

Before our time...

A U of A professor, who says he has taken LSD says the drug helps us "lose our thinking man's filter."

Dr. Kellog Wilson, an assistant professor of psychology, spoke to more than 300 students about LSD Thursday night.

The experiences induced by LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) vary from person to person, he said, but a typical experience goes through three stages.

The first is one of visual hallucination such as floating colored lights and body distortions.

The second phase is an experience of genuine insight into the taker's personal life. Often this is not pleasant, and sometimes a panic state occurs.

At the end of the trip the taker feels a oneness with God and the universe.

"What does an atheist feel?" a member of the audience asked. Dr. Wilson answered, "An atheist feels a oneness with whatever an atheist can feel a oneness with."

But, an LSD user doesn't necessarily believe what he feels, Dr. Wilson told the audience.

SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

Because no one knows how LSD affects the body, many scientific issues have arisen.

Most widely accepted is the theory that LSD upsets an enzyme system which in turn upsets the

nervous system.

Dosage of LSD is hard to regulate as only 100 to 200 micrograms produce a reaction. "This is less than one molecule per cell of the nervous system," Dr. Wilson said.

"Three or four ounces would be enough for the whole city."

LSD is excreted by the body in only one hour but its effects may last up to 12 hours.

Dr. Wilson cited several areas in which he believes the use of LSD is beneficial.

As LSD is a stimulant, it can speed up rehabilitation of emo-

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tionally-disturbed persons.

LSD could aid in the treatment of alcoholics, Dr. Wilson said.

Normal persons may gain better understandings of themselves with LSD.

Finally, LSD is thought to relieve the anguish of dying persons.

BAD EFFECTS

LSD has some bad effects.

As LSD can produce a psychotic state and drive unstable persons to suicide, it should never be given to anyone who doesn't know the drug's potential.

According to Dr. Wilson, the limited availability of LSD has

restricted research. "The legal controls in the U.S. are tighter than in Canada," he said.

LSD should be made more accessible Dr. Wilson continued.

Researchers need the drug for experimentation. Normal persons wanting to take LSD should have the freedom to do so if a guide goes with them on the "trip". The guide Dr. Wilson qualified, need not be a doctor.

As home manufacture of LSD does not guarantee purity, the LSD black market must be ended. This is hard to do as LSD manufacture is relatively simple.

Speaking on his own visit to LSD-land, Dr. Wilson said it was "a nice place to visit, but not a nice place to live."

He said it is difficult to express what happened to him on the trip. But, after it was over he knew that he had obtained greater personal insights.

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The Gateway room 282, SUB

Parents fight prostitution

by Jon Romalo

The prostitutes on Edmonton's streets "are getting younger and younger, and their numbers are growing," according to Karen Patrick of the newly-formed Friends and Family of Runaway Kids.

"People need to understand that these teenaged prostitutes and pimps are not just girls and boys from the wrong side of the tracks. They come from all kinds of backgrounds, from welfare families, doctors' and lawyers' families, right up to politician's kids," said Patrick.

She added that the group was formed to provide support for the parents of children who have run away, many of whom are involved in prostitution and drugs, and to educate the public of this problem. "Once kids are on the street, they can only survive by prostitution and selling drugs."

Friends and Family of Runaway Kids evolved from the now inactive Mothers Against Pimps and Prostitution or MAPPs, which was formed by Patrick and another mother after the murder of 20 year old prostitute Georgette Flint last September.

The group, which has grown from three to 30 parents in just two months, holds weekly meetings in members' homes. Members of the City Police and a lawyer lend their support and expertise at the meetings, said Patrick.

One function of these meetings is to provide "unconditional counselling, help and advice" to the parents of runaways. Patrick, whose own daughter has been a prostitute since age thirteen, said that the counselling process "makes no judgements on the parents. They need to know that they have some recourse without

the stigma of being labelled as bad parents."

The group's mandate also includes legal and educational endeavors. In addition to providing advice on the legal rights of runaways, the group will lobby for changes in laws regarding juvenile prostitution. "We would like to see the johns [the customers of prostitutes] treated as pedophiles. Because they pay for their sex with children, they don't get charged as such," Patrick explained.

As part of a broad approach to increasing public awareness, the group is giving presentations at junior high schools, which include the screening of some hard-hitting documentary films about runaways. "We want to visit as many junior high schools as we can, and eventually maybe even the fifth and sixth grades, as the pressures on the kids start at that age," said Patrick.

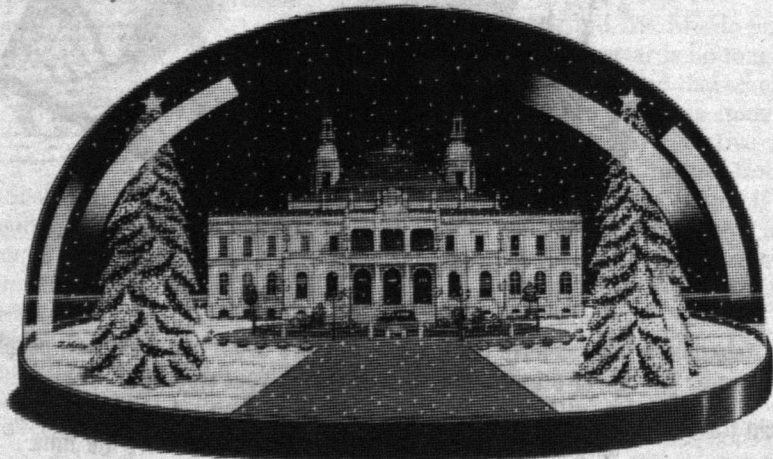
The problem is especially acute in some of the downtown and north side schools like Norwood, Eastwood, Rosslyn and Wellington, at roller skating rinks, and at shopping malls like Londonderry and West Edmonton Mall, Patrick explained. "Although the mall doesn't publicize it, there is a big problem in and around the West Edmonton Mall.

Many teenaged girls hang around in the mall, where they meet boys who work as pimps' agents. These agents play up to a girl's insecurities and eventually gain her trust. By the time the agent introduces her to the pimp, she is convinced that life would be better anywhere else than at home."

Although the situation seems grim, Patrick is hopeful. "We have successfully returned one child to her home, after getting a call from a parent saying that she was on the streets. We hope to have more volunteer streetworkers again, to go out and get to know these kids and help get them off the street," Patrick explained.

"The youth on our streets are a part of our future, and we don't want to let them go down the drain," Patrick said, adding, "There were 800 runaways in Edmonton in October alone. Of these, maybe 15% go back home. Where are the others?"

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