



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy, cool

HIGH: 66 LOW: 46

The Flight of the Great Pumpkin

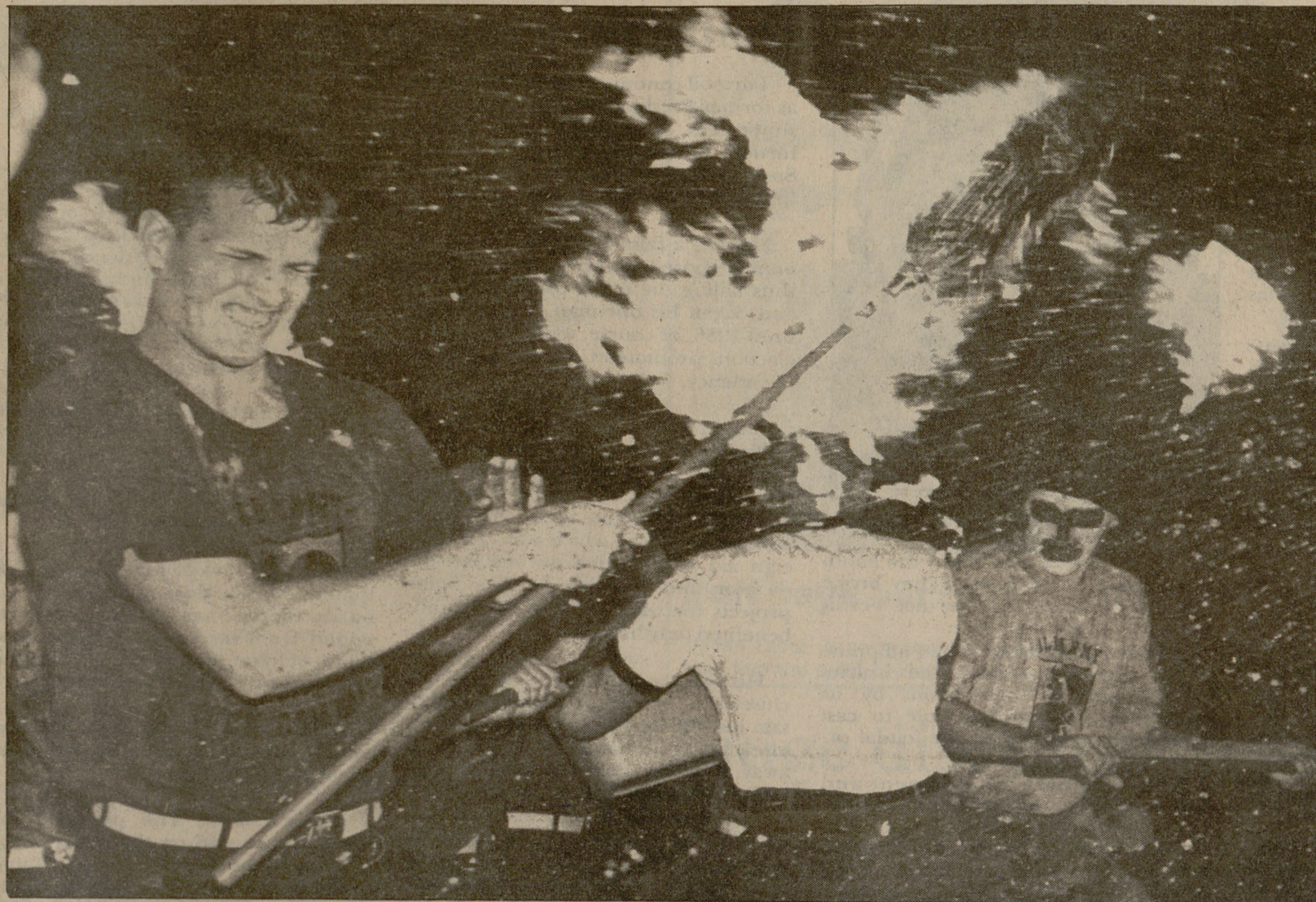


Photo by Jay Janner

Geoff Anthony, a junior in Company C-2, fights off freshmen in the Aggie Band during the annual "Flight of the Great Pumpkin"

Tuesday night. A tradition since 1970, the "Flight" pits C-2 upperclassmen against the freshmen who defend their dorm.

Toddler suffers gunshot to head

Police believe pistol was part of day care employee's costume

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

A 3-year-old boy was in serious condition Tuesday night after being shot in the head with a .22-caliber pistol Monday. Police believe the pistol was part of a day care worker's Halloween costume.

Kenny Archer of Normangee underwent four hours of neurosurgery Tuesday afternoon at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan. The bullet entered his head above the right eye and lodged in the back of his skull.

Archer was transferred to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where he was listed in serious but stable condition and was on a ventilator, hospital spokesman Tina Foster said.

Leon County Sheriff Royce Wilson and Texas Ranger Bob Cannell said they plan to talk Wednesday with the owner of Twice As Nice day care center in Normangee and a worker, who apparently wore the pistol as part of a western costume.

"I've heard that someone was dressed up for Halloween and had their husband's pistol and didn't know it was loaded."

Cannell said, "Surely, it was thought to be unloaded."

Wilson said he heard two accounts of the shooting Tuesday.

"One said the child reached and got the pistol and the other said that another child got it," Wilson said.

Wilson and Cannell said the interviews were delayed a day because of

the shock among the witnesses following the shooting.

Workers at the day care center said they were told not to answer questions, but to refer all calls to the center's owner, Janice Roberts, who was not at the center at that time.

Wilson and Leon County District Attorney David Barron said no

"I've heard that someone was dressed up for Halloween and had their husband's pistol and didn't know it was loaded."

— Royce Wilson,
Leon County Sheriff

charges have been filed in the case pending the interviews Wednesday.

Barron said a grand jury that is scheduled to meet Friday may discuss the possibility of charges in the case. He said the central question before the grand jury will probably be whether criminal negligence was involved in the shooting.

The child's mother, Helen Archer, is a secretary for the Department of Adult Education.

Regulators find University National Bank sound

By Julie Myers

Of The Battalion Staff

Although third quarter liabilities at University National Bank exceeded assets by \$2.5 million, bank president Stan Stephen said bank regulators say there is no danger of imminent failure.

Associate professor of finance James Kolari said there are two ways to calculate a bank's solvency or equity position: accounting values and market values.

The two can be different. Kolari compared accounting values to the dollar amount of a

loan made five years ago to purchase real estate.

The loan's present market value, however, is the current market price for the land. It could be either more or less than the original price.

As a result of the early 80s economic bust, market values of some UNB assets have been devalued, Stephen said.

"Market values change from day to day," Kolari said. "It takes a sizeable amount of time to determine these."

To update UNB's financial status, these assets were voluntarily taken out of capital by

UNB. Capital was lessened by the amount of the devaluation of the old loans and real estate.

"We knew it was coming, and recognized that, rather than putting it off," Stephen said.

UNB must now recapitalize, or bring in new money, Stephen said, to offset devalued real estate and old loans which were taken out of capital.

Seven area banks have failed since 1983, all requiring heavy FDIC intervention.

The FDIC, however, has not contacted UNB, but Stephen said he could expect to

hear from them if UNB was not able to recapitalize.

Kolari said the fact that regulators are assessing UNB's financial standing is not a negative. In fact, all financial institutions come up for review at least once a year.

"It's good we have federal regulators to oversee these problems," Kolari said. "It's reassuring to know the government has the resources and financial backing to fully insure all deposits up to \$100,000."

In any case, Kolari said current events at UNB would not make much difference to loan and deposit services in the community.

"It's business as usual," Stephen said.

Students protest in Houston

Teenagers complain about food, dress code

HOUSTON (AP) — Three students were arrested and about 160 students were suspended after they staged a walkout at Jackson Middle School and marched to nearby Austin High School.

The three were taken into custody Monday after they allegedly commandeered a beer truck and threw beer bottles at the high school's security guards, said Houston Independent School District Superintendent Joan Raymond.

Nearly two weeks ago, the city of Austin was the scene of a walkout by about 1,000 students.

In the Austin walkout, administrators found student gripes about scheduling and shortages of textbooks and school materials legitimate and replaced the school's principal. But Raymond said the complaints of the Jackson students' were nonacademic.

In a separate incident, about 50 students walked out of Mayde Creek High School to protest changes in the Katy Independent School District's dress code. The changes include restrictions on hair length and clothing and ban male students from wearing earrings.

Mayde Creek Principal James Carthel said the school will continue to help students "work through their frustrations" about the dress code. About 1,500 students attend the school.

One complaint by the Jackson students involved restrictions on the use of the cold-drink machine. But school officials said they had limited use of the machine because students had been abusing it.

A second complaint had to do with the school's upcoming homecoming dance. Some students thought it had been canceled, but Raymond said students with discipline problems had been told they could not attend.

Raymond said students also complained about the perceived outcome of a discussion about controlling food fights in the cafeteria. The students thought the school was going to require sack lunches, but she said that had not been decided.

At Jackson, which has about 1,650 students, those involved in the walkout are suspended until they return to school with their parents, Raymond said.

Bush, Gorbachev plan informal shipboard summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush announced Tuesday he will hold a shipboard summit in the Mediterranean with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev Dec. 2 and 3 to put up our feet and talk informally, prior to a full-blown superpower meeting next year.

Bush described the weekend meeting as an open-ended discussion with no fixed agenda. He said neither he nor Gorbachev "anticipate that substantial decisions or agreements will emerge" on arms control or other matters.

The talks will take place on U.S. and Soviet naval ships on alternate days. The precise location was not announced, but a site off Italy appeared likely since Gorbachev is to visit there from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

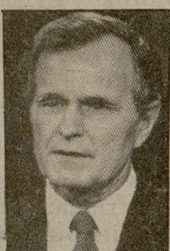
Bush acknowledged he originally had opposed the concept of a get-acquainted meeting, favoring in-

stead a well-planned meeting with assurances of concrete results.

However, he decided that with dramatic democratic changes sweeping across Eastern Europe, the leaders of the two superpowers "should deepen our understanding" of each other.

"I don't want to have two gigantic ships pass in the night because of failed communication," Bush said. "I just didn't want to — in this time of dynamic change — miss something, something that I might get better firsthand from Mr. Gorbachev."

The president said he expected "a lot of discussion" about Eastern Europe.



Bush

The summit was jointly announced in Washington and in Moscow, where Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the talks between the two leaders were "aimed at allowing them to know each other better" and would "contribute to broadening the changes taking place in the Soviet-American relationship."

Shevardnadze said the meeting "should be regarded as the most important stage in preparing negotiations which will take place during the official state visit by Mikhail Gorbachev" to the United States next year.

Much of the planning appeared



Gorbachev

still to be done.

When asked what country Bush would use as the staging area for the talks, White House chief of staff John Sununu said, "We don't know yet."

Officials also said they did not know which ships would be used or whether first ladies Barbara Bush and Raisa Gorbachev would accompany their husbands.

Bush said he decided to meet on a ship so "we can do it without too much fanfare... where there's a relatively few number of people, not a lot of crush of bodies out there and a chance to put our feet up and talk..."

"I think it's easy logistically for both sides."

It will not be the first shipboard summit.

In August 1941, five months before the United States entered World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with British Prime

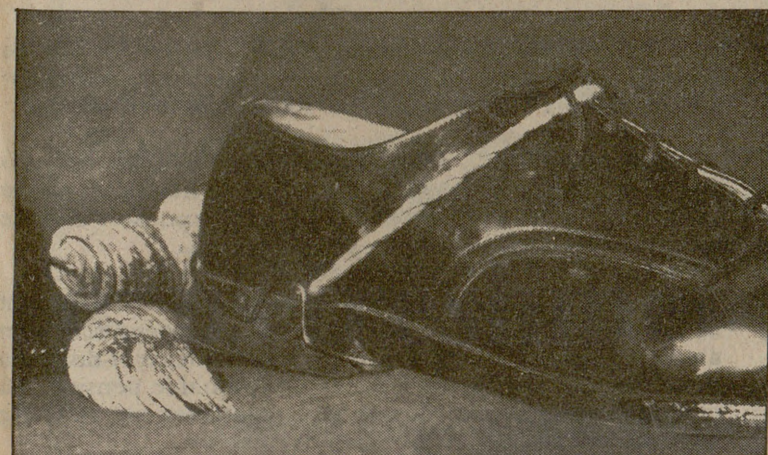
Minister Winston Churchill aboard a battleship off Newfoundland, Canada, and proclaimed an Atlantic Charter providing for freedom of the seas and leading to the arming of merchant ships.

It will be Bush's first meeting as president with Gorbachev, although he participated in talks in Washington and New York with the Soviet leader while serving as Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Bush and Gorbachev have agreed to meet in late spring or early summer to deal with major issues, and Bush said Tuesday he still hopes to be able to sign a treaty then to reduce strategic nuclear weapons.

The December meeting gives Bush a defense against Democratic charges that he has been slow to respond to initiatives from Gorbachev and to the striking changes under way in the Soviet Union and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Corps freshmen spurs jingle for SMU game



By Holly Becka

Of The Battalion Staff

Freshman Corps of Cadets members quit pounding and flattening hundreds of bottle caps at the beginning of the week.

Now the caps can be seen pounding the pavement, worn as spurs on cadets' shoes to promote spirit before the Texas A&M-Southern Methodist University game.

For the first time in two years, freshman cadet members are "spurring the hell outta the SMU ponies" this week by wearing the bottle cap and coathanger spurs.

Cadets who entered the Corps after the spurs were worn last year also are wearing fish spurs.

Because SMU's football program

suffered the NCAA's death penalty, which didn't allow the Mustangs to play for two years, cadets have worn the spurs before A&M's football game with Texas Tech for the past two years.

Cadets in the Class of '93 are returning to the original tradition.

Clay Whitaker, Corps public relations officer and a senior in Squadron 2, said cadets are supposed to wear the spurs as freshmen before they can wear their senior boots and spurs.

"They're worn to show support for the team, and you're supposed to wear freshman spurs before you can earn your senior spurs," Whitaker said.

"A lot of people hang onto them, and then later they mount them with their senior spurs to show their pro-

gression through the Corps," he said.

Individual outfits determine the number of bottle caps on the spurs. The number is usually the year the freshman will graduate, or the year of graduation plus the outfit's number.

"When I was a freshman, our seniors told us to go to bottle cap alley by the Chicken and get our caps," Whitaker said.

"You find out that those are rusted and corroded, so you usually go to Coca-Cola and get a bag of bottle tops."

Cadets have to wear the spurs anytime they are outside or in uniform for the remainder of the week. They aren't required to wear them inside buildings or to Corps formations.

Freshman spurs

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey