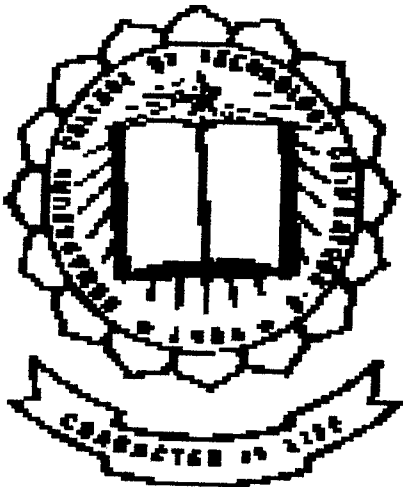


Alcohol – The legal drug



P-621

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This is to certify that this Model Project work entitled “ALCOHOL – The Legal drug ”
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ABSTRACT

This project presents a brief study of different kinds of alcohol and their different taste.

A brief study on others sorts of alcohol like methanol, etc. and it also presents the way of usage of alcohol in different countries during different occasions

- The role of alcohol in western culture and their ill effects have been presented with photographic proof.

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INTRODUCTION

Raising a glass of alcohol is one of mankind's most distinctive rituals. For many, like these toast-happy celebrators at a reunion in the Georgian Republic, alcohol loosens the tongue and tightens the bounds of friendship. Yet alcohol can also exert nearly satanic power

Here is the proverb

"First the man takes a drink

Then the drink takes a drink

Then the drink takes the man"

It's an intoxication drug that has carried amity and an altered state to an awkward, lonely, and inquiring species.

WHAT IS ALCOHOL?

Ethanol (the alcohol that's drunk) and carbon dioxide are the natural excreta of yeast's and are ubiquitous. The Babylonians and Egyptians found that if they crushed grapes or warmed and moistened grain, the covered mash would bubble and become a drink with a kick.

Yeast's can't get at grain directly until brewers first "malt" their barley: that is, moisten and warm it so that it germinates just enough to release enzymes that convert starches into simple sugars.

As alcohol is a toxin, fermentation is self-limiting. Once alcohol concentration reaches about 14 percent, or the sugar runs out, the multiplying yeast's die and fermentation ends. A stronger drink requires distillation.

Ethanol is a simple molecule; its affinity for water takes it everywhere in the body that water goes. Blood, being mostly water, is the transport, and the amount of alcohol in it is expressed as a percentage, say 0.1 percent blood alcohol concentration (BAC). Because of differences in metabolism and a greater proportion of body fat, a woman will tend to feel the effect of alcohol more quickly than a

man of the same weight. Fat does not easily absorb water, thus concentrating alcohol in the blood.

Alcohol enters the bloodstream through the small intestine and, to some extent, through the stomach. (A fraction exits in breath, sweat, and urine.) If you eat while you drink, alcohol is absorbed more slowly and with less effect. But on an empty stomach or if carbonated – champagne, whiskey and soda – it moves more rapidly to all vital organs.

In the brain, alcohol crosses easily into and out of the nerve cells somehow altering neuronal transmission to bring on its intoxicating effect. Expectations are important. A heavy drinker with the shakes orders a vodka tonic from a distracted bartender and forgets the vodka. Unaware the man drinks, and feels momentary relief.

TASTE'S OF ALCOHOL

So far as is documented, alcohol was first distilled in the Middle Ages, at a medical school in Salerno, Italy. Considered an important medicine, wine was boiled and the vapors then cooled and condensed to produce a more powerfully concentrated drug. A Spanish scholar gave this ragged brandy the name aquavitae, the water of life.

Distilled alcohol evolved in Russia as vodka, in Holland as juniper-flavored Geneva (the French called it genievre, which the British bluted to gin), and passed through charred barrels, peatsmoke, and across the Irish Gaetongue as uisce beatha, or whiskey.

The first Neolithic buzz remains unrecorded. But Solomon Katz, an anthropologist has a persuasive theory that alcohol may have been responsible for the earliest agriculture – to secure a dependable supply of beer.

Beer was easy to make, a good deal tastier than gruel, and far more nutritious. And like wine – which pushed the cultivated ape from Mesopotamia and into Egypt, and eventually throughout the temperate world – beer had a delightful effect.

“Most modern beers are very thin, but ancient beer was a food,” says Katz. “Fermentation added needed B vitamins, essential amino acids converted by the yeast. And yeast also deactivated several toxic compounds in the barley, making it more palatable. Beer was better than bread in the sense that it also had alcohol in it.”

In the early 1700s cheap gin flooded into working – class London, a spectacle rendered on canvas (“Gin Lane”) by William Hogarth.

MYTHOLOGY OF ALCOHOL

Historically, people drank alcohol when they could get it: as food, in place of fetid water, as relief from the misery of life, to chase after pleasure-at births, weddings, and festivals. Wine poured down the pagan hatch, Dionysian and Bacchanalian. Alcohol was not only acceptable, it was esteemed, revered.

The Old Testament prophets had long issued warnings against excessive drink, Moses proposing death for rebellious, drunken sons. But eventually rabbis worked wine into ritual and ceremony-sanctifying the Sabbath, blessing the Passover festival.

Christ used wine as miracle in transforming it from water, and, at the Last Supper, imbued it with the symbol of his blood. Wine in early history was often vinegary and drunk diluted with water. The church rescued the vine from neglect in the Dark Ages and elevated fermentation of the grape to an art when monks began producing and

Wine makes glad the heart of man, wrote the psalmist. The 12th-century Persian poet Omar Khayyam – with his book of verses, jug of wine, loaf of bread, and thou – saw in wine a refuge from the hopeless of ever knowing the ultimate mystery.

Severe alcoholics will drinking anything containing alcohol - Sterno, Old Spice, Windex, Nyquil, Aqua Net, Lysol – but they prefer cheap fortified wines that even wealthy alcoholics living behind security gates have been known to buy in order to conceal their expenditures. Only a small fraction of the ten million or so alcoholics in the United States slide into skid row. Alcoholism hides behind collaboration of denial – in the boardroom, the East Room, the capitol steps, out on the tractor.

OTHER SORTS OF ALCOHOL

There are all sorts of alcohol's. Methanol, originally made from wood, now mostly from methane, is converted into formaldehyde and from that into plastics. If drunk, methanol swells the optic nerve, causing blindness. Ethylene glycol is the alcohol used as antifreeze. Isopropanol is rubbing alcohol.

There is alcohol in rose and geranium oils, in fruits, berries, red seaweed. Traces of ethanol turn up in orange and tomato juice. It is used in gasohol in the Midwest and, mixed or pure, as a fuel in Brazil. Its low freezing point (minus 179°F) makes it useful for certain thermometers, and it once was common in compasses – that is, when the sailors weren't drinking it.

Ethanol is a solvent. It is used in lacquers, varnishes, and stains. To make fragrances and flavors, it pulls jasmine from the flower and vanilla from the bean. When you put Chloe behind your ear, it is ethanol that makes it miscible in the bottle and floats it to your nose.

I clean the capstans of my tape deck with “denatured” ethanol. That’s a euphemism for poisoning ethanol with something like methanol so I won’t divert it to a Tom Collins, and to spare the manufacture an excise tax.



FESTIVALS OF ALCOHOL

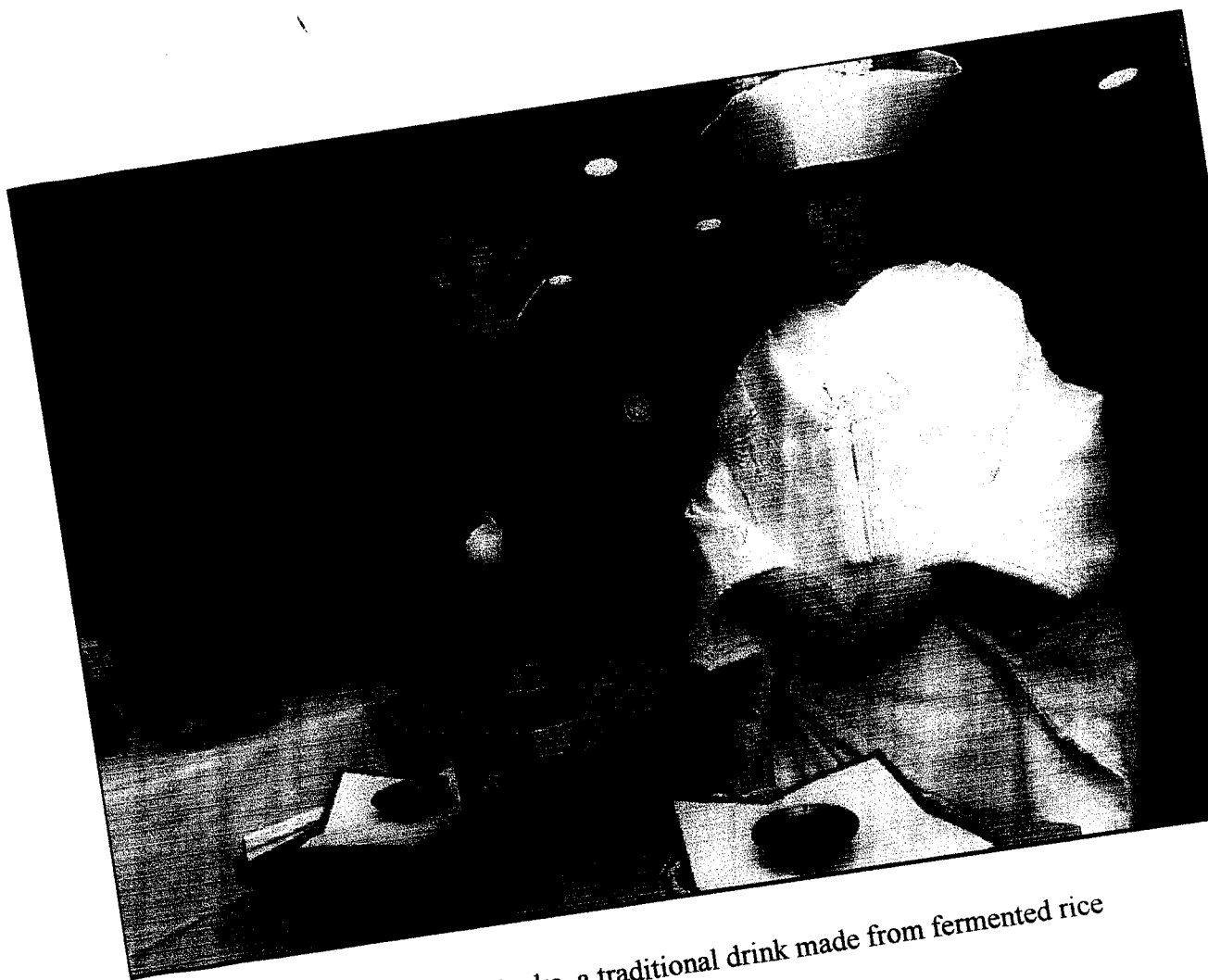
Alcohol's are not only used for kick but it's also used in festivals of different countries as a part of life.

FRANCE

A shot of brandy chases the chill. (It actually makes you colder.) The French can't have many alcoholics, because they drink wine. (Not true. They have a high incidence of alcohol-related problems, with twice the rate of death by liver cirrhosis as in the U.S.) Similar defenses are made for beer, yet most alcoholics in Britain are beer drinkers because beer is still predominantly what the British drink. It's not what you drink; it's how much alcohol goes down your throat.

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul at 1 A.M. is like the tail end of a fraternity bash. D Koreans in suits bend over their wing in positions of emetic discharge. In countries like South Korea and Japan the social pressures to drink are so powerful that most of the men (and now half of the Japanese) drink nonetheless. In the past 30 years South Korean



Three sips of sake, a traditional drink made from fermented rice

had an explosion of heavy drinking. The country now consumes more spirits per capita than does any other nation.

JAPAN

On the streets of Japan you can pull a lever on a vending machine and get scotch and soda in a can. The Japanese drink about twice what they did in the 1950s. Perhaps in no other nation is drinking so expensively and tightly woven into business. A drinking after work is not only an extension of the company, it is virtually a requirement. Refuse the boss's offer to go out drinking, and your standing in the firm begins to slide.

Tokyo is an endless bar interrupted by struts. I had drinks with the television producer ginza. The hostess descended – the men love this – pouring the scotch, patting the ego. In their dressing room women have charts of the quarters they must push. If a customer offers Welch's on his monthly tab, the hostess has to stand the bill few onto the bed. The goons move in, pay her debt, force her out of the bar.

ITALY

Drinking TALK in Italy is food language (aperitivo, vermouth before meals and digestive, a brandy after – parenthetical to the dominance of wine at the table.) The osterias are not dark and furtive. The open on to the street were kids go for ice cream and old man have their coffee (and may be a brandy) and play cards.

Alcohol consumption in Italy has been going down, as in many parts of Europe, but it is still relatively high. This is wine country, and most Italians drink. The Shame in Italy is not that you drink too much but that you can't hold it.

It may be rare to see a drunk Italian but 20,000 Italians die each year of cirrhotic livers. Roughly 9% of the population are estimated to be alcoholists. The sports cars roaring away from the discos often end up resembling aluminum foil. The police almost never test for blood alcohol.

RUSSIA

Drinking has gripped the Russian character like a python. It is a custom of inexplicable tenacity, with roots beyond memory. Drinking is the joy of Russia. They cannot do without it. This was not lost on the Japanese at Mukden, Manchuria, in 1905, who came upon thousands of drunken Russian soldiers and skewered them on bayonets.

Russian drinking is by toasts and to oblivion. Straight room temperature vodka, down the hatch, on no slipping, three glasses in a row for starters. To your health, to your mother, to the moon-invented something. "Come on, drink up!" and the guest had better. Toast a birth—"washing the baby." A soldier plops his medal into a glass of vodka, passes it around the table of expectant lips. Washing the medal. Repairmen in the apartment demand vodka. Washing the walls. Explanations for this are thin. "Our national tradition," a Russian said, "is to drink for any reason, or for no reason."

INDIA

Many Indians refuse to drink. If other Indians could not hold the liquor neither could anyone else. The trappers drank like fools. The alternative reality is grim. Alcohol

implicated in three fourths of all traumatic Native American deaths. Indian's have a high incidence of F.A.S. and three times the overall rate of death by cirrhosis. Dale walker is a psychiatrist and Director of addiction treatment at the VA Hospital in Seattle. He is Cherokee.

"There is tremendous pressure in this country to confirm. And when a group like Indian does not there is a sense of failure. Would not it be nice if whites were right that Indian alcoholism is genetic weakness? This ignores their tremendous cultural depression over many, many years. Their alcohol problems are very huge. But their reasons are so perplexing. You hear the Alkali Lake Success story, and you hear the sadness."

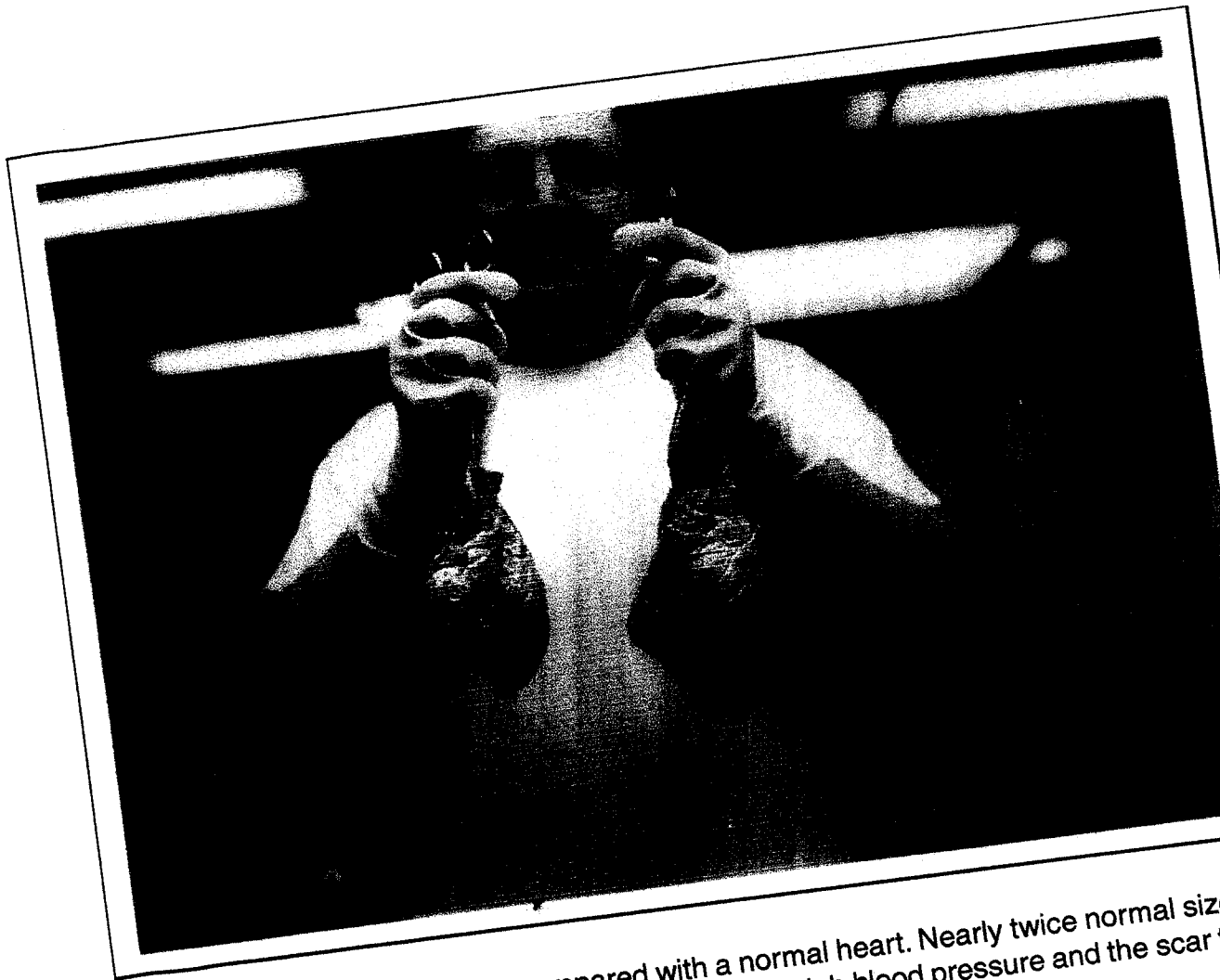
WHAT DOES ALCOHOL DO?

Alcohol is chiefly metabolized – chemically deconstructed – in the liver, through which the entire blood supply circulates every four minutes. Enzymes in the liver metabolized alcohol in the acetaldehyde, a highly toxic chemical, which is done converted (in the liver) into acetate, and finally into carbon dioxide and water.

The process is slow, roughly three hours for each ounce of few alcohols. Despite a vigorous folklore, virtually nothing will speed up the liver or sober of the intoxicating. Coffee on top of our toot only produces a wide-awake drunk.

Alcohol is a depressant of the central nerve system. By depressing both inhibitory and excitatory neurons, alcohol can produce in different people (in different settings and with different expectations) the life of the party, the bore, the mores recluse, the fighter, and the rake.

“It provokes the desire”, wrote Shakespeare long before science
the endocrine system, “but it is away the performance.”



Telltale heart of a alcoholic is compared with a normal heart. Nearly twice normal size alcoholic's heart was enlarged by ethanol-induced high blood pressure and the scar left by massive doses of vodka.

Alcohol is historical but hazardous anesthetic with a narrow range between deadness and dead. At a BAC of 0.4 to 0.6 percent, the comatose drinker goes into respiratory failure. Alcohol poisoning is death by asphyxiation.

A few drinks make you drowsy, but they can also interrupt patterns of sleep. Over time heavy drinking can bring on brain and heart damage, gastritis, pancreatitis, anxiety, and malnutrition. It can depress the immune systems. Heavy drinkers show a higher incidence of throat cancer (they, are often heavy smokers – lightly synergy at work). Depression is more often the result of heavy drinking than its cause.

FAS - FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

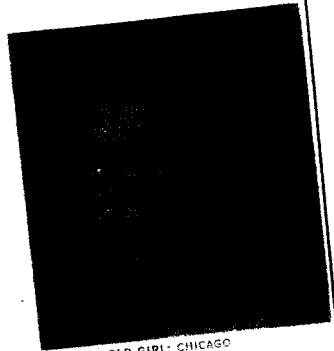


FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

A really dangerous time is before you know you are pregnant, so the best recommendation is not to drink when planning a pregnancy. As few as one or two drinks a day, or four or five at a time, even if done in frequently, may have an effect. I don't necessarily mean retardation. We're talking about subtle deviations, mostly behavioral. The FAE youngsters often have trouble paying attention and thinking abstractly. The research on FAE kids is just so merger. They could be a huge population.



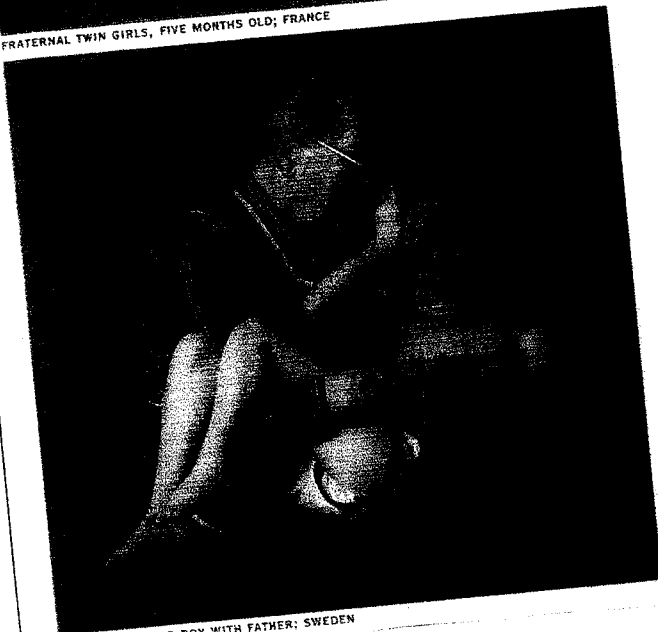
FRATERNAL TWIN GIRLS, FIVE MONTHS OLD; FRANCE



TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL; CHICAGO



SIX-YEAR-OLD BOY; SEATTLE



FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY WITH FATHER; SWEDEN



A large dose of alcohol given to a pregnant mouse produced severe abnormalities in the developing foetus compared with a normal foetus (top)

CONCLUSION

If most who drink alcohol enjoy its considerable pleasures with few difficulties, many others cross the line – and those who do will deny it furiously. That is the paradox of alcohol.

Alcohol, in excess, is by far the most devastating of drugs-wrecking families and friendships, impairing health, filling jails, hospitals and morgues.

Though no genetic cause for alcoholism has been proved, recent studies suggest a genetic predisposition. The son of an alcoholic, for example, is four times as likely to become one, even when adapted into a nonalcoholic home. If children of alcoholics account for only a fraction of the million alcoholics in the U.S. “Any of us can become addicted,” cautions one researcher, “if we drink enough long enough.”

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