

Marihuana: Action and reaction

The feature on marijuana in last week's edition of Excalibur prompted Founder's College master John Conway to call a meeting of all residence dons and house presidents to discuss what was termed the "drug crisis."

As a result of the meeting Founders will hold an informal forum on drugs before reading week. The forum will be aimed at the discussion of all aspects of the drug question. Dr. Conway hopes to have speakers from the RCMP, the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Centre, a lawyer and a doctor at the forum.

Conway said he was not upset by the stories in Excalibur and was glad that the issue was presented.

He said he felt it was the college's responsibility to make the students aware of the legalities and the consequences of the use of drugs.

Conway said he didn't think the

laws regarding drugs would be changed in the near future and he didn't want students to be "crushed in the time lag between legislation and the social situation."

Henry Best, director of student services, said that "nonharmful drugs must be taken immediately off the Criminal Code."

Best said he feels that marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol, if we are to believe the scientific research being done in the field today. He does.

He says that drugs of a mild nature should be legalized on a three point basis. The first, he says, is if it is no worse than alcohol. Secondly he says that the people who use drugs would be sure they were good if sales were regulated. Thirdly he feels that legalization of drugs of a mild nature would put an end to youth's contact with underworld sources, which he says is dangerous.

"There are certain reactions built in toward alcohol and sex," he said, "but not toward marijuana."

When asked about what the administration would do if it found a student using drugs Best

said: "I would not want to see a person thrown out for taking marijuana. While at the same time, I have very little mercy towards anyone who is trafficking."

Best summed up his thoughts

on the question by saying that he would not trust a user with driving a car or handling petty cash, but he believes the speed of their reactions allows them to be excellent surgeons, organizers and teachers.

Winters teach-in Friday

Quebec separatiste Rene Levesque will discuss his province and independence at a teach-in Feb. 7.

The one-day series of discussions in Winters College is entitled "What Choice Canada?"

Following his discussion at 1:15 pm in the Junior Common Room, Melville H. Watkins, Canada's expert on the structure of Canadian industry and foreign ownership, will talk on American influence and Canadian economic integrity.

The purpose of the seminars is to explore the extent and nature of American

influence on the economic, political and cultural life of Canada.

Also taking part in these discussions will be David Lewis, leader of the NDP in Parliament, who will look into the question of whether Canada is moving towards an independent foreign policy, and whether this is even desirable.

The conference will conclude with a dinner, and students will hear Robert Fulford, editor of "Saturday Night", speak on the difficulties of establishing a unique cultural outlook from that of the USA.

TOWARD A FREE UNIVERSITY

McLaughlin Forum

Discussion on relevant issues will be held by Professors RUBINOFF, BAKAN, and others. Watch out for next meeting.

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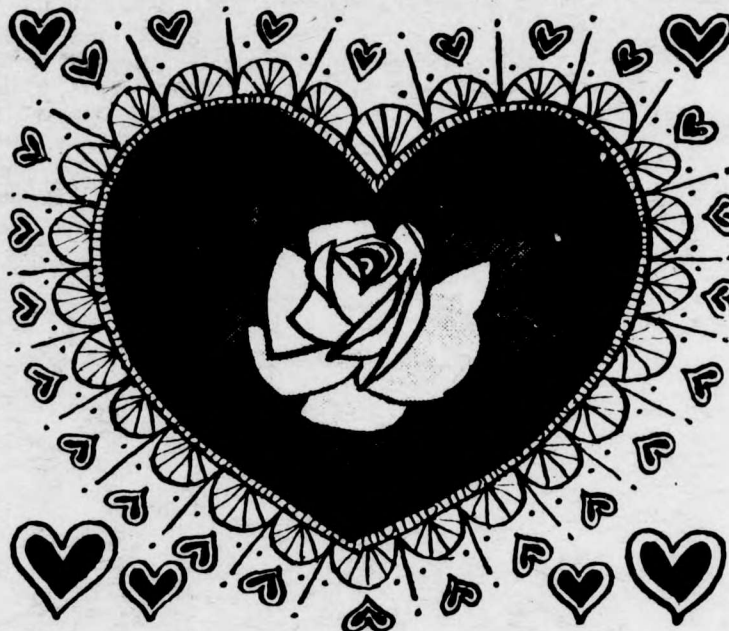
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