

My Story:

I'll be surprised if this appears on your site....I've been smoking cannabis/marijuana regularly since I was 15 years old. I'm now 37. I've smoked cannabis heavily from the age of about 20 until approx two years ago. By heavily I mean upwards to ten joints a day. It was always the first thing I'd do after a day's work. Get home, wrap up a spliff and unwind. I've only recently cut down to appease my non-smoking girlfriend with whom I live.

I've worked as a journalist throughout that time. I currently work for a fairly well known broadcasting corporation (slight clue) and think I've done ok thus far in my career. I have a happy family and social life, and generally live a good lifestyle. I own two properties and don't think things are too bad. However I'm pro-cannabis, I've always enjoyed the 'weed' yet always held down steady jobs. I get a bit fed up with the scare stories relating to cannabis. I was gob-smacked when I read the diaries in the Guardian this weekend. Much of what was described sounded EXACTLY like teenage behaviour - long dirty hair/grubby clothes/unsociable/wanting away from the family/rude/bolshy/grumpy - pretty much sounds like any teenager to me. I'm surprised the piece didn't say..."and then he started playing loud music..." Even stealing is not unheard of when it come to teenagers although I personally didn't take this route, I just used to get summer jobs to pay for travelling, alcohol, and general stuff teenagers buy (cds, posters, books etc). I apologise if I sound callous, I do not wish to belittle your personal situation and I accept that some people will react very badly or differently to cannabis - but that can happen with ANY drug. For instance, alcohol - some people react very badly and become very easily addicted to alcohol, but this doesn't tend to make good copy for newspapers. I'd tentatively suggest there is a bigger problem with teenage drinking than cannabis, but again, this isn't headline grabbing.

My main concern about my cannabis habit is that somewhere along the drug chain, I have probably helped buy a gun which has probably been used to kill someone....hence I wish cannabis was legalised. What I'd like to get across is that there is no golden rule for everybody....in the immortal lines of Life of Brian "we are all individuals".

I've never tried any other drugs apart from alcohol and cannabis. I've always enjoyed cannabis, I do leave it alone when travelling abroad or on holiday, but I do pick up my habit again when home. Some people's lives will be ruined by cannabis; some people's lives will be ruined by alcohol; some people's lives will be ruined by prescription drugs; some people's lives will be ruined by careless drivers (or cars)...unpredictability is a sometimes scary and, at other times, a wonderful part of our lives, but it is a part of our lives and we must all travel our own paths, make our decisions and enjoy or suffer the consequences of what we do to ourselves and those around us.