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Some say they're punk; some say they're nostalgic; some say they're new wave; some say they're rock'n roll; everyone says they're incredible.

## Students aware of lab dangers but accidents continue happening

By RAY DANIELS  
Chemistry Lab.

The bottle you are pouring from is wet, and some of the chemical drips on your fingers. It has happened before, so you go on with the experiment. Walking back to your lab station you realize that your fingers are

beginning to ache and burn. Nothing really painful, but bothersome.

The aching persists — you go to the sink and rinse the fingers. A little relief, but the hurt continues when you stop running water on your hand. Finally, you check the

bottle you were pouring from. Acid. You have a chemical burn.

Eventually you tell the teaching assistant, and he treats it with a counteracting chemical solution that eases the pain. You keep on working and the pain fades away.

Are you alone in your injury? Not

according to a recent survey of first and second year chemistry classes. The survey indicated that one out of five students in general and one out of three in chemistry labs had suffered a chemical burn during this semester.

In organic lab, 33 percent of students had suffered a chemical burn this semester, but only 16 percent of the students in first year lab had incurred such an injury. In general, maybe the student didn't suffer a chemical burn when he took a course. Maybe he got a slight burn from a hot test tube; or splattered chemicals in his eye. Results of the survey indicate one out of three students receive some similar type of minor injury in the lab.

Again, the incidence of injury in organic lab was higher (45 percent) than in first year lab (29 percent). But the student may have been reminded that 64 percent who have not received any injuries while in the laboratory. One hundred sixty-four students were surveyed: 94 from Chemistry 111 and 112 sections, and 70 from Chemistry 237, 238, and 242. The statistical error probability of the survey was 7.6 percent at a 95 percent accuracy level.

The survey asked students to check the potential hazards existing in their lab from fire or explosion, chemical burns, radiation, cuts, lacerations, exposure to toxic substances, or if there were other hazards at all.

According to Dr. Rod O'Connor and Dr. Jack Leonard, supervisors of the first and second year programs, all but radiation exist as possible hazards in the labs.

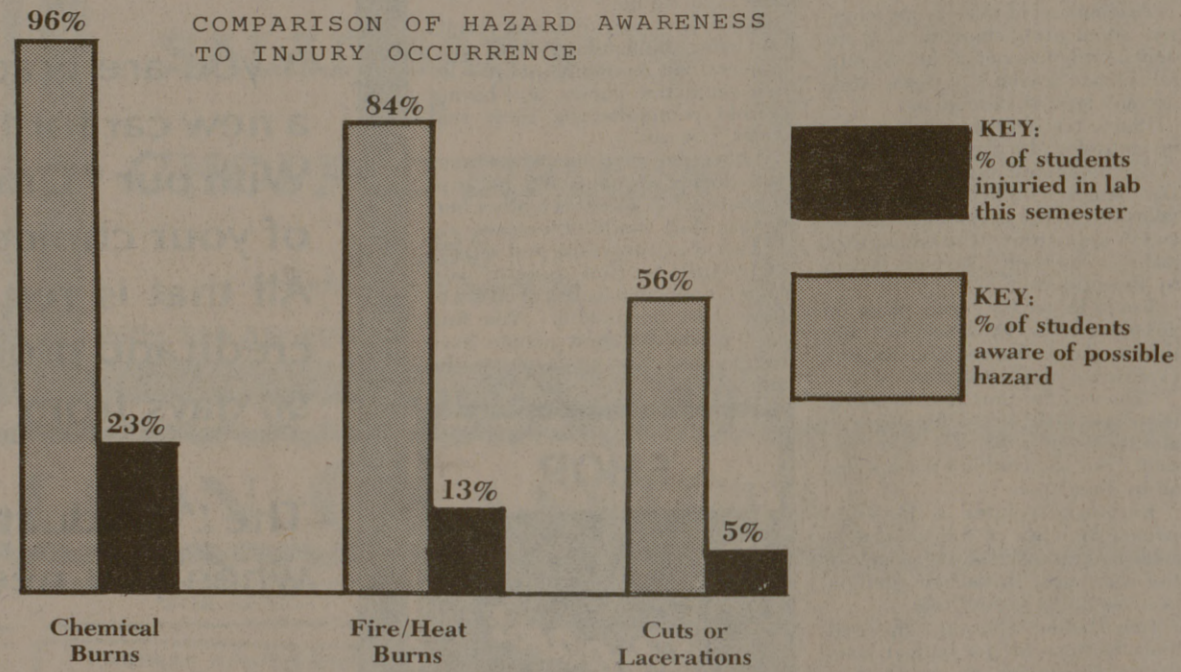
More than 50 percent of the students checked fire or explosion hazards. However, only 39 percent of the students checked exposure to carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). Less than one percent checked radiation, and two percent said no potential hazards existed in the lab.

The organic sections, which had a higher incidence of injury, were rated higher on awareness of possible hazards. All four possible hazard areas were checked by more than 50 percent of the organic chemistry students. All areas except chemical burns were checked more than 50 percent in the first year sections.

Overall, the area most often checked as a hazard, chemical burns (96 percent), was also the area where the most injuries occurred. More than 50 percent of the students reported lab injuries were chemical burns.

This correlation follows for the second and third most common injuries: heat-fire burn and cuts/lacerations. "That is the relationship we would hope to find," said Leonard. He said students are not aware of the most likely hazards.

Anyone who has been through chemistry lab course will probably remember the emphasis placed on wearing eye protection. The survey asked whether the student wore



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## The mystique of Monte Alban Mezcal.

For years, there's been a rumor going around that in Mexico you can buy a certain kind of liquor that comes with a worm in every bottle.

That rumor is not only true, it's delicious. The liquor is called Monte Alban Mezcal con Gusano. And the story behind it is fascinating.

In the middle of the sixteenth century, the Spanish conquistadores had done what they had come to Mexico to do: conquer the New World. And because the Spaniards were running out of their traditional rum, they celebrated with the distilled juice of the agave cactus. This they called Mezcal.

Today's Mezcal is an intriguing liquor, being both potent and smooth. Not to mention mellow and downright delicious.

Now comes the best part. Inside every agave cactus live tasty little agave worms. Agave worms are so particular, they're only found in that one species. It

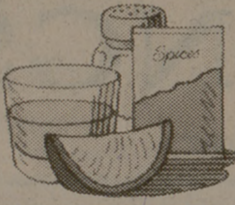
is for this reason that genuine Mezcal, made from the agave cactus in Oaxaca province, is bottled with a genuine agave worm.

As with other traditions that are hundreds of years old, a certain mystique has been built up around the ritual of consuming Mezcal and its agave worm. Most knowledgeable people drink it like tequila; that is, with a lick of salt and a bite of lime. For true tradition, use the mixture of sea-salt and spices in the bag attached to the bottle. The worm is said by some to be the key to wondrous experiences. Others claim it sets free a spirit of celebration.

Whatever the truth, we know that agave worms are a very popular delicacy in Mexico.

And why should the Mexicans have Mezcal all to themselves? Now, for the first

time, you can buy Mexico's leading brand of Mezcal — Monte Alban Mezcal con Gusano — in the United States. Each bottle is genuine Mezcal from the region of Oaxaca. For proof, just look inside the bottle.



Monte Alban Mezcal opens up whole new worlds to conquer. Bring it along to your next party. Enlighten people on its heritage. Demonstrate how to drink it. Make mixed drinks with it, too. And when you and your friends get down to the bottom of the bottle, find out who's really adventurous. Or munch the worm yourself, it's really delicious. Try Monte Alban Mezcal con Gusano. Who knows what might happen?

\*If you can't find Monte Alban at your favorite liquor store please drop a card to Bill Rogers, P.O. Box 1240, Chicago, IL 60601. He'll be glad to help.



Monte Alban. Authentic Mexican Mezcal. The proof is in every bottle.

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