

## **Don't blame society, blame the criminals in home invasion case**

To the editor:

I strongly disagree with Chris Powell, in his column "Was Contraband Law Worth Petit Girls' Lives?" published Thursday, Dec. 9. Mr. Powell states that the fact that drugs are illegal drove Mr. Hayes and Komisarjevsky to kill three people, and that by legalizing drugs, these three women would be alive today.

That is not true. Whatever their motive, these two individuals felt they could take what they want from others. That is why these women are dead: the behavior, the actions, of Hayes & Komisarjevsky, not their motives.

If drugs were legal, Hayes, Komisarjevsky and every other addict will still need funds to purchase drugs.

Unless Mr. Powell proposes that drugs should be supplied free of charge, addicts will still need money.

There are people who believe that rules of civilized behavior don't apply to them. Hayes and Komisarjevsky are two of them. If it wasn't drugs, it would be a car, or a music player, or something else they wanted.

Individuals like Hayes and Komisarjevsky need to be removed from society, because they don't want to interact in a civilized manner. They are brutes, bullies, and sub-human. They've never learned, or, they've rejected civilized behavior, and society has the right to eject them.

I could also make a case that permissive upbringing, where parents give their children whatever they want, is, at least, partially to blame for Hayes and Komisarjevsky and their behavior.

Children must be taught that there is acceptable behavior, and there is unacceptable behavior, and that each individual is responsible for his own behavior. Children who never hear the word "No"; who are not corrected for behavior that is harmful to others, grow up to become sociopaths like Hayes and Komisarjevsky.

In his convoluted way, Mr. Powell admits that drugs are addictive, and cause people to do things that they otherwise would not.

I can think of no better argument for keeping drugs illegal: They alter behavior. No other argument is needed.

Don't blame the law or society or repressive attitudes for this. Blame the individuals responsible for this horrible crime, the two individuals who committed the crime: Hayes and Komisarjevsky.

*Ken McClellan*