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The Oval Cam

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To take or not to take

Students split on legalizing medical marijuana

Jen Rainey

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Students' views are varying on whether medical marijuana should be legalized. Jessica Criser, a non-traditional student in nursing, and Alana White, junior in political science, support legalization; whereas, Joel Ybarra, senior in communication education, is against legalization. Other students like Ross Stone, senior in theater, and Danny Penn, senior in history, are fairly neutral on the matter.

"I was raised to believe marijuana wasn't something to do," Penn said. "However, not being in the amount of pain that people who it is prescribed to are. I can't say for sure whether I would use it or not if I were in their situation."

At a time when Kansas lawmakers voted to ban K2, a synthetic form of marijuana, a bill has been introduced to legalize medical marijuana.

"If we want to accept change as Obama suggests, we need to look past our prejudices and examine our options for the most beneficial solution," White said. Kansas State Rep. Gail Finney, who proposed the bill, hopes that at the very least this bill will raise awareness.

"Something like this takes people stepping out and standing up for Kansas and encouraging everyone to continue working toward legalizing it," Finney said.

According to medicalmarijuana.procon.org, marijuana is a combination of particles from the Cannabis sativa plant. It is made up of dried flowers, stems and seeds from the plant. According to a the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), medical marijuana can aid in Alzheimer's disease, anorexia, AIDS, arthritis, cachexia, cancer, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, migraines, multiple sclerosis, nausea, pain, spasticity and wasting syndrome.

"I have lived in Oregon where medical marijuana has been legal for many years," Criser said. "It was a well-regulated treatment option and a very private medical option discussed between a patient and their physician. If it were legal in Kansas, I can't imagine anyone really noticing that the law went into effect because it is such a personal choice."

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