

## News In Brief

### Local skydiver plummets to death

STATESVILLE (AP)—Two parachutists collided in the air Sunday, sending one of them plummeting to his death, authorities said. The two jumped from separate balloons and had planned to grab hands, then open their chutes, authorities said.

Instead, they collided with the force of a football tackle, and Jay Curlee of Chapel Hill fell head-over-heels about 3,000 feet to his death. Rescue workers and the other skydiver, identified as Don Carrington of Raleigh, speculated that Curlee was knocked out by the force of the collision.

Curlee's body was found at about 1:30 p.m. after a five-hour search concentrated 13 miles from here. An Air National Guard helicopter spotted the body in some woods and led rescue workers to the scene.

### Little known V.D. called major problem

ATLANTA (AP)—A little-known venereal disease that can cause sterility and had the same signs and symptoms as gonorrhea has become a major public health problem, the national Center for Disease Control said Sunday.

The disease, called non-gonococcal urethritis, or NGU, is caused by a bacteria called chlamydia. Only in recent years have doctors been able to grow a culture off this bacteria for study, the CDC reported.

This is one reason why NGU has become so common, although it is still a relative stranger to the list of venereal diseases, said Dr. Paul Weisner, director of the CDC's Venereal Control Division.

### Thevis sentenced to life in prison

ROME, Ga. (AP)—Convicted racketeer Michael Thevis, who parlayed a newstand job into a nationwide pornography empire, was sentenced Friday to life imprisonment on charges that he used murder and arson to build his trade.

"The government was able to sell a lie," Thevis said of his conviction on racketeering and murder conspiracy charges. "They may have been able to sell it as the truth, but it's still a lie...I'm never going to be content. I'll fight and fight until there's nothing left in me." The convictions were returned by a federal jury last Sunday.

U.S. District Court Judge Harold Murphy sentenced Thevis to life for conspiring to murder government witness Roger Dean Underhill, and then added 20 years each on counts of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy. The two 20-year terms are to be served concurrently, but after completion of the life sentence, Murphy ruled.

### Chinese premier visits Britain

LONDON (AP)—Britain, seeking to impress China of its potential as an important trading partner, welcomed Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng on Sunday with a glittering display of pomp and calls for closer ties with the Communist nation.

Hua said his visit "represents a new stage of closer ties between China and Britain.... There is much common ground between China and Britain on a large number of international issues."

### campaign

From page 1

their views of the I-40 construction.

"I think we should rejoin our friends in the suit," Straley said.

Tindall and Herzenberg said they opposed the I-40 link, and Herzenberg said he also opposed the southern loop.

Wallace said he opposed the construction, but he also said he disagrees with the suit because it dealt with procedural rather than substantive matters. Wallace voted in favor of pulling out of the suit.

"The link would not be an unmitigated bad for the town," Howes said. He said it would provide better access to the Research Triangle, Raleigh and the Raleigh-Durham Airport.

But Smith said, "I object to the I-40 link and I voted against getting out of the suit."

The candidates also disagreed on the much-discussed northern planning extension for the town. For several years, Chapel Hill has tried to obtain the extension from Orange County

to control growth at the northern entrance of Chapel Hill. Last spring the council unsuccessfully tried to bypass the county and obtain the extension from the state General Assembly.

"I think it's a dead issue," Howes said, and he added that the county and the town are now pursuing a cooperative planning process.

"As that area grows, we ought to have control of it," Smith said.

Straley said he opposes a planning extension. "We've bit off about as much as we're able to handle," he said. "We're not doing so good a job that we ought to extend it."

Both Tindall and Herzenberg said they oppose the extension and favor cooperation between the town and county in planning the area north of town.

Wallace did not directly say he favors the planning extension. But he has been a strong advocate of the extension, in all discussions.



Burley Mitchell in Murphey Hall ...spoke on uniform sentencing

## Carter parlay humor on 'whoop Kennedy' try

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Carter and his re-election committee are greeting Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's challenge with a mixture of humor, legal pressure and a defense of the presidential record.

The Massachusetts Democrat was to take the first official step toward becoming a rival of Carter's for the Democratic presidential nomination today when he announces creation of a committee to collect funds and explore his prospects. Aides say Kennedy will officially announce his candidacy soon, perhaps this week.

Kennedy enters the fray with the much-publicized endorsement of Chicago Mayor Jane M. Byrne, who also was courted assiduously by Carter and at one point appeared to give the president her support, only to backtrack later.

Though the endorsement was a boon to Kennedy, Mrs. Byrne's tendency to change her mind prompted Robert Torricelli, the Illinois Carter campaign director, to comment dryly that he hoped "for Sen. Kennedy's sake," the endorsement "is more meaningful than the one

### Park

From page 1

planned a coup. U.S. officials in Seoul said, "We have not seen the type of events normally associated with a coup attempt."

Despite apparent calm in the nation of 37 million, martial law continued under acting President Choi Kyu-hah, who was Park's prime minister.

Korean sources predicted a leadership crisis following the death of Park, who left no clear successor and tolerated no political rivals.

But even leaders opposed to Park's authoritarian regime publicly mourned him

President Carter enjoyed last week.

Though Carter has berated the news media for concentrating on the presidential campaign so early in the season, he has become increasingly preoccupied with Kennedy, poking fun at Kennedy's expense in recent speeches.

Carter combines the jokes with a rejection of the complaint that he has failed as a leader and with a statement that the times call for a new pragmatism recognizing that government cannot do everything.

At a dinner last week with political supporters, Carter seemed to delight in a sarcastic repetition of Kennedy's recent political statements.

Mimicking the senator, Carter said he "asked my mama" whether he should run. "For those of you who are waiting with baited breath, she said OK. Rosalynn said she would be willing to live in the White House for four more years."

The president goes to Providence, R.I., Monday for a meeting on energy with Northeast governors.

and warned Communist North Korea to take no belligerent action during a possible leadership crisis.

The U.S. military commander in South Korea, Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., met top South Korean defense officials on Sunday to reiterate American support. Wickham later said joint U.S.-South Korean forces were "adequate to meet any possible requirement that may develop," and was "prepared to defend the Republic of Korea under any circumstances."

## More executions predicted

By ANGIE DORMAN  
Staff Writer

More people will die in North Carolina's gas chamber but the total number of executions would be small, Burley Mitchell, secretary of the state Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, told the UNC Pre-Law Club Thursday night.

"The courts look at execution cases closely," Mitchell said. "But at this point it appears that we'll have more death penalties, although they will be few in number."

"There are no legal reasons why we will not see more executions in North Carolina," Mitchell said. "The recent executions are sad; I never thought we would see more of them."

Wide variations in prison sentences have called for several legislative reform programs by Gov. Jim Hunt and the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Mitchell said.

"People are given 10 to 20 years for the same crimes when there are no apparent differences between the crimes and the people who committed them," Mitchell said. "It's causing bad morale problems in the prisons."

Under the concept of presumptive or "fair" sentencing, one of Hunt's principal pieces of judicial legislation, a person convicted of a felony automatically receives 50 percent of the maximum sentence for a crime. Below 50 percent, the judge has to define certain aggravating factors. Regular employment can cause the criminal to receive a lighter sentence. Previous criminal records and drug addiction are examples of aggravating factors.

"It is unquestionably right to sentence everyone fairly,

unless there is some distinction," said Mitchell, a former N.C. Court of Appeals judge. "We need to see reasons for sentences."

Mitchell said that some prison officials feared that presumptive sentencing would stop plea bargaining. Other complaints concerning the program have been that "fair sentencing" congests the courts and longer sentences result as judges may not take time to consider any factors. Some have expressed concern that parole boards are phasing out since parole time is automatic under presumed sentencing, Mitchell said.

"The work load of the parole board will be reduced as they finish their present cases," Mitchell said. "Ten years from now, they will probably have no cases at all."

Another Hunt project pushed through the 1979 General Assembly was the Speedy Trial Act, which says if the state does not prosecute a case within 90 days, the case will be dismissed.

"It is an act to take care of witnesses who were subpoenaed," Mitchell said. "It is not for the benefit of the defendants."

"We knew we would hear prosecutors and judges start screaming for more resources to carry out the Speedy Trial Act," Mitchell said. "Gov. Hunt provided those resources to do the jobs so now they (the prosecutors and judges) have no excuse."

Mitchell said he did not believe in the State rehabilitation system.

"I don't think we know why one person rehabilitates himself and why another doesn't," Mitchell said. "We're better off to give up the rehabilitation idea for some time rather than give it a bad name."

### market

From page 1

moderate recession, stabilizers that were not present in 1929."

The most important of these moderating forces are unemployment compensation and the income tax structure, Pfouts said. "As workers are laid off, or as income falls, there is an encouragement for spending."

He also said that the banking structure had changed. "In 1929, banks were rapidly expanding under limited regulation," Pfouts said. "Now they are required by law to maintain a safe reserve."

Pfouts said that a significant development was the government's ability to control the economy through fiscal and monetary policy. "In 1929, no steps were taken by the government, such as government spending or tax rates, to offset the depression."

Ironically, the Federal Reserve's ability to control the economy is also responsible for many of our present economic problems, Pfouts said.

"Ever since the New Deal in the '30s the government has continually stimulated the economy," Pfouts said. "The Federal Reserve's actions have resulted in increasing stock of money. We must alter these policies to curb inflation."

In regards to the future, Pfouts said he was guardedly optimistic. "The days of rapid growth are gone," he said.

But two Californian economists, Warren Johnson and Richard Russell, say it is much too late to save the U.S. economy from another depression, or worse.

Richard Russell, publisher of the Dow Theory Letters, a respected stock market newsletter, expects that "deflation" will hit the U.S. economy in the early 1980s. "The price of goods and the money supply will start going down, probably because of bankruptcies, which destroy money and assets," Russell said.

"Assuming that today's inflationary

and trade balance trend continue, I foresee a collapse in the bond market with foreigners pulling out millions of dollars," Russell said. "The United States is over its head in debt, and it won't be able to pay it back."

Russell said the way to get the economy back on a stable footing is to make large cuts in government spending and welfare, and to abolish half of the government agencies and departments.

"We have to take a chance on cutting out the deficits," Russell said. "The result would be a very painful depression with bankruptcies, liquidation and unemployment. But I think the country, as we know it, would survive."

Warren Johnson, author of the book *Muddling Toward Frugality*, predicts a different future for the American economy. Johnson said the increasing price of raw materials, primarily energy, makes an economic slowdown inevitable.

"We're already living beyond our means," Johnson said. "Every year billions of dollars are going to the Arabs. We'll have to figure out a new way to deal with income, because the cost-of-living basis is no longer correct."

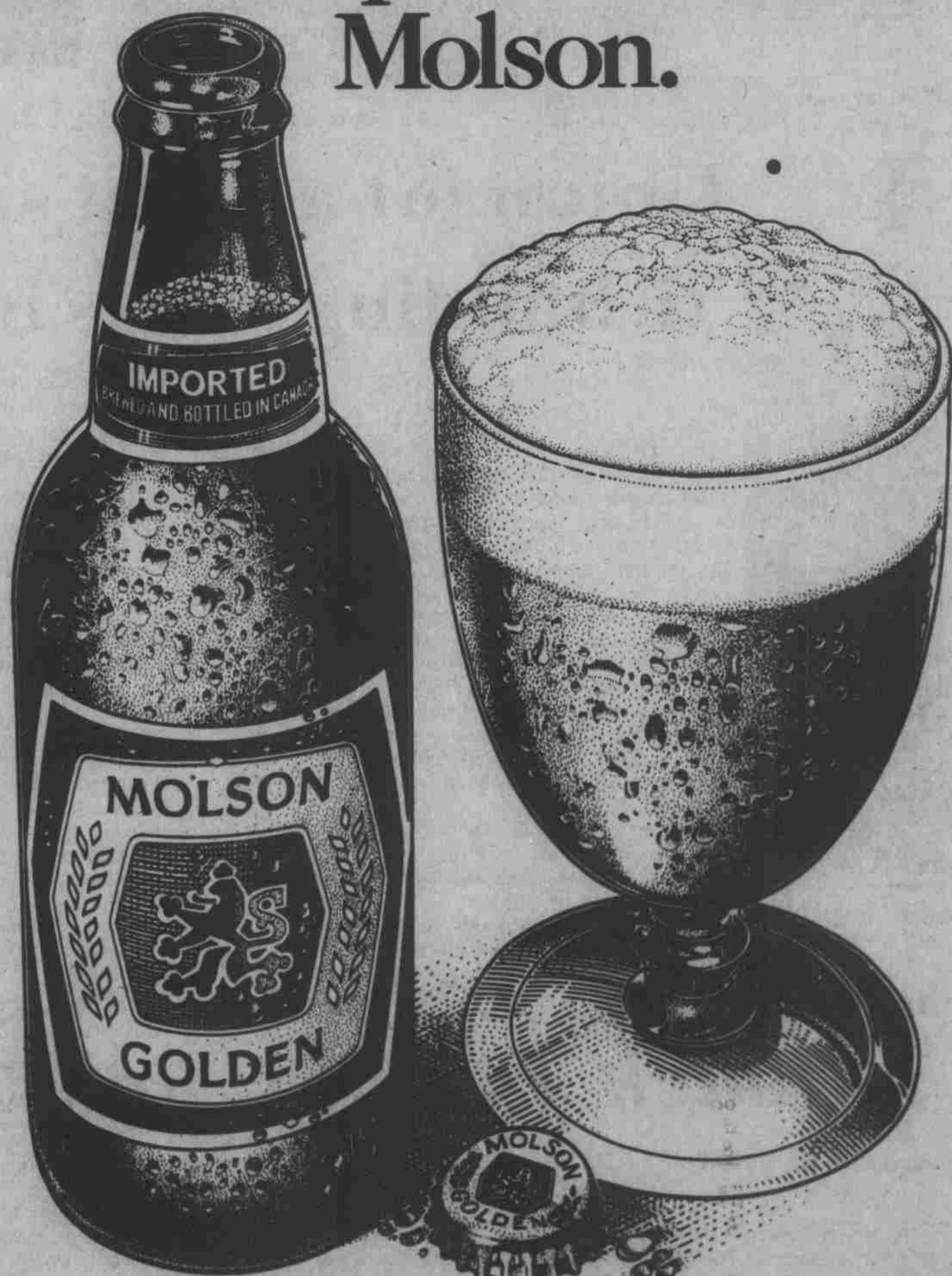
Johnson said that the shortage of low-cost energy will decentralize industry to a considerable extent.

"People will move closer to the land, water and woods," Johnson said. "There will be all sorts of new opportunities for small-scale economic activities. The big companies, which depend on cheap energy to produce and transport their products, will find it harder to sell everything they produce."

Government would be decentralized as well. "As the vast scale of society declines, the need for a huge federal government will decline, too," Johnson said. "It will be more of a face-to-face world."

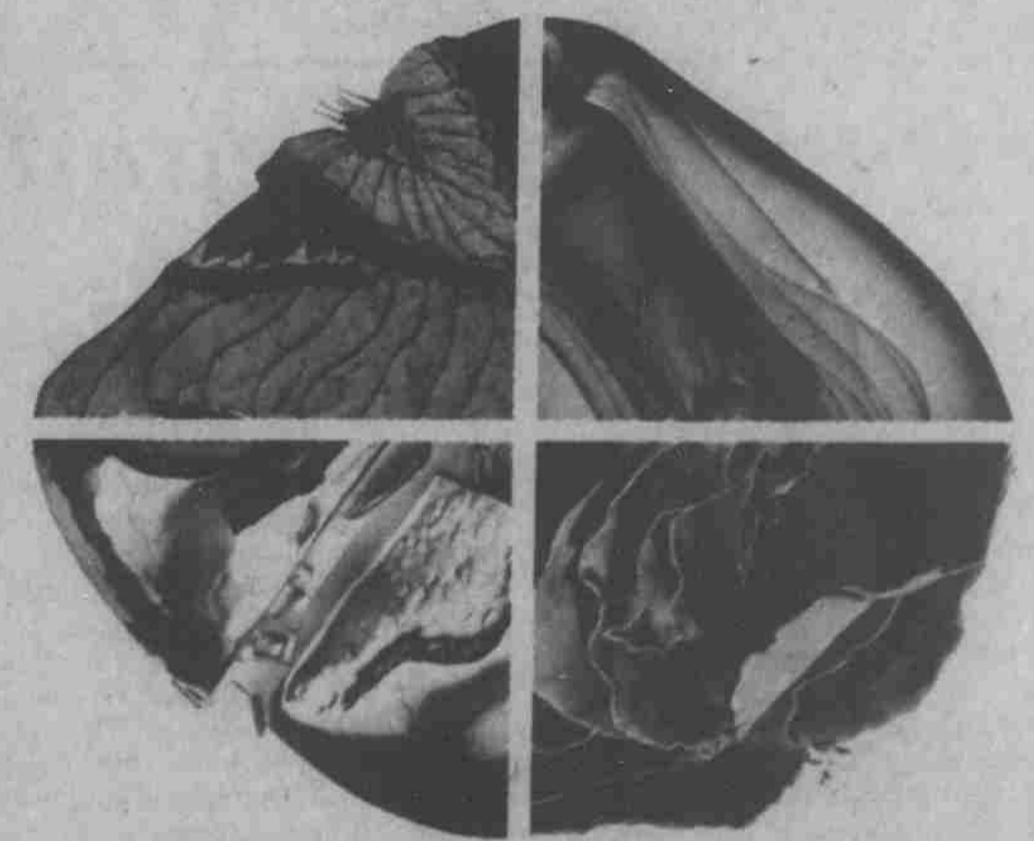
Johnson said the transition would be a painful process. "There will be a lot of unemployment and economic disruption," he said.

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