

By way of introduction I would like to share with you a story from my past. This is my tale of growing up and taking drugs, beginning with my first major experiences with psychedelics (or, My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult!)

It was in the winter of 1984. December of that year, to be precise. I was a runaway punkling of 13 y.o. taking in all of the strange humanity which one only finds out on the streets. I had grown up in L.A. and this was now the peak of the '80's boom. However, with the Olympics in town, the idea of taking off to the streets surely held the same romantic promise of adventure which must've tempted previous generations to go off and join the circus.

But I did not go directly to Hollywood Blvd. No Sir! Being no dummy I went straight to the place where young Valley kids of all social strata went to meet up with

friends and seek out good times - the mall. That's right, for in the mall there was a diverse mish-mash of mods, skins, punks, skaters and of course, trendoid "new-wavers". There was also an atmosphere of safety there, - our numbers pitted against the mall security dweebs. They provided us with the all-important element of challenge - of Drama. For some, like myself, it would also serve as a training ground to break us in for some of the real challenges which we were to encounter when we finally went way (Way, WAY) South of the Blvd. (Ventura Blvd., that is).

This was my first introduction to "the scene", or "a" scene anyway. It was also during this excursion that I saw my first punk shows. Mind you, the pickings were pretty slim for all-ages venues at the time. The "Cathay de Grande" was history, as was

"Blackie's", and the "Hong Kong Cafe". A place called "Seven Seas" was doing shows, but none that any of us youngin's could get into.

But at the "Olympic Auditorium" (once a well-known boxing ring, now it's slated for demolition) Gary Tovar had created a venue to showcase punk acts from all over the place. (Legend has it that it was he who came up with the idea to promote alternative talent when, in a heavily stoned state, he was clued in by a "golden voice", hence "Goldenvoice Presents...") The first show I saw there was with Social Distortion, Butthole Surfers, & P.I.L. and it was to change the course of my life. As was the drug scene.

I tried any and all drugs I could get my hands on - freebase coke, pot (natch), speed, loads, luudes, downers, - you know the gamut, I'm sure. To some extent I probably still would today! As a result of my explorations and accumulated experience, I am no longer afraid of testing my own consciousness nor the accepted "reality".

On the occasion that I first tried LSD about five or six of us adolescent street urchins had been roaming about the streets of Hollywood raising funds. Pan-handling was a fruitful occupation back then. I highly doubt that it is still so easy. We debated for a while about what to do with our spoils - ShermStick or doses? Due to our numbers, we settled on the fry. A wise choice indeed, in my opinion, for the idea of getting fucked-up on PCP never sounded that great to me but Acid sounded exciting and mysterious.

I still believe that LSD packs the biggest bang for the buck! We each took a half of a hit ('cept for the boys, of course!). And, since we were there to look out for each other, we managed to have a really smooth trip, and one largely without incident. The next time would not be so pleasant.

A girl I knew who was also a runaway (or

"escapee", has the case may have been), herself all of 14 years old, had gotten hooked up with a notorious skinhead chick. This street skank had promised my friend's favors to the local acid seller, in exchange for doses for herself (wasn't that nice?).

Feeling rightfully uncomfortable with the set-up, my friend told me her dilemma. I told her that she would be a bloody fool to keep the "date", but she feared the girl who had set her up and didn't feel that she could get out of it. So I offered to help her raise \$10 so we could just go in and buy this girl the doses she wanted so badly, without putting my friend in any jeopardy. So we

did. It took all day on the glamorous corner of Hollywood & Highland but we made it - just in time for us to keep her appointment with the dealer. We were escorted to his apartment by two other skankos we hardly knew, but who were apparently hoping to score something from our deal - if only "brownie points" with the man.

So we meet the guy and, needless to say, he was really weird. He started coming on to us straight away, and then began trying to negotiate with us to get what he wanted. It was pretty outrageous stuff, too under the circumstances. He wanted US to buy a bottle of champagne, then take a bath together - get this- with masks on our faces, while he sat in a corner, beating off. Like that was really worth the seven measly doses he was willing to exchange for it!

While he was going on about that, he was clipping off little scraps of "green gel", "purple pyramid", and "white blotter" acid to feed us. And we, being neophytes who were not familiar with the dosage, unwittingly ate 'em up. In retrospect, I figure that I must have consumed anywhere from 7 to 15 doses. This would not have really been so bad if we had been in a safe place, which we were not. And if we had had some idea of what to expect and had a chance to prepare for it. But we didn't have a clue about what these tiny remnants could do in any quantity. We had exposed ourselves to risk - Big Time.

As the trip kicked in we figured that we had better get out of there. My friend's "pimp" and her cronies were waiting for us when we came out of the building. We told her that everything had gone just fine, but that we were tripping hard. She got her doses and walked us over to the bus stop. It was the bus stop on Hollywood & Highland but we couldn't even recognize it.

She put our butts on the bus, but in our confused state we soon became overcome with anxiety and got off



"THESE ARE ENDLESS GALAXIES WHICH ARE YOURS. YOU CAN JOURNEY TO INFINITY THROUGH THE ENDLESS PASSAGES OF THE COSMOS. EVEN BETTER, THIS ALL BELONGS TO YOU. THIS IS YOUR MIND." - JOE HUNT

somewhere along the Cahuenga Pass. We really had no place to go even if we HAD been able to navigate, and we were definitely incapable of doing THAT at that point anyhow. To add to our problems, we started getting paranoid. We somehow manage to convince ourselves that the dealer guy would be planning to come after us, for taking the drugs and not going along with his stupid agenda, which pissed him off some, the bastard.

So we hitched a ride and got picked up by another real creep who tried to molest us. Even more freaked out by this guy and our rapidly souring situation, we told him that someone was out to harm us and we were in real danger. Thus convinced that we were indeed in some kind of trouble of which he wanted no part, he finally let us out of his car. He dropped us off right in front of the Hollywood cop-shop on Wilcox. We ran from him - and straight into our next Bad Move.

In our utter confusion, and peaked out of our skulls I think that perhaps we must've felt threatened, 'cos we ran into the Police Station! We told them that we thought we were in danger - of what (other than passing the point of no- return) I still don't know. All I know is that we were too scared little girls. I don't remember much of what took place next, but we were both on misdemeanor drug intoxication charges, and they cuffed us to the benches to keep us still. I thought for sure I had died and was in cop hell in the center of the earth. What's the difference?

We were picked up and just shuttled off to Juvenile Hall, where they couldn't take us in our condition. So we were schlepped to McClaran Hall. There was a very nice intern there who tended to us throughout the night as our egos shattered into a thousand fragments. By dawn those fragments had realigned themselves to make newer and much wiser, people out of us.

That morning they took us to County Medical Center and inoculated us against hepatitis, told us we were stupid fools, and gave us each a general examination. I was eventually arraigned and released to my mom and

OKAY ALL YOU DRUG CONNOISSEURS OUT THERE! IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED WHAT THE HELL ALL OF THIS DESIGNER DRUG BUSINESS IS ABOUT, THIS IS MY ATTEMPT TO CLEAR UP SOME OF THE CONFUSION.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A DESIGNER DRUG IS BASICALLY ANY DRUG THAT IS SIMILAR IN EFFECT OR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TO AN EXISTING DRUG WHICH HAS BEEN MADE ILLEGAL. A CHEMIST (OR COOK) ANALYZES THE CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF THE SCHEDULED COMPOUND AND MOLECULES ARE ADDED OR REMOVED TO CREATE A NEW, AS YET UNSCHEDULED, SUBSTANCE. AFTER IT HAS BEEN RE-SYNTHESIZED THE ALTERED COMPOUND CAN BE MANUFACTURED LEGALLY BY SIDESTEP- PING THE RESTRICTIONS WHICH ARE IN PLACE FOR THE ORIGINAL SUBSTANCE. THEREFORE, A DESIGNER DRUG IS A NEW CHEMICAL THAT IS BASED UPON AN ILLEGAL ONE, BUT SYNTHESIZED (OR DESIGNED) WITH THE INTENTION OF BYPASS- ING THE LAW.

PRETTY DARNED SUBVERSIVE, NO?

dad. It was embarrassing but I survived throughout the trauma and continued to take my vacations from the earth. I can honestly say that I believe hard drugs made me a better person - now, but it wasn't easy and it's not for everyone.

My intended purpose with this column in the issues to come will be to disseminate drug related information, as accurately as possible. My intention is to educate whoever wants to know about some interesting facts, and generate new thinking on the subjects. It should make for interesting bathroom reading at least. Please send me your requests for info and I will try to explore them in this column space. Of course, send in your questions and remarks, too.

KICKS

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have access to good recreational psychedelic drugs. Even though the media makes it look like they are ever so available, sometimes things are just hard to find. Or, maybe you just don't trust what you get on the street, in either case, wouldn't it be just that much better if you could use that good ol' punk ethic of Do It Yourself? Well, you can. This column, in conjunction with 22 Kerrit Gold, will explore ideas that will let you take fairly common plants and assorted compounds and get the most recreational drug use out of them. Mind you, this is for informational purposes only, we feel that this knowledge is of vital importance as counter cultural history. A lot of the info passed on is indeed derived from "folklore" that has been passed down through the generations. Sit back and we'll spin you the wildest tales of the street drug mythos, boiled down to only the true essences, the good stuff. The things that really work. This issue will start (taking the lead from 22 Kerrit Gold!) with the truly best way to use good old Morning Glory seeds!

Badoh Negro, Ololiuqui, Tiliiltzin are all Aztec names for pretty much the same thing - the seeds of particular species of the Convolvulaceae family, the seeds of Morning Glories! Yes, the very ingredients of their ceremonial brews, capable of inducing severe changes in mental state, communication with the devil, hallucinations and general stupor. Sounds a lot like LSD? Well, it certainly is. These seeds are known to contain a significant percentage of ergine alkaloids or Lysergic acid amides, the "LS" in LSD (d- Lysergic acid diethylamide - remember Albert Hoffman gave it the name, his original paper was printed in German where acid is "säure", hence the "S"). Anyway, where do you get the Aztecs secret ingredients? Oh, at Ralphs for starters! More specifically, there are three genus' of these plants that have the good seeds: Turbina sp. (Ololiuqui), Argyria sp. (Hawaiian Baby Woodrose, the name because the dried flowers are hard like a wooden baby rose, and were actually not used by the Aztecs) and Ipomoea sp. (the Morning Glories). The common ones are, of course, the Morning Glories, but the Hawaiian woodrose seeds are readily available through ads in the back of magazines like High Times. Are they all the same - NO! Argyria sp. seeds have the highest percentage of alkaloids at about 3%, Turbina sp. and Ipomoea sp. are about the same at about .8%. Obviously Argyria sp. are the best but Ipomoea sp. is the easiest to get and to grow yourself, so we'll concentrate on them.

So, what kind of Morning Glories (yeah, the varieties differ too!)? The best "variety" to use is Heavenly Blue (made infamous in 60's biker flicks!), then Pearly Gates followed by Flying Saucers, Wedding Bells, Summer Skies and Blue Stars. I'd stick with Heavenly Blues, there are a lot of varieties that are completely inactive. So, the first thing to do is get a whole bunch of them. You need like 300 seeds for a dose. You can buy the seeds from Ralphs, but most seed companies put some shit on them to make them unfit for human consumption, besides putting anti- fungal poisons on them anyway. Well, you need far more than you're going to get there so unless you're going to pop for bulk seeds, you'll have to grow your own. This is easy. Get the seeds from Ralphs (or wherever, some companies sell supposedly more potent strains), soak them overnight in water with some small gravel. The next day shake them up so the gravel lightly scratches the seeds (this helps the seeds germinate) and plant them



De OLILIUHQVI

all over the place. Soil with a pH of 6.5, low potassium and high phosphate content will give seeds with the most alkaloid content, but just growing tons of them is the best bet. Yeah I know, it takes months to get seeds, but what the fuck, if you plant this spring you'll be flying by summer!

Now you have your seeds, about 300 per dose or about 30 grams. There are a few different ways to fix them. First, you can simply eat them, chewing them up really good. Yeah, right! Chew 300 bitter awful seeds! Easiest is to grind them up in a coffee grinder, soak them in water over night, filter out the muck and drink. This does indeed work, but you get sick! (I sure do!)

Some people recommend a few Dramamine to counteract the nausea, but it doesn't work for me! A fine trip while you're sitting on the toilet! The Aztecs made a brew by fermenting them, and they are actually sometimes used in the mysterious Mexican drink "Pulque", but I wouldn't be surprised if you get sick there too. So we're gonna have to get rid of the poisons and extract out the good stuff. Again there's a bunch of ways to do this, if you're a chemist you can do things like chromatography columns, but we're gonna do it in a real practical and easy way. You need only two chemicals - petroleum ether (also known as Naphtha, lighter fluid, or Coleman Lantern fuel) and some methanol (or ethanol, or Gin or Vodka!). Grind up as many seeds as you have and for every 100 grams of seeds add 100 ml of petroleum ether. Let them soak for two days and stir occasionally. The fats that make you sick will dissolve into the ether.

Filter out as much of the ether as you can through a coffee filter (or finer if you have one, the finer the better) and then let the powder dry thoroughly. If you have a vacuum flask set up this is quick, otherwise spread it out on a plate and let it dry. Don't heat it up (AT ALL!) or you will isomerize the alkaloids into inactive forms, and keep them out of the light for the same reason. When dry add 100ml of alcohol per 100 grams of seeds and again let it soak for two days. The Lysergic acid amides will dissolve into the alcohol. Filter out the alcohol and again add 100ml of alcohol to the mush. Let that sit over night, and filter the same way. Two or three extractions will pretty much get all the alkaloids. Put all of the alcohol extracts together and evaporate. Again, use no heat! That vacuum flask would come in handy here, but you can use a shallow ceramic plate. Pour the alcohol into it and let it sit in a dark place. A slow fan will speed up the process. When all dry, you'll be left with a sticky yellow goop that will actually crystallize if you dry it long enough. We could go further (in fact we could go all the way to LSD!), but that's too complicated for now, so we'll just stuff the goop into some capsules and we're done. A decent dose is about 30 grams of seeds - but as you know, the alkaloid content varies so you'll have to experiment a little. But that's it! You might experience a little nausea (I don't!), but it will pass shortly and you'll be overcome with the wonderful spirit of the ancient Aztecs.

That "two packs of seeds and a beer" method just doesn't cut it, and this method actually works. In the near future we'll get into some other things that work. Like ways to actually enhance your LSA trips with the use of simply extracted beta carbolines from plants that are probably growing in your yard! Eventually we'll get into more fun (and complicated) things like making MDMA from herbal tea, DMT from milk and methamphetamine from asthma medicine. Until then, I'd just like to flash that old Monsanto moto your way - "Better living through chemistry."