

Rud, Editor Critic Disagrees . . . Sees No Danger in Marijuana

University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Editor:
I would like to deal with some total and partial inaccuracies on the subject that both you and Mr. Rud Whiting wrote about in the February 12 issue of The Herald, namely marijuana. You might call this letter, if you wish, 'I'm Not With You, Rud' in reference to your own editorial title 'We're With You Rud.'

My first issue with your editorial and Mr. Whiting's column is that both of you say the public has been bombarded with pro-legalization of marijuana arguments. I would say that the opposite has been true ever since the mid-1930's when marijuana was in process of being made illegal in the United States. For close to 30 years we heard a lot of myth and misinformation and are still hearing a good deal of it from people like you and Mr. Whiting. The reason that we have obtained a little truth and factual relevance in the last few years is because the use of marijuana, and its effects on society, have increased to such a large extent that a number of scientists and other articulate people have been attracted to it, delved into it, and come up with some honest answers (scientifically honest). Because marijuana was in such limited use for so long, there was not much interest in research and the few who did come up with results that seemed to contradict the harmfulness implied in the legal code, were certainly never heard.

Admittedly, there have been more pro-legalization arguments lately but I do not think that after thirty years of drought, an inch of rain constitutes a high average rainfall. A bombardment of arguments, I think not.

You say that some people, who announce that marijuana is not a narcotic, facetiously would say that it should be allowed for that reason alone. I doubt that. People do say that marijuana is not a narcotic but this is simply breaking down one of the old myths. It may be a small part to the total argument but it is not THE argument.

You and Mr. Whiting point out that marijuana can produce a psychological dependence. I agree, but so can almost any other thing in the world, including apples, oranges and alarm clocks. I would suggest that it would be very difficult to be more psychologically dependent on marijuana than you are, Mr. Editor, on the topics of education and youth in your editorials.

You claim that 'unlike tobacco, it is a mind altering drug'. You are wrong. Tobacco is also a mind altering drug. The average 'straight' adult consumes 2 to 3 mind altering drugs a day, beginning with the stimulant caffeine in coffee, tea or Coca Cola, going on to include alcohol and nicotine often a tranquilizer, not uncommonly a sleeping pill at night and sometimes an amphetamine the next morning to overcome the effects of the sedative taken the evening before.

Marijuana today is referred to by some as a 'mild psychedelic'. Mr. Whiting's term 'hallucinogenic' (synonym for psychedelic) would also be qualified by most scientists with the adjective 'mild'. The word psychedelic can be a good word for some people, denoting peace, ecstasy, union with God and the end of all neurotic hangups of western man — and a monster word to others such as you, denoting hallucinations, insanity, suicide and chaos. Other scientists prefer to call marijuana a sedative-stimulant, a term (which I like best) that sounds 'paradoxical' but is really quite logical (because marijuana has much in common with alcohol and other sedatives, and a certain similarity also to amphetamine and other stimulants).

A large problem is that many people tend to indiscriminately throw a lot of drugs into the same bag, usually putting LSD with marijuana and speed not far behind. Those two drugs are totally different. Methedrine, or speed, is one of the few drugs, along with heroin, that many young people have themselves been crusading against. LSD, due to its unpredictable reactions, MAY be a dangerous drug. I believe that it should be very carefully controlled and not legalized for widespread use. Marijuana does not have a great number of benefits. They have been sentimentalized but no more so than its supposedly 'harmful effects'. It is neither very good or very bad. If legalization does not come, I believe that

things. But does such fact — science's lack of clairvoyance — justify our present marijuana laws?
It clearly does not. No drug, including marijuana, will ever be found to be totally harmless.

You mention that if any Georgetown resident was an ostrich on the drug question they would be shocked into reality by the headlines about the drug raid. I suggest, Mr. Editor, that you are still an ostrich on this question, an ostrich whose ears have reached the surface and heard what has happened, but whose eyes are still covered with sand and prejudice.
Treating marijuana in a sane and rational way presents no threat to our society, whereas continuing the present hysteria will alienate increasing numbers of the young, while accelerating the drift toward a police state. I must protest against the bureaucrat who stands with cocktail in one hand and cigarette in the other and cries out that the innocent recreation of pot smoking is the major problem facing our society, one that can be solved only by raising the penalty to castration for the first offence and death for the second.

— Bob Lyons

Returning to your editorial, and Mr. Whiting's column, another unfounded argument that both of you spout forth is that marijuana is a 'calling card to narcotic addiction.' You mention experts. Well, I believe I could obtain twenty experts for my side of the argument for every one that you could find. Try reading some of Dr. Joel Fort's work, a man who is recognized by many as the world's leading authority on marijuana. Because things sometimes occur in sequence, such as marijuana and heroin use, does not prove cause and effect. Not much is said about number of marijuana users in the million who never use hard drugs. And if Canadians were asked to be completely honest about their first usage, we would probably find that alcohol and tobacco were their first illegal drugs, with some of them moving on later to marijuana and then a few moving on to heroin. Does that prove a causal relationship between alcohol and heroin? I'm sure that 100% of heroin addicts drank either mother's milk or synthetic formula in infancy, but that doesn't prove a thing either.

Mr. Whiting implies that 'turning on' to marijuana eventually leads to dropouts from society. You're way off base, Rud. The real cause for dropping out is the alienating character of our society, not drugs. Repressive family life, meaningless schools, pointless jobs, bigotry, war and intolerance everywhere. That is what people are reacting against when they drop out.

If you like reading scientific studies, Mr. Editor, there was one done recently by Zinsberg and Weil of Boston University that proved that both neophytes and long-time users of marijuana did equally well on some tests for concentration and mental stability, even while they were on high doses. Another study from Yale University showed that more marijuana smokers were at the top of the class than the bottom.

One argument that neither you nor Mr. Whiting presented but which, I am sure, others will mention, is the argument by uncertainty. 'Who knows' this line goes 'maybe in the future marijuana might be discovered by further research to have dangerous side effects that haven't been noted yet.' This argument, of course, is unanswerable, but it applies equally well to such diverse objects as diet pills and bubble gum. One cannot prove that the future will not discover new



BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Wearing costumes symbolizing "Brownies in Other Lands" are, from left: Ann Holmes, Cathy Given, Michelle Rowe and Jennifer Stafford. They are members of 4th Georgetown Brownie Pack which dressed up for "Thinking Day" when Brownies everywhere devote their thoughts to their counterparts around the world. Thinking Day is also the birthday of Lord Baden Powell which explains the birthday cupcakes and candles.

LET'S PLAY BRIDGE

BY BILL COATS

It is said that half the contracts at bridge are made or defeated on the opening lead, certainly opening leads are very important. For this reason there are many agreements with regard to opening leads—king from a — king to, of a sequence, fourth best lead from an honor, top card with a doubt and so on.

The defense used one of these special meanings on a lead to defeat declarer on the following hand. North dealt with both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
S-10 9 6 4
H-A 4 2
D-K Q
C-A 2 3 2

WEST
S-K Q
H-K Q J 8 7 3
D-6
C-K 10 5 4

EAST
S-A J 8 5
H-10 9 6 5
D-J 4 2
C-7 6

SOUTH
S-7 3 2
V-Void
D-A 10 9 8 7 5 2
C-J 9 8

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1 C Pass 1 D 1 H
2 NT Pass 3 D Pass
3 NT Pass 4 D Pass
5 D Pass

All Pass

Warned by the bidding, West looked around for an active lead. There are two kinds of leads — active leads and passive leads. Passive leads are usually safe lead which you use when declarer has stretched to his contract and may have to struggle for his tricks. An active lead is called for when declarer can probably make the contract so you must grab the first few tricks.

A heart lead would be a passive lead since North has bid no trump twice and is bound to have the heart ace. A club lead is too dangerous. If declarer has club losers they will not get away. Also North opened the bidding with one club.

This leaves the spade suit. The normal lead from king-queen is the king. But what about a doubleton king-queen? When you have doubleton ace-king or king-queen you reverse the normal opening lead. Ace from ace-king and queen from king-queen.

When West leads the queen, East will not know where the king is. However he must play low to keep from setting up any of dummy's spades. Now when West wins the trick and produces the king of spades, East knows that his partner started with exactly two spades. Therefore declarer must have three spades.

East overtakes his partner's king with the ace and leads the

spade jack. Declarer meets with a one trick defeat on a hand that would normally make with ease. Declarer has seven diamonds, one heart and three club tricks if he is left to his own to take them. But he meets defeat when the defense takes the first three tricks.

Monday's results: 1st Bill Wandell and Jack Coats; 2nd Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dickson; 3rd Mr. and Mrs. Betty Ashley and Mrs. K. Campbell; 4th (tie) Dick Frost and Tom Warner; Gloria Coats and Cam Sinclair.

BRIDGE CLUB

The beginners' group resulted in some keen competition last week at Georgetown duplicate bridge club. A four-way tie resulted, between May Innis, Sandra Lompert, Anne Munro and Al Zarevick.

There was a total of 17 tables of play in the Legion auditorium.

WINNERS

North-South winners — 1st, Cam Sinclair, Mrs. Ern Hyde; 2nd Joe Maurer, Fred Allen; 3rd, Jim Kalil, Bill Wandell; 4th Gary Hall, Gus Flesch; 5th, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Biehn.

East-West — 1st Mrs. Bob Dickson, Mrs. Sue Sullivan; 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Barbour; 3rd (tie), Mrs. Marguerite Taylor, Mrs. Ted Lawrence, Don Smith and Bill Hamilton; 5th, Mr. and Mrs. George Cantwell.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Concert Was Excellent Where Was the Audience?

21 Raylawn Crescent,
Dear Editor:
On Monday, February 23, we thoroughly enjoyed a performance by the University of Western Ontario Choir at the Georgetown High School. By their performance they showed a marked degree of training and discipline. A cultural program such as they offered was certainly a refreshing breath of air at this time of year.

WHERE WERE YOU????
We were totally embarrassed to see an audience of approximately 75, as a representation of a growing town of at least 16,000.

Every day we hear complaints that there isn't anything to do in Georgetown. When an opportunity such as this comes along, why is it so abused?

We would like to thank the Lions Club for sponsoring such a fine choir and we are looking forward to a return visit.
Respectfully yours,
Lois Barrager,
June Cunningham.



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The Township of Esquesing
DOG TAGS
Due to the Provincial Take-over of Assessment,
Dog Tags will no longer be available from the Assessor
Dog Licenses and Tags are available at the Township
Office, R. R. No. 1, Georgetown, or by mail on
receipt of the required information and license fee.
Information Required — Sex and Breed of Dog
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DELMAR FRENCH, Treasurer

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