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Higher Education

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Students finding a balance between studying and smoking weed

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*names have been changed

“I smoke more now than I ever have, and my grades are better in college than they have ever been,” says Dan*, a sophomore in industrial design.

He feels using cannabis improves his creativity. It helps him to listen in class, especially if he would otherwise not be interested. Dan also claims it hasn’t negatively affected his grades and says that he does much better work while high,“

“It makes the ideation process easier. I feel like I can come up with creative ideas quicker. It makes me less hesitant to put pen to paper.”

The stereotypical “stoner” is supposed to be unmotivated and absentminded. But we’ve come a long way from “Reefer Madness,” the 1936 cautionary tale with a fictionalized and highly exaggerated take on the use of marijuana. According to The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), a group advocating for the legalization of marijuana, 14 million Americans admit to being regular recreational cannabis users, many of them productive members of society.

Cannabis has been used since ancient times. Evidence of its use dates back to 8,000 BCE and is believed to be the first plant cultivated by humans. Today, it remains a prevalent part of many people’s lives, including students here at Iowa State.

The U.S. congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act in 1937 criminalizing the selling and use of the drug. Ever since, marijuana has gotten a bad rap and is considered to have the potential to ruin your life. Some ISU students that use marijuana regularly have a different opinion. Dan has been using cannabis for three years. He was first introduced to the substance in high school by some friends on the cross country team. He has no problem finding it, or others that smoke it, at Iowa State. He gets high an average of three times a day and considers it a hobby. It has also helped him to make new friends.
Weed Slang

**Smoke you up/out:** letting a friend or someone smoke your weed with you for free

**Bowl:** part of the smoking device that the weed goes into

**Load/pack a bowl:** to pack marijuana (weed, mary jane) into the bowl piece of your pipe/bong/etc

**Cashing the bowl:** when you’ve finished smoking and you dump out the ashes

**Match:** A term referred to putting in an equal amount of weed to the rest of the people in your smoking group.

**Greens/spark:** the first person to light the new bowl of weed

Courtesy of Urbandictionary.com