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Dr. Timothy Leary speaks at University of Montana

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Dr. Timothy Leary, former Harvard psychology professor said tonight at the University of Montana that the parents and grandparents of the current generation are involved in a drug cult called alcoholism.

Leary compared the use of alcohol, barbiturates and heroin by the older generation to the use of marijuana and hallucinogenic drugs by young people.

"Between 60 and 80 million Americans drink," said Leary, "and one out of twelve of those are alcoholics." Leary said that alcohol turns off the senses, enhances self-esteem and leads to righteous thinking.

The younger generation is "turning on with drugs, rather than turning off with booze," said Leary.

Describing the effects of LSD, Leary said that not more than 33% of any society would use the drug regularly because it is, "too far-out to be used for everybody or even a majority."

Any person who takes LSD Leary said, "has to be prepared for a personality change, because while people are under the influence of the drug they see themselves and the ignorance of mankind clearly."

Marijuana serves the average person because it is not as strong as LSD, said Leary. He said that the entire Oriental cult of music and art can be traced to an ancient hashish culture in far eastern countries.

Calling himself a "psychedelic criminal" and criticizing the severity of current drug laws, Dr. Leary said, "we cannot have legislation about morals." He called for people to "live and let live."

Dr. Joel Fort, a California drug expert commented on Leary's statements. Dr. Fort is the founder and former director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health Center for Special Problems. The center was one of the first in the nation to provide comprehensive treatment and research on all forms of drug abuse.

Approaching the drug issue from what he called, "a level of rationality rather than emotionality" Dr. Fort said that marijuana laws in this country are extreme and barbaric. Young people have been lied to about so-called bad effects of drugs, he said, but "both the dangers and advantages of drugs have been exaggerated."