

Marijuana Topic Is Touchy Subject These Days?

On Gay Rights

These days the marijuana topic is so touchy.

But still there is much literature on the drug, probably because of the interest. The following article is not a pro or con statement on marijuana, instead it only warrants what is assumed about the drug.

There is an aspect about marijuana that is more certain and that is its history. It has been traced as far back as 4,000 years ago in China. A few years later it spread to India and was used in religious ceremonies. And even in some places it was used as medicine. Once it reached Egypt, it was banned by the land conquerer Napoleon because of the effects he saw.

In 1975 Consumer Reports said that the drug was relatively harmless. A report in Canada by the LeDain Commission in 1973 reported virtually the same. And another U.S. Government report entitled "Marijuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding," stated that "there is no conclusive evidence of physical damage or interference with the body's processes even when large amounts are used."

But there are organizations such as the World Health Organization maintaining that marijuana is a dangerous drug. Dr. Olay J. Braenden, director of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, concluded that marijuana is harmful from results of 26 laboratory findings from different parts of the world.

This organization says one thing and that expert expresses another sentiment. Many people use marijuana anyway. And why? One guess is that they don't see any harm so why should they worry?

The fact still remains that something somewhere in the body is altered. Recent research claims that the ingredient THC, found in the cannabis sativa (hemp plant), is deposited into the fatty tissues of the brain. The THC can effect the brain from three to maybe 18 days because some of the particles remain



Bits & Pieces

With Teresa Burns

Teresa

active. THC also accumulates in the ovaries and the testes.

Tests have shown the tar content of cannabis smoke to be "50 percent higher than that of tobacco." The Institute of Experimental Cancer Research in Switzerland states that more damage is done to a marijuana smoker than to a tobacco smoker in regards to lung cancer, chronic bronchitis and emphysema. If this is true where are those sick marijuana smokers. Well remember once tobacco smoking was deemed relatively harmless, but today after many have used the tobacco continuously for years, the little sticks are now known to be "hazardous to your health."

But there are people who have been smoking marijuana for

years - treating joints just like cigarettes and nothing has happened to them yet. Does that mean that everyone will be so lucky?

There are still people who have never tried marijuana but because the drug is becoming more accepted many more are trying it - young and old. Eleven states have changed their laws so that no longer is possession of a small amount of marijuana a crime. Lighter civil penalties are now applied to first convictions.

It is so easy to go to the extreme, pro or con, about the marijuana issue. Is it a disturbance of the brain function causing impairment of judgment of time and distance, or is it simply a temporary mellow high with no permanent ill

effects. Does marijuana really adversely effect the memory, attention span and logical thinking, or does one even experience these reactions? Will the lungs or respiratory system be damaged or children produced deformed? Or is that just something that happens to other people and not us? + + + +

Grover Cleveland, president in 1888 was the last Democratic incumbent U.S. President to be defeated in re-election. Cleveland captured the plurality of the popular vote against Republican Benjamin Harrison but lost the decision making Electoral College votes of New York and Indiana. Thus Cleveland lost this race. He, however, won the election four years later.

Just think only ten years ago the average price for a barrel of oil from the OPEC countries cost \$2.15. Today it has shot up to \$37. Petroleum experts are looking for the price to be jacked up to \$50 a barrel. If this occurs underdeveloped countries with no oil of their own may go bankrupt and only survive with the aid of Western nations.

Let's look on the bright side - Brazilian cities have started to sell alcohol instead of just gasoline or diesel fuel.

continued from Page 2 well as a female teacher. Why just the concentration on homosexuals. The hound is as much a threat as the homosexual except in the desires. If we argue morals and principles, then the campaign should be focused on sexuality in schools. The overzealous efforts on Mrs. Bryant's part to concentrate on homosexuality leaves me to believe that she condones all other teacher-student relationships.

My point is this - hound or homosexual, male or female, black or white judge on ability only when it comes to employment. If some immoral practice is discovered then the school system is within its rights to dismiss someone. But to dismiss someone on the possibilities of what could happen is an infringement of an individual's rights. I think the Supreme Court was wrong in not taking a strong stand for human rights.

Before closing, a word must be said about sweet Anita Bryant. Anita is a former Miss America, the orange juice queen, and a crusader for Christ; a nice, wholesome, red-blooded white woman. She is perfect! What true red-blooded American wouldn't follow her to the end of the earth? If Anita says it, it

must be true. This alone is enough to make me suspicious. But I listened to her arguments on why she was crusading for Christ and why she was taking on the gays and my suspicions were turned to disbelief.

Not being blasphemous or anything, but I never have believed an argument that centered its facts on Chris'

Post Office Changes Main Phone Numbers

Post Office spokesman Willie Stratford reports that a new telephone system is being installed at the General Mail Facility and all previous phone numbers have been changed.

Among the most frequently called numbers are the new numbers for:

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 - Delivery and Collection - 393-4467
 - Mail Processing - 393-4480
 - Workroom Floor - 393-4522 and 393-4533
- For a department not listed, call 393-4422.

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BY THE WAY...

By Joe Black

Thirty-three years have passed since Jackie Robinson electrified the sports world and ballplayers alike when he played his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers. By becoming the first Black player to integrate modern-day major league baseball, Jackie and the Dodgers made sports history. However, an important concomitant was the fact that this event created a new and better-paying job opportunity for Black males. Number 42 really had things jumping.

Wherever Jackie Robinson and the Dodgers played, ball parks were filled with fans who wanted to see Jackie Robinson hit that ball. Don't get me wrong. All of them weren't there to cheer Jackie; too many were there to jeer him. But the 25% to 35% of those fans who were Black and attended those games inspired Jackie to perform as a champion.

The revenue from the Black spectators motivated some baseball owners to look for more Jackie Robinsons. And they found some; the successes of Doby, Campy, Newk, Monte, "Minnie," and Willie paved the way for Black ballplayers to make up 38% of today's major league rosters.

Although the number of athletes on the ball field has increased, we have not made real gains in non-playing positions in baseball. The recent signing of Maury Wills gives us our third Black manager. If Maury's first effort fails, will he be "bucked" off the horse as were Frank Robinson and Larry Doby, or will he remain on the merry-go-round? Hank Aaron is our only Black vice president; Bill White, our only everyday play-by-play announcer; and the late Bill Lucas, the only Black general manager.

Is the dearth of opportunities the result of racism? That is the primary cause, but we cannot forget that the Black ballplayers lack power. You see, quite often the action of club owners is motivated by money. Since Black attendance to major league baseball games has dropped to about 9%, owners are not fearful of a great profit loss if they fail to give executive jobs to former Black ballplayers. So, Black America, if you want more executive jobs for Black heroes, then we must attend games in greater numbers.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

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