



By GERRY LASKEY

The latest fad on campus this fall is the so-called "magic mushroom", a mushroom with halucinogenic properties which until recently was virtually unknown to this part of Canada. Many students were, and perhaps still are, under the impression that this is a completely safe and legal high. This is not totally accurate.

According to Professor Harold Hines, of the UNB Biology Department who instructs a course in mushrooms, there are several fall mushrooms which have similar halucinogenic proper-

ties but the main one, the "magic mushroom", is of the genus *Psilocybe*. He says that it was unknown to him in this area until this fall, adding that the dry and warm weather this fall could account for the proliferation of the mushrooms. He said that the ingredients in the mushroom which produce the effect are *psilocin* and *psilocibin*.

As for this being a "legal high", these two chemicals are restricted drugs under section "H" of the federal "Food and Drug Act." Eric Fiander of the Fredericton Police - RCMP drug squad says that possession and/or trafficking of

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Magic mushrooms-illegal high

psilocin and *psilocibin* is subject to a "summary conviction" of a \$500 maximum fine, six months in jail, or both. A default on a fine can result in a one year jail sentence.

Fiander said that recently there have been two seizures of what is believed on visual evidence to be the "magic mushroom" in Fredericton. The first, a seizure of 10.5 grams was made on 20 October from a private residence and the second, of some two dozen mushrooms was made near the Experimental Farm on 2 November. No charges have been laid as yet pending definite chemical analysis results from the RCMP crime lab.

The mushroom, according to professor Hines, is a "powerful mood-altering drug, which can produce a real 'high' or depression". Hines said that the effects depend not only on the condition and amount of mushrooms ingested but also the physical and emotional make-up of the user, and their surroundings. He said that the mushroom can produce a very pleasant feeling and may produce simple

sensual changes in a person's perception or the user may actually hallucinate i.e. have an altered picture of reality. Hines said that any activity such as driving, or even walking if the terrain is hazardous (holes, cliffs, etc.) would be very dangerous since the user is "not in possession of his faculties". He said that being confronted with a work situation, for example, while under their influence could produce depression. He added that on the right type of personality in the right situation it could even accentuate suicidal tendencies.

Hines says that the effects of the drug take about one half hour to manifest themselves and last approximately four to five hours. He says that the effects are as much physical as emotional producing such things as muscle contractions, and a sort of "body intoxication". As for possible "poisoning" Hines said that if enough mushroom is taken it acts as a purgative to the digestive system producing vomiting. He said it can also lead to a very deep sleep where some senses (such as

hearing) are still active, but the body is immobile and producing very vivid dreams. He said that the entire mushroom is edible.

Hines said that accidental poisoning from mushrooms mistaken for *psilocybe* is possible since there are about a dozen fall mushrooms which more or less resemble it. Some he added produced violent illness. Hines also said the mushroom is dying out by now due to frosts and cold weather.

Students have reported using the mushrooms but as yet no serious problems have appeared. The Student Health Centre has reported no incidents with mushrooms. The service coordinator of the emergency ward of the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital, Steve Ball, said that there have been two cases of possible mushroom poisoning reported in the last month. Guidance and health officials at Fredericton High School and the larger Junior high schools in town have reported no problems concerning them with mushrooms.

You thought that Montreal was far away?

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

There are approximately 420 foreign students at UNB according to Doreen Kessick the Overseas Student Advisory. Most of the students are registered in specialized courses such as engineering, surveying, forestry and so on. The general arts courses do not generally attract the foreign student as they can receive that type of education of their own countries according to Kessick.

Some of these students are on the graduate level, and many are here for purposes of furthering their education. A percentage of foreign students are employees of their government and are here to specialize in various faculties. In

addition, some foreign students have been already employed in their homeland, and are here for purposes of furthering their education. Others have promises of jobs on their return and then there are those, who like a great deal of Canadians are hoping to get a job when they return to their own country.

The students are funded in a variety of ways, depending on the individual countries they hail from. Manners of funding include fellowships, government scholarships, scholarships from their own country, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and several graduate students are here on research grants and teaching assistantships provided by the University of New

Brunswick. There are also foreign students who are here on their own power, funding themselves in their search for knowledge.

CIDA is one organization which provides some of the foreign students with funds for education. The organization has a contract with UNB and provides funds for a number of foreign students, especially in the field of surveying. Kessick says that the organization could be impressed with UNB because of its large surveying department, yet relatively small community.

Kessick said that many students feel that the foreign students can stay after their visa for entry into Canada have expired. She said there is resentment about this, as many feel that the foreigners are taking jobs from the Canadians. This is not true according to Kessick, who said that after the visa has expired the students have to leave the country, and cannot reenter unless they apply for immigrant status.

The immigration laws have gotten progressively stricter since 1973, and immigration officials are adamant on several scores. There

is the one already mentioned, concerning the visas. Kessick says that her office often gets a call from the immigration officials who wish to ensure that the students whose visas have expired, have indeed left the country. In addition, foreign students are not eligible for work permits, with the exception of those students who need them in connection with school or grad students. She believes this may be due to the present poor economic situation in Canada, the government wishes to keep the few jobs available for Canadians.

Other immigration demands ensure that the students applying for entry possess enough money to maintain their stay in Canada. They are compelled to have a certain amount of dollars before entry can be effected.

Kessick believes that many people possess misconceptions about foreign students. She said that they often believe there are more foreign students on campus than there are actually are. She said the Canadians have to realize that over the past few years the cultural pattern has changed, and

the person you think is from overseas is actually a second generation Canadian.

Kessick says she has had no great number of complaints about prejudice on campus, and feels, that on the whole the foreign students are satisfied with this campus and its reaction. She mentioned that last week visitors from Malaysia were here, and were impressed with the welcome they receive.

The foreign students on this campus are from over the entire globe and include the following countries: Nigeria, Kenya, Swaziland, Lesotho, Rhodesia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, the Caribbean, Bermuda, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Great Britain, Ireland, Greece, Cyprus, Guyana, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Iran, U.S., Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Thailand, Poland, Lebanon, Brazil, Bangladesh, Columbia, Chile, Bulgaria, Gibraltar, Iraq, and Japan. Really a great chance for the Canadian student to learn about other societies.

Foreign students find education costly

According to a nation wide account for "their tendency to low survey, more than half the foreign grades" the report stated. students in Canada could not continue to study here should their education costs increase by \$750.

It appears that almost half of possess higher levels of personal the foreign students needed expectation. These students are parental aid to meet rising also deeply attached to their educational costs. Only 15 per cent depend on savings and the US and other industrial countries are also high achievers, with their main interest "largely expenditure of the poor, rich and middle income groups. Research-ers found that \$355 a month represents the "bare minimum" students from different countries existence levels for single foreign students from the least developed students. \$400 for married countries receive the most support annually.

The survey compared the related to job marketability" the report said. The study compared how managed financially. It found that students from the least developed countries receive the most support annually.

Approximately 15 per cent of foreign students live on "marginal support", forcing them to seek outside sources of revenue.

The foreign student population is comprised of people from Hong Kong, developing countries and the United States, as well as from some poor countries such as Bangladesh.

The report discovered that 75 per cent of the students sampled said Canada was their first choice for post secondary education. 794 foreign students in 25 post secondary institutions for the rated lowest of all foreign groups report. (Toronto Globe & Mail: Dorothy Lipovendo)

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THIS NOTE ILLEGAL TENDER

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