
The Yearbook

By James Connolly

Editor NEXUS '87

A GREAT SUCCESS is not an exaggeration of the first yearbook meeting. Sixteen keen yearbookers were at the meeting, and the preparations for this year's yearbook were underway. The new editor, Karen Hughes, has a competent staff to work with, and with a new publisher this year, we expect NEXUS '88 to be the best yearbook ever put out at UPEI. To be part of the experience, join the staff or volunteer a little of your time. Find out more by stopping by at the next meeting Thursday 24 Sep 87 at 5:30pm in our

new office (shared with The GEM). We're now located in the basement of the Utility Building (the security building) which is located behind both the rink and the cafeteria. No previous yearbook experience is required. So drop in this evening at 5:30 or later to our office.

The 1987 NEXUS (last year's yearbook) is not yet available. The earliest the book will be available is mid-December (or in the spring). Several problems led to this delay.

Last year's editor [me] wasn't sent to a training conference over the summer, so the book got off to a

late start. This meant that only a small staff was available. The publisher's representative was replaced in September '87 by a brand new fellow who was subsequently fired for failing to communicate properly with the yearbook staffs around the Maritimes. To complicate matters, Main building was moved, and in the process all of the yearbook materials (photos, layout & design mats, and office supplies) were locked away from mid-April until the first of July. Since then, slow but steady work on the book has been underway.

To that point I would like

to add something. Work to cover many on-campus activities has drawn to a practical halt. Except for the debating team, the biology club, and the engineering society, no other on-campus organization bothered to get in touch with the yearbook staff or supply agendas of upcoming events. It is a rather unfair situation when a group ignores the yearbook all year long, and then has the gall to ask why their organization wasn't "properly" covered in the yearbook. I really wonder.

I can add one note of hope to this: all campus-organizations,

no matter how big or how small, should make themselves known to the yearbook staff. A quick memo (sent for FREE through campus mail) to us at UPEI YEARBOOK will let us know that you exist, and will encourage us to get in touch with your representative. Do it soon, or your group simply won't be covered in this year's yearbook either; and that would be a disgrace to both the editor and the society involved. ■

Student fights for right to grow pot on campus

VANCOUVER (CUP) - University of British Columbia's self-proclaimed "professional troublemaker" is going to court to fight for what he considers his constitutional right to cultivate marijuana on campus.

Long-time student Blair Longley thinks people should be able to get a licence to cultivate cannabis for personal consumption.

Longley said laws prohibiting cultivation of cannabis contradict Section One of the Charter of Rights, which says legal limitations on personal freedoms must be "reasonable and demonstrably justified in a democratic society."

"The question at hand is whether or not it's reasonable to sentence someone to jail for seven years for growing the cannabis plant," said Longley.

"If anybody listens to the arguments it's impossible to think that it's reasonable and justified. It appears crazy and bizarre," he said.

Longley said he is happy to be going to court as it will finally give him a platform to express his views.

To protest the drug laws, he has been openly

growing marijuana in community gardens at Simon Fraser University and UBC since the Charter came down in 1982. He said police have often destroyed his crop but have been reluctant to lay charges.

Longley said marijuana is not dangerous enough to justify the degree of criminality attached to it.

"The law would be reasonable if it (pot) drove people delirious until they died, but it's not that way," he said.

"Tobacco's more poisonous, more addictive, and a worse substance to smoke. (Cannabis)...is not toxic, nor does it become physiologically addictive."

Cannabis is only harmful if smoked, as is any substance, said Longley. And] though he admits cultivation implies consumption, Longley claims his fight is not to legalize smoking the drug.

"The smoking is irrelevant," he said. "What I'm saying is that it should be legal to grow it in your garden." Longley prefers his pot in omelets, and said eating it is "nutritious."

Longley says it is hypocritical to make cannabis illegal when opium poppies and other narcotic herbs are freely grown and legally

available through seed catalogues.

Because gardeners can legally grow poppies as long as opium is not produced, "the parallel situation would be you could grow cannabis as long as you weren't producing hash," he said.

Longley said he also opposes marijuana laws because they are the product of racist policies.

Marijuana, along with opium, was first outlawed in Canada not because of medical dangers but to persecute the Chinese and deter immigration, said Longley.

Racist sentiment against the Chinese was strong in the early 1900s and many elements of their culture, including opium and Indian hemp, were made illegal, he said.

"It is possible to make a case that it was rational to prevent Chinese immigration, and one of the tools was making various parts of their culture illegal," said Longley. Even though the original reason for it is obsolete, "it's a tool of persecution that's still operating," he said.

The Narcotics Control Act prohibiting the use of opium and other drugs, including Indian hemp, was

passed in 1923. In the same year, the passage of the Chinese Immigration Act placed a head tax on Chinese immigrants. ■



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