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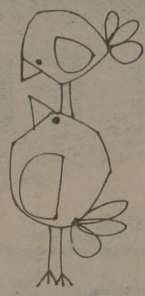
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INFORMATION TABLE: Student Center

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AND

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Civil libertarian advocates decriminalization of all drugs

United Press International
AUSTIN — Tougher drug laws only make pushers richer and street crime worse, said a civil libertarian who advocates decriminalization of all drugs, including heroin. He

maintained the narcotics menace in Texas will become aggravated, not alleviated, by proposed remedies.

Harsher laws increase the street cost of drugs, said John B. Duncan, executive director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union. As a result narcotics sellers get a better price and their customers are driven deeper into crime to pay it.

One half of street crime is drug associated, he said.

Drug addicts do not have the financial means to pay for their habits, which forces them into street crimes — robberies, burglaries and muggings. Stiffer drug penalties only insure increased

profits for pushers and the increased flow of illegal drugs into this country, Duncan said.

"It's the perfect example of unregulated free enterprise in an illegal market," he said.

"It's almost the American dream of making it big and the trouble is when you catch one person, you've got another standing in line to take his place."

Duncan is harshly critical of the anti-crime package proposed by Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Speaker Bill Clayton.

The new law would relax wiretap restrictions against law enforcement agencies investigating drug crimes, permit admission of oral confessions toward prosecutions, cut parole allowances in gun-related crimes and restrict inmates from accruing good time toward release.

By interfering with "good time" credit, the legislation will cause riots in the state prison system, said Duncan, who has worked for the Texas Civil Liberties Union since 1973 and before that was an economics professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

"It will destroy morale in the Texas Department of Corrections. Your 'good time' credit is the best discipline prison authorities have to control prisoners," he said.

"If you take it away you leave prison authorities with little more than ax handles and cattle prods to maintain discipline," said Duncan.

Great Britain decriminalized drug possession and the program is operating satisfactorily, Duncan said.

"We need to decriminalize and start to deal with the addicts as social problems. At least the British streets are safe and that's a major accomplishment," he said.

The problem only will expand until the state deals with drug use as social ill and removes it from the criminal justice system, he said. Duncan contends no state has approved an enforceable, workable law to prevent its citizens from abusing their bodies.

Duncan is not optimistic about Texas lawmakers approving a decriminalization bill this session, or the next.

"Some day society is going to have to face up to the fact that the proposals by the governor and the speaker do not address crime, and, if anything, only aggravate it," he said.

The government — state and federal — should develop a large scale drug treatment program similar to the methadone treatment plan, he said, which should be a good first step to eliminating street crime.

Now Open Aggieldand Harley-Davidson 801 Texas Ave. Bryan

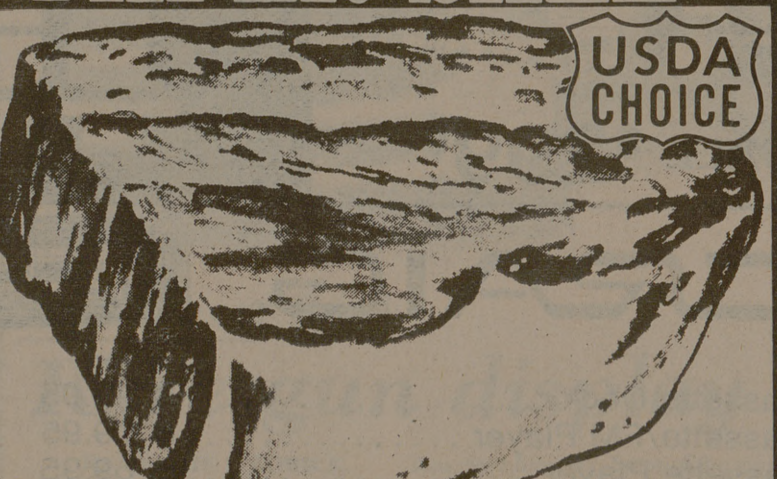
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CAT LITTER TIDY CAT 25 LB. BAG 1 59



UNIVERSITY DRIVE AT COLLEGE AVENUE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK

Tree surgeon opens hotel for sick plants

United Press International
FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Leaving town and worried about your plants? Concerned because your delicate fern and lovely Swedish ivy are looking peaked?

Take heart. Bob Blakeley's, Plant Hotel in this Washington, D.C. suburb will babysit your begonia or resurrect your rhododendron. Reservations not necessary, rates reasonable.

"Boarding costs are 25 cents per plant per day for any type or size of plant, as long as two men can carry it," said Blakeley. Pickup and delivery are slightly extra.

The U.S. Patent Office says his is the only business registered as a plant hotel, and he has copyrighted the name and is thinking of franchising.

He keeps his hotel guests in one of several large, sunlit rooms and makes sure they are properly fed and watered. Plant lights provide the closest thing to sunshine during evenings and regulate exposure for each plant.

Speakers provide music to grow by.

Blakeley, a native of Phenix City, Ala. and a tree surgeon for 18 years, started the hotel as part of a plant store he opened last June. He has had his hands full since: "We took in 1,500 boarders in our first three months."

Increasingly, he found himself nursing sick plants. "I didn't start out with any idea of a plant hospital, but people came in with sick plants and wanted help," he said. So he created a special intensive care ward.

Sick plants are separated from healthy ones, diagnosed and treated. Treatment may include spraying for insects or disease, pruning, fertilizing, re-potting. One recent patient was a seven-foot Norfolk Island pine.

"He kept my sick plant for two weeks when I went to Florida," says Lucy Wallace of Alexandria. "He talks to them, plays music for them, and puts them to bed at night. When I got it back, it was wonderfully healthy and had grown new shoots."

Blakeley also rents plants by the day or week, and arranges "plant parties." For a party Blakeley will arrive with a couple of dozen different plants, give a brief lecture on care, then answer questions on selection and maintenance.

The plants are for sale, and the host receives free plants and a cash percentage.