

Psychedelic Festival

Anyone not out on an extended LSD trip is probably trying to get a ticket to turn on at Perception '67, the psychedelic festival to be held at the University of Toronto on Feb. 10, 11 and 12.

Perception '67 is sponsored by the University College Literary and Athletic Society who feel that consciousness-expanding drugs have important consequences not only for the individual user but for the society at large.

In order to bring the entire psychedelic issue into a better perspective, ingenious entertainments and environments have been devised which will give the participant a psychedelic thrill without LSD. In fact, controversy over the festival's very conception has been so great that the Society was forced to pass a motion clarifying their position: "In response to the distortion in the press regarding Perception '67, the council states that it is conducting the symposium in the interests of education and entertainment and that it neither necessarily supports nor opposes the position taken by any of the participants in the symposium."

Notorious among the scheduled participants was Dr. Timothy Leary, guru of the LSD crowd, former Harvard psychologist, and founder of the League for Spiritual Discovery. Psychfest co-ordinators encountered difficulties in securing border-crossing privileges for Leary who is out on bail pending an appeal of a 30-year sentence for bringing marijuana into the U.S. from Mexico. A petition, signed by ten U. of T. professors, was sent to the District Attorney's office in Laredo, Texas, stating that Dr. Leary would make a useful contribution to the university. U.S. officials are appeased but now the Canadian Immigration Department has decided to get into the act by barring Leary's entry into this country. This was the last problem Psychfest people expected to encounter, since Leary was allowed to make an appearance on Front Page Challenge last October, his conviction notwithstanding. Festival co-ordinator Allan Kamin and CUS president Doug Ward were to represent the U.C. Lit in Ottawa Feb. 7, in negotiations with immigration officials, but at this writing their success or failure in securing entry for Leary is not known.

Meanwhile, Dr. Richard Alpert who was expelled from Harvard with Leary in 1963 for conducting LSD experiments has agreed to substitute in the event that Canadian officials refuse to change their minds. Alpert now resides in California and has no convictions for drug offences.

Leary was set to lecture Feb. 11 on 'Psychedelics and Religion'. He was also to take part in a panel discussion with Prof. Charles Hanly of the U. of T. philosophy department and Dr. Daniel Cappon of Marshall McLuhan's Centre For Culture and Technology, and Dr. John Robson, professor of English. The topic for discussion was to be "Expanded Consciousness: Its Validity and Value."

One of the most exciting features of the festival should be Mind Excursion, the simulated LSD trip designed by Toronto artist Michael Hayden. A ten room structure, through total environments of sound, light, projections, textural effects, color and aroma seeks to distort existing space relationships and unnerve and disorient the individual. Similar to psychedelic drugs, the excursion's psychological stimulation will encourage the individual to discard his previous prefabricated attitudes toward his environment and allow him to reinterpret it with a dif-

WHO NEEDS ACID?

by Anita Levine



"O Nobly born, listen well:
You are now in the magic theatre of heroes and demons.
Mythical superhuman figures.
Demons, goddesses, celestial warriors, giants,
Angels, Bodhisattvas, dwarfs, crusaders,
Elves, devils, saints and sorcerers.
Infernal spirits, goblins, knights, and emperors.
The Lotus Lord of Dance
The Wise Old Man. The Divine Child.
The Trickster. The Shapeshifter.
The tamer of monsters.
The mother of gods, the witch.
The moon king. The wanderer.
The whole divine theatre of
figures representing the highest
reaches of human knowledge.
Do not be afraid of them.
They are within you.
Your own creative intellect is the master magician of them all.
Recognize the figures as aspects of yourself.
The whole fantastic comedy takes place within you.
Do not become attached to the figures.
Remember the teachings.
You may still attain liberation."

T. Leary

ferent perspective.

Designer Hayden has estimated that a commercial display firm would charge up to \$80,000 to create such an excursion, but because industries are interested in trying out new products at the psychfest the cost of the environmental experiment will be only \$1000-\$2000. Rowlux, for instance, is a new material which can be used for creating psychedelic effects. It is composed of polarized lenses on which the eye cannot focus. Thus walking on a Rowlux floor would give a sensation of floating about two feet in the air. Sound scary? Just wait till you try the exploding floor!

In one room, the individual, bathed in ultra-violet light, will witness a ceiling of insane people crush down on him as the heart and lungs of the triangular room collapse and stop. In another, one is above a city and underwater at the same time. In yet another, a film tuned to the alpha rhythms of the mind flickers black and white in reality but the mind begins to fill in the gaps with color and form.

Apparently there is such a thing as psychedelic music--and in Toronto, yet. John Cockle of the Royal Conservatory is composing an electronic accompaniment to Hayden's Mind Excursion; he is also planning a special concert of electronic music at which the audience will sit in chairs arranged in concentric circles, looking out at lights. The lights will be on for 20 minutes and off for 20 minutes. The combined effect of the lights and Cockle's music will make the individual associate the modulations of the music with concrete sources.

Hometown Stu Broomer and his Kinetic ensemble will present a psychedelic jazz concert Saturday night.

A Sunday evening concert will feature yet another local group, the City Muffin Boys whose sound has been described as a "totally new, way-out synthesis" of electronic, jug band, and rhythm-and-blues music.

However, star billing at this concert is shared by "the Poet of Pot," Allen Ginsberg and the Fugs who, as everybody knows, are the musical answer to Andy Warhol's underground movies. Oh yes, there will be some films too--maybe not Warhol's but definitely from New York, McMaster and elsewhere.

Designs by Montreal's John Warden will highlight a fashion show--psychedelic of course--which will also feature a pork-chop dress and other fashions by Tiger Morris of New York; psychedelic clothing wired for light and sound. Great Zot.

Toronto Star columnist Sidney Katz will moderate a panel discussion on "Psychedelics, Health and the Law". On his panel will be Mr. Art Whealey, currently chief narcotics prosecutor in Toronto.

Peter Gzowski, Toronto Star Entertainment editor, will lead a discussion of the question "Should Marijuana Be Legalized?" and will have Dr. Mark Eveson who has done research on LSD as a participant.

Strobe lights, a hanging ceiling and a floor covered with floating mist are part of the total environment dance featuring The Tripp on Saturday evening.

University College has obviously gone all out on this one. Perception '67 should turn out to be a valid investigation of consciousness expansion. Allan Kamin, a festival co-ordinator, recently issued a warning to pushers that the real stuff will not be welcome at U.C. during that weekend and promised that the place would be swarmed with

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