



—Dave Fedorkiw photo  
**DR. C. J. VARVIS (on right)**  
 ... "eminently unqualified" ... on marijuana

# Doctors discuss weed

## "Causes... a feeling of well-being"

Some 300 students dropped in to turn on with the Committee to Legalize Marijuana Wednesday in SUB Theatre.

Three medical doctors presented their various views on the medical aspects of marijuana.

Dr. P. A. Roxburgh said: "Its more pleasant than alcohol. There is no hangover, and its usually cheaper. However, it cannot be used as a pleasant drink with dinner."

Dr. Roxburgh discussed the psychological effects of marijuana.

"Marijuana in the way in which it is normally used can be described as 'recreational.'" It causes elation and a feeling of well-being. The extreme reaction is a feeling of "mystical oneness" but quite a large quantity must be used to achieve this.

He warned there can be more serious effects, such as a sensation of panic or unfounded persecution, especially among regular users.

However, such prolonged or delayed effects are very rare, he said.

"Under no circumstances could we (the medical profession) ever condone the use of a substance like marijuana, knowing as little about it as we do," stated Dr. C. J. Varvis.

Dr. Varvis immediately stated that he was "eminently unqualified" to speak on the subject of marijuana since he knows almost

nothing about the subject. He is a member of a government committee formed to investigate the use of drugs in Alberta.

"All drugs are dangerous until they are proven safe," said Dr. Varvis. He said he is disturbed marijuana has not been proven safe and that so much of the literature published on the subject is "unadulterated bull."

Dr. Roxburgh stated we should be "extremely reluctant" to legalize pot, since we do not have the right to "introduce another potentially disturbing element into a society that already has too many of these."

"The laws on marijuana are vicious and cruel" said Dr. A. Kempton.

He suggested that a discussion of marijuana belonged in the broad social scene, not as a medical issue.

After the doctors had finished, there was a rather spirited discussion. Dr. Varvis was accused of being biased on the side of the establishment.

"I'm a square", he admitted.

The audience and the panel discussed a few of the legal aspects of marijuana, and it was suggested that some lawyers be invited to speak on this topic.

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# Barrington, Bertalanffy named to professorship

Two professors at The University of Alberta have been appointed to University Professorships.

Professor James Barrington and Dr. Ludwig von Bertalanffy have been designated University Professorships, the first in U of A's history.

A University Professorship is a distinguished and rare appointment given to a professor whose work on campus covers such a wide range that a normal appointment within a single department would not be appropriate. The experience and versatility of such a person qualifies him to teach in more than one department in the university.

The possible candidate's name is brought before the General Faculty Council by the department or departments concerned. After consideration by the Academic Development Committee, a temporary or a permanent appointment to a University Professorship may be made by the Board of Governors.

Prof. James Barrington, Oxford graduate, Indian Civil Servant, and Burmese Ambassador to the

United States and Canada, was appointed visiting professor to this university in 1966. As university professor he lectures on political science and history.

Dr. Ludwig von Bertalanffy, scientist, diplomat, and multilingual author, was appointed professor of theoretical biology here in 1960. Dr. von Bertalanffy is now university professor in the department of psychology, zoology, and medicine.

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