

# spades down

by Tom Murphy

Nearly four years ago, the Daily Gleaner published a letter I wrote concerning the discrimination against criminal offenders by the use of the record. Since if my opinion has changed, it is only in the direction of being even more violently opposed to the record, and since present circumstances make me more sensitive to this point, I shall reproduce what was published then.

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Sir: I must differ with the opinions you put forward in your editorial, "Kindness to Criminals", in the Daily Gleaner, Monday April 24.

Must a person who was convicted perhaps for shop-lifting or petty-thievery at 17 or 18 years of age pay for that crime till the day he dies? As it now stands, the number of jobs open to a person with a record are limited. No civil service or military jobs are open to him, even though he may have committed the offence twenty years prior. These are the majority of people who are being hurt by such laws—not rapists, not murders, but the average small-time delinquent.

There is nothing for an ex-con to look to after he gets out of prison except being branded an ex-con by the eyes of a hypocritical society. People do not trust him, he cannot get a job; he is an ex-convict and he has a record to show for it. The result for many is inevitable—a return to crime, and from this, a return to prison.

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And you sir, are talking about deterrents. No deterrent has proved more successful than the helping hand, the acceptance of the ex-criminal by even a few people, the knowing that perhaps his mistake might be erased. This, and not its reverse, as you advocate, is the better deterrent.

If a man tries to prove his worth, there is no reason why he should be inhibited by a record. Some have made success by changing their names. Frank Howard, once a petty thief who served time, changed his name, and worked to become the trusted representative of several thousand people as a member of Canada's parliament. Shall we condemn him?

Or perhaps we can give our Dorchester Penitentiary inmates who are writing and illustrating the book on Canada, a rough time. Tell them that they made a mistake once and must forever pay for it. Tell them that they will face the prospects of a record for life which will inhibit them for life. Tell them that their good behavior and worthwhile actions in prison are no good for the outside world. Tell them that job-seeking ex-convicts are not welcome at the doors of your publishing company. Tell them like you told them in your editorial.

You tell them sir. But I refuse to condone your beliefs.

Tom Murphy  
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Prison records are not the only records that follow us for the rest of our lives.

The records of credit bureaus follow us around wherever we go. Information that we do not know about; for that matter, credit information that may not be true brands you everytime you wish to buy a car, a house, or get a loan. It is also information that you cannot see.

And how many have RCMP files? No one has told you if you have. You do not know what kind of information is being placed in that horrible little file, and worse still, you cannot see it. The good job you don't get may very well be related to the RCMP file you did not know you had.

Surely the righteous university comes clean. But not you are sure that you have a record here, and yet YOU CANNOT SEE YOUR OWN PERSONAL FILE. It is regarded as confidential information. God only knows what sort of information is being recorded in your file. How much of it is bigoted and untrue? I would like to find out.

When I wrote my letter, my sympathies were for the ex-convict with a record. Now my sympathies are for everyone who are in effect, the prisoners of the records they never get to know.



Panel members of the Playboy teach-in break into gales of laughter after one of the naughty puns made by Hugh Hefner's personal representative, Brice Draper. brunswickan photo by pat murphy

## Playboy attempts realism

There is no such thing — as the philosophy of playboy. Playboy Magazine is Hugh Hefner — his philosophy.

Hefner's personal assistant, Brice Draper, said that rules and ethics have no place in Hefner's philosophy.

"What consenting adults do in private, mixed or unmixed, is their own business," he said.

Draper was speaking at a Newman club teach-in on Playboy philosophy. Other panel members were Margaret Rideout, former Liberal MP for Moncton City, Jack Burgoyne, associate editor of the St. John Telegraph-Journal and Dr. F. Jennings of Saint John.

Moderator was Dr. K. Fuller, a student counsellor for UNB-STU.

"Playboy doesn't propose mass sex orgies nor doesn't specifically sanction pre-martial sex for (today's) young adult. Playboy proposes freedom with responsibility and freedom of choice in all matters including sex," said Draper. "Playboy isn't trying to take the sex out of sex? — nor is it trying to isolate sex from love. Sex and love must co-exist."

"What Playboy maintains is that the best kind of relationship is a loving relationship and a sexual relationship; and that either independent of the other is unfulfilling.

"Playboy is questioning and trying to influence present taboos. It asks that people be realistic to the fact of pre-martial sex.

"Should we counsel and educate the young beforehand, make the pill available or should we console the now-unstable sixteen to twenty-six, unmarried mother.

Draper says the avid Playboy reader may spend three and a half hours on the magazine. This, he feels is grossly overrated as contributing to the moral breakdown, if there is one in North America. The magazine is just one part, a small one in the individual's environment.

Playboy, whose motto is entertainment for men, was first published in 1953. Hefner had originally predicted a circulation of two million by 1970. With the advent of its first serious articles in 1960, the paper designed for young

urban males has seen circulation soar to five and one-half millions.

### PANEL COMMENTS

Dr. K. Fuller, panel Moderator and Student Counsellor for U.N.B.-S.T.U.; advised Mr. Draper he could run for office on the platform that what consulting adults do in private is their own business.

Mr. Jack Burgoyne, an associated editor with the Telegraph-Journal, who says he's over thirty — and you know what that means, called Playboy an ultra-conservative magazine. He feels that Playboy contrives to make women look repulsive, which is generally an entertaining magazine, yet wouldn't be Playboy without its gatefold.

Mrs. Margaret Rideout, a twenty-nine year old mother of three, ex-MP (Liberal) and now judge of the Citizenship Court, borrowed her first copy of Playboy from her son. She feels that Playboy gives the impression that women are like a beach towel; when it gets wet, you throw it away.

## Registration for fish seminar

The annual game fish seminar is jointly sponsored by the province of Nova Scotia and Yale University. Ten universities-five from Canada and five from the United States-are invited to send a fishing team of five students and a non fishing coach.

The seminar is held during the evening hours when such topics as fish identification, lures bait, fishing tackle, and how to fight a giant tuna are discussed. Daylight hours are spent in the Atlantic off the southern tip of N.S., where teams compete for trophies by catching pollock, cod, haddock, halibut and the giant bluefin tuna. Each pound of fish caught scores one point.

Canadian universities participating last year were — UNB Dalhousie St. FX U of T, and U of Western Ontario. From the US came Dartmouth, Harvard Massachusetts, Princeton, and Yale. There was also an intercollegiate team from Japan.

Only four giant tuna have been taken during the seminar's thirteen-year history. UNB has boated two of these fish. UNB won the seminar in 1964 and 1966. This seminar consists not only of lectures and fishing, but also

an award presentation and a lobster clambake.

Any student of UNB is eligible to attend this seminar (priority is given to rod & gun Club members). Students not in the rod & gun Club can register in the Athletics Dept. at the Gym, whereas club members can register at any club meeting. Registration closes March 15.

Amby Legere will accept additional registration at this office until the end of the term.

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