

The news has had a heyday with Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, Nicole Richie, and Lindsay Lohan all having typical and very similar reactions to their antidepressants. Paris is reportedly on Prozac, Britney on Paxil, Nicole on an "antidepressant" and Lindsay has been in enough rehabs to be on several antidepressants. Let me add here that I have not yet documented Lindsay's use of an antidepressant, but good luck getting out of a rehab in this country today without one! It would be rare to do so.

America stood by making fun of and watching the slow death of Anna Nicole Smith for many, many years as she had her adverse reactions to Prozac in the public eye. No one did anything and we watched as these drugs destroyed her and took both her life and the life of her young son. That is despicable! And we are entertained by it? Who is the sick one?

Now we are standing by and doing the exact same thing to this whole group of young women! The latest reports on Paris state that she was afraid of people taking pictures of her in compromising positions while in jail (a very valid fear) so she stopped eating, sleeping and taking her medication. In other words she was without her Prozac for three days and in serious withdrawal!

Because of this situation the Sheriff clearly made the right decision by sending her home to be under house arrest - that is it was the right decision if they want to avoid one of the biggest lawsuits they have ever seen. Going cold turkey off an antidepressant, according to the FDA warnings, can produce suicide, hostility or psychosis. They allow that to happen in their jail . . . guess what they become liable for?

Apparently someone needs to explain that to the judge who was stupid enough to order someone in her condition back into jail. What kind of power trip is the guy on anyway? Or has anyone checked his meds lately?

I am SO SICK of seeing this kind of thing go on right under the noses of the public and they do not "get it"! This country has just got to wake up to what is happening as a result of these drugs. This is such a sad state of affairs. Today in yet another murder/suicide that came across my desk a neighbor to the deceased commenting on how common it has become said all it is anymore is just "the murder of the day."

I do hope you that in an effort to wake up society you are sharing this information with everyone you know. Paris is all over the news lately. Bring it up when someone starts talking about her. Make people aware of what is really happening here. Send them to our web site. This young woman is in extreme danger and could possibly lose her life as a result of this uninformed decision! She would not even be facing charges if the world would wake up to the fact that these drugs cause overwhelming cravings for alcohol. The mass ignorance is so extremely frustrating to me!

Ann Blake Tracy, Ph.D.,