The State

Recreation Area Criticized

Federal funding reductions have turned the New Melones reservoir into a recreational disaster area, Tuolumne County officials told the California Water Commission. They said the artificial lake on the Stanislaus River will lure 800,000 visitors this year to a pleasure spot that has no campsites, permanent toilets, running water or adequate trash facilities. “It’s a zoo out there,” said Tuolumne Supervisor William Davidson, who blamed the problem on the dam’s builder, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which he said had committed $47 million to recreational facilities, but so far had spent only $15 million.

A Confederate flag that was part of a historic display in front of San Francisco’s City Hall was cut down and burned by protesters who called it “a banner of racist terror.” While about 50 protesters watched, one man climbed up the 40-foot flagpole and cut the flag down. Then he and another man burned it. Richard Bradley, 34, a member of the Spartacist League, and Peter Woolston, 41, an officer of the International Longshoreman’s Warehouse Union Local 6 in San Francisco, were arrested.

State agencies are investigating a storage yard in San Joaquin County where thousands of barrels of dangerous chemicals are reported to be stored without state or federal permits, officials said. An inspection team from the Toxic Substances Control division of the state Department of Health Services and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board reportedly found that many of the barrels, in the yard near Lathrop, are broken or rusted. Some of the barrels are leaking, the officials said.