

Free Press YOUTH PAGE

fresh tracks
by Barbara McIntosh

Anyone planning to experiment with pot should spend a morning in the provincial court building in Burlington.

When I pushed my way in the front door last Friday, I was surprised to find the place packed with teenagers and a scattering of what had to be either plainclothes men or lawyer types. I had arranged to interview R.C.M.P. Constable Helland from Hamilton on the problem of marijuana in high schools, but I hadn't expected a first hand look. Most of the cases that morning were drug charges.

In the short time I was there, three boys about 17 were charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, and arraigned for trial by judge and jury next fall. They face a maximum of 20 years in jail. Two girls and four boys found with a marijuana cigarette in their car face charges of possession and a possible two years behind bars.

Mustering up my courage I asked a couple of boys beside me what they were up for and couldn't help being a bit disappointed that they were only observers. "Is pot a problem in your school?" I asked. One boy laughed, "It used to be but they got them all. We came to watch them hang." When I looked back at the accused I felt a little sick. I wondered if any of them had thought about being caught before it happened.

"It's not the penalty that's important; it's that conviction on your record that really hurts," explained Constable Helland when I finally cornered him in the hall between cases. "It's on your record for the rest of your life. Over half the countries in the world, including the United States won't ever allow you to emigrate there. In some cases you may be unable to get a passport. You are automatically barred from any medical profession, certain types of security work and most law schools."

Constable Helland declined comment whether the penalty was too severe but added emphatically there was no way he would like to see it legalized when so many questions about it remain unanswered.

"It's only a small minority of students on pot," he said. Other kids talk and brag a lot about it but they're not activists.

He is convinced that marijuana leads on to other drugs which can be harmful to the users. Buyers can never be sure of what they are getting for their money or what its effects will be on them. Some reactions such as with LSD, can re-occur over a long period of time. There are too many dangers and questions to allow drug trafficking without control.

Many argue that marijuana is no worse than alcohol in its effects. Constable Helland believes there is a difference. "You can drink socially but with drugs you merely blow your own mind."

When you consider the tremendous profit banked by the pusher, and the risk involved in smoking, the student user is the loser.

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

Monday morning and the stalwarts hobbled to classes, compared blisters and exchanged the exciting details of their incredible journey. This they were entitled to do, for the approximate estimated amount for the Cancer Society is \$1,600.00. This blew last year's record sky high!

Acton teens sure have a lot to be proud of.

Field day

Field Day is set for this Thursday April 24th, although there is a rumor it may be cancelled because of lack of participation. Could be everyone is still suffering from the Walkathon.

Formal

Coming May 24, is the "Spring Formal", to be held in Acton's Band Hall. The dress is formal, so start planning now.

Driver training

Driver training classes which commenced in January, are now completed. The last of the students took their exam Tuesday. Only 3 failed out of a class of over 25. So drive with caution—Mr. Larsen the instructor is not there to use his passenger brake pedal, or to speak softly after one of them, finishes eliminating a stop sign.

THINKS SO

A faith healer ran into his old friend Max and asked him how things were going.

"Not so good," was the pained reply. "My brother is very sick."

"Nonsense," contradicted the faith healer. "He only thinks he's sick. Remember that, he only thinks he's sick."

Two months later they met again and the healer asked Max how his brother was.

"Worse," groaned Max. "Now he thinks he's dead."

BOWL for Pleasure
for the fun of it... BOWL for Health.

THE ENTIRE FAMILY CAN BOWL TOGETHER

It's the "IN" Thing to do.

GO BOWLING
ACTON BOWLING LANES
10 MAIN ST. N. MEMBER B.P.A.C. 853-0170



Made it!

By Terry Curtis

Being a reporter has advantages, if you know the right people. I've been one for three weeks now, and I finally hit the big time. I got by a police roadblock to observe the digging for the body of M. Rinne Schuett along the Bruce Trail.

Down an eerie, yet quite romantic trail I walked. The wind muffled many chattering voices. The whole area was enshrouded with bare trees swaying, and the earth was covered in the remains of many years' growth. It portrayed a place of mystery; mystery which holds many a curiosity.

Even though my visit was of no great importance, the digging proved to be a phony lead, just being around the big city reporters seemed exciting—and when it flashed on the six o'clock news I could say, "I was there."

Marijuana A trip worth the trial?

Effects . . .

Marijuana is habit-forming rather than addiction-producing, states the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario.

The effect on most subjects is a sensation of relaxation and well-being, heightened intensity of visual and auditory responses and slight distortion in perception. However, some individuals experience adverse reactions characterized by anxiety or panic. The difference in effect depends essentially on the mental state of the user and the setting under which it is taken.

Users can discontinue the habit at any time without any risk of physical withdrawal symptoms. Unlike tobacco or alcohol, it does not create a craving or a need. However, it does offer a kind of temporary escape from the world. A great many users believe they need to maintain a state of marijuana intoxication for most or all their waking hours and without it they cannot survive. For those who cannot accept personal failure or social pressures, being

high is a desired alternative to reality.

Most people start smoking pot out of curiosity and continue because they enjoy the feeling of well-being on a good trip. Many argue that it heightens their intellect and increases their powers of creativity. Studies have proven that this is not necessarily true.

Intellectually, the drug appears to be able to release repressed ideas, but at the same time reduces work drive so that the ideas are rarely followed through or put into action. There can be more creativity and originality but less accuracy.

Performance in I.Q. tests appears to be either slightly reduced or unchanged.

There is no evidence that the use of the drug in itself causes crimes or antisocial behaviour. At the same time, any substance which breaks down inhibitions may have adverse consequences depending on the repressed drives and conflicts already a

part of the user's personality. The distorted perception of time and space that results from even mild doses could constitute a hazard in driving essentially the same as those produced by a similar amount of alcohol.

It appears that the amount of marijuana normally used is not followed by any hangover or other physical impairment. However, continued use of sufficiently large doses can have very harmful effects, both physical and social. The long-term result is a state of inactivity and indifference which leads to defective nutrition, lowered resistance to infection and social uselessness.

A prime argument against the use of marijuana is that it frequently leads to other more harmful drugs. While there is not enough evidence as yet to verify this statement, it would appear that individuals who have successfully used marijuana would be most apt to experiment further.

marijuana by a fairly broad segment of the population are not very different from the results of alcohol. Some subjects will be adversely affected and others will become dependent upon it. Heavy long-time users

will resemble chronic deteriorated alcoholics. Is one more harmful than the other? There are now 100,000 alcoholics in Canada. Will we tolerate 100,000 marijuana smokers as well?

By Barbara McIntosh

The law . . .

Most of the problems associated with marijuana arise not from its effects on the user, but by the fact that possession of the drug is illegal.

Under the law, marijuana is classed as a narcotic. Its misuse is a federal offense and subject to the legislation in the Narcotic Control Act.

Only those people who work with drugs such as medical personnel, pharmacists, and police officers can legally possess

marijuana. The penalty for illegal possession is seven years maximum in jail. For possession for the purpose of selling, the penalty is a maximum of 20 years in jail. A person convicted of trafficking faces possible life in prison.

Since it is a federal offense, cases are prosecuted by the R.C.M.P. in co-operation with local officials.

Many argue that it is wrong to subject users of marijuana to the

severe penalties provided in the narcotics control legislation. In fact, the Ontario Addiction Research Foundation recommended this week that marijuana should be lifted from the Criminal Code list of narcotics and the penalty reduced to a fine as for underage drinking. However, until such time as the law changes, marijuana smokers run the serious risk of conviction and jail.



Miss Novak's dog likes grass!—(Staff Photo)

Class displays, lively discussions at A.D.H.S. Open House, Thursday

By Terry Curtis

This Thursday from 7:30 to 10:30, Acton High will be open to the general public to observe what the students have been doing for the past eight months. All subjects are to be displayed as departments. A sample geography lesson will be taught by our famous Mr. Martindale so don't forget your geography badge and statistics to back up your opinions.

off what they've been doing all year. For example, the rocket club plans to launch some home-made rockets.

The teachers will be presenting a film on "Teacher Presentation" or how to present a lesson to the class and there will be a panel discussion between students, teachers and parents. This should prove if there really is a generation gap. During your travels through

This will be a chance for the various activity clubs to show the school, students will be airing their views on schools, what's wrong with the methods being used now and suggestions for improvement.

This first open house in the history of the school is intended to enlighten the public on what's happening with students. It's prepared for you, so see you there. It's your taxes!

H. S. HOLDEN
OPTOMETRIST
56 Cook St. East
GUELPH
Phone YA 2718

Thompson Fuels

—Distributor of Home and Farm Petroleum Products

Serving Acton and District Since 1946

★ HEATING OILS
★ LUBRICATION OILS & GREASES
★ GASOLINES ★ DIESEL FUEL

Phone 853-2174

DEPENDABLE OIL BURNER SALES & SERVICE

44 Young St., Acton

CAN IDB SERVE YOU?

One of our representatives will be at

HOLIDAY INN
OAKVILLE (TEL.: 845-7561)
on THURSDAY, MAY 1st, 1969

If you require a term loan for a new or existing business, you are invited to discuss your needs with him. An appointment can be arranged by telephoning the hotel after 9 a.m. on May 1st, or in advance by contacting

idb INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
TERM FINANCING FOR CANADIAN BUSINESSES
20 Hughson Street South
Hamilton (Tel.: 528-0471)



How much home are you missing through outdated wiring?

When this house was built it was hard to imagine all the wonderful ways in which electricity would be serving us today. That's why the wiring in so many older homes just isn't adequate for today's needs.

There are many signs. Fuses blowing. Lights dimming. Appliances performing sluggishly. Cluttered extension cords. Not enough outlets.

So, if you're planning to modernize your home, think first of the wiring. Have a qualified electrical contractor check it. You'll be surprised at how easily and inexpensively it can be updated. The Hydro Finance Plan makes it easy to get started right away. Just ask your Hydro.

The Name of the Game is Electrical Living.

H. L. STULL EXCAVATING
R. R. 1 - ACTON
CALL
ACTON 853-0528
OR
GEORGETOWN 877-3840

- Specializing in -
ALL YOUR DIGGING REQUIREMENTS

"No Job Too Big or Too Small"