

Opinion

Gambling with lives

Most people who use drugs are risking their health, careers, and families. Air traffic controllers who use drugs are risking the lives of thousands of innocent airline passengers every day.

One might imagine then that the Federal Aviation Administration, the agency that employs the nation's 12,000 civilian air traffic controllers, would be utterly ruthless in ferreting out drug users in its ranks and getting them out of control towers. Not so, according to a recent report in *The Wall Street Journal*.

The most effective check against drug use by controllers would probably be some sort of mandatory urinalysis or blood sample program with air traffic controllers subject to periodic, unannounced testing. Similar measures have already proved effective in curbing drug use within the armed forces.

Civil libertarians might object as well. But controllers would be treated as well as the alternative is to wait until a drug-impaired controller makes a mistake that results in injury for an airliner full of passengers. Serious public outrage would force the FAA to adopt sterner anti-drug measures, to double including mandatory urinalysis and blood testing. Why wait until the FAA's drug problem costs the lives of 100 or more innocent persons?

Is it yellow rain or bee excrement?

Our government has accused the Soviet Union of furnishing a kind of exotic poison to us in Southeast Asia. It was identified as a mycotoxin, derived from the kind of fungi that grow on grain, and has been called "yellow rain."

The Soviet Union has denied the charges. The United States has been less than aggressive to put it kindly, in investigating the matter. And our State Department has continued to denounce the Soviets for violating international agreements against the use of chemical or biological weapons.

The State Department should quickly come to grips with the new yellow rain hypothesis. One of the reasons why the independent panel of scientists should be commissioned to make a report with the administration will be to see if we can retract our accusation.

The high-tech challenge

American high technology companies, teetering by increasing competition from abroad, received some encouraging news last week from William F. Baxter, the Justice Department's assistant chief. In a speech before the National Association of Manufacturers, Mr. Baxter outlined antitrust policy guidelines that will allow American firms to cooperate in research operations.

Letters

I read the article regarding the anti-trust laws. I thought you'd perhaps be interested in this article and would like to mention it to the readers of the Mercury. This particular subject has only recently opened, so I have yet to hear if we plan to go on a walking tour soon. Glad to see a few miles from where we live.

My name is Louise E. Francis. I'd like to see you...

News item Harvard, Yale scientists claim "yellow rain" may be bee droppings



Agree or not Numbers by another name

It was a much different story in the 1980 presidential race when Ronald Reagan received 68,274 votes in Kentucky to 61,417 for incumbent Jimmy Carter. In comparing party affiliation with the numbers, the Republican here was clearly in the lead. The disadvantage isn't as great as the numbers indicate for many are registered as Democrats but are not voters in local elections for party strongly prevail, but they vote Republican in November. Or, they vote for Democrats in 1980 but do not vote in 1982.

Down Blanket Blair, Kirkpatrick buy insurance agency

Blair, Kirkpatrick buy insurance agency... The firm was founded in 1964 and has a strong record of performance...

Letters to the editor

All readers of the Carlisle Mercury are welcome to submit letters to the editor, and to have them published in this column. Letters should be typed and double spaced with one inch margins. Please include a return address and phone number of the person to whom the letter should be sent.

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Op-Ed page

Be kind to her... she also knows where all the skeletons are buried

Secretaries, I'm sad, are overlooked and underrated, and it is too bad that it is so easy to get away with ignoring those facts. I would say a secretary is the Wal-Mart of secretaries, those who must be indispensable in the case I should get sick or go to the hospital. They are the ones who hold the keys to the kingdom and make the world go 'round.

Anyone who feels he has to celebrate secretary's week should do what the politicians used to do as a publicity gimmick: look behind the scenes and see how the secretary really works. I'm pretty sure no one will take me up on this simply because few things would happen: Everyone in the firm would wonder why the Boss for a Day was so dumb and paid on the job.

The main reason "Gandhi" beat out "E. T." for the Oscar was the excellent relationship between the two countries. To help ease the rift, the U.S. decided (a) give China Gao Hengxi the money more so on the plane E. T. (b) the Hollywood types went to see the movie, assuming the California fetish for long hair, and as a result, the movie was a success.

Russ Metz

In an effort to bolster my ego, I began to make a list of all the other jobs that I only can do... I know how to replace the spare roll of toilet paper. I know how to use a computer system to run a business. I know how to fix a car.

Assessment parks are continually bating each other to develop the most frightening, heart-stopping snakes and drops. Kings Island and Busch Gardens, if I don't get a better one, I would be the first to go there. I'd like to see you.

An editor's random thoughts...

By Warren H. Fisher, June 14, 1983

And yet, here I am in June, sitting in my office, trying to get ready for the long flight in early August. I am sure that you are also sitting in your office, trying to get ready for the long flight in early August. I am sure that you are also sitting in your office, trying to get ready for the long flight in early August.

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