

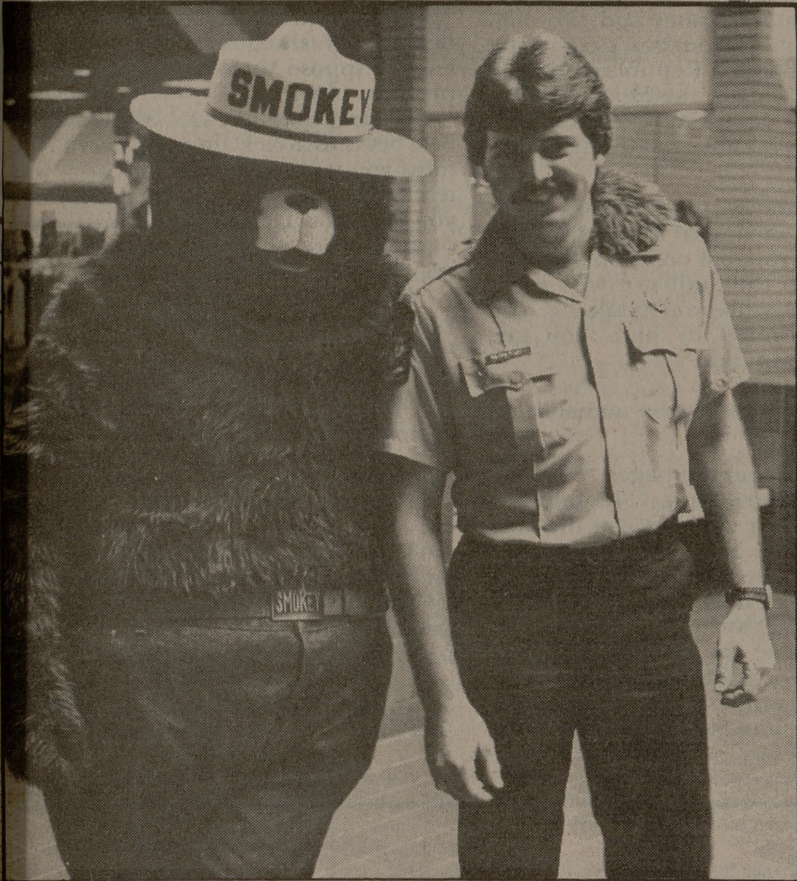
Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

Monday, October 11, 1982



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

Smokey and The Fireman

Smokey the Bear and Wayne Stack, a College Station fireman, were strolling through Post Oak Mall Friday as part of a demonstration the College Station Fire Department had for Fire Prevention Week. The demonstration included a display of a fire rescue unit with all its equipment used for first aid.

Synagogue attack kills 1, wounds 34

United Press International
ROME — Terrorists firing machine guns and hurling hand grenades attacked worshippers leaving Rome's main synagogue Saturday, killing a 2-year-old boy and injuring 34 other people in the worst anti-Semitic attack in Italy since World War II.

An angry, wailing crowd of Jews, some waving bloodstained garments of the victims, gathered after the attack at the synagogue on the Tiber River in the center of old Rome. Some assaulted reporters, accusing them of fanning anti-Semitic feelings through pro-Palestinian articles, and shouted insults against Pope John Paul II and Italian President Sandro Pertini.

The Jews said meetings the pope and president held with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat last month triggered the attack. Others accused the press of arousing anti-Semitism.

Witnesses told officers the attackers were "dark skinned," a state police chief said. Police said the attackers may or may not be Arabs.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, Italian officials said.

Witnesses said four or five attackers walked by the synagogue's side

entrance as 250 worshippers were leaving services marking the feast of the Simkhat Torah, a New Year holiday which includes a blessing of children.

The men sprayed worshippers with machine gunfire and witnesses said the attackers, who escaped in a waiting car, hurled at least five grenades at the congregation but only two or three of them exploded.

"The spectacle outside the synagogue was terrible," said Marco Zarfati, an Israeli doctor visiting Italy who was in the synagogue when the congregation was attacked.

"Seven or eight people were lying on the ground, some in very serious condition. I tried to help the wounded with what means I had available."

The pope sent a telegram condemning the attack as "a manifestation of hate and blind violence." Pertini called the attack "vile and ferocious," leaders of Italy's political parties and other officials expressed shock and Israel called for concerted international action against terrorism.

The PLO representative in Italy, Nemer Hammad, condemned the attack as "an aberrant manifestation of anti-Semitism against our Jewish brothers, guilty only of being Jews."

Reagan to visit Dallas

United Press International
SANTA BARBARA — President Reagan, facing a barrage of criticism for an upsurge in unemployment, intends to stress his "dramatic progress" in lowering interest rates and inflation in the waning weeks of the congressional campaign, aides indicate.

After spending a relaxed weekend at his mountaintop ranch, Reagan flies to Dallas today for two political appearances in support of Republican senatorial candidate Rep. James Collins, who has an uphill battle against incumbent Democrat Lloyd Bentsen.

Afterwards Reagan will head back to Washington, where he will spend the rest of the week, highlighted by a nationally broadcast "progress report" on the economy at 7:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes has labeled the address "non-partisan," but speaker Thomas O'Neill already has made a protest to all three major networks for giving Reagan time for what he calls "a patently political address for an election."

NBC said it will air the address, but a spokesman for CBS said "no final decision" had been made although it was "likely" the network will carry the address. ABC said it was undecided.

The harshest criticism for Reagan Sunday came from AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

"Never before in history have two crack-brained theories like supply-side economics and cultist monetarism had a more extensive trial and been proved so wrong, to the great harm of so many people so quickly,"

said Kirkland during an appearance on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Chief of Staff James Baker said in a broadcast on ABC-TV Sunday that Reagan deplores the 10.1 percent unemployment "and we're going to do what we can to remedy that situation."

But, he added, "We're making dramatic progress on two fronts — inflation has been reduced by over 50 percent, and interest rates are down by some 40 percent."

Baker also insisted that the 11.3 million people out of work would not be a dramatic election issue or "a watershed event" as far as the balloting on Nov. 2 is concerned.

He said the administration does not believe it will be hurt badly because it had been anticipated for some time that the jobless rate would top 10 percent.

Furthermore, he said that "the 99 to 100 million Americans who are employed are considerably better off than they were two years ago by reason of increased purchase power."

"Their taxes are down and inflation is down, and they've got more real take-home pay," he added.

Reagan's political advisers and the GOP campaign committees were working out the final stages of the president's participation in the campaign.

So far, only one other date has been set for the president to travel. He will fly to Peroria, Ill., Oct. 20 for an appearance in support of Rep. Bob Michel, the House Republican leader, and the following morning will fly to Omaha, Neb.

Imprisoned leaders protest ban of Solidarity by Poland

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — One day after banning the Solidarity union movement, Premier Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski told Parliament Saturday the government was ready to lift martial law and promised to release 500 to 700 political prisoners "soon."

"There is still a blind opposition in Poland inspired by the network of foreign subversive radio stations, ready to provoke bloodshed," he said. "But we have not been entrenched in martial law. We maintain the intention of suspending or even lifting it," Jaruzelski said.

In a letter smuggled out of the internment camp of Bialoleka near Warsaw seven leading Solidarity officials said the outlawing of the union

Friday was against international labor rules.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., President Reagan said he was taking steps to suspend Poland's most favored nation trade status in retaliation for the banning of Solidarity, which had been suspended since martial law was introduced Dec. 13.

"According to the International Labor Organization a labor union can be disbanded by the members of the union but not by the state authorities," the letter by the interned Solidarity officials said.

They urged rank and file members not to join the new unions, which the government proposes to set up.

"We are of the opinion that joining of the new unions would be tantamount to supporting the outlawing of Solidarity," said the seven, all members of the union's national commission.

Jaruzelski addressed Parliament one day after members voted overwhelmingly to outlaw the first independent labor federation in the Soviet bloc.

In his address, Jaruzelski said church-state relations were not "bad" and the authorities were ready to finalize the date of Pope John Paul II's visit to his homeland. He said the date of the papal visit could be set if Polish Archbishop Jozef Glemp would meet with him.

Church sources said the meeting between Glemp and Jaruzelski had been scheduled to take place a week

before Friday's parliament session, but that Glemp refused to attend to protest the Communist Party's plan to ban Solidarity.

Jaruzelski expressed his sympathy to the rank and file members of Solidarity and the state-sponsored "branch" and "autonomous" unions also outlawed by Friday's Parliament session.

He stressed that new unions simultaneously created by the bill would be different from the old state-sponsored unions and Solidarity, which he called "an anti-socialist group."

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'Flat earther' says Columbus proved the Earth is not round

United Press International
LANCASTER, Calif. — Charles Johnson insists he's on the level; the world is "flat as a penny."

The 58-year-old president of the 2,000-member Flat Earth Society, whose membership boasts several "enlightened" airline pilots, spends each day of the year trying to prove the world is not round.

And Columbus Day gives him an opportunity to point out the absurdity behind the popular notion of round-earthers. In fact, Christopher Columbus, whose day it is on the calendar today, is one of Johnson's super-heroes.

"Contrary to the history books," Johnson said Sunday from his five-acre Mojave Desert ranch, "we claim Columbus proved the world flat. It's a

simple matter of logic.

"At the time Columbus made his voyage everyone believed the world was a ball, except for Columbus. They were afraid they would fall off the edge of the earth because it was round, not flat.

"Columbus is one of our heroes because he didn't fall off — gravity wasn't invented yet. There was no gravity in Columbus' day.

"Every public school in America says Columbus proved the world was a ball. But that notion comes from American writer Washington Irving, who actually originated the claim that Columbus proved the world is a ball."

And Irving's claim shook up the scholarly world so badly, says Johnson, that Isaac Newton was forced to invent gravity to explain it.

"Newton hatched the idea of gravity to explain Irving's round-earth claim."

Johnson was born and raised in Texas before his family moved to San Francisco and then 25 years later to the Southern California desert. Indeed, from Johnson's porch overlooking the sun-scorched desert floor near Edwards Air Force Base, the world does appear flat.

When pressed to explain just what, exactly, Columbus proved with his historic voyage, Johnson states: "He demonstrated simply that the seas are level. After all, we've always used the term sea level, right?"

Johnson, who publishes the quarterly Flat Earth News, scoffs at round-earth detractors who point to American ventures into space ranging from

the Moon landing to the Space Shuttle program.

"The space program should be ended," he says. "The whole thing is a hoax. It is simply a case of everything that goes up eventually comes down. It doesn't orbit. What we see on television are pre-arranged movies made in studios."

But why would the United States perpetuate such a "myth?"

"The space program keeps the myth alive that the world is round," he said. "You must have a total lie, not a partial lie. In order to keep the hoax alive, they staged the moon landing, and of course we all know that was a lie and that it never happened."

"Now they keep telling us the shuttle is orbiting the world, but it is just falling down. Again, what goes up, must come down."

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forecast

Today's Forecast: High in the low 80s, low in the upper 50s. Sixty percent chance of rain today.

almanac

Today is Monday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 1982 with 81 to follow.

The morning stars are Venus and Mercury.

The evening stars are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Libra.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was born Oct. 11, 1884.

Commandant optimistic about corps, says enrollment will continue to grow

by Robert McGhlon
Battalion Staff

Despite a slight enrollment drop in the Corps of Cadets, Corps commandant Donald L. Burton, says the organization is growing and will continue to do so.

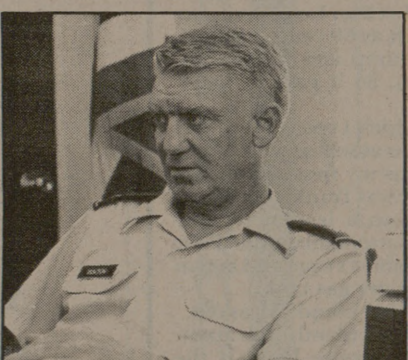
Burton, who took over the post after Col. James R. Woodall retired in August, said he is optimistic about the future of the Corps.

"The raising of the admission standards is one of the reasons why we had a small drop in the number of freshmen," Burton said. "Still, that 2,327 (initial fall enrollment), with the exception of last year, is bigger than anything we've had in the last 10 years."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the Corps will continue to increase in size. It's a strong trend. It's not only a trend here at Texas A&M — it's a trend everywhere you have a military college."

Burton said he would like that trend to continue and has some definite ideas on how to make sure it does.

"First off, we're going to do a better job of getting the message out to high school juniors about the Corps of Cadets and what it is and its value to



Col. Donald R. Burton

them," he said. "It's the high school junior we need to be recruiting — not necessarily the senior. Most high school seniors have already made the decision of where they are going to school."

Burton also has initiated a stepped-up recruiting effort on campus.

"We believe that the best place to get good Corps members is right off the campus," he said. "We have tremendous numbers of good Ags here who ought to be in the Corps."

"We're interested in bringing in

ever-increasing numbers of freshmen, but we also believe there are a heck of a lot of guys — and women — on campus who would like to be in the Corps of Cadets.

"And we're going to give them an opportunity to understand more about it. There are a lot of Aggies on campus who really don't know that much about the Corps. So we welcome any opportunity to speak to the student organizations — not to recruit them — just to talk about the Corps on a frank basis, not on a propaganda basis."

The Corps is focusing on recruiting students who have demonstrated their academic ability, Burton said.

"I know that Texas A&M has got to hold its enrollment at a certain level and the admission standards have been raised and so forth, so we're not just recruiting every high school student — we're looking at the top fourth," he said. "I think you'll probably find that 75 percent of the entering freshmen this year came from the top one-fourth of their graduating class — that's the sort of folks we want for the Corps."

The overall growth of the Corps is not limited to its male population.

The women's segments of the Corps have grown considerably, as well. Burton attributes this growth to the change in attitude toward female cadets.

"It's the natural evolution of the way things are in our society," he said. "Our women do a damn good job."

Corps GPR above rest of university

A 0.01 percent difference between the average grade point ratio of the Corps of Cadets and the GPR of the rest of the student body isn't much, but the gap will widen, Corps Commandant Donald L. Burton says.

The average GPR of civilian students is 2.39. The Corps has an average of 2.40.

"The average GPR, overall, for the Corps as it stands today, is statistically, measurably higher (than that of civilian students)" Burton said. "And it's going to get higher yet. We've got some things going on in the Corps that you don't have across the campus."

"In the first place, we are now enforcing the quiet hours. Our freshmen and sophomores are being provided that time to study. Our senior class is dedicated to that."

Burton has high hopes for the new faculty adviser program, in which 44 faculty members have volunteered to serve as advisers to Corps outfits. The commandant cited an especially gifted incoming class as another reason why he expects the Corps to improve academically.

"I think it's clear to our seniors and our juniors that these freshmen are a cut above the average bear," he said.