Marijuana should be legalized

To the Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with Bob Wasserman's otherwise ludicrous column that the drive for decriminalization of marijuana has gone too far. Decriminalization means that the attitude of society is that smoking marijuana is wrong and illegal, but there are so many people smoking it that we'll only slap your hand for it. This satisfies a lot of people who are only concerned with being punished for breaking the law and are not concerned with the deeper issues involved: their right to consume whatever recreational drugs they want with no social pressure for or against the use of the drugs and even more importantly — the fact that they are being made criminals, lawbreakers who are forced out of being good, law-abiding Americans because they consume a plant. There are an estimated 50 million marijuana smokers in the United States. Almost one quarter of the population is being branded as criminals.

Smoking marijuana is no longer an underground, radical activity. It is a well-accepted, even encouraged, activity among youth and adolescents. Social pressure is definitely to smoke; to be radical and different one has to not smoke. Even many middle-aged, middle class men and women and frequently do smoke. Given the prices of cocaine and top-grade Hawaiian and Sinomarijuana, no one but a professional person with a good income or a dealer can afford to buy them.

There are two things for the would-be radical, or person concerned with human rights, values, and dignity, or the person interested in preserving respect for law and order in our great country to work for. First, the right to grow marijuana and second, the abolition of all laws restricting the use of marijuana and other recreational drugs among adults. Paradoxically, the only way to do this is to break the laws and be willing to pay the price. I, for one, am proud to be an American and would be willing to go to jail if the laws of our country say I should. The only way to change these immoral and ridiculous laws is through non-violent civil disobedience, large numbers of people openly and publicly breaking the law. This technique was used successfully in the civil rights, free speech and anti-war movements of the sixties, and the time is coming for us to take the initiative to change things for the better. If you smoke dope or have friends who smoke that you don't consider criminals, grow a plant in your window. Grow lots of plants, they're very pretty, and include some marijuana plants among them. And support the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Smoke-in in the Great Court in early May.

Duncan Borland '82

Tuition riot a success

To the Editor:

Please inform the MIT Community of the unmitigated success resulting from the recent Tuition Riot, held Wednesday the seventh of March. Due to the somewhat antagonistic weather, the riot was kept to a very manageable size. The hardy cadre of experienced agents provocateurs were, in the heat of binding arbitrament, able to settle the dispute to the satisfaction of all concerned, resulting in the redemption of tuition for the attendant rioters (one rioter now owes $185 for this term's entire tuition) and an agreement to cease student activism on this matter for the rest of the year. In order to cheerfully violate this sacred trust, we are pleased to announce the resumption of hostilities. April 11, 23, 25, 29, 30, May 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, 1979.

Straker Melenczen '81

Candiates for Class Officers

What do you think you're doing?

In a few days, some of you will be Class Officers — then what? Come to a brief, informal meeting co-sponsored by the Undergraduate Association and the Alumni Association. We'll talk about Class Officer responsibilities, class activities, and how we can work together to get some good things going! Everyone welcome!

April 4, 1979 7:00 pm 10-105: (Bus Room)

Boston's highest form of entertainment costs less than a movie.

It's the Hancock Tower Observatory located 740 feet above the ground; the tallest building in New England. And from here you can see and feel the total Boston experience. With 360 degrees of breathtaking scenery, it's the most fantastic view of Boston there is. Especially at night.

Plus you'll see multi-media exhibits like an exciting light and sound show about the Revolution, featuring a 20-foot scale model of Boston in 1775.

The Observatory is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 11pm and Sundays from noon & 11pm, every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission for students with a college I.D. is only $1.25. You'll find our ticket office on St. James Avenue opposite Copley Square.

So next time you spend a night on the town, visit Boston's highest spot. It's not only less expensive than a movie. It's live.

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Feedback

Alpha Delta Phi

Essay Contest

Sponsors:

Many of the problems of modern civilization are side products of technological progress. We believe that the creative spirit of the individual and the intellect and ideals of the group shall help shape the future and change in directions of individual and collective common fulfillment.

Prizes: FIRST PRIZE of $500, SECOND PRIZE of $450 and THIRD PRIZE of $225 will be awarded to three essays considered of unusual merit. Each essay will be read by the Alpha Delta Phi Club, the Social Science teachers, and the Admissions Office of AHS.

Requirements:

1) Submit two copies of each typewritten, double spaced, original essay. Length is not limited.
2) Judging: The entries will be evaluated by faculty members of various writing-oriented programs at AHS.
3) Deadline: Monday, April 23, 1979

Special thanks to the AHS faculty in person 5:30 to 8:00 in the Art Room. For additional information, call Bob or Alison Campbell at 418-5261.

New to the campus is the IBM models 525, 312 and the 203 at 354 Mass. Ave. For additional information, call Bob or Alison Campbell at 418-5261.

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