

SMOKING KILLS

Well, so does alcohol in the long run, especially if you overdo it. The same goes for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, LSD or any other so called “drug”, for that matter.

The title I have chosen refers to the warning in big capital letters that can be read in every carton of cigarettes people buy. And some people do buy those cigarettes, they do not seem to feel intimidated by those menacing words: **SMOKING KILLS**.

I think it’s hypocritical to tell people the obvious fact they simply choose to ignore. It is also hypocritical to try to stop drug traffickers from selling what people insist on buying, even if they are perfectly aware of the damage those substances will cause to their health.

There are a lot of plausible reasons for this. The government taxes tobacco and alcohol, of course, and makes a lot of money out of it. For many people, especially young people, getting high can sometimes be a sign of rebellion against their family or the establishment, a way of “making a statement”, a symbol of independence. There is also the question of peer pressure. “What will my friends at the party call me if I say no to a little ecstasy? They’ll think I’m chicken...”

There is also curiosity as a factor. Human beings are curious by nature and it is very difficult to resist temptation, especially when the media, movies, songs, etc. continue to imply that “soft” drugs at least are a glamorous thing. Well, the fact is that sooner or later we will all be dead. So, why worry?