

paring each subject to himself or all subjects among themselves. . . . How "high" the chronic users would have been on the placebo cannot be established, but an educated guess can be inferred if one aligns the following facts: (i) only one out of nine of the naive subjects had a definite marihuana reaction; (ii) it is only through repeated exposure to marihuana that getting "high" becomes evident—subjectively evident; (iii) the nonusers need to be taught the subtle effects of the drug; and (iv) the chronic users performed more effectively on certain tests. . . .

LUCIEN JOUBERT

*Division of Medical Affairs,
Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.,
Nutley, New Jersey 07110*

While Keup's observations of patients at Brooklyn State Hospital are interesting, I do not see their relevance to anything reported in our recent article. We were very careful to define our quite limited purposes in conducting the research: ". . . simply to collect some long overdue pharmacological data . . .," not to make judgments about the safety or dangers of marihuana. For the kinds of data we sought, our sample size was sufficient, as any experimental pharmacologist will testify. I do not agree with Keup's contention that his observations are more important evidence on the question of safety; the literature is cluttered with uncontrolled (and largely contradictory) studies of this sort, and it is impossible to draw conclusions from them. Finally, I do not know of a single instance in which a substance procured illicitly as THC has turned out in fact to be THC upon chemical analysis.

Many of Joubert's questions about methodology will be answered by careful reading of the article. I believe we made clear that our experiments were primarily concerned with naive subjects; data from chronic users were reported because they were interesting, unexpected, and, incidentally, consistent with the preliminary results of several other studies now in progress. The phrase "three treatment groups" referred to the high dose, low dose, and placebo treatments given to the naive subjects. Allocation of subjects to these groups was random, and no differences in order of treatments were observed. Comparison of naive and chronic subjects was done with pooled data from chronics (who received high doses) and pooled data from naives on their high dose treatment only. I see

no ambiguity here. I share Joubert's regret that we did not test chronic users on placebos; if he can provide a placebo that will fool a regular marihuana smoker, I will be happy to run the appropriate experiments.

ANDREW T. WEIL

*Mount Zion Hospital and Medical
Center, San Francisco, California*

Chromosomes of Criminals

Recent news items indicate that some lawyers and juries are inclined to excuse human males having an XYY chromosomal arrangement as not responsible for criminal acts. This would seem to have large implications for the scientific as well as the legal community, to say nothing of the past and potential victims of these acts.

There is strong evidence that a tendency toward some aggressive, or other types of behavior, may be inherited in the normal way; that is, through genes. Suppose it is established that certain genes do predispose people toward forms of criminal behavior. Then will these people be excused as not being responsible for their acts? Does this mean that only behavior attributed to environment would be considered as responsible acts in the legal sense? Then who would decide between people responsible for their acts and people not responsible?

As more becomes known about the role of inheritance in behavior, a Pandora's box of truly gigantic proportions could be opened. Is a man any less a menace because his crimes are, in part at least, genetically induced? Can such a man premeditate a crime and is he guilty if he does? I would not want to see all the answers given by the lawyers or by the philosophers who argue about "free will."

LEON S. MINCKLER

*Department of Forestry and Wildlife,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute,
Blacksburg 24061*

Midwest Colleges:

United on National Policy

The Great Lakes Colleges Association and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest recently issued "A Joint Statement on Federal Support of Higher Education" which expresses the views of 22 private, primarily undergraduate,

institutions noted for high quality education. Although we do not speak for institutions other than our own, we are aware that many others share our views. We believe:

1) Each sector of higher education everywhere will require continued and increased federal support if this country is to meet its educational needs in the decades to come.

2) The report of the Carnegie Commission, cited in the statement, presents a broad, bold plan which our member institutions endorse.

3) Undergraduate education has received a disproportionately small portion of federal support even though it is the sole source of students who enter graduate programs.

4) Little attention has been given to the special—and expensive—efforts of certain institutions which maintain high quality programs, and which send a disproportionately high percentage of students into training for the professions.

5) Although Congress has supported the natural sciences, there has been a lack of significant support for the arts, humanities, and certain social sciences. This lack will progressively create serious imbalances.

As new forms of federal support to education are imminent, we wish to present as clearly as possible the accomplishments, potential capacities, and needs of our sector of higher education. Our two associations have appointed a Joint Committee on National Policy, empowered to speak for us all. The members are Landrum Bolling, Earlham College; James P. Dixon, Antioch College; Sidney Rand, St. Olaf College; and Miller Upton, Beloit College.

This committee will give our views to those close to the development of pertinent legislation. Our main hope is not to seek exclusive support for our own special interests, but to see that the kinds of institutions we represent are recognized as an extremely important component of the nation's educational resources. We are keeping our colleagues at the Association of American Colleges fully informed of our concerns and activities.

HENRY A. ACRES

*Great Lakes Colleges Association,
Detroit Metropolitan Airport,
Inkster, Michigan 48141*

SUMNER HAYWARD

*Associated Colleges of the Midwest,
60 West Walton Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60610*