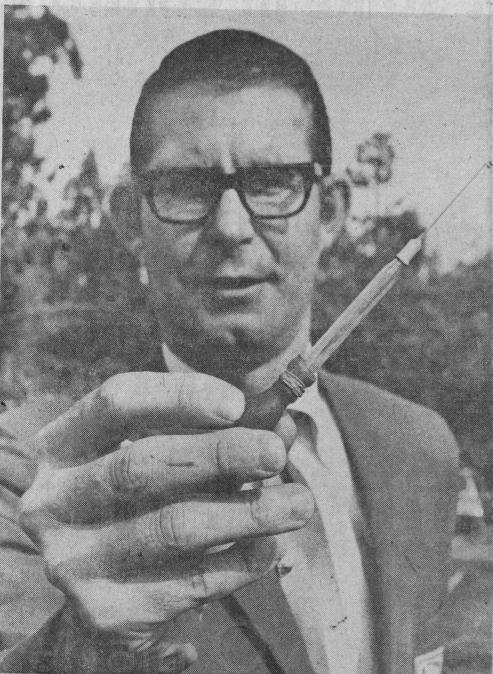
## Is The Social Pot Smoker Really In Peril?



Methamphetamine "speed users. freaks," use needles like this one kept as a souvenir by Ed Crowell, deputy chief probation officer of Santa Cruz

County. Hepatitis from unsterile needles, paranoia and a predilection for violence characterize the user of speed.

By Peter R. Walls Sentinel Staff Writer

steadily is today a truism.

One Santa Cruz High School student estimated that at least larly.

you stupid, you know. You're and inadequate otherwise." just there, man."

estant Ethic-laden young Amer- an important factor, says Dr. able chunk of young people County medical society's Drug cause they know," says Robert Abuse Committee. Soderholm, city school official

"later," a view that reflects the shape the entire world is in, not just the young.

the first to realize that the val- he said. ues of the past may be totally inappropriate for the world in which he will be an adult. The tinued, mainly because it is methamphetamine "shooting" predictable and feels powerless cope with the pressures around to direct it. Faced with a be-them. wildering rate of social change he learns to be 'cool,' to avoid commitment, and live in the present," wrote Dr. Seymour cape: "When you can't channel or have much in common. Both suppress," he said, "you esget their highs, and both stand in some danger of over-use. Halleck, director of psychiatry

only partly relevant to the is- Derby, are simply curious. sue of pot smoking.

like drinking.

"Kids take pot for the same reason their parents drink—it's a thing to do with your

peer group," said one UCSC bility and maturity of the perstudent.

"I have yet to meet a kid," That drug use among the says Ed Crowell, deputy chief young is rising sharply and probation officer, "who has inating enough to know to lay

Rebellion, said Superior Court | Speed is easily obtained but 60 per cent of the student body Judge Charles Franich, has not widely used—compared to much to do with pot use, al-marijuana-because of the danhad turned on, and at least 25 though he discounted peer pres- ger in its use. Hepatitis and per cent use marijuana regu- sure as a prime reason. "Those paronia are clear and present who use it have a personality dangers to most kids, says problem," said the judge. "They Crowell. "Grass just sort of makes feel ten feet tall when high,

This is not the goal-oriented, group if you don't go along mit their success in forestalling hard-working, optimistic, Protwith "the scene" appears to be pot smoking has been modest. ican talking. But neither is he Donald Seapy, a Scotts Valley atypical. He speaks for a size-physician, and chairman of the finger at a kid and say 'No' be-

The crux of the matter is the There may be, after all, no breakdown of the family unit.

"These kids seek love and acceptance, and if they don't get it in the home, then they dangers of certain drugs is the "The elite student is among seek it in their peer group,"

student furthermore despairs of available to them, and because has continued only among those the future since he finds it un-they have not been taught to who are emotionally unstable.

This is not to say, of course, This is not to say, of course, that everyone who smokes pot is in desperate straits. Most of galization, while interesting, is Derby are simply curious.

This is not to say, of course, that everyone who smokes pot is in desperate straits. Most of ecstacy and degradation lies the truth of drug use.

"We get all kinds of kids on True, some smoke because it marijuana charges - sons and is forbidden by law, but for the daughters of doctors, teachers, vast majority of the young who the works. We find that most of smoke it, pot is a social thing, them drop it after the first time, and most can't admit they've done anything wrong."

> Rebellion, acquiesence to peer pressure, and experimentation, all of them linked to some family turmoil, seem to be the main reasons for the use of pot initially, and contain the seeds of continued use.

"We don't have any evidence," said Dr. Seapy, "to show that if a person uses pot once a week he'll come to any harm." Pot is an escape hatch, he added. The young use it like alcohol.

says Judge ago? "It is true," Franich, "that 95 per cent of hard narcotics users started on years after Pope Gregory had marijuana, but it is not true corrected the old Roman "Juthat 95 per cent of marijuana as the Gregorian Calendar users go on to narcotics."

The progression of drug use from pot to LSD to "speed" to narcotics hardly is the rule, although it happens. Which the progression of drug use their calendar up to date and it was adopted by the American Colonies.

son using the drug. Alcohol use would be an analogy.

gone behind the barn and done off some of the drugs avail-it by himself."

The schools have drug education programs, but even the But feeling left out of the leaders of these programs ad-

> "You can no longer wag your and head of the drug education program.

> And Crowell suggests that the young grape vine and permost effective way of curbing their use. LSD use has dropped

In other words, the social pot smoker and the social drinker "When you can't channel or have much in common. Both

## One Man's Opinion

BY ELDEN HOLMES

## HAPPY **NEW YEAR!**



Did you know that if it weren't for the English and their revision of the calendar two centuries ago, we might all be saying "Happy New Year" today,

March 25th, and not two months

It seems that in 1732 - 150 Great Britain decided to bring

council though it happens. Whether it days were dropped from the month of September and thus

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