

# Watch out for the drugs

by Scott McCredie  
The Seattle Times

Following are a few of the drugs most commonly combined:

### MDMA (Ecstasy)

What is it? A stimulant and hallucinogen. Elevates mood and boosts energy. Also called "X" or "Adam." MDMA is usually taken in pill form. Effects wear off in 4 to 6 hours.

Developed in Germany in 1912 to suppress appetite. Symptoms of use include blurred vision, rapid eye movement, chills or sweating, confusion, severe anxiety, trance-like state.

Who uses it? In recent years it has moved from young adults who frequent dance clubs and raves to the general population.

The hazards: Chronic use appears to damage the brain's ability to think and regulate emotion, and affects memory, sleep and pain. Has been associated with increases in heart rate and blood pressure, posing an extra risk for people with circulatory problems or heart disease. Long-term health effects of frequent use remain unknown; has been linked to neurotoxic damage in laboratory animals.

Often comes adulterated by other drugs that may be more dangerous, such as methamphetamine or PMA, a dangerous hallucinogen.

Ecstasy taken in combo with Ritonovir, a protease inhibitor commonly prescribed for treatment of HIV, has proved particularly lethal.

### GHB

What is it? A central-nervous-system depressant; until the early 1990s it was widely available in health-food stores and used by bodybuilders to aid in fat reduction and muscle building. Odorless and colorless; usually taken in liquid form.

Who uses it? Mostly in the nightclub scene among young adults.

The hazards: Overdoses can cause loss of consciousness and coma. Particularly if combined with alcohol, GHB can re-

duce breathing to a rate low enough to cause death. When used with methamphetamine, it can produce an increased risk of seizure, breathing difficulties and nausea.

### Inhalants

What is it? More than 1,000 household and commercial products, such as cleaning solutions, paint products and

more severe side effects than either drug used alone because both raise heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature.

### Ketamine

What is it? Sometimes called "Special K." A rapid-acting general anesthetic usually used as an animal tranquilizer. Coming in liquid or powder forms, it can be injected, smoked, mixed with drinks or snorted. Causes everything from "feelings of pleasant weightlessness to out-of-body or near-death experience," according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Hallucinatory effects last an hour or less.

Who uses it? Another of the so-called "club drugs," popular among young adults at raves and other underground parties.

The hazards: In higher doses, can cause loss of consciousness, reduced breathing rate and heart-rate abnormalities.

DanceSafe, which promotes safety within the rave and nightclub community, reports that it is "extremely dangerous to combine with downers like alcohol, Valium or GHB."

### Rohypnol

What is it? Brand name for Flunitrazepam, a powerful sedative that, although illegal in the United States, is manufactured legally in other countries and widely prescribed in Europe for the short-term treatment of severe sleep disorders. A small white or green tablet; can be swallowed, snorted or injected. Frequently used in combination with alcohol and other drugs. Creates a sleepy, relaxed, drunk feeling that lasts 2 to 8 hours.

Who uses it? Heroin and alcohol abusers; high-school and college students; and those at raves and nightclubs.

The hazards: Often known as the date-rape drug; it has no taste or odor when dissolved in a drink. Used with alcohol, it produces disinhibition and amnesia. May cause blackouts. Can produce physical and psychological dependence.

### Methamphetamine

What is it? An addictive stimulant taken orally, snorted, injected or smoked. Produces euphoria or an intense "rush," depending on how it's taken.

Who uses it? Although rates of use are increasing among youths, users are generally male, white and older than 26.

The hazards: High doses can damage neuron cell endings, leading to irritability, insomnia, confusion, tremors, convulsions, paranoia and anxiety. Can also cause convulsions, stroke, stomach cramps and shaking.

Using it with Ecstasy can produce



A rave in Texas looks like a blast.

Photo courtesy of www.teebeatz.com

## Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

### WHERE DID YOU GET THIS, IF I MAY ASK?

A man mailed a package of high-tech telephone equipment at the post office in Nuremberg, Germany. But two postal workers inside stole the package, opened it, and decided to sell the stuff and make a quick buck. Unfortunately, they tried to make the sale at a second-hand shop where, unbeknownst to them, the proprietor happened to be the man who had mailed the goods in the first place. He immediately called the police.

### GET READY HONEY, I'M COMING HOME!

Four times during the past year, an elderly man has robbed a pharmacy in Marseilles, France, stealing the entire stock of the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

### HAS ANYONE SEEN MY CAR?

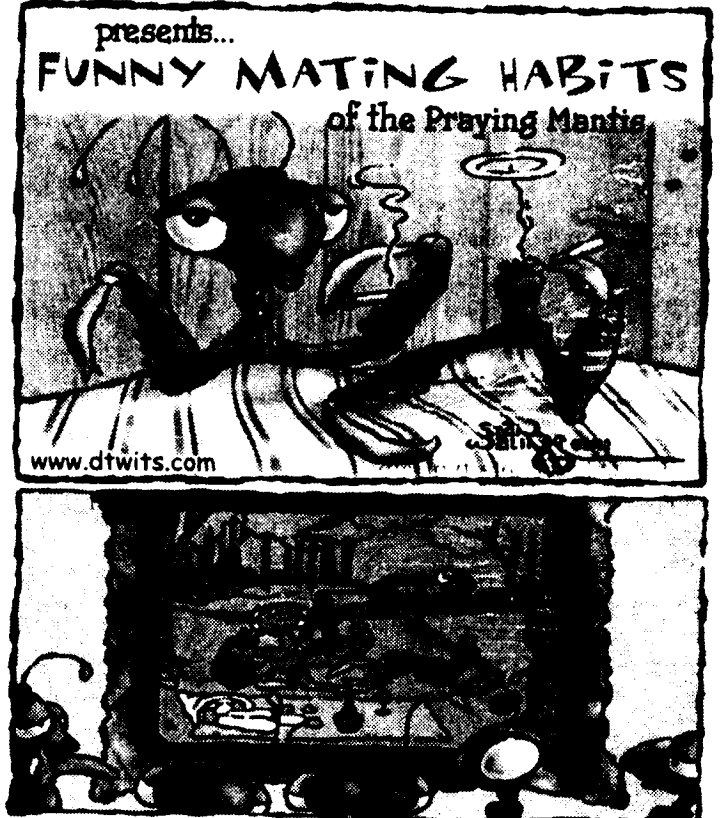
A man parked his old junk of a car behind a Massachusetts fire station next to two other beat-up automobiles, unaware that the other two vehicles were there to be ripped apart by the Jaws of Life as part of the firefighters' rescue training. While he was gone, his car was erroneously turned into a large mass of scrap metal.

### CAPTAIN RIBMAN - Greasing The Wheels



## DITHERED TWITS

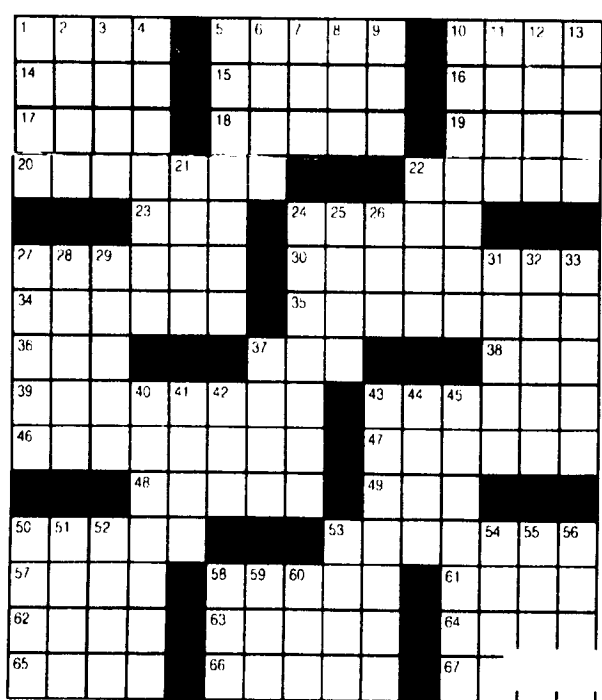
by Stan Walina



Mantises celebrate their mating rituals through great works of art such as, 'Dejeuner sur l'Herbe, sans les Tetes'.

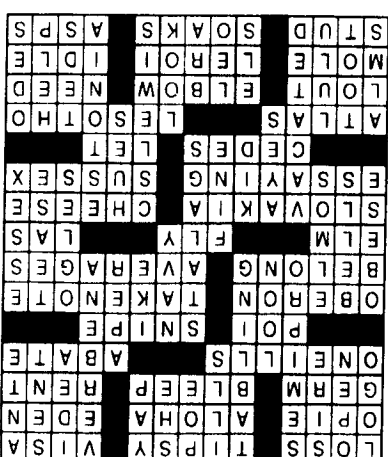
## Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Defeat
  - 5 Slightly drunk
  - 10 Travel stamp
  - 14 Mayberry kid
  - 15 Hi, on HI
  - 16 Biblical paradise
  - 17 Word before theory or warfare
  - 18 Censor
  - 19 Tear
  - 20 Eugene and Ed
  - 22 Lessen
  - 23 Luau staple
  - 24 Shoot from cover
  - 27 Titania's mate
  - 30 Pay close attention
  - 34 Fit in
  - 35 Some statistics
  - 36 Horror-film street
  - 37 Trout lure
  - 38 Vegas
  - 39 Bratislava's country
  - 43 Edam or brie
  - 46 Putting to the test
  - 47 Anglo-Saxon kingdom
  - 48 Surrenders
  - 49 Permit to
  - 50 Bodybuilder Charles
  - 53 Basutoland, today
  - 57 Clumsy clod
  - 58 Nudge
  - 61 Requirement
  - 62 Burrowing mammal
  - 63 The king of France
  - 64 At rest
  - 65 Wall upright
  - 66 Wets fully
  - 67 Little snakes



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### Solutions



- DOWN
- 1 Brand image
  - 2 Frank
  - 3 Father
  - 4 Part-time athlete
  - 5 Postponing
  - 6 Troubles
  - 7 "Ulalume" author
  - 8 That girl
  - 9 Kissed or mush
  - 10 Source of teak
  - 11 Brainstorm
  - 12 Transmitted
  - 13 Starter chips
  - 21 Bird with a laughlike cry
  - 22 Sketch artist
  - 24 German POW camps
  - 25 Dark blue
  - 26 Man with an alibi?
  - 27 Way overweight
  - 28 Carillon components
  - 29 Roper and Lincoln
  - 31 Stares at
  - 32 Needle
  - 33 English county
  - 37 Cash penalty
  - 40 Left empty
  - 41 Positive votes
  - 42 "Galahad"
  - 43 "The Chronicles of Narnia" writer

- 44 Colors
- 45 Latvia's neighbor
- 50 Paupers' plea
- 51 Spree
- 52 Doozy
- 53 Sneak a peek
- 54 Williams and Koppel
- 55 Assist
- 56 Poetic works
- 58 Chicago transp.
- 59 G. Carroll
- 60 Bikini piece

## The 80s never looked so good

by Mike DeArmond  
Knight Riddler Newspaper

It's here! Parents, run for your picket signs. Or wait. Stop and think for a second.

The kids that grew up with Atari and "Mario Brothers" are now in their 20s and 30s. They've matured, so why can't the content of their video games?

Get over the violence for minute and understand that "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" is an advanced sandbox-type environment where you do can almost anything you like. Follow the violent mission? Or go lie peacefully on the beach? It's your choice.

The game, the latest in the popular GTA series, is set in Miami in 1986. Your main objective: Find the people who spoiled your cocaine deal and, well, kill them, of course!

Character sequences are ably voiced by celebrities such as Ray Liotta, Tom Sizemore, Dennis Hopper, Gary Busey and Jenna Jameson. They use the foul language you'd expect from the thugs that move the plot forward.

Most missions are of the go-to-the-country-club-with-a-golf-club-to-beat-the-guy-who-owes-us-money variety.

There are plenty of side missions, most which include stealing vehicles. Hard up for cash? Jack a taxi and give people rides. Need some extra health? Ride your Harley down the strip and pick up a prostitute.

The visuals are stunning. An entire

city is rendered accurately right down to the '80s-style fonts on billboards. Time passes, day to night. Occasionally it rains. The sunset creates a glare

songs such as Michael Jackson's "Billy Jean" along with DJs and commercials. "Vice City" has some surprises for "Grand Theft Auto" veterans, includ-



PHOTO FROM ROCKSTARGAMES.COM

A scene from the game: The pixelated player checks out some gigabytes.

on your windshield, making it hard to see the women in thongs walking on the beach.

The controls are tight, from some handling variations for various weapons to those of vehicles. A bus is slow and turns awkwardly, while a motorcycle weaves smoothly through traffic.

And the music! Will someone please explain how they crammed the equivalent of seven CDs onto one game disc?

When driving, you can flip through eight stations, each with about 15

ing new weapons, such as a chain saw. I'd like to say more good things about this game, but I'm busy. If you need me, you can find me on Ocean Drive under a big palm tree.

### GRAND THEFT AUTO: VICE CITY

Platform: PlayStation 2  
Publisher: Rockstar Games  
Rating: M for blood and gore, violence, strong language, strong sexual content ... you get the idea.  
More info: www.rockstargames.com