

REPORTER

DRUGS ISSUE | FEBRUARY 15, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

**DRUGS
ISSUE**
STICKERS INSIDE!



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EDITOR'S NOTE

A CRUSHING BLOW

Did you know that heroin addicts have about a three percent chance of kicking their habit? Or that you can snort it as a powder to avoid those nasty track marks on your arms?

I didn't. There were a lot of things I didn't know two months ago. Then, a dear friend of mine confessed to me that he had been taking a variety of narcotics, including heroin, since August. As far as I could tell, he just took it one day and didn't stop. Talk about a crushing blow.

He'd hidden his habit for a long time. Since he was snorting the stuff instead of injecting it, there weren't any physical signs of substance abuse. Only small things, like disappearing for hours without explanation, getting strangely distant at the dinner table, or needing to borrow too much money for what he made.

His parents had both died of lung cancer within two years, and he had been fighting with his sister over the inheritance. Life was tough, but he had a house that he shared with his fiancée (also a dear friend of mine), and two great dogs to play with when he got home from his job as a lawyer for the city of Chicago. And his girl— damn, she is one of the most amazing women I've ever met, and they were phenomenal together. Picture Harry and Sally, only real and impossibly heart-warming.

There's no way she could have stayed with him, and I completely support her decision to call off the marriage. How do you have kids with a known heroin addict?

I can't wrap my mind around it. He took all of his almost-wife's love, as well as their future life together, and shoved it up his nose. I don't know whether to be incredibly sad or incredibly angry, so I run between those points with stunning speed. I hate him. I hate what he did to her. I feel so sad for her. I feel sad for him. And then I run back in the opposite direction. My head spins from emotion.

I haven't spoken a word to him in two months, because I don't know what I could possibly say. He called me a couple of weeks ago. I let it go to voicemail, and he left me a message saying how sorry he is. It was painful to hear; it felt— and still feels— like he's my brother. Sometimes, I wish I'd had the courage to take that call.

But his girl is like a sister to me, and I am stunned by how much he's hurt her.

My friend is recovering from a heroin addiction, and his girl is recovering from a heroin addict. And he's not the only one. With addiction rates in this country as high as they are (see page 6), there are quite literally millions of people with stories like mine. So, how do you deal? After two long months, I've decided to absorb this new reality and accept it as simple fact. It is what it is, and can't be any other way.

And that's exactly what this week's magazine is as well. It's not praise. It's not damnation. This is an issue on drugs. It is what it is, and can't be any other way.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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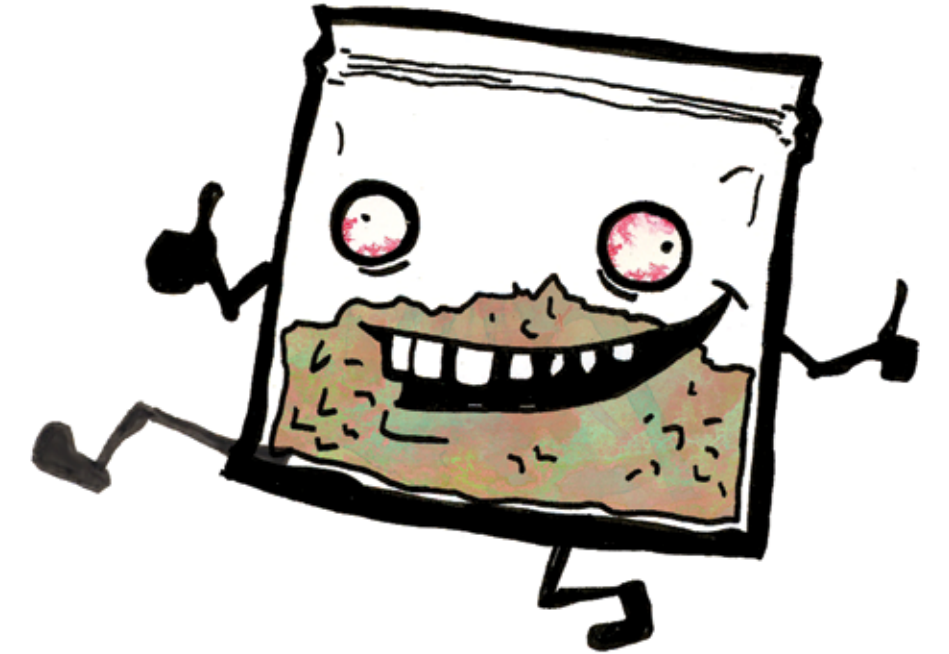
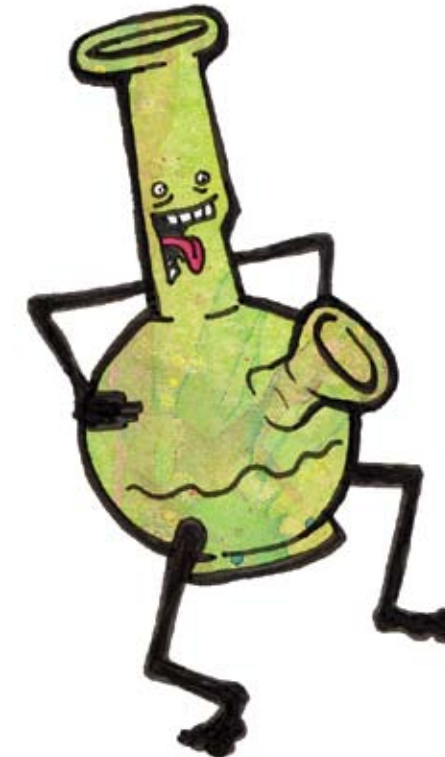
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Cover photograph by Tom Liggett (No illegal substances were used in this photo shoot)

Illustrations by Bryan Williams

BREWING FOR BARONS

by Ben Dekle | photograph by Eric Drummond



The brewing process does end up having two main drawbacks. Number one, there's actually a process—you know, beyond going to the store and handing the cashier a twenty. It ends up being more difficult than you would expect, as the instructions you can get from the Internet or from watching TV are the super-idealized and glossy Hollywood versions. There are four main steps to get you from start to finish: cooking the ingredients, letting them ferment, bottling the beer, and letting the bottled beer ferment.

The second issue is time. Each of the fermenting steps takes at least a week. There's a certain irony to bringing a 6-pack of your favorite beer to drink while bottling your homemade brew that needs to show up more often in life. In any case, each batch of beer you make is going to take the better part of a month before it's drinkable, so don't assume you're going to be playing beer pong with the stuff the day you tote your brewing kit home.

What are the alternatives to beer brewing? Well, if you're feeling more daring, you can try to make your own flavored vodka. Unfortunately, for those who want the 100% homemade experience, the alcohol in this equation is actually bought at the store. The fermenting process just involves adding fruits, herbs, or other flavors to the vodka and allowing it to sit in the fridge for a few days.

Of course, it wouldn't be an article about home brewing without mentioning that favorite of the overall-clad straw-chewing hillbilly: moonshine. The term moonshine actually covers basically anything under the sun that has been brewed illegally, which goes hand-in-hand with a complete lack of quality control. That means ending up with a delicious cocktail of both antifreeze and lead if you're not careful. Since I wouldn't touch the stuff for fear of my eyes melting out of their sockets, it's up to you, dear readers, to find the recipe for distilling ethanol liquor elsewhere. •

THE INVENTION OF FERMENTED DRINKS MUST HAVE BEEN A WONDER TO BEHOLD.


Here comes Joe Caveman, carrying a bunch of primitively cultivated grains back to his caveman tribe, when he trips and drops it in a bunch of water. After the rest of the clan finishes the week-long ritual sacrificing him for angering their wonderful water god, one particularly developed individual notices that the resulting brown rotting concoction really helps him out when he's trying to work his cave-game on the cave-ladies. And lo, fermented drinks became the best invention since fire.

We've come a long way since then. There are macrobreweries, microbreweries, vineyards, and distilleries producing alcohol from grains, grapes, potatoes, corn, molasses, and basically every other food product you could possibly think of. What better way to celebrate our heritage of drinking stuff that has had other stuff soaking in it for a while than by making our very own?


My friend had the idea of giving beer brewing a shot during a trip to our favorite place of all things beer, Beers of the World (located right at the end of Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road). The part that seemed most attractive to becoming the next potential group of Beer Barons was the cost. Aside from an initial investment of about \$150 for a beer-brewing kit (which, more or less, consists of two large buckets, some siphoning equipment, and a bunch of stuff you'll never use or will break right away), the ingredients involved are really cheap. Every time my friends and I have attempted the process, we've wound up with 48 12-ounce beers from about only \$10 worth of ingredients.



AIR FORCE ROTC
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**BEFORE THE AIR FORCE SHATTERED
THE SOUND BARRIER,
THESE AIRMEN SHATTERED THE RACE**



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INSIDE THE WAR

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

ON DRUGS

According to the Federal Government's Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 12.7 million people have used illegal drugs within the last month. 2.7 million of those users are addicts; the other 10 million are presumed to be 'casual' drug users.

Furthermore, within the past year, an estimated 30 to 40 million people have used illegal drugs. These statistics are only worsened by new and emerging reports of violence and chaos created by the drug trade, which are—in most cases—well beyond the control of local and national authorities.

Although there is no official start date, the War on Drugs is said to have started in 1929 during the famous American Prohibition period, when use of alcohol was briefly outlawed. Of course, this particular regulation was later repealed, but America's affair with drugs was only beginning. By the mid 1980s, crack cocaine had made its destructive emergence onto the streets of New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and other American cities. The reality of its cataclysmic nature was already becoming apparent.

"Drug use devastates our communities," comments Rochester Supreme Court Judge Patricia Marx. "Getting people out of the drug market and into the job market is one of the most important issues in our country, affecting everyone from every racial group."

In 1986, Congress created mandatory-minimum laws to cope with crack's mordant effects. This struck inner city crack users with penalties as severe as consecutive life sentences; indeed, the mandatory crack cocaine sentencing guidelines have long been considered extreme. Over the next two decades, hundreds of thousands would be locked up for drug offenses. (The unusually high penalties for crack were scaled down in December 2007, when the Supreme Court ruled that judges could optionally depart from the sentencing guidelines in a case-by-case basis).

The War on Drugs actually became a "war" during the first Bush administration, when intelligence reports from drug czar William Bennett enabled American military power to drop payload upon payload of bombs on unsuspecting targets. Bennett was known to have said, "Two words sum up my entire approach, consequences and confrontation." The annual spending was effectively doubled to \$12 billion at this time,

with money allocated to Navy submarines and Air Force jet aircraft sent to stop drugs at the source, hitting cocaine smuggling boats and centers before their product reached American soil. As *Rolling Stone* recently wrote, "If narcotics were the enemy, America would vanquish its foe with torpedoes and F-16s—and throw an entire generation into jail."

Following this, Pablo Escobar, the notorious Colombian billionaire drug kingpin, was killed on December 2, 1993. Despite this apparent victory, the war was not yet over. Throughout this period, it is said that drug policy was "conducted under the fog of ignorance"; the measures which needed to be taken to stop drug use and reduce its consequences didn't actually exist.

During the Clinton administration, efforts were initiated to stop drug trafficking in cities such as Boston, where cops on the front lines were suffering heavy casualties. Although there were some small successes, in the end, drug trafficking continued almost unchecked. By one account, only 15% of those convicted of federal drug crimes were actual traffickers; the other 85% of convicts were nothing but low street-level dealers who could easily be replaced.

The current Bush administration has attempted to end cocaine production once and for all in what is referred to as Plan Colombia. This plan has cost American taxpayers \$1 billion a year, but hasn't made any apparent progress.

An estimated 242 tons of cocaine entered the United States in 2000 through Mexico, which has widely been criticized as becoming "Columbianized," in that their drug cartels are beginning to rival those of Columbia. Many corrupt cops now work in the drug trade, and an estimated 90,000 Mexican soldiers have also joined Mexican drug cartels. According to the International Office of Drug Control Policy, the US Government estimates that Mexican traffickers receive more than \$13.8 billion in revenue from illicit drug sales in the United States. \$8.5 billion of that revenue (61% of the total) is directly tied to marijuana export.

There is also the growing drug threat from Asia. The primary drug threat to the United States is heroin and opium from the "Golden Triangle," comprised of Burma, Laos, and Thailand. Burma is the second largest producer of illicit opium and opium poppy. However, according to the latest Domestic Monitoring Program Report published by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), only 1% of the heroin in the retail market of the United States originates in South East Asia.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. has spent an estimated \$500 billion in the War on Drugs, and has very little to show for it. Cocaine is as cheap as it was following Escobar's death, and said to be more heavily used. Methamphetamines—which are possibly more addictive than crack—are now used by over 19 million Americans.

Within New York State, the DEA reported 2,107 arrests for drug violations in 2006. Of the 28,095 drug offenders convicted the previous year, 6,151 were sentenced to prison. Nationwide, there are over 500,000 people currently behind bars for drug crime; still, no discernible effect has been made on drug traffic itself. After all these years, there are no longer any fronts to be defined and identifiable enemies to hunt; instead, we have reached a bitter deadlock which has left some in disbelief that victory will ever occur. •

Although there is no official start date, the War on Drugs is said to have started in 1929 during the famous American Prohibition period, when use of alcohol was briefly outlawed.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society members:

- >> are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and campus leadership involvement
- >> will receive an Alpha Sigma Lambda medal to wear for graduation.
- >> will be invited to a special dinner at the President's home honoring all recipients.
- >> invite a mentor from faculty or staff as their guest, to be recognized as having a profound impact on their academic and leadership success.
- >> name will be engraved on a plaque in the Student Alumni Union entrance joining over 400 RIT Alumni already honored.

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Additional information is available on the application.

Deadline for applications is the last day of classes for winter quarter



Applications are available online at http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/vp_alpha_sigma_lambda.php3

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Elizabeth Bennett

16 SATURDAY

SNOW BOWL

Gracie Watson Field, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Want an excuse to help a great cause and play in the snow? Come to the Snow Bowl 2008, play flag football, win prizes, eat food and listen to music while raising money for Lou Gehrig's Disease. Cost: Free.

ICE HOCKEY

Ritter Arena, Women: 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Men: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The women play SUNY Cortland and the men play Niagara. Come join the fun in the Ritter Sports Arena. Cost: \$4 students, \$6 faculty/staff, \$8 others.

17 SUNDAY

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Webb Auditorium, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Are you a film lover? Then the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is for you. Cost: \$10 students, \$11 faculty/staff, \$12 other.

18 MONDAY

PENNY WARS

SAU, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Buckets with various clubs and Greek organizations will be located in the SAU collecting change. The club with the most money at the end of week 10 wins, and can donate their bucket to their favorite charity. All other money will be donated to Strong Memorial Children's Hospital.

COMEDY AUDITIONS

Panara Theatre, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Audition for "The Ghost of Chastity Past" & "Bell in Hell". Deaf and hearing actresses and actors wanted.

19 TUESDAY

LUNCH 'N' LEARNING WORKSHOP: PREPARING FOR/TAKING EXAMS

Building 1-2358, 12 noon - 1 p.m. Need a little extra practice for your upcoming exam? Bring your lunch and learn how to take on those tricky essays and problem-solving questions with some extra help from the experts. Cost: free. Bring your own lunch.

20 WEDNESDAY

WINTER JUMP OFF DANCE COMPETITION

Main Street Armory, 12 noon - 5 p.m. City of Rochester's Pathways to Peace Office and the Bureau of Youth Services presents friendly competition, movies, crafts show and of course, a dance off. Cost: Free.

21 THURSDAY

CAB THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA: INSIDE MAN

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - 12 midnight. The perfect bank robbery and New York City are used as a backdrop for a tale about morality and its many shades of gray. Cost: Free.

22 FRIDAY

AALANA ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Fireside Lounge, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Give blood. It only takes an hour, and you could save someone's life.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | illustrations by Greg Caggiano

PARKOUR CLUB WINS APPEAL

RIT student Zachary Cohn is credited with Student Government's decision to approve his intent to form a new club called RIT Parkour, which focuses on "a new sport involving physical discipline in taking control of one's body." Parkour, created in the 1980s by David Belle in Lasalle, France, involves extreme physical conditioning and skills such as long jumping and wall scaling. Cohn described the sport as "applying the psychology of getting over obstacles which builds useful real-life skill sets as well as training the whole body to work together."

Cohn also urged the senators to disregard the glut of YouTube videos on the sport, which often show extreme and asinine stunts, as opposed to the truly disciplined practice. "[Parkour practitioners] value safety above all while studying new techniques and teaching others," said Cohn. These techniques are reported to be used by a large demographic providing military personnel, firefighters, and civilians with training which can be used in emergencies. The new club still awaits approval from Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper.

RTS BUS SCHEDULE DEBATED FURTHER

The changes to the RTS Bus system has been disputed by Phillip (who did not provide his last name), a student who feels that students living off campus should be able to go to Wegmans more easily. While there are currently bus routes to Wegmans, he pointed out that it can take four hours to use that route. "The uncoordinated bus schedule is very poor," he said. "The RTS bus is simply not efficient." His complaints stemmed from a report by NTID Senator Scott Bailey, who announced a couple of weeks ago that another stop may be placed near the McDonald's plaza.

When asked if he attended the RTS Bus Forum a couple of weeks ago, Phillip replied with a laugh: "No, I had to catch a bus." SG has asked him to submit a proposal if any further progress is to be made on this issue.

INTERPRETING AT RIT

Kip Webster, Manager of the Department of Access Services (DAS), gave a presentation about the current and past state of interpreting at RIT for deaf and hard of hearing students. Last year, DAS provided 99% coverage to interpreting needs through 122 staff interpreters in 23 teams, each working 10-40 hours a week. This fall, coverage dropped to 96% and the new target is said to be around 97%. "Essentially, it's often difficult to meet student demand with many events which need interpreters," he said. "Not only does Rochester not have enough interpreters, the entire United States does not as well. Interpreting at RIT, though sometimes unaccounted for, still presents a valuable resource to students. We're also a really good place to have on your résumé."



SO YOU WANNA GROW? A PSYCHEDELIC GARDEN?

THE WORLD OF HYDROPONICS

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photograph by Eric Drummond



Imagine a healthy garden thriving in an environment without any soil or natural sunlight. With hydroponics, one can achieve complete control over the elements needed to grow a prosperous garden in one's very own basement. Whether

your intention be to never buy herbs and spices for pasta night ever again, or for more recreational purposes, hydroponics is the way to go.

Hydroponics has always been linked to any method of growing plants without soil. However, it does not concentrate on soilless culture, but the mineral nutrient solution that the plants are provided. Previously known as water culture, it became a popular research technique after Sir Francis Bacon published his book on growing terrestrial plants without soil, *Sylva Sylvarum*, in 1627.

It was later in the 1940s that Professor William Frederick Gericke at the University of California at Berkeley developed a method and formula that enabled him to grow healthy and sizeable tomatoes in his backyard while using only a nutrient solution. With the reasoning that he had done the research in his own time, Gericke withheld his findings from the university. After being released from the university, he wrote the *Complete Guide to Soilless Gardening*.

There are several techniques of hydroponics. The two main types are *solution culture* and *medium culture*. While medium culture uses a substitute for soil such as Rockwool, clay, or sand in order to hold the plant's roots, solution culture does not. The three main techniques of solution culture are *static solution culture*, *continuous flow solution culture*, and *aeroponics*.

Static solution culture involves either submerging the plant's roots in a solution that has been aerated by a machine similar to an aquarium pump, or hanging the roots above an unaerated solution. The continuous flow solution culture involves continuously passing the solution through the roots via a number of channels or streams. Aeroponics continuously

saturates the plant's environment with a mist of nutrient solution, and has become NASA's preferred means of hydroponics because of its advantages in zero gravity environments.

Through time, hydroponics has become very popular and has served many uses. Novice "just add water" kits are even available for purchase online and in hobby stores. One of its earlier success stories can be found at Wake Island, a rocky atoll in the Pacific Ocean used as a refueling stop for Pan American Airlines. Due to lack of soil, hydroponics was used to cultivate vegetables for passengers instead of importing expensive fresh vegetables. Additionally, NASA has decided to do extensive hydroponic research for their Controlled Ecological Life Support System (CELSS) and plans to use it to cultivate Mars.

One of the more alternative uses of hydroponics is growing marijuana. According to Jorge Cervantes, authored several books on marijuana cultivation, hydroponics enables the grower to produce a higher concentration of marijuana's active euphoric ingredient, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). An article on the *High Times* website describes the marijuana industry as a modern day gold rush. With goods selling from \$91 to \$451 per ounce based on quality and THC content and an affordable growing cost, profits seem bountiful and the business is booming. Unfortunately, it is illegal, and it

is for this reason that in some states such as California, police have even started petitioning shops selling hydroponic equipment to keep records of their customers.

One person who used hydroponics for this purpose is Mitchell Shane Estep. Estep started grow-

ing marijuana at the age of 22 and perfected the method of growing marijuana with hydroponics. He became a marijuana mogul by the age of 25. He flew to Amsterdam, where growing marijuana was legal, and studied how the Dutch bred the different strains while mailing boxes full of seeds home. Soon, he returned and started his first crop in his Orlando apartment.

The operation progressed, and he started purchasing houses in upscale and gated communities to accommodate his "factories." To avoid suspicion, he set timers for televisions and lights to present an illusion of inhabitation. He could fit up to 127 plants in a typical bedroom and collect up to 28 grams of dried marijuana per plant. With a total of approximately 8 pounds, a single harvest could reap up to \$30,000.

In 1999, Estep was shut down. After a long stretch of investigation, surveillance, and undercover work, the authorities entered 23 of Estep's homes, confiscating all his equipment and seizing approximately 19,000 plants which could have yielded about \$9 million in profit. Although Estep fled, the police caught up with him and arrested him. Several months later, a judge sentenced him to a decade in prison. •

Upcoming Events in February

15 CAB Friday Night in the Ritz: Open Mic Night
10 pm
Cost \$ 1

15 & 16 Women's Center: Vagina Monologues
Ingle Auditorium, SAU
8 pm - 10 pm

21 OCASA: Coffee Break
Free food and coffee!
RITreat, SAU
10 am - 2 pm



For more event information, go to <http://events.rit.edu>.



M I K E

by Evan McNamara | illustration by Sara Wick

I was told that my friend Mike had passed away through a text message.

I had to read through it about a dozen times until the information in that simple sentence made its way from my eyes to my brain. *Holy shit, this stuff only happens in the movies.*

Mike's roommate found him hunched over in his chair, his face turned purple, not breathing. He had overdosed. On what? We never found out. Mike's mom didn't want people to know. But we all knew what it could've been. Personally, I could only recall about two times I had been around Mike when he was sober. Acid, mushrooms, weed, cocaine, pills...Mike liked to dabble, but he was always smiling, making jokes, and having a good time.

After Mike passed away, I realized that I had seen a lot in my life that seemed like it was straight out of Hollywood. My whole involvement in the punk scene was one giant paradox. I'm straight edge. That's just a term for someone who chooses to live drug free. I was, and still am, practically the only straight edge kid around, but if Mike or anybody else saw me with a drink or a joint, they would have been the first to take it out of my hands. My friends were my mentors growing up. Most of them were in their mid-twenties at the time, and I was only fourteen. I guess I was lucky that they saw me for what I was, and wanted to help me learn from their mistakes so that I wouldn't have to make them on my own.

I was the only straight edge kid around. People did lines of coke in the bathrooms at shows. Underage kids would always find ways to get served

at the bars. If they didn't, inebriation was always waiting in the back of an older kid's van.

Mike's death wasn't the first in our scene. Just a year earlier, a kid named Seth, with whom I had come in contact but didn't know personally, died of a heroin overdose. His step-dad was my Digital Systems teacher in high school. He was shaken up pretty badly after Seth died. A few weeks after his death, I saw one of Seth's friends at a show. He was so strung out that he made his way to the front of the crowd, propped himself up against the PA speaker, and fell asleep. He fell asleep while a metal band played full volume no more than six inches from his head.

A few months ago, another of Seth's friends was sent to jail. He was caught bringing 50 pounds of heroin over the state border. *Is Hollywood playing some sick joke on me? How long do I have until I wake up in a random dungeon and find myself straight in the middle of SAW VII?*

Some of Seth's friends kept using even after their friend died. Mike's friends banded together. Most of them stopped using, save for the vices of alcohol and cigarettes. It was a drastic improvement. When Mike passed away, that was the only good thing that came out of it.

I couldn't make it back to Mike's funeral at home, but hearing about it was enough. People told me how the priest went on and on about how Mike was one of God's children, and that he was far happier now. We couldn't help but laugh. After all, Mike would've laughed too. He was as atheistic as they come. And again, I thought to myself, this sort of stuff only happens in the movies.

But that's the thing: this stuff doesn't just happen in the movies. It happens everyday. It happens to real people, with real families, real friends, and real lives. It happened to Mike, my friend.

Mike was in deep with drugs before he died, and many people close to him knew it. I figure most of them never spoke up to him because they had problems of their own. But the best thing that happened after Mike passed away was that his friends banded together, and are now moving on. Most of them have cleaned up.

If this was Hollywood, Mike's memory would live on forever— his friends would all go on to live out their lives in memory of Mike, the credits would roll, and we could all walk out of the theater and get on with our lives.

Unfortunately, this isn't a movie. This is gut-wrenching, confusing, nonsensical life. Surely those close to Mike will never forget him, but as time goes on, we will undoubtedly think about him less and less. We'll forget small memories we had of him, little things he used to do, and the jokes he used to crack. It's a sickening fact that I don't think I will ever come to terms with. I can only hope it never comes to that. I can only hope that I will never have to forget about another friend again.

I was told my friend Mike had passed away through a text message. Mike sure would've had a big laugh at this one. Hell, he might even be laughing now. •

THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE TO RIT MUNCHIES

by Liz Kiewiet | photographs by Ross Thompson

Regardless of recreational taste, munchies can appeal to all. This is the comfort food that begs all-night attention, or at least until the sad remains at the bottom of the bag stare blankly back at you. This is the food that will have your back (or stomach) through the good times and the bad times. Nothing can comfort a stressed or altered mind better than the attention of a favored munchie.

Here I have suggested a couple of munchie options. Forget the 100-calorie packs in this review, folks— if you want to be free, you need to expand your calorie count to accommodate. And yes, this is biased, so don't complain if you don't like my choices.

If none of these strike your fancy, you can always go for the classics. Play Food Frenzy on Facebook to get cash for campusfood.com.

Redeem for pizza, Chinese, salad (eww?), wraps, and more. If you're looking for a field trip, go to Wegmans and cavort in the candy section. When it comes to the art of munchie-exploring, there is only one rule: be creative! Munchie exploring is fun and easy, especially if you have lots of debit, too much time, transportation, or a stove, so go out and explore the wondrous world of munchies. •



CHOCOLATE TEDDY GRAHAMS Teddy Grahams are a great buy for the muncher seeking to destroy a large box of smiling, chocolate-covered teddy bears. With their convenient availability at the Corner Store, you won't have to go out in the cold to obtain them...score!



"MUNCHIES" You wouldn't think something so stereotypical would be so amazing, but damn! Another plus: easily acquired by a swipe of your debit card.

for
Chocolate Seekers or the Teddy Bear Terrorizers.

tastes like
A chocolaty explosion all over your taste buds.

for
Diversity seekers.

aroma
Get a cheesy whiff of this and you won't be able to resist diving in and grabbing a handful.

tastes like
Cheesy Doritos and Cheeto goodness coupled with the smooth taste of pretzels and the awkward sensation of Sun Chips.

messy factor
You'll be leaving an orange cheese trail wherever you go.

Bonus: your fingers will be irresistible!

aroma
Smells like...graham crackers. The aroma of these munchies does little to call to the munchie-inclined, but the cute little waving teddy bears might.

messy factor
People might ask, "What did you just eat, dog food?" but at least your hands are mess free.



ICE CREAM Ben & Jerry's ice cream is amazing. Just watch out for the brain freeze.



PUPPY CHOW The ultimate munchie – if you're willing to put in the effort, or pay someone else to do it for you.

for
Adventurous and non-adventurous ice cream lovers. Not for the lactose intolerant.

messy factor
If you know how to use a spoon, you should be fine. If you spill it on the floor, remind yourself that this is not water and that immediate action should be taken; and that the floor doesn't deserve Ben & Jerry's.

for
Those with a hard work ethic, or the real go-getters.

aroma
Don't sniff it too hard. Powdered sugar kills.

tastes like
A peanut butter, chocolate, and powdered sugar orgasm in your mouth.

messy factor
Powdered sugar + mixing ingredients = you looking like a ghost

Hard work factor: You'll need Chex Mix, chocolate chips, peanut butter, butter, essence of vanilla, powdered sugar, a large plastic bag, a pot, and a stove or other heating device. Oh, and the recipe à la Google. Lots of things to think about, so you might want to plan ahead on this one!

aroma
...Creamy goodness?

tastes like
Taste buds, meet ecstasy. Ben & Jerry's is guaranteed to appeal to any ice cream aficionado, so be sure to explore.

Plan your trip to the Corner Store accordingly towards the end of the quarter, as B&J's is one of the first things to run out.

02.15.08

AT YOUR LEISURE

by Isa Shaw

QUIZ:

1. What is considered the most widely used psychotropic beverage in the world?
a. Beer
b. Kava
c. Coffee
d. Malt liquor

2. According to a 2005 survey, there were X people in homes or halfway houses for drug and alcohol abuse in Rochester.
a. 64
b. 364
c. 664
d. 964

3. In April 2005, several arrests were made in Rochester when a popular Internet drug ring was broken. Supplies were shipped from a physician in Agra, India and advertised on a website. What was the name of this infamous drug ring?

- a. Agra Operation
- b. Bansal Operation
- c. Physician's Choice
- d. Patil Supplies

4. Last year, a violent drug-dealing Rochester gang known as Murder Unit was broken up, resulting in 13 imprisonments. In which month did this happen?

- a. January
- b. April
- c. June
- d. August

5. True or false: Rochester is home to one of the best drug rehabilitation centers in North America.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWERS: 1)c 2)b 3)b 4)d 5)b

QUOTE

"I feel the same way about disco as I do about herpes."

—Hunter S. Thompson



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Not confusing LSD and LCD. Would you really want to waltz into a Best Buy and ask for an LSD, only to be sent to a shifty, twitchy young man in tattered blue and yellow threads at the back of a deserted gray storage room? Similarly, would you really want to be making trades in a deserted alley, only to ask for LCD and be sent to an electronics store filled with a squadron of geeks? Really, you've had enough of RIT already.

DIFFICULTY RATING: EASY

				6	9	4
7			8			
2						
	6					5
3	5	9	4			8
				2		
		3	2	8		
	4					5
			7			1

SIGN OF THE WEEK: YOU'RE MY FRIEND





THE ROCHESTER THC MINISTRY
PERSECUTED FOR
POT?

by Joe McLaughlin | photograph by Tom Shirmacher

“W

e’re not here to create a religious defense from prosecution. We’re here because there’s a legitimate claim to cannabis as a sacrament,” said Reverend Dustin Fineout of The Hawaiian Cannabis (THC) Ministry. “Unfortunately, a lot of focus has to be on legal issues because we do face persecution and prosecution.”

Fineout is the Overseeing Minister for Rochester Cannabis Ministry, the local chapter of THC. He is also a fourth year IT major at RIT. Fineout carries credentials from THC, including an identification card and “plant tags” to place in bags of cannabis. The organization, which sells the credentials along with other legal information in kits for \$250 on its website, claims that use of the credentials “work in a similar fashion as a prescription label on medicine.” Fineout, however, points out that “the right to carry comes from religious freedom, not the card. [The cards] are just documentation.”

“THC is not in the strict sense a religion,” said Fineout. “Our beliefs are that cannabis is a healing herb and sacrament given to us by God.” Fineout said that there are three tenets of THC. “The use of cannabis is required,” he said, “because it is not possible to attain spiritual reception without it.” Secondly, he said, “Cannabis must be grown. You’re supposed to help it and grow it.” Finally, he said, “Commerce is forbidden. It’s a perversion of the holy herb to equate it with a monetary value... As far as orthodoxy, those [three] are the only concrete tenets.”

The Ministry is not without its problems, however. “One of the most common things is [that] people are under the impression that the cannabis ministry is a stoners’ club. The way people look at us, they think it’s a joke,” said Fineout. “You can’t just say, ‘I am a member of the THC ministry.’ You need to somehow back it up. You can’t use it just in a moment of legal need as a way out.”

Fineout also said that the THC ministry has faced persecution at RIT. Ministry member Jonathan Peyton, currently a fifth year Mechanical Engineering major, was living at the Racquet Club in December 2005 when his apartment was searched by Public Safety (then referred to as Campus Safety) on a noise complaint. “They found a quarter pound of marijuana and sent me through the judicial process, and to the Monroe County Sheriff’s department,” Peyton said.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dawn Soufleris called Peyton’s account “not complete,” adding that Peyton was additionally found in possession of “10.6 grams of ‘shrooms along with evidence of selling the drugs (baggies [and a] scale)...So it was not just marijuana.” She also said that Peyton did not make reference to a religious use for the drugs in his initial interview with Campus Safety. Soufleris said that in a later interview he brought up the religion, as well as how he “used marijuana on our campus for medicinal purposes.”

Peyton accepted a deal from Monroe County before his arraignment where charges would be dropped provided he was not arrested within a year. He credits his membership in THC and information they provided with convincing the county to offer the deal. “[My lawyer] had not heard of the THC Ministry. I procured the ministry legal folder...he organized a quick defense once he had that information.”

“OUR BELIEFS ARE THAT CANNABIS IS A HEALING HERB AND SACRAMENT GIVEN TO US BY GOD.”

At that point, Peyton had not yet had his judicial hearing from RIT. When he brought up the deal with Monroe County at his RIT hearing, “They basically smirked and told me that RIT works within their own system and can hold students to a higher level than the federal or state systems when I claim religious freedom.

They told me it didn’t matter if it’s my religious right. To them, that’s bogus.”

Soufleris pointed out that RIT “[does] not guarantee the freedom of religion on our campus. The first amendment to the Constitution only applies to the federal government and to the states, and RIT is neither.” She also said, “The right to freedom of religion is not absolute. The courts have set precedent that religions need to show that they are sincere, legitimate, and genuine. ‘Pop up’ religions that take people’s money over the Internet cannot show [that] they have been practiced across generations, or are from an established and recognized religious order. And, the Supreme Court held in *The Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. Hialeah* that neither criminal conduct nor bizarre and incredulous religious beliefs can be given First Amendment protection.”

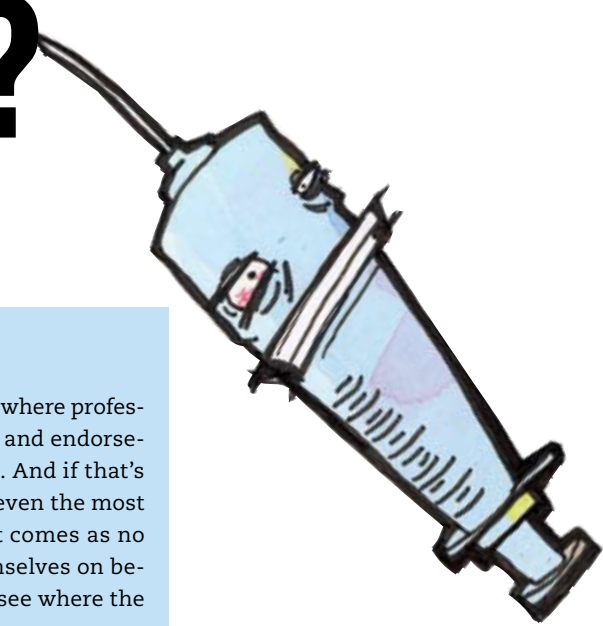
“It was a pretty one-sided hearing,” Peyton claimed. He was found guilty and sentenced to a year’s suspension from RIT. “At the end of the hearing,” Peyton continued, “they turned off the recorder and [Soufleris] said that I was an evil person [who] preyed upon the innocent people at RIT and that the student body will be at a benefit with my absence.”

Soufleris denies Peyton’s account of the hearing. “At no time in my professional career would I call a student ‘evil,’” she said. “That is not in my professional nature. I will stand by my thirteen-year record in Judicial Affairs, and the fair reputation I have earned with students [speaks] for itself.”

Since Peyton’s case at the end of 2006, no other members of THC have had Student Conduct issues at RIT. However, the group still practices openly. According to Fineout, “The Ministry helps people identify with a global culture that’s been suppressed for centuries that they’re a part of. I know people who have enormous difficulty connecting spiritually and cannabis is the only way that they can.” •

HARDER BETTER FASTER STRONGER?

by Abhijit Bhelande | illustration by Bryan Williams



THE WORLD OF STEROIDS

In a nation where the Super Bowl is the most-watched night on television, where professional athletes in a range of sports rake in millions of dollars in salaries and endorsements, it’s not hard to see why many kids grow up idolizing sports stars. And if that’s not enough, who can deny the lure of the glitzy world of showbiz where even the most talented are overshadowed by a beautiful face or a well-toned body? It comes as no surprise that a large percentage of society’s new role models pride themselves on being fitness junkies. With so much performance pressure, it’s not hard to see where the temptation to yield to “secondary measures” might set in.

Drugs commonly referred to as “steroids” are classified as corticosteroids or anabolic (or anabolic-androgenic) steroids. Corticosteroids come in two flavors (inhaled or oral), and are used for a variety of medical reasons, including the treatment of skin inflammation and asthma.

Anabolic steroids, on the other hand, are the ones that receive so much media attention for their use by some athletes and bodybuilders. “Anabolic steroids are hormone-producing drugs that enhance performance by increasing estrogen levels and boosting testosterone. These can either be injected into the body or taken orally,” explained RIT’s Head Strength & Conditioning Coach Mark Cesari. Essentially, anabolic steroids or androgens are synthetic derivatives of testosterone, a natural male sex hormone which directs the body to produce or enhance male characteristics such as increased muscle mass, facial hair growth, and deepening of the voice, and is an important part of male development during puberty. Anabolic steroids induce muscle tissue growth by retaining nitrogen and causing protein synthesis.

However, steroids are dangerous for two reasons. First, they are illegal. The use of anabolic drugs has been banned by almost all sports organizations, and their use without a prescription is against the law. Second, they can be highly detrimental to health, especially if used in large doses over time. Not every individual who takes anabolic steroids experiences harmful side effects, but the health problems caused by steroids may not appear until years after the steroids are taken.

Some known effects include increased risk of cancer, liver damage, and increased risk of sports injuries. Aggressive behavior (called Roid Rage) and post-use depression are common psychological problems associated with anabolics.

There are some gender-specific side effects as well. Men who abuse anabolic steroids may grow breasts, and can also become temporarily infertile. Women who abuse anabolic steroids may develop more masculine features, such as thicker body hair and deeper voices. If the woman is pregnant, the ingestion of steroids will cause the fetus to develop traits of the opposite gender. A number of sexual side effects are also common.

RIT has strict rules regarding steroid use and often conducts local tests on student athletes to make sure everyone is clean. But many other schools do not impose a strict drug testing policy, which can sometimes be a problem. “There have been games where we’ve suspected that members of the opposite team are on performance enhancers, but there’s little you can do. It can be frustrating and is unfair. But if tests were being conducted everywhere, this wouldn’t be an issue,” said Scott Young, a Biomedical Science major and a forward on the men’s basketball team.

Said Cesari, “Although we have had no incidences whatsoever related to use of performance enhancers among student athletes at RIT, it’s important that they understand the facts about steroids, their side effects, and for trainers to know what can drive kids to try them.” •

SELF-

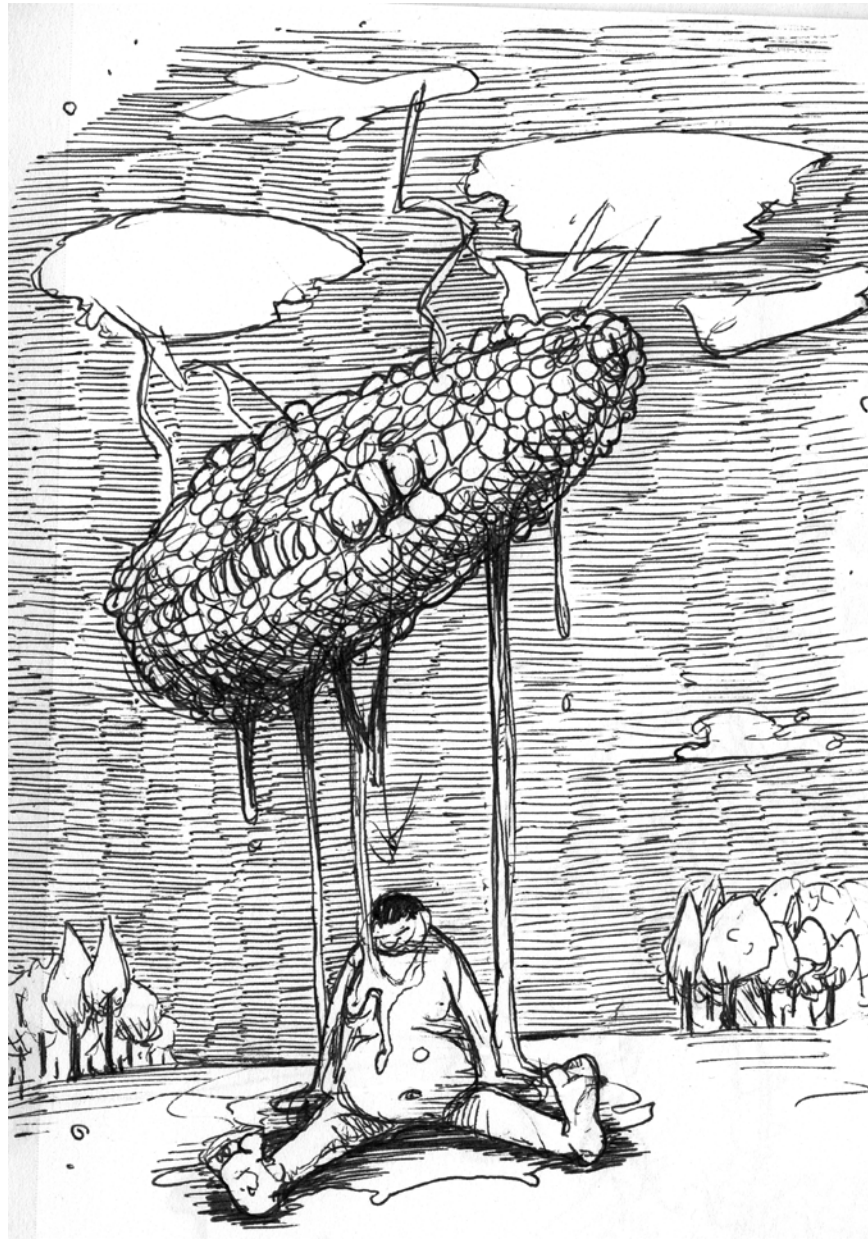
It's a well-known fact that the food which tastes the best is also usually the most harmful to your body. Doused in chemicals, fried together, or mixed with some unhealthy substitute—the way we tend to look at normal eating habits is often insane. Reporter investigates one of the most popular and unhealthy of these substances, one you may not have suspected: high-fructose corn syrup.

As I flipped over the box, I was shocked to see it: an expiration date on a box of Twinkies. It didn't seem to fit quite right, as the popular joke that Twinkies had a shelf life longer than that of Uranium had long since struck a nerve with me. I began to think that this box of Twinkies would outlast even its own printed expiration date. After all, the snack hardly seemed safe, especially given that the expiration date on this very box was years later than that which was found on my new bottle of shampoo.

To preserve the soft yet gummy texture of the Twinkie's golden outer shell, an ingredient known as corn dextrin is used. Although I'm sure no one could honestly compare the sweet taste of a Twinkie to the awful taste of postage stamp and envelope glue, corn dextrin happens to fill both roles. The reason one doesn't taste the terrible, mouth-drying corn dextrin glue, however, is due to a massive dose of artificial sweeteners, the most dangerous of which is high-fructose corn syrup.

High-fructose corn syrup is everywhere in America. Pick up five bottles and I guarantee that at least four will contain it. Move on to dinner and it's all the same. The largely overlooked reason for this dependence upon corn syrup is that U.S. tariffs on sugar are significantly high, causing Americans to pay more than twice what they would for the healthier alternative, pure cane sugar. For large companies, this is more than beneficial, as there is inarguably a greater availability of corn than sugar beets. As it is a liquid, the substance is easier to manage, and it results in a longer shelf life for products.

The problem, however, is addiction. Paired with a massive amount of over-production, it seems inevitable that every American will become hooked and lead a miserable life of inactive obesity.



PRESERVATION

by Ilsa Shaw + illustration by Greg Caggiano

After all, high-fructose corn syrup tends to be funneled mainly into preservable, fatty, and commercially popular junk food such as Twinkies. Many other countries have realized this problem, and have thus put serious restrictions on the amount of high-fructose corn syrup produced. This is why, if you ever pick up a bottle of Coca-Cola in while travelling in the European Union, you won't see high-fructose corn syrup on its list of ingredients. Once back in America, you will.

Corn products also seem to make up the majority of the menus in American fast food chains. For example, out of an estimated 38 ingredients that are tossed into a batch of McDonald's chicken nuggets, 13 are derived from some form of reliant, cheap corn, likely to cut costs and increase preservation.

Even those Arizona green teas you thought were healthy for you are loaded with more corn products than actual tea. Is it any wonder that you persist to drink them? It is extremely difficult to avoid this dangerous substance, and I challenge you to do exactly that. As a general rule, always make sure you take note of the expiration date— anything with a shelf life longer than that of Uranium should, naturally, be avoided.

OTHER COMMON BUT SUSPECT SUBSTANCES

+ CHOCOLATE

I've sure we've all heard of the so-called "chocolate addiction," from the abashedly indulgent health nuts to chocoholics themselves. According to researcher and author of *The Chemistry of Love*, a book published in the 1980s, chocolate contains large amounts of phenylethylamine. The link was therefore quickly made that since phenylethylamines are similar in structure to amphetamines, chocolate was addictive. Finally, chocoholics had a chemical reason to which they could pin their addiction.

Sadly, however, this was not the case. Although it is true that phenylethylamine is similar in structure to amphetamine, they hardly produce the same effects. Phenylethylamine is actually targeted and metabolized

incredibly fast due to a certain enzyme (known as MAO-B), thus producing no noticeable effect whatsoever. The addiction lies in taste— at least, that's what the popular argument is nowadays.

+ HOPS

It's a little known fact that the "special something" slipped into a pint of beer is hops. While not addictive, hops produces a relaxing, desirable effect that is arguably mostly to blame for some drunken behaviors, most notably the debilitating connection between brain and verbal communication, better known as sloppy, drunken slurring. Hops is actually a plant in the Cannabaceae family, the same family that contains marijuana. Unlike high-fructose corn syrup, it is hardly a nation-wide epidemic and is instead based upon hearty European tradition as opposed to exorbitant tariff rates. The substance is not exactly dangerous, but you will find it in five out of five beer cans. Anything alcoholic that doesn't contain hops is considered malt liquor. •

A LEGAL HIGH

by Chris Tosswill
illustration by Ben Rubin



Most readers will not have heard of salvia. Ironically, this is probably due to its legal status. Not having the mystique of a “street drug,” salvia has been more or less off the radar. However, the drug’s popularity has been on the rise since the late ‘90s, with numerous websites and head shops now selling the substance.

Salvia, a psychedelic plant, is often incorrectly compared to LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide). While the statement “Salvia is as potent as LSD” is factually correct, it is very misleading. Salvinorin A, found in salvia, is the strongest naturally occurring psychoactive substance. Consumption of as little as 200 micrograms can result in a ‘trip’. However, the intensity and duration of salvia’s effects are nothing compared to that of LSD.

Traditionally, the plant’s leaves were rolled into a ball and chewed. Due to the horrible taste and quantity of leaves required, the modern way to use saliva is via smoking.

Beyond smoking the raw leaves, many salvia enthusiasts use extracts. The salvinorin is extracted from a group of leaves and then infused into others. This creates leaves with greatly increased levels of salvinorin. Extracts of five to thirty times the naturally occurring strength are common. Although no one has overdosed on salvia, caution should be used when

consuming extracts. Salvia affects everyone differently, and the likelihood of a bad trip is greatly increased with stronger extracts.

Salvia’s effects run the gamut of the benign to truly bizarre. When smoked, the onset is almost instant but lasts for a relatively short period of time. People often experience invisible forces pushing or moving them around, uncontrollable laughter, or a heightened sense of serenity. Less common but not unknown are out-of-body experiences such as reliving past events or completely different realities. It should be noted that a minority of people experience terrifying trips, waking nightmares, and inexplicable pain.

For the most part, salvia is completely legal in the USA. In 2002, a congressional bill to classify salvia as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, which would have made the substance illegal, was voted down. However, a handful of states have outright banned the substance. Others, like Maine, have passed laws treating salvia like tobacco, that is to say, you must be 18 or older to buy it. This is incredibly interesting, as it shows a level of cultural acceptance toward salvia.

Salvia’s legal status seems to be at odds with America’s puritanical stance on drugs. It is most reasonably explained by the fact that there has never been a large-scale public outcry for action, such as with alcohol or cannabis, and it’s been all but unknown until the last decade or so. Thus, the future of salvia is unclear: it may bring about a more European view on drugs, or it too may be banned. •

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PARK  POINT
AT RIT

CONFESSIONS OF A FAILED DRUG DEALER

by Ilsa Shaw | illustration by Bryan Williams



He started out by working with some of his cheapest connections to buy the drugs in the city and drive them out to the suburbs, where he would usually go about selling them to fellow college students. "When I was really desperate, I used to end up at Hampshire College, and you could usually just walk up to some kid on the quad and score. But in general, there's no reason even for a small timer to take that kind of risk. You deal to people you know. Anything else is kind of stupid. Let's face it, on any college campus in the country, there's enough demand that you don't need to go out canvassing for customers. Supply someone once, and after word of mouth, they come to you."

Dealing, however, proved to be quite a risky business. "It's a lot more difficult than most people think when they start on that sort of thing. It's not just a matter of acquiring the product or finding a market. You have literally no support, and you're trying not to be paranoid even though it's sort of inevitable."

It was at this point that it hit me: I would have *never* expected a man like Bleary to be a drug dealer. He awkwardly fiddled with his sleeves, avoided eye contact, and seemed quite uncomfortable, even embarrassed, about the whole situation. "You know, I was pretty timid about the whole affair. I even gave refunds."

Ever defending his dignity, Bleary quickly gathered up an explanation: "It's really difficult. When some girl comes banging on your dorm room door and says her friends didn't get high smoking your bud and she wants her money back, you're really not in any position to argue. She could rat you out quite easily, and you've got nothing on her...So what do you do?"

In the end, it turned out that the grand, yet failed, scheme was not even worth the expected profit. "I basically broke even with the commute. In retrospect, I probably lost money, since I was getting some money from my parents and such. If you're paying street prices, driving out to the suburbs, and then selling them at street prices again, you're not going to make anything," notes Bleary. When asked if he would ever consider dealing again, Bleary sputtered out a timid laugh and said, "I don't think I have the guts for it." •

**Name has been changed to protect identity.*

"Let me make this clear, it was a small scale operation, and a pretty pathetic one," notes James Bleary* as he looks back with a strained smile, one dripping with embarrassment and a slight tinge of guilt.

At one point in time, Bleary was smoking a fourth of an ounce of weed per week. He was in college then, bogged down by financial stress, and decided to try and make a profit out of his habit. "I'll admit it was a stupid idea, but I wasn't exactly thinking clearly at the time...I wanted to go home every weekend, and I thought that dealing would take care of my drug expenses and give me the money to get home," says Bleary.

A MORE EXOTIC WAY TO SMOKE

by Neil DeMoney | photograph by Megan Rossman

Hookahs, which probably originated in either India or China and were popularized in the Arab world, are glass-based water pipes used for smoking aromatic and often sweet-tasting tobacco. Hookahs employ a system of water-filtration and indirect heat, so you can inhale more smoke at one time than you could with other systems of smoking (such as cigarettes), thus increasing the effect. Its supporters argue that it is also not as unhealthy as cigarettes, because it produces less tar. What's more, hookahs, as well as the flavored tobaccos traditionally smoked in them, are legal all over the country.

A hookah is shaped like a vase with a long neck and a large area at the base, called the water jar, which becomes filled with smoke as the tobacco burns in the bowl. After the water jar fills with smoke, this smoke can be sucked through a long hose to the user's mouth. At the top of the hookah sits the bowl and the plate, which holds the tobacco. The bowl is typically covered with aluminum foil with a piece of burning coal placed over it. The aluminum foil is poked with holes so that the tobacco can be burned by the coal.

The coals come in a variety of types, including a basic kind that needs to be warmed on a stove and special kinds which come in different shapes and can be lit more easily. The specialty coals are a little more expensive, but because of their added ease, are often preferred.

Hookahs have long been popular in the Middle East and are socially



"HOOKAH IS MORE ABOUT THE SETTING AND HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS"

acceptable there. This social phenomenon is stretching across the Atlantic and making its way into the lives of many Americans, especially students studying at college. For them, it is something original and new, something that might be fun to try.

Many hookah users feel as though a great deal of people immediately jump to the conclusion that hookahs must be used for smoking pot. One hookah user, International Business major Rahim Bokhari, known as Ali to friends, was first introduced to hookah in Saudi Arabia. He hopes that this original stigma that so many people experience when first being introduced to hookah can be overcome. Bokhari said, "[There] is definitely a stigma

about it...they almost always think it's marijuana." For him, he says, "Hookah is more about the setting and hanging out with friends," and that it's an inexpensive way to socialize and make a good evening last for hours.

Shisha, the tobacco used in hookah, comes in a variety of flavors, including apple, pineapple, mango, and just about any other flavor you can imagine. Bokhari said that his favorite flavor is double apple, which combines the green and red apple flavors. He also opines that hookah use is safer than smoking cigarettes: "[It] has less tar and is less toxic."

Bokhari says that hookah use has helped him appreciate more time

spent with friends and, since being married, gives him an activity he can do without having to go out and party. For him, the benefits are clear, he has a great experience from the setting and from the friends he gets to hang out with.

Since hookahs are so elaborate, they are often expensive to purchase. A cheaper way for the more casual hookah user to enjoy the occasional smoke is via hookah lounges, establishments which allow patrons to purchase tobacco and smoke it in-shop using the store's own supply of hookahs. While there are no hookah lounges in Rochester, there are some located in the city of Buffalo (and elsewhere in the country).

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YOUR GUIDE TO COUNTER- CULTURE MEDIA

by Geoff Shearer | photograph by Alex Gagne

MOVIES

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS

This classic adaptation on Hunter S. Thompson's book proves to be a staple in video collections, both in and out of the drug counter-culture. Director Terry Gilliam's rendition of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* chronicles the adventures of Raoul Duke, played by Johnny Depp, and Dr. Gonzo, played by Benicio Del Toro, in their trip to Las Vegas to write a review for *Sports Illustrated* on the Mint 400 Motorcycle races. What ensues is Duke and Gonzo's depraved dive into the underbelly of the drug-culture in the City of Sin. While the book is obviously a better way to fully grasp who Hunter S. Thompson was, this movie does a fantastic job of placing its audience there with Duke and Gonzo through its seemingly all-too-real drug portrayals.

WAKING LIFE

This 2001 film starring Wiley Wiggins (think Mitch Kramer from *Dazed and Confused*) went largely under the radar, despite being directed by "slacker" Richard Linklater. The film, which is completely animated, took a style of production predominantly unseen by film buffs, by first being filmed entirely in live action

and then being animated from beginning to end based on the original film. *Waking Life* follows the existential journey of a man through a dream as he meets and talks to various people, primarily about the universe and individuals' roles within it. Perhaps one of the film's strongest characteristics is that in a general sense, viewers take their own theme away from it. Although there is a central theme, viewers are able to identify with topics that strike a specific chord with them, making what they take away from *Waking Life* uniquely different from almost anyone else.

SCARFACE

Let me start by saying that it is personally amazing to me that I still encounter people who have not seen this movie. In case you haven't, here's a breakdown: the movie recounts the life of Tony Montana, a Cuban immigrant who comes to America and begins to work his way up the "corporate" ladder of the drug counter-culture, starting with low-level marijuana exchanges and quickly blossoming into a frightening menace to the high brow world of cocaine dealing and smuggling. Dealing with enough blow to kill a small army, Montana quickly realizes that the cocaine world is not all champagne wishes and caviar dreams, as his manic fall into violence and lunacy goes from a looming threat in the background to literally breaking through his front door. See this movie.

BOOKS

ON THE ROAD

1957 brought a powerful notoriety to Jack Kerouac for his creation of *On the Road*, a book which follows Sal Paradise (based on Kerouac himself) as he finds his way out of the big city and begins his life on the road. This book brings the reader along for the journey as if they were right there along with Sal throughout his journey with the jazz, drugs, and people of America, and rightly so. The style that is sometimes referred to as "stream of consciousness" enlightens the reader to essentially every thought process of Sal in his quest. Most notably responsible for the use of this style was Kerouac's physical method of writing *On the Road*, which was written in three weeks on what would later become known as "the roll," a 120-foot long manuscript taped together with no margins, no paragraph breaks, and single-spacing.

THE PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE

Infamous LSD legend Timothy Leary composed this book as a "manual based on the 'Tibetan Book of the Dead.'" The book, dedicated to Aldous Huxley, explores the use of psychedelic drugs such as mescaline, psilocybin, and LSD as a catalyst for exploring spiritual and religious worlds. Hailed by Leary for their therapeutic benefits, psychedelics in this book essentially play the shortcutting role that years and years of dedicated meditation would otherwise play in the book's interpretation and practice. Regardless of drug use, this book makes for an interesting read and enlightens readers to commonalities between two cultures while compelling them to free themselves of ego and the woes of daily living that all too often cloud the bigger picture.

THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION

Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World*, explores how people perceive the world as well as our role within it. An excerpt from this book is actually included as somewhat of an introduction in Leary's *The Psychedelic Experience*. Huxley delves deep into people's perception of the world around us, as well as backing up some of his arguments with historical reference. He touches upon the idea of "the One" and uses this idea to drive many of his arguments home. Experimenting with various levels of mescaline, which are noted in the book, Huxley describes in depth the experience of this drug on the psyche and its ability to open the doors of perception to the human mind.

ALBUMS

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

A staple in any counter-culture collection, Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* has struck chords with a massive fan base since its release. Pink Floyd makes popular a style of music that is, in itself, a journey through lethargic, dark, and eerie segues and brilliant, blossoming choruses. Pink Floyd has truly made a unique and timeless album. Exploratory in nature, the music compels listeners to find the sense of wonderment long lost in a world where all too often, uncommon goes unnoticed and nothing seems spectacular. Google a guide to cueing this album up to *The Wizard of Oz*. Supposedly it's quite the soundtrack.

KID A

Radiohead. If you don't know them, you should. Thom Yorke's haunting vocals consistently bewilder and stun even the most versed and loyal of listeners. The album, whose artwork alone can draw you in, came after the success of their previous album, *OK Computer*. Kid A features minimalist progressions and melodies often leaving the listener lingering lost somewhere in a slew of ambient harmonics. This album won't get you out of your chair and make you dance, but it will drive home a poignantly real experience you won't forget quickly.

LEGEND

Released after Bob Marley's death, this 1984 compilation album is an absolute necessity in any dank, dimly lit smoker's lounge. If you don't know who Marley is, there is no help or golden nugget of knowledge I may bestow upon you. The good news is that it is never too late to get to know Bob. Once you've familiarized yourself with his albums (preferably heard on vinyl as the recommended listening vehicle), take some time to get to know who Marley was as a person and learn his story. You won't be disappointed. As for this album, it's most assuredly one of the most important Reggae albums ever made. •

RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

FRIDAY, 7:54 P.M.

I was very interested in this comment about finding some more attractive people for the That Girl/That Guy thing, because, you know what? This individual is correct. There are a large variety of very attractive people here at RIT, myself included.

FRIDAY, 11:51 P.M.

I drink so hard after RIT Hockey loses. It's unbelievable!

SATURDAY, 5:47 P.M.

Good day, RIT Rings! So, last night, we carted a full keg into the dorms, and we tapped that bad boy off in our study lounge there, and had quite the party. And you [terrible people] never knew about it. Next time I have a keg up there, I'll give you a call. Peace!

SATURDAY, 8:37 P.M.

Hi, RIT Rings. I'm just calling to tell you that I'm on my way to get drunk, and I'll call you later to let you know I got home safe.

SUNDAY, 12:37 A.M.

Hey, so my car is being towed right now. I'm in NRH, and it's parked in 20-minute parking. Yeah, I've been in there for the past five hours, but come on, what the [expletive]? I've never had this happen before.

SATURDAY, 4:12 A.M.

Yo, is the glass half-empty or half-full? No! It's just twice as big as it needs to be! Philosophy solved. Oh, mother[thinker]! Peace!

SATURDAY, 7:41 P.M.

Yo Destler, we want a football team!

SUNDAY, 1:46 A.M.

Yo, tell him not to walk on it. He wants to walk on the lake, RIT Rings. We're walking home from a party right now, and RIT is like a beacon of truth, shining out in the distance, and Nate here, he wants to walk on this lake. Nate, I'm telling you, it's not as frozen as you think it is. It's not frozen, Nate. RIT, you're the man. Oh, Ron Paul for President.

SUNDAY, 3:18 A.M.

I'm currently freezing my [awful rear-end] off outside Ellingson for the eleventh time. Seriously, who the [Hades] thinks this is funny? Eleven? Two may be funny; three, you give a little chuckle. Eleven: [messed] up!

SUNDAY, 1:13 P.M.

Yo, I am tired of hearing about this Crossroads [bovine waste] about Martin Luther King Day, because all that [dung] they were serving is southern food, and if you look, the South isn't just black people. I'm probably one of the whitest people around, and I eat that [excrement]. It's not racist. It's ignorant that you're putting a race on that kind of food. So [please stop talking], RIT, and learn a little more [about] diversity.

SUNDAY, 1:29 P.M.

Hey guys. Apparently, I called you last night, and I have absolutely no recollection of it. And that's awesome.

WEDNESDAY, 4:34 A.M.

What's a CS Major's favorite month? Ani-May!

WEDNESDAY, 6:42 A.M.

You know, freshman registration is probably the only time half these RIT kids get to say, "I'm in!"

WEDNESDAY, 7:11 A.M.

Hey Rings, this is the only number that's not busy. SIS is sucking away my life.

ON THE DRUG WAR

by Karl Voelker illustration by Robert Modzelewski



Imprisoning drug offenders, many of whom are non-violent, causes numerous other problems. First, unless you put every addict away for life (which would be a monumental expense even relative to our current, ridiculous prison budget), most of them are going to come out addicted, so the prison term would have done no good whatsoever. Second, although most drug inmates were not convicted of a violent crime, the prison environment trains many of them to become violent for their own protection.

The War on Drugs is also economically self-defeating. Imprisoning drug dealers reduces the supply. The danger they face raises their cost of doing business. Failing to adequately treat users keeps the demand high, and the devastation of users' families breeds a new generation of despondent children who are likely to turn to drugs themselves. All of these factors have a common economic effect: higher prices. Higher prices make the drug trade more attractive to would-be dealers, as it seems to be an easy road out of poverty. Furthermore, because not all drug dealers are caught, an environment exists in which "survival of the fittest" continues to produce a super species of dealers.

Also in the economic vein, the War on Drugs is costly on every front. We are simultaneously throwing money at a failed solution to a massive problem while failing to extract any tax revenue whatsoever. With the money we could save and gain by legalization, there would be no shortage of funding for treatment programs.

It is terribly sad how often we need solutions to our solutions. What can we do about this one? Consider first that money does not grow on trees, though it might seem that way on the lawn of the DEA. Politicians fund the drug war, and politicians could stop funding it. It doesn't look like they will, but that's only because it doesn't look to them like a good way to get votes.

I'm not in favor of drug use. It seems silly to throw away money and time and sanity for a pretence of happiness with disastrous side effects. But it's just as silly to think that the law should punish drug users for their "immorality" rather than acting practically and rationally to save lives. If the law isn't rational, why should anyone follow it?

NOT TOO LONG AGO, leeching was an acceptable treatment for nearly any ailment. Leeching doesn't work, and today, medicine is practiced differently. So why, when the War on Drugs has been proven such a failure, do we still regard addicts as criminals? It is because we would all like to think that the law is simple; that it should be nothing but a list of what is wrong and their corresponding punishments. As drug criminalization has shown, such laws may be righteous, but they don't get results.

Drug addiction is a medical problem. Yes, it can be self-inflicted, but so can a broken bone. Addiction can require a lot of treatment. What should we be paying for, prisons or hospitals? You could say, "Both," but when you take away a person's freedom, income, family, and friends while ruining their future with a criminal record, can you expect them to care or believe that you actually want to help?

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