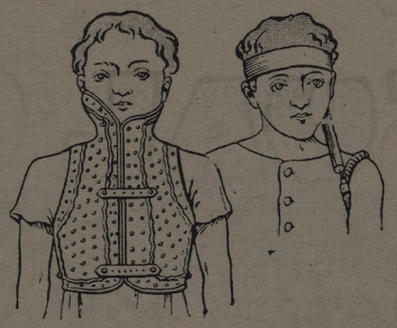
HIP-POCRATES

BY DR. EUGENE SCHOENFELD



QUESTION: An old lover of mine was fond of a certain trick taught to her by an old lover of hers — which involved the placement of an ice cube in her vagina and then copulation.

Certainly an exciting experience, but I have two questions:

1) Could this harm her?
2) Could this be used as an effective means of contraception as well as groovy orgasms?

Love,
Ice Is Nice

ANSWER: Depending on ice cubes for contraception is uncool. If you're not more careful now your old lady will be with child when the frost is on the pumpkin.

I don't know of any other harm that could result from this practice unless you empty a whole ice tray. If I didn't have to mail this column out tonight I could, after reflection, go into an entire ice trip. "Ice box" is only one possibility . . .

QUESTION: I am pregnant and do not intend to take any trips during the first three months. My friends say after that organic psilocybin would not be harmful. Is this so?

How are trips on a natural substance different from synthtics?

ANSWER: Your friends may mean well but they are not basing their advice on any known facts. It's true that the first three months (first trimester) of pregnancy is the most critical time in the development of the fetus. But some substances can cause changes even late in pregnancy. Tetracycline, for example, taken by the expectant mother can cause changes in the bones and teeth of her unborn child.

In the absence of information about psilocybin in pregnancy you should not take this drug or any other while you are **carrying your child.**

I assume that by "organic" psilocybin you refer to an extract from Mexican "magic" mushrooms rather than the compound synthesized in a laboratory (incidentally, psilocybin was synthesized by the Swiss chemist Hoffman, who also first reported the psychedelic properties of LSD). Reports of "organic" mescaline have reached me, i.e. mescaline extracted from peyote rather than produced wholly in a laboratory. Unless you have actually seen these chemicals being produced you have no way of knowing whether they are "organic" or synthetic or even the drug they are said to be. Moreover, there is no evidence that extracted chemicals cause different trips from those entirely synthesized. Some people whose judgement I respect state there are subtle differences between peyote and mescaline and between psilocybin and magic mushrooms. But the "organic" vs. synthetic question may be just a shuck used to sell drugs comparable to Madison Avenue gimmicks.

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Phocomelia or "seal limbs" was a birth defect rarely seen until the recent thalidamide disaster. Because it usually occurs only once in 100,000 live births, six recent cases in young mothers who took black market drugs early in pregnancy have prompted an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and the Justice Department's Division of Drug Abuse. Three of the mothers took green and white capsules while three others took yellow and white tablets. The contents of the tablets and capsules are still unknown.

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QUESTION: She said it made gaps in her mind — "the way grass does": **smoking thyme with a pinch of oregano.** Will such smoking produce permanent "gaps"?

ANSWER: Well it might affect her basil metabolism . . .

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QUESTION: What explanation can you give me for the appearance, several weeks ago, of a lump or knot in the center, or midway lengthwise, of the penis; it is located toward the upper surface.

Since the appearance of this lump, which is not painful by the way, I have noted another thing: when erect, the penis has assumed a pronounced curve upward giving a sort of boomerang appearance. While this does not prevent penetration, it does present a bit of awkwardness of coitus.

P. S. My age is 51.

ANSWER: You should consult your family physician or a urologist to determine the cause of this lump. A painless lump anywhere in the body should be cause for a prompt visit to the doctor.

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QUESTION: Could you explain please the results of a conversion operation for either a male or female trans-sexual. Is it possible to develop a penis for a woman or a vagina for a man?

ANSWER: To answer your question briefly, it is possible to construct an artificial vagina for a trans-sexual male but not a penis for a trans-sexual female. In a male the penis and testicles are surgically removed and an artificial vagina constructed, usually from the lining of the scrotum. Female hormones are given to cause enlargement of the breasts and a decrease in facial hair.

In females, male hormones are given **to increase** the **amount of facial** hair and to deepen the voice. The breasts are often surgically removed but thus far no technique has been developed to give a penis to a trans-sexual female.

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QUESTION: Is it wrong to experimentally have anal intercourse with a fellow shipmate?

ANSWER: I think it's agasinst Navy Regulations.

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QUESTION: Where can I get myself CASTRATED? I'm tired of sex, I hate sex, I don't want to be controlled by women any longer! I hate the two-facedness, double-think, hypocracy. I can't stand living in the Sexual Contradiction any longer: sex is condemned, sex is admired; sex is dirty, sex is fun; if I ask her or imply that I want sex, she hates me ("What? You think I'm a WHORE?"), but if I don't ask her and in fact act like 'I don't want sex' (and I have done this (she says, "What? I'm *not good enough* for you?"

I think all morals should be destroyed, the Church should be destroyed, the educational system, the family, the state, the culture, male supremacy, money. competition, the TV, Power, the police and the courts should be destroyed as the **only** way in which we can live in a sexually free society. Maybe we should all have to be brought up nude to eliminate the sex hang-ups. And why should we hide it? To protest this social atrocity and hypocracy, masses of people should fuck in the streets!

But in the mean time, I can't stand it. Will a hospital do it? I don't mean just removing the tubes. I mean cutting off the dick and the sac, so there won't be any more desire for sex. Would I still be able to live? What would happen if I did it myself? Is there any way to put the sex organs to sleep to eliminate the pain?

ANSWER: I think you should call the Department of Mental Health of your county or City Health Department to learn of psychiatric services available to you. Other sources of information are the local medical society or the nearest medical school. Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.

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HIP POCRATES

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QUESTION: Would you please explain what tachycardia is? I am undergoing treatment by an analyst for anxiety which is causing tachycardia in my heart. However, neither he nor my M.D. will explain tachycardia to me.

I also wonder if getting stoned on grass would be detremental to me? My analyst doesn't care if I smoke weed. The tachycardia doesn't occur when I'm stoned, but sometimes happens when I'm crashing or just relaxing but never when I am up tight, so I am confused as to its being caused by anxiety. Can you explain?

ANSWER: Tachycardia means simply a rapid heart beat and is a symptom, not a disease. Apparently your physician has ruled out any organic cause for this condition. Paroxysmal tachycardia is a condition in which the heart beat becomes rapid (perhaps 140 beats per minute), often without a known cause. The increased rate in itself may cause anxiety but usually is not harmful unless it persists for 12 hours or more. People with this condition should be under the care of a physician. Until medical advice is received, the patient should lie down and rest. Sometimes, putting one's fingers down the back of the throat and gagging will stop an attack of paroxysmal tachycardia.

Marijuana may increase the heart rate slightly in some individuals but the drug usually acts to relieve anxiety. Don't forget your unconscious. You may be up-tight when you're not aware of it.

QUESTION: Recently, friends and I turned onto a drug popular with poets and literati generations ago, nitrous oxide. We found the experience to be among the most religious we have encountered with the strongest of the psychedelics. I could easily see how it could be called simply "laughing gas" but if one knows where to go, it can take you to the void, the threshold of death, "IT," "Ohm" or whatever it all means to you.

Anyway, we took in alternate tokes of N20 and air, passing the tank around the room or sometimes taking two or three hits consecutively until either we were too far beyond to handle the mechanical valve or until it was felt that we might not be getting enough oxygen to the brain anymore.

Thus my question is, what are the potential dangers involved in the use of nitrous oxide this way? Would a person become anesthetized before damage would occur?

OM SHANTI

ANSWER: Nitrous oxide was a popular turn-on for medical students at least as early as 1808. Later in the 19th century carnival side-shows offered "laughing gas" at 5c a whiff. Today it is one of the most widely used anesthetics and it is a curious fact that almost every person who had had a general anesthetic, i.e. "put to sleep," has gone on a far-out psychedelic trip.

The chief danger in the use of nitrous oxide for highs is death by asphyxiation. This could occur if a person strapped an anesthesia mask around his head, attached it to the tank, and turned the tank and himself on. Death is caused not from the effects of the gas but from lack of oxigen while the person is unconscious.

Another common danger, and one greatly feared by anesthetists, could be caused by eating just before using the gas. Nitrous oxide causes a significant number of people to be nauseated. Vomiting while under the effects of the gas could cause food to be aspirated into the lungs. Taking the gas directly from the tank might cause painful freezing of the lips or possibly the larynx.

Other dangers are theoretically possible but uncommon. Nothing is known about possible harm from chronic use of nitrous oxide. For most people it just seems to be a gas.

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