

# Drugs - *The Drug Scene And Drug Abuser*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article begins a four part series into the local drug abuse picture. The opening story offers an overall view of the drug scene and those involved in it. Upcoming stories will further examine the drug abuser, local programs created to help him, as well as reasons for drug abuse.

By **TOM HONIG**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

About 15 years ago, Leslie's father discovered that she had been experimenting with marijuana.

In a vain attempt to put a stop to her activities, he sent her to a psychiatrist.

Today, Leslie is a member of the Drug Abuse Preventive Center in Santa Cruz. She joined that group five years ago following a nightmarish journey through heroin addiction.

Her father? "Now he smokes pot with my brothers," she declared.

That example is a good indication of how drugs — and drug abuse — continue to creep into our daily lives.

Local authorities on drug abuse agree that the drug scene is much different than it was when it first grabbed the media's attention in the 1960s. The psychedelic era is over, having been replaced by a less structured, aimless sort of drug activity.

Bob Kardon, director of the Community Counseling Center in Santa Cruz, described the difference.

"Three years ago, our crisis calls at night indicated a heavy volume of psychedelic bummers and acid freakouts. That was about the end of the speed freak era, and of bad paranoid trips behind speed."

At that time, according to Kardon, there were also several people who overdosed on heroin.

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# The Drug Scene And Drug Abuser

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Now, LSD freakouts are rare. Heroin abuse seems to have leveled off. "Some young people got the message that heroin is highly addictive and a bad trip," commented Kardon.

That's not to say drug abuse is a diminishing problem. It's not.

Authorities agree that the current trend among the young is toward an indiscriminate use of several different drugs — sometimes at the same time.

Drug experts call it "poly-drug" activity. Poly-drug users calmly take "whatever is going around," Kardon said.

"They take an upper or a downer, mom's tranquilizers and maybe three beers," Kardon pointed out. He added that that kind of drug usage can — and does — include occasional use of LSD and heroin. The danger, of course, comes when different sorts of drugs are mixed. "The impact of drugs becomes totally out of proportion when they are mixed," Kardon reported.

Recent studies have shown that the use of alcohol by high-school age students is skyrocketing. What the studies have not underscored is that alcohol is being used in conjunction with other drugs.

"Now they (drug abusers at the high school level) are mixing marijuana and alcohol. That means they are taking drugs in double dosages," commented the Rev. Doug Cox, drug abuse counselor for Santa Cruz city schools.

But youth has certainly not cornered the market on drug abuse.

In telling her story about how her father has taken to smoking marijuana, Leslie Morse was not trying to ridicule him. She instead was illustrating how drug usage is being accepted by American society at an alarming rate. If you doubt it, Morse suggests, turn on television tonight and count the jokes about marijuana.

Kardon feels that drug abuse by youngsters is simply a reflection of our society. That society, he said, gives a stamp of approval to the use of "poisons from our medicine cabinet — both uppers and downers."

Kardon said today's young people receive a message from our society that drug usage is okay, "but we'll define which drugs to experiment with."

What does it mean when a high-school age kid smokes marijuana, drinks beer, takes

an occasional LSD trip, takes uppers, downers and occasionally heroin? Kardon said it indicates that he is shopping for the drug of his choice. "And that makes perfect sense because it is accepted in our culture."

Who is the drug abuser?

The headline-grabber is of course the heroin addict.

Before World War II, he probably lived in the ghetto and was part of a minority group.

Today, he could come from any walk of life — rich, poor, middle class, black, white, Oriental or Indian, Kardon noted.

If you had a specially designed television which could bring into focus every heroin user in the county, you would see plenty of different sights.

You would see a man and a woman, having just plunged a needle into their arms, forgetting about their problems and feeling oh so good.

You would see a young man lying on a cot in the county's detoxification ward, his face looking like death itself, lean over and throw up.

You would see a woman with "that feeling" coming over her again searching for her pusher.

If you had looked at your special television a few hours earlier, you would have seen that woman, perhaps with the aid of a friend, break into your neighbor's house to steal enough items to support her \$100 a day habit.

You would see a young husband, his arms wrapped around his wife, helping her to walk into the bathroom to take a pill to help her fall asleep. She hasn't slept in three days; her husband hasn't slept in two. In the next room, the couple's child is crying — but the baby's parents are too sick to see what is wrong. When they finally decide that their latest attempt to "kick" has failed, they go buy some more heroin so they will feel good enough to attend to their child.

You also might see an addict open his front door and be greeted by a gun and a badge — he is again being arrested.

Not every addict, though, is a heroin addict. All drugs — alcohol, sleeping pills, pep pills, marijuana, cocaine — are dangerous. They are very dangerous if they are used to cover up personal problems, local drug abuse authorities agree.

"A person is like a piece of Swiss cheese," commented Joe Vitanyi, director of Sunflower House, an in-patient home for recovering drug abusers.

Each person has "holes" in his character or personality, he said. In order to mature, a person must come to grips with those shortcomings. Religion, philosophy, education and drugs are all different methods of plugging up those "holes."

The trouble with drugs as the answer is that they give the user a false sense of well-being even though the original problem has not been solved, Vitanyi said.

That concept is the basis for most drug abuse prevention programs. Tomorrow's story takes a close look at those programs and at some of the people who have been able to successfully jump off the drug treadmill.

## Smog Can Travel Long Distances

PALO ALTO (AP) — Polluted air travels long distances within the South Coast Air Basin, a two-year study of wind patterns indicates.

The study also disclosed that emissions from automobiles and industrial sources can affect communities 60 miles distant.

The survey was conducted for the state Air Resources Board by Metronics Associates, Inc., a Palo Alto firm specializing in air pollution meteorology.

The firm's findings differ from those of the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District. APCD maps, based on ground-level wind measurements, show polluted air traveling in well-defined paths over relatively short distances.

The \$512,000 Metronics study showed how pollutants move around at all altitudes.

The study's technique provided for the release of fluorescent particles from four locations — three from areas in Los Angeles, Torrance and Santa Ana to simulate automotive exhaust and the fourth from a smokestack in the Long Beach area to simulate industrial emissions.

The paths of the smoke-size particles as they mixed downward in minute quantities to the ground were traced by a system of 60 to 80 monitoring stations.

During the 1973 test series, the fluorescent particle monitoring network sampled the air masses for 36 hours after each release. During the 1972 tests, monitoring was conducted for 48 hours.

"They spread quite dramatically," said Dr. Alexander R. Stankunas, an environmental chemist with Metronics.

The particles spread in ways that will be of interest to resi-

four locations, following different routes, could end up as far from the coast as Riverside and San Bernardino in a single day.

## Big Rate Hike For . . Garbage

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would have been even higher without this proviso.

Curbside pickup service has been in effect, however, for many years.

Residents who want an extra can picked up will be charged an additional \$1 per month.

For commercial users of the service, rates will be changed drastically in various categories.

For example, pickup of a 32-gallon can weekly will cost \$2.05 per month for the first can and \$1 monthly for each additional can. Present charges are \$1.75 monthly for the first can, \$1.60 for the second and 40 cents for each additional can.

For container service, some rate increases are sharp. For a one-yard container, rental will be \$2.45 and the haulage charge will be \$11.70 per pickup. Presently the rental fee is \$5 per month and the haulage charge is \$2.85 for the first pickup and \$1.95 for each additional pickup per month.

For a two-yard container the rental fee per month is \$3.20 and the haulage charge is \$18.55 per pickup. This is compared with the present charge of \$8 per month for rental, \$4.50 for the first pickup and \$2.75 for each additional pickup.

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