

Whatever Became Of LSD?

Questions should be sent to the Community Commission on Drug Abuse, P.O. Box Drugs, Livonia, 48151.

Q. I don't seem to hear as much about LSD today as before. Is it being used less?
D.V., Redford

A. LSD ("acid," "sunshine" etc.) is still very much around. This most potent of the mind-altering drugs was a big thing a few years ago. Today it is suffering from a rather well deserved lapse in popularity, mostly because of its documented hazards to the mind.

Oddly enough, traffic in the drug has not particularly diminished. It is merely being sold as something else currently in vogue, most generally, mescaline.

Q. Can LSD cause schizophrenia?
M.R., Redford

A. It certainly can cause something. However, schizophrenia (a severe form of mental disturbance) is not identical to the effects sometimes caused by LSD. There are enough similarities between some LSD "bad trips" and schizophrenia to have resulted in confusing the two. Technically, the experiences are not identical; in this particular instance we'd say that close does count.

Q. Are LSD "flashbacks" now considered a real problem? Or was this just part of the "scare" propaganda about LSD?
F.N., Livonia

A. The phenomenon of LSD flashbacks (re-occurrences of earlier drug-induced hallucinations) was undoubtedly used by some as a "scare tactic." This particular scare happened to have some basis in fact. The people who work in drug treatment centers say that the flashback problem is a real one today. These experiences, which can be utterly terrifying, were thought to happen spontaneously but now are considered more likely to be caused by some emotional stress.

Q. Can LSD kill you? I've heard of animals such as rabbits being killed in tests with it.

R.S., Plymouth
A. Rabbits are the most sensitive of all animals to the lethal effects of LSD. And in most cases the doses are higher than humans take-or can afford at current prices. We know of only one death directly caused by LSD, and that was of a very young child. This drug certainly can and does - kill people, but only indirectly by causing them to perform irrational and dangerous acts. Once dead, having been killed directly or indirectly should be of merely academic interest to the victim.

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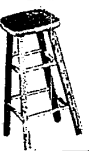
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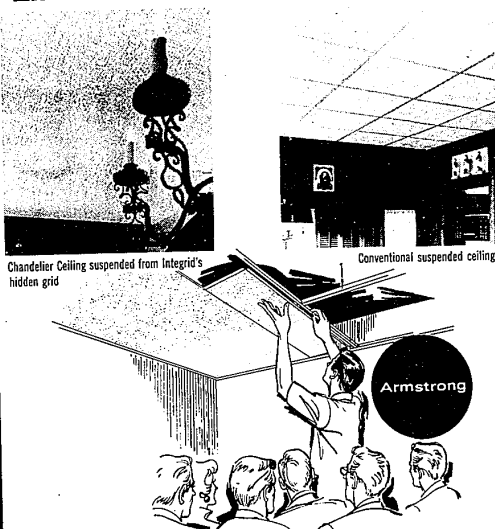
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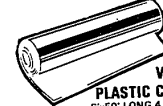


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