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A disturbing take on **drug** treatments

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Could the cure for teen-age **drug** abuse be worse than the problem? That is the provocative question posed by the June Texas Monthly. The cover story asks "Can kids on **drugs** be saved?" and casts a long, hard look at the usual solution: the proliferating number of treatment centers, including a controversial program called **Straight** that some parents have called abusive. And other parents admire. "Our vast **drug**-treatment system, with its armies of therapists, medical conferences, and marketing strategies, doesn't really know what it's doing," writes Skip Hollandsworth. No matter how sleek the center or knowledgeable the staff, "about 80 percent of the adolescents who complete such programs will, within a year, relapse and return to **drugs**, regardless of the program they attended." The story is made particularly provocative by Hollandsworth's own ambivalence as he follows for almost six months a young boy going through **Straight**. In the end, the boy seems clean of **drugs** - although for how long is anyone's guess.

DANDY ANDY: "You're making an assumption that all black politicians are alike. I never feared or distrusted white people the way many black politicians do. See, nobody can put me in a box." So speaks Andrew Young in a GQ profile that definitely paints Young - with his energy and pro-business attitudes - as part of the changing direction of black politics. In the June issue, James Dodson writes, "They run not as black candidates per se but as candidates who happen to be black. ... In short, they are not Jesse Jackson." Dodson travels along with the former mayor of Atlanta as he stumps Georgia in search of the Democratic nomination for governor. The primary is July 17.

EROS IN DECLINE: "Modern American culture is so highly sexualized that a visiting stranger who did nothing but watch our films and listen to our music might wonder whether people ever did anything other than seek out sexual partners and make love." Ah, but here's the rub, according to the June Health. "All this sexual suggestiveness hides a dark little secret." Sex therapists are conducting a land-office business because of the increasing number of people suffering from "hypoactive sexual desire." We are, it seems, a nation of all talk and no action.

LITERATE LEANINGS: As the publishing world gathers at its annual convention this weekend, book lovers should take note of a splendid quarterly called The Hungry Mind. Declaring itself proudly "A Midwestern Book Review," the publication offers long, analytical reviews of books both militantly mainstream and proudly obscure. Available in many independent bookstores, The Hungry Mind also can be ordered: \$ 7 for a year's subscription, 1648 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55105.

SHORT TAKES: Call it a star-crossed twist on the old standby, "Can This Marriage Be Saved?" Burda/Hearst's new astrology magazine, Jupiter, examines the love match between Fergie and Andy in its June/July issue. According to one royal astrologer, "Their relationship needs a strong interaction with the outside world to survive. Left alone on a desert island they would self-destruct." Watch for those flying coconuts. ... The June Outside casts a careful and critical eye upon the seascape and comes up with "the best (and worst) beaches." The usual suspects belong to the Hall of Shame: Myrtle Beach, Daytona Beach, Atlantic City. ... ABC now publishes a handsome glossy magazine called Episodes

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dedicated to soap operas. (Its own, of course.) The term "printed puffery" dignifies this publication. Earmark Episodes for only the hardest of hard-core soap fans.

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