

Earlier this week, the newswaves were alive with the report of a Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly faced with the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison for trafficking of marijuana. A colleague bought the freedom of himself, his wife, and his son, all charged with importing drugs, by testifying against MLA Robert Wilson.

Evidently, the RCMP picked up on the deal by bugging Conservative Caucus rooms and phone lines. There was also a legislative tap with a valid court order.

One of the basic principles of democracy is that an elected official can confidentially converse with his constituents. If the RCMP can tap a supposedly private telephone conversation, we certainly cannot place much trust in democracy.

Wilson will not be alone in prison. It is estimated that 7,000 people are languishing in Canadian prisons for simple possession of marijuana. More Canadians are arrested per capita for possession than in any other country in the world.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to an article that I read in the October 21, 1980 edition of the U.P.E.I. SUN. The article was titled "A Feminists Perspective" by Susan Satterthwaite.

Susan's article covered a number of issues involving women. Her reoccurring theme was the equality of the sexes. On many of these issues, I have no argument except for one issue that was passed over by Susan with one paragraph and contained the most distasteful message. It was concerning abortion.

Sue states that it is a woman's total right to determine whether she wants an abortion or not. She does not even mention the husbands or boyfriends right. Most important of all she doesn't even mention the unborn child's right.

This seems very contradictory to me, as Sue stresses equality for people. In this issue, however, she is being as chauvinistic as you can be.

If feminists feel that abortion on demand is the perfect right of any woman then I wonder how they feel about what is actually happening in some parts of North America right now. This is the determining of what sex the child is and aborting the child if the sex is not what the parents prefer. Studies have shown that in overwhelming cases of this sort most of the aprents want a boy and if it turns out to be a girl then they abort it.

Would feminists support this? Imagine supporting the elimination of females, members of their own sex. I wonder if they really

would support this action. It makes me wonder how secure they are on this stand.

Donald Campbell.

Dear Editor

While a student at UPEI (and I still consider myself a member of the university), I fell prey for a time to the satan of inferiority who has students believing in and even preaching of UPEI as nothing more than a place to go where the classes are all right, provided the drinking is good. I am not claiming a seat in the sanctuary of my superiors, but based on my experience to date, and the reports of my former fellows in thought and good cheer, I think the evidence gathered thus far demonstrates beyond any doubt the substance and claim for our school as a fine university.

Too often in the past and by all indications now, the grapevine hath it that UPEI students suffer. I say bull. My evidence: friends in graduate schools, for example, George Barry (Law), Rory Beck (M.P.A.) Dan LeClair and Kent Osborne (M.S.W.s) are experiencing no need to struggle and come from behind. Rather, an every instance, their respective programs have proven less than they were inflated to be: case closed.

So, ours is to reason why and the issue is clear. UPEI students will never act upon their own initiative until this disgusting ceremony of inferiority is drowned in a vote of confidence. In my view, other Maritime schools

EDITORIAL

With federal officials constantly promising to look into legalising marijuana, and constantly neglecting to do same, one wonders if cannibis will be decriminalized at any point in this country's history.

Fears that decriminalization will encourage the use of marijuana are unfounded if one reads an Oregon survey indicating a one per cent increase in consumption since it legalized in 1972. (CUP)

Meanwhile, thousands of Canadians are picking up criminal records for something which will eventually be a legal practice. These records hamper in finding jobs, credit, and social rehabilitation.

Laws do change, and when this one does, there will be a large number of people with unnecessary criminal records.

After all, people are no longer being hung for stealing a loaf of bread. That still does not excuse the fact that there are extensive numbers of persons punished for being hungry.

Have a funny week and be strong.

FEEDBAG

are good at what they do; however, UPEI never was intended nor ever should attempt to duplicate the efforts of other schools. The tendency to follow is not a virtue of any university. Instead, students at UPEI, by mere example alone, should stand on their own merits, within and outside the classroom. Boisterous winter carnivals, good reporting at the UPEI Sun, and winning hockey and basketball teams with all help. When the final bell sounds though, the

buck stops with each and every one of us. In my view, UPEI's experience in student masochism has claimed too many victims and too much air-time on campus. Without change, the hypnotic effect of self-inflicted pain could send our university into an irreversible tail spin. Clearly, retrofitting won't do; in this case, preventative medicine is the only cure.

Sincerely
Mark Ledwell
House of Commons
Ottawa

UPEI SUN

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