

Now it can be told!

The real Truth about last May!

by GENE BARRY

Reports continue to flood the offices of the Administration concerning the traffic jam at the corner of 14th and R Streets which occurred on the afternoon of May 2, 1970.

Though the actual event and surrounding controversy took place well over six months ago, the University community has been slow in reacting.

Only two facts surrounding the event have been accepted by all parties concerned:

A one bird sit-in (by a robin) is acknowledged to be the cause of the jam. The only other established fact is that the "voluntary boycott of traf-

fic etiquette" ended only as the result of continued negotiation on the part of administrators, student leaders and a flock of Mallards who stopped by while en route to a Navigator's convention in Toronto.

Of the many groups who presumed to submit "accurate" reports of the events the first was the Institute for Traffic Analysis (ITA). The ITA report consisted of three parts: a summation of the events, recommendations for future disturbances, and one fluffy grey pinfeather plucked from the instigating bird.

(Editor's note: the major difference between the ITA

report and others is that ITA strongly contends that the bird was not a robin, but a grey pigeon who had braced for the cool May weather by rubbing Ben-Gay on his chest.)

The group most active during the actual disturbance was known to its three active members as the Society for Correction and Rectification of Extraneous Weather (SCREW).

The Chief of the SCREW people calls himself Wrecker. Other independent analysis groups feel that this is SCREW's goal.

The final group to be involved in the sometimes heated controversy is the Latent Americans for Freedom Forever (LAFF). Cannonball Teacup poses as head of this group.

LAFF had the least relevant material to present to bodies deliberating the events of last May, but it deserves mention for its talent of presenting completely incoherent arguments as fact. This served to distract substantially from the other groups presentations.

The part of student government (ASUN) was well conceived and carried out. When questioned about his role in the

activities, ASUN First Vice President Bobbie Hassenpfeffer replied, "I had a real tough time playing a non-partisan role, but I feel we all did our best. I mean it was only fair that we not let the Rambler owner recline his seats to sleep once it was apparent we were going to be there all night."

Now that the air is cleared, and Senator E. B. (Butch) Winner is convinced that no ASUN money was given to the mayor for the overnight use of the intersection, I would like to share a little known fact with the University Community.

The culprit bird was not a pigeon, or a robin as originally presumed. Indeed, it was a pet canary belonging to state senator Terry Woodpecker.

It had escaped from the trunk of Terry's Hudson Hornet as he was driving by the campus. After falling out, it did the one thing it had learned from its master. It jumped into the middle of something without knowing anything at all about it.

Passing his usual judgment, this writer absolves Terry's canary of all blame regarding the disturbances and calls for a close of the most irrelevant set of investigations that has ever occurred on this campus.

Prevalence of pot means more arrests

by FRANK MANKEIWICZ and TOM BRADEN

Usually, the call comes in the middle of the night, the awakened party having just time enough to reflect that good news waits till morning. Then he hears the voice on the other end.

"Dad," or "Mother," the voice says, "I'm in jail. The charge is possession."

No fewer than 20 congressman or senators have received these calls since the marijuana era began, not to mention other parents whose names would add up to a cross-section of the American Establishment. The total number of arrests for "possession" is not accurately known, even for the past year, but one Justice Department estimate places it in "the tens of thousands."

The same estimator suggests that roughly half of all Americans between the ages of 16 and 20 have tried marijuana at one time or another, which leads inevitably to another estimate. It is that, if laws against "possession" were rigidly enforced, half of our children between 16 and 20 would now have prison records.

What is taking place is a kind of civil war between American children and American police, and it is a mark of the seriousness of that war that Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, a self-proclaimed law-and-order man, has helped to pilot through Congress much milder federal penalties for "possession." The trouble is that federal law has never been important in "possession." It is state and local law which count, and it is in states and localities where the war is being fought.

Both sides are uniformed: the cops in familiar blue or brown, the kids in long hair, moccasins, bell-bottoms, dirty shirts, fatigue jackets and a Volkswagen. The uniform of the kids is what the growing number of legal experts in the "possession" field sarcastically define as "the basic elements of probable cause."

What they mean is that a teen-ager wearing any part of the uniform is a sure-fire candidate for arrest. The arrest is for loitering, failure to move on, a defective taillight, hitch-hiking or depositing trash (a cigarette butt). Follow the uniform for a little while and the arrest can be made. Once made, the chances that a "possession" charge will ensure are better than fair.

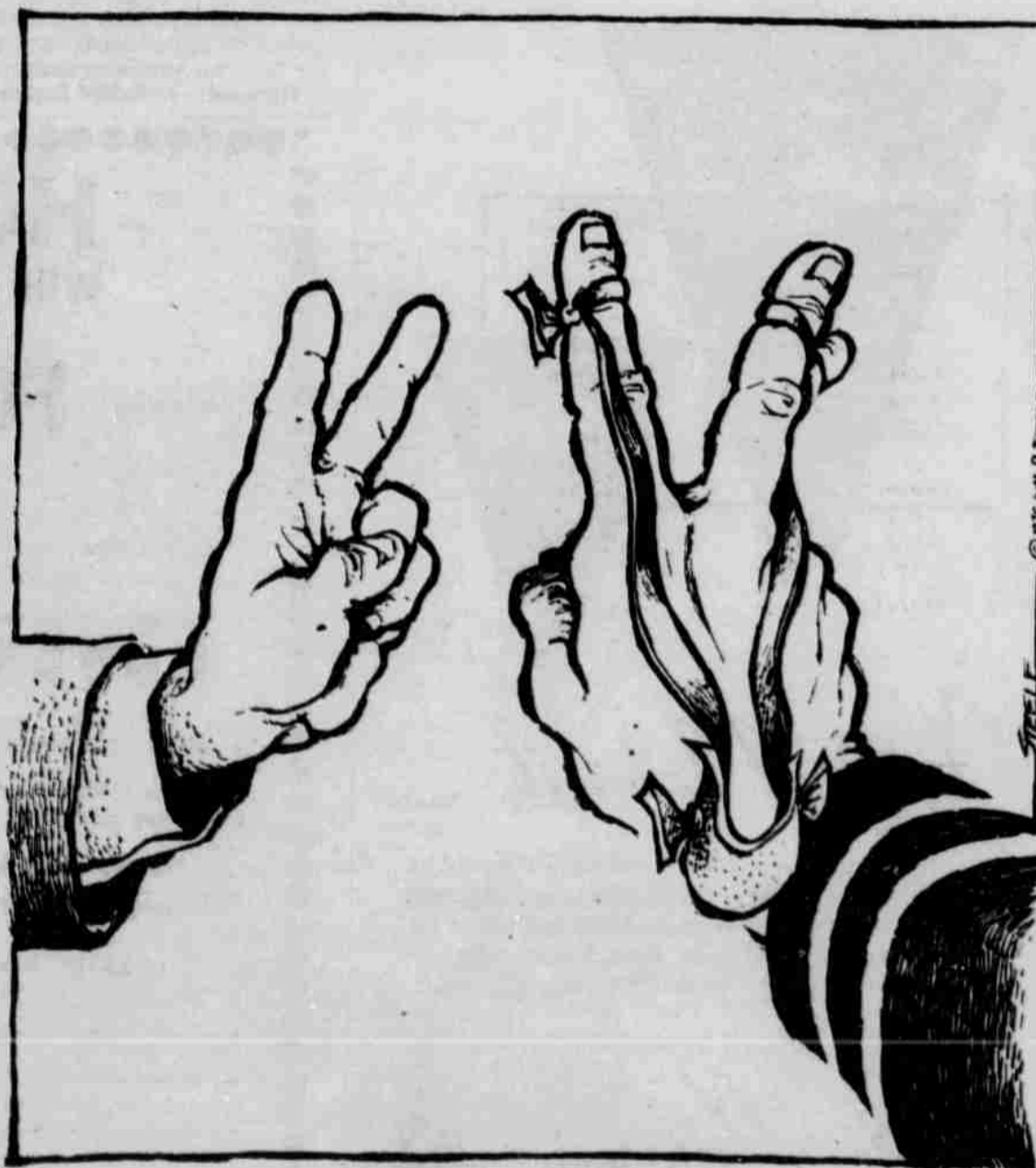
It is at this point that the war disturbs tough-minded men like John Mitchell. State penalties are severe. Three years is not uncommon for a first offense, and though few judges want to levy such a penalty, some do, which is why lawyers for the young have evolved a set of rules for the child of marijuana possession cases. They are worth noting as examples of what "possession" is doing to the national verities.

Rule 1: Plead "not guilty," no matter that you are. A guilty plea forces a judge to invoke the law, even when he doesn't want to. A not-guilty plea, on the other hand, permits time for a defense lawyer to entreat the prosecutor to change the charge — back to loitering, hitch-hiking or defective taillight.

Rule 2: Change the uniform. Blue suit or sweater and skirt, button-down collar, haircut. Symbols of regularity have now become essential to American justice.

Rule 3: Don't go to a jury trial. The jury is not a jury of "peers." If Americans now in their 70s had been tried in the '20s for possession of alcohol by juries consisting of teen-agers, a high percentage of them would now have prison records. Then too, juries must consider law. Only judges can consider justice and temper findings with the knowledge that the law is unjust.

For surely the law is unjust. It is enforced at great expense against one segment of the population, and it is turning that segment of the population into a citizenry which believes firmly that law is a mockery, legal process a sham and policemen people to hate.



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