

More on Parquat

TARNISHED GOLD. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has released results of tests that show more than 20 percent of the marijuana coming into the U.S. from Mexico may be tainted with the highly toxic herbicide, paraquat. The U.S. State Department has been aiding the Mexican government in a drug control program to eradicate opium poppies and marijuana. When the poppy season ends, American helicopters, spray equipment and personnel are used on the marijuana fields, according to a State Department official quoted in the *Washington Post*. Paraquat turns the marijuana plants yellow and dries them out, and, if picked before they are dry, they can be confused with what is commonly

considered high-quality marijuana, Acapulco Gold. The amounts of paraquat that NIDA found on the samples ranged from three to 650 parts per million. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's allowable limit for paraquat on fruit is 0.05 ppm. When ingested, the weed-killer concentrates in the lung tissue and produces a condition called fibrosis, which effectively reduces the lungs' capacity to absorb oxygen. NIDA is still investigating the effects of inhaling smoke of contaminated marijuana. Many have raised the question of the State Department's failure to prepare an environmental impact statement on the health and environmental effects of the spraying programs.

We passed what?

National mandatory beverage container deposit legislation appeared to have taken a sudden, giant leap forward recently. On March 9 the congressional Record reported that the U.S. House of Representatives had passed an amendment to H.R. 50 (The Full Employment or "Humphrey-Hawkins" bill) which looked amazingly like the "bottle bill." It instructed the President to maximize the creation of jobs in the private sector by promoting "small business development ... and heightened environmental quality through programs such as a beverage container deposit system."

Rep. Jim Jeffords (VT), the sponsor of H.R. 936, "The Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act," had intended to propose this language in an amendment to H.R. 50 later in the consideration of the bill on the House floor. By mistake, it was read by the clerk along with a variety of amendments encouraging, energy efficiency and alternative energy development. According to the *Record*, the whole package passed the House by a vote of 239-177!

Rep. Jeffords, who was gone the day the proceedings appeared in the *Record*, was reached by his staff and informed of what appeared to be a smashing victory for the pro-bottle bill forces, who had previously been unable even to schedule hearings on H.R. 936.

In the Senate, staff members for the pro-bottle bill forces jokingly announced plans to gird up for "maintaining the language in the Senate version of H.R. 50." But, it was all for naught, as the clerk's error nullified the action.

It only goes to prove that you can't always believe what

you read in the Congressional Record, not that we didn't already have previous doubts!

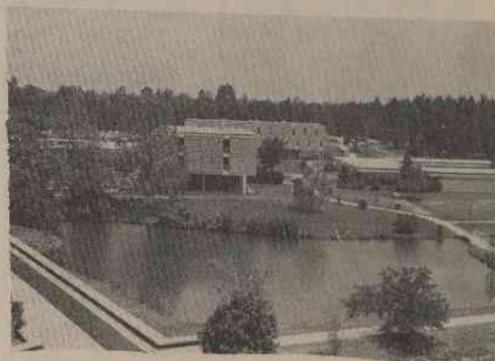
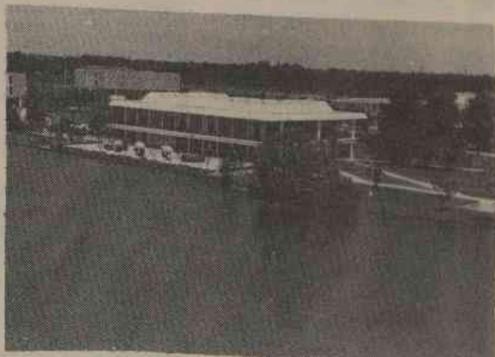
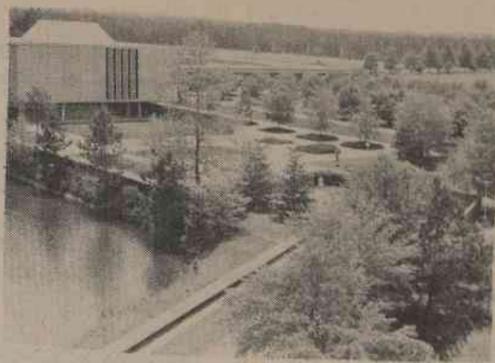
Meanwhile, one of Rep. Jeffords' close neighbors, Connecticut, passed its own deposit legislation. In early April Governor Ella Grasso signed the bill, which requires a 5¢ deposit on all soft drink and beer beverage containers. Connecticut makes the fifth state, along with Oregon, Michigan, Maine and Vermont, to have passed similar deposit laws. As this issue went to press, the Iowa legislation also passed beverage container deposit legislation.

All For the Free Fries

Does it make sense for a small-town businessman to advertise in out-of-state college newspapers in an attempt to attract students to his establishment?

It does if you are the Perry, Ga., McDonald's manager. The restaurant, which is located on the main north-south interstate for travellers passing through Georgia on their way to Florida, ran ads in the U. of Kentucky and U. of Tennessee newspapers offering free french fries to students heading south on their spring break.

The McDonald's manager termed the promotion successful and said that his establishment had become something of an oasis for students from other states, too. He added that he would probably repeat the ads, expanding his coverage to other campuses.



OOPS! Swanson got loose up there again.

Carolina Sandhills dedicated

CHAPEL HILL -- the unique Carolina Sandhills section of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was dedicated April 29.

The dedication, culminating more than two years of work on the project, was the highlight of the Botanical Garden Foundation annual picnic.

Friends and relatives of Donald and Kathryn McCoy of Fayetteville adopted the Sandhill project two years ago in memory of the McCoy's daughter, Kathryn McCoy Grady.

The biggest obstacle in developing the project was obtaining more than 440 tons of sand from the Pinehurst-Southern Pines area. Habitat curator Jim Ward was helped by Reginald McCoy of Laurinburg and the late Elmer Pendergraft of Chapel Hill. McCoy coordinated the loading and transportation of more than 23 tandem truckloads of sand. Pendergraft donated the services of a front-end loader to create the appropriate Sandhills landscape.

Representative plants of the Sandhills have been donated by McCoy, Glen Bingham of Laurinburg and Gordon Butler of Fayetteville. Since many characteristic Sandhills plants are deeply rooted and

almost impossible to transplant, most of the material for the habitat will be grown from seed at the Botanical Gardens. The Sandhills habitat will continue to grow and mature through the years.

The Carolina Sandhills are one of the state's most distinctive geological areas. The remnant sand dunes are reminders of the geological past when the seas covered much of North Carolina.

To the hurried passer-by, the Sandhills may appear to be a desolate wasteland of longleaf pine and turkey oak, but to a fall visitor the scarlet color of the turkey oak is magnificent. The Sandhills provide a home for some of the more beautiful wild flowers, including the blue lupine, the Sandhill gentian and the rare pixie moss.

A permanent slide presentation on the N.C. Sandhills and the Botanical Garden's habitat was shown to Foundation members on Saturday, followed by a walk through the new area. The slide presentation was prepared by UNC-CH student, Rickie Gold (Raleigh).

The McCoy's are former residents of Laurinburg, where he was born and raised. McCoy is a former judge of Scotland county recorder's court.

Hair is getting shorter

Hair, 1978. Men's hair styles are getting shorter, those with long hair are taking better care of it, and beards and mustaches are no longer de rigueur protest symbols. So concludes Professor of Business J.H. Foegen of Winona (Minn.) State College after years of watching the college scene and conducting an admittedly non-scientific survey on the subject.

Foegen used the opportunity of the WSC graduation ceremony, during which male graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, to note the proportion of the men sporting facial hair. "I expected that at least a majority would have a mustache, a beard, or both," he writes.

To Foegen's surprise, of the 196 male graduates, 142 (72%) were clean shaven, 42 sported a mustache only, 2 had a beard only, and 10 were in "full bloom" with both mustache and beard.

He also calculated that among students getting teaching certificates, the percentage of clean-shaven faces was even higher. And he also noted that not one "scraggly wild-man" hairdo was seen (nor was a single crew cut).

And lest anyone take Prof. Foegen's study too seriously, he reminds us that the occasion was graduation, when parents and relatives were present.

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