Hollywood Halcion

A vigilant PaGG correspondent got a look at the soon-to-be-released movie "Jeffrey Dahmer — the Secret Life" and recounts the following "pharmaphobic" scene:

J.D. (to victim-to-be, lured into innocent 'hey man, wanna party?' number —)
"Hey man, lemme getcha a beer!"
(cut to crunching and grinding of sinister blue tablets) beer sips and within seconds...

Victim: "Hey — Whadja gimme, man?"
(cut to instantaneous comatose condition, eyes glazed, tongue drooping, the mythic Mickey Firm, the taking candy from a stranger of all our paranoid childhoods.)

"Trouble is," notes the nurse/correspondent, "even big old barb ODs by mouth take time to absorb" and what is shown in the movie is a more accurate portrayal of an intervenous curare injection.

Halcion Habeas Corpus

• Meanwhile a Texas cop serving a life sentence for shooting his best friend in the head after a drinking spree in 1987 suddenly realized the true problem was the Halcion he had taken. Accordingly, William A. Freeman (no joke), former assistant police chief in the west Texas town of Ft. Stockton has filed suit against Upjohn for $5.5 million to compensate his family for the "pain, humiliation and tragedy inflicted" by the devil drug.

This just in, the jury awarded Freeman's family up to $2.15 million. But the actual damage award is likely to be less since the jury split the blame between the pill, the doctor and, surprisingly, Freeman himself, who they figured was responsible for 50% of the crime. The doc weighed in at 30% and Upjohn was blamed for 20%.

Eli Lucifer

• Speaking of devil drugs ... Eli Lilly may have a PR problem worse than Proctor & Gamble's satanic emblem with their recent merger-deal with SHAMAN PHARMACEUTICALS. The company, named for a type of witch doctor now favored by new agers, is dedicated to isolating cool-o drugs from "magic" folk remedies.

Say What?

• And does this sound right? On October 21st, Reuters reported a Tokyo nurse being arrested for the theft of 1,000 sleeping pills called "Halcion", which supposedly sell for $40-$80 on the Japanese black market and can cause hallucinations.
Colling oil

Guinea Pigs!

Here are some drug studies PaGG has learned about along with some contact information. Some of these studies may pay and some may not, but all have been advertised at some point in newspapers, etc. It is quite possible that a particular study listed here will be full or even completed by the time you get in touch with them. But these contact numbers are likely to yield more, and perhaps even better tests in the future — so keep these numbers!

By far the best-sounding study we've heard about so far is a study of a new opiate painkiller called buprenorphine. The study calls for males between the ages of 21 and 45 to live at the University of San Francisco's study unit and then participate in some outpatient work.

But check this out — you must already be a "recent and frequent" user of opiates, and not trying to kick or anything. Beautiful! This is just the thing for a junkie who could use a vacation. Money is paid but the amount is unknown. Call (415) 476-7471 from 9am to 4pm or (415) 476-7498 to leave a message 24 hours.

* USCF is also looking for males and females with psoriasis to participate in a 6-visit, 8-week study of some new cream. Pays $100. Call (415) 476-6281

* St Louis U. Med. Center is looking for older people between 60 and 85 to try out a "breakthrough" anti-obsession medicine. No word on pay. Call (314) 577-8741

They are also looking for old people with insomnia to try out a new med and you get "a small stipend" for this one. Call (314) 577-8719 or (314) 577-8723.

* Barnes West County hospital in St. Louis is looking for kids between 12 and 17 who are allergic to ragweed. Call 1-800-243-LUNG.

* Also in St. Louis is a study for females between 40-65 to participate in a research study on menopause. There are a few conditions and probably no pay — call (314) 638-9518 for more information.

* Glaucoma sufferers who strike out at the above studies can mosey over to St. Louis' Barton Research to find out about a PAID study some new glaucoma medications. Call (314) 727-3793.

News Flash: Viral Disease Research Clinic, Seattle needs vols. for herpes vaccine. 3 shots @ $50 each over 6 mo. period. Call 206-223-8426.

* And at Jewish Hospital they're looking for people with ulcerative colitis or proctitis for "promising" studies on new anti-inflammatory meds. Call (314) 454-7363

* Diabetics in St. Louis can take advantage of a slew of studies to treat their disease by calling the Kilo Diabetes & Vascular Research Foundation at (314) 434-7166 or 434-6500.

* Denver's Pharmatech was looking for asthma patients using inhaled steroids to check out an inhaler called Azmacort. Call (303) 777-6738.

* Also near Denver (Lakewood) the Clinical Research Department headed up by Dr. Paul Miller was looking for postmenopausal women for osteoporosis studies. Age 40 and older, not currently on estrogen. Call (303) 232-6930.

* In Salt Lake City AAAA Medical Research Group needs volunteers to get between $100 and $400 for participating in investigational drug studies for hay-fever, asthma, hives, and hot flashes. Looks lucrative. Call (801) 532-4526 for more information.

* Pharmaco Dynamics Research Inc. has taken to advertising for guinea pigs on local rock & roll stations, on billboards and with humorous ads in local papers. It is refreshing beyond belief that a research facility would be so open about its business and take the trouble to shock off the image of Frankensteiney and secrecy most other places have.

They have even mailed a brochure about guinea-pigging to the 5,000 freshmen at the local University of Texas to remind them of one of the easiest (and often fun) ways to make a hundred bucks a day. One of the company's logos (which appears on give-away T-shirts) is of a two-headed woman, jeering at the common fear people have of human drug testing.

Anyway, Pharmaco has run tests on thousands of drugs from acne medicine ("Zits are the Pits — You can make them pay!") to contraceptives and chances are good you can get on there. Write down this latest number (512) 462-0492 or (in Texas (800) 866-0492. Have a nice ride! Yee Hal

HOT TIPS: Head for the Medical University of South Carolina this summer for studies funded by Hoffman-LaRoche and San-
doaz involving diazepam and a new medication for Panic Disorder and/or agoraphobia.
EMMENAGOGUES

- Caraway, Carum carvi
  COMMON NAME: Caraway
  MEDICINAL PART: Seed
  USES: Astringent, carminative, emmenagogue, expectorant, galactagogue, stomachic.
  TO USE: Seed may be chewed or prepared as follows: Infusion 1 tsp. crushed seeds to 1 cup water. Boil briefly, steep covered for 10 minutes and drink 3-4 cups a day, homeopathically.

- Madder, Rubia tinctorum
  COMMON NAME: Red madder
  MEDICINAL PART: Root
  USES: Astringent, diuretic, emmenagogue. Extracts of the root are used in herbal medicine.
  TO USE: Decoction 1 tsp. root to 1 cup water. Take 1-2 cups a day.

- Feverfew, Tanacetum parthenium
  COMMON NAME: Feverfew
  MEDICINAL PART: Herb
  USES: Astringent, diuretic, emmenagogue, expectorant, stomachic.
  TO USE: Infusion 1 tsp. dried herb to 1 cup water. Take 1-2 cups a day.
Silly Suicide

- "Long Island Lolita" teen Amy Fisher, who shot her lover's wife Mary Jo Buttafuoco "attempted suicide" by swallowing "10-15 tablets of Xanax". PaGG recommends that the Surgeon General come out four square against this kind of abuse of benzodiazepines. Ever since Robert "Idiot" McFarlane tried to off himself with Valium thousands of perfectly good pills have been wasted on senseless "cry-for-help" suicide bids.

- Folks, these pills just won't kill you. To get them to cause death you simply must mix them with alcohol, barbiturates and a plastic bag over your head. Even then it might not be a bad idea to shoot yourself in the head as you jump out a window.

- So there you go. PaGG takes a dim view of those who would waste such cool pills as "vitamin V" just to get attention. Hint for the world-weary: give your pills to a friend then OD on OTC antihistamines instead. You'll get approximately the same effect while making at least somebody happy.

More Pill Crime

- In Cleveland a 73-year-old physician was arrested after a secret jury charged him with 76 counts of drug trafficking and writing false prescriptions.

- When cops — accompanied by bright lights and a television "news" crew — burst into the aged Dr. Demetrios Pawlyszyn's office two patients fled the waiting room leaving the doc to be trussed up and hauled away in the paddy wagon.

- The doc, a native of the Ukraine, is accused of — get this — writing what the secret prosecutor said were too many prescriptions for Valium, Tylenol with codeine and Vicodin. The scourage of Cleveland further proved himself a low-down scumbag by only charging his patients $25 per visit. Accused of giving out pills "like candy" the doc replied that 20 or 30 tablets "is not candy" but I think we see through this ruse.

- In Madison, WI, Attorney General James Doyle strutted for the cameras in front of $22,000 worth of anabolic steroids seized in a daring raid on southern Wisconsin health clubs. Doyle said his men acted just in time to cut a "pipeline" of the body-building drugs that had been established from Mexico and Japan.

- Also in Madison, WI, a Pierce County district attorney was charged with obtaining Valium "by concealing material fact."

- Basically, what Roger Zemke, 46, did was run around to a bunch of different doctors complaining of back pain and obtaining prescriptions for Valium and Vicodin, then stockpiling them against the day he might not be able to get them any longer. He turned over some 44 bottles of stored-up pills to the authorities and now faces a year in jail where he can pal around with some of the folks he's prosecuted in the past.

- And Elvis' ex-doc George Nichopoulos, 64, has lost his license again pending a "trial" by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners who say he has addicted several patients to various drugs and that he also prescribed drugs to drug addicts.

- Nichopoulos has been through all this before when they tried to hang Elvis' heart attack on him.

- In Norristown, PA even pleas for clemency from the prosecutor fell on deaf ears as a kindly judge sentenced a 61-year-old man to 3-12 years in prison for possession of amphetamines. The judge, Samuel Salas said he didn't think a light sentence would do any good. "I believe incarceration is the only vehicle to prevent these crimes from happening again."

- The victim, Francis Xavier Kines was old and decrepit and walks with a cane. The prosecutor pointed out that Mr. Kines had been addicted to methamphetamines for almost 35 years and had become an addict long before the drug became "illegal."

- Meanwhile, the federal government continues to rack up convictions against a string of seven generic pharmaceutical companies yielding 29 convictions against individual executives (and five FDA agents) and $30 million in fines.

- These guys all conspired and did put on the market substandard medicines and submitted fake test data to prove the safety and efficacy of a whole slew of pharmaceuticals. None of the people convicted of crimes are doing much, if any time. Most are being sentenced to probation, community service and — most draconian of all — lifetime expulsion from the business of manufacturing generic drugs. Yikes!

- Two executives of a Detroit-area pharmaceutical wholesaler ripped off some $4 million in Medicaid fraud. Ann Newman, president of Frank W. Kerr Co. got an astounding 300 hours of community service and a $29,000 fine while the company's vice president, Arthur Wolf drew nine whopping months in a "community corrections center" and has been fined $25,000. Also, the company is supposed to pay back the stolen money.

Truth, R.I.P.

- He died near made it to 100 before truth serum inventor Ernest Volwiler of Abbott Laboratories died at age 99. It was in 1936 that Volmiler and sidekick Donalee Tabem developed the anesthetic sodium pentothal. This was right on the heels of the two chemists' successful invention of the barbiturate Nembutol, which can knock you out in 20 minutes.

Vitamin Reprieve

- On October 6th, the House voted to give vitamin supplement manufacturer's a one year breather before forcing them to comply with labeling laws that will ultimately destroy their business. To make the bill palatable to the megalomaniacs who run our lives, the same bill also authorizes the FDA to begin extracting "user fees" from companies that want to have their drugs approved. The reprieve is thanks to Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah whose state is home to a $700 million vitamin industry. Hatch knows what's going on and continues to fantasize that the year-long break will allow these jackasses to "develop a more intelligent approach" to wiping out yet more of our freedoms.