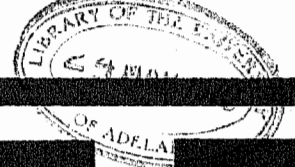


ON DIT

SPECIAL EDITION MARCH 17, 1970



DISCIPLINE and YOU

In October 1968 the University Council established a committee to review the Discipline Statute and Rules. Although this committee, which included two students, did not meet very often and experienced two changes in Chairman (who both went on study leave), it examined a great deal of background material and produced a set of recommendations which are however, not yet complete.

The Education Committee has decided to reconstitute this committee and to give it wider terms of reference. It has decided that the membership should be:

1. An ex-officio Chairman who will be the Chairman of the Education Committee (Professor Flentje).
2. Five academic members of staff.
3. The President of the S.R.C.
4. Five 'other members' nominated by the S.R.C.

The S.R.C. has decided to call for nominations for the five positions in Section 4. All members of the University community are eligible, although it is preferable that these five be students. Nominations for these positions will close on Monday, 23rd March, at 4.50 p.m., and the election will be by members of the S.R.C. at a Special Meeting at 7.00 p.m. on that day.

Some chief items of concern of this committee are:

1. Is discipline necessary?
2. The question of 'double jeopardy.'
3. The delegation and extent of authority.
4. The nature and composition of the Board of Discipline.
5. The nature and extent of penalties.
6. The drawing up of rules of discipline.

It is expected that the committee will use as a basis for discussion the recommendations produced by the previous committee.

The S.R.C. has certain recommendations concerning the functioning of this review committee:

1. That it should meet at least once and preferably twice a week in order to produce CONCRETE proposals AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This matter has been under review for long enough already.
2. The proposals should be circulated widely on campus and meetings arranged at which the committee would defend or justify these recommendations.
3. Subsequent to these public discussions the committee, considering any suggested changes or criticisms, should draw up a revised Discipline Statute which should be submitted for ratification to the student body and the S.R.C. before being ratified by the University Council and then referred to Parliament.

As this matter is such an important one, the S.R.C. urges interested students to consider these available positions and hopes that the course of action, as finally decided by the committee, will produce concrete results within a reasonable time.

Nominations close at the S.R.C. Office at 4.50 p.m. on Monday, 23rd March.

The S.R.C. will meet on that Monday, at 7.00 p.m. in the Lady Symon Library to elect the five members.

The committee is expected to have its first meeting very shortly afterwards.

Any enquiries should be directed to the S.R.C. President.

union restructure

There will be a General Meeting of Union members (i.e. all those who pay Stat. Fees) in the Union Hall at 1.00 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd.

This meeting has been called primarily to elect two members of the Union to a committee which was established as a result of the referendum on the nature of the Union which was held last year.

All Union members are eligible. Nominations will be called for at the meeting and voting will follow at the same meeting.

The committee will examine the results of the referendum and submissions and recommendations on the structure and nature of the Union and will propose the required constitutional changes to bring the proposed changes into effect.

The S.R.C. is recommending that this committee follow the same course of action as is suggested for the Discipline Statute Review Committee. (See the article "Discipline and You.")

This matter is of vital importance to the formation of a Union which will be a true centre of student activity on the campus. The S.R.C. is recommending a combined Union-S.R.C. structure with specialist sub-committees to fulfil particular organisational functions of the Union and so hopes to involve students to a far greater extent than at present in the running of the Union.

Further articles on this matter will appear in "On Dit."

The General Meeting will be held in the Union Hall at 1.00 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd.

the university act

At the October 1969 meeting of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor outlined the views held by those students and staff who argued that members elected by students and staff should comprise a majority of the Council, gave his own opinion on some of them, and concluded that he supported an increase (to four) in the number proposed in the Second Draft Act (two) of members elected by the undergraduates. The Deputy Chancellor then reported that the Special Committee had on October 1 considered comments on the Second Draft from most of the bodies consulted; as a result it suggested a number of amendments (mainly related to constitution of the Council) to the Second Draft. The amendments were tabled and after brief discussion the Council resolved (a) to defer submitting a draft new Act to the Government until after the end of the first term in 1970; (b) that the amendments proposed by the Special Committee be incorporated in the Second Draft and that the draft so composed be known as the Third Draft; (c) the the Third Draft be submitted to the bodies previously consulted for further comment by May 15, 1970; and (d) to ask the Special Committee to report again in July, 1970.

The Third Draft has now been printed and there are plenty of copies available at the S.R.C. Office.

Meetings will be arranged to discuss any points of criticism or objection which members of the University may have to the Third Draft.

These meetings will be announced in 'Bread & Circuses' and further articles will appear in 'On Dit.'

transition conference

The Student Counsellor Mr. D. Little is organising a residential conference to bring together representatives of the Schools and the University to consider the problem of students' transition into University life and of ways to ameliorate it.

Mr. Little wishes to include six students from the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Medicine. These students would be from the first or second years and be either male or female. They would be expected to have an interest in and a capacity for thoughtful, and sincere participation in dialogue about transition problems.

The residential conference will be at the Raywood In-Service Centre, Bridgewater, over the weekend April 17-19th. The costs for the six students are being borne by the S.R.C.

If you think that you have something to offer to this Science-oriented conference and wish to enjoy yourself as well, could you please leave your name with the Student Counsellor or at the S.R.C. Office by March 26th.

If you have any enquiries see the Student Counsellor.

WANTED - GIRL OR WOMAN

\$5 p.w. plus Gas and Electricity gets you a room (shared bathroom and kitchen) in a luxurious North Adelaide flat at 141 Gover Street. (Phone 67-2447). Ask for Ethne Mack or George Lewkowicz.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION AND THE ARTS FACULTY

The Arts Faculty has requested the S.R.C. to nominate its three Arts Faculty representatives to be members of the Faculty.

At its last meeting the S.R.C. decided not to follow this course of action but to co-operate with the Arts Faculty Association in arranging an election among members of the Faculty to obtain these three student representatives.

Those eligible for nomination and voting are the student members of the Arts Faculty.

Nominations will close at 4.50 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd, at the S.R.C. Office.

Voting (by Union Card) will be at polling points to be arranged within the Napier Building as well as at the S.R.C. Office.

Voting at the S.R.C. Office will be from 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 24th March to 4.50 p.m. on Thursday, 26th March. Hours at which the other polling points will be manned are still to be decided.

This is the first time Arts students have been given the opportunity to have representation on the body which determines the nature, content and other aspects of these courses. It is expected that Arts students will participate in these significant developments towards a more democratic education system.

Nominations close at the S.R.C. Office at 4.50 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd.

Voting by members of the Faculty (by Union Card) from 9.00 a.m. Tuesday, March 24th, to 4.50 p.m. Thursday, March 26th.

The names of the three elected members will be forwarded to the Arts Faculty as soon as votes are counted.

See 'Bread & Circuses' for further announcements including a list of candidates.

DRUGS

This article is a reprint of a talk given by Dr. Heddle of the Student Health Service to the Legacy Club on 12th March, 1970.

Dr. Heddle had just returned from a conference tour of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, U.S. and New Zealand. His tour centred about two conferences — the World University Service Conference on Student Mental Health, held at the University of Groningen, Holland, and the Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Student Health Association, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

On Thursday, March 26th, at 1.00 p.m. in the Napier 5 Lecture Theatre, Dr. Heddle will be a member of a panel which will discuss drugs on campus, with particular emphasis on marihuana.

Further details concerning this seminar will appear in the next issue of "On Dit" and in "Bread and Circuses."

At the outset, I must indicate that anything that I say is my own personal opinion. This opinion was gained by many contacts overseas.

When we talk of "Drugs," there is an inference in our Society that "Drugs" means the abuse of chemical substances, used to alter the psychological mood of the taker of such drugs. As I see the subject of drug abuse, there are three different types of drugs, namely:—

Drugs used by society as acceptable without the necessary approval of the medical profession — alcohol, tobacco, caffeine in tea and coffee, and A.P.C.

Drugs used by the medical profession in a legal manner, but such drugs, when used without the advice of the medical profession, lead to the development of a dangerous situation — barbiturates, bromides, amphetamines (Speed), Lysergic acid dethylamide (LSD), morphine, pethidine cocaine and heroin (main line drugs).

Drugs not used by the medical profession and not accepted as a social drug — Marihuana (Pot).

The first and second types of drugs are well known to the medical profession as are their adverse reactions — alcohol in excess causes much physical and psychiatric illness in the community — cigarette smoking has been accepted as one of the causes of lung cancer and coronary heart disease — A.P.C. poisoning by long usage has been shown to cause severe kidney disease, and so on. We know the effects of abuse of barbiturates, amphetamines and morphine derivatives, while LSD has been used by psychiatrists for several years. However, we know very little of the psychological and physiological effects of marihuana (Pot). I speak now about this latter drug — marihuana.

On one hand there was a recent statement by our Premier that his Government had no intention of altering the Laws concerning Marihuana and on the other hand the National Union of Australian University Students and The National Union of New Zealand University Students separately made statements to the effect that marihuana should be legalised. Even Psychiatrists are sharply divided on the issue. Three weeks ago a local psychiatrist made a statement at a Public Meeting that Marihuana is less harmful than the socially accepted drugs — alcohol and tobacco. Yet other Psychiatrists say "Marihuana is harmful."

It is all very confusing and I hope to give you the points of view of both sides of the argument. Firstly I deal with the point of view of those, including some students, who consider that marihuana usage should be legalised.

They state that:—

It is not habit forming.

It has been used for centuries in Islamic Culture, whereas alcohol is not allowed.

It produces neither lasting nor harmful physical nor psychological ill-health.

"You, the older generation have alcohol and tobacco and you will not allow us to use a drug which causes less illness than those caused by nicotine and ethyl alcohol."

On the other hand, I was handed the 6th February, 1970, copy of the Canberra Times on my return to Australia, and in big letters the following appeared:—

"MARIHUANA HAS HARMFUL EFFECTS"

Dr. Stanley F. Yolles, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, United States of America, states that "New studies have turned up troublesome facts about the harmful effects of marihuana." He said that "the new studies, many of them conducted or supported by his agency, showed that marihuana interfered with the thinking process and weakened concentration and "subtly" retarded speech. It was also found to stimulate anxieties and guilt feelings, but contrary to reputation tended to turn a person inward rather than stimulate conviviality."

He continues "its pleasurable effects can be counteracted by considerable discomfort, dizziness or sluggishness, and, in high doses, its active chemical constituent cause psychotic reactions." That is a reaction, where the taker has lost the realisation of his situation in a very real world.

During my trip I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Dana Farnsworth, the Director of Student Health Service at Harvard University. This Health Centre is a magnificent 10 storey building with medical and para-medical staff which are able to deal with almost any medical problem. I attended an executive meeting of the Health Service, and, at that meeting the problem of Drug Abuse and the use of marihuana by students was discussed. Dr. Farnsworth stated that recently several students had been "hooked" on heroin by pedlars adulterating "reefer" (marihuana) cigarettes, and during the week before my visit, four students had been admitted to the infirmary of the Health Service in bad LSD 'trips', and all these students claimed that they had only smoked a "reefer" before the illness. In other words the pedlars had adulterated the cigarettes with LSD. Another method of forcing the marihuana taker to stronger drugs was seen when the pedlar supplied the taker with sufficient for several "excursions" into the marihuana world. When the taker wanted a few more 'kicks,' the supply would be given with a very minimal or even no marihuana in the cigarettes. This caused no change to the psyche of the taker and he would thus look for something stronger — LSD, amphetamines (speed) or hard drugs such as heroin. He was thus forced into what in America is called "main lining." That is the taking of hard drugs from which the pedlar gained more profit.

In an article by Dr. Farnsworth "Answers to Common Questions asked about Marihuana," 1st November, 1969, the first question asked is — "Should marihuana be classified with the dangerous drugs and narcotics?" and I quote from this article:—

"I firmly believe that marihuana IS a dangerous drug, and that although more research is needed, present evidence is that the drug can be harmful and sound current social policy would be to discourage its use by all reasonable methods, until or unless future research proves that it is safe. In susceptible individuals, even a single instance of its use can cause acute panic, depression, paranoid reactions and

precipitation of psychotic states. Over a long period of time, it contributes to psychological and social deterioration, especially when used by individuals with emotional problems who attempt to mask such problems by drug use instead of solving them. This viewpoint is supported by the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A., and the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the American Medical Association's Council on Mental Health."

Dr. Farnsworth then discusses the classification on marihuana as a narcotic. He states "Marihuana is not a narcotic; it is a mild hallucinogen and intoxicant."

I found in U.S.A. the feeling that marihuana should be taken out of the Narcotics Act and this is confirmed by the statement previously mentioned by Dr. Yolles, who concludes his statement as published in the Canberra Times by saying— "to equate the risk of marihuana, either to the individual or to society, with the risks inherent in the use of hard narcotics is neither medically nor legally defensible." Dr. Yolles endorsed a Senate-passed Bill before his sub-committee that would declassify marihuana from a narcotics to a hallucinogen, lower the penalties for its use and distribution, and provide for conditional release of violators rather than gaoling in some circumstances.

If this Law were passed, would Australia follow and alter its Narcotic Act? If the Law were altered, would the marihuana taker be released on the condition that he sought psychiatric advice? I would hope that this would be so. We could thus gain more knowledge in two ways — the psycho-pharmacological effects of marihuana, the deficiencies in personality which made the taker rely on this drug to postpone the solving of his personality problem.

I suggest that when we know more of these two aspects, we will be able to answer the question "Should Marihuana be legalised?" We will certainly not be in a position to answer this question until the medical and psychological professions learn more about the "pot taker," and at the moment due to our stringent Narcotics Act marihuana takers are forced underground and only appear when they have reached the stage of acute psychotic breakdown.

Dr. Farnsworth asked the second question:—

Is it meaningful to speak of physical or psychological dependency with respect to marihuana?

He states — "Marihuana does not produce physical dependence, as do alcohol, barbiturates and opiates (heroin and morphia). No problems of tolerance or of physical symptoms upon withdrawal occur. If a person who has become psychologically dependent on marihuana does stop using the drug, he may have psychological symptoms manifested in physical states such as anxiety, restlessness, or depression. It DOES produce psychological dependence, but not inevitably. Many persons experiment with marihuana, use it a few times, and then either discontinue its use altogether or continue to use it occasionally. The risk involved here, although present, is not great. The problem comes with its regular use by persons who usually have a series of personality and adaptational problems; unsatisfying interpersonal relationships with family and friend; doubts about their career choice, sexuality, or self-image; rebellion; and emotional conflicts caused by lack of continuity and relevance between past, present, and future. Its continued use has been shown to produce what has been called an "amotivational syndrome"; the user loses his ability to concentrate; to set and carry out realistic goals, and to communicate in the usual manner with other persons. He becomes more and more unable to cope with reality, endure frustration, concentrate or master new material. Persons whose original orientation has been towards conforming, achievement-oriented behaviour tend to change to a state of careless drifting after a long-term marihuana use."

Dr. Farnsworth continues "Marihuana does not cause basic conflict, but neither does it contribute anything to a solution, and it may well delay or prevent effective approaches to a solution. We are particularly concerned about the use of such reality-distorting agent by teenagers, because patterns of coping with reality during the teenage period are significant in determining adult behaviour. Persistent use of an agent, which serves to ward off reality during this critical development period is likely to compromise seriously the future ability of the individual to make an adequate adjustment to a complex society."

Dr. Farnsworth made these important points as did the Student Mental Health Conference at Groningen. This conference dealt with drug taking, personality and emotional problems of student, changing attitudes to sex and sexual permissiveness, suicides, road accidents and student unrest as symptoms of a wider problem which affects youth in general.

It seems to me that the older generation is obliged to listen to young people airing their problems and difficulties, to assist them in selecting a career, to tolerate freedom with self-discipline and not licence with no discipline, to discuss with them why older people consider this or that to be of value in our society, to accept with grace the questioning of the young of society's double standards, to help solve the problems of poverty, to do all in their power to alleviate the threat of the nuclear bomb and war, and to show the younger generation by example the rewards obtained from friendship, comradeship, art, music, literature, nature and the thirst for knowledge which far exceed any pleasure derived from the materialistic and technological attitudes of our society. In other words, it is up to the older generation to help the young to say: "I have found myself and I know where I am going." If this interest in young people can be taken, the younger generation will not need drugs which postpone the formation of their 'identity.' Then and only then will this drug-abuse problem be solved.

Seminar on Drugs in Napier Lecture Theatre 5 at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26th.

Watch 'On Dit' and 'Bread and Circuses' for further information.

Produced by Peter Balan, President, 24th Students' Representative Council.