

Q A Sun. Nov. 18, 1973

Let The Trees Rot In Peace

To The Commercial Appeal:

In reference to the editorial on the fallen trees in Overton Park, I must say that it is the funniest thing that I have read. IGNORANCE is plastered all over it. The "rotted" trees are one of the basis of our ecosystem in which the most important fact is that they supply food to animals. Fungi grows in decaying trees (usually causing the decay)—However, these wood decaying fungi must be regarded also as a benefit to man. If it were not for them, the trees and shrubs that die and fall in the forest floor would accumulate until the woods would be impenetrable.

For man to clear the forest floor in Overton Park would be too much expense and trouble, in this near climax forest there are several trees that have fallen that are too large in diameter to fool with. To get to the fallen trees in some areas with proper equipment would mean more stripping of trees. The "rot" from these decaying timber continually adds new mineral elements and organic matter to the soil and carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

If we are ever in such a crisis that we have to haul wood from Overton Park then it will not be the public that gets it — but the TVA — and rightly so.

Why don't we just leave the park alone?

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