

Mother Goose

(ZNS) A grand jury in Buffalo, New York, is reportedly looking into a book called "Inner City Mother Goose."

Judge William Heffron has charged that the book contains "more crime than rhyme," and has ordered the investigation to see whether any criminal charges are involved; "Inner City Mother Goose" is found in many elementary schools and was reportedly purchased with U.S. Model Cities funds. The book was written to dramatize some of the desperation and hate

encountered by minority groups in slum areas.

One rhyme which angered Judge Heffron was the following (quote) "Jack be nimble; Jack be quick; snap the blade and give it a flick. Grab the purse—it's easily done. Then just for kicks, just for fun, plunge the knife and cut and run."

Another passage: (quote) "There was a crooked man, and he did very well."

Or: (quote) "A wise old judge sat in court, the case was long, his judgement short; why change the way it's always been? Convict the man with darker skin".



when you go
take it with you!

University Park, Pa.— Who said modern containers don't decay?

A timetable for the natural recycling of some widely used and frequently littered items was drawn up by scientists at The Pennsylvania State University:

A common soft drink can dropped in the woods today, and not touched except by the air, rain, snow, natural mulch

and sunlight will likely be completely degraded by October 30 of '73-2473, that is, A.D.

Its aluminum components, says Dr. Edwin L. Owen, a metallurgist who specializes in the study of corrosion, might by that time be broken up into dust-like bits. The steel or tin components will have made it to dust somewhat earlier, by 2073 A.D.

A conventional plastic wrapper similarly exposed, says Dr. R. F. Kammereck, a polymer scientist, will probably be gone back to nature by the Fall of 2200 or thereabouts.

A glass bottle left on the forest floor this weekend, says Evelyn C. Marboe, a glass chemist, might find its ultimate rest by the year 1,001,972. Or it might not.

"Glass," says Professor Marboe, "is one of the most durable materials known. We have glass beads from Egypt that are 4,000 years old and, of course, there are amny examples of glass-like rock--such as obsidian--that may be as old as the earth."

There was a consensus among the scientists interviewed that these figures are all highly speculative, since decay rates vary widely with local conditions.

Thus, it is ecologically sounder to strew your trash around a tropical rain forest; there, the action of moisture and heat speeds up the recycling process. You can take roughly a hundred years off the quoted figures.

The nearest tropical rain forest is in Central America.

At least one "man-made product" has an ecologically decent rate of decay. It's man himself.

The authority here is Shakespeare's gravedigger: HAMLET: How long will a man lie in the earth ere he rot?

GRAVDGR: Why, if he be not rotten before he dies, a man'll last you nine or ten year...A tanner'll last you ten year.

HAMLET: Why he longer than another?

GRAVDG: Why his hide is tanned with the tools of his trade and will keep out water a long while...

So, it would appear that the safest thing, ecologically speaking, to leave on the forest floor this weekend is--yourself.

Or on the other hand, why leave anything?

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