

The Battalion

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News Dept. 845-2611
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Top of the News

Campus

"WE'VE NEVER BEEN LICKED," A&M's epic motion picture will be shown at 8:30 tonight in Rudder Auditorium. Admission is \$1.

Texas

A TEEN-AGE sniper has been turned over to juvenile authorities in Garland, Texas. Maggie Claudine Sanchez, 5, was killed while riding in her uncle's pickup when a bullet hit her in the head. A 14-year-old boy has admitted to the shooting. Police Lt. Robert Sherrard said that the boy fired his father's rifle in a field 50 yards from the street and he did not know that he had shot anyone until the police came.

AN EXPLOSION killed a man at an Exxon Gas System natural gas compressor station near Orange Grove, Tex., yesterday. The explosion was followed by a fire that sent flames as high as 300 feet. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined.

National

THE STUDENTS in Groveport, Ohio have another month of vacation now that the voters have rejected for the second time an attempt to raise property taxes. The voters defeated yesterday a five year levy that would have allowed the schools to reopen today by adding \$13.80 to the current \$44.40 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property owner's assessed valuation.

RICHARD M. NIXON has come to terms with the Watergate scandal and "wants to confront his past" in public David Frost said to the Hollywood Radio and Television Society. The entertainer said that he would begin taping a series of TV interviews at Nixon's San Clemente estate next March.

THE WIFE of the man who had the first confirmed case of swine flu since the nation wide inoculation program started said that she won't bother to get the shots for herself or her year-old son. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta said that Don Harris, now fully recovered, was ill last month with the disease that health officials feared could become an epidemic this winter unless millions of Americans were immunized.

THOUGHTFUL BUREAUCRATS in the Department of Agriculture, due to the transition between administrations, have been boning up on worm farming, which, it develops, is another of the Carter family's enterprises. A brochure from the Hugh Carter worm farm in Plains, Ga. has been making the rounds at Agriculture Department headquarters. It tells would-be worm magistrates that there are "billions of fishworms needed yearly and not half enough people are raising them."

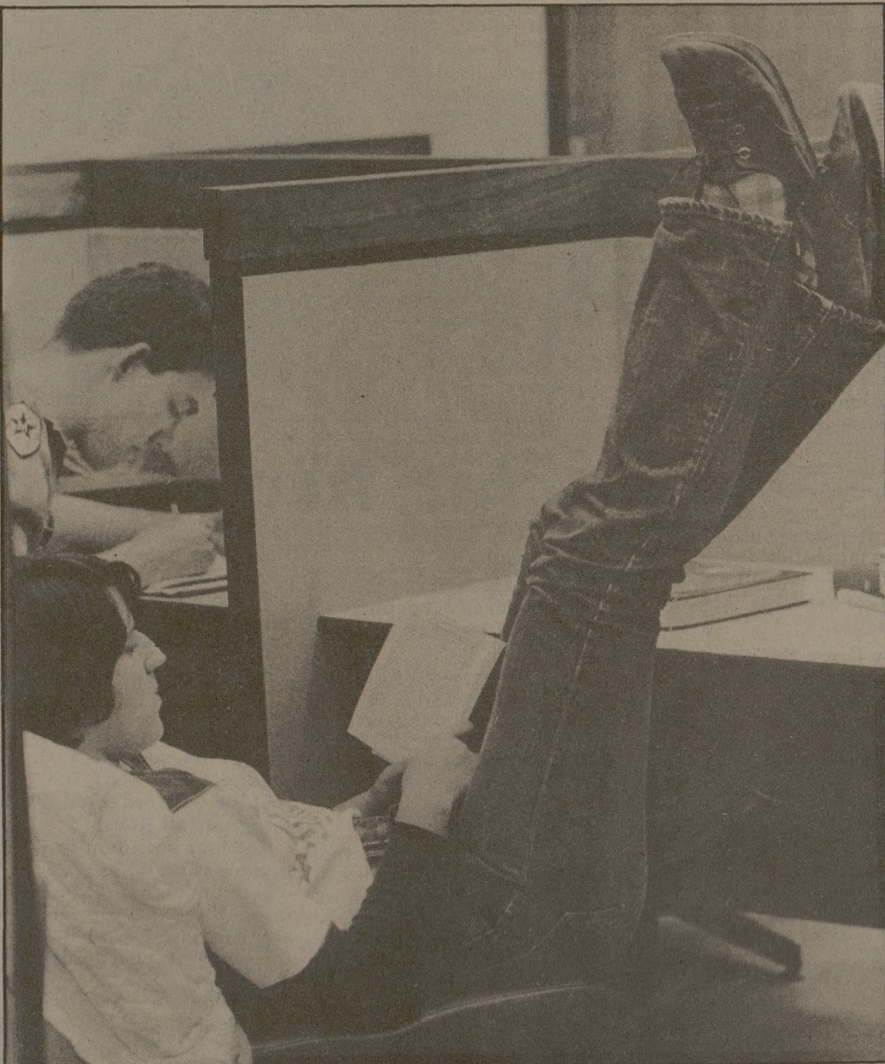
PRESIDENT-ELECT Jimmy Carter hopes to win tentative approval from congress for a major portion of his 1978 budget proposals even before he formally submits them to the legislators, his advisors say. They decline to call it a joint Carter-Congress budget, but his advisors say that Carter's staff is already working closely with congressional budget committees in preparing the proposals for the 1978 fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1.

World

POLICE battled leftists in Milan, Italy who were trying to prevent the opening of the opera season at La Scala Theatre. The leftists protested the opening as a display of wealth during an acute economic crisis by overturning cars, hurling fire bombs and fighting the police. La Scala opened on schedule.

weather

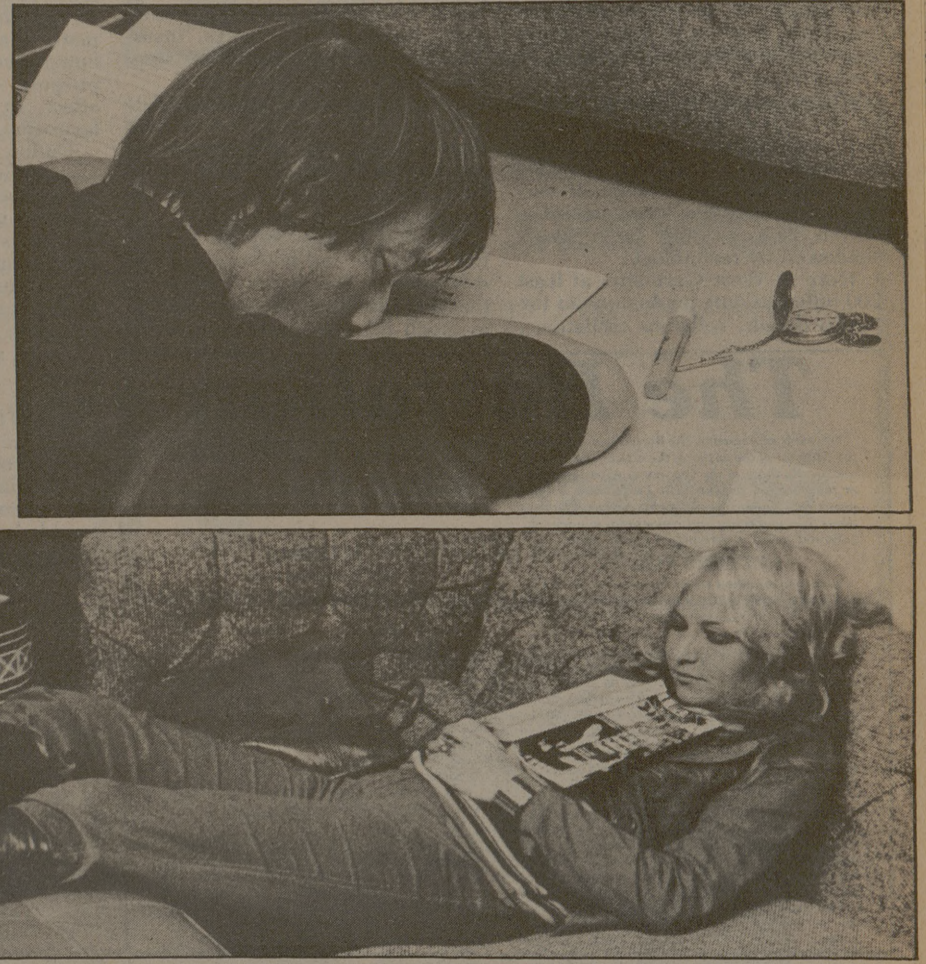
Fair today and tonight and partly cloudy tomorrow. High today in the low 60s. Low tonight in the upper 30s. High tomorrow in the mid-60s. Winds variable at 5 m.p.h. No precipitation in sight.



Dead week. . . is alive and well

Theoretically, this school week is labeled as "dead" because there is supposed to be a lack of activity around the campus — no organizational meetings, tests, etc. But the term probably relates better to the way many students feel at the end of the week or even sooner for some. At left Cadet Mark Owens, a junior history major, and Luz Montes, a junior in the modern language department, seem to be going strong here while studying for finals, but with time they may end up like this junior pre-med major, Bryan Frank (right) and Lisa Adams (below), a second-year political science student.

Battalion photos by Mike Willy and Kevin Venner



Supreme Court decision outrages feminists

By RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court decision on disability benefits for pregnancy outraged feminists, but left the way open for legislative changes that would nullify the ruling's impact.

An employer may legally refuse to pay disability or sick-leave benefits to pregnant women, the court said yesterday in a 6 to 3 decision.

There is no sex discrimination "simply because an employer's . . . plan is less than

all-inclusive," said the majority opinion written by Justice William H. Rehnquist.

The justices overturned the findings of a lower court by saying that General Electric Corp. (GE) does not violate the rights of any of its 100,000 women employees by making them take unpaid leaves of absence to have babies.

The decision does not mean that those employers now offering pregnancy disability coverage as part of their over-all compensation package must stop doing so. The

court said, however, that existing laws such as the 1964 Civil Rights Act do not compel employers to offer that coverage.

Congress is free to pass legislation making such exclusions illegal, the court said.

One group which had supported the GE women employees, the International Union of Electric Workers, said it planned to seek such legislation.

It was through the electrical workers union that 43 women GE workers, representing themselves and all other GE female employees, first filed grievances against the company. Later, they sued.

Their challenge was enthusiastically backed by women's rights groups.

Karen DeCrow, president of the National Organization for Women, called the ruling "insulting to every mother in the country."

While labor and women's rights groups teamed up on one side, employers lined up on the other. The Chamber of Commerce praised the court's decision for upholding the "right of employers to determine which risks they will insure their employees against."

Waldheim gets 2nd U.N. term

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — The U.N. General Assembly today formally approved Kurt Waldheim as U.N. secretary-general by acclamation for another five-year term.

The assembly ratified a recommendation by the security council Tuesday that the 57-year-old Austrian be given another term, China vetoed him on the first ballot

Tuesday, then voted him in on the second.

All other council members except Panama voted for Waldheim on both ballots, and the final vote was 14 to 0, with Panama abstaining.

The secretary-general told reporters the support he got from all five permanent council members "gives me a good basis for conducting my work. It's a good feeling."

"Lightcrust Doughboy" now at A&M



Tucked away on the third floor of the Systems Building is Hal Harris' office. Today he's a photographer and audio visual specialist for the Texas Forest Service, but 30 years ago he was a radio performer and a member of the popular Lightcrust Doughboys.

For those of you too young to remember the days of live radio, the Lightcrust Doughboys, sponsored by Lightcrust flour, had a daily half-hour program of Western swing music starting at 12:30 p.m. on Fort Worth's WBAP radio. They played several songs followed by a plug for Lightcrust flour. Some of the early members of the band were bandleader Bob Wills and Pappy Lee O'Daniels, a man who used the band's popularity to spring him into the office of governor.

Harris began his music career at home where his father sang and played harmonica, his mother played piano, and his uncles played guitars and banjos. At family gatherings Harris would play the guitar and banjo.

"In the small country town of Gas City, Indiana, music was the only entertainment we had," he said, adding, "When I got older I joined the band in high school and learned to read music."

"While in high school about 1929 I started playing guitar and singing on the radio," he said.

A few years later in 1933 he formed a western trio called the Flying X Cowboys, with Red Kidwell and Mel Cox. The trio stayed together until the mid-sixties when they broke up to take other jobs outside of the music field.

In those early depression years the band toured the country in travel trailers, playing radio stations during the day and community dances at night.

"Those were carefree days when we didn't care about money but only travel and excitement," Harris said. "Once we joined a wild west circus and spent the summer performing western music with them," he added.

The trio was usually sponsored for 13 to 26 weeks and spent that time playing radio stations, but spent the remaining weeks

playing for dances and picnics.

"We used to get together with eight or ten other bands and play all day like Willie Nelson does now, except back then they called it singing and picking all day or dinner on the grounds," he said.

Harris said if they were lucky they might draw 500 people at a dollar per person.

In 1935 he married his wife of 41 years, Delores, and two years later the band moved to Texas.

By 1938 the band changed its name to the Flying X Boys and made its home base in Fort Worth.

"We traveled across the state doing one night stands and parking our trailers in a gas station to sleep. We did all of our cooking on a two burner Coleman stove and most of what we ate were beans, and rabbits that we shot off the road," he said.

During the war, Harris was in the Army as an entertainment director, putting on shows in the combat areas of India, China, and Burma.

After the war Harris and the Flying X Ranchboys added four other bandmen and became the Lightcrust Doughboys.

"We could only use the name Lightcrust Doughboys on the radio and during sponsored programs, so the rest of the time

when we played dances we were the Flying X Ranchboys," Harris said.

The Lightcrust Doughboys would sing on live radio from WBAP and would travel to small towns performing and advertising Lightcrust flour.

"We played Western swing music like Asleep at the Wheel does today," he said.

In 1948 the Lightcrust Doughboys went off the air because the sponsor pulled out, but the Flying X Ranchboys remained on the radio as steady favorites.

Later that year the Flying X Ranchboys had the distinction to be the first entertainment shown on WBAP-TV shortly after the station went on the air in Dallas and Fort Worth. They played the popular music of the day such as the "Beer Barrel Polka," and "Put Your Little Foot."

"During the time I was performing I took up photography as a hobby, and over the years I wanted to do less playing and more shooting," Harris said.

"In 1967 I was offered a job here in College Station taking both still pictures and making movies," he said that since he liked the challenge, he took the job.

Thumbing through a faded and yellowed scrapbook, Harris said those years he spent in the band were some of the best in his life.

