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Respecting cannabis respects nature

“Hippies can’t stand death metal.”

South Park’s Cartman

The Illinois Constitution, Section 1 of the Bill of Rights states:

“All men are by nature free and independent and have certain inherent and inalienable rights among which are *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*”

Those aren’t hippy words, though they are constitutional words hippies would applaud. We talked a lot about music and cannabis in this book. We’ve also discussed how cannabis kills cancer. We haven’t said much about the myth that cannabis smoking *causes* cancer. It’s a myth. A 2009 US government funded study tried to prove the myth true and failed. The study examined the frequency of heavy cannabis smokers and lung cancer. The study showed a negative correlation between cannabis smoking and lung cancer, not a positive one. The research ended up implying cannabis smokers might be protecting their lungs from cancer, which is consistent with other cannabinoid and cancer research.

We mention that in order to talk about things used to discredit cannabis. The media likes to show pictures of joint smoking rockers. That’s because rock-n-roll and cannabis prohibition share a common heritage. They also share another characteristic: *the ability to entourage.*

Sure, music and cannabinoids can be “used” independently of the group. It’s just that the two go better with others.

There’s a somewhat famous song that captures the essence of our culture’s relationship to cannabis. Black Sabbath, a pioneer of heavy metal and forerunner of death metal, praises cannabis in *Sweet Leaf*:

ALRIGHT NOW!
Won't you listen?

*When I first met you, didn't realize
I can't forget you, for your surprise
you introduced me, to my mind
And left me wanting, you and your kind*

I love you, Oh you know it

*My life was empty, forever on a down
Until you took me, showed me around
My life is free now, my life is clear
I love you sweet leaf, though you can't hear*

Come on now, try it out

*Straight people don't know, what you're about
They put you down and shut you out
you gave to me a new belief
and soon the world will love you sweet leaf*

Cannabinoids, like bands, work better when entouraging. Two examples of entouragers (also referred to as congeners) are *oleoylethanolamide* (OEA) and *palmitoylethanolamide* (PEA), though all cannabinoids entourage. One entourager of little notice is *stearoylethanolamide* (SEA). In 2002 it was reported to be in mammalian brains at comparable levels with anandamide. In 2008 research, SEA was hailed for its “promising therapeutic benefit in reducing allergic inflammation in the skin.” By 2010, the white-coats were investigating SEA’s cannabimimetic actions in diseased brains.

Cartman may be correct that hippies can’t stand death metal. Some hippies don’t even like classic Black Sabbath. There is that one song though, *Paranoid*, that hippies get. – Oh yeah, we understand that one.

I suppose music is like most things in life – it doesn’t matter if you are straight, hippy, or metalhead – you just might end up sharing a cannabinoid high with someone ... and some admiration for the *Sweet Leaf*.

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Search terms

South Park’s “Die Hippie, Die”; Black Sabbath’s *Sweet Leaf*; *oleoylethanolamide* (OEA), *palmitoylethanolamide* (PEA), *linoleoylethanolamide* (LEA), and *stearoylethanolamide* (SEA); IDOC Jason Spyres #K99397.

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