

Death in pods

Driftnet fishing kills dolphins

by Keitha Stockand

VICTORIA (CUP) — "It's killing our oceans, it's killing everything," says Taryn O'Gorman of the Victoria-based Association for Wildlife Aid Research and Education (AWARE).

Liz Gay, president of AWARE, said "I think people in Canada are willing to accept environmental standards as an important part of daily life, therefore they must accept that the environment and the economy must work hand in hand to be successful."

Japan, South Korea, and Tai-

wan are using driftnet fishing to catch tuna and squid. Fishing vessels deploy the nets, 30 to 80 km long and 30 feet deep, and draw them in, trapping anything larger than a grapefruit, including dolphins, whales, turtles and seals.

Most of the 'by-catch' dies, but some are butchered for market even though it may be illegal because they are protected species.

The nets are invisible to sonar, so if one gets tangled, it is cut loose. It then drifts around the ocean as a 'ghost net,' still catch-

ing until it finally sinks with the weight of the catch. When the catch rots, it rises again to continue the cycle.

Every year, for six to seven months, 1200 to 1500 ships deploy their nets in international waters. By 1990 there will be enough 'ghost nets' to circle the world once at the equator.

Driftnet fishing depletes fish stock rapidly, including B.C. salmon as they return from the Pacific to their spawning grounds.

New Zealand and Australia patrol their own waters to prevent

driftnet fishing.

AWARE is a small group, donating their time and money to help raise awareness and eventually put a stop to driftnet fishing.

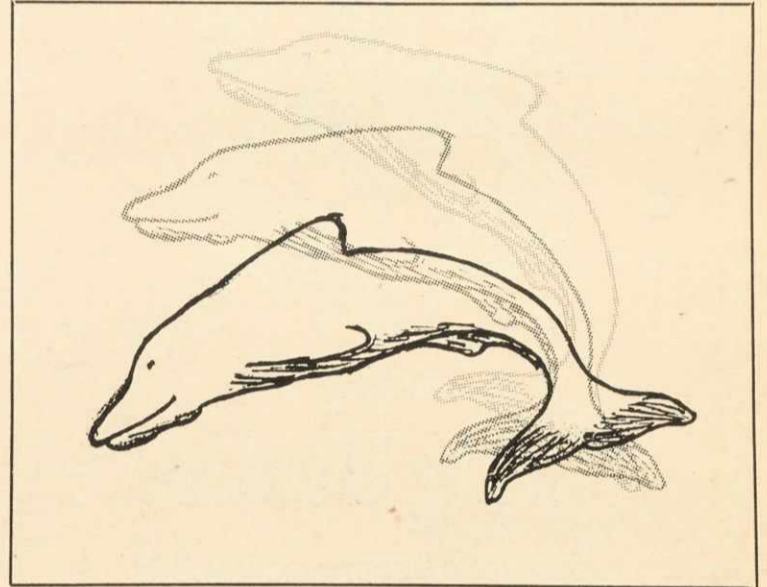
"We're small, so we've basically taken the bureaucracy out of the organization," said Gay.

AWARE wants to organize an international conference on the

environment with driftnet fishing as the central theme.

"We are working toward holding it in Victoria," said Gay. The group is looking to raise \$10,000 as seed money for the conference.

AWARE is also circulating a petition asking the Canadian Government to take steps to halt the "strip mining" of the Pacific.



Cocaine heaven and hell

by Stephen Jones

"The user's biggest dream is to be able to control their drug addiction," said a reformed addict last Thursday night during the second of three "Drug Awareness Discussion Sessions" at the North Branch Library in Halifax.

The audience listened intently and applauded the speaker for her courage in sharing her experiences with drugs. The discussion series was organized by Wayne Johnson of the Göttingen Street based group, Concerned Citizens Against Drugs.

Dr. Wenda MacDonald, from the Nova Scotia Drug Commission also spoke. She focused on the initial feelings of euphoria and confidence experienced by the social user. These effects become more difficult to obtain with frequent use, until one is

overcome by depression, irritability and aggressiveness. The long-term cocaine user may hallucinate and suffer the same symptoms faced by a paranoid schizophrenic, a condition caused by an excessive amount of dopamine in certain areas of the brain. Cocaine causes dopamine to flood the nerve receptors creating a feeling of pleasure.

MacDonald explained the difference between cocaine hydrochloride, which is usually snorted or injected, and freebase cocaine, which is smoked. Cocaine hydrochloride has a proportionally small amount of freebase, the essence of the drug. Freebase is fat soluble so when the cocaine hydrochloride is sniffed, the freebase crosses the fatty membranes of the nostrils and is absorbed into the bloodstream. Purifying cocaine hydrochloride by separating the salt from the freebase

results in "crack," which can be vaporized and reach the bloodstream through the lungs when it is smoked. Cocaine hydrochloride can be dissolved and injected directly into the vein. The result is a more direct administration of the drug in a much stronger form.

The ex-user speaking at the anti-drug seminar described cocaine as "the most powerful drug [she'd] ever run into." At one point she sold all the furniture in her apartment to get cocaine. Once she spent twenty-five hundred dollars in one night on the drug and on cab fares around the city in pursuit of it. Drugs were a part of her life from the age of thirteen until her thirties, she said. Luckily, the daughter she had at age twenty-two was unaffected by her mother's drug use during pregnancy.

Having a daughter brought a small peice of reality and stability into her life, the woman said. When she decided to send her daughter to live with the child's

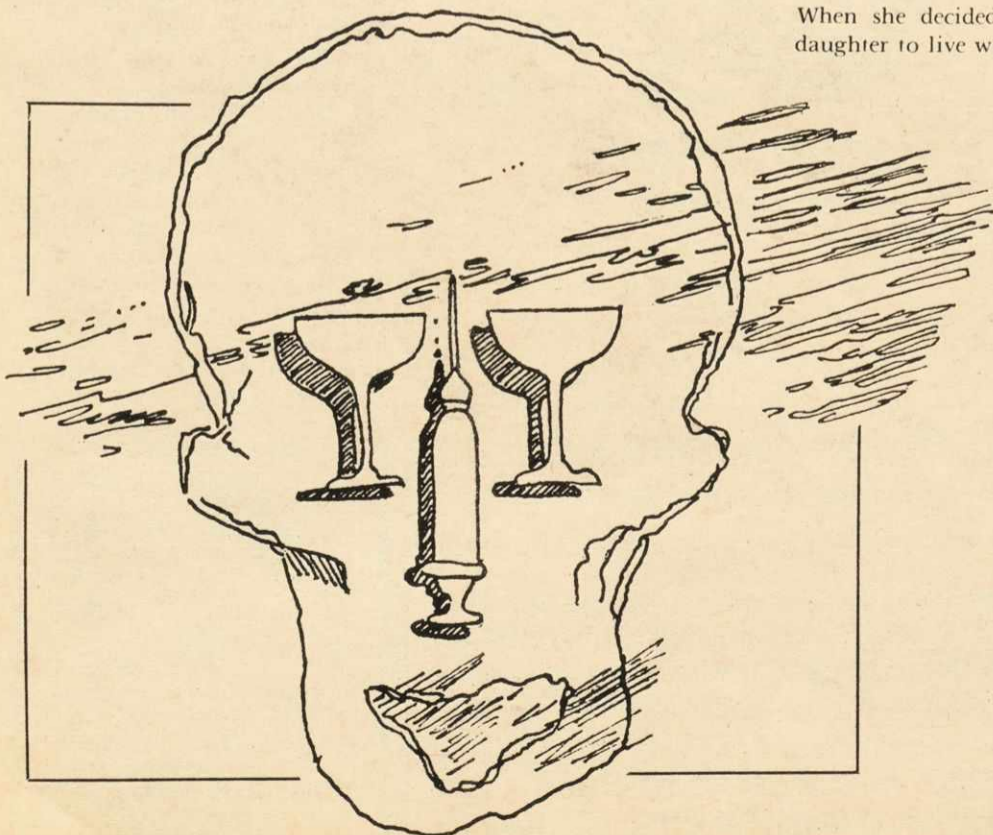
father because of her addiction things got worse and her drug use increased. After realizing she had sacrificed her independence and self-respect for drugs, she decided she would be controlled no longer.

Her recovery did not happen overnight, but involved a long fight against withdrawal symptoms and her own craving for drugs. She said she still craves drugs regularly, only now she refuses to give in.

Today, she said, she once again lives with her daughter, and finds fulfillment in speaking about her addiction in the hope of explaining to others the consequences of

drug abuse. The reformed addict said people cannot understand how she abused herself and put her baby at risk for drugs, and to those people she explains, "it's hard to give up heaven once you've been there, unfortunately you can't have heaven without having hell."

The next Drug Awareness Discussion Session will take place at the North Branch Library on October 19th, at 7 pm. Speakers will include Sgt. Gary Grant of the Drug Awareness Unit of the RCMP and Wayne Johnson from Concerned Citizens Against Drugs.



AIDS pamphlet

WOLFVILLE N.S. (CUP) — An AIDS awareness campaign, run by Nova Scotia's student federation will go on, despite the dismissal of its coordinator.

The federation's AIDS Education committee asked Sid Tobias to resign as executive director of the National Post-Secondary AIDS Education campaign in late August, after being dissatisfied with his work.

The project, funded by the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, is based at Acadia University and produced this year, among other things, a plain-language pamphlet on HIV/AIDS and prevention.

Student Union of Nova Scotia chair Lara Morris said the feder-

tion still stands behind the pamphlet.

"It's written by students, for students and written in everyday language, which is why we're behind it, and why it was funded in the first place," she said.

The pamphlet will be distributed to students at Atlantic colleges and universities this year, and the project may expand to the rest of Canada.

Morris said the pamphlet itself was fine, although she noted federal officials had complained about the language used and the pamphlet's layout.

"Tobias wasn't asked to resign for the pamphlet he was asked to resign for his conduct around the pamphlet," she said.