

Find Smoking Deterrent Doesn't Decrease Appetite

SAN FRANCISCO—University of Michigan pharmacologists say that lobeline sulfate, a drug used in smoking clinics throughout the United States as a smoking deterrent, did not decrease the frequency of cigarette smoking when tested with human subjects.

Subjects in the U-M medical study did not know what drug they were taking, nor that their smoking behavior was being monitored.

Lobeline had no effect on the number of cigarettes smoked by the subjects who were given the drug three times daily for five consecutive days—the dosage recommended for use as a smoking deterrent.

About 30 men and women, aged 21 to 30, were asked to perform specific behavioral tasks during each six-hour test session. Smoking was permitted whenever the individuals desired, and a standard breakfast and lunch were provided. Heart rate, respiration, and blood pressure were monitored continuously. All subjects were unaware of the type of drug they received and the true nature of the experiment.

Gun Act Is Valid

DETROIT—Federal firearms statutes remain in full force for persons possessing firearms or engaged in their transfer, manufacture or transportation. This statement was made today by Charles C. Keebler, IRS Regional Commissioner for the five-state Central Region which includes Michigan.

The recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Haynes firearms case has been misinterpreted by some firearms dealers and others, as relieving them of the regulations imposed by the National Firearms Act.

In the Haynes case, the Court held that the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination could be invoked against criminal charges brought under the National Firearms Act, for failing to register a firearm or possessing an unregistered firearm.

The Supreme Court did not, in its decision, hold the National Firearms Act or any of its provisions to be unconstitutional. Mr. Keebler pointed out, "The underlying objective of the Act is to prevent criminals from obtaining gangster-type weapons such as machine guns and sawed-off shotguns."

Weapons which are covered by the National Firearms Act may be legally acquired and possessed subject to regulatory requirements. However, any such weapon which is not properly registered is contraband and subject to seizure, Mr. Keebler said.

A person who possesses a gangster-type weapon is still subject to criminal penalties if it was, at any time, illegally made or transferred.

The recordkeeping and reporting obligations imposed on firearms dealers, manufacturers and importers, by the National Firearms Act, have in no way been altered by the Haynes decision. IRS will continue to conduct inspections of

records to insure compliance with Federal law.

Occupational, transfer and other taxes imposed by the National Firearms Act remain in full force.

The Federal Firearms Act, a separate statute which regulates the interstate transportation of weapons, was not involved in the Haynes case and is not affected by the decision.

Starter Recipe

If you are getting ready to set out ball-and-burp trees, shrubs, bushes, or bedding plants, you'll give them a better start with the addition of a new "soil substitute" called Redi-Earth.

Developed by horticulturalists at Cornell University, the light-weight recipe consists of a blend of horticultural vermiculite, sphagnum moss, trace elements and plant nutrients.

Extraordinary results, first reported by professional growers in New York State, have been since duplicated by home gardeners in areas where the new material was test marketed by Zenith Division W. R. Grace & Co.

The new "cleandirt" is light-weight and easy to use in transplanting. First, dig a hole of sufficient size to receive the plant. Second, put a layer of one-to-two inches of Redi-Earth at the base of the hole. Third, place plant upright in the hole. Fourth, add another layer of Redi-Earth to completely surround the planting, then fill balance of hole with the top-soil you originally removed.

The U-M study was done under the direction of Dr. Schuster and Benedict R. Lucchesi, M.D., also an assistant professor of pharmacology.

The Michigan scientists also reported that subjects who were given D-amphetamine actually smoked 20 to 25 per cent more than their usual amount. Amphetamine is a stimulant drug which is given to persons in smoking clinics to lower their appetite for food. "A common fear of people who are attempting to quit smoking is that they will become overweight," Dr. Schuster noted.

The investigators also learned that meprobamate, a mild sedative given in smoking clinics to overcome some of the anxieties people sometimes experience when they try to quit smoking, "had no effect whatsoever on smoking behavior. The important thing is that it does not act like nicotine does, yet it is prescribed as a nicotine substitute."

A slight increase in systolic blood pressure also occurred with amphetamine. Systolic blood pressure is a force with which blood is pumped when the heart muscle is contracting.

experimental day, the investigators collected and weighed the cigarette butts and determined the residual weight.

"I'm suspicious," noted Dr. Schuster, "that a lot of the reported effects of the drug lobeline on smoking frequency were psychological. In our experiments with nicotine, which we found is able to reduce the desire to smoke, the fact that the subjects didn't know they were getting nicotine ruled out the psychological possibilities."

Our subjects in both studies did not know at the time that we were studying their smoking frequency," Dr. Schuster emphasized. "The young men and women did not come to us for aid in reducing their cigarette consumption."

The U-M pharmacologists learned that D-amphetamine also produced physiological effects in the subjects tested. The stimulant resulted in a consistently higher heart rate than was obtained when subjects were given either the sedative or a sugar pill.

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Metal Fireproof Doors Fireproof

Sliding metal doors that close off the front of a fireplace can help to eliminate fears about fires that are still smoldering at bedtime.

Closed, the doors will not only smother the fire by shutting off the draft but also will prevent the chimney's drawing heat from the room during the night.

Xway Safety Success Depends On Motorists

Highway engineers are designing the safest roads ever built in Michigan, but ultimate responsibility for highway safety rests with the people behind the wheel, the vice chairman of the State Highway Commission said recently.

Walter C. (Mike) Nunn of East Tawas, in a talk to the Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association, suggested that motorists should be as safety conscious on the highway as they are at home and at work.

"We compete daily for safety excellence at home and on the job, but when we get behind the wheel of a car many of us seem to think that safety is the other guy's business," he said.

NUNN SAID the Interstate 69 Freeway in Michigan's safest highway, incorporating such modern safety features as breakaway sign supports, wide medians and two-span bridges with only one center pier.

"Such items as gentler slopes and elimination of right hand piers on bridges allow motorists to make an error and give him room to recover if he leaves the roadway," he said.

"If a motorist does no more than tear up some sod, our program will have achieved some measure of success."

On older highways, constructed years ago, Nunn said the Highway Commission has an annual program of operational

betterment started in 1955 with an appropriation of \$1.5 million. "We are now spending \$5 million annually for safety and the results have been impressive," he said.

"FOR EXAMPLE, a 1966 investment of some \$68,000 in spot improvements at a Bay County intersection resulted in a 72 percent reduction in accidents and a 79 percent reduction in injuries to motorists during the following year."

Nunn said other safety projects, including edge lining on non-freeways, installation of reflectors on sharp curves, installation of wrong-way signs on interchange ramps, removal of hazardous trees along roadways and installation of modern lighting standards, are making driving easier and safer.

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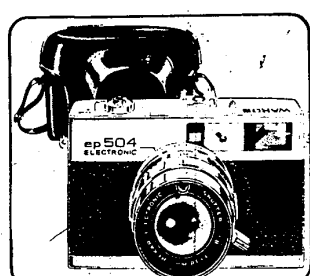
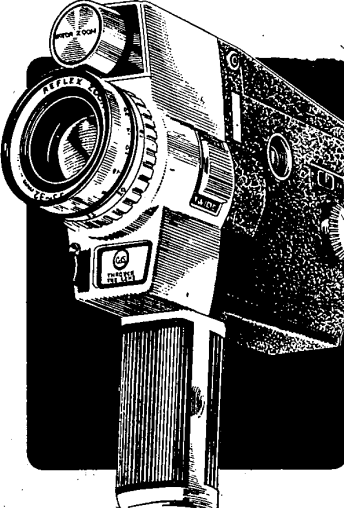
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