

## Longsine

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credit card and leave a paper trail. Do this in a major city. Doing it at the Lincoln airport probably won't work. Carry more than \$1,000 in cash on your person. Carry two grand, just to be safe. Then, pay cash for a ticket to another major city, round trip, no overnight stay.

Then, when the Drug Enforcement Agency guys approach you, tell them it's none of their business why you paid in cash (it is your legal right, after all). Also tell them that it's none of their business why you're only going to be in Miami for a few hours. (It isn't any of their business; after all).

Then, after they confiscate your money and your cellular phone, just try to get it back. Apparently it's quite difficult.

Even more discouraging is the fact that few people know this happens. When told, most people don't believe it. After all, we were all taught in high school civics that in the United States a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Since 1984 we are innocent until proven guilty, except in forfeiture cases. Technically you are innocent until proven guilty, but your property, having no legal rights of its own, is arrested and held without bond indefinitely. You must prove its innocence — a difficult and expensive task, should you choose

to undertake it. Eventually your property is sold and the proceeds are distributed to law enforcement agencies.

In some cases, your property may actually be "guilty." Suppose you own an air freight service and someone ships some drugs in packages marked as flour. You may be innocent, but your property can be taken, as it was used in the commission of a drug-related offense.

The only answer that I have to those morally superior men and women who wrote, voted for, and now enforce the forfeiture laws comes from the Constitution of the United States of America:

4th Amendment 1791

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized.

5th Amendment 1791

No person . . . shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

**Gary Longsine is a terminal senior in economics and international affairs. He readily admits that casual experimentation with drugs is no excuse for not having graduated.**

# Overcoming addictions



Addiction has many faces. It is as much a part of human nature as eating and sleeping.

Webster's new lexicon vaguely describes addiction as "to have given oneself up to a practice or habit . . . and become unduly de-

pendent upon it." It could easily be referring to first-world energy consumption, extended credit, or power associated with political position and financial status.

Sometimes, the object of addiction is chocolate, diet soda or tobacco. Some practice bizarre toilette rituals. Some must eat in a designated pattern. Some prefer Marla Maples shoes.

We don't often assign our own behaviors to addiction. It's a condition we prefer to associate with drug use, thereby keeping it far-

— “  
*It is not, and has never been, the drug or the substance. It is the hollow empty space within that we must fill.*  
” —

removed from our neat, clean Christian living rooms.

A labyrinthine world lies within

See **FUNHOUSE** on 11

## Mindless pleasure

### Giving up the TV wasteland



Television is a dulling, time-consuming drug; an acceptance of boredom.

Television's visual coherence and simplicity of soundbites produces a trance-inducing, data-reducing organ of manipulation and mediocrity. A call for corporate environmental responsibility can be reduced to a series of well-done infomercials on recycling. A president's manipulation of a third-world country can be reduced to an infograph in USA Today.

Television perpetuates the economic and cultural importance of the feudalistic few whose own concerns have more to do with short-term profitability than cultural or personal growth.

First, our sensory antennas go up, our mind's processing units go down and we become the human receiver of a corporate quarterback. Then we begin to depend on the comfort of our daily dose of beta-wave zoning.

To zone is to prolong or accept boredom.

I failed as a human being when I got cable.

Recently I've been experiencing the lingeringly painful effects of

hellish withdrawal.

How will I tape "Ren & Stimpy"? Will I be lost in the middle of a conversation about a "Saturday Night Live" skit I missed? What if Joel and Maggie kiss again on "Northern Exposure"? Will I have to begin reading the paper? Which paper? Waaaa, I want my movie channels back.

But they're gone. All I'm left with is a television painted green with a "Kill Your Television" sticker on it, Fox Cable and the shoot-'em-up station 61. What happened to Much Music?

I am a visual information addict. I need constant fixes of sensory overload. Television leaves me irritated, like a glass of caffeine pills.

I used to see every movie that came to town for any reason at all, but I can't even do that anymore. I've moved to harder stuff, man. I've seen "The Rapture," "The Player" and "Barton Fink." I need more American meta-movies.

My VCR is connected precariously by sprawling open wires and I've already watched every episode of "Ren & Stimpy" 30 times. They're bedtime candy.

It's fun. It's hedonism in the face of economic failure and environmental destruction, but it'll take you down, man. I know. I've had many internal battles over whether I'd do something creative or watch

See **POPCULT** on 13



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