

"WHY I WOULD NEVER USE ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALCOHOL"

by: Charlotte E. Petzler
Potlatch Junior/SeniorHigh School

I would never use or take any type of illegal drug or alcoholic substance because I have seen what drugs and alcohol can do to people. I have seen how far the deepest pits go, without ever having been there myself. I know what bottom is and I shall never go there! People that I knew and might have loved once have gone to the bottom and died there. I will **NOT** follow in their footsteps and make the same mistakes that they have made.

I have seen drugs and alcohol turn good, caring people into bloodthirsty, selfish, badgering monsters who easily hurt the ones they love most as though their loved ones had never even meant a thing to them. The ones they once called their world are now nothing but obstacles in their path, trying to obscure them from what they want to do and keeping them from their unhealthy habits.

I have witnessed intelligent, collected men and women with potential to become something/someone great and would have accomplished great goals, turn into slurred, stumbling imbeciles who do nothing but stare. They dream their way through a pointless life until they reach a meaningless death when they have never really lived in the first place. They are but wandering zombies staggering through a wasted, meaningless life that was nothing but a slow wait for death to begin with.

I have seen all types of people become slaves to their destructive desires for more sedatives for their relentless addiction. All addicts gave up being a long time ago; now all they do is anything that they can do to acquire what they want. They will hurt anyone and anything without so much as a hesitation, just to have that feeling of nothing; no pain, no emotion, just that few hours or more with no humanity, being able to forget that they have to feel when the effect wears off because for some reason or another they wanted to forget, to become numb to the world around them. Or maybe they just wanted to feel, to feel friendship, to feel what being cool is like, but they end up feeling nothing at all and maybe at some point in time they just decided that is better than having to feel disappointment or humiliation or any of the negative things that come with living.

But I...I want to feel. I want to feel all of the things in life. I want to feel pain and I want to feel friendship because as hard as living is and as much as it may hurt at times, the way my friends and the ones that I love make me feel when they know exactly what I mean or comfort me and stand by me even if they don't quite understand or believe in what I do, is reason enough for me to want to live. Maybe, just maybe, the sayings are true. For every disappointment, for every bad thing that happens in life only the good really matters because the good has the power to erase the evil. The good has the power to change a person and to make them want to live. The good has the power to bring back lost souls, no matter how far they have wandered into the dark.

I love my family and friends and I know how much the fact that someone could choose some substance, drugs or otherwise, over friends and family and their love for them, hurts. I could never hurt my friends and loved ones like that or in any way. They mean too much to me and even if I don't say that they mean the world to me all of the time, they do. I could hardly hurt a stranger, let alone my greatest friends, and this is why I shall NOT do drugs or alcohol. Because I know that no matter how hard life may be now and how hard life may be in the future, I know that my friends and loved ones will keep me from the shadows, as I shall also do for them.