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### Student fell to death after eating pot cookie

By Associated Press April 3, 2014 6:48 am



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Letter to Editor

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**DENVER (AP)** — A Wyoming college student visiting Denver on spring break jumped to his death after eating a marijuana cookie that his friend legally purchased in one of Colorado's recreational pot shops, authorities said Wednesday.

An autopsy report lists marijuana intoxication as a "significant contributing factor" in the death of 19-year-old Levi Thamba Pongi, a native of the Republic of Congo who fell from a motel balcony on March 11.

It marked the first time the Denver medical examiner's office has listed a marijuana edible as a contributor to a death, said Michelle Weiss-Samaras, a spokeswoman for the office.

"We have not had that," she said.

Investigators believe Pongi and his friends came to Colorado to try marijuana, Weiss-Samaras said.

The friends told investigators that Pongi ate the cookie and "exhibited hostile behavior" that included pulling things off walls and speaking erratically, the autopsy report said.

Attempts by the three friends to calm Pongi seemed to work until he went outside and jumped over the balcony railing, according to the report.

Denver police ruled the death an accident but said their investigation remains open.

Colorado law bans the sale of recreational marijuana products to people under 21. It is also illegal for those under 21 to possess marijuana, and adults can be charged with a felony for giving it to someone under the legal age.

Authorities said one of Pongi's friends was old enough to buy the cookie from a pot shop. It was unclear whether the friend might face charges.

The medical examiner's office had Pongi's body tested for at least 250 different substances, including bath salts and synthetic marijuana, which are known to cause strange behavior. His blood tested positive only for THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, according to the report.

One of Pongi's friends also tried the cookie but stopped after feeling sick, Weiss-Samaras said.

The marijuana concentration in Pongi's blood was 7.2 nanograms of active THC per milliliter of blood. Colorado law says juries can assume someone is driving while impaired by marijuana if their blood contains more than 5 nanograms per milliliter of the chemical.

Officials at Northwest College in Powell, Wyo., say Pongi started taking classes as an exchange student in January. He was studying engineering.

"The Northwest College campus community continues to grieve after Levy's death," the college said in a statement. "All of us were deeply saddened by this tragic incident and feel for his family."

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## 35 Comments

1.  Comment by Ron Alford  
April 3, 2014 @ 9:42 am

Did he fall, or did he jump?

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (10 votes cast)

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2. Comment by Mort\_f  
April 3, 2014 @ 9:52 am

Play with fire, and you just might get burned. Pardon me if I am not the least bit sympathetic. And just think of the what if, if he had decided to drive a car after eating that cookie.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.2/5 (21 votes cast)

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- o Comment by mbnick  
April 3, 2014 @ 11:27 am

ONLY positive is it's one less Obama type voter

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.3/5 (18 votes cast)



- o Comment by commonsenseneeded  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:51 pm

I agree! And to top it off, he was underage to have access to the Pot laced Cookie! I don't know what these liberal fools are thinking. Medical Marijuana is one thing, but RECREATION Marijuana is just asking for trouble. Doesn't anyone remember the 60s?

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.7/5 (10 votes cast)



- o Comment by darral  
April 3, 2014 @ 3:26 pm

Must have been some good Wyoming DUNG

Rate this comment:

Rating: 1.0/5 (1 vote cast)



3. Comment by gopuc12450  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:08 am

I am really getting old.

For many years, my wife was serving a large dinner of veggies and 'pot' roast.

Never knew that stuff would make me jump out a window.

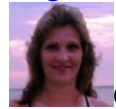
— —

Save the boos!

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.1/5 (17 votes cast)

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4. Comment by braines57

April 3, 2014 @ 10:12 am

Seriously – what else did these libtard moonbats expect when they passed their cannabis-happy laws? Probably only the first of many more to come, sadly.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.1/5 (34 votes cast)

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o Comment by pebear

April 3, 2014 @ 10:30 am

Quit with the name calling. I have been smoking the stuff since I was 10 years old. I I'm not a liberal or a hippy or a freak, I don't hang with "Pot Heads." The people I do hang with don't like liberals and we don't consider weed a drug. We don't like the police, politicians, lawyers, bureaucrats, jailers or anyone else who might inhibit our ride on two wheels or the chance to live our lives free. We have determined years ago that the US is not a free country and if you want freedom you must steal it and live as an outlaw. So if you were to throw around words like libtard to my friends I would not be able to guarantee your safety. Time has to legalize the stuff and quit putting people in jail for it. As for the Darwin award winner here, too bad he should have learned to handle himself as a man. You don't know who to handle yourself in life you die.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 2.8/5 (34 votes cast)



o Comment by Bobinms

April 3, 2014 @ 10:42 am

One thing you can bet on....it's not their fault.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.3/5 (12 votes cast)

-  Comment by Lena  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:51 am

Pebear, you sound like one of the libtard moon bats that braines was talking about.

There is absolutely no justification for adding one more way to cloud your brain to the point of accidental death just because there is already a way to do so. Intelligent people would be looking for ways to reduce intoxicants, not increase the variety.

There's also a similarity to 8 yr olds in your comment. But Mom, Johnny gets alcohol so it's not fair if I don't get pot.

Grow the hell up!

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.1/5 (29 votes cast)

-  Comment by Rich Money  
April 3, 2014 @ 1:55 pm

Pebear:

Freedom comes with a high price; it is called responsibility. When you take substances in your body that inhibit your ability to think clearly, reason and react quickly when needed, your "freedom" becomes a significant risk to those around you. In the bible, the apostle Paul said that since he was a Roman citizen that "all things are lawful for me, but not all things are good for me." (paraphrased). Being an adult means making adult choices about what is good and what is not. Putting other peoples' lives in danger because you can't exhibit self control enough to lay off harmful drugs is not freedom, it is folly and hubris of the highest order. Legalizing a highly dangerous and addictive substance such as marijuana will only cause the death rate from impaired drivers to skyrocket, and as such that is "freedom" we cannot afford. Your freedom should never be measured with human casualties except for those casualties of the men and women who died for our freedom around the world fighting for us.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.6/5 (10 votes cast)

- 5.  Comment by backpacker  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:20 am

Typical of the liberals and their drug culture. When I went to college the marijuana smokers walked around like a bunch of zombies after they slept all day, missing their college classes. They also became paranoid. Look at the Detroit Red Wing player that was brain damaged by a limo driver who had smoked marijuana and crashed the limo into a tree. The drug culture is a disgrace. Young kids in Colorado will be buying these candies and cookies laced with marijuana. What is going to happen to them? Also, many of the marijuana smokers who put tar into their lungs, from the marijuana, scream for a clean environment. What hypocrites! Look at the percentage of driving while intoxicated in Washington state. The rate has

gone up 60% since they legalized marijuana. Look at the people that will be injured or killed in car accidents by the marijuana smokers. This is what the liberals / liberal drug culture gives you.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.6/5 (28 votes cast)

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-  Comment by pebear  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:35 am

How about the amount of drunks that have done just as bad or far worse. You want to ban alcohol? Or is alcohol the preferred drug of the GOP. I have been smoking weed for over 40 years and I have never done any of the \*\*\*\* you talk about. And quit equating smoking weed with being liberal. Look around you many of us in the GOP enjoy our weed and we believe that it's our God Given Right to smoke it. So go ahead with your put every American jail attitude and any reason to believe you are superior to the rest of the human race. It's time we stopped putting so many of our fellow citizens in jail over this stuff. If you drive impaired you go to jail, you do silly \*\*\*\* on or off weed you die. It's that simple. It's time we decriminalized being human in the USA.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.1/5 (33 votes cast)

-  Comment by backpacker  
April 3, 2014 @ 11:22 am

pebear,

The person that fell out the window is dead. Had he not eaten the marijuana cookie he would be alive, rocket scientist. What about the people that are injured and / or killed in auto accidents because of marijuana? When a person, high on marijuana, crosses the center line and you end up paralyzed, you will scream bloody murder. You liberals are hypocrites. Just like the liberal judges who let child molesters go. Wait until you get raped and sodomized. I am sure you will want the guy who raped you, to be let go, wouldn't you pebear?

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.2/5 (18 votes cast)

-  Comment by genesal  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:16 pm

pebear  
two leftist does not a rightist make

fyi nobody's mentioned smaller state government (which might be nice anyway), the argument is Big Brother Federal Government (who by the way has no Constitutional authority to control the States), come on please try to keep up!

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.0/5 (8 votes cast)

6.  Comment by alouisis  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:39 am

Kid gets loaded, kid falls off balcony. Moral of the story, if you are going to get high or drunk, close the window first.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.7/5 (13 votes cast)

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-  Comment by genesal  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:14 pm

or....if you're gonna get high, stay low!

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (11 votes cast)

7.  Comment by Eyevins  
April 3, 2014 @ 10:48 am

In other news, a student from Harvard had his shoe string come untied, tripped, fell, and hit the corner of a coffee table causing him to sustain a subdural hematoma which led to his death.

Facts are, his friend should be charged with Contributing to the delinquency of a minor and negligent homicide.

I am not a liberal or a hippy, I am just against the government picking and choosing which vices are acceptable. You can smoke tobacco (causes cancer) and drink alcohol, which we can all agree these two cause more deaths than marijuana ever would.

How can you sit here and preach that you are for smaller governments and then say that you are for Government control at the same time?

Crucify me if you must but I see hypocrisy in this argument.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.5/5 (23 votes cast)

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-  Comment by Rich Money

April 3, 2014 @ 2:15 pm

The government has the right to establish laws that contribute to improving the chances that each person will live to their natural programmed death, not have their life cut short by someone else without self-control. After all, the government establishes laws against stealing, lying (perjury) and killing; well that is government control. It is impossible to have a functioning government in a society where “anything goes.” Any government must exercise a certain amount of authority and control to be able to function. The conservatives’ complaint has long been that this control has become bloated and obtrusive and extends into things like forcing a deeply religious person to provide services for a homosexual union (I refuse to call it marriage because God established that and man can stomp his feet and change his laws all he wants but it won’t change it) even though their deeply held religious beliefs say that homosexuality is sinful and they do not wish to take part in the sin by lending it credence. Even conservatives accept and understand that some measure of control is necessary for a government to function; we just want that control limited to the narrowest scope consistent with carrying out the duties of government as outlined in the preamble of the Constitution. Since promoting the general welfare is one of those functions, laws that outlaw harmful substances fit into the scope of that control.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 2.0/5 (4 votes cast)



o Comment by Eyevins

April 3, 2014 @ 3:27 pm

I understand your point but, by the same point alcohol should be outlawed as well. After all, drinking and driving causes people to fail to live their entire “natural programmed death.” There are laws that say that you can not operate a car while under the influence (be it alcohol or drugs.) I am trying to make the point that there needs to be consistency when it comes to vices allowed.

I have seen people die because they drank more alcohol than they should and perished to alcohol poisoning. Please show me someone who has died strictly by having too much THC.

As for the “anything goes” society that you talk about, a great example of that is The Netherlands. I do believe they have gone too far in some aspects but they have lower violent crime rates than the US.

Crimes per 100,000

Netherlands

Assualts 351.8

Burglaries 427.5

Murder 0.93

Rape 8.7

Robberies 83.7

USA

Assualts 786.7 2X more

Burglaries 714.4 67% more

Murder 5 538% more

Rape 30.2 300% more  
Robberies 146.4 75% more

edited because numbers were jumbled

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (1 vote cast)



8. Comment by cgretired  
April 3, 2014 @ 11:06 am

The amount of THC measured in his blood was 2.2 nanograms over the legal limit. That makes it illegal just as exceeding the alcohol limits in the blood. I guess that nullifies Eyevins and Pebear's justifications.

Illegal is just that. Illegal. Against the law. Providing intoxicants to a minor is also illegal. Get it, Eyevins and Pebear? Liberal or conservative. It's still illegal.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.7/5 (12 votes cast)

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o Comment by Eyevins  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:00 pm

I said that the friend who supplied it should be held responsible due to the deceased boys age.

The "legal limits" you are speaking of is if he was opperating a car, not sitting in a hotel room (if he had been of legal age.)

I have never heard of the police knocking on the door of a hotel room or house (if the occupants are not loud and disturbing) and performing sobriety tests.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.6/5 (9 votes cast)



o Comment by cgretired  
April 3, 2014 @ 5:20 pm

Right. your type can justify anything. Hey, a law is a law. He jumped from a window. His THC level was beyond what is considered impaired. He is dead. Justify that.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

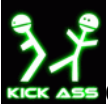
9.  Comment by lkplumley  
April 3, 2014 @ 11:18 am

Remember “Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?” What happens when little kids eat these things? (They are unlikely to drink alcohol because of the taste). In the same way that guns must be stored where kids cannot get them, that matches must be out of their reach, that medicines must have child-proof locks, etc., these need to be kept well away from kids.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (8 votes cast)

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10.  Comment by daddykickass  
April 3, 2014 @ 11:31 am

Hopefully this will trigger a massive lawsuit against the State of Colorado, the pot shop, the maker of the cookies and the buyer of the cookie. The left wing crazies in Colorado have lost their brains completely.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.7/5 (12 votes cast)

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11.  Comment by genesal  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:11 pm

Maybe they used ‘ground up’ pot in the cookie.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (4 votes cast)

[Log in to Reply](#)

12.  Comment by mikeslaney  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:14 pm

Please people, let’s use common sense here. I see the history repeating itself here, “bring in the scare bears.” I am not a pusher of “POT Heads” I personally believe there are some great medical benefits of this herb esp., in Cancer. But lets not through the baby out with the bath. The most that this person can be guilty of is stupidity, unfortunately, it had undesirable consequences. The same can be said of those who drink and drive, take med’s and drive and those who love the adrenaline rush of speeding with a crotch rocket between their legs and killing themselves. We can make all the laws we want, however, stupid is what stupid does. Laws don’t stop irresponsible behavior esp., those who are intent on self destruction or just being stupid, after all look at our leadership in this country and the White House, case in point! Teaching people responsibility, the virtues of life and respect toward self and others weighs in a lot more then throwing money at pseudo-education or smothering people with laws evolving from corrupt

Judges, Lawyers, Congress people and self seeking Corporations. A potpourri of corruption and destruction, yes it's time to get back to old fashioned COMMON SENSE.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.9/5 (9 votes cast)

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o Comment by Earl  
April 3, 2014 @ 2:21 pm

sounds to me like there could be multiple reasons for his jump/fall from his apt. Having 250 different compounds in bloodstream, how does the tox worker know which one caused the behavior. Synthetic drugs do cause weird behavior. FWIW I used that stuff (weed) for 22 years, and never had any thoughts of such a thing, nor did anyone I knew. I think perhaps the doc thought his actions were caused by pot cookies, but the other things were more likely to have been the culprit. In addition, This kid was from another country, culture and who knows what his life experiences could have done to his psychological outlook on life. A bit of a rush to judgement in this case. Too many culprits.....

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (3 votes cast)



13. Comment by davebnm  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:27 pm

If he had been drunk and stupid, we'd never hear about it?

Rate this comment:

Rating: 3.3/5 (6 votes cast)

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14. Comment by makesense  
April 3, 2014 @ 12:46 pm

There will be a lot more deaths of MJ users and innocent bystanders before the law is changed. The number of deaths depend on how many the people will take to do something about it. In the meantime the police have to also check for THC level too when they do a sobriety test. There is a quick (about 10 minutes) saliva test to check for THC.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 1.7/5 (6 votes cast)

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15. Comment by blackrosefarms

April 3, 2014 @ 2:00 pm

Colorado's reasoned solution to marijuana deaths: take away the guns of law-abiding citizens.

It's something like their mosquito-control program: take away the guns of law-abiding citizens.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (4 votes cast)

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16. Comment by lihartke

April 3, 2014 @ 2:11 pm

I am for ORIGINAL NATURAL POT NOT for Genetically altered super HIGH THC content pot. It seems like Democrats are trying to get our kids addicted to drugs. I have a feeling THEY are PART OF THE DRUG CARTEL. They refuse to seal our borders and they let numerous border crossings go without punishment or deportation. If we ever need DEMOCRATS out of power it is now or it is the end of America as we know it.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 4.8/5 (4 votes cast)

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17. Comment by waitingongod

April 3, 2014 @ 3:03 pm

To Earl:

The article said this: "His blood tested positive only for THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, ..."

Although he was tested for the number you cited, only the THC was found.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (1 vote cast)

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18. Comment by thomasjefferson

April 3, 2014 @ 3:28 pm

Stupid is as stupid does.

Rate this comment:

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

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19. Comment by Warpfield  
April 3, 2014 @ 4:18 pm

Right, so how does this compare to the number of people that commit suicide when intoxicated with alcohol?

The answer is nearly 1 out of 4:

<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/alcohol/almost-one-fourth-of-suicide-victims-are-legally-intoxicated-when-they-die>

Rate this comment:

Rating: 5.0/5 (1 vote cast)

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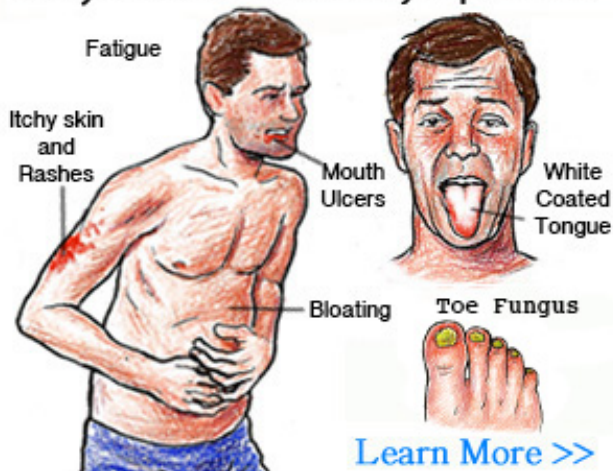
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- "Every person impairing themselves by using drugs should be responsible for their actions while under the influence and those that..."

Comment by middleground

Posted in [Holder: US Needs Balanced Approach on Heroin](#)

- "Nicely done Millerstwo!!"

Comment by bestfriendworstenemy

Posted in [Sarah Palin: Paul Ryan's budget is 'definition of insanity'](#)



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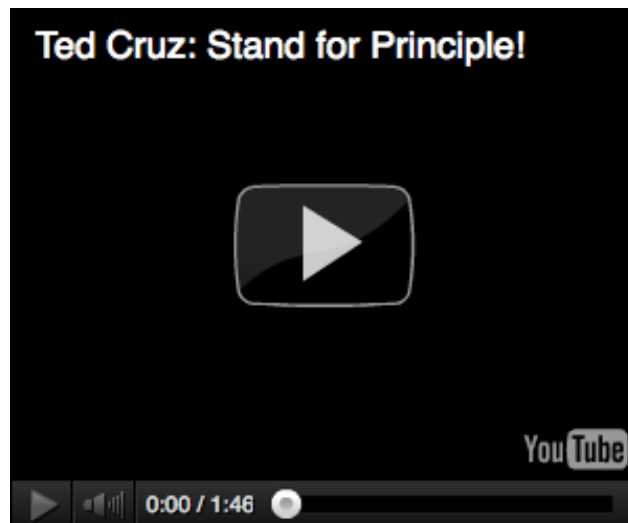
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