

THE BATTALION

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Batt staff plans hibernation

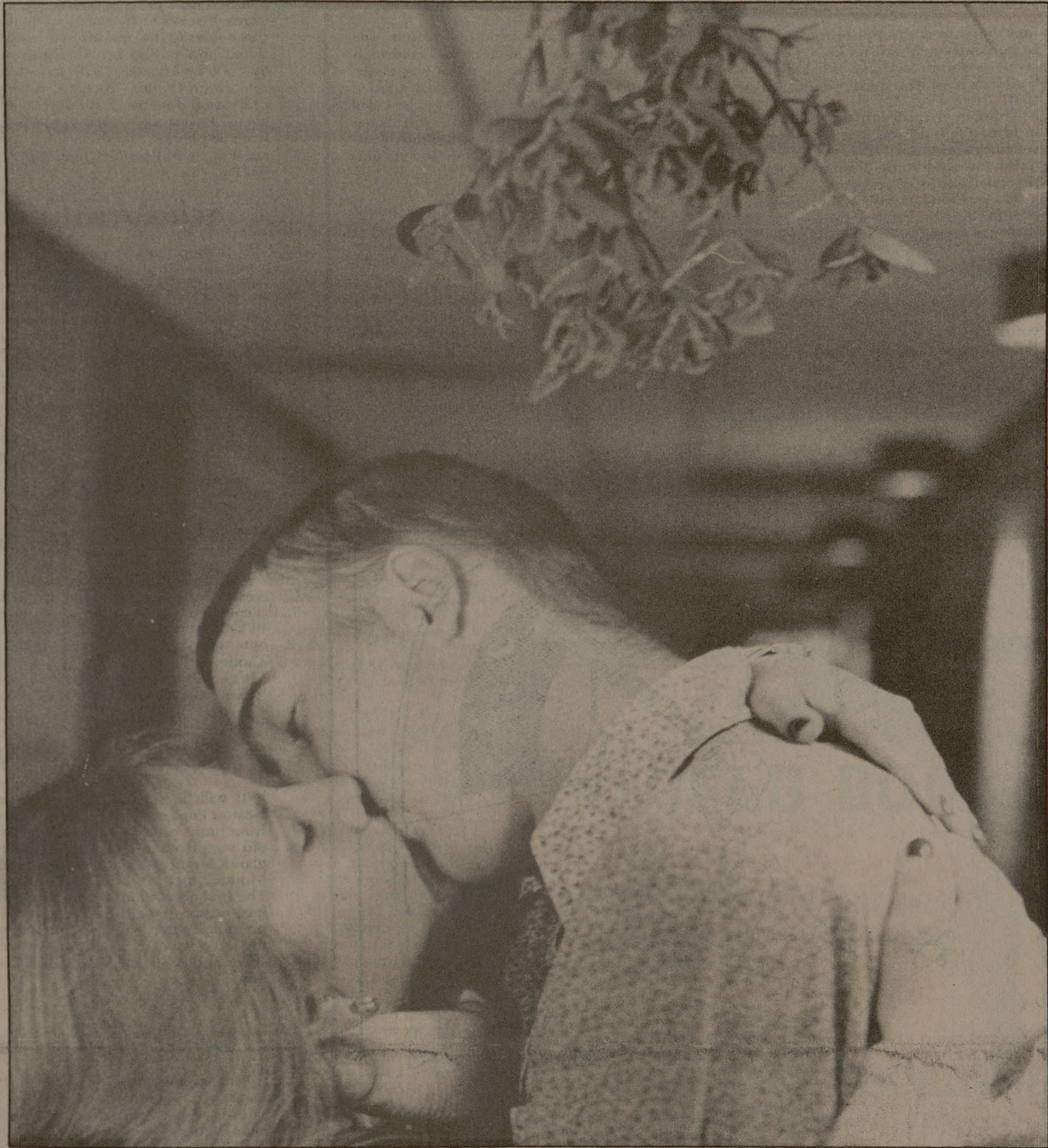
This is the last Battalion of the semester. Issues will be printed Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. Regular weekly publication will be resumed Jan. 15, the first day of the spring semester.

Suspects sought in local killing

Sheriff's officers are looking for four persons, two males and two females, in connection with the beating death of a Robertson County man early Tuesday. The dead man has been identified as 27-year-old Timothy Michael Merka, a Texas A&M University graduate, whose address is listed as Rt. 1, Box 41B, Merka. Merka's body was found Tuesday morning on Sandy Point Road north of Bryan. He apparently died from massive head injuries. Police identified a tire tool and hammer, found near the body, as probable murder weapons. Police, working with witness accounts, say they think the four suspects stopped Merka to ask for help in jumping the battery of the gold 1971 Torino they were driving. Merka's wallet was stolen. The suspects then drove away in his pickup truck which was found abandoned later Tuesday on West 19th Street outside the Bryan city limits. Police say the Torino is listed as a stolen vehicle. Sheriff's officers are continuing the investigation after lifting fingerprints from the vehicles. Sheriff Bobby Yeager said Wednesday morning that the suspects are believed to be from this area. Merka is survived by a wife and four young children. They live outside Munday in south Robertson County.

Wilson deal to maintain confidence

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff
Building confidence in Texas A&M University's athletic program was the main theme in awarding Tom Wilson a three-year contract as head football coach, said Charles Samson, chairman of the Athletic Council. Samson said the council agreed upon a three-year contract for Wilson "so that prospective recruits would not feel disappointed about coming here. Wilson's contract, although set for three years, will actually encompass three and a half years since he assumed the job halfway through this football season. It expires Jan. 1981. As head coach, Wilson will receive \$100,000 per year, Samson said. "Of course, his salaries are subject to review on an annual basis," he said. Former head coach Emory Bellard will be paid through Aug. 31, 1979, the end of the academic year. Bellard's salary at his resignation was \$50,000. Samson expressed the Athletic Council's feelings on Bellard's remuneration: "The resignation was an unfortunate situation, and Coach Bellard had certainly been a dedicated service to the school. These circumstances merited our decision to honor his salary through August," he said. The Athletic Council's recommendation regarding the position of head coach was made to the Board of Regents, which has final approval.



Another Aggie Tradition

Freshman Kelly Steed of Port Arthur and sophomore David Garnett of Houston show a little Christmas spirit beneath a branch of mistletoe. The Yule plant is hanging in the first floor hallway of Krueger. Battalion photo by Ava King

Yuletide tire tables for Aggies

During the holidays various campus facilities will have altered schedules. The library will be open Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 1 a.m. Friday it will be open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1-5 p.m. From Monday through Dec. 21, the hours will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. On the 22nd 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and the 23rd 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The library will be closed from Dec. 24-25. From Dec. 26-29 it will open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The 30th the hours will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and then closed until Jan. 2

when it will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 5, with weekend hours of 1-5 p.m. The Health Center will close completely at 5 p.m. Dec. 21 until it reopens Jan. 2, when it resumes 8 a.m.-4 p.m. hours. Sbsa will serve the campus's last evening meal Friday from 4:15-6:30 p.m. Duncan and the Commons will close after lunch. All three food factories will open for breakfast Jan. 15. Most snack bars will close Dec. 15-Jan.

14, except the Vet School's which will close on the 21st and reopen on Jan. 2. Vet students will eat from the 2nd until the 15th in the MSC cafeteria at which time they'll eat in Sbsa. Devare Field House will be open for neo-jocks and others from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. every day. The MSC will be closed at 5 p.m. Dec. 21 until Jan. 2. That includes the Rudder Tower complex. The MSC Post Office will use abbreviated hours from 10-11 a.m. during most of that time.

Archer Parr's career over?

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — By imposing a restricted 10-year probation, a district judge apparently has ended the political career of Archer Parr so that Duval County can "grow up and mature politically." Parr, a former Duval County judge and nephew of longtime political boss George B. Parr, the "Duke of Duval," Tuesday pleaded guilty to one felony count of theft of services over \$10,000 in return that six other charges be dropped. According to the 10-year probation imposed by District Judge Darrell Hester, Parr must make a \$25,000 restitution move from Duval to Nueces County and not leave it without court permission. Hester said Parr cannot seek public office, support political candidates nor try to influence them.

"You have served 41 months in prison and further imprisonment would serve no good purpose," Hester told Parr. "If we have you under supervision for 10 years, maybe the county can grow up and mature politically." Parr, 53, was released from a federal prison in Texarkana Dec. 6 after serving three years and six months of a 10-year sentence for lying to a federal grand jury during a 1974 investigation of the corrupt political machine of Duval County. Parr, who served 16 years as county judge, his uncle, George, and great-uncle, the late Sen. Archie Parr, had ruled the South Texas county for six decades until federal and state authorities began investigations that led to more than 100 indictments.

Computers keep holiday hours, too

United Press International
The University computing centers have posted operating hours for the Christmas holidays. Any changes in scheduled hours will be posted at the computing centers. Teague Computing Center (TCC) is located on the ground floor of the Olin E. Teague Building. The Zachry Computing Center (ZCC) is on the ground floor of Zachry Engineering Center, the Remont Computing Center (RCC) is in the old Cushing Library, and the Kleberg Computing Center (KCC) is in the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center on the West Campus.

TCC	12-15 — 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
	12-16 — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	12-17 — 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
	12-18 - 12-20 — 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
	12-21 - 12-22 — 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
	12-23 — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	12-24 — 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
	12-25 — CLOSED
	12-26 - 12-29 — 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
	12-30 — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	12-31 — 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

ZCC and KCC	1-1 — CLOSED
	1-2 - 1-5 — 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
	1-6 — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	1-7 — 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
	1-8 - 1-12 — 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
	1-13 — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
	1-14 — 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

RCC
12-15 - 12-21 — same as ZCC and KCC
12-22 - 1-14 — CLOSED

Regular schedules will resume on Jan. 15. The help desk in Room 6B Teague will be closed Dec. 22 to Jan. 1 and will resume regular schedule on Jan. 2.

No Yule songs heard from Vienna Choir

VIENNA — The famous Vienna Boys Choir will be prevented by child labor laws from singing their traditional carols this Christmas for the first time in nearly 500 years, their director said Tuesday. "It has never happened since the Boys Choir was founded by the Hapsburg monarchs in 1498," said Director Walter Tautschnig. "We regret it very much, but we can't help it." Tautschnig, who has directed the choir for the past 23 years, said somebody has discovered that child labor laws forbid children under 15 years of age to work during school holidays.

"As a result, our choir will be prevented from performing on Christmas Eve and six other days during the coming Christmas school holidays," Tautschnig said. The Vienna Boys Choir sings every Sunday morning at Catholic Church services in the Hofburg chapel attached to the former imperial palace in the heart of town. Their traditional Christmas songs include "Silent Night" and several other carols. Tautschnig said it is hoped parliament will pass a revised version of the child labor laws next year that would skip the prohibition of work during school holidays.

Brazos ambulance service

Officials to discuss medical care now provided, possible improvements

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff
State and local officials will meet Dec. 19 to discuss the status of ambulance services in Brazos County and the possibility of one county-wide service. The county judge, the mayors and city managers of Bryan and College Station, and representatives from Mid-Tex ambulance service, Texas A&M University, and St. Joseph Hospital will attend the meeting. The participants will discuss the kind of emergency medical service they provide. Rod Dennison, a field consultant for the Emergency Medical Services division of the Texas Department of Health will evaluate the county's emergency facilities and discuss possible improvements with the officials. The meeting will be held at the Brazos Valley Development Council. Bryan Mayor Richard Smith initiated the talks about establishing a county-wide service partly in response to the city's ambulance problems. Last October Mid-Tex Ambulance Co., which provides the city's ambulance service, requested a subsidy from the Bryan City Council to make up uncollected fees. The city council agreed to provide a \$2,000 per month subsidy as a temporary measure until another alternative could be found.

But acting city manager Hubert Nelson said that that wasn't Smith's only reason. "The mayor has been concerned about an area-wide service since before that," Nelson said. "There's a need for us to coordinate what we do and not have one guy going off half-cocked," he said. College Station officials are not very enthusiastic about a county-wide service right now. "We feel reasonably satisfied that we have a good emergency medical service, adequate control, personnel, and training. We don't refuse service to anyone," Bardell said. "We don't see any advantage to going to a county system," he said. But he said that if a county system was less expensive without lessening the quality of service, College Station would consider it. Operating the ambulance service costs the city about \$90,000 annually, Bardell estimated. The two city and county governments have been trying to provide an ambulance service since October of 1973. That month three local funeral homes announced that they would cease to offer ambulance service effective Jan. 1, 1974. The need to continue having an ambulance service was very real. Among a population of 100,000 —

the approximate size of Brazos County — there will be 293 fatal heart attacks, 27.2 highway deaths, and 27.4 deaths from other accidents each year, Management Information Service reports. As many as 20 percent of the deaths in the first and second group could be prevented, the report estimates, by effective and prompt attention at the scene. To date, Brazos County has had funeral home service, a private county-wide service, a private service, a private service receiving a sub-

sidy, and a fire department ambulance service. The last two currently operate in Bryan and College Station respectively. Bryan has contracted Mid-Tex, a private company owned by Bill Thornal, to provide the city's ambulance service. Mid-Tex also takes calls from anywhere in the county, including College Station if requested. Mid-Tex handles all the transfer calls in the county. A transfer call involves moving a patient from one hospital to another one usually out of the county. The company has one modular ambulance and three other ambulances. All the ambulances meet the state registry requirements, which are more exacting than those for the state permit. Mid-Tex employs about 12 people to work as attendants, Thornal estimated. All of Mid-Tex's employees are Emergency Medical Technicians or Emergency Care Attendants, Thornal said. It takes 120 hours of training to be an EMT and 24 hours of training to be an ECA. The College Station fire department provides that city's emergency medical service. The fire department will take an ambulance call anywhere in the county, Bardell said. The city has three modular ambulances, the last just purchased a few weeks ago for over \$31,000. The 30 College Station firemen attend the ambulances. All the firemen are EMTs, Bardell said. From 1974 to 1977 Brazos County received federal assistance to improve its emergency medical services. The BVDC administered the independent grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as part of assistance program

that included Brazos and six other counties, Ellen Nelson said. Nelson was the program director of the BVDC's emergency medical services program for its final six months. The county and two cities each bought a modular ambulance with matching federal funds. One of these is being used by Mid-Tex, and the other two by College Station. The funds were also used to buy bought radio communications equipment, emergency room equipment for St. Joseph Hospital, and to hold EMT classes, Nelson said. The grant period was intended to last five years, Nelson said, but the BVDC wasn't able to justify it adequately after the third year. The problem was a lack of financial participation by some communities, she said. "It wouldn't be fair for the federal government to spend money establishing emergency medical services unless the local communities were going to support it," Nelson said. For instance, the seven counties needed to provide their emergency rooms with telemetry equipment (a cardiac monitoring device) and a physician 24 hours a day, she said. Not one emergency room in the seven-county region met those requirements, Nelson said.

People die — needlessly

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff
Sixty thousand people die needlessly each year for lack of prompt and effective treatment at the scene of an injury or accident. An additional 25,000 people are permanently injured or disabled each year by untrained ambulance attendants and rescue workers. The reason is that many ambulance services, especially in rural areas, continue to operate with obsolete equipment, poorly trained attendants, and insufficient supplies. The above estimates appeared in the August-September, 1973 issue of Health Service Reports. Only partial progress toward implementing better emergency medical services has been made since then. Two related articles appear on page eight and nine. The first article explains the federal government's commitment to improving emergency medical services and the obstacles it faces. The second article deals with emergency medical service, and the lack of it, in Texas. Local resistance to improvement, aided by an obsolete state law, allows many ambulance services to operate in open violation of ambulance regulations.