

Dear Bill:

I'm 56 years old, and have been an active AA member for 24 years. I have a MBA and a BS in business. My IQ is 127. I started drinking at age 18, and soon afterwards starting using marijuana. Pot was definitely a gateway drug for me, as it led to many others, including LSD, cocaine, quaaludes, etc. By the time I graduated college at age 21, I was a full-blown addict. My life spiraled downhill until about age 32, when I quit drinking and drugs.

I've had trouble with relationships with women, and authority figures. I've been on antidepressants for about the last 20 years. I've had trouble keeping a job. However, I am a Catholic, and my spiritual life has become much bigger in my life in the last five years, so I'm doing better. But I can only imagine how much better my life would have been without alcohol and marijuana and subsequent drug use. You could argue, I imagine, that because alcohol is legal, that my life still would be bad because of my alcoholism, but I think pot was a bigger problem for me. If I had pot, I was generally high— day or night.

I believe marijuana is a very dangerous drug. It takes away any ambition, hopes, and dreams you have of a better life. It fries your brain.

Thank you for your work in trying to bring this to light.

Jack in OH

Bennett, William J.; White, Robert A. (2015-02-03). *Going to Pot: Why the Rush to Legalize Marijuana Is Harming America* (p. 106). Center Street. Kindle Edition.