

Cal High Court Tosses Fed Preemption Case

Court dismisses *Pack v L.B.*

By Amanda Reiman, drugpolicy.org

The California Supreme Court weighed in on the issue of whether local regulations governing medical marijuana production and distribution are preempted by federal law by throwing out the case of *Pack v City of Long Beach*. The Aug. 22, 2012 decision to dismiss the case means that localities can once again move forward enacting and implementing regulatory programs.

The Court found that since Long Beach had already repealed the ordinance that was the focus of the lower court's decision, the legal validity of the ordinance was moot, so it dismissed the case.

The original *Pack* appellate decision came in October 2011 and held that some medical marijuana dispensary regulations may be preempted by federal law. The ruling was appealed and the High Court last *Please turn to page 6*

Uruguay's President wants full legalization

Growing Latin America trend

By Tony Newman, [Drug Policy Alliance](http://DrugPolicyAlliance.org)

The president of Uruguay submitted a proposal to Parliament Aug. 8, 2012 to legalize marijuana under government-controlled regulation and sale. This would make it the first country in the world in which the state sells cannabis directly to its citizens. The proposal, signed by President José Mujica, is part of a package of measures aimed at fighting crime and still requires parliamentary approval.

Despite Uruguay being one of the safest countries in Latin America, it has seen an increase in crime from drug gangs due to its position on a drug-transit route to Europe via West Africa. The aim of the proposal is to remove the profits of cannabis sales from drug gangs, separate the market from those for other illegal drugs, and avoid cannabis consumers' exposure to drug dealers who also sell coca paste, cocaine, etc. Additionally, the revenue from *Please turn to page 13*

Los Angeles dispensary ban provokes a crisis

Advocates turn in signatures to overturn it via referendum

By William Dolphin and Kris Hermes, AmericansforSafeAccess.org

Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously July 24, 2012 to ban the operation of medical cannabis dispensaries in California's largest city. The city of almost 4 million people currently has 762 registered dispensaries.

City attorney Jane Usher said the ordinance complies with the *LA County v AMCC Collective* appellate court ruling because it allows groups of three or fewer patients to grow collectively. It also happens to close down all the storefront dispensaries and, possibly, delivery services as "medical marijuana businesses."

The council at the same time voted 9-5 to direct the city attorney's office to draft an ordinance to allow the continued operation of 182 dispensaries that had registered with the city when the regulatory process began in 2007. In the meantime, the total



Georgia Edson (center) and other parents who support Amendment 64 announce the formation of Moms and Dads for Marijuana Regulation. Photo: RegulateMarijuana.org

Colorado legalization initiative leads in polls

By Mason Tvert, regulatemarijuana.org

The campaign to pass the 2012 ballot initiative to regulate cannabis like alcohol, Colorado Amendment 64 (A-64), is picking up steam as it heads towards a vote.

The measure has been consistently ahead in the polls and support is growing. An August survey conducted by Public Policy Polling found the initiative leading 47-38, compared to 46-42 in June.

"We are thrilled to see such a jump in the polls, but this campaign is far from over," said Betty Aldworth of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol,



TRIPLE PLAY — A simple grower's trick can produce triple-headed cannabis flowers. Story inside. Photo by Chris Van Hook.

which is spearheading support for A-64. "We have about two months to go, and we are going to use every minute to strengthen our support heading into Election Day."

The campaign received a boost in August from the release of an economic analysis of the initiative by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. It found that passage of A-64 would produce at least \$60 million in annual revenue and savings, with the potential to top \$100 million in annual revenues within five years. It would create hundreds of jobs, mostly in construction, and generate tens of millions of dollars annually for the state's public *Please turn to page 11*

Study confirms dispensaries do not lead to crime

By Paul Armentano, NORML.org

Medical marijuana dispensaries do not increase local crime rates, reports a federally funded study published in the July 2012 *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Investigators at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) examined whether a proliferation of dispensaries is associated with elevated crime rates. Researchers assessed the spatial relationship between density of dispensaries and two types of crime rates (violent crime and property crime) in 95 census tracts in Sacramento during the year 2009.

"There were no observed cross-sectional associations between the density of medical marijuana dispensaries and either violent or property crime rates in this study," they reported. "These results suggest that the density of medical marijuana dispensaries may not be associated with crime rates or that other factors, such as measures dispensaries take to reduce crime (i.e., doormen, video cameras), may increase guardianship such that it deters possible motivated offenders."

The authors acknowledged that their findings "run contrary to public perceptions" and contradict public statements by the California Police Chiefs Assn., which has claimed that petty crimes and nuisance are "common ancillary by-products of (medicinal cannabis) operations."

The UCLA study corroborates a 2011 RAND Corp. study of LA crime rates that concluded, "[W]e found no evidence that medical marijuana dispensaries in general cause crime to rise," until Rand pulled the

Feds move to seize largest state licensed dispensary

Harborside vows to fight

By Kris Hermes and William Dolphin, AmericansforSafeAccess.org

Federal prosecutors moved to seize the property housing California's largest licensed medical cannabis dispensary, that was the subject of *Weed Wars*, a popular reality TV series on the Discovery Channel.

US Attorney Melinda Haag's action against Harborside Health Center (HHC) was denounced by Oakland's mayor and other local and state elected officials at a City Hall press conference July 12, 2012.

"Harborside has nothing to hide or be ashamed of," said Executive Director Steve DeAngelo. "We will contest the DOJ action openly and in public, and through all legal means at our disposal. We look forward to our day in court, and we are confident that justice is on our side."

Harborside was served with a federal civil complaint for "forfeiture of property" earlier that week at its locations in Oakland and San Jose. The dispensary has a city permit and has been serving the community since 2006 without incident. The forfeiture action is against the "third-party" property owner, Real Property and Improvements.

Harborside employs over 100 people and is Oakland's second largest retail taxpayer. Last year, the dispensary paid combined taxes in excess of \$3 million, over a million dollars of which went directly to *Please turn to page 3*

Other analyses of crime statistics in the cities of LA, Denver and Colorado Springs also indicate that dispensary locations do not increase criminal activity.

"Exploring the Ecological Association Between Crime and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries," *J Studies Alcohol & Drugs*.

Oregon vote may restore hemp, adult cannabis use

By Doug McVay, [Common Sense for Drug Policy](http://CommonSenseforDrugPolicy.org)

Oregonians will again vote on cannabis legalization Nov. 6, 2012. The Oregon Cannabis Taxation Act (OCTA) is officially Measure 80 (M-80) on the general election ballot, to regulate cannabis and restore industrial hemp. The goal is to protect youth and increase public safety by creating regulations concerning the growth and sale of cannabis and hemp.

Petitioners turned in 151,870 signatures, of which 58.53% (88,887) were found to be valid. The minimum requirement was 87,213 valid signatures. The effort was helped by the endorsement of Portland's United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 555.

"We support M-80 because it'll get middle-class Oregonians back to work, it's as simple as that," said Dan Clay, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 555. "Whether it's hemp-bio-fuel refineries on the Columbia River or pulp and paper mills in central Oregon, hemp makes sense and fits Oregon's *Please turn to page 3*

West Coasterdam Report

San Diego cities gear up for dispensary regulation initiative

Citizens for Patients' Rights, the Patient Care Assn. and the Cannabis Education Project, wrapped up their signature gathering campaigns in five cities around San Diego County, California to provide zoning regulations for operating medical marijuana collectives in these cities. Three city initiatives, in Lemon Grove, Del Mar and Solana Beach, will be on the Nov. 6 ballot. The other two will be on the next ballot that comes out in Encinitas and La Mesa. All would provide patients and caregivers with access to medical marijuana, in full compliance with state law, and offer the cities complete oversight to ensure that cannabis collectives are run lawfully, legitimately and discreetly.

The initiatives set distance requirements of 600 feet from schools and playgrounds and 1,000 feet from other collectives. Proponents gathered almost 15,000 signatures to bring about regulation, transparency and oversight. — *Benjamin Doyle*

California CAMP state eradication effort ends; Feds take over

The 28-year-old Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) is no more, after the State of California cut funding for the program. Over the years, the program destroyed millions of plants on public and private lands and helped prop up illicit profits, but has done little to cut the supply of marijuana.

Chris Larson from Tea House Collective displays CannaChocolates, potent, gluten-free, sugarless chocolate treats that support Humboldt family farms, and the second place award for edibles they won at the 2012 San Francisco High Times Medical Cannabis Cup. Each one has 8mg of CBD, perfect for pain patients, and 44mg of THC, and is labeled with lab testing information.



The program has been restructured under federal oversight and direction, with the US Dept. of Justice, DEA and Forest Service leading the charge, rather than state officials. The program is "leaner and meaner," according to the DEA's San Francisco field division, with three helicopters working regularly instead of the five that were funded in years past, and fewer full-time staff to do the work.

"I'm not complaining. There is less money for helicopter time, but maybe it was time for a change," said Mendocino

County Sheriff Tom Allman. "A big part of this new program is removing trash, removing fertilizers, pesticides, black pipes — all to disrupt infrastructure of these large grows," said Tommy Lanier, director of the National Marijuana Initiative (NMI). "When you remove that you are taking a big hit on their ability to come back." — *Mickey Martin*

Federal bill to protect landlords of state-authorized businesses

Federal property forfeiture actions targeting state-authorized medical cannabis businesses would be stopped if HR 6335 becomes law. The States' Medical Marijuana Property Rights Protection Act was introduced in the House of Representatives Aug. 2, 2012 by Rep. Barbara Lee (D, CA-9) with eight co-sponsors from Massachusetts, Oregon, New York, and California. The bill is a response to Melinda Haag serving an asset forfeiture lawsuit on the Harborside Health Center. It would bar the Justice Dept. from using the civil asset forfeiture statute, 21 USC 881(7), against real property owners if the tenants are in compliance with state medical use law. — *Kris Hermes and William Dolphin*



NOT WANTED IN CALIFORNIA — Protestors carried a large puppet depicting reviled federal prosecutor Melinda Haag to the San Francisco federal building on Aug. 1. Haag has spearheaded an all-out attack on sick and dying patients and their cannabis providers by making up her own personal version of state law, rather than relying on actual California statutes and court rulings to determine dispensary compliance. Photo by Linda Stokley

Hundreds march for safe access in San Francisco

By David Goldman, Americans for Safe Access SF

Some 350 cannabis patients, caregivers, and supporters marched in San Francisco in the style of a New Orleans funeral, Aug. 1, 2012, to demand safe access after the federal closure the day before of two of the city's most respected dispensaries, Vapor Room and HopeNet.

Both were forced to close due to letters sent to their landlords from US Attorney Melinda Haag (pronounced 'hog') threatening asset forfeiture and prison time if the licensed dispensaries did not close. Since the federal crackdown on state medical cannabis providers began in 2011, eight of the 27 permitted SF dispensaries have closed their brick-and-mortar facilities.

Marchers wore black as a coffin was carried by pall bearers to pay homage to the closed dispensaries. Among the spirited marchers were many musicians providing New Orleans-style jazz as a giant 12-foot puppet made by the Emerald Growers Assn. to represent Haag danced about.

The march was sponsored by SF United, a coalition of cannabis patients, caregivers, activists and dispensary owners and staff. The marchers started at the corner of Haight and Steiner Streets, within a few feet of the shuttered Vapor Room, and ended at the old Federal Building on Golden Gate Avenue. Speakers including



DEATH OF COMPASSION — A coffin was carried through the streets of San Francisco Aug. 1, to represent closed cannabis dispensaries, many of which have since converted into delivery services. Despite the clampdown, patient collectives are struggling to tend to the sick and disabled. Photo by David Goldman

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D-SF), SF Supervisors Christina Olague and David Campos, Steven DeAngelo of Harborside, Cathy Smith of HopeNet, Dale Gieringer of CA-NORML and Steph Sherer of Americans for Safe Access (ASA) addressed the crowd.

"Obama, Keep Your Promise" was a recurring theme of the speakers, who reminded the crowd that the President had promised in 2008 and 2009 that he would not use Justice Department resources to go after medical cannabis suppliers who complied with state and local laws.

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Oregon marijuana, hemp initiative makes ballot

Continued from page 1

renowned sustainability economy."

Hemp and Cannabis Foundation Executive Director Paul Stanford, chief sponsor of the effort, is confident of the measure's chances for passage.

"Oregon has long had an independent streak and led the nation on policies that benefit the public good," said Stanford. "Our state voters can change the world. Mail in your ballot by Nov. 6, 2012."

Measure 80 recently won the endorsement of the Alaska/Oregon/Washington State-Area Regional Conference of the NAACP. "To right the wrongs of the past, we need to end the Drug War immediately and replace it with a common-sense approach," said President, Oscar Eason, Jr. "I call on Oregon's business, civic — and especially religious — leaders to add their voices to the coalition behind M-80."

However, the state's largest newspaper, *The Oregonian*, has written derisively about some of the measure's clauses which extoll the value of hemp and mandate instruction in the history of hemp. Associate Editor Susan Nielsen wrote, "The measure isn't just a pushback against federal drug laws. It's also a backdoor attempt to make public

schools teach weed-friendly lessons to students. This seems like a new form of *Reefer Madness*, trading overly negative rhetoric about drugs for a different type of propaganda, [because] it also requires 'accurate' drug education in schools, after spending several pages reciting, chapter and verse, what Oregonians would hereby define as The Truth about marijuana."

The campaign needs additional volunteers and donations to support its efforts as the election approaches. For information online, visit octa2012.org.

Good record-keeping is vital

By Liana Held, lianaltd.com

More and more people who work with cannabis are coming into contact with government agencies, and they must have adequate records to prove to a reasonable person or government agent that the information they provide is correct.

Californians report to government bodies including the federal Internal Revenue Service and California's Franchise Tax Board, Board of Equalization, counties and city governments. The list is similar for other states, typically requiring entities to provide sworn statements that figures provided are correct. The reporting entity must have records and documentation to substantiate the figures it provides.

Many cannabis enterprises have basic data from daily operations to report on government forms. The directors are obligated to retain supporting documents and know what to keep and what to discard.

Consider Section 170(f)(8) of the IRS Tax Code, which requires contemporaneous written acknowledgement from donee organizations for contributions over \$250. For non-cash property contributions over \$250, it requires a description of the property donated. Documentation must show whether the donee provided services and goods for consideration of property contributed, with a brief description and good-faith estimate of the value donated.

Retaining this information and keeping it available is the essence of substantiation. Working with a skilled bookkeeper can make sure a business will get its due tax breaks and avoid accounting pitfalls that can create major legal complications.



FACE DOWN — Steve DeAngelo rallied Harborside Health Center supporters outside of Oakland City Hall on July 23, 2012. Photo by Mikki Norris

Obama visit draws big medical marijuana protest

By Dale Gieringer, CaNORML.org

Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in protest at President Barack Obama's fundraising appearance at the Fox Theater in Oakland California's Oaksterdam district July 23, 2012. Police estimated the crowd size at 800-1,000.

Protesters carried signs saying "Save Harborside: Stop Haag" (a reference to Northern California's reviled federal prosecutor), "Obama Keep Your Promise," and "Fight Crime, Not Cannabis." A patient in a wheelchair bore a sign proclaiming, "Obama-doesn't-Care."

Marchers were greeted by friendly signs of support from Obama supporters, who waved and gave thumbs-up gestures as they lined up for blocks to see the President. A number of neighborhood businesses sported green flags of solidarity with Oaksterdam.

Obama's visit came just two weeks after US Attorney Melinda Haag sent a forfeiture notice to the landlord of Oakland's largest dispensary, Harborside Health Center. In April, she had sent in more than 100 federal agents to raid another leading Oakland dispensary, operated by Richard Lee, as well as Oaksterdam University.

Oaksterdam University was decked in a banner proclaiming "Federal Raid in Oakland - 108 Families Lost Jobs and Healthcare." Oakland stands to lose over \$1 million per year in tax revenues from

Harborside and other cannabis businesses as a result of the federal crackdown.

"This is a watershed moment for our movement," said Harborside Executive Director Steve DeAngelo, whose dispensaries are known for their state-of-the-art products and services. "If the federal government is able to come after an organization like Harborside, no other dispensary will be safe."

Harborside stands its ground

Continued from page 1

the City of Oakland. Since the four US attorneys in the state announced in October 2011 that they were targeting medical cannabis distribution centers, more than 400 California dispensaries have shut down, mostly under threat of federal criminal prosecution or asset forfeiture. Federal prosecutors have sent at least 300 letters to property owners, threatening action if they don't evict dispensary tenants.

"The Administration's claim that it's not undermining state medical cannabis laws can't be reconciled with the actions of its prosecutors," said ASA California Director Don Duncan.

"The Attorney General and the President must be held accountable for actions by their US attorneys that are undoing the hard work of elected officials and harming untold numbers of patients."

CannaPoll has online survey

By Catherine Emond, MA, MS

CannaPoll is the first online national research effort to study societal changes as cannabis laws are reformed and American cannabis patients, businesses and communities emerge. A series of four surveys, done in collaboration with Green Style Consulting and Mary Wanda Medicine, will each have a different theme; individual and family relations, education, understanding cannabinoids, and activism / community outreach. The first was released in July, 2012 and all will be online in October. Responses have come in from the US, Canada, South America, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

The online surveys are secure and confidential. Personal information, including email addresses, are not required. Just go to surveymonkey.com/s/CannaPoll. Results Please turn to page 15

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Inland Empire coalition is becoming a local force

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN
LNC THC Foundation

When a dry cleaning store opens, the owner usually becomes a dues-paying member of the California Cleaners Assn., which uses those dues to retain lobbyists to seek legislation favorable to dry cleaners and to scuttle that which is not.

Unfortunately, most collective operators have not shown the common sense of a dry cleaner. That may be changing. Jenny Ekizian and Melissa Watson formed Californians for Local and Safe Alternatives (CLSA) to provide advocacy services for Inland Empire collectives. They organized a series of meetings that have brought together over 25 collectives.

"Our purpose is to get more patients into the movement by encouraging collectives to become involved," explained CLSA President Ekizian. "The CLSA gives collective operators information to provide to the members so they feel empowered to be engaged in the movement and to educate their family, friends and other acquaintances about medical marijuana and the importance of patient access."

The CLSA's first project was to raise money from members to charter a bus to bring 52 patients to the Oct. 24, 2011 Americans for Safe Access rally at the federal building in Los Angeles. This year it raised almost \$10,000 to charter a bus and house 38 patients at ASA's three-day California Unity Conference May 19-21, 2012 in Sacramento and the ensuing successful lobbying effort to get AB 2312 passed by the state Assembly.

The CLSA's members get down in the



Melissa Watson and Jenny Ekizian aboard the Canna-bus that took 38 patients from the Inland Empire to the Unity Conference and Lobby Day in Sacramento.

Photo by Steve Baker

trenches, providing support when collectives are raided by local or federal police, most recently in June 2012, when the Feds raided the G3 collective in Upland and CPA Collective in Lake Elsinore, arresting operators and employees.

It also sponsors educational programs to help patients stay free of legal entanglements and to develop a course of action to follow if needed. A Garden Summit at Willow Creek Springs Botanic Gardens June 30 brought together advocates, patients and providers with local attorneys specializing in cannabis law.

Future fundraisers include an Oct. 6, 2012 comedy-sport-charity event for local nonprofits and collectives to form teams and play against each other. In November the CLSA will host at the Upland Hills Golf Center a cannabis-against-cancer fundraiser billed as a Can-Can.

"We are gaining ground in local government," said Watson. "By getting patients and collective operators involved with CLSA, we will be able to keep collectives open, which means their members will be able to obtain medicinal marijuana safely, reliably and locally."

For more information on CLSA visit inlandempireclsa.org.

Initiatives headed for Southern Cal ballot

By Kandice Hawes,* Orange County NORML

As the Costa Mesa, Del Mar and Imperial Beach signature drives come to an end with mixed results, proponents of a stalled Santa Ana initiative continue their effort to ensure safe access in the city.

Del Mar and Imperial Beach voters in San Diego County will vote on allowing cannabis collectives within city limits after proponents turned in the needed signatures. In Costa Mesa, central Orange County, conflicts with the City and Registrar of Voters over signatures may delay the initiatives into 2014, if at all.

Santa Ana medical marijuana advocates and patients have begun collecting signatures for an initiative to roll back the ban on collectives in the City. The intention of the initiative is to ensure safe access. The City presented the title and summary for the Medical Cannabis Restriction and Limitation Initiative on July 31, giving proponents 180 days to collect the signatures needed to qualify for a special election or the next regular election in 2014.

The Santa Ana initiative is sponsored by the Committee to Support Medical Marijuana Ballot Initiative PAC, led by longtime Orange County activists. It would amend the current ban on cannabis collectives and set up an administrative process for the City Director of Planning to carry out a registration process for qualified collectives and grant them a notice of completed registration. Qualifications include having operated prior to the end of 2011, being located in a specific zone in the city, and being outside of residential zones and more than 600 feet from a K-12 school.

It would set up a new business tax classification for collectives to pay a 2% prospective gross sales tax, twice the regular city business tax, to the general fund for the betterment of the community. It allows one collective or cooperative for every 15,000 residents or portion thereof as established by the US Census or State Dept. of Finance, states that there shall be no less than 22 collectives or cooperatives at

any one time and includes standards of operation such as proper security, prohibition of a liquor license, permitted signage and all requirements of the 2008 *State Attorney General Guideline for Security and Non-diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use*.

* To get involved, visit SantaAnaMMJ.com or email Hawes at KandiceOCNORML@aol.com

Cannabis Museum re-opens at Oaksterdam University

By Christopher A. Brown

The Oaksterdam Cannabis Museum, raided by the federal government April 2, 2012, has taken up residence within the walls of Oaksterdam University in Oakland and is open once again.

The university, known as OU, a uniquely American educational institution, offered sanctuary to the museum in June, and, with a big show of volunteer support and teamwork, transferred the entire collection to the campus at 1600 Broadway. It still has a living cannabis garden and is

The museum is open Fridays, 2-8 pm.

again open to visitors on Friday evenings, for a voluntary donation.

"It's a natural collaboration," said museum curator Chris Conrad. "OU and the museum stand on freedom of speech and provide accurate information and research materials on cannabis to the public, the medical community, journalists and other inquirers on demand. It's a value-added resource for Oaksterdam students."

Authentic artifacts in the collection show the history, legal, industrial, and medical story of cannabis and represent various eras, including decades when the US government subsidized large-scale hemp farming. OU prides itself on its detailed academic program of accurate information about cannabis, and offers a unique experience that can be life-changing, as it blends enjoyment with education.

For more information, see oaksterdamuniversity.com and oaksterdamcannabismuseum.com.

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Holder tells Congress Feds follow state law

By **Aaron Smith**, Director, National Cannabis Industries Assn., thecannabisindustry.org

Landlords of many state-legal medical dispensaries in California, Colorado and Washington have been ordered to close by the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) or face asset forfeiture and criminal prosecution under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

This flies in the face of stated administration policy, outlined in the 2009 'Ogden Memo,' to respect state medical use laws.

Federal medical marijuana POW Lepp shipped out to TX

By **Angela Bacca**, Green-Aid.com

California patient and Vietnam vet Eddy Lepp was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison in 2008 for cultivating marijuana. His attempt to appeal his conviction on religious grounds was denied and he is now on year four of his sentence.

Until recently, Lepp was at Lompoc Federal Prison near Santa Barbara, but he has now been transferred to FCI La Tuna in Texas. While the exact reason is unknown, he believes it is because he "witnessed a lot of corruption and scandal among the guards." After serving 10 days in "the hole" (solitary confinement), he was abruptly transferred out of state.

In four years of lockup in CA, Lepp had only two visitors. He is likely never to have any visitors in TX. Readers can comfort and support Lepp by writing him at:

Charles Edward Lepp, 90157-011
FCI La Tuna Federal Correctional Institution
Federal Satellite Low
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To make a tax-deductible donation to his commissary books or find out how else to support Lepp and other Drug War POWs, visit Green-Aid.com. To be approved for email communications please email to angelabacca@gmail.com

The duplicity of DOJ and the administration keeps cannabis patients, providers and advocates confused and outraged. Elected officials across the US have expressed concern that state law is being undermined, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco, CA).

In his June 7, 2012 testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, US Attorney General Eric Holder was asked about DOJ policy and practices relating to state-legal medical marijuana providers.

Holder replied that DOJ limits its marijuana "enforcement efforts to those individuals [or] organizations that are acting out of conformity with state laws or, in the case of instances in Colorado, where distribution centers were placed within close proximity to schools."

Knowing that's not really what DOJ is doing, Reps. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Steve Cohen (D-TN) sent written follow-up questions to Holder on June 27, asking him to provide relevant details with respect to "each enforcement action DOJ has taken against persons or entities engaged in cultivating or selling medical marijuana, ... including the specific federal, state and/or local laws, regulations, and/or policies that allegedly were being violated." They also sought a commitment to clarify to the public what state and local laws are allegedly being violated by individuals targeted in the future by DOJ.

This line of questioning is even more important after recent DOJ actions against the Harborside Health Center locations in Oakland and San Jose. Federal prosecutor Melinda Haag, admits that she was motivated not by violations of state or local law but by her personal belief that the collective has too many patients.

Whether Holder is lying or has no idea what his department is really up to, cannabis reform advocates, such as the National Cannabis Industry Assn., have more resolve than ever to overcome this federal repression.

Study: Teen use may decline in medical use states

By **Paul Armentano**, NORML.org

Legalizing cannabis for therapeutic use does not increase the use of marijuana or other illicit substances among adolescents, according to a paper commissioned by the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Germany and released in May.

Economists from Montana State University, U of Colorado, Denver, and U of Oregon examined the relationship between state medical use laws and consumption by high-school students. They analyzed data from the national and state Youth Risky Behavior Surveys (YRBS) from 1993 to 2009, during which 13 states enacted laws allowing the medical cannabis use and production. It is conducted biennially by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a nationally representative sample of US high-school students.

Authors found no evidence that medical cannabis legalization adversely affected adolescents' drug consumption, and concluded, "Our results are not consistent with the hypothesis that the legalization of medical marijuana caused an increase in the use of marijuana and other substances

among high school students. ... Our results suggest that the legalization of medical marijuana was not accompanied by increases in the use of marijuana or other substances such as alcohol and cocaine among high school students. Interestingly, several of our estimates suggest that marijuana use actually declined with the passage of medical marijuana laws."

A 2012 study by researchers at McGill University in Montreal, published in the journal *Annals of Epidemiology*, had reported similar findings, that "[P]assing MMLs (medical marijuana laws) decreased past-month use among adolescents ... and had no discernible effect on the perceived riskiness of monthly use. ... [R]eported adolescent use may actually decrease following the passing of medical marijuana laws."

Prior investigations by researchers at Brown University (2011) and Texas A&M (2007) made similar findings, with the latter concluding, "[C]onsistent with other studies of the liberalization of cannabis laws, medical cannabis laws do not appear to increase use of the drug."

'Medical Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use,' is posted online at iza.org/dp6592.pdf.

Cal medical marijuana bills planned for 2013

By **Dale Gieringer**, CaNORML.org

A comprehensive bill to reform California's medical cannabis laws by creating a uniform, regulated state distribution system fell short in the legislature, but patient advocates intend to revive it next year.

The bill, AB 2312, by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, was based on a proposal drafted by Californians to Regulate Medical Marijuana, a coalition of reform advocates led by Americans for Safe Access, UFCW Local 5, the Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform, California NORML, the Emerald Growers Assn. and others. It would have established a state agency with broad authority to uniformly regulate commercial production and sales of medical cannabis, overriding the current patchwork of local bans and regulations.

Law enforcement groups led the opposition to AB 2312, claiming it would further legitimize dispensaries and destigmatize medical use. The bill passed the Assembly

by one vote after an intensive lobbying effort led by ASA and UFCW Local 5, only to be tied up by the State Senate Business and Professions Committee for further hearings set for this autumn.

In the process, AB 2312 was stripped of its most patient-friendly provisions, including one that would have prohibited local governments from banning dispensaries without a vote of the people, leading advocates to withdraw their support and demand changes in the bill.

Ammiano said he will submit a new bill next year, and CRMM is expected to develop a new proposal as well.

"With the continuing federal crack-down, we simply cannot afford to continue keeping our heads in the sand and pretend everything is fine," said Ammiano. "AB 2312 is an opportunity for the legislature to defend Proposition 215 by regulating and controlling an industry that has the support of over 80% of Californians."



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Hemp remediation vital for Japan’s meltdown

By J. Nayer Hardin, ushempmuseum.com

The planet could be facing a nuclear disaster 10 times greater than the notorious Chernobyl meltdown — or even worse.

The Japanese *Fukushima Dai-ichi* triple nuclear reactor meltdown has already affected the US. Radioactive material has been spilling from the power plants since March 11, 2011, exposing every creature on Earth to plutonium, cesium 137, uranium, and other toxins that travel through the ocean, jet stream and food and water systems. People every day drink, eat, breathe and wash with radioactive particles that can cause disease and death.

To limit this catastrophe, all nations should cultivate radiation-eating fungi and plants such as cannabis hemp to remediate the radiation and mend the ecosystem.

Medical marijuana and hash oil (such as ‘Rick Simpson’s oil’) reduce cancer risk, and hemp foods and beverages are an excellent nutrition source to bolster the immune systems of people and livestock.

Hemp is a biomass champion at cleaning the environment of many toxins including radiation, as demonstrated in the Chernobyl crisis. High-melanin-content mushrooms that eat radiation are partners in a great phyto-remediation team to clean the environment. Unused government

land could be turned over to farmers who grow hemp through Farm Aid contracted by the UN and/or national governments.

Nuclear entombment using lead, aluminum, and so-called hempcrete building materials and hemp plastic with a free-energy cooling system (magnetic, hydro or solar) can contain and seal off the contaminated reactors and area. Nearby structures should be encased in hemp plastic or hempcrete and sealed to reduce indoor radiation. Even people can get a personal, natural, low-level shield. Hemp garments are comfortable, stylish and people can wear them to block UV rays and otherwise reduce their exposure risk.

The great stumbling block to healing the nations is cannabis prohibition, enforced by the US through the DEA at home and funding the Drug War abroad.

Fukushima is a man-made disaster. Cannabis hemp is a natural herb offering a lifeline to the planet.

Will future generations look back to see that America used its Drug War to block bio-remediation, or will the US abandon hemp prohibition to salvage the Earth? That depends on how many people step up to demand action.

The report “Fukushima Activist Alert: Do what they did in Chernobyl: Use hemp” is a compilation of articles by the USA Hemp Museum.

Banking rule used to block Ohio initiative effort

By Mary Jane Borden

The deadline of July 3, 2012 passed and, even though four initiatives had been in the works over the prior two years, it became obvious that medical marijuana would not be on the fall Ohio ballot.

The measure, called “the best medical marijuana model in the nation,” was the Ohio Medical Cannabis Amendment, a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment that would have extended to patients eight rights based on the Bill of Rights in the state constitution. It would also have established a Commission of Cannabis Control to support, uphold and defend these rights and regulate medical cannabis in the state.

The Ohio Attorney General and the Ballot Board both certified the Amendment as eligible in January to collect the 385,000+ signatures it needed to qualify for placement on the ballot.

The registered PAC for the initiative, the Ohio Medical Cannabis Association (OMCA), was informed in June that Chase Bank was closing its checking account. Why? In a word: cannabis. Because of that simple word — a core component of the amendment’s name and PAC — the bank classified the OMCA as a “high risk” enterprise with which JP Morgan Chase & Co. would not do business.

Proponents explained that a PAC is used for free-speech advocacy, not to sell an illegal substance. OMCA advances a constitutional amendment to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Chase representatives were unmoved.

Moreover, Ohio campaign finance law requires proponents to first establish a ballot-issue committee (PAC) and then a bank account for deposit of contributions. Such bank restrictions on words like “cannabis” bar a group of citizens from access to the electoral process, because they cannot comply with election law.

All this is based on a proposal to comply with Ohio’s Bill of Rights. Without a bank account, the PAC could not fund its effort to pass the initiative, and June was too late to start over for this election cycle.

High Court dismisses Pack

Continued from page 1

January vacated the appellate decision for review. The lower court’s Pack ruling has been a big concern to localities that enacted or wish to enact programs to regulate medical access within their communities. Some had also used Pack as a justification to ban dispensaries all together.

“The recent crackdown by the US Attorneys has left medical marijuana businesses looking to state and local officials to carve a path of regulation in order to preserve safe access to medical marijuana. This decision allows them to move forward,” said Tamar Todd, senior staff attorney for the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA).

Advocates are waiting for the Court to rule on the *Riverside* decision to see whether localities can ban dispensaries.

“There is now no legal impediment for state and local government in California to move forward with responsible regulation for medical marijuana cultivation and distribution to patients. The question now is whether it is regulated or whether it operates on the margins.”

The Supreme Court is still poised to decide *Riverside v Inland Empire Patient’s Health and Wellness Center*, which will address the question as to whether localities have a right under state law to ban all dispensaries.

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Football players could benefit from cannabis use

By Clint Werner*

Some 2,138 former National Football League players joined forces June 7, 2012 to file a suit against the organization, charging that the NFL “has turned a blind eye to the risk” of repeated head injuries and was guilty of “mythologizing and glorifying violence through the media including its NFL division.”

Players and their families claim the NFL hid the serious ramifications of using the human head as a battering ram against opponents and seek compensation for the care and treatment of neurological conditions associated with brain trauma.

After former Pittsburgh Steeler Terry Long killed himself by drinking antifreeze, he was diagnosed with a condition known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Its symptoms resemble those of Alzheimer’s disease — personality changes, irritability, and irrational behavior that progresses to dementia. The condition had been found in a former teammate who died from a heart attack and was soon identified in other players who had committed suicide.

Neurologist Dr. Ann McKee, studying brain trauma in Bedford, Massachusetts

has seen evidence of CTE in every football player she has examined. She found that the repeated blows to the head experienced in football accelerate mental decline by creating a protein that accumulates in brain cells, disabling and destroying them.

A practical yet controversial solution could be to encourage the football players to use cannabis regularly. Research into the effects of cannabis on human biology reveals that cannabinoids, unique compounds found in the plant, closely mimic chemicals generated by our own bodies — endocannabinoids — to protect and optimize health. One of the myriad protective activities of cannabinoids is to shield and repair the brain from damage caused by accident, toxicity or illness, so the use of marijuana to treat and repair the injured brains of athletes seems plausible.

Research published in 1998 found that “Cannabidiol (CBD) and THC were shown to prevent hydroperoxide-induced oxidative damage as well as or better than other antioxidants” and that CBD was more effective at protecting the brain from damage from injury than the antioxidants Vitamin C or E. A study from Michigan State University found that after 48 hours

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DEFENDING MOTHER’S MILK — Daisy Bram (right with husband Jayme Walsh and sons Zeus and Thor), who successfully defended her right as a nursing mother to use medical marijuana, spoke at a July 28, 2012 Green Aid benefit, with attorney Michael Levinsohn (center left) and assistant Jennifer Reeder (left), who fought and defeated child endangerment charges. Other aspects of the case remain open. Photo by Mikki Norris



ASA challenges DEA denial of medical value

By William Dolphin and Kris Hermes,
AmericansforSafeAccess.org

The scientific medical evidence on cannabis will be considered by a federal appeals court on Oct. 16, 2012, as the result of a lawsuit to force the government to change its policies. The legal challenge by Americans for Safe Access to the DEA’s denial of a rescheduling petition has been granted a hearing by the US Court of Appeals for the Washington DC Circuit. Oral arguments in *ASA v DEA* is the first time in nearly 20 years that a federal court will hear the full scope of scientific evidence on therapeutic use of cannabis.

“Medical cannabis patients will finally get a chance to debunk politically motivated decision-making with scientific facts in open court,” said ASA Chief Counsel Joe

Elford. “Much is at stake — our country’s scientific integrity, the medical needs of millions of patients and an escalating conflict between the federal government and state health programs.” The DEA classifies cannabis as a highly dangerous drug with no medical use, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. After nearly a decade of delay, last year it rejected a petition by the Coalition for Rescheduling Cannabis, of which ASA is a member. DEA is the final arbiter on petitions to reclassify drugs.

ASA filed its appeal in January, arguing that the classification of cannabis is encumbered by political considerations and adversely affects research due to a unique and overly rigorous approval process.

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Oakland’s dispensary permit process is challenging at best

By Mickey Martin, TcompConsulting.com

The City of Oakland opened up the application process last September to license four new dispensaries, doubling its total of permitted dispensaries to eight. The deadline for submitting an application was Oct. 14, 2011 and on Oct. 7, the federal Dept. of Justice (DOJ) announced its crackdown on medical cannabis. As a result, only 12 applicants ended up applying for the four available permits.


The City had hoped to have all four new dispensaries open by the end of this summer. Circumstances made that goal impossible, and both City and applicants have been working out creative solutions. The city has invested a lot of time and resources into the process thus far and would like to bring in revenue soon.

The city was forced to delay its selection process from January 2012 to March. It then selected four groups, all with close ties to City Hall: Oakland Community Collective, Tidewater Patients Group, G-8 Medical Alliance and Agramed. Magnolia Wellness was the “sole alternate.”

While Oakland’s plan to permit four additional dispensaries has had some very difficult challenges to overcome and interesting twists and turns to maneuver, the hope is that having more points of access for cannabis patients will bring about better service, shorter lines, and lower prices through friendly competition. The City is encouraging the selected groups to find appropriate locations in order to begin serving patients soon.

Longer version online at westcoastleaf.com

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PRESSING THE HEMP ISSUE – David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, pressed hempseed inside a steel cage at the White House in Washington DC June 11, 2012 to protest Federal policy that prevents US farmers from growing industrial hemp. Dr. Bronner's, America's top-selling natural brand of soap, imports more than 20 tons of hemp oil per year from Canadian farmers. Bronner said he is waging a 'beer bet' with President Obama that the 12 industrial hemp plants growing in soil he harvested for seed are not 'marijuana' and have no drug value. Grown from Canadian industrial hemp seed, the plants follow Canadian regulations of having less than 0.3% THC and no potential use as a recreational drug. After law enforcement officials cut through the bars and arrested him, Bronner pleaded guilty to a minor traffic violation and agreed to do community service at food pantry in San Diego. Photo courtesy of VoteHemp.com

Currency, quality affect cannabis recommendations

By James Pendergast, AltMedNC.com

"Warning: Do not let your recommendation expire. Doing so can lead to trouble for you and for your co-op, if you're a member. And be sure to go to a reputable physician." This reminder should be written on every doctor's letter of approval for cannabis. Patients should write the expiration date on a calendar, put it in a reminder app, post it on the refrigerator, do whatever it takes.

If one patient lets his recommendation lapse, police may treat a whole collective as fraudulent and try to shut it down. Likewise, authorities sometimes subject doctors and staff to tax audits and other forms of harassment and intimidation.

There are other pitfalls for patients. A service that recommends medical use must follow all rules laid down by the state Board of Medical Examiners. When California physician Douglas Smith, MD, died in early 2012 after three years building his Vallejo practice, the family wanted to honor him and his local patients by continuing Alternative Medicines, AltMedNC.

Searching for a partner, they encountered physicians who conduct 'online examinations' by video conference or Skype. The medical board told the family that this may be illegal. Some remote-diagnosis 'clinics' may not even have a licensed doctor, physician's assistant or nurse on staff. Initial examinations to determine the advisability of cannabis must be in person. The doctor must either review medical records or confer with a patient's primary care physician. It is also illegal for a dispensary to be owned by a doctor.

Fortunately, Smith's family found Dr. Alfred Adams, a reputable physician who had been attending to cannabis patients for seven years and with MediCann for over four. He believes that approving a non-toxic natural substance with proven power to relieve pain and other chronic conditions meets a key precept of medical ethics, *Primum non nocere*, "First, do no harm."

The best way patients can keep their collectives safe from harm is by keeping their verifications up-to-date.

Congressional bills would allow hemp farms

By Ryan Fletcher, votehemp.com

United States Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Rand Paul (R-KY), Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced Senate Bill 3501 Aug. 2, 2012, a companion bill to House of Representatives (HR) 1831, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act. If passed, the bills will remove federal restrictions on the cultivation of non-drug fiber and oilseed varieties of cannabis hemp.

"This is the first step toward a common sense policy on hemp that helps create American jobs," said Senator Wyden. "It is vital that all industrial hemp advocates redouble their efforts to win support in Congress if we are going to reestablish this economically important crop."

Seventeen states already have passed pro-hemp legislation, and 10 states (Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont and West Virginia) have removed barriers to production or research. Despite state authorization to grow hemp, farmers risk federal raids, prison time and property forfeiture if they plant the crop, due to the failure of federal policy since 1957 to distinguish non-drug industrial hemp from psychoactive drug varieties of cannabis.

"We are very pleased to see action in the Senate on the 75th anniversary of the Marihuana Tax Act, which put unreasonable restrictions on hemp farming. American farmers have been denied the right to grow a crop that our founding fathers considered essential. It is imperative now that other Senators co-sponsor this bill and that President Obama and the Attorney General also take action to allow American farmers to grow hemp under state law," said Vote Hemp President Eric Steenstra. "With the US hemp industry valued at over \$400 million in annual retail sales and growing, a change in federal policy to allow its farming would mean instant job creation, among many other economic and environmental benefits."

US companies that manufacture or sell products made with hemp include Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, a California company that manufactures the top-selling natural soap in America. Best-selling hemp

food manufacturers, such as Living Harvest, Manitoba Harvest, Nature's Path, Nutiva and Sequel Naturals make products with hemp grown in Canada. Sustainable hemp seed, fiber, and oil are also used by major companies such as Ford Motors, Patagonia and The Body Shop. Even the Obama campaign online store is raising funds by selling hemp products made from imported Chinese hemp-blend fabric. Its Monique Péan scarf could be made from US-grown hemp if not for an outdated policy forcing American companies to import hemp from China, Europe and Canada.

Rep. Ron Paul introduced HR 1831 in the House last year. If passed, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011 would remove numerous federal restrictions simply by defining industrial hemp as distinct from "marihuana," and allowing local farming and processing of industrial hemp in accordance with state law.

The text of the bill, its status and a list of co-sponsors can be found at votehemp.com/legislation.

Cannabis College holds its third annual cannabis expo

By Sharon Letts

The 707 Cannabis College founders, including Kellie Dodds and Pearl Moon, hosted the State of the Herb Cannabis Expo at Mateel Community Center in Redway.

Humboldt Patient Resource Center Cultivation Director Kevin Jodrey took the stage, answering questions from attendees on indoor or outdoor cultivation.

Physician Dr. William Courtney, a proponent of juicing raw cannabis, said it brings the CBDs (cannabinoids) in for extreme healing. He introduced his wife, Kirsten Peskuski, a lupis patient with myriad complications and symptoms who described how juicing cannabis saved her life and the health of the couple's then-unborn child. Well-intended doctors put them both at risk using the available pharmaceuticals for the persistent symptoms of her illness during pregnancy. If "seeing is believing," juicing cannabis has its merits, as mother and child are a vision of health.

707 Cannabis College is located in Garberville 707-672-9860 or 707-599-1406 and online at 707cannabiscollge.com.

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Adjusting the garden to autumn conditions

Inside Out

By Samuel Janovici

Autumn brings falling nighttime temperatures, heat spikes in the day and a plethora of pests and diseases that are hell-bent on foiling a grower's best efforts. Even indoor folk feel the heat and cold's bite as dew points come and go twice a day. For the unprepared, it can mean mold and fungus galore. Thrips, spider mites and aphids conspire to invade the warm, cozy environment the indoor gardener has prepared.

Airflow should replicate a steady breeze.

A proper balance of temperatures and humidity stops moisture from nurturing mold deep inside even the largest buds.

Capping intakes with filters and using good clinical practices are good steps to help stop the pestilence, and cleanliness is essential. Between each and every crop, clean the equipment, bleach floors and walls, and make sure the tools are clean enough to eat off them. Anything less can lead to a failed crop and the temptation to use toxic chemicals that should never enter a cannabis garden. The goal is to leave chemicals out of the garden.

Creating a perfect copy of outdoor conditions is the key. Proper airflow is vital, as is good, filtered ventilation, replicating a steady wind blowing through the crop without wild gusts and turbulence.

In most regions, autumn means lower humidity, a blessing during bloom cycle. Less electricity is needed to maintain that perfect 45% humidity level that indoor growers fight for.

High-end indoor growing is based on striking a balance while attempting to create the ideal conditions every step of the way. Staying informed is not just for the

newbie. Even the most experienced grower needs to bone up on the basics and stay ahead of new technology that comes and goes. Cultivation writers like Ed Rosenthal and Jorge Cervantes offer decades of useful experience in their well-written books, from insightful primers to sophisticated writings that keep readers abreast of new ideas while respecting the tried and true methods that have served for centuries.

Clean the air-filter covers and make sure all intakes are cleaned regularly. Both affect the system's capacity to pass air through the rooms that have required time, money and effort to maintain. Replace light bulbs every year. They tend to fade over time and become less effective. Most importantly take precaution to keep odors at a minimum. All rooms must have high-quality scrubbers and filters or you risk the consequences.

Be safe out there . . .

Feminizing cannabis seeds

By Jeffrey O'Neill

The genetic ratio of cannabis grown from seed, half the plants male and half female, has been challenged with feminized seed lines that are expensive and hard to find.

Now, growers have another option: feminizing their own seeds by using a do-it-yourself spray to produce as many female seeds as they need. The spray contains a safe, organic compound that morphs a female plant into a self-pollinating hermaphrodite that can yield hundreds of female-producing seeds.

In isolation, a sprayed plant will produce offspring with its own genetic make-up, or its pollen can be used to cross-breed feminized seeds with a female plant of any other seedline simply by putting a hermaphrodite in the room with a female.

Information at DrFemSeed.com.



Challenging times breed promising results

The better the soil is mixed, the more uniform the growth patterns will be. Photo by Chris Van Hook

From the Field...

By Chris Van Hook, cleangreencert.com

Late rains disrupted the early cannabis season in 2012 with powdery mildew and slow plant growth, but most crops stabilized by mid-season. Pressure on dispensaries made the connection between grower and non-growing collective members more difficult, yet the industry is exploding with scientific innovation...

To produce more bud from the same plant, give the top of a young bud a pinch and a twist to deform it a bit. The result will be a triple headed bud that might not be as long but is much wider, thereby increasing bud canopy. Try it and see...

Spider mites have long been a problem for indoor farmers, and more outdoor farmers across the West are seeing outbreaks in their crops. Synthetic insecticides and fungicides are not registered for cannabis and many are dangerous for both worker and consumer. Northern California research lab/collective Dr. Green Thumb has made a safer alternative to chemical sprays by adding citronella oil to OMRI-listed Safer Grow Mildew Cure, a plant wash to combat mites. Add 150 drops of citronella oil to a quart container of 'mildew cure,' mix it up and use on indoor, outdoor and greenhouse plants as directed on the bottle. This appears to increase the effectiveness of the wash and to work on powdery mildew, spider mites and leaf hoppers. Spray in early morning or just

before the lamps go off, as direct light may burn wet leaves. The mix can be used every three days until the early buds set to disrupt the pests' egg/life cycle...

I saw a trial of three well known brands of potting soils that shed light on the problem of soil variability. Using six established clones each in three different soils, by week six it was clear that the subsets varied quite a bit in growth all around. There are differences among potting soil brands and within soil shipments from the same brand. Even soils mixed from ingredients at the farm can vary quite a bit in the composition of each batch, so remix the soils thoroughly to get the most uniform blend. If using ten different bags of soil, blend them together thoroughly before filling containers. Adding amendments can compensate for soil deficiencies, but be sure the entire batch is mixed well to reduce soil variation and get more uniform plant growth...

Pressure on dispensaries has caused many farmers to rethink their plans. Small to mid-sized growers are creating their own collectives to serve groups of cannabis patients just large enough to consume the supply the grower produces. It's an adaptation of CSA (community supported agriculture), used extensively in small scale agriculture. It takes work to develop 'direct access to patients' and it is important that the legal framework is sound. Once it's up and running, patient lists grow and the medicine is properly contained within a small collective the grower can control...

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National and International Reports

Headbook creating a secure online cannabis social network

Thousands of cannabis patients in multiple countries signed up for free accounts in the first three months since the launch of Headbook.org, a private social network for cannabis enthusiasts over the age of 18. The service is encrypted and secure, so no prying law enforcement or government eyes can see. Not-yet-legal states and countries represent the fastest growing segment of the site's members. It is available in Russian, German, Spanish, English and Dutch. Headbook.org also provides a more secure, further encrypted, private online experience for verified patients only, the Vault. The social network site is attracting "a diverse group of people," said co-creator and activist Steve Kubby. "But unlike Facebook, Headbook.org is all private. Let Freedom Grow." — *S. Rowan Wilson, MBA*

Chicago City Council enacts decrim law in landslide vote

With an overwhelming vote of 43-3, the Chicago, Illinois City Council decriminalized up to 15 grams of cannabis on June 27, 2012. Instead of an arrest for a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1500 fine, the new law mandates a \$250 to \$500 ticket. The policy, which took effect Aug. 4, applies to citizens aged 18 and older, while minors can still be punished with jail and large fines. It produces a 50% reduction in the number of state arrests for cannabis — equivalent to 400,000 fewer arrests on a national scale — and roughly 75% of the people affected are non-white. Long-time advocate Dan Linn said, "Every cannabis activist should be in regular communication with her elected official to show how much support there is for changing the laws." — *Danielle Schumacher*

Michigan reform active in courts, legislature and local ballots

Decriminalization of marijuana or lowest law enforcement priority measures will be on the November 2012 local ballot in three large Michigan cities: Detroit, Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids. In other good news, the state appeals court in a case brought by the ACLU ruled that a zoning ordinance prohibiting the use, manufacture or cultivation of marijuana is counter to state law. "Congress can criminalize all uses of medical marijuana, (but) it cannot require the state to do the same," the court held. The city council of Wyoming in western Michigan had voted to prohibit marijuana because of federal law, but a unanimous three-judge panel said cities and townships cannot bar the cultivation and use of medical marijuana. Other cities enacted ordinances similar to the one that was struck down, so it is hoped that all will fall. Several bills to amend the 2008 law are working their way through the legislature, but medical marijuana advocates have succeeded in making them less onerous to patients during a year of lobbying. — *Michael Whitty*

Massachusetts medical use initiative looks likely to pass

Massachusetts voters will vote Nov. 6, 2012 on a ballot initiative to enact a medical marijuana program as an exception to state marijuana prohibition. They overcame the strident opposition of the entire state law enforcement establishment, the governor and former heavy smoker US Senator Kerry to pass a 2008 decriminalization initiative by 65-35%. The new initiative ("Question 3, A Law for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana") is polling favorably, and has the support of the MA Nurses Assn. While it is opposed by the state doctors' association and the state psychiatrists' organization, initial indications are that prosecutors and police are not likely to voice organized opposition due to the measure's expected approval. It would award 35 dispensary licenses in 2013 to cultivate and sell medicine to approved patients in 2014, based on eight specific illnesses and any other condition deemed debilitating and treatable with cannabis. Until dispensaries open, doctor-approved patients or caregivers can cultivate a 60-day supply; afterwards, hardship exceptions would allow some non-dispensary cultivation. — *Michael Cutler*, NORML legal committee, EvansCutler.com.



International caravan travels US to end Drug War

By Daniel Robelo, DrugPolicy.org

A bi-national coalition of more than 100 civic groups, including Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), has joined the Mexican Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (MPJD) in its "Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity."

The Caravan is led by renowned Mexican poet Javier Sicilia, who emerged as a leader after his son, Juan Francisco, was murdered in 2011. Sicilia and other family members of Drug War victims in Mexico have joined US victims and supporters for a month-long voyage across the nation to call for an end to prohibition.



Top photo: The Caravan stopped Aug. 16, 2012 to protest Arizona policies. Photo by Caravan4Peace. Above: Kate DelCastillo translates for Javier Sicilia (l). Photo by Pepe Rivera

"Our purpose is to honor our victims, to make their names and faces visible," he said. "We travel the US to raise awareness of the unbearable pain and loss caused by the Drug War — and of the enormous shared responsibility for protecting families and communities in both countries."

More than 60,000 people have been killed in Mexico since 2006 and more than 10,000 have disappeared in the violence caused by prohibition. Rather than curbing drug use or supply, prohibition has only

enriched violent gangs. A military response to trafficking in Mexico has escalated violence, corruption and impunity, leading to more deaths and disappearances that have torn the fabric of society.

The drug war has produced painful consequences in the US as well. The nation ranks first in the world in incarcerating its people, with less than 5% of the world's population but nearly 25% of its prison population. Roughly 500,000 people are behind bars for a drug offense. The failed Drug War is the longest and one of the most costly wars in US history.

To reduce the violence, the Caravan demands that the US and Mexican governments urgently explore alternatives to prohibition, including options for legally regulating drugs. While the Caravan does not specify what form such regulation should take, its official platform recognizes that "drug prohibition has failed" and calls for our two governments to put all options on the table to end the War.

The easiest way to begin the difficult challenge of dismantling drug trafficking organizations and reducing violence is to regulate marijuana like alcohol.

Over 50% of the US public supports this, and citizens of Colorado, Oregon and Washington will vote on it in November. Marijuana is objectively less harmful than alcohol but represents the leading source of revenue for drug traffickers. Legalizing and regulating cannabis would strike a huge blow to these gangs, greatly reducing their capacity to terrorize our neighbors in Mexico. It is the obvious first step on the road to peace.

For more information: www.caravanforpeace.org

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Colorado ballot leads poll

Continued from page 1

school capital construction program.

"Not only will A-64 result in immediate law enforcement savings," said campaign co-director Brian Vicente. "It will quickly grow into a major revenue stream for Colorado."

The combination of an economic boon paired with the benefits of removing cannabis from the underground market has spurred a number of new endorsements from organizations, elected officials and community leaders. The measure has received the official backing of the state Democratic Party, and the campaign made headlines nationwide when it posted a billboard in Grand Junction highlighting the support expressed by conservative evangelist Pat Robertson.

In late June, a group of parents who support A-64 organized a committee to begin promoting the benefits of ending cannabis prohibition, Moms and Dads for Marijuana Regulation. The group announced its formation in front of a pro-64 billboard in Denver that featured a man and his high-school-aged son, reading "Please card my son... Regulate the sale of marijuana and help me keep it out of his hands." MDMR has also been spreading its message to other parents through public speaking engagements.

"Far too often, we hear opponents of reform using teens as a reason to maintain marijuana prohibition," said Georgia Edson, a Denver mother, licensed clinical social worker and co-chair of the committee. "They are simply playing on the fears of parents. The true dangers related to marijuana come from its illegal status."

"Like the father portrayed in the billboard, I would feel much more comfortable knowing that marijuana was being sold in regulated stores where sellers would be checking IDs."

For info on the Amendment 64 Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, visit www.RegulateMarijuana.org.



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The VOC organized a full day of debate and workshops at the 16th century former town hall in Woudrichem, Holland for all the cannabis-related organizations. Photo by Jolien Holthuis

Amsterdam coffeeshops' fate turns on Dutch vote

By Derrick Bergman, GONZO Media, VOC

Will Dutch cannabis coffeeshops stay open for foreign visitors after Jan. 1, 2013? That will be determined by the outcome of the Sept. 12 national elections. Coffeeshops and activists have campaigned like never before to get out 'the stoner vote.'

The elections are the result of the April collapse of The Netherlands' government. The reactionary ruling coalition introduced a string of repressive measures for coffeeshops. Its so-called weedpass, which would ban all foreign visitors from coffeeshops, is the most notorious of these. In the southern provinces, this rule has been enforced since May 1, with the rest of the country to follow on Jan. 1. Predictably, street dealing and "weed taxis" have increased in the South since the weedpass. Tourists are absent from the coffeeshops, but so are most Dutch visitors who refuse to have their personal information filed in a police-accessible digital database.

Two related questions loom over the elections: Will prime minister Mark Rutte keep his position? What will happen to weedpass? If his VVD party wins, weedpass and other measures will go into effect. If his main opponent, Mr. Emile Roemer of the Socialist Party (SP) wins, there could be a major turnaround.

A prominent SP politician spoke at a July gather-

ing of Amsterdam coffeeshop owners to promise that his party would abolish the pass and propose regulating cannabis production for the coffeeshops; the so-called 'backdoor' regulation. A large group of green entrepreneurs has decided to campaign for the party and organized a nationwide bus and limousine tour and a small airplane with the slogan 'Weedpass? No! Vote SP.' This kind of united effort from the Dutch cannabis industry is unprecedented.

Coffeeshops all over the country put up posters urging smokers and growers to get out the vote to save the coffeeshops. The VOC society for the abolition of cannabis prohibition is coordinating various campaigns and supporting them with videos, press releases, social media, postcards, flyers etc. In the 2010 election the difference between the biggest and the second-biggest parties was no more than 80,000 votes. This means that the cannabis vote just might make the difference this time.

More at voc-nederland.org and vote2smoke.nl



'Truth in Trials' Act back in HR, 19 co-sponsors

By Kris Hermes and William Dolphin, AmericansforSafeAccess.org

If a bipartisan bill before Congress becomes law, medical cannabis patients and providers will no longer be prevented from presenting medical or state-law evidence in federal trials. In what has become an annual ritual for the past decade, HR 6134, the Truth in Trials Act, was reintroduced last month by Rep. Sam Farr (D, CA-17) with 18 bipartisan co-sponsors.

"The federal government has tilted the scales of justice towards conviction by denying medical marijuana defendants the right to present all of the evidence at trial," said Farr. "My bill would restore due process rights to law-abiding citizens acting within the parameters of state and local laws. Juries should hear the entire story of a patient's medical marijuana use before choosing to convict, not the heavily edited version they currently hear."

The bill was first introduced by Rep. Farr in 2003 following the federal conviction of Ed Rosenthal, who had been deputized by the City of Oakland to provide small starter plants to patients.

DEA sued for failure to act

Continued from page 7

ASA's brief says the federal agency has acted arbitrarily and capriciously and should not be allowed "to apply different criteria to marijuana than to other drugs, ignore critical scientific data, misrepresent social science research or rely upon unsubstantiated assumptions, as the DEA has done in this case." It urges the court to "require DEA to analyze the scientific data evenhandedly" and order "a hearing and findings based on the scientific record."

Since 1970, two other rescheduling petitions have sought to restore cannabis to the list of recognized medicines, but thousands of peer-reviewed articles have since

been published on research exploring the medical use and potential of cannabis and cannabinoids that are its constituent chemicals.

If the suit is successful and cannabis is reclassified based on its science, safety and efficacy, federal defendants will have a medical necessity defense.

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75 Years of federal cannabis prohibition

The federal ban on cannabis took effect 75 years ago, on Oct. 1, 1937. Interstate trafficking in marijuana was forbidden, but not medical use, and “farmers could grow hemp just as they always have done,” a Treasury spokesperson told Congress. People just had to get a tax license. No licenses were issued. Without industrial hemp as a sustainable crop, America has since lost nearly all of its virgin forests and family farms, as the US Dept. of Agriculture had predicted — but was not invited to tell Congress.

Multiple acts of perjury launched the criminal fraud which endured until 1969, when the *Marihuana Tax Act* was overturned by the US Supreme Court in *Leary v USA*. Nixon’s administration promptly replaced with a new fraud, the *Controlled Substances Act* of 1970. Congress set a scientific federal criteria by which a new police bureaucracy, the DEA, would review scientific data and remove cannabis from Schedule 1 (prohibited) whenever it was shown to have any medical value. The *UN Single Convention Treaty* of 1968 had already described cannabis as “indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provisions must be made to ensure the availability” of controlled narcotics.

After decades of lies and millions of arrests, President Obama took office in 2009 pledging to adhere to science, avoid preemption and keep federal hands off of state-legal cannabis. He should keep those promises. More than 46% of Californians voted in 2010 to legalize adult cultivation and possession and to tax and regulate marijuana sales. By 2012, more than half the states, 27, have taken steps to restore industrial hemp. More than a third, 17, recognize its medical use. Each month new scientific studies demonstrate its therapeutic potential. The governors of Rhode Island, Washington and Hawai’i have petitioned DEA to reschedule cannabis. Some 56% of US voters favor legalized personal adult use and access, yet the drug war oligarchy goes unchecked. With the scientific facts about to be presented Oct. 16, 2012 at ASA’s court challenge to the DEA’s Schedule I classification, the CSA’s house of cards may be collapsing. It’s time to put cannabis prohibition to an end.

Vote ‘Yes’ for regulated adult sales

Cannabis consumers who have had the fortune to visit Amsterdam know how wonderful it is to be able to go to a coffeshop and legally buy some good bud or hash from an extensive menu. No doctor’s note is required, to be an adult is all it takes. Let’s bring it home.

Voters in Colorado, Oregon and Washington have the opportunity to vote this November to bring legal adult cannabis sales to their states with A-64, Measure 80 and I-502, respectively. Granted, there are some valid criticisms regarding the Washington initiative, I-502, which will behoove the legislature to replace its per se DUI provision with impairment testing and add cultivation. However, the benefit they will bring to further our rights, freedom and legitimized access to the herb, certainly outweigh any negatives. We need to send a strong message to the nation and to the rest of the world: Voters can end the disastrous, unjust and costly war on marijuana users, and allow for adult choice. Donate, volunteer, and please vote Yes for regulated adult sales.

A Question of the West Coast Leaf’s future

This editorial poses a question to our readers as to how the *West Coast Leaf* shall proceed. When we launched this newspaper, long-time activists and publishers Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris agreed to produce it for five years and then decide what to do next. As this current issue is Vol. 5 No. 3, we are nearing the end of that cycle, and it is time for us to decide. The upcoming Winter 2012 edition marks the end of this arrangement.

One thing is certain, things will not remain as they are now. Some people say the Internet has displaced the need for authoritative print journalism. Others say that a credible newspaper of record has a singular place and purpose, and it’s time for others to step up to the plate to keep it going. We just know it’s time for a change.

We would like to hear your ideas on how the West Coast Leaf should proceed. Stay tuned for the Winter 2013, Vol. 5.4 issue for what’s next.

WEST COAST LEAF

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Chris Conrad, executive editor
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Holder’s suspiciously ‘fast and furious’ attack on medical use

By Martin A. Lee, author of *Smoke Signals*

Eric Holder, Obama’s embattled US Attorney General, was under mounting pressure from Congress in 2011 to explain the botched ‘Fast and Furious’ (F&F) sting operation, in which 2,000 assault rifles and other firearms were sold to suspected traffickers in Mexican drug gangs. In the supposed intelligence-gathering ploy, agents instead lost track of most of the weapons.

A Drug War covert operation run by the Phoenix branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), F&F was kept secret until the murder of an American border patrol agent in December 2010. Two guns found at the scene had been sold during the F&F operation. Arms from the same cache were then linked to many other crimes.

For months Holder stonewalled, disavowing any knowledge of the caper, despite documentation showing that high-level DOJ officials aided the surveillance mission. The fact that F&F had its roots in a Bush-era ATF operation mattered little to the grandstanding GOP chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Rep. Darrell Issa, who accused Obama of purposely allowing the guns to be lost as part of a liberal plot to impose new gun control laws. Issa was not credible, nor was Holder.

By early October 2011, there were calls for a special prosecutor to investigate whether Holder had perjured himself during testimony before Congress. The ATF announced a major shake-up. Disgruntled sheriffs and G-men clamored for Holder’s resignation. The AG was losing support among law enforcement rank-and-file.

But Holder had an ace up his sleeve.

Law enforcement lobbyists had long been urging the DOJ to enforce prohibition and choke off the burgeoning industry.

On the same day Holder wrote a detailed letter to Issa defending the F&F affair, Oct. 7, 2011, four federal prosecutors in California held a hastily organized press conference to launch a far-ranging crack-down that would nearly decimate the Golden State’s medical marijuana industry.

Close to half of California’s 1,400 dispensaries would be shut down within 10 months. Dispensaries abiding by state law were raided by federal agents. Federal prosecutors pulled out all the stops.

Medical use proponents were stunned and mystified by the ferocity of the administration’s assault on the industry in California and elsewhere. Why did the former heavy-pot-smoker “Choom Gang” kid Barry Obama unleash the dogs of the Drug War against a popular, thriving and beneficial business sector when times were tough economically and jobs were scarce? Why choose to unnecessarily alienate his voter base when public opinion polls showed that more than half of Americans favored legalizing marijuana for personal use?

Team Obama’s decision to crack down on the medical marijuana industry wasn’t motivated by public health concerns but to placate law enforcement and damage control to deflect attention from F&F scandal.

Backed into a corner, Holder drew from an old playbook, underscoring once again that cannabis prohibition has little to do with the actual effects of the natural herb and everything to do with cynical bureaucratic self-interest.

Lee is cofounder of the media watch group FAIR, director of Project CBD, contributor to BeyondTHC.com, and author of *Acid Dreams*, *Smoke Signals* and other works.

Why does the Government want to silence Bryan Epis?

By John Balasz, Attorney, represented Bryan Epis

Bryan James Epis is a well-known medical marijuana activist, believed to be the first person to be tried in federal court for cultivating marijuana for medical purposes after the 1996 ballot initiative that legalized medical use in California.

Only 458 plants were found at his residence, but the government extrapolated from a disputed spreadsheet a “conspiracy” to grow at least 1,000 marijuana plants, the threshold to trigger a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence. Epis was found guilty of conspiracy and his conviction and sentence were upheld on appeal.

Acting as Epis’s attorney, I filed a January 2011 motion to vacate, set aside or correct his sentence under 28 USC §2255, the federal equivalent of *habeas corpus* action to challenge a state conviction.

In July 2012, the district court signed off on a rare settlement agreement in which Epis’s conviction on the conspiracy count was vacated and he was resentenced to 90 months on his conviction. With the time he has already served, his remaining sentence will be cut by more than half. There are a couple of the significant and unusual aspects of the settlement.

This case is one of the first after the Supreme Court’s March 2012 decision, *Lafler v Cooper*, where a defendant obtained relief on a ground that his trial attorneys rendered ineffective assistance in violation of the Sixth Amendment by providing deficient advice that resulted in him turning down a plea offer and receiving a harsher sentence. Epis’s trial attorneys did not refute the claim, as neither could sufficiently recall their legal advice to Epis regarding the offer. Given a likely evidentiary hearing, additional briefing, a potential appeal, and significant litigation risk on both sides, the settlement made sense for everyone.

When the final agreement was struck, the federal government insisted on a condition barring Epis from advocating about marijuana during his imprisonment and supervised release. While courts have upheld conditions of supervised release that limit First Amendment rights when reasonably related protecting the public (e.g., *US v Ross* [9th Cir. 2007] upholding condition barring association with neo-Nazi/white supremacy groups), what legitimate interest the government has in requiring a broad restriction barring lawful advocacy for marijuana law reform?

The condition is vague and it’s unclear what actions are prohibited. Is Epis now barred from writing his Congressman to ask that federal drug laws be amended to allow individual states to permit residents to use medical marijuana? Even if the government could lawfully bar Epis from any advocacy to change cannabis law (which I doubt), why does it want to do so? Putting aside the dubious constitutional validity of this condition, prohibiting US citizens from lawfully advocating to reform a law — marijuana or otherwise — is bad policy and bad precedent.

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HEMPFEST GATHERING — Members of the Repeal Cannabis Prohibition Act and Regulate Marijuana Like Wine, two top Union officials and representatives from the cannabis grower community pledged to work together after the November election to draft a new California Super Initiative. California cannabis reformers (from left) Dr. Frank Lucido, Brian Webster, Bill Panzer, Amanda Rain, Steve Kubby, Pebbles Trippet, Dan Rush, Grandaddy Mike, Judge James Gray, Stephen Collett CPA and Kristen Nevedal of the Emerald Growers' Assn. (Not shown, Omar Figueroa) got together Aug. 19, 2012 at Seattle Hempfest. Photo by Larry Nicholas

Time to agree on basic drug control terminology

By Mary Jane Borden, DrugWarFacts.org

Should cannabis be *depenalized*, *decriminalized* or *legalized*? What do these distinct legal terms mean?

Punitive *prohibition*, the federal US model of drug control, relies on criminal penalties like forfeiture and incarceration to punish certain drug users under the assumption they will be dissuaded from use or locked away for years to enforce a “drug-free” society, i.e., a society in which people are not free to choose drugs.

Locales like Ohio, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Portugal have realized that prohibition’s costs outweigh its benefits and have implemented other models.

One approach is *depenalization*, in which drug use remains illegal, leaving a criminal distribution network in place, while penalties for possession are significantly reduced. This happened in Ohio in 1975, when penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana became the equivalent of a ‘minor traffic violation,’ subject to a fine but not jail time.

Often confused with this is *decriminalization*, or ‘decrim,’ which removes all criminal penalties for personal use. Rhode Island recently made possession of up to one ounce of cannabis a civil violation. Portugal adopted a system in 2001 whereby the consumption, acquisition and possession of drugs for personal use are referred to a commission instead of the criminal justice system but production and trafficking remain illegal.

Some scholars assert that depenalization and decriminalization are not distinct models, but simply different low-severity versions of prohibition. Under this logic, the only true alternative to prohibition is legalization, which allows for sales; this was divided into five regulatory models by the Transform Drug Policy Foundation in its 2009 report, *Blueprint for Regulation*.

The most restrictive model, *prescription* access, is a familiar one in which physicians and pharmacists act as gatekeepers to control the supply. The key to access is a prescription. For cannabis to be dispensed under this model requires its rescheduling from Schedule I, which bars doctors from legally prescribing certain drugs.

Pharmacy access has pharmacists dispensing the drugs, as in Connecticut’s new medical marijuana law.

Licensed sales are already in place for alcohol and tobacco, placing appropriate regulatory controls over vendor, supplier and purchaser. This classification applies to the many tax-and-regulate proposals for cannabis such as those in Colorado, Washington and Oregon, on which voters will be casting their ballots this fall.

Controls over *licensed premises* are exercised over venues and the licensees such as bars, concert venues and, in some states, hookah lounges.

Unlicensed sales apply to low-risk substances like coffee or low-strength pain killers that require standardized product descriptions and labeling. This is the preferred system of the ‘legal as lettuce’ advocates, who believe that the safety profile of herbal cannabis requires no scheduling and few government controls.

Of all of these models, which wins the debate? They all do, for they make it obvious that ‘zero-tolerance’ prohibition has many alternatives.



Latinos’ big stake in cannabis legalization vote

Latin America watches A-64

By Daniel Garcia, Legal Intern, Sensible Colorado

Colorado voters will decide the fate of Amendment 64 (A-64), a statewide ballot initiative to tax and regulate cannabis like alcohol and allow for cultivation of industrial hemp Nov. 6, 2012.

The stakes are high for Colorado, and also for Latin America, the region which has suffered the brunt of the failed US drug policies. Experts agree that the drug gangs ravaging countries like Mexico earn half their revenue due to marijuana prohibition, which in turn funds other criminal activity like gun-running, kidnapping and murder. Having a legal, regulated supply network in Colorado would take that money out of criminal hands and give it to local small businesses that create jobs and provide tax revenue for local schools and communities.

As a Chicano who has family living in some of the more violent regions of Mexico, I believe the Latino community should be engaged in a discussion about what A-64 means for our friends and families who live south of the border.

It is not a silver bullet against narco-trafficking and its associated ills, but it is a step in the right direction. Leaders across Latin America, such as president-elect Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico and President Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala, agree that there needs to be discussion of drug regulation as a viable plan to reduce the violence that has plagued their citizens for more than 40 years. When the discussion at this year’s Summit of the Americas turned to drug laws, Barack Obama stated, “I think it is entirely legitimate to have a conversation about whether the laws in place are ones that are doing more harm than good,” but he then refused to take any steps towards that discussion, let alone

address real reforms. In the wake of over 55,000 deaths in Mexico from drug-violence since 2006, the US still refuses to apply even minimal sensible policy reforms at home or abroad to help quell the carnage. Latino voters should take note.

Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, the advocacy group behind A-64, is taking pro-active steps to engage Colorado’s Latino community in a discussion about this crucial issue. As Latino voters, we must use the immense power we have to shape the future for our loved ones in Latin America and use our votes to make their lives safer.

Vote Yes on A-64.

For more information on A-64, see regulatemarijuana.org

Southern hemisphere shifting

Continued from page 1

cannabis sales will be invested into treatment for problem drug users. The sole article of the proposal says the government “will assume the control and the regulation of the activities of importation, production, acquisition of any title, storage, marketing, and distribution of marijuana and its derivatives” and that the activities “must be exclusively realized in the framework of a harm reduction policy.”

Drug Policy Alliance Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann said, “With this proposal, President Mujica is taking a key leadership role in the drug policy reform debate. He has joined the increasing calls for an end to the war on drugs from Latin American leaders — including presidents Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (Argentina), Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia), Laura Chinchilla (Costa Rica), Otto Perez Molina (Guatemala), and Rafael Correa (Ecuador). He has taken it one step further by proposing a concrete policy alternative.

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* Proposition 215 & Senate Bill 420 * AG Guidelines Published August 2008 *

WEST COAST LEAF

Calendar and Community Directory

Sept. 15, 2012 OC NORML Cannabis Freedom Rally, Huntington Beach Pier, CA. Pacific Coast Hwy and Main, 3-6 PM. orangecountynorml.org

Sept. 15, 23rd Annual Boston Freedom Rally, MA. Activism, music, speakers, vendors, art, food. One of the largest rallies in the country. masscann.org

Sept. 15-16, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, Seattle, WA. Fremont Studios, 155 North 35th St. For tickets, see MedCanCup.com

Sept. 16, Missoula Hempfest, MT. Caras Park, Downtown Missoula. missoula-hempfest.com

Oct. 3-6, 41st Annual NORML / National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Conference: The final Days of Prohibition, Los Angeles, CA. Omni Los Angeles Hotel. Premiere gathering of cannabis reform activists and organizations to discuss alternatives to failed war on marijuana. To register and for info, see norml.org

Oct. 13-14, Kush Expo, Medical Marijuana Show, Los Angeles, CA. LA Center Studios, 401 S. Boylston St. See kushexpo.com

Nov. 6, Election Day, USA. Remember to vote!

Nov. 8-9, National Marijuana Business Conference 2012, Denver, CO. Sherman Street Event Center. Sponsored by National Cannabis Industry Association, dedicated to business, legal, and financial concerns. For information, nationalmarijuanabusinessconference.com

Nov. 12, 19th Annual Hemp Industries Association (HIA) Conference, San Francisco, CA. Holiday Inn Civic Center Hotel. Directly following the Green Festival. See hia.org for details.

Nov. 15-18, 9th National Harm Reduction Conference: From Public Health to Social Justice, Portland, OR. Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel, 1401 SW Naito Parkway. Multidisciplinary conference focusses on improving the health of drug users. harmreduction.org

Community Announcements

'Dr. Reefer Madness' dies; Nahas 'studies' since refuted

Gabriel Nahas

Born March 4, 1920 - Died June 28, 2012

Widely denounced as one of the world's most profligate liars about marijuana, Dr. Gabriel Nahas leveraged his reputation as a WW II liberation hero to promote the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of people for choosing to consume a plant.

Anti-cannabis prejudice instilled in him by his parents in Egypt led him to work with Nancy Reagan in the 1980s and to publish 700 biased articles in scientific journals claiming that marijuana contributed to cancers of the head and neck, leukemia, infertility, brain damage and a weakening of the immune system. His allegations were disproved long ago, yet they are often cited by government and the media.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* described Nahas' work as 'psychopharmacological McCarthyism that compels him to use half-truths, innuendo and unverifiable assertions.' When the French author

Michka pointed this out in a book, Nahas sued her for defamation of character. A jury agreed that she had insulted him, and set a value on his professional reputation at one franc — less than 25¢ in US money.

Nahas, who claimed he never smoked cannabis, died of lung problems.

CannaPoll has online survey

Continued from page 3

are available to all at Cannapoll.com as they occur. After completing a survey, participants can see the results and compare their answers with others. They already show that even the terms used to describe the plant differ by respondent age and where they live; the term 'weed' is preferred by respondents who are younger or from a non-medical state; older respondents and those from medical use states prefer to use 'cannabis' or 'medicine.'

"We invite participants to engage in the analysis of the results through commentary and suggestions," said Colleen Young, MS, for CannaPoll, "so that the surveys can be a focus for discovery, discussion and illumination for the marijuana community."

Follow the link from CannaPoll.com to take the secure online survey or to see the current results of the survey.

Diva of Sativa lights up Humboldt County

Story and Photos by Sharon Letts

Secret Garden Productions

"Mary Jane: The Musical" made its second debut June 21, 2012 at the Mad River Festival in Humboldt County, CA in a performance by Dell'Arte International, one of only two physical schools of comedy in the world. The cast is comprised of students, staff and community members.

Musical Director Michael Fields created the stellar show last year with founding member and school instructor Joan Schirle, who plays 'Mary Jane, the Diva of Sativa.'

Its first run in 2011 was an eye-opener for many in the long-covert world of Humboldt cannabis, with growers, worker bees, and partakers all coming out of the cannabis closet in droves, laughing and crying at a shared history told in song and dance. The county has a 40-year-old, \$2.6 billion dollar a year industry and, as Mary Jane explains, a "rural code of silence."

Dell'Arte's magic is being able to pull off such a controversial topic with comedy and drama; there is never a lull, always a laugh and a few tears thrown in for good measure. The now-classic "Humboldt Honey" has Mary Jane's blonde, dreadlocked niece, "Chanterelle," played exquisitely ditsy by Dell'Arte student Janessa Johnsrude, expounds on the evils of dairy, her love for the Grateful Dead, and the benefits of dandelion grains, grown at her Manila trailer. "They're all natural, and they're all local!"

On the heels of Humboldt Honey hilarity, a new number, "The Trimmers' Flamenco," details a trimmer's world, such as having too many cars parked outside come trim time. "One day's a party, two days a really good party, three ... somebody's harvesting!"

The down side of the trade is shared in "Ghost Town" by Joani Rose, with a down-and-out couple performed by Joyce Hough and Ryan Musil parodying the Depression classic, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" to ask, "Hey, do you know where I can sell a pound?" "Shops will close, they'll take it

through the nose, when the money tree gets too thin."

The flip side of the story is told by Scott Menzies, with "This Bud's For You," as a corporate spin on the business of the bud, with corporate jingles and suits with a pen-



Joan Schirle plays 'Mary Jane, the Diva of Sativa,' in a story of Humboldt growers and the plant that shapes their lives and community.

chant for profit. "We know your demographic for the stuff we traffic. It's time to corner the market."

A glimpse of the underground, black market world is seen in the heavy-metal song, "The Industry," in which growers are dripping in diesel fuel, angry and distrustful of the world and each other. It hits hard with music and stinging truth. "All who benefit from illegality, Watch your karma as it dies for me. All who share in Humboldt County's prosperity, Share culpability, In me, The Industry"

The second coming of the Diva finds her older and wiser, with a grandbaby to answer to. She looks at where she's been, where her son is now, and the consequences of her life's work in a heartbreaking song, "My Son." Mary Jane begs the audience to change the laws, change the world, and give her grandchild a shot at a decent life with the good herb, pleading in an epic monologue, "the next time someone walks up to me and says, 'What do you do?' I'm gonna say, 'I am a grower. I grow marijuana. I do it responsibly. I do it medicinally. I do it illegally, because we haven't figured that out yet. ... And I am damn tired of keeping it all a secret. Hemp was the past, it could be the future.'"

For information, visit dellarte.com , or call 707-668-5663.

National Cannabis Industry Association's 2nd Anniversary Gala
at
The National Marijuana Business Conference
Sherman Street Event Center
1770 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203
Thursday, November 8, 2012 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Industry happy hour from 6 to 7, Gala immediately follows.
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Lee's *Smoke Signals* is an instant cannabis classic

Smoke Signals: A social history of marijuana – medical, recreational, and scientific
Martin Lee (Scribner, 2012, 528 p)

By Mikki Norris

Award-winning investigative journalist and author of *Acid Dreams: The Complete History of LSD: The CIA, the 60s, and Beyond* Martin Lee has done it again.

He has written a book that all proud cannabis consumers should have in their library, *Smoke Signals*.

This time Lee tells the comprehensive

NFL should rethink its policy

Continued from page 7

of treatment, THC significantly reduced *tau*, a compound associated with brain scarring and damage.

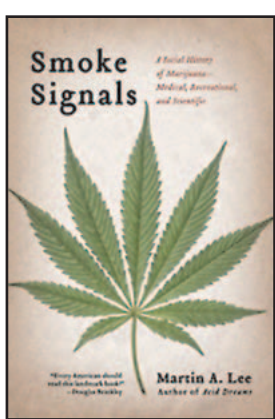
Cannabinoids also trigger adult hippocampal neurogenesis, the production of healthy, functional new brain cells. A recent study found that long-term regular marijuana smokers have increased functional connectivity in the brain.

Given these facts, shouldn't the NFL revise its mandatory four-game suspension policy for any player found to be using cannabis? Somebody owes Ricky Williams an apology plus back pay for his suspension over cannabis.

Marijuana should be as common as ice packs in NFL locker rooms, and players could be given tincture, edibles or vapor hits after every game or practice scrimmage to protect their brains from trauma.

* Author of *Marijuana Gateway to Health*.

story of the cannabis plant and its changing role throughout history; how it's spread and how it's been used around the world since its origins in Central Asia in the Kush area of the Himalayan foothills thousands



of years ago. It looks at which people have made cannabis more acceptable and more available and which have been against it, what new scientific discoveries have been made, and the outrageous course of politics that put us where we are today, including an in depth account of California's Prop. 215 and Prop. 19 efforts.

Lee provides expansive historical context for the many facts and colorful details, while taking the reader on wonderful tangents through past and current events, in a seasoned story-teller style.

This is a brilliant book. It's a great resource for students, with footnotes and source citings, an enjoyable yet serious and engrossing read for anyone, including those who think they know everything about our favorite subject.

What you don't know about cannabis will surprise you. *Smoke Signals* is destined to be a classic.

Stone's 'Savages' needs more believable plotline

By John Thomas Ellis

Oliver Stone's latest film, *Savages*, trashes any kind of sense and sensibility as it careens through the peaceful lives of three people who grow 'the kind' in Laguna Beach, California. It's the same old fictional action grabber — outsiders take on the

Olympian kept out of games, year suspension for cannabis

By Mickey Martin, TcompConsulting.com

Is cannabis a performance-enhancing drug? That would seem to be the logic behind the one-year suspension of American wrestler Stephany Lee, who qualified for the Olympic team, only to have her dreams of London gold crushed by testing positive for cannabis before the Olympic trials in April.

Lee courageously stated that she was a regular toker who always quit using it before competitions, with never a dirty test before. She said she had stopped her use two weeks earlier — "the longest I ever quit before a competition."

Cannabis does not enhance her ability to wrestle, or provide her with a competitive advantage. Certainly an Olympic caliber wrestler experiences pain and other life stressors for which cannabis therapy can be helpful. So why should an athlete be penalized for using a substance far safer than alcohol, caffeine or other legal substances? When cannabis is finally legal, this all will be seen as job discrimination.

mob. In this case, American growers take on Mexican cartels. It doesn't ring true for an international drug gang to kidnap a rich woman and hold her hostage simply to get a cut of two high-end growers' operation. To make matters worse, the studio tacked on a tricked-up ending that left me in misery, and wanting a good bowl of chronic.

The photography and editing were superbly executed but were inadequate vessels for this poorly told tale. The lavish settings and locations set the viewer up with expectations that are left unmet. The best characters in the film were the heavies — John Travolta as a DEA agent, Benicio Del Toro as a henchman and Salma Hayek as the cartel boss, Elena.

One day Hollywood may wake up to the fact that the US cannabis industry at a volume of \$100 billion dollars a year eclipses all worldwide film revenues.

We deserve some respect.

Facebook ends ad censorship

By Mickey Martin, TcompConsulting.com

A progressive pro-cannabis legalization campaign, Just Say Now, spearheaded by action organization Firedoglake.com, has convinced Facebook to change its policy to allow ads that contain images of marijuana. The social media behemoth caved under public pressure from the ACLU, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and an intense online anti-censorship campaign from Just Say Now.

AlterNet.org an online leader on Drug War coverage

By Jan Frel

AlterNet has been covering marijuana and the fight for drug reform for over a decade, building a reputation as one of the best and most popular independent daily news sources in the US — with a stable of top experts and reporters on the Drug War, like NORML's Paul Armentano. From stories about drug running in Mexico, to the medical benefits of pot, to the job creation that decriminalized marijuana sales offers communities, AlterNet's drug coverage is wide-ranging and eye-popping.

In summer 2012, AlterNet.org/drugs has run stories such as "Life Without Parole for Pot? 10 Worst cases of cruel and unusual punishment," "Botched DEA raid exposes how militarization terrorizes communities around the world," "Top 3 summer weed reads," and "Study: 'Gateway drug' is alcohol, not marijuana."

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The Oregon Cannabis Tax Act 2012 is a citizen's initiative campaign to regulate marijuana and restore hemp. It does not change state medical marijuana laws. Just as ending alcohol prohibition did, regulating marijuana will reduce crime. Drug cartels and gangs will lose significant funding when we eliminate the criminal element. Restoring hemp, made from cannabis seeds and stems, for fuel, fiber and food, will put Oregon on the cutting edge of exciting new sustainable green industries and create untold multitudes of new jobs.

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Yes on Measure 80 – The Oregon Cannabis Tax Act: octa2012.org

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