

take five

by Anne Wright and Eleanor Copeland

Super-hippy DePoe...

Some came to adore and some came to scorn. But, nevertheless, they came. They came to hear David Depoe, a field worker for the CYC, and spokesman for the hippies of Yorkville.

For an hour and a half last Thursday, in Founders Social and Debates Room, Depoe spoke and answered questions on the topic which he termed 'absurd', 'You Too Can Be A Hippie'.

'A topic like this is absurd in a funny way,' he said, 'because the very word 'hippy' is a myth perpetrated by a society that deals in myths completely.'

'The goals that society sets are mythical in that they're not real. We are prevented from living in reality by social processing--news-paper, T.V., the educational system etc. It is comforting and easy to live inside these myths; our daily actions are continually per-petrating them.'

'The reality of the hippy movement,' he continued, 'has to do with their realization that we're being trained to live by Madison Avenue. This is what makes the hippies different--they are recognizing and attempting to deal with the alienation which is engulfing us all--i.e. the lack of self-involvement and commitment.'

'I am not an oracle,' said Depoe, 'I can't propose any answers, but to me reality means living an authentic, human, happy existence, recognizing what is going on, and being honest

with oneself.'

Nor did Depoe attempt to justify the existence of what one student called 'his people' who live in Yorkville.

'They're not my people,' he exclaimed. 'Some are living there because its groovy. Unable to live in reality, they have built their own myth--the myth that 'all you need is love' to be cool. Others, perhaps, will learn to make qualitative judgements, and realize that the entire system needs overhauling.'

The university, he feels, has very little relationship to the real world. Students can too easily become bound up in its mechanism. Being told what to read results in being told what to think. Students' sources of information are coming more and more from this one single environment which consequently defines

...tells the mass...

the basic way in which they look at life and at the world, Depoe said.

'Leaving university is one way of avoiding unreality. It provides a moratorium where one can set oneself apart and look at the whole system without being bombarded from all sides. Remaining in university incurs the risk of being crushed.'

'Education', continued Depoe, 'should add to one's awareness of self and of the world. Every-one has the potential to realize truth but people accumulate layers of deadening influence. We must change the social mechanism, he insisted, We must question our professors and sources of information; we must develop an awareness

and critical intelligence.

It is our university. It is up to us, the professors, and the administration to change things. There is no particular enemy, only a state of mind--the state of mind possessed by people who have been trained to be passive and consume what is put in front of them. Instead of making a rigorous examination of things, they escape into myths. Real change occurs when their state of mind is changed. We are not free, he concluded, unless we are free inside our heads and act out of them.

The audience ranged from long-haired fol-lowers to hostile opponents. Their challenging and practical questions revealed the antithesis between Depoe's ideality and actuality.

Depoe, who is not a forceful speaker, ad-mitted that many kids in Yorkville are still aimless. They fill their time 'talking to people, playing records, smoking pot, and taking drugs.'

'No,' he angrily exclaimed, 'this is not the hippies' answer. How can you expect an answer from a bunch of 17 year old kids!'

Although he proposed dropping out of uni-versity to avoid 'getting crushed', Depoe ad-mitted there are very few places for young people to go.

...the way it is.

We left with the feeling that David Depoe had said nothing especially new. Many of his ideas, which were strongly existential in flavor, were valid, but he had unwittingly revealed the vast difference between the idea and reality.

But then...what is reality?

Marijuana: symbol of Hippydom rebellion--scorned and feared by the establishment.

by Mike Snook

Within ten years we will need a 'Potheads Anonymous', and AA will have run out of customers.

A psychologist's prophecy? No, but it points out the core of the pot problem in the western world.

The governments of Canada and the U.S. have classified pot within the same set of laws as narcotics. The United Nations includes 'cannabis' on its drug charter. Why so much attention over a lousy weed?

Pot has been associated with the drug world of 'hard stuff'--heroin and opium, since the days of the 'Beat Generation' in the late fifties. Pot is linked with the same kind of moral and physical degeneracy we normally associate with the 'addict'.

But pot has become more than that. It has become the symbol of today's angry young man, the hippy, or the draft dodger, the 'bigthreat' to today's corporate estab-lishment.

We are a culture that traditionally seeks to escape in alcohol. We look upon 'drugs', if not used medi-cally, as something low and dirty, something to be feared. Yet in Asiatic coun-tries, hashish is used just as we use alcohol.

These are the reasons pot is illegal in the western world. It isn't a question of morality, it's a matter of cultural bias and ig-norance.

Then, what are the posi-tive reasons for making it legal to 'blow' whenever we want?

The usual is that man should have sovereignty over his own body. This leads to the problem: when is man really that responsible? Do we set an age limit as with alcohol, of 21 years? All that does is force it underground. And oh the joys of an MCBO. Can't you see the lineups on Gray Cup weekend already?

The rest are negative reasons. Medical science has yet to prove that pot is physically harmful. Un-like LSD, which is like swallowing a live tarantula. It is habit forming, like ci-garette tobacco, but not ad-dictive like opium.

And here the case rests--

philosophically, medically, politically, we have a Mexi-can standoff.

The best answer? Why bother with pot, or alcohol for that matter, to begin with? Are we so hard done by, so depressed, so sick, that we need artificial stim-ulants to enjoy life? If so, then we aren't really alive. It's an old argument, but that doesn't make it wrong. What it does, is point out the ignorance in-volved in trying to legis-late such a personal thing.

What has legislation done for us so far? Prohibition gave us the 'mob', and they're still with us. Per-sonally I'd prefer a drunk to a gunman any day.

Age legislation gave us the bootlegger, the drunk kid who ends up in the cooler for the night, costing the taxpayers money. His fine is usually paid by his middle-class parents, so he learns nothing.

Potheads get busted, kicked out of school, and booked on narcotics charges, a federal offence in the U.S., and one which vir-tually eliminates a young person's chances of ever getting a responsible job.

Ignorant legislation has given us an unjust im-balance of treatment, that results in delinquency and pain for the guilty. Why a fine of from \$15 to \$30 for underage drinking, and a possible jail term of two years for blowing pot? Ig-norance and fear.

The answer? Education! Of a very special nature. The kind of education that the press can give by tel-ling the public the truth a-bout marijuana, and the law.

Public pressure does work. If it could bring about a retrial for Stephen Trus-cott, it can bring about a-nother look at the problems of pot.

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then brought the completed forms back to Founders on Thursday. We were then in-formed that balloting had been the day before. How-ever, we overcame. Our nominations were sympa-thetically accepted, Cathy Braun, a Winters student, was selected first runner-up, and her name and pic-ture were duly left out of Excalibur.

Of course, this was not the first instance of its kind. Throughout the year, there have been constant bickerings, back-bitings and a general lack of co-op-eration between the colleges. At a time when Winters could have used the guid-ance and co-operation of her sister colleges, we re-ceived nothing but com-plaints. We will stand ready to offer our help to McLaughlin.

For a conclusion, a brighter note. May the light of YSC shine brightly on the college system and bring all four York colleges one hell of a great prom, February 10. (See, we've already been told the date!)

Marshall Green
Co-chairman, Winters
College Social Committee

Students Say

by Sam Pinkas

Question: Do you think pot should be legalized?



The individual should have freedom of choice in using pot without having to worry about being busted. As someone once said, 'Take LSD, it melts your mind.'

Linda Jacob (VI)

Marijuana is the biggest threat to Western civilization there is. These wicked people who smoke it should be harshly dealt with.

Wayne Harrison (WI)



Alcohol has a much more detri-mental effect. In fact, the only harm in pot is that it may lead to stronger drugs such as opium.

Jury S. Klínko (WI)

Legalize pot? Are you kidding? Why no LSD, opium, even heroin? Can you imagine what society would be like with all these drugs available to the general public? Everyone would be walking down the street in a stupor, like zom-bies. Alcohol is bad enough, Let's stay away from the hard stuff.

Larry Sanuto (FI)



I do think pot should be made available to persons who want it. Anyone can obtain it illegally, so why do it undercover?

Sue Brown (VII)

