

Puff puff drive

"Toke it up" seems to me to be the phrase of choice in Idaho among drivers. There you can drive under the influence of marijuana, as long as you do not drive erratically.

In 1998, Matthew Patzer was pulled over for a broken tail-light, and while officers were talking with him, he admitted to smoking marijuana at a party. He was convicted of impaired driving under case number 00-30360, the United States v. Patzer.

However, on Mon., Jan. 14, 2002, a federal appeals court overturned his conviction because, while it was illegal to drive under the influence of narcotics, marijuana is not specified as a narcotic under Idaho law.

The appeals court stated that "Given the distinction drawn by a statute, there is no basis to conclude that impairment may be presumed upon admission of a non-narcotic drug." Therefore Patzer's confession could not be used unless he was pulled over for driving erratically, and it was then determined he was under the influence.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney, Michael J. Fica, said the government may ask the United States Supreme Court to hear the case. The Senate Judiciary chair-

man, Denton Darrington, questions whether the decision will hold up. "Wow" is the only



Say It Loud & Proud!

Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

word that seems to come to mind. While I'm all for allowing people to live each day to the very fullest and partying it up if that's what they want, I am glad I don't live in Idaho. Now, I am not perfect by any means and have been thoughtless when sitting behind the wheel of my car. It's scary knowing that in Idaho people can drive while under the influence of a drug that may make you high and happy but also hinders your ability to think or function.

If people want to get high or drunk, hey, party on. But if they want to be stupid and get behind the wheel of a car when they're high or drunk, I'm sorry, I'm not going to be happy about it. It's one thing if you endanger your own life, but it's quite another if you get behind that wheel and run into me or someone I care about.

So, Idaho, please pull your head out of that cloud of smoke and quit toking up while you're driving.

Should people be allowed to smoke marijuana then drive?



Bryan Trammell

Major: Music

"No, it affects your judgment. If you would then why not drink and drive."



Andrew Fowler

Major: Microelectronics

"No, I've done it before and I know what it does. I had time lapses."



Gordon Isaac

Major: Microelectronics

"No. You can't handle your vehicle as well."



Matt Hogue

Major: Undecided

"I've done it myself. It doesn't impact your driving, but I think it could. It shouldn't be allowed."



Ryan Snider

Major: Undecided

"Never. Though about that question, to a certain degree it would be o.k."



Jesse Boger

Major: Art and Letters

"I do it all the time. I don't think it should be illegal in the first place."

Photos and quotes compiled by Salena De La Cruz and Maggie Jirasek.

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Bring it on!

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By Jon Baggs

QUESTION: WHO WILL BE IN PRISON LONGER?



THE MURDERER?

NO



THE RAPIST?

NO

BUT I HAVEN'T HURT ANYBODY!?? THIS ISN'T RIGHT!



THE POT-SMOKER?

CORRECT...



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