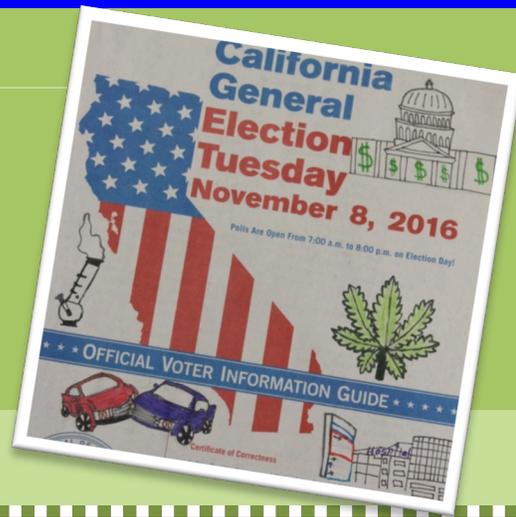




# HSA Times

**HSA Newspaper Guest Writers:** Kayla Cauley, Alexis Medina, Hayley Naquin, Linzey Ortiz, Isabella Panagiotou, and Amanda Zabriskie.  
**Newspaper Advisor:** Neil Murphy.

**Guest Photographers:** Tate Cauley (pages 3 & 5), Miranda Hidajat (cover photo & page 2), and Christopher Salinas (pages 1, 2 & 6).  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

Pages 1-2

**Introduction to Prop 64; Marijuana's Effects on the Teenage Brain**

Page 3

**Prop 64's Possible Societal Implications (Colorado-California-Chino Hills High School)**

Pages 4-5

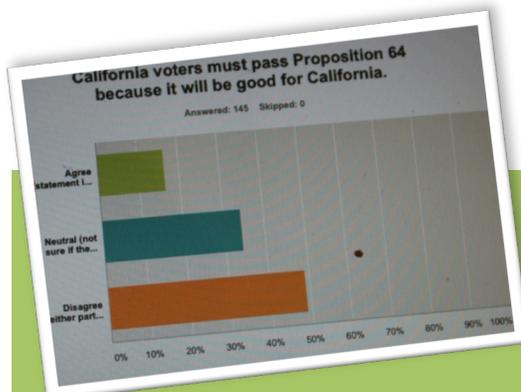
**Student Survey over Prop 64; Editorials (Is Marijuana a Gateway Drug?)**

Page 6

**Student Survey continued; Brain Teasers (Prop 64)**

by **Amanda Zabriskie**

This November, Californians will be voting in the presidential and senate election. Voters will also be deciding on 17 propositions. These propositions include Prop 56, which will increase the cigarette tax and Prop 62, which will repeal the death penalty. Among these propositions, is Prop 64, which deals with the legalization of marijuana and hemp. Proposition 64 allows adults ages 21+ to possess, transport, purchase, and consume up to one ounce of marijuana. However, the use of marijuana in public and driving under the influence will remain illegal. Prop 64 will also impose a 15% excise tax on all marijuana sales. The tax revenue will be directed toward youth substance abuse prevention, law enforcement, and environmental restoration. As well as the legalization of marijuana, Prop 64 will legalize the industrial production of hemp. This issue of *HSA Times* contains articles further discussing Prop 64 as well as interviews and surveys from HSA students concerning their opinions on Prop 64.



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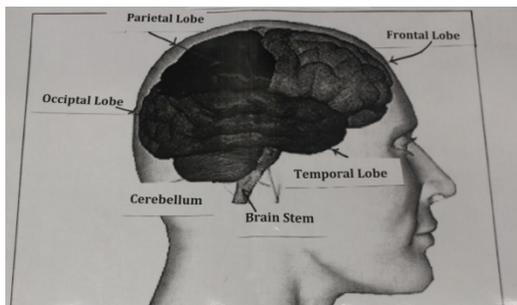
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## Marijuana's Teenage Brain by Linzey Ortiz (middle picture) Christopher Salinas (pictured right)



In today's society, there is a myriad of parlous fads including its youth and its young adults. Some of these fads include careless drinking, daredevil-like driving, etc.; however, none are as dangerous as marijuana, and marijuana can cause damage to the teenage brain, the teenage body and to others around the marijuana user. Marijuana is a plant intended for medical use but is often used for recreational purposes.

A majority of users are only aware of the "high" state being experienced as a result of marijuana use; consequently, this total unawareness

leads to misconceptions about the other effects it has on the human body.

A misconception of marijuana is that it doesn't affect a person's IQ. In marijuana, there is a chemical called delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that causes parts of the brain to release dopamine, which causes the "high" effect. A major part of the brain that is affected by THC is the hippocampus. The hippocampus plays a critical role in certain types of learning. By changing its normal functioning, marijuana can lead to problems studying, learning new concepts and re-

calling recent events. The American Psychological Association did a study, called "Marijuana and the Developing Brain," where Terrie Moffitt and a team followed people from ages 13 to 38 and found that those who used marijuana a lot in their teens had up to a six-point drop in IQ, even if they quit in adulthood. Research has also shown that the acute effects of the drug wear off depending on a user's history with the drug. However, students who constantly smoke marijuana have poor educational outcomes when compared to their non-smoking peers.

## Guest Photographers-Christopher Salinas (pictured above-right) Miranda Hidajat (pictured right)

Since THC also affects areas of the frontal cortex involved in decision-making, using marijuana can cause people to participate in activities that they would not otherwise do when not under the mesmerizing influence of marijuana. This can lead to participating in dangerous

fads that can end with contracting a sexually transmitted disease, driving while under the influence of marijuana, mixing marijuana with alcohol or other serious drugs, thus, being charged with a DUI or causing a fatal traffic accident.

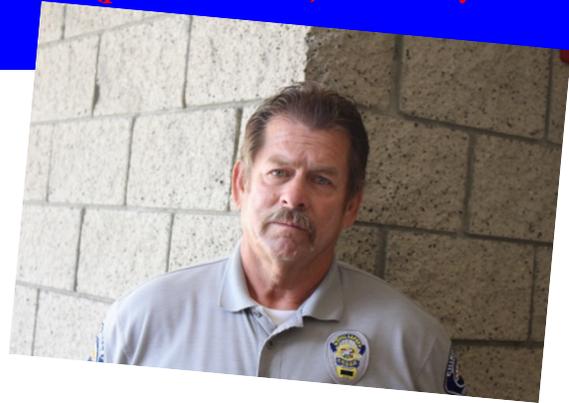
Marijuana opens a sundriness of dangerous



doors that lead to damaging sections of the brain, such as the hippocampus, the body overall and hurting innocent people around the marijuana user.

**Miranda Hidajat (pictured above)**

**California's Controversial Social Experiment**  
**by Alexis Medina (pictured left)**  
**Mr. Garnica (pictured below) Photos by Tate Cauley**



Ever since voters in Colorado legalized marijuana for recreational use in November of 2012, percentages of marijuana-related suspensions, traffic fatalities, and hospital visits have soared. The sociological implications it has put Colorado under are huge. According to *SciCheck*, in the first two years after the recreational use of marijuana became legal, the yearly marijuana-related traffic deaths increased by 41%. In addition, in 2014 marijuana-related traffic deaths made up 19.26% of all traffic deaths, up from 6.92% in 2006.

The report also breaks down how Colorado emergency room hospital visits that are "likely related" and "could be related" to marijuana have increased by 77% from 2011 to 2014. The state health department report also states that increases in emergency room visit rates in Colorado "have many potential explanations" and that without a full medical record review, it cannot "determine with

certainty whether marijuana was truly a casual or contributing factor," even in "likely related" cases.

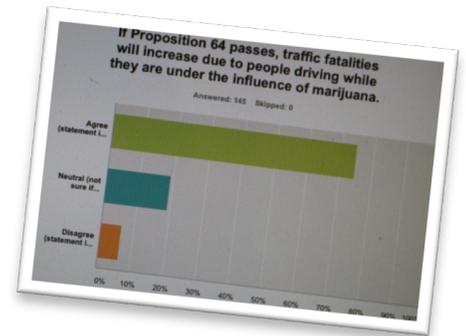
Colorado high schools have also taken quite a hit. According to *SciCheck*, "... officials reported that most drug-related suspension or expulsion reports since [the] 2008/2009 academic year have been related to marijuana." The Rocky Mountain HIDTA surveyed 95 school resource officers: 90% reported an increase in marijuana-related incidents since the legalization of recreational marijuana.

But the question is how will the passing of Proposition 64 affect schools in California, such as our own Chino Hills High?

Al Garnica, a highly regarded security guard at Chino Hills High School, provided pertinent information about how Prop 64 could affect CHHS students. Al has worked at both CHHS and Don Lugo as a security guard with a

career almost surpassing fifteen years.

**Q:** The underage consumption of alcohol is common among high school students. Do you predict that the consumption of marijuana will be less than, greater than, or equal to that of alcohol?



**A:** I think it'll be less.

**Q:** With the majority of students' attitudes toward marijuana being so cordial, in a class of 30 students, how many do you think will be under the influence of marijuana?

**A:** Probably about five.

Overall, voters will determine if they want this social experiment.

## Blunt Facts

With the upcoming elections, there are many issues that require the attention of voters across the state. One of the more pertinent issues regards the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in California. Although most students are not yet eligible to vote, a survey was conducted across all grade levels in the HSA Academy, with students participating from Mr. Murphy's 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class, Ms. Prieto's 10<sup>th</sup> grade English class, Mr. Harrington's 11<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History class and Mr. Sabbara's 12<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. Government class. The survey was performed online in HSA's efforts to go green and was also used as a teaching opportunity to demonstrate how upcoming elections may be conducted on smartphones in the near future.

The survey consisted of four positive and four negative

statements. Students selected whether they agreed, disagreed or remained neutral with each statement.

**Q1:** Proposition 64 must pass because it will be good for California.

49% of HSA students disagreed with this statement, 34% remained neutral and 16% of students agreed. It is clear that the majority of students disagreed with the effectiveness of the measure for a variety of reasons, explored below.

**Q2:** Marijuana represents a gateway drug; marijuana users tend to graduate to harder drugs, such as heroin.

61% of students agreed, 25% remained neutral and 13% disagreed. Those who disagreed may have been influenced by presentations provided by CHHS (or others) on addiction and drugs.

**Q3:** If Proposition 64 is approved, marijuana use among teens at Chino Hills High School will increase.

71% agreed, 21% remained neutral and only 6% of students disagreed. The majority believes that legal access to marijuana will result in heavier recreational use.

**Q4:** If Proposition 64 passes, the marijuana 15% sales tax will generate a lot of revenue for California.

45% agreed, 48% remained neutral and 6% disagreed. Students are divided on whether this will generate tax revenue; additional quantitative analysis may be needed.

**Q5:** Proposition 64 makes it unlawful for marijuana growers and marijuana retail outlets to target minors for advertising. Hence, teens will be protected from advertising for marijuana products.

**Blunt Facts continued** by Isabella Panagiotou

Photos on page 5-- by Tate Canley

20% agreed, 43% remained neutral and 36% disagreed. Some may think that growers and sellers may find a way to advertise to easily influence teens anyway.

**Q6:** If Proposition 64 passes, suspensions will increase at Chino Hills High School due to marijuana-related incidents.

71% agreed, 25% remained neutral and only 3% dis-

agreed. The majority believes that marijuana's legalization will directly lead to an increase in marijuana use and, therefore, more suspensions at CHHS.

**Q7:** If Proposition 64 passes, California prisons will become less over-crowded because Californians will no longer be incarcerated for possession of marijuana.

47% agreed, 38% remained neutral and 14% disagreed. Most students believe that marijuana's legalization will relieve overcrowding in prisons.

**Q8:** If Proposition 64 passes, traffic fatalities will increase due to people driving under the influence of marijuana.

**See Blunt Facts, Page 6**



**Amanda Zabriskie (pictured above): She wrote the front-page article.**



**Isabella Panagiotou (pictured above): She wrote the article about the polls over Prop 65.**



**Hayley Naquin (top picture) and Kayla Cauley (bottom picture) wrote the editorial pieces. Photos-by Tate Cauley**

## **Editorial (Marijuana is not a Gateway Drug)**

Although some researchers say that marijuana is a gateway drug, other researchers would disagree. Although the percentage of American youth using marijuana is high, research has also shown that few graduate to the use of more serious drugs.

Dennis Thompson, who wrote the “Marijuana Study Counters ‘Gateway’ Theory,” says that people often use marijuana before moving onto other drugs, but that does not mean that marijuana is the cause of the progression. Thompson also stated that the result of teenagers experimenting with marijuana may give rise to the “exit strategy.” Just as drug users are using marijuana to reduce addiction, it could react the same to those teens experimenting with marijuana, leaving the teens with no cravings to try more.

Maia Szalavitz, author of “Marijuana as a Gateway Drug: the Myth That Will Not Die,” has researched that in terms of marijuana’s specific correlation with other drug use, slightly less than half of Americans over twelve have tried marijuana while less than fifteen percent have taken cocaine.

The wise Miriam Boeri, an associate professor of sociology at Bentley University, once said, “It’s time to move beyond marijuana as a gateway drug and start to study its use as treatment for deadly, addictive and socially devastating drugs [heroin, cocaine, etc.]”

**by Kayla Cauley**

## **Editorial (Marijuana’s Road to even more Dangerous Drugs)**

The dictionary states that a gateway drug is a substance, such as alcohol, in which its use is thought to lead to the usage and dependence of a harder drug. People, especially young people, tend to not take marijuana use seriously because it is not known for being a dangerous drug; however, the intensity and long-term physiological effect of the drug is neglected. Since the use of marijuana is not taken seriously, people are getting themselves involved with it and aren’t strong enough to beat its Sirens-like temptation. Marijuana can lead to more dangerous addictions because of its mind-altering properties.

Marijuana users are highly unaware of the effects this drug has on their body. The use of marijuana affects the dopamine levels in the brain, which are the neurotransmitters that affect one’s feelings and emotions. The THC levels in marijuana are what cause the dopamine levels to fluctuate. After using this drug, the dopamine levels in the brain rise, but after the “high,” they fall below normal. Long-term use of marijuana can decrease the brain’s overall production and release of dopamine. This being said, with lower levels of dopamine, it can cause ADHD, Parkinson’s disease and addiction problems as well as an unfounded increase in levity.

Drug users will always be searching for the next “high.” After drug users abuse the smoking of marijuana for a certain amount of time, that “high feeling” isn’t as strong as it was initially, and they will do anything to feel that same “high” again by trying harder substances, such as opioids, that provide an even more dangerous and risky result.

**by Hayley Naquin**

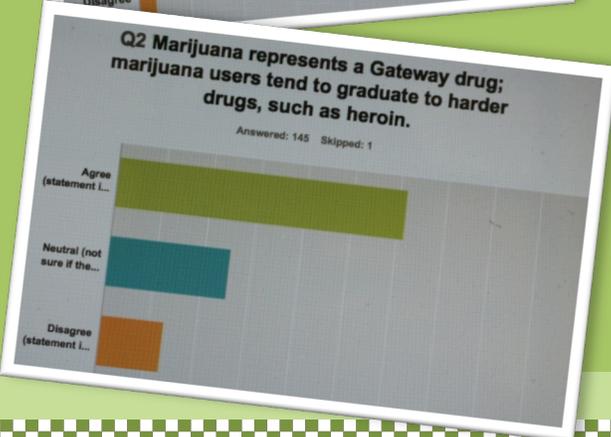
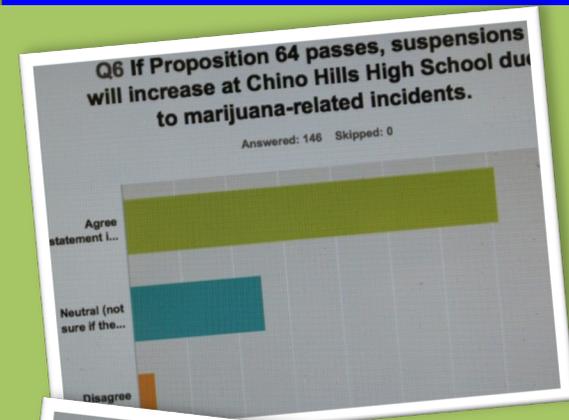
## Blunt Facts Continued

74% agreed, 19% remained neutral and 6% agreed. A large majority of students are worried that the legalization of marijuana will cause an increase in DUIs, as using marijuana hampers reaction time, vision and spatial awareness.

Since HSA students take additional courses, such as biology, anatomy and physiology, they are more educated about the human body, as well as cause and effect. If the survey was conducted among the general population, the results may have differed than those shown.

*By Isabella Panagiotou*

**Christopher Salinas (took all photos over Prop 64 Survey and the one of Linzey Ortiz)**



## Answers to September's Brain Teasers (Academy Theme):

- 1) internships
- 2) volunteer hours
- 3) Casa de Colina
- 4) club meetings
- 5) letter of recommendation
- 6) cooperative
- 7) Kaiser Permanente
- 8) benevolent
- 9) academically curious
- 10) persevering

September's winner: **Najia Saleem (9<sup>th</sup> grade Student).**

## HSA Brain Teasers

Please submit your answers in person to Mr. Murphy in **room 232 before or after school**. The first student who submits his/her correct answers will win a **Starbuck's** gift card. This month's HSA theme is centered around the controversial initiative--Prop 64 (**legalization of marijuana for recreational use**)

**Example** (fill in the missing vowels):

G\_t\_w\_y Dr\_g (Answer: **Gateway Drug**)

- 1) t\_x\_t\_\_n
- 2) \_n\_t\_\_t\_v\_
- 3) G\_r\_ J\_hns\_n
- 4) C\_l\_r\_d\_
- 5) t\_tr\_h\_dr\_c\_nn\_b\_n\_l
- 6) psych\_\_ct\_v\_
- 7) th\_r\_p\_\_t\_c
- 8) d\_c\_rb\_x\_l\_t\_\_n
- 9) r\_v\_n\_\_
- 10) tr\_ff\_c f\_t\_l\_t\_\_s

Answers will be provided in the next edition along with the name of the winner.