

Alcoholism

Alcoholics not all down-and-out

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

"Bob, what did the doctor at the health center say about your drinking?"

"Oh, that quack said I was an alcoholic and that I needed to stop drinking. Boy, is he stupid."

"Why is he stupid, you do drink too much and you black out occasionally."

"I'm no alcoholic. Alcoholics are poor and live on skid row and they want to be drunk."

Bob is a college junior from a wealthy family and seems to have no problems, with the exception that he is an alcoholic and won't admit it.

Sixth in a series

In the previous exchange, Bob's girlfriend is deeply concerned about his acquired addiction to alcohol.

Unfortunately, Bob has the same feeling as a large number of Americans toward alcoholics and who they are.

Due to various forms of misinformation and the lack of information, a large percentage of the American public believes that the alcoholic is a street walker and lives on "skid row."

The facts are almost the opposite. Only five percent of America's alcoholics and problem drinkers are living under so-called "skid row" conditions. Additionally, over one half of America's alcoholics are employed.

Bob and other Americans have

many more fallacies associated with their use of alcohol.

Another misconception among the young adult drinker is the belief that alcoholism is only found in the old and middle-aged. The actual fact is that a higher percentage of the drinkers under 50 are heavy drinkers.

Few students realize that as many as one in eight Americans are alcoholics or have a serious drinking problem. Another 36 million are affected by a drinking relative or friend.

Bob also has some traits that are against him as far as the national alcoholism figures are concerned. First of all Bob is a male, statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) indicate that men are three times as likely to be 'heavy' drinkers than women.

Bob is also in the high risk area for male drinkers, that is, he is between 18 and 20 years old.

Beer is Bob's alcohol forte, another item against him. People

drinking beer have a higher rate of alcoholism than ones drinking other alcoholic beverages.

Now that we have heard who has the highest rates of problem drinkers, who has the lowest rates of alcohol problems?

Women, with all their pleas for equality, are still in the minority among the alcoholic population. The oldsters are also in the minority among this sample of the American people.

Residents of the south have also acquired a lower proportion of al-

coholics in its drinking population. Add to this a rural location, Jewish religion and postgraduate education and you have a very small chance at being an alcoholic according to the statistics.

What happens if you're not a female rural Jew with a Ph.D. and living on social security? Don't give up hope. You can still keep from being an alcoholic by not repeatedly drinking in excess and being in constant awareness of your drinking habits.

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"When Patty got leukemia six years ago, we worried she wasn't going to live."

Now we're worried she's living too much."

Mrs. Dorine Taranowicz, Trenton, N.J.



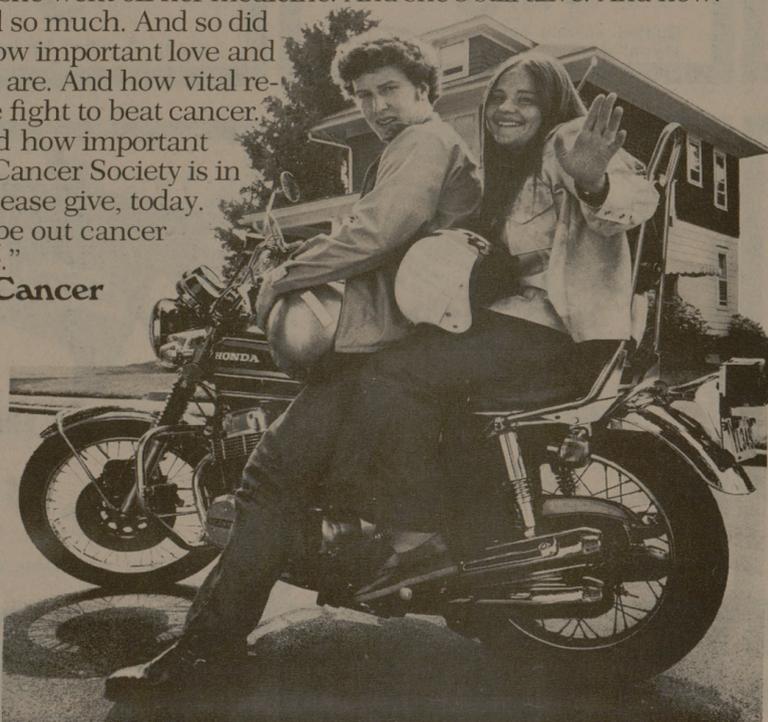
"Dancing, dating, partying, swimming, tennis, skiing, plus holding down a full-time job in the Defense Department and doing volunteer work in the hospital. That's Patty and it's enough to make a mother worry.

"But I'm glad. Because when Patty was seventeen she got leukemia. And we didn't even know if she'd live a year.

"For four years they treated her with a combination of powerful drugs. Two years ago she went off her medicine. And she's still alive. And how!

"We learned so much. And so did Patty. About how important love and understanding are. And how vital research is in the fight to beat cancer. And we learned how important the American Cancer Society is in that fight. So please give, today. We want to wipe out cancer in your lifetime."

American Cancer Society



Photography by Calior/Resnick

This space contributed by the publisher as a public service.

Rock notes

Led Zeppelin puts it all together

By JOHN VANORE

I have only two regrets about doing a write-up on Led Zeppelin's "Physical Graffiti." First, it's a double, and I have misgivings about reviewing such a high percentage of two-record sets.

Second, I liked the album, and I'm afraid that, after so many positive reviews, anyone who reads Rock Notes regularly will get the impression that I'm a candy-assed music critic. Well, I'll just save the snide remarks for next week. This time I'll heap the justly deserved praises on Led Zep.

With the release of "Physical Graffiti," I believe that the Zep have reached a point where the labors of all their earlier albums have culminated. Their first three releases alienated critics for a number of reasons — most important, they were labelled very early in their career as high-decibel noise, i.e., all crunch with no punch.

Second, they didn't take a path that critics could easily follow or understand. The styles of those three albums differed so radically from one another that they were condemned for being inconsistent. Perhaps it can now be seen that what was thought to be inconsistency is really musical versatility. They had a distinct ability for playing hard, switching over momentarily to one or two acoustic numbers, and then reverting back to hard sounds.

Maybe the thirty-five to forty minutes on a single album weren't enough to get the point across in depth. Well, here they have four sides of vinyl to show critics and listeners alike that they have a uni-

que style and undisputed talent. The songs on "Graffiti" are definitely in the Led Zeppelin style, occasionally a sharp ear can pick up traces of "The Immigrant Song" or "Misty Mountain Hop." Tunes with the intensity, or crunch, of "Whole Lotta Love" are absent on this set, and, no matter how hard they tried, I doubt if Page and Plant could ever repeat the immensely popular and deeply significant "Stairway to Heaven." In an interview with Rolling Stone, lead guitarist, Jimmy Page went so far as to admit this fact.

But the album is still very important in that it basically sums up Led Zeppelin's musical career since 1968. The listener is treated to a pleasing blend of blues, hard rock, and acoustics whose roots go back to "Dazed and Confused" from their first album.

But there has to be a negative side to everything, and the minor drawback on this album might be labelled 'overindulgence.' Two really fine songs, "In My Time of Dying," with its echoing slide guitar, and "Kashmir," which sounds like something out of the Near East, both drag on into the realm of boredom. It's really a shame.

All the pros and cons aside, and despite whatever the critics may say, Led Zeppelin, through the release of "Physical Graffiti," without a doubt emerges as a band to be reckoned with.

Many thanks to Mike at Budget Records and Tapes for supplying the copy of the record used here.

When I started writing Rock Notes, I figured it would be oriented almost entirely towards record reviews. But the responses I have received from readers indicate that the scope of the column must go far beyond that.

As stated in a letter in Listen Up on March 28, there is a definite need for a radio show with a hard rock format, and we must make a personal, conscious effort to bring really outstanding performers to the TAMU campus. Will Anderson, the assistant editor, and I have joined forces to work towards these ends. The first of these goals will be approached by a three-hour show

on Student Radio, 107.5 FM, every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. I'm running it and I plan to play about 95 percent music, keeping talk to the bare minimum of the "that was ... this is ..." level. Listen in, then call or write me care of the Batt, for suggestions or offers to help. One word of caution — Student Radio is broadcast only over Midwest Video

Cable. Forewarned is forearmed. Also, if anyone is interested in working on an ad-hoc committee to research the possibilities of bringing certain bands to the campus, get in touch with me. We'll definitely need all the help we can get to contact managers and promoters, and then to convince Town Hall of the many options available.

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