frequency of its use in various segments of the population.

Many LSD users feel certain that they have had a highly worthwhile experience, that they understand themselves better and are more free and creative as a result, but almost no objective evidence exists to confirm or disconfirm their impressions. Jarvik's brief but well-documented report of the behavioral effects of LSD summarizes roughly 100 papers relating to animal studies (with species ranging from Siamese fighting fish and salamanders to the Asiatic elephant and various monkeys) as well as human studies. Most of the studies of humans deal with subjective reports, but those that involve tests of perceptual, motor, and cognitive functioning generally show impairment of such functioning under LSD. Judgment is certainly seriously impaired during the immediate drug state, but only anecdotal data relate to later consequences.

Unquestionably, research on the hallucinogens has been slowed down by governmental control. Since LSD is not available through normal pharmaceutical channels, control has required the setting up of new procedures for distribution of available supplies. If it should be firmly established that LSD produces genetic damage, perhaps the delays in distribution for research purposes have been a blessing in disguise. If LSD does not appear to cause significant biological damage, one hopes that participants in future symposia on the hallucinogens will have much more adequate research data on long-term consequences for the individual and his career.

Legislation against drug abuse cannot, of course, wait for research. Federal legislation relating to LSD—under the Drug Abuse Control Amendments of 1965—shows much greater sophistication than federal laws dealing with addicting drugs. Fortunately, the 1965 laws were based upon professional knowledge and opinions and were not designed primarily to be punitive. State laws have more often been based on emotional concerns. In one of the most provocative papers in this collection, Neil Chayet reviews the state and federal legislation and the issues involved in trying to achieve a balance between indivdual rights and protection of the public. Some states, one of them Massachusetts, have by fiat declared LSD a narcotic and have made it a felony not only to be illegally in possession of LSD, but even to be present where a narcotic drug is illegally kept. Most states make possession a misdemeanor; some have no legislation relating to LSD. There is well-nigh unanimous concurrence that LSD is far more dangerous than marijuana, yet marijuana is lumped with the opiates and possessing it is made a felony by federal and most state laws. However absurd the groupings of drugs in legislation relating to this emotion-laden topic, it is discouragingly difficult to achieve redefinitions once the laws are written. Many lawmakers appear to be oblivious of the educational implications of legislation concerning drug abuse.

Neither legal definitions nor repeated statements of the dangers of LSD are likely to turn all intelligent young people away from the drug. Again and again during the discussion periods at the Wesleyan symposium, members of the audience asked, How can LSD use be made safer? If it does have potential positive functions, how can these be achieved without violating the law? These questions are likely to be with us for some time. By presenting what is known, as well as frank, nonmoralistic discussion of issues posed by those for whom LSD has attractions, the Wesleyan symposium makes a valuable contribution.

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Carnivores of Consequence

Mongooses. Their Natural History and Behaviour. H. E. HINTON and A. M. S. DUNN. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1967. viii + 144 pp., illus. $6.50.

The Biology of the Striped Skunk. B. J. VERTS. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1967. xiv + 218 pp., illus. $7.95.

These two books, treating in detail representatives of two closely related families of mammals, make fine companion volumes for the biologist's reference library. The striped skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, is a familiar member of the nearly cosmopolitan family Mustelidae, which includes also the weasels, stoats, ferrets, minks, otters, and others. The strictly Old World family Viverridae contains the civets, genets, linsangs, meerkats, and a variety of mongooses of nearly 20 genera. Who has not heard of the exploits of Kipling's Rikki-tikki-tavi, or of the problems, a few years ago, of Mr. Magoo at the Duluth Zoo? Here is much useful background information on both skunks and mongooses.

Mongooses is by two British authors; Howard Hinton is professor of entomology at the University of Bristol, and Sarah Dunn headmistress of Colston's Girls' School. Their book is largely the result of extensive library research. It attempts to cover generally the natural history and behavior of mongooses, and does a good job of this. In addition, it delves deeply into the legendry and folklore of mongooses in ancient Egypt and India, and it discusses the introduction of the small Indian mongoose to the West Indies and the Hawaiian Islands, where it became established and now is a mixed blessing. In fact, its introduction was "one of the most disastrous attempts ever made at biological control" of rats and other pests. Good photographs illustrate most species, and line drawings depict many details. A bibliography of 259 titles is appended, as well as a complete index.

B. J. Verts, a wildlife ecologist at Oregon State University, writes of only one species and bases his work largely on his own field studies. During the early 1950's, wildlife researchers and epidemiologists were concerned by the increased number of rabies cases involving wildlife species in the Midwest. The incidence in striped skunks exceeded that in all other mammals combined. These circumstances led to the studies here reported, carried out from 1957 to 1965 in northwestern Illinois, which served as the author's doctoral dissertation. Besides a general discussion of the habits and life history of the skunk, there is heavy emphasis on parasites and diseases, particularly rabies, which will be of special interest to veterinarians, ecologists, public health personnel, and others. The author concludes that "rabies cannot be maintained by skunk populations if transmission depends entirely on the biting of noninfected animals by those infected." He speculates on how the disease is maintained during interepizootic periods, and on reasons for the seasonal peak in its prevalence and the different rates of infection in males and females. The book is illustrated by 59 figures, and contains a bibliography of 271 titles and a detailed index.

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