

A Proposal to Legalize Drugs

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the only places where one may be able to purchase drugs legally. With cut rate prices and various blue light specials, these centers will eventually be in every city and town across America, a national chain rivaling K-Mart, driving the low class dribble that sell drugs now out of business.

There are a number of reasons why my plan is worthy of consideration; first, this legalization would cut back greatly the number of deaths that result from drugs each year. Of course you will have your occasional overdose and drug induced murder sprees, but who cares. With a little good, there's always a little bad, right? At least your family and friends will not live in fear that a drug shootout will happen in your neighborhood. Secondly, with the government selling drugs, more money will be flowing into the economy, leading to an end of the current recession, lower taxes and more money becoming available for third world countries who count on U.S. financial backing in their quest to overthrow democracy. Thirdly, the long suffering Vietnam veterans will finally get their due for their pioneering use of drugs during that regretful war. Finally, the use of drugs by various artists may revitalize the arts and spark a

renaissance period full of ground breaking books, movies and musical works.

There will, however, be objections, but with every well-thought-out-drug-induced-idea, I have answers to all of the proposed objections. One of the main concerns is the effect of the use of drugs by the mothers of newborn children. The sight of a child born addicted to drugs is very painful and sad, so I suggest that all mothers who actively used drugs during their pregnancy must have an abortion, which is totally legal and morally correct. That would not only stop the pain of the children, but would also provide a morally right means of population control.

So there it is. I have laid out this well-thought-out-drug-induced idea onto the table of the nation. This plan can and only will benefit our great nation. Failure is an impossibility. People, Americans, are obsessed with drugs. So, all right, there may be no more "Lethal Weapon" movies, but there sure will be one helluva Cheech and Chong comeback in 1993!

With lower taxes, better and safer employment opportunities, a better economy and fewer people, our beloved country will once again rise above the others. That's all for now. I've got to go shoot up.

Learning To See People As People

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Society has always had a difficult time integrating people in a orderly fashion. People are stubborn and often ignorant about different ethnicities, and many see being unique as a threat to both themselves and the nation as a whole. In my mind, the stench of prejudice and discrimination are worse than ever; we seem to have reached a rut in human relations.

The laws say we are all equal and none are to be discriminated against. Many have become satisfied with this supposed gain and simply turn their backs to the stereotyping and group categorization that affect the confidence and pride of people from all backgrounds.

Indeed, there have been attempts to correct the years of discrimination among women and blacks, as affirmative action has pushed many of their kind into top executive jobs to try to balance the scale. Black pride is encouraged, and the superwoman who can stand on her own is preached. Although these minorities are finally being given the chance to feel truly like a part of American society, it is being done at the expense of the white majority, who often argue that they shouldn't have to suffer for the evils of past Americans. Black pride is supported while white pride is considered racist. Women professionals are being given jobs that perhaps a white man with better merit was

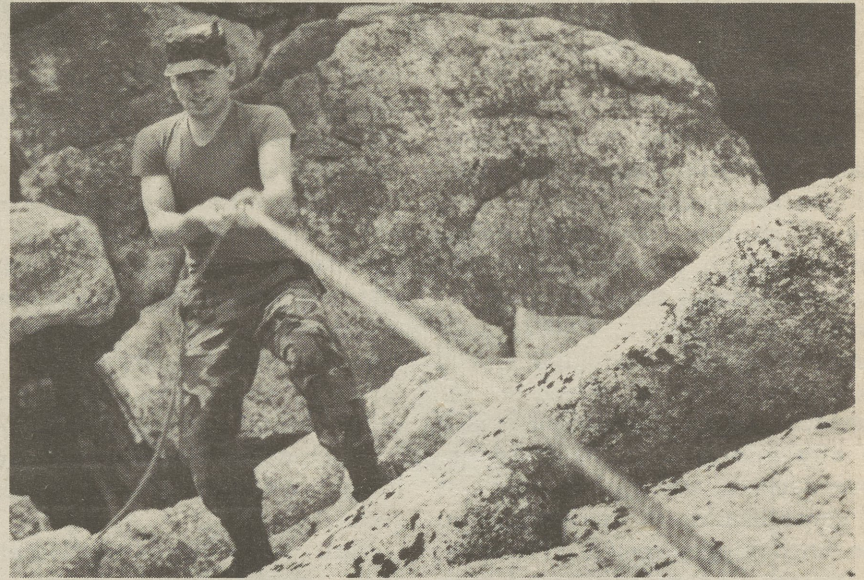
denied, solely because he was male.

Note that this is not always the case, but it does exist and is, no doubt, reverse-discrimination. Clearly, then, the problem of discrimination cannot be solved by reversing the act. Fire, in truth can't be fought with fire, but rather, with water.

Solving the matter is not easy, and I do not claim to have any immediate answers. Stratification and generalization to a degree are necessary in order to create conformity and order in society. If people never synthesized information to make a hypothesis about individuals, the network of information flowing through society would be a dry faucet. Perhaps the answer lies in minimizing the stereotypes and generalizations we make about individuals. We need to be more cognizant of the specific traits of each individual we encounter rather than those of the group one is associated with. Our schema for ordering people need to be more flexible. Not only do we need to be more tolerant of different people, but we must find the desire to see them for who they are (complete with their cultural backgrounds) and not for how we think they should be.

If nothing more, returning to the initial question, we need to see all people as just that, people. We all call the earth our home and it's everyone's job to clean it up.

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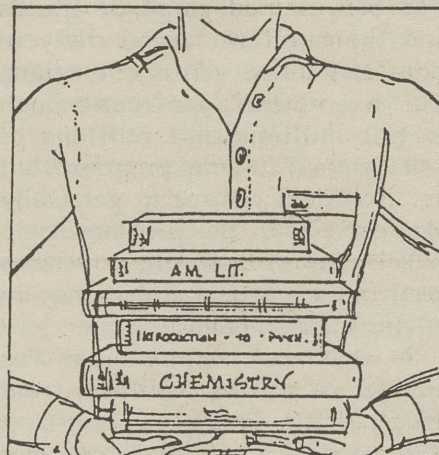
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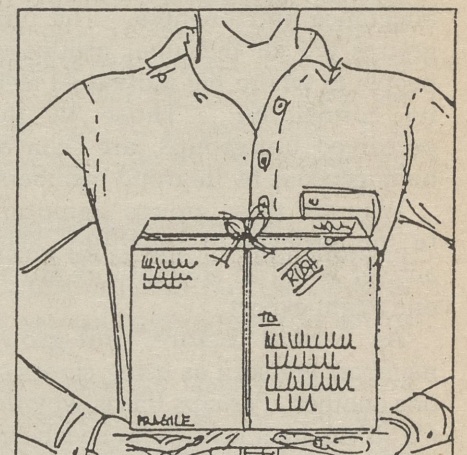
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