

STAY UP!

TEXT: KATHERINE TURMAN

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owadays, when a product to keep you "up" is mentioned, everybody immediately thinks "Viagra." That's 'cause everybody's mind is in the gutter. Except mine. Actually, I was hoping my mind would be in the clouds after this little foray into the dizzying array of "stay awake" pills, drinks and bars currently available, but alas, most over-the-counter waker-uppers are as tame as a Celine Dion record.



JOLT

Nothing like a lazy Sunday lunch with temperatures hovering around 80 degrees to induce that dreaded "food coma." But there's only half a day of weekend left....gotta stay awake, gotta stay awake! 7-11 provides the means: A cooler full of Mega-Jolt Cola, proudly advertising "twice the caffeine." My test subject downs approximately 10 ounces of the beverage, which he pronounces "Coke-like." We contemplate a game of basketball. Not enough human energy available. Another few sips still do not provide that impetus, but to be fair, the drink doesn't stand much of a chance against a heavy lunch. Half an hour after downing a Jolt the subject is asleep on the sofa.

ULTRA PEP-BACK

Six o'clock Monday evening. Eight hours of work done. Five to go. But with Ultra Pep-Back, which purports to "restore mental alertness when experiencing fatigue," the rest of the work day/night should be a breeze, right? By 6:30, one tab of the "stimulant tablet" has failed to stimulate. Or maybe it has—otherwise, I would be asleep at this point, right? But at least I'm not getting that customary "crawly skin" feeling that once accompanied high school doses of so-called "pep pills." Time to pop just one more not-so-little green pill. 7:01 p.m.: A bit more chipper. Not shaky. Worried about being wide-eyed at 2 a.m. Will get back to you on that one...Okay, it's 2:18 a.m. Ultra Pep-Back works.

PURE ENERGY

Thanks to Ultra Pep-Back's wide-awake work last night, the next morning comes way too quickly. I desperately need to get "up." The Starbucks sign gleams like a savior, but bee pollen in a little brown-green pill is so much healthier. Time to try out "Pure Energy," comprised of such hot ingredients as the aforementioned pollen, Siberian ginseng, and Royal Jelly. Just one little mocha latte...No, no, two tabs of "ephedra-free (huh?) Pure Energy" should do the trick. And they seem to. Nothing astounding. No shakes. But the eyes remain open. You know, there's that little thing called "work" that "they" like you to stay awake for, and fortunately for my day-job paycheck, these nuggets of "pure energy" help.

