

War on drugs won't solve real problem

by Ron Sears

It is easy for us to go up to RATT on a Friday afternoon and spend some hard-earned recreational dollars on a few drinks. Living in a comfortable middle-class environment, we don't consider that there is a chance of us becoming alcoholics. I suppose it may be that we have some direction in our lives.

However, just a short distance from the 7th floor's panoramic view of the city, the 'inner city' has a severe problem with alcohol. Alcohol in cooking wine, alcohol in lysol, and the alcohol we're accustomed to.

Legislation is now being sought to control the sales of Lysol by Dr. Hubert Kammer, who works with the Boyle-McCauley health centre.

Solicitor General Dick Fowler has recently passed legislation restricting cooking wines to a maximum of 20 per cent alcohol by volume. These measures do little to reverse the situation, but they will shed light on a problem society likes to keep in the dark.

It will take more than legislation to change the situation; the priority should be creating an environment that doesn't push people to the point of addiction. Easier said than done, but until we adopt such a policy the problem will remain.

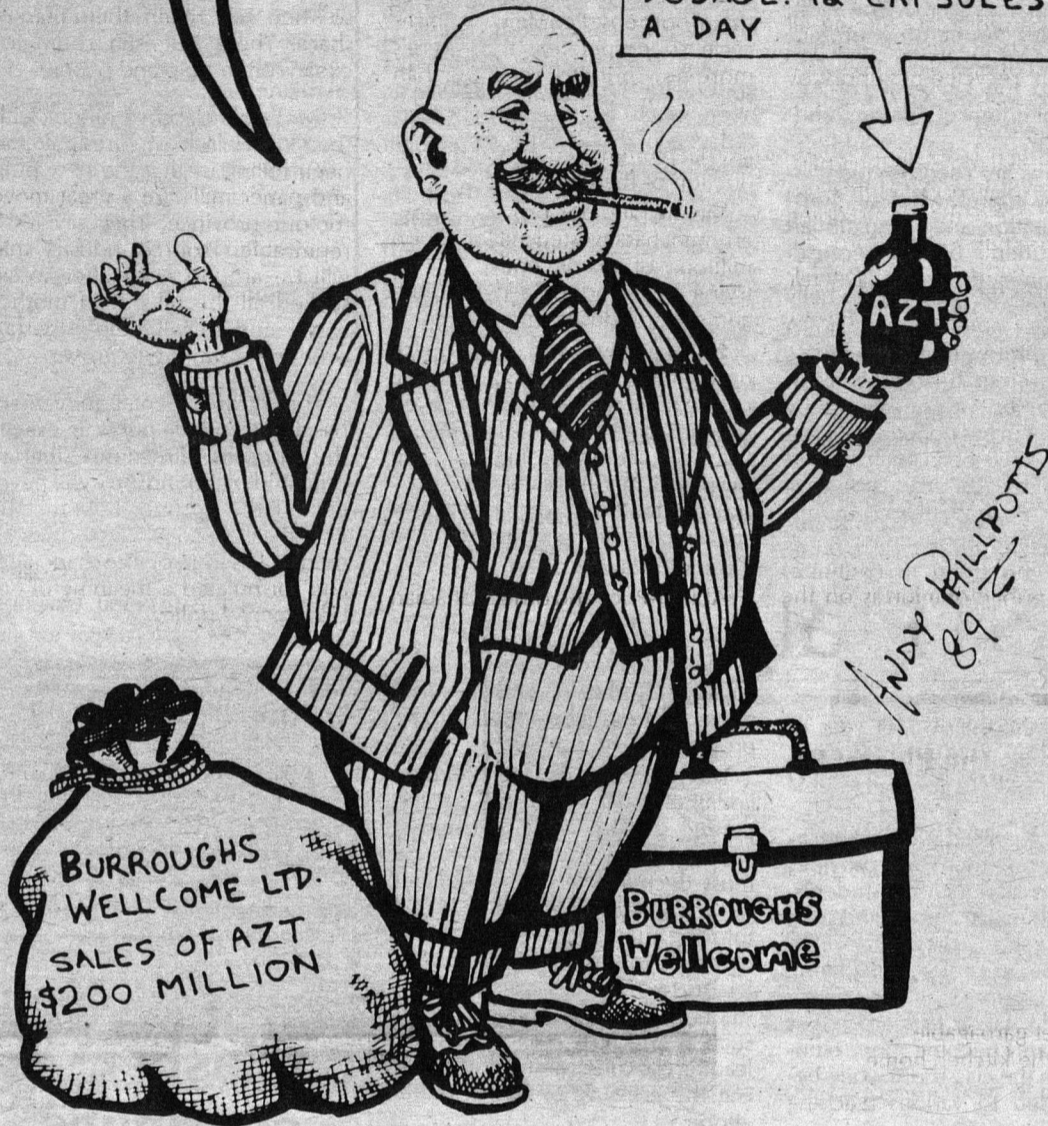
It seems society's incredible craving for drugs is stronger than its desire to alleviate the problem. The recent cocaine bust in California where 18 tons of cocaine were seized, valued at over a billion dollars, reflects this craving. The question we should be asking is, "in today's society—of which we are a part—why is it that so many people feel forced to turn to drugs and alcohol?"

Politicians are trying to fight the problem by fighting the Colombian drug lords when the real problem of addiction is in our own backyard. If we are able to stop the desire for drugs, we can forget about the Colombians.

There could be a pusher at every street corner. If no one buys, problem solved.

HEY! I HAVE TO LIVE TOO, YOU KNOW!

AZT AIDS TREATMENT
COST PER CAPSULE:
RETAIL PRICE
\$1.30 - 1.50 US.
DOSAGE: 12 CAPSULES
A DAY



LETTERS

Be environmentally aware

One can always tell when the next Gateway has been distributed to various campus drop off points. The floors are littered with newspapers and, particularly, those ubiquitous advertising inserts. Are you aware that the University has a recycling programme? During this Environmental Awareness Week, people should learn to recognize these white recycling bins which should be strategically placed throughout the University. Let's use the week for awareness, but more importantly, let's get into the recycling habit.

Julie L. Cormack
Anthropology

Grapes interview confusing

Re: Dragos Ruiu: Grape Expectations

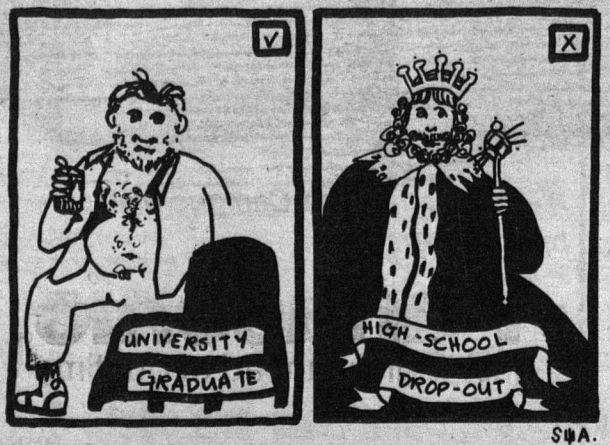
Maybe you could clear this up for me. Chris Hooper is the drummer, Tom Hooper is the bassist. Who did you interview?

Lisa Eisenbeis
Science III

Troubled? Concerned? Pissed off? Write us a letter

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. Letters may be dropped off, or mailed to our office (Room 282 SUB), or may be dropped off at the HUB or SUB info booths. The writer's name, faculty, and year of study must be included. Addresses and phone numbers are required but will not be printed.

THE PREFERABLE COMPANION



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