

Probing the dimensions of a



This is no Marlboro that's about to be sacrificed to a halved flame and a waiting brain.

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*A child sat & "Who is the great?"
fetching it to me with full hands.
How could I answer the child? I
do not know what it is anymore
than he.*

(from *Song of Myself* by Walt Whitman)

When tendrils of smoke are up about your nose to draw you down a vacant corridor, you float with the coils that drift hypnotic into the trance of planned circumstance. Down by the floor, the door cracks—and coughs, with different voices. The wood attracts your cooled nap of knowledge, and candles twist a hunched doorlock and heating bottles of amber glass.

Delectant to your presence, the circle of smokers adds one more link to its network chain. Bound by the words which come from lungs, you at once become a parcel parcel of staccatoed language, in smoking a coiled precept.

Such is a scene of repeated in the halls and halls of PLU, but unlike the California congregations of marijuana Christians, students each weekend imbue their cubicles with the odor of burnt rope. When the smell of pot wafts easily in corridors at the rear of PLU sewage to steal across the depths more events should may have evolved in its grave.

Pot grows not only grows on a hill, but is inhaled by fire on the ear of fingers and lips of a multitude of students.

The use of marijuana is held to be quite widespread trans campus. Though the *Alert* has no accurate Arklio figure which would fix and formulate PLU drug use into a plume, pot nevertheless figures prominently as a social enclave in the network of students.

Pot is particular. The old adage that "pot will pothee yer head" acts as a negligible deterrent in the wake of the abundance of marijuana on hand at PLU. Moderate traffic of grass flows smoothly through campus, even though there is probably only a handful of large suppliers.

It is not uncommon for smokers to buy pot by the pound for their personal use, or for selling a few lbs on the side, or vice versa. One student supplier, which the *Alert* has interviewed, feels that there are no one else smoking pot now than ever before.

"Some girls are starting to turn on, and the administration might well be shocked with the actual figures. I've smoked since 1968, because I enjoy it. It's relaxing, or I just do it to get high (not like alcohol). With pot you don't lose control. That's why I don't drink, because I don't lose control of my senses."

When asked for an estimate of actual number of smokers at PLU, one source estimated that about 40% of the male party goers, at least in the "clubs at parties" and probably 50% of the men in dorms have tried it. Another student volunteered that pot smoking had been common to every party she had been to. "Most people bring their own dope, but a lot more buyers, when the bear can eat. They collected money for some like income of another day."

The Queen have eyes

Dr. Phillip Best, Vice-President for Student Life, is "reasonably confident that there is considerable use of marijuana at PLU." He said he has been told that a midnight stroll on the golf course would result in an encounter with a night conglomerate and on occasions, the smell of marijuana could be detected in dorm hallways.

The word is out that it is not too smart to smoke grass in your room. If you are really daring enough to try, it might be helpful to incense the mild incense and to sniff a few swaddling towels under your door.

Smoking hash, however is a different matter, as it often is not as distinctive as grass. Of course, it depends on where your room is. "Everyone knows that second floor is higher than third."

Upper class grass

What about the quality of pot on campus? At present, it is reportedly excellent, with smokers getting their money's worth—good stones and big lids. To quote a student smoker, "One thing about PLU is that it gets good pot. People who smoke pot for a profession, so-to-speak, do demand excellence."

"Koko" Drug

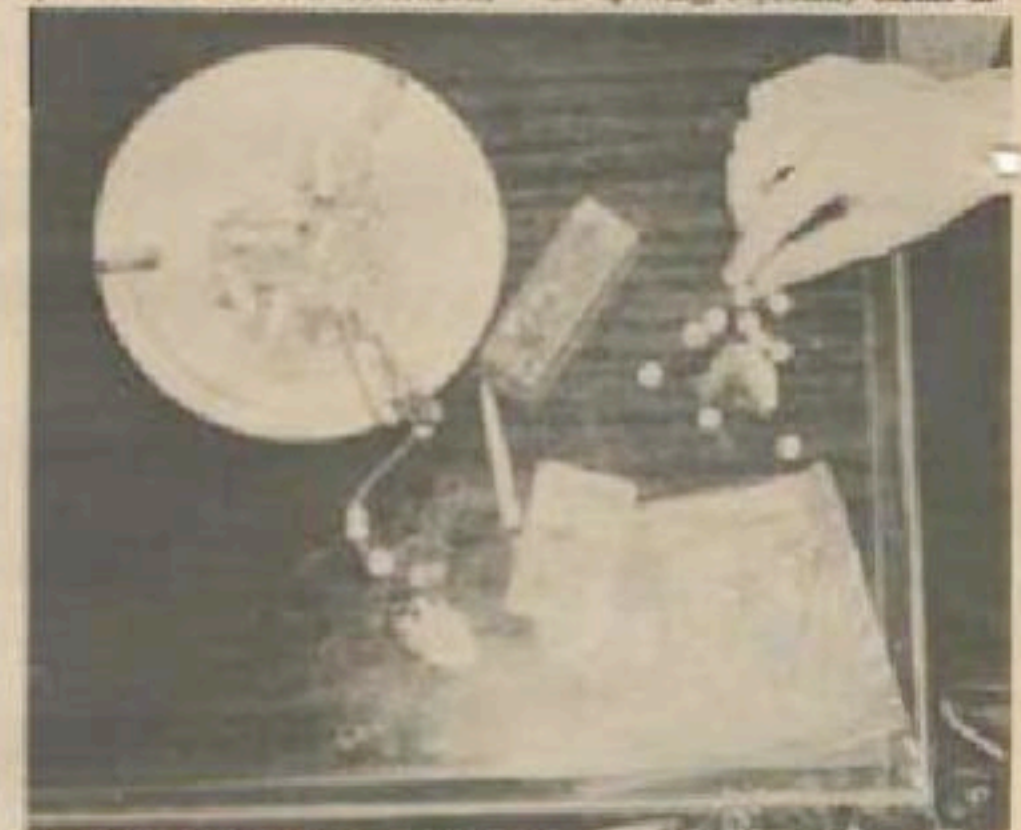
So the chances that the child in Whitman's poem is a PLU student are slim. However, had he asked, "What is cocaine, mescaline or THC?" it might be another story. Outside the realm of marijuana, it seems that many here are undereducated and/or inexperienced when it comes to harder drugs.

A wide variety of drugs is available from time to time on campus, but "the only consistent supply is of grass. Chemicals are good when they're around, but they kind of come in spurts. You can get a hold of anything, however, if you want to."

What drugs, in addition to grass, are most frequently obtained? First of all, there are the amphetamines, otherwise known as whites, which are used to keep the student awake and functioning when his body craves sleep. And when does the body crave sleep the most? During the purgatory of finals.

Supply and demand

In the case of drugs, quantity supplied does not always equal quantity demanded. This was pointed out to frantic student



speeders during last semester's final week, when there was very little speed to be found, supposedly due to a factory bust somewhere down the line. Where five dollars will usually buy about thirty tablets, or "hits," during bad times, you might be charged a dollar a hit.

As with all chemicals, one has the problem of quality. Several students told of experiences with bad speed in an incident last year when a shipment apparently was laced with strychnine. But, according to suppliers, speed is always in demand.

Barbiturates, or reds, are not as common, it seems. According to dealers, they just don't know that well.

Hash, the concentrated resin of the marijuana plant, has a dedicated but smaller following than its parent. This is probably due to the fact that it is hard to get sometimes it generally costs five dollars for a gram that looks like a tiny fat cloud. Often it is worked in tandem with grass, but as mentioned earlier, it is more congenial than grass for dorm room smoking.

Cocaine, mescaline, LSD and THC are on and off, just depending on what is around. It seems that interest in cocaine, the "rich man's high," has taken the upswing, especially earlier in

this year, and mescaline should be fairly accessible at the moment. One student chowed over concern over the quality of LSD available at this time: "There is no pure LSD on campus now. If there were, it would be a lot worse than the stuff that's going around." THC, a huge tranquilizer found in many students, is apparently enjoying a renaissance. It is reputed to produce a good corpus high.

Just how prevalent are these so-called "harder drugs" at PLU? This is next to impossible to anthropometrically ascertain. Even among those in the position to know (via the dealers) there is disagreement on the subject. It is generally conceded, though, that harder drugs are not nearly as common as marijuana. But



Marijuana is cultivated in dirt, in paper or in pots, and in the minds of men.

problem: drug use at PLU?

either are they a factor to be shrugged off lightly.

University policy

"There are no options for a head resident or assistant head when it comes to drugs in the dorms," explained Dr. Lee about PLU's drug policy. "There are no warnings issued and every case observed goes directly to faculty standards." Dr. Lee went on to explain that drug cases are not sent to government authorities, but are dealt with by the Faculty Standards Board, which has the option to determine the nature and severity of punishment and rehabilitation it wishes to impose; anything from warning to expulsion.

Dean Beal hopes that residence hall staffs will be open, willing and able to discuss drug usage with all students in order to achieve a

much needed understanding as to the responsibility necessarily undertaken by those who consider or practice indulgence in drugs.

Dean Beal is aware of some students who have experienced severe difficulties with drugs, and, thus, a drug problem exists. Although it is difficult to measure the intensity of the drug problem here, Dr. Beal feels that, if even one student has a personal drug problem, this constitutes a drug problem at PLU.

Problem?

One student cited PLU's image as a quasi-liberal Christian university as possibly responsible for the University's approach to the drug problem. "PLU does everything possible to keep the police out of the picture,



An obtuse unifying force among men: the user of beer and the rope of smoke.



Preparing to receive a valued prize, a student looks with drooping eyes at that which he ceremoniously prizes.

because it would give PLU a bad name. PLU doesn't want us associated with drugs in the public mind.

The drug problem on our campus seems rather vague. You see, it depends on who you are talking to and how they would define the word 'problem.'

Some members of the university community will admit to a slight

problem, based on great extent on rumor. Others will say that, while there may have been a problem in the past, drug usage is on the decline. Many will say that the social acceptance or non-acceptance creates the 'problem.' And still others, when asked that timeless question, "What is the drug problem here at PLU?" will growl, "Not enough drugs."



News Capsules

Interested students may now apply in the Financial Aid Office for the Aid Association for Lutheran Scholarship Grant. Students must have a policy in their name and must apply immediately. Further information is available in the Financial Aid Office.

Nursing faculty to talk

Representatives from the Nursing Faculty will be in Ingram Hall, March 27, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. to talk to all interested pre-nursing and nursing students about the School of Nursing. Students may come any time between these hours.

Ticket shortage for "Lear"

There is a possibility that a ticket shortage may occur for the National Shakespearean Company's presentation of *King Lear* due to limited seating in Eastwood Auditorium. All Artist Series ticket holders (this includes all full-time students, faculty, staff and community Artist Series season ticket

holders) have first opportunity to obtain tickets and are urged to bring their tickets to be exchanged for reserve tickets to the Information Desk as soon as possible. The play is slated for April 9 and exchanges should be made before April 1, when the remainder of the tickets will be sold to the public.

Billiards tournament set

A double-elimination billiards tournament will be held March 24 and 25 in the Games Room. It will consist of two eight-man brackets with the winners from each playing off for the championship. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

PLU hosts Rotary Seminar

Young people representing Western Washington and Vancouver areas will be attending the next Rotary Leadership Seminar at PLU, March 22-23.

Eighty young people were selected by different Rotary Clubs on the basis of leadership abilities. Those chosen will be here to participate in some intensive leadership training. This is the first meeting of this

type to be held in the Western Hemisphere, the first originating in Australia years ago.

Wiegman to visit dorms

President Wiegman will visit residence halls on the following dates to discuss his role in the University with students: March 25 at 8 p.m. in Hamstead; March 26 at 10 p.m. in Pfeiffer; March 27 at 10 p.m. in Ivy for residents of Ivy and Alpine; April 2 at 10 p.m. in Cascade for residents of Cascade and Evergreen; and April 3 at 10 p.m. in Foss for residents of Olympic and Nordic. All are welcome to attend.

Student Working applications

For those who plan to student teach in the fall, applications must be completed no later than April 10. Appropriate forms are in the School of Education office in the Administration Bldg.

International Fair: March 31

An International Fair will be held Saturday, March 31, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Chris Knutzen

Hall. According to Kathy Duzen, one of the coordinators of the event, its purpose is to "create more communication between foreign students at PLU and other PLU students."

The Fair is free and open to all PLU students. Some of the highlights will be samples of foreign foods, fashion shows of national costumes and performances by some PLU foreign students. A special German dinner will also be held in the U.C. Commons during the regular dining hours as part of the Fair activities. The event is sponsored by the International Students Organization (ISO).

"Second Mile" leaders to train

The First Sound Coalition Group Leader Training Session for the Second Mile Project will be held March 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. in Ingram Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to train group leaders in what the job of a First Sound group leader entails. All personal Bible group leaders must attend the session, and all other persons interested in the project are invited to attend. The project is sponsored by CHOICE.

Forthcoming Concerts

Bill Withers tonight in Olson Auditorium at 8:15. The Everly Brothers and Sam Neely tomorrow night at the Paramount at 8:30 (tickets at the Bon Marche). Mahavishnu Orchestra and Taj Mahal at the Paramount on Monday at 8:00 (tickets at the Brasserie). Albert King and Freddie King next Friday at the Paramount at 8:00 (tickets at the Brasserie). The following night you have your choice of the Bee Gees at the Paramount at 7:00 and 10:00 or the Chi-lites and the Crusaders at Hec Edmundson Pavilion at the U or W at 8:00 (tickets for either at the Bon Marche).

Issues of Interest

Occasionally a student becomes curious about something he or she has seen or heard on campus, some concern that perhaps isn't highly important but would be interesting to know, anyway. If you have a legitimate question that deserves an answer, send it to Ted Carlson, c/o the Mooring Mast. Two questions will be brought out and answered each week.