

Should Marijuana be legalized?

report done

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With the recent charges on Celtics star Robert Parish on possession of marijuana, an immortal question is once again appearing in the headlines: Should marijuana be legalized? Most people argue that if alcohol, a known killer, is perfectly legal, then why not a natural, pleasure-inducing stimulant that's been around for thousands of years?

Let it be known now: I'm not on either side of the argument, I'm just here to give the facts and add a little commentary on the side.

Marijuana has been traced as far back as the ancient Native Americans using hemp leaves in tribal ceremonies, yet it is still not widely accepted as a simple part of nature. Alcohol is a man-made chemical that depresses the nervous system, causes irrational behavior, dulls senses, and greatly endangers motorists when a drunk drives on the road. Marijuana is an opiate, an all-natural substance derived from hemp leaves. Effects are altered perception, lack of concentration and coordination, craving for sweets and increased appetite and

spontaneous laughter. Driving under influence of Pot is the same as driving drunk, so common solutions to drunk driving can apply (Don't trip and drive).

Don't Drink and Drive. You'll just spill your drink.

The isolated effects of Marijuana are very serious to the user. These include loss of memory and a reduction in learning ability (Hmm.....anyone WE might know?). Researchers claim extended use of the drug can result in an emotional flatness and loss of interest in the world, as well as diminished willpower and a lowered capacity to deal with frustration. More "positive" effects of the drug are the "psychedelic trips, man!!!", or the high the drug gives you. These are psychological delusions or hallucinations caused by the drug's stimulant characteristics. There are two basic kinds of "trips", the good trips and the bad trips. When someone experiences a good trip, it's kind of like a prolonged headrush followed by psychedelic hallucinations (The colors, man! The colors!) that will last from 20 minutes to an hour. A bad trip is full of horrible hallucinations, like the nightmare

you can't wake up from. Even after a bad trip, junkies continue to smoke pot in hopes of getting another good trip.

In the mid 1950's, marijuana was associated with jazz musicians, writers, artists, and was never taken seriously or even considered dangerous at the time. In the 1960's, a "Youth Culture" had emerged as a separate culture from the rest of the world. The new youth culture had included among other things the use of illegal drugs, marijuana being the most popular.

"Kirk to Enterprise: Beam down Uhura and a six-pack"

The youth culture of the 60's had soon evolved into the antiwar, peacemaking, flower-power hippie generation of the 70's. Age nor experience has changed these kids. Instead, an undying discontent for their government and the pressures of the Vietnam War had fueled their rebellious attitudes, and the use of marijuana had put them into full throttle.

Sometimes these people ended up running into a brick wall, seeing how the 70's had the highest amount of teen arrests under the charge of illegal marijuana possession. Many of the wild clothes and colorful designs seen on these people were inspired

by the hallucinations of marijuana.

By the 80's arrests on pot possession had markedly reduced, and youth culture had taken a plunge in the use of illegal and deadly drugs such as heroin and cocaine. It would seem the 80's had begun the big-business boom for drug rackets in major cities, especially Los Angeles.

In the "politically correct" 90's, youth culture has turned the tides against illegal drug use and began to get more involved in society's major events such as the '92 presidential election. It's perfectly clear modern youth culture is centered on MTV. Whether it be global thermonuclear war or a world peace summit, MTV will be there to give it to us straight. Lately they've been talking about the comeback of the plant. New trends such as reefer hats, pot pendants, and even T-shirts made out of hemp leaves (75% hemp, 25% polyester) are popping up everywhere. These trends were probably awaked when the recession hit, young kids dealing with pressure over the environment, or some other problem of recent. With all these events coming together at the same time, it's possible another youth revolution will come, and yes, it will be televised.

