

Mexican Marijuana Treated with Herbicides May Harm Local Students

If your end-of-semester financial status is forcing you to pass over Columbian marijuana for the cheaper Mexican ounces, you may want to take a second look at your pot. Is it "sticky and yellowish?" If so, chances are it has been contaminated with an extremely toxic hercicide.

Mexican-grown marijuana that has been sprayed with herbicides could pose a serious danger to local marijuana users, especially if they eat the weed rather than smoke it.

According to a suit filed by NORML in U.S. District Court on March 13, the U.S. government, principally through the Department of State, has encouraged and supported the spraying of highly toxic herbicides on marijuana and poppy plants in Mexico for more than two years. The two principal herbicides used in the Mexican program are paraquat and 2,4-D.

Research is being conducted at several institutions in the nation, including North Carolina's Research Triangle Institute, to determine the effects of Paraquat and its possible neutralization by heat when burned and smoked.

The consumption of Paraquat has been linked to birth defects and more than 100

deaths in the United States, according to an article in the February 24 issue of *Science Magazine*.

A recent government analysis of marijuana seized along the Mexican-U.S. border found up to 20% of the samples contaminated. NORML states that the U.S. government was aware of a number of research findings showing that paraquat causes irreversible lesions (fibrosis) in the lungs of test animals, and still continued the use of this chemical for more than two years, knowing that U.S. marijuana smokers might be similarly harmed.

"How can our government in good conscience," asked NORML National Director Keith Stroup, "urge the spraying of marijuana with extremely toxic herbicides without first considering the health consequences to those who smoke it? At the least, the federal government has an obligation to insure that its actions do not harm the health of any of its citizens, including the approximately 15 million people who smoke marijuana," he continued. "This obligation does not disappear just because marijuana is classified as an illegal substance.

"A number of recent federal government reports and scientific studies have acknow-

ledged that marijuana is a relatively harmless plant, and now, with the use of herbicides," Stroup said, "the United States government may be turning it into the 'killer weed' which it propagated against in the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

NORML issued an urgent warning to consumers to avoid Mexican marijuana altogether until these herbicide spraying programs are stopped, and all the health and safety assessments have been satisfactorily concluded. Moreover, NORML said that any marijuana suspected of being contaminated with paraquat or other herbicides should be analyzed by a licensed pharmaceutical laboratory, such as Pharm Chem Research Foundation, 1844 Bay Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94303, (415) 322-9941, before being consumed.

"Marijuana contaminated with paraquat cannot easily be detected by the consumer," Stroup said, "though some seized samples have been described as 'sticky and yellowish.' Since good quality marijuana is also often gold in color, the potential for confusion is obvious. Consumers should not try to make this distinction themselves. The risk to their health is far too great."

Student Union News

With the warm weather here at last, Guilford is preparing to catch its annual spring fever. And what better way to go a little crazy than to watch *The Pink Panther* on Saturday night? In the first of a series of zany comedies, Peter Sellers plays the inimitable Inspector Clouseau. The film is supposedly about the theft and recovery of the fabulous Pink

Panther gem, but it's really a wonderful mixture of cops and robbers, runaway cars, bangles, slapstick, satire, and just plain fun. Come to Sternberger at 8:15 p.m. on March 25 for a night of excitement!

The Union also wishes you a happy Easter . . . may there be plenty of eggs in your basket.

Live On Campus Without Living in a Dorm

The Housing Office is now accepting proposals from any group of students interested in living in an alternate housing situation next year. Anyone intrigued by the possibility of living in one of the Dana Houses, George White Hall or Frazier 35/36 should submit a proposal to the Housing Office no later than April 7, 1978. Decisions regarding

occupancy will be made by April 15, 1978.

The proposal should include the special emphasis of the house (i.e. French HOuse, Cash-in-a-Flash, Men's Co-op), specific activities you would like to carry out next year, organization of the house, and the names of those students interested in the alternate housing.

SIX BILLION IS A LOT OF PEOPLE.

It is the number who will be living on the Earth by the year 2000.

Most of them will not have enough to eat. Most will be suffering from shortages of other essentials of life...

but there will be plenty of nuclear bombs—enough to kill all six billion twelve times over.

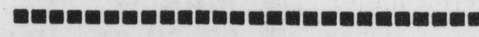
These people will not be strangers...

THEY WILL BE YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.

Governments that claim they cannot afford to eliminate poverty, rebuild cities, solve problems of unemployment, health and education, are already using untold billions for "defense" in an arms race that is likely to destroy us all.

We think it is time to change these priorities.

If you agree, you can help.



FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
Box 271, Nyack, New York 10960



Send me:

- Disarmament Petition
- Information on anti-nuclear action at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant in Denver, April 29 & 30
- Information on programs related to U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, New York, May-June.

Name.....

Address..... Zip.....

IMPORTANT MEETING

For all those registered and those who are interested in

SUMMER SCHOOLS ABROAD

- ENGLAND - Study art, literature, and sociology
- GERMANY - Study language and science
- FRANCE - Study culture, civilization and language
- GREECE - Study literature and history

Films will be shown of the various countries. Questions answered. Programs discussed.

Thursday March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Gallery Room

Founder's Hall

This will be the only meeting this Spring of all the schools!