

Marijuana — Weed With Roots In Hell

by Gary Thornbloom

Marijuana, scientifically termed *Cannabis Sativa*, is a member of the plant family, L. Family *Moraceae*. *Cannabis* is the herb which has been used for many years in various religious cults, it has also been used by many persons to attain a peaceful state of mind, and in recent years has been subjected to unjust prosecution by the United States Bureau of Narcotics. Marijuana has been called a killer drug, it has been said to produce insanity and hallucinations, but there is no sound medical basis for these accusations. The Narcotics Bureau has made up reports of their own with exaggerated findings.

This paper will attempt to explain to the reader a brief background of the herb, *Cannabis Sativa*, and also to clear away a portion of the many fallacies surrounding the myth of marijuana.

Cannabis Sativa has been given a wide variety of names and terms which are associated with it and its users. Marijuana is the Mexican terminology and is also commonly used in the United States. Marijuana also goes by many other names such

as grass, pot, tea, kif, weed, and Mary Jane. A person who constantly or very often smokes marijuana may be called a pot-head. Other terms used to describe the quantity of marijuana are: a nickel bag (five dollars worth), a dime bag (ten dollars worth), and a lid (an ounce). When a person obtains grass from another person, he is said to have scored. Many other terms are of a negative nature and present a bleak side to this herb. These names were built-up by the Narcotics Bureau. They are really a put-on.

Cannabis Sativa originally grew only in Asia, but now grows throughout the world. Ships traveling from Asia to the U. S. Africa, India, Europe, and Brazil with cargoes of hemp and other seeds brought the *Cannabis* seeds. These seeds were deposited on our shores and eventually carried inland. After man saw the potential of marijuana he planted crops of it. *Cannabis* now grows either wild or cultivated in every state of the U.S.

The *Cannabis* plant is an annual, dioecious weed-like herb. It is a very tall plant, growing from four to six feet in its natural habitat to sixteen feet under

ideal commercial growing conditions. Leaves of the herb are usually found in five to seven leaf leaflets, but occasionally nine to eleven may be found in a single leaflet. There are short curving hairs on the tall angular stem with resin at the base of the hairs. The female produces more resin than the male plant. Resinous parts are the flowering tops, smaller stalks, and leaves. The male plants die after shedding pollen. The female remains alive for a couple of months until the seeds are ripe. This makes the female plant more valuable for commercial use.

Although *Cannabis* can grow almost anywhere and under any conditions, the environment in which the herb is grown makes a remarkable difference in the potential of the *Cannabis*. Alkaline soil is best for maximum growth. City soil is usually acidic. The best soil is the wood-free alluvial soil. To plant marijuana outdoors, any field or woods will do. Spread hydrated lime lightly and evenly over freshly turned earth in the Fall preceding the Spring planting. Fertilizer is essential for a better crop yield. Do not over-fertilize. Plant the seeds about six inches apart, one inch deep in little

mounds with four to eight seeds to a mound. Do not cultivate after planting. The plant should sprout after about twelve days. They will reach maturity in three or four months. The best climate is humid, temperate. If you would rather plant indoors a large flower pot in a steam-heated apartment will do, but watch out for freezing drafts. The best time for planting is May, but any time will do.

Marijuana as it is smoked consists of the dried and crumbled stems, leaves, and seed pods. If you manage to grow some you should dry it trying to retain as much of the color as possible. A small oven will do to dry the leaves out, but don't overheat the leaves. After the leaves are dried, crush them and use a screen to help prepare the *Cannabis* for smoking. There are two commercial varieties: Indian *Cannabis* and American *Cannabis*. Both come from the same plant *Cannabis Sativa*, L. Family *Moraceae*, but they differ in physical appearance. The Indian *Cannabis* is prepared for market by rolling the plants so that flattened masses are offered for sale, while the American variety is available in the form of leaves and smaller stems plus flowering and some-

times fruiting tops. A marijuana joint or reefer is usually a little longer than a regular cigarette, but it is also usually a lot thinner. The ends of a joint usually are rolled closed. Marijuana may also be chewed or smoked in a pipe.

Marijuana, although classified as a narcotic in most states is not by technical definition a narcotic. It has been scientifically proven to be non-addictive, have no withdrawal symptoms or problems, and has no permanent physiological effects. The Narcotics Bureau has at times made statements saying marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol and even heroin. This is not what a vast majority of doctors, medical experts and other experts feel. "In fact, about the only dissident over the years has proved to be one Harry J. Anslinger, a liar and self-serving bureaucrat, proved as such out of his own mouth in several instances including sworn congressional testimony during which Mr. Anslinger contradicted himself." Many reports may be consulted to show how harmless marijuana has been proven to be.

(Con't. next week)

*Jerry Hopkins, *The Hippie Papers*.

Zimmerman Heads Union Board

During a lengthy meeting on October 5, a group of students along with Mr. Zimmerman put together a Constitution for a Student Union Board at the Behrend Campus. The temporary Student Union Board Constitutional Committee included the following students: Dave Will, Frank Sockman, Louise Bailey, Sue Gilmore, Jim Cornish, and Eric Walker.

The Student Union Board will be composed of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Representative from the S.G.A., Seven Committee Chairmen, Faculty Advisor, and Director of the RUB. It will also include three honorary members.

The seven major committees will be designed to administer programs serving the cultural, educational, and social interests of the Behrend Campus and community. The Committees will have the following basic responsibilities as stated in the Board's Constitution:

1. Special Events Committee: Bring live entertainment to the campus, sponsor excursions of an

all-school nature, and sponsor outings, picnics, etc.

2. Social Committee: Sponsor Spring Formal festivities, coffee houses, a campus carnival etc.

3. Dance Committee: Hire bands and sponsor dances, decorating, etc.

4. Cultural Committee: Sponsor speaking and performing series, quiz bowls, motion picture program, art exhibits, etc.

5. Recreation Committee: Sponsor tournaments, contests, Las Vegas nights, etc.

6. Special Services Committee: Serve as technical advisor and equipment manager to the Board.

(Continued on Page 4)



(L-R) Stan Taylor (back to camera), Ben Wilbur, Vernon Kidd, Bill Frazier, Alan Zampese. One of the highlights of "The Odd Couple" is the hilarious card game sequence. Frazier, center, is a former Behrendite.

BULLETINS

The Odd Couple will be presented tonight at the Erie Civic Theatre in Wesleyville. The Neil Simon comedy stars Bill Frazer (former Behrend student), Ken Fanazini, Stan Taylor, Ben Wilbur, Catherine Brownlee and Rebecca Pasquale. Curtain time is 8:15.

Behrend students receive a seventy-five cent discount on tickets on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday nights. By purchasing a season ticket, students can see "The Odd Couple," "The Firebugs," "The Sound of Music," "Middle of the Night," and "You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running," all for only \$8.00.

As a bonus, season ticket holders receive a 10% discount on their dinner at Carmen's Restaurant and Fredrico's Port of Call on the night that they attend The Playhouse.

Playhouse subscribers visiting New York will receive free discount tickets allowing them to purchase tickets to Broadway shows at half price.

ERIE PHILHARMONIC DONATES TICKETS

The Erie Philharmonic Orchestra opened its 56th season on Monday with a performance which consisted of Prelude to "Die Meistersinger" by Wagner, the Ode by Foss, the Suite from "Hary Janos" by Kodaly, and Tchaikowsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64. The concert was well received on Monday and again on Wednesday at the Technical Memorial High School Auditorium.

Unknown to many students, the Philharmonic has donated twenty tickets to Behrend. These tickets are available, to interested students, for the asking at the Union Desk in the Reed Building.

The schedule for the rest of the season runs:

November 8.
Saturday Night at the "Pops"
A SALUTE TO YOUTH
November 17 and 19
Chichester Psalms—Bernstein
Erie Philharmonic Chorus
Symphony No. 101 (Clock)—Hayden

INTERMISSION
Concerto for Violin

and Orchestra in D Major
Opus 61—Beethoven
Mischa Mischakoff, soloist
December 14

THE MESSIAH
by George Frederick Handel
3 P. M., St. Peter Cathedral
Sunday, December 14

The Erie Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra
with
Erie Philharmonic Chorus
GUEST SOLIST
Leona Gordon, Soprano
Claudine Carlson, Mezzo Soprano
William Brown, Tenor
Frank Pullano, Baritone



Richard Gray and Mayo Lobez, stars of "A Wide Evening with Shaw" to be presented tonight in the Reed Lecture Room.