

Editorial

Dancing with death To smoke or not to smoke?

By Marko Peric

What is it about holding a smouldering firebrand in one's mouth that could ever be considered "cool"? Is it that element of danger? Of course, if danger is cool, drinking battery acid or fighting with wolverines would be much cooler, as these activities are much more dangerous. However, neither has become popular nor widely accepted in society (although subway surfing was common a few years ago).

Mind you, smoking is a hazardous activity, at least if you put any faith in the surgeon general. Emblazoned on the packaging of all tobacco products sold in Canada are so many fun little warnings: "Cigarettes cause cancer," "Smoking can harm your children," "Tobacco smoke is the leading cause of lung cancer among

non-smokers," and my personal favorite-- "Smoking can kill you." This writer wonders how well ordinary Bazooka Joe gum would sell if it brandished the advisory "Chewing gum can kill you".

If tobacco was discovered today, what are the odds that it would be legalized? Imagine the scenario in government labs: "Here's a brown leaf product that is highly addictive, causes cancer, and contains over one hundred toxic substances. It has no medicinal use whatsoever. Should we sell this stuff to the general public?"

Somehow, I doubt that the answer would be "Sure, just try to keep it away from kids under eighteen."

There is simply no way to justify the problems caused by tobacco products. Over forty thousand people died in Canada last year from smoking-related illnesses. That's far more than died from violent crime, automobile accidents, and AIDS -- together.

Why do we let this killer run rampant in our society? The only good thing to arise from smoking are the jobs it creates, in fields such as agriculture, manufacturing, advertising, and in health care.

In all reality, the world would be a better place if tobacco had never been discovered. I doubt that smoking will be banned anytime in the near future, but if it were, many people who would be justifiably glad to see it go.

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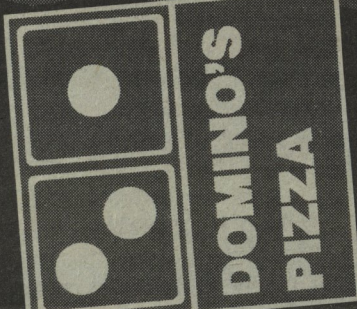
Attention Students:

Are you looking for fame and friends? Hot nights with hot dates? *POWER*? Then join the hockey team. On the other hand, if you are looking to churn your charming cynicism into free-floating hostility, or you are longing to have your name and twisted mental thoughts in print then *SUBMIT TO THE X-PRESS!*

Here's what you need to do:

1. Screw your courage to its sticking place;
2. WRITE. About anything! The news, the state of the world, how bad your cat's litter box smells, ANYTHING!
3. Put your name and number on it;
4. Bring it down to the X-Press office either printed out or on a disk;
5. Put it in the submissions slot. SIMPLE!

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- For legal reasons, all submissions must contain the author's name and phone number. Author's names can be withheld upon request.
- All submissions are property of the X-Press.
- Submissions may be dropped off at the X-Press office (room 06 Main). Mail at your own risk. Submissions are processed more quickly if they are submitted on 3 1/4" or 5 1/4" disk. Disks may be picked up any time after Monday.
- The deadline for submissions is 4:00 p.m. Thursday and ads are due by noon on Thursday. Any late submissions will be printed in the following issue.
- The X-Press reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Submissions deemed to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous will not be printed.

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