The New Drug They Call Ecstasy

Is it too much to swallow?

BY JOE KLEIN

There are those who would urge that the opposite of paranoia is gallibility. Certainly, nothing could be as good as Ecstasy sounds. Surely, skepticism is the only responsible response. After a quarter-century of chemical nightmares, we're far too sophisticated to be seduced by a little-known synthetic variation of oil of nutmeg. Any drug with a name this long -- 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine -- just has to have disaster lurking amid its molecules.

"So why all the excitement? And why are holistic, ecological "New Age" sorts the very last people you'd expect to be ingesting something unnatural -- the most ardent proponents of MDMA? And why has this drug aroused more curiosity, won more glowing endorsements and received more positive media coverage than any other drug since ... well, since LSD?"

"For one thing, the marketing has been brilliant: MDMA promises adventure without weirdness, transcendence without alienation -- a yuppie way of knowledge, as it were. For another, it has been legal until, last month, the Drug Enforcement Administration, in an emergency ban of the drug for one year, beginning July 1. And finally, within certain limits and under proper supervision, it just may work. A small but determined group of psychotherapists across the country swear by it."

"It is a valuable tool -- not an answer but a catalyst," says Dr. Rick Ingrasci, who claims to have treated more than 200 patients in the Boston area with MDMA. "It enables people to look at the past without fear. This isn't always an ecstatic experience. It is not always without pain, especially in the days after the session, as the insights gained through use of MDMA are integrated. But I can honestly say that there are negative reactions. It can speed up the therapeutic process enormously. It facilitates healing."
It is difficult to discern whether Rick Dough was more interested in MDA or in the more lucrative and glamorous field of Hollywood. His decision to pursue a career in MDA was influenced by his friends and mentors, who were all involved in the film industry. However, it was also a natural consequence of the challenging environment he had grown up in. rim the town of Redlands, in the heart of the Inland Empire, Dough was known for his tenacity and work ethic. He had a reputation for being a hard worker and a reliable employee, which made him a valuable asset to any company he worked for. Despite his success in MDA, Dough always remained humble and grounded, attributing his success to the support of his family and friends. In his free time, Dough enjoyed spending time with his family, going on hikes, and playing golf. He was a voracious reader and loved to attend lectures and seminars to further his knowledge of science and technology. Despite the challenges of his daily job, Dough always found time to continue his education and improve his skills. He was a true testament to the idea that hard work and determination can overcome any obstacle.