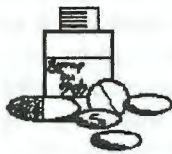


Pills-a-go-go

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Abortion Pills

It was a matter of time, folks. Despite the strenuous efforts of anti-abortionists to prohibit them, abortion pills are here and coming to a street corner near you.

It's a lot like the atomic bomb. Once a thing exists that people want, you can't stop them from getting it. Besides, with visionary countries like Thailand who couldn't care less about "patents" and "copyrights" it was bound to happen.

Too bad for the French inventors and makers of RU486 — Roussel-Uclaf — they chose to go the high road and withhold the drug from the U.S. market, under pressure from anti-abortion groups and probably the Bush administration may be about to miss out on some big bucks.

But they might win yet. Some 34 members of the U.S. House have asked the frog-firm to reconsider its position and at least apply to marketing rights here. They've practically laid out the red carpet for the "abortion pill". Even the FDA has cleared the path for the pill's introduction by declaring that they would accept European test data in place of their own — a move that would drastically reduce the amount of time it would take the pill to get to market — maybe just six months.

In case the German-owned French subsidiary balks at letting its precious pill on the U.S. market there more where that came from — both India and China have developed their own versions of the pill and PAGG sees no way of effectively interdicting the drug on its way to U.S. markets. Har dee har har.

Pill Crime

Cops still haven't caught the thieves who successfully ripped off the Marshfield, WI Clinic Pharmacy.

The Drugstore cowboys used the brilliant tactic of waltzing into the clinic during normal working hours, going into an adjacent room, pushing aside the flimsy ceiling tiles then crawling their way a few feet to the pharmacy. Then they proceeded to make off with shitloads of pharmaceutical cocaine, morphine, and other drugs. They also stopped long enough to grab around \$1,000 in cash.

All this occurred while lantern-jawed security



Junkies in the Know

Two very important tips have come our way that should be of special interest to those who like opiates — but dislike that painful withdrawal period known as "kicking"

First, according to Consumer Reports, the anxiolytic, Xanax, has now gained street value for its ability to allow methadone users to get high. Methadone is real good at relieving withdrawal symptoms (say some) but its antagonistic effect keeps junkies from getting high. Apparently, Xanax has changed all that.

Far more important news has been uncovered by PAGG. Immodium AD — in its over-the-counter form — and in higher than normal doses relieves withdrawal symptoms from morphine-dependent monkeys. That much is buried in the depths of the PDR.

What they don't tell you is that the stuff can also help out kicking human beings! Although our results are very preliminary — Immodium AD halts the pain of opium withdrawal. So far, it seems the liquid form works best (reaching plasma levels twice as fast as the pill form) and seems just as good as anything the government will sell you.

Also, the liquid form doesn't seem to contain any binder chemicals, which can impede the absorption of the drug in its pill form.

The ramifications of this are obvious. If it works, no longer will addicts have to spend upwards of \$260 per month to stand in line at 7:30 in the morning for a dose of methadone while admitting to a "counselor" that they are indeed worms and thanking them profusely for this "second chance." No more lectures, no more government control. Just do-it-yourself cleaning out.

PAGG must point out that Immodium AD does cause constipation (so does methadone) and its use as a method of kicking opiates is not FDA approved.

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guards were supposedly standing vigil but the theft wasn't even discovered until 8 am Monday morning following the "holidayweekend". The clinic said they lost about \$10,000 in drugs, but we expect local flat-fee to inflate this figure many-fold in their estimation of "street value".

- Free on \$10,000 bond, two Dallas women are charged with smuggling around 9,000 Valiums (presumably 10s) after they were caught on the foot bridge at Laredo, TX.

The two women, Kimberly Ann Woods, 26, and her partner in crime, 33-year-old Elizabeth Annette Wilhoit were nabbed by customs agents as they tried to cross the bridge late one night with 4,500 hits each taped to their abdomens and buttocks, in an attempt to look pregnant.

- Another Texas outlaw, Gregory William Schaefer, 34, got raided by the DEA at his home where the "crack" agents discovered some \$13,000 in currency, 400 grams of cocaine, 65.6 grams of cocaine along with a kilo and a half of plain old maryjane.

Cops also found an MDMA lab located in the garage, which was apparently capable of producing 14,500 hits of X (but how frequently?) with an estimated "street value of \$49 kazillion.

Schaefer's lab was the sixth MDMA lab to get busted by Dallas DEA agents since 1990.

- Six docs are now facing charges of mail fraud, money laundering, racketeering and conspiracy in New York for running "sham" clinics in upper Manhattan and the Bronx.

Using the time-honored scheme of getting destitute people to fill prescriptions in return for a little cash, the docs then allegedly rerouted the drugs through "street" and "high" level drug diverters until the pills found their way back into pharmacies where unsuspecting customers were forced to pay full retail price for their drugs.

Florida Pharmacists Strut

The Florida Board of Pharmacy has suggested that pharmacists' "counseling role" be expanded from merely reminding customers to not eat suppositories, to keeping full-blown dossiers on all of their customers, supposedly to make sure patients don't accidentally have a bad reaction to the various drugs dispensed at pharmacies all over the state.

Taking its cue from a 1990 federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act which mandated that the nation's 50,000 pill-counters to spend more than 30 seconds time talking to Medicaid patients about their medicines, Florida has now included everybody.

Of course this will require Florida Pharmacists to log information about any customer's medical history, allergic reactions, and previously prescribed medications.

Devil Drugs

- A Dallas judge hacked off \$700,000 in awards given to murderer and former cop William Freeman

for blowing away his pal Donnie Hazelwood and blaming it on Halcion.

Although the judge upheld the jury's finding that Upjohn was partially responsible for the murder he pointed out that Freeman's family had overestimated the amount of money Freeman would have been able to earn had he not blown his friend's head off and gone to prison in 1987.

But the company will still have to pay just over a million anyway and, as Freeman's lawyer noted, "A million dollars is still a lot of money."

- The "Halcion Defense" didn't work out so well for an Indianapolis man who apparently blew his wife in half with a sawed-off shotgun last year.

Melvine Turetine, 46, said Halcion had so clouded his mind that he was incapable of stalking down and killing his wife — even though he admits doing it. Turetine drew a fifty year sentence for his crime.

- Prozac (Lilly/Dista) is defending itself in Dane County Circuit Court in Wisconsin after a Sandra Lee Sorg — being treated in a mental hospital — hanged herself with a sheet.

Unfortunately for the young girl, she only succeeded in putting herself into a coma from whence she has not returned since June 1989. Her parents are doing the suing for her.

Lilly says it's eager to go to trial once again, noting that more than 100 suits have filed against the pill's alleged propensity to make you want to kill yourself.

All these suits have been dismissed or dropped once the patient's medical records have been opened, revealing a pre-existing proclivity to suicide.

- The day before Christmas, Lilly announced it will offer Prozac in a special, 10mg dosage — just half of the normal dose.

Although 20mgs will continue to be the standard dose for the drug, Lilly flaks say the new, smaller capsule offers doctors more flexibility when prescribing the medicine.

New Pills

- Glaxo's experimental, long lasting asthma drug, albuterol, has been proven to work longer and better than its counterparts. The results were documented by a research team in Aurora, CO conducting experiments with 234 people.

- The FDA has approved Betapace (sotalol HCL) to treat life-threatening irregular heartbeats. It's better than the currently available procainamide.

- Organon's contraceptive, Desogen, already in use overseas, has now been approved for use in the U.S. Manufacturers say it eliminates side effects such as weight gain, breast tenderness and irregular bleeding now caused by some BC pills in some women.

- A hippo, who has given birth 16 times at the Amsterdam zoo has been put on birth control pills to stop her. She gave birth again.

- Upjohn, perhaps in a Lilly-like bid to save its ass, has announced a joint venture with a German firm to develop pills to treat Parkinsons, vomiting, schizophrenia, and Alheimers.

- The FDA has also announced that the anti-rejection drug, cyclosporine is effective in treating severe psoriasis.