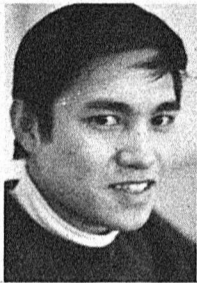


LEGALIZE MARIJUANA?

No

Gateway opinion poll

Are you in favor of legalizing marijuana?



Yes. Laws are for the protection of the public not to tell me what's good for me.
Orest Popovich
(past) non-student

Yes. It depends on the individual to decide and make the choice.
Aloysius Cheung
special student
ag 4



Yes. Marijuana — it's the science of the future.
Charles Hunt
arts 1

Yes. Because there's no conclusive proof that it's any more harmful than alcohol.
Dale Rogers
sci 2

No I'm not. Because it's playing around with the mind and we don't understand the dangers yet.
Pat Wankiewicz
arts 1

—Shirley Skeel photos

"Marijuana" a problem or Escape from a "neurotic" society

by Dennis Zomerschoe

First of all I would like to make it clear that I am in great sympathy with my colleague on the opposite page; on impulse I would say, legalize marijuana and get it over with. But if a person takes the trouble to do a little thinking, he would come to the conclusion that legalizing another drug is no solution to the problems of mankind.

I would rather treat this question from the viewpoint that society is sick. The obvious question: with what? I say with the disease called man. Legalizing marijuana will not solve the problem of interpersonal relations; instead it will give him one more soothing bottle to ease his nagging frustration with himself, with other people, and with society as a whole which has forced the individual into a one-dimensional box.

On looking at the world, my first impulse is to say; to hell with the world and let us spin a cocoon around ourselves as individuals and blow our minds. But we must come down sometime and the feeling that greets one is that out there is an ugly world where my fellow man, far from treating me like a brother, will not hesitate to jeer at me, insult me, slander me, and dominate me, to feed his own sense of superiority and to lull him into a sense of security. I cannot expect him to act in any other fashion. Indeed, if he acts in any other manner, people will look at him suspiciously, think that he is a "queer", and so on.

So does that mean that man is this way? When we look at his frantic grasping after material good, his cruel satisfaction at humiliating his fellow man, exploiting him, using him sexually, can we have the courage to go on without using dope, LSD, alcohol and other things?

Should we just sink into a stupor in our dens, rumpus rooms, and liquor bars?

Is there no hope for man?

A person, when he is confronted with our cultural ideals will naturally become a neurotic.

Could it possibly be that we turn to drugs because we cannot attain the things that we really want? If we look at the economic conditions of man, we find that they have a very relevant influence on his intellect, his ethic, and his artistry. However, no matter how bitter man's economic condition, he does not live by bread alone. He is not *Homo economicus* or *Homo laborans*. So the question suggests itself: what does man want over and beyond control of his environment and his material wealth.

Man's essence could conceivably be love. Marijuana does not really bring us any further towards the realization of man's potential for love. Then what does?

To quote Norman O. Brown:

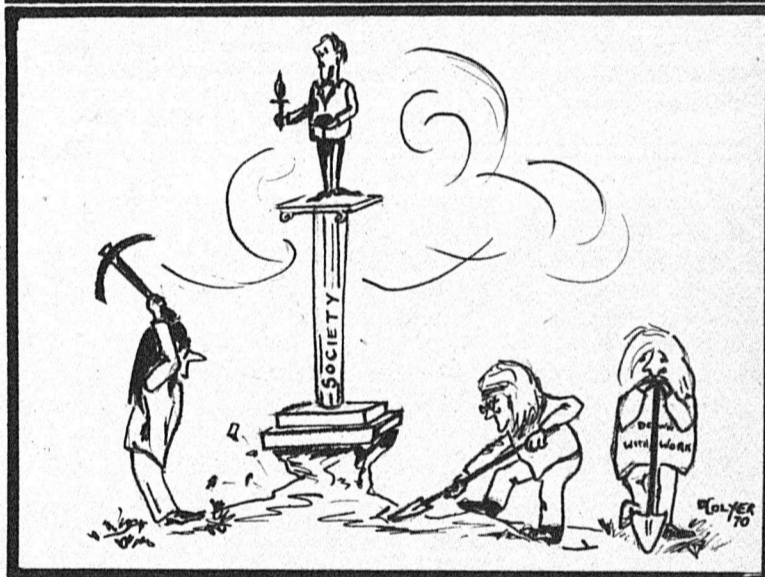
"The life instinct, or sexual instinct, demands activity of a kind that, in contrast to our current mode of culture, in contrast to our current mode of activity, can be called play. The life instinct also demands a union with others and with the world around us based not on anxiety and aggression but on narcissism and erotic exuberance."

Which sure beats getting stoned on dope.

If the gentle reader has not fainting by now, I wish to state that I realize this does not solve the marijuana problem. Society

kids being manhandled by these same police, of being mentally warped for life by the experience of jail. I am getting tired of hearing the old (and by now well-worn) argument that marijuana is only one way that kids use to get back at their parents. This is the most warped interpretation of the generation gap that I have ever heard. Besides, these same learned men are embarrassingly silent when it comes to explaining the vast use of marijuana by "adult" users.

Marijuana should, for the present, be considered by the courts as a very minor misdemeanor; this especially since the effects of the



not only has a hang-up about marijuana; it has an even greater one about love and SEX. If the reader thinks that the sexual revolution is over he can forget it. Sex has become the most marketable commodity in the Western world. Unfortunately, love has fallen victim to that old foe, Reason. The joke: "Of course I love you, it's my job isn't it?" is one way of expressing what modern society has done to man. It has prevented him from fulfilling his potential for love.

Next I want to discuss the actual handling of marijuana by society. The dunderheads whom we call politicians, lawyers, judges, policemen, and all the other petty bureaucrats of the system which we all know and love so well, have done an admirable job in fouling up the problem of marijuana. To throw a person in jail for two years or some such similar penalty for smoking marijuana is idiotic. I would think that a rather more imaginative approach is called for. Despite the steep fines which society makes one pay for doing dope and other such things, people have not stopped using them.

For the time being, a more gentle approach to the problem of marijuana is absolutely necessary. I am getting tired of hearing about houses being broken into by the police, of hearing about

drug are considerably less warping than those of alcohol. This has been positively established by documented studies available in every library and book store. The police should do nothing besides confiscation of the drugs when they are found. The present inhuman treatment of people by people with regards to marijuana can no longer be tolerated.

Meanwhile, society must get on with solving the problems of mankind.

In Norman O. Brown's words:

"The resurrection of the body is a social project facing mankind as a whole, and it will become a practical political problem when the statesmen of the world are called up to deliver happiness instead of power, when political economy becomes a science of use-values, instead of exchange-values—a science of enjoyment instead of a science of accumulation. In the face of this tremendous human problem contemporary social theory, both capitalist and socialist, has nothing to say . . . The human physical senses must be emancipated from the sense of possession, and then the humanity of the senses and the human enjoyment of the senses will be achieved for the first time."
Amen.



"IT'S ONLY NUTMEG FOR THE SPAGETTI — HONEST!"