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Hospital uses plants to fight imag

to most people conjures up images of clean white halls, a faint smell of ammonia, and nurses dressed in white, starched uniforms - on the whole a very colorless, sterile envi-

Dr. Claude B. Goswick, director of the A. P. Beutel Health Center at Texas A&M University, fights the stereotyped hospital image with the use of colors; bright, modern furniture; and most important, with living green plants. Since his arrival at the facility in

June 1973, Dr. Goswick has stepped up his previous interest in plants from a few in his home to spreading them all over the hospital and his office.

Dr. Goswick started filling the health center with plants by first transferring a couple of ivy plants from the old hospital. Those original ivy plants are still growing and thriving in their new environment. From there Goswick purchased plants on sale when a local grocery store held a grand opening. Groups such as the Dallas A&M Mothers Club have donated money so that Dr. Goswick could continue "planting" the

All of the plants in his office came from his home or were gifts from students. He has several philodendron plants, a pony tail palm, a parlor

The mention of the word hospital palm, and a huge five-foot dracaena health center with a silver watering or corn plant. He has on his desk a can, but with a gallon bottle. pineapple plant that is green with long yellow stripes and lined with sharp teeth.

He also has a plant called queens tears and a dieffenbachia or dumb cane plant. Half his desk is covered with small plants in plain pots with plastic lids to catch any excess water. Plants line a spotlighted bench just behind his chair and the towering corn plant guards the entrance to his

The lush jungle is completed on the other side of the room with only a space for the door to open and close and room for two chairs. "My favorite plant is the Christ-

mas palm named for its red fruit. It is also known as the manila palm," Dr. Goswick said. In his white uniform coat, Dr. Goswick moves around the room touching a plant's leaves and checking for dust and spider mites. He relaxes and talks about plants

with the same enthusiasm of a hor-ticulture specialist. "I enjoy my plants, but I do not talk to them," Dr. Goswick said.

He cares for each plant in the hospital himself.

"I water and fertilize all the plants. Before, the plants were being drowned when during each shift, a nurse watered the same plant before he went off duty," he said. The doctor doesn't go around the

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can, but with a gallon bottle.

"I sometimes use as much as 19 gallons of water on the plants. I use distilled water from the hospital's Dr. Goswick said. own distilling plant," he said.

He waters the plants once a week and fertilizes them about every four time to dust and mist the plants, he pine at the entrance to months

He sprays insecticide on the plants to see that they get as mu

to combat spider mites. "The biggest enemies of our plants are spiders, dust, and lack of light,"

plants are placed where the The spiders are taken care of by well. For example, he has a insecticide spray but it is hard to find center in front of the glas said. He watches the plants carefully



DON'T HAVE

SNEAK

OF COURSE, I COULD

SPEND A FEW MOMENTS TO CHECK THESE OUT.

THE

THEY'VE

Dr. Claude B. Goswick, director of the A. P. Beutel Health Center, lends a doctor's

THEM

I'VE GOT ALL

hands to the green plants that live in office and around the center.

> **Today in history Relations** with Germany bro

possible. If they grow too

one direction the plants.

turned or relocated. Dr. Goswick also makes

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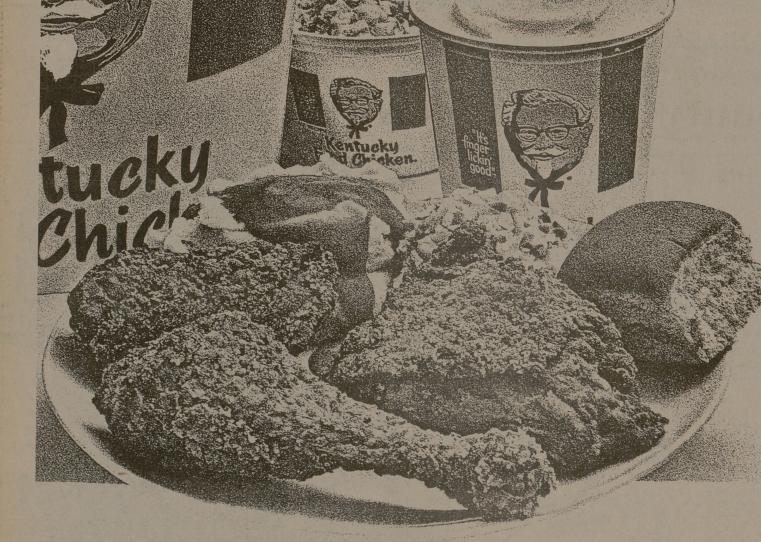
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