

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, October 22, 1992

The Battalion

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## Orchestra performs children's concert

By JULIE POLSTON

Feature Writer of THE BATTALION

Thousands of elementary students from Bryan-College Station and surrounding towns will attend a children's orchestra concert Oct. 26 in Rudder Auditorium.

About 4,000 fourth and fifth grade students are expected to attend the concert, entitled "Of Horns, Signals, and Animals."

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will perform well-known songs most children should be familiar with.

The pieces selected contain sounds that represent animals communicating, such as elephants trumpeting to one another.

Pieces to be performed include "Sheep May Safely Graze" by J.S. Bach, "The Waltzing Cat and Chicken Reel" by L. Anderson and "The Swan" and "The Fossils" by C. Saint-Saens.

The concert is produced by the BVSO and the Friends Association

of the Symphony Orchestra. Polly Grant, chair for the children's concert, said the children are very excited about coming to the Texas A&M campus to hear the concert.

"For many students, it is their first time to go to Rudder, and their first time to ever hear a live orchestra," she said.

Students also participated in a poster contest held among the College Station schools, she said.

"Most of the drawings were of forest scenes with bears and rabbits playing instruments," Grant said.

The winner of the contest was Megan Gardner, a fourth grade student at College Hills Elementary School. Her drawing was used for poster advertising as well as the program cover.

Aaron Kozak, a fourth grade student at Southwood Valley Elementary School, received an honorable mention.

Manuella Roller and orchestra conductor Franz Krager chose se-



College Station fourth grader Megan Gardner's drawing is the program cover for the concert "Of Horns, Signals, and Animals."

lections from a wide range of music from the 18th century to the present.

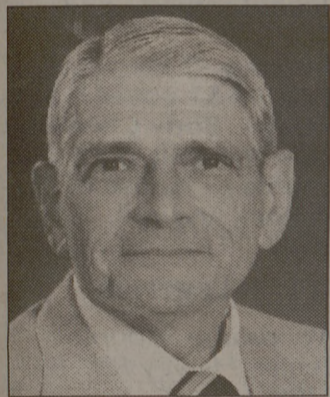
Grant said teachers used pro-

gram notes and cassette tapes to familiarize students with the music to be performed at the concert.

## Former A&M president Vandiver releases new book

By MARSHALL LOVE

Feature Writer for THE BATTALION



Frank Vandiver will appear at Hastings on Friday.

Former Texas A&M president and military historian Frank E. Vandiver's new book, "Blood Brothers: A Short History of the Civil War," will be released Monday.

Vandiver will sign copies of his book from 4:30-6:30 Friday afternoon at Hastings Books Music & Videos in Culpepper Plaza in College Station.

He summarized his thesis as "one war, two revolutions."

While Abraham Lincoln had to unify the North to fight the war, Vandiver said, Jefferson Davis had the difficult job of making the South into a country.

Vandiver, who was president of Texas A&M between 1981 and 1988, published his first article on the Civil War when he was 16 and has since written several books on the topic.

"I've always had a fascination with the war, and again I have drifted back into it," he said.

"Blood Brothers," his first book in over 12 years, grew out of an article he did for the "Ency-

clopedia of the American Military," which is scheduled to be published in 1992.

"I already had half the book written, and I wanted to write the other," Vandiver said. "I hope the book draws other people into the war."

Vandiver's other books include "The Idea of the South," "Jubal's Raid," and "Black Jack," a finalist for the National Book Award.

He is working on a book about Lyndon Johnson and the Vietnam war.

## Dallas band brings soul, melodic rock to B-CS

By JENNY MAGEE

Reviewer for THE BATTALION

Little Sister will take the stage at Stafford Opera House tonight, not as a "hippie generation" wannabe band, but as a band ready to give back to the 90s something that the 80s lacked.

Little Sister is a Dallas-based band, with a sound characterized by a blend of blues, soul, funk, and earth melodic rock.

Lead singer Patrice Pike is excited about this opportunity to play in College Station.

"We've played in Austin and San Marcos a lot, and people were always asking us when we were going to come to College Station," she said.

The band has been together for about 14 months. Pike is accompanied by Wayne Sutton on guitar, drummer Sean Phillips, and Jon Thomasson on bass.

Pike has been compared to Janis Joplin but rejects the association based on differences in vocal quality between the two. She said her personality and sense of free spirit cause people to make the connection.

"Like Joplin, the band is trying to get away from the status quo attitude that is permeating the world," Pike said.

The recent influx of reminiscent 70s rock that is appearing on the music scene may cause Little Sister's style to appear cliched. Pike said, however, that the band is not retrospective, but just trying to do something a little more exciting than the 80s.

Little Sister, like most bands, brings together a combination of musicians with different back-

grounds and influences. Aretha Franklin, Eric Clapton, and Robert Plant are examples of the band's mentors, Pike said.

Members of Little Sister are primarily concerned with becoming a better musicians, communicating with each other, and trying to relate to each other's different perspectives, she said.

All the members of Little Sister have been in other bands prior to this one. They were brought together because they shared similar interests and attitudes about music, Pike said.

"When you've worked with bands for awhile, you learn and grow as a musician, and try to build something better with each experience," she said.

Little Sister will perform material tonight from their debut album "Freedom Child," described by the Austin Chronicle as "not clever, but honest".

While this is Little Sister's first appearance in College Station, T. C. Nguyen, the promotions manager at Stafford, said he anticipates a strong response to their show.

"Little Sister is a very energetic band. They are one of the fastest growing bands from the Austin and Dallas areas," Nguyen said. "Once you see them, it is easy to be converted into one of their fans."

The mixture of soul and melodic rock with a touch of rhythm and blues should give the show a wide variety of sound to play with.

Pike summed up the band's purpose with a short and sweet generality.

"Like most musicians, we're just trying to get everybody together and have a good time," she said.

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