

Law For Laypersons

Marijuana, Part I

(Written by Charles C. Lewis, Assistant Professor of Law, Campbell College School of Law for the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers and distributed as a public service)

Back in the early 1960's, we started hearing more and more about marijuana and the people who enjoyed smoking it. As the smoking of marijuana became more widespread, the strict drug laws already on the books were enforced against marijuana users found themselves facing stiff fines and long imprisonments.

Many of you may remember the cry for reform that arose from those who insisted that the stiff penalties then in force were not appropriate against those convicted of smoking or possessing only a small amount of marijuana. The reformers insisted that marijuana was a fairly innocent drug when compared to the more dangerous and addictive ones, and a lesser punishment, if any at all, should be provided for a conviction for possession of marijuana.

Because of that cry for reform and also because of the obvious need to update drug laws written long before the use and abuse of drugs became so prevalent, legislatures across the country rewrote their drug laws to attempt to state plainly and clearly what drug-related activities were crimes and what the punishment should be for each specific drug crime.

North Carolina's present drug statute, entitled, "North Carolina Controlled Substances Act", is set out in the General Statutes beginning with No. 90-86. The provisions of the Act state that it is unlawful for any person to possess a controlled substance. Thereafter, the act categorizes all such controlled substances into six categories which

American farmers have boosted their corn production from 4.7 billion bushel in 1974 to 7.8 billion bushels in 1979. That's an increase of 45 percent in four years, according to Sperry New Holland.

Each American farmers is now producing food and fiber for 65 people. That's up dramatically in the past decade, rising from 47 people fed by each farmer in 1970, according to Sperry New Holland. The latest USDA figures indicate 46 Americans and 19 people abroad are eating the food produced by each member of our farm labor force.

The ash from Mount St. Helens should have no long-lasting effect on the soil, reports the USDA. The ash contains sulphur, iron

and aluminum oxide, and is no more acidic than rainwater.



Some ancient Roman ladies were so determined that their portraits never go out of fashion that their busts were sculpted with removable sculpted hair that could be changed when desired.

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