

Editorial

Marijuana use not an issue

A New York Times-CBS News poll shows a majority of Americans do not believe trying marijuana is a sufficient reason to prevent someone from becoming president or a Supreme Court justice. This poll comes as a response to Douglas Ginsburg's withdrawal of his nomination to the Supreme Court because he admitted to smoking marijuana eight years ago.

Ginsburg's confession comes during a year when the media's scrutiny of people in public positions has received sharp criticism. Ginsburg blamed the media for focusing on his personal life and not his judicial qualifications. "Unfortunately all of the attention has been focused on our personal lives and much of that on the events of many years ago," he said in a prepared statement.

Attorney General Ed Meese also succumbed to the media pressure, and informed Ginsburg that the issue would "cause great embarrassment to the administration."

The media should realize that as more people from the 1960s and '70s enter politics, more people will have experimented with marijuana. Ginsburg, 41, is one example. But after his withdrawal democratic presidential candidates Albert Gore, 39, and Bruce Babbitt, 49, both admitted trying marijuana.

This view was reflected in the poll in which 28 percent believed "most" people 30-40 years old had tried marijuana. Forty-four percent believed about half had tried it.

The bottom line is that the public really doesn't mind if politicians have experimented with marijuana, just as long as they don't use it now. The media and the Reagan administration should understand this.

Meese's Ginsburg stance a political embarrassment

President Reagan should re-evaluate the role of Attorney General Edwin Meese in his administration. In the course of the past year Meese has proved to be a political embarrassment to the Reagan administration, and during a time when most consider Reagan a lame duck president, this negative attention is not needed.

Meese's most recent blunder came when Supreme Court nominee Douglas Ginsburg announced he had smoked marijuana while he was a law professor. This was a direct conflict with Reagan's anti-drug stance.

Unfortunately, Meese pressured Reagan into nominating Ginsburg when little was known about the judge. Meese was only concerned with furthering the conservative agenda. He could have accomplished this if Ginsburg, a young conservative, was appointed to the Supreme Court.

Meese is obsessed with furthering his agenda with complete disregard for the wishes of the public or for the political ramifications to the Reagan administration.

The public is moving away from the conservative standpoint it held seven years ago. If Reagan wants to leave office with a positive impression, he should realize Meese does not represent the new views of the people and will only continue to embarrass the administration.



"Weinberger's resigning... the Reagan era's coming to an end..."

Letters

Unjust view

William Moore, in his letter, urged individuals not to support organizations supported by United Way because it "assisted" Planned Parenthood (ODE, Nov. 2). He claimed his opposition was "neither arbitrary nor uninformed," yet never before have I read such a blatantly unjust, conceited and ignorant point of view in print.

Mr. Moore is arbitrary in that it is his own, and others like him, preference that groups like Planned Parenthood should be abolished.

Also, he can't possibly be "informed" on what it is really like to suffer an unwanted pregnancy, because it is my guess he has never been a woman faced with this tragedy. Yet he believes that he has the prerogative to tell all women in this particular situation that the only choice they should have during an unwanted pregnancy is to have the child regardless of the financial, emotional or physical strain that befalls them.

Does Mr. Moore believe that withdrawing support for Planned Parenthood, thus leaving young individuals with no means for receiving proper birth control methods and other valuable services, will decrease

sexual relations among young people and/or the number of abortions performed yearly?

Both the United Way and Planned Parenthood are worthwhile and charitable organizations. They do not promote sexual relations between students, nor do they "actively advocate abortion." They do, however, advocate a woman's freedom of choice concerning her own body. Mr. Moore will never have to face the trauma of an unwanted abortion, but still deems himself knowledgeable enough to pass judgment on those who might. He has no ethical right to ask people not to support the United Way, which in turn assists organizations, like Planned Parenthood, which provide freedom of choice.

As long as there are closed-minded, disillusioned viewpoints, such as Mr. Moore's, I fear for my own given right to choose what affects me and my body, as well as future generations' freedom of choice.

Kelly L. Foutts
Pre-journalism

Hugs

People just don't seem to really hug one another. People embrace for mere seconds as if afraid of each other. If you're going to have contact with someone, make it count. Wrap your arms around them and squeeze all your positive energy into them.

Don't pat someone on the back. This is patronizing them by not sharing with them. Human contact is not something that people should be afraid of. People revel in this exchange of goodwill.

What if someone I don't want to hug me tries to or does hug me? Tough question. If they hug you, return the hug. After all, it's a wonderful thing anyway.

What's more, maybe it'll open up a side to this person you haven't noticed before. If you feel that you cannot do this, at least tell them you don't feel very comfortable with the action taking place. To really hug someone is truth. The least one can do is give them the truth of

your feelings. Please be tactful; these are human emotions not tread lightly.

To just give them a partial hug is an injustice to the human closeness that all people desire and to the positive feelings that someone is giving off. Sharing yourself with another is wonderful and shouldn't be avoided.

So next time, hug for all your positive might.

Blake Louis Sliter
Political science/English

Sorry Louisiana

I too wish to extend an apology to Victor Adonri for the treatment of racism he received in this community.

Yet in a different light, I wonder how John Tapogna can justify his remark towards Louisiana (ODE, Nov 2). My intention is not to offend you, but I do think the apology should go out to a whole state on your behalf, or from you personally.

As for our international visitor, I wish I could beg forgiveness on behalf of this country but can only speak for myself.

Glen Smith
Student

Candidates

After watching the Republican candidates for the presidency on Firing Line (what a coincidence it happened during Halloween week!), the following pithy characterizations came to mind:

George Bush...between croquet and hardball.

Bob Dole...opportunism as an art.

Pat Robertson...curdled whipping creme.

Jack Kemp...amiable simplicity.

Pierre DuPont...pseudo-Pete.

Alex Haig...vainglorious busybody.

Dr. A. Brettauer
Eugene

Oregon Daily Emerald

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