



**THE NATIONAL COLLEGE
NEWSPAPER**

By presenting a wide range of opinions and ideas reprinted from hundreds of campus newspapers, we hope to enhance the quality of campus life as we inform, entertain and engage the national student body. We acknowledge the commitment of student journalists across the nation, supported by their media advisers and journalism professors, to report the activities, issues and concerns of their fellow students.

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COMMENT AND OPINION

*George Bush
on Foreign Policy*



*George Bush
on Domestic Policy*



NICK ANDERSON, THE LANTERN, OHIO STATE U.

Legal Pot Crops Reap Economic, Health Benefits

By Andy T. Hopkins

■ The Emory Wheel
Emory U.

Sit back for a minute and let's talk some botany. The drug war is raging, and now is the time for all good men to legalize marijuana. Current U.S. marijuana laws were passed in 1937 on the basis of ignorance, fear and greed, and recent polls show that most Americans would choose thorough drug education over across-the-board drug legalization.

Let's consider the myths:

1. Marijuana is harmful to one's health.

It's true that smoking anything is harmful to one's health. But marijuana, like any other herb or consumable plant, is best when mixed with food and (non-alcoholic) drink. The illegality, and subsequent black market pricing of the substance, has facilitated the smoking of it, as smoking requires much less marijuana to achieve the desired effects.

Marijuana has been used in some form

since 3000 B.C. to relieve tension, headaches, spastic episodes or nervous disorders, insomnia, labor pains, arthritic pain and countless other afflictions. Only recently has marijuana been lumped into the same category with dangerous and addictive drugs. As a result of panic and misinformation, Congress was led to believe that marijuana was to be the "new killer drug" that would drive many fine American children to "Murder! Insanity! Death!" . . . when actually it made folks feel relaxed, content, more aware and maybe even a bit hungry.

2. Legalization of the plant would create new marijuana addicts.

False. The substance has never been proved to have physically addicting qualities, and I've never heard of it killing anyone, even when smoked in excessive quantities. Like any other material source of pleasure, a legal, marijuana-based food or drink product would be habit-forming, but stopping consumption would not cause any withdrawal.

Now let us move on to the positive things marijuana legalization would bring about:

1. Renewed availability of the hemp plant. Once widely used for fabrics, ropes and oils, hemp (the stalk, or part of the plant that doesn't get you high) was made illegal by the government along with marijuana.

2. Economic benefit to American farmers. Not to mention the tax revenue the government could collect off of the retail sales of the substance, farmers would have a field day (sorry, I had to) with legalized marijuana. It is already a high-ranking cash crop in many states, so legalization would simply make farmers' incomes more consistent and less subject to the whims of pesticides and flame-throwing helicopters. Amber waves of grain alcohol soon would be replaced with more soil-enriching, all-American leaves of grass.

■ *While this is one student's view, we'd like to hear your opinion. Send your comments to U.*



Should the U.S. military services allow women in combat?

In the October issue of *U. The National College Newspaper*, we asked students their feelings about the U.S. military allowing women to participate in combat. Sixty-four percent of students said women should be allowed to participate, while 34 percent said they should not. When the results are looked at by sex, we find males nearly evenly split on this issue — 51 percent yes and 49 percent no — whereas 82 percent of females favor allowing women to participate in combat.

“Yes . . . or you're reproducing the protectionistic racket that's been going on for centuries — that is, women stay at home and men protect them.”

Beth Turner,
Harvard U.

“No, they shouldn't unless women can live up to the same standards as the men have for combat — you know, like so many push-ups or sit-ups.”

Elizabeth Lenkey,
Virginia Tech

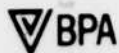
“I say yes. I feel if they want the same rights as all the men, they should not (only) allow, but they should be required to participate.”

Jeff Odom,
U. of Maryland, College Park

**FEBRUARY
QUESTION**

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