Steal This Urine Test: Fighting Drug Hysteria in America

by Abbie Hoffman (Author), Jonathan Silvers (Author)

From Publishers Weekly

Former Yippie Hoffman (Steal this Book, Square Dancing in the Ice Age) examines drug testing in political, social and legal contexts while shattering myths about drug use and abuse. Instead of funding rehabilitation programs, Hoffman contends, the government mainly engages in "propaganda ploys" that neither help nor educate. Discussing misconceptions about urine testing and apparent violations of constitutional rights, he provides up-to-date information on the reliability of testing procedures and points out how lab errors are made. He challenges "bladder cops," takes readers on a field trip through a urinanalysis lab and instructs in how to beat the test. While Hoffman holds attention throughout with puns ("mind over bladder"), anecdotes and satirical writing ("golden showers come your way"), it is the extensive, in-depth research and a barrage of facts and figures that make this the definitive guide to the current drug-testing environment.
From Library Journal

One's initial reaction may be to dismiss Hoffman's latest j'accuse as more establishment-bashing by the Peck's Bad Boy of the left. But beyond the arch title and cutesy phrases (e.g., "bladder spies"), the book raises legitimate and disturbing questions about the rush to drug testing in the United States. Specifically, Hoffman provides concrete and sometimes detailed documentation to support his contention that such testing is scientifically unreliable and constitutionally indefensible. All but the smallest libraries should acquire this book, which offers a thoughtful dissenting opinion on a subject of a great importance. Kenneth F. Kister, Pinellas Park P.L., Fla.

Most Helpful Customer Reviews

This book should be required reading for all of those video-numbed and propaganda-filled young minds who came of age during or after the dark era of Ronald Reagan and Ed Meese, for whom urinating in a cup in order to get a job is "normal". Abbie gives us the real history of this insanity and solid information on the shortfalls of such testing, along with some practical advice on how to get around the lifestyle police. A great book by a great American!

Hard to rate! As a substance abuse professional who has been doing drug testing for well over 25 years, I find this book helpful to find games people play to avoid detection. I use it heavily when doing training to show students what their clients learn from the "underground." One problem with the details is its lack of accuracy. His philosophy overrides his sense of science. The book goes far to point out a serious weakness in the collection process. That we do not do observed testing in the workplace places us in a position of testing stupidity rather than drug abuse.

By A Customer

I quote Abbie's research in this book everywhere I go. A good paraphrase to preface EVERY utterance is "no one would go to a doctor who simply said, 'Rest, vitamin-C and apple juice,' unless s/he also ordered the patient SOME kind of prescription. A magic pill." -abbie badly paraphrased by the prime anarchist, his humble nephew and "servant-to-cause."