

Pot laws need reforming

Graffiti does not belong in classroom buildings

During football season the most obvious school spirit is bourbon, except during the State game. Then, as may plainly be seen over the campus, it takes the form of childish and obnoxious graffiti.

Tuesday we asked that State fans restrain themselves and, if they had to, to take their emotions out on the Cube or on street pavement. So, instead of marring our buildings on the outside, they painted the insides. Admittedly, a few wayward Carolina fans started the immature exchange by invading Raleigh this past weekend, but there is no reason for mistakes to create even greater misjudgments.

Hamilton Hall, Gardner and even Silent Sam were the hapless victims of State's not so harmless pranks. We urge Carolina students not to reciprocate. Let's get our revenge on the football field.

In the last day or two, students have even called to ask if the DTH knew where State keeps it wolf. Whatever happens innocent animals should not be stolen or painted blue. Ramses has suffered similar fates all too often. Harmless animals should lead the cheering, not become the butt of practical jokes.

There are numerous outlets for emotion other than the destructive or the malicious versions we have already seen. The anti-State joke contest, eliminating farm subsidies or setting up a roadblock for tractors would be far more effective. A few disparaging remarks about State's new grading system (which literally guarantees graduation) would be appropriate.

One of the curious things about the Carolina-State rivalry is that the two schools are so similar. Athletic fervor only accentuates what few differences there are. We have our rednecks and our tractor drivers, too. If the two schools weren't so similar (i.e. if State really were terribly inferior) the jokes and the rivalry wouldn't be so amusing.

But on top of this underlying brotherhood, it is fun to heighten our differences with caricature and humor. The only problem arises

when either side becomes overzealous.

Only yesterday a State fan was arrested on this campus for defacing a building. Students should enjoy themselves, but not at the expense of others, or of the university.

It used to be that when you saw four Carolina students, there was always a fifth. Now there may also be an ugly spray-paint sign saying "Go to Hell State." Graffiti belongs to bathrooms, not classroom buildings.

Today in the Pit

Bike registration

All students owning bicycles will find it wise and in their self-interest to register their bicycles today.

Bikes may be registered from 12 noon to 5 p.m. right in the middle of campus—at the Pit—and costs only 50 cents.

Bike registration involves (1) identifying the bike by serial number, model and frame number and putting this in police files; (2) checking the bike for proper lights and reflectors; and (3) permanently marking the frame of the bike with the owner's drivers license number.

What are the benefits?

After Dec. 1, a \$10 fine plus court costs may be levied against anyone who has not registered his bicycle.

You may figure that's a poor reason to register, but the best reason is to safeguard against theft.

In the period of February through June, 1974, more than \$21,000 worth of bikes were stolen. Using a little math, one sees that's better than a bike a day. And, the present return rate on stolen bicycles is less than 10 per cent.

Along with the registration drive, police at Duke, N.C. State and N.C. Central will exchange information on stolen bikes with UNC's Campus Police. This should increase the return rate.

So taking 5 minutes and paying 50 cents now may save you lots of time and money later on.

"Twelve-o'clock High" at the Bell Tower reminds me of the benign-neglect attitude of the British crown toward the colonies prior to the Revolution. Just as Whitehall looked the other way when smuggling and other illegal trading practices were prevalent in the colonies, so do the campus police refrain from destroying a pleasant day for the counterculture.

Many arguments have been waged on the subject of the legalization of marijuana. Most older people seem to oppose its legalization; most young people tend to feel that it is absurd to have laws penalizing marijuana users, while alcoholics threaten the safety of highways.

One aspect of this controversial issue has been largely overlooked. This is the flagrant disrespect for the law as exemplified by "Twelve O'clock Highs" throughout the nation. Marijuana use violates the law, yet many law enforcement agencies have not arrested those guilty of this crime.

We must ask ourselves whether or not it is more important to restore respect for the laws, regardless of their popularity, either by (a.) legalization of marijuana, (b.) decriminalization of the drug, or (c.) enforcement of anti-marijuana statutes, or continue to avoid social confrontations by the non-enforcement of laws forbidding its use.

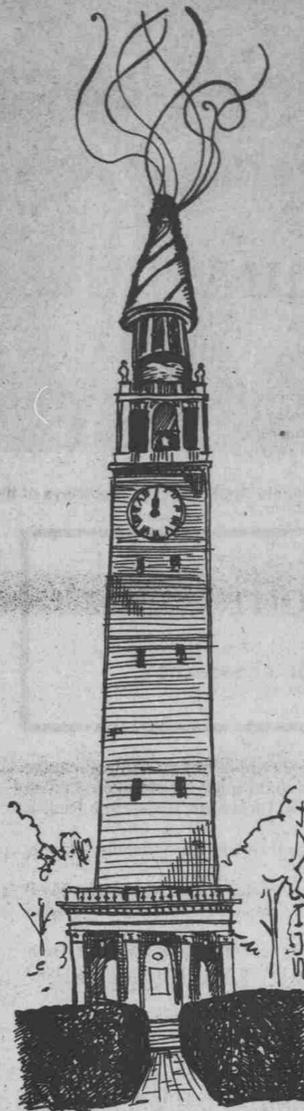
Can society afford to have laws which it knows are not only abused, but condoned by its administrators of justice? I think not.

The time has come for individual states to reform their anti-pot statutes. No longer should the laws concerning drugs be mocked by both citizenry and the police. No longer should the simple possession of minimal amounts of grass be illegal.

The cycle of debate over the potential harm created by marijuana to the human body is not over. Medical opinion seems divided. Regardless of the massive evidence compiled against pot, most marijuana users will not heed these warnings anyhow. Previous drug education efforts by the government resulted in their loss of credibility.

The fact that over twenty-five million people in the U.S. have smoked pot proves the futility of those arguments which declare that marijuana is (1) addictive, (2) a narcotic, (3) conducive to heroin use, and (4) produces violent behavior.

In fact, I am thoroughly convinced that because of past government "misinformation" on the nature of marijuana (until the passage of the



Controlled Substances Act of 1970 which declared that marijuana was not a narcotic, young people began to experiment with "harder" drugs. This tragic effort by the state to exaggerate the danger of pot is partially responsible for the great number of heroin addicts in this country. The decriminalization of marijuana

would eliminate twenty-five million Americans from the criminal list. It would also lead to the reduction of its use for the simple reason that many pot smokers, particularly adolescents, smoke as an act of rebellion against society and for the exciting, clandestine nature of its procurement and use. I do not believe that millions more Americans will take up the habit because of its "sudden" decriminalization. Those who want to smoke it, do so now, regardless of its "illegality."

As is the case with most victimless crimes, the enforcement of pot laws is quite an arduous task for the law. I think society, via its legislative avenues, can make the police's job quite a bit easier with the decriminalization of marijuana and in doing so will empty our jails of thousands of unfortunate pot smokers whose only crime was a lit cigarette.

This proposal does not advocate the use of pot nor does it intend to encourage those advocates of legalization of the drug. Young people should be discouraged to use any drug or stimulant which is potentially dangerous to their minds and bodies. The legalization of pot would make it just as easy for a sixteen-year old to purchase a pack of "Zowies" as it is for him to secure a pack of "Camels."

Decriminalization of "small" amounts of dope would enable law enforcers to concentrate on arresting the sellers of the drug. If the number of arrests of growers and distributors equalled the number of parking tickets given out in one week in New York City alone, then real progress in discouraging dope would be made.

I realize that marijuana is alien to Western civilization and offensive to most Americans. After all, most pot smokers belong to the counterculture whose degenerate values jeopardize our institutions. But the preservation of those very institutions (e.g. our legal institutions, the courts, the police) cannot be attained by the continued disrespect for our legal system. Accelerated prosecution of marijuana users comes too little, too late, is totally infeasible, and will only lead to a further polarization in our already divided society.

Decriminalization of pot will not lead to the fall of the republic. It will only tend to make room in our crowded jails for some real criminals and restore a much needed respect for the rule of law.

Rorin Platt is a junior political science major from Greensboro.



'WHATSOEVER ELSE YOU FIND, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT, OR APOLOGIZE FOR IT'

Letter to the editors

Moo U. can't cope

To the editors:

You think that school spirit was carried a little too far? Have we so suddenly forgotten when the columns of the Old Well were painted Duke blue, or during last year's Duke game when the Blue Devils shaved Ramses and painted "DUKE" on his side.

And don't think that our agronomist friends over at State have not pulled a few good pranks in the past. For your information, our victory bell disappeared last year only to turn up in Raleigh at the State-UNC game, with a rather sloppy coat of red paint. Also the upper deck of State's Carter Stadium is lined with flags denoting each school in the ACC. During last year's State game, about 30 spirited State fans took the Carolina flag from its pole and ripped it to shreds, each of them receiving a piece.

Is there anyone at Carolina that can't see that our future farmers over at Cow College

aren't getting a case of the big head. They just can't handle the idea of being NCAA basketball champs. And after that amazing last minute comeback in last Saturday's State-Virginia game, those rednecks got a little too big for their shoes.

Now everyone knows that the Heels are going to literally grind the Wolfpack into the turf of Kenan Stadium. The students at Moo U. might not be able to cope with this situation, so a few loyal and concerned UNC fans decided to gently break the news to them — on the walls of their barns. It would be a sin to close this letter without saying "Go to hell State." And always remember that a State graduate is always outstanding — outstanding in his corn field.

Victor Stephenson
Rick Verderamo
Knott Proctor
6th floor James

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Laura Toler

Financial help for day care centers an urgent need

Good day care centers cost money. That's why the nine non-profit day care centers in the Chapel Hill area have asked the city government for help.

However, because state law does not specifically provide for municipal funding of day care centers, the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen was unable to allocate the needed funds. Instead, a mayor's task force was set up to study alternative means to aid the centers. But the task force will not even be able to report on this urgent need until January or February 1975.

There are no legal roadblocks in the way of action by the Orange County Board of Commissioners. State law says that educational and social services are the responsibility of the county. But members of the board hesitate.

In view of the many claimants tugging at governmental purse strings, it might be wise to examine the urgency of the nurseries' needs, as well as the number of citizens benefited by their services, before endorsing such an allocation.

Lack of funds means shortages of equipment and inadequate staff salaries for day care

workers, according to Lynn Hefner, director of the Chapel Hill Day Care Center. Yearly wages at the center for college graduates amount to \$4,000 or \$5,000.

Tuition has already gone up to \$80 per month, and few scholarships are provided, which means the center cannot serve many children from low-income families. Hefner maintains the financial problems at the other eight centers are comparable to, if not worse than, her own.

Obviously, then, day care centers need more money from somewhere if they are to operate efficiently. Perhaps the more important question is whether the taxpayer should be the one to fork over his dollars.

Generally speaking, three sectors of society are directly aided by day care service.

First, there is the upper echelon liberated mom. Not only is she eager to fulfill herself with some occupation other than tending the playpen, but she is also interested in a more enriching preschool educational experience for her children. She probably learned in college that a person's capacity to learn has been determined almost

completely by the time he is four by the amount of intellect-stimulating material that has been a part of his environment.

Second, there are the divorced parents who must be able to depend on day care so they can work to support their families.

Third, and close to this category, are the poor families, who could earn far more if both parents were free from child care and able to work. Community Action workers in the area have called day care their number one concern, a program that would give the poor the boost they need to make their own way and forego handouts.

Who, then, is left with no stake in day care whatsoever?

Some may be unwilling to see their hard-earned tax dollars go for scholarships for the children of the poor, while they must pay tuition. Still others may be opposed to the concept of "socialized children." They maintain that a parent has a unique obligation to raise his own children, lavishing upon them the individual attention they need. Finally, those who have no

children may not be interested in paying to train the offspring of others.

Surely, though, each of these factions can come to see that by helping others they help themselves in a number of ways.

To begin with, those unwilling to have their incomes redistributed for someone else's benefit should be happy with the thought that if poor parents can work instead of tending to their children, they may come to need welfare checks, food stamps and housing developments—all of which this same type of begrudging taxpayer has funded over and again.

Next, those who would raise their children individually must realize the tremendous task they are undertaking. Our technological society becomes increasingly more complex, and there is in these days an overwhelming body of information for a few individuals to incorporate.

That two parents could singly provide this information without coming up with an unprofessionally imbalanced child is open to

questioning. Also, in this world where dealings with others become more and more important, the child who has been raised primarily in the home may always find that strangers require somewhat of an adjustment.

Lastly, those with no children should be reminded that the next generation will define the society the older generation itself will, for a time, live in. And although they have no interest in other people's children in particular, they should, for their own benefit, be concerned about the future conduct of those who will live beside them.

Financial aid to day care centers, then, does seem to be an urgent need. In addition, the demand for public funding is sufficiently backed by a large number of, if not all, factions of the population. The Orange County Board of Commissioners should attend to the needs of those whom they represent.

Laura Toler is a junior journalism major.