

Happiness Through Health Marijuana Use In High Schools

By Otto McClarrin

Marijuana use has been increasing steadily at all junior and senior high school levels, according to a recent survey by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. In a survey involving more than 16,000 students in 130 schools, Dr. Lloyd D. Johnston and colleagues also found that:

- Marijuana was by far the most widely used illicit drug, with sixty per cent of the seniors reporting some use in their lifetimes, half in the past year and more than one-third in the month prior to the survey. Thirty per cent had first used the drug during high school, but an equal proportion had tried it earlier.
- While 10.3 per cent reported daily or near-daily marijuana use, only two-thirds as many — 6.9 per cent — said they used alcohol that often.
- Overall marijuana use was "somewhat higher" among male students, and daily use was "substantially higher" than among females — 12.7 per cent compared to 7.3 per cent.
- Annual marijuana use was reported by 47 per cent of the college-bound versus 53 per cent of the non-college-bound students.
- There was slight variation in annual marijuana use by region of the country — 61 per cent in the South and

52 per cent in the West. It was greatest in largest metropolitan areas, where 59 per cent of the students said they had used the drug in the last year, compared to 43 per cent in more rural areas.

- Until recently, there had been a trend toward thinking that marijuana was not harmful to health. Since 1979, however, there has been an increase in the percentage of students who believe that marijuana use carries "great risk."
- Nearly seventy per cent of the students surveyed disapproved of regular marijuana use — roughly the same negative rating as smoking a pack or more of cigarettes a day.
- Roughly a third of the students surveyed thought

marijuana use should be entirely legal. Almost as many thought it should be treated as a minor violation but not a crime. And one-fourth believed it should still be a crime.

New Study Cites Perils: Marijuana smoking affects the lungs and reproductive systems of young men and women far more seriously than previously reported. With one-high school senior in three a "current user" of pot, newly surfaced warnings are considered particularly serious.

For example:
• Recent research found that smoking as few as four joints a week causes lung damage equivalent to that caused by smoking sixteen cigarettes a day.

• By smoking pot, both males and females risk damage to their reproductive systems. Males suffer hormone losses that can cause impotence and a reduction in sperm count. Females suffer problems with ovulation. New studies of animals indicate pot use also triggers miscarriages.

• A study in Jamaica, quoted in an earlier NIDA report to Congress on "Marijuana and Health," and used by pro-marijuana forces, incorrectly played down the risks to the lungs because the Jamaicans studied inhaled less than Americans do, according to a study published by the American Medical Association.

Dr. William Pollin, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, recently prepared a statement delivered to the House Select Committee on Narcotics, which contained more than sixty footnotes referring to recent pot studies outlining adverse biological effects. Many of the studies rebut past claims that marijuana is relatively harmless.

"Often, the surest way to convey misinformation is to tell the strict truth."
Mark Twain

Coping

Questions About Love

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Dear Dr. Faulkner:

I would like to ask you, an expert in human behavior, three questions about love: (1) Can a person love more than one person at the same time? (2) What is "love at first sight?" and (3) Can a woman love a man who beats her all the time?

—Cynthia, Norfolk, Va.

Dear Cynthia:

Answers to your questions follow:
1. Can a person be in love with two or more persons at the same time? A series of answers may be given

to this question each of which would be dependent upon the conditions that exist at a specific time. If one could find complete satisfaction and fulfillment of all needs and desires through an association with two members of the opposite sex and the two persons could find a mutual fulfillment of needs and desires with both associating with the same individual, a state of love could exist. However, by social conditioning, people desire the sole possession of the attention of another person and likely would be unhappy if required to share the object of one's affections.

(2) What is "love at first sight?" Love "at first sight" is an immediate, impulsive, emotional reaction to a member of the opposite sex. Generally, in this state the party "falling in love at first sight" is overcome by an emotional state that allows him to see only the appealing factors in the opposite sex with little or no regard for the unappealing factors. Usually this is a state of irrationality as opposed to rationality. Love, in the conventional sense, is of short duration inasmuch as it usually dissipates once the emotional state is overcome and the "real" or actual character of the other party is unveiled. One arrives at a more rational and reasonable state and is able to determine if the negative factors outweigh the positive ones and if the other party is now as appealing as previously thought.

(3) Can a woman love a man who beats her all the time? In a conventional love affair, the male partner may in-

flict physical beating upon the female only to have the female propose that she still loves her suitor very much even though he has inflicted the beating. Can this be a case of love as in the sense advocated in this writing? The obvious answer is "No! One of two things is possible. Either the woman has a masochistic desire for beating or the husband has a sadistic desire to impose pain and punishment. In either case, the possibility of

there being a psychological maladjustment is greater than the possibility of love.

Your questions are welcomed. Suggestions for future articles of this and other articles are available for individual use, discussion groups, and classroom use. All letters and inquiries should be sent to: Dr. Charles W. Faulkner, P.O. Box 50016, Washington, DC 20004.

How to get the most from your bank

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

By Sherry Thompson

In these days of inflation, consumers are making their savings dollars work harder for them than in years past. People are realizing that idle funds don't make sense, and many are investing their money in higher-paying savings certificates at their bank, such as the six-month certificate.

The interest rate for new or renewing six-month savings certificates is tied to the rate paid on six-month federal treasury bills which changes each week. However, once a certificate is issued the rate is fixed for each six-month term. Bank deposit records show that consumers watch the changing rates closely, because when rates go up, greater amounts of savings certificate deposits are taken in. Six-month certificate regulations require a minimum deposit of \$10,000.

The six-month savings certificate was authorized in June 1978. Prior to that, the rates that could be offered to consumers on all savings certificates were set at fixed levels which did not vary with money market changes. Time options available on these certificates ranged from 30 days to eight years. The rates paid were set by federal regulations.

Consumers have learned how to get the most advantage from the six-month savings certificate. Many people set up a plan whereby the interest earned on their certificate is automatically transferred to their savings or interest-bearing checking account on a monthly or quarterly basis. In this way, their interest earns interest.

Another popular savings option is the thirty-month savings certificate, which has been available only since January 1980 and requires a minimum investment of \$500. The interest rate for new certificates is based on the federal treasury bills and changes every two weeks. Again, the purchase rate is fixed for the term.

Most banks offer compounding in the thirty-month savings certificates that increases the yield on savings certificates. There is a maximum ceiling on the interest rates banks can pay, as set by federal regulations, and there is a penalty for early withdrawal on the thirty- and six-month certificates.

Consumers are showing they like the guaranteed yield that savings certificates offer. Savings certificates also carry the protection of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Sherry Thompson, a banker for nine years, is a Personal Banker at Wachovia Bank and Trust Company's Eden office.



Sherry Thompson

Reagan's Attack

(Continued from page 14)

taxes at the same time."

In his State of the Union message the President asserted that the "taxing power of the government must be used to provide revenues for legitimate Government purposes. It must not be used to regulate the economy or bring about social change." If the President believes this, then he is in for a rude awakening. The legitimate function of government is to protect the interests of the people and to defend the safety of all Americans. Moreover, the function of the government is to reflect the interests and will of all the people and not merely of the corporations. In the past the people have supported government in its attempt to redress social inequities and they continue to do so today. Let us all, therefore, mark the President's words, for they will come back to haunt him and the Republican Party he heads in 1982 and beyond.

Norman Hill is president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a civil rights and trade union organization.

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