

# TEST YOUR STASH

by

Oz Y. Mandias

This the first of a series of articles on subjects of interest. The next few should be of interest to all you deprived dopers out there. Questions and requests for articles, comments, additions and corrections, interesting info of any kind (I would be pleased to hear from technofreaks of any kind, especially underground chemists and budding Cwgley-types), as well as names and phone numbers of easy lays should be sent to TAP, c/o Oz Y. Mandias. Please remember to enclose a S. A. S. E. if you want a personal reply, though I'll reply to interesting letters without one.

First of all, there are a few basic ground-rules one should be aware of if you're into psychedelics. "THC" is almost always PCP (a.k.a. "angel dust"). THC is somewhat difficult to synthesize and expensive and there is a good market. On the other hand, PCP is easy to synthesize, cheap as hell to make and the market, until recently at least, was limited (due to reputed bad side-effects). It doesn't take a genius to figure out the result, given the lack of F. T. C. control over the unscrupulous big-time suppliers. The same can be said of stuff sold as mescaline (unless you live in the SouthWest) and psilocybin, unless you have a good connection. These are usually acid or our friend PCP again. It can be said, however, that acid is usually acid, though as to quality.....

Bearing this in mind, there are a number of simple tests you can perform to ascertain what exactly your head is getting or at least what it's not getting. The easiest of these is the very useful Marquis test (seen in "French Connection") which uses a testing reagent consisting of 20 drops of formaldehyde (available in drug stores) dissolved in 10 ml concentrated sulphuric acid (from drug stores, gas stations or school labs). A drop of this reagent is added to a drop of water on a piece of glass in which is dissolved a small amount (a few grains or fragments) of the substance to be tested. (Note: Quantities and % ages in this and the following tests need not be exactly correct.) Any color changes in the liquid are then noted and compared with the chart. These tests are not absolute proof but they are good enough for our purposes.

## OTHER TESTS:

**p-DMAB Test:** Warm a small amount of the substance with a 1 % solution of para-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde (available from a chemical supply house) in concentrated sulphuric acid in a test tube. Note the color. Purple means LSD and related cpds., DMT, psilocin or psilocybin. Yellow means procaine or PCP. Red means THC or cannabis.

**Beam's Test:** Add a small amount of the substance to a solution of 5 % potassium hydroxide in methanol. A red color indicates cannabis or THC.

**Zwicker's Test:** To a 1 to 2 ml solution of unknown substance in methanol or ethanol add 1 to 2 ml 1 % solution of cobalt nitrate (or acetate) in methanol or ethanol. Now add 1 or 2 flakes or pellets of sodium hydroxide (lye). A deep violet-blue color indicates barbiturates. (The color persists from 1 to 10 minutes depending on cpd.)

**Strychnine Test:** It can be said that for all intents and purposes, there is no strychnine in acid and never has been. If you're paranoid though, take a .5 % solution of potassium dichromate in 60 % sulphuric acid and add a drop of this to a small amount of the unknown on a white tile. Purple changing to red indicates the presence of strychnine.



**Chen's Test:** This test will give a purple color for phenylephrine, phenylpropanolamine and ephedrine, which are commonly sold as speed and won't get you off. To one drop of a 1 % solution of the unknown in vinegar (diluted with 1/2 water), add 1 drop of 1 % copper sulphate followed by 1 drop 8 % sodium hydroxide (lye). Note the color.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The above article was submitted in long-hand and any errors or mistakes are the result of my inability to decipher his handwriting, my lack of drug and chemical knowledge (Who, me?!), and my all-round general stupidity.



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| MARQUIS TEST  |   |
|---|---|
| DRUG  | COLOR ("→" = changes to)  |
| Amphetamine   | orange → brown  |
| Dexedrine, Speed  | orange → brown  |
| Benactyzine   | orange → green → blue   |
| Bufofinine  | greenish-brown  |
| Demerol   | dull orange   |
| DMT  | dull orange   |
| Heroin  | purple  |
| LSD   | grey  |
| Lysergic acid & Lysergic acid amide   | brown  |
| Mescaline   | brown   |
| Psilocin  | orange  |
| Psilocybin  | greenish-brown  |
| STP   | dull orange   |
|   | yellow  |

**CREDIT CARD CRIME** How come there has been so little credit card counterfeiting to date?

According to Frost & Sullivan, Inc., a New York research outfit, it's because no credit card counterfeiter has yet been jailed. Once they are, these criminals will undoubtedly explain their techniques to others, which is how crime spreads.

Richard Ahern, who researched the subject for Frost & Sullivan, interviewed 76 credit card criminals in four prisons. He learned that how to steal credit cards and use them is now common knowledge in U.S. jails, but how to counterfeit credit cards is not.

## Phone company loses

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The huge Pacific Telephone Co. came within a few days of seeing its downtown headquarters on the auction block to pay a disputed \$11 debt.

Louis Gary, who boasts of paying his residential telephone bill at the last minute "as a matter of principle," filed suit against the powerful utility charging it cut off his service without the customary five days notice.

He contended that his payment was mailed on time.

"They said they didn't get the payment," said Gary. "I said they did. They said tough luck and disconnected the telephone."

When the telephone company admitted in court that it had received the payment but charged him \$11 anyway to reconnect his service, Gary went to City Hall and filed suit in small claims court.

■ New York Telephone Co. has issued a warning to "phone phreaks" who use "blue boxes" to illegally avoid long distance charges. The company has developed a computer which detects and prevents the fraud. However, at the news conference the company called to unveil its weapon, the computer malfunctioned. It took 20 minutes to repair the computer.

## Wrong subject

**WENATCHEE, Wash.** — A microscopic examination in a biology lab turned into a police interrogation for a Wenatchee High School student. The class assignment last Friday was inspecting fungi. But a 15-year-old student was charged with possession of marijuana after the biology teacher discovered the "grass" the student was studying intently was the wrong specimen.

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## LETTERS FROM READERS

Dear TAP,

During the Christmas break I got together with a friend of mine who's also an electrical engineering student and liked ripping Bell. He knew all the latest about the new Black Box detection system which is available to all early ESS systems and can be used on all older systems. On a partial ESS system, the testing piece of hardware checks the line with a lot of low frequency signal. This works because; 1) You probably have a resistor leaking some current through to your microphone element. This 10K ohm or so is not enough to trip the billing equipment but is less than the Megohm or more on an open line. 2) Your Black Box capacitor lets the low frequency signal through great! Your capacitor (1 Mfd) passes the AC line and isn't nearly as well hidden in the stray capacitance of the phone line as your line resistance can be. Note, they do this test when your phone is ringing, if they can pass the low frequency signal down the line, they will suspect you are Black Boxing. So far we don't know exactly how many ringing telephones can be checked at once, but supposedly, a lot since the low frequency Black Box detector need only check your line during ringing and with ESS these kind of "maintenance" checks are easy to implement. Also, the exact frequency used is not known. They probably do a DC resistance check and could do an AC check anywhere from 1 - 60 Hz above that and the tone could be heard on the line. Will someone who lives in an area where they know Bell does this kind of detection try and see if there are extraneous low tones on the line during ringing. Further, Bell may also do the testing with a high frequency tone during ringing (the noise won't bother you then) which makes it really easy to measure your line capacitance.

Now some ideas! First, I don't think they can get a good yes-no result. They might get a signal to monitor your line to be sure. Their measurement capability is limited by two major factors; 1) The stray capacitance between the line from insulation losses, connection points, etc. 2) The ringer capacitor, it should hide your capacitor pretty well. Remembering how it's hooked in, it must be a pretty big capacitor to let the 20 Hz ringing signal energize the ringer coils. But note, when you hook on your Black Box, you've series connected your 1 Mfd or so with a big 2 or 3 Mfd so the total capacitance is less than either. Further, the ringer coils have some inductive reactance making the effect of your capacitor even larger. By knowing what a standard capacitance should be, any reading less than half is VERY suspect! What can we do about it? Several modifications should help you hide. 1) Put your Black Box in the circuit after the point the ringer is in. This leaves the ringer capacitor on to "swamp" the line. 2) Use a bigger capacitor, then the series effect is not so noticeable. This sounds funny I know, but look at the circuit, if this is how the phone company does it, then that's the cure! At about this point I realize that the damn ringer capacitor throws a monkey wrench into the works. Some investigation should be done on what effect it really has. Think about it and let me know what you've heard. We've got to help the thousands of Boxers in Amerika tromp this menace!!!

Further, the TAP mugs and T-shirts are great!

"Hide the wires",  
Mark

Dear TAP,

Until last year I was a regular recipient of your reports and now due to a situation of some urgency I find it necessary to personally respond. A certain Pacific Telephone investigator, Charles Fincher, recently paid a visit to a friend of mine, accompanied by several San Francisco police, who with a search warrant, seized a Black Box after monitoring his phone for an indefinite length of time. Fincher was overheard saying that this was the fiftieth raid this year in San Francisco. A felony citation was issued because of an alleged \$200 plus "crime" and legal proceedings begin next week. Would you be so kind as to inform your readers of the situation in San Francisco and send me any pertinent advice as to a legal defense.

Crash

Dear TAP,

I thought I should pop this note in. Less than five hours since I read the article on radar detectors I got called by the cop in N. J. to speed(?!). He had one of the new moving radar units installed in his car and he was more than happy to explain how it works (at least how he uses it) after he wrote out my ticket.

It seems that the State Police in N. J. have been installing the new moving radar units into as many of their cars as possible. Most of the units have been bought with the help of a federal grant. The unit consists of a transmit/receive antenna mounted on a swivel base and a readout unit which contains the electronics for the computations. The unit takes into consideration the speed of the police vehicle and depending on the direction of the antenna (front or back) either subtracts it from or adds it to the speed of the approaching car. It has an alarm system that can be preset for any speed up to 99 mph and any speed above the set speed will sound the alarm. By the way, the trooper that nailed me had his set for 64 mph on a 50 mph road. Of course local cops don't give you near as much of a break as that, but so far very few of them have the new units.

Fuzz Buster Barry

Dear TAP,

Since Ma claims to now have the ultimate weapon against phreaking, in the form of a computer program, how about a different method of getting into the system? You wouldn't even need a telephone. Anyone familiar with ham radio knows these guys have their own satellite through which they can talk to other hams over distances not normally possible with the frequencies they're using. The equipment for using these satellites isn't too expensive and anyone who's built any of the projects in TAP can build his own. So what am I driving at? The phone company also uses satellites as well as microwave (which can be tapped into). If some bright soul could come up with the frequencies, orbits, and access codes (if an for these phone booths in the sky, it would be possible to phreak away without ever a worry about getting nailed. I would imagine that some of the frequencies are in the UHF range, which means that if the person using the satellite is using a halfway decent antenna, there's virtually no way to track down the originating signal. Besides, the FCC is too busy chasing HFER's on CB. Ma Bell ain't the only one, either. There are dozens of those birds up there and many of them could just as easily be put to good use as serving the Megaporkers who currently enslave the world.

A note about the ham satellite: from what I've read, the thing was built and paid for by donated time and money and it's

its use is set by cooperative arrangement, making it just about the nearest thing I've seen to people's technology. So don't fuck it up!

Enclosing a buck. Hope it'll help. (You bet yer ass it does!)

Tucson

## Postmen stop re-used stamps

The practice of trying to give the U.S. Postal Service a licking by erasing cancellation marks from stamps and re-using them has been largely stamped out, suburban postmasters say.

Early this year the post office issued stamps with ink strong enough to withstand the vigorous erasing required to remove a cancellation mark.

Erasing cancellation marks and re-using canceled stamps does occur, said Lou Everhardt of the postal service's Washington

office. Some people seem determined to beat any system.

At the Oak Lawn post office, cancellation equipment has been adjusted to produce heavier cancellation marks that are impossible to erase without destroying the stamps, said Oak Lawn Postmaster Robert Nelson.

Elmhurst Postmaster William Brian said he wasn't aware of attempts to erase cancellation marks on stamps. However, attempts to re-

use canceled stamps are not new, Brian noted.

"We catch quite a few re-used stamps," he said. "People think the cancellation is nice and clean so they decide to use (the stamps) again."

Mail clerks generally notice re-used stamps. Everhardt said the problem with cancellation marks being erased has diminished since the postal service switched to a new cancellation ink provided by the Bureau of Engraving. It can't be erased.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Smearing a drop of Elmer's Glue on the stamp still works. See TAP #39 for more "free" postal info.



