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# Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs May 1972

School of Pharmacy

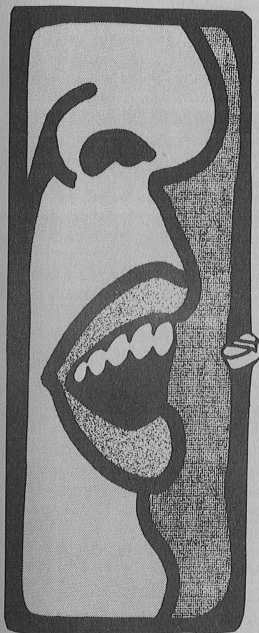
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Pacific

Information

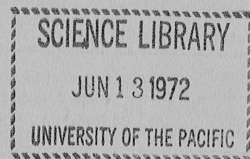
Service

on

Street-Drugs

Sponsored by:

Beta Omega Chapter  
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Bulletin No. 5  
May, 1972

Some Names - Addresses - Phone Numbers

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Hollywood, California 90028            &Hot Line  
24 hours

Director: Victor Pawlak

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Straight Drug Talk (S.D.T.)            Phone:           (209) 478-2797  
Student Chapter, American Pharmaceutical Association  
School of Pharmacy, University of the Pacific  
Stockton, California 95204

Director: Arthur Whitney

The students will go into schools and meet with groups of students to discuss the various aspects of the non-medical (and medical) use of drugs.

"THE STREET-DRUG RIPOFF"

The condition of the street-market for illicit psychedelic drugs would suggest that the motto of the "friendly neighborhood dealer" is caveat emptor, let the buyer beware. At the present time, there are sufficient data available from various street-drug monitoring programs to substantiate this allegation. Some results of our program and a summary of the findings of other programs are given in the following writings.

MESCALINE - Thirty-five samples of alleged mescaline were submitted for verification or identification. In the majority of cases the material was a powder in gelatin capsules or wrapped in paper or foil. A frequently encountered material (9 samples) was a brown powder sold as "Chocolate Mescaline". Some of the capsules were marked with the manufacturer's code but the contents of these capsules did not correspond either in appearance or chromatographically with the contents of known capsules. One sample was a blue compressed tablet, known as "Blue Mescaline", and the only other solid dosage form was a purple tablet triturate.

Twenty-seven of the samples contained LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) only. The amount of LSD in each sample varied from approximately 20 mcg. to 500 mcg. The quantity of LSD in a sample was estimated by comparing spot size and intensity of color reaction with PDAB reagent (13) of the unknown material with a standard LSD solution (0.5 mg./ml.). One sample was identified as tetracycline and seven of the samples did not contain any of the compounds that were included in the screen. Mescaline was NOT detected in any of the thirty-five samples.

LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD) - Twenty-two samples of alleged LSD were screened. The dosage forms were varied, 10 tablet triturates of different colors, 4 powders wrapped in foil, 5 gelatin capsules, 3 compressed tablets of different shapes and sizes, and one piece of gelatin known as "Window Pane Acid". Eighteen of these samples contained various concentrations of LSD only. The amount of LSD in a sample was estimated to range from a low of 20 mcg. to a high of 500 mcg. per dose. One sample, an orange powder known as "Moon Dust" contained both LSD and PCP (phencyclidine). One capsule was identified as the antibiotic clindamycin hydrochloride (Cleocin HCl) and one orange colored compressed tablet was not identified.

The tablet triturates usually contained the greatest amounts of LSD, estimated to contain from 200 mcg. to 500 mcg. The three samples that contained the largest amounts of LSD were also the

three samples that were alleged to contain strychnine (10). Strychnine was NOT detected in any of the LSD samples investigated.

PSILOCYBIN (PSI) - Two samples that had been purchased as psilocybin were investigated. One sample, a white powder in a clear gelatin capsule, had LSD only as the active compound, the other PSI sample was a brown powder ("organic psilocybin") in a clear gelatin capsule and both LSD and PCP were extracted from this material. The similarity of these two samples to some alleged mescaline containing capsules would suggest that the same materials were being offered as both psilocybin and mescaline.

AMPHETAMINE (AMP) - Fifteen samples of compressed tablets, all alleged amphetamines, were screened. In fourteen of these samples amphetamine was the only compound detected and the contents of one tablet was not determined. Twelve amphetamine samples, due to the physical characteristics and tablet weight (46-50 mg.) appeared to be from the same source, another sample was similar in appearance to these tablets but was approximately twice the weight (96 mg.). One sample was readily identified as Obedrin (The S. E. Massengill Company).

MARIHUANA (Cannabis sativa) - Six samples of alleged marihuana were submitted for identification and evaluation. In each case the material was identified as C. sativa. Two of the samples had been sent for screening because there was some suspicion that the plant material had been treated with an additional substance

---- the persons involved had become panic stricken after smoking some of the material. Compounds other than the cannabinoids were NOT detected. The thin-layer chromatographic data indicated that these two samples contained relatively large amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

HASHISH - Six samples of amorphous material, designated as hashish, were submitted for identification. In five cases the material was identified as having been derived from C. sativa, the sixth sample was not identified. The quality of the genuine hashish samples varied considerably. The relative amounts of THC would indicate that one sample was rather potent and the other four samples varied from rather weak to moderate in THC content.

TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC) - Five samples of alleged THC were evaluated. Three of these samples had produced an undesirable state in the user after ingestion. In each case the active ingredient was identified as phencyclidine (PCP). The fourth sample, white crystalline material, also contained PCP as the active ingredient. The fifth sample was a black and green capsule with characteristic markings of a chlordiazepoxide hydrochloride (Librium - 10 mg.) capsule. The TLC derived characteristics were identical to those of a known dosage form. Neither tetrahydrocannabinol nor any of

the cannabinoids were detected in these samples.

"SUPER WEED" - Two samples of a bright green plant material were submitted for evaluation. This material was said to be three times as potent as the best marihuana. The plant material was identified as Petroselinum crispum (parsley) and it had been treated with PCP.

BARBITURATES - Ten samples of alleged barbiturates were submitted for screening. Two samples were designated as pentobarbital and eight were alleged to be secobarbital. In each case the thin-layer chromatographic derived data of the street-drugs corresponded to the TLC characteristics of known pentobarbital and secobarbital dosage forms. Seven of the eight secobarbital samples were in pink or red gelatin capsules, one sample was a greyish-white powder in a plastic vial. The two pentobarbital containing capsules were yellow without any distinguishing marks and were comparable in size to the usual 100 mg. pentobarbital capsule.

OPIATES - Two samples that were alleged to be opiates were submitted for screening. One sample, an off-white powder wrapped in a rubber balloon, was said to be heroin (diacetylmorphine). The second sample was a white tablet triturate and said to contain morphine. The off-white powder was identified as codeine, the tablet triturate was not identified but there was some evidence that it was a soluble saccharin tablet.

#### Some Conclusions

The results of the analyses of 904 street-drug samples, taken from 12 published reports (1-12), are summarized in Table I. These represent the psychedelics only because this is the area where the greatest amount of misrepresentation occurs.

It would appear that when one purchases "street-mescaline" they would have about a 75 percent chance of getting LSD and a 4 percent possibility of actually buying mescaline. If LSD is the desired compound, the possibility of buying it is very good, about 85 percent. The chances of finding psilocybin in the street-market are 0 percent but approximately 80 percent possibility of receiving LSD.

Amphetamines - about 80 percent possibility when purchasing this particular material.

THC is practically non-existent on the street-market. In 65 percent of the samples PCP was the active ingredient and two samples had LSD mixed with the PCP.

The dealers have learnt their marketing lessons well - find out what is in demand and offer it for sale - but include some compound that

has physiological activity and from the published results (Table I) it is most frequently LSD. These analyses (1-12) cover a period of time from 1969 to February 1972, the results obtained in these analyses are relatively constant, NO mescaline, NO THC but always LSD and PCP. The samples we have received in the past three months show the same pattern - LSD for mescaline and psilocybin - PCP for the real favorite THC.

The street-market for psychedelics remains constant, "burns and bummers" continue in spite of the publicity about the "Street-Drug Ripoff" (1-11).

John K. Brown, H. E. Appell, V. B. Chan, C. A. Gross, and  
B. D. Winterberg  
May 24, 1972

Table I - Results of Analyses of 904\* Street-Drug Samples (1-12)

Alleged Identity	Actual Chemistry						Not Identified or Other	Number of Samples
	MESC	LSD	LSD + PCP	PCP	THC	AMP		
MESC	8	159	29				61 <sup>a</sup>	257
LSD		348	6				57	411
PSI		45	5				6	56
AMP		1				113	29	143
THC			2	23	3		9	37
Totals	8	553	42	23	3	113	162	904

\* This figure includes the samples screened in our laboratory.

<sup>a</sup> This figure includes 4 samples identified as STP, 1 morphine, and "some" LSD (5).

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Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs  
Bulletin No. 5  
May, 1972

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The text of this issue is the second half of the presentation made by J. K. Brown on Monday, April 24th in Houston, Texas at the second session of the Pharmacognosy and Natural Products Section of the A. Ph. A. Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Reference: Abstr. Acad. Pharm. Sci., Am. Pharm. Assoc., 2(1): 94 (1972)

#### Comment

This issue of the Bulletin is dedicated to Howard, Vince, Carl, and Brian, the four students who were pioneers in our program. The knowledge, enthusiasm and energy they brought to the program - the long work days (at times had to be told to stop) were instrumental in making an idea into a successful program. The friendships formed were probably the nicest part of the experience - to four wonderful people -- THANKS. JKB

#### News

If you would like some good publications about Street-Drugs write;

Director of Publications, Do It Now Foundation  
P. O. Box 5115, Phoenix, Arizona 85010

Good - Pawlak, V. Conscientious Guide to Drug Abuse, 2nd edition, 1971. 40 pp. Paper, \$1.00 and well worth it.

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