

# casserole

a supplement section of  
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produced by the gateway staff

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Keynote of today's issue is a compilation of two personal views of the Washington Peace March in mid-November protesting the War in Vietnam.

After the recent reports of American troops murdering civilians in Vietnam, we find the cover "cartoon" reprinted from University of Victoria's *Martlet* particularly cutting.

Opposite, members of the English department, that pot bed of sin and corruption, rush to the defense of Dr. Keith Yonge and his views on the causes and cures of Canada's drug problems.

"I set my chickens freeeeee! Wheeeeeee!"

Fine arts shifts into second gear this week with magic music and some live theatre and propagandistic film reviews and another blast at the poets and critics, this time from New Caledonia(?), yessir, New Caledonia College in Prince George. Hello out there all you Uncle Ben's Beer drinkers.

Which reminds us what makes up this staff that this is the afternoon for the "social" and there is no press tonight, so pardon us if we, uh, socialize. Wheeeee!

By MICHAEL DIBDIN  
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Dr. Yonge's report on the non-medical use of drugs, published in *The Gateway* for November 21, bids fair to bring a little sanity back into our chaotic world. His conclusions are so irrefutable, so painstakingly expressed, that one can only wish for their speedy adoption

harmful nature of these drugs, to step out of their laboratories and make a moral stand on this issue. With the article under consideration this step has finally been undertaken. Dr. Yonge's position is unequivocal: as a psychiatrist with an intimate knowledge of psychopathology he is in a position to transcend outdated empirical techniques and limitations and to "distinguish sickness

potential of a socially oriented psycho-unit, they should be eradicated from medical practice and theory.

The tiresome debate as to the relative evils of alcohol and psychotropic drugs (including marijuana) need not long detain us. The legal aspects of the matter appear to us more than usually straightforward. Alcohol is legal, so it must be good; marijuana is illegal, so it is obviously bad; if marijuana is bad, there can be no possible justification for legalizing it. As the effects of each, as Dr. Yonge might have pointed out, alcohol taken in quantity induces extremely unpleasant psycho-physiological symptoms, including dizziness, aching limbs, disorientation, vomiting, hysteria, extreme anti-social behaviour and recurrent urination. Marijuana, on the other hand, remains quietly and insidiously pleasant in its effect, thus increasing the risk of psychological addiction.

Among his many other startling innovations, Dr. Yonge is to be congratulated upon the formulation of what must from now on be known as Yonge's Law: that is, that the recurrent frequency of a willed human experience is in direct proportion to its pleasure value. Or, for our lay

drugs, including marijuana, tend to do so habitually." In other words, since marijuana is apparently not physiologically addictive the only possible explanation for this repeated use is that people like it, that they find it pleasurable. Which is, as Dr. Yonge so rightly suggests, the only objection that need ultimately be raised against any psychotropic drug. The user is able to obtain "instant gratification" which is totally divorced from any socio-integrative function whatever, having merely an individual-subjective significance. Dr. Yonge states that implicit in the character of the productive integrated group-unit is "the prevalence of . . . self-abnegatory involvement in his society." That is to say that the individual should work through a process of self-abnegation to the ultimate goal of self obliteration. Psychotropic drug users, however, are well known for their "idle and parasitic attitude to society" and their small regard for "the realities of life." (One of the particularly pleasing aspects of Dr. Yonge's report is his continual and unashamed reference to reality—obviously his beliefs have not been shaken by the specious dialectics of such "thinkers" as Berkeley, Hume, or even Einstein,



by the government. It is however clear that in the form Dr. Yonge presented them they are also incomplete. Whether for reasons of space or content, or possibly even from a very justifiable suspicion that society at large is not yet ready for such proposals, Dr. Yonge has only partially revealed his masterplan. This is the reason that we, who unlike such an eminent member of faculty have no reason to fear the outrage of reactionary elements in University, have undertaken to amplify Dr. Yonge's proposals and make explicit the measures which he can only imply.

One of the distinct problems that has hitherto faced social workers attempting to actively oppose the use of psychotropic drugs, which as Dr. Yonge points out, are "presently being used non-medically on a wide scale in Canada," has been the failure on the part of members of the medical profession, in the face of a total lack of any scientific evidence proving the

from health in social trends." Dr. Yonge correctly states that all psychotropic drugs are harmful "by virtue of their specific action of distorting perceptual and cognitive processes of the brain." It will easily be seen that all drugs act in a similar manner: the function of a drug is to interrupt or change the natural processes of some part of the body. Dr. Yonge has had the simple moral courage to come out and tell us what we knew all along really, but had forgotten: that any such interruption or change is basically harmful, that only nature's way is natural. The notorious drug insulin, taken from the bodies of animals, is a case in point. Insulin has the effect of drastically altering the operation of the human pancreas in diabetics and thereby disrupting the natural process of the whole body — in this case death. Unless such psychopathological, physiopathological, and above all ethicopathological effects can be shown to increase the utility



readers, that nice experiences are nicer than nasty ones. Dr. Yonge modestly terms this "the psychological factor of addiction": "There is ample evidence that people who use any of the psychotropic

the latter of whom perpetrated the inanity "There is no absolute frame of reference." It is good to see someone, especially such an eminent scientist, who is not afraid in this day and age to assert the

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