

Wednesday, December 12, 1990

The Battalion

Hemp benefits discussed

Pot proponent outlines uses of diverse plant

By JAYME L. BLASCHKE
Of The Battalion Staff

The diversity of the hemp plant, otherwise known as marijuana, could help save some of the world's depleting resources, one of the foremost proponents for marijuana legalization said Friday.

Jack Herer, author of "The Emperor Wears No Clothes," a book outlining the benefits of marijuana legalization, spoke to a group of about 100 in Rudder Tower.

Herer said he believes legalizing the substance goes beyond rolling marijuana cigarettes.

"Hemp will produce every grade of paper," Herer said. "Government figures estimate 10,000 acres devoted to hemp will produce as much paper as 40,000 acres of average forest."

The hemp plant also does not cause as much pollution as other paper products, he said. If the United States legalizes marijuana, Herer said forests soon would grow back to their original state.

Paper, however, is not the only potential use for hemp, he said.

"Almost all the paint and varnish on earth was made out of Texas hemp seed oil until the 1930s," Herer said. "Sherwin Williams used to grow thousands of acres to be pressed into oil to be made into paint and varnish."

Herer said one acre of marijuana also can be converted into at least 1,000 gallons of gasoline using a simple process.

He said almost any country could use marijuana because the tall plants grow in most soil and climate conditions. Herer said hemp also can be harvested at any time because it has such a long growing season.

"It could be a year-round crop in some areas," he said. "But you can't even talk about it, because it's ille-



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Jack Herer displays his collection of marijuana-related objects during his presentation advocating the legalization of the drug.

gal."

Bra' Edge, a Blinn student from Corpus Christi, said he wasn't surprised at the meeting's attendance because Texas A&M traditionally emphasizes agricultural issues.

"It's not about smoking it, but rather the industrial uses we're proponents of," he said. "We're in the process of organizing a Bryan-College Station chapter of NORML, the

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

"By mid-January we should be organized and operating," Edge said.

Dave MacAlpine, an A&M sophomore biochemistry major from Spring, said he believes the speech was interesting.

"I just came to learn more about marijuana," MacAlpine said. "I had no idea about a lot of this stuff."

'Holiday Celebration' helps needy families Businesses sponsor food drive

By KATHERINE COFFEY
Of The Battalion Staff

Ten thousand pounds of food and \$400 was presented to the Brazos Food Bank after a two-month food drive sponsored by a local radio station and other area businesses.

"Holiday Celebration" was the theme of this food drive, which was started to help feed needy families in the Brazos Valley.

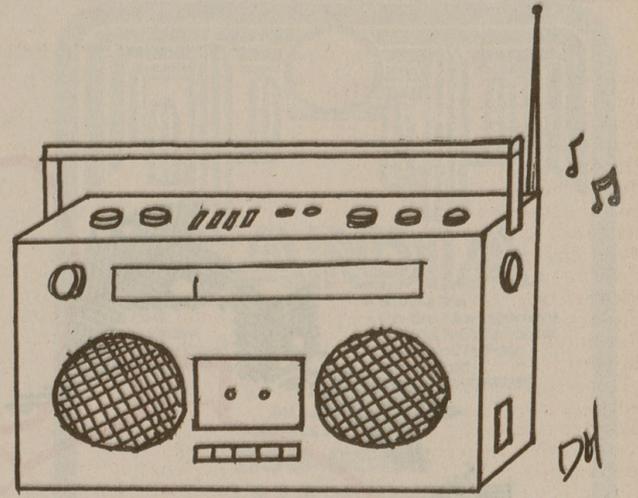
Josie Peacher, director of the Brazos Food Bank, said hundreds of local families will be fed with the donations this holiday season.

"I just want to thank everyone — all the businesses and others in the community, who helped," Peacher said. "Even though this is Christmas, people should remember the needy are always needy and not only during the Christmas holidays."

Peacher asks students, who otherwise might throw away food when they leave for the holidays, to make donations to the food bank. The food bank's number is 822-2668.

Laura Croteau, KKYS sales manager, said the radio station was happy to help sponsor the event with Sonic Drive-In, First National Bank of Bryan, Furrow Building Materials and Fred Brown Mazda.

Croteau said an average of six to



eight cans were donated by each person.

She said items such as paper products, soap, deodorant and toothpaste also were collected.

"The reason why we pushed for these items is because the families

who use food stamps cannot buy these products with their stamps.

"The food drive is going to get bigger and bigger," Croteau said. "People tend to forget the food bank when it is not the holiday season, even though it is important all year."

County police seek help in robbery case

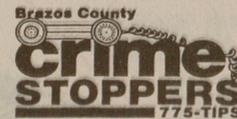
Leon County and Brazos County Crime Stoppers are asking for help in a Nov. 26 assault and robbery of a grocery store owner in Normangee.

The owner of Westmoreland's Grocery Store was robbed after he had closed the store.

The victim left the store carrying a paper sack containing money from the day's sales. After pulling into his driveway, the owner then walked toward the rear of his home.

As he did so, someone surprised him, struck him on the head with a thin object and stole the bag containing the money.

Westmoreland's also had been



your help in identifying the person(s) responsible for this robbery.

If you have information that might be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a special coded number that will protect your identity.

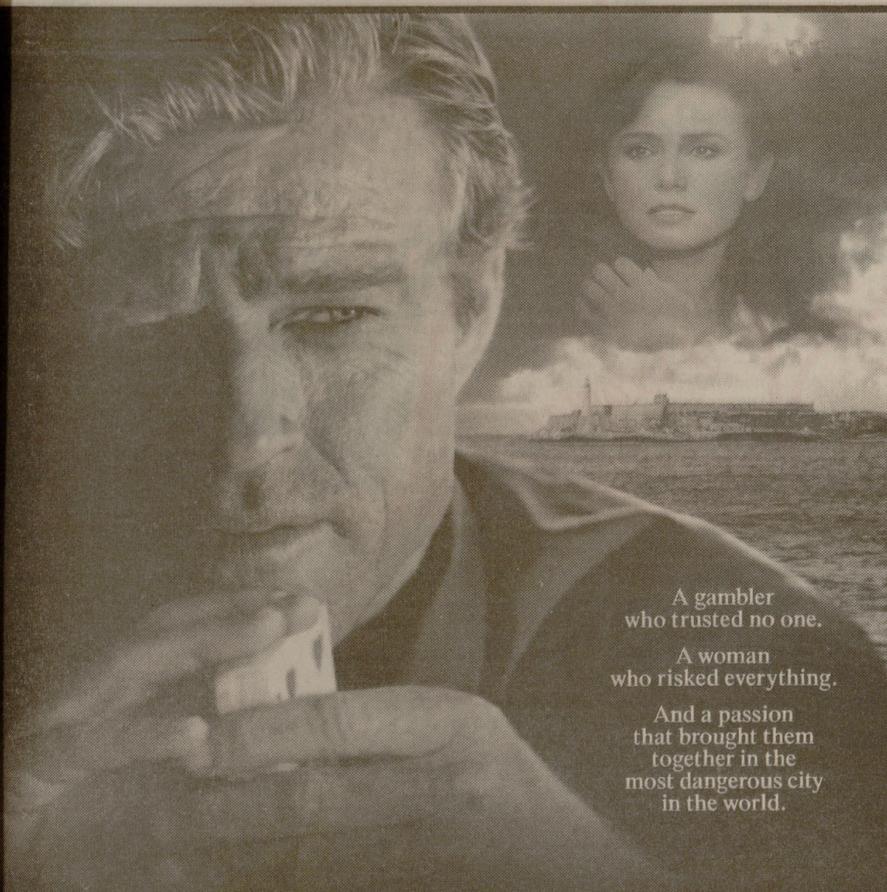
If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of any wanted fugitive.

So call Crime Stoppers today at 775-TIPS or Leon County Crime Stoppers at (903) 536-2749.

burglarized and robbed three times this year.

The Leon County Sheriff's Department believe the person responsible for the Nov. 26 robbery was familiar with the store's operation and with the owner's daily routine.

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