Bush claims he can order strike

Congressional leaders may not be pleased with President George Bush's assertion that he can order a military strike against Iraq without Congress' approval. The president said yesterday that he would not hesitate to use military force if provoked by Iraq. Bush plans to meet with congressional leaders tomorrow amid demands that lawmakers be asked in advance before Bush sends troops into action.

Fired general remains on payroll

The Senate Armed Services Committee is upset that General Michael Dugan is being kept on active duty until Jan. 1 so he can retire with a higher pension. Dugan was dismissed as air force chief of staff last month for fiddling reports about contingency plans to bomb Iraq. The committee, and the entire Senate, were along with President George Bush's decision to allow Dugan to delay his retirement.

MBTA to use double-decker trains

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority will debut a first-class double-decker commuter train this year. For the third quarter, Chrysler reported a $214 million loss, wiping out its earnings for the first six months. Many of the loss, however, came from retooling for the 1991 models of its minivans.

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin

"Hay, knock it off, Buddy! We don't tolerate cruelty to animals around here!"

FDA to ban ineffective diet products

The Food and Drug Administration is taking steps to ban the use of over 100 ingredients in non-prescription diet drugs. The agency said that some substances have not been proven to be effective in diet products. The ingredients are in question include alcohol, corn syrup and dehydro. The FDA said that one substance in particular, a material made from plant matter, poses a health hazard to dieters.

Surgeon general accuses beer companies of targeting minors

The Surgeon General, Dr. Antonia Novello, said that beer companies are targeting their Halloween advertising at minors. Novello charged that the beer industry is "capitalizing on a season that youngsters look forward to."

British dog registration bill fails

Support for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's proposal to allow British dog owners to register some 23 million dogs has been slim. Johnson said that the United States and Britain to do something for the hostages left behind, saying "we are in a very bad shape."

A French woman released by Iraq said that American and British hostages "cannot carry on much longer." The woman, who requested anonymity, appealed to the United States, Britain and France to "do something for the hostages left behind, saying they are in a very bad shape."

The MBTA has retrofitted its first double-decker car which will be assembled in Massachusetts. The total cost of the trains, including spare parts, amounts to $105 million. The 75 double-decker cars will have panoramic windows and rear rooms for four wheelchairs. All trains will be delivered by December 1991.

Fires.

World airlines to raise fares

Airline passengers may soon face another round of international fare hikes as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis. Officials of the world's major airlines are expected to announce their increases at a meeting scheduled for later this week in Geneva. The airline industry has been hit hard by the rising cost of jet fuel. Any proposed fare hikes must be approved by the governments of the affected countries.

Out of the Big Chilli

A low-pressure center moved off shore last night, taking with it much of the cold and windy winter weather. A high-pressure system is expected to move in from the southwest bringing with it some showers and possibly some thunderstorms, but otherwise nothing major.

Tuesday afternoon: Clear. High 60°F (15°C). Winds from the southwest diminishing to 5-10 mph (8-16 kph).

Tuesday night: Clear. Low 47°F (8°C). Winds will remain light during the night.

Wednesday: Sunny. High 58°F (14°C). Increasing cloudsiness late in the day with a possibility of a shower. The chance of showers is open at night. Low 45°F (7°C).

Thursday: Fair. High 60°F (15°C).