

AP NewScope

Hijackers order jet re-fueling

DUBAI — Air pirates holding a Japan Air Lines jumbo jet for a third day ordered the plane re-fueled yesterday. A released crew member said the hijackers claimed to have rigged the plane with explosives.

The 122 passengers and 21 crew members, meanwhile, sweltered in the 110-degree heat as the plane sat on a runway of this Arab shiekdom on the Persian Gulf.

The plane was refueled after the hijackers rejected an appeal for release of the men and women issued by President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates.

The hijackers did not indicate where they might head if they took to the air again, an airport security officer said.

Japan Air Lines President Shizuo Asada arrived early yesterday to help in the negotiations. His plane landed at an airport 86 miles southwest of Dubai "because we feel the hijackers might be excited at seeing another JAL plane," a spokesman said.

Soviets launch Mars 4

MOSCOW — A Soviet space probe hurtled toward Mars yesterday on a six-month journey expected to increase the Kremlin's lead in research on the red planet.

The Mars 4 probe was launched late Saturday night from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The mission was announced by the news agency Tass yesterday morning after the craft blasted out of earth orbit for the 76-million-mile trip. Later the agency reported the vehicle had been sighted 21,748 miles from the earth by the Soviet observatory in Kazakhstan.

Tass said the equipment aboard Mars 4 was functioning normally but gave no indication what it included.

A British expert who talked with Soviet scientists in Moscow earlier this year said Mars 4 may be followed by one or two more Mars probes before Aug. 9.

Europeans begin meeting

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Common Market foreign ministers prepared for separate meetings in two cities today to discuss economic and political matters with a single theme: relations between the United States and Western Europe.

The meetings were scheduled in Copenhagen and Brussels. The session here was to be a regular meeting of the Common Market Council. The ministers are going to Copenhagen because of French wariness about U.S.-Western European relations.

The Common Market Council discusses economic matters. The French refuse to let the Council discuss anything else because the 13-man Common Market Executive Commission, a supranational body, plays a key role in council deliberations and all proposals for the council must originate with the commission.

Nixon popularity at low point

PRINCETON, N.J. — President Nixon's popularity with the American public has plummeted to the lowest point in his presidency, according to the latest Gallup Poll.

In a nationwide study published yesterday, 49 per cent of those polled expressed disapproval of Nixon's handling of the job, while only 40 per cent said they approved.

This represents a 28-point drop from his high ranking of 68 per cent approval in January, the sharpest decline ever recorded for a six-month period in Gallup polls on presidential popularity since the mid-1930's.

The high mark was recorded following the Vietnam peace settlement, and Nixon's popularity has dropped steadily since the Watergate issue has come to dominate the American political scene.

The President's current rating was based on a survey taken July 6 to July 9, after John Dean III testified before the Senate Watergate hearings but before former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell appeared.

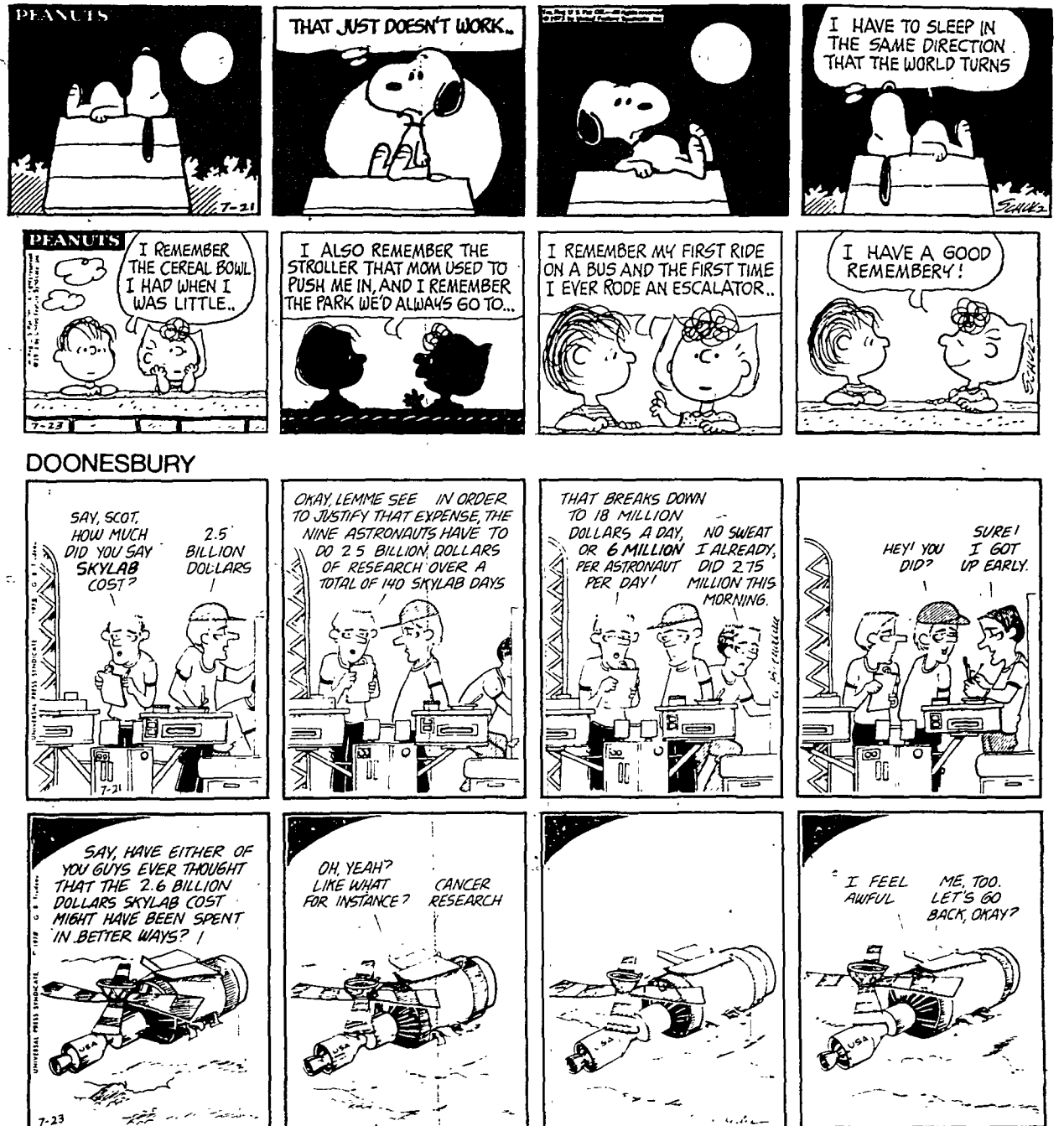
Invalid pot laws charged

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Attorneys defending persons charged with marijuana possession say state laws may be invalid because they ban only one of the three species of marijuana.

Once marijuana is processed to the smoking stage, they say, there is no way to tell from which species it derives. So the attorneys are preparing cases on the grounds that since possession of only one type is illegal, and possession of the other two types is not, no one can be convicted under the law.

But in one such case in Montgomery County Court here, a state police chemist testified that all marijuana plants are the same despite claims to the contrary. However, the chemist did concede that some botanists disagree with him.

Some botanists claim that there are two other species — Cannabis Indica and Cannabis Ruderalis. Recent claims note that it is impossible to distinguish the species when the plants are dried — as they are when smoked. It is argued, therefore, that it is impossible to convict someone of the charge.



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Students find loan funds tight

HARRISBURG, (AP) — College costs are up and financial aid is tighter. That's the grim prospect that thousands of loan-dependent Pennsylvania students, especially those with middle-income backgrounds, will face this fall.

"The general financial picture for students is bleak compared with previous years," said Jim Mulhair, director of financial aid at Duquesne University, a private Catholic college in Pittsburgh.

"We're having fantastic problems with the state-guaranteed loan program because of new federal guidelines that are very restrictive," Mulhair said, noting that as many as half of the 2,000 Duquesne students receiving \$2.5 million in loans could be affected.

"The middle-income families are getting it in the neck," said John Montini, director of financial aid at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, in reference to the loan program's new restrictions.

Basically, the changes in the federal requirements for the program deal with a new procedure to determine how much each family can afford to pay for a student's education.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for many colleges throughout the state have reported hikes in tuition and room and board rates because of increasing operating costs.

At the same time, these officials also report that state grants generally are being maintained at last year's levels while federal money is being shifted between programs — and in some cases is decreasing.

The result: students caught in a crunch of higher fees, with less aid to help pay for their education.

At Drexel University in Philadelphia, for example, tuition was raised from \$1,900 to \$2,100 and room and board increased from \$1,225 per year to \$1,300 per year because of increased costs.

"Money does have to come from some source," a Drexel official said, and that is why the cost increases were passed on to students.

At Lafayette College in Easton, tuition is going up \$200 for the coming year. "It's costing us more each year to provide the same services," said Herman Kissigh, dean of students.

"Tuition has gone up every year for the past three or four years," he said. Although Lafayette has not been forced to cut back programs, the school has not been able to expand existing programs, Kissigh reported.

The same story was repeated by officials from all types of higher learning institutions in the state—from small church-related campuses to the largest universities.

And because so many of the state's college students depend on guaranteed loans, school officials appear apprehensive as to the effects the new guidelines may have.

From March to July of this year there were \$6.9 million in loans issued to 4,798 students. During the same period last year, 22,242 students obtained \$25.6 million in loans.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency also blames the drop on the new federal requirements.

Under the loan program, students can borrow up to \$1,500 per year from banks with the state guaranteeing payment.

In the past, students whose families had incomes of under \$15,000 per year were eligible for federal interest subsidies until nine months after the student graduated.

Now, because of the new federal guidelines, many students are finding that they no longer can qualify for the interest aid.

At the University of Pittsburgh, a state-related school, some 3,000 of the 6,000 students who apply for the loans may not qualify for the interest subsidy, according to Charles R. Deese Jr., associate dean of admissions and student aid.

The very rich can afford to pay for their education and the very poor have no trouble in getting aid, Deese said. It's the students in the middle who are left out, he added.

Students can still get loans, said Walter Cathie, director of student aid at Meadville's Allegheny College, but some banks are unwilling to approve the loans because the federal government is not providing the 7 per cent interest subsidy.

The change in regulations requires all students applying for loans and federal interest benefits to submit to a "needs analysis," a complex formula which is supposed to determine how much each family can afford to pay for a student's education.

In the past it was between the banks and their customers to decide on a loan amount, but now it is up to the financial aid officers in the schools to recommend the loan figures based on the needs analysis system.

Some lending firms indicated they would not make loans unless the interest was paid by the federal government, but others said they would continue loans to qualifying and non-qualifying students alike.

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