

opinion

Halloween fruit now regulated

By Dick West

United Press International
WASHINGTON — This year, for the first time since Halloween was invented, it will be possible to make a regulated jack-o'-lantern.

According to the Federal Register, official government grade standards for fall and winter squash henceforth also will apply to pumpkins.

The Agriculture Department says the revision was "requested by members of the produce industry to provide an official basis for evaluating the quality and size of pumpkins."

Granted, the industry may need an evaluation system more precise than having someone exclaim, "Gee, that is some kind of a humongous pumpkin!"

As an ace jack-o'-lantern carver, however, I question whether lumping pumpkins in with fall and winter squash is exactly the right procedure.

It is all very well to point out that squash and pumpkins "belong to the same botanical family." I can assure you the trick-or-treaters in my neighborhood would notice the difference, nevertheless.

If I put a hollowed-out squash on my front porch Halloween evening, it not only wouldn't scare the spooks and goblins away; I would be tampering with a tradition that could leave assorted spooks and goblins emotionally scarred.

Size alone is not a factor. The Guinness Book of World Records reports a squash weighing 513 pounds was grown by Harold Fulp at Ninevah, Ind., in 1977.

The record-setting squash was not pictured, as were a 51-pound cantaloupe, a

6-pound lemon and a 3-pound eggplant. Nor was the text specific as to genus. I, therefore, cannot say with certainty that the squash was of the fall and winter variety.

I do know from experience, however, that a 513-pound squash would make a sizeable jack-o'-lantern, certainly big enough for most Halloween decorations.

Even a 19-pound zucchini, which is a type of squash, would serve the purpose. But that is not the point.

The harsh fact is that a carver as adroit and creative as I probably could have made a presentable jack-o'-lantern out of the 73-pound turnip reported to have been grown in 1768.

And the same can be said for the 5-pound orange, the 3-pound pear and the 17-pound pineapple listed by Guinness as the largest ever grown. But that doesn't necessarily mean they would be acceptable Halloween symbols.

The Agriculture Department says the same standards can be used because "the cultural and marketing practices" for pumpkins and squash are alike.

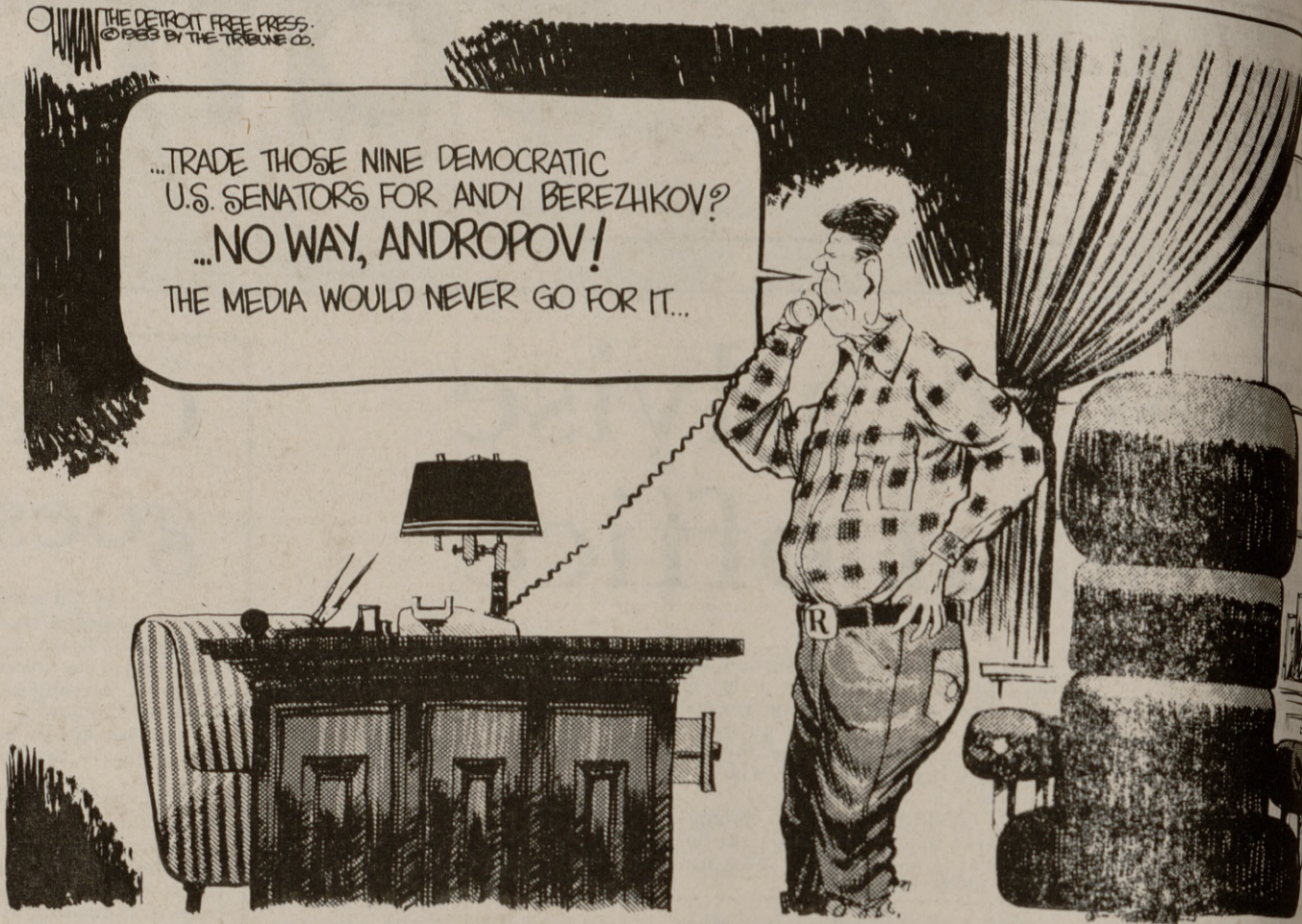
Poppycock! And also pish and tosh! Having never marketed squash and pumpkins, I can't dispute the similarity of that practice. But if Halloween isn't cultural, I don't know what is.

Would you want your kids out trick-or-treating in a neighborhood where they likely would encounter jack-o'-lanterns fashioned from turnips, eggplants, cantaloupes, pineapples, etc?

Of course you wouldn't.

The point is that pumpkins deserve their own grade standards. It may be the only way to avoid having squash pie for Christmas dinner.

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Letters

Assault on Corps attacks A&M traditions, character

Editor:

The arrogance and self-righteousness of some people never fails to amaze me. Johnny Jeng is one of those amazing people.

Jeng's assault on the Corps of Cadets is an assault on the traditions and character of this University. It is also an insult to every "Good Ag." I am not a member of the Corps, but I'm proud of the Corps and of this school. My father, uncles, and cousins were not members of the Corps, either, but they all graduated from this school, and they also supported the Corps and what it stands for.

Jeng's letter made me wonder why he is even attending this University. If he is so angry about the fact that one must be in the Corps to be in the ROTC program at Texas A&M, why doesn't he just transfer to another university? He won't change the Corps; the Corps has been here too long. Our Aggie traditions are derived from the Corps, and it's these traditions that make Texas A&M a unique university. There are plenty of other Texas colleges where Jeng can get a good education, be involved in the ROTC program, and be a member of one of those fraternities he approves of so much.

Jeng said that there are no more heroes. That's not true; there are just no heroes who have his outlook and overall bad attitude. Hundreds of Aggies have been heroes. Every Aggie who has defended his or her country is a hero. And for Jeng's information, every one of those Aggies honored in the MSC began his military career by earning ribbons in Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets.

This University is growing in leaps and bounds. It is fast becoming a "World Class" University. And when it reaches that point, the Corps will still be here. So if you don't like it, Jeng, just pick up your army boots and move out. Highway 6 still runs both ways.

Dainah Bullard, '85

Aggies thereby creating a situation of disunity.

If Texas A&M is to obtain "world" status it must retain its sense of unity. It also should be pointed out that other world class universities such as Princeton do not recognize fraternities or sororities.

Who cares, Mr. Jeng? The Corps of Cadets cares. Its members care about the University, its reputation and its future.

Lodrick Williams

True Aggies defined

Editor:

Have you ever had someone ask you what an "Aggie" was? If you ever have, you know it's not easy to answer quickly.

I have been an "Aggie" (one who is enrolled in Texas A&M) only two years. Walking around the campus, meeting people, saying "HOWDY," and observing the dedication we Aggies show at sports events and in the classroom, helped me to see what an Aggie truly is.

I know I've got a few more years of learning and experiencing The Aggie Tradition! However, I do believe what I have to say can help someone see what an Aggie really is.

An Aggie is one who helps others in times of trouble. He comforts others in times of sorrow. A true Aggie shows dedication by standing up for what he believes in. He does not give up, no matter what the odds are. He does not boast or brag outwardly. A real Aggie never forces his beliefs upon others. On the other hand, he respects the expressed opinions and beliefs of others. One who is a true Aggie never stands in the way of others' achievements or dreams, like peace for all men.

Strive to be a true Aggie. Do the best you can!

Galvin Jones '86

Corps unity defended

Editor:

The fact that I am a non-reg would make it easy for me to take cheap shots at the Corps of Cadets as Mr. Jeng does in his letter. However, as an Aggie I feel that I should be above such low blows.

Why the Corps of Cadets? Each school that carries ROTC units chooses the method in which the program is executed. Schools such as Texas A&M, the Citadel and Virginia choose a more vigorous program. The results of these programs are shown in the service records of its graduates. These graduates consistently have superior service records. If indeed you are sincerely interested in a military career, it may be to your advantage to consider the five programs offered at Texas A&M.

From a non-military point of view, there are also reasons for the existence of the Corps. The Corps brass worn by cadets carries the motto "per unum vis". It is this sense of unity and pride that carries over into other elements of life at A&M. It makes all Aggies equal. In theory there are no privileges at A&M. It is upon this point that much of the criticism is leveled at the fraternity system. By processes of selection the Greek system sets itself apart from the rest of the

Frankel protested

Editor:

This letter is addressed to Ted Frankel:

It's plain to see why Mr. Ted "Fact" Frankel was not given royal treatment while he blessed us with his presence. Perhaps we Aggies felt unworthy of speaking to a person with such a pleasant personality. We usually say howdy to persons who make eye contact; perhaps Mr. Ted "fact" Frankel was too busy raising his nose in the air, fawning over himself in the mirror or finding fault with our great University to bother looking at us. How many times did you walk across campus? Once?

Mr. Frankel: You're from out of state, you were "kind" enough to admit that. And you implied that it's too early to pass judgement on Coach Sherrill's program. You said, "Hasn't this new coach...only been at A&M for 18 months?" Well, what makes you such an expert on Texas A&M, having been here for just two days? Some people demand much from their fellow men, yet make no effort to give anything in return. Highway friendship runs both ways. And that's a "fact".

Laren Leander '86

(Editor's Note: this letter was accompanied by 14 other signatures)

Deposit refund 'slo

Editor:

In one year of schooling, I paid University over \$3,000 in fees. They accepted with a mere flash identification card. But this second moved off campus, so they did not that much out of me, this time. Nevertheless, I still have many bills to pay: rent, gas, and electricity. I recently moved into a new room and I had to pay last year's room deposit.

I went to the housing office, filled out the forms, and the lady proceeded to tell me that my check would be in the mail in 30 days. Tell me, why does it take a university 30 days to send a check because they can't afford it? Or will check bounce? Well, whatever the reason, they neglected to tell me. Until that money comes, I guess I'll tell the landlord that this month's rent will be in the mail in 31 days.

Elizabeth E.

Abortion debated

Editor:

To confront the problem of whether or not the United Way should support Planned Parenthood (as Stephen did in your October 12 issue) is a question such as "Would Jesus do it?" is the Christian way?..... Aren't fundamentalists blockheads....." is realising the point.

The question to ask is "Is abortion murder?" If it is, then Planned Parenthood is a murderous organization. Cutting off support would be no more sense" that gassing a mass murderer happened to be a physician in his time.

Yes, Jesus certainly supports his people. But Jesus also supported his worship. And yet when wickedness mixed with it, he drove people out with whips.

Danny E.

Frats not 'Greeks

Editor:

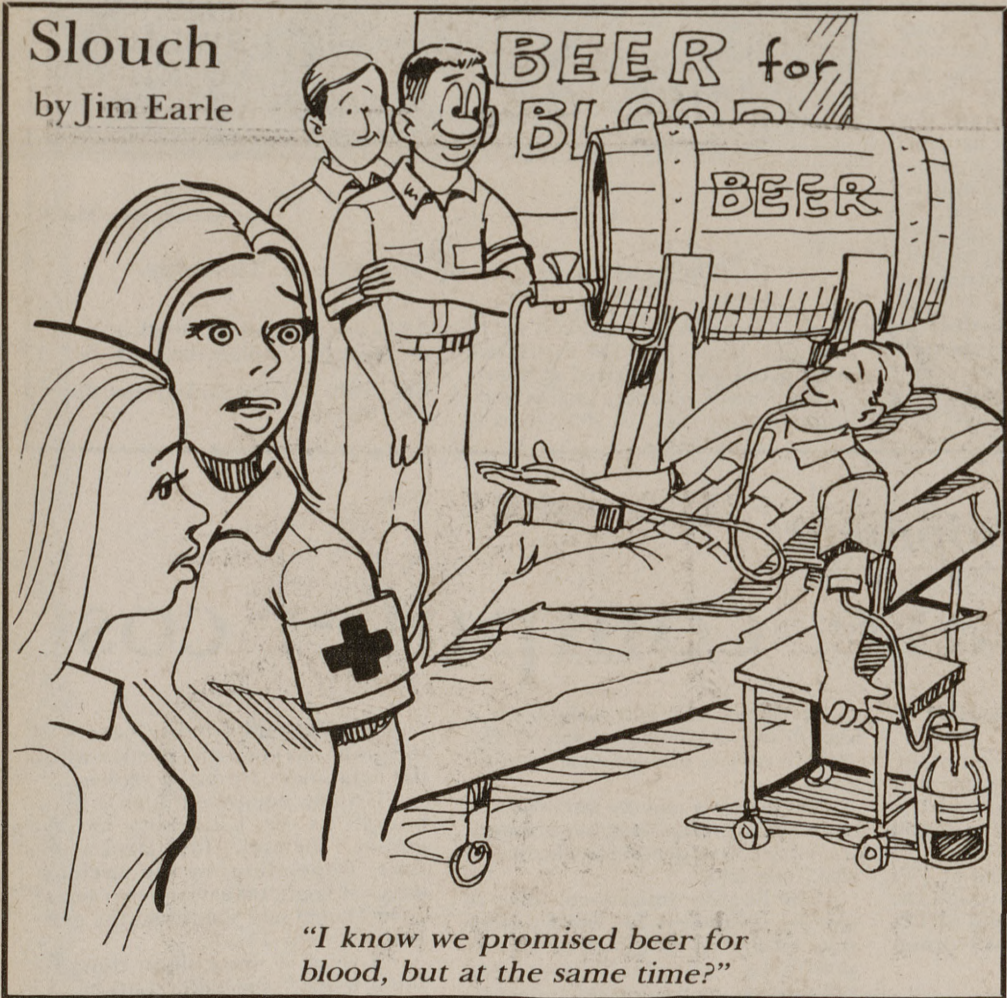
With Pappandreu's government already tarnishing the image of Greek the last thing Greeks need is to be identified with fraternities. So I say to Foreman, Keith Beauchamp, and others concerned: Give Greeks a break. Who are these "Greeks" you keep ranting to? Are there really 2000 Greeks at TAMU, or 2000 fraternity members?

Two points should be made: 1) Greeks come from Greece; 2) Being a fraternity does not make one Greek. Being Greek is a right of birth. The rite of initiation; so, I would appreciate if in the future only Greeks were referred to as Greeks, and fraternity members—fraternity members—the two are not the same.

In conclusion, I am tired of arm-quarterbacks trying to coach the Aggies through the newspaper. Therefore, say nothing about Jackie Sherrill fighting Texas Aggie football team.

Sincerely,

Tom T. Graduate Student



"I know we promised beer for blood, but at the same time?"

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and telephone number of the writer. Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611.

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