

If Your Teen-Ager Has Become a Jekyll-Hyde,

Be on the Alert for Possible Drug Addiction

Has your once alert, friendly, studious teen-ager developed a Jekyll and Hyde personality?

Is he or she cheerful one day and depressed the next? Have you noticed an abnormal inclination to drowsiness and irritability, an inability to concentrate and a tendency to tell little white lies?

If your child displays any of these characteristics, you may have cause to worry, for he may be on the road to narcotics addiction. If, indeed, he is not already "hooked."

Because of widespread parental concern about drugs, the safety research department of the Combined Insurance Company of America consulted experts on narcotics to produce a set of symptoms to look for in detecting addiction.

"Actually, the signs of addiction are easy to spot, if one is really looking for them," observed W. Clement Stone, chairman and chief executive officer of Combined, who has been associated with juvenile narcotics work for more than a decade.

Stone is an adviser to Teen Challenge, a nationwide organization that works with juvenile narcotics addicts. It is headed by the Rev. David Wilkerson, the evangelist.

Generally speaking, Stone

said, Teen Challenge has found that heroin addicts display some or all of these symptoms.

Needle marks on arms or legs, watery eyes, furtive glances, chronic drowsiness, marked restlessness, upset stomach, ulcerous sores, strong body odor, habitual scratching or nose-rubbing, frequent dizziness, mental and physical deterioration, spells of preoccupation or talkativeness, depression and despondency and a persecution complex.

Government narcotics experts in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the National Institute of Mental Health described some obvious symptoms of the use of amphetamines, or speed. There is a tendency to talk loud and fast and pace the floor. Loss of appetite, irritability, and instability also are the marks of the "speedtreak," along with lethargy, fatigue, muscle pains, ravenous hunger and depression that can lead to suicide.

One high on LSD has an increased pulse and heart rate, higher blood pressure and temperature, dilate pupils and cold, sweaty, trembling hands and feet, a pallor, chills and goose pimples often develop, along with a wet mouth, irregular breathing, nausea

and loss of appetite.

Smoking marijuana, or pot, produces increased heartbeat, coughing spasms, hunger and drowsiness.

One of the thousands of addicts who have sought help at Teen Challenge once told Wilkerson that he wished his parents had kept a closer watch over him.

"I'd check how long a kid stays in the bathroom," he said. "If he is there very long, he might be taking drugs. I used to do that."

"It's a good idea to look for some of the signs of narcotics. If arms or handkerchiefs have any blood on them, it might mean a kid has been using the needle. Also, when he gets high his eyes get very red, especially from marijuana, and his pupils get very small."

"People can tell from looking at you if you have been smoking pot. Dark glasses help because when a fellow is high on marijuana, he can't stand the sun. When a kid gets into the habit of wearing sunglasses all the time, it's a sign he might be using drugs."

What should a parent do when he comes to the painful conclusion that his child is "hooked?"

Wilkerson recommends that you comfort your youngster with the evidence, and then ask him if he needs and wants help.

"Above all," he counsels, "you can show him you love him and want to help him. Recriminations will only drive him deeper into drugs."