



HALPERNGATE II

VOICES FROM BEHIND BARS

by JOHN BERESFORD, M.D. • COMMITTEE ON UNJUST SENTENCING

with contributions from

MALAKKAR VOHRZEK • G. WALTER DASH • JOE RUFRA • ANONYMOUS • AMY RALSTON • CASEY HARDISON

We are all indebted to JON HANNA for his “Halperngate” report on the scandal that erupted on Friday January 13, 2006, during the presentation of MAPS-sponsored psychedelic research at the symposium in honor of ALBERT HOFMANN’S 100th birthday in Basel. As JON recounted, MARK MCCLOUD interrupted the talk delivered by JOHN HALPERN, M.D., with the brassy question: Was HALPERN an agent of the DEA? To some of those present at the event, HALPERN’S “No... no DEA” seemed excruciatingly lame. When MARK persisted, stating that he had papers showing the existence of some form of DEA connection, the game appeared to be up. After presentations by ANDREW SEWELL on the neurological features of the cluster headache syndrome, CHARLES S. GROB on the medical significance of mystical experience, and others, RICK DOBLIN concluded the session with what to some in the audience felt like an ultimatum: If we wanted psychedelic research done, it was HALPERN or nothing—take it or leave it.

MARK was glad he interrupted Dr. HALPERN’S talk; the buzz was, “Now everybody knows.” Considering that MARK has twice been targeted by the DEA in the most ruthless fashion imaginable, that his framed blotter collection was ripped from the walls of his house, and that he escaped conviction by a Kansas City jury by a hairsbreadth on the strength of testimony to his *artistic* interest in blotter history (as he told the audience in Basel, “they spent a million dollars trying to kill me”), MARK’S outrage at the perfidy he detected in HALPERN’S behavior is understandable.

I would like to address two areas related to the controversy MARK’S intervention started. One has to do with the function of the kind of research MAPS promotes. The other has to do with the ethical obligations that one who undertakes public “aboveground” research should assume. I will keep short what I have to say, to leave room for remarks by prisoners incarcerated for the use of psychedelic agents, to whom I circulated copies of the “Halperngate” article.

The first point is practical. Few may agree, but I question the premise under which MAPS operates. That is, the idea that medicalizing the use of psychedelic agents is a worthwhile pursuit. Is it a smart move to put psychedelic agents in the hands of the medical profession? There are three objections I can think of. Suppose HALPERN (or better, SEWELL) succeeds in demonstrating a part-solution to the otherwise intractable problem of cluster headaches. Are we to imagine general practitioners or neurologists rushing to write prescriptions for LSD? That seems far-fetched. LSD is not the kind of agent you pick up from a pharmacy, with perhaps a package insert warning: “May cause hallucinations.” MAPS’ interest, however, is directed chiefly to the therapeutic application of MDMA, dispensed in occasional doses under the supervision of a doctor who is experienced with the effects of the drug. I can envision that as a possibility. And I can even foresee a time when the use of MDMA could be handled by a physician who is *not* intimately acquainted with its effects, nor with the “consciousness expanding” features of a true psychedelic compound. Nevertheless, there are two more considerations.

Suppose the medical profession is entrusted with the use of psychedelic agents for the purpose of treating medical pathology. Patient A has a diagnosis of condition B and is treated with psychedelic agent C. Reduction or elimination of symptoms follows. That may be all very well, but what does it tell us about the intrinsic effect of agent C on the human mind or brain? Precisely nothing, as far as I can tell. Although well-intentioned, such an approach has no scientific merit. We are back in the age when foxglove tincture helped the patient with edema, without any understanding of the impact of digitalis on the myocardium. Knowledge of the therapeutic efficacy of an agent may leave us in the dark as to the underlying nature of the effect exerted. Such “research” is primitive, not fundamental.

The third objection that springs to mind is this: Suppose MAPS posts a list of brilliant successes in the treatment field.





Psychedelic agents find a place in the United States pharmacopoeia. Where does this leave the rest of us? RICK DOBLIN views the reinstatement of psychedelic research at HARVARD as a “symbolic triumph,” with HARVARD putting the bad old LEARY days behind it. What bad old LEARY did, however, was free the use of psychedelics from the control of fusty academic know-nothings. As ROBERT FORTE related in his Basel presentation “Let’s Save Democracy,” TIM pulled America out of its pre-LSD doldrums. Many of us know stories of the life-saving effect of LSD when it was popularly available in the 1960s and 1970s. Inherently conservative, the medical profession played no part in popularizing the use of LSD then. I don’t see the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION behaving differently today. For the foreseeable future, LSD use remains underground, where it belongs—in the hands of the intellectual avant garde and freaks who honor and appreciate it. Is MAPS to say who takes LSD?

So much for a practical critique of MAPS’ approach. Closer to the bone is the uncomfortable feeling any user of psychedelics should have who gets too close to HALPERN. RICK chooses to ignore the potentially negative impact of a laying-on-of-hands by HALPERN. RICK thinks it perfectly in order for his friend to man a crisis tent at events like BURNING MAN, where psychedelic or other drug use may occur. But why does RICK promote HALPERN’s presence at such events? Here’s the rub: HALPERN apparently needs the “training” that his “peers and mentors” can provide. HALPERN needs help in acquiring the know-how to handle a bad trip? Perhaps... but in *that* case, what are his credentials for running sessions in the first place? What is HALPERN’s competence to handle LSD?

Suppose that running sessions for HALPERN is a piece of cake. A more weighty consideration cautions against entering into an intimate relation with him. The man is a presumptive snitch. Here we come to technicalities. RICK is right in saying that his friend is not an “agent,” by that meaning that he is not in the employ of the DEA. Nor is he, so far as one can tell, a Confidential Informant, running errands for an agent proper, gathering evidence to turn over to a prosecutor. Nevertheless, the terms of HALPERN’s association with his “controller” (I have it on good evidence that he does have a DEA

controller, having been informed of the latter’s appearance, proper name, and pseudonyms) may—for all one knows—include a provision that at some future time the doctor’s cooperation will be required not only in relation to the LEONARD PICKARD case but in relation to some other investigation. The soothing denial put forward by RICK DOBLIN when he says that he is confident of HALPERN’s harmlessness is of little comfort here. For suppose research with MDMA gets under way in Salt Lake City, and community talk about the rave scene there is looser than it should be. The surreptitious recordings that Dr. HALPERN made on previous occasions could be similarly made in the future. Liabilities accrue.

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For all that, RICK has a point when he says we should not be too hard on Dr. HALPERN. I think he means that no one can imagine the mental torture involved in a DEA investigation. Who is to say they would not crack under the circumstances? The name HALPERN is tainted with the label snitch. That does not mean he should give up his position at HARVARD and retire from academic life. The decent thing, I’d have thought, would be to retire from psychedelic research—not embrace it with the unseemly gusto he is wont to. There

are plenty of fields a HARVARD faculty member can enter. HALPERN could busy himself in a profitable yet inoffensive field such as medical statistics.



Below are excerpts from a letter by MALAKKAR VOHRZEK, who is doing time at FEDERAL PRISON CAMP, Lompoc, for LSD distribution. He writes on the subject of the snitch from the viewpoint of an insider.

As a MAPS member and subscriber to *The Entheogen Review* I am in the middle of two approaches, as well as being a POW in the drug war. So I have a unique perspective with several different angles, all of which color my points:

1. MAPS’ research is important.
2. MAPS’ trying to legitimize research through the U.S. government is an important process with a desirable goal.





3. The process of legitimization is always through “the man.”
4. This doesn’t make the use of government snitches acceptable.

It is not a question of, “Once with the man, always with the man,” but rather a deeper question. They found his breaking point. When a bone breaks once, it is easy to break it a second time. HALPERN presents a danger because it is unclear if he is still a government package, and even if he is not he could become one with coercion.

On an existential level the goal of psychedelic research is to help humanity. To use someone who has harmed another to win self-protection or seek favors from the man is to go against the principles on which the psychedelic community is founded. Where on the slippery slope does the evil stop? HALPERN’S assistance could have been the linchpin to PICKARD’S life sentence. How does that differ from experimenting on live victims, in terms of moral choice?

I have not yet seen a snitch agreement that promised non-disclosure of status (and I’ve seen many snitch agreements, doing jailhouse lawyer work). Most snitches do not reveal their status because they are aware of the wrongness of their act. The unspoken theme in drug transactions is that snitching is wrong, no matter what the drug is or who is involved. More than likely, HALPERN has not revealed the full extent of his agreement. He hides the liability he brings to his “research.” Can you in fact trust his research to be objective when a government gun is pointed at his back?

The psychedelic community is armed with one weapon only: integrity. That’s why psychedelics remain in production. The money involved is pennies compared with the megabucks of other items in the illicit drug trade.

True story from the vaults: December 2002. I got some diesel therapy. While signing a form to get my property returned (I had won in court but the prosecutor wanted to ruin the holidays for me) the DEA, in another attempt to get me to snitch, said: “Look, you’re a smart guy. Why LSD? There’s no money in it. Just help us out and you’ll be home in no time.”

I remember thinking: “If I believed that drugs were a real problem, or that what you are doing helped humanity, I would assist you in a heartbeat. But you and I both know that what you are doing is futile, barbaric, and wrong. In thirty years your war on drugs has brought nothing but misery. I will never help you.”

So long as people like me are around, so will the psychedelic community survive outside the gulags. So long as the HALPERNS are around, the psychedelic community has its defense against the man compromised.

I cannot speak for all prisoners, but a majority of those who stand strong would agree with me. I don’t bear animosity towards the guy who implicated me. I knew what his breaking point was. He told me before going to the authorities, “I can’t do ten years for you, bro.” I will, however, not trust him again. He broke.

I am not trying to judge HALPERN or DOBLIN. I am basing my opinion as a former member of an isolated Central Valley California psychedelic community. I was an LSD distributor, and yes, they tried to give me life in prison. I still wouldn’t talk. I refused to sell my integrity. I make no Faustian deals. That is my choice though. HALPERN made his.

Give my best to JON HANNA, whose publication I have loved since I was on the streets and whose publication other psychedelic troopers in here love too, and to anyone on the right side of the drug war. Take care. — MALAKKAR VOHRZEK



G. WALTER DASH, sentenced to 30 years for LSD manufacture with 11 years left, takes a more sanguine look at the snitch question.

I received your letter tonight and read the “Halperngate” article with much interest. The allegations against HALPERN are somewhat vague in that there is no actual supporting documentation. Obviously, the primary “rat” was SKINNER, without whom the silo bust might never have occurred.

In my experience there are two kinds of DEA agents: those on a mission for God, who truly hate drugs, view themselves as warriors of Righteousness, and believe that ends justify the means. The others are crooks with badges who will bust you for selling a lid and then pinch half of it for their own stash before they turn it in to the evidence custodian. The latter function with no moral compass at all, while the compass of the former points in the same direction no matter where they are. Both will do whatever is necessary to put you in jail, including forging *DEA-6s*. (*DEA-6s* are summary reports of interviews between DEA agents and persons being interviewed.)





It would be interesting to see what HALPERN's *DEA-6s* actually say. The real question, though, is what does PICKARD say about HALPERN? The article indicates that they were friends. I myself have on more than one occasion instructed friends to tell the DEA whatever they wanted to hear because they already had more than enough to get me. I never allowed any of my friends to jeopardize their lives, careers, or families in a pointless attempt to protect me. It may very well be that PICKARD instructed HALPERN to do the same. Has anyone consulted PICKARD? It is my experience that if what HALPERN told them was at all incriminating, he would have been required to testify at PICKARD's trial.

It is very easy for one to say they would never talk to the DEA when they have not been subjected to the psychological torture of a rabid, self-righteous agent. They threaten all you love; this is their standard operating procedure. If PICKARD and HALPERN were indeed friends, then it is reasonable to assume that he instructed HALPERN to say whatever they wanted. Such statements are inadmissible as evidence at trial. I never had a "friend" testify against me in court!

A case in point: I once had a friend in his sixties who the DEA had been after for years. He was involved in international smuggling and had a much younger partner. His partner finally was arrested for sales to an undercover agent, but my friend remained unimplicated. The U.S. Attorney called my friend and told him that if he didn't voluntarily admit to involvement, they were going to throw away the key on his partner. If he would agree to testify in front of a grand jury, the U.S. Attorney guaranteed that both would receive 18-month sentences. This was in the mid-1980s, when I was serving a ten-year sentence for a distribution conspiracy. Since I could suffer no more harm, I instructed my friend to testify that I was the ringleader. Since the U.S. Attorney had no evidence to the contrary, my friend served a year with his partner. While he "cooperated" with the authorities, *he was not a rat!*

HALPERN appears to have had a lot at stake when he was approached by the DEA, so until you contact PICKARD, or read actual signed statements or immunity agreements, do not be too quick to judge. It would be a shame to jeopardize the potential benefit of HALPERN's work. Contact PICKARD's attorney, for he will have any documentation as part of the discovery materials released to him by the government before trial. Most importantly, ask PICKARD. He's the one to make the final call.

I don't know if what I've said helps. I am rather sensitive to allegations of snitching. I was nearly killed because someone falsely accused me of being a rat. It is all too easy to put the jacket on someone, but if it is undeserved, it is difficult for the falsely accused to remove. Just find out the whole story, okay? And let me know.

You bring light into my life. — DASH

JOHN BERESFORD responds: For the record, LEONARD PICKARD and I have been corresponding for the past nine months. He has not so far committed himself to a public statement about his dealings with JOHN HALPERN.

JON HANNA responds: Also for the record, due to a protective order (Doc. #196) granted by the court, PICKARD and his attorney are prohibited from disclosing any discovery materials covering HALPERN's signed statements and/or immunity agreements to anyone. And the defense counsel was required to return those materials at the conclusion of the trial. [Noted in *United States of America, Plaintiff, vs. William Leonard Pickard and Clyde Apperson, Defendants*, Case No. 00-40104-01/02-RDR, United States District Court for the District of Kansas, 2002 U.S. Dist. Lexis 21712, August 15, 2002, Decided.] So far as I can tell, HALPERN does not have a court order prohibiting him from sharing the details of his agreement with the DEA; however, he is unwilling to do that.



The terrible feelings that come over one who has been betrayed by a trusted friend pour out in the following words from JOE "STONE" RUFRA, a Deadhead. Because he is hoping for pen-pals, his address is included at the end of his letter.

As I sit in my cell, 12 years into my 35-year sentence for acid (3322 doses), I ponder the letter I got today, along with a copy of JON HANNA's "Halperngate" article. I am incarcerated because of a snitching "friend," so please allow me to expound on my position on snitches, and on bringing their evil deeds to light, as MARK MCCLOUD did (on my birthday, no less).

Even from a young age, most of us learn not to be "tattle-tales." Not only is this because nobody likes a rat, but because it is important to accept responsibility for your actions and their consequences. Don't lie, don't steal, don't snitch. Be nice to people and animals. Respect. Simple values that I guess HALPERN didn't pay attention to.

Through the learned doctor's silence, he is admitting he is a snitch. For any individual (DOBLIN, for instance) to allow HALPERN to continue functioning as a part of the psyche-





delic community—in *any* capacity—is, at minimum, negligent. HALPERN's integrity has already proven itself to be non-existent; and once a rat, always a rat.

Some of my brothers in here subscribe to the philosophy that, "When you deal with a poisonous snake, you must hold it by the back of the head, or it will bite you." But I say, "If you deal with a snake, it will eventually bite you regardless. And the damage done will be your own fault, as you knew that it was poisonous to begin with."

Furthermore, if you see a snake, as MARK McCLOUD did, it is your duty and obligation to let everyone know. Like their reptilian counterparts, the two-legged snakes among us are good at camouflaging themselves; so not only your brothers and sisters, but *anyone* who might encounter the snake should be warned. Kudos to you, Mr. McCLOUD—your actions were honorable. And shame on you, Dr. DOBLIN. If anybody gets bit by the viper because of your silence, your sheltering of the snitch, it is as if you, yourself, were the rat.

I believe that JESUS said, "He that is not with me is against me." If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem. If you are not against the rat, you are for the rat and condone his actions. DOBLIN evidently condones the rat-like qualities of his "friend" and, even knowing he is a rat, DOBLIN still attempts to put HALPERN in a place where he can do harm. The dude is a known snitch. Leopards don't change their spots and rats don't change their whiskers.

When I followed the GRATEFUL DEAD, I recall a newsletter handed out at every show, which always had a note from BOBBY relating something to the effect of, "Everyone you meet is NOT your friend. Do not buy/sell/trade drugs with people you don't know." Very sound advice. Looking back on the camaraderie and trust in the "family," the psychedelic brotherhood, I feel that I was pretty naive. I now know that discretion (and stashing my acid in my butt) would have prevented me from spending a third of my life (so far) in a cesspool *full* of snitches. Even those you know and trust can sell you out. Heck, HALPERN is said to have snitched on his wife—what a loving gesture.

I had better quit writing before I get into my thoughts on what the punishment should be for snitching, betrayal, and other traitorous, treasonous activities. So, brothers and sisters, please be careful. — JOE RUFRA #0354668, PASQUOTANK CORRECTION INSTITUTION, 527 Commerce Drive, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.



The following is from a prisoner with whom I have been corresponding for the last eight years. He prefers to remain anonymous, not wanting to potentially "rock the boat" after recently being accepted into the Residential Drug Abuse Program where he is incarcerated. His remarks on the sociology of snitching put it in as clear a light as one could want.

In the 1960s, when I participated in a number of "ventures" (or "adventures," if you like) concerning substances that later became "controlled substances," we (me and my circle of nationally located "friends") loved the good karma of being responsible for assisting another person in his or her quest to achieve a higher state of consciousness—a quest that, more often than not, we were on ourselves. Back then, it wasn't so much about the money (although making money was required in order to allow us to continue to provide the "fuel"). We did multi-million dollar deals on handshakes, and there was never a gun at any "get togethers" we had. It wasn't necessary, as only our intimate friends were in on the gathering and outsiders weren't welcome. We were very tight. In my own circle of friends, we only once had a situation where law enforcement intruded on us, and five people spent a couple of days in the local jail. We had the resources to get them the best attorneys, and they were soon out. When they were eventually sentenced, no one went to jail/prison. And the local citizens got the benefit of a hospital wing that our several millions put onto their formerly decrepit medical center.

It wasn't until later, with prohibition, that the money (and risk) became the magnet for degenerates of the ghetto—"play-yahs," gang-bangers, and bikers, who wanted to rob the smugglers and dealers like myself. By then, I was already out of the biz. But as long as I was on the wrong side of the law, we didn't tell on each other because we knew that getting pinched was what "came with the territory." By agreeing to participate, we were also agreeing that we wouldn't betray our comrades as we wouldn't want them to betray us—something Dr. HALPERN has apparently done. By betraying his friends he thusly killed any good things anyone had to say about him as a professional and/or trusted comrade. His reputation is nil, his credibility a thing of the past. Anyone would be a fool to trust him now, as he is forever a "compromised" individual, a man who can't be trusted to come through. If we don't stand for our convictions, why should we expect anyone else to? Especially since his betrayal is directly related to the work he was engaged in, I would





be leery of his fidelity to anything he purported to be committed to.

Many thousands of people are incarcerated because of individuals like HALPERN. HALPERN is the “poster boy” for most American rats/snitches/informants/cooperating witnesses, and he is now a member of the majority, the mundane, the ordinary. Here in America, through programs like witness protection, the government has eradicated the old school honor requirement that a person *not* be a snitch. There was a time when the government trumpeted that our soldiers were indoctrinated to only divulge their name, rank, and serial number: it was treasonous to “tell.” Now, everyday, I meet inmates who shamelessly brag, “I did what I had to do.” It’s repugnant. They tell on their once friends, acquaintances, and their own family. They don’t want to hear anything about wars and history. They’re only interested in “what’s in it for me?”

Americans have become soft. In the legal profession, those of us versed in post-conviction law call people like HALPERN “upsiders,” because they believe they are special and entitled to only the “upside” of life, like the LEONA HELMSLEYS of the world, and only the “little people” go to jail, not themselves.

FYI: Absent a “cap” on the extent of cooperation, a cooperating individual actually becomes a government (or law enforcement) minion for the balance of his or her days on terra firma. People with plea agreements with substantial assistance stipulations to “provide cooperation in the conviction of another” are on the hook for life. If they refuse to comply, they are brought back to the sentencing court for “breach” of the terms of the agreement, and they usually face receiving the balance of the sentence they would have initially received had they not cooperated. There are two kinds of immunity the government commonly uses. Transactional and Use immunity. Transactional usually only covers one instance, whereas Use can immunize a person from prosecution from all offenses, unless the government can prove their case “derivatively” (prove the elements to a jury’s satisfaction).

Even though I paid a horrible price, if I had to do it over again, I still wouldn’t snitch, especially because the government is so corrupt and arrogant. Best wishes. — ANONYMOUS



BILL KELLY is serving 15 years on LSD conspiracy charges in Ohio. BILL was riding in a car that was stopped at traffic light; a search turned up the LSD in the trunk. The driver and passenger said that BILL knew about it, and they got time off for saying so. BILL was convicted in effect for knowing: i.e., conspiracy. Because he’s a state offender, BILL is eligible for parole in August. (No parole is available for federal POWs.)

Thank you for sharing the info about JOHN HALPERN. I feel that the extent of what a person is willing to sacrifice for what he believes in is what truly measures a person. If Dr. HALPERN truly believes in psychedelics and what he says, I feel that he wouldn’t have compromised his integrity. This leads me to the thought that he’s possibly in it not for the evolution of awareness but for himself and *his* glory.

And while him doing research for selfish reasons may contribute to the greater good, it also compromises the integrity of the mission, which in the future will leave a scar on the greater picture. Dr. HALPERN’s actions are nothing short of total betrayal. It would be one thing if he were a regular law abiding citizen, but his connections and the trust and respect people have invested in him put his deeds in a whole new different light. That’s how I feel. Now that he’s exposed, he’s much less of a danger. All that’s left is to remove him and his name, any correlation, which links him to the positive evolution of the mind. Best wishes.
— BILL KELLY



AMY RALSTON was arrested in 1990 for conspiracy to distribute MDMA, which her estranged husband was manufacturing in Germany while she lived in Los Angeles. Her involvement amounted to collecting bail money at her husband’s request. Some of this money consisted of proceeds from the sale of MDMA, involving Amy in a “conspiracy.” Sentenced to 24 years in prison, she served over 9 years before President CLINTON granted her clemency in July of 2000.

I feel as if I have a lot to offer on this subject. I tend to see things that others cannot or will not or simply don’t. It doesn’t matter one iota that a Cooperating Witness doesn’t testify. I’ve noticed that this is commonly used as some kind of evidence or defense that HALPERN (and/or others, for that matter) never actually harmed anyone. Nothing could be further from the truth.

SANDY (the kingpin and ex-husband in my case) didn’t testify either; but in cooperating, he gave the gov’t permission to proceed and literally bust into the lives/doors of other-





wise minor participants or people who were ancillary or even innocent. SANDY later said that the gov't took many things he said and twisted the truth, even turned the truth into lies or filled in the information as they wished. Well, YES, this is what they do. Once you agree to cooperate, you can never control what they will do with the information you provide.

It takes a very strong person to stand up to the gov't and refuse to cooperate, and these are the people who often end up doing 10 to LIFE. Rather than being respected for, at the very least, refusing to implicate others in order to save their own skin, they are often vilified further by people who assume that anyone who gets that much time must be a bad person, deserving of a long sentence. People who cooperate often get the benefit of the doubt and get to move on with their lives, as HALPERN has done. However, if he'd had the least amount of backbone, maybe the gov't would have never amassed the information they needed to proceed. The DOJ asked for these devices, knowing it would enable them to blackmail American citizens by threatening them with long mandatory sentences UNLESS people cooperate.

The most disgusting reality to all of this—including Halperngate—is that it works. This is why history repeats itself and is the darkest side of the human race. People will turn in their friends and even family members to the gov't if it will ease their fears and potential suffering. Any way you want to slice it or justify it, HALPERN should be ashamed of his cowardice. That's the bottom line.

Today, I am happily married and living a productive life in Malibu, CA, trying to advocate clemency for many of the women I left behind. If anyone is interested they can review the stories of these female POWs at www.candoclemency.com. Most of these harmless women are serving 10 to LIFE because someone was offered a plea bargain if they would help convict those who refused to cooperate.

In struggle until this horror is over. — AMY RALSTON



CASEY HARDISON, a longtime friend of The Entheogen Review, is serving 20 years in a British prison for manufacturing LSD, 2C-B, DMT, etc.

My friends, I write this from within the prison walls. I was arrested as a result of a "common informer" who, chastised

by the DEA, realized the significant liberty interest that was at stake for himself. I forgive him and indeed will always love him. Whilst I could not ever visualize myself in his position, I can empathize.

RICK DOBLIN recently wrote, "...our studies are likely to come under attack from all sides..." Disinformation is the single most effective memetic weapon. It is the surefire way to get a loose confederacy of individuals from disparate backgrounds working toward common goals to implode from within and be their own demise.

In the COUNCIL ON SPIRITUAL PRACTICES' 1997 book *Entheogens and the Future of Religion*, ERIC E. STERLING had the following to say in his essay "Law Enforcement Against Entheogens: Is it Religious Persecution?":

...those who are most trusting, such as those who are peaceful and spiritually inclined. Those who make, cultivate, or distribute entheogens have become the training targets for the heavy artillery of "the war on drugs."

It is ever so important, and I plead as I am certain other chemist prisoners of the war on drugs do, that we must remember what these molecules have shown us. In the words of a dear, dear friend, they have shown me "the land without evil."

We must be vigilant amongst ourselves to not let our individual personalities or fear of the behemoth Pharmacratia Inquisition and its unintended consequences get in the way of the progress we have been steadily making to realize the goal of a reintegration of society and entheogens, entactogens, and their chemical cousins. In the words I remember from the ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS rooms of my youth... "ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

We must do everything in our power to carry the light, the lamp, the vision forward toward this Age of Entheogens. *Fiat lux, fiat amor, fiat pax!* — CASEY "WILLIAM EZEKIEL FREEBLOOD" HARDISON

JOHN BERESFORD is a psychiatrist who founded the AGORA SCIENTIFIC TRUST in 1961 to research the effects of LSD. Thirty years later, he founded the COMMITTEE ON UNJUST SENTENCING, a support group for drug war prisoners.

