

# Univ comes down on lab supervisor

OTTAWA (CUP) — A Carleton University lab supervisor's complaints to a local newspaper about lab hazards has earned him a letter of reprimand and an offer to change jobs.

Stefan Behrendt received the reprimand from Carleton vice-president academic Tom Ryan after he told the **Ottawa Citizen** that a chemical solvent, one of a hydrocarbon group suspected of being carcinogenic, was being used in plastic squirt bottles by about 160 students. Behrendt said the solvent, methylchloroform, should only be handled inside a fume hood.

"Why take foolish chances?" said Behrendt. "Students exposed to methylchloroform now may come down with cancer 20 or 30 years from now and they won't know what caused it."

He told the Ottawa newspaper that Carleton has the only lab in Ottawa that does not require the solvent to be used with fume hoods.

Ryan's letter to Behrendt said the supervisor's statements to

outside media "could be damaging to the reputation of the department and the University." His remarks, said Ryan, "constitute unacceptable conduct on the part of an employee of the University."

The letter threatened further disciplinary action if Behrendt does not use university safety committee channels, or the provincial labour ministry, for voicing his future complaints.

Behrendt said he tried for months to get the problem solved, either through changing the solvent or getting fume hoods installed, before he went to the media.

"I spoke repeatedly to people in the department," he said. "They didn't want to solve the problem. I wouldn't have gone to the media otherwise."

Dean of Science George Skippen, said Behrendt, asked him to relocate to a job elsewhere on the campus after the story was printed. "I told him I was perfectly happy where I am. Besides, the problem wouldn't go away if I was relocated."

## On Drugs

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side of disease. Major changes in people's psychological attitudes can produce major changes in their health - for better or worse.

I think that psychedelic drugs can show us that we can solve a very real physical problem just by changing somebody's psychological state.

**You would say then that the use of the hallucinogen yahe in curing rituals by South American Indians is not only beneficial in terms of its purgative action but in terms of the changes it produces in the psychological state of the diseased?**

Absolutely. I'm also a great believer in the placebo effect. I think that hallucinogens are what I call active placebos in that they don't have a direct pharmacological effect but they create psychological states that influence our physical states.

I'm interested in something called the Lourdes phenomenon which is the result of a statistical

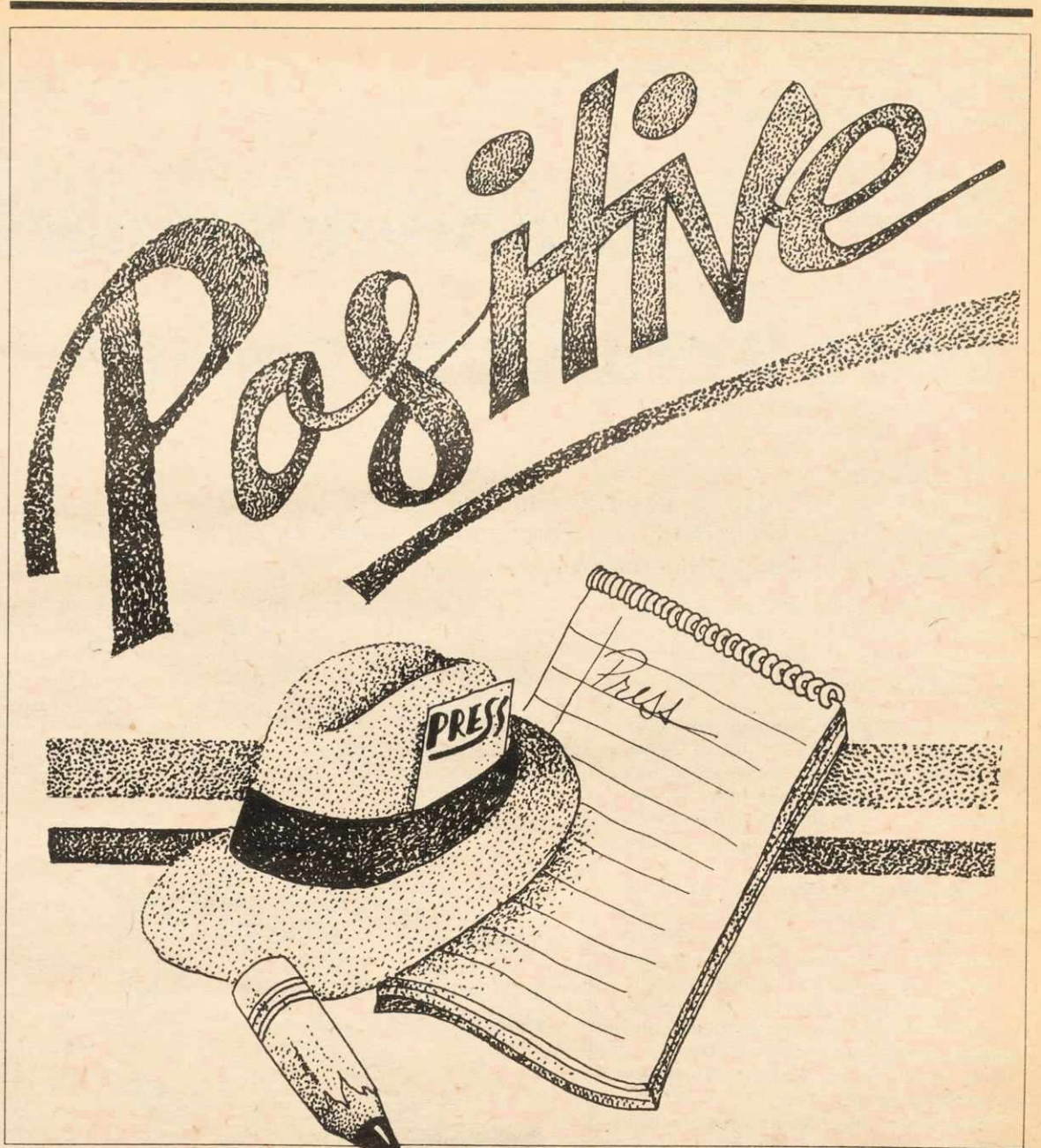
study done on people who have visited miracle shrines. What they found was that the likelihood of somebody being healed at a miracle shrine is directly proportionate to the distance of the pilgrimage.

Now add to that pilgrimage the taking of a drug that is going to make you feel different than you've ever felt in your life and you've created the optimal circumstances for a dramatic placebo response.

Doctors are all going around thinking that placebo effects are less important and less real than the effects of drugs. But that's not true. You can die of placebo effects, you can have total remissions of cancer because of placebo effects. I think that placebo effects are the real meat of medicine. They're the pure healing without the drug-induced side effects. We should be trying to induce them more of the time in more people. I think that these yahe shamans are masters at that.

### WHAT HAPPENED AT THE 3-D MOVIE?

The Dalhousie Student Union wishes to apologize to those students who were inconvenienced by the projector problem we experienced during last night's movie "It Came From Outer Space". The movie was previewed on Monday and no problems were reported. It was just as frustrating to us as you that the machine went haywire. Those who left were refunded, and for the majority who stayed, we hope you had a good time. You can be assured we will not be presenting another movie until the projector problem has been cleared up. Once again, our apologies.



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