

# VERITAS

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## A Great American Myth - The Killer Weed

There are an estimated 10,000,000 regular or occasional users of marijuana in the United States today. The present laws on grass are antiquated statutes quickly pushed through Congress by terrified men paying no heed to basic rights or scientific fact. These iron-hand laws are not only bad for those who indulge in the smoking of pot but also for the vast multitudes who do not. The laws will soon be changed, but will they change in a favorable way? Every intelligent and fair-minded individual should be

concerned with the new laws and their provisions. At the present time, under Federal laws, you can be locked up for five to 20 years for giving grass to a friend. For the second offense of this type the penalty is ten to forty years, the Federal law also imposes a two to 10 year sentence for simple possession and five to 20 years for a second offense. The various state laws are even more ridiculous with at least one state imposing the death penalty for sale of marijuana to a minor. One can plainly see the

over-severity of such laws for such a minor "crime" as smoking a number or two.

The older generation, who are the chief proponents of these police-state laws should be the ones to realize the implications of marijuana prohibition. They lived through the period of alcohol prohibition in the twenties and witnessed the moral decay brought on by this mass display of puritanism. Not only were the drinkers affected but also the

non-drinkers -- the everyday person in the street. This legislation brought on disrespect for law and order, violence and an increase in other crimes which causes the U.S. government to be frowned upon with contempt by the people it was attempting to protect. Today, the banning of marijuana has produced an undercurrent of discontent which perhaps spurs the revolutionary and rebellious spirit of youth. Is it right for morality to be placed

above fact and common sense?

There have been many recent experimental programs that have explored the "killer weed" and the results are very interesting. It has been proven unlikely that pot has any serious physical effects in either short or long term use. It has also been shown that tobacco and alcohol have more adverse effects on the human body than marijuana. And so, we have the kill-

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## Budget Controversy

By ED CONNER

Bill Walker, a member of the Student Senate and a sponsor of the petition to audit the S.G.A. funds stated that he feels the budget is in good shape now after being revised in the Senate on the basis of the Audit Committee's recommendations. The Audit Committee, under the supervision of Mrs. Council, offered a number of recommendations which were all passed immediately by the Senate. Walker said President Comninaki vetoed only the one concerning removal of the outside telephone lines in the S.G.A. office and the Senate overrode his veto by 16-3. Walker feels many S.G.A. officials lately have taken advantage of their positions, and used S.G.A. funds indiscreetly, such as personal phone calls, personal magazine subscriptions, etc. But now, he says, there are no more loopholes, such as general or miscellaneous expenses, in the budget and S.G.A. funds will now be used more effectively and beneficially for the students.

President Comninaki, however, said he thought the budget was in good shape before revision, and that the changes in the budget have affected the ability of the executive branch of the S.G.A. to function as efficiently as it did previously. Comninaki said all the recommendations were agreed to by him except the removal of the outside telephone line, which he vetoed and was overridden by the Senate. Now, he stated, the S.G.A. doesn't have an effective outside line and this hinders the S.G.A. in rendering aid to students. Comninaki feels the Senate far overstepped its bounds and has severely limited the functioning ability of the executive branch.

President Comninaki had the following statement to make concerning the Senate's decisions: "The Senate this year and the Auditing Committee have so limited the executive branch that it leaves this administration and all following administrations two choices -- what time to pen the office and whether or not to be responsive to student pleas."

## It Can't Happen Here

By JOAN R. RIGGAN

On Nov. 5, 1969 at approximately 12:30 a.m. several girls on third floor West heard a man talking over the intercom. Now this was an unusual experience. After hearing this man several girls went downstairs to see what was happening. When they got downstairs they saw someone running away from the front of West dorm. Naturally everyone began to talk about the incident.

Safety should be the concern of all persons at Elon College. It is characteristic to say violent acts can't happen at Elon College, but let's face reality, anything can happen and at any time. The girls at Elon College should not have to fear anything or anyone, and we should have a feeling of security while in our respective dorms.

What is wrong and what can be done are basic questions that need to be considered. For many years the security measures for West dormitory have been out

of date. Anyone who wants to get into the dormitory could very easily do so. With all the workmen that are in and out of the dorm it would be very easy to hide in the dorms. The doors around West dorm are not very secure.

Regarding the actions that should be taken to remedy the security of the dorms must be taken seriously by everyone. There should be a burglar alarm installed on all doors of the dorms. This would serve a dual purpose. It would provide a way to insure safety to all girls and would keep girls from sneaking out of the dorm in the early hours of the morning.

Also there should be better surveillance of the dorms during the night. By doing this they could prevent anyone from getting in the dorms at night.

The girls should always lock their doors for their own safety. If they don't care why should anyone else? It can't happen here? Don't be too sure.

In an age of increasing liberality when great strides are being made elsewhere to free students from backward, outdated, pointless rules and regulations, Elon College still drifts sleepily along with the tide of "things - as - they - are - and - always - will - be." Consider women's rules, for instance. Among some of the changes made this year are:

(1) Dorm closing hours have been extended from 12 to 1 on Friday nights, from 12:30 to 1:00 on Saturday nights, and from 11:30 to 12 on Sunday nights. However, girls may now take only one 1/2 - hour late per night, whereas formerly upperclassmen were allowed to take a maximum of two lates on any given night. This means that last year an upperclassman could conceivably stay out until 1:30 (on a Saturday night), while still under the new system, the latest an upperclassman can stay out is 1:30 on any Friday or Saturday night. (Freshmen have no late privileges whatsoever

this year.)

(2) Girls are now allowed to have "blanket permission," which means that to leave campus for an overnight or weekend, all a girls must do is indicate her destination and companions by signing the dorm hostess' sign-out book. (Providing her parents have signed a form agreeing that she may have blanket permission.) This represents a great improvement over the former rule regarding overnights, when a girl was required to obtain a note of invitation from the household at which she would be spending her time away from campus. Since this note of invitation was required to be in Dean Looney's office by the Wednesday preceding the weekend a girl planned to be away, it was impossible to leave campus without much planning ahead of time, and spur-of-the-moment visits were prevented.

(3) Payment of dorm dues (50¢ per semester) is no longer mandatory. In the past, the funds obtained by the collection of these dues have been used for dorm

parties at Christmas, and for buying presents for the house-mothers and Dean Looney. Many girls expressed their opposition to paying these dues this year, and it was decided by the Women's Interdormitory Council that payment would be on an individual, voluntary basis.

Although on the surface it may appear that the women of Elon have been granted extra freedoms and privileges, in actuality conditions have improved very little. Perhaps at the root of this problem lies the administrators' very attitudes toward the students; I personally once heard an administrative official refer to Elon students as "the children." More people should start to realize that college students are not "children" any more, and that to treat them as children is to do them a grave injustice. While women's rules are but a small part of the overall problem, they are nonetheless significant and should be regarded as such.

## Street Politics

The "silent majority" which inspires Nixon's foreign policy may become a remote abstraction this weekend with the presence in Washington, D. C. of hundreds of thousands of anti-war types. And that majority should well become remote because of its very silence.

No history breathed through Nixon's outline of East Asian-American politics. That majority of which he speaks is traditionally not a thinking, politically conscious mass but an inert, receptive blob; a species which only responds to stimuli and then in a dull manner. What gives stimulus and historically make the politics is the thinking, active minority, usually an educated class, the "doers" in politics.

Nixon showed passing respect for the right to demonstrate dissent but said that the policies of the United States cannot emanate from that minority. Find strength in that word Sir, but don't consider who is in the minority. The silent majority does not analyze your policies any further

than a nod of approval at your "honorable settlement." This taste good provided you don't mention that the United States must lose no face and must retain her everlasting military supremacy.

The minority which takes politics to the streets are scorned by Nixon. From an Greensboro Daily News editorial in the Oct. Moratorium, this is where they must be taken by those who cannot be heard from the voting booths; From a Newsweek letter. "When a considerable number of a na-

tion's citizens think enough of an issue to take it to the street, the same streets where American political campaigns are waged, thus that demonstration is worth consideration."

Washington should surpass Woodstock for solidarity of sentiment. The question for the remainder of the year-were you at Washington? Let the active, thinking minority at Elon misrepresent the sentiment at Elon by making Washington. Contact SGA for rides to Washington if you're willing to share expenses.

### "It won't be long now"

Here are the official Pentagon figures for the number of troops in Vietnam for the last 6 weeks:

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Aug. 31  | 509,800 |
| Sept. 4  | 509,600 |
| Sept. 11 | 508,000 |
| Sept. 18 | 510,200 |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Sept. 25   | 511,500 |
| Oct. 2   | 509,600 |
| Net withdrawal in six weeks  | 200     |
| At this rate we would withdraw 1,732 men every 12 months and be out of Vietnam in 294 years. |         |