

UPDATES FROM SCIP

April 2007

420 Is Coming!

420 (pronounced **four-twenty**) is a term used in cannabis culture to describe the use of cannabis, and elements of its associated culture.

Cannabis users gather on April 20 (“4/20” in the United States dating shorthand) every year to celebrate and consume cannabis. 4:20 p.m. (or even a.m.) is also a popular time to consume cannabis. “420 friendly” is seen on advertisements for roommates, indicating that the housemates are tolerant of smoking cannabis.

Teachers and other school staff will often hear about parties and other activities planned for April 20th. Here is some information about the origins of the term “420”. There is also a project endorsed and promoted by High Times Magazine called the “420 Campaign”. It refers to the goal of getting marijuana legalized.

This is a quote from High Times: “The readers of HIGH TIMES want marijuana legalized, nationwide, and now. Here’s our simple plan to make marijuana’s legalization happen: ask for it, and keep asking until we get what we want. It really is that simple. If you want pot to be legal, you have to ask. If you want to stop all arrests for marijuana possession, you have to ask.”

“The 420 Campaign is a plan to bring legalization before the US Congress and the public. Legalization. Now. That’s what we want. How do we get it? We prepare, we mobilize and we send that message to Congress every chance we get until we get the job done. Furthermore, we want to use April 20th as a focal point every year to concentrate pressure on Congress to legalize marijuana until we get the job done.”

Origins: Odd terms sneak into our language every now and then, and this is one of the oddest. Everyone who considers himself in the know about the drug subculture has heard that ‘420’ has something to do with illegal drug use, but when you press them, they never seem to know why, or even what the term supposedly signifies.

It’s both more and less than people make it out to be. ‘420’ began its sub-rosa linguistic career in 1971 as a bit of slang casually used by a group of high school kids at San Rafael High School in California. ‘420’ (always pronounced “four-twenty”, never “four hundred and twenty”) came to be an accepted part of the argot within that group of about a dozen pot smokers, beginning as a reminder of the time they planned to meet to light up, 4:20 p.m. Keep in mind this wasn’t a general call to all dope smokers everywhere to toke up at twenty past four everyday; it was twelve kids who’d made a date to meet near a certain statue. It’s thus incorrect to deem that ‘420’ originated as a national or international dope-smoking time, even though the term began as a reference to a particular time of day.

Now-a-days “420” is used as a generic way to declaring one likes to use marijuana or just as a term for the substance itself. Its earliest connotation of having to do with the time a certain group of students congregated to smoke “wacky tobaccy” is unknown due to the overwhelming majority of those who now employ the term.

(Source: snopes.com)

REDLIGHT Center

A new trend is emerging in virtual games. In 2005, the video game Narc was the first to introduce street drugs into video games to provide players with “power”.

RedLightCenter.com is the world’s second-most-populated virtual social world. In January of this year, they announced the introduction of a new feature that allows members and guests to visit an Amsterdam-style smoking room to take a virtual hit of marijuana, creating a simulated high.

RedLightCenter.com is an online virtual world where users download a free software program that allows them to create their own identity and gives them access to the virtual world. Once inside RedLightCenter, any user who enters Merlin’s Café will find an assortment of hookahs (oriental water pipes). The pipes can be freely smoked, and doing so will cause the user to “experience the feeling of getting high”.

The cyber universe offers users opportunities to meet at special events such as parties, dances, classes, etc.

A resource to parents and others who want to preview and evaluate the content of their children’s entertainment is www.common sense media.org. It covers video games, Internet sites, movies, television and other entertainment.

(Source: www.redlightcenter.com)

SCIP Intervention Team Training

The SCIP Intervention Team Training will take place July 31-August 3, 2007 at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. SCIP Teams need to begin the process of reviewing who on the team is trained and who needs the training, in order to have the most effective team possible! Registration forms are included in this mailing. Registration deadline is June 8, 2007. Cost of the training is \$295.00 per person. Participants from Lincoln Public Schools need to register with the SCIP office AND LPS Staff Development.

Strawberry Meth

Police in Nevada say they are finding a new kind of methamphetamine on the streets that could appeal to younger users with its strawberry flavor and bright pink color. The hope is that if dealers can get younger people using it, they can get longtime buyers.



The drug has been called “strawberry quick” by dealers and users and is made in Sacramento, California. The flavoring is added during the cooking process and may make snorting the drug more appealing. Young users may also view the colored version as less harmful, although it is just as powerful as regular meth.

(Source: jointogether.com, 2-2-07)

Stash Cans

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick had a water bottle confiscated by security officials at Miami International Airport on January 17, 2007.

The police report states that the bottle had a hidden compartment and that it contained a small amount of what appeared to be marijuana. The hidden compartment for the drug was behind the label. The bottle appeared to be full of water.

This type of container is called a stash can. These stash containers have hidden compartments where people can hide valuables, including drugs. The Internet offers many containers for this purpose, including books, mugs, hair spray cans, car repair products, candles, and many more. Most are very reasonably priced and available to children.

(Source: The Associated Press, 1-18-07)



Meth Coffee

A company is now marketing a new product called “meth coffee”.

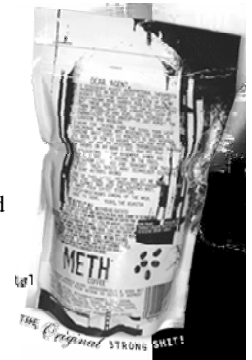
Americans for Drug-Free Youth, an organization that fights to protect children, is sponsoring a campaign to stop such offensive naming of products. They believe that such use of drug names gives the illusion to youth that drugs are socially acceptable.

The San Francisco company, also called Meth Coffee, is said to be a rebel coffee company. The Roaster, who is the founder, states that, “Combining the smoothest beans with yerba mate’s animal buzz has created an intense new drug for coffee addicts who are searching for the highest quality junk.” Meth coffee is fresh-roasted within 48 hours of shipment.



Yerba mate is a powerful natural stimulant and antioxidant used for boosting stamina and mental clarity. “Yerba mate produces a gradual buzz arc for periods of intense play and creativity that some drinkers find more cerebral than coffee alone.” It contains mateine, an alkaloid stimulant similar to those found in coffee and chocolate, as well as significant antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds.

The flavor of meth coffee is a blend of Arabian and South American beans with a tobacco-cocoa addition. It is available on the Internet at \$12 per 10-ounce bag in ground or whole beans.



(Source: biz.yahoo.com, 1-10-07)

Preventing Drug Addiction

Adolescence is a critical time for preventing drug addiction. Why is that so?

Early use of drugs increases a person’s chances of more serious drug abuse and addiction. Drugs change brains and this can lead to addiction and other serious problems. Preventing early use of drugs or alcohol may reduce the risk of progressing to later abuse and addiction.

Risk of drug abuse greatly increases during times of transitions, such as changing schools, moving, or divorce. If we can prevent drug abuse, we can prevent drug addiction. In early adolescence, when children advance from elementary through middle school, they face new and challenging social and academic situations. Often during this period, children are exposed to abusable substances such as cigarettes and alcohol for the first time. When they enter high school, teens may encounter greater availability of drugs, drug abuse by older teens, and social activities where drugs are used.

At the same time, many behaviors that are a normal aspect of their development, such as the desire to do something new or risky, may increase teen tendencies to experiment with drugs. Some teens may give in to the urging of drug-abusing friends to share the experience with them. Others may think that taking drugs, such as steroids, will improve their appearance or their athletic performance or that abusing substances such as alcohol or Ecstasy (MDMA) will ease their anxiety in social situations.

Teens’ still-developing judgment and decision-making skills may limit their ability to assess risks accurately and make sound decisions about using drugs. Drug and alcohol abuse can disrupt brain function in areas critical to motivation, memory, learning, judgment, and behavior control. So, it is not surprising that teens who abuse alcohol and other drugs often have family and school problems, poor academic performance, health-related problems (including mental health), and involvement with the juvenile justice system.

(Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, The Science of Addiction)