



18 April 1990

Vol. I
No. 21

*MSU's alternative
and truly
independent voice*



What's shakin' :

the ole Provoc re-
turns from hospital

Still a pain in the rash. p. 8

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Hemp legalization a burning issue

BY STACY LAMMERS
uR- I issues correspondent

Cannabis, hemp, tea, ganja, weed, pot, reefer, fatty, grass, Acapulco gold, mary jane, herb, smoke, hash.

Called by any of its names, marijuana has for decades been the subject of songs, protests and controversy.

Today, frustration over the slow progress of the war against drugs has revived debate as politicians, police and the public argue the merits of legalization. The question centers on three main issues: the effect of marijuana on health and human behavior, the effect on the economy, and existing attitudes regarding the drug.

From the health standpoint, there are numerous beliefs surrounding marijuana and its effects on the body.

A 1989 Drug Enforcement Administration magazine, *Drugs of Abuse*, lists marijuana as a schedule one drug, which means it has no medicinal value and is dangerous. The same publication classifies cocaine as a schedule two drug, a lower danger rating.

Corrolates and Consequenses of Marijuana Use, a 1984 book illustrating the dangers of marijuana, said the drug adversely affects people in five different ways. It says marijuana creates a defiant attitude; leads to self-destructiveness; affects a person's temper, making one quicker to anger; gives one a feeling of grandiosity, or being larger than life; and serves as an escape from everyday

conflicts and problems.

However, Charles Kile, Michigan coordinator of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), said using marijuana has not adversely affected him.

"I've been smoking pot for 15 years, since I was 35," he said at a

taxpayers money in the long run and eliminate present drug problems, such as smuggling, dealing and abuse. By keeping pot illegal, they say, drug traffickers will be ousted and users/abusers will be in jail.

Conversely, NORML says taxpayers lose out on that idea, because

Americans annually spend about \$4 billion to combat drug smuggling and over \$1 billion to prosecute and imprison drug offenders.

Zolton Ferency, an MSU criminal justice professor and leading local proponent of decriminalization, said it costs taxpayers approximately \$25,000 to maintain a prison inmate.

Ferency proposes that the drug be regulated by the state, much like alcohol.

NORML also estimates that Americans spend in excess of \$30 billion a year on marijuana, supporting a black market that destabilizes the economy. Using a macroeconomic model, NORML says the legalization

of marijuana would increase the Gross National Product by up to \$30.3 billion, generate up to \$3.6 billion in personal income taxes, and create 816,000 jobs. This would take the \$30 billion being spent on marijuana in the U.S. from the black market and put it in the legitimate economy.

But criminal justice Professor Charles Corley says legalization will not benefit the poorer, economically-strapped classes.

"My main concern is with methods of distribution of the drug," he said, adding, "legalizing it won't benefit the communities that are hit the hardest by the existing problem."

Pointing to the poor, urban, minority areas, which he said already

See DEBATE, p. 2



recent Akers Hall forum on legalization. "I have a good job, a family, and I'm not lazy or brain-damaged."

Numerous studies also have said marijuana does more damage to the lungs than cigarette/tobacco smoke.

NORML disputes those claims, countering that marijuana is dangerous only with heavy exposure over long periods of time, and argues in their Common Sense pamphlets that "differences in dosage and frequency of consumption render comparisons between marijuana and tobacco consumption invalid."

Then there is the question of what legalizing pot would do to the economy.

Opponents of legalization say keeping marijuana illegal will save

Bias-free agreement ends SN strike

by TRESA BALDAS
uR- I managing editor

Giving a back massage or calling someone "stud" could cost a *State News* employee their job.

In response to alleged sexual harassment charges recently leveled at *The State News*, the newspaper's management this week introduced guidelines aimed at creating a bias-free environment, which include:

- No back or neck rubs allowed in the newsroom.
- No sitting on people's laps.
- No use of the word "stud" or reference to sexual organs.
- No physical contact that could be construed as sexual.
- No use of derogatory terms when referring to gender.

A *State News* employee in violation of these guidelines could face a maximum penalty of suspension from work without pay.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," said two-term *State News* staffer Heather Bomsta of the guidelines. "There is a problem with sexual harassment at *The State News*."

John Secor, *State News* editor-in-chief, said, "I knew there were some people who were upset (with the atmosphere in the newsroom)...I wasn't the best at making their concerns my immediate priority."

He said the new guidelines will foster a more professional atmosphere in the newsroom.

Bomsta — also former co-chairperson of MSU's National Organization for Women chapter — was one of the 11 *State News* employees who walked off the job April 6 in protesting alleged sexual and racial harassment in the newsroom.

See SN, p.2

Check out Op: to see who lost and who won when the SN walkout was all done

OUT and ABOUT

EAST LANSING

Abrams Planetarium
14 April: Destination Universe

Bearshead Theater
now-29 April: stage performance of Steel Magnolias

B'Zar
11 April: Anne Be Davis with Sam I Am
18: Crossed Wire with Radio Caroline

Green Door
11-14 April: Toys
16: Blue Avenue Delegates
17: Capitol City Band
18-21: Toys

Krege Art Center
now-22 April: Sonic/Light
Video Art: Art on Video
now-May 13: Images of an Idyllic Past:
The photographs of Edward S. Curtis

Landshark
13-14 April: Souvenir
17: Jerry Sprague and the Juveniles
18: Ras Shaggai and Livration

MSU Auditorium
13-14 April: Trails of the Mountain West

Mick's
11 April: Innocent Persuasion
12: Luther Guitar "Jr." Johnson
13: The Samaritans
14: Lonnie Brooks
15: Freeman and the Chasers
16: Two Weeks Late
17: The Original New Originals
18: Universal Spectrum

Silver Dollar Saloon

now-15 April: Raggedy Ann

Small Planet
12 April: Born Naked
17: Blues Party

Wharton Center
11 April: Michael Card and Friends
(Great Hall)
12: Masters of the Steel String Guitar
(Great Hall)
15: Easter at the Wharton
16-18: West Side Story

DETROIT

St. Andrews
13 April: Alannah Myles
18: Jane Sibery
21: J.J. Cale

Majestic
13 April: Severed Heads with MC 900 Ft
Jesus and DJ Zero

21: The Layabouts

The Ritz
12 April: Dirty Looks

Royal Oak Music Theatre
21 April: Oingo Boingo
22: Michelle Shocked with Poi Dog
Pondering and John Wesley Harding

ANN ARBOR

The Ark
11 April: Lady of the Lake
12: Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen
13: RFD Boys
14: Clive Gregson and Christine
Collister
15: Beausoleil
17: Gordon Bok, Ed Trickett, and Ann
Mayo Muir
18: Open Stage

Bird of Paradise
11-12 April: Ron Brooks Trio
13-14: Patty O'Connor and Friends
15: Clark and Reed Jam Session (jazz
musicians welcome)
16: Bird of Paradise Orchestra
18: Ron Brooks Trio



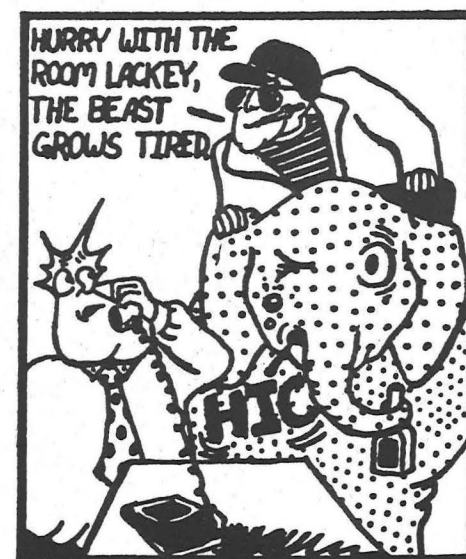
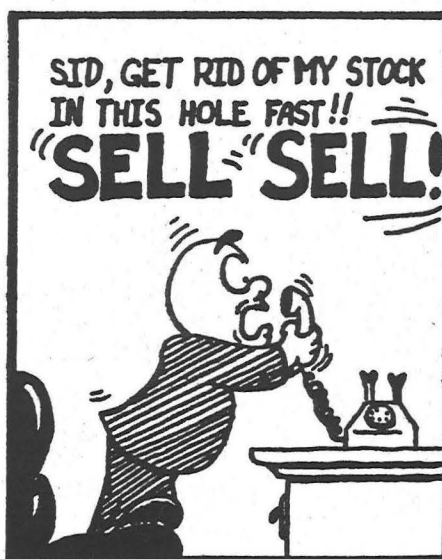
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the Simpsons,
that is)

THE CLYDESDALE

by JONT



Reviews

Murphy digs up his roots

Peter Murphy, *Deep Beggar's Banquet*

Ex-Bauhaus lead singer, Peter Murphy dug down to his roots for his third solo project *Deep*.

The 10-track release boasts a great mixture of melodic acoustics and biting guitar and keyboards, with no one instrument being favored.

The album's aggressive quick-paced songs are packed with energetic guitar sliding and heavy dance beats—great for a festive party.

"Shy," which doesn't lend itself to its title, is one of these faster tunes with high-pitched keyboard punches and Murphy speeding up his vocals. It's definitely a toe-tapping tune.

The more emotionally haunting tunes grab the listener and give a tension-releasing musical massage. A lava lamp and a big couch are a must for this portion of the album.

"Marlene Dietrich Favorite Poet" reflects its soothing title. Its acoustic beauty and orchestric synth patches are perfect for those incense-burning candle-lit evenings.

But whatever song it is, Murphy's voice is pounding out its usual eerie

presence. His use of unusual melodies and bass notes that vibrate the chest more than the drums dominate the album.

The Hundred Men, Murphy's backup band, help him reveal the attempt to revive the originality and eccentricity present in his Bauhaus days. This is obvious in the similarity of "The Line Between the Devil's Teeth" to the Bauhaus tune, "In the Flat Field."

Besides some drum sequences popularized in recent radio hits, *Deep* is a success and a necessity for any alternative music collection.

— MICHAEL J. PFEIFER

Review of the Peter Murphy show>>>

Clapton rocks further down Perfection Rd.

BY JAMES C. VLAHAKIS
uR-I music correspondent

AUBURN HILLS — The master came to Auburn Hills last Sunday.

A calm, yet confident, Eric Clapton appeared at the Palace as the live, orchestral version of "Layla" played over the speakers. With a new "Layla" version as a prelude, he started in with three new cuts off of his *Journeyman* album, two of which, "Pretending" and "No Alibis," have received heavy radio airplay recently. Both songs came out muddled together with an over production of synths, background vocals, and programming, which, on the radio sound great, but in concert sound too complicated. In short the two

songs, with the exception of "Running on Faith," sounded too much like the studio versions, lacking a concert reworking that livens many other Clapton songs.

It was obvious to see that Eric was in a good frame of mind from his smiles to the crowd and his happy grins he burst into after finishing a great solo. After a lukewarm start Clapton worked the crowd to a frenzy with his blues/reggae version of Marley's, "I Shot the Sheriff" and a tight yet, contemporary, rendition of the Cream classic "White Room" which brought the crowd to their feet. This version excelled due to the vocal interplay between Clapton, keyboardist Greg Phillinganes, and bassist Nathan East. Later in the show, Clapton strummed an acoustic guitar to Blind Faith's sorrowful number, "Can't Find My Way Home", sung by East.

In a return to the upbeat blues classic, "Before You Accuse Me",

See MASTER, p. 9

Murphy comes alive live

BY MICHAEL J. PFEIFER
uR-I music correspondent

DETROIT — The Latin Quarter, Detroit's newest hotspot for alternative concerts, was packed with black leather and thick eyeliner April 8 for the *Nine Inch Nails/Peter Murphy* show.

The hard beats of NIN pounded the excited crowd first. Trent Reznor, lead

singer and creator of NIN, bounced around the stage thrashing his arms, head, hair and every other part of his body.

And the crowd mirrored the band's enthusiasm. The first couple rows looked like a gymnastic net for some pretty impressive stage dives.

NIN's sound was excellent — a synth lover's dream. Loud, hard, and definitely full of energy. Everyone walked off the stage sweating, and maybe even bleeding, following NIN's last tune, "Head Like a Hole," in which Reznor leveled his guitarist with a strong elbow and gave the keyboards a good beating as well.

While the stage was cleared for the headliner, the crowd didn't have much time to run to the bar before the lights were doused. A quick spotlight showed Murphy towering above the stage squatted in the same position as on the cover of *Deep*.

The former Bauhaus frontman opened with "The Line Between the Devil's Teeth." Unfortunately, Murphy had a mediocre light show, and his music mix didn't touch NIN's. His vocals were both too loud and unclear in the first half of his set; maybe an overlook on the soundman's part.

But *The Hundred Men*, the music behind the man, did a great job in their performance even though Murphy's efforts at being an entertainer left something to be desired.

He played to a crowd of ticket sales rather than an audience of music lovers.

Although Murphy was a bit calmer than NIN, as was the crowd, he performed a good mix from his last three albums. Twelve songs in all, topped by Murphy's decision to close off the show with a Bauhaus encore!

The show was very entertaining, musically and theatrically. And in spite of some shortcomings, seeing the pasty-faced, sharp-featured legend strut his stuff was enough to make this show worth the bucks

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Entertainment

Three band show hard driving with stage diving

BY ANGIE CAROZZO
uR-I entertainment editor

ANN ARBOR — The Blind Pig was the host of heavy muddle head-banger mania April 10 when two Sub Pop bands, Tad and Nirvana, joined together with Victim's Family to shake the house down to the ground.

Victim's Family, from California, opened the show with a story of their hardships on the road.

"Our truck broke down and blew a gasket on the way over here," said the lead singer, "and the U-Haul you probably saw outside is ours, so I think we're gonna take out some of our aggressions now."

They went on to play a halfway decent set that was more hardcore influenced than anything else.

The lead singer screamed at the top of his lungs, while the drummer beat the crap out of his set. As for the bass player, he was jammin' and he couldn't wipe the snot-eating grin off

his face.

Certain members of the crowd proceeded to the pool hall downstairs for some peace and quiet until Tad would come on. In short, Victim's Family sucked.

So Tad starts setting up. This guy had to weigh about 300 pounds. Screams came from the audience, "Hey, Ted!" The guy looks like he's ready to eat several members of the audience.

Tad started the set and the audience turned into an ocean swaying to and from the stage. It didn't take long for the stage diving to start.

The lead guitarist spent most of the show in front of his amp doing feedback solos like they were meant to be done. The bass player was kickin' out some awesome lines. And while the drums were good, they were nothing spectacular.

Meanwhile, Tad is playing some great rhythm guitar with distortion up the butt.

They played a good set and the crowd seemed like they couldn't possibly get any more riled. That is until the last song, when Tad put his guitar down and was just singing.

As the song was coming to a close, Tad gives a strange kind of look to the crowd, starts running toward the front of the stage, and this 300 pound hulk of a man does a stage dive!

Half the crowd was horrified, and the other half were laughing their asses off — the half that wasn't gonna have to try and catch him. Tad crawled back to the stage and started singing again. Then the guitar player, while soloing, heads for the crowd and jumps with the bass player soon to follow.

This ended their set. So then what happens? The goofy autograph mongers start buggin' these guys while they're tryin' to tear down their equipment for the headlining band, Nirvana.

In fact, it was these same mon-

gers buggin' Nirvana while they're tryin' to get their equipment set up. The crowd was filled with Detroit rockers that night. Among them were Karen Neal and Linda Marie of Inside Out, Jymn Auge of Snake Out (the Fuknotz), and Warren Defever of Elvis Hitler.

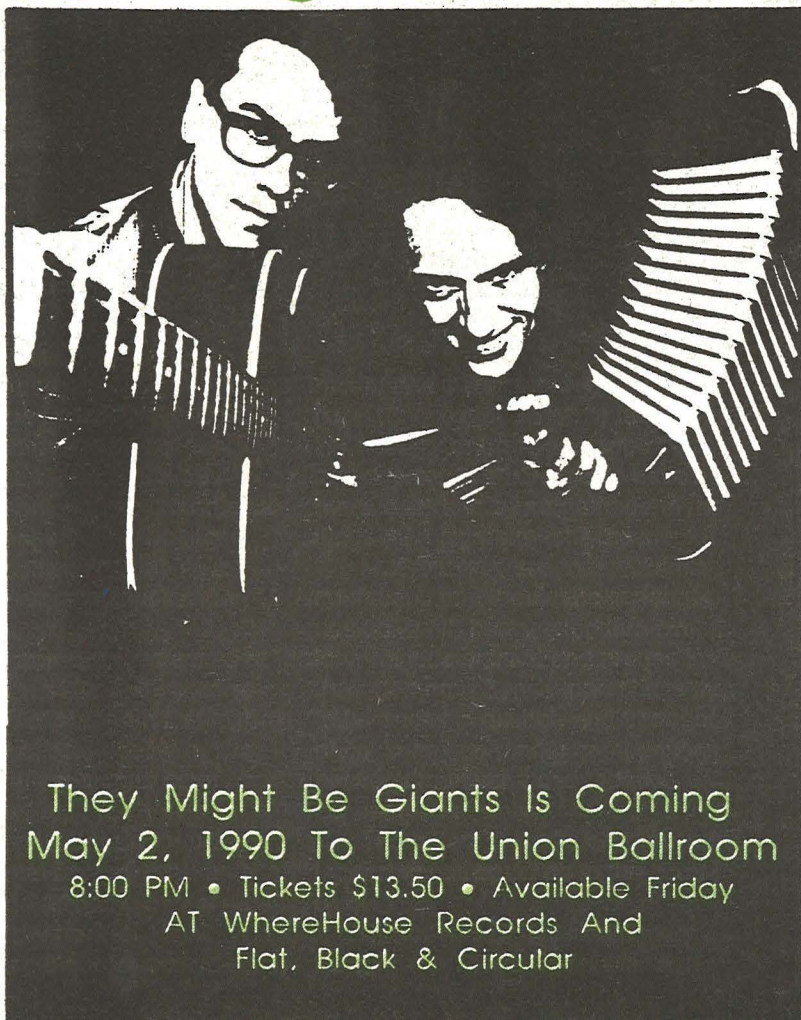
Nirvana started their set off rockin' hard. And with the loss of Jason Everman to Sound Garden, Kurt Kobain, lead singer and rhythm guitarist was left to do the solos — no easy task. He did a most excellent job, though.

Their set included kickin' tunes like "Mr. Mustache." Drummer Chad Channing set the pace with a hard-driving beat which bass player, Chris Novoselic, kept up with and added to with some great bass lines played in a style that only he could master.

The stage dives continued with twice the enthusiasm as when Tad
See TREY, p. 9

Mariah Productions/Pop Entertainment Presents:

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ASMSU
Programming Board

From DEBATE, p.1

are targeted by liquor ads and have many bars, Corley said making marijuana available would only add another problem for those people, who will again be the consumers of choice of the alcohol and tobacco industries.

But Ferency, who is a Democratic candidate for the Michigan Senate, said the problem with drugs isn't distribution, but abuse, and he said the way drugs are dealt with is a problem in itself.

"The plan of turning (drugs) over to the police is a failure," he said. "There is corruption in the CIA, FBI, police and government. We need a better plan."

Plan or no plan, marijuana opponents say the drug is dangerous and are dead set against legalization.

Armed with figures like those in the government's book *Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration: The First 15 Years*, legalization opponents point to the ADAMHA's finding that more than 77,000 admissions to rehabilitation programs are due to marijuana use.

NORML, however, claims that marijuana is not physically addictive; it does not produce the physical evidence common with other drugs, and says it has such a low toxicity that it's impossible to overdose or die from using marijuana. They concede that psychological addiction is possible when use becomes habitual and develops into abuse.

And contrary to its schedule one classification, proponents of legaliza-

tion are trying to change the attitudes of those against legalization by claiming that marijuana has a few medical purposes.

NORML says it aids in the treatment of glaucoma, in controlling seizures from multiple sclerosis, in chemotherapy, and in killing headache pain. They say that in the late 1800s and the early 1900s in America, it was used to make such things as medicine, paper and even clothing.

Legalization advocates say attempts by the government to ban marijuana use have made these statistics (especially the medical figures) virtually unknown to the public.

But even after the dissemination of recent facts, reports, and studies on marijuana, it is difficult to discern which facts are true and which are exaggerated claims. People from all walks of life are lining up on opposite sides of the debate, and only time may tell if marijuana will be decriminalized or if the legalization of pot will be nipped in the bud.

In the meanwhile, the question moves on to more and more fronts.

Kile said if marijuana was legal, less people would do hard drugs.

"Pot isn't a drug; it's a natural creation of God."

Carl Taylor, an MSU criminal justice professor opposed to legalization, said legalizing pot without legalizing other drugs is hypocritical.

"If marijuana is legalized, then we'll have to legalize cocaine, and then other drugs will follow," he said.

The debate rages on.

From SN, p.1

"There is an atmosphere (in the newsroom) that is very demeaning toward women and it makes it very difficult to work there," Bomsta said.

"The reason I walked out is I felt that I was specifically discriminated against."

"I refused to work in a place where discrimination occurred."

As Bomsta and the other strikers left their jobs, they filed a list of 21 demands for an increased minority role at the paper, which began with the resignation of Secor.

For nearly one week, strikers and their spokesman — student leader Darius Peyton — negotiated with management over the demands.

On April 14, Secor and *State News* General Manager Allen Swartzell compiled a list of responses that met nearly all of the strikers' demands, but not Secor's resignation.

Sunday, strikers returned to work.

"Things were kind of tense Sunday," said Carmen Canales, a copy editor who participated in the strike. "But I don't feel that everybody would hate us for taking a stand."

In reference to sexual harassment charges, Canales said: "To my knowledge, there wasn't a physical attack on anyone ... it is that there are sexist policies (at *The State News*)."

Canales said that in newsroom conversation, double standards exist. People at work often are shocked at certain statements made by women, she said. But when male employees make the same statements, people excuse it as, "Oh, that's just his personality."

However, Intern Editor Matt McCallum says he sees no reason "for either side (male or female) to yell out" sexual harassment at *The State News*.

"Men and women in the newsroom joke equally," McCallum said. "I think the whole issue here is pretty stupid."

Having worked at *The State News* for about one year, McCallum said one of the problems he has noticed is that the newsroom atmosphere "is not always professional."

For example, he said employees will give each other back rubs during work hours. And women sitting around engaging in conversation, he said, often are heard "talking about how good men are in bed."

But the new guidelines will no longer permit such behavior in the newsroom, which Canales believes resulted from the strikers' pressure on Secor to respond to their demands. These include:

- Allowing the minority representative to have a vote on the editorial board;
- Implementing an Affirmative Action plan to eradicate the alleged discriminatory hiring practices.
- Develop a minority stylebook.
- Adopt guidelines prohibiting sexual and racial harassment.

"I think we got him (Secor) to say, 'Yes, I'm going to agree to these things,'" Canales said.

But whether Secor is sincere in his newsroom reform proposals "is yet to be seen," she said.

"I'm skeptical I guess, but hopeful."

Copy Editor Alyssa Harvey, another walkout participant, said she is "not very optimistic" that reforms will be enacted. She said: "Right now I'm having trouble knowing if there will be any changes at all." Harvey noted that the strikers returned to work because overall they were pleased with management's responses to their demands. But upon returning to her job, she said she noticed no change in Secor's "attitude."

A letter accompanying the list of demands released April 6 stated that strikers' "frustration and dismay has grown by the lack of effort, concern and a sensitivity displayed by the editor in chief, John Secor."

Harvey said things don't seem to be changing. Upon the strikers' first day back at work, she said Secor already failed at making good on one promise he had made the group: "(to) tell staff that he knew of all the problems before we walked out."

During the strike, Secor repeatedly said that he had never received any reports of sexual or racial harassment.

Sports writer and striker Candace McCrary says it is "just a matter of time" before the group's questions are fully answered.

"We're still kind of on pins and needles waiting for things to happen," she said.

Residence Halls Sign Up for Fall 1990 DURING SPRING TERM 1990

SIGN UP LOCATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EACH RESIDENCE HALL

RESERVE ANY UNRESERVED ROOM IN CURRENT HOUSE
Thu. April 19 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

RESERVED FOR INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS
Fri. April 20 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

RESERVE A DIFFERENT ROOM OR APARTMENT IN OWN HALL
Mon. April 23 and Tue. April 24 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS Planning to change halls

Pick up transfer cards from your current housing clerk
Thu. April 26 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

RESERVE ANY UNRESERVED ROOM OR APARTMENT IN ANY HALL
Fri. April 27 and Mon. Apr. 30 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY APARTMENTS STUDENTS
Sign up for Residence Halls on Wed. May 2 and Thu. May 3.

Application must first be made and a housing application fee of \$25 paid at the
Residence Halls Assignments Office, University Housing Building on Service Road 355-7460
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Housing contract is in effect for the entire academic year.

Returning students must sign the housing contract when making a room reservation.

Spring-term graduates are eligible to reserve a space in Owen Graduate Center.

Roommate requests:

On-campus roommate requests must have paperwork completed by May 15.

Roommate choices of students currently living off campus or new to the University will be honored if their housing applications are on file in the Residence Halls Assignments Office by May 15.

Cancelling a reservation automatically cancels any roommate request.

Voluntary triples cannot be reserved during sign-up.

Space cannot be reserved in more than one hall. Applicants may make a change after cancelling the first reservation in person.

Buying, selling or signing over housing space is a violation of the housing contract and the University reserves the right to cancel any reservations made in this manner.

Cancellations of fall term reservations and contracts must be made by Aug. 1. Students that do not cancel their reservations by that date and enroll for classes will be financially responsible according to the terms of the housing contract.



Page Three

The Second Front Page

Numbers tell the tale of local drug war

by STACY LAMMERS
uR-I issues correspondent

While the federal government has stepped up interdiction and the war on drugs, local police have found little or no change in drug-related arrests over the past few years.

Marijuana violations especially aren't easily discovered, said Michigan State University Department of Public Safety officials, who, along with East Lansing police and the Tri-County Metro Narcotic Squad fight the local drug war.

"Most (marijuana) offenses are brought to our attention through other means (than busts)," said Andrew McEntee, DPS deputy director. "They're either discovered by someone smelling smoke under a door, or through another violation, like a traffic violation."

The department, which combines all drugs into its statistics on drug violations, last year made 10 drug arrests. This marks a decrease from the 12 arrests made in 1988, and since 1985, the number of drug-related arrests has fluctuated. It's gone from 28 in 1985, to 10 in 1986, and peaked at 36 in 1987.

East Lansing, however, has made a consistent number of arrests each year.

"The number of drug violations in the city has pretty much stayed the same for the past few years," said ELPD Captain Richard Murray.

"We don't go after these violations, though," he added. "That's the job of the Metro Narcotic Squad."

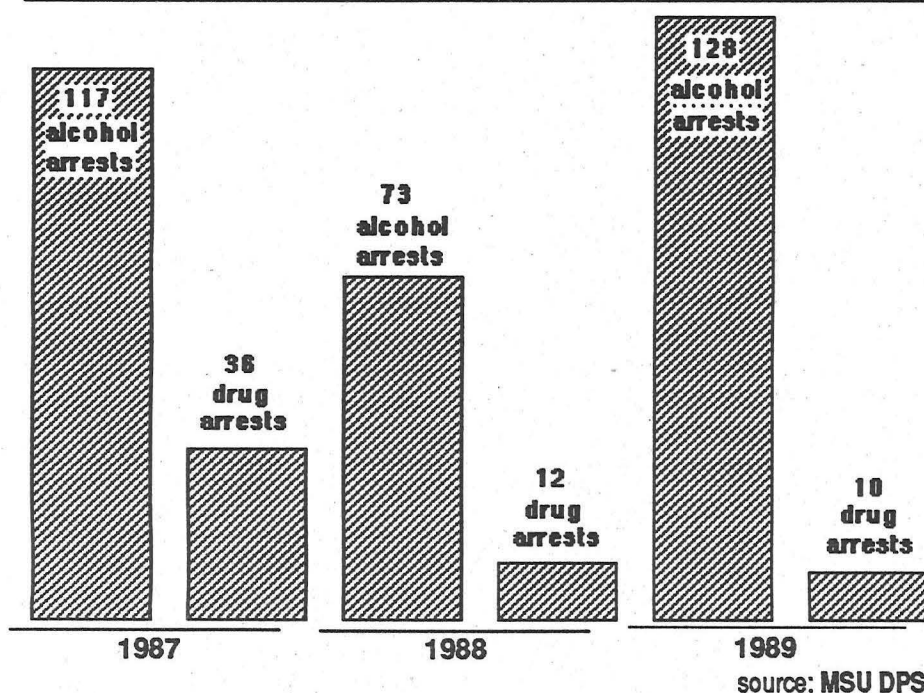
In 1989, East Lansing police reported four arrests for the sale of marijuana, and 10 for possession of marijuana. Violators were jailed for those offenses, Murray said.

But traffic for the Metro Squad, which handles such violations throughout Ingham County and surrounding areas, was heavier.

"In 1989, we reported 54 marijuana-related arrests, which include delivery of, conspiracy to deliver, and possession with intent to deliver marijuana," said Lt. Charles McCord. He added that Metro squad officers made 13 possession of marijuana arrests.

In 1988, arrests were classified differently, and police made 78 arrests for delivery of and conspiracy to deliver marijuana, 25 arrests for possession of and possession with intent to deliver marijuana, and eight arrests for manufacturing (growing) marijuana.

On campus arrests, alcohol vs. other drugs, 1987 to 1989



Alcohol arrests, however, exceeded drug arrests by far.

On campus, liquor violations — minor-in-possession, transportation of alcohol, and open alcohol in public — are more easily discovered than drug violations, according to police. Frequently, liquor violations lead to discovery of drug violations. DPS statistics show a steady trend of increasing liquor violations since 1985.

In 1985, there were 23 liquor violations compared to 28 drug violations. That was the only year drug violations exceeded liquor infractions.

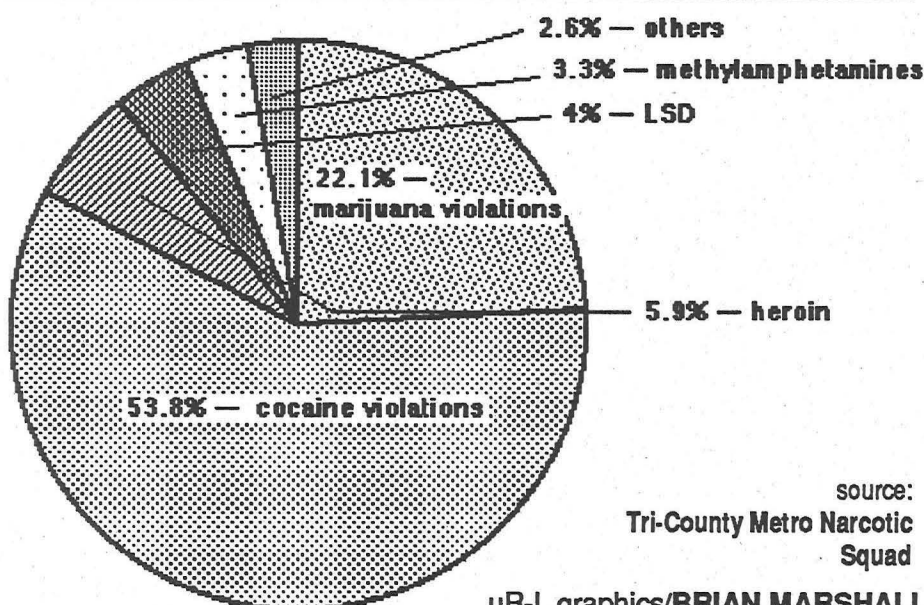
The upward trend of alcohol-related violations on campus continued, going from 58 in 1986, to 117 in 1987, dropping to 73 in 1988. In 1989, the number again increased to 128.

"In the last two years, drug violations have stayed about the same, but alcohol violations greatly increased in the same time period," McEntee said.

Last year, East Lansing reported 306 arrests for possession of alcohol in a vehicle, 27 for consuming alcohol in public, 1,052 for minor in possession, and 804 for consumption of open intoxicants.

The penalties for alcohol violations are not as stringent as those for drug violations, police said.

Breakdown of drug offenses in tri-county area 1989



A percentage breakdown drug arrests in 1988 and 1989 looks like this:

•1988: marijuana, 24.3 percent; cocaine, 54.2 percent; heroin, less than 1 percent; and other drugs and other criminal offenses accounted for 3.1 and 17.5 percent, respectively.

uR-I graphics/BRIAN MARSHALL

•1989: marijuana, 22.1 percent; cocaine, 53.8 percent; heroin, 5.9 percent; LSD, 4 percent; methamphetamine, 3.3 percent; and other drugs accounted for 2.6 percent.

Compared to harder drugs like cocaine and heroin, marijuana arrests decreased in 1989.

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18 April 1990



uR-I artwork/JACK WHEATLEY

Time to stop wasting time, money and lives — legalize

No one is high on the idea of across the board drug legalization, but there is one substance many conservative and liberal thinkers can agree

should be decriminalized — hemp.

Marijuana, as it is commonly known, is a plant that grows naturally in much of the Earth's soil — unlike

other popular mind alters concocted in Bogota laboratories to later be cut with rat poison and other toxins. Although the question of legalization has been

debated on a number of new fronts now familiar to the general public, no action seems imminent.

That is too bad. We insist that cannabis be legalized for several reasons:

- it is a natural product, unlike harder drugs or even alcohol, which must be distilled from other products;

- it will allow millions of poor farmers worldwide to continue to raise the plant legally, thereby removing the stigma of illegality while letting them feed their families;

- it is no more dangerous than any of the other drugs already legalized and widely consumed — such as alcohol, tobacco, valium, etc.

Of course there are hundreds of other reasons and counterarguments to be made, but in this issue we feel you should be exposed to enough diverse thought from both sides of the spectrum to make up your own mind.

Ours is already set.

Legalize marijuana

— NOW, mon.

They came, they saw, they walked, they lost

What's that we hear?

A distant voice with a cellulite warble?

Could it be?

It is!!!

THE FAT WOMAN SINGETH ...

... and the tune is taps, sung for the hope of real reform at *The State News*.

After an initially courageous — and later vague (but more on that later) — fight against racial and sexual harassment at the student daily, walkouts became giveups and agreed Good Friday to return to work the following Sunday. In true Friday the Thirteenth fashion, their luck turned bad as they gave in to what was — at best — a proposal by *The State News* Management to stick to its existing policy.

The State News' counter-proposal to the walkouts' list of 22 demands included: A cultural awareness and sensitivity seminar; having a minority representative attend weekly editor meetings, changing the term "black" to "African American"; creating and using

a minority stylebook; enforcing an affirmative action plan; and establishing a specific, written grievance procedure for all staff members.

According to the paper, all walkouts would return after the agreement was reached.

In other words, not one of the strikers had the courage or sense to realize that they gave up the fight too soon and for too much nothing.

Whyfore do we say this??

Primarily because most of the terms agreed upon are hollow; the minority representative can vote on editorial stances, making a total of four votes — but the editor-in-chief casts the tie-breaking vote. Nothing new here. Technically, the editor-in-chief can overrule all votes (he can prevail against odds of one-million to one, if that's the case), by virtue of his position.

Then there's hiring staffers and promoting them. Now minorities are encouraged and will be given an equal chance—but the final decision rests with the editor-in-chief. Wow, what a change from the pre-strike policy,

which gave editor-in-chief hiring, firing and promoting power. And enforce an affirmative action plan? Weren't they supposed to be doing that already?? Like they say the University should be doing??? Hypocrisy????

Oh, then there's "African American" instead of "black" Like the difference in calling handicappers "handicappers" instead of "handicapped," changing the name doesn't solve the problem. This is a truly puny concession.

And, lest we should forget, there will be cultural awareness and sensitivity seminars! Let us also remember, however, that cultural awareness and sensitivity cannot be taught just with a seminar, it should be developed by listening to the concerns of minorities — which the paper obviously hasn't done, and most likely won't do, unless a new editor feels that it is important. Editor-in-Chief John Secor has already shown he is not mature enough to listen to his staff's concerns, and he is the linchpin to the

See EDIT, p. 9

the university Reporter-Intelligencer

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and its environs.
So there.**

Viewer Mail

More on Farrakhan

Dear Editor:

Being the director of MSU's only speaking organization, Great Issues, I feel an urgency to comment, albeit belatedly, on a subject of importance to Great Issue and to the MSU community-at-large.

Last term, a controversy ensued at MSU on the speech of Louis Farrakhan, a reputable speaker who has undeniably made anti-Semitic comments. The Board of Trustees action (a limit of funding only \$1,000) to withdraw the \$4,000 which the administration gave to As One will surely go down in our history as an inflammatory example of modern censorship in an allegedly free society.

I am disheartened and appalled by the Trustees' action and by the protesting of the speech which followed. These people acted as our own Jesse Helms, telling us what propagandist speech deserves funding and what does not. Farrakhan became our Robert Mapplethorpe, and, to a smaller extent, our Salmon Rushdie.

A truly free society, in my opinion, guarantees an adequate marketplace of ideas where differing opinions are made and exchanged, no matter how controversial or racial. However, the Trustees clearly tried to shut the door

to that marketplace on Minister Farrakhan. I do not like Anti-Semitic comments disseminated, but I would not disallow it. The MSU Trustees felt they were acting out of dedication to diversity when they took away the pledged money, but in reality they were only the forerunners of bigotry. Poet Allen Ginsberg said: "The purpose of such censorship is to concentrate all emotional authority in the state and eliminate all ideological and emotional competition."

There was much lobbying done on the part of a few student groups to have Farrakhan's speech removed from the campus because they didn't think that Farrakhan should be a part of American Democracy, that his point of views were too inconvenient for us and that his audience would be too stupid to recognize racism.

This censoring attitude on campus also denied that Farrakhan is a viable voice within the Black community, and that's foolish.

I feel that Farrakhan's speech should have been funded completely, but that the context should have been altered: All speakers, of any persuasion, should be required to hold aside a period of time for questions and answers so that students may challenge and learn from the speaker, as opposed to being merely passive receivers of indoctrination and bias. Additionally, for highly controversial issues (i.e. Farrakhan), a university-facilitated symposium featuring representatives of all sides including administrators, students, faculty, and staff to discuss the implications of what was said is essential.

As William Kirwan, President of the University of Maryland, said, "... a University...has an obligation, not only to allow those presentations under the First Amendment, but to provide regular, organized forums where

students learn to divest themselves of those points of view.

"The society at large is much better off when it consciously rejects something than when it never hears it and maybe harbors latent views."

The defenders of freedom and fighters of racism were inside the auditorium with their notebooks and their questions. But again, the Board of Trustees did not provide for a critical forum.

The intellect of the Farrakhan boycotters is analogous to people thinking that we can stop airplane crashes if we stop writing articles about them in our newspapers. This attitude only makes us less aware of the reality of society.

The wave of apathy that clouded MSU over a clear First Amendment violation brings to mind a line from Cockburn's article *Bound to be Gagged*: "A freedom you aren't fighting for is probably a freedom you've already lost."

Great Issues is here to say that we fight censorship and will express our rights to program speakers. The Trustees seemingly forgot Voltaire's cliché: "I may disagree with what you said but I will fight to the death for your right to say it." Instead, they turned it on its head: "I might disagree with what you say, but I will fight to ensure you say it somewhere else."

— Patrick Bryant
Director of Great Issues

Due to the length of Bryant's letter — over five single-spaced, typed pages — the uR-I is only able to print part of the essay. However, complete copies of Bryant's letter may be obtained at our Gunson Street offices.
— ed.

Chick not amused

Why is it that in Lynne Hoffman's 28 February review of Going Public the people of the male gender are called "men," but those of the female gender get to be called "chicks?"

Her review was offensive; an Alabama truck driver couldn't have done better himself!

I go to every Going Public show I can because they put on a great show. I am not a "chick" or a "bimbo." (Gee, she forgot to use "dames," and "broad" too...)

Finally, why is it that she could figure out Rich Fossier's name but could only come up with "some chick" for the female singer?

It would've taken all of 10 seconds to find out her name by asking anyone in the band.

Instead of doing that and pointing out the fact that she is one of the only female singers in East Lansing, Hoffman chooses to degrade her.

Some "alternative" newspaper you have there.

With Sincere disgust,

—Tina Caputo
English senior

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS!

write to us about anything on your mind and send that kernel of brilliance to the uR-I at 142 Gunson St, East Lansing, Mi 48823.

Letters should not exceed 250 words, and must be signed. We are not your pen pals, and therefore do not want to receive any correspondence you don't want printed.

WE PRINT EVERYTHING WE RECEIVE!



Geek of the Week

Fiddle, fiddle, fiddle.
Burn, burn, burn.

For denying that Rome was on fire as chunks of that scorched and once-venerated campus institution fell around you and your male chauvinist cronies, you win what some might call a booby prize — oops, we mean consolation prize — Geek o' the Week dishonors.

Yes, John Secor, you lied to the press and ignored the real problems brought up by strikers who could take no more after nearly a year of callous and depressing mismanagement.

Gee, he always seemed like such a nice boy, Madge.

Here's hoping, your last several weeks will — and then you will — fly by and be forgotten.

Good luck selling Edsels, John — you'll need it.

TIM
SILVERTHORNE

Legalization question spurs debate, challenge on high levels

think is impaired," Gerard continues.

Could he name a study?

No, he said, he was not a researcher, and was too busy doing other things to find hard evidence.

"I did not conjure this up as a reaction to a drug; I read it in medical literature," he insisted.

Could he give the name of any of the publications where he saw the studies?

No.

"I really resent the way you conducted this," Gerard concluded.

Good. I'm rather enjoying the same exhilaration H. Marcus seemed to exhibit when roasting a particularly blunt oaf in class.

Now, to be fair, I re-checked a bulk of evidence, mostly published in the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, a scientific journal with an editorial review board comprised regularly of about 40 researchers from Harvard, the University of Chicago, Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University, among others.

Here is what I found:

•**University of Miami study, 1988.** Fifteen-year study of use in Costa Rica states, "Previous studies of the longterm effects of chronic cannabis use have uniformly failed to demonstrate deficits in cognitive and motor functions...In addition, studies of neuropsychological functions in North American chronic users who were not multiple drug users have also failed to reveal longterm effects specifically associated with cannabis." The study itself concluded that, while there were consistent scoring differences between non-users and chronic, longterm users, the difference could be called "sub-clinical".

•**Stanford University study, 1988.** Study of marijuana, driving and accident safety: "...there is little hard evidence on the extent of marijuana involvement in accidents in the transportation industry." Despite evidence that roughly the same number of railway workers use marijuana as alcohol, 73 accidents named alcohol as the sole cause. Marijuana was named twice, once in connection with alcohol and methamphetamine. Study states that blood levels of THC are present in 11 to 20 percent of drivers in fatal car accidents, but because 81 to 87 percent of those were also drunk, the cause of the accidents was probably alcohol, not marijuana.

•**University of Arizona study, 1988.** "Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man. In strict medical terms, marijuana is far safer than many foods we commonly consume, (such as) raw potatoes." LD 50 and Therapeutic Ratio are ways of judging a substances toxicity. These

measures have not been established for marijuana, the study says, because, "researchers have been unable to give animals enough marijuana to induce death." Study says that, despite the fact that 20 to 50 million Americans routinely smoke marijuana, a single death has never been reported due to toxicity. By comparison, aspirin causes hundreds of deaths each year.

•**The Late Dr. Norman Zinberg, Harvard Medical School, 1979.** "In any study ever conducted, students who smoked marijuana had better grades than non-smokers." Zinberg speculated that this was not because marijuana makes you more intelligent, but rather reflected that more intelligent students would tend to be more adventurous and thus use marijuana. Zinberg states that any number of learned commissions has disproved the idea that marijuana is a stepping-stone to "harder drugs", like cocaine and heroin.

Now, I'm not saying that marijuana isn't necessarily harmful. Other studies in the *Journal* indicate that marijuana smoke harms the heart and lungs, though probably not even as bad as cigarettes. (Also, because marijuana isn't physically addictive, marijuana users smoke much less than cigarette users.)

Also, though the bulk of evidence shows marijuana to be harmless by other standards, by the very fact that marijuana is illegal it is hard to study its health effects. There's simply no plethora of reliable research out there partly because the Drug Enforcement Agency controls licensing of independent studies of illegal drugs, and restricts them.

Well they should. If research continues to pile up in favor of legalizer's claims, the DEA stands to lose a chunk of that sweet budget pie.

And as Bill Day, a James Madison senior, chortled at the East Lansing legalization rally, "The cops, the DEA, (they) love whatever power you can give 'em."

You know how addictive sweets are.

Also, whatever research is available isn't as good as it should be. People lie to their doctors and insurance companies, freaked out about losing their jobs, paying high premiums or the police. How many people, do you think, mark "yes" in the box asking essentially whether you are a junkie, fiend or high-on?

This means that large chunks of vital health statistics are unavailable to researchers in evaluating marijuana's possible effects. More frighteningly, countless other unrelated health studies will be flawed by not taking into account the 15 to 20 percent of their test subjects who smoke marijuana regularly and don't report it.

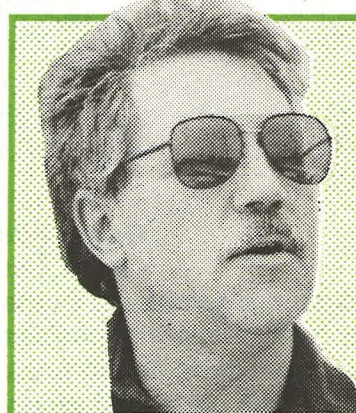
Finally, I would like to acknowledge that half the blame for the incorrect statements made in *The State News* article falls on Matt Tanguay, the reporter. His inability to locate real, knowledgeable sources for his article has helped to perpetuate dangerous myths about marijuana. This is reflective of negligence and, as such, is poor journalism.

At any rate, I'm offering your choice of 20 Washingtons, four Lincolns or two Hamiltons to the first person who can present to me one credible, (i.e. university, clinical, non-government) study done since 1974 documenting that marijuana use either:

- A. damages cognitive functions.
- B. "burns out" short term memory cells
- C. kills brain cells
- D. makes anyone impotent
- E. leads to harder drugs
- F. Causes a demonstrated amotivational syndrome. (Note that in Jamaica, smokers use the drug in the morning like we use coffee — to get motivated.)

Now, Dr. Gerard, students and public, there's a little incentive that I bet you won't find MSU's "Independent Voice" laying out. I suggest that everyone begin their search by dialing 1-202-633-1000. I'm waiting.

— *Silverthorne is a UR-I issues correspondent.*

Doc
Sex

Dr. Andrew Barclay does not appear this week due to a slight misunderstanding with his parole officer. (He violated parole by checking out the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit in SinSinatti. Commented the doc: "It may not be art, but I like it, I like it!") Now that things have been worked, er, out, Barclay will be back next week. Keep those questions, er, mailing.

H. Marcus was a history professor I didn't much like. He made me do a lot of work and in the end, I got a lousy grade. H. Marcus did, however, leave me with an admirable and succinct maxim which he used, though we squirmed at its utterance, to make an important point about ethics.

"If you don't know, say so," he would bark at some rambling oaf, in front of everyone.

I recommend that Roy Gerard, the family practice department chairperson, think on H. Marcus' simple wisdom.

Our story begins April 2, when David Greenbaum, an MSU human medicine professor, said in *The State News* that marijuana damages the central nervous system. Dr. Gerard was also quoted that marijuana destroys brain cells. These, they pontificated, were the reasons marijuana should remain illegal.

I was immediately baffled because, in two years of reading research literature on the subject, I had never seen these assertions.

So, I made a call.

"Those are incorrect statements. There is no evidence to suggest that," says Lester Grinspoon, an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School who has studied marijuana for over two decades and has published two books decrying government misinformation about marijuana.

"Those are the kind of alarmist statements which are the product of our current drug hysteria," Grinspoon says.

Wanting to give Greenbaum and Gerard a chance to cite research evidence in support of their statements, I called them. Unfortunately, Greenbaum is not available to comment because he is currently hospitalized. Gerard, though a busy man, promised to look for the literature he referred to in *The State News* interview.

After 10 days of trying, I finally coaxed Dr. Gerard to speak to me.

"People who use marijuana habitually, the so-called 'potheads', I think there's evidence that marijuana harms them," Gerard says.

How?

"There's a lot of literature in the texts to show that cannabis, or the active ingredient, THC, causes cognitive changes and users ability to

Make every day Earth Day



**BETH
CARTER**

•**FACT 1:** It takes an entire forest — over 500,000 trees — to supply Americans with their Sunday newspapers every week.

•**FACT 2:** We throw away 28 billion glass bottles and jars each year — enough to fill the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center every two weeks.

•**FACT 3:** There is a better way to make use of the Earth's dwindling resources — **recycling**.

With the ratio of landfills to rainforests increasing, and the number of disposable diapers clinging to the face of the Earth already outnumbering the people, you'd think that people would get the hint: things are way out of hand. It seems so simple that recycling makes sense — it uses less energy, saves more money in the long run, and saves valuable resource

materials for future generations.

So why do 70 percent of American households still refuse to recycle goods?

It's the same old story — mere laziness accounts for most of the unrecycling population, while ignorance accounts for the rest. The problem is, it will be far too late a few hundred years down the road for all the lazy people to say "Oops, sorry" when the resources are gone and all our homes are built on landfills. A truly lovely picture, and one that we have to act now to prevent.

Home recycling is a lot easier than you think. To begin with:

•**Contact your local recycling group.** (Most cities are ecologically-hip enough to have one by now.) They can advise you on what and when they pick up, and how to prepare for it. In East Lansing, the Recyclers of Ingham County offer curbside pick-up to the "college ghetto" area. Call 337-3040 to see if you qualify. (And hey kids, it's FREE!)

•**Sort newspapers, tossing out that slick, glossy crap that doesn't recycle.** Stack or brown-bag newspapers (like the lovely uR-I) in a corner.

•**Tear the labels off tin cans, take the ends off, and crush them.** It's fun and smart, too.

•**Sort glass bottles according to color.** Take off any metal collars, caps

or corks, but don't worry about paper labels.

•**Rinse out and crush plastic milk and juice containers and place them in their separate bins.** (With each American using about 190 pounds of plastic each year, it's nice to know that this environmental bummer can be recycled.)

•**Crush corrugated cardboard boxes and stack them separately.** They can be recycled, too.

For the truly dedicated, a little bit of "pre-cycling thought" can go a long way. Most people don't think twice about packaging when they shop, but if you knew that about one out of every \$11 you spend on food goes to unnecessary plastic packaging, you might take a few extra seconds to pre-cycle. So:

•**Buy in bulk whenever possible.** Generally, it's cheaper, and it uses minimal packaging.

•**Buy eggs in cardboard — not those dreaded styrofoam — containers.**

•**Read labels!** Stay clear of such things as phosphates in detergents and CFC's in aerosols. In general, the more cosmic the chemical sounds, the better it is (for the Earth and for you) to stay away from it.

•**Buy groceries in glass rather than plastic containers whenever possible.** The reason is simple: Glass will

eventually biodegrade; plastic never will. True, that jar of peanut butter might break rather than bounce when you drop it — but at least it won't bounce after you forever.

All this might sound bothersome and time-consuming, but the little extra effort that it takes is well worth it. The American Paper Institute estimates that if everyone in the U.S. recycled even one tenth of their newspapers, we could save about 25 billion trees every year. And if 10 percent of Americans purchased less plastic products just 10 percent of the time, we could eliminate about 144 million pounds of plastic that might otherwise be destined for landfills.

The message is clear: if we want something done, we've got to do it ourselves. Get into the recycling habit, and take a little extra time to think about what you're buying when you shop. Only through direct action can consumers tell manufacturers what they want to see on the shelves. Everything that you do has an effect on the environment, so try to make it a positive one.

— **Carter is a writer/photographer who covers environmental issues for the uR-I. Numbers cited in this piece were obtained from THE EARTHWORKS GROUP.**

Getting involved

The following is a guide to local Earth Day activities, compiled by uR-I environmental correspondent Beth Carter.

Wednesday, 18 April

Consequences of Global Warming for the Future of Life on Earth, a free discussion by Robert Peters of the World Wildlife Fund. 7 p.m., Erikson Kiva.

Thursday, 19 April

Rainforest Benefit, featuring music by **The Assembly**. Doors open at 6 p.m., Union Ballroom. Sponsored by T.F.A.C. and the Rainforest Action Network.

Friday, 20 April

Amazon Rainforests: A Burning Question? a discussion by Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institution. Noon, B108 Wells Hall.

Saturday, 21 April

Group Clean-Up of the Beal Pinetum and Sanford Woodlot. Noon, meet at the southeast corner of the Sanford Woodlot, located at the corner of Shaw Lane and Hagadorn Road. Sponsored by the M.S. U. Forestry Club.

Second Annual Peace Education Center Tree Planting, volunteers are needed! Call 351-4648 for info.

Sunday, 22 April — EARTH DAY

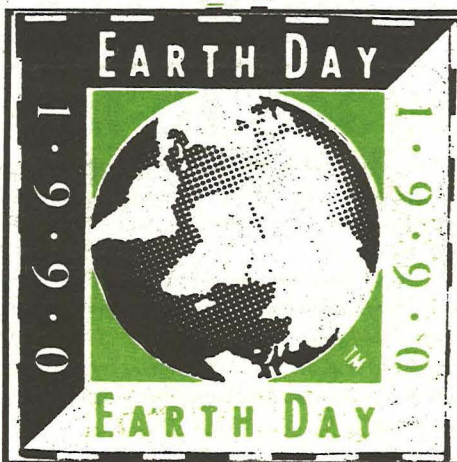
M.S.U. Earth Day Celebration, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at Landon Field, featuring speakers, info. booths, and music by The Hannibals, Alter Ego, and Pickle Brown Betty.

Riverfront Park Earth Day Celebration, downtown Lansing, featuring demonstrations, speakers, and a "Green Fair", where people can buy alternative, ecologically-sound products.

Tuesday, 24 April

For the Whales and The Lorax, two films with environmental themes. Shown at 8 p.m., 158 Natural Resources.

This is only a partial list, keep your eyes and ears open for other Earth Day activities. Posters are plastered all over campus, East Lansing, and Lansing announcing various events sponsored by involved groups.



Staying involved

Although only one day is designated as Earth Day, the Earth herself is here year round. The following are a list of organizations committed to protecting the planet and its inhabitants, compiled by uR-I environmental correspondent Beth Carter.

1. Friends of the Earth — the

global environmental advocacy group, with partners in 38 countries. Their concerns include ozone depletion, global warming, groundwater contamination, etc... **Write:** Friends of the Earth, Dept. E, 218 'D' Street S.E., Washington D.C., 20003.

2. Greenpeace — everyone's heard

of them; they're about the most prolific, broadest in scope, and overall effective environmental group around. They have instigated policy changes on everything from acid rain to whaling bans. **Write:** Greenpeace, 1436 'U' Street N.W., Washington D.C., 20009.

3. National Wildlife Federation

— a bit on the conservative side, but still the most important governmental

voice on wildlife protection. **Write:** NWF, 1412 16th Street N.W., Washington D.C., 20036.

4. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — the most effective and hard-hitting animal rights organization around, these guys have saved millions of cute fluffy things from cruel laboratory tests, and have changed the way that many industries test their products. **Write:** PETA, P.O. Box 42516, Washington D.C., 20015

5. Rainforest Action Network —

the Amazon rainforests are a hot topic in current environmental legislation, and deservedly so: each year, 27 million acres of tropical rainforests are destroyed (that's an area the size of Ohio), which comes down to about 50 acres *per minute*. If you're concerned, **write:** The Rainforest Action Network, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133.

6. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

— probably the most active, all-volunteer marine environmental organization in the world. A whale's best friend. **Write:** Sea Shepards, Box 7000-S, Dept. E, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

This is only a partial list, there are hundreds of other credible organizations committed to protecting and improving our environment and home, the Earth. It's the only one we've got, so look around and get involved!

SN advocates ignorance



Trebian Shorters

by Trebian Shorters
uR-I special correspondent

The State News uses its power as MSU's institutional student newspaper to contribute to racism and divisiveness on campus.

I was recently speaking with a writer for the Lansing State Journal about "Advocate" newspapers. He said that advocate papers were the least respected of newspapers because they have strong bias in their stories. Advocate papers do everything but lie to you to get their special interests met.

The State News is, unfortunately (for all of us), guilty of this.

The group that the SN is an advocate for is not white people, it's ignorant people. That leaves many of us skeptical and offended by their publications. The SN is in an excellent position to educate and promote our culture of diversity at MSU, but they fail to do this. This failure hurts all of us, Black and White, Muslim and Jew.

A memo from SN editor-in-chief John Secor to his editors (2-1-90) shows where Secor's special interests

lie. The memo, which refers to Farrakhan's body guards as "Uzi-toting boys," tells his editors to "track down" Ezra Hyland and only lists Jewish leaders as "experts on Farrakhan."

The student group As One was viciously maligned by the series of articles that The State News ran during the Farrakhan controversy.

At the trustee meeting, people compared Farrakhan to Hitler and As One to the Aryan Nation. The SN reported this, but didn't give As One a chance to refute the comparisons.

The SN told us that in spite of what As One claimed, other RSO's like the NAACP didn't support As One bringing Farrakhan to MSU.

Their front page headline, "Conflicting Accounts: As One claims minority support," (SN 2/6/90) makes As One out to be liars.

Individuals from campus minority (and majority) groups signed a petition to bring Farrakhan here. That is all As One claimed, but that's not the impression that the SN gave.

The SN consistently used biased wording when referring to As One; saying that Victoria Lyles "allegedly" wrote a letter to the assistant provost that said As One had support from "the vast majority of the minority student groups." (Note that does not say "from minority RSOs.")

Four questions come to mind from the use of the journalistic taboo word "alleged." Did Vicky send a letter or not? If she did, then why did they imply that she didn't? If she didn't send a letter then how did they quote what the letter said? Why didn't the SN just get a copy of the letter if they didn't believe her?

"Alleged" was used to manipulate us into doubting Vicky and As One's

integrity.

This cannot be excused as sloppy reporting and editing because it's coming from our single biggest source of campus news and it is lying by omission.

For the SN to facilitate these false images has soiled this new group's image, isolated them in the minds of the public and caused them the pain and frustration of being misrepresented in a worthy cause.

Where are black people supposed to turn when the media alternately vilifies and ignores us?

The SN has a terrible track record when it comes to black people. Last year their stories were so one-sided and hostile that one of the Study-In demands was for them to stop race-baiting.

This year they did create a "minority representative" post but that reporter wasn't allowed to cover the story when black students were assaulted by police at Tango's this fall. Instead, the SN said football players were arrested and left the story at that (SN 11/7/89).

You'll notice that in their account police and white bar employees tell the whole story. However, there were more than 200 Blacks at the scene of the crime.

Minority students are not the only ones to lose from "advocate" reporting. We all lose when our media breeds conflict.

I respect the Jews and Hillel and anyone who is willing to fight for what they believe in. But all of the white students who didn't know who Farrakhan was before the controversy, STILL don't know who he is due to the SN's one-sided accounts.

The SN is supposed to report the objective facts. But it seems that they

would rather set Black against Jew and White against Black than work to pull us together.

Hillel's goals and As One's goals came into conflict over Farrakhan, but it was the SN that divided and scarred the whole campus.

They never explained what the "positive aspects" of Farrakhan's message were.

They never explained the reason that As One wanted such a controversial speaker to come to MSU. They never gave the other side of the story. What were the SN's readers left to think after hearing it their way?

I suggest that they apologize to As One for everything from leaving the group's press meetings after only 15 minutes to ostracizing and scapegoating them during the controversy. Then I suggest they get serious about their public trust.

I am not opposed to the SN as a body. But I am opposed to being victimized and watching others be victimized by a party that claims impartiality while it beats us in the face with a big stick.

In 1947 a National Commission of Freedom of the Press wrote The requirements for a Free and Responsible Press reflecting concerns that Jewish people should not be discriminated against in the media.

"The country has many groups which are partially insulated from one another and which need to be interpreted to one another. Factually correct but substantially untrue accounts of the behavior of members of these social islands can intensify the antagonisms of others towards them."

The observation made here could save all of us the pain and confusion caused by a controlled and irresponsible press.

the ole Provoc, unlike youses, refuses to lay a chocolate egg

at least the other holidays have some logical symbol — such as Halloween, which has goblins and ghouls and witches and curses, and is my favorite holiday.

But Easter?

Sure, I do remember reading something in my copy of the illustrated children's Bible about a rabbit laying some chocolate eggs.

Yep, great text, that. Co-authored by, and even autographed by, none other than Rex Humbarnd himself. Praise be.

Speaking of Humbarnd and his fellow men of the (silk pajama) cloth, it's been at least a month since one of them was up on any kind of charge.

Not bad.

That may all change soon, though... Seems Jim and Tammy started a new church: "The People's Church of the Stupid and Gullible Who Want Us to Be Rich."

Sounds like the Bakkers are sticking to the truth and advertising clause in the Bakker's plea bargaining case. If they hadn't agreed to it, they would have locked Jim up with James Brown, who would have put Jimbo in a world of gun-slingin', state line crossin', wife-threatenin', funky dancin', hellacious preaching hurt.

A-Owwwwww!

Yep, this Easter was like all the others, but I love it.

We sit down around the ham we stole from the mission, shout grace, rob the poor box at church (Our Lady of the Truly Tolerant and Slightly Deaf), and Uncle Legs — who gets let out for holiday — carves up that pig just like he did to his fourth wife.

Brings a tear to my eye.

While we're on the subject of legs and things at the end of them (hey, that's not what I'm thinking), the Easter Bunny means more to me than to most kids my age.

It means four new good luck charms.

Sorry, Bugs.

By the way, even though George "Boy, You Got Big Fast, Brudder, Musta Been Good Family Values and Not Steroids That Done It" Perles hasn't shown up in this space lately, he's still my favorite coach.

Next to Jim "Rules, What Rules, MeNo-SpeakaDeEengleesh" Valvano, that is.

Jud and his hair are cool, though. And when I say "hair" I don't mean "hairs."



the
Provocateur

Hey, you festering, Eastering public! Did y'all miss me last week?

YOU SHOULD HAVE, DAMMIT!

Anyway, after being released from the Vet Clinic, where I was incarcerated — er, um, hospitalized — for a terrible diaper rash, I'm back, content to be a malcontent spreading discontent.

So let's have at it, you all-ready-been-chewed-bubble-gum-and-stringy-saliva lovers!

Here goes nothing (that means you)...

What's the deal with this Easter gig anyway? I mean,

From EDIT, p. 4

success of awareness and sensitivity at the paper.

And what of the sexual harassment charges? What measures to deal with them were put forth?

Zip. In an environment freely deemed "touchy-feelie" by the editor, there will be no changes.

Instead, like Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Secor looked into the bowels of adversity, got farted on, and ended up solidifying his position.

It was truly a master political stroke. Congratulations, Mr. Secor, you get your last eight weeks.

So the paper didn't really win; there will be no improved working conditions. As much as he may believe he won, and the out-of-touch board of directors may say he did win, Mr. Secor didn't win.

Neither did his enemies.

No; the strikers failed, and dismally at that.

They sacrificed a week's pay and

any chance for advancement or entry into the paper's power clique for a set of meaningless concessions and a new way of referring to one minority group of the many at MSU. They sacrificed their impartiality by choosing a source — renowned for his abundant love of the spotlight and scant affection for concrete facts regarding issues he represents — and sacrificed their credibility for failing to provide any specific cases of discrimination and harassment, even though non-striking staffers as well as walk-outs admitted that Mr. Secor (ironically, a phoenetic equivalent of Gen Al Secord, renowned Iran-Contra liar) lied about not being approached by staff members with problems.

That all is too bad. They lost their chance and strengthened their opposition.

Worst of all, they sacrificed their principles.

And that, we can unequivocally conclude, makes them losers, too.

Want the real poop? read Op: weekly

From MASTER, p. 11

Eric was joined on stage by none other than **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, who drove Eric's playing to a higher level of excellence. In the above number and in the classic "After Midnight," Vaughn's fast, distorted, and screaming solos contrasted, yet complimented Clapton's jabbering runs, crying highs, and perfectly spaced solos.

After a long and thunderous applause, a beaming Vaughn returned to his seat as Clapton tore into a emotional and gritty blues tune, "Old Love" from the *Journeyman* album. In this straight forward song Clapton left the entire crowd, including Vaughn and Detroit's own **Bob Seger** in awe with his blurry finger moves and string bending harmonics on the high note runs.

In his next songs his new drive never faltered, as he played the new, yet blistering, "Bad Love" that recalled the classic "Badge," and a killer version of "Tearing Us Apart" that had the whole Palace jumping. Then, in contrast, Clapton rendered a slow yet emotional version of the love song "Wonderful Tonight" left tears in many an eye, including **Tessa Niles**, who dueted on vocals with Clapton on the song.

The set continued with a peppy version of "Cocaine" and ended with a very true to the studio version of the

epic, "Layla" which emphasized Clapton's main lead riff throughout and combined this with a sweet melody note and fade out high notes similar to the kind played by **Duane Allman** on the original.

For the encore, a slow version of "Crossroads" exceled, and a great solo and riff combination by the whole band joined together trading the vocal duties for Cream's heavy classic, "Sunshine of Your Love", which musically sounded like a copy of the live 1968 version. This was helped by a **Ginger Baker**-style drum solo by **Steve Ferrone** and by Clapton, bassist East, and guitarist **Phil Palmer** doing an improvised jam to the intro of the song "Superstitious" in tribute to a happy Stevie Ray Vaughn at the end.

After a shaky and cluttered start, Clapton proved that in being the guitar diety that he is, less counts for more. In that the simpler he kept things, by playing his guitar with little or no backup, his true skill could be seen. Moreover, his singing was top-notch and from the heart while he proved he could still sing and play the blues. This concert might perpetuate the "Clapton is God" myth, yet it again proves that Clapton is a true *Journeyman* at his craft. He is truly a long way along the never-ending road to perfection.

we weren't
sure what to
put here, so
we put
this...
we're the
uR-I.

Oh yeah!
don't forget to
send your
questions to
dr. sex and to
read the Pro-
voc — your
weekly bite in
the ass

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From TREY, p. 12

was on. Nirvana also played some of the songs that will be appearing on their next album due out in September. Fans can expect great things, judging by this show.

They finished up the set with "Swap Meet" and Kobain put his guitar down and dove into the audience — one couldn't help but think that maybe this man values his guitar a little more than the guitarist from Tad.

Then Novoselic put his bass down and was standing in front of Channing waving his arms up and down to the beat that the drummer was still putting out. He looked like a kid getting ready to do the standing long jump. Then he did — right through the drums and into Channing.

OUCH!

Then the show was over.

Tad and Nirvana can truly rock, and they don't just do it for the audience, they do it with the audience, and they've gotta be havin' fun, they're stage divin' like nobody's business. But then, what do you expect from a bunch of guys who come from Seattle, home of the late Jimi Hendrix



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