

Marijuana Use Up Sharply Among US Youths

WASHINGTON - American teenagers are smoking marijuana at nearly twice the rate they did three years ago, according to a government

survey. But the study also found that illicit drug use among all Americans remained at the same level in 1994 as it was in 1992

after more than a decade of decline from the peak year of 1979.

salvo at the Clinton administration.

Abuse said marijuana use among 12-17 year olds nearly doubled from 1992 to 1994, though it was well below the peak reached in 1979. Marijuana use among adolescents had been on a steady decline through the 1980s.

those polled five years ago.

Of the 13 million Americans, or 6.2 percent of the population, who use illicit drugs, the survey found that 10 million used marijuana, making it by far the most commonly used illegal drug.

Former New Orleans Cop Sentenced To Death

NEW ORLEANS - Former police officer Antoinette Frank has been sentenced to death by lethal injection for gunning down her police patrol partner and two young Vietnamese while robbing the restaurant where they worked.

Frank showed no emotion when the verdict was read. Later, one of her attorneys, Robert Jenkins, said Frank knows an appeal is planned based on state District Court Judge Frank Marullo's refusal of various defense requests for more money to hire private investigators and expert witnesses.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole is using the study to fire a taken it personally. "She's not a cop; she's trash," he said.

Dole said the Clinton administration has done little to fight illegal drug use during that time. He charges the administration "sat on the sidelines, transforming the war on drugs into a full-scale retreat." But the White House is using the numbers in the study to blast Republican attempts to slash government spending on anti-drug programs.

The survey found that 7.3 percent of 12-17 year olds reported using marijuana monthly, up from four percent in 1992 and that only about 40 percent of adolescents believe occasional use of the drug is dangerous, down from over half

Cocaine was used by 1.4 million Americans, 0.7 percent of the population, a number that has remained unchanged since 1985. But the survey found that the number of occasional cocaine users has declined (See Marijuana, Page 10)

A state criminal court jury deliberated less than 45 minutes before deciding late Tuesday night she should be executed for the killings. It has been more than 50 years since a woman was executed in Louisiana.

Rogers Lacaze, Frank's 18-year-old accomplice in robbing the Kim Anh Restaurant where she often worked off-duty as a security guard with Williams, was convicted of the killings in July and sentenced to death.

In arguments Tuesday, Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Teel urged jurors to "give her what she deserves. She used her position as a police officer to kill these people. She swore to serve and protect these (See New Orleans Cop, Pg 10)

"It would have been a mockery of justice if Antoinette Frank were to walk away without getting the death penalty," Assistant District Attorney Glen Woods said after the verdict.

The crime horrified officers in the scandal-plagued New Orleans Police Department, where in the past four years more than 45 officers have been charged with crimes, including murder, rape, bank robbery, racketeering, drug trafficking, bribery, auto theft and aggravated battery.

Monday, jurors took only 22 minutes to convict Frank, 23, of first degree murder for killing Officer Ronald Williams II, 25, and restaurant employees Cuong Vu, 17, and his sister, Ha Vu, 24. The Vus' parents own the restaurant.

Detective Sgt. Eddie Rentz said police have tried to distance themselves from the disgrace of Frank's unprecedented killing of a fellow officer, but most have

Louisiana law requires jurors in capital murder cases to determine the punishment in a separate trial.

Woman Who Died In Bridge Incident Had Taken PCP

DETROIT - The woman who jumped to her death from a bridge after being beaten in front of a crowd three weeks ago had traces of the hallucinogenic drug PCP in her body, police said Friday.

Deputy Detroit Police Chief Benny Napoleon said toxicology tests on Deletha Word showed that she had 0.17 millilitres of the drug, commonly known as "angel dust," in her blood.

"I am not competent to tell you whether that would affect her decisions," Napoleon said.

The discovery is expected to be a significant factor in the defence of Martell Welch, the 19-year-old man charged with Word's murder.

Police say Welch ripped off her clothing and attacked her after a traffic accident on Detroit's Belle Isle bridge in the predawn hours of Aug. 18, causing her to jump into the Detroit River to escape. Word, 33, drowned in the swift current and her body was found hours later about 10 miles downstream.

Welch's lawyer, Wanda Cal, has argued her client did not cause Word to jump but that she leapt from the bridge on her own.

"It will be a dirty, dirty shame if they let him get off on something because they say she was high," Word's mother, Dortha, told WDIV-TV. "He knew what he was doing."

The incident has attracted international attention because a crowd of about 40 to 50 people watched but no one tried to stop it or call for help.

Napoleon said PCP is far less common in Detroit than other drugs, such as cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

"We do not see very many instances of PCP in Detroit, particularly in the African American community," he said. "It is not a drug of choice."

Meanwhile, one of two young men honoured for trying to save Word was in police custody Friday for violating terms of his probation, Napoleon said. Orlando Brown, who jumped into the river but failed to save Word, along with Lawrence Walker, received a "spirit of Detroit" commendation by the Detroit City Council.

Witnesses at the scene said last week that Word panicked when her would-be rescuers dove into the river and swam away from them into deeper water.

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