

That distinction is important because of a couple of other things in Pattison's letter. He was troubled by someone in the seat next to him drinking a glass of wine. He wrote that the smell was "overpowering" and that the proximity of the wine, "one foot from where I was sitting," was "unacceptable."

Pattison goes on to say that being forced to sit next to someone drinking wine doesn't work for everyone, and that the Hult Center didn't seem very concerned about the situation when he asked about it.

I appreciate the concern, but if I am in a place where I feel overpowered by the smell of wine, or find it unacceptable to sit next to someone having some, my job is to leave or change seats. It is not my place to tell others that they need to change their actions or policies. As an alcoholic, I have to live life on life's terms.

AA literature states that alcoholics in recovery can go anywhere they like without problem, so long as they have a solid program and a legitimate reason for being there. This includes, bars, parties and concert halls.

David Hixson
Springfield

NRA TARGETS YOUTH

"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted." — Vladimir Lenin.

Mark your calendars. June 15 is National Take Your Daughter to the Range Day. Like Gun Appreciation Day, it's the NRA's latest marketing ploy to insure that the billion dollar gun manufacturing industry will continue to thrive.

Shooting Industry Magazine advises that every gun store should have at least one pink gun on display. The market for traditional hunting guns has sharply declined so the NRA is hoping that the "Barack Boom" in military style weapons will take up the slack. Nancy Lanza, Adam Lanza's mother, was a perfect example of how the NRA feeds on fear, as she purchased thousands of dollars of weapons and trained her son at the local gun ranges.

The "faceless evil" she feared turned out to be her own well-armed and trained son.

We must heed the words of Graham Nash and teach our children well. "Teach your children what you believe in. Make a world that we can live in." Hopefully those of tender years can't know the fears that their elders grew by.

Michael T. Hinojosa
Drain

ON LEGALIZING DRUGS

LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) is a group of ex cops, DAs and judges who have realized that the war on drugs, regardless of their own personal position on drug use, is one of the greatest evils which America has spread throughout the world.

I am speaking for many when I say all drugs should be legal, from alcohol and tobacco to methamphetamine and heroin. Convincing the general public why someone should be able to take these substances which have obvious dangers to the body is a bit challenging; in the case of opiates this danger is mainly overdose and addiction.

Psychedelics are easier to introduce into society's current paradigm. In general they have no ill effect on the body, and when taken in a safe setting, horrors such as people thinking they can fly, can be avoided. Their main reward is gifting the subject with a brand new perception of the world. The word psychedelic was coined by Humphrey Osmond and means mind manifesting or revealing. They don't provide anything artificial that wasn't there before (in the psyche) except for contents repressed since infancy or arguably since past lives.

Constitutionally all medicines, especially the entheogens, penetrate the key holes of personal freedom. Our principal obligation is this right; but how can we have religious experiences in today's environment where all non-ordinary states are seen as pathological? Religions can and have the techniques to provide genuine religious experiences, but they don't, hence the need for these substances.

David Ivan Piccioni
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