

PRO

By Grey Arnold

A lot has been said over the years about the harmful effects of the killer-weed called marijuana. It was once believed to cause neurotic behavior, to cause insane immoral criminal acts, and to cause severe laziness and depression.

This is rhetoric. It should be clearly understood that almost all research is conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which is funded by the government. This leads to the probability that conclusions drawn by this organization are biased. On almost all experiments with negative results, the dosages given the animals far exceed proper normal human usage.

Rarely do people hear of the positive aspects of marijuana. Many credits can be given this mild narcotic. One such advantage is that it is a partial cure for the eye disease known as glaucoma. Marijuana can be given credit for the relief of nausea that always accompanies cancer therapy. Also it relieves the pressure of breathing in asthmatics.

What exactly is the question here? Should America legalize marijuana or should it just be decriminalized? Keith Stroup, director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) seems to advocate the decriminalization. Says Stroup, "The amazing increase in arrest for marijuana is ironic at a time when more and more groups, including the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse and the American Bar Association are calling for decriminalization.

There are also more practical reasons for decriminalization. The cost of enforcing a law, with such a widespread range of offenders, can be staggering. The cost of law enforcement ranges \$250-600 million annually, with law enforces admitting that only an average of ten percent is ever detected. Kieth Stroup recognizes this and thus advocates decriminalization. Stroup continued, "The latest data should certainly add impetus to the drive to decriminalize the estimated 36 million Americans who occasionally smoke marijuana. We should continue to discourage all recreational drug use, including alcohol and tobacco, as well as marijuana, but we should stop making criminals out of those who ignore our advice. Giving a criminal arrest record to the smoker only exacerbates the potential for harm." Prohibition has not worked, regulation should be given a chance.



The Weed?

Marijuana is scientifically known as Cannabis Sativa. The problem of marijuana is relatively new to mankind, but marijuana has been known to exist 3000 years before the Christian era.

Originating in India as a home remedy, the plant has spread to all corners of the globe. It is prevalent today in India, Burma, North Africa, Mexico, Central and South America, Indonesia, Indochina, the Caribbean and the United States.

Although it originated as a household remedy, it is now used also

in religious and social customs. Usually smoked, it induces a relaxed, calm, laid-back awareness to the user. This is because the active ingredient, THC, affects the central nervous system. This causes an increase in stimulation but a decrease in exhilaration.

As for long-term effects, science is silent. Some experts believe that marijuana is no more dangerous than coffee or tea. Others disagree, saying long-term, continued marijuana smoking does produce personality changes.



Galloway Wins Ms. Franklin County

"What a Wonderful Night Like Tonight!" was the tune that danced through the ten contestants' heads February 27th in the Louisburg College Auditorium. And a wonderful night it was. A new "Miss Franklin County" was crowned. And who was the lucky girl? Sonia Galloway, contestant number 8. Sonia sang a song from the hit movie "The Wiz," called "Home." Sonia is the 18 year-old daughter of Ralph and Mary Galloway of Durham. She was sponsored by Patten Dorm.

The position of first runner-up was presented to Tammie Fish, the daughter of Mr. Don Fish and Mrs. Thelma McCambell of Durham. Tammie, 19, chose a gymnastic dance routine, also from "The Wiz." She was sponsored by Stewart's Jewelers.

Second runner-up was presented to Kim Sells, the 18 year-old daughter of Mr. Roger Sells and Mrs. Sylvia Almond of Albemarle. Kim presented a selection from the movie "Funny Girl" titled "Second Hand Rose." She was sponsored by WYRN radio of Louisburg.

These three weren't the only lucky young ladies. The title of Miss Congeniality went to Tonya Burt, 19, of Wake County. Tonya also received a savings bond for the signature contest that was held.

The girls were judged in four different categories. They were: talent, counting 50%; private interview, counting 16 and two-thirds percent; swimsuit competition, counting 16 and two-thirds percent; and evening gown, counting 16 and two-thirds percent.

Laure Bessent served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. Special entertainment was provided by Vicki Tharrington, "Miss North Carolina Charm." The reigning "Tobacco Queen," Celia Horne, gave away the crown. The Louisburg Ensemble gave an opening number presentation. The audience was also entertained by a parade of visiting queens.

Puzzle Answer

PAIR	DAM	BATH			
ACRE	ETA	OGEE			
SHOP	LES	NEAR			
SENATE	TODDLE				
	SIT	ENE			
MANTLE	REDUCE				
AGO		RUE			
PEWTER	TUNNEL				
	ERE	ALE			
REPEAT	SEEMED				
OMIT	ALT	DOLE			
BITE	REE	LAMA			
STAR	DAD	ETON			

CON

A heated debate in today's society is whether to advocate or not the legalization of marijuana. The facts are plainly available to the public. These facts are also plainly conclusive that marijuana smoking is harmful to one's health.

A common argument is that scientific research is biased. This would be hard to prove, but it is well known that all research is not only subject to publication in professional journals but also is reviewed by a scientist's colleagues.

Scientists have found that the active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is fat-soluble and collects in fatty organs such as the brain and reproductive organs. One BUZZ (three to four joints) requires the following three to five days for half of the THC to leave the body. The other half takes about twenty-seven days.

The effects of THC vary. For some, it is a stimulant and gives a mild relaxation. Others become hyperactive and lose the ability to concentrate. Still others come to depend so much on the effects they receive that they deprive themselves of any other proper emotion except a high. Marijuana seems to affect the nervous system. It also affects reaction time, concentration, motivation and memory. A study at UCLA shows that someone who smokes one joint a day for two years experiences a 25% increase in airway resistance in the lungs.

Marijuana affects other parts of the body also. The Reproductive Biological Research Foundation in St. Louis shows that three times as many women have defective or irregular menstrual cycles with heavy use of marijuana. Dr. Carol Smith, director of studies, says, "We're extremely concerned about the effects of marijuana on the developing reproduction systems of both female and male teenagers. This phase of development is particularly vulnerable to disruption by pot."

In conclusion, it is safe to say that the smoking of marijuana is not safe, is not advisable, and should not be made legal. The vices of alcohol and cigarettes are enough of a health hazard without adding a new danger.

That's right. I made another movie. You know me. I can't stop creating.

OH, GOD! BOOK II

GEORGE BURNS — DIRECTOR BOOK II

CAST: SUZANNE ALSHULTZ, DAVID BIRNBY, JOUJANNE, CHARLIE FOX, JONATHAN GREENFIELD, TOM GREENFIELD, HAL COLEMAN, ERIC FOX, SAM, ACOS, MELISSA MILLER

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