

Europeans show more tolerance for drug users, suffer less crime

The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — While debate opens up in the United States over legalizing drugs, the trend in Europe is toward increased tolerance for the user — and tougher penalties for the trafficker.

U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders set off a storm by suggesting America's streets might be safer if drug use were legalized.

In Amsterdam, you don't have to go far to find evidence that appears to support her argument.

In the red light district, for instance, elderly tourists mingle freely with junkies and let their pocketbooks dangle freely. In a city known as one of Europe's major drug bazaars, purse-snatchings are rare, and drug-related crimes of violence are almost unheard-of.

"I think the tolerance of both hard and soft drugs has reduced crime in our cities," Amsterdam police spokesman Klaas Wilting said Thursday.

But permissiveness toward drug use may be less significant than other policies — such as strict gun control — in explaining low levels of crime and violence.

"I think the tolerance of both hard and soft drugs has reduced crime in our cities."

—Klaas Wilting, Amsterdam police spokesman

And Wilting and other European officials oppose outright legalization.

"If we do that, the government will lose its grip on the (illegal drugs) market, and we can't manage it anymore," said Justice Ministry spokeswoman Jannie Pols.

Police have focused their war on drugs on traffickers associated with organized crime, even as tolerance toward possession and use makes drugs cheap and easy to get.

The Dutch government eliminated penalties for drug possession in 1976, setting a policy that possession of up to a gram of heroin (.035 ounces) or 30 grams (.05 ounces) of marijuana or hashish was not a punishable offense.

Even though heroin is readily available, the Dutch addiction rate is one of Europe's lowest, with about 15,000 hard drug addicts and 600,000 marijuana and hashish users in this nation of 15 million.

The heroin substitute

methadone is readily available at clinics to city residents. A needle exchange program has given the Dutch one of Europe's lowest AIDS rates among intravenous drug users.

The crack cocaine that has contributed to urban violence in the United States is almost nonexistent. But earlier this year, other European nations reacted angrily to the personal view of Dutch drugs czar Robert Samsom that they should all legalize soft drugs like marijuana and hashish.

Officials worry more about subversion of their economies by drug money and the increasing social costs of addiction than they do about street crime.

The Dutch rejection of legalization in favor of official tolerance reflects government attempts to placate conservatives at home and other European nations that fear an inundation of drugs from the Netherlands.

YOUR HOLIDAYS COST LESS AT WINN-DIXIE



24-Pk./12-Oz. Cans
Suitcases of
**Coors, Bud or
Miller Lite**

Ea. **10⁹⁸**



Assorted
Kegs
**Coors, Bud or
Miller Lite**

Ea. **34⁹⁶**



12-Pk./12-Oz. Cans
All Varieties
**Coke or
Diet Coke**

For **2\$5**



2-Liter Bottle
All Varieties
**Coke or
Diet Coke**

Ea. **99¢**



20-Ounce
Package
**Super Size
Ruffles**

For **2\$5**



Dozen
Bakery Fresh
**Glazed
Donuts**

2²⁸

WINN DIXIE

America's Supermarket®

Prices good Fri., Dec. 10 thru Tues., Dec. 14, 1993 in your Bryan & College Station Winn-Dixie stores. None sold to dealers. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Copyright 1993 Winn-Dixie Texas, Inc.

Happy Holidays

Don't think that this is another one of those sappy holiday ads saying stuff like, "We wish you happiness and good fortune" and stuff like that. I mean, we do and all, but we've got other things to talk about.

Like partying.

Wednesday nights you can get PREMIUM drinks and 22 oz. BEER SLAMMERS for only \$1.50. Now THAT's holiday spirit! Thursday nights are Ladies Nights — \$2.50 frozen drinks, \$1.75 Zimas, \$1.50 wine coolers with prizes and giveaways galore! Don't miss out! Friday and Saturday nights bring you the World Domination Dance Mix. Bryan/College Station's best music and great drink specials. Sunday, come out for Alternative Static. Tomorrow's music today! Oh yeah — Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, pay NO COVER and only 50¢ (!) for bar drinks and draft until 10:00!

But we'd be a pretty lame club if all we could do was have drink specials and great music. So let's talk about the PARTIES from now through New Year's! This Saturday night (the 11th) it's the STUDY BREAKS END OF SCHOOL BASH! You won't find a better party anywhere! From Wednesday the 15th through Saturday the 18th, we're celebrating the end of finals and graduation for you old-timers. Drink specials are so hot, I can't talk about them here! And we're not wimps about the holidays either. If you've had your fill of pesky relatives, head on out to The Globe. We'll be open every Wed.-Sun. for the entire month of December. And New Year's? Do I really have to tell you what we've got in store for New Year's? Let's just say you won't want to miss it!

THE GLOBE

THINK LOCALLY, PARTY GLOBALLY! CALL 76-GLOBE FOR MORE INFO.

50% OFF

all

Gold Chains & Bracelet's

10K or 14K Gold

All popular sizes and lengths

Several hundred to choose from

John D. Huntley Inc.
Class of '79

"Very Personal Investments"

313B South College Ave. (Albertson's Center) • 846-8905

JULIA ROBERTS DENZEL WASHINGTON

Two Supreme Court Justices have been assassinated. One lone law student has stumbled upon the truth. An investigative journalist wants her story. Everyone else wants her dead.

THE PELICAN BRIEF

FROM THE BEST SELLING THRILLER BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CLIENT AND THE FIRM

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
AS ALAN J. PAKULA FILM JULIA ROBERTS • DENZEL WASHINGTON
"THE PELICAN BRIEF" • SAM SHEPARD • JOHN HEARD • TONY GOLDWYN • JAMES B. SIKKING • WILLIAM ATHERTON • ROBERT CULP • STANLEY TUCCI
SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY HUME CRONYN AND JOHN LITHGOW COSTUME DESIGNER JAMES HORNER EDITOR TOM ROLF AND TRUDY SHIP PRODUCTION DESIGNER PHILIP ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEPHEN GOLDBLATT, ASC PRODUCED BY ALAN J. PAKULA DIRECTED BY JOHN GRISHAM WRITTEN BY ALAN J. PAKULA AND PIETER JAN BRUGGE CAST BY ALAN J. PAKULA

OPENS DECEMBER 17 EVERYWHERE