

Opinion

Crack-caused death can be bought cheap

It has been brought increasingly to the attention of the public that a new drug is on the loose and addicting people in a very short time. Many of these addicts are teenagers and the drug they are addicted to is "crack." Crack is a solid, pellet sized form of Cocaine that can be smoked.

"Many crack addicts are teens who can buy crack for as little as \$10."

While crack may produce intense pleasure in as little as 4-6 seconds, its high is also short-lived, lasting only 5-7 minutes. This, as well as many other reasons such as cost, which can be as little as \$10 for a single vial, which is 3/4 to one inch long, is what is turning teens, as well as others, onto crack.

"Crack can make someone an addict in a matter of weeks."

Crack can make someone an addict in a matter of weeks and this addiction can be as strong as that to heroin. Many of these crack addicts, as in most cases of drug addiction, believe that crack is safe and doesn't cause their health to be affected. They are very wrong. Crack stimulates the central nervous system and can cause blood pressure to rise dramatically.



Other effects include: narrowed arteries that restrict blood flow to the heart and may cause a heart attack, the heart may beat erratically and ineffectively, resulting in death, tremors, convulsions, nausea and vomiting may occur and the respiratory system may fail.

"Crack causes arteries to narrow and restrict blood flow to the heart which may cause a heart attack."

All of these problems are risked by the crack user because of a short-lived feeling of well-being and intense pleasure that turns into a deep depression that causes the user to crave and use more crack. Clearly this becomes a vicious cycle in which the user often loses his life.

Drugs make so little sense and yet so many people use them and become addicted. It is much easier and far cheaper to get "high" off of life instead of working so hard to die, which is what can ultimately happen whether the user wants it to or not.

"It's never too late to live life as it was meant to be lived and to get a 'high' from just being alive."

If you know someone who's smoking crack or using any drug or if you are an addict yourself, there is a way out of that vicious circle. Go to a drug treatment center or to counseling and ask for help. It's never too late to live life as it was meant to be lived and to get a "high" from just being alive.

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'Creating' an opinion page that hits a nerve

by Stephani Veff
Opinions Editor

Well, this isn't quite how I wanted to end the year, but I understand. While I would have enjoyed a response to my last editorial (on the smoking survey), spring fever has hit and no one feels much like writing in anymore.

I would like to thank those of you who have written in over the last two terms, whether the letters had anything to do with my page or not. I enjoyed reading and printing each one of them. It's always nice to know that someone is reading the paper you work so hard on.

As a "volunteer" writer for the paper (I was recruited from my work study job as office manager late in fall term), I have learned a lot about newspaper production and have enjoyed "hands on" experience in almost every aspect: from planning, to writing, to paste-up.

There were many times when I felt like just walking out and not looking back, but there is something strange about working on "The Print" - even when you're having the worst day and it seems as if no one has anything done, you still love it.

The staff has been great to work with. Although we have had more than our share of arguments and disagreements, the good times outweigh the bad just like in every other "family." I'm going to miss those of the staff who will be leaving us next

year for bigger and better things, but I'm looking forward to working with those who are staying next year as well as those who will be joining us in the fall (hopefully).

I've had to learn a lot and very quickly in the past two terms. I am not a journalism major nor do I plan to be, but I really liked "creating" the opinion page. I thought it would be easy at first, like I'd just be writing my opinion every week. Boy, was I wrong. Editorial form is actually kind of difficult to write in. Even now, after two terms of practice, it is still easy to get stuck halfway

through the editorial and wonder where I'm going with it.

I admit that I have some very strong opinions about some things and I tend to write about the same issues often, but I always welcome feedback, whether it be positive or negative. At least I'd know if I am doing a good job of hitting a nerve or two. Anyway, I'd just like to say I'm looking forward to being back next year and I hope to hit a few nerves then too. Just don't be afraid to write and tell me what you think next year. Your opinion is just as valuable as mine. Thank you for a wonderful year.

The Print

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