



David Badders/DN

Funhouse

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each individuals' active 8 percent, and alongside everyone's potential to do violence is everyone's potential addiction.

Addiction is simply the result of human unfulfillment, so much so that it invades our genes.

It is a sad and violent response to our crying, needing, infant selves.

Just saying no is a cartoon band-aid on the whole of human misery. It lets a lot of the gaping wounded fall between the cracks.

Certain external conditions are necessary for the practice of addiction. Somalian children know this.

The unfulfilled seek agents' to kill pain:

The wealthy have prescriptions, conspicuous consumption and access to Fiberglas-free cocaine. They

also have many ways to hide their addictions.

The not so wealthy have home-grown Old Mil by the warm case and a nasty, chalky cocaine substitute cut with ground-up pop bottles called "crank."

The destitute, who have nothing to lose, have Thunderbird, second-hand Camel non-filters and crack.

Housewives have Dove bars and credit cards.

Co-eds have two fingers in the back of their throats.

George Bush has a militia.

It is not, and has never been, the drug or the substance. It is the hollow empty space within that we must fill.

The extent of our emotional injuries determines what we use to fill it. The beginning of the end of addiction is personal responsibility.

When we overcome our addictions, we are empowered. We learn that we are capable of changing our lives. We are less likely to fear the unknown, and more likely to leave or repair unhappy situations. Healthy fulfillment comes through self-improvement and growth.

No chemically induced euphoria compares to the security of personal achievement.

If the passion is dancing but the major business is practical, then empty space remains where passion needs to be.

If the space is not eventually filled with drugs, alcohol or chocolate cake, it may simply be a place of darkness, echoing with defeatism — a festering womb for the perpetuation of "can't."

Deborah D. McAdams is a sophomore journalism major and Diversions contributor.

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Miller

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have more fun than thy neighbor," as it distracts from larger problems of deforestation, AIDS and economic decline. The image of the user as a shiftless deadbeat without drive or focus is largely a stereotype.

The direction marijuana politics takes today will be decisive. If the Bush administration continues in power, there seems little hope of constraints loosening.

Bush needs the drug war as a scapegoat and a rationalization for gross anti-drug expenditures which, if the sociological data is considered, have proven almost completely unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, glaucoma and chemotherapy patients are refused the most effective treatment known, and users are fired from their jobs and imprisoned.

Even if the user is not busted, that person will be regarded with suspicion and condescension by media-informed non-users. So users are frightened into submission. They hide and feel ashamed of their drug preferences, or are pushed the other way and develop self-detrimental extremist attitudes, which further feed the conceptual stereotype of the user as cultural zombie.

Legalization of marijuana in the immediate future seems eminently

unlikely. HEMP, NORML and similar groups need user and non-user support to raise awareness of the alternate uses of the plant and to spread information to friends about the facts concerning its recreational use.

The propaganda war is a real one, designed to harm a significant minority of Americans (approximately 20 million users).

UNLNORML/HEMP meets 6p.m. Thursdays in the Nebraska Union.

Matt Miller is a senior English major and a Diversions contributor.

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