

The Counseling Center Blows . . . Grass?!

by Lee Nell

Capitol Campus literally reeks with enlightenment. Most of us who aren't engineers have the privilege of choosing our own courses to the point of planning our own programs. We enjoy responsible counseling and methods of handling unwanted pregnancies. We even have a "coed" dorm. But wait! What are those papers hanging on the bulletin board in the west wing? Could it be . . . ? Yes, it is the old "Killer Drugs" stuff and the papers are there for everyone to read, love, and cherish like an advertisement from an 1896 Sears catalogue.

Like the old advertisements, the drug paper contains many over statements and half-truths, and it presents a picture that is far from the real thing. Unlike the advertisements hopefully, the paper contains several complete falsifications. It would compare to ordering what you have assumed to be a hand-warmer and ending up with a fur-lined corset.

The paper is entitled "Alcohol and Tobacco vs. Marijuana." In many respects any attempt to compare these three "pleasures" will be a farce. Starting with item 2, the drug paper proves itself to be a comedy of errors. Item 2 under alcohol states, "With toxic doses (Those which are heavy to the point of danger) the drinker 'Passes out' into complete immobilization (sleep or unconsciousness)." What it fails to add is that up to that point alcohol usually induces a tremendously ag-

gressive type of behavior. Item 2 from Marijuana, "with toxic doses, the marijuana smoker often shows highly active behavior. He may have psychotic (crazy) reactions of varying degrees." Horsefeathers! Psychotic reactions have been noted. Although I've never seen one, we can't argue the fact. What usually happens though is that the psychosis passes with time and the smoker relaxes into the "mild euphoric high" we hear about so much. But with toxic doses the scene changes a bit. Hyper-activity is squelched and in a short time the user finds himself completely immobilized like his over-dosed drinking counterpart.

Item 7 expounds the old argument about marijuana smokers going on to stronger drugs. And for alcohol, Item 7 suggests that heavy drinkers do not look for stronger forms of alcohol to achieve satisfaction.

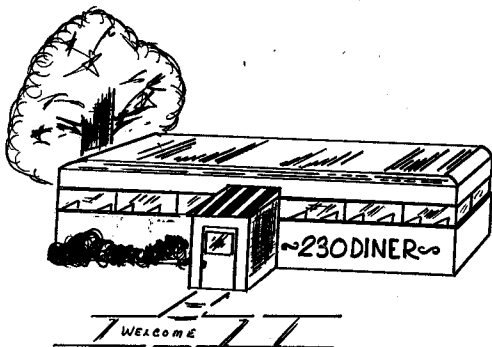
Wrong again. The winos will grab the strongest stuff they can get! Not only that, but the error in logic about marijuana is incredible. This marijuana to heroin garbage comes from a study which revealed that about 70% of the interviewed heroin users had used marijuana previously. Therefore, marijuana leads to heroin right? Wrong! Almost 90% of the same people used alcohol before marijuana and an educated guess has the figure at 97% who started all on mother's milk (bottled or otherwise). In order to prevent a nationwide panic we must point out that drinking milk has not been link-

ed to heroin addiction. Milk does have some interesting things in it though—strontium 90, DDT, etc.—but that's another story.

What is important is this: not once is it mentioned that heavy drinkers usually suffer liver ailments and some other internal problems. Nor is it mentioned that alcohol has been linked to the killing of brain cells. In fairness we must point out that the paper does link tobacco with cancer—once. But over and over we find three condemnation of marijuana. 1. "Most students who smoke pot regularly drop out of school." Phooey—just look around, people. 2. Smoking pot is a no-no and we can get busted and sent up the river. Yep, sure can. 3. Marijuana can lead to psychological dependency. That is another way of saying that we can get hung up on a girl or on our home or on a beautiful idea. Hell, Attorney General John Mitchell is probably psychologically dependent on his pipe. And Richard Nixon is probably psychologically dependent on Spiro Agnew and Spiro is probably just plain psychologically dependent. Besides all this, and the list goes farther, the paper leaves the reader with the impression that alcohol and/or tobacco are good for you. And this is not true.

Now, counselors. Since the paper "Alcohol and Tobacco vs. Marijuana" says ". . . detailed analysis" on it, please publish a real, detailed analysis or at least remove this one from (continued on page 10)

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