

...of the current...
...*The Birds*," said Meyers, a 63 year-
old Bradenton resident.

"It all happened so fast," she said. "I was
slooping down at the ice chest, and all of the
sudden it just bit my lip.

"It drew blood," she said. "It looked like I
got hit in the mouth."

Meyers said she heard a rumor that gulls
are more aggressive when the water becomes
cooler, because the supply of minnows dimin-
ishes near the shore.

But Coquina Beach lifeguard Jay Moyles
had another explanation.

"In the summertime, there are so many
people and so much food, the birds can scav-
enge easily," Moyles said.

County Parks and Recreation, said he has not
received any complaints about the gulls, but
he said he will look into the situation.

Elsewhere in the area, however, gulls and
their feathered cousins are causing problems.

Flocks of birds migrating to sunny Florida
as winter approaches are being blamed for
triggering power outages on Florida's Gulf
Coast.

"There are huge numbers of birds sitting
on wires," said Rick Janka, spokesman for
Florida Power Corp., a St. Petersburg-based
utility which serves more than 1 million cus-
tomers in a 32-county area of central and
west central Florida, not including Manatee
County.

12/12/87

Psychedelic 'hug drug' taking students by storm

CHRIS DOWNEY
Herald Staff Writer

SARASOTA — They do it alone or in
groups, during quiet nights at home or at
rowdy parties. Some couples find it bond-
ing, while other people appear normal but
deliriously happy.

That's how one New College student de-
scribes the effects of the illegal drug "ecsta-
sy," known more affectionately as "the hug
drug."

Some New College students are following
a path blazed by Rick Doblin, a 33-year-old
former student who is now one of the na-
tion's most outspoken advocates of ecstasy,
known to scientists as MDMA.

The psychedelic drug, which many claim
generates a feeling of euphoria for several
hours, is making the social rounds on cam-
puses all over the country, according to re-
ports.

In a letter published in the *New England
Journal of Medicine*, a Stanford University
survey found that 39 percent of the school's
students had tried the drug an average of
four times.

Syd, who asked that he only be identified
by his nickname, said he was not surprised
by the Stanford figures and guessed that
rate probably would hold true for New Col-
lege as well.

Syd said he has never tried the drug but
has spent time with people on it, finding
most ecstasy users warm and optimistic
company. Many have told him the drug
helped them gain useful insight into their
lives.

On the flip side, users complain of uncon-
trollable teeth grinding, Syd said.

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"It's unique. It's very much a tripping
kind of drug but it's not like acid. It's not
like marijuana, that makes you stupid and
not like speed that makes you hyper," Syd
said. "It opens you up deeply and intimate-
ly."

Two friends of ecstasy guru Doblin be-
lieve the government's decision in 1985 to
classify MDMA in the same category as the
banned heroin and LSD was premature and
clouded by "Just Say No" hysteria.

The use of MDMA for psychotherapy was
just getting underway when the drug was
banned suddenly. Under its present classifi-
cation, the drug cannot be tested on
humans.

"Nobody says MDMA will cure mental
illness but I think it is a tool people can use
to cure themselves," said David Wilkens, 23,
a 1986 New College graduate.

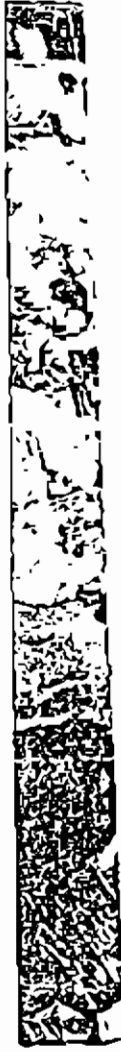
Wilkens believes the federal government
is afraid of ecstasy because of its resem-
blance to the psychedelic drugs of the late
1960s.

"They are afraid they could lose control
of society the way they did back in the 60s,"
he said.

Ironically enough, the Food and Drug

DRUG

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...just had to sit and think, as illustrated by ... a second-grader at Palmetto Elementary

DRUG

From B-1

Wilkins and Hopper would not say how widespread its use is on campus.

Administration's research didn't even involve MDMA but a chemical relative known as MDA which caused brain damage in animals in large doses.

Allen Hopper, 25, a fourth-year New College student, said Doblin plans to redo the MDA animal research using ecstasy to see if the results are the same. He then will take his findings to the FDA.

Doblin's team also will be testing former users of the drug to see if it has had any long-term side effects, Hopper said.

Despite avid interest in the drug,

"Just from talking to people I would say its use (nationwide) is pretty high," Wilkins said.

Another student hasn't seen much of the drug at all. From first year student Mike Campbell's point of view, use of ecstasy is not prevalent at New College.

"I see just the average stuff, like marijuana," he said. "But some of the drugs that are on their way out at other colleges are getting popular here, like mushrooms and LSD."

TOALE BROTHERS

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THE GOOD GUYS AND THE BAD GUYS

...in the past half century. When I was a boy it was always the good guys against the bad guys and today it's no different. The good guys always win in the end but the difference is that fifty years ago they rode white stallions and shot Colt .44s and today the good guys drive Porsches and shoot Uzi machine guns! Sometimes, though, common sense and brainpower defeat the bad guys.

Near the end of World War II Sergeant Matt Wiley stepped off the train in his hometown. He was beginning a well-earned thirty day leave from his job as a tail gunner on a B-29 flying missions against the Japanese. When Sergeant Wiley stepped down from the worn and frayed railroad coach he expected to spend a relaxing month with his parents, who owned a small lumber business. Instead he came home to illness, despair, and financial ruin.

Sergeant Wiley's mother explained the situation to him because his father was bedfast, not so much from physical illness but from worry. He faced losing everything he had worked so many years for. Mrs. Wiley told her son about a man named Parker who had bought a woodworking mill nearby. Parker was unscrupulous. Through hook or crook he had a number of war contracts and he was using unfair tactics such as equipment sabotage, unexplained fires, and labor strife at the Wiley plant. She went on to explain that the local bank held a \$12,000 note against them and if a contract for a large order or vendor, which would pay off the note, couldn't be delivered soon, all would be