

would you believe

In this post-Watergate era, when politicians walk softly around any nook or cranny that even hints of possible corruption, it's no wonder that Congressman Cecil Heffel from Hawaii asked the Federal Election Commission if it was OK to pass out some 500 cans of Macadamia nuts to the rest of Congress.

The commission assured Heffel that his nuts are not considered to be political contributions, and so would not have to be reported as such. And then they referred him to the House Ethics Committee, in case that august body was worried.

Heffel discovered that the Ethics Committee had decided that it's alright if members want to introduce their colleagues to products from their home state. Thus, congressmen from Idaho can hand out all the potatoes they desire, congressmen from Wisconsin can be free with their cheese -- and congressman Heffel can pass the nuts. (Newscrip)

An Italian candy company is changing its recipe for a rum and chocolate-covered minicake because some California lawmakers were worried that youngsters were getting legally loaded by wolfing down three or four of the potent sweets.

The active ingredient in the Babaram cake is 80 and 90-proof rum, and its ads featured a pouring rum bottle. Reports began to surface that some kids were getting loaded on the cakes. This prompted the executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism to call the cakes "a sugar-coated invitation to teenage alcoholism."

So a new California state law reduces the amount of rum to just two percent, instead of six percent, meaning you have to eat three times as many to get drunk. (Newscrip)

Are the days of the bounty hunter returning? Ecologically speaking maybe so.

Three Pennsylvanians recently received \$3,333.00 (dollars) apiece by presenting the Federal government with evidence that four Pittsburg industries were polluting local waters.

The \$3,000 (dollars) was awarded through a bounty clause in the Federal Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Under this clause, anyone who can prove an industry is polluting natural waterways and has the patience to withstand lengthy court battles, will receive 50 percent of the total fines levied. (Newscrip)

Since terrorism is currently the hottest topic of concern in West Germany, the West German Newspaper "Bild Zeitung" recently published a psychological evaluation test that worried parents could take to see if their off-spring might one day end up on the ten most wanted list.

To take the test, parents simply answered a series of questions about their youngsters' personal habits and family life. And according to the newspaper, children scoring more than 50 points are "likely to be infected with terrorist ideas, (and may theoretically) commit violent acts."

Unfortunately the 50 points didn't seem hard to come by. A "yes" answer to "Does your child have a weak father?" counted for 10 points, and a domineering mother was worth 15 points. "Sensitive" children rated an additional eight points, while kids who preferred to ask "difficult" questions rather than just "being happy" got another six points.

But if the child was given to reading moralistic fairy tales, parents could subtract eight

points, while any child who belonged to a motorcycle gang was immediately rewarded with a minus eight on the terrorist potential scale. (Newscrip)

In Bonneville, California, the local folk still talk an ancient patois (PRON (pa-TWA) which has kept the "brightlighters" (city dwellers) scratching their heads since the 1800's. A city slicker might just call it "talkin' trash," but the oldsters ("coddies") in Booneville say they're just "harpin Boontlin".

The isolation of the town through much of the 20th century is responsible for keeping the ancient dialect intact -- all 1200 words of it. And indications are that it is still growing in the 70's. So in Booneville, if you've eyeballed everything looking for a good cup of coffee -- you haven't. You've eebled heelch looking for a bal horn of zeebe. (Newscrip)

Yes, the devil did make him do it. In fact, the devil caused him so much misery that a Pennsylvania man decided to haul Satan into court.

The man wanted to sue Satan for violating his Constitutional Rights, charging the evil-doer with making "unwarranted threats" against him and with deliberately placing "obstacles in his path and causing his downfall".

A federal judge denied the motion, saying he doubted relief could be granted by the court. He added that the address of Satan was not known, therefore he could not be served with legal papers, and that in no case in legal history has Satan appeared in court when sued as a defendant.

The judge might have wondered just "what in the devil got into the man" who thought the court might really consider his case and give the devil his due. (Newscrip)

Would you believe that the plant Mars and the state of Washington have something in common? Some U.S. geologists believe that the huge canals on Mars were created eons ago by massive flooding on the now dry planet. The only other place in the solar system known to have experienced floods of the same scale is eastern Washington.

Geologists report the flooding took place in a post-ice-age deluge about 15,000 years ago. An ice dam in nearby Montana gave way, releasing the equivalent of half of Lake Michigan to roar across the eastern half of the state. (Newscrip)

A growing number of injuries and lawsuits have forced the American soft-drink industry to set new voluntary standards for the manufacture and bottling of soda pop.

The New York Times reports that an estimated 125,000 Americans were injured by exploding soda pop bottles last year. And many of those injuries resulted in stitches, hospitalization, and even the loss of an eye.

Consequently, the industry has instituted new standards to govern the amount of pressure and temperature change that pop bottles must withstand.

The industry has also come out with safety guidelines for soft drink consumers. They suggest that you store your soft drinks in a cool place before refrigerating them, and then put the bottles on the lowest shelf in the refrigerator. Also, avoid jostling the bottles and always direct the cap away from your face when opening a bottle.

Anyone who experiences a spontaneously exploding soft drink bottle is asked to call toll free (800) 492-2937 and report the incident to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. (Newscrip)

We all have to make a living somehow. Yann Yeric earns his paycheck by living for days at a time in a pit filled with snakes and reptiles. A Mr. Ceric routinely douses himself with gasoline, sets himself on fire, and then dives into a shallow pool of water 18-feet below.

Monsieur Coudoux curls his six-foot-three-inch frame into a two-by-three-foot transparent box for long periods of time, breathing only four times an hour. Yara Malta lies on a bed of nails, broken glass and sabers for three days.

All these men are professional record-setters who pay their bills by traveling the world around, setting -- what else -- records. (NDS)

Animal protection experts say that American wildlife is now holding its own against technological progress.

According to James Gillette, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mammal Program, "Nature is not losing its vitality," while endangered species expert Paul Opler claims that "there is probably more wildlife (in the U.S.) today than . . . 15 or 20 years ago."

But the experts admit that the battle to save America's wild animals has not yet been won. Although the number of animals is growing, the number of species is dropping annually. For example, there are now more rabbits, ground squirrels and red-winged blackbirds than 20 years ago, but there are also far fewer varieties of bear, birds of prey and large grazing animals.

And the experts say that animal species will continue to disappear unless farmers set aside some acreage for grazing animals, stop using toxic pesticides and hunters are prohibited from using lead pellets in their shotguns. (Newscrip)

An attempt by a Washington D.C. Gay Bookstore to advertise in high school newspapers in that area has set off a censorship row at one of the schools where the ad was refused. Only one D.C. area school paper agreed to carry the ad. At Langley

High School in suburban Fairfax County the student staff of the paper had accepted it, but was overruled by a faculty advisor. Editor Lauren Simon says "the issue is not the gay bookstore any more. The issue now is freedom of the press and censorship."

It's the second time in a year that Langley High's student paper has been embroiled in such a dispute. The first time was over an article on birth control, and ended with a court upholding the paper's right to publish the article. (Newscrip)

Indian tribes in the highlands of Colombia are reportedly complaining to the government that they are being forced to give up land to growers of marijuana. The tribes were long ago forced to give up fertile valley lands and retreat to the mountains. Now, because of the perfect climate for growing dope, it is estimated that 7,500 acres of the Santa Marta mountains national forest are already used for cultivation of cannabis.

The Colombian police and army are considering major anti-grower campaigns in the Santa Marta area, but recent sentiment in Bogota, the capital, tends toward some form of legalization. The government has already declined to accept herbicides and helicopters from the U.S. government for a spraying campaign. (Newscrip)

Kepros

Peter G. Kepros, 652 Valleyview Ct., has been named dean of arts at University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. His appointment was confirmed by the Board of Governors on Thursday, Dec. 15, and becomes effective Jan. 1.

Dean Kepros has been filling the post on an interim basis since appointment of former Dean of Arts Thomas Condon as vice-president (Saint John) in July of this year.

Since joining the UNB faculty in 1965, the new dean has had an active career of research and teaching in psychology, and service to the university. He was appointed associate dean of arts for the social sciences in Sept., 1972.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Dean Kepros received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Utah. His research is in the area of human learning, specifically the psychology of thinking, and his work has been supported by grants from the National Research Council.

In addition to many psychology department and university-wide committees, Dean Kepros has served for several years on the University Senate. He has published in professional journals, given

Than

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the "Individual" who stole \$60.00 out of my gym locker on Saturday night. Not only will I be eating poorly for the next few weeks but my hydro bill is going to be very hard to meet. I used to have enough faith in people's integrity to leave my locker unlocked for 2 minutes to have a shower. I thank you for showing me the light. I know now that with creeps like you about this isn't possible. I don't care how poor you profess to be but things are tough all-over.

The money I, and consequently, you are spending is the result of 3 1/2 months work by myself. I resent your 'free' ride through school at the expense of my summers laboring.

If you are not in a financial bind and are doing this for 'kicks' I

A "pret

Dear Editor:

The following true story was

Answers to Crossword

GOST	ASTIL	ACIDS
AUTH	SEED	RODED
STAR	SHELL	KNELL
ERROL	LET	TALE
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AMOS	NEATH	SHEW
NIGER	STEA	PAN
GROPE	SEVERE	
AFAR	REPUTES	
FEAR	BUB	IDENT
ARRAY	MORE	SENSE
DANTE	OLOR	SCUM
SLOES	ROTE	TEES

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