

LIFE

*A
Rare Photo
for
The President's Album*



In Luci's hospital room the proud grandfather meets Patrick Lyndon Nugent

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Marijuana: Millions of Turned-on Users



At a Manhattan penthouse, a Ph.D. in humanities and an expectant mother spend quiet afternoon smoking marijuana.

Almost overnight the U.S. was embarked on the greatest mass flouting of the law since Prohibition. Marijuana, a mild euphoric drug known and used throughout much of the world for centuries and long a part of the bohemian scene in the U.S., suddenly has become commonplace on college campuses, among intellectuals and suburbanites, and—most worrisome of all—even among subteen-agers. Some authorities estimate as many as 10 million Americans have tried marijuana at least once, and the number of users is increasing rapidly. Just how fast can be gauged from the fact that New York police last year seized 1,690 pounds of “pot”—17 times as much as in 1960—and concede this is only a fraction of the total coming into the city. Even more significant are the new openness with which the drug is used and the missionary fervor with which marijuana and its more powerful cousin LSD are extolled by an ever-widening circle of believers in mind-expanding drugs, which has now spread far beyond its base in the hippie ghettos. The use of marijuana is encouraged by rock ‘n’ roll groups, by the editorializing of underground newspapers and by “psychedelic shops.”

One reason for the explosion is that old fears concerning marijuana have proved to be exaggerated. Pot is not physically addicting, nor need it lead to crime, immorality or stronger drugs. Other dangers, of course, remain: a driver who is high on pot is as lethal as a drunk, and the laws governing anyone caught possessing or peddling marijuana are extremely severe, often with mandatory jail sentences. Despite the stringent laws, Federal Food and Drug Administration Director James Goddard admits that narcotics agents are unable to control the situation, and even so dedicated a drug foe as former Federal Narcotics Commissioner Harry Anslinger concedes that present penalties are unrealistically severe for youthful offenders. In fact, the very illegality of marijuana is part of its appeal for many young people. Seeing themselves in rebellion against the empty, materialistic striving of their parents, they turn the whole pot scene into a protest tool which they use to mock a middle-class culture they disdain. Used in this way, marijuana often leads them into a drug-culture shadow world and on to a psychological dependence whose implications for users—and for society—are disturbing indeed.

A San Francisco computer programmer prepares for a party by “manicuring” the seeds and stems from a batch of pot.



The Psychedelicatessen (above) is one of 10 New York stores thriving on the sale of exotic paraphernalia for turning on—marijuana pipes

from Morocco and the Middle East, licorice-flavored cigaret papers, bells, beads, posters, incense. Like a number of other psychedelic



stores, it plows part of its profits back into free food for destitute hippies and a bail fund for smokers unlucky enough to get



caught. In Detroit, school dropouts gather for an afternoon pot party (center). A decorous calm is maintained in the smoking circle as



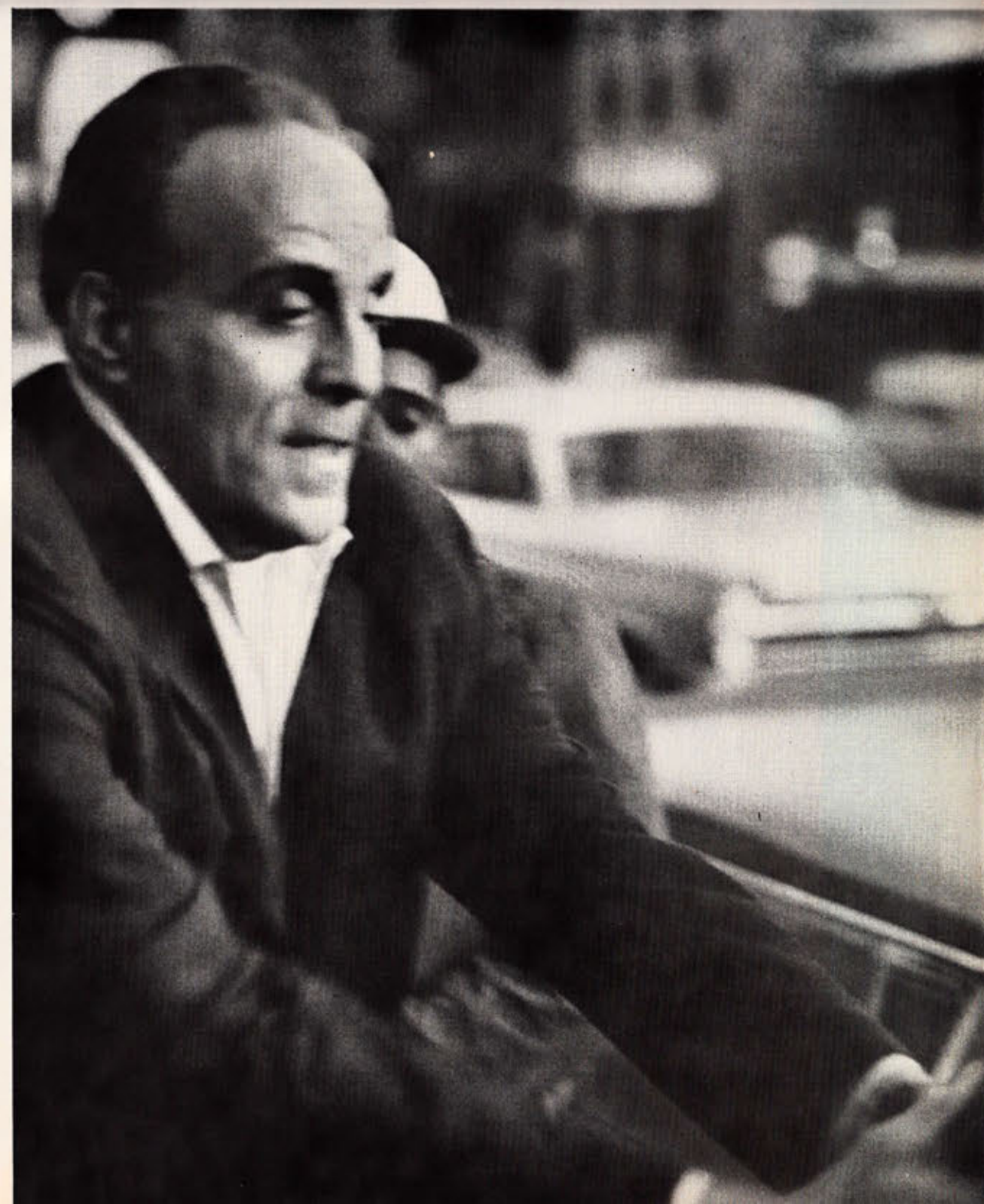
each smoker concentrates on his developing high and feels a growing intimacy with the others. In a Cambridge, Mass. apartment

(right), a pipe is ceremoniously passed around from hand to hand in a ritual which most heads feel is a crucial part of getting high.

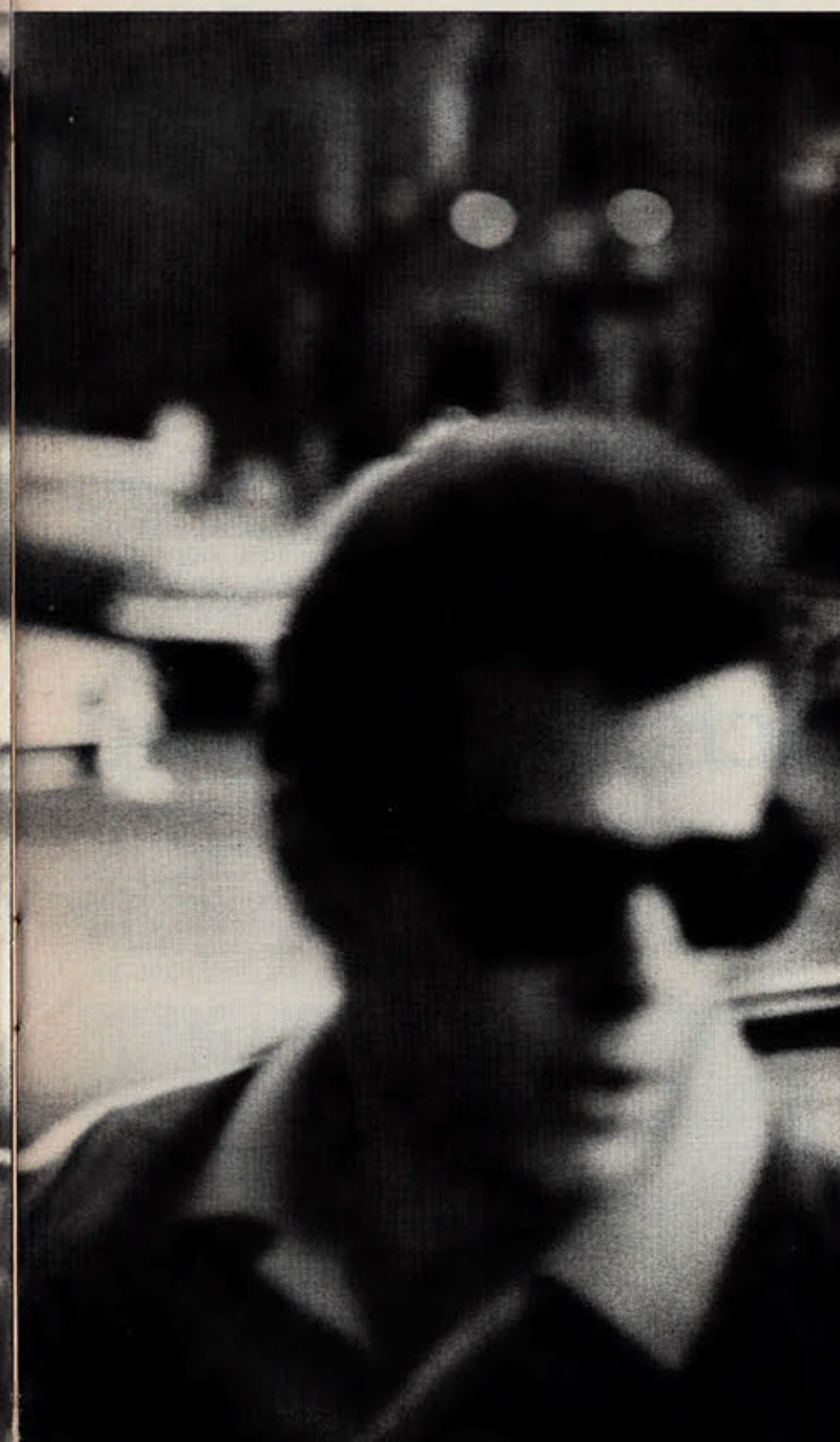
The seedbed of a psychic revolution and



The editors of New York's *East Village Other* (above) and Chicago Narcotics Detective Tony Rigoni (right) represent extremes in the tug-of-war over marijuana. The *Other* openly advises its 35,000 readers on how to defy the drug laws. Rigoni patrols the Old Town section, a hippie community where he is known as "Mr. Fear." But he is fighting a losing battle in trying to slow down the marijuana traffic, as here where he makes a desperate, failing grab for a bolting suspect.



a legal dilemma



The marijuana underground used to be a brotherhood of nervous, secretive people. Even the buying of cigaret papers was feared as a dangerous giveaway. Now every city worthy of the name has at least one psychedelic store that sells everything a "head" could want, short of the grass itself. The soft sweet smell of marijuana hangs in the streets of San Francisco, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle. People pass on the sidewalk looking stoned, wearing buttons saying "Turned On" or "Let's Get Naked and SMOKE." All this amazes the older heads; it seems too groovy to be true.

LSD is the force behind this surfacing, but marijuana is the day-to-day stuff of the psychedelic drug movement. Despite the boom, despite thrashing but futile police efforts to crack down, there is more around than ever and the price is going down. The best—from Morocco, Mexico, Panama, Colombia and half a dozen other places—never costs more than \$25 an ounce, and on the West Coast the milder domestic grass can be had for as little as \$7.50. An ounce lasts a devoted smoker a month or so, producing 80 to 100 cigarets. Making the connection, culling out the seeds and sticks, rolling the "joints," stoking and passing the pipe among friends—all this is part of the magic.

The effect of the drug varies with the smoker and his mood. In a circle of smokers there can be hilarity, a rush of talk or a solemn, ritualistic silence; almost never is there violence or trouble. Most smokers think of marijuana as a kind of lens through which they see more clearly, more beautifully. But

this feeling of a heightened awareness is something that heads find hard to share with anyone but other heads, and from this comes their reverence for each other, their ironic detachment from the "straight" world, their zeal to turn everyone on.

To the police the heads are a dismaying, and often disarming, new criminal class. The crime rate in hippie communities is astonishingly low—apart from their massive violation of the drug laws—and their manner, when arrested, is often embarrassingly full of "love." Still, they are participants in what amounts to an insurrection, and it remains to be seen how socially damaged they will become by living in such outright violation of both law and cultural taboo. Those who pursue getting high to the point of "dropping out" find that an elaborate subculture has been constructed for them to drop into. Once inside it, they invariably adopt the apocalyptic vision of the underground, which preaches death to "repression" and doom for the American culture as it stands. Thus the allure of marijuana goes far beyond the subtle effects of a smoke. There is great exhilaration in joining a band of missionary-outlaws who are convinced that their psychic revolution will bring about the betterment of man. The underground has developed a powerful undertow, and a whole chorus of cult-heroes is helping to increase the pull. The Beatles, Donovan, Bob Dylan, the Jefferson Airplane, Allen Ginsberg, the booming underground press—their message is all the same: now is the time to turn on.

In the realm of marijuana, it is not easy to separate fact from myth. Still, facts do exist to dispel a great deal of the confusion about marijuana.

What, exactly, is marijuana?

It is one of the most ancient of the "psychochemicals"—the drugs that affect the mind. It is neither an opiate (such as heroin), nor an amphetamine (peppill), nor a barbiturate (sleeping potion). It is rather one of the hallucinogens, or psychedelics, which include mescaline, psilocybin and LSD. (LIFE, March 25, 1966). LSD is the most potent and hazardous of these, marijuana the mildest and least harmful. It belongs to the family of intoxicating substances that go under the generic name of cannabis, because they all derive from the Indian hemp plant, *Cannabis sativa*, which is easy to grow in almost all tropical and temperate countries. From the flowering tops and leaves of the female plant oozes a pungent resin. It is this resin that contains the active intoxicant. When extracted from the plant and concentrated, the resin becomes the most potent of the cannabis drugs: hashish. Marijuana—known as *kif* in Morocco, *bhang* in India, and *dagga* in South Africa, among a whole lexicon of other names—is a smoking mixture made up of dried and crumpled parts of the hemp plant.

How potent is marijuana?

Since the resin content is low, it is perhaps one fifth as strong as hashish. But its strength varies considerably. If the mixture consists mainly of the cut tops of the plants, it will be richer in resins and therefore more powerful than if it is mixed with stems and seed pods. The potency varies, too, with conditions of cultivation, methods of preparation and the user's individual smoking style. The same dose affects different people differently, and can even give the same person different kinds of "highs," depending upon his mood, physical condition and surrounding circumstances. This is what leads a scientist like Dr. Edward Bloomquist of the University of Southern California to call marijuana "an unpredictable drug used by unpredictable people with unpredictable consequences."

Is it habit-forming?

No—not in the sense that heroin, morphine or the other "hard" narcotics are. The body develops no tolerance to mari-

juana—that is, the user does not have to keep increasing the dose to achieve the desired effect. When he quits, there are no withdrawal symptoms. But a man who likes it well enough to continue using it can be said to have formed the habit. "There is a moth and flame relationship between marijuana and unstable temperaments," says Dr. Henry Brill of New York's Pilgrim State Hospital, "and there are more of those than you might imagine. Pot-smoking will do nothing for instabilities but aggravate them." The user who develops a strong psychological dependence upon the drug may become a "pothead" who, rather than face his problem, prefers to escape regularly into a turned-on state.

Does it lead to narcotics addiction?

There is no biological effect that primes the marijuana user for the hard narcotics, and most marijuana smokers do not go on to become junkies. Nevertheless, a potential junkie is likely to get there faster if he starts on marijuana; and most junkies do in fact start that way. Moreover, the use of marijuana often leads to experimentation with other drugs, especially other psychedelics, and especially LSD.

Its physiological effects

Marijuana raises blood pressure and lowers body temperature somewhat, raises the pulse rate and slows breathing. It dehydrates the body and increases the need to urinate. It lowers blood-sugar levels and stimulates the appetite. It renders



In Central Park, thousands of hippies and other young New Yorkers held a "be-in"

the hand less steady. All these effects are slight and transitory, lasting only a few hours. Continuous use, however, can irritate the eyes and lungs, thus possibly incurring some risk for anyone with eye trouble or pulmonary conditions—e.g., asthma or chronic bronchitis. No one has yet demonstrated any long-lasting deleterious effects on the body—though neither has anyone done enough research to provide assurance to the contrary.

Its effects on the mind and behavior

It acts on the nervous system as part relaxant, part stimulant, and the psychic effects may vary from sleepy contentment to wide-awake euphoria. It dis-

torts perceptions and the sense of time and space, though not to the extreme degree LSD does. In unstable individuals marijuana has on rare occasions been known to cause anxiety and panic, and even to precipitate psychotic incidents. Repeated studies have failed to turn up any direct correlation between marijuana use and major crimes. As for sexual desire, or the energy to pursue it, marijuana is just as likely to diminish as to enhance it. A man high on marijuana is not the best judge of his own condition. He may feel sharper than normal though

this spring. Many were high on marijuana and some openly passed around pot pipes.

his perceptions are distorted, his judgment of distance faulty and his visual focus abnormal—and thus be a menace when driving an auto.

What happens to potheads?

In their own view, they may feel they are "getting out of the rat race" and closer to reality. "They believe," says Dr. Dana Farnsworth of Harvard, "that they belong to a superior order of human beings." But judged by any conventional standards they tend to be irresponsible, and uninterested in things like pursuing studies, keeping a job or supporting a family. Dr.

Bloomquist says, "Kids who get high repeatedly don't want to come down. They don't want to do anything else. They find a world where they seemingly have no problems, and they become social bums."

Its legal status

The first federal legislation on marijuana was passed in 1937—after a wave of publicity about the "marijuana menace," which characterized the drug as driving its users to violent crimes, sex orgies and even outright insanity. In 1956 mandatory prison sentences were established: two to 10 years for the use or possession of even a tiny quantity of the drug; five to 20 years for its sale. Penalties go up after the first offense. Many

state laws follow the federal but vary considerably in the severity of their penalties—some provide death for selling marijuana to minors.

Are current penalties too severe?

Yes. A young man may decide to try marijuana once, just to see what it is like. If he is caught, the experiment may cost him a long prison sentence in the company of hardened criminals and true addicts. Dr. James Goddard, head of the Food and Drug Administration, is one of many who advocate reduced penalties for the use or possession of marijuana—though not necessarily for its sale. A few authorities, such as Harry Anslinger, former chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, and Dr. Robert Baird, director of the Haven Clinic in New York City, consider marijuana an unmitigated evil and are unalterably opposed to any relaxation of the laws. But Anslinger does worry about harsh sentences for youngsters who try marijuana innocently. "When it is a simple case of a kid using the stuff," suggests Anslinger, "instead of prosecuting, the case should be turned over to health and school authorities." Some feel that the very severity of the laws incites youngsters to try marijuana as a means of protest.

Arguments for legalization

Many creative people argue that marijuana expands their consciousness and appreciation of the world around them, including other human beings. Since it is not demonstrably harmful when used sensibly by

normal people, they believe it should be freely available, with whatever restrictions are necessary to protect the young. A Boston attorney named Joseph Oteri will be challenging the constitutionality of the marijuana laws in both state and federal courts within the next few months. A standard argument for legalizing marijuana is: We accept potentially harmful commodities like tobacco and alcohol. We make them legal, warn people of the consequences, and hold them responsible. Why not take the same attitude toward marijuana? The whole argument was further complicated last May when, with little publicity, the U.S. ratified an international agreement on marijuana control accepted by 58 other countries. This would make it extremely difficult for the U.S. to legalize the use of marijuana.

Arguments against legalization

Nearly all authorities agree that the ready availability of marijuana would be certain to spread its use among all segments of the population, especially if it became an established and flourishing industry, advertising its product. Psychologically and socially, it is not a harmless drug. Many authorities are convinced that even more high school and college students would be driving around in a turned-on condition, even more people would be dropping out of schools and colleges and jobs and family responsibilities, if marijuana were legally sanctioned.

There are too many gaps in our knowledge about marijuana—some of which may now be closed, thanks to a new lab breakthrough. Substances called tetrahydrocannabinols, the active ingredients of marijuana, have now been synthesized, making it possible for the first time to measure accurately their effects on people. Meanwhile, until more is known, and until what is known can be effectively communicated to the public, most authorities opt for keeping marijuana laws. The consensus favors reducing punishments to realistically fit the nature of the offense.

"This does not mean we condone marijuana use," says Dr. Donald B. Louria of Cornell University Medical College. "It would be foolish at this point to knowingly add yet another intoxicant to a society already overburdened with them."

ALBERT ROSENFELD
LIFE Science Editor

The facts, myths and

grave hidden dangers

CRUSADER: PRO

Leslie Fiedler, novelist and critic, is a leader of an organization for legalizing marijuana. He was arrested for permitting pot parties in his home, has denied the charge.



SOCIOLOGIST

Dr. Joel Fort considers drug use a public health, not a criminal, problem. He has been dismissed by the San Francisco health department for his controversial views.



PSYCHIATRIST

Dr. Humphrey Osmund, British psychiatrist now in Princeton, N.J., predicts wide future use of mind-expanders, says young people insist on having them right now.



LEGISLATOR

State Senator Roger E. Craig has drafted a bill which, if passed, would legalize marijuana in Michigan. "Pot is certainly no more dangerous than liquor," he insists.



BIOCHEMIST

Dr. Edward Taylor of Princeton recently synthesized one of the active ingredients of marijuana, a lab breakthrough that will permit controlled tests on people.



CRUSADER: ANTI

Harry J. Anslinger, former chief of Federal Bureau of Narcotics, helped push through stringent U.S. anti-marijuana laws and new international drug control treaty.



A group of youngsters—the oldest was 14—formed a circle and solemnly inhaled on a Turkish water pipe until their eyes were glazed and distant. All of them were deep-tanned, sun-bleached, sports-playing, California-affluent junior-high-schoolers, good students and normal children whose parents thought they were off on a picnic. Instead they were stoned—laughing, excited, talking eagerly. Their talk turned to a zealous defense of pot, coupled with a scorn for the other world they see around them. "Just because 95% of the junkies who take heroin have smoked marijuana, everybody gets up in arms. . . . It's just not logical. It's not true. We're smarter than that," one boasted. "Kids are a lot more intelligent today," another claimed. "Smoking marijuana makes things look like they really are, and when you can see things clearly you can talk about them and learn."

This is childish bravado, heightened by the marijuana itself. The kids who are so sure they can handle it do not understand the nature of what they are dealing with, nor its effect on their attitudes and outlook. Carelessly tolerant grown-ups do not help either—nor do the older brothers who slip the kids marijuana. In California—and the problem is by no means limited to that state—marijuana arrests of juveniles last year were up 140%, and a state narcotics official predicts some 20,000 arrests by 1971. "It's going to take the combined effort of the whole society to cure this thing," says a Los Angeles police officer. But few people, even those now beginning to be deeply concerned, seem to know where to begin.

California customs agent displays 945 pounds of pot confiscated at one busy Mexican border station.



Stoned kids think they can handle it



A group of California subteens assemble at a beach house for a weekend pot party. As his high takes effect, one boy enhances the

mood by blowing soap bubbles, while a second indulges his reverie by smoking yet another marijuana cigaret right down to the butt.

