nale U.S. soldiers about

nswered, "Maybe Miss e shot. afawi said he and his taff cut away Lynch's ked, as Iraqi military

he described as minor. the staff sutured the e was given blood and fluids, he said. The X-rays, partly set her nd applied splints and

had left her without she would have died," wi said.

NS IN BRIEF

ilitary hands pe suspect AP) - A U.S. Marine

of raping a woman in was after U.S. militar agreed to turn him in ndictment.

ear-old suspect was cond U.S. servicema The U.S. military not is custody of person ed of crimes until the d but can relinguis ier if the crime is

ious enough. involving American a sensitive issue of vhere a heavy U.S. sence - about half o 50,000 American pan — has long been

f friction with resi-

of a schoolgirl b servicemen in 1995 utrage on Okinaw two countries t Washington would thetic consideration for the handover serious crimes prio

inst whaling es in Japan

P) - Anti-whaling icked a Japanese Inesday to resume whaling, calling for h into stocks before f a 17-year interna-

whaling conference to 17 against a tion seeking permis-50 Bryde's whales a ie North Pacific in

e is not complete . delegate Michael se country lined up including Britain, Korea to defeat the

t the International nmission's annual a fresh rejection for orces such as Japan, several Caribbean the majority voted strengthen whale

efforts.

they suffered "a fatig rsely affected their dec

LEGALIZE IT

OPINION

America should follow Canada's planned decriminalization of marijuana

People have debat-ed the worth of marijuana for years, and the argument is still going on. Of the many questions asked

: Should marijuana

TIMOTHY GILBERT be legalized in the United States? Is wheel of a car or participate in any marijuana addictive? How harmful is narijuana to the human body? Recently, the debate has heated up

because of America's neighbor to the north, Canada. According to Canada Inline, Canada's Justice Minister Martin Cauchon has made it apparent that he will introduce legislation cometime in 2003 that will decrimialize small amounts of marijuana for personal use during the upcoming ession of Parliament. This could be nterpreted as a step toward legalizing marijuana, one that the United States should follow.

According to Canada's Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs, 'Marijuana is not a gateway drug and should be treated more like She lay on a gume, tobacco or alcohol than like harder drugs." Treating these two drugs difd nurses worked on her, ferently makes no sense. At the close of the U.S. national

had multiple fractures, anthem, it is stated that America is wi said, and a head the "land of the free." Everyone knows that it is impossible for people to enjoy perfect and entire freedom and still have an organized society, but people should be free to make hoices about their own health withbut the government telling them what right and wrong.

Canada's Special Committee on gal Drugs states that, on average, ,000 people are arrested each year simple possession of marijuana. so states that each imprisoned dvidual costs \$50,000 per year. When the math is done, the costs ount to \$1.5 billion per year to prison people arrested for posseson of marijuana. Instead of wasting his money on incarcerating people ossessing relatively small amounts fmarijuana, the Canadian government could spend it to combat legiti-



mate crime and educate

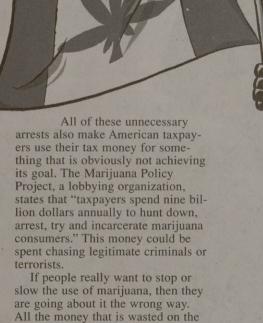
The decriminalization of marijuana does not mean that people should be able to smoke it and get behind the

other activity that could injure another person. Just like with alcohol, driving and certain other activities performed while under the influence should be illegal. However, smoking marijuana shouldn't be banned just because people can possibly go out and harm others after smoking. Many people can and do harm others without marijuana being involved at all. Alcohol consumption, which was once illegal, still results in death and injury.

No one is saying that marijuana is a harmless drug that only hurts people when other factors, such as driving, are compounded with it. In fact, according to "Health and Fitness: A Guide to a Healthy Lifestyle," a book used in health classes on Texas A&M's campus, marijuana smoke "may be more damaging than cigarette smoke.'

However, even with this information, California State University Northridge's college of health and human development reports that "every year, 40,000 die as a result of tobacco usage and more than 150,000 people die from alcohol related causes yet not one person has ever died from smoking marijuana." Still, tobacco and alcohol are perfectly legal to use and abuse, and marijuana is not.

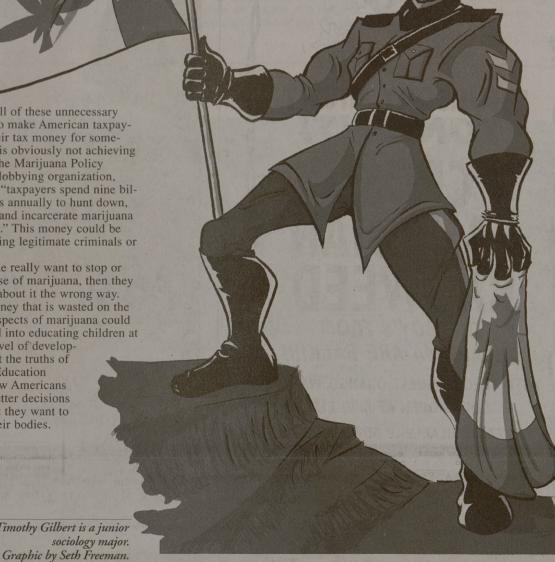
If marijuana was treated like its legal counterparts, many Americans would have a lot less to worry about. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that there have been "more than 10 million marijuana arrests in the United States since 1970," which adds up to more than 300,000 arrests per year. These are people who now have criminal records which will follow them for the rest of their lives.



criminal aspects of marijuana could be pumped into educating children at an early level of development about the truths of the drug. Education would allow Americans to make better decisions about what they want to

do with their bodies.

Timothy Gilbert is a junior sociology major.



thern Japanese island ided over to police ges were brought by: Hamas killing Road Map

ince President George W. Bush net with Middle Eastern leaders Uto push his Road Map to peace earlier this month, the media has been illed with tales of escalating violence in Israel, beginning with the

Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, which pulled out of the peace process and immediately began engaging in attacks against Israeli military and civilians. During the past week, Israeli heliopter raids attacked Hamas leadership targets after which Hamas "responded" by sending one of its enage members on a suicide bus bombing.

To refer to the senseless murder of a busload of nocents as a "response" to a strategically planned nilitary operation against its enemies would sound no much like calling the actions equitable, which bey are not. In a talk with reporters last Sunday, amas used a different phrase for it — "self-

One has to wonder how much of a hreat the old people and children on

hat bus were to Hamas. The United States is engaged in a pe of war previously unheard of efore Sept. 11. It is a war against no nation in particular, but against the orces of evil within multiple nations. hese terrorist forces seek the proression of their own particular idelogies and savage hatreds through he death of innocent civilians in the ountry of their choosing, using any ethod necessary. If the United

tates is to fight a war without the formal declaraons and boundaries of traditional warfare, it is cruial that Americans correctly separate justified blood-

hed from terrorist butchery. Members of the Palestinian Liberation ganization apparently ignore this differentiation. sraili Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's) aim is to disedit the Palestinian government and to assassinate real enemy, which is the Road Map," Palestinian binet Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said earlier this onth. His estimation of the situation is like accusg a surgeon of supporting cancer by wishing death on the patient while he is trying to remove a mor. This is what Sharon was trying to do through elicopter assaults against the leader of Hamas: stop morist actions against his country by removing the prorist leader. Because there were extra casualties in he process doesn't mean the act itself was evil lese are only a few consequences of the new rules



MIKE WALTERS

While Israel is

acting in self-

defense, its enemies

have taken to the

street screaming for

blood and

of warfare, rewritten by terrorist groups that do not allow for neat, tidy

fronts of tanks in the wilderness. Unfortunately, if Sharon wishes to attack his terrorist enemies it must be on their terms: in a crowded street, where Hamas and other groups hide in

hopes that the surrounding civilians will act as human shields, yet crying out if anyone innocent dies. Sharon was only doing what he felt was necessary to protect his people against enemies of the peace, a job refused by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who insisted he cannot use force against the militants who have rebuffed his truce

The first of the military strikes came last Wednesday, when Israeli helicopters attempted to assassinate Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, only succeeding in wounding him. It was hoped that his death would cripple the terrorist group, which has

been responsible for more than 300 deaths in suicide bombing attacks, according to The Associated Press. After the attack, Hamas issued a statement that said its terrorist cells would be "called upon to act rapidly to transform the Zionist entity into blood and ruins." This organization makes no bones about its chief objective: the destruction of Israel. So how could one accuse Israel of acting wrongly in wishing the destruction of

vengeance." Hamas and its leaders? While Israel is acting in selfdefense, its enemies have taken to the street screaming for blood and vengeance. Hamas is a terrorist organization whose only purpose is the annihilation of Israel through the murder of innocent civilians, as witnessed by its recent killings. Its acts are not "selfdefense," despite whatever it might claim, and they weren't even aimed at the military forces that initiat-

ed the attacks on Hamas leaders. "We will make no concessions to terror," Sharon told his cabinet last week, according to an Israeli government official. Neither should we. As allies with Israel in the War on Terror, the United States must make sure it correctly identifies the terrorists and the victims, and places its sympathy — if not aid — with those who share our values against the common enemy of evil.

> Mike Walters is a junior psychology major.

lacking values

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa — I have come to expect little to nothing intelligent from MTV. It's amazing how much the producers of "MTV Cribs' feel the camera needs to move around when touring celebrity refrigerators, simply to keep the miniature attention span of the viewers focused on the show. I honestly feel that my brain matter is being reduced every time I see "Spring Break Karaoke" or a very boring Carson Daly present 20 percent of the number one video on

Now, unintelligence I can handle, but recently the channel seems intent on eliminating not only intelligence, but any ethical standards a young person may have. MTV has followed in the footsteps of the advertising, movie, and clothing industry in advocating a liberal lifestyle.

MTV has run and re-run a sad attempt at an investigative report on marijuana use in the United States and Canada. The young reporter visited bong shops, drug dealers, marijuana clubs and drug users with virtually no dialogue other than, "So how long have you been using?" After the segment ended, I wasn't left with information about the negative side of using marijuana, but I did find out I should use "psychedelic purple" weed to get rid of my migraines.

Other attempts at journalism include a recent piece about body art. It consisted of a dialogue between young people who have tattoos or alternative piercings. The discussion focused on how ridiculous parents were for not letting their kids be "individuals," those who define themselves by how odd they can look. I have a tattoo myself, but I respect the fact that parents may not approve of their children doing so. MTV, however, does not respect any ethical or personal conduct code other than the very low one which they think younger generations should have.

These are simple, yet blatant attempts to convey a message that kids should be free to do as they please, regardless of parents who hold their children to a higher standard than 'Spring Break Cancun."

Virtually every show crosses the line of appropriate behavior. From the over-sexed 'Spring Break" shows to "Urban Myth" shows exploring sexual issues, from "The Real World" to "The Osbournes," MTV has apparently made a serious effort to add inappropriateness to every program available. I'm curious if it has bothered anyone else that a channel solely aimed at youth has a show called "Undressed." A description of the show on MTV's Web site, www.mtv.com, reads, "Not getting enough action before you go to bed? Undressed will definitely be changing that!" What great programming to promote a liberal lifestyle for the most impressionable members of society.

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It seems rather obvious that many liberals, especially those in the media, would simply rather be comfortable and unchallenged. It's easy to laugh about your newest anti-Bush bumper sticker, compare him to Hitler, and talk about the latest rumors regarding the secret memo that reveals Cheney's intentions to drill for oil in Central Park. It is more difficult to understand the opposite side of an issue and write an objective news story than it is to spin facts to spread a liberal ideology.

Yes, the press and the media have freedom of speech. MTV has the right to convey reckless messages that are within the law, just as they are now. I, too, have the freedom of speech, and I think that MTV has become the trashiest channel available on basic cable.

It's common to hear someone say, "Don't put your morals on me," or something to that effect. The truth is that is just something people with no standards say in order to make it sound as if having no standards should simply be okay.

Despite common criticism, it's okay to attempt to hold others to a higher standard. Having a different set of values does not mean that one can make no attempt to persuade those of a different ideology, political or otherwise, to adopt those same values. I believe it is inappropriate for MTV or other youth-targeted media entities to suggest that kids need not be held accountable to their parents' standards.

Parents should and do have the right to let their children watch whatever they feel is appropriate. I, however, think MTV has become a moral hazard to every impressionable person who could watches it. MTV will not be on in my household; my children will not watch it, and I honestly think they will be better people because of it.

> Nathan Borst is a columnist at Iowa State University.