Bottle bill would benefit consumers

BY SCOTT KEARNS
Of The Gamecock staff

Consumers, the environment and the economy will all benefit if the State Legislature passes a bottle bill now in the House Agricultural and Material Resources Committee.

The proposed bottle-bill, which is modeled after the Oregon bottle bill will ban all non-returnable beverage containers and tab tops and place a nickel deposit on all containers sold.

The bill which should come out of committee within the next two weeks has 38 co-sponsors who believe it will reduce litter along South Carolina highways. An Oregon state analysis of the Oregon bottle bill shows beverage container litter in that state has been reduced by 88 per cent from 1972 to 1973 while the sales of refundable containers increased from 44.6 per cent to 51.5 per cent.

South Carolina environmentalists are optimistic about the outcome of the bottle bill in the House, but expect trouble from the Senate. Brion Blackwelder of the Environmental Coalition spoke in favor of giving a hospital at the University of South Carolina a bottle bill. Beverage industry lobbyists at the April hearing claimed the returnable bottle will affect the sale of beverages by reducing consumer desirability.

Because, since the Oregon bill was passed, beverage sales have increased, without any significant increase in the cost of the beverages. In some states considering bottle bill legislation, manufacturers have increased the price of their returnable bottles to make them seem more expensive. It is not known whether that practice is being repeated in South Carolina. Beverages in non-returnable bottles will be cheaper even with the cost of the container included in the price. Non-returnable cost more to produce and manufacturers pass the price increases on to the consumer.

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Because the population of South Carolina is roughly half of Maryland's population, it's likely that almost 800 new jobs would be created by the bottle bill with more than $9 million in personal revenue and close to $500,000 in state taxes generated.

Under the proposed legislation, the bottle bill will raise $30 million, in benefits than drawbacks argued by manufacturers. The Palmetto State will be the 11th state in which it is easier for consumers to use non-returnable bottle by establishing a container redemption centers owned and operated by license private citizens.

And containers will have to be certified under the pending low and dealers will have to accept the containers they sell and refund the nickel deposit.

Returnable bottles will also reduce energy consumption in the state. Approximately 4.9 trillion British Thermal Units (BTU's) of energy will be saved through returnable use.

That is enough energy to heat 45,000 homes in the state for one year.

Natural resources will also be conserved without affecting South Carolina's economy. More than 60 per cent of the bauxite used in manufacturing aluminum cases is mined outside the United States, and none of it is mined in South Carolina.

July 4, 1975, probably the biggest use day for beverage containers in the United States.

USC poet to take leave of absence

James Dickey, USC's poet-in-residence, will interrupt his six-year tenure at the university to go on a one-year leave of absence.

His last classroom session promises to be an eerie one, in which he will unveil the mysterious silverskin, a disfigured writer who leads a life of seclusion and eccentricity.

For Dickey, who will resume his duties fall, 1976, his vacation will hardly be a holiday.

"I'll plan to do a little traveling," Dickey admitted, "possibly go to Italy, but most of my time will be devoted to work. I've got a lot of things I want to do."

Dickey is in the process of completing two novels and a book of poetry. He also hopes to finish work on two films, having already scripted a teleplay and an original play.

Infirmary issues defense report

BY MARK DILLARD
Of The Gamecock staff

A report defending treatment of a student at USC's health center has been made by Dr. Isao Hirata, health center director.

The report resulted from a letter published in last Thursday's Gamecock by Frank Knight, a student, complaining about difficulties in getting treatment after spilling unlabeled shampoo in his eye. Charles H. Witten, Dean of Student Affairs and USC President William H. Patterson received the report.

In the letter, Knight said that on the night of March 29 he found the health center locked and, after getting a nurse to the door, had to stand outside and explain what had happened before she would let him enter. "Once inside, a form to be filled out was shoved under my face before treatment could begin," the letter said. "Because he was frustrated, the letter continued, he said "an off-color word." "The word was harmless and directed at no on, but because of this, I was forced to stand there even longer and wait to be treated, while the nurse lectured on the proper language to use in front of a lady.

Knight said he was treated by the nurse instead of a doctor and had been forced to go to the emergency room at Folly Field.

In his report, Hirata wrote, "The duty nurse followed procedures precisely as prescribed, rendered primary treatment precisely as prescribed, and because of patient belligerence, profanity and bursts of violence, summoned police for her own protection precisely as policy prescribes."

Knight said of the report, "I'd like to know what was violent. I did say 'f--k,' but I don't know what it was violent. That's just completely untrue."

The main point of his letter, Knight said, was to complain about the infirmary closing and having no doctor on duty at night. "That was the main thing, that half the University this big, the infirmary was closed, and infirmary closes at 4:45 on weekdays with a nurse inside for emergencies."

"As far as the initial treatment, continued Page 5

Crucible distribution Friday

The editors of "The Crucible" have announced they will distribute their spring issue at an arts festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 18 behind McKissick Library.

The event is an arts festival featuring local artisans and students. Students will have a chance to display and sell their works, said the editor Knights. In addition to the artists, there will be entertainment at Carolina Alive will perform from 12:20 to 1:10, and various other forms of entertainment will be scheduled throughout the day.

The distribution point for the spring issue and registration table for the arts festival will be the western end of the pedestrian bridge over Pickens Street.

Students who submitted material to the fall and spring issue of "The Crucible" may pick up their commissions at the registration table.

Visitors to the festival are being asked to stay on the sidewalk and off the grass and to not throw their trash on the ground.

Registration for the festival will start at 9:30 a.m.