

Cannabis users found to have a 'significantly reduced' cancer risk

By Paul Armentano NORML

For some 35 years the US government has been well aware that cannabis possesses potent anti-cancer and anti-tumor properties. And for the past three years, government-funded researchers have speculated that these qualities may offer "protective" effects against the onset of various types of cancer, including lung cancer, in humans.

Yet to date, virtually no investigators had scientifically assessed the potential anti-cancer effects of cannabis in humans — until now.

In a clinical abstract published July 28 on the Cancer Prevention Research website, a team of US investigators report that cannabis use, even long-term, is associated with a "significantly reduced risk" of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

Investigators at Rhode Island's Brown University, along with researchers at Boston U, Louisiana State, and U of Minnesota, assessed the lifetime cannabis use habits of 434 cases (patients diagnosed with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma from nine medical facilities) compared to 547 matched controls.

The authors reported, "After adjusting for potential confounders (including smoking and alcohol drinking), 10 to 20 years of cannabis use was associated with a significantly reduced risk of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC)."

Perhaps even more notably, subjects who smoked cannabis and consumed alcohol and tobacco (two known high risk factors for head and neck cancers) also had a reduced risk of cancer, the study found.

"Our study suggests that moderate marijuana use is associated with reduced risk of HNSCC," investigators concluded. "This association was consistent across different measures of marijuana use (marijuana use status, duration, and frequency of use). ... Further, we observed that cannabis use modified the interaction between alcohol and cigarette smoking, resulting in a decreased HNSCC risk among moderate

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Oakland voters create first canna-business tax

By Dale Gieringer California NORML

Oakland, CA voters overwhelmingly approved the nation's first cannabis business tax, Measure F, by 79.9 percent July 22.

Measure F sets a 1.8 percent tax on the city's medical cannabis businesses, raising an estimated \$300,000 for the city.

The landslide victory mirrored the historic 79.6 percent margin of San Francisco's path-breaking medical marijuana initiative, Prop. P, in 1991. Like Prop. P, Measure F is expected to be an innovative reform model for other cities and counties.

Measure F was the brainchild of Oakland attorney James Anthony, who specializes in medical cannabis dispensary land use and regulatory issues.

"I suggested it to City Council after checking with all four city-licensed dispensaries," says Anthony. "Oakland has always been a model for regulation. We thought it would be nice to say we can bring some small revenues to the city."

Oakland Council member Rebecca Kaplan carried the resolution to put Measure F on the ballot, which was passed unanimously by the Council. "I do definitely see this as a shift in the political winds in terms of how people are talking about medical marijuana, marijuana reform and budgeting," Kaplan said.

Proponents see Measure F as enhancing the legitimacy of cannabis enterprise. "Criminals don't pay taxes," says Anthony. "Law-abiding citizens do."

Anthony says he's received a lot of interest from other local governments. In Los Angeles, City Council member Janice Hahn introduced a motion for a cannabis business tax, which she estimated could raise up to \$32 million a year from some 400 LA dispensaries.

Not every medical marijuana advocate is happy with Measure F. Kevin Reed, president of San Francisco's Green Cross delivery service, worries that higher taxes will result in higher prices for patients. "This frantic, 'we need money, legalize now' movement may totally derail what we have been tirelessly working for during the last 13 years," he objects.

However, backers view Measure F as a useful stepping-stone to build political legitimacy for cannabis. "I hope patients

Three Voter Initiatives Filed for CA 2010 Ballot

Flurry of initiatives, state and federal bills unseen in decades

By Chris Conrad West Coast Leaf

The pressure for reform ramped up a notch this summer with the filing of three California ballot initiatives in the wake of an Assembly bill to regulate cannabis sales, plus a federal bill to decriminalize 100 grams of cannabis for adults. The competing visions of cannabis all have critics.

Tom Ammiano introduced AB 390, a 59-page proposal (yes390.org), is a work in

progress that sets a 21-year old age of consent, allows 10 plants for personal use, and lays out a framework of commercial regulation with a \$50 per ounce production tax. The bill is in its early stages with hearings planned for late in the year.

The four-page *California Cannabis Initiative* was filed July 15 by three northern California criminal defense attorneys, Joe Rogoway, James Clark and Omar Figueroa (CaliforniaCannabisInitiative.org). Written as statutory law, CCI strikes down the

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Eight gram bag costs city \$239,000

By William Dolphin Americans for Safe Access

A California city's refusal to return less than \$200 worth of cannabis to a qualified patient has now cost it at least a thousand times that. And it had to return the cannabis anyway.

As part of a settlement to resolve their

unsuccessful challenge to the state's medical marijuana law, Garden Grove officials wrote a check for \$139,000 in attorneys' fees to Americans for Safe Access, who represented the patient. That money is in addition to what the city spent fighting the case, estimated at in excess of \$100,000.

"It's unfortunate that the City of Garden Grove felt it necessary to spend more than a quarter of a million dollars challenging a patient's right to his medicine," said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford. "Hopefully, other local officials will now do better upholding medical marijuana patients' rights under the law."

When officials in Garden Grove said they would not return the eight grams of cannabis seized from Felix Kha in June 2005, ASA filed suit. All charges against Kha had been dismissed because he was able to show that he is a qualified patient under state law, but city officials argued that returning his medicine would require them to violate federal law.

In a landmark decision, a superior court disagreed and ordered the city to return the cannabis to Kha, but Garden Grove appealed. A state appellate panel also found in favor of Kha, ruling that, "It is not the job of the local police to enforce the federal drug laws."

City officials then asked first the California Supreme Court and then the US Supreme Court to reverse the decision, but

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HAPPY TO BE TAXED — Backers of Oakland's cannabis business tax initiative celebrated July 21 with a victory party at the Oaksterdam University Student Union. Left to right: Steve DeAngelo, James Anthony, Keith Stevenson and Richard Lee (front row). Photo by Dale Gieringer

can see this as a legitimate political compromise," says Anthony. "This is not a sin tax — not a 3, 5, or 10 percent tax." Please turn to page 11

Turmoil among LA dispensaries

By Don Duncan Americans for Safe Access

Cannabis patients and advocates worry that the long road to permanent regulations for patient associations may lead to more confusion and delay, even as city staff inch closer to a draft ordinance regulating hundreds of dispensing collectives in the city. Advocates in the state's largest city have seen almost two years of delay in crafting regulations, and a growing controversy around the status of hundreds of facilities that opened after the city adopted a moratorium on new locations in 2007 threatens to further delay the process.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine, who made the original motion to study regulations for medical cannabis facilities in 2005, joined advocates in rejecting a second draft ordinance prepared by former City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo in February. That ordinance regarded sales of cannabis and storefront facilities as illegal, and sought instead to regulate only collective cultivation. In a report submitted to the Planning and Land

Use Management (PLUM) Committee in March, Americans for safe Access (ASA) countered that state law allows for sales of cannabis within the membership of a legally organized and operated collective or cooperative — a position ASA says is reflected in medical cannabis guidelines published by the Attorney General in 2008.

The PLUM Committee rejected Delgadillo's ordinance, and the medical cannabis community rallied around City Attorney candidate Carmen Trutanich in a special election on May 19. Advocates hope that Trutanich will steer a more reasonable course than his predecessor, but the newly-elected City Attorney has yet to comment on the unpublished draft ordinance or a White Paper supporting sensible regulations published by ASA and the Greater Los Angeles Collective Alliance (GLACA), a self-regulatory association made of Los Angeles area collectives.

The debate about regulations in Los Angeles is complicated by the fact the

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West Coasterdam Report

Oregon Cannabis Tax Act initiative shifts focus to 2012

In 2008, Oregon NORML and the Campaign for the Restoration and Regulation of Hemp began a campaign for a 2010 initiative that would re-legalize cannabis and hemp in Oregon, but it now seems headed for the 2012 ballot instead. Favorable coverage was seen in local newspapers, the *Oregonian* and *Willamette Week*, and even as far away as Japan and Norway. News clips, articles and radio spots can be found at ornorml.org and cannabis-act.org. According to Anna Diaz of Oregon NORML, polls in mid-October showed serious problems, with 30 percent initial support rising to 42 percent after hearing the measure clarified to voters, showing the need for long-term public education.

Massive outdoor grows cropping up on public lands

Forestry, DEA and local agencies have been busy hacking down millions of plants on public land — a byproduct of marijuana prohibition. The season started as early as May 5, when 3,500 plants were seized near Lake Sonoma. In more than 420 raids since late June, some 3.4 million plants were seized, up from 2.9 million last year. About 2.7 million plants, nearly 80 percent of the seizures, were on federal, state or other public lands. Raids occur daily, from southern counties like Riverside, where some 27,000 plants were found on July 2, to northern ones like Lake and Shasta, each with more than 400,000 plants destroyed by the authorities this year. An Aug. 21 flyover of the Low Gap area near Seiad Valley spotted several growing operations, including one that had about 50,000 pot plants. Authorities claim that a wildfire currently raging in Santa Barbara County was started in a marijuana field, and last year a major fire was started by an eradication helicopter.

LAPD hits 3 dispensaries; Feds taking back seat in raids

The Los Angeles Police Department raided three medical marijuana facilities in a week's time this summer, in some cases accompanied by Federal agents. After neighborhood complaints, police arrested three people Aug. 19 at the Royal Temple of Zion, a Rastafarian ministry in Echo Park that tends to qualified patients through a collective. Two dispensaries were raided on a single day, Aug. 12; Organica Collective in Marina del Rey, and Overland Gardens in West Los Angeles. By late August, there had been only about a quarter as many Federal raids on California dispensaries this year as last year at this time.

WAMM collective wins prestigious award, survives wildfire

The Santa Cruz, CA collective Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) won a major award in August from The Society for the Study of Social Problems, a national organization of sociologists. The SSSP's "Social Action" award and a check for \$1,000 are given each year to a not-for-profit organization which embodies and enacts the social justice goals of the SSSP. For a decade and a half WAMM has collectively grown and given away some \$29 million dollars in cannabis and is the subject of a book by Wendy Chapkis and Richard Webb, *Dying to Get High: Marijuana as medicine*, info at dyingtogethigh.net. Another dramatic chapter in the history of WAMM occurred in August, when collective members had to fight off a forest fire to save their medicine garden.



HEMPFIELDS — A Canadian hempseed crop near fruition. Photo by Luke Zigowitz for VoteHemp.com

Oregon joins states with hemp farming laws

By Adam Eidinger *VoteHemp*

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski signed a new hemp farm bill into law Aug. 4 that makes Oregon the second state to license farmers to grow industrial hemp, for everything from food to clothing. The House passed SB 676 by a vote of 46 to 11 and the Senate by a vote of 27 to 2. It permits the production, trade and possession of industrial hemp commodities and products. With the Governor's signature, the state makes a politically bold commitment to develop hemp in a state whose slogan is "Oregon - We Love Dreamers."

SB 676, which passed the Oregon Legislature with strong bi-partisan support, takes a proactive position allowing farmers the right to grow industrial hemp, to provide American manufacturers with domestically grown hemp, and to profit from their effort. It sets up a state regulated program for farmers to grow industrial hemp, which is used in a wide variety of products, including nutritious foods, cosmetics, body care, clothing, tree-free paper,

auto parts, building materials, fuels and much more.

While a new federal bill in Congress, HR 1866, is a welcomed step, Vote Hemp Director Patrick Goggin is hopeful that the Obama administration will recognize the benefits of hemp to farmers, businesses and the environment.

"Under current federal policy, industrial hemp can be imported, but cannot be grown by American farmers, due to the misguided interpretation of the nation's drug laws that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has used for over 50 years," said Goggin. "Oregon can now take this law to the US Congress and call for a fix to this problem, so American companies will no longer need to import hemp and American farmers will no longer be denied a profitable new crop."

By allowing US farmers to once again grow hemp, legislators can clear the way for a new, billion-dollar crop.

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Researcher says WA 24-ounce limit is too low

By Andy Hobbs* for the West Coast Leaf

The number of cannabis patients in Washington state is not officially known, but when compared to other states where patient registration is required, estimates hover around 25,000. As in 12 other states, its medical marijuana laws conflict with the federal classification of a Schedule I drug. Doctors may authorize cannabis only with a written recommendation, not a prescription. Its reclassification as a Schedule II or Schedule III substance would open doors for long-overdue medical research.

"That legal classification has produced all these state medical marijuana laws," said Sunil Aggarwal, a medical student at the U of Washington. "I don't need a clinical anecdote to convince me of cannabis' medical utility." Aggarwal finished his Ph.D. last year on the medical geography of cannabinoid botanicals (the chemical compounds of cannabis) in the State.

In 2007 Washington state established guidelines for a 60-day patient supply: 24 dry ounces and 15 plants at a time. But Aggarwal and some medical professionals have determined that 71 dry ounces is a more appropriate quantity, after accounting for delivery differences of the psychoactive chemical THC in consumption (smoking vs. ingestion), and considering the average cannabis dose supplied to patients in its three-decades-long federal research study, the IND program.

California is often regarded, for better or worse, as the leader in shaping state laws and attitudes on medical marijuana. California boasts hundreds of dispensaries, along with more 'qualifying conditions' for patients seeking a doctor's recommendation. California dispensaries are licensed locally. However, said Aggarwal — while noting that the legitimacy of medical marijuana in California is undermined by negative public images — the state's huge market potential for cannabis sales could bol-

ster government tax coffers. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, has welcomed discussion of state options regarding tax revenue from cannabis.

"Pharmaceutical companies could benefit from doing more work in the field of cannabinoid research," he said. "There are a lot of medicines that could come out of this." Aggarwal's 395-page Ph.D. dissertation is titled *The medical geography of cannabinoid botanicals in Washington state: Access, delivery and distress*, posted online at sunilaggarwal.net.

Elsewhere, Rhode Island just joined New Mexico in permitting state-licensed patient dispensaries. In June, US Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) introduced a bill that would strengthen legal protections for state-authorized patients, and reclassify cannabis to Schedule II.

Of the ongoing debate over medical cannabis, Aggarwal says, "It will definitely open up a larger discussion on whether non-medical use is accepted in our society. There will always be a need for a medical market, a medical channel."

*Hobbs is editor of the *Federal Way Mirror*, contact him at editor@fedwaymirror.com

Santa Monica finds no violations of LLEP

By Mikki Norris West Coast Leaf

Since Measure Y, Santa Monica's Lowest Law Enforcement Priority (LLEP) policy, passed by 65 percent in 2006, the city police department reported making no arrests for personal use of cannabis in private residences. In addition, they stated that there have been no costs associated with the measure, despite fears.

Many find the news that the SMPD is successfully implementing the measure encouraging. "There's no harm done by individuals smoking marijuana in the privacy of their homes," Bill Zimmerman,



OC NORML sponsored the Annual Cannabis Freedom Rally July 25-26 during the US Surf Open in Huntington Beach, co-sponsored by the Assn. of Patient Advocates and the November Coalition. They welcomed people with cannabis-bead necklaces and spray-painted pot leaves for anyone who held a sign or supported the cause. Each day brought thousands of onlookers and at least 500 participants per day. Photos at ocnorml.org. Photo courtesy of Matt Fitt.

Lifetime cannabis use is gateway to fewer cancers

Continued from page 1

smokers and light drinkers, and attenuated risk among the heaviest smokers and drinkers."

A separate 2006 population case-control study also reported that lifetime use of cannabis was not positively associated with cancers of the lung or aerodigestive tract, and noted that certain moderate users of the natural drug experienced a reduced cancer risk compared to non-using control groups.

By contrast, a study published recently in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology* reports that even the moderate use of alcohol (six drinks or less per week) is associated with an elevated risk of various cancers — including stomach cancer, rectal cancer, and bladder cancer.

As of this writing, no mainstream media outlet has reported on the July, 2009 release of the cancer study.

*Armentano is the Deputy Director of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (norml.org) and is co-author of the book *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?* (marijuanaissafes.com)

political consultant and campaign manager for Prop. 215, told the *Santa Monica Daily Press*. "Why would we waste our police resources on an offense that 10 million Americans — including our three most recent presidents — have admitted engaging in?" Other cities with lowest priority initiatives have seen mixed results. Santa Barbara police reported arresting people for cannabis while investigating other crimes. Oakland has reported an increase in arrests since Measure Z passed in 2004.

The weekly police reports filed by the SMPD can be viewed online at santamoniacpd.org/Press_Info/MeasureYReports/index.htm.



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Commentary:
Governor's foolish prison budget plan

By Dale Gieringer California NORML
As California considers how to reduce prison spending, it continues to neglect non-violent cannabis prisoners.

The governor's message is
'Don't tax cannabis;
Release inmates who steal cars!'

The Legislature debated in August a plan by Gov. Schwarzenegger to reduce prison spending by \$1.2 billion as part of the state's budget deal. Earlier, a federal court ordered the state to reduce prison population by 44,000 inmates over the next two years to reduce overcrowding.

A draft of the Administration's plan by the Department of Corrections budget office makes no mention of cannabis or other non-violent drug prisoners. Instead, among other measures, it proposes raising the felony threshold for crimes such as grand theft, writing bad checks and receiving stolen property. Thus it would become a misdemeanor instead of a felony to steal an automobile valued at less than \$2,500.

In contrast, current laws make it a

felony to sell a single joint or grow a single cannabis plant at home. Over the years, the state has repeatedly rejected proposals to reduce cannabis penalties. The Governor has indicated his opposition to Tom Ammann's bill AB 390 that would eliminate pot imprisonment by legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana.

In the view of cannabis proponents, the Governor's message is "Don't tax pot, release inmates who steal cars." Victims' rights groups have attacked the Governor's plan for reducing the prison population by some 27,000 inmates, worried that it will release dangerous and predatory criminals. Drug reformers argue that it makes more sense to begin with cannabis and other non-violent drug offenses, which are consensual and victimless in nature.

California currently has 1,538 cannabis felons in state prison, 15 times as many as in 1980. Another 30,000 prisoners are serving time for non-violent drug offenses, 12,000 of them for simple possession.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that one year of incarceration costs the state \$49,000.

"It's long past due for California to get smart on crime, and that means being more discerning about who is sent to state prison," says Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, deputy state director for the Drug Policy Alliance in Southern California. "There are far too many low-level, nonviolent drug offenders in state prison, many of whom have treatable addictive or mental illness and who could be better managed at the county level, whether through treatment, probation, or a combination of those."

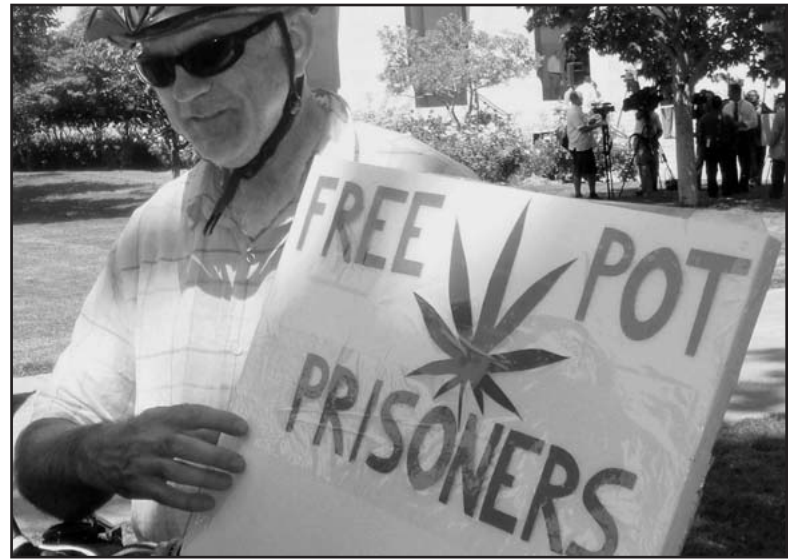
Californians are urged to contact the Governor and legislative leadership and urge them to free the pot prisoners. See link online at canorml.org.

CAPITOL PROTEST
— A rally was held in Sacramento Aug. 18 to protest the prison budget and its effect on funding for education.

Tim Castleman, of Medical Marijuana of America, was on hand to demand the release of marijuana prisoners.

The current budget crisis has shortchanged parks, schools, and public services, put the State into massive debt, and led to renewed discussion of cannabis reform.

Photo by Vanessa Nelson, courtesy of MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com



Commentary:
California's highest law enforcement priority

By Margaret Dooley-Sammuli*

Low-level cannabis arrests have skyrocketed in the past two decades, according to research by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ). Controlling for population changes, CJCJ found that the odds of a Californian getting arrested have plummeted over the last two decades for virtually every offense (including murder, rape, robbery, violence, burglary, theft, weapons and most drugs) except one: misdemeanor cannabis possession.

While arrests for rape fell most dramatically (by 67 percent) between 1990 and 2008, cannabis possession arrests jumped by an astronomical 127 percent, from 20,800 in 1990 to 61,400 in 2008. (Although crime rates for a range of violent crime have also fallen, they've done so at a much less dramatic rate. The per capita occurrence of rape, for example, has fallen by about one-quarter – much less than the two-thirds drop in arrest rates.)

Cannabis possession accounted for just eight percent of all arrests in California in 1990, but nearly 25 percent of all arrests in 2008. Over the same two decades, public opinion polls have reflected a surge in public support for outright legalization of

cannabis – up to 56 percent in one poll this year. Law enforcement's shocking rejection of mainstream priorities amounts to an offensive misuse of taxpayer dollars.

For three decades, Californians have consistently called for a reduction in the criminalization of cannabis possession, decriminalizing personal possession in the 1970s and legalizing medical cannabis in the 1990s. Since then, the Legislature has passed legislation aimed at improving the nation's first voter-approved medical system. During all of that time and even today, law enforcement has gone its own way – with dramatic and devastating lifelong consequences for tens of thousands of young Californians each year.


Our elected officials must demand an explanation for such outrageous spending and arrest practices. It's hard to imagine any reasonable justification for focusing our state's limited criminal justice resources away from violent crime and toward the criminalization of people for doing what well over half of American adults, including the past three residents of the White House, have done.

* Margaret Dooley-Sammuli is Deputy State Director of the Drug Policy Alliance in Southern California

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DRUG WAR POW REPORT

By Vanessa Nelson Medical Marijuana of America

Stephanie Landa

Stephanie Landa, a beloved member of the medical marijuana community, will finally be released Oct. 9 from prison in Dublin, CA, after a short stay in a halfway house.

Landa has been imprisoned for nearly three years over a collective grow involving her ex-husband Tom Kikuchi and friend Kevin Gage. She steadfastly maintains that the grow operation was approved by the San Francisco Police Dept., and was shocked when their warehouse was raided in July 2002. To make matters worse, the case was taken up by federal prosecutors, which stripped the trio of a defense under state laws.

In a plea bargain, Landa received a 41-month sentence but remained out of custody until Tom finished his term to raise their minor son. In January 2007, local government leaders gathered around her for a press conference amid dozens of supporters to say goodbye. Landa was sustained by an enormous influx of mail from well-wishers — so much that jail staff joked she could qualify for her own branch of the US Postal Service.

Then in late 2008, prison officials pushed back her release by nearly a year because she had tested positive for THC. Stephanie suffered a few months confined in the “hole,” but emerged with her trademark positivity. By the spring of 2009 she had organized a wildly popular class to teach her fellow inmates the techniques of civil disobedience. Up until the week of her anticipated release, supporters can write her at: Stephanie Landa #09247-800, Federal Correctional Institution, 5701 8th Street, Unit B, Dublin CA 94568

Eddy Lepp

After a colossal July 4 going-away party, a van load of supporters accompanied Rev. Eddy Lepp to the federal prison where he surrendered July 4 to begin serving a ten-year sentence for what is reportedly the world's largest medical marijuana case.

By Lepp's account, the estimated 32,524 plants seized from his fields in 2004 were being grown by members of his Rasta ministry for qualified patients. Although he believed he had legal cover on two sides at

once, Eddy's dual-pronged strategy failed to protect him. Federal courts don't follow state cannabis laws, and his religious defense failed to sway his judge.

At trial, he took the stand to try to convince the jury that he was a step removed from the cultivation on his land, but the jurors found Eddy guilty after just a few hours of deliberation. The judge reluctantly imposed the federal mandatory minimum sentence, all the while calling the penalty excessive.

Since his surrender, Lepp's letters reflect a vague optimism for his legal appeal and hopes that the people of the world will find enough love for one another to begin righting the wrongs of humanity. He's also keenly aware of the realities of his situation.

Eddy, 57, says that for a man of his age and health, ten years in prison is essentially a life sentence. He relies heavily on the strength he gets from loving, supportive letters. Supporters can write him at: Charles Edward Lepp #90157-011, Federal Correctional Institution, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc CA 93436

Alice Wiegand

Alice Wiegand kissed her toddler sons goodbye one day in July and surrendered at the federal prison camp that will be her home for the next several months. The 31-year old mother is serving time for conspiracy to cultivate cannabis, after a summer 2006 raid on her Quincy, CA home.

At that time, Plumas County Sheriff's deputies reported seizing 64 plants from an outdoor garden and over a hundred clones from the basement. After reviewing evidence that hers was a cooperative grow for ten qualified patients, the District Attorney's office handed it over to federal prosecutors, where there is no such legal defense.

Wiegand and husband Jeffrey Sanderson decided to take plea deals and forfeit their family home. At sentencing, the judge ordered Sanderson's 18-month prison term to begin immediately, but permitted Alice to delay serving her six-month sentence until he was released, to regain custody of their two young sons from Child Protective Services.

The family enjoyed a brief reunion this summer, in the short span of time after his release and before her incarceration. Once there, Wiegand adapted to her new conditions but the real suffering, she knows, is at home. Her family is still mending from

various separations, and her children feel her absence acutely. “They no longer water the grass or flowers, so it's all brown and dry,” she writes. “But, somehow, flowers

Testing Obama: Steele Smith case heads to court

By Amanda Rain Oaksterdam University

The first medical marijuana case in federal court heard under his administration, *US v. Steele Smith* will be test of Obama's election campaign promise.

“I'm not going to be using Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws on this issue,” Obama said during the primary campaign regarding medical marijuana. The trial is scheduled to begin Oct. 27 in Federal Court for Smith's precedent-setting case.

Smith's case stems from a DEA raid on his home on Nov. 1, 2007. The operator of a C-3 Collective, Smith had around 980 cannabis plants seized. DEA agents simultaneously raided the home of Alexander Valentine and seized at least 1,000 cannabis plants. Steele Smith, his wife Theresa Smith, Alexander Valentine and Dennis Lalonde were all charged with conspiring to manufacture over 1,000 cannabis plants.

At the time of the 2007 raid, Smith was suing the City of Placentia for return of property and damages. That suit stemmed from a raid in May 2006 of Smith's dispensary, located in Placentia at the time, where local police confiscated 18 plants along with patient medical records. Ultimately, no charges were brought against Smith for the 2006 raid. Smith believes the 2007 raid was retaliation for his suit against the city and that city officials turned him in to the Feds, who subsequently raided him.

Smith's is the first case to be heard in federal court since Charlie Lynch, which was the last such federal case heard under the Bush Administration. Lynch was able to show he was compliant with local law, which helped get a reduced sentence from the five-year mandatory minimum.

The Smith case will be the first in federal court to allow a medical defense. All previous federal cases have had a “gag order,” by which defendants have been prohibited from submitting their patient status as a defense in court.

Like Lynch, Smith is asserting he was within his legal rights under state and local law to operate his non-profit collective, which is why Smith is being charged solely

still bloom.” Supporters can write her at: Alice Wiegand #16647-097, FCI Satellite Camp, Dublin, 5675 Eighth St., Camp Parks, Dublin CA 94568

with cultivation. Smith says he's hopeful he'll end up on the right side of justice, adding, “I did everything within the rule of law in the State of California.”

Smith's trial will be a cornerstone case, setting precedent for future federal cases, such as those of Virgil Grant and Ronnie Naulls. Grant owned six dispensaries in Los Angeles and Naulls operated a dispensary in Corona.

To support Steele Smith and keep this issue in the public eye, attend his court date on Oct. 27 at 9am, Federal Courthouse, 411 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, in Santa Ana. Court presence is a meaningful way to support medical cannabis providers, in addition to showing judges, prosecutors and civic leaders there is community awareness and support for this issue.

* For more information see www.SteelesCase.org
Amanda.Rain@OaksterdamUniversity.com

South Dakota activist silenced by court order

By Mikki Norris West Coast Leaf

Bob Newland, well-known cannabis and hemp activist from Hermosa, South Dakota took a plea to one felony count of marijuana possession, which brought him an unusual sentence — no public cannabis reform advocacy to be permitted during his one year probation. Judge Delaney sentenced Newland to one year in prison with all but 45 days suspended, during which time he would be subjected to weekly drug tests and wearing a bracelet that detects alcohol use. However, to make sure that Newland, 61, feels the sting of his punishment, the judge imposed the gag order on him to deny his freedom of speech regarding advocacy for legalization.

Newland was stopped by an SD Highway Patrolman on March 20 for driving 48 mph in a 35 mph zone. He had been charged with intent to distribute more than one ounce and less than one-half pound of marijuana, misdemeanor possession of two ounces of marijuana or less, possession of drug paraphernalia and speeding. He was facing up to five years in prison.

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Inland Empire patients seek access

By Victor Michel

Safe, reliable, affordable and local access is the rallying cry for Inland Empire medical marijuana activists as they make plans to get Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to implement ordinances allowing for the operation of medical marijuana collectives.

San Bernardino, which lost their law-

suit to overturn Prop 215 last May, has begun issuing the state-mandated medical marijuana ID cards and has started work on writing an ordinance to allow for medical marijuana collectives. "This is absolutely astounding," says Lanny Swerdlow, director of the Inland Empire-based Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project. "We didn't even ask them to do it, they just started the process on their own."

San Bernardino County may have seen the writing on the wall, but so far Riverside County is not looking. On July 14, over 40 patients and advocates appeared before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, asking them to start the process of preparing an ordinance allowing medical marijuana collectives to operate and to repeal the current ban.

Following up on the appearance before the Board, patients have been trying to set

up meetings with their Supervisors, but have been stonewalled. Two meetings have been held with legislative aides, but not with any of the supervisors. "They seem to be avoiding meeting us," said Swerdlow. "I have no idea what the problem is; it's impossible to get anyone to talk with us. I can't believe I am saying this, but Riverside County needs to follow the example of San Bernardino County and start the process for allowing collectives to operate."

Most cities in the Inland Empire have passed bans and moratoriums. Although it restricts collectives to industrial districts, bans the sale of vaporizers and even enacted blue laws, Palm Springs, which is located in Riverside County, is the only city in the Inland Empire that has passed an ordinance allowing collectives to operate. Activists hope that if they can get the counties to enact ordinances, cities will use them as a model to repeal their bans and enact ordinances of their own.

Two recent encounters between police and collectives have led patients to believe change is at hand.

In Riverside County, Sheriff Deputies inspected a local collective and found 600 plants. After inspecting patient records and other items, deputies appeared to be satisfied that this was a legally operating collective, and left without arresting anyone or confiscating any plants.

In July, a collective opened its doors in a small storefront location in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. After visits by County Sheriff officers Aug. 3 and by members of the Planning Department the following day, no attempts have been made to close the collective. Collective members have been led to believe that until certain court decisions are rendered, most likely in the Anaheim case, no actions will be taken against them and they will be able to continue their operation.

LA dispensaries in turmoil

Continued from page 1

PLUM Committee has only just started hearings for hundreds of collectives that filed hardship applications under the city's two-year old moratorium. The controversial hardship provision, which allowed collectives to ask for permission to open after the effective date of the moratorium, was revoked by the City Council this summer amid widespread belief that hundreds of applicants were abusing the provision. So far, the PLUM Committee and full City Council have rejected every application heard, and denied applicants are vowing a legal challenge to the process.

Neighborhood groups, law enforcement, and some advocates are alarmed by the massive proliferation of new collectives under the hardship provision. More than eight hundred facilities applied for an exemption before the provision was removed. Angelinos are baffled by the city's inconsistent approach to enforcing the moratorium and its long delay in hearing applications. Skeptics point out that the hardship application did not give anyone permission to operate a collective pending approval, and neighborhood advocates cry foul at the city's seeming reluctance to enforce the existing moratorium.

The hardship controversy has galvanized a previously marginalized anti-medical cannabis constituency in Los Angeles. Neighborhood groups and special interest groups have jumped on the bandwagon to oppose collectives and cooperatives. Their zeal to close hardship collectives may have a chilling effect on the debate about permanent regulations in the city.

Councilmembers will now be evaluating land use and security measures in the context of a public outcry, and advocates will have to work harder to be sure the new ordinance protects access long after the hardship controversy fades.

* Read *Advancing Medical Cannabis Regulations in LA* online at www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org/LAregulations

Court holds storefront dispensaries are legal

By Omar Figueroa Attorney at Law

The California Court of Appeal for the Fourth Appellate District published a landmark opinion Aug. 18 in the case of *People v. Hochanadel*, stating that "Storefront dispensaries that qualify as 'cooperatives' or 'collectives' under the CUA [Compassionate Use Act, Prop 215] and MMPA [Medical Marijuana Program Act, Senate Bill 420], and otherwise comply with those laws, may operate legally, and defendants may have a defense at trial to the charges in this case based upon the CUA and MMPA."

The court rejected the prosecution claim that Senate Bill 420 unconstitutional amended Prop 215 when it authorized 'cooperatives' and 'collectives' to cultivate and distribute marijuana, holding that SB 420 was designed to implement, not amend, Prop 215, which "directed the state to create a statutory plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of medical marijuana to qualified patients."

The court concluded, however, that the trial judge erred in finding that the dispensary, CannaHelp, qualified as a primary caregiver under Prop 215 and SB 420, because in order to be a primary caregiver an individual must show that "he or she Please turn to page 9

Laguna seniors eager for a cannabis dispensary

By Mike Gray Common Sense for Drug Policy

In an Orange County retirement community, an intriguing collection of retirees in their 70s and 80s found themselves trying to get access to medical marijuana. Laguna Woods city officials had already cleared the way but no landlord was willing to rent space for a dispensary.

This group was not used to being thwarted. One of the leaders of this elderly uprising was Gail McNulty, 70, a relative youngster in this crowd, and she was not about to take this lying down. She and her fellow revolutionaries got together in the ballroom of the local resort hotel to plan their assault.

Picture a bunch of table-pounding septuagenarians demanding their constitutional right to buy reefer — retired lawyers, doctors, teachers and merchants in a serious discussion about how and where to grow the Devil Weed.

Dr. Bill Schweid, a former public health official now in his 80s, admittedly knows nothing about cannabis but he's determined to learn more because his fellow retirees say it's a miracle drug. Everyone here has either been through chemo or knows a friend who has.

Margo Bauer is a beautiful, athletic woman in her 80s, a former nurse and long-distance swimmer doing her best to stay active, but the slight tremors give her

away. She describes her battle with multiple sclerosis and how she's slowly losing control of her body. The worst of it, she says, is the nausea. "One night at 3 am I woke up and I didn't make it to the washroom. And I'm lying in my own, pardon the expression, crap. And I thought, 'I can't stand this, this isn't me.' If I'd had a gun it would have been over at that point."

The next day, as luck would have it, someone handed her a booklet from Americans For Safe Access called "Multiple Sclerosis and Medical Marijuana." She had never smoked reefer in her life, but at this point, she had nothing to lose. She confessed that she needed help and a friend gave her a joint.

"That night, again, these waves of nausea came. ... And I took a puff for the first time in my life. And I sat back and I thought, 'Oh!'" She smiles. "Well, maybe it's safe to go to bed." Her smile broadens. "It's a whole new world. It gave me hope. And I'm sure I'm not alone."

Gail McNulty is riveted by Margo's account—but she finds it infuriating. "It's criminal that this is not available, that people don't know about this!"

Dr. Schweid reports that the Laguna Woods Medical Marijuana Collective is up and running. A three-minute version of this video has been posted on YouTube as "retirees demand marijuana."

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Forest fires have become a common part of the outdoor growing experience in California. Even gardens that escaped the Paradise/Chico fire suffered from its effects. Photo by Kevin Gorman

Gardens that escape forest fires face new hurdles

By Kevin Gorman High Sierra NORML

In the foothills of the High Sierra in June, 2008 the ground was covered with ash, and ash fell from the sky like snow in January. The Humboldt fires caused a lot of problems for growers in the Paradise area for a good six weeks right at the start of grow season. The skies darkened and the warm 80-degree days cooled to the low 70s, with nights in the 50s.

The darkened skies and cooler temperatures caused outdoor plants to think it was time to go into flower, and skipped vegetation. Cannabis plants need to be exposed to temperature levels of 20C/68F and above for long periods. Temperatures

below 14C/57F slow down growth.

One *White Widow* grower found that due to fires and fire companies pumping down lakes and reservoirs, the water table got disturbed and the water pH rose from 6.7 to 8.1 — highly alkaline. His hydroponics went awry and the plants grew erratically due to high pH. He had to use both a pH meter and electro-conduct meter to test the water and the nutrients with the water to get the plants to grow again.

When pH goes out of control, even in a soil grow, it causes nutrient lockout, preventing the uptake of nutrients the plant needs. Patients anywhere in a fire zone need to have a good digital pH meter.

Trichome Madness: Ripening flowers are fragile

By Samuel Janovici

Months of work and planning have brought us to this magic moment . . . harvest. If everything has gone according to those plans, you've gotten through all the trials and tribulations most farmers have faced for generations. Although this is a time for celebration, a grower should not let down their guard until those little nuggets from heaven are dried, trimmed and cured to perfection, and carefully stored to protect them from mold, rot and the ravages of prolonged exposure to air. At the very end of this process, vacuum sealing is a solid way to store the crop.

As harvest time approaches plant growth will slow down, the flowers will cease their rapid growth, the production of pistils will stop and they will change and deepen in color. This change in color signals that your plants are ripening. Always check to find out how long any particular breed takes to reach peak and learn about resin glands, called trichomes.

Trichomes are the little plant hairs with that crystalline appearance found on the buds and small leaves. These tiny glands have a stalk and a small resin head. They too change color as they ripen, this time going from clear to translucent and finally to amber. Using a jeweler's loupe start checking them carefully every day after the sixth week of the flowering cycle. Don't let them turn brown; that's a sign they are decomposing and losing THC content.

There is no single way to do anything and there are many techniques to harvesting, drying and curing. Try reading everything and anything you can find on the subject and adapt your knowledge to the circumstances at hand. Environment and space usually dictate the exact methods needed.

Although cannabis does not have to be hung upside-down, it's a good way to start the process for convenience and for appearance's sake. After cutting the stalks away from the plant, wet-trim the large shade leaves away to limit the amount of work during the final trim and to cut down

the formation of molds and fungus during this last critical cycle. It's a nightmare to watch a crop fall to waste during this last step. Good cleanliness practices will reward those who understand the nature of mold.

Find a place with low humidity where the buds can hang and dry to perfection. Allow cool air to circulate; if necessary, use fans to gently move the air through your harvest. Try not to bruise them by over-handling or by knocking them around.

Remember to stop fertilization at least two weeks before you start to harvest to avoid any chemical tastes, and stop all sprays at the same time. Some suggest giving your plants 24 hours of darkness before harvest; the buds are a little more resinous afterwards.



There is debate as to when to harvest. A reader asked if it's better in the morning or at the end of the day.

Mornings are the time when THC content has peaked, so that is the best time to harvest.

Manicuring when the leaves are wet and soft is easiest and it will speed up drying. Take off the leaf petioles at the main stem to avoid mold later.

Curing methods vary. Read everything you can find on the subject and talk to friends who have done it before. The rewards are worth the time you put into research.

Good luck — and be safe out there.

Garden Grove settlement

Continued from page 1

both refused to review the case.

"This settlement is a huge victory for patients that underscores law enforcement's obligation to uphold state law," said Elford. "Better adherence to state medical marijuana laws by local police will result in fewer needless arrests and seizures. That protects patients from hardship and avoids wasting resources."

NIDA seeks proposals to supply cannabis

Excerpted from the NIDA web site (part of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services), posted on 8/5/09:

"The National Institute on Drug Abuse is soliciting proposals from qualified organizations having the capability to (1) grow, harvest, analyze, store and distribute GMP grade cannabis (marijuana) on large and small scales; (2) extract cannabis to obtain purified phytocannabinoids including delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-9-THC), analyze, and store; (3) prepare marijuana cigarettes and related products; and (4) distribute marijuana, marijuana cigarettes and cannabinoids, and other related products for research and other govern-

ment programs upon NIDA authorization. Offeror must possess suitable and secure DEA approved outdoor and indoor growing facilities, research laboratory with appropriate analytical instruments, and experienced personnel to conduct the project tasks. Appropriate DEA approved secure facility for manufacturing of marijuana cigarettes, and their storage, and DEA Schedule I registration for marijuana and THC are essential. NIDA anticipates a 1-year with four 1 year options cost reimbursement type contract will be awarded...." For more information, see nida.nih.gov/RFP/RFPList.html. Proposals are due around Oct. 9.

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Mendocino collectives find victories in court

By **Pebbles Trippet** Secretary MMMAB

In spite of a law-enforcement crackdown in Mendocino County, cannabis collectives there have enjoyed a series of court victories. From the 2007 acquittal at trial of Matt Sutherland to the dismissal of charges at pre-trial against Shelton Sutherland in 2009, the 'collective clause' in Senate Bill 420 is protecting many patients who follow the law.

The not-for-profit collective model is fast becoming a safer way to organize the cultivation and distribution of medical cannabis, as codified under H&S11362.775. By foregoing profit making, collectives gain improved legal status to sell and distribute medicine to members within a closed-loop circle.

Since Measure B passed in November, 2008 Mendocino County policy allows only six plants per patient. Also, Civil Nuisance Ordinance 9.31 sets a limit of 25 plants per parcel. (Neither of these is legally binding.) There were 710 marijuana arrests and 520 prosecutions in Mendocino in 2008, including hundreds for medical marijuana. However, there has been a series of legal victories for medical marijuana collectives.

- Matt Sutherland (2007): A 4-person medical cannabis collective. Jury trial acquittal. Defense attorney: Ed Denson

- Laura Hamburg (2008): A 4-person family collective. Dismissal of all charges based on illegal search and seizure due to "intentional omission of material fact." Defense attorney: Keith Faulder

- Shelton Sutherland (July 2009): A 4-patient collective. Recognized as in compliance with state and local law by the court. Dismissed at pre-trial based on illegal search and seizure due to medical purposes being withheld from the judge in requesting a criminal warrant. Compliance checks without warrants, or with warrants deemed invalid due to withholding medical purposes information from the issuing judge, will not hold up in court. Defense attorneys: Tony Serra and Omar Figueroa

While quantities produced or possessed have to be reasonable, there are no limits on the number of patients allowed to associate collectively within the state. Hence, hundreds of collectives and cooperatives in urban areas are permitted under the law to provide patient-members with "farm direct" medicine.

- Luke Strauss and Joe Maligno (2009): A collective membership association with two Redwood Valley patients, growing 400 pounds for the West Hollywood Center for Compassionate Healing, a storefront dispensary providing medicine to 1000+ patients. Hung jury 7-5 in favor of acquittal, based on the conclusion of the majority of jurors that defendants were following the Attorney General Guidelines on Collectives under state law. Charges were not refiled. In this watershed case the Mendocino jury would not convict based on quantity alone, but considered how many patients were being provided with medicine. Defense attorneys: E.D. Lerman and J. David Nick

- David and Cara Lampach (April, 2009): A collective membership organization growing 50 pounds in Willits for storefront dispensary, Harborside Collective, in Oakland. After two rejected plea-offers, the DA dismissed all charges the same day. Defense attorney: Ann Cole-Wilson

To discuss plans and perspectives for dealing with the Mendocino nuisance ordinance, confiscations and prosecutions during the current growing season, and formation of collective cooperative membership associations in compliance with AG Guidelines, contact the Mendocino Medical Marijuana Advisory Board (MMMAB) at 707-964-YESS.

Court upholds dispensaries

Continued from page 6

(1) consistently provided caregiving, (2) independent of any assistance in taking medical marijuana, (3) at or before the time he or she assumed responsibility for assisting with medical marijuana."

The Court discussed at length the *Guidelines for the Security and Non-Diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use* by the Attorney General, and gave considerable weight to the AG's opinion that "dispensaries that merely require patients to complete a form summarizing designating the business owner as their primary caregiver — and then offering marijuana in exchange for cash 'donations' — are likely unlawful."

The Court concluded, "A storefront dispensary that merely provides walk-in customers with medical marijuana does not possess the type of 'consistent' relationship necessary to achieve primary caregiver status." Dale Gieringer of California NORML said the decision confirms the prevalent view that "dispensaries should organize as collectives/cooperatives, not caregivers."

The opinion can be downloaded at: courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/D054743.PDF

Commentary:

Tuitions rise, prisons boom; time for HEA reform

By **Jonathan Perri** Students for Sensible Drug Policy

The Higher Education Act's Aid Elimination Penalty, introduced by Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN), has been a nightmare for educators, students and parents across the country. Since 1998, students with drug convictions have been barred from receiving federal financial aid for college. Over 200,000 students who have filled out the 'FAFSA' form have been denied aid and countless more have not even applied for fear of one question: "Have you ever been convicted of a drug crime?"

Students for Sensible Drug Policy has been working since its formation to repeal this law. In 2006, SSDP met with a great success, as the law's 'reach back' provision was scaled back, so those with past drug

convictions are now eligible for aid, although those who are convicted while receiving aid will still lose it. Even Congressman Souder supported the change.

This year may see another significant reform to this law. A bill introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-CA) would, if passed, remove the penalty for students with drug possession convictions. Those convicted of selling illegal drugs would still be barred from receiving financial aid. The bill has already passed a House committee and will go on to the full House in the fall, where it is expected to pass.

"It's an unfair penalty, it's double jeopardy, and it impacts students of color and low-income students predominantly. It actually creates more drug abuse, because we know that the best way to prevent drug abuse later on in life is to get a college degree. That opens opportunities for economic advancement later on in life," said former SSDP Director Kris Krane.

The proposal comes at a time when education is in dire straits. Funding reductions and the hacking up of essential school programs are lowering the quality of education around the country, but one state sticks out. California college tuition is rising, while education spending is being slashed by \$6.1 billion for K-12 and \$3 billion for colleges. Students can expect to pay more for less, while much of their money goes toward prison budgets, which are being cut by \$1.2 billion this year.

California's prison spending cuts will force the state to reduce its prison population by 27,000. Unfortunately, funding for Proposition 36 has been cut by a whopping 83 percent, from \$108 million to just \$18 million. Prop 36 was approved by voters in 2000 and requires that first- and second-time nonviolent adult drug offenders who use, possess or transport illegal drugs be sent to treatment rather than prison. It is estimated that the state saves up to \$4 for every dollar spent on the provision. Cutting this program will clearly cost the state, and students, more money.

With student fees at the U of California going up nearly 10 percent this year and Cal State U also raising tuition costs for both undergraduate and graduate students, more should be cut from prisons than from education.



Canadian fiber hemp stalks grow and ripen.

Photo by Luke Zigowitz for VoteHemp.com

Oregon goes to hemp

Continued from page 2

Maine Governor John Baldacci signed the Maine hemp-farming bill, LD 1159, into law on June 9. The bill establishes a licensing regime for farming industrial hemp, although the licensing is contingent upon action by the federal government. Maine had previously passed a study bill that also defined industrial hemp.

During the 2009 legislative session, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and Vermont all passed pro-hemp laws, resolutions or memorials. Sixteen states have passed pro-hemp legislation to date, and eight states (Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia) have removed barriers to its production or research. As in North Dakota, where farmers are in a federal court battle over their rights to grow hemp under state law without fear of federal prosecution, the new law in Oregon does not require a federal DEA permit to grow hemp. More info is available at www.VoteHemp.com.

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California Senate Resolution 14 asks Obama for fact-based federal policy on medical cannabis

By Kris Hermes AmericansForSafeAccess.org

While the Obama Administration has promised a new policy on prosecuting medical cannabis cases, California state senators are telling Washington they want to see new law.

Senate Joint Resolution 14, introduced by Mark Leno (D-SF) in March, asks Congress and the President to do more than just end federal raids, intimidation, and other interference with state medical marijuana laws. The resolution asks that the federal government establish a comprehensive policy that ensures safe and legal access for patients as well and allows them a medical defense to federal marijuana charges. It also asks them to actively encourage clinical research on the therapeutic use of cannabis.

"Patients and providers in California remain at risk of arrest and prosecution by federal law enforcement, and legally established medical marijuana cooperatives continue to be the subjects of federal raids," said Sen. Leno in a statement.

The Senate Health Committee voted 7-3 in July in support of SJR 14. The Health Committee heard testimony from Don Duncan, California Director of Americans for Safe Access, the nationwide medical marijuana advocacy group sponsoring the legislation, and Sacramento patient and activist Lanette Davies. The resolution now proceeds to the Judiciary Committee, then, if passed, to the Senate floor.

The resolution is consistent with ASA's national strategy to enact nationwide protections for patients and advance scientific research to fully unlock the therapeutic potential of cannabis.

It urges President Obama and Congress to "move quickly to end federal raids, intimidation, and interference with state medical marijuana law." But it goes further by asking the government to establish "an affirmative defense to medical marijuana charges in federal court and establish federal legal protection for individuals authorized by state and local law ..."

Because of the 2005 US Supreme Court decision *Gonzales v Raich*, federal marijuana defendants are prevented from using a medical or state law defense. "With more than two dozen of these defendants currently being prosecuted by the Justice Dept., each of them facing many years in prison, such a change to Department policy would be timely, relevant and critically important," continued Duncan.

The resolution also addresses the need to expand research into the medical benefits of cannabis, a recommendation of the White House-commissioned Institute of Medicine report from 1999. Currently, a federal monopoly on the cultivation of cannabis for research purposes has stifled the ability to conduct FDA-approved scientific studies. To address this, the resolution urges the President and Congress "to adopt policies and laws to encourage

advanced clinical research trials into the therapeutic use of marijuana."

"The US is poised for a fundamental overhaul on medical cannabis policy," said Duncan. "Our legislative strategy is

diverse and multi-faceted, with success on any one of our goals likely to have profound, domino-like policy implications."

The resolution is expected to be voted on by the full State Senate soon. To contact your Senator in support of the bill, visit AmericansForSafeAccess.org/SJR14Action



STOP ARRESTING PATIENTS — The Barry Busch Memorial Candlelight Vigil was held July 11 in front of Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA supporting state bill HR 1393 *Compassionate Use of Marijuana*, introduced April 29 by Representative Mark Cohen. Photo by Christopher David Freitag

Marijuana smoke joins aspirin on CA list of carcinogens

By Paul Armentano NORML

The California Environmental Protection Agency and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) have added marijuana smoke to the state's list of official carcinogens, pursuant to Title 27, *California Code of Regulations*, section 25305(a)(1).

However, regulators did note in their report that the largest population case-control study ever to assess the use of cannabis and lung cancer risk did not find a positive association between long-term cannabis smoking and cancer.

Presently, over 300 separate chemicals — including aspirin and alcoholic beverages — are designated as carcinogens under California law.

Labeling requirements for cannabis smoke will not take effect until June 2010. Neither cannabis nor edible products containing cannabis will be designated as carcinogens under state law.

State environmental regulators determined that there is "limited" evidence "suggestive" that cannabis smoke exposure may be associated with an increased cancer risk in humans. Their review added, "[T]he similarities in chemical composition and in toxicological activity between cannabis smoke and tobacco smoke, and the presence of numerous carcinogens in cannabis (and tobacco) smoke, provide additional evidence of carcinogenicity."

Regulators made no official determination regarding the status of cannabis vapor, which does not contain combustion gases and has been determined to be a "safe and effective vehicle" for cannabis delivery in

clinical trials.

Under state law, the Governor's office is required to publish an annual list of chemicals that possess potential carcinogenic properties and/or are associated with reproductive toxicity, such as arsenic, lead, and tobacco smoke.

Products containing such chemicals are required to carry warning labels. Business establishments with ten employees or more are also mandated to post signs indicating whether there is a likelihood that an individual may be exposed to such chemicals while on the premises.

California NORML Coordinator Dale Gieringer said that the ruling did not come as a surprise because it has been well known for years that cannabis smoke contains known carcinogenic chemicals. However, he noted that the intake of these noxious chemicals "can be completely eliminated by vaporization or by consuming marijuana orally."

It remains unclear what effect, if any, these new regulations will have on the dispensing of medical marijuana in California. Since it is marijuana smoke, not cannabis per se, that is at issue here, it is not clear that legally operating medicinal cannabis dispensaries will have to alter their actions to comply with Prop. 65. Few such facilities allow patients to smoke cannabis on the premises. Liquor stores are not required to post warnings on the premises just because they dispense alcohol, so one wonders why medical cannabis dispensaries would be treated any differently.

For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

BPG supports its local Berkeley community

By Doug McVay & David Stogner

While their presence in the community has often met resistance, most dispensaries have proven to be beneficial to their communities as well as individual patients.

Sitting in a distinctively shaped building on San Pablo Ave, the Berkeley Patients Group (BPG) has consistently served medical cannabis patients and the East Bay community for the past 10 years. Additionally, it works to build links with and support other communities throughout the broader San Francisco Bay area.

BPG has developed a good reputation in its neighborhood and more broadly in the San Francisco Bay Area. They helped develop the not-for-profit dispensary service model. In addition to the free services to which all registered patient-members are entitled — including acupuncture, massage, individual counseling, and legal advice— BPG is proving to be a generous and active player in the East Bay community.

BPG's approach is to be proactive in its charitable activities rather than merely responding to requests for donations. The company actively solicits suggestions from its employees for worthwhile organizations for it to support

One of their closest neighbors in proximity is the Center for Early Intervention on Deafness, a preschool with whom the BPG forged a unique community friendship. Jill Ellis, director of CEID, says BPG has become a vital addition to their program. "As neighbors, their staff are always

professional and extremely protective of our neighborhood and community . . . the generous donations of organic fruits help us lay a healthy foundation for the families of our children, and their assistance in funding the program has literally been a lifesaver. While many organizations are quick to give lip service about their community involvement, they continually walk the talk."

Its contributions reflect the strong sense of social responsibility which BPG and its employees hold. They donate to the international charity Save the Children, and they also give to several youth-oriented community and school organizations in Berkeley and around the Bay area.

Berkeley Patients Group also promotes to its patient-members the organizations it supports, through literature distribution, presentations, and in other, more active ways by encouraging activism and participation in community events.



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Oakland airport lets patients travel with cannabis

Other airports to follow suit?

By Mickey Martin

Patients choosing to travel with their cannabis medicines from Oakland can breathe a little easier knowing that there is a policy to protect their rights.

"Oakland is officially the only airport in the world with a policy explicitly stating patients must be allowed to board their aircraft with medical cannabis," says Oakland attorney Rob Raich. His theory is that every airport in medical cannabis states should soon have a similar policy if local patients and activists demand it.

Raich began his inquiry into the matter after Oakland Police turned enforcement at the airport, which is controlled by the Port of Oakland, over to the intolerant control of the Alameda Sheriff's Department. He began hearing many stories of misconduct by the Sheriff deputies and inquired with Alameda County elected officials about what their policy was in regards to upholding state law in the matter. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors forced the hand of the Sheriff's office to write a policy upholding state law, and begrudgingly it did, making Oakland International the first airport to have a policy of this kind.

"Federal Aviation Regulations clearly state that if a person is traveling with drugs (it mentions "Marihuana" specifically) that are legal in that state then it is okay for the pilot to operate the aircraft knowing it is on board," says Raich. "It may be the one documented place where federal policy actually defers to state law." This is important to know when approaching airport administrators about setting a similar policy elsewhere, as it nullifies any excuse about federal law not permitting it on the aircraft.

The attorney warns against patients flaunting their cannabis and suggests one not declare it if not asked. "Be discreet," said Raich. "Keep your medicine on you if you can and simply walk through the

metal detectors. If it is discovered, present you doctor recommendation and it will be legal under both federal and state laws."

This is an Oakland policy for now, but he hopes more airports will adopt similar policies to clarify a patients right to travel with cannabis medicines. A far as destinations go, that could be a problem but Raich said he has never been checked by security after deplaning. Traveling outside of medical cannabis states and to destinations without policies can still be difficult and patients should proceed with discretion.

Cannabis writer Ed Rosenthal had his medicine confiscated by Alameda Sheriffs on a recent trip and he informed them that they had better not destroy it because he was going to get it back when he returned. They told him, "Fat chance." He said when he first inquired about it they claimed they could not find it. They had given him no receipt. He declared, "I know the names of the officers who took it and I can just head over to the District Attorney's office to report my stolen marijuana if you would like." Then he received a call telling him it was okay to pick it up. His experience was a hassle, which shows that even with a policy in place rogue officers can still make it difficult for patients if they choose.

Most airports, law enforcement at airports, and airlines do not have policies for traveling with cannabis. LAX airport police division Sergeant Jim Holcomb stated, "We take all cases on an individual basis. We follow California law. If there is a legal reason to have it then it is legal, but if it is illegal then we enforce the law. It depends on that specific person."

This shows that many such policies and attitudes depend on an officer's personal interpretation of the law and understanding of what is legal and what is not. It behooves patients to demand their right to travel in each and every airport in medical cannabis states.

THE LAB BENCH

THC, CBD work together to stop cancer growth

By Jahan Marcu

This year's International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS) meeting* brought together researchers and enthusiasts for a week to share ideas and explain new concepts on the ever-expanding role of cannabinoids in medicine. Additionally, the ICRS meeting provides a sneak peak at upcoming publications. CBD (cannabidiol) is the second most abundant active ingredient in cannabis. New research demonstrated that CBD can kill aggressive breast cancer cells (McAllister et al.), reduce intestinal inflammation (De Fillipis et al.), act as an anti-convulsant (Jones et al.), and may even be a novel acne treatment (Biro et al.).

FAAH inhibitors have tremendous potential to become powerful medicines. FAAH is the enzyme that degrades endocannabinoids, the THC-like compounds our body produces. Inhibiting FAAH with a drug is a strategy that allows clinicians to raise the levels of endocannabinoids for the duration of treatment. Antonio Luchicchi presented a poster on the FAAH inhibitor called URB597, which reduced the cocaine reward response in rats; thus this strategy may be a viable treatment for drug addiction. Other research teams showed that FAAH inhibitors can reduce depression (Rubino et al.), neuropathic pain (Kinsey et al.), and inflammatory pain (Ahn et al.).

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti's presentation on using cannabinoids to prevent graft-vs.-host disease in organ transplants showed that the activation of the CB1 receptor by THC could reduce organ rejection in mice. This research may have far reaching implications, especially since the removal of medical cannabis users from organ recipients lists is routine practice at Hospitals in the US.

Lastly, I presented research on the syn-

ergistic effects of cannabinoids, THC and CBD, against human brain cancer cells *in vitro*. The exciting discoveries were made in the laboratory of Dr. Sean McAllister at the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute. THC and CBD have demonstrated notable anti-cancer activity, and THC is currently being used in a clinical trial for the treatment of brain cancers. The data showed that the addition of CBD might greatly increase the anti-cancer effects of THC. Low doses of the individual cannabinoids did not produce much cell death. Yet, a combination of the low doses of THC and CBD leads to: increased cell death, inhibition of the cell cycle, reductions in specific proteins, and therefore synergistically inhibits the proliferation of brain cancer cells. The best combination was determined mathematically by running experiments referred to as dose response curves, and synergistic interactions were analyzed using Isobolograms; the optimal ratio of THC: CBD was determined to be approximately 4:1.

This year held a special significance for me, as recipient of the Billy R. Martin Award for a presentation "Plant Wisdom: Cannabidiol Synergizes with Δ^9 -Tetrahydrocannabinol to inhibit human glioblastoma proliferation and survival."

Send your cannabis questions to Cannabination@gmail.com

* The ICRS program can be searched and viewed at: cannabinoidsociety.org/SYMPOSIUM.2009/ICRS.2009.PROGRAMME.presymposium.pdf

Oakland cannabis tax

Continued from page 1

The tax level was chosen to be sufficiently low as not to force dispensaries to raise their prices. At \$18 per \$1,000 of business revenue, the cannabis tax is higher than Oakland's standard business tax rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000. Oakland assesses higher tax rates on other selected businesses, including rental property (\$32) and gun shops (\$24).

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ASK DR. MEDICAL CANNABIS

Immunological benefits come from cannabinoid activity

By David Ostrow M.D.

Question: On a recent episode of The Closer on TV, Kyra Sedgwick accidentally ate some pot brownies and got "high," but it also relieved her depression and pain from an injury. However, when her FBI agent-husband came home, he was furious that someone brought illegal drugs into their home. How can something so beneficial as cannabis be "legal" for medical use in 15 states and still the US government considers it one of the most dangerous narcotics?

Dr MC: In previous columns, I have discussed the history of cannabis regulation in the US and the unfortunate consequences of cannabis being branded a "Schedule 1 Narcotic," which means it is considered to be highly addictive with no medicinal value. As increasing scientific and clinical evidence has proven that cannabis does have remarkable beneficial effects, opponents of rescheduling cannabis have begun to change strategy by emphasizing the potential negative health effects of smoke. So let's summarize what we know about the beneficial vs. harmful effects of smoked cannabis for a variety of medical conditions, including HIV infection.

Basically, the beneficial properties of smoked cannabis relate to the ability of the active cannabinoids, primarily THC and CBD, to bind to receptors on nerve cells that moderate pain, decrease muscle spasticity, and moderate immune activation and the auto-immune and immune-suppressive processes associated with aging. This is in addition to the well known euphoric effect of those cannabinoids that can enter the brain and interact with neurotransmitter systems in the frontal cortex and limbic systems to improve mood, sensory awareness, appetite, and other pleasurable brain functions. And because smoked cannabis can be carefully dosed, it is preferable to many other drugs that have to be ingested and are therefore much harder to titrate for maximum benefit and are much more addictive than cannabis.

It is therefore not surprising that most of the rigorous clinical research over the

last decade with smoked cannabis has focused on nerve and muscle pain symptoms, spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis, loss of appetite (anorexia) due to cancer, AIDS and other wasting diseases. Given the complexity of the immune and central nervous systems, much less is known about the treatment of mental and auto-immune diseases with smoked cannabis, although there are anecdotal reports of positive benefits of cannabis in many of these diseases.

On the other and, opponents of legalized medical cannabis are increasingly citing "statistics" claiming that smoked cannabis contains many carcinogenic compounds and, like cigarette smoke, can cause cancer and other diseases of the mouth, throat and lungs. However, the two largest "case-control" studies performed at UCLA and the Kaiser Medical Foundation have both shown that persons who only smoke cannabis do not have elevated rates of pulmonary cancer and that smoking cannabis as well as tobacco can protect against such cancers. There certainly can be irritation due to smoking cannabis that can lead to bronchitis, which is why many doctors recommend the use of vaporization to reduce the level of those irritants produced when cannabis is burned at very high temperatures instead of controlled, relatively low-temperature vaporization.

But what about the still poorly understood effects of cannabinoids on immune function? Although these results are still preliminary, Dr MC and colleagues are studying the effects of drugs, including smoked cannabis, on immune suppression due to HIV infection and aging in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) that has been following thousands of gay/bisexual men for over 25 years. And in contrast to drugs like crack cocaine that appear to speed up the destruction of immune cells, those who smoke cannabis appear to be partially protected from both HIV- and age-related immune suppression. Hopefully these results will be published soon so we have another reason to reschedule cannabis and use it to mitigate immune suppression and aging.



THC EXPOSURE — The first annual THC Expo took place at the LA Convention Center June 13-14. Approx. 50,000 people attended over the weekend, with 300 vendors. Top left: Co-owner/producer Todd McCormick, center, with Tina Gullickson of Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer band (l) and Mikki Norris, *West Coast Leaf* (r). Upper right: Richard Davis' Hemp Museum. Bottom left: Los Angeles rock's classic personality Jim Ladd of KLOS 95.5FM, which aired promotional spots for the Expo. Bottom right: Dutch Greenhouse Coffeeshop collection of Cannabis Cup awards. Center: Dale Clare of Oaksterdam University facilitated classes. *West Coast Leaf*

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Marijuana Radio marijuanaradio.com/, live shows, Tuesdays 6 PM PST, podcasts that cover entertainment, politics, comedy, music and celebrity guests.

NORML Daily Audio Stash with host "Radical" Russ Belville, stash.norml.org/ current podcasts, news, interviews, etc. See RadicalRuss.com for archives of his shows.

The California Marijuana Report with former Westwood One news reporter, KGO radio producer, screen actor and Libertarian activist Eric Brenner. Weekly segment on the *NORML Daily Audio Stash*, stash.norml.org. California marijuana news and music. Interviews elected officials and marijuana law experts as well as profiles California residents currently incarcerated or being prosecuted for marijuana offenses.

Time 4 Hemp Radio Show with Casper Leitch, Time4HempRadio.com, live shows Tues. & Thurs., 3-5 PM PT, (sponsored by americanfreedomradio.com). Call in to share views at 512-879-3805. Time4hemp.com for podcasts, hemp music, video, interviews.

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only individuals with legally recognized medical cannabis identification cards may obtain cannabis from medical cannabis dispensaries.

Patients can sue for seized medicine

Collective cultivation upheld

By Kris Hermes Americans for Safe Access
A civil case resulted in a July appellate court ruling that protects California patients who grow cannabis collectively.

The Third District Court of Appeal issued a 2-1 decision affirming a superior court ruling that state and local law enforcement must respect the right of cannabis patients to cultivate their medicine collectively.

Law enforcement must abide by the laws of the state, not federal laws.

The court also found that law enforcement must obtain a warrant to search a patient's property and seize any cannabis found there. The judges wrote that to rule otherwise would "surely shock the sensibilities of the voters" who approved the state's medical marijuana initiative in 1996.

"In addition to protecting patients' right to collectively cultivate, the Court has reaffirmed that medical marijuana patients enjoy the same constitutional rights as everyone else, including the ability to file civil rights actions when those rights are violated," said Joe Elford, ASA Chief Counsel and the attorney who litigated the case, which Americans for Safe Access has been fighting for three years.

The landmark appellate decision in *County of Butte v. Superior Court* concerns the 2005 warrantless search of a patient's home in Paradise, California.

ASA took the case in 2006 after receiving repeated reports that Butte County law enforcement and other police agencies throughout the state were refusing to recognize the legitimacy of patient collectives.

During the search, the Butte County Sheriff ordered the homeowner, David Williams, 56, to uproot more than two-dozen plants being grown for a small col-

lective of seven cannabis patients. Though state law allows for collective cultivation, the sheriff told Williams it is not lawful to grow cannabis for multiple patients.

A superior court judge in Butte County ruled otherwise in 2007, saying cannabis patients "should not be required to risk criminal penalties and the stress and expense of a criminal trial in order to assert their rights."

The appeals court last month agreed, finding that patients have "the same constitutional guarantee of due process available to all individuals, no matter what their status, under the state Constitution." The appeals panel noted that "[t]he fact that this case involves medical marijuana and a qualified ... patient does not change these fundamental constitutional rights or an individual's right to assert them."

"This ruling by the California courts sends yet another strong message to state law enforcement that they must abide by the medical marijuana laws of the state and not the competing federal laws," said ASA's Elford.

Even the dissenting opinion in the case contained a plea for new federal laws. Judge James Morrison wrote, "The US Congress should reconsider its refusal to amend the federal drug laws to make reasonable accommodation for the 13 states that have enacted some form of compassionate use exception to their penal codes."

Pain patients forced to assert their cannabis rights

By Dale Gieringer Director Cal NORML

An upsurge in drug testing abuse by chronic-pain clinics is jeopardizing treatment of cannabis patients. In recent months, California NORML has received a flood of complaints from chronic pain patients wrongfully denied pain medications after testing positive for cannabis.

Prop 215 patient Kristin Redeen, who used prescription opiates for severe chronic pain, was surprised when her clinic asked her to submit a urine sample.

"I didn't think I was doing anything wrong," says Redeen, who had been using the same clinic for seven years. "They already knew about my medical marijuana use." When she tested positive for cannabis, Redeen was shocked to be told that the clinic would no longer renew her prescription for the opiate Percocet.

Redeen began suffering seizures after her prescription was withdrawn. Her clinic explained—falsely—that DEA regulations forbid giving prescription narcotics to illegal drug users.

In fact, there is no law requiring pain clinics or doctors to screen out cannabis users, according to legal experts.

"It's BS," says Washington state attorney Doug Hiatt, who has encountered many such complaints this year. "It's Jim Crow medicine." Not a single case is known in which any clinic or doctor has been sued, prosecuted or penalized for allowing medical cannabis.

Pain clinics are under mounting pressure to monitor patient use of prescription narcotics, especially opiates. Deaths from prescription opiates have reached record levels, leading Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske to proclaim them the nation's number-one drug abuse problem. Clinics are using drug testing to stem abuse and diversion of opiates. Despite the fact that these problems are not due to cannabis, many clinics wrongly assume that they are obliged to screen out cannabis users as well.

In fact, there are sound medical reasons for chronic pain patients to use cannabis. A growing body of scientific data, including four published studies by California's own Center for Medicinal Research, shows that

Please turn on page 21

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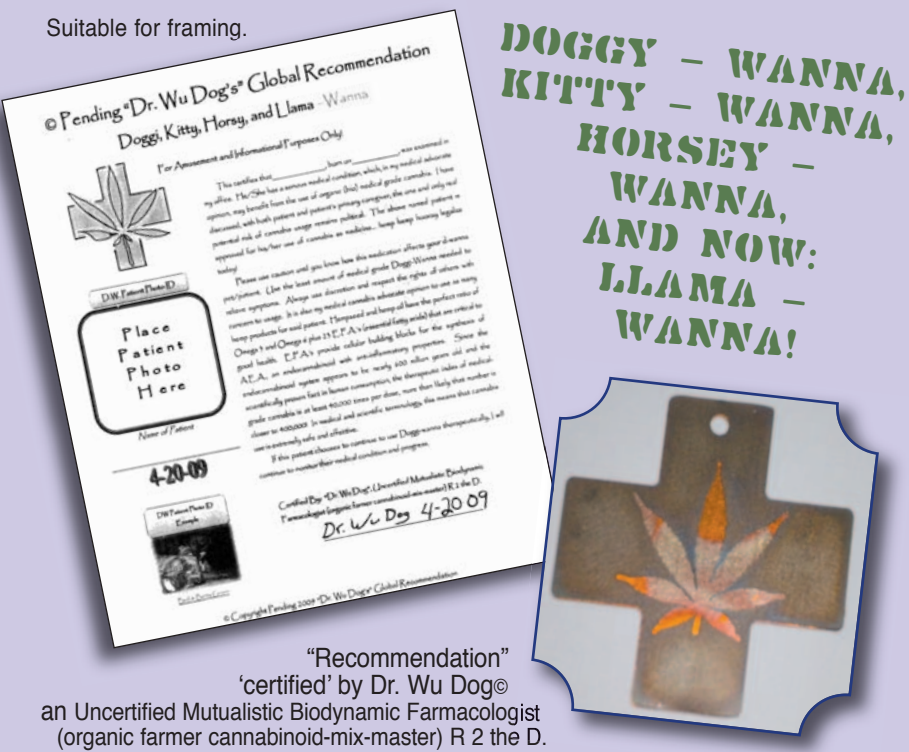
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WEST COAST LEAF
Editorials and Commentary

The simplest health care reform

As we watch the orchestrated histrionics being launched against national health care reform, it raises a legitimate question. What if Obama could make one simple, safe, multi-purpose medicine available to all Americans at no cost whatsoever that could provide broad symptomatic relief, reduce people's use of pharmaceuticals, and improve their overall quality of life? What if he could, with the stroke of a pen, reduce incarcerations and thereby prevent tens of thousands of cases of hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS from occurring in the first place? What if, in so doing, he could save the country \$40 billion per year in wasteful spending, and also help keep families together, create tens or hundreds of thousands of new jobs and increase the nation's revenues without raising taxes?

For all that to be true we would have to be talking about legalizing cannabis for its therapeutic and possibly adult use. We would be talking about a president wielding his Constitutional authority to order the DEA to reschedule cannabis based on the plant's scientific benefits *vs.* risks. This he can do, all in a few minutes — without Congress.

Did Obama send out 'the memo'?

In an earlier editorial we noted that DEA agents had proclaimed they were waiting for "the memo" from Obama telling them to stop raiding California's cannabis dispensaries. His May 20, 2009 *Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*, on the subject of preemption, was a step in the right direction. "The purpose of this memorandum is to state the general policy of my Administration that preemption of State law by executive departments and agencies should be undertaken only with full consideration of the legitimate prerogatives of the States and with a sufficient legal basis for preemption. Executive departments and agencies should be mindful that in our Federal system, the citizens of the several States have distinctive circumstances and values, and that in many instances it is appropriate for them to apply to themselves rules and principles that reflect these circumstances and values. As Justice Brandeis explained more than 70 years ago, "It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country." Now the DEA should read his memo — and desist.

Free Will Foster — again

After he sat in a Santa Rosa jail cell for about a year and a half, drug agents finally picked up Will Foster to return him to Oklahoma on Aug. 21. There he will face the consequences of an alleged parole violation (apparently due to a clerical miscalculation of the length of his parole), which could keep him in prison until 2015. Mind you, Foster already served 4 1/2 years in an Oklahoma prison, plus he successfully completed another three years on parole in California for an Oklahoma marijuana garden that would be legal under California law. However, that's not enough, according to Oklahoma authorities.

A Santa Rosa judge dismissed the charges against Foster that landed him in jail for his medical marijuana garden but not before the county wasted many thousands of dollars housing him in their jail, and countless thousands more on repeated court appearances that led nowhere (attorneys, court personnel, law enforcement officers, etc.). However, Oklahoma wanted him back, and both Gov. Schwarzenegger and Gov. Henry ultimately signed off on Foster's extradition. Now, OK has to pay to transfer him back and house him there until they decide that he's been punished enough.

How many thousands of dollars more must be spent on Will Foster? How many students could have received an education with the money that instead is spent on teaching Foster a lesson? How many more families could be receiving health care with those thousands of dollars spent to deprive this man with degenerative arthritis the ability to take care of himself, which he did nicely until they raided his home? How many potholes could be fixed, rather than throwing money down the hole for pot?

This extradition is immoral, it's totally wasteful, and it's time to end the abuse of cannabis consumers and patients who better serve society as productive, tax-paying citizens than inmates.

They can start by freeing Will Foster.

For updates on Will's situation and to find out how you can help, see edrosenthal.blogspot.com

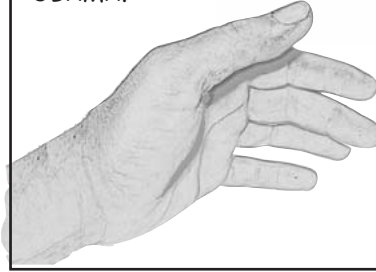
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"THE NEW DRUG CZAR SAYS THE WORD 'LEGALIZE' IS NOT IN HIS VOCABULARY NOR THAT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA."



"THEN I GUESS IT'S TIME WE GET 'EM A DICTIONARY, BECAUSE IT'S COMING SOON."

"... At least it's cheaper than getting them a bag of good bud."

Tax and Regulate 2010 initiative empowers local communities to decide what's right for them . . .

By Dale Sky Clare Oaksterdam University

Oaksterdam University has offered a ballot proposal to regulate cannabis similarly to alcohol. The *Tax and Regulate Cannabis Act* (T&R 2010) allows adults 21 years and older to possess and cultivate a small amount of cannabis, and gives local jurisdictions the option to tax and regulate sales and commercial cultivation.

Jeff Jones, Executive Director of the Patient ID Center and one of the founders of Oaksterdam, signed on as a proponent based on helping medical patients. "Passing this initiative will actually help to protect medical cannabis patients by making them less of a target for law enforcement." With community feedback collected, several individuals came together to pen amendments that specifically ensure the rights of qualified patients; any activities allowed by SB 420 and Prop 215 are protected. It does not alter the rights and privileges of qualified medical patients.

T&R 2010 makes possession of one ounce legal and allows limited cultivation (grown within a 25 square foot area) of a personal amount, if it is not sold. One may legally possess the harvest grown at home in a 5 foot by 5 foot area. T&R 2010 gives local jurisdictions the option to tax and regulate sales and commercial cultivation, keeping these important decisions within each community. The act ensures that if a city or county decides not to tax and regulate the sale of cannabis, that buying and selling within that city or county's limits would remain illegal, however the resident citizens would still have the right to possess and consume small amounts.

This means there could be "green" or "dry" cities and counties — each locality can choose to regulate cannabis and receive the added tax revenues from sales, as well

as additional fees for permits and licensing cultivation, transportation, qualified kitchens and related services. Proposed regulation could pay its own way, potentially keeping more government jobs intact. Meanwhile, the entire state could begin benefiting as soon as forward thinking communities applied their new revenue stream, while green jobs could be created in the community.

California's prison systems are currently operating at 190 percent capacity.

A RAND Corporation study found that additional domestic law enforcement efforts cost 15 times as much as treatment to achieve the same reduction in societal costs. Police arrested an estimated 872,720 persons for cannabis violations in 2007, according to statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Of those charged with cannabis violations, approximately 89 percent, 775,137 Americans, were charged with possession only. An American is now arrested for violating cannabis laws every 38 seconds.

The tax and regulate cannabis initiative could redirect scarce resources to help fund what matters most: health care, schools, libraries, law enforcement, parks, roads, transportation, and public services. The Legislature could amend the Act to create a statewide commercial cannabis system for adults. Meanwhile, individual communities could benefit immediately.

The upcoming 2010 initiative is truly about being smart on resources, rather than continuing a dysfunctional war on drugs. www.taxcannabis2010.org.

www.OaksterdamUniversity.com, Medical Cannabis Safety Council (MCSC), Regional Coordinator, Southern California Education & Research Committee Chairperson, CannabisSafety.org, Medical Cannabis Association (MCA), Director of Public Affairs and Patient Advocacy, www.MedicalCannabisAssociation.org

. . . CCI initiative takes fuller legalization route

By Joe Rogoway

California Cannabis Initiative Proponent

The California Cannabis Initiative has submitted a proposed ballot measure to the California Attorney General's office for title and summary. This is one of four cannabis reform options currently being considered by Californians.

I am one of the proponents of this initiative and a criminal defense attorney who has defended a multitude of clients from the unnecessary effects of cannabis prohibition. The purpose of this article is to inform the community about what this initiative will and won't do.

First and foremost, this initiative will repeal all existing criminal prohibitions related to cannabis production, distribution, sales, and use. This means that the State of California could potentially save approximately \$981 million dollars in criminal justice related expenditures. This also means that people like you won't have to rely on people like me to save you from all of the horrors of arrest, prosecution, and incarceration.

This initiative, if passed, would also mandate statewide taxation and regulation of cannabis. At a rate of \$50 per ounce, we

estimate that this Act could generate \$1.4 billion dollars in revenues for the State. We, through the language in this Act, have mandated that all taxes and fees collected from cannabis be spent on vital social programs such as education, healthcare, public works, and the environment.

We have also mandated labeling requirements designed to protect the consumer and expunging the conviction of anyone previously convicted of a cannabis related offense. Through this Act, we believe that we can generate a multibillion dollar economic stimulus for California. In short, through this act we believe that we can not only effectuate true justice, but also provide a sort of panacea for the ills that plague our State. But we need your help.

Our organization relies completely on the help of volunteers.

In an era of change and pragmatism, people like you can be at the forefront of responsibility, prosperity, and, dare I say, freedom and equality. Please donate whatever you can in terms of time, effort and funds to this campaign. We are available online, californiacannabisinitiative.org, or by postal mail delivery at 530 Divisadero #278, San Francisco CA 94117.

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Commentary:

Ad censored for things it never said

By **Bruce Mirken** Marijuana Policy Project

Earlier this summer the Marijuana Policy Project stirred up a hornet's nest with what was thought to be a pretty straightforward TV commercial. That a little ad proved too hot to handle for some stations says more about socially acceptable attitudes regarding cannabis than about the ad (or the drug) itself.

After a series of images depicting harsh California spending cuts, Nadene Herndon of Fair Oaks. looks at the camera and says: "Sacramento says huge cuts to schools, health

"We're marijuana consumers. ... We want to pay our fair share."



care and police are inevitable due to California's budget crisis. Even our state parks could be closed. But the governor and legislature are ignoring millions of Californians who want to pay taxes.

"We're marijuana consumers. Instead of being treated like criminals for using a substance safer than alcohol, we want to pay our fair share. Taxes from California's marijuana industry could pay the salaries of 20,000 teachers. Isn't it time?"

The spot concludes with a slide reading, "Tax and Regulate Marijuana. ControlMarijuana.org."

Nothing in the spot urged people to light up, and there were no images of cannabis or cannabis use at all.

Yet over half a dozen major-market TV stations, including the NBC and ABC affiliates in LA and San Francisco, flatly refused to air it. The general manager of

KABC insisted in an oddly heated phone conversation that the commercial advocates cannabis use, and he wasn't going to advocate illegal activity on his station. The ad did nothing of the sort, but apparently was just as disturbing as if it had.

The ad spoke for the millions of Americans who use cannabis — nearly 15 million in a typical month, according to government surveys that likely underestimate its true prevalence — and are ordinary, responsible, hardworking and entirely normal folks. Cannabis consumers are our neighbors. But most of them don't talk about it — just as gays and lesbians couldn't talk about their orientation back in the 1960s, when gay sex was illegal in every state.

The official mythology is, of course, that cannabis consumers are drug abusers and slackers who lead sad, dysfunctional lives. That a legal, regulated and taxed cannabis industry could generate a billion dollars in revenue for our cash-strapped state is just one small reason to end the folly of marijuana prohibition.

The most important reasons are people like Herndon — ordinary, wage-earning Americans who made the perfectly rational choice to use a safer substance. These folks are starting to come out of the closet.

Recognizing that reality requires letting go of some familiar myths. And some TV stations, as we now know all too well, aren't ready to do that.

View the ad at mpp.org/states/california/we-want-to-pay-our-fair-share.html.

* Mirken is director of communications for the Marijuana Policy Project, www.mpp.org.

Explosion of cannabis-theme magazines hits the West

Move over, *High Times*; you're not alone on the magazine rack anymore. The notoriously East Coast-centric magazine has been joined by



a new wave of magazines featuring big, juicy bud pictures and info of particular interest to the West and Canada.

Cannabis Culture and *Heads* have ceased to publish in print form, but *Greenkind*, *Skunk* and *Treating Yourself* have been around for years.

West Coast Leaf Photo by Chris Conrad

Likewise *Kush LA* magazine. *West Coast Cannabis* is two years old already. *THC / Hempire* magazine was launched in June at

the THC Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center. *Nug*, *OC Weedly* and *California Chronicle* also recently joined the mix. And let's not forget that big catalog of So Cal dispensaries, the *LA JEMM*.

It's good to know that the cannabis community is so literate.

Voters may have three initiatives from which to choose in Nov.

Continued from page 1

existing laws, allows "reasonable" personal amounts for adult use, adds a \$50 per ounce tax for commerce, and makes penalties civil rather than criminal. "We're basically trying to put ourselves out of work defending cannabis users," said Figueroa.

Richard Lee of Oaksterdam University and Jeff Jones of Patient ID Center offer the *Tax and Regulate 2010* ballot measure, (tax-cannabis2010.org) an 11-page document that legalizes an ounce for adult (21-years) possession, and a small (25 square feet) garden plus its entire harvest at a residence. It has a affirmative defense for larg-

er amounts, allows sharing up to an ounce and lets localities tax and regulate production and distribution. Lee said that since Fresno and Oakland may have very different attitudes toward cannabis, once small personal amounts are legal statewide, the local communities should be able to fine-tune the other regulations.

Common Sense for California is a sweeping legalization proposal that fits onto one page, strikes down all existing marijuana laws and instructs the legislature to create a system of taxation and regulation. Written by Long Beach activists and Peace

Capitol Wellness Collective Weekly Calendar

We are a patient centered collective with limited membership bringing patients access to a natural perspective of wellness through educational seminars, support groups, and a variety of services.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Thai Chi 10:30-12:00 Medical Cannabis 101 3:00-4:00 Table Massage 4:00-6:00	Tracie's Togs 3:00-4:00 Foot/Chair Massage 4:00-6:00	Foot/Chair Massage 4:00-6:00 Veterans Group 5:00-6:00	Psychic reading/healing 5:00-6:00 Spiritual Counselor 4:00-5:00 Gardening Class 5:00-6:00	Life Counselor 2:00-4:00 HIV/AIDS Support Group 2:00-4:00 Reflexology Chair Massage 4:00-6:00	4:20 Bingo! 4:20 Raffle! Garden & House Volunteer Day!	Chess Club 1:00-2:00 Art Therapy 1:00-4:00 Fitness Class 2:00-4:00 Clothing Drive all day

CWC 1
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Sacramento
916.325.9000

CWC 2
2100 29th St.
Sacramento
916.739.1471

4:20 Raffle

Exchange your jars, ride your bike, or donate toys for raffle tickets.

Art Therapy

Let art be your therapy. This class will teach patients how to work with art through a multiple of mediums

Auto Immune Support Group

Hang together, get better.

Chess Club

Make this your next move

Clothing Exchange

Trade your threads for someone else's.

Concentrates

Learn how to turn your low grade medicine into high grade concentrates

Cooking Classes

Our chefs demonstrate the many variations of cannabis cuisine. (Held only at CWC 1)

Fitness Training

Exercise and wellness go hand in hand.

Gardening Class

Our pros teach you how to grow, indoors and outdoors.

HIV - AIDS Support Group

Medicate and share your experience with fellow patients

Life Counselor

1/2 hour sessions available to talk with a state certified counselor.

Massage and Movement

Capitol Wellness Collective masseuse Spencer is an expert in Reflexology, Qigong, and Accupressure.

Medical Cannabis 101

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National and International Reports

Mexico's 'Narcomenudeo' decrim law published and official

The national law against "narcomenudeo" is official since August 20. The states and Mexico City, DF, have one year to make changes in their local laws to decriminalize five grams of cannabis for personal use, and specified small personal amounts of other drugs. After three such contacts with law enforcement, drug treatment will be mandatory. The shift is intended to draw personal users away from the illicit drug cartels.

Federal bill would equalize US crack, powder cocaine penalties

After 23 years of disparity, the House Judiciary Committee took a step toward bringing penalties for possession and sales of crack cocaine into line with those of powder cocaine. Possession of crack cocaine has been penalized 100 times more severely than that of powder since the Reagan era: penalty levels are the same for five grams of crack as for 500 grams of powder. Two federal judges recently refused to sentence crack defendants with the more severe penalties, and both President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have spoken in favor of fixing the gap. *The Fairness in Cocaine Sentencing Act*, HR 3245, removes references to 'cocaine base' (or crack) thereby putting crack at the same level as powder cocaine. The bill sponsored by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) passed out of the committee on July 29 by a vote of 16-9. It now awaits the vote of the full House.

Life insurance now available for lawful cannabis consumers

In the past, if one tested positive for cannabis, life insurance was routinely denied. Not any more. Qualified patients who live in a state with a medical cannabis law now have an option that lets them be honest about their medicine. All they need do is state on the application the reason for their use, how it is ingested, how many times per day it is used, and how much is consumed per week. Prudential will not turn people down for legal cannabis. The insurance broker is Irv Rosenfeld, a patient who receives medical marijuana from the US government in the IND program. To take advantage of this offer, contact Rosenfeld at Newbridge Securities, 1451 W. Cypress Creek Rd. # 204, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33309, call toll free 877-447-9625 ext.120, or email to irosenfeld@newbridgesecurities.com.

Subway endorsement lets Michael Phelps be himself again

Bong or no bong, the munchies chain Subway sandwiches has picked up Michael Phelps's endorsement and is reaping the benefits of a cannabis consumers 'buy-cott,' as people buy a sandwich and tell the store manager that it's to support Phelps's right as an adult to smoke cannabis. Kellogg's is still being boycotted by millions of Phelps supporters for dropping the 14-time Gold Medal winner as an endorser after a photo of the swimmer apparently smoking cannabis was published in England. The Olympiad called it "regrettable" that he had been photographed in an "inappropriate" position. The incident led to a surge of support for ending penalties on athletes who use cannabis. The Subway ad compares Phelps's appetite with someone on a diet to the tune of "Thank You for Letting Me Be Myself Again," coincidentally, the Subway web site is subwayfreshbuzz.com.

iPhone 'Cannabis' app helps patients locate safe, legal access

Apple released a new iPhone and iPod Touch application in July that allows users to locate cannabis resources worldwide — including the nearest medical cannabis collectives, doctors, attorneys, organizations, and other patient services in states such as California that have passed laws allowing medical marijuana. Patients can download the \$2.99 "Cannabis" application from iTunes. Using the application, press 'locate.' The nearest medical cannabis collectives, cooperatives or facilities appear as little green dots on a map of your current or selected location, with real-time door-to-door directions. Not living in a medical cannabis state? The only way to fix that is to take action. This iPhone application will locate the nearest reform group so everyone can get involved. AjnaG.com will donate 50 cents for every application purchase to a cannabis non-profit reform fund.

Breckenridge voters may choose to become a more 'sensible' ski destination in November

By Josh Kappel Sensible Breckenridge

It might be easier to pick a ski destination this winter, if Breckenridge, Colorado voters approve a November measure to legalize small amounts of cannabis for adults.

In a town with over 75 bars and 500 recorded bar fights per year, it seems sensible to offer adults a more calming alternative than drinking alcohol when they get off the slopes. This certainly makes sense if that town has a base population of 3,500 residents, but a daily tourist population of some 40,000 during its legendary winter ski seasons. This premise sparked the "Sensible Breckenridge" campaign, a project of the cannabis reform non-profit Sensible Colorado.

"If we allow tourists the option of using marijuana, a drug which is much safer for recreational use than alcohol, Breckenridge will be a safer town," said Sensible Colorado Executive Director Brian Vicente.

Sensible Breckenridge was launched in May 2009 by prominent Breckenridge attorney and Sensible Colorado Board Member Sean McAllister. Within weeks the group recruited other community leaders, including Breckenridge Town Councilman Jeffery Gergeron, to serve on the petitioner's committee and oversee the ballot initiative process.

Working with a strong group of interns and volunteers, Sensible Breckenridge gathered over 1400 signatures in less than 5 weeks, almost triple the requisite number of voter signatures needed to place the "sensible" measure on the ballot in November. "We had overwhelming support," said volunteer coordinator Gabbi Thomas, "Our main problem was having to turn away tons of people who wanted to sign the petition, but couldn't because they didn't live in town!"

The initiative was certified by the town clerk on July 24 and will appear on the November 2009 ballot — unless the Town Council enacts the law themselves. This measure, modeled after a similar initiative which passed in Colorado's capital, Denver, in 2005, will remove all criminal penalties for the possession of an ounce or less of cannabis by adults 21 and older. Worthy of note is that the measure goes further than Denver's landmark law, in that it would also remove penalties for adult paraphernalia possession.

All eyes will be on Breckenridge, Colorado this November. So you may wish to wait until after Nov. 3 to plan a winter vacation — because Breckenridge could be the most sensible town in the Rockies



VICTORY FOR HEMP — A police officer complained to the Virginia DMV about Sandy Hayer's personalized license plates, and the agency hauled her in for a hearing May 19 on the propriety of the message it contained. Roy Scherer went with her to the hearing and educated DMV on hemp. Hayer was given replacement plates in the interim. When she did not hear back from them, she mailed back the replacement plates with a letter. "I feel that hemp is a blessing from God and we should use it whenever possible. Our planet would be better off if we used the hemp plant for paper instead of trees," she wrote. "Please let me keep my "HEMP R" plates. It is so a part of my life." The DMV returned her plates, which are now safely back on her car. Photo courtesy of Sandy Hayer.

Medi-cannabis access in US capital soon?

By Ben Morris* Marijuana Policy Project

Washington DC's struggle for medical marijuana is unique. It started in 1998 when advocates in the federal district successfully passed a ballot initiative similar to California's Proposition 215. Congress, which has broad authority over the city's affairs, quickly stepped in to block the new law from taking effect. It did so by passing the Barr amendment, a provision of law that has kept the city from implementing its program. Advocates have been struggling for 10 years to remove the provision.

Since DC is a federal territory, this requires action from both Congress and the

White House. This is unlikely, considering that medical marijuana protections are non-existent in federal law.

This July, the congressional committee responsible for the Barr amendment removed it from the DC appropriations bill. So far, every attempt to reinsert the provision has failed. If the appropriations bill is finally enacted without such modification, DC will be free to carry out the will of its voters — albeit 11 years late. This is likely, as the bill is considered must-pass legislation.

A victory in DC means more than just protection for seriously ill patients within the city limits; it would mean that Congress, for the first time in history, had passed a law allowing the medicinal use of cannabis. Like Prop 215 before it, such an event could be a watershed moment in cannabis reform. After all, Congress has the power to reschedule cannabis and make it available through a doctor's prescription nationwide, and Congress can tell the Justice Department to call off their dogs and respect California's state law.

If DC advocates can muster enough support to win this battle, it may be a sign of good things to come at the federal level.

* Morris is Assistant Manager of Government Relations for the Marijuana Policy Project, www.mpp.org

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RI first state to open 'Compassion Centers'

By Jesse Stout*

The Rhode Island General Assembly passed one of the best medical marijuana laws in the country June 16. Non-profit compassion centers will receive state licenses to grow and distribute medicine for patients.

RI became the eleventh medical marijuana state in 2006, but even after the law was amended to be made permanent in 2007, patients were left without safe access. Seriously ill Rhode Islanders whose doctors recommended cannabis, but who were too ill to grow their own, could appoint a caregiver to grow for them. But patients who did not have a trusted friend or family member who already knew how to grow were often forced onto the dangerous black market. Some of our most vulnerable citizens were robbed or even beaten while trying to access their medicine.

This year, the RI Patient Advocacy Coalition (RIPAC) advocated for a new amendment to the Medical Marijuana Act to allow for safe access. Under this provision, the Department of Health (DOH) will regulate and license three non-profit organizations as compassion centers.

They will serve as caregivers by growing and distributing cannabis for an unlimited number of patients.

Representative Thomas Slater and Senator Rhoda Perry introduced this amendment in February. In March, House and Senate committees held hearings where patients, doctors, and advocates testified to the success of the RI Medical Marijuana Program, and the need to expand it to include safe access through compassion centers. These hearings are at youtube.com/ripatientsdotorg.

After both committees passed the bill,

so did the full House and Senate. Unfortunately, the legislation's progress was delayed by a veto from Governor Donald Carcieri, his first of the year. Finally, both chambers scheduled votes to consider overriding the veto and enacting the new law once and for all. On June 16, the House approved it unanimously by a vote of 67-0, and the Senate approved it by 35-3. Representative Thomas Slater's speech on this historic occasion included an announcement that he would begin using cannabis to treat his cancer.

The DOH will issue regulations in September and an application form for non-profit organizations interested in competing for the first such license. Applicants must meet certain criteria besides non-profit status, such as board composition,

Three Compassion Centers are to be open in Rhode Island by 2011.

accountability, distance from a school, employee training, record-keeping, safety and security. After a public hearing to gather patients' input, DOH will issue a license in early 2010. This process will be repeated for two more licenses, for a total of three compassion centers to be open by 2011.

This license will allow the non-profit organization to operate as a compassion center by establishing two locations, one for growing cannabis and one for dispensing it. The compassion center will be allowed to possess as much medical marijuana as the combined total of all of its patients, who are each allowed 2.5 ounces, 12 mature plants, and 12 immature plants.

* Stout is a on the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition, Ripatients.org.

Argentine activists hold 8th Copa del Plata

By Mike Bifari

This year's *Copa del Plata*, the South American Cannabis Cup, was different from all the prior competitions due to the fact that the current drug law is about to be changed by the Argentine Supreme Court. More than 300 people from Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay gathered in Buenos Aires on July 12, showing a growing interest in the subject.

The Cup is an expression of support for this valuable plant even as activists are facing the most adverse conditions. Buenos Aires is distinct from the rest of country; the level of paranoia is different, but increases as the competition approaches.

After breakfast, people started to lose the initial paranoia that always surrounds this event.

The Cup was held in an old warehouse, with lots of refreshments, including many cannabis dishes. Vendors represented every aspect of the industry, including vaporizer companies, pollinators, and more.

THC Magazine helped organize the festivities and always supports this type of event, which enjoyed a genial atmosphere of reggae music and marijuana smoke.

The contest had nearly 90 competitors. They left samples at grow shops or private meetings sponsored by either one of the two important Internet forums, lasmarihuana.com or Cannabis Cafe. Judges had one month to compare all the samples.

In the conference room, there was a discussion of legal issues with Luis, the lawyer from *THC*. There was also an exhibit of cannabis photos.

At the end of the day, everyone gathered in the conference room to wait for the results of the contest. Prior to the announcement came a conference call with friends and supporters Mikki Norris and Chris Conrad, of *West Coast Leaf*, who answered questions from an appreciative

audience, and encouraged the community to continue the battle for legitimacy.

Cup organizer Argentino said, "This year's entries were of outstanding quality, which made it very difficult to choose the best one. This Cup shows there is a great interest in good quality strains and safe access. It will be difficult to control the growing sense of freedom in this country, despite the current repressive laws that are still in place." The final winners were:

- 2009 Champion: *New York City Diesel* by Gomez de Rosario
- Runner up: *Destroyer* by Ivan del CC
- Honorable mention: *Super Skunk* by Pochoclo, (2005 Champion)

Mass Bar Association report calls for reform

By Michael Cutler Attorney at Law

The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) published a report from its drug policy task force (TF) June 18, after a year of preparation. The report, *The Failure of the War on Drugs: Charting a New Course for the Commonwealth*, frames the need for reform as viewed by this mainstream, highly-visible and expert group.

The economic recession offers a new climate for critical thinking by MA legislators, after decades of inaction on criminal justice and drug policies that reflect the power and influence of state prosecutors. The MBA report's advocacy of reform is based on copious local data collected by state and federal agencies. The report documents the failure of drug prohibition to improve or protect public health and safety, even as costs of imprisonment have grown out of control.

The report calls for two primary areas of legislative change. First, expand the use of "diversion" programs for nonviolent drug users and small-quantity distributors. Prosecutors would no longer have control over these programs that allow suspension of criminal charges and offer non-coercive, non-abstinence-based drug treatment. After successful completion, charges would be dismissed.

Second, restore sentencing discretion to

judges, ending prosecutor control over mandatory minimum sentences for offenses in so-called 'vulnerable citizen zones' (within 1000 feet of schools or parks, or essentially all urban areas in the state). The report shows that mandatory sentencing has not reduced access nor affected drug prices, and notes the disproportionate impact of harsh sentences on low-income and minority communities. The report suggests potential savings to taxpayers through reduction in the costs of imprisonment (with its high recidivism rates), and the substitution of dramatically less expensive and more successful intervention and treatment opportunities.

Last November state voters adopted a decriminalization initiative by a 65-35 percent margin, despite opposition from the governor, the state attorney general, state prosecutors, and US Senator John Kerry (himself a former prolific pot smoker).

This evident popular support for reform, along with the continuing decline in state revenues, has raised hopes that legislators might move state drug policy away from prohibition and ineffective punishment toward increased opportunities for voluntary treatment.

* Cutler is a lawyer and MBA member, who served as vice-chair of the TF. The report is online at: massbar.org/media/520275/drug%20policy%20task%20force%20final%20report.pdf

Iowan takes on Pharmacy Board over its claim that cannabis has 'no accepted medical value'

By Max Knauer*

Carl Olsen filed a petition with the Iowa Board of Pharmacy in early 2008 requesting proceedings to remove cannabis from its current classification in the state as a substance having no accepted medical use in the US. He based his petition on the fact that 13 states have legalized the medical use of cannabis.

The Board of Pharmacy responded that autumn, denying Olsen's petition, saying he had not produced any scientific evidence that cannabis should have accepted medical use in Iowa. Olsen appealed to the Iowa District Court, which sent his petition back to the Board with instructions to rule on the issue Olsen had presented: simply whether cannabis has accepted medical use in the US.

On July 21, the Board again denied Olsen's petition. However, the Board initiated its own petition raising the question it insisted Olsen should have presented to the Board, whether cannabis should have

accepted medical use in Iowa. A series of four public hearings will be held over the next four months in Des Moines, Mason City, Iowa City and Council Bluffs.

Olsen responded with another appeal in Iowa District Court, saying the Board disregarded the Court's order. Olsen is meanwhile preparing a comprehensive collection of scientific studies showing that cannabis does have accepted medical use and that it is extremely safe for use under medical supervision.

The Board of Pharmacy never anticipated that 13 states would legalize medical cannabis, so it had avoided the issue of growing 'acceptance' of medical marijuana. The Board seems not to like the way the Iowa law is written and simply wants to ignore it, so it has tried to cloud this issue by holding public hearings on a side issue it wants to address on its own terms.

Olsen hopes the Board will keep an open mind during its public hearings.

* Knauer is a regular contributor at the Huffington Post. See science.iowamedicalmarijuana.org.

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Calendar and Community Directory

Sept. 11, TaxCannabis2010 Volunteer Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. OULA/PIDC, 470 S. San Vicente, LA. Learn how to get involved with the upcoming initiative campaign. For more info, see taxcannabis2010.com. 7 PM.

Sept. 14, TaxCannabis2010 Volunteer Meeting, Oakland, CA. Oaksterdam University, 1776 Broadway. See above. 7 PM.

Sept. 12-13, Portland Hempstalk, OR. Kelly Point Park. Music by John Trudell and Bad Dog, Los Marijuanos, Herbivores, and more. Speakers, vendors, food. See hempstalk.org for details.

Sept. 19, 4th Annual LA Co. Med MJ Expo and Patients Festival, LA, CA. Full day of music featuring the Blusetta Band, Los Marijuanos, speakers, exhibitors, entertainment, West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Bl. For info, contact Richard Eastman at 323-474-4602., 11 AM to 9 PM.

Sept. 19, Boston Freedom Rally, MA Boston Common, High Noon

Sept. 23-26, 38th Annual NORML National



OREGON — Radical Russ revved up the crowd at last year's Portland Hempstalk. West Coast Leaf

Conference, 'Yes We Cannabis,' San Francisco, CA. Register Now at norml.org/conference, 888-67-NORML.

Sept. 26, NORML Benefit Party, SF, CA Terra Gallery, 511 Harrison St. Banquet, art, performances, treats and surprises. Tickets at Harborside Health Center, 1840 Embarcadero, Oakland. harborsidehealthcenter.org

Major international conference on drug policy reform set for Nov. 12-14 in NM

By Tony Papa Drug Policy Alliance

A wide range of advocates, doctors, lawyers, activists, treatment providers, law enforcement, students and educators will converge Nov. 12-14, at the Hyatt Hotel for the biennial *International Drug Policy Reform Conference* in Albuquerque, NM where it was held in 2001.

The conference returns to New Mexico because the state is a beacon of reform, recently passing innovative medical marijuana legislation and the nation's first Good Samaritan law. It comes at a crucial time: more people than ever grasp the need for drug policy to shift from criminalization to a public health model. The viability of major reforms is increasing day by day, making now a pivotal moment for scrutiny

of the alternatives to our nation's ineffective and damaging lock-'em-up drug laws.

This year's conference will cover a range of topics including legalization. In the new political climate, meaningful reform is possible. Thanks to decades of grassroots activism, combined with the harsh realities of ongoing economic crises, the national debate is turning in favor of the taxation and regulation of cannabis. As part of the conference's 'Imagining Victory' panels, an array of experts will propose possible regulatory schemes and discuss their potential effectiveness.

Holding the conference in Albuquerque gives everyone a unique opportunity to examine the intersection of immigration policy and drug policy reform, as well as drug war violence on both sides of the border. Drug policy movers and shakers also plan to push the envelope by discussing innovations that have gained credibility in other countries, such as prescribing heroin to those who suffer from addiction to allow them to lead normal lives, or providing supervised injection facilities to protect people who use drugs from lethal overdose.

Our nation's drug policy should be based on reason, compassion, health and human rights, but it will take a great deal of strategizing and organizing to make it so. Anyone who believes the drug war does more harm than good is encouraged to attend November's conference. As usual, it will be a high-energy, can't-miss event, where even the strangest of bedfellows can find much to agree on. For info, visit reformconference.org

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WWW.HARVESTDANCE.COM

Sept. 26, WammFest VI - Love Grows Here, Santa Cruz, CA. San Lorenzo Park Duck Pond, wammfest.org, 831-425-0580. Noon to 5 PM.

Oct. 2-4, Women's Visionary Congress: Consciousness, Healing and Social Justice, Laytonville, CA. Black Oak Ranch. For info, call 831-252-0023, or see visionarycongress.org

Oct 2-3, Fifth IACM Conference, Germany Conference on Cannabinoids in Medicine; Int. Assn for Cannabis as Medicine's 2009 meeting, Holiday Inn, Cologne. cannabis-med.org

Oct. 1-4, 39th Annual Great Midwest Harvest Fest, Madison, WI, madisonnorml.org

Oct. 11-12, 16th Annual Hemp Industries Assn.

Convention & AGM, Washington, DC. Following the Green Festival. See thehia.org/convention for details.

Nov. 7, Harvest Dance, Sebastopol CA 11th annual expo, kids' space, educational classes, workshops, a medicine tent all day and the Dance 6 pm to midnight. 707-823-4206. \$20. peaceinmedicine.org

Nov. 11 - 14, The International Drug Policy Reform Conference, Albuquerque NM. Convention Center. reformconference.org

Nov. 14, 19th Annual Humboldt Hempfest, Redway, CA. Mateel Community Center. All day. Volunteers needed. 707-986-7759

Marijuana Radio: News media, activism, counterculture

By Cathy Flory

Denver-based Marijuana Radio (MR), a Web-based radio station and counterculture outlet, uses podcasting to disseminate a weekly show that covers entertainment, politics, comedy, and music, with celebrity guests and witty commentary by hosts Paul, McKenna and DanK. Its MR-TV podcasts showcase instructional videos such as "How to Roll a Joint" and "MJ Cooking with McKenna," and each one is downloaded up to 60,000 times.

The program has been featured on the front page of the iTunes comedy podcast section. It is part of the Colorado cannabis-legalization community, hosting events, offering a platform for opinions, and inviting listeners to the studio's VIP lounge to witness live broadcasts.

Owner, producer and co-host Paul Suarini said, "We're part activism and counterculture, brought to you by podcasting." MR-TV reaches listeners as far away as the UK, Pakistan and Japan. "We even had a group from South America call in to the show," said co-owner Adriana Saurini.

Marijuana Radio can be heard live on Tuesday nights at 7pm MST/6pm PST at marijuanaradio.com, and podcasts of previous shows and videos can be downloaded from the site at any time.



NO FEAR PODCASTING — Marijuana Radio's Paul, McKenna and DanK. Photo by Adriana Saurini

Initiatives making rounds

Continued from page 17

and Freedom Party members John Donohue and Casey Peters, it does not set an age of consent (grasstax.org). "Show me the crime," said Donohue. "There isn't one. It's time for people to jump on board this."

Ammiano's office said it welcomes the initiatives and their ideas, but does not want them to sidetrack the legislative efforts. The concern is that the voter drives may take some pressure off the legislature to act, but proponents hope it will have the opposite effect and pressure legislators to act before voters are called in to institute a policy they cannot change.

All three efforts need money and volunteer help. See websites for details.

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Dec. 3-5, **NORML Legal Seminar, Key West, FL.** Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa. For info, call (202) 483-5500 or see norml.org

Jan. 13, **MPP's 15th Anniversary Benefit, DC** Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. For details, see mpp.org/anniversary or call 202-467-5747

April 15-17, 2010, **Sixth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics, Warwick, RI.** CME accredited, Patients Out of

Time sponsored. See medicalcannabis.com

April 17-18, **International Cannabis and Hemp Expo, San Francisco, CA.** Cow Palace in Daly City. For info, intche.org or call 408-314-6297

April 23-25, **THC Expo - Hemp Products & Art Show, LA, CA.** Los Angeles Convention Center. See hempiremedia.net for details.

May 1 or 8, **World Wide Marijuana March** For cities, see worldwidemarijuanamarch.com

Benny Goodman lit the way for cannabis music

By Ellen Komp VeryImportantPotheads.com

Before the Beatles, before Elvis, before even Frank Sinatra, the silver-toned clarinet of a pied piper named Benny Goodman led America's children into the Lindy-Hopping land of swing, and it's a good bet some of them were smoking tea. The *King of Swing* would have turned 100 this year, and although Goodman's biographer Ross Firestone never says Benny blew the gage, he opens *Swing, Swing, Swing* (1993) with what seems to be a story of his doing so and suddenly he's "all smiles and charm."

Benjamin Goodman was the ninth child of 12 born to a poor Jewish tailor in Chicago. He began playing clarinet professionally by the age of 14. At 16 he traveled to Los Angeles to join a band, around the time Louis Armstrong was popped for pot. There Goodman gigged with his orchestra's drummer, Gene Krupa, and with Mezz Mezzrow, another Jewish clarinetist from Chicago who became beloved as the Vipers' pot dealer in Harlem.

"To hard-core Chicagoans like Mezz Mezzrow ... spontaneous creativity was everything," writes Firestone. The young men had little respect for bandleaders who relied on charts and liked to get "knocked out of our minds" by other musicians, like trombonist Jack Teagarden. Bandmember



SMILING — Goodman "all smiles and charm"

Jimmy McPartland recalls the time the boys first heard Teagarden like this: "So we were all drinking and smoking a little pot, and we went to hear him."

John Hammond arranged a historic 1933 recording session with Goodman, Teagarden and Krupa that produced "Texas Tea Party," both a play on Teagarden's name and current slang for cannabis. Goodman and Teagarden also played that year on Bessie Smith's "Gimmie a Pigfoot [Reefer]."

In 1937, the year the US Marijuana Tax Act clamped down on reefer, Goodman's orchestra was playing to "swing-intoxicated throngs." Of his March 3 show at Times Square's Paramount theatre, Goodman's biographer Ross Firestone wrote, "What started out as just a stage show had turned into a kind of celebration of the spirit, a love feast of communal frenzy that was, as *Variety* observed, 'tradition-shattering in its spontaneity, its unanimity, its sincerity, its volume, in the childlike violence of its manifestations.'"

That same year, the jitterbug, an exuberant style of dancing from Harlem, saw national exposure in the Marx Brothers' "A Day at the Races" and Goodman recorded pot-lover Mary Lou Williams' "Roll 'Em" on his *When Buddha Smiles* record. (Against the wishes of his producer John Hammond, he also began shooting William Randolph Hearst's movie *Hollywood Hotel*.)

In 1940 The Mighty Mezz was busted for pot and sent to Rikers Island. Krupa was arrested in '43 in San Francisco for possession. Goodman stood by Krupa when few others did, visiting him at SF county jail in June, before Krupa was sent to San Quentin, where he remained incarcerated until August 9. "He's a wonderful guy and a wonderful drummer," Goodman said.

"Anytime, anyplace, anywhere he wants his old job back, it's his." That, back in the day, was tantamount to a Royal pardon from the King himself.

Pain patients suffer from misguided policy

Continued from page 15

cannabis is effective in treating chronic pain. Recent studies show that it is a useful adjunct to opiates, working along parallel paths to enhance pain relief while actually lowering the required dosage of opiates. Knowledgeable specialists have come to regard cannabis as an exit from, rather than a gateway to, narcotic abuse.

Unfortunately, many pain clinics remain ignorant of its benefits and wrongly assume they are legally obliged to forbid cannabis. Drug testing companies encourage clinics to test for illicit drugs at industry-sponsored pain seminars.

Patients who encounter discrimination should advise their clinics of the facts about cannabis and the law. Clinics that persist in discriminating against legal patients should be reported to the state medical board.

In an encouraging development, the Veterans Administration has indicated that it will no longer remove veterans with cannabis recommendations who test positive for pot from its pain management programs, according to a report by VA Watchdog. Hopefully, the new VA policy will help stem abuses by other providers.

Making the case that cannabis is safer

Marijuana Is Safer — So why are we driving people to drink?

By Armentano, Fox and Tvert. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2009

By John Thomas Ellis

Review

"Three cannabis experts walk into a bar" sounds more like the beginning of a joke than the opening of one of the most informative and knowledgeable works of non-fiction ever to focus on intoxication.

Steve Fox of MPP, Paul Armentano from NORML, and Mason Tvert of SAFER came together to compare alcohol to cannabis, and to show the effects of both on the human condition and on the human body. They explore in detail the physical, emotional and pharmacological differences between Mary Jane and John Barleycorn.

Marijuana Is Safer — So why are we driving people to drink? is a thorough exploration of psychopharmacology and the history of both drugs. Prohibition is examined and debunked. The damage caused by each is catalogued in detail and served without compromise. Their conclusions are clear and concise. When compared, booze wrecks havoc, pot does not.

The book is divided into three parts. The first looks at the social and public health impact, popularity and harms of both cannabis and alcohol. The second presents various ways the government has outlawed and demonized cannabis and explains how these policies have driven people to drink. Part three discusses cannabis laws, past, present and future.

This should be required reading for anyone thinking about getting drunk or stoned

In the foreword Norman Stamper of LEAP writes, "Marijuana is a victimless intoxicant; not one police officer could remember having to fight a person who was stoned only on weed, but they consulted their watches when asked the same question about alcohol. It is abundantly clear that marijuana is rarely, if ever, the cause of harmful, disruptive or violent behavior. In fact, I would go so far as to say that marijuana use often helps to tamp down tensions where they otherwise might exist." He reminds us that British soccer fans are hooligans when they're liquored up, but were made tacit when given weed.

Without confusing the reader these writers introduce us to cannabis chemistry 101. Terpenes, flavonoids and cannabinoids are delineated and compared to our brain's chemistry. They easily navigate the alphabet soup of chemistry and we quickly



SIGNATURE EVENT — Authors Paul Armentano (right) and Mason Tvert (center) joined Richard Lee (left) and other local activists for a book signing in Oakland. WCL photo by Mikki Norris

learn the difference between THC, CBG, CBN and CBD and how they work on CB1 and CB2 receptors in the brain. The properties of sativa, indica, hash, kief and hash oil are explored in detail.

The "Drink Life" chapter explores alcohol, popular culture and the impact booze has upon it. They examine traditions and the media's role in marketing booze and stigmatizing cannabis use.

The authors dispel common myths surrounding alcohol and cannabis, and they accurately review the social intimacies and traditions behind both drugs. The result is a well conceived and executed book that documents the glaringly different costs each inflicts upon our society.

This book should be required reading for anyone thinking about getting drunk or stoned, along with every elected official who has a say in the growing debate on legalization. After reading it, please share your copy with a policy maker who needs the facts that prove that cannabis is the safer choice.

Available at Amazon.com and bookstores everywhere. MarijuanaIsSafer.com for more information.

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(Reviewed in this edition of **West Coast Leaf**
and co-authored by MPP's Steve Fox!)

Marijuana is
SAFER

So why are we driving people
to drink?

Steve Fox
Paul Armentano
Mason Tvert

Foreword by Norm Stamper, former Chief of the Seattle Police Department

Local and regional meetings

East Bay NORML, third Thurs/mo. 7:30 PM (after Measure Z Oversight Com.), Odam U Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. canorml@canorml.org
El Dorado Co. American Alliance for Medical Cannabis, fourth Sat/mo., 2:15-4:20, Garden Valley Grange, 4940 Marshall Rd., 530-621-2874
Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project Palm Springs/Coachella Valley Area MAPP first Sat / mo. 3 PM, 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs. Lanny 760-799-2955
Western Inland Empire Area MAPP/ASA, first Wed / mo., 7:30 PM, THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main St. Riverside, CA 92501. Also hosts Friday evening seminars on Anti-Aging and Medical benefits of cannabis, 8

PM. 951-782-9898
High Desert Area MAPP/ ASA, third Wed/mo. 6:30 p.m. Castle Inn, 1388 N. Golden Slipper near Landers 92285. Lanny 760-799-2055
Oakland Measure Z Oversight Committee third Thurs/ mo. 6 PM, City Hall
Orange County NORML meets in Fullerton call 1-877-OC NORML for info., ocnorml.org
Santa Barbara UCSB NORML meets every Wed 7:00 PM, South Hall 1431, UCSB, normlucsb.org
SF Axis of Love Every Tues 4pm, 223a Ninth St. at Howard, SF. axisoflovesf@gmail.com

Local and regional Americans for Safe Access meetings

Fresno ASA, second Mon/ mo., 6 PM at Full Circle Brewing Co, 620 F St., Fresno. Contact Diana at fresnocagal@sbcglobal.net
Humboldt County ASA, third Thurs/mo., 6 PM, Bayview Courtyard Senior Housing, Rec. Room 550 Union St., Arcata. Contact 707-407-8522asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net
LA ASA, 3rd Sat/mo., 1 PM, Patient ID Center, 470 S. San Vicente Bl, LA. Don@americansforsafeaccess.org
Marin ASA second Wed/mo., 7 PM, at Scot Candell Law, 4040 Civic Center Dr. Ste. 200, San Rafael. Contact Scot Candell at 415-606-4357
Sacramento ASA first and third Tues/ mo., 7 PM,

Crusaders Hall, 320 Harris Ave., Suite H, Sacto. Lanette at 916-924-3455, cannacare@earthlink.net
San Diego ASA second Tue. / mo., 7 PM, International Cannabis U, 6070 Mt. Alifan Suite 202 San Diego. Contact 4cccp@cox.net
San Diego North County ASA, first Fri./mo., 7 PM, Academy of World Martial Arts, 1050 S. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, movementinaction@gmail.com, 760-500-8868
San Francisco ASA second & fourth Tues/mo., 7:30 PM, Bowers Pizza, 371 11th St, SF. No meeting 11/10/09. Contact sarah@safeaccessnow.org
Sonoma ASA first Thurs/mo. 5 PM, Dept. of Health, So. City View Rm., 625 5th St, Santa Rosa, knock loudly. Contact sarah@safeaccessnow.org

Reform organizations of interest

AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS
 www.safeaccessnow.org / A patient support network. 510-251-1856
AXIS OF LOVE SF/ Activist Resource Center
 Patients organizing for their rights and access 223 A 9th St, SF, 415-240-5247
BEDPC
 Black and Brown Equitable Drug Policies Coalition, Redstone Building, Suite #209, 2940 16th Street, SF. 24 hr bilingual Spanish Hotline: 415-595-8251, street actions, support groups, incident reporting, advocacy
CALIFORNIA NORML
 canorml.org/Advocacy, directories, lobbying, research, news, alerts, 415-563-5858
CANNABIS ACTION NETWORK
 cannabisactionnetwork.org/1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. 510-486-8083
CANNABIS CONSUMERS CAMPAIGN
 cannabisconsumers.org/ Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.
CIVIL LIBERTIES MONITORING PROJECT
 civil liberties.org/ monitors police eradication abuses, etc, to protect civil rights in the CA northcoast, 707-923-4646
COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION
 115 N. State Street #1 Ukiah, 707-467-3888
DRUG REFORM COORDINATION NETWORK
 stopthedrugwar.org/ drcnet.org, global support network for drug policy reformers with weekly analysis
DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE
 drugpolicy.org/ DPA works on drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition.
DRUG POLICY FORUM OF CA
 Listserve for Cal cannabis / drug war issues. To sign up: drugsense.org/dpca/list.htm
DRUGSENSE
 drugsense.org/ Daily compilation of related news excerpts.
DRUG TRUTH NETWORK
 drugtruth.net/ Radio shows: Cultural Baggage and 4:20 Drug War News, interviews
DRUG WAR FACTS drugwarfacts.org/ Just the facts.
FAMILIES AGAINST MANDATORY MINIMUMS
 famm.org/ Advocates an end to harsh, unjust sentencing laws and prisoners/families affected by them
FAMILY COUNCIL ON DRUG AWARENESS
 fcda.org/ Accurate information on effects of drugs and drug policies. Downloadable PDFs to print and hand out.
GREEN AID Marijuana Legal Def. & Education Fund, Inc. green-aid.com/
HARM REDUCTION COALITION
 harmreduction.org/ works to reduce drug-related harm by programs such as clean needle exchange.
HEMP INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
 hempindustries.org/ The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, supporters.
HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DRUG WAR
 hr95.org/ Photo display of Drug War POWs, analyzes

human rights abuses
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION
 leap.cc/ Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.
LEGAL SERVICES FOR PRISONERS W/ CHILDREN prisonerswith-children.org/ Advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk for incarceration.
MARIJUANA POLICY PROJECT MPP
 mpp.org/ national membership org. focuses on removing criminal penalties through initiatives and legislation
MENDO MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY BOARD
 mmab.net/ coalition with a Northern CA network, PO Box 2555 Mendocino 95410. info@mmab.net.
MEDICAL MARIJUANA OF AMERICA
 medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com, directory, court reports, POW stories and contacts.
MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS UNION
 PO Box 2059 Ft Bragg 95437, 707-964-9377. pebblestrip-pet@sbcglobal.net. Patients' Rights Network; Highway litter pick-up service.
MEDIA AWARENESS PROJECT
 mapinc.org/ Have your voice heard; MAP has helped generate millions of letters to the editor. Help gather news for their clearing house.
MOTHERS AGAINST MISUSE AND ABUSE
 mamas.org/ responsible drug education
MAPS
 maps.org/ Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies, studies on cannabis, psychedelics, 10424 Love Creek Rd., Ben Lomond, CA 95005, 831-336-4325
NORML
 norml.org/ National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The original membership activist group; info, legal referrals and annual convention. 202-483-5500
NOVEMBER COALITION
 november.org/ National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishes *The Razor Wire*.
OREGON GREEN FREE
 oregongreenfree.net. Free OMMF info.
OREGON NORML ornorml.org
PATIENT ADVOCACY NETWORK panorg.blogspot.com.
SAFER
 saferchoice.org/ Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. PO Box 40332, Denver CO 80204, mason@saferchoice.org
SENSIBLE COLORADO, DENVER
 sensiblecolorado.org / non-profit resource for patients and those interested in reforming laws. 720-890-4247
STUDENTS FOR A SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY
 ssdp.org/ Students seeking to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.
VOTEHEMP votehemp.com/ Industrial, horticultural hemp.
VOTER POWER, OREGON voterpower.org, 503-224-3051, Portland. 541-245-6634, Medford
 To get your information added, please send an email to info@WestCoastLeaf.com



HONORED — Rob Kampia of Marijuana Policy Project presented California State Assembly Member Tom Ammiano with an award for introducing the state's first-ever legalization bill in the Legislature.



The bill, AB-390, sets the age of consent at 21 years of age, and legalizes personal possession of up to an ounce of processed cannabis and up to ten plants for personal use. It also allows for regulations and sets a \$50 per ounce production tax. MPP is backing the measure. The award was given out at the annual MPP fundraiser at the Playboy mansion, where Hugh Hefner hung out with the guests and Playboy bunnies and fire dancers were among the entertainers. Photos courtesy of MPP.

Community Announcements

John Dawson, New Riders

Founder of the band that merged country and psychedelic music in 1969 and brought Jerry Garcia's pedal steel guitar playing to the forefront, John Dawson passed away in Mexico July 21 of stomach cancer. Dawson's seminal country-rock group, New Riders of the Purple Sage, celebrated cannabis culture with hits including "The Adventures of Panama Red," and "Henry," the saga of an amateur pot smuggler. Dawson also played with the Grateful Dead on three albums, *Aoxomoxoa*, *Workingman's Dead* and *American Beauty*. He appeared in the cult epic-tour film, *Festival Express* with Garcia, Janis Joplin, and others.



Dawson, right, with Jerry Garcia

Dawson came out of retirement in 1995 and played at the Human Rights and the Drug War program, *Atrocities of the Drug War*. He toured with his band for two more years. In 2002, *High Times* magazine gave Dawson a lifetime achievement award.

Walter Cronkite, newsman

Often cited as "the most trusted man in America," broadcast journalist and former CBS anchor (from 1962-1981) Walter Cronkite died on July 17 at the age of 92. Reporting on the major events in America's history from 1962-1981, he became a voice of reason that influenced public opinion. A powerful editorial statement he broadcast upon his return from Vietnam after the Tet Offensive in 1968 helped to turn public sentiment against the war and led President Johnson to say, "If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost Middle America." A few weeks later, Johnson chose not to run for re-election.

Cronkite became an honorary board member of the Drug Policy Alliance in his later years. In a fundraising letter for the DPA Cronkite wrote:

"Today, our nation is fighting two wars: one abroad and one at home. While the war in Iraq is in the headlines, the other war is still being fought on our own streets. Its casualties are the wasted lives of our own citizens. I am speaking of the war on drugs. And I cannot help but wonder how many more lives, and how much more money, will be wasted before another Robert McNamara admits what is plain for all to see: the war on drugs is a failure."

This influential ally to the drug policy reform movement will truly be missed.

Karen Heikkala, Texas

Well-known in Central Texas and nationwide for her passionate efforts to further human rights, to improve health care, housing and garner legal services for all, Karen Goeppert Heikkala passed away on July 28, 2009 after a valiant battle with cancer. She was 62.



Karen was a founding member of The Farm Community near Summertown, Tenn. She moved to Austin, TX in 1982, where she became and worked as a licensed vocational nurse. She gave her time and efforts in support of the Austin ACLU, Austin Peace and Justice Coalition, Casa Marianella, Marijuana Policy Project, the Austin Needle Exchange, Austin Recovery Center, and Texans for Medical Marijuana. She worked to clean up military toxic wastes at Bergstrom AFB, was a counselor for the GI Rights Hot Line, worked to end federal funding for the US Military's School of the Americas, and made a myriad of efforts to stop the use of our military to impose foreign policy initiatives. At the time of her death Heikkala was board chairwoman for Plenty International, plenty.org

Karen is survived by her devoted husband and soul mate of 41 years, Thomas, and by her children and grandchildren.

County contact phone number and filing fees for CA state cannabis ID cards

If your county is not on this list, contact MPP at 202-462-5747 or info@mpp.org.

Alameda 510-444-6111 \$103 • Alpine 530-694-2146 \$116 • Amador 209-223-6407 \$113 • Butte 530-538-7700 \$111.15 • Calaveras 209-754-6460 \$45 • Contra Costa 925-313-6740 \$128 • Del Norte 707-464-3191 \$68/123** • El Dorado 530-621-6500 \$114 • Fresno 559-445-3200 \$107.00 • Glenn 530-934-6588 \$174 • Humboldt 866-597-1574 \$141 • Imperial 760-482-4438 \$111 • Inyo 760-872-4245 \$100 • Kern 661-868-1220 \$153 • Kings 559-582-3211 \$225 • Lake 707-263-1090 \$123 • Lassen 530-251-8183 \$150 • Los Angeles 866-621-2204 \$153 • Marin 415-499-3288 \$113 • Mendocino 707-472-2784 \$123 • Merced 209-381-1015 \$225 • Monterey 831-755-5013 x

24 \$116 • Napa 707-253-4506 \$116.74 • Nevada 530-265-1450 \$130 • Orange 714-480-6717 \$150 • Placer 530-886-1870 \$125 • Plumas 530-283-6330 \$110 • Riverside 888-358-7932 \$153 • Sacramento 916-875-5345 \$166 • San Benito 831-636-4011 \$93 • San Bernardino 800-782-4264 \$166 • San Diego 619-692-5723 \$166 • San Francisco 415-206-5555 \$103 • San Joaquin 209-468-3404 \$141 • San Luis Obispo 808-781-4811 \$131 • San Mateo 650-573-2371 \$98 • Santa Barbara 805-681-5150 \$161 • Santa Clara 408-423-0745 \$113 • Santa Cruz 831-454-4000 • Shasta 530-245-6426 \$106 • Sierra 530-993-6701 \$106 • Siskiyou 530-841-2134 \$156 • Sonoma 707-565-4442 \$133 • Stanislaus 209-558-7000 \$184 • Tehama 530-527-8491 \$125.75 • Trinity 530-623-8209 \$110 • Tuolumne 209-533-7401 \$126 • Tulare 559-733-6123 x217 \$344 • Ventura 805-981-5301 \$191 • Yolo 530-666-8645 \$134 • Yuba 530-749-6366 \$126

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ARCATA, CA 95521
(707) 822-5244

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