



Since it's back on the street we're all ecstatic *Ecstasy: The drug of choice for the '90s*

by Tricia Ciaravino

Ecstasy, also known as X, XTC and Adam, has made a recent comeback on the streets. Studies show it has started to pop up on college campuses, too.

MDMA (N-methyl-3, 4-methylenedioxyamphetamine), the drug's clinical name, is a hallucinogenic amphetamine. It can be bought in powder or capsule form and injected, inhaled or swallowed. In Las Vegas, it costs about \$25 per hit.

Users say Ecstasy is a combination of a cocaine and acid high. The drug produces feelings of euphoria, heightened perception and invincibility. The world becomes a beautiful place, with no stress and everyone becomes a loved one, even strangers and enemies. X is also an aphrodisiac.

But no one can stay high forever. Users describe the trek back to reality as a road trip through Hell with side effects such as fatigue, nausea, vomiting and muscle tenseness. In general, it

leaves those who partake feeling strung out.

It's easy to develop a tolerance for amphetamines so X overdose is a common problem. Amphetamines can also cause liver damage, exhaustion, psychosis and an unstable heartbeat. Muscle tenseness and decreased sensitivity are other side effects.

Hallucinogens cause nausea and vomiting.

Users can easily choke to death on their own vomit, caused by the hallucinogens, without pain, due to the amphetamines. And these are just short term effects.

Studies show that high doses can attack and damage serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain. Ecstasy can cause severe physical and psychological burn-out, even in low doses.

Ecstasy is a "designer" manufactured drug. Anyone who knows chemistry, and even those who don't, can construct a lab and produce it. However, if the producer doesn't get the ingredients exactly right, the combina-

tion can be deadly. "Designer" drugs are also cut (diluted) to weaken the dosage and make more. Drugs are usually cut with baking soda or aspirin, but users can never be sure. Some manufacturers are fond of using strychnine, a rat poison.

X is not a new drug. It originally started as an appetite suppressant in 1914, but was shelved. The military started testing MDMA in the 1950s and by 1962 it was on the street. Interest was scarce until the 1980s when it peaked. In 1985, 30,000 doses were sold per month. The drug was banned soon after and since it's not considered to have any medical use, it is illegal in all circumstances.

Information for this article was obtained from 'ADAM' & 'EVE' & 'Ecstasy'—Facts about MDMA, DESIGNER DRUGS—DEADLY BY DESIGN and the UNLV/Student Development Center Drug & Alcohol Awareness Program's 24-hour Information Line.



Dave Weide plays Mostly Folk on Sundays photo by Morgan Fisher

Sunday is not a day of rest for this faculty member

by Michael R. Carrigan

Unlike fellow faculty members who may relax or correct homework on the weekends, David Weide, chair of the geoscience department, spends his Sunday afternoons as a discjockey at UNLV's own community radio station, KUNV.

In September of 1989, KNPR, another community radio station, changed its format, removing various shows including folk music and bluegrass, and began programming only classical music and in-depth news reports. At the time, KUNV was planning to expand their programming and

was able to pick up DJs, like Weide, who no longer had air time on KNPR.

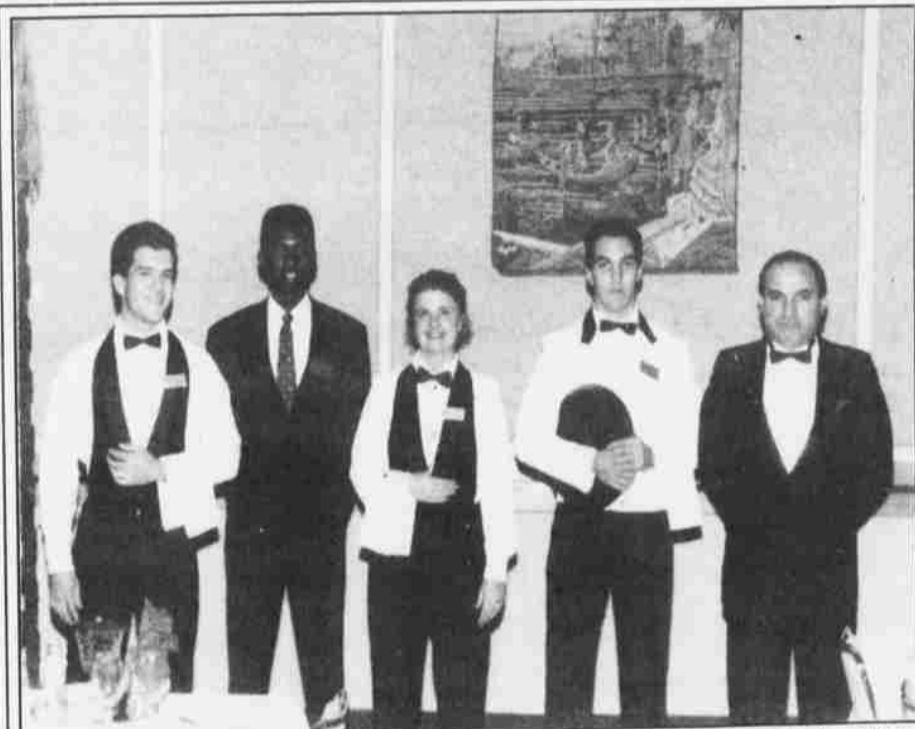
"I was reasonably confident the folk music people would come along and they did," Weide said. "I am real pleased to be a part of the sequence (at KUNV), because it all fits. Each DJ attempts to make transitions for each other."

Weide focuses his show to an audience who was there for the folk music he plays. He showcases newly released music as well as playing older music, usually albums from his own library.

"People tune to a radio station because they want to know what they're going to hear," Weide said.

To help the audience hear music they like and find copies of the songs he plays, Weide has compiled a packet he will mail to listeners who call in to ask about a song.

The packet consists of the KUNV program guide, an introductory letter and information about the Canadian Society For Musical Traditions, who publish a catalogue of folk music and a list compiled of the record companies Weide orders his music from. Also included are a letter and order form for *Folk Song America, A 20th Century Revival*, that Weide is presently showcasing.



Joe Correra, Roderick Colebrook, Laura Bawdon, Mike Himegarner & Mr. Luciani Valetino photo by Morgan Fisher

Dinner at Luciani's Cuisine

by Kimberley McGee

A unique dining experience awaits on the second floor of Beam Hall. The Hotel College's Quality and Quantity Food productions class, HOA 467, arranges six meals throughout the semester, with each student partaking in a different area of the "restaurant"

each meal.

"Students get a chance to experience an overall feeling of actually working in a restaurant," said Roderick Colebrook, a senior in the Hotel College and dining room manager for an evening. "It's really a joy to the students, yet it puts us under a lot of pressure because we strive to do our

very best."

The results of their hard work are obvious from the aroma that wafts through the candlelit dining room. Their last dinner, "A Venetian Affair," featured such edible delights as Melon E Parsuto (Cantaloupe and Parsuto

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An apple a day keeps the doctor in business

by Kimberley McGee

From the moment of conception to our final breath we are assaulted by dangerous chemicals.

It is practically impossible to find an animal that is free of contamination from residues of chemicals that linger in the soil, major river systems and now even in the network of underground streams that criss-cross beneath this "green" earth.

Chemical sales amount to four billion pounds a year. The United States has increased the use of toxins tenfold since World War II.

Insects regenerate within a particularly short period, for example the boll weevil which can reproduce in 21 days, therefore building resistance to insecticides

and "mutating" until they reach a point of genetic resistance. Farmers use more insecticides to kill the resisting pests while the effectiveness of the potent chemicals decreases. In the past 50 years chemical sales have increased dramatically, with American farmers using 1.5 billion pounds of pesticides each year, while crop loss from insects has more than doubled.

Many plants and insects contain chemicals which they give off to protect themselves from predators and parasites. With farmers simplifying agricultural ecosystems, which usually contain only one or two "desired" plant species such as corn or wheat, a pest can grow exponentially without the normal diverse ecosys-

tem with the balance of predators and their prey.

Sustainable agriculture, a method of using organic fertilizers, soil and water conservation and biological control of pests, is one solution. It does not completely eliminate chemicals but instead combines limited chemical use with time-tested natural and high-tech approaches. Crop rotation and bringing in natural predators to feed on pests are genetic engineering of pest-resistant plants and are non-hazardous approaches to a sustainable agriculture.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found 66 pesticides on our

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