

RISING STARS

Using and Abusing

by Zaki Omar

WHAT is it about drugs that makes people take them even though they know that drugs are harmful? Is it because the wonderful feelings which certain drugs give outweigh the harm they cause? Does the threat of brain damage, liver damage, even death have no effect on them? Blake stated that, "When the DOORS OF PERCEPTION are cleansed, man will see things as they truly are, infinite." Many drug users believe that drugs are keys by which they may open the Doors of Perception. Besides teenagers, many well-known actors, singers, artists, and writers are known to have taken drugs. Samuel T. Coleridge, the 19th century romantic poet, is supposed to have thought of one of his masterpieces during an opium trip. The story goes that — one day Coleridge woke from an opium trip and started to write down the poem which had been induced by the drug.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door and when he returned from answering the door he just could not remember the rest of the poem. He never finished it, but yet, it is thought to be one of his most beautiful poems. I wanted to find out from drug users themselves why they take drugs. So I spoke to two individuals — the first is an occasional user and the second is an addict.

The occasional user:

Star: What types of drugs do you take and how did you first get involved in taking them?

User 1: The only substance which I take is marijuana. The first time I took marijuana was when I once went to a friend's house. His elder brother used to smoke GANJA (marijuana). We sneaked some of the GANJA and, not knowing exactly how to take it, we stuffed the green stuff into one of his father's pipe, and smoked it. I didn't feel any different except for a slight headrush. This same episode occurred a few times before we started to comprehend the effect of GANJA. Ever since then I have been smoking GANJA occasionally.

Star: You stated that the first time you smoked marijuana you did not feel any difference, but that later on you began to comprehend the effect of marijuana; what exactly do you mean?

User 1: When I first did it I thought that GANJA didn't ef-

sounds, intensified by the GANJA, which break through the silence of the night. The effect also depends on the type of music you are listening to. Listening to songs by Pink Floyd, Doors, or Bob Dylan will have a greater effect on one than listening to music by New

have to get accustomed to taking greater quantities.

Star: How did you get so involved in doing Phensidyl?

User 2: At first I would do it occasionally with my friends. Slowly we started taking it more often until we were doing Phensidyl everyday. The thing with Phensidyl is that if you take it today you will have a great urge and craving to take it again tomorrow.

We would take Phensidyl and then smoke marijuana and this combination would increase the effect of your high.

Star: How do you feel emotionally and physically when you combine Phensidyl and marijuana?

User 2: The emotional effect is extraordinary because it heightens your perception level. Things which would ordinarily have no meanings seem to become priorities. You tend to become priorities. You tend to become lethargic and things which were priorities to you before you took the drugs seem sometimes unimportant.

Many months ago a friend of mine and I made a plan to meet at another friend's house. I was the one who suggested this plan but I myself forgot about it entirely. I, for some reason, thought that the plan had been cancelled. I met my friend after a few days and when we were alone he said to me, "You know, I only went that night because I thought you were going to be there. What I mean is when you say you are going to be somewhere, be there."

He said this in a very matter of fact tone and he was not saying it to make me feel guilty but was merely making a statement. I was on both Phensidyl and marijuana at the time and when he said this to me I realised what I had actually done to my friend. He had said what he had unknowingly, not meaning to hurt me, but it had made a great impact on me. The point that I am trying to make is that my emotional powers were at full alert and I could see meanings in things which were not supposed to have any meanings.

Star: Are you not aware of the damage which these drugs are doing to you?

User 2: Yes, I am aware of the damage which these drugs are having on me. Phensidyl takes the liver to the point of exhaustion. One of my friends died from jaundice because his liver had been totally destroyed from taking excess Phensidyl constantly. Even after his death I took it showing you how indifferent an addict becomes. But I do not take it for the physical feelings, like most people, but because it makes me emotionally aware of my surroundings and own-being.

Star: How would you feel if you were a father and you found out that your son was taking Phensidyl?

User 2: I would not want anyone to start on Phensidyl because it is a very sweet high and one can easily become dependent on it. I despise Phensidyl because it eats your soul but I despise myself more for being dependent on it.

Doing drugs is no joke because a user does not know when it is that he stops using and starts abusing them. If drugs do 'open the doors of perception', it is only for a brief while, after which there is only one thing — darkness.

RIDDLES

by Farhana Karim

- Three white horses
Upon a red hill
Now they tramp
Now they champ
Now they stand still.

(Ans: Tongue and hooves)

- I live on a very narrow space
And I have a round face
Twice daily my hands say the same thing
Yet every time fresh news I bring.

(Ans: Clock)

- A diamond shape in the sky
I have no face, I have no eye
But a tail I do possess
Just how long you'll have to guess
In the clouds, birds pass one by
But without any wings I can fly!

(Ans: Kite)

Music, Pandora's Box, Sugar Drops and Snake Bites, and the Shortest Distance Between a Smile

by Naheed Kamal

EVERY now and then Dhaka city gives us a chance to celebrate the joys of living in the form of a fair, show or a concert. Concerts are big hits in Dhaka. The first concert of this season was held at the Sheraton Hotel on 24 June. The bands were Dhaka's three popular ensembles. K-OZ (pronounced Chaos) opened the show with a subtle version of one of Enigma's compositions. K-OZ is one of the older bands of Dhaka. They started way back in the mid eighties and I still remember seeing them perform for the first time. They were very impressive.

The original band members have come and gone and left a weaker group to follow through. Yet both Shamim and Guechu on vocals alternately, carried off their tracks quite well. They sang "Ice, ice baby" and "Black or White" (long with a zany dance sequence by Shamim) plus "Kingston town", "She drives me crazy" and other tracks. When Pandora's creations exited, the stage was occupied by one of the city's up and coming rock bands with remarkable talents: Sweet Venom. They were just that sweet but deadly.

The band is driven to perform simply by their musical abilities. They needed no dance routines or costumes to impress the crowd. They made it worth the 300 Takas spent on the ticket and they made it worth it for the rest of the evening. The band comprises of the twin brothers: Sunjoy on vocals and Joy on drums. Ditto on lead guitar and Shumon from "Renaissance" made a guest performance at the bass guitar. They gave awesome renditions of "Stairway to Heaven", "Fire" and Ditto drove

the crowd mad with a soulful "Johnny be good" (for an old friend somewhere in the crowd). The added drum solos and bass solos plus Ditto's frenzied guitar playing with the pick in his mouth was the ultimate performance so far.

ask for more?

Well, even if we didn't ask for more we got more. The pleasure was all ours when "Miles" went up on stage and "broke on through to the other side" (with all of us). They followed up with some of rocks

body had been satisfied and satiated. The audience could not have thanked the bands enough for the joy they gave us.

Most of the concert goers were there to enjoy themselves. While others went to ... well, "Dress up"? A lot of people seem to miss the essence of a "rock" concert. There is a difference between rock and classical and there should be a difference in how one is dressed for either. But to each his own and if one intends to show to the world that red and gold are one's favourite colours, who are we to complain?

The different groups who went to the concert varied. There were those who had a good time and let it all hang loose; while others sat through the entire concert like prima donnas or mannequins. The first group smiled and clapped. The second just sat there and there was a doubt as to whether they were human or not. They showed no signs of registering anything that they heard apart from "irritation" with the noise (?) Noise? My God, what did you expect at a rock concert, a meditation chamber?

True it was a little noisy and everybody shouted themselves hoarse. Isn't that why you came to the concert in the first place, to enjoy yourselves? (Oh sorry, you are the mannequins and aren't those used to display clothes?)

Perhaps the thrill of the concert lies in how hyped up one is and that depends on how well the bands perform. All gimmicks aside, the music needs to "get to you". Both Sweet Venom and Miles gave us a real dose of rock 'n' roll and K-OZ? Well, they were there just for that a little chaos!



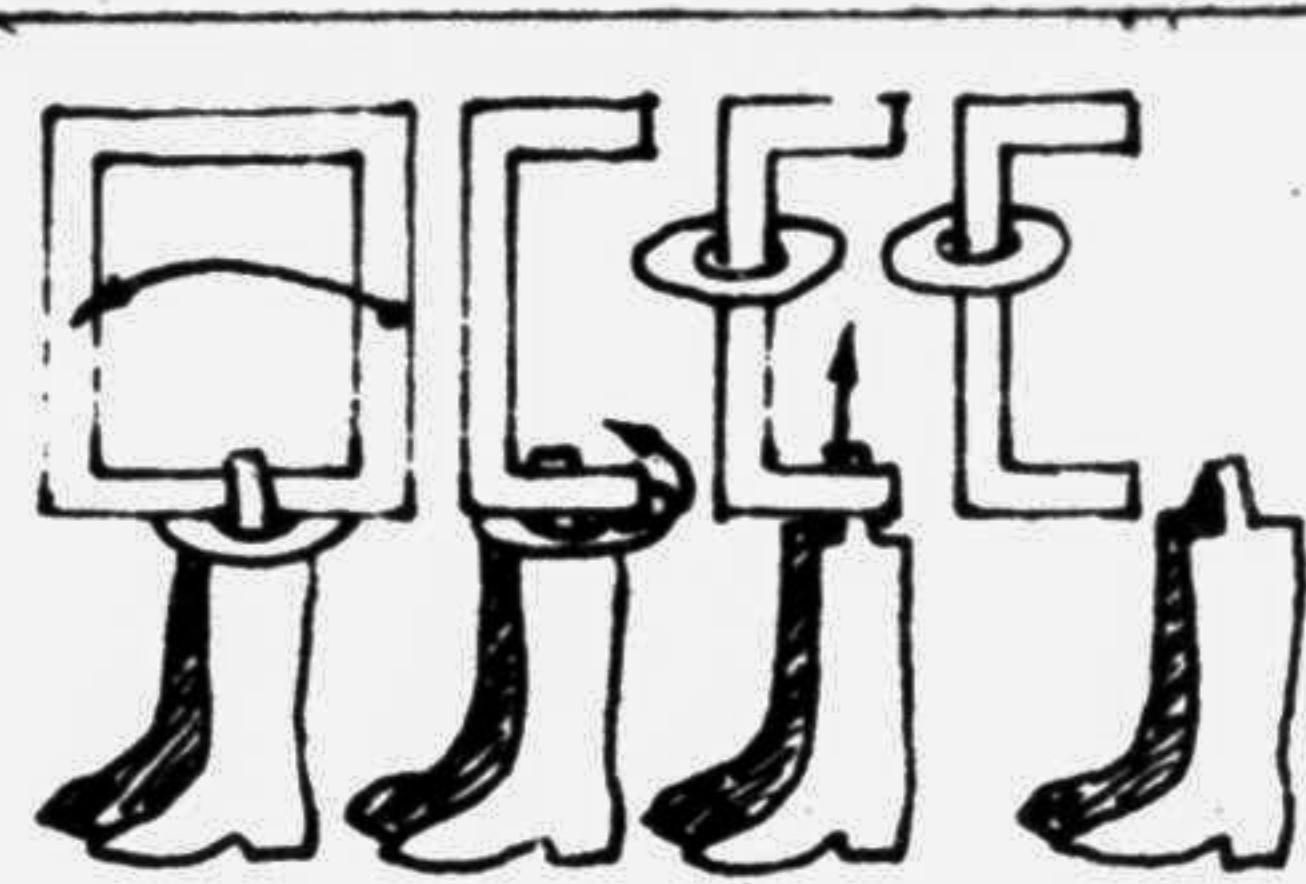
Miles be good.

Their music is basically hard rock and metal tracks but they sing and play well enough to carry the crowd to a frenzy. Here was a band with real performance power. Need we

best giving us the ultimate musical experience when they sang tracks like, "Time", Clapton's "Bad love" and other Floyd and Doors songs. By the time the concert ended every-

— Photo courtesy: Video Guide.

From Friday June 5th



Let's think... Fold the frame in half. Place a ring on it. Pull the boots up. Now reverse the order.

Star Profile

Name: Michael Jackson
DOB: August 29, 1958
Marital status: He finally tied the knot with long time live-in partner, Bubbles, his pet chimp.

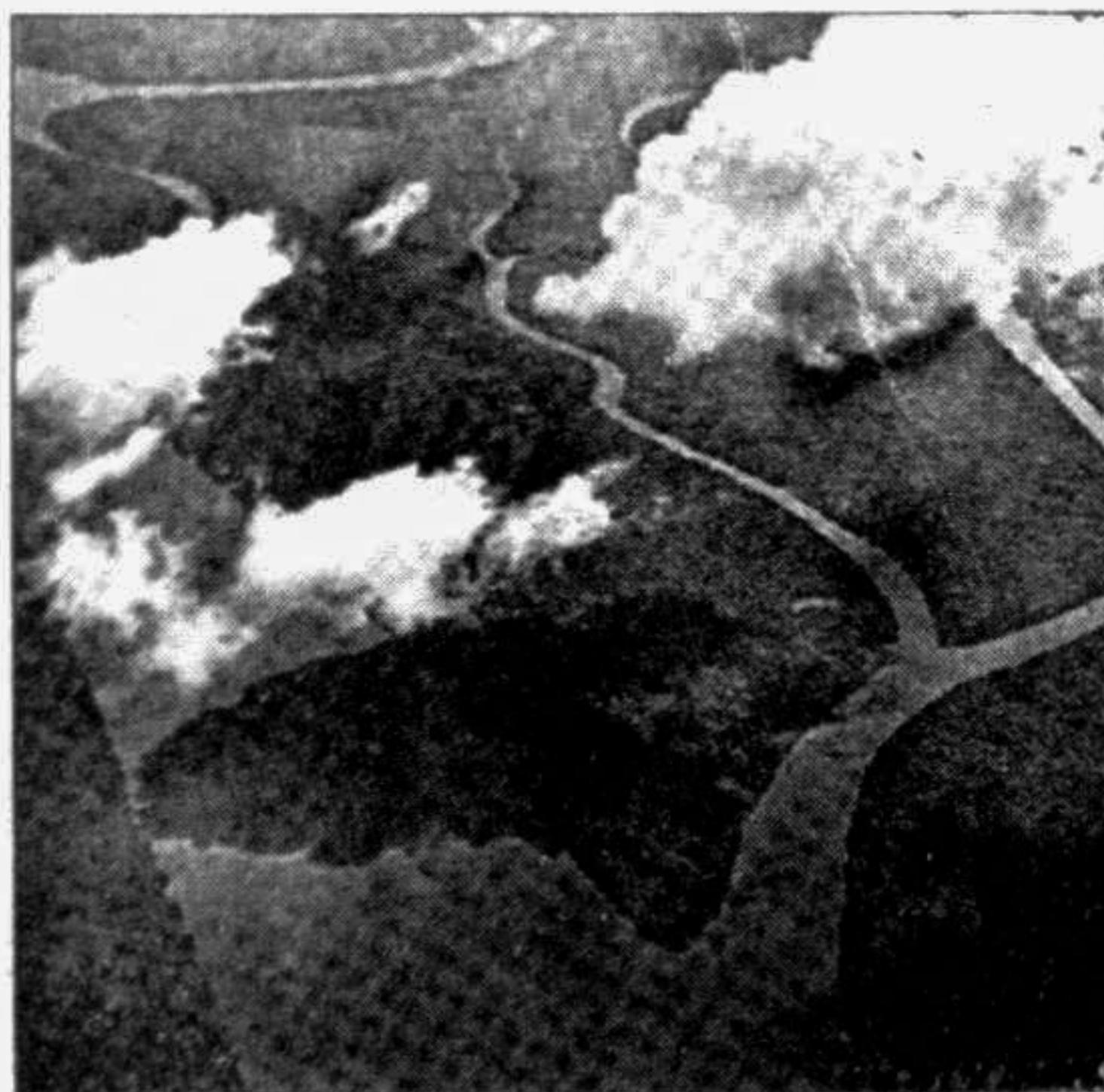
Interesting info: He became a millionaire at the age of 17.

He adores Peter Pan. Needless to say, he is loaded with money. He sleeps in an oxygen tent. At this year's Grammy Awards ceremony, Whoppi Goldberg made a wise crack. "In the category of new faces of the year, the winner is Michael Jackson," and then went on with sincere apologies. But a



budget exceeding over 250,000 dollars (or is it pounds) for plastic surgery alone is surely deserving of such an award, wouldn't you say?

Picture Quiz



This week's picture shows a place far away from home. Can you guess what it is and where...?

QUIZ CLUB

Here are this week's Quiz Questions.

Please send in answers by June 25th.

- Who were the Beatles?
- Who is known as the King of Rock 'n' Roll?
- Who wrote the epic poem "The Illiad"?
- Who wrote the poem "The Raven"?
- Who is the "Sandwich" named after?
- Who were "The Waiters"?
- Who wrote the novel "Ulysses"?
- Who said "Et tu Brutus" and where?
- Which is the only man-made object visible from the moon?
- Who's wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?

Answers to May 29th's Quiz Club:

- Frederick Forsythe.
- Richard Gere.
- Argentina.
- William Shakespeare.
- Built in 3 stages from about 2000 B. C. to about 1250 B. C.
- Bull Fighting Matador.
- Hockey.
- Agatha Christie.
- Mexico city.
- Gabriel Lippman in 1897.

On the Receiving End

by Md Atique Ullah

Suddenly, he sighted two figures: one fair and another could not be contrasted in the semi-darkness, running towards him carrying a sack. He knew at once who they were. He prepared himself both mentally and physically to catch them. Soon they were near him.

Just then, out of the blue, they thrust a sack on his arm and ran past him and soon vanished out of sight.

Before he could assimilate the situation, he was running after them too, clutching the sack in his arm. But he was not a good runner — his legs ached during vigorous activity. Unluckily, his trailing the thieves seemed fruitless for he was running after nothing but into darkness.

Just when he was thinking whether he should run any further, he heard the mighty cries of the crowd who were quite at a respectable distance by now.

He felt happy seeing them and he mentally prepared what he would say to the owner of the sack when he would return it.

"Here is your property, sir. Completely intact. I am utterly sorry I couldn't catch the thieves but succeeded in procuring this sack." He mentally trimmed and tailored his speech.

And if the owner were to offer him any reward he would say, "No, sir. I am not going to take any reward. I am rather humiliated by your offer. It is my duty as a respectable citizen to..." Before he could proceed to finish his speech the crowd had him overpowered. And the owner matching the description the maid had given him with the man in front of him cried, "Catch him. He is the one." Getting the permission from the owner the crowd

man's abdomen at which the man gave a cry calling his father and mother.

He wanted to explain to them that they had mistaken him and uttered a few statements from his prepared speech. But they were inaudible against the screaming and shouting of the excited crowd.

Some people plucked his hair in bunches and some punched him wherever they pleased. A few of them, who were carrying knives and sticks, poked him or pierced him.

The poor man tried desperately to extricate himself from their grip and cried in severe agony. He screamed and shouted and moaned but people were not bothered with it.

Till Next Week



Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

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