

"Love Drug" unloveable

Dear Sir:

I wish to point out to those readers of the Griffin who may also read the Night Owl, the evening student newspaper, that a rather misleading article appeared in a recent edition of the latter publication.

In a column bearing the provocative title "The Love Drug . . . The Nation's Newest Kick", a highly potent and very dangerous drug, methaqualone (trade names: Parest, Sopor, and Quaalude) is unqualifiedly claimed to "enhance the sex drive" and is referred to as a "love potion".

In fact the alleged aphrodisiac properties of this drug are **not** reported in the technical literature and are probably illusory. What one does find, on searching the literature, however, is that methaqualone is a drug whose characteristics are not well established (whether or not it is physically addictive is a hotly contended question) and one which has tremendous potential for abuse.

Whereas the "Love Drug" is very probably not an aphrodisiac, it is a non-barbiturate depressant which has several rather unpleasant side effects among which are internal bleeding and the loss of muscle control. When used in conjunction with even modest quantities of alcohol, a not unlikely circumstance, these effects are multiplied many times. The combination of alcohol and methaqualone has reportedly resulted in several deaths already and will undoubtedly account for many more.

I do not wish to imply any responsibility on the part of the Griffin for this article but merely wish to point out some of its misleading aspects to Griffin readers.

Any newspaper, student or otherwise, would seem to have a responsibility to check out the facts before publishing such provocative material. If I can be of any help in doing so in the future, I shall be most happy to volunteer my services.

Sincerely,
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Chairman
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