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DESCRIPTION

4026

2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4026

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4026

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/01/07

Recorder Job Number: 4175, 4178

Committee Clerk Signature

Monica Spedding

Minutes:

All members of the committee were present.

Senator Dever, Chairman, opened the hearing on SCR 4026.

Senator David O'Connell from District 6 introduced the bill. See attachment # 1. He does not want access to the camps to be restricted. There have been students from 26 countries in attendance at the camp. He feels there needs to be exceptions made not only for the Peace Gardens but also for the farmers in the area.

There was discussion about the access to the Peace Gardens is fine but when people leave the Peace Garden to return to the US they need their passport.

Senator Carolyn Nelson from District 21 testified in favor of the bill. She has served on the staff of the music camp and has given attendance scholarships to people who otherwise could not attend the camp. She is in favor of making access to the camp as simple as possible. The requirement to have a passport would affect not only the students who attend but those who drop them off at the camp. The cost of a passport (about \$90) would cause hardship for students, many of whom are there on scholarship. In 2004 a student from the 50th state attended the camp. All 50 states have now been represented as well as all of the Canadian provinces and 26 foreign countries.

Senator Dever asked if most of the people attending the music camp generally do not otherwise have occasion to need a passport.

Senator Nelson said most attendees are age 12-17 and usually have no other need for a passport.

Dana Bohn, representing the Tourism Alliance Partnership, spoke in favor of the bill. She said the International Peace Garden is a very important part of the tourism industry. The passport issue would complicate things for people attending the International Peace Garden.

Senator John Warner from District 4 spoke in favor of the bill. He feels if passports become a requirement it will significantly decrease the attendance at the camp. He feels the International Peace Gardens monument is a reminder of the world we left behind on 9-11 and is also a reminder of the world we are moving toward, hopefully a world where countries will be at peace.

Senator Horne asked how many other parks or facilities may request to become "passport free zones."

Senator Warner mentioned that there may be some requests in connection with doing commerce across the border. Border agents will have to come up with ways to screen people more quickly. Maybe with electronic passports it will speed the process. The circumstances of the Peace Gardens are so unique he feels they need to be accommodated.

Senator Nelson mentioned there are many other educational opportunities at the Peace Gardens and asked if they maybe should be mentioned in the bill.

Senator Warner felt this may be helpful.

Senator Dever asked if there are any other efforts being made by the Congressional delegation to bring this to the attention of Congress.

Senator Warner said not directly.

Support: -

Opposition: -

Neutral: -

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on SCR 4026.

A do pass motion was made by Senator Horne.

The motion was seconded by Senator Marcellais.

Senator Lee suggested the committee may want to add another entry to include other programs that are held at the Peace Gardens. There was discussion about how to best do this.

Senator Horne withdrew his motion and Senator Marcellais withdrew his second.

Senator Lee suggested the new wording that would effectively included other educational opportunities offered at the Peace Gardens. Senator Lee and Senator Nelson will work on it.

The committee will wait until later to act on this bill.

JOB # 4178

Senator Lee made a motion to amend SCR 4026.

The motion was seconded by Senator Nelson.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Senator Nelson made a motion to pass SCR 4026 as amended.

The motion was seconded by Senator Marcellais.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: Nelson

Date : 3 - 1 - 07
Roll Call Vote # : *x* Withdrawn

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SLR 4026

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken do pass

Motion Made By Horne *withdrawn* Seconded By Marcellais *withdrawn*

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman			Senator Robert Horne		
Senator Dave Oehlke - VC			Senator Richard Marcellais		
Senator Judy Lee			Senator Carolyn Nelson		

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3-01-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4026 amendment

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken amendment

Motion Made By Ju Seconded By Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman	✓		Senator Robert Horne	✓	
Senator Dave Oehlke - VC	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3-01-07
Roll Call Vote #: ~~3~~ 2

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4026

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken do pass as amended

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman	✓		Senator Robert Horne	✓	
Senator Dave Oehlke - VC	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Nelson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4026: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4026 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, after line 10, insert:

"WHEREAS, the International Peace Garden hosts a variety of athletic and other educational events; and"

Page 1, line 11, replace "youth" with "those" and replace "the camp" with "International Peace Garden events"

Page 1, line 12, remove "at the camp"

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4026

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4026

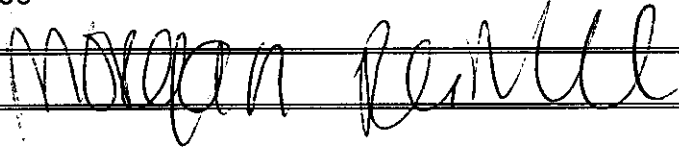
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5435

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Sen. O'Connell: *Rep. Froseth and I are on the border of the Peace Garden's. It is a beautiful place. You've been there and you understand. For the people who haven't been there, you go through customs on the U.S side. You don't actually go to the Canadian side but when you come out you go through the U.S Customs. I think it is an unfair burden that we need to have a passport. Plus the music camp up there has students from the whole world. That is a lot of foreign students who have passports but I think it would be a burden on a lot of our people who attend the music camp.*

Rep. Froseth: *Our district does not include the area where the Peace Gardens. They are located directly north of Dunseith. Part is in Canada and part is in the U.S. You need to go if you haven't seen them. I have brought some brochures from the tourist department. I was hoping that there would be a map to show the layout of the garden and the customs facilities. The emphasis of the bill is on lines 1 and 2. Go down to line 13 about the part where it will create and undo cost and administrative hardship that will affect attendance. Line 16 says whereas passport requirements would generally affect attendance of the international peace garden for the person whose sole entrance into another country is within the boundaries of the International Peace Garden. Line 21 says the 60th legislative assembly urges congress to*

exempt travel to the International Peace Garden from passport requirements. The way the Peace Garden is situated, you have to go through the American Customs when you go in. Then the Canadian Customs sits about a few hundred yards from the border. You don't go through the Canadian Customs. There is a road that goes into the Peace Gardens between the two customs. You go through the American Customs, go into the peace gardens, the road goes all the way around the Peace Gardens, through the part of Canada, and come back through the US Portion of it. You can not get off the road inside the Peace Gardens into Canada unless you cut through the brush. You can't come back out. When you come back out you have to come back through the Canadian parts. The way it is now you have to show your drivers license to get into Canada. You don't actually ever go through the Canadian Customs. Therefore if you needed a passport to get into the U.S, it would greatly cut down the attendance of the Peace Garden. You would have visitors come from many states because they wouldn't realize that you needed a passport to get back into the U.S. This is why we are trying to urge Congress to come up with some kind of a plan. You just travel on the road that is inside the Peace Gardens.

Rep. Haas: In other words when you go with this passport regulation you can actually get into the Peace Gardens without it but you can't get out?

Rep. Froseth: Right. If you go into Canada you can drive through the Canadian side. The Canadian's don't require you to have a passport to go into Canada. They don't require you to have a passport coming out of Canada but you need a passport to get back into the United States.

Rep. Karls: Is this customs used for any other purpose or just for visitors in the Peace Garden?

Rep. Froseth: The customs north of Dunseith is one of the larger customs entry spots on the US-Canadian border.

Rep. Karls: So anybody that would be traveling through Canada through that port, they would need a passport to get back? Is there a way to differentiate between who is actually going to the Peace Gardens as a tourist and who is traveling?

Rep. Froseth: At this time it wouldn't be. The way it is now is that you don't stop at the US Customs when you go into Canada. You just drive into the US side and you have to report in. They will ask questions where you're going, if you're a US citizen, etc. When you come back out of Canada you don't have to stop at the Canadian side. You just drive past the Canadian Customs, and then stop at the US to report back into the US. That is where you need your passport is to get back into the US. The way the Peace Gardens are located is that the US Customs is on the south side and the Canadian customs on the north. You go through the US Customs and there is a road then that goes off to your left that goes through the Peace Gardens. You can drive up into the Canadian side and come back down through the US side. There are spots you can stop and take pictures. Then when you go back out you come out the same entrance between the two customs and then come back down through the US side. This would say that you wouldn't require passports if you are just going to the Peace Gardens. I think they can devise some kind of a pass you can pick up at the US Customs saying you never did enter Canada. That would have to be something that they would have to devise.

Rep. Haas: With the new passport restrictions you are saying that we don't need a passport to go into Canada, but coming back we do?

Rep. Froseth: Right.

Rep. Haas: So what you are suggesting is that it would be practical to stop at the US Customs side, show id, and receive a one day Peace Gardens pass so I wouldn't need a passport.

Rep. Kasper: Have you been able to contact the ND Congressional Delegation to see where they stand on this resolution?

Rep. Froseth: I haven't contacted them.

Rep. Meier: About how many visitors do the Peace Gardens get during a year?

Rep. Froseth: I'm not sure. I didn't check into those numbers. I know attendance has gone down in the last couple years because of the travel restrictions. It is one of the top tourist attractions in ND. It's also a Canadian attraction. It's a beautiful place. The Peace Gardens have the music camp up there which is a big event. They get kids from all over. I know they have a big car show every year. There are several events that draw tourists from quite far away. One of the newest feature attractions is they have steel beams from the World Trade Center. Those are the newest attraction. My nephew's son was one of the people who helped decide that memorial. I haven't been there to see that yet.

Rep. Potter: The new director is working to get some international Olympic type training going on up there. It would be a wonderful location. I just think on how lucky those people would be.

Dana Bahn: *I'm here on behalf of the ND Tourism Partnership. We support this resolution and ask you to do the same. The Peace Gardens are a very important part of the tourism industry and a very important part of our state. We are known as the Peace Garden state. I do know that in response to a question that they have been working with the Congressional Delegation. This is a big issue for them and they are concerned about impact that it may have.*

Dr. Herbert Wilson: We have a meeting up there every year in July. We have a time getting people from Manitoba to come. I'm sure if they had to have a passport it is going to cut down considerably. I would like to say this. It would spoil in the meaning of the Peace Garden if we say they have to have passports. Also there is a plan to expand the Peace Garden with a new hotel. I appreciate that a bill has been constructed.

Rep. Haas: Is there any more testimony for SCR 4026? If not we will close the hearing on SCR 4026.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4026

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5436

Committee Clerk Signature

Morgan Rennie

Minutes:

Rep. Boehning: I move a do pass.

Rep. Wolf: I second that.

Rep. Haas: Is there any discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on SCR 4026. The do pass motion passes with a vote of 13-0-0. Is there a volunteer to carry this bill?

Rep. Froseth: I will.

Date: 3-22-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number SCR 4026

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep Boehning Seconded By Rep Wolf

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC	X		Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider	X	
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls	X				
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weller	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Froseth

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 22, 2007 3:23 p.m.

Module No: HR-54-5969
Carrier: Froseth
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4026, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4026 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SCR 4026

Attach #1

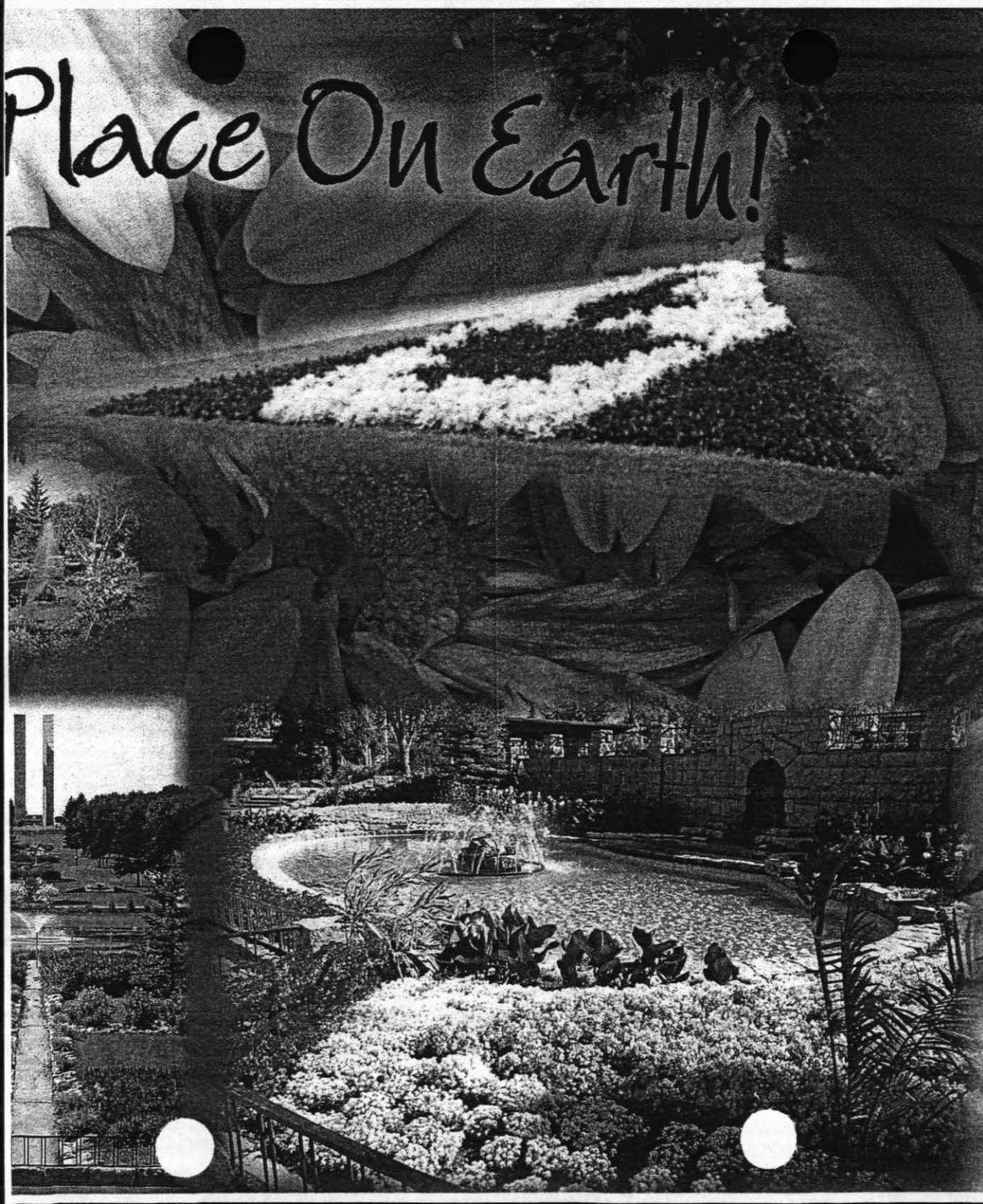
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4026

Senator David O'Connell

A concurrent resolution that urges Congress to exempt traveler passport requirements when traveling to the International Peace Garden.

- Passport requirements for youth attending International Music Camp, which is heavily attended by youth from the United States and Canada, would create an undue cost and administrative hardship that would greatly affect attendance at the camp.
- Passport requirements would generally affect attendance at the International Peace Garden for visitors whose only entrance into another country is within the boundaries of the International Peace Garden.

Place On Earth!



Attractions:

Interpretive Center – Learn about the history of the garden and its future. Informative sessions including garden tours, horticultural programs, nature hikes, lots of activities for children and more!

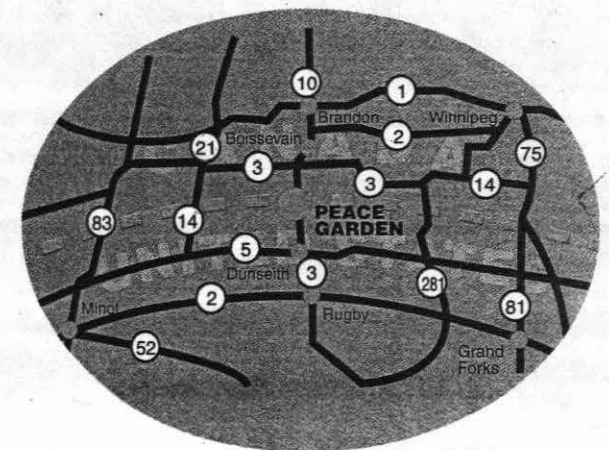
Peace Garden Café – Stop by for lunch or treat yourself to an ice-cream cone.

Peace Garden Gift Shop – Souvenirs to take home. Lots of new and exciting items at reasonable prices.

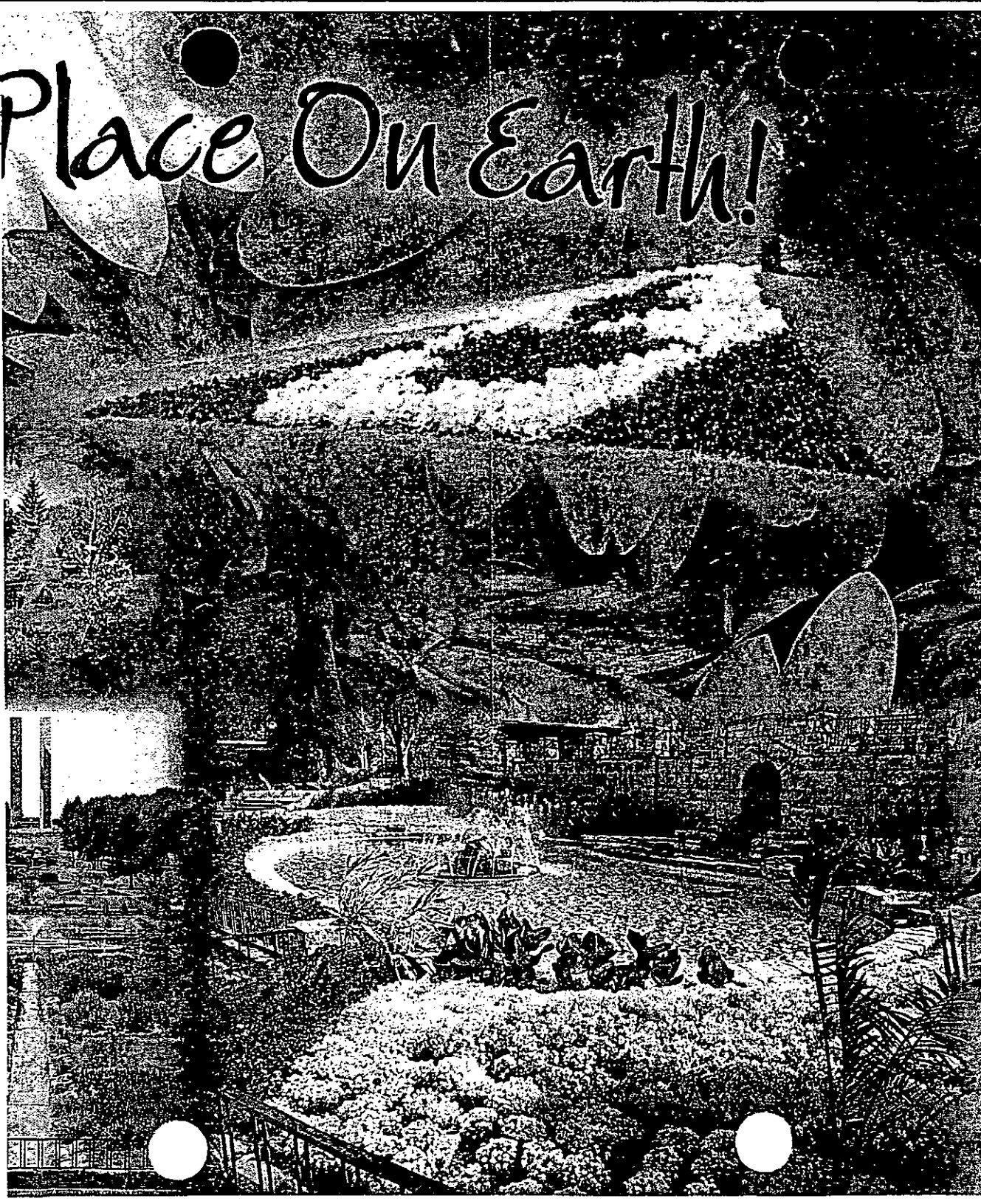
Campgrounds – All amenities to make your stay comfortable and enjoyable.

Bed and Breakfast – Accommodations nearby.

IPG Airport – Just outside the main entrance with a paved 3,000 foot runway.



Place On Earth!



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