

ALTERATIONS

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A&M music programs unaffected by new law

By MARK PERRIN
Battalion Reporter

When the new copyright law was first examined in 1976, many people feared that university music programs would be cut, since universities must now pay composer royalties.

So far, the new law, which went into effect Jan. 1, has not affected the number of Town Hall concerts held at Texas A&M University or the number of performances by the Singing Cadets.

James Randolph, student program coordinator and a staff adviser for Town Hall, said there has been no reduction in the number of concerts at Texas A&M because of the new law.

He said the main difference between the old copyright law and the new one is that now Texas A&M must pay the royalties for concerts. Under the old law, it was not clear whether the musician or the employer was responsible for paying.

Randolph said Town Hall's budget has been increased by \$5,000 to cover the royalties. He is not sure what the total charge will be, but he said the increase in the budget should cover it.

The royalty money goes to various musical societies, such as Broadcast Music Inc., which distributes the money to the composer or author.

Robert Boone, coordinator of vocal music at Texas A&M, said the new law has not changed the number of albums or appearances made by the Singing Cadets.

Boone said the only time the Singing Cadets pay royalties is when a song that is still copyrighted is recorded. They pay 2 cents per song to the copyright owner for every record that is manufactured. This is the same rate that was paid under the old copyright law.

For example, if the Singing Cadets recorded an album of 12 songs, none of which was in the public domain, they would have to pay 24 cents for every album. If 2,000 albums were made, they would have to pay \$480 in royalties.

Boone said the royalties were not too high.

"The composer should get it be-

cause it's their only way to profit," he said.

Boone said when the Singing Cadets perform live, the royalties must be paid by the organization. The money is used for educational purposes and the club is a non-profit organization.

He said the money made by clubs is returned to Texas A&M other universities in the form of scholarships or contributions, except the clubs from paying royalties.

The person, organization or establishment that hires a singing group is responsible for paying royalties under the copyright law, unless otherwise specified, Boone said.

Not all non-profit organizations are exempt from paying royalties only those which use the money for educational or charitable purposes and in which there is no gain, Boone said.

Both Randolph and Boone encourage students who have questions concerning the copyright law to consult the legal adviser.



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Army has place to base 30,000 men

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Army still can't decide where to permanently base combat troops withdrawn from South Korea, a few will be doing a temporary tour at Fort Riley, Kan.

The Army announced Monday that one 500-man battalion in December will stay at Fort Bliss, Texas, while necessary environmental studies are completed. Final approval is expected in the next 30 to 60 days, spokesmen said.

However, spokesmen said, the decision on where the entire division of more than 9,000 men would be stationed was as far off as ever. Delay is caused by cost considerations and political factors.

A date for that decision "cannot be predicted at this time," they said.

Several northeastern congressmen are urging the administration either to put the division at Fort Drum, N.Y., or at Fort Bliss, among Fort Drum, Fort Bliss and Fort Devens, Mass.

The Army was to have decided last summer whether to locate the division in the northeast, at Fort Blinn, Ga., or at Fort Bliss, Texas, which was unable to do so.

In all, 30,000 combat troops are expected to be withdrawn from South Korea by 1981.

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