"A TROPICAL BEAST could Solve Our Lake Worry," reads a headline in the Auckland, New Zealand Star. Auckland botanist V. J. Chapman suggests bringing in the tropical manatee to eat the weeds.

The headline probably did solve the lake worry for many—who are now going somewhere else to have fun.

IN FRANCE, where folks have almost forgotten what water tastes like, there is concern over how much roaming the automobiles have been doing, and, in the process, killing off the citizenry. All too often the auto and its occupants have come out second best trying to escape from the French hallmark, tree-lined roads. To reduce the slaughter, the worst in Europe, the government has ordered the cutting of trees along hundreds of miles of national routes and the removal of hundreds of trees within cities.

As the New York Times concludes: "The assumption that when an automobile hits a tree it's the tree's fault is quintessentially French."

JOE McDERMOTT, president of the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association, has issued a call for an improved sod cutter blade. "Surely there is someone in our industry somewhere who has a better blade made of better steel—or hard-surfacing process—or something that can help us," he said. The blades are expensive and wear out rapidly in soil with gravel and rocks in it.

For the benefit of Michigan's muck or peat sod farmers, a rock comes in various sizes and shapes and is hard like concrete.

LESTER ASPLUNDH, board chairman of Asplundh Tree Expert Company, is given credit for kicking a football 100 yards. He also admits that on another occasion, he caught his own punt.

Turf response to different fertilizer application rates was discussed by Michigan State turf specialist P. E. Rieke during the University's Crop and Soil Sciences Field Day recently. Phosphorus tends to accumulate in the surface layer of soil, he said, and considerable leaching of potassium may occur when fertilizers are applied to the surface of sandy soils. The rate and distance of phosphorus movement in soils is small and normally not important because of its low solubility in soil water," he said. In test plots on sandy soil, some potassium leached beyond the 10-inch depth. Irrigation increases leaching. Such extreme leaching would not likely occur in soils with higher clay content because they would have sufficient capacity to hold the potassium.