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Illegal Drugs: What are the Political Affects on Business?

By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

Moral outrage has proved a bad basis for policy on illegal drugs. It may be time for governments to go back to first principles.

If only it were legitimate, there would be much to admire about the drug industry. It is, to start with, highly profitable. It produces goods for a small fraction of the price its customers are willing to pay. It has skillfully taken advantage of globalization, deftly responding to changing markets and transport routes. It is global but dispersed, built upon a high level of trust, and markets its wares to the young with no spending on conventional advertising. It brings rewards to some of the world's poorer countries, and employs many of the rich world's minorities and unskilled.

However, it is an odd business. Its products, simple agricultural extracts and chemical compounds, sell for astonishing prices. A kilo of heroin, 40% pure, sells (in units of less than 100 milligrams) for up to \$290,000 on the streets of the United States - enough to buy a Rolls-Royce. These prices directly reflect the ferocious efforts by the rich countries to suppress drugs. The effect is to drive a massive wedge between import and retail prices. The import prices of both heroin and cocaine are about 10-15% of retail prices in rich countries. In poor countries, the ratio may be more like 25%. Add a little more for seizures, valued at import prices, and the grand total is probably about \$20 billion. That would put the industry in the same league as Coca-Cola's world revenues.

Taken at retail prices, it is almost certainly the world's largest illicit market, although probably smaller than the widely quoted estimate by the United

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Executive Trivia Question...

What was the original name of Xerox?

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(From Page 1)

Nations Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention of \$400 billion, which would put it ahead of the global petroleum industry. Every number about the production, consumption and price of drugs involves much guesswork. But global retail sales are probably around \$150 billion, about half the sales of the (legitimate) world pharmaceutical industry and in the same league as consumer spending on tobacco (\$204 billion) and alcohol (\$252 billion).

The official estimate of retail drug sales in the United States is \$60 billion, making America easily the world's most valuable market. European sales are at most the same again, probably less. Pakistan, Thailand, Iran and China account for most of the world's heroin consumption, but prices are low, and so sales in total are probably worth no more than \$10 billion. Add in Australia and Canada; add, too, Eastern Europe and Russia, where sales are growing fast, but probably still make up less than 10% of the world's total. Exclude European marijuana, much of which is domestically produced.

It may seem distasteful to think of drugs as a business, responding to normal economic signals. To do so, however, is not to deny the fact that the drug trade rewards some of the world's nastiest people and most disagreeable countries. Nor is it to underestimate the harm that misuse of drugs can do to the health of individuals, or the moral fury that drug-taking can arouse. For many people, indeed, the debate is a moral one, akin to debates about allowing divorce, say, or abortion. But moral outrage has turned out to be a poor basis for policy.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the United States. Here is

the world's most expensive drug policy, absorbing \$35 billion - 40 billion a year of taxpayers' cash. It has eroded civil liberties, locked up unprecedented numbers of young blacks and Hispanics, and corroded foreign policy. America's illegal drug policy is a dismal re-run of its attempt to prohibit the sale of alcohol in 1920 -33. That experiment--not copied in any other big country - inflated alcohol prices, promoted bootleg suppliers, encouraged the spread of guns and crime, increased hard-liquor drinking and corrupted a quarter of the federal enforcement agents, all within a decade. Half a century from now, America's current drug policies may seem just as perverse as Prohibition.

For the moment, though, even having an honest debate about the policy is extremely difficult. Official publications are full of patently false claims. A recent report on the National Drug Control Strategy announced: "National anti-drug policy is working." In evidence, it cited a further rise in the budget for drugs control; a decline in cocaine production in Peru and Bolivia (no mention of Colombia); and the fact that the proportion of 12th-grade youngsters who have used marijuana in the past month appears to have leveled off at around 25%. If these demonstrate success, what can failure be like?

Nearer the truth is the picture portrayed in "Traffic", a recent film that vividly demonstrated the futility of fighting supply and ignoring demand. In its most telling scene, the film's drug czar, played by Michael Douglas, asks his staff to think creatively about new ideas for tackling the problem. An embarrassed silence ensues.

This article will concentrate largely (but not exclusively) on the

American market, partly because it is the biggest. Americans probably consume more drugs per head, especially cocaine and amphetamines, than most other countries. In addition, the effects of America's misdirected policies spill across the world. Other rich countries that try to change their policies meet fierce American resistance; poor countries that ship drugs come (as Latin American experience shows) under huge pressure to prevent the trade, whatever the cost to civil liberties or the environment.

Moreover, America's experience demonstrates the awkward reality that there is little connection between the severity of a drug policy on the one hand and prevalence of use on the other. Almost a third of Americans over 12 years old admit to having tried drugs at some point, almost one in ten (26.2m) in the past year. Drugs continue to pour into the country, prices have fallen and purity has risen. Cocaine costs half of what it did in the early 1980s and heroin sells for three-fifths of its price a decade ago. Greater purity means that heroin does not have to be injected to produce a high, but can be smoked or sniffed.

However, American experience also suggests that the pattern of drug consumption is altering, arguably for the better. Casual use seems to have fallen; heavy use has stabilized. More American teenagers are using cannabis (which, strictly speaking, includes not just the herb - marijuana - but the resin), but the number of youngsters experimenting with cocaine or heroin has stayed fairly steady. The American heroin epidemic peaked around 1973, since then the number of new addicts has dropped back to the levels of the mid-1960s. The average age of heroin addicts is rising in many

countries - indeed, the Dutch have just opened the first home for elderly junkies in Rotterdam. America's hideous crack epidemic has also long passed, and cocaine use has retreated from its 1970s peak. And a recent study shows that the likelihood of proceeding from cannabis to harder drugs such as cocaine or heroin has fallen consistently for a decade. The total population of drug users has been pretty stable since the late 1980s.

Heavy users seem to be using more drugs, and to be injuring and killing themselves more often. As with cigarette-smoking, drug-taking is increasingly concentrated among the poor. And in some rich countries other than America, such as Britain, the number of both casual and heavy users of most drugs is still rising. In the poorer countries and in Central and Eastern Europe too, drug markets are flourishing. India and China are probably the fastest-growing large markets for heroin.

But in the rich countries, the drugs that increasingly attract young users are those that are typically taken sporadically, not continuously: cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines and cocaine. In that sense, they are more like alcohol than tobacco: users may binge one or two nights a week or indulge every so often with friends, but most do not crave a dose every day, year in, year out, as smokers generally do. That does not mean that these drugs are harmless, but it should raise questions about whether current policies are still appropriate.

Today's policies took shape mainly in the mid-1980s, when an epidemic of crack cocaine use proved a perfect issue around which President Ronald Reagan could rally "middle America". His vice-president, George Bush, called for a "real war on drugs",

which caught the mood of the time: opinion polls showed that drugs were at the top of people's lists of worries. By the early 1990s the crack scare had faded, but a series of increasingly ferocious laws, passed in the second half of the 1980s, set the framework within which Mr. Bush's war on drugs is still waged today.

This framework is not immutable, although formidable vested interests - including the police and prison officers - now back tough drugs laws. Attitudes toward policy change over time and drug policies in many countries are changing with them. Governments are gradually putting more emphasis on treatment rather than punishment. Last autumn, in a referendum, California voted to send first- and second-time drug offenders for treatment rather than to prison. And the law on possessing cannabis is being relaxed, even in parts of the United States, where several states now permit the possession of small amounts of it for medical use.

In Europe and Australia, governments have relaxed the enforcement of laws on possessing "soft" drugs. In Switzerland, farmers who grow cannabis for commercial sale within the country will be protected from prosecution if a new government proposal goes through. In Britain, *Michael Portillo*, a top opposition politician, advocates legalization. But it is hard for an individual country to set its own course without becoming a net exporter, as the experience of Europe's more liberal countries shows. Ultimately, the policies of the world's biggest drug importer will limit the freedom of others to act.

At the heart of the debate on drugs lies a moral question: what duty does the state have to protect individual citizens from harming

themselves? A libertarian approach taken by John Stuart Mill, in his famous essay "On Liberty" argued that:

"The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant. He cannot rightfully be compelled to do or forbear because it will be better for him to do so, because it will make him happier, because, in the opinions of others, to do so would be wise, or even right. These are good reasons for remonstrating with him, or reasoning with him, or persuading him, or entreating him, but not for compelling him, or visiting him with any evil in case he do otherwise. Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign."

This article tempers his liberalism with pragmatism. Mill was not running for election. Attitudes towards drug-taking may be changing, but it will be a long time before most voters are comfortable with a policy that involves only remonstrating and reason. People fret about protecting youngsters, a group that Mill himself accepted might need special protection. They fret, too, that drug-takers may not be truly "sovereign" if they become addicted. And some aspects of drug-taking do indeed harm others. So a first priority is to look for measures that reduce the harm drugs do, both to users and to society at large.

Dr. Ollerman, the editor of *Innovative Times*, wrote his doctoral dissertation on the impact of group psychotherapy on international drug smugglers incarcerated in the U.S. prison system.

The Idea Incubator

by Frank Helton

How can we keep radioactive metals cool?

Scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory may have a safer way to sequester the 40-plus tons of surplus plutonium now sitting in U.S. storehouses. This radioactive metal is notoriously hazardous: Plutonium powder, for example, ignites on contact with air and dissolves in water. Combining plutonium with boron produces a substance that is more stable and less fissionable, but it requires melting them together at 3,000° C, grinding them into powder, and then repeating the process again and again. This is far too inefficient to deal with plutonium by the ton.

Chemists **Kent D. Abney** and **Anthony J. Lupinetti** have created a boride compound from radioactive materials without the grinding and at a relatively cool 400° C to 800° C. Their secret: Before blending the boron and uranium, which is safer to handle but behaves like plutonium, they produced compounds that combine readily. For example, uranium tetrachloride and magnesium diboride yield uranium boride plus magnesium chloride, which washes away easily. The chemists are now testing the process with plutonium.

How can cramped airplanes make you sick?

Refer to an airliner as a sardine can and some consumer advocates will consider that an insult - to sardines.

Seats are too closely packed, not just for comfort, but for safety. Last October a 28-year-old British woman collapsed in Heathrow Airport after a flight from Australia and died from deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a form of blood clotting. And that's just part of the problem. Health officials warn that the air you breathe inside the typical cabin is often not fit for human consumption. Here's what you need to know about sky sickness:

Soon after the young woman's DVT death last fall, a hospital near Heathrow revealed that 30 patients had died there within a three-year period from travel related DVT. And the bad news kept coming as other countries weighed in with similar horror stories.

But don't expect any quick cabin design fixes to be mandated by the government. When it comes to U.S. laws and international treaties, the inside of the cabin is one of the least regulated places in America or the world. The layout of the cabin is regulated to some extent but it's up to individual airlines to decide how their seats are designed and how closely spaced they are.

Blood clotting can usually be prevented by standing up and walking around the cabin every so often. It's also good to stretch your calf muscles every few minutes. And because aspirin thins the blood, taking a half an aspirin two days before a flight, then a whole aspirin on the day of the trip, may reduce clotting danger.

Ever notice you feel a little

lethargic on long flights? Could be you're inhaling less than ideal oxygen levels. The standard for fresh air is a fuzzy FAA directive that says cabins must be "suitably ventilated." The FAA's standard for cabin pressure equivalent of an altitude of 8,000 feet - about a mile and a half above sea level - at which point passengers are breathing 25 percent less oxygen than at sea level. That can lead to light-headedness and nausea. This baseline oxygen content was set in the 1950s and relied on data collected about the performance of young military pilots.

Why are airlines stingy with fresh air? Because it's expensive. At high altitudes, special air packs are needed to pressurize the thin outside air, then pump it to the cabin. These packs burn valuable fuel, so to boost fuel efficiency airplanes often use 50% recycled air.

With a doctor's note you can rent oxygen bottles from the airline. Call the airline's reservation line for details. Specific charges vary among airlines, but the oxygen usually runs about \$75 per flight.

Spraying your nasal passages with water from a mister helps keep them moist - and disease resistant - in dry cabin air.

No major legislation is pending on any of these issues, but perhaps some change is on the way. The results of a one-year National Academy of Sciences study of commercial aircraft air quality are expected this fall. And the FAA is doing a more comprehensive study that should wrap up in 2003.

If you want to join the crusade

for healthier skies, contact Aviation Consumer Action Project, 529 14th St. N.W., Suite 1265, Washington DC. 20045 www.acap1971.org

How can we improve our body's first line of defense against cancer?

Researchers have known for some time that certain drugs can rouse the immune system to fight off cancer. But there has never been proof that the immune system can actually prevent tumors from forming in the first place - until now.

A team of scientists from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York have some of the strongest evidence to date that the body's natural defenses actually guard against the disease.

To elucidate the role of the immune system, the researchers studied what happened when normal and immuno-compromised mice were injected with huge doses of a chemical carcinogen called MCA. Up to 72% of the immuno-deficient mice rapidly developed cancers. In contrast, only 19% of the normal mice developed tumors. Based on the data, the researchers concluded that lymphocytes and other components of the immune system must work together to kill off malignant cells.

By transplanting tumor cells from one mouse to another, they discovered that the immune system filters out certain types of

tumor cells. It then goes on to alter other cells based on what it has learned - a process known as immuno-editing.

How can compressed air help our utility bills?

Forecasters from New York to California grimly predict that as fuel demand outpaces supply, summer's soaring temperatures will trigger costly blackouts and sharp increases in utility rates. One futuristic solution, weirdly enough, may literally be a lot of hot air.

Houston-based CAES Development Co. has teamed up with researchers from Sandia National Laboratories to design a power plant that generates cheap electricity from compressed air. The 2,700-megawatt facility, which is expected to begin operations in 2003, will eventually generate enough power to light up about 700,000 homes. It will be built in an abandoned limestone mine in Norton, Ohio, about 35 miles south of Cleveland.

To generate its inexpensive power, the CAES plant will run compressors nightly and on weekends, when electricity is relatively cheap. Then, in times of peak demand - weekdays between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. - air will be released from the 540-acre mine and heated, at a small incremental cost. The hot air would then be forced through a series of turbines to generate power that can be sold back to the utility grid. Construction of the new plant will commence in the fall.

How can we make bionic lungs?

The simple act of breathing is nearly impossible for roughly 750,000 Americans suffering from severe respiratory ailments such as emphysema and cystic fibrosis. Many patients could be helped by an artificial set of lungs powerful enough to circulate oxygen to the body's tissues while expelling carbon dioxide. However, it has proved extremely difficult to design such a device. Now, **Dr. Brack G. Hattler**, a surgeon at the University of Pittsburgh, says that he has developed an implantable apparatus that works in cows. Human testing should begin later this year in Europe.

Hattler's device involves a simple catheter to which about a thousand tiny fiber membranes have been attached. A vacuum outside the patient's body pumps pure oxygen into the catheter. When the oxygen reaches the fibers, it is forced out into the bloodstream by a balloon. Carbon dioxide, meanwhile, is absorbed and cleared by the fibers' semi-permeable membranes.

Because human lungs are densely packed with small air sacs, the total surface area of a pair of lungs is roughly the size of a tennis court. Hattler's device has about the same surface area as a page of this newsletter. Nonetheless, tests on animals indicate that the machine can handle about 50% of a normal lung's function - good enough to ease the burden on a patient's damaged lungs, giving them a chance to heal.

From the Institute for Collaborative Alliances

By Scott Romeo

GLOBAL UPDATE

By Scott Romeo

Reported deal value has fallen by more than 45 percent and overall activity has slowed by 15 percent for the year-to-date 2001, compared to the same time period in 2000. Among deals that have disclosed a price, the largest percentage slowdown has occurred among deals in the \$250.0 million to \$499.9 million range; the smallest percentage drop has occurred among deals under \$10 million.

Sales of private companies have declined steadily in 2001. Sales slowed by about 27 percent in the first seven months of 2001 compared to the first seven months of last year. At the current rate, the number of deals for private targets will total about 4,534 for 2001, 19 percent lower than the 5,593 private company deals announced in 2000.

Sale of public companies have risen this year, but the prices being paid for those companies have dropped. There have been 473 announced acquisitions of public

companies so far this year compared to 450 for the same period in 2000, but the total base equity disclosed on those transactions was \$226.6 billion compared \$486.1 billion.

Dealmakers have cancelled more deals this year than they did during the same time period last year. So far in 2001, dealmakers have cancelled 208 transactions versus 164 during the first seven months of 2000. The disclosed deal value lost through cancellation has reached \$75.7 billion, for YTD 2001 compared to \$39.6 billion for YTD 2000.

The Insurance industry leads the list of industries whose M&A activity has increased for the year-to-date 2001 versus the same period in 2000; the Computer Software Supplies & Services leads the list of industries whose M&A activity has declined. The Banking & Finance industry tops the list of industries whose reported deal value has increased for the year-to-date 2001 versus the same period in 2000; the Leisure and Entertainment industry leads the list of industries

whose reported deal value has declined.

Canadian companies were the top international buyers of U.S. companies in July with 33 acquisitions. English companies placed second on the list with 16 announced deals. For the past year, Canadian companies have been the top buyers of U.S. firms with 290 announced transactions.

Putting together blockbuster deals is proving much more difficult for dealmakers in 2001. So far, only 81 mega-deal announcements (or deals worth more than \$1 billion) have been made in 2001 compared to 125 for the same time period last year. Reported deal value for those mega-mergers has slipped to \$296.5 billion from the \$566.4 billion reported during the first seven months of 2000.

In a sign of the changing times, California now finds itself featured among the list of U.S. states that have more sellers than buyers. That trend is a reverse of the late 90s and 2000, where there were far more buyers than sellers in the Golden State.

How To Make Strategic Alliances Work

From. Tom E. Cain
www.frontstep.com

New research shows that among today's numerous strategic alliances, the most successful are in companies with a department specifically assigned to overseeing alliances. Management professors *Jeffrey H. Dyer*, *Prashant Kale* and *Harbir Singh* came to that conclusion after conducting an in-depth study of 200 corporations and their 1,572 alliances.

The number of strategic alliances has increased dramatically over the past decade, with more than 20,000 reported during the last two years alone. On average, the top 500 global companies each participate in 60 major strategic alliances. Fraught with risk, almost half fail. The authors set out to discover why some companies manage alliances effectively when others fail.

They found that organizations such as Hewlett-Packard, Oracle, Eli Lilly & Co. and Parke Davis, which

excel at generating value from alliances, have a dedicated strategic-alliance function. Companies with a dedicated function were better at solving problems related to the four key alliance-management elements - knowledge management, external visibility, internal coordination and accountability.

A dedicated function acts as a focal point for learning and for leveraging feedback from prior and ongoing alliances. It systematically establishes processes to articulate, document, codify and share alliance know-how.

An additional benefit of creating an alliance function was that it compelled companies to create metrics for evaluating the performance of all their alliances. And regular evaluations alerted senior managers to intervene when a particular alliance was struggling.

Many companies with dedicated alliance functions report codifying alliance-management knowledge. They create guidelines to help with

specific aspects of the alliance life cycle, such as partner selection or alliance negotiation. Some companies establish training programs, both formal ones and informal ones - such as round tables that let managers of various alliances share their experience.

When done properly, dedicated alliance functions offer internal legitimacy to alliances, assist in setting strategic priorities and draw on resources across the company. That is why, the authors advise, the function cannot be buried within a particular division or be relegated to low-level support within business development.

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Kids Ask the Hardest Questions

by Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

How important is the plankton in the sea?

Roughly a third of all carbon-dioxide emissions eventually get soaked up by tiny floating plants in the oceans. For these plants - especially plankton - life is very short. Those that aren't eaten by fish die within a day or so, sinking to the bottom and burying their carbon more or less permanently at sea.

However, many details of this process are poorly understood. That makes it tough to create accurate computer models for predicting how changes in ocean conditions and CO2 emissions may affect global climate. To fill in the gaps, researcher **Russ E. Davis** at Scripps Institution of Oceanography designed four-foot-long robot submersibles to keep tabs on the underwater carbon cycle.

On Apr. 10, the first two carbon snoops were launched in the north Pacific. Twice a day, they dive to 3,280 feet and drift with the currents. When they pop back to the surface at dawn and dusk, they relay their collected data via satellite to shore. As more seabots are deployed, scientists should get a clearer picture of the role plankton play in regulating the Earth's atmosphere.

Where have all the payphones gone?

Bad news for cell phone holdouts trying to rely on the nation's pay phones: They're rapidly becoming an endangered species. Some 15% of U.S. pay phones have

disappeared in the last few years, bringing the ratio of phone-per-person to 1:130 down from 1:108. Thousands more will be zapped this year: 16,500 by Verizon and Sprint alone. And BellSouth is abandoning the pay phone biz - leaving independents to take over or just taking out its 420,000 phones altogether.

The reason? Pay phones don't pay off. Calls are down 23% since 1998, the result of competition from cell phones. And revenues are expected to fall 2.4% this year - compounding declines of 5.3% last year and 6.4% the year before. While a phone generates \$150 to \$200 a month, repairs can cost up to \$800.

But most damaging are long-distance resellers (go-betweens often beginning with 10-10). Some don't reimburse pay-phone operators for making the connections. That can eat up half of revenues. On Apr. 5, The Federal Communications Commission clarified who pays whom.

It's the poor and isolated who are most affected by pay phone decline. Soon there will be no way for many poor people to call their employers, doctors, children's schools. Unless somebody starts handing out cell phones that cost 35¢.

How do they know when a satellite is running out of fuel?

Communications satellites must use rocket fuel to maintain the positions required to transmit phone signals from outer space. To sidestep this problem, telecom companies rou-

tinely replace the satellites before they run out of fuel. But switching them off too soon can cost millions of dollars worth of research.

Scientists at Purdue University and Lockheed Martin's Space Systems Company are using a computer program initially designed to understand soap-bubble formation to keep satellites flying up to a year longer. The program gauges fuel levels more accurately than existing bookkeeping methods, which estimates consumption by tracking the duration of all rocket firings in orbit. The new software instead relies on temperature data.

Because rocket fuel freezes in outer space, all satellites are equipped with small heaters and sensors that monitor fuel temperature. Empty areas heat up faster, so temperature information provides a three-dimensional picture of where fuel is located inside the satellite's tank. Based on that image, it is possible to calculate how much fuel is left.

How can water kill bacteria?

Bioscientists at Scotland's University of Strathclyde have developed a highly efficient, environmentally friendly way to kill bacteria on foods and kitchen surfaces. Their secret? Water. In part by zapping it with bursts of high-voltage electricity, they create short-lived chemical compounds that are extremely lethal to bugs. The specific techniques are proprietary, but team leader **John G. Anderson** claims that washing a surface with the treated water gets rid of 99.99999% of E. coli and other nasty bacteria.

Animal Whys?

by Jocelyn Little

• Pigeons at Harvard were taught to look at color slides and indicate whether there were any humans in the frame. The birds quickly became better at it than their human teachers, according to Professor Robert Herrnstein, who also taught the pigeons to indicate if the photos included trees, bodies of water, or other objects.

• Many parrots can talk, but Alex, the African Grey, knows what the words mean. He lives with Irene Pepperberg, and when the bird got sick a few years ago, she had to leave him at the vet's office overnight. As she was leaving, Alex called out: "Come here. I love you. I'm sorry. Wanna go back."

• Professor Otto Koehler of the University of Freiburg, in reports published between 1940 and 1953, demonstrated that pigeons can count to five. Parrots and jackdaws can count to six, and ravens, Amazon parrots, Grey parrots, and squirrels can count to the number seven.

• Elizabeth Mann Borgese also found reports that in Thailand some banks employ monkeys. They are more reliable than humans in detecting counterfeit money. "Bank apes," trained for at least two years, are worth \$5,000. She also states that three neatly dressed chimps work in a furniture factory in Houston.

Swedish Guide to Computer Lingo

From: Bob Ericson

Vell, here ve go den.

LOG ON: making the vood stove hotter

LOG OFF: don't add vood

MONITOR: keep an eye on da vood stove

MEGAHERTZ: when a big log drops on your foot in da morning. Uffda.

FLOPPY DISK: vhat you get from carrying too much vood

RAM: da hydraulic ting dat makes da voodsplitter vork

DRIVE: getting home during most of da winter

PROMPT: vhat ya vish da mail vas during da snow season

ENTER: come on in. Coffee?

WINDOWS: vhat ya shut when it gets 10 below

SCREEN: vhat is a must during black fly season

CHIP: vhat ya munch on during Vikings games

MICROCHIP: vhat's left in da bag vhen da chips are gone

MODEM: vhat ya did to da hay fields last Yuly

DOT MATRIX: Einar Matrix's vife Dorthey

LAPTOP: vhere da grandkids sit

KEYBOARD: vhere ya suppose to put da keys so da Missus can find em

SOFTWARE: da plastic picnic utensils, ya?

MOUSE: vhat leafs dem little droppings in da cupboard

MAINFRAME: da part of da sauna that hols up da roof

PORT: vhere da commercial fishin boats dock. Also Dulut.

RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: vhen ya can't remember how much ya spent on the new deer rifle vhen da wife asks about it.

Did you ever wonder...

From R. Attwood

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why is it that to stop Windows 98, you have to click on "Start"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of a drive-up ATM?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Thought to Ponder...

"Life is like a roller coaster. Try to eat a light lunch."

David A. Schmaltz

Executive Trivia Answer...

The Haloid Corporation.