Robert Bullock in Provo today to have a new date set for the execution by five anonymous volunteers.

"Thank you, sir," the handcuffed and shackled prisoner whispered on Tuesday after Board Chairman George Latimer announced a 2-1 decision affirming a jury's order that Gilmore be put to death for killing a motel clerk during a robbery.

"I have simply accepted the sentence that was given to me," he had told the board during a locally-televised public hearing at the Utah State Prison. "I've accepted sentences all my life."

Earlier, Gilmore, appearing healthy and alert despite an 11-day fast, had ridiculed witnesses who spoke against the death penalty, and snapped at reporters who crowded into the tiny hearing room.

State officials said the execution — which would be the first in the United States since June 2, 1967 — must come by Monday to avoid conflict with a state law. That law requires that death sentences be carried out 60 days after initial sentencing, which in Gilmore's case was Oct. 7.

He chose the firing squad over hanging, and was to have been executed Nov. 13. But retiring Gov. Calvin L. Rampton issued an unwanted stay until the pardons board reviewed the case. Gilmore labeled Rampton a "moral coward" for that delay.

After the hearing — which Gilmore contemptuously described as "much ado about nothing" — several individuals and groups said they planned appeals that could delay the execution.

Tom Jones, an attorney whom Gilmore fired last week, filed notice of appeal to the Utah Supreme Court, which turned down a previous appeal by two other court-appointed attorneys.

Lawyers for the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and lawyers for other Death Row inmates indicated they too would go to court in efforts to stay the execution.