

The Battalion

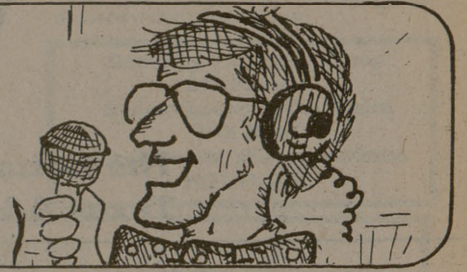
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'Tis the season . . .

Student "Y" member Julie Russell adds another newly wrapped gift to the table in room 216A of the Memorial Student Center. The Student "Y" is

sponsoring a gift-wrapping service for Texas A&M students and faculty members.

Battalion photo by Esther Cortez

Law could destroy music groups

Copyright to protect artists

Editor's note: This is the last article in a two-part series on the new federal copyright law.

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

Fair treatment of authors and composers was the purpose of a federal copyright law passed in 1976, but it may have other effects: the end of vocal and band music in colleges and a change for professional musical groups performing on campus.

Robert Boone, coordinator of vocal music at Texas A&M University, said Wednesday the new law is still very vague, but it could destroy the University's music programs.

"It would literally wipe out the Singing Cadets, Century Singers and Reveliers. It would probably wipe out the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and the symphonic band."

"The way it's being interpreted, it's impossible to live with," Boone said.

The law removes the exemption from copyright laws given to non-profit organizations like universities, school districts, churches and community arts groups. In-school contests and juke boxes may also come under the copyright changes.

"Actually, it's difficult to say right now what the effects will be, simply because the license and performance fees haven't been decided yet," said James Randolph,

student program coordinator for the Memorial Student Center.

Groups representing publishers and composers on one side and the nation's universities on the other are still in negotiations. A meeting is scheduled for mid-December.

"The law is so wide open right now that people can't really tell you anything," Boone said. But he has some ideas.

"After Jan. 1, in order for the Singing Cadets, Century Singers or Reveliers to perform anywhere, whether admission is charged or not, whether the music is in the public domain or not, we will have to pay a licensing fee to each of the three composer-publisher societies," he said. The copyright societies are Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), Society of European Stage Authors and Composers (SESAC), and American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

"Public domain" music includes the "Star Spangled Banner," "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Row Your Boat." Boone said fees may be required on these songs, and profits would probably go to BMI, ASCAP or SESAC.

"The fee amount hasn't been settled," Boone said. "The societies are still dickering over it, and each society is taking a different approach." But he said the hosting organization will probably have to pay the licensing fee.

For example, the Victoria A&M Club would be liable for paying the fee if the Singing Cadets perform there. Boone said the minimum fee under discussion is \$750 per society for each performance. If the Singing Cadets used at least one song copyrighted by each of the three societies, the fee would be \$2,250 for one two-hour performance. The club or any similar group would be hard-pressed to pay it, he said.

"As it stands right now, it appears this new law, if enforced, would wipe out collegiate performing groups. It would make it financially prohibitive for them to perform," Boone said.

He plans to go ahead with the Singing Cadet's two-week tour scheduled in January, even though the new law will be in effect. Their concerts will include songs copyrighted by all three societies.

"We'll just go on as we've been doing," the group's director said. "If someone calls me down on it, I'll just have to say, 'Sue me.'"

Boone expects "thousands and thousands" of lawsuits across the country resulting from the new regulation.

"I can't see that it's going to affect us," said Lt. Col. Joe T. Haney, director of the Texas Aggie Band. "I'm not the least bit concerned with it until it's settled in the courts." He predicted that will take several years.

Campus police still looking for MSC purse stealer

University Police are still unable to capture the person stealing purses from Memorial Student Center restrooms, although one month has passed since the thefts were reported.

Police said Wednesday that more than \$200 in stolen cash and \$400 in forged checks have been attributed to the elusive bandit who has stolen 16 purses and made 11 forgeries.

On Nov. 7 the Battalion reported that a woman of medium build with either red

or blonde hair had been stealing purses from the restrooms.

"She has changed her strategy some," said Buford Thornton, assistant special investigator for the University Police.

"She has stopped taking checkbooks and credit cards since the Nov. 7 article and has concentrated on cash."

She also has reportedly changed her method of discarding the stolen purses. They are taken to lockers adjacent to the restrooms, emptied, and then left in one of

the lockers. All thefts are still occurring between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., police said.

"We believe she knows all of the special investigators on sight, even the evening personnel who rarely leave the office," said Thornton. He said that several people have been used by police to stake out the thief.

Handwriting samples from the forged checks have been taken to Austin for analysis, Thornton said, but the results won't be in for a week.

Council okays bid; not happy about it

By RUSTY CAWLEY
Battalion City Editor

They didn't like it. They didn't want to do it. But the College Station City Council accepted the low bid for construction of a new city warehouse Wednesday night.

The council, by a reluctant 4 to 3 vote, accepted the bid from Malek Construction Co. of Navasota.

The bid of \$364,895, though \$24,665 below the next lowest bid, angered the councilmen because it was much higher than the costs estimated by the warehouse architects. But anticipation of higher bids,

should new ones have been solicited, forced the council to act.

The council instructed the city staff to study the plans and to work with the contractor towards reducing costs. Council toyed with eliminating the warehouse meeting room and lunch room, a decision that would cut the price by \$21,000.

But Councilman Gary Halter said such a move would be a mistake.

"You're eliminating chicken feed," Halter said. "And you're going to come back when you need it and pay \$50,000 for it."

Approval of the warehouse bid had been tabled at a meeting Nov. 28. At that time Councilman Jim Dozier blasted the bid

figures. He blamed the costs on the state law requiring cities to accept sealed bids.

"We have a state law that cost the taxpayers money," Dozier said. "We can't protect the taxpayers and that's a crying shame."

The council asked City Engineer Elrey Ash for a breakdown on construction costs. Last night, they got them.

The entire project, including architects' fees, will cost around \$391,300. Ash told the council. The new police station approved last week will run \$390,438.

The project will cost \$95,438 more than the \$350,000 worth of bonds approved by College Station voters.

Approved by 4-3 vote

City hires park designers

Three architects were hired by the College Station City Council Wednesday night to design a city park.

Timothy Keneipp, Rodney Hill and J.W. Wood will be paid \$4,500 to design Oaks Park for the city. Another \$103,500 has been allocated for construction of the park.

The architects were approved by a 4 to 3 vote.

Councilman Jim Dozier in particular objected to the hiring of the architects. He claimed the city staff is capable of design-

ing the project.

"We have people who are qualified in this area," Dozier said. "I see no need to hire an architect just for this project."

Mayor Lorence Bravenec agreed. "I think this just points out something I've been saying for awhile," Bravenec said. "That is, our need for another engineer."

But Councilman Gary Halter disagreed, saying a design from a civil engineer could ruin the project.

"Civil engineers see things differently

than architects," Halter said. "The wrong design could ruin a park like this."

Councilman Jim Gardner objected to some of the plans for the park.

"This will be a nice addition to apartment complexes in that area," Gardner said. "But I don't see the need for two tennis courts."

"This could be a nice little park if we do it right."

The council approved the contract, but stipulated that the architects' fee would not exceed the \$4,500 allocated.

Hussein arrives in Cairo; Sadat denounces Arabs

United Press International

Jordan's King Hussein arrived today on a fence-mending mission to Cairo where throngs of cheering Egyptians hailed President Anwar Sadat's efforts for peace with Israel and heard him denounce his hard-line Arab critics as "imposters and pygmies."

Hussein, seeking to mediate between Sadat and Arab opponents of his drive for a quick peace settlement with Israel, arrived fresh from apparently fruitless Damascus talks with Syrian President

Hafez Assad, a leading critic of Egypt's peace drive.

The Jordanian monarch began his Cairo mission against the background of a boisterous pro-Sadat demonstration by an estimated million Egyptians who marched through the heart of Cairo to the Abdin presidential palace.

Addressing the throng from the palace balcony, Sadat said Egypt wanted peace with Israel, but warned "we are not seeking peace at any price."

"I wish these imposters and pygmies heard and read what I said before the Knesset Israeli parliament," Sadat said, referring to his Arab critics.

President Sadat greeted Hussein at the airport where the two leaders embraced and kissed and appeared smiling.

Officials said the aim of Hussein's Cairo talks is to heal the breach in the Arab world caused by opposition of hard-line states to Sadat's visit to Israel last month and his subsequent call for direct peace talks with the Jewish state in Cairo. The talks are scheduled to open next week.

Syria is one of the principal opponents of this policy. Others include Libya, Algeria, Iraq, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Jordan is steering a middle course in the rift. It boycotted last week's anti-Sadat summit at Tripoli, Libya, and is also staying away from the forthcoming Cairo talks.

Hussein went to Damascus Wednesday for talks with Syrian President Assad and

will be traveling to Saudi Arabia following his Egypt visit.

While the Jordanian monarch traveled to Cairo, the Syrian president flew to Saudi Arabia today in a flurry of diplomatic initiatives to try to heal the worsening rift over Egypt's peace drive with Israel.

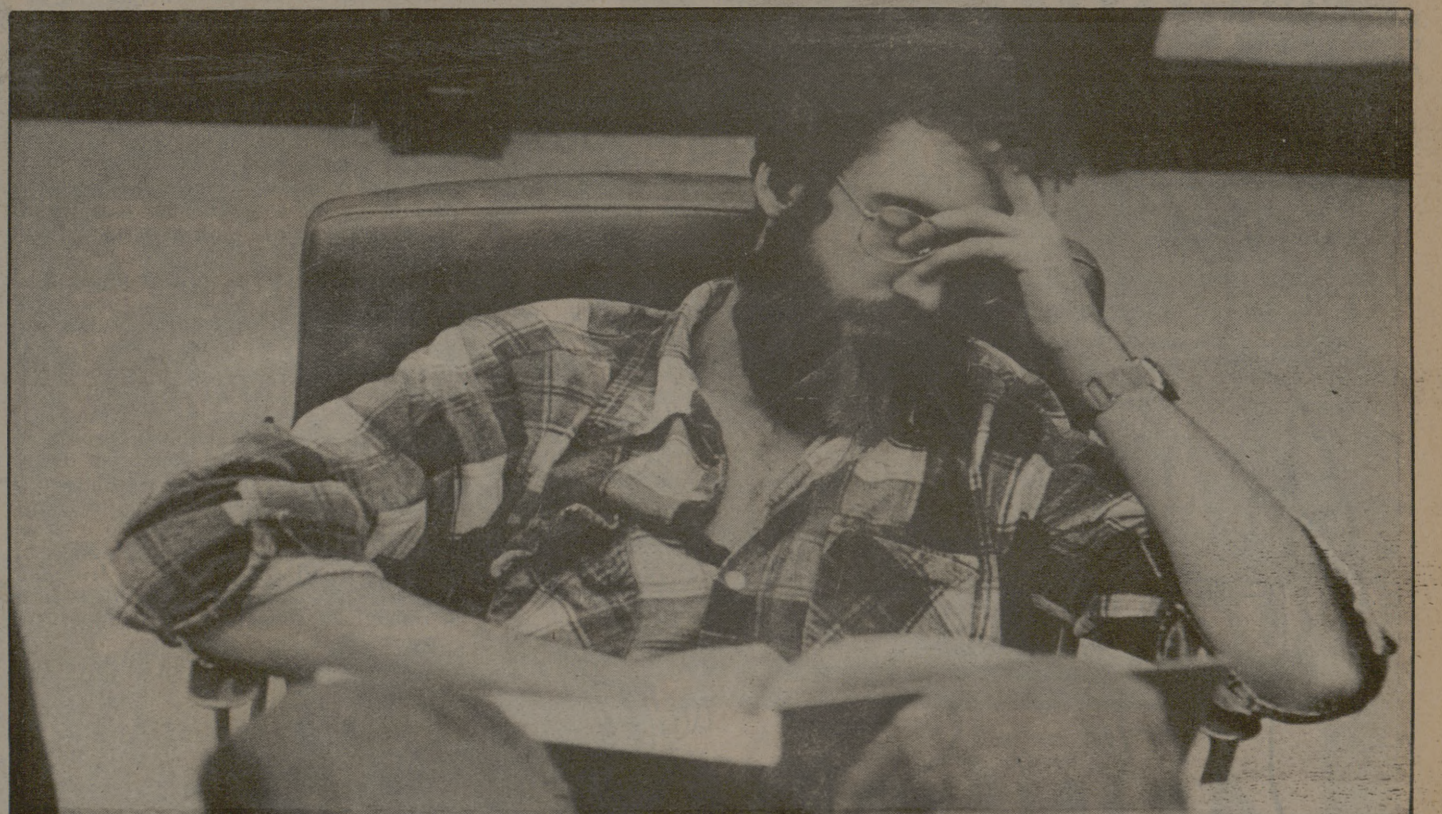
Sadat's peace contacts with Israel have drawn condemnation from the Soviet Union and radical Arab states, and in retaliation Egypt this week broke diplomatic relations with five Arab nations and closed Soviet bloc offices in Alexandria, Port Said and Aswan.

The United States and moderate Arab governments in Jordan and Saudi Arabia are trying to heal the split between Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Assad to clear the way for resuming the Geneva peace talks.

Jordan's King Hussein failed to sway Assad in a six-hour meeting Wednesday in Damascus. The Syrian government issued a statement afterward condemning Sadat's "capitulationist" policies.

The terse Syrian Communiqué stressed the "importance of firm confrontation" against Sadat's peace efforts, which it called "an attempt to freeze the Arab struggle against the enemy and which will end in failure."

Hussein planned to go to Cairo today for further reconciliation talks with Sadat and Assad was scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia for similar meetings.



It's just begun . . .

Rick Newitt, graduate student in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, finds the fourth floor of the library a quiet retreat for study and napping.

Newitt dozed off while studying for his final in Biological Oceanography.

Battalion photo by Phyllis Lee