

Pills-a-go-go

Journal of Pills
Armpit of 1992



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#8

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

Pills of the Rich & Famous

• February's SPY magazine has a convoluted story in which they theorize that Donald Trump must be on Librax and and Tenuate Dospan because their reporter went to the same doctor and that's what she got. Tenuate is a weak as hell diet pill SPY freaks out about implying it's like speed. SPY also found it "incredible" that the reporter's insurance company paid for her medical treatment. They also implied the doctor was somehow criminal when he expressed concern that the law might come down on him if he were to triple the woman's diet pill prescription. Paternalistic bullshit by snoots.

• Turns out Rob Pilatus (of Milli Vanilli) supposedly tried to kill himself with Doxepin.

• Oklahoma governor David Walters's son Shaun killed himself this December with an overdose of Pamelor. He spent 11 days in a coma before his heart gave out.

Rebel without a Cough

In Sweden, dextromethorphan hydrobromide is now a prescription drug. Here, you can get it in any "DM" cough syrup for a headachy, foot-dragging high. Which reminds us that there is an over the counter way to kill yourself. Many states allow the sale of phenobarbital in Primatene tablets and as we all know you can fatally OD on phenobarb.

Birth Control Candy

Some weirdos in southeastern China sold or gave schoolchildren birth control pills and told them they were candy. At least 133 kids ended up in the hospital because of it. Overdoses of the pill can cause liver damage, which may not show up right away.

Here at home, Ms. magazine is calling for birth control pills (and diaphragms) to be sold over-the-counter. They say that the hassle and expense of going to a doctor for a prescription every time the damn bottle runs out contributes to the millions of unplanned pregnancies.

PILL CULTURE

By Chet Antonini, editor and publisher

There was a time when pills weren't so closely identified with weakness and debauchery as they are today. Back in the fifties, for example, amphetamines were to be had over the counter and American society was even promised that someday we'd eat entire meals in pill form.

Where, oh where, are those pills? In the end all we got was chewable Flintstone vitamins. By the way, have you noticed how Betty Rubble is missing from the menagerie?

At least it's reassuring to know test pilots still carry speed with them in the cockpit in case of potentially terminal drowsiness.

I know I said I would have a pill taste test this issue but I didn't conduct it. I also noticed that pills, like food, absorb flavors from the things around them.

Thus it seems possible to flavor plain old gelatin capsules merely by storing them with other stuff. Why not mix your pills in with strong licorice or peppermint candy? But as

...WITH 'METHEDRINE' SHE CAN HAPPILY REFUSE!



Controls food craving, keeps the redneaz happy — in obesity, "our drug of choice has been methedrine... because it produces the same central effect with about one-half the dose required with plain amphetamine, because the effect is more prolonged, and because undesirable peripheral effects are significantly minimized or entirely absent." (Source: N. S., World's Best 10,000, 1984)

'METHEDRINE'

Supplied: Tablets 5 mg., scored. Bottles of 100 and 1000.

Every Pill Can Be Illegal

The Ohio supreme court upheld a law requiring that pills be kept in their original container thus upholding the conviction of Tonie Collier of Butler County. Collier was nailed for having six Ritalin tablets in her purse along with some loose change, and that's enough to be a crime in Ohio — even if you legally possess the pills.

One of the dissenting judges in the 4-3 vote said the law was vague and discriminatory. Technically, the law even makes it illegal to pour the pills out of the bottle and into your hand. Enforcement of the law depends on who and where the "crime" takes place. Slick business travelers who throw muscle relaxants and ulcer medication in the same bottle with Nuprins and Sudafed, said the judge, are not likely to be arrested for the same crime. In fact, there was a noticeable absence of cops swarming posh health clubs and airports looking for potential pill criminals. Other states, like Florida, have the same law.

More Pill \$\$\$

While the whole world laughs at our ill-crafted products, our pill-making skills are shining as never before. Yet another manufacturing plant is scheduled for construction, this time in Boston. Genzyme Corp, not an especially big player in the drug biz, will be building the \$75 million facility to manufacture its drugs, Ceredase and Thyrogen. Some 200 people are expected to be employed there.

You win some, you lose some

Tagamet, that workhorse of H2 antagonists, has been approved for the control of stomach bleeding — it's now the only drug that can legally make this claim. Ulcer patients benefit from this, but so do others. For some reason, those recovering from cardiac surgery suffer from stomach bleeding and peptic ulcers.

On the other hand, it has now been generally reported that Tagamet does indeed lower tolerance to alcohol. Those taking Tagamet (and Zantac, too) can become drunk twice as fast as they normally would.

New uses for old drugs

Researchers now believe that RU486 (the "abortion pill") can not only induce abortion as well as treat at least two kinds of cancer — it also has the potential to become a new birth control pill, taken just once a month. The drug is still illegal in the U.S.

And the anti-herpes drug Zovirax (acyclovir) appears to double the survival rates of AIDS patients who are treated with AZT,

far as factory fresh pills go, nobody can beat the subtle sweet taste and smooth swallow of an Abbott film-tab. They're not sugary like off-brand Sudafeds, but have a creaminess that reminds me of the inside of an Oreo cookie. I simply must have the recipe.

Yes, there was a time when the pill was a sign of health and hope as the degeneration of the Upjohn trademark below clearly shows. Back in the pioneer days of 1884, Dr. William Erastus Upjohn invented a crushable pill he called "friable" and used it to start the Upjohn Pill and Granule Co. with his brother, Henry. The friable pill was considered so cool other companies started copying it as soon as the patent expired. By 1921 Upjohn was still boasting of its superior pills — its claim to originality even eclipsing the company name. In 1938, as Europe entered WWII, Upjohn abandoned the word "pill" for its own name but still depicted the familiar little pill underneath a modern-looking thumb.

Today, of course, the "Upjohn Company" make all kinds of pills yet chooses to promote itself with nothing more than its rather stupid-sounding name — abandoning its heritage.

Today, of course, Upjohn is plagued by bad publicity since the dogs have been called out on its sleeping pill, Halcion. Xanax, too, is being bashed at the same time — just as it solidified its primacy in the anti-anxiety market.

To make matters worse, it is knuckling under to the FDA & other hysterics by limiting the number of Halcions in their packaging and generally going along with the program. Soon the once-great pill innovator will be reduced to hawking tubes of hair-growth cream. Wait a minute! What am I saying? That's what they're doing already!



Upjohn