

Pills-a-go-go

Journal of Pills
Crispy 1992



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- Texas pill-junkies prevail
- Pill reviews galore

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pills capsules syrups powders extracts tinctures elixers tablets effervescent tablets time released enteric coat

Pills just make good sense

A study at the University of Rochester school of Medicine showed obese people were helped quickly and dramatically by the use of the drugs phentermine and fenfluramine. Two groups, one getting the pills and the other getting placebos also took part in counseling, diet and exercise programs. The placebo group "showed little weight loss" while the pill poppers almost immediately lost an average of 30 pounds. They also kept the weight off as long as they were given the medication.

A few good men

Fewer than a dozen dedicated junkies can make a difference!

The Texas Board of Pharmacy has now recommended that hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lorcet, et al) be upgraded from schedule III to schedule II — the same class as morphine, amphetamines, etc.— because its investigation showed "the abuse problems of hydrocodone are well documented and it continues to be a significant drug of abuse on the streets of our Texas cities."

Pharmacy Board investigator James Moore said the real problems with hydrocodone abuse lie with phony prescriptions that can only be solved by forcing doctors to fill out triplicate forms for the drug and to have their prescriptions more closely monitored by the police.

Moore ominously pointed out that his investigation had discovered that more than 100,000 tablets of hydrocodone had been illegally dispensed between 1986 and 1991.

PaGG, too, is shocked by this statistic since this "well-documented" number works out to something around 50 pills per day — not enough to supply even 12 reasonably-hooked hydrocodone junkies. Meanwhile, the most effective schedule III pain-reliever (commonly used in the beginning stages of cancer, neck injuries, etc.) will be history. Once a drug goes schedule II, its use always drops.

More big brother

- The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that its OK for police departments to monitor prescriptions without any warrant or reasonable suspicion. Cops in Ohio may collect and analyze all drugstore data just to see who's taking what. Furthermore they are allowed to permanently store all this data in a "non-public area" of the police station.

- And of course Leona Benton didn't get her abortion pills back from customs. US citizens are supposedly allowed to import "unapproved" medicines for personal use. Even the FDA agrees Leona had broken no law in this case.

- The For Your Health Pharmacy in Kent, WA is gone because the FDA found contaminated injectables in the dump-

Pill Plants

By Chet Antonini, editor and publisher

Well guys, it's been a while I know, but that's the way things go-go. We may be experiencing yet another change here as PaGG strives to serve the pill community without driving me crazy. Maybe we'll head back to the single sheet format, maybe not. Maybe we'll change the format. Hell, I don't know. I can't predict these things.

Lately, we've been logging onto a cool-o bulletin board on Usenet called alt.drugs. The thing is just brimming with information although the cactus-eaters vastly outnumber us pill-heads. Still, these guys get into some very interesting discussions about how to make speed out of nasal inhalers, the nature of addiction, and a LOT of information about "natural highs". Which brings me to the big subject of the hour — herbs & pills. More to the point — nature, money and drugs.

Here's what's going on as I see it. The National Institutes of Health has only recently been slowed in its attempt to patent thousands of chunks of human genes without knowing anything about them. The US refused to sign a biodiversity agreement that would guarantee countries rights to drugs developed from flora and fauna found there — even as the government excitedly reports new anti-malaria compounds and post-operative healing agents made from newly-found herbs. Some people just don't want to pay. This kind of behavior has driven India, for instance, to declare zones of its country to be off-limits to foreigners of any kind and makes it illegal for anyone to develop products from plant and animal life there without compensating the source. It's pretty difficult to stop the export of a gene, but they're trying.

Next item:

The FDA has banned more than 400 ingredients for over-the-counter use (see insert). This is of course done by fiat command by Commissioner David Kessler in the "public interest". Indeed, they like to portray this latest move as "an effort to purge the nation's medicine chest of snake oil" (AP 8/27/92). They insinuate that they're doing nothing more than decertifying such bizarre items as "dog grass" as effective ingredients in medicine. But a gander at the latest list shows the FDA officially no longer considers codeine to be effective as a pain-reliever. Nor does it consider aspirin to be helpful in relieving

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Pill Reviews Reviews CRAZY WHACKED OUT
 of pills Pill Reviews
 whole lotta pills Pill Reviews

AC&C tablets

Known as "222s" in Canada (that's just a brand name for these pills) these are a lively and brilliant concoction of three fine ingredients — aspirin, codeine, and caffeine. Not only do they do a bang up job of destroying headaches (especially hangover headaches) they are cheap. Buy an off-brand of about 200 hits and pay less than five bucks American. I say American because the bad news is, these pills are available in Canada only. The good news is they're over-the-counter! That's right, all you gotta do is ask the pharmacist and she'll hand 'em to you without so much as a dirty look.

Now, it's hard to get anything more than a mild buzz off these things as each tablet contains just 8 mgs of codeine along with the standard 325 mgs of aspirin and 15 mgs of caffeine.

In Canada the law says codeine can only be sold without a prescription if its combined with at least two other ingredients — hence it's hard to get codeine cough syrup w/o also getting antihistamines and decongestants, too. But in this case the caffeine is quite useful for off-setting the sedative effects of codeine and aspirin is just unsurpassed as a general tonic anyway. Best of all, these three ingredients are time-tested and derived from natural sources. So dump that ibuprofen and take a day-trip to Canada (legal limit is 100 pills per person, but you know...).

Nose for Nettles

The other fantastic pill we've discovered is freeze-dried stinging nettles at 300 mgs per capsule. We used Eclectic brand but any brand that's freeze-dried will do fine. In the wild, *urtica dioica* really will sting you if you touch it. But taken internally, this stuff can make hay-fever symptoms vanish. I mean it, my wife took a couple of these and her runny nose and tearing eyes cleared up within a minute or so.

These things don't last as long as regular antihistamines — maybe a couple of hours but they have no side effects! No drowsiness, no gummy taste in your mouth.

If you can get ahold of these nettles fresh, that's fine, but the air-dried variety you're likely to encounter in an herb store is useless as the biological constituents are no longer active and only freeze-drying preserves them.

menstrual cramps. In fact, a look at this list shows a ton of things everyone knows are effective indeed. But, says the FDA, they have never been proven to be effective and therefore cannot make any claim. Therein lies the rub.

To certify something as effective costs several million dollars at least. No company is going to pay out that kind of dough for any of these items, for, as you see, none of them are patentable. A company might shell out the coin to be able to make a claim but they have no chance of recouping their investment.

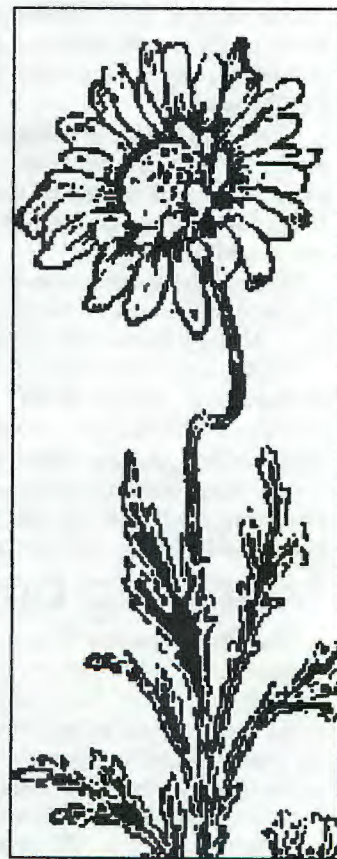
Which brings us back to herbs and vitamins and all the other stuff, including aspirin, the FDA is out to take off the OTC shelves. And make no mistake about it, they mean to eradicate individuals' access to the pharmacopoeia. For the FDA, the only good herb is a patented herb.

Just why this is happening is unclear. Drug companies seem to be the only entities to benefit from this kind of legislation and yet it is hard to believe they could carry this much clout with the administration or would even really want so much protection. No European firms, for instance, are clamoring for such control over genetic material and biological resources — only ailing American companies like this shit.

True, Eli Lilly (both ailing and American) has a virtual hotline to the president and all his men, but it strains credulity to believe this could be the work of one company. Then again, it strains credulity to believe the FDA would be so concerned with the public's use of dog grass, or aspirin.

PaGG promises to look into this.

In the meantime, we have now developed a keen interest in pill-independence and plan to provide as much "roll-your-own" information as possible on making your own medicines. This will have to include growing tips for plants like foxglove for home-production of digitalis. So, stock up on gelatin capsules and be ready. As much as we love store-bought pills, we must get back to our roots, so to speak.



RUBRIC: For to make a drynke pat men callen dwale to make a man to slepe whyle men kerven hem

TEXT: Take three sponful of þe galle of barowe swyne and for a womman of a gylte & thre sponful of hymlok jus & thre sponful of þe wyld neep and thre sponful of letuse & thre sponful of pope and thre sponful of henbane & thre sponful of eysyl and medle hem alle togeder & wil hem a lyt glason vessel wel stopped & do þeroffe thre a potel of good wyn & medle hit wel togeder schal be noted and lete hym þat schal be ccazen a good fyr and make hym for to drynke he falle aslepe & þenne mayght þou savele & whenne þou hast don þy cure & wilt ha take vinegre & salt & wasshe wel his temthonwonges & he schal wake anon ryht.



release from anxiety
ULTRAN
mild, safe tranquilizer

Psychic support for the "always weary"

When psychic tension is the reason for chronic fatigue, Valium (diazepam) can help provide the right kind of support. That's because, in proper dosage, Valium calms the tense, tired patient while seldom dulling the senses or interfering with function. In this way, the patient may be better

The first striking element about the recipe *dwale*. The Middle English substantive *dw*ision, evil; or a dazed or unconscious corplant, deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) narcotic drink. It is, of course, the last me it is striking that no versions of the recipe contain the plant *dwale*, probably deadly nightshade. The best known instance of the Middle English word *dwale* meaning a narcotic drink is the passage in *Reeve's Tale*:

To bedde goth Aleyn and also John
Ther nas na moore - hem nedede no *dwale*.⁶

The Middle English word *dwale* is unquestionably a native English word though its antecedents may be not from Old English *dwol*, *la*, *gedwola* but rather from the Old Norse (ENorse) *dvala*.⁷ It is curious that the drink *dwale* does not contain the botanical name. Most named recipes derive from Latin or French, never without translation or translated, such as *gratia dei*, *un*, *artificial balsam*, *aqua vitae*, *oil of Antioch*, and the like. I have not found another Middle English recipe with a native

... its in the "drynke þat men callen *dwale*" best-... standpoint of their frequent or infrequent use in medical recipes and herbals... and from the standpoint... helpful to drink...
To make a drink that men call *dwale* to make a man sleep while men carve him: Take three spoonfuls of the gall of a barrow swine for a man and for a woman of a gilt, three spoonfuls of hemlock juice, three spoonfuls of wild nept, three spoonfuls of lettuce, three spoonfuls of poppy, three spoonfuls of henbane, and three spoonfuls of vinegar, and mix them all together and boil them a little and put them in a glass vessel well stopped and put thereof three spoonfuls into half a pint of good wine and mix it well together. When it is needed let him that is sicke sit against a good fire and make him drink thereof until he fall asleep. Then he may safely carve him, and when you have done the cure wash him with vinegar and salt and wash well his temples and immediately.



"Notice any change, Mrs. T.?" "Well, Doctor, when I realize that I looked forward to taking my evening pill, I find myself feeling better. Ever feel light-headed?" "No, not at all, I feel perfectly normal now!"
this could be your "anxiety patient" on TREPIDONE

MEPHENOXALONE LEDEBLE
In the treatment of mild to moderate tension and anxiety, the normalizing effect of TREPIDONE leaves the patient emotionally stable, mentally alert. Adult dose: One 400 mg. tablet, four times daily. Supplied: Half-scored tablets, 400 mg., bottle of 50. Request complete information on indications, dosage, precautions and contraindications from your Lederle representative or write to Medical Advisory Department, Lederle Laboratories, A Division of AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY, Pearl River, N. Y.

Knock Yourself Out!

Here is a list of the 414 ingredients the Food and Drug Administration says are of unproven effectiveness in certain over-the-counter drugs and are attempting to ban. A year ago it banned 111 ingredients and two years ago it banned another 223.

Digestive Aid Drug Products

Alcohol, aluminum hydroxide, amylase, anise seed, aromatic powder, asafetida, aspergillus oryza enzymes, bacillus acidophilus, bean belladonna alkaloids, belladonna leaves (powdered extract), betaine hydrochloride, bismuth subcarbonate, bismuth subgallate, black radish powder, buckthorn, calcium gluconate, capsaicin, capsicum (fluid extract), carbon, cascara sagrada extract, catechu (tincture);

Catnip, chamomile flowers, charcoal (wood), chloroform, cinnamon oil, citrus pectin, cnicus benedictus (blessed thistle), diastase, diastase malt, dog grass, eucampene, ether, ferroc acid, galega, ginger, glycine, hectorite, horsetail, huckleberry, hydrastis canadensis (golden seal), hydrastis fluid extract, hydrochloric acid

Iodine, iron ox bile, johnswort, juniper, kaolin (colloidal), knotgrass, lactic acid, lactose, lavender compound (tincture), linden, lipase, lysine hydrochloride, mesemol, myozyme, myrrh (fluid extract), nettle, nickel-pectin, nut vomica extract, orthophosphoric acid, pepsaya (natural), pectin, peppermint, Peppermint spirit, phenacetin, potassium bicarbonate, potassium carbonate, protease, prolase, rhubarb fluid extract, senna, sodium chloride, sodium salicylate, stem bromelain, strawberry, strychnine, tannic acid, trillium, woodruff

Topical Antifungal Drug Products

1. General Use - Alkora, alum (potassium), aluminum sulfate, anylritrasols (secondary), basic fuchsin, benzethonium chloride, benzoic acid, benzocaine, boric acid, camphor, candicidin, chloroxytol, coal tar, dichlorophen, menthol, methylparaben, oxyquinoline, oxyquinoline sulfate, phenol, phenolate sodium, phenyl salicylate, propionic acid, propylparaben, resorcinol, salicylic acid, sodium borate, sodium caprylate, sodium propionate, sulfur, tannic acid, thymol, tolnidate, triacetin, zinc, caprylate, zinc propionate.

2. Diaper Rash Drug Products - Any ingredients for which antifungal claims are made.

External Analgesic Drug Products

1. Diaper Rash Drug Products - Any ingredients for which analgesic claims are made.

2. Fever Blister and Cold Sore Treatment Drug Products - allyl

isothiocyanate, aspirin, bismuth sodium tartrate, camphor, capsaicin, capsicum, capsicum oleoresin, chloral hydrate, chlorobutanol, cyclomethycaine sulfate, eucalyptus oil, eugenol, glycol salicylate, hexylresorcinol, histamine dihydrochloride, menthol

Methapyrilene hydrochloride, methyl nicotinate, methyl salicylate, pectin, salicylamide, strong ammonia solution, tannic acid, thymol, triethylamine hydrochloride, troloamine salicylate, turpentine oil, zinc sulfate.

3. Insect Bite and Sting Drug Products - Alcohol, alcohol (ethoxylated alkyl), benzalkonium chloride, calamine, ergot fluid extract, ferric chloride, panthenol, peppermint oil, pyrilamine, maleate, sodium borate, troloamine salicylate, turpentine oil, zinc oxide, zirconium oxide.

4. Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac Drug Products - Alcohol, aspirin, benzethonium chloride, benzocaine, (0.5 to 1.25 percent), bithionol, celestine, cetalkonium chloride, chloral hydrate, chlorobutanol, chlorpheniramine maleate, creosote (botchwood);

Cyclomethycaine sulfate, desphenol, dipiperdon hydrochloride, eucalyptus oil, eugenol, glycerin, glycol salicylate, hectorite hexylresorcinol, hydrogen peroxide.

Lead acetate, merbromin, mercuric chloride, methapyrilene hydrochloride, panthenol, parethoxyamine hydrochloride, phenyltoloxamine dihydrogen citrate, povidone-vinylacetate copolymers, pyrilamine maleate, salicylamide, salicylic acid, simethicone, sulfur, tannic acid, thymol, troloamine, turpentine oil, zirconium oxide, zyloxin.

Internal Analgesic Drug Products

Aminobenzoic acid, antipyrine, aspirin (aluminum), calcium salicylate, codeine, codeine phosphate, codeine sulfate, iodoantipyrine, lysine aspirin, methapyrilene fumarate, phenacetin, pheniramine maleate, pyrilamine maleate, quinine, salsalate sodium aminobenzoate.

Orally Administered Menstrual Drug Products

Alcohol, alfalfa leaves, aloe, asclepias tuberosa, asparagus, basosma, bearberry (extract of ursa ursi), bearberry fluid extract (extract of bearberry), blessed thistle (cnicus benedictus), buchu powdered extract (extract of buchu), calcium lactate, calcium pantothenate, capsaicin oleoresin;

Casosa fluid extract, aromatic (extract of casosa), chlorophenpyridamine maleate, cimicifuga racemosa, codeine, collinsonia (extract stone root), com silk, couch grass, dog grass extract, ethyl mine, ferric chloride, ferrous sulfate, gentiana lutea (gentian), glycyrrhize glabra (licorice root);

Homeopathic methyl bromide, hydranga (powdered extract), (extract of hydranga), hydrastis canadensis (golden seal), hyocyanine sulfate, juniper oil (oil of juniper), magnesium sulfate, methapyrilene hydrochloric, methenamine, methylene blue, natural estrogenic hormone, nicotinamide, nutmeg oil (oil of nutmeg);

Oil of erigeron, parsley, peppermint spirit, pepsin (essence), phenacetin, pheniramine tartrate, phenyl salicylate, piscidia erythrina, pipsissewa, potassium acetate, potassium nitrate, riboflavin, saw palmetto, stercor aureus, sodium benzoate, sodium nitrate, sucrose, sulfated oils of turpentine;

Taraxacum officinale, theobromine sodium salicylate, theophylline, thiamine hydrochloride, triticum, turpentine (venice) (venice turpentine), urea.

Pediculicide (Lice) Drug Products

Benzocaine, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, chlorophenothene (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), coconut oil soap (aqueous), copper oleate, docusate sodium, formic acid, isobornyl thiocyanacetate, picric acid, propylene glycol, sabedilla alkaloids, sulfur (sublimed), thiocyanacetate.

Skin Protectant Drug Products

1. Astringent products - acetone, alcohol, alum (ammonium), alum (potassium), aluminum chlorohydrate complex, aromatics, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, benzocaine, benzoic acid, boric acid, calcium acetate, camphor gum, clove oil, colloidal oatmeal, cresol, cupric sulfate, eucalyptus oil, ugnol, honey, isopropyl alcohol;

Menthol, methyl salicylate, oxyquinoline sulphate, p-t-butyl-m-cresol, peppermint oil, phenol, polyoxyethylene laurate, potassium ferrocyanide, sage oil, silver nitrate, sodium borate, sodium diacetate, talc, tannic acid glycerite, thymol, topical starch, zinc chloride, zinc oxide, zinc phenolsulfonate, zinc stearate, zinc sulfate.

2. Diaper Rash Drug Products - Aluminum hydroxide, cocoa butter, cysteine hydrochloride, glycerine, protein hydrolysate, racemethionine, sulfur, tannic acid, zinc acetate, zinc carbonate.

3. Fever Blister and Cold Sore Treatment Drug Products - Bismuth subnitrate, boric acid, pyridoxine hydrochloride sulfur, tannic acid, topical starch, troloamine, zinc sulfate.

4. Insect Bite and Sting Drug Products - Alcohol, alcohol (ethoxylated alkyl), ammonia solution (strong), ammonium hydroxide, benzalkonium chloride, camphor, ergot fluid extract, ferric chloride, menthol, peppermint oil, phenol, pyrilamine maleate, sodium borate, troloamine, turpentine oil, zirconium oxide.

5. Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac Drug Products - Alcohol, anion and cation exchange resins (buffered), benzethonium chloride, benzocaine, benzyl alcohol, bismuth subnitrate, bithionol, boric acid, camphor, cetalkonium chloride, chloral hydrate, chlorpheniramine maleate, creosote, dipiperdon hydrochloride;

Diphenhydramine hydrochloride, eucalyptus oil, ferric chloride, glycerine, hectorite, hydrogen peroxide, impatiens biflora tincture, iron oxide, isopropyl alcohol, lanoline, lead acetate, lidocaine, menthol, merbromin, mercuric chloride, panthenol, parethoxyamine menthol, merbromin, mercuric chloride;

Panthenol, parethoxyamine hydrochloride, phenol, phenyltoloxamine dihydrogen citrate, povidone-vinylacetate copolymers, salicylic acid, simethicone, tannic acid, topical starch, troloamine, turpentine oil, zirconium oxide, zyloxin.

Small Comfort

A History of the Minor Tranquilizers
by Mickey C. Smith, Praeger 1985

Using the drug Miltown as a benchmark, Mickey Smith, a professor at the University of Mississippi does the most exhaustive and entertaining job of discussing the minor tranquilizers you can imagine.

The introduction of the drug "Miltown" (meprobamate) introduced the era of the tranquilizer. Indeed, the term first appeared to describe the drug in 1957. Then came Librium, Valium and a cavalcade of "happy pills" including one with the unlikely name of "Darvo-Tran" marketed for a short time by Eli Lilly. Smith discusses the impact of these so called "minor" tranquilizers on doctors, society, and medicine itself. Along the way he discusses such fascinating topics as the "medicalization" of social problems — something that really hasn't been looked at since the decision to restrict opium use in the early part of this century. Indeed, Smith quotes some arguments that today's benzodiazepines serve the same function as opium did for the stir-crazy housewife or benumbed factory worker. Others describe tranquilizers as "the psychiatrist's morphine" that helps deal with the pain while the fracture is set.

Smith also addresses an pill/social issue he calls "medical Calvinism" and its effect on tranquilizer use. At first, the pills were widely seen as a boon to society (see chart next column) and were known as "happy pills", "aspirin for the soul" and even "don't-give-a-damn pills". New Yorker cartoons confirmed their acceptance in the highest echelons of society. Farmers even began to add them to pig feed to produce mellow, fatter pigs!

Then the pills began to be seen as a cop-out and perhaps "cheating". Emotional distress could be dealt with by moral fortitude and simply getting back to work.

Today the pills are seen mostly as just another type of medication, although their use is still freighted with social and quasi-moral ramifications. Small Comfort muses on the role of tranquilizers in society from the doctor's office to every day situations. Does the use of tranquilizers by a single person have an effect on a group of people he associates with?

One of the best chapters in the book deals with media coverage of the pills. The chart in the next column (taken from the book) roughly shows the rise, decline, and leveling out of the minor tranquilizers.

Other chapters deal with marketing strategies used by the various drug companies, aimed primarily at doctors. Smith painstakingly researches and provides information on just how doctors have prescribed the pills over the years and why. In one chapter called "Doctor's Dilemmas" Smith explores the degree to which physicians and patients have forced themselves into a ridiculous cat-and-mouse game with these pills. Fear of "addiction" versus therapeutic value is one problem medical practitioners have, but so is something Smith refers to as "cultural lag" — that is technology's ability to outpace society's ability to cope with it.

Finally, a lengthy chapter called Transient Situational Disturbances: The Regulatory Environment provides a sad and hilarious look at lawmakers attempts to regulate that which has already been medicalized.



70-95%*

of nervous, tense patients
recovered or improved

For your patients, Miltown promptly checks emotional and muscular tension. Thus, you will make it easier for them to lead a normal family life and to carry on their usual work.

For you, the choice of Miltown as the tranquilizer means the comfortable assurance that it will relieve nervousness and tension without impairing your patient's mental efficiency, motor control, normal behavior or autonomic balance.

Miltown

WALLACE LABORATORIES, New Brunswick, N.J.

THE ROAD TO MILTOWN—MASS MEDIA COVERAGE

TABLE 5.1. Tranquilizer Euphemisms in the Lay Press, 1954-81

Year	Term(s) Used	Source
1954	"Wonder Drug of 1954"	<i>Time</i>
1956	"Happy Pills"	<i>Changing Times</i>
1956	"Aspirin for the Soul"	
1956	"Psychiatric Aspirins"	<i>Nation</i>
1956	"Mental Laxatives"	
1956	"Pacifier for the Frustrated and Frenetic"	<i>Time</i>
1956	"Don't-Give-A-Damn Pills"	
1956	"Pills for the Mind"	
1956	"Peace of Mind Pills"	<i>Coronet</i>
1956	"Happiness Pills"	<i>Newsweek</i>
1956	"Emotional Aspirin"	
1956	"Happy Pills"	<i>Look</i>
1956	"Happiness Pills"	<i>Christian Century</i>
1957	"Peace of Mind Drugs"	<i>Today's Health</i>
1957	"Happiness by Prescription"	<i>Time</i>
1959	"Happy Pills"	<i>Coronet</i>
1960	"Calming Pills"	<i>Science News Letter</i>
1960	"Peace of Mind Drugs"	<i>Time</i>
1961	"Quiet Pills"	<i>Today's Health</i>
1962	"Turkish Bath in a Tablet"	<i>Reader's Digest</i>
1963	"Brain Drugs"	<i>Popular Science Monthly</i>
1964	"Mind Drugs"	<i>Science Digest</i>
1966	"Weak Barbiturates"	<i>Science News</i>
1966	"Weak Alcohol"	
1966	"Mind-Acting Drugs"	<i>Science News</i>
1969	"Psychotropes"	<i>Transaction</i>
1980	"Bottled Well-Being"	<i>Time</i>

ster outside the store. At least one of the contaminated drugs — a hydrocortisone drug called Solu-Cortef was manufactured by Upjohn. So far, the FDA has not raided Upjohn.

- British researchers reported in the *Lancet* that use of the drug "Ecstasy" (MDMA) can lead to possibly fatal hyperthermia and dehydration — especially when taken at dance parties called "raves" where people dance around all night without replenishing spent fluids.

- Chinese officials reported they have executed at least 277 drug traffickers in the southwestern province of Yunnan, which is known for its opium production.

Pills & Crime

- A Brooklyn doctor named Rodrigo Doronio Rapaoa got a year in jail for prescription-selling and ripping off Medicaid. The good doctor specialized in Valium, which he prescribed for something around a dollar a pill. But he just went too far when he'd take the opportunity to bill Medicaid for phony hearing and tuberculosis tests.

- Grand Prairie Justice of the Peace Cameron Gray's felony trial for possession of a single Valium tablet ended in a hung jury on May 30, he is now plea-bargaining to avoid yet another trial in which the prosecutors pointed out with glee that the judge was found not only with a Valium pill, but a prostitute! Judge Gray also went ahead and resigned his post in a Dallas, TX courtroom.

- Yet another Bolar Pharmaceutical CO. executive went up the river this July for his part in faking-out the FDA on his company's generic drugs. Jacob H. "Jack" Rivers, 63, of Great Neck, NY drew four years and a \$1 million fine. Bolar was nailed last year for, among other things, substituting brand-name pills for its own in FDA bio-equivalency tests. Of course Rivers had to break down and beg the judge before he received his sentence. "I'm aware of all the wrongdoing," he whined, "I'm sorry. I apologize."

Pill-popping pooches

Nicholas Dodman Prof. of Anesthesiology and Behavioral pharmacology at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in Boston has revealed that Ritalin can calm hyperactive and aggressive dogs. Busparone, too, can reduce anxiety in dogs just like in humans.

PaGG, however, has found that Valium has no calming effect on dogs at all so don't try that at home.

Pills on Trial

Trials of a new kind of antibiotic derived from proteins discovered in frog skin are set to begin this fall, said University of Pennsylvania professor Dr. Michael Zasloff.

Zasloff discovered the stuff one afternoon while routinely opening up lab frogs, taking out their ovaries, giving them a couple of stitches and tossing them back into bacteria-infested tanks of shallow water. Suddenly it dawned on the doc that this unhygienic practice should be killing the frogs. Instead, their wounds were healing without so much as inflammation. HmMMM, he thought.

Two thousand attempts later, the doc isolated the new class of compounds, which he called "magainins" (Hebrew for "shield").

His tiny company, Magainin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has discovered similar molecules in pigs, horseshoe crabs, mice and even humans.

Identified as MSI-78, the company is seeking permission to begin human testing this fall.

Some other scientists in Philadelphia are already experimenting with a new drug to deal with panic attacks. Dr. Joseph Mendels, medical director of the Philadelphia Medical Institute is in charge. This may very well be a phase three study, so there's no money to be made here for human guinea pigs, but, if you're one of the 1.5 million Americans who suffer from Panic Disorder you might want to look into it.

Sell Yourself to Science

As promised in the new book, *Sell Yourself to Science* (Loompanics, 1992) PaGG will try to inform its readers of any human testing we hear of. We will also try to guess at reasonable areas where certain drugs may be under investigation. As outlined in the book, healthy men between 18 and 55 can earn as much as \$100 per day by being human guinea pigs for phase one drug trials. The book lists more than 150 drug-testing sites throughout the U.S. where a budding guinea pig can get started. But as word-of-mouth is the best method to find out about these tests, PaGG will try to serve as a central clearing-house for such information.

So if you hear of any drug tests, please let us know and we'll post them here.

The book, *Sell Yourself to Science*, is a complete guide to becoming a human guinea pig — how to find a study, get accepted, get paid extra, etc. The book also gives exhaustive information on sperm "donation" (\$50 a shot!), and other body fluids — even hair! Also covered is a guide to selling your internal organs now and after you die. With the economy the way it is and a kidney being worth a cool fifty grand, it's something to think about.

Pills-a-go-go is offering the book for \$16.95 post-paid, otherwise the book may be found in local bookstores or ordered direct from Loompanics.

More Pill Crime

A ring of seven dastardly "drug diverters" was smashed in New York City and a veritable pharmacy of some 200,000 pills with a "street value" of \$300,000 was seized by cops.

The daring, pre-dawn raids on four Bronx apartments were the result of a four-month undercover operation of a bunch of Mexicans and Dominicans selling illicit prescriptions for AZT and other AIDS drugs.

The drugs were apparently obtained in some shady manner and then sold for cut-rate prices to AIDS-sufferers on the street. PaGG wouldn't be surprised if such scum even sold non-FDA approved medications to treat HIV.

Bad Medicine

- FBI agents arrested Joseph Meling of Olympia, WA on suspicion of being the dickhead who poisoned a bunch of Sudafed 12-hour capsules in the area in 1991. They say Meling, whose wife also took the poisoned pills but did not die, planted the other pills in nearby stores to deflect attention away from himself.

Meling says he didn't do it.

- In Britain, Abbott Laboratories were forced to withdraw their new antibiotic Teflox after reports that the drug had killed some people. At first hailed as a great new weapon to fight pneumonia, the stuff seems to be just a little too toxic for the liver and kidneys. In the U.S., there have been about 50 reports of serious side effects. The drug was introduced in the U.S. in February and is thought to be a promising remedy for chest, skin and urinary tract infections — a market worth \$18.5 billion worldwide in 1990.