

COLUMN



I WRITE WITH AN AXE

by Brett Gellert

There seem to be a lot of hot stories hitting the presses about smoking (That's the kind of talk news guys use to avoid looking like geeks — it doesn't always work).

I'm supposed to keep with the times when I write this column, so this week I'll comment on smoking. Now I know some people get pretty nasty when you start to say things against smoking. You'd be easily aggravated too if you had a pile of burning leaves in your mouth that smells like a crematorium. (Now, I'll climb under the table and wait for the burst of sub-machine gun fire).

The only positive side to smok-

ing is that it gives your skin (well your lips and fingers anyway) a nice golden hue, unless you're Michael J. Fox who has enough money to have imported thistles (from Scotland I think) rubbed on his face to remove the nicotine.

I'm not going to dump on smokers because I know they will wait outside the office and hit me with rocks.

I won't mention the fact that the smoke by the donut stand is dense enough to set off smoke detectors in Parliament (a place where the Environment Minister has to take everything — including fire alarms — into advisement before acting). Besides, I like honey-glazed Marlboros.

Anyway, there have been worse smoke problems: Yellow Stone Park burning down comes to mind, and the time my mother tried to make scones (something invented by early primates to be

used as projectiles strong enough to pierce rock).

I don't have anything against people who want to turn their lungs into lumps of shrivelled, dead matter. I just don't want it happening to my lungs because I've grown fond of oxygen.

But I'm not for taking anyone's rights away either. It's not like smokers are running around killing seals or beating children with squash racquets. They're just fil-

ling the air with vile pollution that makes coal miners dream of fresh air, but hell, who doesn't do something that isn't all that bright? How many people voted PC a few years ago?

If this place is so worried about the health of the students, why not make the food edible?

I will be the first person to defend the rights of the Canadian citizen, unless they are a lawyer, or by far the worst, a talk show

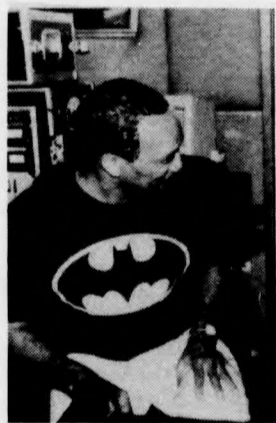
host. There is nothing wrong with smoking as long as you can taste your food and see across a room without feeling like your eyes have been rubbed in salt.

We should see smoking as a way for people to return to the true carbon-based lifeform that crawled out of the slime looking for a Zippo lighter and an ashtray, while thinking up a really catchy multi-million dollar advertising campaign.

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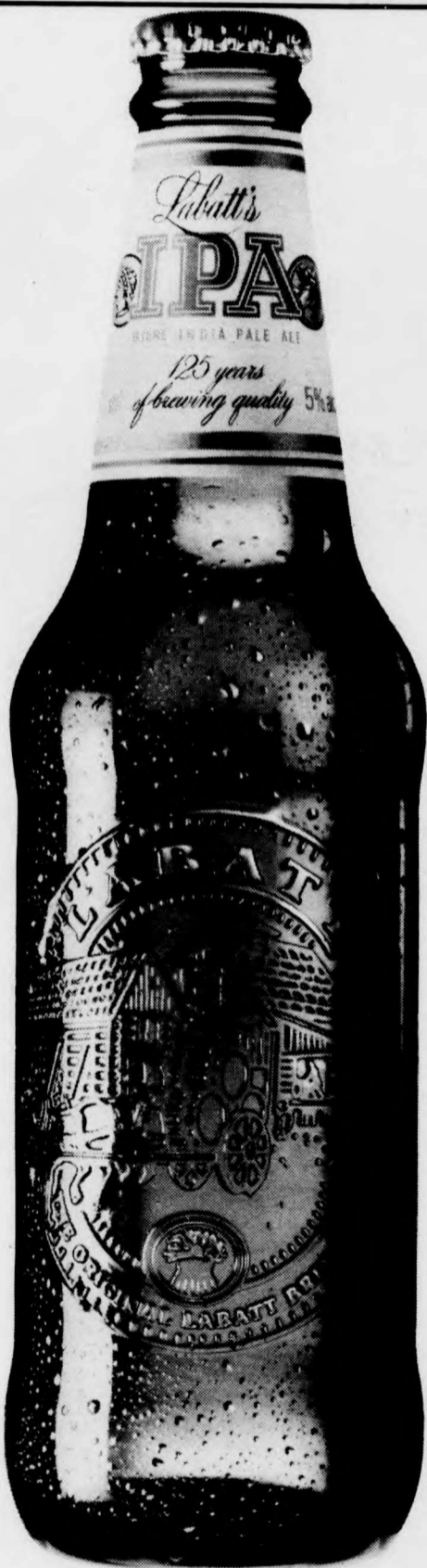


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