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## Economics may force Govt. to eventually go to pot

While I can't agree with some of your conclusions on society in your article on Dr. Yonge's paper, we are agreed that this personal opinion with the implied label of medical authority is irresponsible. He makes very sweeping statements which, though strictly true, may not be true in a practical sense.

For example "all the psychotropic drugs—including marijuana are harmful." True as it is true that caffeine, aspirin, ex lax, etc., are harmful if misused or overused. There is little argument about the dangers of hard drugs but marijuana is a different case. Authoritative texts such as Gilman's *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics* and Gath's *Medical Pharmacology* do not take sides on the issue of pot, but simply set out the effects both good and bad of its use. Dr. Yonge is right—it is specious to compare alcohol and pot directly, but if one compares the pros and cons of pot to those of alcohol as used and abused, it would be fair to say that pot does not appear to be any greater hazard to society.

Dr. Yonge states that pot causes the same symptoms as some mental disorders. True again but what does this mean? Other drugs commonly used in medicine may cause psychological changes during their use, but this is no objection to their use since the effect ceases when the drug is stopped. It has not really been shown that pot causes permanent personality changes, and it is a moot point

whether it is worse to use a drug for pleasure than it is to use it to stay awake, or go to sleep, or lose weight.

On the question of whether marijuana users "drop out" or revert "to the immature, the primitive" one first must realize that Dr. Yonge's assessment of what is primitive is, to put it mildly, conservative and that his impression of pot users comes from those he sees in his practice. A roughly analogous case would be an intern's view of alcohol users if he only saw those who come through the emergency ward.

Undeniably there are people who come to a bad end in which pot plays a part, but is this the evil of grass or people headed for a bad end who choose a contemporary means to get there? Some still do it on booze, barbiturates or all on their own and don't necessarily go to jail for it.

Marijuana is a potentially harmful drug when used by the wrong people, but so is alcohol. The one troubling question about legalization is, is it good to leave two such drugs legally and readily available rather than one?

But there's no doubt that it's barbarous to send people to the penitentiary for using grass, and that it would be totalitarian to adopt Dr. Yonge's plan. Perhaps an AMCB is the answer. Now that our province is going in the hole, every little bit helps.

D. B. Wilson  
med 3

## I would not stake my . . . on Fitz's budget!

To George Kushminder  
Dear George:

You have an extremely convenient memory. I have decided after talking to you that you are not a deliberate liar. As you have no doubt discovered from Radio Society's tape of that infamous council meeting in Dinwoodie Room on Oct. 27, 1969, my resignation was offered on one basis alone. I would certainly not stake my resignation on Fitz's budget!

Curtis Long asked me if those members who voted in favor of council's priorities would resign if we lost a council's referendum asking for approval of those priorities. Those priorities are: (1) education (2) those administrative necessities needed to make the education priorities operative (3) services—cultural, internal,

special occasion and voluntary service activities. My reply was stated thus "I presume that those members who feel that they should in all consciousness resign, will. I will." I further stated that council was asked to approve a priorities referendum for some time in December. This statement was made about 45 minutes after the meeting began and it's recorded about five minutes into the second reel of Radio Society's tape.

If you don't know what we mean by education in first year of Commerce George, it's understandable—given the previous 12 years of school you've survived. Perhaps you will find out after a few years of university. Good luck!

Academic Vice-President  
Elizabeth Law

# Condensing that kills meanings is just as inexcusable as censorship

I have, over the weekend, become disillusioned with the editorial policy of The Edmonton Journal. I submitted to them a letter in which I expressed, in a sarcastic way, my opinion on the war in Vietnam. My letter was printed in Saturday's edition of that same paper. But this "newspaper," resorting to its right "to condense

any letter," omitted the last two sentences of my letter. What I had intended to be a sarcastic criticism of the war, sounded instead, like an emotional, irrational support of the war.

"Condensing" a letter is perhaps excusable on the grounds of length or if the omitted material in no way

affects the intent of the writer. I categorically oppose any "condensing" that could change the meaning or even appearance of a letter. I also oppose any deliberate omission of material that is deemed too "strong" or too "controversial," but printing what is left; a now meaningless opinion.

I am aware that the omission in this case could be attributed to sheer carelessness. I am aware that some composers have no qualms about "shortening" a letter or article to make it fit the layout predetermined by higher priority material such as advertising. This too, I find objectionable and inexcusable.

How often this omitting and shortening takes place in our own "newspaper" is anyone's guess. After all, we Edmontonians have no basis of comparison. That brings me to the basis of my protest.

Unless our "newspaper" editor suddenly becomes objective and open-minded, we will continue to receive the sloppy journalism that we have been receiving in the past. Our local "newspaper" is under no competitive pressure to improve; pressure in Edmonton must come from the reading public. Are you providing such pressure.

The Edmonton Journal is under no pressure to print this, a fact they well realize. To ensure that my protest does not fall upon deaf ears, I have sent copies to other media:



"It's not really censorship. We're just not printing items that don't meet our standards"

## My Lai No. 2

(Reprinted from The Red Deer Advocate)

The question when the scandal over the My Lai massacre exploded was how many more My Lai's there were in this unconscionable war. It didn't take long for the storm to mount. Now a place called "Pinkville" in English has joined the ignominious list.

President Nixon is so worried about the domestic reaction his office was labelling the "Pinkville" massacre horrifying even before a massacre had been confirmed.

The revelations are a death blow to further U.S. involvement in the war, totally erase the calming effect of the President's plea a fortnight ago for another chance to end the war, and provide unimagined fuel to the war's and the President's legions of critics.

Even the President's "silent majority," with its central trust in the

purity of the American GI and patriotism, will be sick at heart. Other countries may slaughter innocent civilians and use women and children for target practice, the myth said, but not the United States.

Now the myth lies bleeding in wretched little Vietnamese villages. Now, the American instinct will be to clear out. Of course the Commies slaughtered innocent people: the reeking mass graves at Hue confirm that. But hitherto, America was morally superior. It had a Christian tradition, and that indeed influenced the way it fought wars.

Now to the civilian dead, there is no difference between having been slain by berserk U.S. soldiers and by venomous communist ones.

Having been dragged down to such vile depths, the U.S., if it still believes in its own values, must brace itself for a sojourn in purgatory of a sort hitherto unknown to that proud, idealistic nation.

## Let's proudly help American Imperialists

I find myself in wholehearted agreement with Staff-Sgt. Carson-Roebuck's letter in The Edmonton Journal. We Canadians must be proud that we are helping the American imperialists drive the communist imperialists out of Vietnam. We are not sending enough ammunition and napalm to the United States.

It doesn't matter in the least that 40,000 Americans have been killed, as long as more of "the enemy" have been killed. Since we have more guns and bombs than "they" do, we will win the war eventually.

Many GIs have had their wives or girlfriends raped and tortured by the Viet Cong. They are in Vietnam to revenge these atrocities.

If you are a communist-inspired pacifist you should be drafted so that the army can teach you to be a "real" man.

I can summarize Mr. Carson-Roebuck's and my position in one statement: If communism ever comes to Vietnam, we must ensure that there are no Vietnamese left to suffer under that awful system.

Henry Matzikeit  
arts 2

## Gardener goes great guns for Gateway: Now for our next act . . . cooked goose!

Prognostications per peonies and poinsettias puts pzazz in our paper's pulpy printed pages. We warmed with wild delight over the wild and winning work with winter vegetation in mind. Salubrious salutations, O sower of suitable subject stuff.

If more people like Mr. Sach would read the paper and hear us crying for something original, unique, or even newsworthy, no one would be able to complain about our paper not having something for everyone. We appreciate his submission, and would

now ask for something from everyone.

Mr. Sach is an agriculture student in horticulture. How would a med student like to do a family medicine column for us, or a law student do a law column, or a house ec student give us something along the lines of a Hints from Heloise, or maybe a budding psychologist could do the Dr. Spock thing.

We'll print 'em all. We're desperate.

D. Jamieson, arts 2½  
Gateway gaffer

