

# Pot use up; few want legalization

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — A new government report indicates more Americans are using marijuana and softening their stand against it, but are not yet ready to make it legal.

The 7th Annual Report on Marijuana and Health, released Wednesday, showed a sharp rise in pot smoking, especially among teen-agers, plus some indications of marijuana's continued therapeutic uses.

According to the report, between 1976 and 1977 — the year of the current survey — the number of youngsters ages 12 to 17 currently using pot rose by nearly a third. The increase was from 12.4 to 16.1 percent and nearly 30 percent of that age group has tried it once — results that HEW Secretary Joseph Califano called "particularly alarming."

"It is sheer folly for millions of young Americans to indulge in a drug while so little is known about its long-term consequences," Califano said.

But the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws said the statement was a "disservice to the public." Spokesman Peter Meyers said Califano should also point out marijuana is far less dangerous than tobacco or alcohol — both of which are legal.

The 1977 survey said 43 million people have tried pot once and 16 million used it regularly. The 1976 survey found 36 million who tried it once, and 15 million regular users.

More than three-quarters of the 12-17 age group and those older than 26 agreed marijuana should continue to be illegal "or that our present laws be made still stricter." Even among the peak using group of 18- to 25-year-olds, the report said 40 percent believe pot should remain illegal.

The report also found that among both the 12-17 age group and adults over 36, "attitudes toward marijuana have become increasingly positive."

As for the peak using group of young adults, 18-25, "there has been a 50 percent increase in the acceptability of marijuana as a regular commercial product."

No new discoveries have been made regarding therapeutic applications of marijuana, according to the report, but "its use in the treatment of nausea accompanying cancer chemotherapy and in the treatment of glaucoma remain promising."

Among other findings:

- More men than women smoke pot;
- More whites than members of minority groups smoke pot;
- There have been few new research developments;
- Combined use of marijuana and alcohol may be more hazardous than use of either alone;
- And, there is no evidence that pot-smoking damages chromosomes.

# Media object to ruling about attitude testimony

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Press groups say the Supreme Court is treading on their First Amendment rights again.

They are upset by a new ruling that the Constitution does not shield journalists who are sued for libel from answering pre-trial questions about their "state of mind" and editorial discussions affecting story preparation.

But a college professor says the practical impact of the decision remains to be seen.

The case involves former Lt. Col. Anthony Herbert, a career soldier who publicly charged in 1971 the Army had covered up Vietnam War atrocities. He filed a defamation suit when CBS Inc.'s "60 Minutes" ran a report in 1973, casting doubt on his allegations.

During pre-trial proceedings, "60 Minutes" producer Barry Lando, one of the defendants, balked at answering questions posed by Herbert's lawyers about his thoughts and opinions about preparing the show and editorial conversations.

Herbert noted, however, the Supreme Court in 1964 made it harder for public figures to win libel suits by requiring them to prove "actual malice" or "reckless disregard" of the truth. He said he needed to have Lando answer the questions in order to make his case.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held for the first time a journalist was shielded from answering questions about his "state of mind" and about internal editorial policies.

Its decision was overruled Wednesday by the Supreme Court. Justice Byron White, delivering the opinion of the six-man majority, said no First Amendment privilege shields a journalist from pre-trial questions about editorial processes that may produce evidence critical to a libel case against him.

Jack Landau of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press called the decision "a major defeat" for the First Amendment.

Allen Neuharth, president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, said it is "one more step by the current court to weaken, erode and diminish freedom of the press, and by extension, all First Amendment freedoms."

Bill Leonard, president of CBS News, which now may have a harder time defending itself against Herbert's libel suit, agreed the decision denies "constitutional protection to the journalist's most precious possessions — his mind, his thoughts, his editorial judgment."

Prof. A.E. Dick Howard of the University of Virginia law school said he is not sure, however, just what will be the ruling's practical effect.

"There are many areas of the law in which a case turns on someone's state of mind," he noted. "Motives

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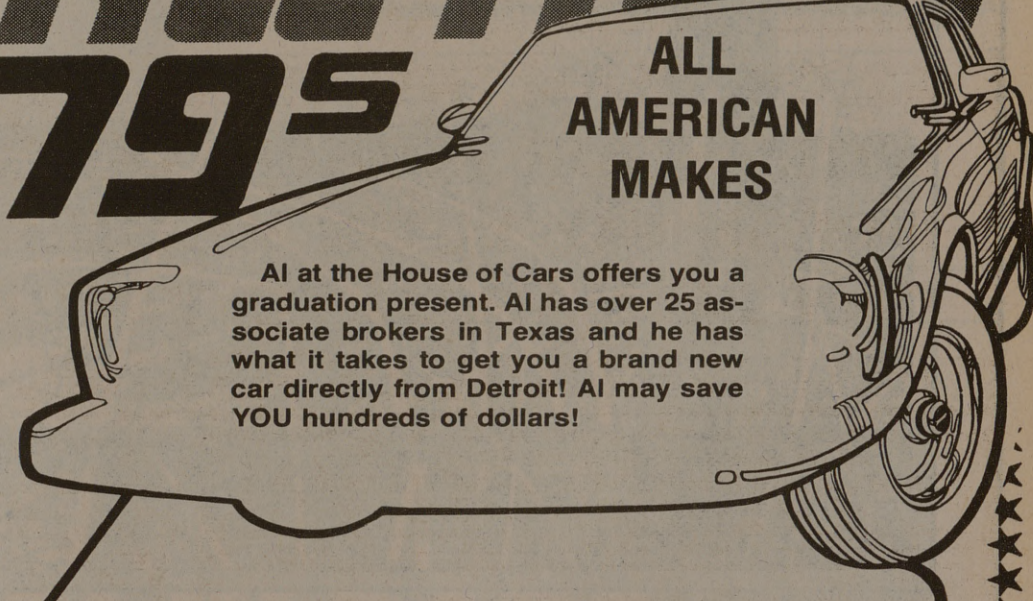
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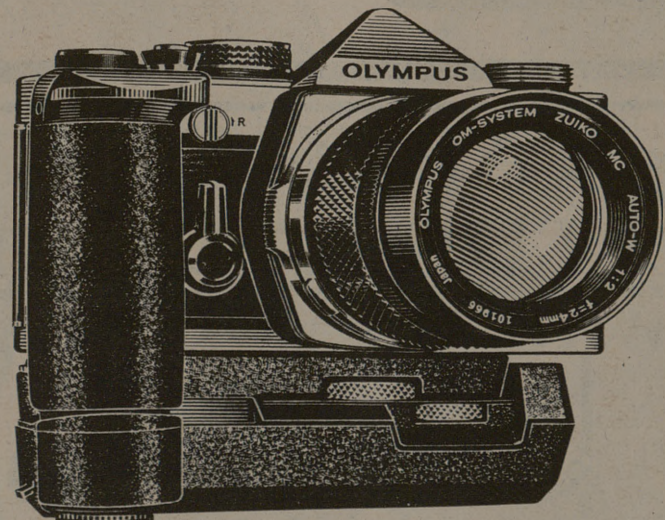
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