

Marijuana good for tetanus, report says

WASHINGTON (LNS) — Marijuana may well be very good medicine for victims of tetanus, migraine, high blood pressure and sunstroke, according to long-secret medical research just made public.

Encouraging studies, done 10 years ago at the U.S. army chemical warfare laboratory at its Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland,

were disclosed when proceedings of a 1969 National Institute of Mental Health conference were published, according to a recent Washington Post dispatch.

At that scientific meeting, Dr. Van Sim of the Edgewood Arsenal called both natural marijuana and its synthetic equivalent "interesting from a medical standpoint."

"There are three areas where they can be of definite use in medicine," he said. Sim has investigated two of the areas himself.

Marijuana, the scientist noted, lowers blood pressure for as long as 36 hours — an effect that may be helpful in treating patients with high blood pressure.

Pot also quickly lowers the body temperature of experimental subjects by as much as three degrees — a possible cure for extreme cases of sunstroke. Sunstroke currently kills a large number of its victims when it is severe enough to render them unconscious. An injection of marijuana serum might save those lives, Sim said.

Sim also cited the work done in the 1940s by the late Dr. Walter Siegfried Loewe of the University of Utah, who found a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, or synthetic marijuana) "very effective" in preventing epileptic seizures when given in small doses.

Loewe's studies, Sim said, were stopped because of political

pressure and fear of possible addiction. At that time, medical researchers had not proved beyond doubt the virtual impossibility of physical addiction to marijuana.

Sim's work at the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Medical Research Laboratory turned up more evidence of marijuana's positive effects besides its useful medical characteristics. When Sim took some marijuana-equivalent himself he found, according to the transcript of the medical conference:

"Colors were intensified and landscapes especially delightful. Occasional visual hallucinations of brilliantly colored geometrical designs were experienced.

"Although aware of all surrounding events, I preferred to be left alone . . . even the most bland and unappetizing food was very delightful."

The research disclosed in the newly published proceedings of the 1969 meeting join the overwhelming body of past work in substantiating the claim that marijuana is far superior to alcohol. No solid research has documented claims that marijuana hurts people, and there is evidence to the contrary: for example, unfinished work in Boston reportedly indicates that motor control of experienced users improves when they smoke.

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LEOMINSTER, Mass. (Guardian) — A 19-year-old youth was sentenced to a year in jail recently for having a U.S. flag sewn to the seat of his pants as a flag. He was asking town officials to kiss the flag.

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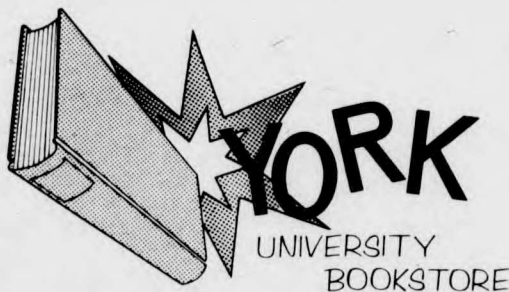
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Santhanam supported by CAUT?

MONTREAL (CUP) — Superior court judge Leon Lalande surprised no one March 2, as he gave legal backing to the administration of Loyola College in its seven-month-old contract battle with nuclear physicist S.A. Santhanam.

In a declaratory judgement, Lalande said Santhanam had "no contractual right" to remain at Loyola following his dismissal from the physics department July 31, 1969.

The odds are good, however, that Lalande's judgement will not put an end to the conflict which has pitted the administration against Santhanam, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, and a large number of students and faculty during the past academic year.

Both Santhanam and the CAUT, the national faculty pressure group which has backed the professor during the contract dispute, have argued that the Loyola administration was bound by a "moral" rather than legal obligation to hire the physicist following the expiry of his contract last July.

CAUT has not yet announced whether the organization will go ahead with an official censure—amounting to a blacklist by its 12,000 members, about 80 per cent of faculty in Canadian universities—for ducking its "moral obligations" in the Santhanam case.

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