

## SPECIAL REPORT

# Effects of LSD, Many Other Drugs Still Unknown

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on drug abuse, based on a recent study of the District Attorney's Office.)

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District Attorney

Depressants, such as barbiturates and tranquilizers, depress the central nervous system in order to relieve tension or produce sleep. They are abused for the alcohol-like euphoria they give. Depressants are both physically and psychologically addicting.

Death frequently occurs because of overdoses accidentally taken while intoxicated on barbiturates. This is especially a danger when barbiturates and alcohol are taken together.

The abuse of depressants will produce the common symptoms of drunkenness, but there is no odor of alcohol unless both have been taken.

Withdrawal from addiction to barbiturates can be more dangerous than withdrawal from the opiates, the FDA has stated.

A SMALL amount of the drug makes the individual believe he is relaxed, sociable and good humored, but actually it makes a person less alert and slower to react. Increased dosages causes sluggishness, depression and for

some users, a quarrelsome disposition.

Other symptoms include thickening of the tongue, slurred and indistinct speech, loss of physical coordination, which may be accompanied by mental and emotional instability.

The abuse of barbiturates may produce a deep sleep or coma, depending on how much has been taken and overdosage is common because an individual may forget how much of the drug he has already consumed.

Barbiturates are frequently the cause of intentional and accidental suicide.

THE HALLUCINOGENIC drugs, such as LSD, have

been irresponsibly promoted as a means of expanding consciousness. The user experiences distortion and intensification of sensory perception with lessened ability to discriminate between fact and fantasy.

These users often speak of seeing sounds, tasting colors, etc. There is a dilation of the pupils and dark glasses are often worn at night by LSD users.

In fact, the wearing of dark glasses is also a common habit of marijuana users.

The LSD user may be restless with an inability to sleep until the drug wears off. He may, however, exhibit no noticeable physical signs of drug intoxication.

THE MENTAL effects are quite unpredictable, but may include illusions, panic, psychotic or anti-social behavior and sometimes impulses toward violence and self-destruction.

And, only recently, there has been the first documented case of a baby born with birth defects because the mother had taken LSD during pregnancy.

Everyone of us — adult and young person — is subject to laws of all kinds, including those concerning marijuana, narcotics and dangerous drugs, and reiteration of the consequences of law violation needs emphasis.

In the case of minors under

18, proceedings must begin in Juvenile Court, where those between 18 - 21 are initially processed as adults. This means that a criminal complaint is filed by either the district attorney or city attorney.

FOR A YOUTH, being placed under arrest and processed through Juvenile Court can create many problems with respect to his or her future as a result of various records that accompany such arrests and proceedings; a desired job may become unavailable to one who has been arrested or handled through Juvenile Court; and efforts to

join the military may be frustrated.

As for adults, penalties for marijuana, narcotics, and dangerous drug violations are quite specific and severe, although for some offenses it is possible for the judge to grant probation if he chooses. Regardless of the sentence, the conviction remains on the police record.

The California Health and Safety Code, for example, calls for a 1-10 year sentence in state prison for an adult convicted of possessing, planting, cultivating or processing marijuana, where there is no conviction.

For the same offense, with one prior conviction, the law

calls for a minimum of five years and a maximum of life.

A CONVICTION for possession of narcotics, except marijuana, calls for a 2- to 10-year sentence in state prison, where there is no prior conviction. With one prior conviction, the sentence is 5 to 20 years, and with two or more prior convictions, it is 15 years to life.

As for possession of restricted dangerous drugs, such as LSD, the first conviction will bring the individual a fine of not more than \$1,000 or one year in County Jail or both. With a prior conviction, the term is 1 to 5 years in state (Continued on Page C-7)

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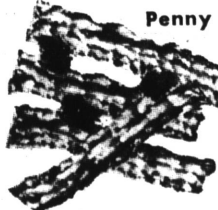


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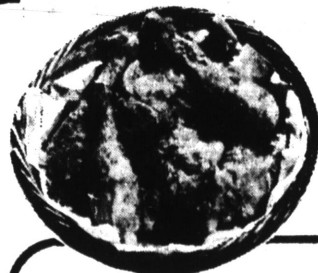
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