

DJ'S, DRUGS, DANCING:

Drug testing offered for ravers' safety

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A&E Editor

The sign at right explains what it means if a person's pill tests positive for the drug ecstasy.

DanceSafe, "a nonprofit, harm reduction organization promoting health and safety within the rave and nightclub community," offers drug testing services to promoters of raves, which includes testing any pills brought into their events.

In some cities, the police welcome their services.

Using trained volunteers, DanceSafe follows strict protocols to attempt to minimize damage caused by ingesting pills containing ingredients other than ecstasy (MDA, MDMA, MDE or a combination). Additionally, strict paperwork is kept to help trace pills that later are reported as causing adverse reactions.

People at events such as raves can have

a quick analysis (drug screening) done on their pills to know whether or not their drug is really ecstasy. After the pill is given to the DanceSafe volunteer, the name of the pill is recorded on a log sheet along with color, size, measurement by calipers, logos and whether or not the pill was bought inside or

they note how many points are on it. This is to help identify drugs that are copycats in the event of a later problem with the drug.

A tiny bit of the pill is scraped off for testing. The drug is always returned to the person before the testing is performed. This is to prevent the tester from being charged with dispensing a



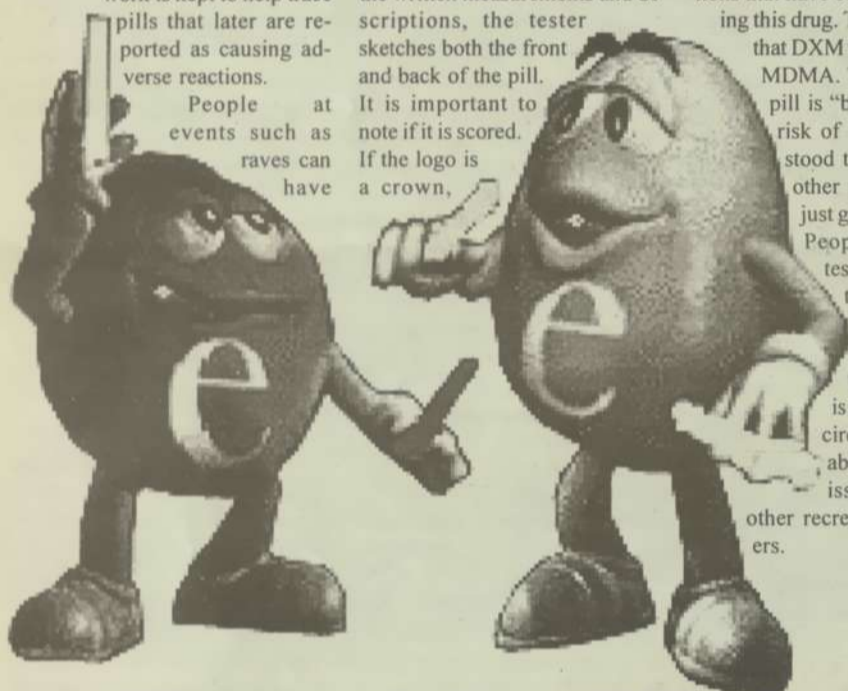
DanceSafe
Promoting health and safety within the rave and nightclub community.

outside the event. If the pill was purchased from inside the event, the pill owner is further cautioned that statistically, pills sold within events have a greater probability of being fake.

After having the person read the sign, the tester receives the pill and does the paperwork. In addition to the written measurements and descriptions, the tester sketches both the front and back of the pill. It is important to note if it is scored. If the logo is a crown,

drug known to be ecstasy.

DanceSafe is careful only to report the test result and explain what these results mean. If the drug has a reaction indicating that it is DXM, a cough syrup ingredient that has been passed off as ecstasy, DanceSafe tells the pill owner all they know about the adverse reactions that have come from ingesting this drug. They also explain that DXM feels nothing like MDMA. They don't say a pill is "bad" to avoid the risk of being misunderstood to imply that another pill is OK. They just give straight facts. People having pills tested are requested to report any adverse reactions they have from the drug. If there is a bad lot of drugs circulating, this enables the police to issue warnings to other recreational drug users.



This test produced a normal reaction.

This means this pill does contain some real Ecstasy.

(either MDMA, MDA, MDE or a combination)

It does **NOT** mean the pill is "pure."

(There could be something else in it.)

It does **NOT** mean the pill is "safe."

(No drug is completely safe, even if it is pure.)

It does **NOT** tell you how much is in the pill.

(There could be a lot or a little. You never know.)



Different DJ's, different styles, different world

DARREL HOBSON
Sports Editor

Rave dances are becoming more popular than ever with teens and young adults. The high-energy dance music and bright lights have attracted the attention of a new generation of young people all across America.

Raves have had such an impact that owners of night clubs and mobile DJ services have had to make critical decisions about how to run their business as the rave culture creeps its way into the main stream.

"We don't have a policy against doing raves, it's just that we don't train our DJ's to mix the rave style of music," said Chad Dowling, owner of *Ultimate Entertainment*, the Northwest's largest mobile DJ service.

Dowling went on to say there

is a difference between mobile DJ's and club DJ's. "We play top 40, R&B, rap and old favorites for public schools, weddings and private parties, where club and rave DJ's play house or techno beats."

Another thing that worries Dowling about doing raves is safety. There is no way to insure the safety and security of the equipment and the DJ at a rave party.

Ultimate has never been contracted to do a rave party and probably will never be asked because it is not their target market. However, the impact in the company has been felt.

DJ's at *Ultimate* claim that most students commonly request techno music and bring glow sticks, necklaces and glow gum to the high school dances.

"I get middle school kids asking me if I will play rave music

or if I have done any raves," said *Ultimate* DJ Jake Roberts.

Ultimate Entertainment admits that they have added more house and techno songs to their library due to the large number of requests they have received in the last few months.

Another trend in nightclub has come up that may be related to the popularity of raves. New dance clubs have opened up all over Portland that target the young dance crowd.

For many years, teens have frequently appeared at the *Quest*, a 16 and older club located downtown. For the first time, the *Quest* has substantial competition. There are

clubs such week for young people. Thursday is retro night, Friday and Saturday is current dance hits, Monday is karaoke night and Tuesday is Latin dance night. The *Z* is a brand new club that just opened that has three floors, all with different music.

All these clubs are under age facilities and do not allow alcohol. They check kids at the door for drugs and weapons as well. Some of these clubs, like *Ground Zero*, are providing a safe alternative to raves, while others are just making money on a trend that is hot.

One thing is for sure, raves are not just underground secret parties anymore. It's a culture of young people that is beginning to change the businesses world.



as the *Onyx* dance club for teens, which is on 82 Ave. and *Ground Zero* in Gresham, which is smoke, drug and alcohol free and offers activities all