

Marijuana—Weed With Roots In Hell "Christ You Know It Ain't Easy"

by Gary Thornbloom

"Among the reports I've studied in the Scientific Papers section of the books are those of the Indian Drug Commission, Simne, 1894; Report of Colnoel J. M. Phalen, printed in *The Military Surgeon*, July, 1943; Allentuck and Bowman, 1942; Report of the White House Conference on Drugs and Drug Abuse, 1962; and Report of the President's Advisory Committee, 1963. All conclude that Marijuana is harmless and find no evidence whatever to support the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Harry Anslinger.

The findings of the LaGuardia Report were reported to the Mayor in 1944 by the prestigious New York Academy of Medicine. Here are the findings as they appear in the Academy's summation.

1. Smoking marijuana does not lead directly to mental or physical deterioration.

2. The habitual smoker knows when to stop, as excessive doses reverse the usually pleasant effects.

3. Marijuana does not lead to addiction (in the medical sense), while it is naturally habit-forming; its withdrawal does not lead to the horrible withdrawal symptoms of the opiates.

4. No deaths have ever been recorded that can be ascribed to marijuana.

5. Marijuana is not a direct casual factor in sexual or criminal misconduct.

6. Juvenile delinquency is not caused by marijuana smoking, although they are sometimes associated.

7. The publicity concerning the catastrophic effects of marijuana smoking in New York is unfounded.

8. It is more of a nuisance than a menace." For a reference in detail to the above mentioned reports, especially the LaGuardia Report, *The Marijuana Papers* may be consulted. The Scientific Papers is book three of *The Marijuana Papers*. It presents a concise and full report as to what marijuana is, what it does to your body and what it does for your mind.

Many persons feel that marijuana is not at all harmful. Some doctors have attempted to prove that marijuana actually has medical value. Almost any writing on marijuana will draw the conclusion that marijuana is not harmful in itself, but rather that the harmful aspect of marijuana is the fact of its possession being illegal.

DRINKING OR POT SMOKING

One of the major points in the argument for the legalization of marijuana is that it does not harm the body as much as alcohol does and marijuana is non-addictive, whereas alcohol is very definitely habit-forming. More crimes, car accidents, murders, and rapes are caused by persons who have been drinking than by persons who have been smoking pot.

"More recent assessments tend to agree with these findings. The Ad Hoc panel on Drug Abuse at the 1962 White House Conference states, "Although marijuana has long held the reputation of inciting individuals to commit sexual offenses and other anti-social acts, evidence is inadequate to substantiate this." Maurer and Vogel write: "It would seem that, from the point of view of public health and safety, the effects of marijuana present a very minor problem compared with the

abusive use of alcohol, and that the drug has received a disproportionate share of publicity as an inciter of violent crime". 2

Many persons express the belief that much of the pressure for marijuana to be declared illegal was due to pressure on lawmaking bodies by the large liquor industry and their lobbyist's. When many people began to discover the advantages of marijuana over liquor, the liquor industry began to fear that they would lose a large portion of their customers. The advantages being found included these; pot was cheaper, non-addictive, possessed none of the toxic properties of alcohol, could be used without any mental or physical damages, and could be easily grown in their own backyard. Most people discovered these advantages by direct experimentation.

Persons who drink have more undesirable qualities than persons who smoke pot. A person under the influence of alcohol is usually very offensive, and is very likely to be looking for a fight. The natural habitat of a drunk is a noisy bar, in which a fight could break out any minute, a dance where he is usually loud-mouthed and looking for trouble, asleep or unconscious in a street gutter, or, splattered along the highway where he has been involved in a car accident whereas the person who smokes pot is more likely to be in his own home listening to music, simply grooving on some object or rapping (talking in depth) with a friend. If the pot smoker crashes (gathers) with a group of friends for a pot party somewhere the setting is still one of peace, lightness, happiness and camaraderie. Poets and philosopher Allen Ginsberg offers this comparison:

"I have spent half a year in Morocco, smoking kif often: old gentlemen and peaceable youths sit amiable in cafes or under shade trees in outdoor-gardens, drinking mint tea, passing the tiny kif pipe, and looking quietly at the sea. This is the true picture of the use of kif in North Africa, exactly the opposite of the lurid stereotype of mad-dog human beings deliberately spread by our Treasury Department police branch. And I set this model of tranquil sensibility beside the tableau of aggravated New York executives sipping whiskey before a 1966 TV set's imagery of drunken American violence covering the world from the highways of Berkeley all the way to the dirt roads of Viet Nam.

The marijuana user is considered by most of society to be an undesirable person and his use of marijuana is considered to be a sign of moral weakness but many people who need their morning, noon, night, and inbetween cigarettes or martinis are not looked down upon in any noticeable degree. The white collar worker who has his daily martini is widely accepted by society. Perhaps a Berkeley sorority girl can sum it up best with her statement, "When you drink you lose control and sensitivity, generally feeling and acting like a slobbering idiot. This never happens with pot."

- 1 Jerry Hopkins, *The Hippie Papers*
- 2 David Solomon, *The Marijuana Papers*
- 3 Allen Ginsberg, "The Great Marijuana Hoax" *Atlantic*, Nov. '66.
- 4 *San Francisco Magazine*, Feb. '66, quoted from *The Marijuana Papers*.

Next week, part III in this series will deal with the views on grass use throughout the world.

by Charles Peter Eschweiler

It would be a very wild dream to imagine Dylan, Mick Jagger, John Lennon, and Paul McCartney all on the same album, but Dylan singing *Duke of Earl*, and *Kick Out the Jams*? Dylan singing eighteen minutes of *Season of the Witch*? Jagger singing a new composition called *I Can't Get No Nookie*? But then, when John Lennon and Eric Clapton appear in Toronto singing *Blue Suede Shoes*, you know something's happened, and rock and roll is here to stay.

There will soon be a double album out on Diety record (A Columbia subsidiary) called *THE MASKED MARAUDER*, there are no names listed but Al Kooper produces it, everything mentioned above happens on it. I can't believe it, but my source of information is unimpeachable (mainly, a pre-publication review of the album in *Rolling Stone*).

Is an album of such people goofing on each other worth it? Yes, its priceless.

If someone wants to buy the album (if and when it reaches Erie) I want to hear it (I can't afford records, I'm not being paid, but you can remedy the situation by giving money at the CUB office to the Charles Peter Eschweiler relief fund).

The *Masked Marauder* album reminds me of the many tapes Columbia has that have never been released, someone in California stole enough unreleased Dylan to make a double album called *GREAT WHITE WONDER*, its available on the coast, and possibly by now in New York. Columbia likes people to believe Dylan never recorded with anyone but them, but there is an out of circulation album of Mr.

fact, on anything. If you have a poem or short story that you would like to submit for publication, do so. If you have an idea, why not work on it. Art work and photography will be considered.

But ICARUS also needs staff workers and judges to make it successful. All volunteers are welcome and all entries needed.

You may give your entries to Kathleen Valentine, Charly Lee, or Sue Fitzroy or to your English teachers. Deadline for all entries is April 1, 1970.

Zimmerman recorded when he was called *BLIND BOY GRUNT*, someone, a friend of mine in Oklahoma has it. Dylan can be heard on piano on some of Bobby Vees "road" albums (Dylan's first decent gig was as Vees pianist). Columbia has enough tape of Dylan-Johnny Cash duets for an album, they have tapes of Janis Joplin singing in front of the Butterfield band, and Laura Nyro with *Blood, Sweat and Tears* (That would be dynamite). Columbia is also uptight, and its doubtful if they will release any of those tapes, mores the pity.

Since people have been asking if I can actually say anything good about any groups, I've decided to do some capsule reviews, they don't say anything good, I've got to be consistent you know.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY—COLUMBIA CS 9768

Dull, boring mood muzak, nothing new, nothing worthwhile, there is however, the worst "heavy" track I've ever heard (stand back, this is even worse than some of the garbage on the *Vanilla Fudges* first two albums), *Wasted Union Blues*, it's really terrible, *White Bird* is nice, but only during the first few hearings, in general the album is just a mediocre diversion.

BLIND FAITH . . . ATLANTIC SD 33 304

I expected more, Winwood was better with Spencer Davis, Clapton was better with John Mayall. Rick Grech is a good bassist, but Jack Casady is better. Ginger Baker is still himself, and if it wasn't for him this would be a really bad album.

JOHNNY WINTER . . . COLUMBIA CS 9826

Abysmally bad singing, mediocre guitar work, and terrible production, if this were a put on of white blues I could accept it, but it's serious? There is just nothing here, Winter makes an ass of himself in trying too hard.

It's true, you cannot petition the lord with prayer.

Next week I'm going to say only good things, it will be a short column probably.

LemonPipers' Concert Icarus: Behrend's Literary Medium

A FIRST— IT'S FINALLY COMING!! Rock Concert Coming to Behrend November 8

On Saturday, November 8, at 8:00 p. m. in Erie Hall the Student Union Board of Behrend Campus presents the First Rock Concert of the year, featuring "The Lemon Pipers", nationally known for their million dollar hits "Green Tambourine", Rice is

Nice" and many others which were recorded on the Capital Label.


Featured with "The Human Beinz" will be the underground, hard rock group "The Wonderful World of Mr. Qwigley", displaying their fantastically unique, and captivating light show.

Tickets will be on sale beginning Monday, October 27, at the Union Desk in the RUB, for only \$1.50 per person.

Those of you who may be interested in mythology know that Icarus was the son of Daedalus who drowned when he tried to fly. However, on Behrend Campus ICARUS is the literary magazine which is published in the spring term of each year.

ICARUS presents short stories and poetry written by students in an attempt to illustrate the way in which Behrend students relate to the world, life, love, hate in

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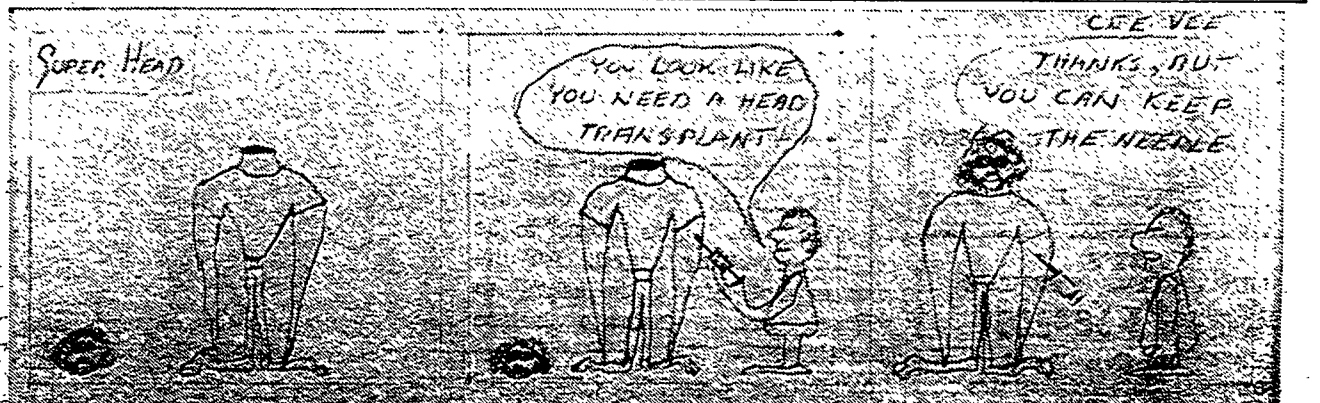
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