

# Great pumpkin's flight a tradition

By MIKE DAVIS  
Reporter

Every Halloween, according to Linus, the Great Pumpkin delivers goodies to deserving boys and girls. But the Corps of Cadets has its own version of the old tale.

One version of the Flight of the Great Pumpkin tale goes like this:

Members of Company C-2 were parading a huge pumpkin up and down the Quadrangle one year when one of the cadets decided to smash it inside the Aggie Band dorm.

Hence the birth of another tradition and a rivalry between the band and Company C-2.

Every year on Halloween night the Great Pumpkin, surrounded by torch-bearers from C-2, makes his "flight" down the Corps Quadrangle with the intention of "visiting" the band dorm. And just like Linus, the band freshmen anticipate the visit.

Armed with buckets of water, the band freshmen wait outside their dorm, hoping to extinguish the torches and smash the pumpkin.

The Flight of the Great Pumpkin is expected to start at about 10 p.m. "We're running an old tradition, and it's just good fun," Dave Waugh, commanding officer of Company C-2, said.

C-2 holds a secret ceremony before the flight to determine which junior in the outfit will bear the pumpkin, he said.

"Only the seniors in the company know about that (the ceremony)," Waugh said. "It's the white belts (juniors and seniors) that run the pumpkin."

"One of them will be the Great Pumpkin, and the rest of the white belts are the ones who guard the

pumpkin with the torches." It's the responsibility of the C-2 freshmen to find the largest pumpkin they can, Waugh said. The 1983-84 commander of C-2 said last year's pumpkin weighed 91 pounds.

John Ripley, commander of the band, said that though the rivalry is all in fun, it has been plagued in the past by outsiders who cause problems.

"We had some problems last year," he said. "A guy was there throwing buckets around and pushing freshmen."

Ripley said steps are being taken this year to prevent the interference of outsiders.

"It needs to be fun for C-2 as well as my fish," Ripley said. "They don't need to have to worry about somebody coming in there acting radical."

The band upperclassmen will stand around the path of the Great Pumpkin to keep people out of the way.

"The idea is to give the freshmen room to participate without interference from other people coming in," Ripley said.

Campus authorities also will be there, he said.

"We're going to have a couple of campus police there, military advisers and housing officials because of the size of the crowd we anticipate," he said. "We're trying to do this for the protection of everyone involved."

Waugh said precautions are being taken in order to preserve the tradition.

"If anything goes wrong at all — if someone is hurt, (or there are) any problems — it's gone," he said.

Ripley said the main concern is the safety of all the participants.



Difference of opinions

Photo by WALTER SMITH

During the SWAMP open forum on Tuesday, two opposing interest groups go head-to-head to attract students' attention. The Gay Student Services distributes literature from the table

on the left while students at the right solicit signatures for their petition, which is an attempt to nullify the Student Government's resolution to recognize the GSS.

## Pro-Solidarity priest found dead in reservoir

United Press International

WARSAW, Poland — A pro-Solidarity priest was found dead in a reservoir Tuesday, 11 days after he was kidnapped by three interior ministry officers in what authorities charged was a wider conspiracy to undermine the government.

Polish television said the body of the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko was recovered by divers searching a reservoir near the north-central city of Wloclawek on the Vistula River.

The body was taken to "medical experts" for an autopsy, the report said.

The priest, an ardent Solidarity

supporter whose fiery anti-state sermons drew thousands of Poles to St. Stanislaw Kostka church in Warsaw, was abducted from his car Oct. 19 near the city of Torun in northern Poland.

Since his disappearance, nightly masses have been held at the church, whose fences have been hung with wreaths and floral bouquets, pictures of the priest and banners painted in the distinctive red-on-white Solidarity format.

Millions of Poles across the country have prayed for his safety in their own churches.

"The ministry of the interior in-

forms that on Oct. 30 in the afternoon, as a result of an intensive search with the participation of police frogmen, the body of Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko was found in the water reservoir of Wloclawek," a statement on a television news program said.

"On the order of the Minister of the Interior an investigation is going on focused on finding (the people who) inspired the abduction and murder of the priest."

Solidarity founder Lech Walesa pleaded for calm in an emotional statement issued from his home in Gdansk and called for a national dialogue between authorities, the

church and representatives of the trade union, banned under the imposition of martial law in Dec. 1981.

"May the silence of this mourning create the possibility to start a dialogue ... I hope that everyone decided on continuing a dialogue will take part in the funeral," he said, apparently inviting authorities to attend the ceremony.

He asked Poles to "avoid demonstrations, rioting or other tensions in these days."

"May the tomb of Rev. Popieluszko become a place in which we shall bury mutual accusations," Walesa said.

## Reveille IV retiring — ends her nine-year career

By CYNDY DAVIS  
Reporter

For the first time in Texas A&M history, the Aggie mascot is being retired.

Reveille IV will end her nine-year career as Aggie mascot and "First Lady of A&M" at the University of Texas football game Dec. 1, John T. White, adviser to Reveille and Company E-2 said.

She will be honored at a brief ceremony during halftime at the A&M vs. Texas Christian University game

Nov. 24.

White said Company E-2, which traditionally keeps Reveille, made the decision to retire her because of her age. E-2 Commander Carl Byars said she can't go on runs with them or do the other things she used to do.

"She is getting old and it's getting hard on her," Byars said. "She just needs to be where she can relax."

Byars stressed Reveille was in good health, just suffering from old age.

Reveille IV is nine and one half years old. She has served as Aggie mascot since she was donated by Dr. Thomas L. Godwin '67 as an eight-week-old puppy in 1975.

She regularly attends class with mascot corporal Hans Meinardus and other members of E-2.

The money to keep her is taken out of student service fees and interest from a \$6,000 permanent endowment, White said.

Reveille IV will be the first mascot to retire. The other three dogs died

while serving in their ninth or tenth year as mascot, White said.

After retiring, Reveille IV will live with Dr. and Mrs. Lee Phillips of Bryan. Phillips, '53, is Director of Continuing Education at A&M, and a long-time supporter and friend of Reveille and E-2, Byars said.

"She's close, so the guys in the outfit can visit," Byars said.

He said he wouldn't be surprised to see Phillips bring her to his University office or to football games.

Meanwhile, a search is underway

for Reveille V. The company is looking for a young female collie, Byars said.

The company would prefer an American Collie puppy, but would consider a border collie, Byars said. Because she is "The First Lady of A&M," the puppy must be female, he said.

They will choose the new mascot from offers made on the basis of breeding, medical history, temperament and availability, he said.

The outfit wants to get a puppy

before Christmas so Meinardus can start training her over the holidays.

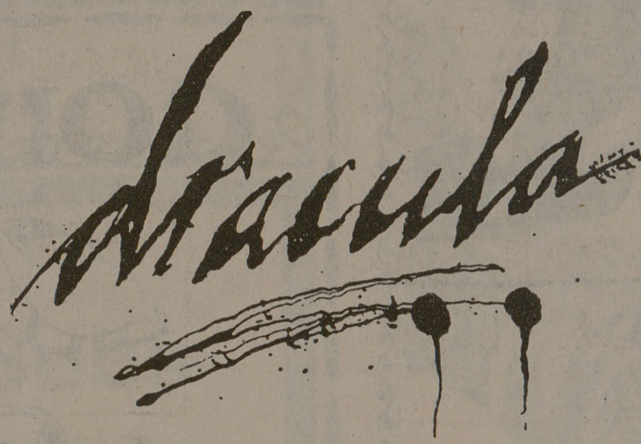
"They might have a hard time housebreaking her from the third floor of the dorm," White said.

White, mascot search coordinator, says they should have no trouble finding a new mascot. Over 200 offers of collie puppies were made when Reveille III died in 1975, he said.

Offers should be directed to White in the Corps Area office.

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