

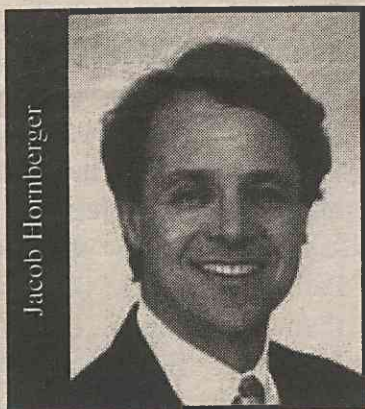
Liberal arts forum speaker says: *Let's retire the drug war*

Jacob Hornberger

Guest Columnist

Retired Army General Barry McAfree has ended his position as America's drug czar. If only he would take the war on drugs with him. Of all the domestic wars the U.S. government has waged in the last several decades, the war on drugs has got to be the most immoral and destructive of them all.

The drug war has constituted a frontal attack on individual liberty. It has provided an excuse for government officials to trample the Constitution, especially the provisions of



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the Fourth Amendment. It has caused death and destruction of innocent people, not only here in America but overseas as well. It has provided a means by which racism has been able

to raise its ugly face in an innocent guise. And by everyone's standards, the war on drugs has failed to accomplish its own purported goals despite at least 30 years of warfare.

What does it mean to be free? At the very least, freedom entails the right of every adult to sit in the privacy of his own home and do whatever he wants, as long as his conduct is peaceful and nonabusive. Drink beer. Smoke cigarettes. Snort cocaine. Watch dirty movies. Listen to music with obscene and violent lyrics. Read smutty books. Have sex. Eat fatty foods. Cuss. Even criticize government officials.

If a grown-up is subject to being

punished by the state for engaging in any of this conduct, then no one in society is free. And it doesn't matter whether you yourself never engage in any of it. If the state has the power to punish anyone for doing it, then that's a society in which tyranny is reigning for everyone.

The drug war enables and encourages the police to peer into your windows, examine your trash, monitor your bank accounts, turn your children into stool pigeons, haul you into court and send you to jail for engaging in what public officials consider to be personal, immoral conduct within the privacy of your very own home. Is this the kind of country you want for yourself and your family?

Nothing but bad results. Look at what they've done to our Constitution, which our ancestors intended to be an impenetrable barrier against unreasonable searches and seizures. Whether you're in your car, at the airport, walking down the street or even in your own home, you're subject to being accosted and searched by the drug police and their drug dogs, especially if your skin happens to be dark.

What better way to wage bigoted wars against racial minorities than the drug war? Does anyone really believe that it's only a coincidence that federal and state penitentiaries are filled with blacks and Hispanics who have violated drug laws? That racial profiling takes place because cops have a good-hearted concern that blacks and Hispanics are ingesting harmful substances? Ever since

President Nixon declared war on drugs (and antiwar protesters), U.S. officials have invaded foreign countries; had drug lords extradited to the United States; killed innocent people in drug raids; barged through doors all across America; executed countless search warrants, many of them based on perjured testimony; arrested, indicted, and incarcerated tens of thousands of nonviolent people; confiscated millions of dollars in private assets, much of it from innocent people; invaded the privacy of thousands of financial institutions; expanded the ranks of law-enforcement; and spent hundreds of millions of dollars.

What do they have to show for it after 30 years of warfare? Good intentions? Through it all, they've never answered two fundamentally important questions with respect to the issue of individual liberty. Why should the state have the power to punish adults for ingesting harmful substances? Does not the very essence of human liberty entail the unfettered right to engage in self-destructive behavior?

For more than three decades, the drug war has assaulted our liberty, invaded our privacy, trashed our Constitution, increased our taxes, and provided an innocent cover for government bigotry. It's time to put the war on drugs out to pasture.

(Jacob G. Hornberger is President of the Future of Freedom Foundation. He will be lecturing at tonight at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre. All students, faculty, staff, and members of the community are invited to this event sponsored by the Liberal Arts Forum.)

Elon's offices deserve a world of credit

Cameron Dejong

Columnist

The beginning of this senior year at Elon has most definitely been one I have not desired. Having just returned from my parents' house after battling a case of mono, I decided to take the time to reflect on the experiences I have had with various offices at Elon University since the summer.

My family incurred some financial trouble over the summer with my father's business having lower-than-usual sales. I knew I would need more financial aid to be able to afford my Elon education. This led me to the financial aid office. Mrs. Karen Walter helped me with most of my issues. However, it was not just that she and others in the office helped me. The great thing about it is that they remembered me after my first visit. Beyond that, they were extremely friendly and hospitable. I was able to attend classes after they were able to adjust my financial aid award. My experience with Financial Planning will forever be remembered as a positive one.

On the first day of classes, I read a flyer about receiving a loan for textbooks. I decided to run up to Residence Life to check it out. I knew Tammy Hill from my days as a CDC and recalled her as one of the most caring people at the college. She did not fail me this time either. She was very helpful in getting me the assistance I needed for

my textbooks. I know I can count on Tammy as a consistent smiling face in the Residence Life office.

The next trip I made was to the Registrar's office to have the hours of one of my classes adjusted. Many of you know the registrar, Mark Albertson. I met him last year at an award's dinner and I think he's one of the greatest assets within the Elon administration. He went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that my class schedule was adjusted properly.

By this time I was pretty surprised. I had been to three different offices on campus and left without thinking I was at a University. My next stop would be the Bursar's office. There was a little bit of confusion there over the repayment of a loan, but in the end they proved to be efficient with processing my refund request so I could pay for other college expenses. Any frustration shown by the workers was most likely the result of the sector of students that don't read their handbooks or don't read the writing on the wall before they start asking questions. So the frustration is most definitely forgivable.

Dr. George Troxler and Martha Hill in Cultural Programs are also to be commended in this early year "credit column." They both work very hard to bring excellent events to the Elon student body. I can not fail to mention tonight's lecture by Jacob Hornberger in the McCrary Theatre at 7:30. His speech will dis-

cuss why we must end the war on drugs. It must be credited to people such as Dr. Troxler and the Liberal Arts Forum for allowing such innovative and informative speakers to visit the campus.

Of course my most important experience so far this year at Elon was at Health Services. I felt ill since the first day of school and thought I had strep throat. When going to health services, I made the bonehead move of going to the back door. The nurse, who is extremely nice but her name slips my mind, let me in and I went to the front. The health services building is really amazing. Even if you are not ill, I'd suggest that you ask for a tour of the building. The name that stands out in Health Services and always will is that of Kitty Parrish. She administered the blood work for the mono test that I took. Upon finding out the next day that the test was positive, she calmly and kindly discussed options of class and returning home with my family. When I went home with my parents, Kitty called at least three times to check to ensure that I was doing well.

I cannot fail to thank Pam and Chalmers Brumbaugh for their sincere and appreciated hospitality during my illness. I recommend that all of Chalmer's students and advisees ask for "Chalmer's chili" and Pam's chocolate chip cookies! Thank you!

All of the above situations may

seem like pie in the sky to some of the readers. However, it is the culmination of them all that led me to write this column. One may think I am a freshman at Elon—I am a senior. And in my few years at Elon I have always shown respect and have been given respect back from various sectors of the administration. In previous years I have had great experiences in admissions (Catherine Williams is my savior. She knows what I mean!), in Student Life, at the Moseley front desk and in too many other offices to mention. My point to you is that you must take advantage of these resources. In taking advantage of these resources, you can simply go to the places I have dis-

cussed and introduce yourself. Tell Mr. Albertson hello and tell him your name. I almost promise he'll remember you. Go to residence life and introduce yourself to Tammy Hill. She'll brighten your day with her kindness and her smile. Go reserve a space in the Moseley Center with Michael Williams. He's one of the nicest people you could ever meet.

By taking advantage, you are adding to your education. You are building the blocks necessary for your future. I feel I have taken advantage of the resources granted to me at Elon and I will never regret meeting and interacting with all of the people that I have.