

"To Pot Or Not To Pot" New Closing Hours That Is The Question To Start Oct. 31

(EDITOR'S NOTE -- The following article is written by Mr. Eston Roberts an English professor here at Brevard College. Mr. Roberts served several years as Dean of Students and Dean of Men. He is very well aware of the problem in the United States today concerning drugs.)

By Mr. Eston Roberts

These are exciting times in which to be alive. It is especially exciting to be a student in this time. Perhaps the most exhilarating aspect of these the sixties-going-on-seventies is the plethora of choices open to young people in today's option-packed existence.

While I am personally convinced that learning and growth are only possible in an elective environment, there is one option that over the past several years has come to be of crucial concern to me. I refer, of course, to the question: to pot or not to pot?

I do not profess to be an authority on drugs or quasi-drugs, on lysergic acid or marijuana (opium - tintured, yet!); and even though I happen to share the convictions of some that our laws (at least in the area of marijuana) are out-dated and self-defeating, I do happen to feel that "pot" is one of the most potentially harmful options the twentieth century has to offer. I base this belief on two assumptions:

I believe, first of all, that young people are biologically set, like "tiny little time pills," to blow the adult establishment off its ever-loving pedestals of cold complacency and constipated conformity. Young men and women require us to test our premises and re-examine our principles. Their ideals are at the roots of much human progress.

My second assumption is based on my allegiance to the pleasure - pain principle: that for every ounce of pleasure there is an equal and opposite ounce of pain. The amount of pain on the morning after exists in direct ratio to the amount of alcoholic hilarity experienced the night before.

Now the vendors of the marijuana miracle would have us believe that their "stairway to stoneland" is free of stumbling blocks and stuffed with styrofoam. "Fly the friendly skies without hangup or hangover."

Brigadoon is a stick away — no cancer, no addiction, no after-pain — and all on the economy plan! Add to this the irony that, at least physiologically speaking, what their slogans say is true at this point in scientific time, and we have, purportedly, nirvana in a stick. But every kit has its kicker, every miracle drug its side effect.

I am convinced that no one rides free in this world and that "pot" is really no panacea. In support of this belief I refer the reader to my second assumption — the pleasure - pain principle. The pain the marijuana user comes to know, while not physical, is, I contend, as real as peanuts, as existent as measles. Its effect is painfully visible and plainly emotional.

The regular smoker of marijuana comes, I believe, to live in an euphoric world. In much the same way that constant exercise of the biceps will lead to muscular development, so will continuous use of hallucinogens lead to a state of mind in which reality, daily regimen in a responsible world, loses its appeal. The "pot - head's" world becomes an unstructured, free - wheeling kaleidoscope where dedication is called "hangup," professionalism called "sellout." Ultimately his unreal world becomes his only world.

My experience has been that almost inevitably the psychologically addicted "pot smoker" becomes obsessed with re-making the real world into the image of his unreal, diaphanous and unstructured miasmic world. He will facsimilate involvement in the real world by compulsively engaging in sociological endeavors, in opposing the war (for instance), and by fighting the establishment; but he will not be really involved because the action taken will be structureless in the same way the "pot" experience is. Never is there place in the "pot world" for the specialist, the professional, the dedicatee with a scientific program. He is *verboten* because in the "pot smoker's" world social activism, sincere though it be, is rationalization — the psychological crutch that justifies living apart from life. Ultimately it is involvement in non-involvement.

And this is pain, the ultimate pain; alienation from the human race — "A stranger and afraid in a world I never made." The habitual smoker finds himself unable to live in

a world of rock and stone, a real world where Eileithyia, the inflictors of pain, are the constant companions of man.

This leads to my final assertion: marijuana removes our youth from the world and renders them impotent. It contains all the ingredients to make it attractive - plus: it is forbidden by society for all the wrong reasons; it appeals to the rebelliousness of youth; it concocts a beautiful world for people beset by and convinced of ugliness; and, finally, it is not addictive in the sense that heroin, tobacco, and alcohol are. It is, nonetheless, a threat to the very foundations of society. It is the lotos blossom that beckons to the fields of never - more.

Scientists give us ten years to reverse the tide of pollution, two generations to conquer the threat of over - population. It may be that there is another problem, one so potentially destructive as to make meaningless the solution to our problems of survival. What will it profit us if the salt of our society has lost its savor, if our young people abdicate their responsibility for spurring the flanks of an atrophied world in favor of self - immolation through marijuana? The question, "to pot or not to pot" is not for our youth alone. It's a question for the human race.

College Band Plays To Trustees

The Brevard College Band, which made its first appearance of the year at the homecoming soccer game, performed last night at the College Trustees' Dinner. The band will also present a half hour concert next Thursday, October 23, opening the United Nations Observance Program at 7:30 p. m.

Under the direction of Miss Tillotson, the band includes 52 members and has a varied repertoire, playing modern pop hits as well as familiar symphonic arrangements.

Also performing recently was the College Glee Club, on October 16 at the cultural program.

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The Legislature of the Student Government Association met Wednesday night and received approval of a proposal that had been sent to the Administration concerning the changing of women's closing hours on Friday nights.

The proposal was passed by the Legislature in its regular meeting two weeks ago and was sent to the Administration then. It is scheduled to go into effect the first Friday night after the mid - term grading period. This will be Oct. 31.

In a letter sent to the Legislature, Dean L. H. Lawing, Dean of Student Affairs, said that he was pleased to report that a favorable decision had been made upon a reasonable request.

In other action taken by the group, a proposal concerning a budget of \$1500 for the SGA and a budget of \$5700 for the Social Board was adopted. This is based on a \$2.50 per student intake for the SGA from SGA

dues. The Social Board budget consists of \$3.50 per student from SGA dues and \$6.00 from the General Fee. The budget was figured on a student enrollment of 600.

The vacant seat of the Legislature from the Freshman Class was filled with Joyce Gibson named to the post. She will assume her duties immediately.

A proposal was passed and sent to the Administration concerning the clarification of the number of cuts that are given in each class. It was pointed out that even though the professor had the right to decide the number of cuts allowed in his class, many of the teachers had failed to reveal to the students the number of cuts allowed.

The Legislature also approved the purchase of a filing cabinet for the storing of all proposals, minutes and other important data resulting from the SGA or the Student Legislature.

Senator Joseph Clark Speaks To WCCUNA

By Miss Beatrice Burgess

Former Senator Joseph S. Clark, of Pennsylvania, President of the World Federalists U.S.A. spoke to the Western Carolina Chapter of the United Nations Association in Asheville on Thursday evening. Senator Clark is a registered "lobbyist for peace" who says the most important objective of the World Federalists is to stop the shooting in Viet Nam. He supports Senator Charles Goodell's position that funds for the war be discontinued after December, 1970.

The ultimate objectives of both the United Nations Association and the World Federalists U.S.A. are to eliminate our war system and substitute a system of peaceful methods of solving problems in the world. As he discussed the role of the United Nations in keeping peace he gave four reasons why the U.N. has not been able to fulfill more adequately its

peace - keeping role: (1) The membership of the U.N. is not universal. Nations who are not members are not obligated to have the U.N. help in their disputes. Both the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts involve a partitioned country, half of which is not a member of the U.N. (2) Russia's insistence on the power and use of the veto in the Security Council has limited peace - making attempts. (3) The mini-states' having equal voice with the more powerful nations in the General Assembly has handicapped efforts at resolving conflicts. (4) The inability of the United Nations to finance itself, as demonstrated by the crisis in the Congo has severely handicapped its efforts in this area.

The constitution of the U.N. provides for its revision periodically but both Russia and the United States have opposed constitutional reform.

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