

# War on drugs

by Stephen Jones

Wayne Johnson woke up one morning three years ago and realized that if he did not kick his cocaine addiction, it would kill him.

Johnson estimates he had lost eighty pounds, and says his life revolved around obtaining and using drugs. Today, Johnson says, he doesn't touch drugs. He describes his cocaine addiction as a disease which he now controls, but which would control him once more if he ever used it again.

Leaving his old drug-dominated lifestyle left a void which Johnson filled by getting back in touch with his family,

doing volunteer work, and by becoming program director for the Concerned Citizens Against Drugs.

Brought to life in the summer of 1988, the CCAD was formed by concerned citizens from the north end of Halifax who were tired of witnessing the destructive impact drugs were having on their community.

As a member of CCAD, Johnson provides a role model for any abuser who may be thinking of defeating their drug habit. Now that he has eliminated illegal drugs from his own life, Johnson says, "I've grown more in the last two years than I have in my whole life."

Johnson never had a chance to

experience a better life before. He dropped out of school in grade five and took to the streets. He associated with people destined to bring him down, and he became involved in illegal drugs, alcohol and gambling at an early age. His use of illegal drugs led Johnson into problems with the law.

These problems are now behind him, Johnson says. Since he has all but beaten his chemical dependence and the troubles associated with it, Johnson says, "now I can enjoy my life."

Halifax mayor Ron Wallace attended the CCAD's open house on October 12 at the group's Gortingen Street headquarters. Wallace considers the CCAD an

essential component of the city's newly formed task force against drugs because it has forced people to recognize Halifax's illegal drug problem.

Wallace said the CCAD provides an accessible support system for anyone who decides they no longer want drugs in their life. Someone who approaches CCAD can do so with the confidence they will receive advice and information rather than persecution.

"You can't declare war on

drugs until you find out who the enemy are," Wallace said.

To Wallace the enemy is partially the street demand for drugs, and the community's slow reaction to drug abuse. The CCAD is combatting both of these factors in their attempt at making drugs socially unacceptable. According to Wallace this is exactly what needs to be done. He points out that ten years ago things like

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## ISA changes

by Joey Goodings

Improving the welcome and orientation provided international students will be the primary goal of the International Students Association (ISA) this year.

"Frosh week doesn't reach most of the international students and many of them aren't aware of the facilities offered at Dal when they arrive," Shanaaz Gokool president of the ISA says.

In previous years, welcoming and orienting international students has been the responsibility of the International Students Centre (ISC). This year the ISA is assisting the ISC in expanding the orientation.

The ISA is moving from a more social stance to a political one. It has changed from a B society to an A society, and can now receive contract funding, enabling them to provide services on campus that the Dalhousie Student Union is unable to provide.

The ISA is taking a more educative stance and will help with the upcoming international students conference in November. The event is being organized by the DSU for the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

Students may use the ISA to strengthen their lobbying voice on concerns that are outside the boundaries of the ISA.

In the past, the ISA's role involved organizing the cultural show "Around the World in 80 Minutes" and other social events, as well as coordinating the different international associations on campus. "The social need is not great," says Gokool. International associations such as the Malaysian Singaporean Indonesian Students Association, the African Students Association and others already meet the social needs more than adequately.

The ISA is not exclusive, and any students who wish to become involved should leave their name and number at the Dalhousie Student Union enquiry desk.

## Our environment

by Sean Kelly

"This is the most important document of the decade on the future of the world."

So reads the cover of *Our Common Future*, the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Its mandate, to "...re-examine the critical environment and development problems on the planet and formulate realistic proposals to solve them," is a crucial one. Our planet faces an ecological crisis that threatens the survival of many species on Earth — including humans.

Unlike some earlier environmental reports — which warned that we on Earth are rapidly approaching an 'absolute physical limit' to economic growth — the World Commission believes the world's resources are sufficient to meet long-term human needs, and that a sound global future is possible based on increasing economic growth. In fact, economic growth is seen as essential if poverty is to be reduced and environmental catas-

trophe averted in a large number of third world nations. The Commission stresses growth must be *ecologically-sustainable* to "...ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

To avert the coming disaster, the report advocates economic growth rates of five to six per cent yearly for developing countries, and three to four per cent each year for industrialized nations. The commission argues that growth in the first world is necessary to help 'pull the third world along with it' to prosperity. This growth will only be 'sustainable' if industrialized countries reduce waste and pollution, become more energy efficient, develop new renewable energy sources, and new technological alternatives to wasteful and harmful processes.

The primary question is whether unlimited economic growth can be maintained for all peoples of the world on a finite planet, with limited resources.

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