

Word on the Hill

What would you try if you knew you could not fail?

By Korie Hawkins



"I would fly like Tinker Bell."

Mandy Bostwick
elementary education
junior



"Become an artist."

Hayley Fort
biochemistry
freshman



"I would run for president."

Tanner Seidel
business administration
sophomore



"I would become a professional dancer."

Hayley Weston
athletic training
freshman



"I would become a professional basketball player."

James Yang
business administration
sophomore



"I'd use my powers for success."

Greg York
business management
sophomore



"I would try everything."

Adrienne Vieyra
business administration
freshman



"Become a surgeon."

Courtney Putnam
athletic training
senior



"I would become a professional golfer."

Tim Jasper
business management
junior

Celebration pushes legalization

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

Where do you stand on legalizing medical marijuana?

ERICA DUNIGAN

When we think of celebrations in the month of April we tend to think of Good Friday, Easter and the day of pranks. April is also the month of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, but in some states if the weather is nice there may be a different type of celebration.

When the calendar reaches April 20, some people gather to celebrate what is called 4/20, which has evolved into a counterculture holiday of celebrating and consuming marijuana, or cannabis.

The history behind the term 4/20 started back in 1971, with a group of high school students from San Rafael, Cali. The group of students called themselves the Waldos. Each day they met at 4:20 p.m. at the Louis Pasteur statue, located on

the grounds of their high school.

The event has grown since the legalization of medical marijuana. The police and campus security have tried numerous ways to stop the event, especially at Colorado University. One of the ways they have tried to lower the number of people attending 4/20 has been by emphasizing the possession citations.

Today, many marijuana users throughout the country, mainly California and Colorado, gather to celebrate the use of marijuana, while promoting the legalization. According to Procon.org, 15 states have legalized medical marijuana, including D.C.

Even though many states are starting to legalize medical marijuana, for a person caught selling, transporting, or distributing marijuana, it is a class two public offense. This results in a \$100 fine, according to Califor-

nia marijuana laws.

This year the medical cannabis industry will be hosting a new event that will combine with Earth Day. The event will be called Deep Green Festival. According to news.gather.com, the event will involve the celebration of marijuana, but it will be held on April 23, instead of the 20.

Many people are pushing for the legalization of marijuana, but will it truly decriminalize the possession and use of the substance?

Many of us view marijuana as nothing more than weed, or simply something that a person can get high off of.

Scientists have found many medical benefits to using marijuana for managing pain that is felt by trauma and cancer patients, and also patients who may experience nerve damage. Beyond managing pain, it can

be used for many other medical reasons.

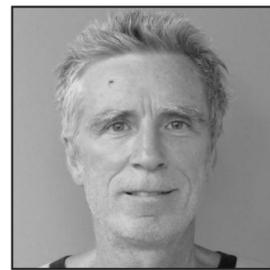
The research that is being done has brought forth good reasons why it should be legalized.

With 4/20 being celebrated, industries and organizations push for the legalization of medical marijuana, which has become one of the biggest topics of debate. As time passes scientists and researchers are finding more advantages for the use of medical marijuana.

Still the question remains. With more advantages being found and with the subject being pushed will more states pass the law?

Even with this question lingering, it will not stop students and others from participating in 4/20.

Erica Dunigan is a junior majoring in convergent journalism. You may e-mail her at erica.dunigan@sckans.edu.



ALLEN TWITCHELL

I do believe the legalization of marijuana is a slippery slope.

The old, standby argument that legalization brings about regulation, taxation and safety is

worth merit (it certainly worked with alcohol after the end of Prohibition). At the same time, the government probably wants to avoid the impression that it's encouraging its citizens to get high.

Those who want to smoke pot are going to do it regardless, so why not remove as much of the criminal element as possible?

Of course, it won't nearly rid the streets of dealers (not with crack, heroin, cocaine, etc., still unavailable through legal channels). I'm all for decriminalizing marijuana, but the issue of legalization is still a bit hazy for me.

Allen Twitchell is the resident director of Wallingford.



JACKIE BERRYMAN

I believe marijuana (cannabis) should be legalized for medicinal purposes.

Scientific research as well as anecdotal accounts indicates that the medicinal properties of marijuana are well established. Marijuana is beneficial to patients receiving chemotherapy who often experience nausea and vomiting.

Cancer patients as well as patients who have AIDS often have diminished appetite and benefit

from the use of marijuana cannabis which helps to increase appetite.

The use of marijuana lowers the intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients. Research is currently being done that indicates marijuana decreases spasticity and other neurologic symptoms in multiple sclerosis.

I believe marijuana is less harmful than some drugs currently used to treat chronic conditions.

Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States called marijuana "less toxic than many drugs physicians prescribe every day."

As far as I am concerned, marijuana's value in medical practice has been established and therefore it should be legalized for medical purposes. As a recreational drug, I have no opinion on that issue at this time.

Jackie Berryman is an associate professor of nursing.

Taking chances surpasses second-guesses



LEA SHORES

I've spent my whole life being afraid.

I'm not talking about all of my little fears like how I'm afraid of spiders or how I can't even go through a tunnel slide because I'm too afraid of small spaces.

I'm talking about a bigger fear. A fear that keeps me from living.

For example, since I was 12 years old one of my biggest

dreams in life was to go to college at Duke. It didn't matter that at the time I hardly knew anything about Duke. Duke was a big college, smart people went to Duke, and therefore, I also wanted to go to school there.

By the time I was a senior and it was time to apply to college, I didn't feel quite as confident about the whole situation as I did when I was 12. I knew I wouldn't be accepted. I never applied.

My sophomore year at Southwestern, I desperately wanted to be on the dance team. The day of try-outs, I showed up, stretched, and starting learning the routine. Somewhere in the middle of all this, I psyched myself out. I walked out without even finishing.

A little bit of fear, a few nerves, that's healthy and nor-

mal. Fear that is so debilitating you don't do the things you want to do is not.

As I stand on the brink of the real world, I'm facing a lot of these fears again.

There are so many things that I want to do, so many jobs that sound fun and interesting. But when it comes down to it, I'm afraid that I'm not good enough, I don't have enough experience, and I won't get hired. It's easier to not apply than to get rejected.

Think of all the things I could be missing.

Maybe I wouldn't have been accepted to Duke, but what if I was? All I would have lost was a \$50 application fee.

Maybe I'm not much of a dancer and I wouldn't make the dance team, but what if I did? All it would have taken to find

out was a few hours of my time.

Good things came in spite of my fears. Instead of Duke, I came to Southwestern. Instead of dancing, I started writing for the Collegian (which, by the way, I was also almost too afraid to try).

I've built my self-confidence over the last few years and am not nearly as afraid of putting myself out there as I used to be. And it's a good thing because one of these days I'm going to let a great opportunity pass me by.

The worst case scenario is never as bad as we make it out to be. So what if we get turned down for a job, don't make the team, get a C in the class or get turned down by that guy? Taking these chances is a lot better than looking back at life wondering, "What if?"

Lea Shores is a senior majoring in English. You may e-mail at lea.shores@sckans.edu.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MOVIE REVIEW

Singer returns to charts with new artist name

KORIE HAWKINS

"Forget you."

Some people may consider that rude. But if you see someone riding around town with the person you love, I'm sure you will feel otherwise. There is a worse way to say it, and when you get hold of the unedited version of Cee-Lo Green's song "Forget You," I'm sure you would agree.

The song is about telling someone off. Unleashing a mouth full of swears followed by the f-bomb. The song can be considered distasteful, but look at it from the defenders perspective. Your automatic reaction is to unload a combative amount

of frustration onto the person offending you. What better way to vent than to straight shoot it.

Grammy award winning artist Cee-Lo Green, formally known as Gnarls Barkley, released his single, "Forget You," off the album The Lady Killer on August 19, 2010, as a solo recording artist. The single reached No. 1 in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. It was No. 2 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100.

Green has never had a problem grabbing the attention of his audience. "Crazy," which won a Grammy for Best Urban/Alternative Performance in 2007, showed Green as a singer-songwriter, rapper, and record pro-

ducer. To the world he is known for R&B/hip hop, but his category falls under the great hits of Motown originals like Smokey Robinson.

The original song "F You," grabs his listening audience once again, and takes them on an adventure of ventilation. The edited version, however, leaves Green with one minor problem. Only the edited version can be broadcast, and it takes away from the original melody of the song.

But both versions have Green soaring on charts around the world. Glee, the musical comedy-drama show that airs on Fox, focuses on a high school glee club, who competes on the show

choir circuit, while dealing with relationships, sexuality, and social issues, features actress Gwyneth Paltrow as substitute teacher performing, "Forget you."

Now the song is available in three different versions on iTunes. It has reached audiences worldwide. "I pity the fool who falls in love with you," cries Green in the song. Although many may take it offensively I would have to beg to differ.

The song will have you riding around town or walking the halls silently, humming to yourself "Forget you."

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