



## SPICE Hits Omaha

Spice, a synthetic, cannabis-like drug, has hit the Omaha area as well as communities all across the country. Cities in all parts of America are reporting sales and use of the dried Chinese herbs that have been sprayed with a potent, psychotropic, marijuana-like compound.

Also known as Demon, JWH018, K2, Mojo, Serenity, Spice Gold, Yucatan Fire, and Zohai, Spice is legal in most states, including Nebraska and Iowa. Kansas and many countries in Europe have made the drug illegal.

Spice looks like potpourri. The long-term effects of this unregulated drug are relatively unknown because it is so new. It first appeared in 2004 on the Internet and in head shops. No human studies have been conducted on the

drug. However, short-term side effects are frightening. Users have experienced hallucinations, vomiting, seizures, increased heart rates, and dangerously elevated blood pressures.

Besides the synthetic marijuana mixture, the dried herbs of Spice are suspected of being sprayed with other toxic substances that can also cause other adverse side effects.

One of the inventors of K2 warns that the syn-

*“Chinese herbs that have been sprayed with a potent, psychotropic, marijuana-like compound”*

thetic cannabinoids were created for experimental use in animals and cell cultures only – not in humans. John W. Huffman,



PhD, reports that K2 and its many cousins have a chemical structure shared with known cancer-causing agents.

“It is like Russian roulette to use these drugs,” Dr. Huffman reports. “We don’t know a darn thing about them for real.”

To learn how you can help keep our children safe and drug-free by protecting their environment from SPICE, please contact PRIDE at (402) 397-3309.

-*Science Daily*, March 3, 2010  
-*WebMD*, March 15, 2010

Formed in 1978, PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is one of the few nationally recognized, parent / community drug prevention organizations in the United States that remains dedicated to preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by children.

**PRIDE-Omaha, Inc.**  
6143 Whitmore Street  
Omaha, NE 68152

Ph: (402) 397-3309  
Fax: (402) 397-9924  
Email: info@pride.org

www.prideprevention.org



### Board of Directors

Curtis Rainge, *President*  
Yolanda Jimenez, *Vice President*  
Tracey Strehle, *Secretary*  
Linda Hall, *Treasurer*  
Capt. Keith Harris  
Toni Hernandez  
Dianne Kelly  
Lt. Steve King  
John Kellogg  
Rick Lenarduzzi  
Lou Myers  
Pat Phalen  
Dr. Melissa Tibbits  
Lt. Russell Zeeb  
Tracy Kempkes

Paul Carter, *Executive Director*

## Project Prom/Graduation

For the 26th year, PRIDE-Omaha, Inc., is working to coordinate community efforts to make the prom and graduation season a safe, drug-free, and enjoyable experience for high school students. PRIDE in conjunction with the LiveWise Coalition sent over 630 letters this spring to area schools, law enforcement, media, limousine services, alcohol retailers, hotels/motels, and recreational areas, asking them to help support our community-wide effort. To find a list of schools' proms and graduations, go to PRIDE's website:

<http://www.prideprevention.org/projectpromgraduation.html>

**LIVE TO SEE THE SUNRISE**



**THINK  
Don't DRINK.**

Project  
Prom/Graduation

## Drug Watch International

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. is the international headquarters for one of the world’s foremost prevention organizations on marijuana and other drugs. **Drug Watch International** is an all-volunteer non-profit organization of teachers, doctors, lawyers, authors, legislators, parents, law enforcement officials, and other drug prevention experts. These volunteers work to assure a healthier and safer world by promoting sound drug policies based on scientific research, and by opposing efforts to legalize or decriminalize drugs. To find out more about Drug Watch International, go to: [www.drugwatch.org](http://www.drugwatch.org).

### Operation Medicine Cabinet

**Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Shadow Lake Hy-Vee (72nd and Highway 370)  
Hy-Vee on North 16th Street (Council Bluffs, IA)**

Drop off your expired or unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Drive up, drop off, and drive away - no questions asked.

PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. would like to extend our gratitude to our donors and funders, friends, and family for their support. PRIDE relies on contributions to help provide services that promote a healthy, safe and drug-free environment for children.

# Thanks for your Contributions

Mike Fink, Best Buy;  
Andy LeBlanc, Geek Squad/Best Buy;  
Richard Gerbeling, Savvy Digital Resources;  
Susan K. Parsons, Farm Bureau Financial Services

## National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month! Consider giving of your time and talent to PRIDE. Volunteer for a day or share your time with us on a weekly basis. Contact Linda Chloupek for more information at (402) 397-3309 or [lchloupek@pride.org](mailto:lchloupek@pride.org)



## DO YOU KNOW THE FACTS?

Last month, PRIDE reported on the dangers of categorizing marijuana as a “medicinal drug.” Quiz yourself and learn the facts. Answer key located below.

- 1) Most teens enter substance abuse treatment for abuse or dependence on which drug?  
A. Alcohol B. Methamphetamine C. Marijuana D. Ecstasy (source: TheAntiDrug.com)
- 2) The chemical in marijuana that causes the high is: A. Nicotine B. THC C. MDMA (source: American Council for Drug Education)
- 3) Marijuana can stay in the body up to: A. 2 days B. 1 week C. 1 month (source: American Council for Drug Education)

Answer Key: 1. C 2. B 3. C

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- 17: Operation Medicine Cabinet; Drop off your expired or unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Free-No questions! For locations and hours see ad above in yellow box.
- 17-18: Kidz Explore at the Mid America Center. Visit the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition and Tobacco Free Sarpy booth!
- 20: PRIDE Open House from 4-6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP to [info@pride.org](mailto:info@pride.org) or (402) 397-3309.
- 21: LiveWise Lunch & Learn; This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call (402) 898-3477.
- 22: Omaha Public School Counselor’s Fair at Monroe Middle School cafeteria from 6-7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to OPS students and parents. See what summer opportunities are available in Omaha and say hello to PRIDE staff.
- 24: Omaha Police Department Safety Expo 2010 at Westroads Mall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Stop by PRIDE’s booth!

### MAY

- 1: See members of the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC) participate in the 25th Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on 24th & B Street to 24th & P Street. This event is free and open to the public.