



National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws President Keith Stroup told an audience that legislators' basic concept about marijuana must be changed.

Photo by Randy J. Woodbury

Nat'l lobbyist group head calls pot usage NORML

By DAN BURNETT
Collegian Staff Writer

Legislators must be educated about the truth of marijuana if efforts to decriminalize it are going to be successful, the director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) said here last night.

Legislators have a distorted view of marijuana because the drug was identified with the radicals of the 1960's, Keith Stroup said at Eisenhower Auditorium last night.

"Legislators are concerned that if marijuana is decriminalized, the amount of users would increase significantly," Stroup said. "The data and evidence we have experienced so far shows evidence to the contrary."

House Bill 592, a Pennsylvania bill now in the health and welfare committee, is NORML's latest effort to get marijuana decriminalized, Stroup said. Pennsylvania was chosen as a target state because it had the second highest number of arrests for possession of marijuana in the country, he said.

The Pennsylvania bill is a modified version of decriminalization, Stroup said. Offenders simply will be fined up to \$100 for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana or eight grams of hashish.

Similar decriminalization bills have been passed in eight other states since NORML got underway in 1970, Stroup said. Oregon was the first state to make the penalty for possession similar to a parking ticket offense, and California soon followed, he added.

The number of smokers in these states has increased only 3 per cent since the criminal penalties were removed, Stroup said. Similar results are expected in Pennsylvania if marijuana is decriminalized, he said.

"It costs \$10 million a year to arrest and prosecute the nine or 10 thousand people in Pennsylvania alone who are arrested

for possession of marijuana," Stroup said. "In simple economics, this money could be used much more effectively to fight real criminals."

Stroup said citizens must demonstrate to their state legislators by writing letters that they are in favor of decriminalization. Legislators will respond if the constituents voice their opinions, he added.

"The people in this country have moved faster on the marijuana issue than the legislatures have, and there is evidence to support this. A recent survey showed that 80 per cent of Americans favor decriminalization of marijuana," Stroup said.

However, people should never try to convince legislators that marijuana is a good thing because this approach will backfire, Stroup said. Reformers should try to convince them that marijuana smokers are normal people, not criminals, he said.

Stroup said he does not favor complete legalization of marijuana. The answer is complete decriminalization and allowing people to grow their own marijuana plants, he said.

"The sale of marijuana is a \$4 million yearly market," Stroup said. "I would not look favorably to Madison Avenue doing to marijuana what it did to tobacco and liquor, and that would most likely occur if it was legalized."

The Nixon and Mitchell Act of 1970, which classified marijuana with heroin, was a political move to show the public its leaders were against radicals, Stroup said. This category prohibits the use of marijuana for medical use, he said.

It was recently discovered by a teacher in Washington, D.C. that smoking marijuana relieved his glaucoma, the second leading cause of blindness in the United States, Stroup said.

Stroup added that others who may benefit from a medical standpoint by smoking marijuana are not able to obtain it.

Iran earthquake damage severe

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — Earthquakes shook vast areas of southern Iran Wednesday night and yesterday in a series of tremors. Government broadcasts said at least 100 persons were killed and heavy damage inflicted.

The Iranian government broadcasting services said the latest official count was 100 dead and speculated it could reach 600.

The strongest shock hit central Iran Wednesday night, registering 6.5 on the open-ended Richter scale and apparently causing major damage and casualties in tribal villages 80 miles southwest of Isfahan.

A quake of 5.5 intensity Thursday hit the Bushehr area, 765 miles south of Tehran, and a lighter tremor registering an intensity of 4 shook Shiraz, 600 miles south of the capital. Reports from surrounding villages were yet to come in.

The government said Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi had ordered an all-out civilian and military effort to get rescue and relief operations into the stricken area.

A heavy rainstorm that swept Tehran Wednesday night and yesterday added to the disruption by cutting telegraph and telephone services.

It was the third quake to hit Iran in 17 days. On March 22, a quake with an intensity of 7 killed an officially reported 167 persons in southern Iran east of the Persian Gulf city of Bandar Abbas. On April 1, another 7-force tremor hit the same area, reportedly killing at least 30 persons.

Iran lies on the Inter-continental Fault, which stretches from Europe to Asia and which has produced a series of major quakes for a year.

Thus far, no major Iranian city has borne the brunt of the quakes.

Soviets use garage entrance; arms talks secretly resume

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States and the Soviet Union quietly resumed discussion of strategic arms issues yesterday, with the Soviet envoy using the State Department's garage entrance.

In an unannounced, unpublicized meeting, Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin met with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at State yesterday morning.

The appointment did not appear on Vance's list of

visitors.

It was the first high-level U.S.-Soviet meeting since the breakdown of last week's Moscow talks on a second stage Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. The Soviets then rejected both U.S. proposals and both sides launched intensive publicity campaigns in behalf of their own positions.

Of yesterday's renewed talks, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter III said, "I'm not going to

give you a detailed list of the topics discussed, but it is logical to assume that the arms talks were included."

Correction

The Daily Collegian inadvertently omitted the Association for Women Students from a list of organizations conducting a political survey in Wednesday's Women United article.

Hi-fi talks given

Stereo equipment and stereo usage were discussed Wednesday night in the HUB Assembly Room.

Dave Carlson, graduate student in acoustics, said "Listening is the ultimate test." He said potential stereo buyers should listen to as many stereos as possible before buying one, and the stereo most pleasing to the buyer should be chosen.

Carlson said stereo cabinet design is an important factor to consider.

A poorly-designed cabinet can greatly reduce sound quality, he said.

Jiri Tichy, professor of architectural engineering said a showroom cannot properly simulate a home situation, and this is an important consideration.

Tichy said speaker positioning determines if the listener receives direct or reverberant sound. If the listener sits close to the speaker, Tichy said, he receives the direct energy which determines sound quality.

One group may disband Regional groups to convene

The Centre Regional Planning Commission and the Regional Consciousness Raising Group have planned a joint meeting to be held April 26 to discuss the group's function and validity.

Karen Shaw, chairman of the group, said at the Centre Regional Planning Commission's meeting last night, that no one wanted to be chairman of the group and several members had discussed disbanding because none of their recommendations were followed.

The group's function, although it cannot act in a legal capacity, is to make recommendations about planning and land-use policies in the Centre Region. Shaw said that in her three years as chairman, no recommendations the group made had been accepted. She also said the group was no longer sure of its function.

John Miller, chairman of the Centre Regional Planning Commission, suggested the joint meeting be held on April 26, so that the group could get a clearer definition of its

purpose and to see if it should be disbanded.

In other business, the commission passed on a resolution to the Council of Governments concerning recommendations on the State Land Use Policy.

The Office of State Planning and Development is seeking public response to a set of policies designed to increase the state's role in land use planning, and the commission staff members have made recommendations on those policies.

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THE ADVENTURES OF

RUTHERFORD & FRIENDS

"Well, Quixote and I are almost finished helping you fix-up this swell apartment," said Rutherford to his friend Ferdinand, who was watching the work critically. Ferdinand wasn't exactly pleased as Rutherford and Quixote weren't exactly professional fixer-upers.

"I'm afraid you boys had good intentions, but didn't do the job the way I wanted," said Ferdinand. "You've just papered the window!... So I can't pay you as much as I thought."

"That does it," said Quixote to Rutherford. "It's over! We can't make money in State College. I give up."

"No Quixote, don't give up yet." Rutherford replied to his friend. "There is an easy way to make money in State College - there *must* be. I'll ask my cousin Jose. He's a successful businessman. He'll know."

(What will he say, this cousin Jose? Quixote is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, and Rutherford... well Rutherford knows (let's call it intuition) that there is an easy way to make money in State College. But what could it be? Watch for Rutherford in Monday's Collegian to find out!!!)

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