

ASK ME ABOUT NATURE
by Doris B. Kwasikpui

Dear Mrs. K:
My sister told me that a male bee could not sting. Was she pulling my leg?
Calvin L.

Dear Calvin:
Your sister was not "pulling your leg". The male bee can not sting. It does not have the "stinging" organ that female bees have.

Dear Mrs. K:
You wrote Alice C. that some snakes lay eggs. I have kept two black snakes, a male and a female, in a cage for a year. I hope the female will lay eggs soon. What would the eggs look like? How many eggs would she probably lay?
Peter B.

Dear Peter:
The eggs that black snakes lay are white with soft shell. The female lays from five to twenty eggs. Are you sure of the sex of your snakes?

Dear Mrs. K:
When I lived near the Hudson River, I used to be fascinated by ice flowers. Just how are ice flowers made?
Mr. J.D.

Dear Mr. J.D.:
Ice flowers, which are beautiful, fern-like crystals of several inches high, are made by the building up of ice crystals. When extremely cold weather follows a warm spell and vapor coming from open water drifts over the near-by ice, crystals are deposited on the ice in form of flowers. (Ice flowers are found on ice of northern lakes and streams).

Dear Mrs. K:
Is a lightning bug a bug?
Kojo P.

Dear Kojo:
The "lightning bug" is a beetle.

Dear Mrs. K:
Mrs. Jane T. and I would like to know how to cook pumpkin flowers, that you wrote her about. With food being so high, we will be willing to try anything. I have a family of six.
Mrs. Smith

Dear Mrs. Smith:
An easy way to prepare pumpkin blossoms is to fry them. This recipe, Fresh Fried Pumpkin Blossoms, is quite a delicious delicacy.
You need 10-15 fresh pumpkin blossoms, 1 1/4 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, dash of black pepper, 1 cup of milk, 2 egg yolks, and 2 egg whites (stiffly beaten).
Wash well fresh blossoms. Dry thoroughly on paper towels set aside. Put all the ingredients in a deep bowl except egg white. Mix until smooth. Blend in stiffly beaten egg whites. Refrigerate for three hours. Dip pumpkin blossoms in batter. Fry 3 or 4 at a time in deep fat at 370 degrees until crisp and brown. (You can also fry Day Lillies this way).

There are so many things to learn about Nature. People want answers but sometimes are afraid to ask. Well, don't be. Just put your question in an envelope or on a post card and mail it to me in care of this newspaper. [The Tribunal Aid, P.O. Box 921, High Point, N.C. 27261] and I will answer it in this column. Be sure to include your name and address. If you do not wish your name to be included when your letter is printed, indicate it in your letter. Keep your letters coming.

THE POINTER

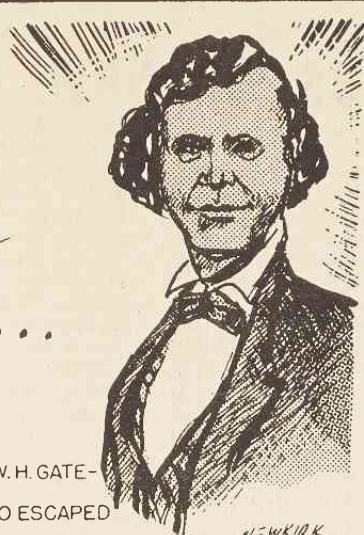
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After having worked on the original committee to establish the Citizens' Advisory Council and draw up its by-laws, I now am somewhat disappointed in that the CAC just does not look the way the original members envisioned. It was my first impression that the CAC would be a body representative of the citizens of High Point to accept proposals, finalize them, and send them on to the City Council for their approval. But it looks like now the CAC is simply a formality, serving at the wishes of the Council because of the stipulations set down by the federal government.

If they have no initiative as a body to function in the interest of the citizens rather than in the interest of a few, then the whole purpose of their origin has been lost and there is really no need for their continued existence.

Things You Should Know

Henry BIBB...



... A SLAVE OWNED BY W. H. GATEWOOD OF BEDFORD, KY., WHO ESCAPED TO CANADA. IN 1849 HE PUBLISHED HIS LIFE STORY PLEADING THE ABOLITIONIST CAUSE. BY 1851 HE HAD ORGANIZED THE REFUGEES' HOME COLONY, BUYING SOME 1300 ACRES OF LAND FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ESCAPED SLAVES. IN 1853 HE ATTENDED A NATIONAL COUNSEL OF NEGRO LEADERS DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

IT'S AMAZING!



A STRING OF INFLATED RUBBER TUBES, WITH WOODEN PLANKS ON THEM, SERVE AS FERRYBOATS FOR THE NATIVES OF CENTRAL INDIA!

SOME TYPES OF EUROPEAN MUSKRATS ACTUALLY SHOOT INSECTS THEY FEED ON WITH "BULLETS OF WATER"

SLAVES AND CAPTIVES WERE FORCED TO GO BAREFOOTED IN ANCIENT EGYPT, WHILE THE COMMON PEOPLE WERE ALLOWED TO WEAR SANDALS, BUT WITHOUT POINTED TOES! THESE WERE WORN ONLY BY PERSONS OF HIGH RANK!!

THE PEANUT IS NOT A NUT!! IT IS A LEGUME, LIKE A PEA OR BEAN!!

Bennett

(Continued from Page 1 extensively and has served in numerous professional capacities in higher education and the Baptist minority.

Music will be provided by the Bennett College Choir under the direction of Dr. Charlotte Alston.

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INSIGHT:
For Teens Only
by Miller Carter, Jr.

Student Rights

There have been news reports about student rights in the Greensboro City School Systems. Frankly, it is about time. So far this year, there have been over 500 dismissals and suspensions of students in the Greensboro junior and senior high schools; and, there's no account of the statistics in the High Point school system.

I know teachers have a difficult time with students; but 500 suspensions and dismissals seems far beyond what's called for. There should be some way to cut down on all of this. The problems should be thoroughly investigated before the act of suspension is taken. In my opinion, students should be given a fair chance to tell their side of the story and not let the whole matter be judged from one point of view -- the teachers' (or principal's). There should be, and will be very soon, a "hearing" for the student to discuss the problem before judgment is passed. To dismiss a student from school, in some cases, is denying him/her of their "right to an education".

When a student gets "kicked out" of school, it discourages his thoughts about school. Then he feels that the school has treated him unfairly and decided to dropout. After dropping out of school, society looks down and thinks poorly of him. This seems to be the reason so many kids turn "bad". This is why so many kids are walking the streets, stealing, out of a job, messing with drugs, friendless and some even homeless.

Personally, I can say that these things do happen. I have been in the "City School Systems" for a long time and I have seen it happen. Thinking back on past occurrences, I can remember the time when I thought that I was treated unfairly. It seemed as if the "Assistant Principal" at "Andrews High School" was out to get me. He did suspend me at one time, but I didn't know what to do. There was nothing I could say in my defense because he was the "boss" and what the "boss" says, goes. In my mind he was wrong but it's too late now.

To all the high school and junior high students, "I hope things get better, for your sakes." To all school faculty and officials -- "Isn't it worth a try to give students back their rights?" It could save a lot of students from walking the streets and the possibility of getting in very serious trouble.

WE NEED HANDGUNS LIKE WE NEED A HOLE IN THE HEAD



EXOTIC HOUSE PLANTS FOR BEGINNERS

If you're just starting an indoor garden, you are probably enthusiastically eyeing the larger, more dramatic-looking house plants that can really add jazz to a room. Don't let experts dissuade you from thinking big; there are several large plants that will satisfy your zeal and not be too difficult to care for.

Case in point, the dieffenbachia, often called dumb cane or mother-in-law plant. This has large almond-shaped leaves varying in color according to species. Although dumb cane plants tolerate dim light, they prefer full sunshine. It should be watered moderately and allowed to dry between waterings.

The dracaena is another good bet for new gardeners. Its sword-shaped leaves sprout fountain-like from a single sturdy stalk giving it a graceful palm-like appearance. Dracaena soil should be kept moist and the plant flourishes in indirect sunlight. The cut leaf philodendron requires similar care. It is not actually a philo, but grows quite large and has lovely deep green foliage.

When any of these three plants gets too big, just cut them off evenly with razor blade or very sharp shears. Stick cutting into sand, earth or horticultural perlite, water and it will root within a few weeks. Meantime, the stump of the mother plant will send out new shoots and you'll have two plants. One for gift giving or to dramatize another room!

A really exotic addition to your indoor garden would be the cactus-like night blooming cereus which requires moist soil and direct sunlight. It can be rooted as the plants mentioned above but does best in soil. When mature, this poetic plant blooms once a year, at night, in the summer. Its single spectacular blossom droops and dies come morning, but on that one evening it opens, it's absolutely lovely to look at and delightful to smell. Around here, the blooming of the cereus each year is a family occasion on which children may stay up late to gaze and sniff. It's really a very special and exciting plant to own. ((c) 1975, McNaught Synd.)

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