

would you believe

The governments of the United States and Columbia have agreed on a joint program to spray Columbian marijuana fields with the deadly herbicide, Paraquat.

The program was formulated last summer, following First Lady Rosalynn Carter's visit to Columbia when the U.S. agreed to supply Columbian narcotics forces with three bell helicopters to help spray the Paraquat.

The agreement came despite an on-going study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), which found that Paraquat can cause severe damage to the hearts, lungs, adrenal glands and kidneys of U.S. marijuana users, when they ingest the herbicide orally in marijuana brownies or cookies.

Besides threatening the health of pot smokers here in the U.S., the spraying program is expected to result in a high number of casualties in Columbia. Since marijuana is one of that country's prime cash crops, the fields are guarded by ground troops, equipped with automatic weapons and anti-aircraft guns. And according to High Times Magazine, the spraying program "will be met with heavy resistance, and casualties are bound to run high." (Newsprint)

For what is thought to be the first time in American sports, a female reporter has sued for being denied access to locker room interviews.

Time Incorporated and Melissa Ludtke, a reporter for Sports Illustrated, have filed a suit in New York, claiming that Ludtke was the victim of sexual discrimination when she was refused admittance to the Yankee clubhouse to interview players after last year's World Series.

For years, women reporters have been banned from sports locker rooms because male players dress and undress there. But three years ago, the National Hockey League broke with the ancient tradition and opened some of their clubroom doors to women sportswriters. Now, Time is seeking an injunction that will force American baseball to follow suit. (Newsprint)

The Los Angeles police have withheld two composite sketches of the so-called "Hillside Strangler" after learning that the drawings closely resembled two LAPD vice squad members.

LAPD Lieutenant Dan Cook told a press conference last week that the two officers "recognized the sketches as themselves," shortly before the drawings were to be released to the press. The LAPD claims that the two officers have been cleared of any involvement in the strangulation murders and said the confusion resulted from an incident in which they stopped a Los Angeles woman for driving erratically.

Ironically, the woman turned out to be another Los Angeles police officer. After being stopped by the two vice squadders, she went to the special 65-man task force that has been set up to find the Hillside Strangler and gave investigators a detailed description of the two men.

Unfortunately, the LAPD explanation raises more questions than it answers. Police spokesmen did not say why the woman officer felt compelled to give the descriptions to the special task force. And the police admit that the woman's description matched previous descriptions of the strangler. This is especially perturbing, since "New West" (magazine) recently reported that the LAPD was looking among its own ranks for the Hillside Strangler, who has claimed the lives of at least 11 Los Angeles women. (Newsprint)

1977 is gone -- the New Year is here -- and with it the realization that we're all one year closer to whatever lies on the other side of mortality.

Many people don't like the idea of dying one little bit, and some have gone to considerable expense in an attempt to purchase immortality -- or even a few more years. High Times magazine has presented a round-up of just about every fountain-of-youth theory known to man, some of them a little bit strange.

Wanna live forever? Move fast! Physicists now agree with Einstein, saying that matter

traveling near the speed of light ages more slowly. Take a quick flight to a nearby Galaxy and return. Three-hundred thousand years may have passed on Earth -- but you'll hardly have aged at all.

If that seems impractical, try taking it slow. Yogis suggest we conserve our heartbeats by breathing slow, cultivating tranquility and preventing adrenaline from pumping through our veins.

Cold also helps to slow us down. Take a long-term job in Antarctica or fill your waterbed with cracked ice. Marijuana is the best herb for lowering body temperature.

Then there's garlic. The Russians have found that onions and garlic emit a particular ultraviolet radiation called Gurwitsch rays which promote the growth of cells, and so help retard aging.

If you don't like garlic, you could try raising bees. A Soviet biologist once questioned 200 centenarians about what they liked to eat. A surprising number said their favorite food was honey -- especially with lots of pollen in it, scraped off the bottom of the hive.

If all else fails, you can pay a few thousand dollars and have yourself frozen solid till science comes up with the real answer to immortality. (Newsprint)

Playboy magazine reports that pollster George Gallup gets answers you wouldn't believe. When one of his interviewers asked the question, "What do you think of cyclamates?" A woman earnestly replied, "I think if two cyclamates live together, they should get married." You know that cyclamates are a controversial artificial sweetener, don't you? (Newsprint)

A growing number of colleges around the country have begun to accept on-campus drinking.

In fact, the State University at New York at Stony Brook has nine on-campus bars, six run by students. And many other campuses in all sections except the South have sprouted an increasing number of beer and wine bars.

Have the new bars increased campus alcohol problems? Not according to Stony Brook Vice President T. Alexander Pond. Although Pond believes "there is a higher level of (on-campus) drinking now than five years ago, he says "the abuse of alcohol... is not nearly as widespread as when (he) was an undergrad."

A recent Rutgers study confirms Pond's beliefs, saying college students are not drinking any more these days than in the past. But Judy Pfeiffer of the University of Wisconsin claims "the acceptability and expectation of having beer is growing. 'Beer,' she says, "is (now) served at poetry readings, music events... and (even) student government meetings." (Newsprint)

Wives of tradesmen and shopkeepers in the French town of Lille have set up a union and are threatening to strike unless their husbands elect a Chamber of Commerce which is committed to establishing equal rights for women.

Union members say that unless candidates supporting women's rights are elected, they will go on strike, and will cease to perform their "marital duties". (Newsprint) (Credit: Her Say)

The "myth of black progress" was the story "best censored" by the news media in 1977, according to a research project at Sonoma State (Calif.) College.

The top ten "best censored" stories were selected by a panel of 10 celebrities from among a list of 25 national stories developed by an undergraduate sociology class. Panel members included television commentator Shana Alexander, Rep. Shirley Chisholm and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Noam Chomsky.


In compiling the list of stories, the class asked for nominations from news media and researched many small-circulation publications to seek out stories that received less than deserved coverage. While not charging any media "conspiracy", the researchers said "(We) feel the lack of coverage given to a number of significant issues comprises a form of media censorship which has been overlooked in the past."

In addition to the "myth of black progress," "best censored" stories included:

1. Cancer in the U.S. continues to run 50 per cent above the world average.
2. The alleged association since 1973 of Jimmy Carter with the Trilateral Commission, "an international power elite."
3. The shutting down of nuclear power plants and the associated cost and problems.
4. Alleged exploitation of third world mothers by infant formula manufacturers.

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