

THE CASE FOR MARIJUANA

The Brunswickan received, unsolicited, this piece of information in the mail and it was decided that the readers of the Brunswickan had the right to know what is happening with the sensitive and important issue of marijuana. The legalization of marijuana is quickly becoming a public issue and the people of Canada may soon have to decide on its place in our society.

From: The Legalize Marijuana Committee

A brief prepared by this committee will be presented to The Minister of Health and

Welfare, the Honourable John Munro in Ottawa on Tuesday, September 23rd at 11:00 a.m. One of the purposes of the interview will be to stress the fact that all the scientific studies done on marijuana consistently conclude that it is a less dangerous drug than either tobacco or alcohol and to suggest that the law should deal with it as such. It is hoped that a recent study can be discussed that shows that experienced marijuana smokers drive as well under its influence as they do in normal conditions.

PEOPLE TO JAIL

The discussions should reflect the urgency of the matter for we are still sending people to jail for merely being in possession of marijuana. Dr. S.J. Holmes of the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario has written that "... this situation is really a disgrace to our civilization and merits much consideration."

Judge William T. Little of the Juvenile and Family Court has commented on CBC radio that if he were to choose between marijuana and tobacco, he would choose marijuana on the basis of the scientific information about health hazards. In an earlier discussion, in which Judge Little gave his support to this committee, he commented that this issue should not be soft-pedaled. He said it was an obvious case and the Government had to realize how many thousands of young people feel this way. Those who are now 17 may be voting in the next election ... even without lowering the voting age. Judge Little added that this creates very real pressure on the Government to change the law or risk defeat in the next election.

MORE SUPPORT

Support has also come from Robert Kaplan, M.P. (for those over 21) and June Callwood who has expressed the argument that a leading factor in the problem of drug abuse "... lies in the law's mistaken designation of marijuana as a narcotic." Pierre Burton wrote: "Of course I'm happy to support the brief,

which is a sensible one and I am fascinated to see how much work there actually has been done on marijuana." In Vancouver the weekly *Georgia Straight* printed the brief in its entirety and in Ottawa, the paper *Octopus* has indicated its support. Earlier this year the *Windsor Star* ran an editorial suggesting that consideration be given to legalizing marijuana. In July of this year, the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation asked that marijuana be removed from the Narcotics Control Act and made the point that "imposition of severe penalties ... leads to alienation of youth from law-making and law-enforcing bodies of the country, and this alienation presents a severe threat to the future development of the nation."

TWO GOOD POINTS

This committee has seen evidence of this alienation as individuals who use marijuana and believe the law should be changed have expressed a fear of openly expressing their beliefs. In commenting on this, Mr. Munro's office made two points. Firstly it is not an offence to use marijuana. The offences are for possession, trafficking, etc. and so by implication to say you have used it cannot directly incriminate you. The second point they made is that the RCMP has not asked for and has not been sent any information about names and addresses of those expressing support for this issue. They went on to state that such letters have never been used to initiate an investigation nor used in court as evidence.

MUCH SUPPORT

Letters of support have come in from Halifax to Vancouver with the most interesting of these being a small unsigned postcard that was sent in response to a story in a local newspaper: "Having read your article ... I fully agree with your view on pot. I am retired, 68 yrs., and became acquainted with pot in 1923 and have used it once or more a week for the past 45 yrs. Whiskey, beer or cig. I don't use."

Committee Chairman, Bryant Brown is a twenty-nine year old businessman, father of two children and he has commented that "The undercover work, the mere fact that there are convictions, and some of the absurd penalties amount in many cases to an absurd unnecessary tragedy. We harass the youngsters, in the name of law and order, and drive them further away from it. At the same time our traditional dual morality allows us to leave immune the doctors, lawyers and business people who smoke marijuana when and if they want to."

HEARING PLANNED

At this early stage hundreds of people from coast to coast have already supported the work of this committee. With the approach of the fall study term support from student councils and student newspapers is anticipated. Further to our meeting with Mr. Munro, this committee is now arranging a hearing with the Government Inquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs which has expressed great interest in our offer of assistance.



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S.R.C. ELECTION

Nominations are now being received for candidates who wish to run in the SRC election for the following seats:

- Vice-President
- 2 Post-Graduate Representatives
- 2 Engineering Representatives
- 3 Arts Representatives
- 1 Law Representative
- 2 Education Representatives
- 2 Science Representatives
- 1 Forestry Representative

Each nomination must be written, and must include:

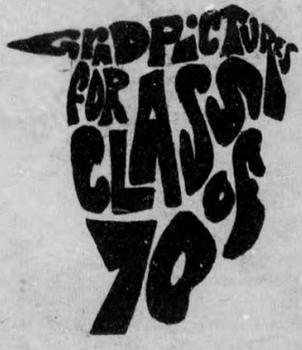
- (1) the full name, local address, phone, faculty and year of the candidate.
- (2) the full name, local address, phone, faculty and year of the nominator
- (3) the full name, local address, phone, faculty and year of the seconder.

The nominator and seconder of a candidate must be of the same faculty as the candidate. The nominations for the vice-presidency must, in addition, include the signature of 6 registered students of UNB. All candidates must be registered students of UNB and have paid their SRC fees.

Nominations close at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, October 15. Election will be held on Wednesday, October 22.

Nominations are to be submitted to Returning Officer, c/o S.R.C. by mail or in person.

Returning Officer: Jim Muir
Apt. 53
725 Irving St.
Phone 472-9393



due November 1st
... without your picture
... no name either

Yearbook Photos

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Wed.

Thurs. 9:30 - 5:30
7:00 - 9:00 p. m.

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