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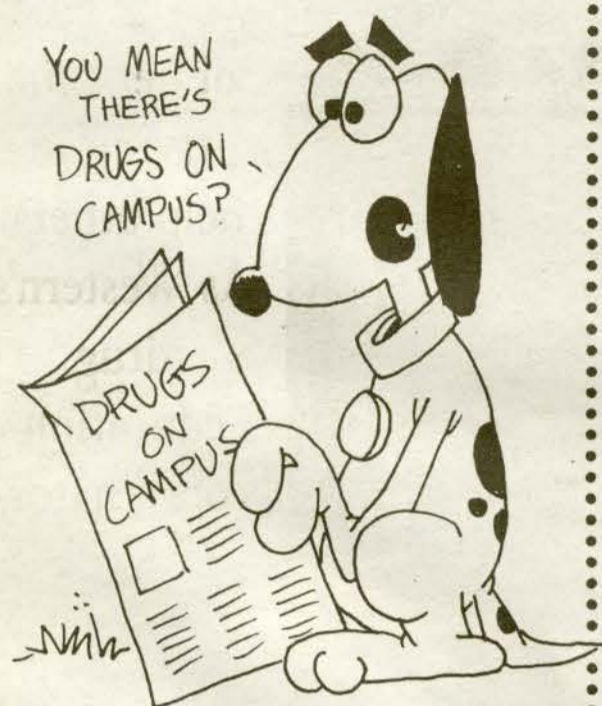
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PHASE

Drugs on campus

DRUGS

ON CAMPUS



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Table of CONTENTS

Reality Check:

Despite Bowling Green's reputation as a "sleepy little town," drugs are here and on the rise. Campus officials talk about how they try to conquer this problem. Page 3.

In Trouble:

There's more to doing drugs than getting high and having a good time. Legal and psychological consequences can take all the fun away. Pages 4 & 5.

Just the Facts:

Kentucky is a great place for growing marijuana. Those who risk it, however, are learning to pay the price. Local police offer statistics on arrests and crimes. Pages 4 & 5.

Helpful Hints:

If you or a friend has a drug addiction, there are places to go for help. Bowling Green and campus have plenty of resources to offer. Pages 4 & 5.

Getting Personal:

Chris Hutchins knows the ill effects of drugs. He's done them. He's regretted them. He shares his story. Page 6.

Head to Head:

Patrick Bernardy and Dan Hieb talk of legal and moral issues surrounding marijuana in their opposing columns. Page 7.

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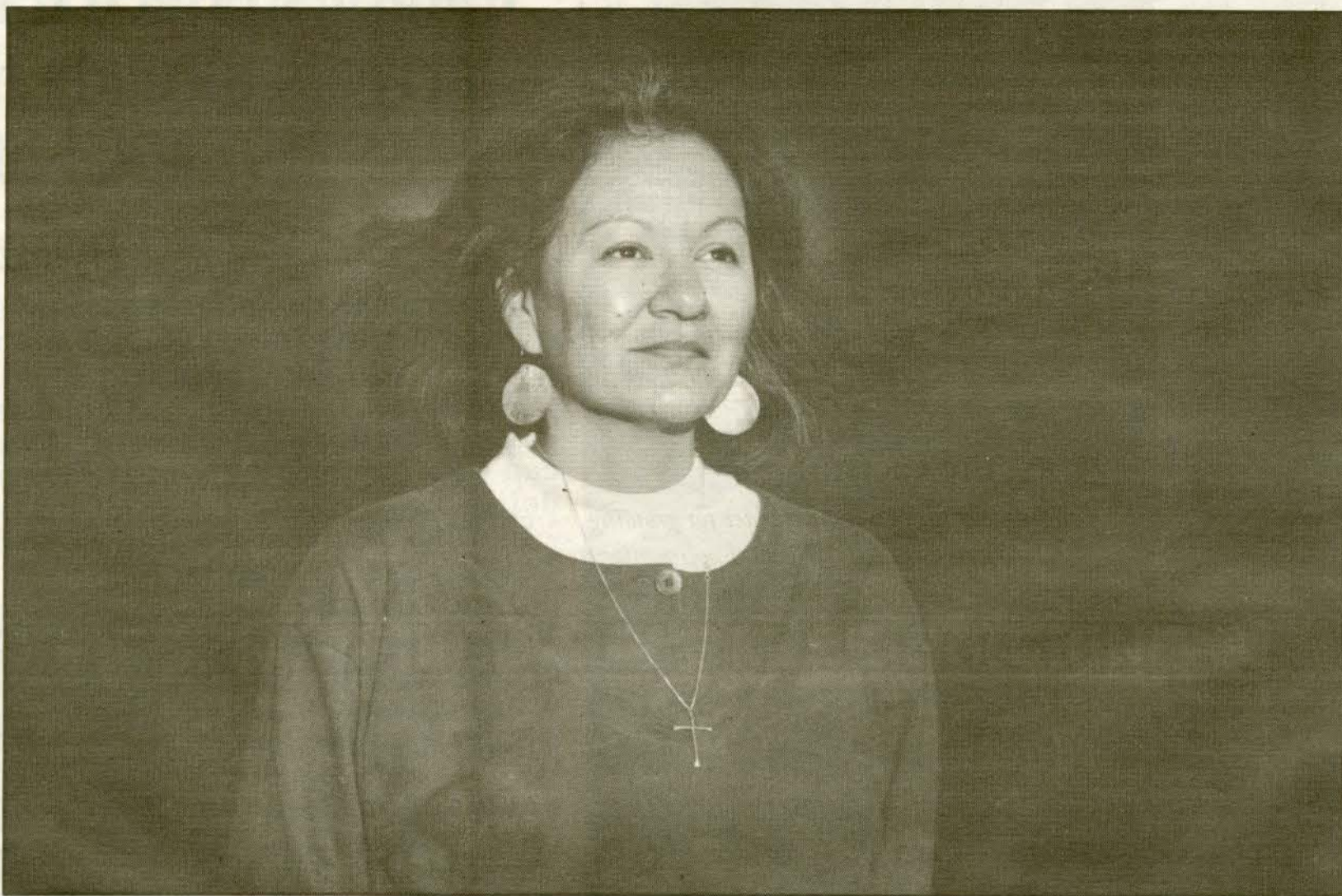
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Reality Check



Rebecca Maldonado spends much of her time trying to help others. As Western's drug education coordinator, she has her hands full.

Rebbecca Maldonado makes no jokes about them. Drugs are in Bowling Green. They're on Western's campus. They're on her mind every day.

"I've been in this business long enough to know when people are having problems," she said. "I've made a career of it."

"Just say no" pamphlets line the shelves of her office above Student Health Services. The office is quiet most of the time, she says, but that's no indication of the work that goes on there.

As Western's drug education coordinator, Maldonado has her hands full.

"One of the biggest problems we face as educators is getting people to recognize the problem," she said. "There still is a lot of denial that these problems exist."

"Bowling Green is seen as a sleepy little town that draws students from rural areas. But we're a town that has mid-size issues. We're a town that has drugs. That's why I was hired."

It's no secret that alcohol is the mark of a college community. Small pubs, streets lined with liquor stores, parking lots littered with beer cans.

Alcohol, Maldonado said, is Western's biggest drug problem.

But others are moving into the fast-flowing brew's territory. Marijuana is becoming the drug of choice for many.

Some say it relaxes them. Some say it makes them more creative. And some say marijuana has no ill side effects as other drugs do.

Maldonado disagrees. Maybe it's the many people she's seen come into her office looking for help, their skin sallow, their nervous habits showing. Maybe it's just a sixth sense she's gained after all these years trying to help, she said, but she's seen the drug's ill effects first-hand.

"No matter how good the high, students are going to suffer after a prolonged time," she said. "I know. I've seen it before."

Research has yet to specify any long-term effects from mari-

juana use, but just as with any drug, dangers exist, Maldonado said.

"People just don't want to face it. It's another of those closeted secrets. Marijuana contributes substantially to the economy, especially a state like Kentucky's. There's a big number out there who aren't willing to give that up. They're not willing to look at the down side."

Western is no different from any other school its size when it comes to drug use, Maldonado said. Alcohol tops the list, and marijuana comes second in use, followed by a growing number of cocaine users.

Western has a problem, she said, but people are trying to do something about it.

Along with Maldonado's help and the APPLE Health Program, a student Alcoholics Anonymous group has been formed to give a little extra support to those who need it. Open to everyone who has any kind of drug abuse problem or knows someone who does, the group meets every Sunday in Downing University Center.

Western staff counselor Dale Smith said there are plenty of community resources available to students.

"But first they must acknowledge there is a problem," he said. "Does your drug use cause you a problem in your daily life? Does it interfere with your studying, health, relationships? If it does, then you have a drug problem. No doubt about it."

Is there cause for worry? No more now than at any other time, said Howard Bailey, dean of Student Life.

"Drugs are always a reason to be concerned," Bailey said. "And I think the campus as a whole is working hard to combat any problems we may have."

"But illegal drugs come and go. We're seeing more drugs on campus now than we did three years ago, but much less than 20 years ago. It seems like a cycle. You just have to put things in perspective."

'We're a town that has drugs'

Story by Julie Grundy

Photo by Joe Stefanchik

LOCAL DRUG USE: 'A slow but

Campus police have 1 arrests already this total of 26

By Patrick

Western has had almost as many drug-related arrests this year as it did all of last year.

"We know it's here," campus police Officer Audrey Spies said. "And we can't do any more about it than we're doing."

In 1993-94, Western had 26 arrests. This year, campus police already report 46 arrests of students or non-students for drug possession.

Spies said the majority of arrests have been for marijuana, but cocaine and Quaaludes (a now-illegal sedative used as a sleeping pill) also have been found.

"It seems that we have made a full circle," Spies said. "The drugs of the '70s are back."

Media Relations Officer Pat Thomas, of the Bowling Green Police Department, said drug trafficking is on the rise in town as well.

"I think what we are seeing is a slow but steady rise," he said. "But the whole thing ebbs and flows."

In 1992, the Uniform Crime Report

*"It seems
have made
circle. The
of the
back"*



Campus police officer Audrey Spies says police are doing all they can to rid campus of its drug problem. Photo by Scott Panella

Know the downers: Jail, fines, probation

By Mitchell Quarles

Drugs. The word conjures images of users standing on street corners or in back alleys getting high.

That picture may be true at times for any U.S. city, but it also is true for Western's campus.

Street corners have been replaced with dorm rooms, however, and the users are your average college students. But there is one thing the street user and the college student have in common — they are treated the same when they get caught.

Drug use high on campus

Campus police Officer Audrey Spies said drug use on campus has increased since last year.

"I really don't know why, but I sure wish I did," she said.

Last year, there were 26 drug arrests on campus. So far this year there have been 42, with 23 of those being made between July 1 and this month.

Spies said a majority of the arrests are for marijuana. Arrests for LSD or cocaine usually are made on a tip or while searching rooms for marijuana.

"If they are smoking marijuana in the dorm room, the smell is what usually gives it away," Spies said.

Once police go to a student's room to search for drugs, they ask both occupants to sign a consent-to-search form, Spies said.

If the students say no, an officer waits in the room while another goes to get a search warrant, she said.

"In the seven years that I have been here, I don't recall having to get a search warrant in order to search a student's room," Spies said.

Off campus and in jail

Students who use drugs should be aware of the consequences.

Once a student is arrested, he or she is taken to headquarters to be booked and fingerprinted, then to the Warren County Regional Jail, Spies said.

"After they're taken to jail, then they could face jail time or they could be fined," she said.

Students also could be kicked out of their dorms and school.

Residence Life Assistant Director Brian Kuster said the punishment depends on what

drug the student has. If the drug is in possession without a prior record of drug use, the student could be expelled.

Students using drugs on campus could face all campus housing rules, Kuster said.

When a student is caught using drugs, which could hurt their academic record, Kuster said they are looking for a job.

Kuster said marijuana is the most common drug on campus.

Winning the war

Spies said she doesn't see students from using drugs.

"I hope that the police and the campus can help," she said.

Kuster said he doesn't think programs will stop the use of drugs.

"In their minds, it's a lifestyle," he said. "They're people who use drugs artistically."

steady rise' made 46 drug-related arrests last year, compared to a 10 percent increase last year.

Bernardy

revealed that 328 people were arrested in Bowling Green in connection with the Narcotic Drug Law. And in 1993 it blossomed to 559.

"I think it is an ongoing problem that will be with us forever," Thomas said. "I don't see any clear-cut way to keep people off drugs."

s that we de a full the drugs 70s are ck."

udrey Spies

The Kentucky State Police have reported that they have eradicated more marijuana plants this year than last year.

"From most of the surveys I have seen, marijuana use is progressing at an alarming rate," said KSP Public Affairs Officer Nick Stephens. "Of course, this state ranks third in marijuana production in the country. It's a very fertile region."

But not only marijuana is increasing the frequency of drugs in Bowling Green, Thomas said.

"For years, we didn't have any crack here, but now I think it's the drug of choice for the hard-core dopers," he said. "We have heroin here, too, but not as much."

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drug prevention programs e dorms and around cam- said.

oesn't believe that the pro- students who are already

using drugs isn't a prob- y try to justify it, especial- SD, by saying that it helps



Who to call

Campus resources

Student Health Service
Academic Complex 139 745-5641

APPLE Health Promotion Program and
P.A.T.C.H. Works Peer Advocates Program
Academic Complex 233 745-5643

Counseling Services Center
Potter Hall 409 745-3159

Residence Life
Potter Hall 431 745-2037

Public Safety
Public Safety Building 745-2548

Human Resources (for faculty/staff)
Wetherby Administration Building 42 745-2071

Community resources

Education

Helpline 24-hour crisis/information 843-HELP

Lifeskills, Inc. education/prevention 843-5509

The Wellness Center 842-0610

Counseling and Treatment

Lifeskills, Inc. counseling center 843-4382

Metanoia, Inc. 843-3566

Alcoholics Anonymous 782-5267

Al-Anon or ACoA Anonymous 842-9017

Koala Outreach Center 842-2546

Narcotics Anonymous 782-4029

Park Place Recovery Center 842-2546

Reservoir Hill Care Center 796-5100

DRUGS

ON CAMPUS

'I did it because it was fun...

Why do people do it? Why do they smoke it, snort it, shoot it up and drop it?

I've read in pamphlets that people do drugs to escape. They do it to flee feelings of worthlessness. They might be a little depressed, they might feel helpless or they might feel they're not in control of their lives.

But that's not why I did drugs.

I did it because it was fun.

It's a blast to take a break from the pressures of reality, isn't it? Take a toke and forget about your worries for about an hour or two. It became so easy to feel good when I came home from a bad day.

When my friend and I would get together and blaze up, we would have a blast. I can't remember how many Ramones and They Might Be Giants songs we tried to sing without bursting into hysterics in mid-chorus.

We'd crack out my camcorder and get the whole thing on video. Then we'd watch ourselves on TV while we were still stoned. Pretty cool, huh?

Pretty stupid.

I was so busy getting stoned out of my mind that I didn't think of why I was really doing drugs.

I did them to escape. I was feeling a little depressed and

a little worthless, and I felt I just didn't have control over my life. Sound familiar?

When I was smoking dope, I didn't give a damn what people thought of what I was doing; I was having fun and enjoying myself. But in the process, I lost the respect of some pretty close friends. I stopped getting calls from those people and began to spend more time with a camcorder in one hand and a joint in the other.

But I was enjoying myself, right?

Oh yeah. My life became a barrel of laughs. I'd come home from work, call my buddy, get stoned and then eat Fritos and Zingers until the munchies went away. We'd try to watch a movie and then sleep in until 1 the next afternoon.

Lots of fun.

I was running away, people. Running from fears and insecurities and unresolved problems. In the end, I was in more trouble than I was in before I started smoking the stuff.

But I pulled myself out and stopped the drugs.

How?

I took a good, long look in the mirror.

I didn't like what I saw.

I realized what my drug abuse was doing to my life. I was on my own. I didn't have many friends and was spend-

ing my days with a stupid half-grin on my face and bags under my eyes.

I thought about how drug

Chris Hutchins
Commentary



abuse had affected my life. Drugs have snatched people from my life and love in recent years, and it has been, at times, very painful. I lost them because they pushed

'I did them to escape.'

me away when I tried to help — much like the way I pushed my friends away when they extended a hand to me. Who did I lose to drug abuse?

I lost a girlfriend.

I lost two of my best friends.

And I lost my mother.

The pain I was feeling was not worth the price I was paying. I decided to get off the dope and get back into my life. But it was very hard for me to do that. When life would sink its bitter fangs into me, I'd want to escape to somewhere safe.

But I didn't.

And I haven't.

And I'm very proud of that.

Am I telling drug users to stop smoking, snorting, shooting up and dropping because they may become a statistic? Nope.

Am I telling them to stop because of health reasons? Nope.

I'm telling you the pain that drugs can bring is avoidable. Just take a good, long look in the mirror and ask yourself if you like what you see.

And think. Think for just a minute if that pain is really worth the price.

If it isn't, stop doing it.

If it is, you're on your own.

Chris Hutchins is a Louisville freshman.

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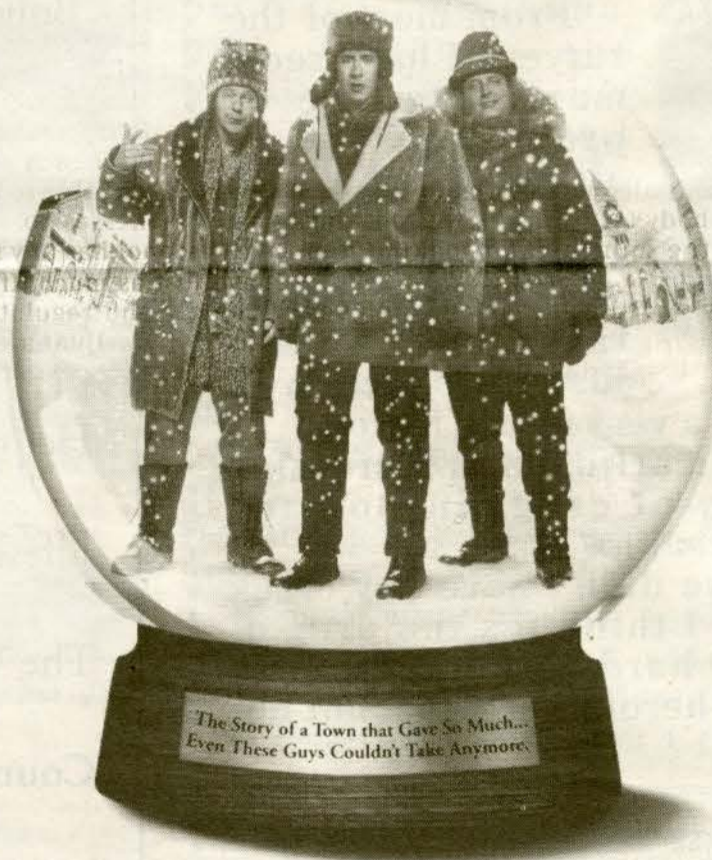
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DRUGS

ON CAMPUS

Marijuana no worse than alcohol

It has always been a mystery to me that a country which prides itself on freedom of choice would criminalize marijuana use and still keep alcohol legal.

While I may not be a leading expert in the field of drug use, I contend that if marijuana is not "better" for society than alcohol, it certainly is no worse.

Most experts agree that THC (the mind-altering agent in marijuana) is a complex drug with infinite possible pros and cons. But because of the drug's illegal status, no extensive research has been done to discover them.

And while the government panders on about what is good for society and continues to give the word "drug" a negative connotation, pot smokers experiment for themselves.

I have had the chance to sit down with a serious marijuana user and discuss the various advantages he receives from the drug.

I asked him how long he had been smoking pot, and he said off-and-on for about five years but seriously for eight months.

When asked to compare alcohol to marijuana, he said pot is better in almost every way. He said in no way is marijuana physically addicting, like alcohol has been proven to be.

He said if he wanted to quit smoking pot tomorrow, he could, and his body wouldn't care one bit. The only thing that's hard to lose is the habit, he said.

Another thing about alcohol is that it is easy to abuse, he said. His body tells him to stop smoking pot by giving him the munchies or making him tired.

And then the inevitable, the advantages and disadvantages...

He said he is an artist, and marijuana increases

his creative drive. He wants to do more with his mind, and it releases his inhibitions about his work.

But, of course, he said it weighs on his wallet and makes him eat too much junk food, but other than that, he said it doesn't affect his lifestyle.

He is one of many who use marijuana on a regular basis. In most circles, pot is making a comeback. Most college-age people are beginning to prefer it to alcohol because the "buzz" is quicker and hangovers are seldom.

If marijuana were legalized, there would be some possible advantages.

First, marijuana could help cure such eating disorders as bulimia and anorexia. People with these disorders could be institutionalized and intravenously fed THC to increase their appetites.

Such drugs as cocaine and morphine already are used by the medical field, and if there are benefits, why not marijuana?

Secondly, it could enhance the economy (including export potential) and would create thousands of

jobs around the South, where marijuana could be grown.

One major disadvantage of keeping marijuana illegal is that it stimulates an underground economy around the drug. Because it cannot tax this "illegal" drug, government is missing out on the extraordinary revenue that marijuana transactions bring in each year. If legal, marijuana could be taxed and able to benefit society as other legitimate businesses do.

If alcohol has any social value, marijuana could have just as much. If used responsibly by the government and regulated as much if not more than alcohol, marijuana could become a very productive natural asset to the United States.

Patrick Bernardy
Commentary



POT

The slang Mexican word marijuana spread through the U.S. during the 1930s campaign against recreational smoking of the naturally grown plant.

The botanical name for the plant is *Cannabis Sativa*. The females of the plant produce the flowery tops that are smoked or converted to hashish.

The plant is commonly referred to as **hemp** when talking about its agricultural and industrial uses such as paper, food, clothing fiber, rope and oils from the seeds.

According to a 1993 federal study, 11.4 million Americans are classified as users of illegal drugs, with drug use by those over age 35 remaining the same as it was in 1979.

Marijuana is the drug of choice, according to federal studies that claim it is used by 78 percent of those who tried illegal drugs in 1992.

Surveys also report one-third of Americans over age 11 have tried marijuana.

Drugs steal freedom; don't create it



Many who argue for the legalization of marijuana note that the drug isn't much worse than alcohol or cigarettes.

Marijuana is not physically addictive like alcohol and cigarettes, they say. Marijuana has many medical uses, they add.

What's not being said is that marijuana is psychologically addictive, presents health hazards, intensifies emotional stress and acts as a depressant.

Big deal, some say. We've seen it all before. It's no worse than alcohol or cigarettes.

And they may be right. But how much of a ringing endorsement is that? Do we want another drug like alcohol or nicotine readily available, as easy to get as a trip to the corner store?

Many say it is a matter of personal choice. They say the

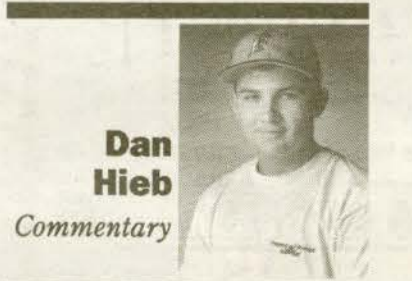
criminalization of drugs is an affront on our freedom.

If drugs were used responsibly, that might be a better argument.

Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Alcoholics roam the United States. Alcohol, our nation's drug of choice, has been linked to violent crimes, broken homes and dead friends lining the sides of roads.

While many people use alco-



Dan Hieb
Commentary

hol responsibly, others pose a threat to everyone. All you need for proof is to look at the parking lot on a Thursday night and watch as students stagger from their dorm rooms to their cars, fumble for their keys, then climb in and fire up their ignitions. They've got to go for another beer run. Isn't it funny how that first case is never enough?

Cigarettes are different. They don't operate with the same speed and decisiveness that alcohol does. They take years to create their ill effect, choking their users with respiratory problems and cancer. Some studies say 400,000 deaths a year can be attributed to prolonged smoking. But they're as legal as apple pie here in the land of the free.

Never mind the number of people who die every day, the result of the abuse of America's legal drugs. Never mind the strain it puts on the health-care industry. Never mind the strain it puts on families who see parents die early of cancer.

Forget all those people whose lives have spun out of control, thanks to a habit that controls them. Forget about the busload of church kids incinerated after a crash with a drunk driver.

I've seen families fall apart at the hands of alcoholism. I've carried lifelong smokers to their graves, fallen by respiratory problems. And I've seen families fall apart and a mother sell herself for just one more puff on a bong. But I guess none of that is relevant.

Legalize marijuana. It's all about personal freedom.

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