

with heroin and other depressant drugs he would buy "Bennies" to give him a lift to get out and do his "thing" to get the money for the heroin.

When the fad of taking drugs hit our high school and college groups, they would have what some called "cocktail parties." Each would bring the medications from their private drugstore, that is, the home medicine cabinet. All the pills would be put in the bowl. Different parties were run different ways. Some would portion a quantity to each one with no regard to what they took. Others would divide them by color or shape and compare notes.

What was the main problem? Availability—they discovered that with mom's diet pills they could dance and go and go without stopping. Hey man, that's terrific.

Someone thought we could solve the fat problem without discipline and without pain by taking dexedrine or other amphetamines.

The college crew is no different than when I was in school. We did not get our work done until it was due. We did not study until the night before exam. But in the early forties we had to depend upon the coffee pot and cold water in the face to stay awake.

Now, thanks to "better living through chemistry" we can swallow a couple of pills, obtainable legally for the diet, the tired feeling, the depressed state, or whatever other excuse—fancy word for lie—I can convince the doctor of.

Then suddenly you have people living on this stuff. Then comes controls in the early seventies.

By this time we have coming into the program the speed freaks and the spacies. They have in their own words "fried their brains." Where did they get the stuff? One student in the program from an Ohio college, who came into the program in 1970, floated a loan, flew to Mexico and brought back amphetamines of various kinds, manufactured in the United States, and netted \$1,700 for the weekend risk and trouble.

The problem arose for him when he became his own best customer. Messed up his mind; could not study, dropped out of school with 1½ semesters to go for graduation.

I am amazed that some, as late as last year, discovered an over-production with shipment out of the country to be brought back in illegally. This was common knowledge to us working the streets. We assumed if we knew it, certainly, the professional agencies knew it.

Some have told of stealing them off the loading docks by the barrel full.

I do not need to restate the statistics, you have them, undoubtedly, on file.

The last 3 years I have been in an administrative position and only working as a volunteer with troubled people. It is disturbing and frustrating to me to start dealing with people and discover the amount of mood-altering medications prescribed to cover up the problem. Yet, no one stops to try to solve the problem or provide a way of handling and dealing with the difficulties.

At Teen Challenge our approach to the drug abuser has been that your drug taking is not the problem. It is a symptom. We were saying this when others said we were foolish to talk like that.