

More kids puff pot, fewer think it's a crime

A University of Michigan study during the past two years indicates marijuana may become a permanent recreational drug.

In addition, decriminalization of marijuana may not be accompanied by an increased use of other drugs, according to the university's Institute for Social Research (ISR).

ISR's research shows marijuana use has been rising in the past several years, without a corresponding rise in the use of other illicit drugs.

An ongoing study program, conducted by the institute, annually surveys the attitudes of some 17,000 high school seniors across the nation.

The latest findings are contained in a report, "Drug Use Among American High School Students, 1975-1977," published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

By 1977, 56 per cent of the high school seniors had at least tried marijuana, an increase of about nine per cent over the three years. In addition, about one in 11 were daily or nearly-daily users, also an increasing proportion.

ISR researchers say overall use of other illicit drugs did not increase over the comparable time interval.

They believe this finding may have important policy implications because it appears to refute the argument that an increase in marijuana consumption will necessarily lead to an increase in the use of other drugs.

According to the study's social scientists directing the study—Jerald Johnson, Jerald Bachman, and Patrick



O'Malley—the majority of high school seniors claim their use of marijuana would be unaffected by decriminalization.

Only 22 per cent of the high school seniors believe marijuana use still

should be treated as a crime, the investigators report. This increase corresponds with a substantial and steady drop over the last two years in the proportion who personally disapprove of this drug. Regular marijuana use receives disapproval from about the

same proportion as the regular use of alcohol and cigarettes.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the young people in the study believe experimenting with marijuana is very risky. Only 36 per cent believe regular use involves much risk.

Generally, young people consider regular smoking to be more harmful than regular marijuana use, and regular drinking to be about as harmful.

The study found daily alcohol consumption, which stands at about six per cent among seniors, has remained relatively steady, and that males continue to outnumber females in daily usage.

Regular smoking, on the other hand, has increased somewhat among females, nearly eliminating a sex difference which has existed for decades. About 20 per cent of both sexes are active daily smokers by the end of high school. The majority of seniors (60 per cent), however, still feel that smoking carries a great risk; and over 40 per cent believe smoking in public places should be prohibited by law.

About 36 per cent of the seniors report having used a drug other than marijuana without medical supervision. Of these drugs, stimulants (primarily amphetamines, which have been used by one in four seniors) were most popular.

Illicit drug use, daily drinking, and particularly daily smoking were found to be considerably more common among students not planning to attend college than among those planning to attend.

OCC names new head for police academy

Joseph Macri, director of the University of Detroit's Center for Criminal Justice Study, has been named director of Human Protection Services for Oakland Police Academy (OCC).

As part of his job, Macri will become the new superintendent of the Oakland Police Academy. He replaces Oakland County Commissioner and former Birmingham Police Chief Ralph Moxley, who headed the academy for the past three months on an interim basis. Moxley also headed the academy from 1964 to 1974.

Macri will be in charge of planning the expansion of the police academy and will coordinate the public safety operations at OCC's four campuses. He will take over May 1.

THE OCC BOARD of Trustees, over the past year, has committed the col-

lege to vastly expanded offerings in police, criminal justice and human safety services. Plans call for construction of a new facility in Madison Heights to house the police academy.

Macri said he was interested in expanding the academy's offerings to include training for probation and corrections officers.

"To show you how new the field is," Macri said, "The Wayne County Sheriff's Department began the first regularly scheduled classes in corrections training April 24."

"The board of trustees has made an institutional commitment to this kind of training," he said.

He added the extensive commitment would require the college to hire additional staff.

In addition to Macri, for example, OCC will hire someone to monitor the

day-to-day operation of the police academy.

"He can't be out getting grants. He can't be developing new programs if he's tied up coordinating classes," Moxley said. "He's going to need some

time to think and plan for the future," he said.

"I can't see the board of trustees saying 'We're not going to give you the people.' You gotta have the people if you're going to do the job," Moxley said.

Conference looks at human rights in Northern Ireland

Human rights violations in Northern Ireland is the topic of a regional conference at 9 A.M. Saturday at Local 58 I.B.E.W. Hall, 1388 Abbott in Detroit, just west of Most Trinity Church.

The free conference is sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit chapter of the Irish National Caucus to generate

interest throughout the U.S.

Conference workshops will cover the history and present conditions in Northern Ireland, as well as suggested programs for peaceful action through government, business and industry, educators, labor, churches and other organizations.

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