

# Speaking Of Drugs

By Tony Harris  
&  
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During the 60's many new kinds of life deteriorating drugs were introduced to the general population. One such drug is LSD.

Initially, this drug was the choice of the white middle class young. LSD rose in popularity along with the hippie movement. It gained even more popularity after its use was considered okay by the radical student leaders who themselves were products of the hippie movement.

Blacks began to use this drug with increasing frequency. Several reasons were given for its rise in popularity in the black community. Some people heavily involved with this drug felt that they gained intellectual insight into the problems facing man. Some users advocated its use because it was not physically addicting. This is true, but the psychological damage which could possibly occur is where the danger lies. Many people were afraid to take LSD because of fear of losing their minds or jumping out a window to their death.

Like most drugs it can be used for a while before any negative effects occur. LSD can be taken orally or by sniffing. Some people inject LSD to get the maximum effect of the drug instantly.

LSD is usually mixed with small amounts of strychnine, a deadly poison. Each time you take LSD, you deposit this poison; which continues to build up in your body.

According to a study of The North Piedmont area by a Washington, D.C. based Planning Corporation, there are 50,000 people who have at least tried LSD. Approximately 20,000 are current users, and 7,100 of this number use it frequently for social and recreational purposes.

The most menacing problem for drug users is not the physical problems but the psychological complications that develop after long periods of use. Rehabilitation is a long and tedious process. Programs geared toward helping problem LSD users are almost non-existent. Most users of LSD must seek treatment in programs that emphasize the treatment of different type drugs.

LSD produces changes in thinking patterns, self-awareness, sensations and emotions. This change is the real danger. With frequent use the person becomes two people. He thinks one way while he is straight, but changes his thinking while under the influence. If being straight is not appealing, then many people feel the only alternative is to continue using the drug. They do this to be more aware and to achieve a good feeling about themselves.

First offense possession is a felony. The penalty is not more than five years imprisonment; second offense is not less than five years, and not more than ten years; and the third offense is not less than fifteen and not more than life imprisonment along with a \$15,000 fine.

The last two years has seen a rise in the use of LSD especially by students. My four years of helping LSD users get themselves together has been very frustrating. The users' thinking pattern has been disrupted so completely that concentration and logical thinking is almost nil. This is very sad especially when the users are young and mentally dead at 18.

The mind is all we have to help us live a happy and healthy existence. We must take care of our bodies with exercise. We should take care of our homes by cleaning and repairing. The mind must be given the same attention that we give our clothes, and our cars. Without a healthy mind, everything else would be impossible to achieve.

# New Honor Society Taps Eleven

Eleven students and faculty members at A&T State University have been inducted into the newly organized Alpha Psi Omega, national honor society in dramatics.

The charter members include students, Anita O. Manley of Ahoskie; Deborah Williams, Durham; Paula Richardson, Winstonsbury; and Alfred Mack, Raleigh.

The faculty members are Dr. John Kilimanjaro, director of the Richard B. Harrison Players; James W. Forster, technical director of the drama group; Mrs. Eula Hudgins, Mrs. Catherine Clifton, Leroy F. Holmes, and Mrs. Sandra Hughes of WFMY-TV.

The chapter has been designated the Phi Epsilon chapter of the national organization, which was founded in 1925 and currently has more than 370 chapters.

"It is the purpose of this organization," said Kilimanjaro, "to give performers adequate recognition for their work in the theatre."



Clarence Nottingham amid souvenirs from Central and Latin American vacations.

## Chronicle Profile

### Man Of Many Cultures

For \$2,000 you can take a 28-day vacation and visit Chichicastenango. Where is Chichicastenango? It's in Central America, of course.

That's just one of the hundreds of places that Clarence Nottingham has visited since he began leaving the country every summer.

Travelling has become a way of life for Nottingham. At 71, he has been to practically every country between Canada and South America, and many islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

He started taking tours every summer since he went into semi-retirement. A professional photographer, Nottingham continues his work at the studio now and takes long vacations.

"When I take a vacation," he says, "I want to get away from the things you see here in this country. Howard Johnsons, Skyscrapers white people and beat-up Negro's." He explained his affinity for the tropics in a recent interview:

"I like the landscaping and the cultures. Most of the peoples are self-sufficient; they import very little and make practically everything they use. But, the main thing I like and admire is the respect and care they give their elders."

Nottingham, a very refined and stately gentleman, once played semi-professional basketball in Philadelphia. That was in 1920, he recalled. He did a lot of travelling then too. "In those days the first thing I'd look for when I travelled was the black neighborhood," because, he added, "I wanted to see the churches, the homes, and the schools. Then I'd go down town."

What he wanted to see was black businesses. He said he didn't like to see black businesses fail. "When black businesses fail," he said sadly, "I actually hurt." He started a business here about 16 years ago.

"When I first came here it was pathetic. Blacks wouldn't patronize me. They weren't used to a black professional photographer," he explained.

He said he tried all of the "gimmicks" in the book to get business. "Finally, I set up a display in the window of Quick's Drug Store on the corner of 3rd and Church Streets. I did a portrait of Georgiana Austin and put it in the display. It was right on the corner where the bus stopped. People began to see her picture and say 'Hey, that's Georgiana.'" They started calling me to do one of them."

Things got a lot better after that. He has a good name here, he said. "Gaining the confidence and goodwill of the people has been my biggest accomplishment," he remarked. "Some people would measure their accomplishments by the amount of money they have made, but not me."

Nottingham, who lives on New Walkertown Road, warned that blacks must support each other. "The black community needs more unity," he warned. "We must stick together."

All the travelling and interaction with peoples of different cultures has had its affect on Nottingham. "I have a little different set of values now," he said solemnly. Probably the trip that had the most impact on him was the one to the San Blas Island in Central America.

The grass huts are right at the surf, he remembered. Behind the surf is a forest of beautiful green palm trees. Further beyond the palm trees is a small village where the elderly live. The men and boys go out and hunt and fish. Afterwards, a long wooden table is set up and the cooked food is placed on it.

"They feed the old folks first," Nottingham said. "The old men are brought to council meetings after the meals for their wisdom. They are not cast off." He believes that the U.S. is probably the only place in many that treats its elderly with such disregard and disrespect.



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