

Stanford University experiments

Tests show marijuana distorts sense of time

By DELOS SMITH

NEW YORK (UPI) — In eight men whom scientists subjected to marijuana intoxication the effect was to blur both the past and the future and, by this means, to intensify the present.

The scientists were giving a factual basis to a mental aberration frequently reported by marijuana users, the "here and now" feeling. The drug is known to disrupt time perceptions and this may be the how of it.

It was as though the men were returned to childhood when "each moment appears fresh and vivid since it is experienced without extensive memories and the expectations of adult consciousness," the scientists said.

NOT ALL THE subjects enjoyed it although in general it contributed to a sense of wellbeing and elation. The subjects who didn't were distressed by losing self-control and normal awareness of reality.

Drs. Frederick Mejer, Jared Tinklenberg, Leo Hollister and Hemp Gillespie, experimented at Stanford University. They are

among a number of scientists trying to establish the marijuana facts with which to give light to the marijuana controversy.

Rather than hippies and other drop-out marijuana smokers, they used graduate students "goal directed" toward earning doctorates and beginning ca-

reers in science. Marijuana was swallowed as extracts rather than smoked, to permit precise control of dosages.

Hypnosis and meditation can also intensify the present by making both past and future remote, they said in their report to the American Medical Association.

So can intoxication with mescaline and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).

"SINCE THE sense of past, present and future relationships are important aspects of normal adult consciousness, it is possible that time distortions

underlie many types of altered states of consciousness," they reported.

The scientists suggested that disruptions of the time sense could explain the vividness of impressions reported by marijuana users. If the present is relatively isolated from past and future, the present

would be experienced with greater intensity.

Marijuana users are unable to make normal comparisons of present perceptions with memories and expectations, they said. "Perceptions may thus seem fresh and new, never experienced before, and are unexpected."

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