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Subject: Re: Marijuana

Posted by [warranto](#) on Mon, 22 Jan 2007 14:43:46 GMT

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Comments?

Junk.

An attempt by someone to use phrases that have no relation to what he is stating, other than to ensure that he is heard simply by their use.

Add in glossing over the bad, and associating it - incorrectly - with other wrong things, and emphasizing a good that is also incorrectly associated with things that have nothing to do with it. All in the hopes that someone will take what it says at face value with doing absolutely no research on it themselves, simply because it was composed in a way to make it sound good.

How... Michael Moore of him.

He comments that legalization would be beneficial as education would allow the usage to be monitored.

Kind of like how drug education works now, right?

Oh, wait... it doesn't. Otherwise it wouldn't be used. Especially with the health risks associated with it.

From Wikipedia[edit] Effects and health issues

[edit] Acute

Cocaine is a potent central nervous system stimulant. Its effects can last from 20 minutes to several hours, depending upon the dosage of cocaine taken, purity, and method of administration.

The initial signs of stimulation are hyperactivity, restlessness, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate and euphoria. The euphoria is sometimes followed by feelings of discomfort and depression and a craving to experience the drug again. Sexual interest and pleasure can be amplified. Side effects can include twitching, paranoia, and impotence, which usually increases with frequent usage.

With excessive dosage the drug can produce hallucinations, paranoid delusions, tachycardia, itching, and formication.

Overdose causes tachyarrhythmias and a marked elevation of blood pressure. These can be life-threatening, especially if the user has existing cardiac problems.

The LD50 of cocaine when administered to mice is 95.1 mg/kg.[13] Toxicity results in seizures, followed by respiratory and circulatory depression of medullar origin. This may lead to death from respiratory failure, stroke, cerebral hemorrhage, or heart-failure. Cocaine is also highly pyrogenic, because the stimulation and increased muscular activity cause greater heat production. Heat loss

is inhibited by the intense vasoconstriction. Cocaine-induced hyperthermia may cause muscle cell destruction and myoglobinuria resulting in renal failure. There is no specific antidote for cocaine overdose.

Cocaine's primary acute effect on brain chemistry is to raise the amount of dopamine and serotonin in the nucleus accumbens (the pleasure center in the brain); this effect ceases, due to metabolism of cocaine to inactive compounds and particularly due to the depletion of the transmitter resources (tachyphylaxis). This can be experienced acutely as feelings of depression, as a "crash" after the initial high. Further mechanisms occur in chronic cocaine use.

[edit] Chronic

Chronic cocaine intake causes brain cells to adapt functionally to strong imbalances of transmitter levels in order to compensate extremes. Thus, receptors disappear from the cell surface or reappear on it, resulting more or less in an "off" or "working mode" respectively, or they change their susceptibility for binding partners (ligands) – mechanisms called down-/upregulation. Chronic cocaine use leads to a DAT upregulation[verification needed], further contributing to depressed mood states. Finally, a loss of vesicular monoamine transporters, neurofilament proteins, and other morphological changes appear to indicate a long term damage of dopamine neurons.

All these effects contribute to the rise in an abuser's tolerance thus requiring a larger dosage to achieve the same effect. The lack of normal amounts of serotonin and dopamine in the brain is the cause of the dysphoria and depression felt after the initial high. The diagnostic criteria for cocaine withdrawal is characterized by a dysphoric mood, fatigue, unpleasant dreams, insomnia or hypersomnia, E.D., increased appetite, psychomotor retardation or agitation, and anxiety.

Cocaine abuse also has multiple physical health consequences. It is associated with a lifetime risk of heart attack that is seven times that of non-users. During the hour after cocaine is used, heart attack risk rises 24-fold [14]

Side effects from chronic smoking of cocaine include chest pain, lung trauma, shortness of breath, sore throat, hoarse voice, dyspnea, and an aching, flu-like syndrome. A common misconception is that the smoking of cocaine chemically breaks down tooth enamel and causes tooth decay. However, cocaine does often cause involuntary tooth grinding, known as bruxism, which can deteriorate tooth enamel and lead to gingivitis.[15]

Chronic intranasal usage can degrade the cartilage separating the nostrils (the septum nasi), leading eventually to its complete disappearance. Due to the absorption of the cocaine from cocaine hydrochloride, the remaining hydrochloride forms a dilute hydrochloric acid.[1]

Cocaine may also greatly increase this risk of developing rare autoimmune or connective tissue

diseases such as lupus, Goodpasture's disease, vasculitis, glomerulonephritis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and other diseases.[16][17][18][19] It can also cause a wide array of kidney diseases and renal failure.[20][21] While these conditions are normally found in chronic use they can also be caused by short term exposure in susceptible individuals.

There have been published studies[citation needed] reporting that cocaine causes changes in the frontal lobe of the brain. The full extent of possible brain deterioration from cocaine use is not known.

Yes, lets let something that is highly addictive and causes all sorts of health-related problems. The solution is most definitely unrestricted access.

He then associated the "persecution" of drugs to... wait... "persecution"? Ah, yes... another attempt at using big words with bad meanings to help his viewpoint. Heck, for a parent not to allow a child to stay up as late as he wants is persecution. Even better is me not being paid \$500,000 a month to sit around and do nothing.

"Persecution", by definition is "The act or practice of persecuting on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or beliefs that differ from those of the persecutor. " By my work place not allowing me to be paid what I BELIEVE I should be paid is persecution. I Believe I should be paid that \$500,000... no... \$1 Billion dollars an hour. How dare they persecute me? I should sue!

Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? I thought so to.

Anyways, he was talking about "persecution" (heck, why don't we just call it the torture of substance users as well?) and relating that to the prohibition of alcohol. The only reason that didn't work was because of the history behind alcohol consumption, and the fact they were making something that was legal, illegal. Drugs, on the other hand, STARTED OUT illegal. It is currently nothing like the prohibition of alcohol, as none of the factors are the same. Though, admittedly, it does make for an attractive argument simply because both groups were not getting something they wanted. (cue the crying baby screaming "I WANT, I WANT, I WANT!!!")

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