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HIGH in 70s
LOW in 40s

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Put the religion back in
Christmas celebrations.
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The Battalion

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Dorms to close Dec. 21

Officials advise students to protect belongings over break

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion
 Residence halls will close for the Christmas break on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. and will remain closed until Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. Chareny Putney, residence life coordinator for the north area of office, said that all students must be out of the halls on Saturday. Putney said students are allowed to stay until Saturday because of such obligations as work and graduation. The rule that

says students must leave 24 hours after their last final is hard to enforce, she said. "Technically, that's when students should leave, but unless they're creating a disturbance, it won't be enforced," she said. Putney said the residence hall offices have sent out pamphlets to help students prevent their valuables from being stolen or damaged during the break. "We have sent out literature to warn against burglaries or a freeze," she said.

Maintenance workers and security officers will be watching the halls for suspicious activity during the break, she added. Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said there were 17 burglaries in the residence halls last Christmas. "Only one was a forced entry," he said. "The rest were because the doors weren't locked, or the people had pass keys. If students have anything of value that is rather small, they should take it home with them."

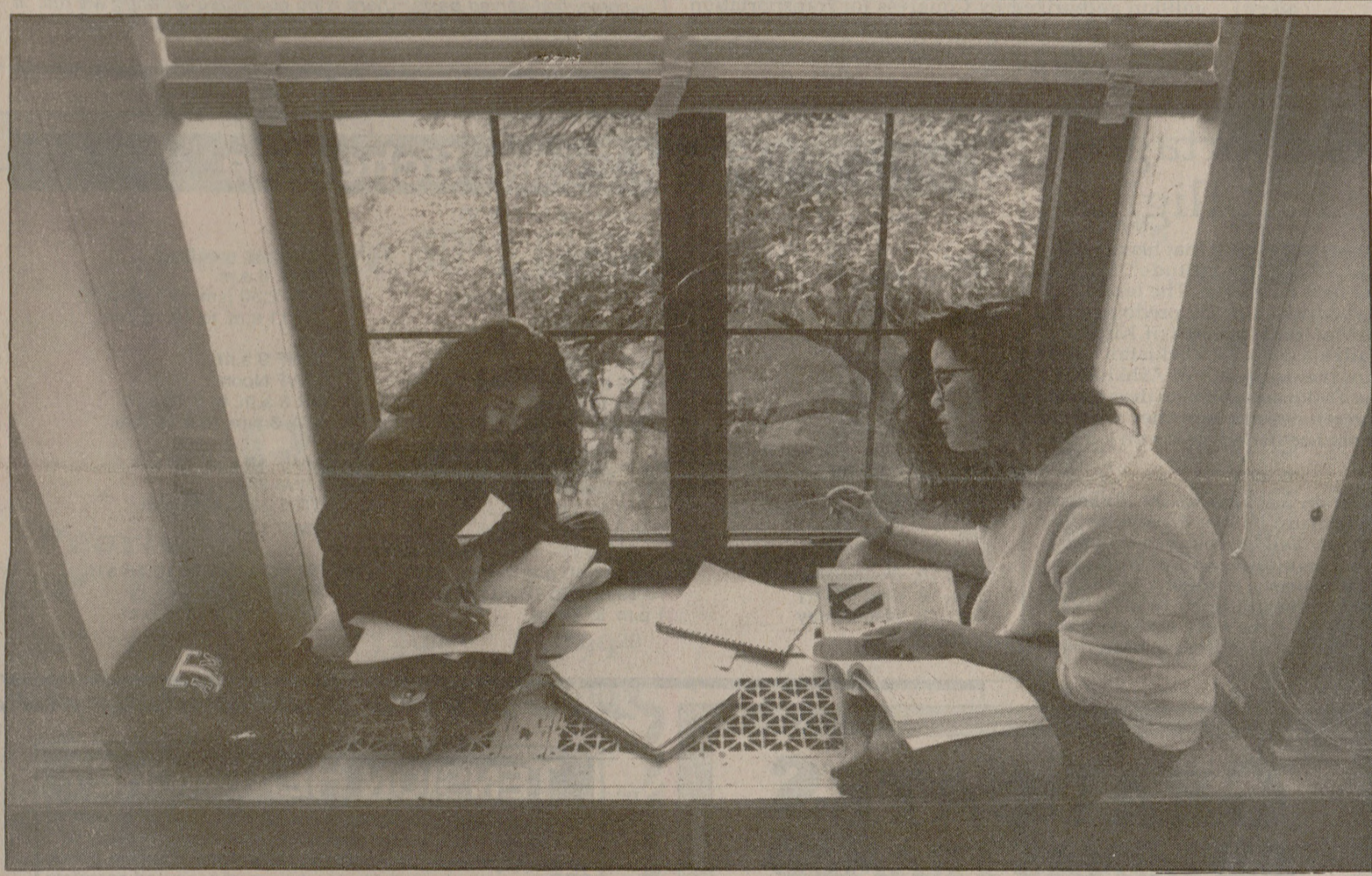


Yeltsin

Russian government backs commonwealth

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin won landslide approval Thursday in the Russian legislature for his new commonwealth, while Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev edged closer to resigning, saying "The main work of my life is done." Acceptance continued to build for Yeltsin's plan to restructure the shattered Soviet Union into a commonwealth, which the Russian president forged last weekend with the

leaders of the other Slavic republics of Ukraine and Byelorussia. **□ Bush calls for conference to provide humanitarian aid to Soviet Union/Page 2**
 With much of the bitter winter still ahead, there are shortages of food, heating fuel and basic consumer goods.
 See Soviet/Page 2



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Study Corner

Socorro Pasco, a sophomore psychology and English major from Houston, and Jennifer Byrd, a junior psychology major from San

Antonio, study for a social psychology final exam Thursday at Sterling C. Evans Library. Exam schedule on Page 2.

N., S. Korea sign accord for peace

Agreement calls for reconciliation, non-aggression; end to Cold War

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The premiers of North and South Korea on Friday signed a historic accord calling for reconciliation and non-aggression in the tense peninsula that has been one of the last theaters of the Cold War. Before the signing, the two nations issued a statement pledging to work toward a nuclear-free Korea. It was hoped that the treaty could be concluded by the end of the months after talks at the border village of Panmunjom. In signing Friday's agreement, North Korea for the first time officially recognized the existence of South Korea. The accord reached in breakthrough talks late Wednesday calls for the Communist north and capitalist south to put a formal end to their 1950-53 war. "Today, the tide of reconcilia-

tion and cooperation flowing worldwide has reached this land," said South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-shik. Chung and North Korean Premier Yon Hyong Muk smiled, exchanged documents and shook hands as other delegates applauded. "We must now make the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons," Yon said. The two sides agreed to meet Feb. 18 to exchange final documents after ratification by the South Korea's National Assembly parliament and the north's Supreme People's Assembly. In a dinner toast Thursday after the two-day talks at a hotel outside Seoul, Yon said "a new light has been thrown on our national war."
 See Koreas/Page 2

Bush honors hostages at Christmas ceremony

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush joyously saluted five former U.S. hostages on Thursday and proclaimed at a festive Christmas tree-lighting ceremony that "America's prayers were answered when these men came home to us." The hostages were loudly cheered as Bush introduced them on stage, one by one, before a crowd of thousands of people on the Ellipse. They were the star attractions, with Bush, for the annual ceremony for the lighting of the national Christmas tree. "On behalf of our loving country, I say, finally, to Terry Anderson, to Tom Sutherland, Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, and the others not here, welcome home," Bush said. All five hostages were released in the last two months. At Bush's invitation, Anderson, the longest held and last freed hostage, threw a switch to illuminate the huge Christmas tree. It remained dark. Anderson kept trying, slapping the button box a time or two before throwing up his hands in frustration. Bush took over, with no better success. He shook the box and put it down again. No joy. A few seconds later the lights blazed. "It is almost miraculous that we can celebrate with these five the lighting of our nation's Christmas tree," Bush said. "The idea is

"On behalf of our loving country, I say, finally, to Terry Anderson, Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, and the others not here, welcome home."
 -President Bush, on the return of American hostages
 so moving because these men have come out of darkness, into the bright light of liberty." "And as you hear these remarkable men talk, you realize they were never lost in that darkness of sorrow, anguish and despair. Even at the worst moments, they were guided by a stubborn spark that cruelty could not extinguish, the spark of the human spirit." Collectively, the five hostages were held in Lebanon for roughly 28 years. Anderson spent 2,455 days in captivity, much of the time in chains. "The hostages represent a strong spirit in America, a spirit of survival and strength," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said. He said their release also demonstrated "the fact that we have prevailed in the sense that we have shown that hostage-taking does not help and that America's resolve has been strong and has not weakened."

Speaker schedule for fall graduation

U.S. Rep. Greg Laughlin, Mitsui and Co. Senior Vice President Yoshiyuki Kawashima and Commodities Future Trading Commission Chair Dr. Wendy Gramm will speak at Texas A&M University's fall commencement exercises. Commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and for Dec. 21 at 9 a.m. All ceremonies will be held in G. Rollie White Coliseum on the campus. Laughlin, a 1964 Texas A&M graduate, will

speaking at the 2 p.m. Dec. 20 ceremony for degree candidates from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Liberal Arts and Veterinary Medicine. Laughlin holds a degree from the University of Texas and represents District 14 in Texas in the House of Representatives. Kawashima, the senior vice president, chief administrative officer and corporate secretary of Mitsui and Co. (U.S.A.) Inc., will speak at the 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 ceremony for graduates from the Colleges of Business Administration and Graduation School of Business, Education,

Geosciences and Maritime Studies and Medicine. Kawashima is a Tokyo University graduate, holds a law degree and has participated in the Advanced Management Program at Harvard School of Business. Gramm, a former Texas A&M economics professor and wife of U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, will speak at the 9 a.m. Dec. 21 ceremony for degree candidates from the Colleges of Architecture, Engineering, Science and Texas A&M University in Galveston.

NOTICES

Battalion ceases publication until Jan. 20, 1992

Today is The Battalion's last issue for Fall '91. The newspaper's next edition will be Jan. 20. The editor's of The Battalion wish all Texas A&M faculty, staff and students a safe and happy holiday season.

City Editor thanks Fall '91 staff

Thanks to the Fall 1991 city staff. It was a trying semester, gang, but we made our way through. Thank you for all your hard work and understanding. Keep up the good work. Sean.

College appoints dean

Committee selects authority on mathematical modeling

By Mark Evans
The Battalion
 Dr. Richard Ewing will take over as the new dean of the College of Science next summer, bringing with him an extensive background in mathematics and university-level education. A graduate of the University of Texas, Ewing currently serves on the University of Wyoming staff. He is an international authority in scientific computing and mathematical modeling. A selection committee chose him from among 47 candidates following an international search. "He is a proven administrator, communicator, and builder of educational programs," said Texas A&M Provost and Senior Vice

President Dr. E. Dean Gage. At Wyoming, Ewing heads up three research agencies: the National Science Foundation Cooperative for Mathematical Modeling, the Institute for Scientific Computation, and the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute. These centers will follow him to A&M along with their funding. Through these agencies, Ewing will work in conjunction with the Colleges of Engineering and Geosciences to conduct research. "We will continue to have a very effective collaborative working relationship among the different colleges," Gage said. "He (Ewing) will help build our multidisciplinary programs." Ewing currently serves on the consulting boards of major corporations such as IBM, Mobil, and

Chevron. He is also on several National Science Foundation Review Boards. "It is our belief that he is, probably, one of the most outstanding people in the whole United States for this position," Gage said. "We are elated that we have been able to convince him that this is where he needs to be." Ewing replaces Dr. John Fackler who has decided to step down from his position as dean in order to pursue his own research programs. The 57-year old inorganic chemist has held the post since 1983. He will take his leave at the end of this month. Gage has appointed Dr. Mike Kemp to serve as interim dean of the College of Science until Ewing takes over on July 1.