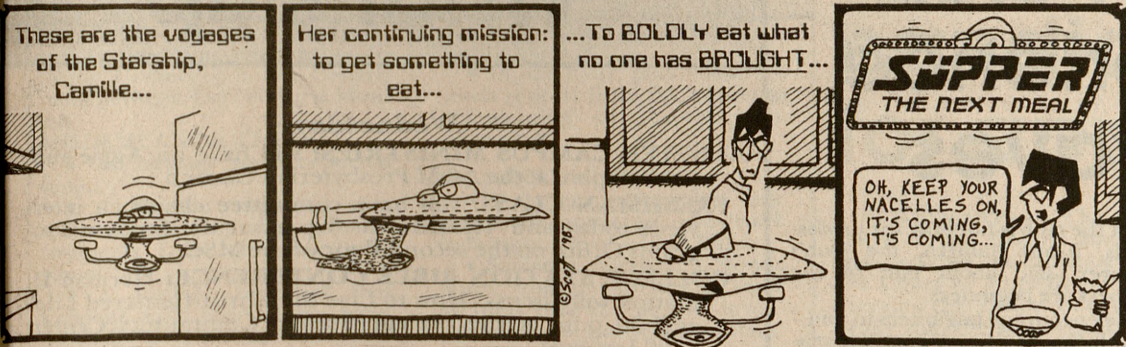


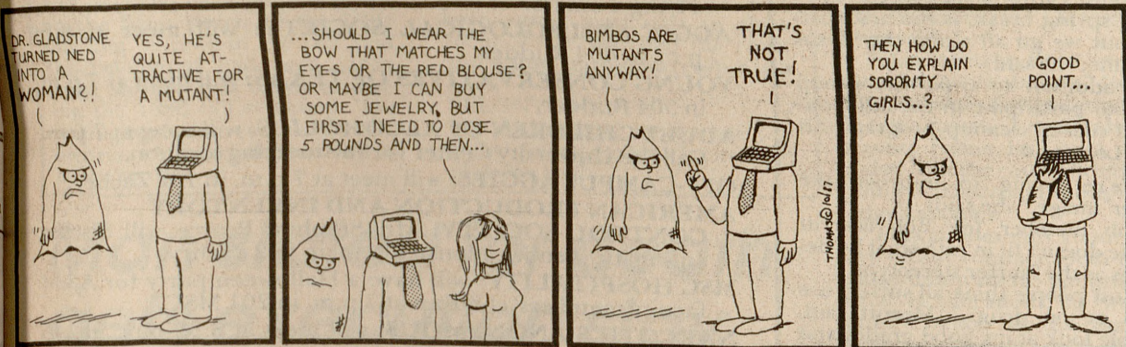
Warped

by Scott McCullar



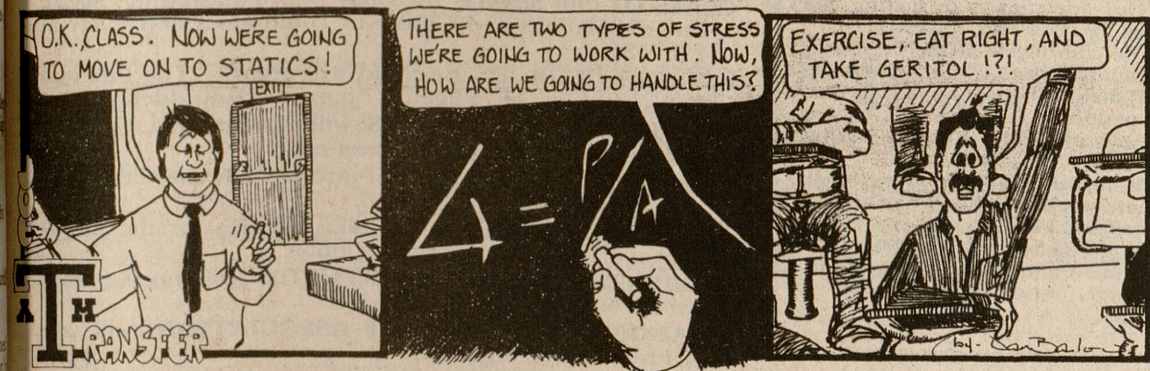
Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Joe Transfer

by Dan Barlow



Study: Treatment for heroin won't cure abuse of drugs

By Janet Goode
Staff Writer

Heroin addicts die at a higher rate than the average person even after undergoing treatment, Texas A&M researchers found.

The study, which was completed in 1986 and published in March, was part of a 12-year nationwide study that followed the lives of about 6,000 drug addicts in urban areas.

Dr. Dwayne Simpson, director of the study at A&M, said it was actually a follow-up of the original study. The A&M study followed the lives of 555 drug addicts over a six-year period and found that they died at a rate seven times higher than the general public, and those in their 20s died at a rate 10 times higher.

Dr. George Joe, research scientist at A&M, said 29 percent of these deaths were due to violence, such as gunshot wounds, homicides, automobile accidents and hangings.

Forty-eight percent were caused by drug-related incidents, as opposed to the most common deaths from cancer, heart attacks, strokes and accidents, he said.

Simpson said the study was originally prompted in 1969 by the large increase in publicly-funded drug treatment centers across the country.

The main purpose of the follow-up study was to look at heroin addicts, he said, and the long term effects of addiction after undergoing treatment.

"The thing that is unique about this study is that it is longitudinal — based on the same group of drug addicts that we've studied for 12 years — which is different than most studies seen in literature," Simpson said.

"We can look at information collected many years ago and see if those factors are useful in predicting subsequent deaths in that same group of individuals."

He said researchers wanted to

find how many people had "cleaned up" over the years and how this would affect the death rate.

"We wanted to learn basically what happens over the long haul to these people," he said.

Simpson said one thing they found is that not everyone who undergoes treatment "cleans up."

Joe attributed this to the fact that most addicts remain in more dangerous environments.

"When you live a lifestyle for a number of years, you tend to continue in that same lifestyle," he said.

"Even though a person is not involved with drugs any longer, he often will remain involved with a certain lifestyle — a dangerous one."

— Dr. George Joe, A&M research scientist

"Even though a person is not involved with drugs any longer, he often will remain involved with a certain lifestyle — a dangerous one."

Simpson agreed that the large urban areas studied, which by nature are more dangerous, played a big part in the rates of deaths due to violence and drugs.

"Although they (addicts) may not be shooting heroin anymore, there is a large portion of drug addicts who begin to use other drugs and still are living in a 'drug culture,'" Simpson said.

"These people also have a tendency to use alcohol at a higher rate than the typical population," he said.

However, Simpson said this type of environment was the only one in the study.

"This is the environment which we found the drug addicts in to be gan with," he said. "The way the drug addicts got into our sample was by living in those areas where treatment programs were first being established in late '60s."

Simpson said this is a bias, or a "feature selection," of the study, since the people who come to publicly-funded treatment centers are usually from lower income areas.

However, Simpson said, the death rates found were still higher than the typical rates in those neighborhoods.

Simpson said other factors came into play, such as higher crime rates in urban areas, multiple drug use and higher alcohol use.

Another factor affecting the death rates is the aging of the people in the original sample, he said.

The people studied are now 35 to 40 years old, he said, so the natural death rate is increasing while other risk factors, like illicit drug use, are decreasing.

"There are several cross currents, so it is very hard to make simple statements about what is causing what," he said.

The higher death rate due to drug addiction isn't getting better or worse, he said.

"It's getting different," he said. "When we began the study, the national focus was on heroin addiction. Today, cocaine is much more popular. Drug using patterns of addicts now are much more mixed than in the past."

"All these things make study more complicated — we can't say the death rates are only due to heroin addiction anymore. It's just getting more and more complicated."

Central American refugees carry coffin to protest murder of human-rights activist

RANGERVILLE (AP) — Central American refugees carried an empty coffin to U.S. government offices Tuesday in protest of the murder of leading human-rights activist in El Salvador.

"It represents for us Salvadorans that we don't have hope with the President Jose Napoleon Duarte government," said Oswaldo Escobar, Salvadoran and spokesman for the marchers as they headed down Farm Road 1479 toward Harlingen.

Herbert Ernesto Anaya, president of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, was gunned down Monday morning in San Salvador by an unknown assailant.

The mostly Salvadoran group of about 20 started from Refugio del Grande, a cooperative in the city

of Rangerville for Central Americans seeking political asylum.

"We're going to stop by the Border Patrol and let them know we are political refugees, not economic refugees," Escobar said. "We want permission to go out of the Valley."

Applicants for asylum and others in the Rio Grande Valley appealing deportation often are allowed to remain in the United States, provided they stay in a restricted area of South Texas.

"We are political refugees and want to be treated as such," one sign said in Spanish.

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman Virginia Kice with the agency's Harlingen District office said all applicants for

asylum are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, regardless of nationality.

After stopping at the Border Patrol office, the protesters walked several miles chanting slogans and singing in front of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Harlingen.

Anaya, 32, was the fourth member of the human-rights commission to be assassinated since 1980. Two other members disappeared while in police custody.

The commission, founded in 1977, is an independent private organization made up of lawyers and other professionals. It has been critical of the Salvadoran government's human-rights record during a 8-year-old war with leftist guerrillas.

Rightists with the military have accused it of having leftist sympathies.

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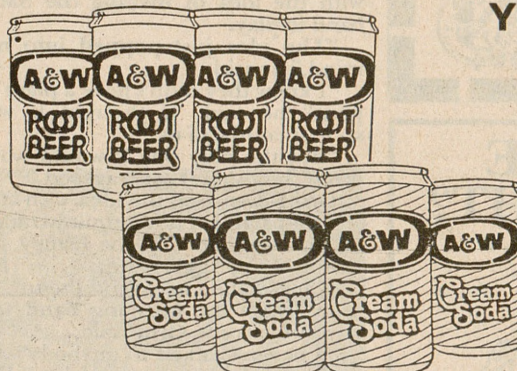
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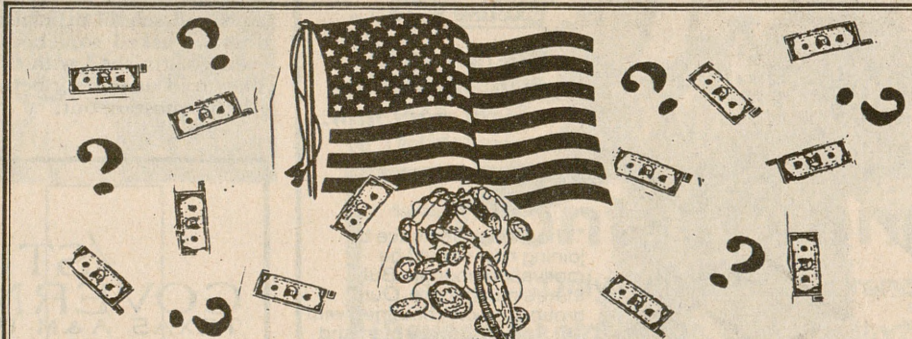
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