

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,  
Day after day, you pick up the newspaper and what do you see? News articles on Marijuana, all about the regulations in place or new ones that they want in place. Many times the articles are highlighted with a picture of a marijuana leaf. There are articles touting it's use and why it should be legalized. Once in a great while you might see a letter or release opposing. Our fishing industry and logging industry have all but been destroyed by those environmentalists who would not allow a leaf of common grass to be harmed, if they had their way. Yet, they are the ones who will destroy wild life, the environment and water resources doing irreparable harm to the countryside. The only 'grass' that they want to allow is that which is more commonly referred to as 'pot', treating it as some kind of miracle plant that is harmless and containing such wonderful properties. Then there are those who support the crop because of its cash value. The profiteers who can only see the money that might possibly come their way. There are the federal laws that oppose the marijuana industry and the individual states who show mixed emotions about legalizing. Of course, our part of the country promotes the sale and use. They like to tell you that their main concern is the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes. According to what I read and hear there must be a lot of sick people who need the drug what with the development of thousands of acres. The proponents would like you to believe that smoking the drug is harmless. Since when has it been proven that breathing smoke from a burning object is harmless in certain cases? Ask all the fire victims that have been effected by smoke inhalation during this weeks rash of wild fires in California. Ask any fire fighter if there are certain types of smoke that don't call for breathing apparatus. Let's look back in time when the public outcry caused millions of dollars to be spent to fight the tobacco industry who was blamed for a good portion of the cases of lung cancer victims. The use of tobacco was fought by many groups and individuals across the nation. Due to tremendous pressure the advertising of tobacco, particularly cigarettes, is almost extinct and cigarette prices are through the roof. So, here we are with the growing and sale of marijuana building at a fever pitch with one of the by products being increased crime. Please, don't give me crap about the hard drugs only being the cause of crime. I have one question; "Where is the American Lung Association and other like groups?"  
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