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By the rockets' red glare...

No Fourth of July would be complete without a fireworks display and Tuesday was no exception. College Station officials provided a full-blown aer-

ial spectacular at A&M Consolidated High School's Tiger Stadium for the city's residents.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Illegal aerial bombs seized

Users may lose fingers, hands

United Press International
HINGTON — They weren't exactly in or T-men, but federal agents were e prowl Monday for illegal explosives erry bombs and aerial "salutes" ban- or more than a year.
nsumer Product Safety Commission ctors seized more than 50,000 illegal bombs worth \$37,000 from three in Wyoming Monday and made a er haul last week near Rockport, Mo. e Wyoming seizures took place in enne, Laramie and Fort Steele, Raw- and Arlington.
understand the amount of explosive

in the devices seized was between 10 and 15 times more than the limit set by federal law," a spokeswoman said. "If the fireworks were improperly discharged, that powder content was enough to seriously injure the hands or the eyes."
Paul Galvydis, compliance officer for the CPSC, said the ban on the most powerful fireworks may have been responsible for a 16 percent drop in injuries in 1977, the first year it was in effect.
The ban applies to use of M80 devices — cherry bombs or cylindrical aerial bombs commonly known as "salutes."
Many devices allowed under federal

regulations are banned by states. Fifteen states prohibit all consumer fireworks, and another 14 states ban everything but sparklers and "snakes," carbon-based devices that expand along the ground when lit.
The federal ban does not apply to sanctioned displays run by local governments or service groups.
In 1977, Galvydis said injuries fell from 9,000 the year before to 7,555.
The injury figure is related to how many fireworks were used, he said, but "the industry said it sold almost as many in 1977 as in 1976 so the trend appears to be in-

juries going down and a lot of it is due to the regulations."
The banned explosives are capable of blowing off fingers or hands if the user is careless, he said.
Violation of the federal regulation, a misdemeanor, is usually a violation of local or state law as well, and police have never refused to cooperate, he said.
Fireworks permitted under the federal regulations include firecrackers with less than 50 milligrams of powder, cones, fountains, missiles, smoke devices, sparklers, Roman candles, wheels, mines and shells.

Couple must divorce to pay medical costs

United Press International
DALLAS — C.W. and Ruth King's marriage has withstood 45 years, a disease that has eroded her mind and body and the financial problems the affliction caused. But now bureaucracy is coming between them.
Last month King, 78, filed for divorce so that his wife could continue receiving Medicaid payments. His involvement with the government, lawyers and hospital officials has left him frightened and confused.
"He's scared to death," said Herb King, one of the couple's three children.

Mrs. King has been hospitalized six years with Huntington's chorea. Her Social Security check pays for only 40 percent of the hospital bills. The remainder had been paid by Medicaid.
But about two months ago, Herb King said, Medicaid sent a form to his father asking about his financial status and noting that the maximum assets the couple is allowed are \$2,250 if Medicaid is to continue.
"He has \$2,715 that he has scrimped to save for their burial," King said. "That's about \$300 more than he's allowed. So they threatened to cut off his Medicaid."
This week, King talked to Medicaid officials and said they told him no decision had been made on his parents' case. But, he said, one official told him that at the least, his father would have to pay \$59 a month from his own \$302 retire-

ment and Social Security for his wife's care.
"I asked the man if he could pay for food and utilities on \$250 a month and he said no, but that he still didn't think the state should have to take care of my mother," King said. "He was very belligerent."
"They told him (the elder King) that if he didn't pay, my mother would be thrown out of the nursing home and that they could take away everything he had. I don't think they can, but you can't tell him. He's scared."
The elder King talked to an attorney who told him that if he divorced his wife, she would have no assets in her name which would make her eligible for Medicaid.
Unless another solution is found, the divorce will be final next month.
"The divorce was very traumatic for him," Herb King said. "They've been married for 45 years. I don't think he needed to go through with it, but they told him to and he thinks lawyers know everything. He's not capable of dealing with all this. He's confused."
"They shouldn't do this to old people. If they can really take his house and everything away from him, they should go ahead and do it instead of threatening him."
Joyce Dempsey, supervisor of the eligibility unit at Medicaid, said she was not personally involved in the case, but said "probably Mr. King does not fully understand the correspondence we are sending him."

Health center needs fee slip for treatment

By CHARLINE ALLEN KARELL
Texas A&M University's A.P. Beutel Health Center was turning students away Thursday.
It wasn't that there were too many prospective patients for the number of available doctors. In fact, the waiting area was all but empty.

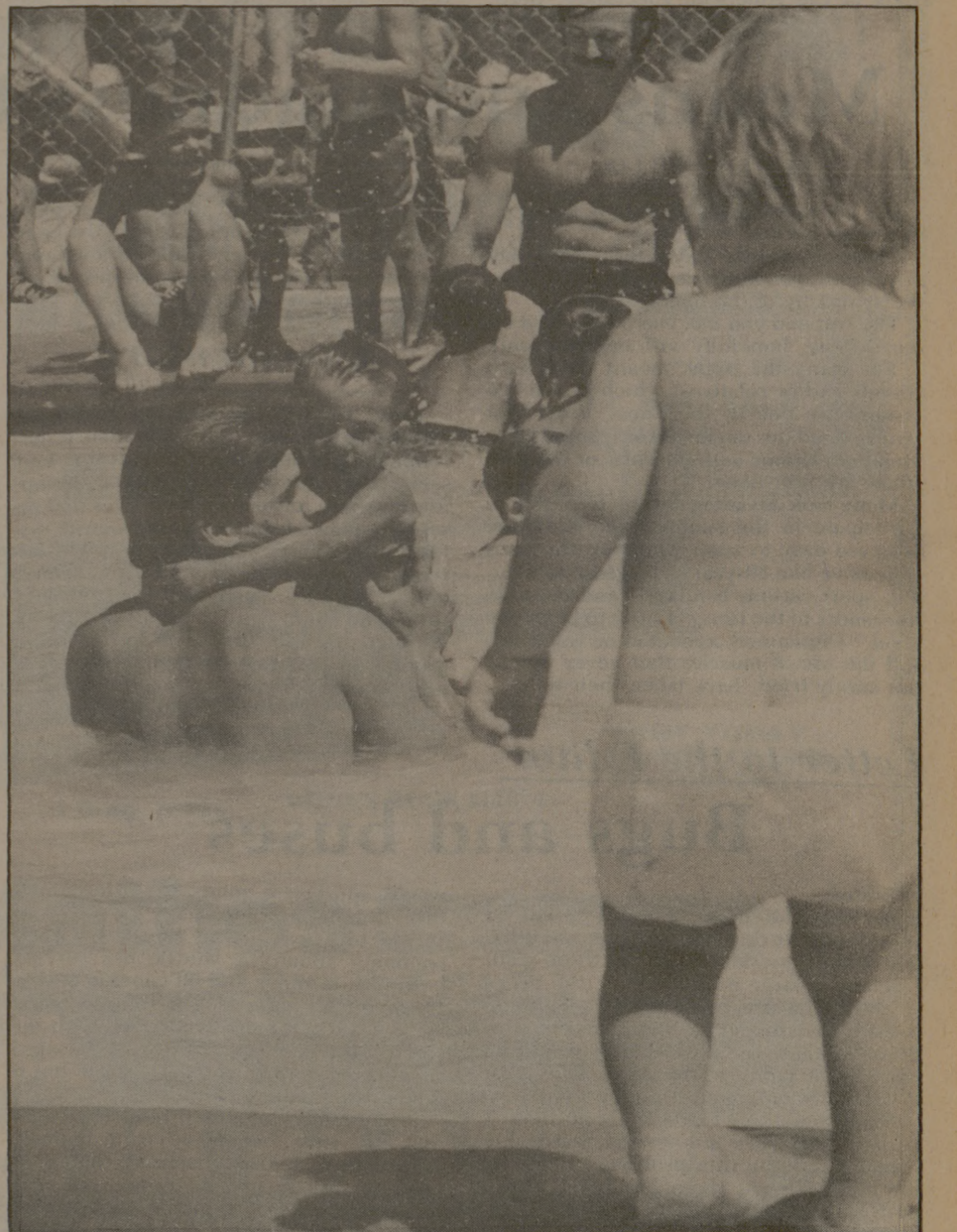
Many nursing home residents reported senile

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The government reports more than half of the one million elderly Americans in nursing homes are senile.
And it says most nursing home residents suffer from at least one form of chronic illness — including heart trouble, blindness, and arthritis or rheumatism.
In a report released this week, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare also reported that at least one in three elderly nursing home residents regularly shows signs of depression or agitation.
HEW's National Center for Health Statistics released the results of a one-year survey completed in 1974 on the physical and emotional states of nursing home residents.
"Inside nursing homes, the health profile of the residents is dominated by chronic illness," the report said. Practically all residents had to cope with at least one type of chronic condition or impairment, the report added.

The problem Thursday was that few students who came in had brought their summer fee slips with them. The health center will no longer admit students for treatment without verification that they have paid the \$7.50 per six weeks fee.
T.P. Lackey Jr., administrative assistant at the health center, said Thursday that although the policy has been in effect for some time, health center officials had made the decision only that morning to begin enforcing it again. The resulting confusion sent ailing students away in disappointment and left doctors waiting patientless, a change from the health center's usual steady stream of activity.
Lackey said hospital audits had revealed that many who are not eligible for treatment receive treatment at the health center each semester. Having students present current fee slips is a measure to prevent such irregularities in the future, he said.
All students enrolled for a normal course load are eligible to receive health center services. Students enrolled for less than three hours in a summer session or for less than six hours in a regular semester may not use the health center and are exempt from paying its fee. However, they may pay the fee if they wish to receive health services.
Mary Smith, of the University fiscal office, said many students in this category do pay the fee because they cannot afford private health care. Lackey stressed that faculty and staff of the University are not eligible to use the health center unless they are injured on the job.
The health center welcomes students who need health care and are eligible to receive it. Its staff only requests that students bring their admission ticket: the yellow fee slip.

United Press International
MOSCOW — Soviet officials now must decide how far to push their libel charges against two American reporters who say they will not participate in a trial that is viewed as an attempt to intimidate American newsmen working in the Soviet Union.
Craig Whitney of The New York Times and Hal Piper of the Baltimore Sun, both citing ethical reasons and flaws in the Soviet case, have asked Moscow City Court Presiding Judge Lev Almazov to dismiss the charges against them.
Whitney, 34, and Piper, 39, are accused by officials of the Soviet Committee on Radio and Television of libel in connection with articles they wrote quoting sources who said a televised confession of Georgian dissident Zviad Gamsakhourdia may have been fabricated.
U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon — who last week said the charges were designed to intimidate American reporters and limit them to quoting only official Soviet sources — met with Soviet Foreign Minis-

ter Andrei Gromyko shortly before Whitney and Piper appeared in court.
There were indications that the Soviet action against the reporters was the main topic of discussion at the Toon-Gromyko meeting, which lasted for 20 minutes. However, neither side would comment.
Whitney and Piper had been ordered to present their written answer to the Soviet charges, lists of witnesses they intended to call and any legal motions they wished to file.
Instead, they opted to sever themselves from the case in carefully worded statements.
"I have regretfully come to the conclusion and I state it to this court with all due respect that it would not be right for me to take part in this litigation," Whitney's statement said.



'Hi, baby brother!'

That's what young Erica Phillips seems to be saying to her younger brother, standing at the edge of the Bee Creek Park swimming pool (foreground). Erica and father Eric were just two of many College Station residents who celebrated the Fourth of July cooling off in the Bee Creek pool. Eric is a mechanical engineering major at Texas A&M.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.