

Angel Dust

Use of LSD-like drug increasing

By HOLLY WILLIAMSON
Battalion Reporter

Bryan and College Station teenagers have joined the nation in the growing use of phencyclidine, the powdery, white substance known on the streets as PCP or Angel Dust.

There were two reported cases of PCP overdose in Brazos County last year as compared to none in previous years, said Debbie Callaway, Regional Drug Abuse Coordinator for the Brazos Valley Development Center.

"It's hard to measure that type of drug abuse. Many people are unaware of its existence and effects and so they don't realize it's Angel Dust," she said.

When PCP overdose victims arrive at the hospital, many times the type of drug is unidentifiable, she said. As a result, there may have been PCP involved in the many cases she handled that were attributed to unknown causes.

PCP is used as a tranquilizer for non-human primates. However, since 1976, PCP has begun to appear throughout the nation as the new "high."

"It's like LSD was at one time," said Pete Sanchez, drug education specialist at the Brazos County Mental Health-Retardation Center.

Some effects of PCP are "disassociation" of the mind and muscles; unresponsiveness to pain; being awake, but unaware of one's environment, and occasional hallucinations.

"There have been cases of people doing superhuman things while under the influence of PCP," Sanchez said, "like fighting off ten guys, or lifting a refrigerator. But PCP doesn't give you actual strength, just psychological strength."

PCP was developed in the mid-1950s. Following studies in laboratory animals, it was recommended for clinical trials in humans in 1957.

Because of the adverse side effects, Parke, Davis and Co., the manufacturer of PCP under the patent name, recommended in 1965 that use of the drug be stopped in treatment of humans. In 1967, the

drug was manufactured exclusively for veterinary purposes under the trade name Sernylan.

Dr. James D. McCrady, head of the physiology and pharmacology department in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University, said the drug was used at Texas A&M at one time, but it is not used any more.

"We don't use it out here. We're just very afraid of it," said McCrady.

Veterinarians agree the professional demand for PCP is small. Because the drug is not used much professionally, authorities say most of the PCP in circulation is homemade.

The drug is cheap and easy to make, and is often sold to unknown

drug users as THC, a derivative of marijuana.

PCP has also been passed off as cocaine and, in combination with LSD, as mescaline.

Often the unknowing buyer of PCP will begin to have sensations and reactions he is not accustomed to with THC or cocaine, and he will panic. The panic increases with the effects of the drug.

Along with this danger, there is the possibility of getting an impure drug from a street pusher.

"As with any drug that is not obtained through proper channels," said Hazel Pipkin, a pharmacist at the Pharmacy Box, "you run the risk of not knowing what you are actually taking. This alone can be dangerous."

"We're right in the middle of a

big drug-traffic highway between Houston and Dallas," said Sanchez. "I think most of it is delivered from other places."

The adverse effects, such as lack of memory, that PCP users experience seem to increase with regular use. After a period, use of alcohol can bring about mild forms of flashbacks, and alcohol mixed with PCP can greatly increase the chance of an overdose or death.

No one seems to know if the use of PCP is going to increase in Brazos Valley or fade away as in the brief one-year period of use in 1967 in San Francisco when PCP came out as the "Peace Pill."

Nyberg said he felt there might be an increase before there was a decrease.



Drug abuse is a growing problem at Texas A&M

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
Battalion Reporter

Joe's parents think he has a part-time job while attending Texas A&M University, and in a way he does.

Once or twice a week he delivers a few pounds of marijuana and a few grams of methamphetamines to friends on campus. Joe has made about \$1,000 this semester on his "job."

Tom Parsons, director of security and traffic for the University Police, said, "We know darn well that there are more (drugs) out there than that, but we don't go snooping around looking for them."

The only time police find drugs or other controlled substances is when they are discovered in the inventories of towed vehicles or when they are found during the investigation of a non drug-related offense, Parsons said.

"Narcotics in the county doesn't get worked because we don't have the people," said Brazos County Sheriff Bobby Yeager.

Von Allen, narcotics officer for the Department of Public Safety, said many officers also feel it is not worth the paperwork to file an arrest report because the courts "will not do anything about them anyway." Of the 307 drug arrests in Brazos County in 1978, only 110 cases were actually filed in the County Court's office.

A student source contacted two dealers who operate in the community and employ students to distribute drugs on campus.

One dealer, "Frank," said he sold an average of 12 pounds of marijuana per week. The marijuana, valued at \$150-\$600 per pound, depending on the quality, is occasionally sold in bulk deals of up to 300 pounds.

Frank said he also sells a large number of stimulants during the weeks of mid-term and final exams. He sold 1,300 pills during dead week last year, he said.

The other dealer, "Mike," trades primarily in cocaine. He estimates he handles an average of 6 ounces (28 grams per ounce) a week. He

declined to estimate his income, but said dealing was his only occupation and he made a "good livelihood."

A better explanation for the lack of official concern might be the stigma attached to drug abuse, said Debbie Callaway, Regional Developer for Alcohol and Drug Abuse

planning of the Brazos Valley Development Council.

"The big guys don't want A&M in a bad light," she said.

The central location of College Station in relation to other major cities, and the general affluence of the students makes Texas A&M an ideal drug market, she said.

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Strikers adamant in Birmingham

United Press International

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Striking police and sanitation workers defied a back-to-work order Thursday while garbage piled up and merchants began arming themselves to protect their goods.

Firemen were threatening to join the 2,000 other striking workers, who have brought services in the state's largest city to a virtual halt.

Mayor David Vann accused leaders of striking city workers of keeping employees off the job for reasons other than those given for the strike.

City employees walked off their jobs Tuesday saying they were dissatisfied with the city's changes in their group health insurance policy.

The question today is who is going to run the City of Birmingham, Vann told a Thursday news conference.

The mayor said he did not believe the strike could be settled only by giving workers the medical coverage they want. He said the strike's primary objective now was to support a collective bargaining bill for public employees in the Alabama Legislature.

In the absence of regular police patrols, skeleton crews, bolstered by sheriff's deputies and state troopers, answered only emergency calls.

Several downtown merchants interviewed said they were arming themselves and taking some of their merchandise out of display windows in anticipation of burglaries going up.

Police reported a generally quiet night, with no more than normal calls, despite skeleton police patrols made up of supervisory personnel and state troopers. All but emergency calls have been ignored since the strike began.

The police strike in Birmingham was the third such walkout in major cities of the South in less than a year. Memphis police struck last August in a pay dispute and New Orleans police walked off their jobs last February during Mardi Gras. In addition, police, firemen and sanitation workers in Nashville, Tenn., are threatening to strike over wages.

About 350 fire-fighters voted late Wednesday to join the strike, although a technicality in the union's regulations requires one more vote be taken. The final vote was scheduled for Thursday night and the firemen were expected to join the ranks of the strikers.

About 650 firefighters voted to strike Tuesday night when the walkout began.

The strikers have been ordered back to work by a state judge, who ruled Wednesday the walkout was illegal. But the strikers refused to go back to work and ignored Vann's plea to return.

The judge's order, said James Purvis, business manager for the Laborer's International Union, "is just going to make a few people nervous, but I don't think anyone is going back."

The strike virtually shut down service in the city Wednesday.

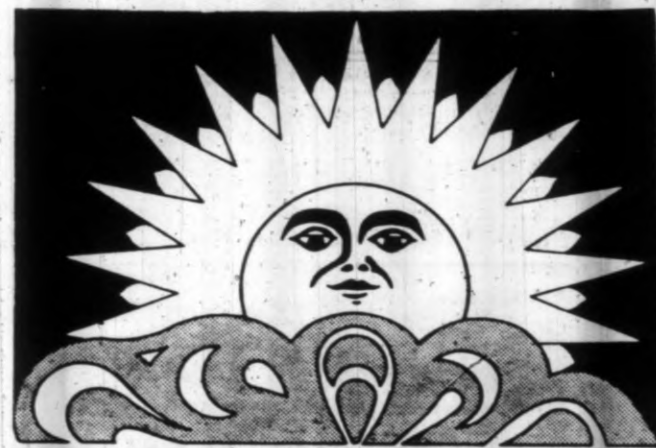
Police, sanitation and street workers and other city employees voted to strike Tuesday night after the City Council refused to rescind its earlier decision to switch insurance plans.

The plan proposed by Vann called for switching from Blue Cross-Blue Shield to a self-funded insurance plan administered by Liberty National Insurance Co.

Vann proposed the switch because Blue Cross moved its state headquarters outside the city.

However, Liberty National announced Wednesday it would not administer the plan because of the strike. Vann said he regretted the decision, but he refused to waiver in his stand to change the insurance policies.

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