

CITIZEN 2-8-91

CHEERS AND JEERS



PROHIBITION BOREALIS: The Northwest Territories government has ordered its 120 drug and alcohol counsellors to totally abstain from alcohol if they want to keep their jobs. No doubt it is a proven fact that a cold beer on a summer evening, or a glass of wine at a wedding, will compromise the credibility of counsellors with people having drinking problems. Such an absurd and unenforceable demand insults the integrity of these professionals.



FROM HOGS TO SMOG IN FUTURES: Grain, pork bellies, pollution permits: they're all just commodities in the United States. The Chicago Board of Trade has organized a market to allow U.S. electric utilities to sell their unneeded permits to emit sulphur dioxide to other companies who have not yet cleaned up their act. Setting a market price on the right to pollute may be the best way to reach companies when their focus is only on the bottom line.



MORE GOLD FOR THE KING: While awaiting the next sighting, Elvis fans can take advantage of a fresh idea from a Toronto company, Legendary Coins, and the Royal Canadian Mint. They're teaming up to issue four commemorative Elvis Presley coins in silver, bronze and gold, including a giant 10-ounce silver coin with three likenesses.



NOT IN MY FRONT YARD: Business owners and residents in Winchester, 50 kilometres southeast of Ottawa, have succeeded in closing a youth centre because teens actually hung around outside. There were complaints of underage drinking, swearing, vandalism and sexually explicit acts, but police and centre organizers say the teens were not a problem. Even if they were, how is closing the centre going to solve anything?