

would you believe

President Carter received an interesting letter recently. Whoever opened it read the following lines: "If it is a secretary opening this, I would advise caution. Not because you are in any immediate danger: you are in no more of that than normal, but because of the dirt-like substance at the bottom of this envelope."

The dirt-like substance in the envelope was one teaspoonful of very low-grade uranium waste. Not only Jimmy Carter, but hundreds of Congressmen, business executives, and other members of America's power elite got letters containing the same uranium waste.

It was all the idea of Leigh Hauter, who says he's opposed to nuclear proliferation, and decided the gesture was a way to dramatize his cause.

"Wasn't what you did very dangerous?" asked two reporters from the Village Voice. Hauter replied, "Well, if anyone freaks on getting this substance, they should remember that I just picked it up. . . . If the material is so dangerous, what's it doing . . . lying in fields, in streams, and at the sides of roads all over the Western United States?"

Hauter says the waste is "just the accumulated residue that slips through in the normal manufacturing process." Meanwhile, the FBI would like to talk with the young man. (Newscrip)

Reports that a human has been cloned have touched off an uproar in the scientific community worldwide. Most scientists dismiss it as a hoax, but others aren't so sure, and cite recent breakthroughs in genetics and microsurgery as first steps toward the creation of humans in the laboratory.

David Rorvik, a science writer, this week reaffirmed this claim that he was the intermediary for an unnamed millionaire who wanted an exact duplicate of himself, and a group of anonymous scientists who carried out the work. In a statement issued by his publisher Rorvik said that the story is true and that the child is "alive, healthy and loved." Rorvik's statement said that he will have no further comment until his book titled "In His Image: The Cloning of a Man" is published at the end of March. Then he says he will hold a press conference.

For a human to be successfully cloned several steps have to be carried out: the chromosomes from the person to be duplicated have to be isolated, as does the egg cell. The egg's nucleus has to be removed and implanted with the donor chromosomes. Then the egg cell must be biochemically made to develop as if it has been normally fertilized, and then be implanted into a woman's uterus to develop as a normal fetus would.

All these steps have been successfully followed in the laboratory cloning of toads, but no higher species including mammals have yet been produced. Cloning has been the province of fiction writers and filmmakers, such as Woody Allen's "Sleeper" and the recent novel "The Boys from Brazil". But now, even the most skeptical scientists admit it's only a matter of time, even if Rorvik's story were to turn out to be a hoax. (Newscrip)

The liquid protein industry has been wiped out by a 95 percent drop in sales since the government announced that it believed the substance to be responsible for a number of deaths. But, the evidence is nowhere near conclusive enough to say that liquid protein indeed was responsible, according to the Washington Post.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began investigating when a book by Dr. Robert Linn titled "The Last Chance Diet" appeared in 1976 and became a best seller. The book said that by ingesting only liquid protein, under a doctor's supervision, dieters could lose up to ten pounds a week. But since liquid protein is sold over the counter, many dieters never consulted their doctors. Finally, FDA chief Donald Kennedy held a press conference last November and announced that his agency had received reports of death and illness caused by the product, and for liquid protein manufacturers the bottom fell out.

Dr. Harold Sours of the Center for Disease Control, which carried out the investigation of liquid protein, told the Post he could not conclusively link any of the deaths he analyzed with the controversial diet. "I don't know enough to say that if these people were given 300 calories of any other substance, like cottage cheese for instance, as their only food intake for a prolonged period they would not have also died," he said.

The Protein Products Association, the trade group for the rapidly sinking liquid protein industry, has already filed a civil complaint against FDA, its parent agency Health Education and Welfare, and the individual government employees who held the press conference denouncing liquid protein, including FDA head Kennedy. (Newscrip)

Now that Star Wars is an unqualified box-office success, a key member of the movie's production team reveals that beneath the surface, the space cartoon flick is really about the war in Vietnam.

"Star Wars is so transplanted that most people have no realization that part of it is about a Vietnam situation," says Charles Lippincott, a principle member of the production team. One of the clearest tip-offs of the war's influence on Star Wars is seen in the film's concentration on aerial combat by computer, a distinctive mark of the American military involvement in Vietnam.

On a more general level, Star Wars shows space warfare between outgunned "rebels," whose effort is backed by their determination and their faith in The Force, on the one hand, and a totalitarian "imperial government" prepared to use its technological superiority to destroy entire civilizations on the other.

Lippincott says he's not sure people are ready to look at what Star Wars is saying. But in his own view, it's about the fact that someone who is politically disinterested (Hans Solo), can be forced to become involved, and that one has a responsibility to fight against totalitarian governments in one form or another. (Newscrip)

Have you ever wondered how the American Press decides who is the best expert on Marijuana Medical Research?

Two professors, Robert Gordon Shephard of Wheaton College and Erich Goode of State University of New York, Stony Brook, studied the news coverage of marijuana research in newspapers and magazines for clues to how the reporters decide who to talk to. They say, in New Scientist, that reporters tend to rely for their information on the heads of institutions which sponsor marijuana research rather than on the scientists who do the actual work. Reporters, they say "want to talk to conspicuous, prominent people, people with credentials the public can understand."

Does it make any difference in the accuracy of the news stories? Professors Shephard and Goode think so: (quote) "Reporters pride themselves on 'going to the source' . . . It is a curious anomaly that this fundamental maxim does not appear to hold when it comes to practitioners of scientific research." (Newscrip)

The guardians of peace at the United Nations are concerned about a problem that crosses international boundaries: it seems husbands the world over are not sharing household responsibilities with their working wives. As a result, the health of many married women is suffering because of the double burden, according to a report issued by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. Despite a global increase in the number of women working full-time, the assumption still persists among both men and women that the working woman must remain a full-time homemaker.

Waldheim said that in France working women suffer nervous strain because of added pressures, and in West Germany women are also suffering increased health problems. In Singapore many women have to either get up earlier or stay up later at night to complete the household chores.

The U.N. Report calls for an increased awareness through national legislation, international standards, education and mass-media campaigns to help free women from their double burden. (Newscrip)

The Ford Motor Company in Lansing, Michigan has once again been charged with dumping excessive waste, only months after it paid \$1.6 million (dollars) in fines, and agreed that it would clean up its act.

To convey some idea of the magnitude of the violations, the state's assistant attorney general said that on October 3rd, Ford dumped more than 1.1 million pounds of suspended solids into the Raisin River. That's more than 70 times the allowable amount of 70,000 pounds per day.

Ford is also accused of dumping too much of such heavy metals as zinc, nickel, chromium and copper, on September 30th, allegedly putting 12,485 pounds of zinc into the water, when the daily limit is 272 pounds per day.

The Michigan attorney general has filed suit, seeking additional fines of almost \$400,000 and seeking a permanent injunction to stop Ford from exceeding permissible limits. (Newscrip)

An unprecedented lawsuit, centering on the rights of mental patients, went on trial last week in Boston.

The suit, brought by seven patients, seeks \$1.2 million (dollars) in damages from 15 doctors at the Boston State Hospital for alleged use of solitary confinement and forced drugging.

At issue are the patient's rights to refuse certain kinds of treatment and their right to collect malpractice damages from individual doctors, rather than institutions. The patients claim they were forced to take unnecessary drugs and spend long hours in 9-by-15-foot solitary cells as punishment for breaking minor hospital rules. One woman, who was voluntarily hospitalized for about a year, claims she was kept in solitary confinement for over 2,000 hours, even though she was never diagnosed as psychotic and never harmed anyone.

The case, by the way, has already given some doctors second thoughts about using seclusion and forced drugging in mental hospitals. The trial is expected to last for several months. (Newscrip)

What was once thought to be merely a pipedream by science fiction buffs may indeed come into reality shortly.

Passenger aircraft carrying no fuel whatsoever may soon be gracing our skies thanks to the microwave industry. Recent microwave technology has produced "rectennas" which receive microwaves and convert them into electricity at an incredible 82 percent efficiency rate.

Slow speed aircraft or blimps outfitted with rectennas and modern electric motors could be pushed along by microwaves emanating from either ground or high altitude platforms. Transcontinental flights over ground antennas placed six miles apart is also a possibility that could alleviate the diminishing jet fuel supply and reduce air pollution. Some serious environmental considerations must be resolved before rampant use of microwaves comes into being, however.

Beams can be diffused enough so as not to cook geese or other winged creatures flying through them, but other effects such as atmospheric heating need further study. (Newscrip)



Oyer, oyer, oyer. Let it be known to all persons that Sally Patricia Goldberg celebrated her second birthday March 21st. Let it also be known that she had the weight of 22 lbs. and the height of 36 inches, and indulged in cake and ice-cream. Signed by the proud parents.

Howard and Elizabeth Goldberg

Honoraria

Now being reviewed for
the Brunswickan:

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| Editor-In-Chief | Photo Editor |
| Managing Editor | News Editor |
| Features Editor | Sports Editor |
| Inside Editor | Offset Editor |

ver, they are planting gardens and are using and of stone tools. harsh environment, that their health is is less conflict and n their own words, straight". (newscrip)

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court session, Davis he had any plans for old he have to spend "Sure," he replied, "I him." Ollie was not comment at the time. Credit Bishop Cheen, mi, Florida)

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three days of this eek, April 3, 4, 5 will ic appeal to support At the SUB, Bookstore eteria there will be oots for pennies. Do a g cleaning, gather e loose change or a .s. the People!

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rama Society's spring f "Thieves Carnival" aining performances Saturday, and Sunday. 2.00 - adults, \$1.00 rtains open at 8:00 orial Hall.

icious comedy ot hers is the finest way e spirit of spring — iatus due to exams.

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