



# Was the Pentagon Shooter an Obama-approved Pothead?

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Written by Cliff Kincaid

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The left says he was a right-winger; the conservatives say that he was a leftist. What is abundantly clear, from reading [his Internet commentaries](#), is that Pentagon shooter John Patrick Bedell was a psychotic pothead. He hated a government that he believed was standing in the way of his desire to use, grow and glorify marijuana. He virtually worshipped the drug. "I'm a cannabis enthusiast," he proclaimed.

In terms of ideology, he expressed conservative ideas about limiting the role of government, but opposed the war in Iraq and favored open borders.

But rather than try and make silly ideological points by accusing Bedell of being either left or right, there is an urgent need for the blogosphere-and the major media-to address the question of how he became criminally psychotic and a patsy for conspiracy theories. The answer is marijuana, which alters the ability of the mind to comprehend reality but which is depicted by most of the media as safe and harmless.

This connection-between pot and [mental illness](#)-is a matter of the [medical record](#) but is conveniently being ignored in the many stories about this young man's strange journey and tragic end.

The book, "[Marijuana and Madness](#)," cites studies and evidence from around the world, some of it going back 40 years, linking the use of marijuana-supposedly a "soft" drug-to mental illnesses, including schizophrenia and psychosis. One [of the latest studies](#) finds that "Marijuana use at a young age significantly increased the risk of psychosis in young adulthood..."

The public laughs at the old propaganda films such as "Reefer Madness," which depict marijuana smokers as crazed zombies. However, the Pentagon rampage was likely triggered by marijuana-induced psychosis. Bedell was not only a heavy marijuana user and had been busted for possession and growing the drug, but dedicated much of his life to glorifying the substance.

He had declared cannabis "to be one of the most useful plants known to humanity" and said that he looked forward to the day when "billions and billions of carefully cultivated, highly valuable cannabis plants [are] growing throughout the United States with complete security of property." He said he envisioned "the use of cannabis as a monetary system."

## The "Medical Marijuana" Scam

The rampage at the Pentagon has also raised disturbing questions about the Obama Administration's policy of allowing "medical marijuana" dispensaries in such places as California

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administration's policy of allowing [medical marijuana](#) dispensaries in such places as California, where Bedell was living, to operate free from fear of federal prosecution. President Obama and his Attorney General Eric Holder have been accused of encouraging marijuana use by refusing to use federal resources to prosecute "medical marijuana" users and the "dispensaries" which supply them with the illegal dope.

He reportedly claimed during one pot bust that he had a "medical marijuana" card which entitled him to use marijuana for "health" reasons.

Bedell, 36, had a bachelor's degree in science and was enrolled [in graduate school](#). A professor called him helpful, hardworking and intelligent. At some point, however, he developed an addiction for marijuana and a psychosis that led to the Pentagon rampage. How many other intelligent young people with good backgrounds and a good future get exposed to marijuana and other drugs and throw it all away?

One can hope that the tragic story of John Patrick Bedell and his victims will cause our major media to review the dangerous implications of allowing more and more people access to the drug, on the spurious grounds that it is somehow medicinal, and start a much-needed examination of the billionaires and organizations pushing drug legalization in America.

Billionaire George Soros has been called "an extremely evil person" by Calvina Fay of the Drug Free America Foundation for putting millions of dollars into groups like the Drug Policy Alliance dedicated to legalization of pot and other drugs. Another billionaire, Peter Lewis, chairman of [Progressive Insurance](#) Company, has also put millions of dollars into the cause. Lewis, who was arrested in New Zealand and admitted to three charges of importing drugs after customs officers found two ounces of hashish and 1.7 ounces of marijuana in his luggage, is being honored with the "America's Future Lifetime Leadership Award" at the June 8 awards gala of the "progressive" Campaign for America's Future.

**Conspiracy Theory**

While he thought the U.S. Government had itself been taken over by a drug-trafficking cabal, Bedell was such a believer in marijuana that he tried to grow it out in the open, on the balcony of his [apartment](#). He wrote, "I deliberately did not seek permission of any kind, and did not obtain a doctor's recommendation for the use of cannabis, which would have made my garden relatively acceptable under California state law."

Not surprisingly, Bedell was busted by the police, adding fuel to his anti-government mentality.

He believed conspiracies, such as an alleged plot to cover-up government involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "This organization," referring to the alleged conspiracy pulling the strings behind the U.S. Government, "like so many murderous governments throughout history, would see the sacrifice of thousands of its citizens, in an event such as the September 11 attacks, as a small cost in order to perpetuate its barbaric control," he said.

He apparently targeted the Pentagon because of his belief that military officials had covered up the alleged murder of a Marine Colonel with knowledge of drug trafficking.

**Society Reaps What Soros Sows**

Although drug legalization has been mostly a left-wing cause, funded by "progressive" billionaires such as George Soros and Peter Lewis, the libertarian Cato Institute has been promoting legalization of dope for many years. It, too, has been funded by Soros.

"I smoke marijuana, and I like it," declared Cato research fellow [Will Wilkinson in a controversial and eye-opening column](#). He added that "the casual pleasure marijuana has delivered is orders of magnitude greater than the pain it has assuaged, and pleasure matters too. That's probably why Barack Obama smoked up the second and third times: because he liked it."

John Patrick Bedell liked it too; in fact, he was a marijuana addict. But he inflicted a lot [of pain](#) on other people, including the two guards he shot at the Pentagon.

The pain has also been evident in other cases, such as admitted pot lover 16-year-old [Jeff Weise](#), who murdered nine people and injured five others in Red Lake, Minnesota, in 2005, and Charles "Andy" Williams, a regular marijuana user who smoked the drug just before killing two schoolmates and wounding 13 others in a [San Diego](#) suburban school on March 5, 2001.

**Legal Dope is the Next Step**

These dangers are rising because of the growing number of people with access to marijuana on so-called medical grounds. However, "medical marijuana" has been [shown](#) to be a fraud and a cruel hoax, as those on the inside of the pro-pot movement have been caught on film admitting that getting the public to accept the notion that smoking marijuana alleviates health problems is a scam designed to promote the eventual legalization of dope.

Bedell's psychiatrist is quoted as saying that he used marijuana to "self-medicate," which sounds ridiculous until you realize that thousands of people with real and imaginary medical conditions, including mental illness, are currently "self-medicating" by getting "medical marijuana" at marijuana "dispensaries" in California and other states.

I visited one of these places in Oakland, California, operating under the name of the "Blue Sky Coffeeshop," and saw lines of people flashing "medical marijuana" cards to get their marijuana in brown paper sacks. I took a tour of Oaksterdam University, also known as "America's First



Cannabis College," which teaches people how to grow high-quality dope. Oaksterdam had a big cardboard cut-out of the pot movement's hero, Barack Obama, in the lobby.

Oaksterdam founder Richard Lee is proposing a November ballot measure to legalize marijuana statewide and dramatically expand access to the drug.

The Bedell case demonstrates that people who have been led to believe that marijuana can alleviate their physical or mental problems may be coming down with far more serious psychological problems that can threaten the lives of the rest of us.

House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Rep. Lamar Smith has said that "By allowing marijuana dispensaries to operate free from fear of prosecution, the Administration is promoting the use, and therefore the *demand* for marijuana. Marijuana fields operated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations are most prevalent in California, Oregon and Washington-three of the 13 states that allow the use of medicinal marijuana."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says that "no sound scientific studies supported medical use of marijuana for treatment in the United States, and no animal or human data supported the safety or efficacy of marijuana for general medical use. There are alternative FDA-approved medications in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana."

#### **Bad Timing by the Pot Lobby**

Ironically, on the same day that Bedell attacked the Pentagon, the popular left-wing website AlterNet ran a column by Paul Armentano insisting that the mainstream media "are running wild with the absurd notion that marijuana use causes psychological problems" such as schizophrenia and psychosis. It turns out that Armentano is the deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws ([NORML](#)) and the co-author of the book *Marijuana Is Safer*. The book has been endorsed by such figures as David Boaz of the libertarian Cato Institute and "progressive" writer Barbara Ehrenreich.

Rather than publicize the marijuana-psychosis connection, the major media have shied away from it, probably because some journalists use pot themselves as a "recreational" drug.

A 1,300-word [article](#) in the Washington Post on Sunday, "Pentagon shooter's spiral from early promise to madness," waited until the 21<sup>st</sup> paragraph to note that Bedell "smoked marijuana frequently" and that a family member pleaded with him to stop because "it was making his thinking more disordered."

#### **Obama Won't Enforce the Law**

A week before Bedell went on his shooting rampage at the Pentagon, parent drug-prevention volunteers from California, Oregon, Maryland, and Virginia met in Washington, D.C. with the office of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. They told the Attorney General's staff that statements from some officials of the Obama Administration appeared to support the claims of drug users and traffickers that smoking marijuana "could legally be approved by State law."

Joyce Nalepka, president of Drug Free Kids: America's Challenge (DFK) and former president of Nancy Reagan's National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, appealed for help from the Obama Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the widening massive campaign by professional drug legalization lobbyists, drug users and drug traffickers to legalize "medical marijuana."

Other members of the anti-drug coalition meeting with DOJ officials were Shirley Morgan, Oregon parent drug prevention founder of the Mt. Hood Coalition Against Drug Crime; Roger Morgan, Chairman, Coalition For A Drug-Free California; and DeForest Rathbone, chairman of National Institute of Citizen Anti-drug Policy.

In a news release, they said, "Widespread publicity falsely portraying marijuana as a medicine convinces kids that pot is harmless thus leading to increasing teen drug use..." They cited a study showing that teenagers are smoking tobacco less and marijuana more.

They said pro-drug messages are coming from the efforts of "convicted billionaire international finance swindler and drug-legalization advocate George Soros," who "has provided significant financial support for professional drug legalization lobbyists and for their elaborate public relations campaigns to obtain state referendums approving 'medical marijuana.'"

#### **Soros Calls the Tune**

The problem, they noted, is that "Soros and the professional drug legalization lobbyists also provided substantial financial support for the Obama presidential campaign," and that Obama himself had said that it was entirely "entirely appropriate" for "medical marijuana" to be prescribed in some cases.

The anti-drug activists noted that Obama officials have followed up with more statements that have given the public the impression that using marijuana will not be punished by federal law enforcement authorities. They point to the following:

Shortly after assuming office, President Obama's spokesman NickShapiro said that "The president believes that federal resources should not be used to circumvent state laws (authorizing medical marijuana.)"

In a statement on February 25, 2009, Attorney General EricHolder said,"What the president said during the campaign ... will be consistent with what we will be doing here in law

enforcement.What (Obama) said during the campaign ... is now American policy."

A drug legalization lobbyistresponding to the above statement bragged,"Holder's statement marks a dramatic shift in U.S. drug policy..."

Such statements, the anti-drug activists said, have "caused a widespread perception among parents that drug money campaign contributions may have bought for the drug traffickers and drug users a de facto license to sell and use marijuana under the fraudulent claim that it is medicine."

To refute that perception, they called on President Obama and Attorney General Holder to "immediately and forcefully reaffirm federal primacy of drug laws and authorize a massive counteroffensive against the illegal trafficking and use of marijuana in states where it has skyrocketed under their leadership."

Both Maryland and D.C. are working to pass pro-drug legislation, with the Maryland legislature scheduled to hear a bill on March 18 in Annapolis.

Nalepka noted that, during the meeting with senior Department of Justice staff, the group of anti-drug activists was told that the federal government did not have the resources to go after the problem of "medical marijuana."

Nalepka countered, "That's why we're here-we want the government to get the resources. It is well-known that marijuana is both physically and psychologically addictive and is a definite stepping stone to many drugs."

She concluded, "Allowing this to continue is treason, i.e., a betrayal of trust, against our own children and grandchildren."

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...  
written by Dayadog, March 07, 2010



Google the ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM. Why does the human body have a modulating system, endocannabinoid system, that only one source on this planet has the proper nutrients to activate this system??? EFA's (Essential Fatty Acid's (omega 3 n 6)) are broken down in the body into endocannabinoids to activate this system as well.

Why do studies all show benefits of omega 3 and the deficiency of it in the western diet?? This plant and the hemp plant are nutritious for the human body. If you read the peer reviewed journals you start to understand what is really going on.

Every study that is done in respect to marijuana that shows CONCLUSIVE CAUSAL HARM is due to the fact that they use a synthetic cannabinoid (THC) and only that one out of 80 or so are used. The plant needs to be studied with ALL OF THE CANNABINOIDS present in the plant. You will always have harmful results with synthetic components that strip out the other components that work to balance out the system.

+ 4

far to many a\*sertions with no facts

written by Ron, March 07, 2010



I don't know where to start as your information is so one sided. I could point out the fallacy of so many of your points, but I won't.

What I will do is state some information, the government allows the sale of alcohol and tobacco both of these substances offer nothing but death, yet we allow the promotion and sale of these items to anyone of legal age.

What we are asking with medical marijuana is the same, and there are proven medical benefits including neuropathy treatment and HIV related pain relied. These a\*sertions are shown to be true in the study done this year by the University of California at San Diego. Done by the Center for medical cannabis research it is the first government funded study since the early 1970's. They concluded that medical marijuana is a viable first line defense and more research needs to be done.

The a\*sertion that all organizations are "in it to legalize it" is a patently false a\*sertion . I take issue with your statement here. While not all members of our community are on the same page I can a\*sure you that legalization is not what my organization strives for. And because you

visited one dispensary, they are not all the same. Try the Berkeley Patients Group as an example, but a group like this doesn't serve your sensationist article. For instance I could say all Republicans are horribly stupid and use George Bush Jr. as an example but it would only invite a flame war in an article not reasonable discussion. My organization would never distribute medical marijuana to someone under the age of 18, we read the same studies somerimes, as we realize there is still mental maturity occurring. However if that individual were stage 4, he/she could come. Anytime. I would never begrudge anyone end of life comfort.

+5

WOW

written by Conservative\_Jeff, March 07, 2010



What a worthless piece of dribble this is. It's like saying that anybody that has done something bad or insane and had a drink in the past did it because of the use of Alcohol.

+4

Propaganda

written by Conservative\_Jeff, March 07, 2010



The Author site propaganda from the other side but this piece is chalk full of it from start to end. Tell me why it is that we American have the highest drug usage rates in the world? After all we are one of the harshest countries in the world when it comes to drug control policy. Fact is that the government has no control of over any substance once they ban it completely, and they hand over that control to people that are criminals that don't operate under any oversight at all. The causes horrible situations like that of alcohol prohibition.

Who thinks the current Policy of Drug prohibition is working to stop the flow and trade of drugs?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RWfCwI0IZo>

+2

...

written by Clo432, March 07, 2010



I Haven't Laughed This Hard, Since I Was A Little Girl. Thank You! 😊

+3

...

written by Jon, March 07, 2010



Instead of inflaming the discussion with rhetorical questions like, "How many other intelligent young people with good backgrounds and a good future get exposed to marijuana and other drugs and throw it all away?"

Why not do some research and answer this question?

+0

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written by justyn, March 07, 2010



marijuana didnt cause this man to be psychotic, he just happened to be a psychotic man who smokes marijuana. i support his beliefs on marijuana, because everything he says about it is TRUE. it is the most useful plant on earth, absolutely 0 people have died from it, plenty of health benefits from it, safer alternative from drinking alcohol or smoking cigarettes, billions of dollars can be earned through legalization and taxation and would create thousands of jobs. i could go on and on. you sir need to be more opened minded and step outside the box and do your research instead of listening to D.A.R.E. or making judgements about marijuana based off this man who has problems

watch The Union: The Business Behind Getting High. that documentary changed the way i looked at marijuana

+2

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written by SarahB, March 08, 2010



I am a legal medical marijuana patient in Colorado. Rather than deal with severe, crippling muscular spasms I smoke medicinal marjuana. The prescription medicines available for my condition cause liver damage and eventual failure, as well as Parkinsonian-like tremor. You have implied that because I don't have Cancer, AIDS, or HIV I do not need this, and should be put in jail. You really wish to see me in prison for smoking medication that my family physician advised me to take after everything else we tried failed? Where is your sense of compa\*sion?

+3

This is not a bipartisan problem!

written by Christine, March 08, 2010



This really sounds like more of someone who has been drinking alcohol. Marijuana does not cause depression, it helps it. I am a survivor of depression until I was 35. I was introduced



to cannabis and I smoke it to take away the depression. I suffered childhood depression and was severely overweight. I am a female and in a high profile job; I am a closet smoker. I like to relax at night and instead of having a drink, have a couple of smokes off a pipe. So let me ask you this; I have as much right to smoke my pipe as you do taking that drink even tho that drink is so much worse for you than marijuana (proven)! It's called freedom of choice. 😊 Lets just all face it, medicinal marijuana is coming to every state. In other words, the Genie is out of the bottle and this time it's not going to go back in. Give it a try. 😊

+3

...  
written by Christine, March 08, 2010  
Dope??? What do you think alcohol is?



+2

you are wrong about it not causing depression in some  
written by Joanna, March 08, 2010



I worked with teens (12 - 19 yr olds) in the Atlanta area for 18 years. In that time I had to tell 22 sets of parents why their child either committed ( 8 ) or attempted (14) suicide - depression **directly** related to their marijuana use. (These were 22 out of the 38 suicide or attempted suicide cases for which I was directly involved over the course of 18 years)

For the 14 it was the parent's "wake-up" call, it told them loud and clear that they needed to pay attention to what their child was doing. Of those 14, 11 pulled through and I've received Christmas and/or Birthday cards from both the kids (now young adults) and their parents. The kids, eventually all mentioned to me that it was the pot that put them so deep into that black hole of suicide. I've even received a couple of birth announcements from proud grandparents who remind me that they would not BE grandparents if their child had not gotten help and gotten off pot. I've not heard from 3 and wonder still if they are ok.

I send each of the 8 a simple card with a supportive note, letting them know that I, too, remember their child. I have only had 1 of the 8 tell me it was too painful to receive, the others either write or call to say thanks and how it is somehow better to know that someone else remembers their child.

I've been retired from the medical field for almost 13 years now and while I miss the successes I had, I do not miss the pain of those I could not help. So do **not** tell me that marijuana does not induce depression just because it didn't for *you*. Do NOT tell me that it is "medically proven" unless you can cite me the studies that show unequivocal proof, not just "absence of negative" side effects, or low incidence of side effects or minimal indication of side effects. None of those are proof that it is ok, only an indication that it might be ok for some. Jeez, the medical trials of phen-phen had better results and lower incidence of side-effects than that (and yeah, you can go to Mexico and get that legal too)

For those who smoke it for REAL "medical" reasons and you say it helps relieve your pain? Congratulations, I am truly glad for you, but do NOT invite others, with no medical condition necessitating it's use, to take it up, either for recreational or to "just give it a try", because you have NO idea how an immature, still developing mind/brain will be affected.

Shame on you for even suggesting that just because it was ok for you, that all other caution should be tossed aside just so you could get your pot over the counter.

Just as alcohol and tobacco are health hazards for children, so is pot. In my very humble opinion, alcohol, tobacco and pot are just as hazardous for adults, but at least they can be responsible for their own destruction. One of the reasons there are so many children using tobacco and alcohol (actually more than use pot) is because those two items are legal for adults and that makes it far easier for kids to acquire. Yes there are kids using pot, but at least there is some small obstacle to their getting it.

It is a Gordian Knot, and I certainly do not have the solution, only an opinion.

-4

Joanna  
written by Dayadog, March 08, 2010  
Joanna,  
Why do you ignore the science behind the endocannabinoid system???



I know of a whole bunch of things that cause suicide at much higher rates than your alleged cases. You do not understand the science and it is clear you don't. You need to familiarize yourself with the endocannabinoid system. Don't scare people. Look at the statistics of the anti-psychotic medication and the suicides there.

You should be ashamed of yourself for scare mongering. What you fail to include in your analysis is all of the contributing factors that led to suicide in the people you mention.

As a mental health counselor I know what i speak of.

+ 3

...

written by Steve Nelson, March 08, 2010

The only people in this day and age who talk like this are either political entertainment personalities like ol' Cliff Kincaid here or else they are like TV evangelists and U.S. Senator's with something to hide and cover up their own miserable lies and hypocrisy.



Very little substance and even less fact to these statements. Your cuz' Rush Limbaugh comes up with better Goebbel-ized propaganda than this!

As for our respondent, Joanna; I d have an idea how marijuana affects the young mind and had you not retired yu would benefit from recent studies addressing these issues.

Far too many are repeating the same racist, misguided, pseudo-moralistic blather about cannabis as their parents and grandparents. One thing they all hold in common is that they need not ever have a personal experience as long as self-professed, Christian moralists continue to tell them how to think.

+ 3

psychotic pothead

written by muggles, March 08, 2010

If someone opens fire on someone in a bar does that make him a psychotic alcoholic?



+ 2

so wrong it hurts

written by Derek Rosenzweig, March 08, 2010

This article is full of flawed reasoning, bad research, and incorrect conclusions.



Nobody wants children to become addicted to anything, marijuana included. What people are now realizing is that prohibition does more to encourage drug use than it does to discourage it, especially among children and teenagers. This is because

- a.) drug dealers do not ask for ID before they'll sell to you.
- b.) the drugs sold in the black market are of varying, unknown quality and purity, and in some cases can kill a user. For marijuana this is not an issue, but for other drugs it can be (including alcohol, during its prohibition - "bathtub gin" was a major cause of alcohol-related deaths during that time period).
- c.) government funded anti-drug messages were based on misconceptions, bad science, were blown out of proportion, and wasted precious resources.
- d.) true drug education became impossible because of the government's obligation to support its policy, with dogmatic anti-drug rhetoric that rarely resembled reality
- e.) the subject of marijuana's medical potential becomes a POLITICAL issue instead of a MEDICAL issue. this creates misconceptions, discourages research, and forces patients to rely on data from - sometimes - untrustworthy sources (including the FDA) instead of their doctor.

Legalization would give us a much better, much different scenario. We'd have

- a.) stores (yes, stores, not drug dealers on corners) selling marijuana would be forced to ID customers and would face fines and loss of business license if they violate that.
- b.) stores would be required to provide potency, quality, and purity information for all marijuana. product would be labeled just as it is in your supermarket.
- c.) drug education campaigns can begin and will be based on a dialogue of facts and evidence instead of dogma, fear, racism, and the type of bad reasoning and poor research that plague the issue now.
- d.) research into marijuana's medical benefit can be conducted, unhindered, and drugs based on that research can help MILLIONS of people.

There is also data which supports that medical marijuana laws decrease or do not impact recreational use rates in states that have implemented them. That can be found at [http://www.phillynorml.org/doc...t\\_0608.pdf](http://www.phillynorml.org/doc...t_0608.pdf) . I highly suggest reading it.

+ 1

...

written by Joanna, March 08, 2010

Gosh, Dayadog, I guess you showed me, "alleged" cases? Indeed. What I know is that a "mental health counselor" can get a certificate to "practice" with less than 18 months of training and none of that is required to be in any of the recognized "sciences", so back off on that aspect, \*dog. Mine happens to be a medical degree, not a social science degree.



What I also know is that in the endocannabinoid studies to date (I am not an expert here, but do understand and accept what I have read as published studies) there is still a significant difference between the "naturally occurring" and the synthetic, most of the more important and beneficial attributes have been found and substantiated in the natural, and fewer in the synthetic, although there is promising research to close the gap, gap it still is.

And yes, there were and are significant problems with giving anti-psychotic drugs to children! Why do you think that they are rarely if ever prescribed for children (and even young adults up

to 24 years of age)? Because the immature, still developing brain reacts differently than the mature, adult brain. So, to mention that only lends weight to my opinion that CHILDREN should NOT be encouraged to try pot.

Scare tactics? Oh please, are you telling me that by telling the truth about my experience with people who died, that is too scary? Oh, ok, then let's not talk about teen drinking and driving, or teen pregnancy, or pre-teen sexually activity and STD's? So just because there were some really bad things that happened, we should not mention them because it might scare someone? If you are a "mental health counselor", then you of all people should know that withholding information on the consequences of choices/actions is tantamount to accessory to stupidity. Do you also withhold the information regarding the issues and difficulties for both teen mother and baby resulting from teen pregnancy? And do you withhold the information, numbers and statistics of accidents and deaths from teenage drunk driving? Or the alcohol related deaths from college drinking? The statistics on teenage alcoholism? How about the consequences of unprotected sex? HIV? Aids? Syphilis? Gonorrhoea? Herpes? Or are those things just too scary?

And Mr. Nelson, I only retired I did not die or go blind, I have read and continue to read the studies and information, and contrary to what many would like to believe, if you look you will find that there are still studies coming out that are not as supportive as you would like. Interestingly enough, those don't seem to get the same attention that the others do. I wonder why that is? I have read both the pro and the con, and they do not change my personal experiences. They may help to explain them to me, but they do not change them or the realities those personal experiences represent.

And by the way, Mr. Nelson I am neither a Christian, nor a "racist, misguided, pseudo-moralistic" person allowing someone else to tell me how to think. Although I'm not sure what being "racist" has to do with any of this, except that it is considered such a horror to most to be labeled as such that you just threw it in for effect and to try and label me as something much worse than simply "misguided", I will say to both of you, as long as no one disagreed with you, you were fine, but let one dissenting opinion (and I was quite clear that it WAS my opinion) and you both fell immediately to disparaging, acrimonious name-calling. Why is that? Are you so fearful of one dissenting opinion that you felt compelled to cast aspersions ("alleged" cases) and smear ("racist, misguided, pseudo-moralistic blather", "self-professed, Christian moralists" who cannot think for themselves) the lone voice of dissent? Why am I such a threat to you? Am I not allowed to share my personal experience and put forth my opinion as to it's relevance to the topic? I did not resort to name-calling and smearing either of you. Argue the question on it's merits and the points of discussion and leave the personal, ad hominem attacks for politicians and other miscreants.

Last, Derek Rosenzweig, not only do I appreciate your excellent comment, I will indeed follow up on the link you provided. I would only say that it might be possible (speculation on my part only) that the reason that legalizing marijuana for medical use does not impact teen use rates is that it simply does not apply to children as few of them are likely to be able to get a doctor prescription for it, so it would stand to reason that making it legal for medical use would neither decrease nor increase teen use (abuse).

+0

Read the information for yourself  
written by [Ron Fousek](#), March 08, 2010



. I would argue that the need to say whether or not marijuana affects the depression of developing adults is true. I have read several studies suggesting links to slower mental maturity in developing children. I would argue however that no one in their right mind would sell medical marijuana to a child. As long as controls are in place, as with every drug on the market, most children would not be exposed to medical marijuana. However because of unscrupulous adults in every community across America and around the globe, some of these kids do get access. I would argue that tighter controls offers less access and should cut off some of the supply to our youth.

That being said here is a link to the study done by The Center for Medical Cannabis Research and a short excerpt <http://www.cmcrc.ucsd.edu/geninfo/research.htm>

"With five of seven clinical trials completed, researchers found that marijuana can provide relief for neuropathic pain caused by injuries, infections, diabetes, strokes and other conditions that affect the nervous system. The studies also found that smoking pot offers at least short-term relief for spasticity by soothing pain and muscle spasms in sufferers of multiple sclerosis. But researchers said more study is needed.

"There is good evidence that cannabinoids (in marijuana) may be an adjunct or a first-line treatment," said Dr. Igor Grant, a UC San Diego professor of psychiatry who has directed the state-funded research. He said he hoped the studies -- the first by any state -- would spur federal funding for additional research

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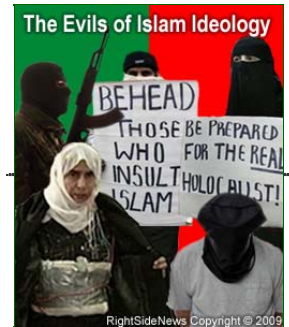
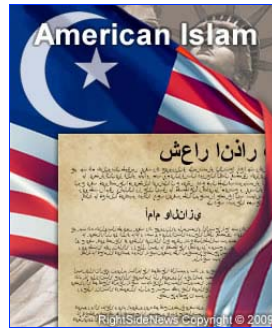
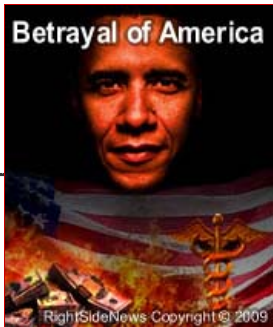
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