

Study: Marijuana has no significant association to GPA

Commentary by JOHN FOX
Staff Reporter

There has been a lot of focus in the news lately on college students party habits, particularly binge drinking. Shows like "20/20" and "Dateline" pummel us with images of crazed co-eds beer-bonging enough alcohol to kill a horse, acting out erratically in a drunken haze, or kneeling down to the porcelain god. Certainly, most of us have overindulged ourselves with alcohol from time to time. But, when was the last time you had no idea who you were waking up beside because you smoked marijuana the night before?

I decided to tackle the issue of marijuana use among college students at Penn State Harrisburg and how it affects their GPA. I handed out a questionnaire at

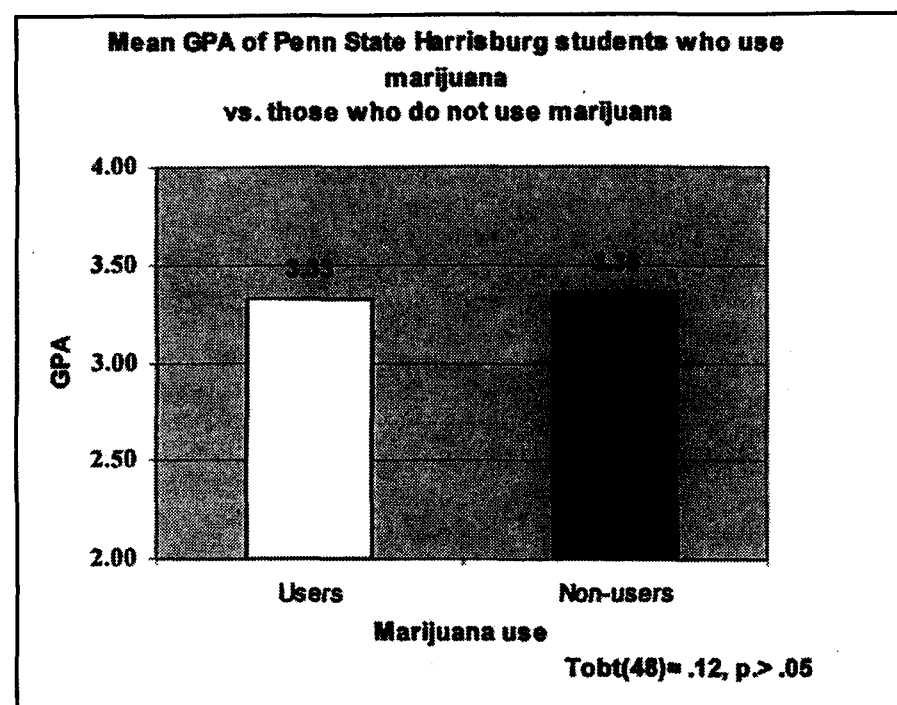
"Although the mean GPA of the students who do not use marijuana is slightly higher, further statistical analysis concludes that there was not a significant association between marijuana use and GPA."

the Penn State Harrisburg campus, in the Olmsted Building cafeteria, to 50 random students. Each anonymous student answered 14 questions and returned the completed questionnaire to the Capital Times office.

The main goal was to find a correlation between GPA and marijuana use. Out of the 50 participants, 21 indicated that they do use marijuana while 29 indicated that they do not. The mean GPA of the students who use

marijuana is 3.33. The mean GPA of the students who do not use marijuana is 3.36. Although the mean GPA of the students who do not use marijuana is slightly higher, further statistical analysis concludes that there was not a significant association between marijuana use and GPA in this study of 50 random Penn State Harrisburg students.

Other interesting results in the study included: 62 percent of the participants are



graph courtesy of John Fox

A 50-student survey performed by staff reporter John Fox concluded that there is not a significant association between marijuana use and GPA.

in favor of legalizing marijuana and an overwhelming 94 percent of the participants are in favor of legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes. Also, 62 percent of the participants indicated that they prefer alcohol to marijuana. Of the 62 percent that prefer alcohol, 39 percent believed that marijuana was safer.

Considering Penn State Harrisburg's student responses, it is possible that in our lifetime, we may see medicinal marijuana legalized as well as the decriminalization of marijuana laws in America.

This study will set many of you marijuana users at ease since final exams are right around the corner. You can now feel justified when you are smoking a joint during that late-night cramming session for finals.

Higher expectations for women in media

By GLORIA LONG
Staff Reporter

The woman's role in media is in a process of change, but the benefits have been more progressive. That was the tone of "Women in Society, Women in Media," one of several events held to celebrate women's history month.

"The market is heavy with women," said Nancy Sacunas, president and CEO of Sacunas and Saline. "When women work with the engineering field, it is the left side or the right side of the brain thing. We have trouble explaining on how important it is. I don't have a problem. I will tell you my right hand man is a gentleman."

"Pitching stories to men about women could be difficult. We know what women want."

Pat Gadsen, president of Life-Esteem, said she and her husband work in the media, however, maintaining a balance can be difficult. "When we interview, some men will look at him instead of me. It is kind of different how men get involved." The women said it was not easy trying to work 40 hours a week. In fact,

many women wind up working 60 hours a week.

"It is a choice you have to make to make a higher experience," said Assistant Professor Catherine Rios.

Kirker Morgan, WHP-TV, said, "Pitching stories to men about women could be difficult. We know what women want."

But she still struggles with the male producers who think they know what women

think.

The concept of women in media is that the expectations of women are now higher. In movie-making, writing, and producing, women are now seen as having some power and a lot of say as to what goes into media.

However, many times it is the things that are unspoken that may still be an industry hurdle for women.



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