



From the archives: This article below was originally published on Mar. 5, 1977

NT-W students' drinking follows national trends

by Bob Kravitz and Sheryl Graber

Here is some food for thought: There were 450,000 reported alcoholics under the age of 21 in the United States in 1973. This alarming statistic reflects the increasing role of alcohol in our society.

In a recent *Westwatch* survey, only three percent of the students polled admitted to drinking more than twice a week, but 20 per cent revealed that they drink twice a week, 18 per cent once a week, and 59 per cent less than once a week or never. The three most common reasons for drinking are the taste of alcohol, social behavior and alcoholic effects.

The *Westwatch* survey also showed that 91 percent of the drinkers drink with friends rather than alone.

The weaker alcohols — beer and wine — were preferred by 66 per cent of the students.

The majority of students revealed that they obtain their alcohol from either family or friends. However, because the drinking age for beer and wine was lowered from 21 to 18, many seniors said they get their alcoholic beverages from liquor stores and bars.

Many believe that the way society treats alcohol is one of the main reasons it is such a problem in the U.S. One sophomore insisted that, liquor isn't really a drug." This student's views are shared by 60 percent of the population and 66 percent of the youths, according to a 1973 poll.

Actually, alcohol is a depressant in the same vein as a barbiturate, or a "downer." Alcohol depresses the central nervous system, causing distorted judgment and slowed-down reflexes.

The way the media treats alcohol adds to the problem,

according to comedian and controlled alcoholic Dick Van Dyke. "The media treats alcoholics as comic figures, rather than as people with a serious problem. The drunk guy is always portrayed as the life of the party. This is really as alcoholism."

One third of all teenage suicides result from drinking. Last year alone, there were 5,000 alcohol-related deaths among young Americans. But there is an apparent disregard shown by the parents and students to the imminent dangers of alcohol. 58 percent of the students surveyed stated that their parents "don't mind" the drinking of children "as long as they stay out of trouble."

One senior concluded, "I feel that drinking is acceptable as long as I know my limitations."

From the archives: The article below was originally published on Feb. 15, 1976

Washroom air pollution to end

Starting Wednesday, students will finally be able to walk into the washroom of their choice without running a severe risk of being choked by cigarette smoke. On that day, a recognized smoking area will be provided in an experiment which will be continued till the end of the school year.

In the past, the general attitude towards smoking seems to have been "maybe if we pretend it doesn't happen, it won't." Students caught smoking have been punished. Still, the washrooms and other out-of-the-way places are full of smoke. Or a student will step across the street to smoke, annoying the people who live nearby.

The Board of Education has finally realized that students are going to smoke whether smoking is condoned or condemned, and has agreed to the student-supervised area. Now it is up to the students to use this privilege for their own benefit if not for everyone's.

The administration has announced its intention of punishing more severely than before students who do not use the area provided for smoking. The area is meant to be uninviting so that the student will have to make a conscious decision on whether it is worth it for him to smoke. However, he at least is given this option.

Students have fought long and hard for their right to smoke. Abusing it can only lead to the loss of this right and the creeping "I told you so's," implying the students are not mature enough to take care of themselves.

Besides which, who wants to smoke in a stuffy washroom with one eye open for unsympathetic authorities when he can do it without any hassle?

From the archives: The article below was originally published on Dec. 13, 1996

Editorial

New Trier targeted due to reputation of excellence

The December 9 *Time* magazine article hit New Trier like a brick. The day after publication, New Trier was abuzz with activity as PA announcements were made, copies of the article were distributed, letters were sent home to parents, and drugs were discussed in every classroom. Throughout it all, there was a sense of indignation among students towards the article's misrepresentations—we all know that 3/5 of us do not smoke marijuana regularly—and lack of journalistic balance.

THIS, TOO, was an article in a national publication, exposing the millions in *Time's* circulation to the "High Times at New Trier High." But we have weathered other rather unflattering comparisons, like the *Chicago Tribune's* DuSable article of a few year's past, and will no doubt survive this latest barrage.

Within the Chicago area at least, we have already been redeemed by last Saturday's front-page *Tribune* article which focused on some of *Time's* fallacies and highlighted positive aspects of New Trier.

We must accept that New Trier, because of its combination of affluence and achievement, possesses a high profile among U.S. high schools. Our actions are analyzed, scrutinized, and even criticized, but as students, we should appreciate that we are held under this microscope as a result of our excellence.

WHEN THE media describes New Trier, the words "affluent" and "wealthy" invariably appear. We cannot deny that New Trier has money. According to the Illinois State Board of Education's 1996 School Report Card, New Trier is second only to Lake Forest in expenditures per student at over \$14,000. Our critics are, meanwhile, comforted to hear that money cannot solve all of our problems.

But no one ever said it would. As students, we resent the implication that money is the sole reason for our success. New Trier's excellence is largely the result of the motivation of its students. We are offered resources and do not hesitate to take advantage of these opportunities. Some of our parents can afford pricey college tuitions, but this does not mean that we do not have to strive to gain admission. Many Trevians were upset at *Time's* portrayal of us because it seemed to ignore the fact that the majority of students work very hard, taking a heavy load of classes and participating in countless activities and sports.

As New Trier has become a high profile high school, this will surely not be the last of our media coverage. *Time* dubbed us a "model school," and we must become accustomed to the spotlight.

Benefits behind legalizing cannabis

Illinois becomes the 11th state to legalize marijuana

by: Cleo Pool

Come Jan. 1, recreational marijuana will be legal for use and sale in Illinois for people 21 and up.

Illinois is just one of the eleven states that has legalized marijuana. Others include Colorado, California and Michigan. 33 states have legalized marijuana but only for medical purposes.

The legalization of cannabis has become a very relevant topic, especially with the upcoming election. While there have been positive outcomes to legalization, there have been problems too.

Cannabis affects people differently which is why it can't be categorized as a hallucinogen, stimulant or depressant. It can be any of the three it just depends on the effects experienced.

These different experiences lead into one of the largest arguments in this debate, addiction. Marijuana has an addictive high. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, with frequent use, this high can lead to dependence in which one relies on cannabis and will fall into withdrawal without it.

It is easy for one to believe that with the legalization of cannabis, dependence on it will increase. The states' solution to this is simply regulation. If fact, states like California have regulations on the amount a customer can purchase per visit.

Along with these rules, states have put in regulations for the safety of children. These regulations include child proof packaging and age

restrictions when entering any chain of marijuana production.

The legalization of cannabis is supposed to make it safer for those who consume it. When buying marijuana illegally, customers do not know much about what they are consuming. It is possible that they are ingesting harsh chemicals, pesticides or mold. Through health regulations put in place by the government, the customer can ensure that the product is clean and safe.

Cannabis is a drug and in certain situations can be dangerous. In a report from the Colorado Department of Public Health, it was found that cannabis related hospitalizations spiked after the legalization.

"Hospitalizations with possible marijuana exposures, diagnoses, or billing codes per 100,000 hospitalizations increased from 803 per 100,000 before commercialization (2001-2009) to 2,413 per 100,000 after commercialization (2014-June 2015)," stated the report.

"From this evidence, it is clear that, while legalization does not necessarily eliminate illegal production, distribution and sale of marijuana, it tends to diminish it dramatically. As a result, it relieves the burden placed on courts, law enforcement and prisons, allowing for greater focus on violent crime," concluded the study.

Despite this, cannabis has advanced medicine. Along with THC, cannabis contains cannabidiol, or CBD. Compared to THC, CBD is used more for medical purposes because it doesn't provide the side effects that THC does.

CBD is used to help those who suffer from epilepsy, migraines, and severe inflammation, pain or nausea. It also is used by those who suffer from mental illness or disorders. THC

benefits insomnia, low appetite, and glaucoma. I give CBD oil to my dog for his arthritis since it is a natural anti-inflammatory.

Legalizing marijuana will alleviate the stress on our criminal justice system. In a study conducted by Reason Foundation, it was found that in states that have legalized cannabis there was a drastic drop in cases of possession of illegal marijuana.

The legalization of cannabis would also help support the economy. According to *The Washington Post*, more than 18,000 new legal jobs came out of the marijuana industry in 2015.

The new product is also predicted to boost tax revenues. Arcview Market Research found that sales in North America grew to \$6.7 billion in 2016 alone. It is projected to hit \$20.1 billion by 2021. In 2015 Colorado made an estimated \$135 million in taxes and fees from marijuana.

With all of this in mind, it is necessary to note that cannabis is a dangerous drug. Especially for people our age. Marijuana can impair thinking, judgement, memory, and learning functions.

A report from the University of Otago found correlations between teens use of marijuana and their overall success in life.

"The results of the present study suggest that increasing cannabis use in late adolescence and early adulthood is associated with a range of adverse outcomes in later life. High levels of cannabis use are related to poorer educational outcomes, lower income, greater welfare dependence and unemployment and lower relationship and life satisfaction," concluded the report.