

## AMA now recognizes medical marijuana

*New position calls on DEA to look at rescheduling cannabis*

**Kris Hermes**, Americans for Safe Access

The largest physician-based group in the country, the American Medical Association (AMA), voted Nov. 10 to reverse its long-held position that cannabis has no medical value. The AMA adopted a report drafted by its Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH) entitled *Use of Cannabis for Medicinal Purposes* which affirmed the plant's therapeutic benefits and called for further research.

The report concluded that "short-term controlled trials indicate that smoked cannabis reduces neuropathic pain, improves appetite and caloric intake especially in patients with reduced muscle mass, and may relieve spasticity and pain in patients with multiple sclerosis." The report urges that "the Schedule I status of marijuana be reviewed with the goal of facilitating clinical research and develop-

ment of cannabinoid-based medicines, and alternate delivery methods."

The change of position followed a 2008 resolution by the Medical Student Section of the AMA (SSAMA) in support of reclassifying cannabis out of Schedule I. The past year, the AMA considered three other resolutions on cannabis.

The November vote took place during the organization's annual Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates in Houston, and is a turnaround from the last AMA position, adopted eight years ago, to keep cannabis in Schedule I.

"It's been 72 years since the AMA has officially recognized that marijuana has both already-demonstrated and future-promising medical utility," said Sunil Aggarwal, Ph.D., the medical student who spearheaded passage of the 2008 resolution and one of the CSAPH report's designated expert reviewers.

"The AMA has written an extensive, well documented, evidence-based report that they are seeking to publish in a peer-reviewed journal that will help to educate the medical community about the scientific basis of botanical cannabis-based

*Please turn to page 17*

## Advocates plant hemp on DEA's own front lawn

**By Ryan Fletcher**, VoteHemp.com

In a bid to get the Obama administration's attention and halt DEA obstruction, a North Dakota farmer, Vermont farmer and other American entrepreneurs dedicated to developing and marketing healthy, environmentally friendly hemp products planted industrial hemp seed Oct. 13 at the DEA headquarters and museum.

This was one of the first times industrial hemp advocates have used public civil disobedience to protest the ban on hemp farming in the United States. While the US is the largest market for hemp products in the world, and industrial hemp is farmed throughout Europe, Asia and Canada, not a single American farmer can legally grow the versatile crop, which is used for food, clothing, body care, paper, building materials, auto paneling and more.

North Dakota farmer Wayne Hauge, Vermont's Cedar Circle Organic Farm founder Will Allen, Hemp Industries Assn. (HIA) President Steve Levine, Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps President David Bronner, Vote Hemp Communications Director Adam Eidinger, and Livity Outer-national Hemp Clothing founder Issac

*Please turn to page 14*

## Obama policy memo discourages Feds from going after state-legal cannabis

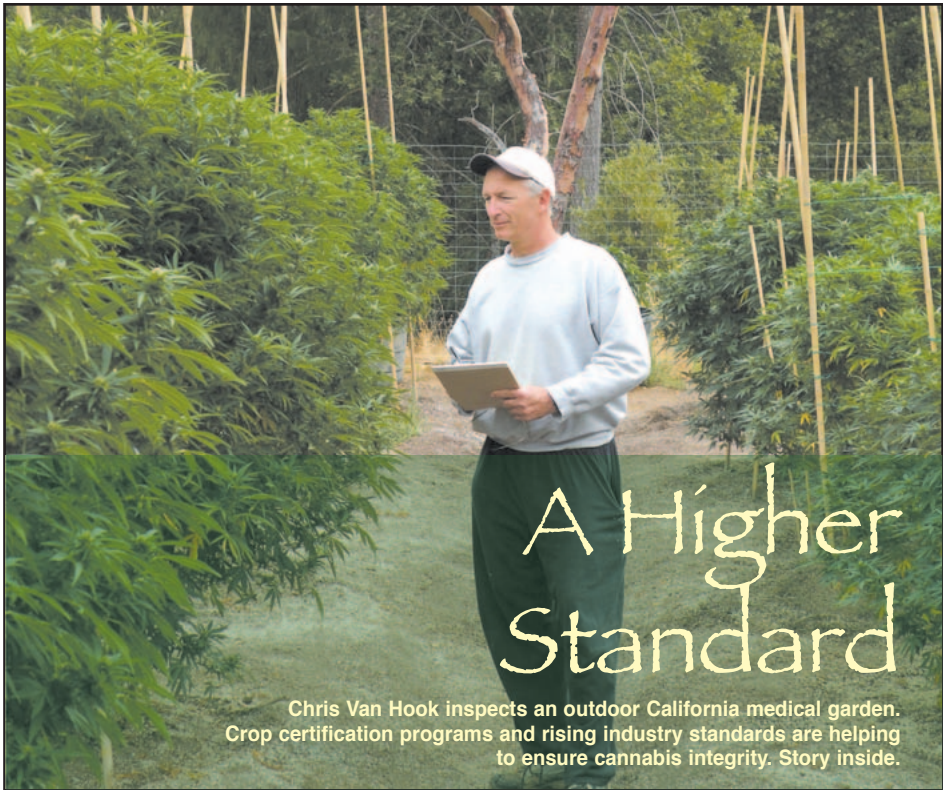
**By Allen Bartleman**, Attorney at Law\*

United States Attorney General Eric Holder outlined a new federal policy\*\* about medical cannabis use and distribution last March. Deputy US Attorney General David Ogden clarified this Oct. 19, directing US Attorneys in medical cannabis states not to focus on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with state medical cannabis laws.

That directive seems simple enough. It is good news for legitimate California medical patients and cannabis collectives.

Under the new policy, federal agents, including the DEA, FBI, IRS and other federal agencies would not act against patients, caregivers, and collectives that follow state laws, unless there is evidence of a commercial, profit-making enterprise, or to enforce other federal laws.

However, US Attorneys are directed to continue to act in state cases involving unlawful possession, unlawful use of firearms, violence, sales to minors, financial activities inconsistent with legal use (money laundering or financial gains), larger than permitted quantities, sales or



## Cal legislative hearings look at legal cannabis

**By Dale Gieringer**, California NORML

The California Assembly's Public Safety Committee held historic hearings on cannabis legalization Oct. 28 for the first time since cannabis was prohibited in 1913.

Sponsor Tom Ammiano (D-SF) chaired the first Committee hearings on AB390, which will be heard again in early 2010.

Reformers argued that cannabis prohi-

bition has failed, while law enforcement responded with claims that the problems caused by prohibition would be made all the worse by legal regulations. Sara Simpson, assistant chief of the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, at one point bewailed the evils of outlaw growers and violent Mexican drug gangs, then voiced concerns that legalization would somehow tighten their grip on California.

Retired Judge James Gray responded that a legal supply will undercut the criminal market and protect children from exposure to crime. Judge Gray spoke against allowing promotion and advertising.

Former San Francisco DA Terence Hallinan testified that pot arrests had taken up a lot of time in his office, despite the city's cannabis-friendly reputation.

Dan MacAllair of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice testified that possession arrests have soared while other

*Please turn to page 9*

## Colorado ski resort legalizes adult use

**By Brian Vicente**, Sensible CO Executive Director

In a decisive victory for equality, a high-profile Colorado ski tourist destination voted to legalize adult possession of cannabis. Breckenridge voters on Nov. 3 passed Measure 2F by a 73 percent vote to remove from the Town Code criminal penalties for private possession of up to one ounce by adults 21 and older.

In a cutting-edge move, the ordinance also removes criminal penalties for the possession of drug paraphernalia. This is the first ordinance change in Colorado — and likely national — history to remove penalties for both cannabis and associated paraphernalia.

"This vote demonstrates that our Breckenridge citizens overwhelmingly believe that adults should not be punished for making the safer choice to use marijuana instead of alcohol," said Sean McAllister, Breckenridge attorney and chair of Sensible Breckenridge.

"As state and national focus grows on this important issue, the popular ski town of Breckenridge has taken center stage on marijuana reform — and not just for medical purposes," said Brian Vicente of Sensible Colorado, the statewide nonprofit which assisted the local effort. "With this historic vote, Breckenridge has emerged as a national leader in sensible drug policy."

*Please turn to page 19*



**SEEDS OF DISSENT** — (left to right) Levine, Allen, Eidinger, Hauge and Bronner planted hemp seeds on the DEA's front lawn Oct. 13 using engraved ceremonial shovels. Photo by Ryan Fletcher

## West Coasterdam Report

**Feds ordered to return \$186,000 to Los Angeles dispensary**

A Federal Appeals Court ordered the US government to return \$186,000 that had been illegally seized from a Los Angeles cannabis dispensary. In March 2005, a local police sergeant visited United Medical Caregivers and observed qualified patients purchase cannabis. Police requested a search warrant, yet concealed from the judge that the facility was a dispensary. Using the "fruit of the poison tree" principle, the Court held that the seizure was due to police who "misled a state judge," and that the government cannot "profit from illegal activity by law enforcement." Defense attorney Paul Gabbert characterized police as "being paid to lie to a Superior Court judge," since their department received a percentage of the seized money. The unanimous Ninth Circuit court ruling came Oct. 20, one day after the Obama administration issued guidelines advising federal prosecutors not to target patients and providers who comply with state medical marijuana laws, and five months after its formal memorandum on the limits of federal preemption.

**Another record CAMP eradication props up cannabis prices**

The 27-year long Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) destroyed a record 4.5 million California plants by November 2009, up from 2.9 million during the 2007 and 2008 outdoor seasons. At 340,187 plants, Los Angeles County ranked fifth in 41 counties. This increase of more than 400 percent pushed LA's eradicated plant count close to those of Mendocino, Trinity and Humboldt Counties. Officials set the state-inflicted financial loss to the cannabis market at \$17.8 billion, pushing up already inflated prices. The proportion of plants found on public lands jumped from 70 percent in 2008 to 76 percent in 2009, according to the state Division of Law Enforcement. Bruce Mirken of the Marijuana Policy Project said the campaign has caused growers to move from backyards into wilderness areas. "This is an annual exercise in futility. Not only does it fail to do anything meaningful, it actually makes the problem worse," he said. The program diverts state Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, local sheriff's departments, DEA, inter-agency drug task force units and other law enforcement resources, spending huge amounts of tax dollars in the process. Although the mission of the California Highway Patrol is to protect the state's roads and motorists, it instead participated in 665 raids in 2009, up from 542 in 2008.

**OrganiCann's World First: Compostable cannabis packaging**

Marijuana just got greener. Most cannabis comes packaged in petro-plastic. The Organic Cannabis Foundation, LLC (OrganiCann) a dispensing collective in Santa Rosa, CA, rolled out its new home-compostable packaging Nov. 9, made of certified-compostable film and printed with water-based inks. The film, made from sustainably produced wood, biodegrades safely in home or commercial compost, or even in a wastewater environment. "We are committed to sustainability in everything we do," said OrganiCann Managing Member Dona Ruth Frank. "Whether it is how our medicine is cultivated, or how it is packaged, we are continuously developing more environmentally friendly solutions." The patient collective offers compostable packaging for a full range of products, from dry cannabis and joints to concentrates and cannabis-infused teas. More at OrganiCann.com.

**Washington patients seek collective rights**

By Martin Martinez, CannabisMD.net

Thanks to the efforts of ACLU Attorney Alison Holcomb, ranking members of the Office of the King County Prosecutor, along with a narcotics division captain and other officers from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and East Side Task Force, sat down with representatives from cannabis patient groups Green Cross, Green Buddha, and The Lifeline Collective to discuss the development of general guidelines for group cultivation of medical cannabis in The Emerald City.

During this landmark meeting, SPD introduced two documents that outline current policy governing cannabis gardens operated by patients and designated providers. Both documents rely on the WA Department of Health (DOH) interpretation of the lawful "60 day supply," up to 24 ounces of dried medical cannabis and 15 plants of any size — per patient.

The DOH limits are defined by law as "presumptive" limits that may be overturned by patients who prove they need a greater amount; yet the SPD holds those figures as binding and enforceable limitations. Hence, current SPD policy directs officers to seize and destroy any number above 15 live plants.

One patient in attendance noted that the current SPD policy limits possession to "15 plants" period, whereas the written policy should be revised to define the limit as "15 plants per patient."

The purpose of these meetings has been to initiate a change in current enforcement policy to include collective cultivation, by combining resources among patients for uniform access and affordability of medical grade cannabis. Patient support groups asserted that DOH guidelines allow two patients who grow together in one location 30 plants collectively, and three patients 45, because the 15 plant limit applies on a per

patient basis, not per location.

At that point, representatives of SPD and the prosecutor's office verbally agreed that when a garden involves more than one patient, they shall revise their limitation to reflect the number of valid patients. They indicated that they would consider the total number of patients at a garden before yanking all but 15 plants. However, that voiced policy is not yet reflected in current documents, so an officer in the field may have no guidance in that regard.

Patients and providers in King County who grow in collective garden sites should be aware that while the Prosecutor has a policy of not prosecuting such individuals, he does review each situation on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, law enforcement agencies have yet to adopt formal policies on collective gardens, so the officer in the field may act on current SPD policies that only address single-patient gardens.

Unfortunately for patients, the education of our judicial system mainly occurs in a courtroom. Eventually, local policies will be forced to conform with precedents after they are set in a criminal proceeding.

**Lake Forest files civil complaints on MCDs**

By Kandice Hawes, Orange County NORML

The city of Lake Forest seemed to be a medical marijuana safe haven in Orange County until just recently. Lake Forest has a business-friendly policy not requiring businesses to get a license from the city, which is one reason many collectives decided to open in its limits. Now five years later there are approximately 14 collectives and the city is filing civil lawsuits to force every single one to close.

The city overlooked these collectives until two were robbed in a single night. One collective was especially cooperative and handed over surveillance footage to the sheriff's department and the local papers. The footage was made available online and the story hit the front pages. Shortly after, the city filed the civil complaints against all collectives, alleging they are a public nuisance and are not included in the types of businesses allowed in commercial zones.

At the City Council meeting following news of the law suits, more than 100 people showed up asking the city for regulations not litigation. The city refused to address the item on the agenda. Two weeks later, more than 300 people showed up, including local TV news and newspapers. Still the Council decided to pursue litigation against 35 people associated with the collectives, in spite of the residents' pleas.

Local collectives have to file an answer to the complaints and court dates will be set. Activists have phone and letter writing campaigns going, and plan to attend every Council meeting until this is resolved.



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**HEMPSTALK FASHION —** The Portland Hempstalk Festival boasted its first hemp fashion and live art show at Kelley Point Park in Portland, Oregon. The show was a colorful success and is now scheduled to become an annual part of Hempstalk. Titled *Hemp Silk at Hempstalk*, it was co-emceed by Pony Boy of Los Marijuanos and Angela of Sea of Green Art and featured hemp clothing by a number of designers including UrbAge Designs by Scott Gordon, the Hempstalk Vending Coordinator. Photos courtesy of Angela Fairless

## LA patients hold line against prosecutors, narcs

By Don Duncan, Americans for Safe Access

An ordinance regulating patient collectives in Los Angeles may get a City Council vote before January, but the controversy surrounding medical cannabis in the state’s largest city is far from over. Advocates are threatening litigation if the final ordinance does not meet their needs, and neighborhood groups want severe limits on the number and location of facilities.

Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the nation’s largest medical cannabis advocacy group, claimed success on Nov. 16, when a joint City Council committee rejected an outright ban on sales of cannabis in collectives following ASA’s threat of litigation. District Attorney Steve Cooley responded by telling reporters that the City Council

was “irrelevant” and renewed his pledge to prosecute collectives that provide medicine in exchange for money. Cooley largely ignored medical cannabis collectives between his election in 2000 and an Oct. 8, 2009 luncheon hosted by the California Narcotics Officers Assn., a prison lobby group that stridently opposes safe access. Cooley told reporters after that luncheon that “about 100 percent” of collectives are illegal and that he intends to close them all.

City Councilmembers seem poised to reject the advice of City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, who agrees with Cooley that storefront collectives and cooperatives are illegal. The City Attorney presented no fewer than five draft ordinances in the last *Please turn to page 5*

## Portland activists open patient smoking lounge

By Anna Diaz, Oregon NORML

Oregon NORML’s *Cannabis Café* opened in Portland at 4:20 PM on Nov. 13, the first of its kind in Oregon.

“The response has been overwhelming,” says Madeline Martinez, Executive Director of Oregon NORML. “We are excited to be able to provide a safe place for patients to medicate that is out of public view within the guidelines of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA).

“There needed to be a place where people can socialize and network, much like our meetings,” said Martinez. Many patients travel to Portland for medical care and treatment and otherwise they have no place to use their medicine during their long and exhausting trips.

Since the cafe opened at Rumpspankers, 700 NE Dekum St, Portland, stories have appeared in most major Oregon newspapers and TV stations. Martinez was on OPB’s *Think Out Loud* talk show and attended a neighborhood association meeting to reassure them that the lounge will be a positive addition to the community.

Members must be registrants of the Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) and members of Oregon NORML to gain entrance. The entry fee is \$25 to cover the first month of membership and an all-day entry pass. Basic membership to Oregon NORML is \$35.00 per year and is available at the door.

\* Contact Oregon NORML for more information on the message line 503-239-6110. Details and information will be online at [ornorml.org](http://ornorml.org) as they become available.

## Oregon ballot petition drive passes half-way mark

By John Sajo, Executive Director of Voter Power

Backers of Oregon Initiative 28 announced Nov. 10 that they had collected over 70,000 signatures, passing the halfway mark for the 2010 ballot. “We calculate we will need 120,000 signatures to qualify,” said Kyle Locasio, petition coordinator for Voter Power, the group managing the campaign.

Oregon voters legalized medical marijuana with Measure 67 in 1998, with over 28,000 patients now qualified. The new initiative would create a system of licensed producers and regulated dispensaries.

“Many qualified patients are still struggling to obtain their medicine,” said a campaign spokesperson. “We offer a regulated supply system that we believe will be the best in the nation.”

Under the measure, dispensaries would be nonprofits and pay a \$2000 license fee plus 10 percent tax on gross sales. Producers would pay a \$1000 license fee plus 10 percent tax. Any registered patient could shop at any dispensary; dispensaries could purchase from any licensed producer. The system would create a regulated free market, and patients

could still grow their own medicine.

The proposed law is among the first to recognize growers as a key part of the supply chain. In New Mexico and Rhode Island, dispensaries hire the producers. Allowing Oregon farmers to compete as independent producers could bring prices down and quality up. While California producers operate in a legal ‘gray area,’ Oregon farmers would be licensed and regulated, with clear rules to follow.

The initiative has two innovative provisions, providing for research and for assistance to indigent patients. “Existing government programs like Medicare won’t cover marijuana,” said Lindsey Bradshaw, a cancer patient who receives her medical care under the Oregon Health Plan. “I get help with my prescription drugs, and my intravenous food supply is completely paid for, but I am on my own coming up with my medical marijuana.”

Under I 28, the Dept. of Human Services would set regulations on record keeping, security, and zoning, and administer a program for needy patients. Backers *Please turn to page 6*

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## Riverside collective wins dismissal, sues County

By Victor Michel, Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project  
Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco sent one of his finest prosecuting attorneys to get a conviction in the courtroom, but his efforts came to naught when Superior Court Judge Mark Mandio ruled on Nov. 4 that there was insufficient evidence to bind Marty Victor over to trial for the litany of charges that had been filed against him for operating a small 12-member collective out of the backyard of his family home in Temecula.

The collective could have been used as a model for the State Attorney General's guidelines. Recommendations and ID cards were kept on the premises, books were kept showing all financial transactions and medical marijuana distribution and every member of the collective participated in the growing and harvesting operations. That wasn't enough to keep the Riverside County Sheriff's office and Temecula Police from invading Victor's home on Sept. 18, 2008 seizing all the plants, growing equipment and security systems and arresting Victor and holding him in jail on \$50,000 bail.

Police literally terrorized Victor's wife Lavonne and his mother, who is also a member of the collective and uses cannabis to treat her arthritis and other infirmities that afflict the elderly. During the raid, which lasted from 5:30 PM to 2:30 AM, the police refused to allow his 81-year-old mother to have her dinner, even as they ordered meals to be delivered for their own consumption. When asked if they would order food for the elderly woman at the same time, they refused. Finally at around 9 PM, they allowed her to eat some bread.

The timing of the arrest was suspicious. One of the members of their collective is Lanny Swerdlow, director of the Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project, an Inland Empire cannabis patients' support group and law-reform organization. Swerdlow had been



**VICTOR-Y** — Marty and Lavonne Victor, right, collective members and supporters celebrate the dismissal at dinner. Photo by Victor Michel

falsely accused by Paul Chabot, the founder of an Inland Empire drug prohibition group that specifically targeted medical marijuana, of pushing him at a meeting, and was undergoing a trial for battery. Marty Victor was scheduled to testify that he was at the meeting and saw that Swerdlow never even touched Chabot, let alone push him.

Victor's testimony was scheduled for Sept. 22. Many people believe that the timing of Victor's arrest and subsequent imprisonment and high bail were the result of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept. asking Riverside sheriffs to keep Victor indisposed, so he would not be able to testify on Swerdlow's behalf.

Charging Victor with illegally cultivating and possessing with the intent to sell, Sheriff's investigator Kenneth Thurm stated that the collective was a sham and the paperwork seized showed it was an attempt to "give the illusion of being a legitimate co-op."

After the dismissal of the charges, Victor hugged his wife, mother and attorney Zenia Gilg and joined his supporters in an impromptu victory celebration in front of the council chambers. Eight of the collective's members have filed a lawsuit against Riverside County and the city of Temecula for the illegal seizure of the crop each seeking one million dollars in damages.

**Protestors rebuke CNOA awards for San Diego police fraud and abuse**

**SHAMEFUL AWARD** — The California Narcotics Officers Assn. (CNOA) handed out awards in Mission Valley the night of Nov. 12 to celebrate its success against qualified patients, caregivers and collectives.

A "CNOA Team of the Year" award was given to the San Diego drug agents who got fake IDs to obtain legal physician-approvals, then in February executed a series of collective raids known as Operation Endless Summer. Concerned citizens and patients turned out to express public outrage at the targeting of lawful patients. The rally was organized by members of Americans for Safe Access San Diego. The CNOA is a shadowy Drug War lobby group that uses its political-insider status to wield undue influence, and that trains police to testify in marijuana prosecutions. Photos by Eugene Davidovich

## San Diego DA wages dirty war against state law

By Eugene Davidovich, Stop Operation Green Rx  
San Diego County finds itself on the front line in the war against medical cannabis. Seeking to repeal state law, the SD Board of Supervisors had appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court. After defeat there, the County has taken its fight to the streets.

Since 2003, SD District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis has been targeting doctors who recommend the plant, dispensing collectives and cooperatives, as well as patients themselves. Criminal charges have included cultivation, possession, distribution, and others from which legitimate patients have qualified immunity under California law. As part of her self-proclaimed "fierce fight" against patients in San Diego, Dumanis brazenly dubbed the ongoing investigation "Operation Green Rx."

Police detectives visit local doctors and lie about their identity, symptoms and medical conditions to obtain recommendations for cannabis. They join dispensing collectives and cooperatives in San Diego with the intent of shutting them down. Two rounds of raids have been executed, and more are planned.

Patients were arrested in raids on about a dozen houses in February. Dumanis personally authorized more than 12 raids in

September, signaling a refusal to obey state law.

City leadership, however, has taken a different approach. After years of pleas from patients, the San Diego City Council established a Medical Marijuana Task Force Sept. 8 in hopes of providing clarity to patients and law enforcement.

The task force will develop guidelines for cannabis patients and caregivers, structure and operations of medical cannabis cooperatives and collectives, and police enforcement. The DA opposes the actions and direction of the task force; she has stated that there is no need for a task force and continues to insist that the laws are clear.

In response to continued harassment, the community has united to draw attention to the issue, end illegal prosecutions, and prevent more raids. Constituents have written letters to the State Bar of California complaining about the DA's unethical practices and violations of rules of professional conduct.

Calls, emails and letters are pouring in to the Citizens Review Board of Police Practices, complaining about the conduct of detectives.

The Grand Jury is daily being asked to investigate this waste, fraud, and abuse.

Many San Diegans hope that a livable patient-oriented solution will be reached collaboratively through the Medical Marijuana Task Force, and that abusive prosecutions and litigation under Operation Green Rx will end, with those responsible being held accountable for violating the public trust.



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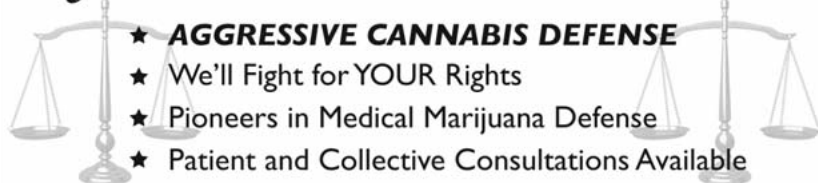


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## BPG collective honored by City of Berkeley

By Becky DeKeuster, BPG

The City of Berkeley took the unusual step of declaring Oct. 31, 2009 *Berkeley Patients Group Day* in the city, to honor the dispensary's tenth anniversary.

The two-page formal Proclamation reviewed highlights from BPG's first decade, including:

- Pioneering a best-practices, service-based approach to providing cannabis
- Supporting its community through service, community partnerships, and charitable donations
- Surviving a 2007 DEA asset seizure that forfeited state sales tax collections to the federal government
- BPG's history of partnership with and support from its City Council and Mayor

- Involvement in the successful Measure R/JJ campaign in 2004-2008, resulting in improved medical cannabis regulations in Berkeley and helping to support the decommissioning of Diebold electronic voting machines in California.

- Forming the Medical Cannabis Safety Council to bring sensible self-regulation to the medical cannabis field

- Earning certification as a socially responsible 'B-corporation.'

The Council action came within days of the formal Justice Department announcement that it would no longer persecute dispensaries who comply with state laws. The BPG staff and patients celebrated its 10-year mark, at the same time eagerly looking ahead to its next ten years.



"We are still in a legal gray area, and we can't exist there forever," said Debby Goldsberry, one of the group's three direc-

tors. "Cities have made it legal for medical uses, states have, and now the federal government needs to do it."

## Los Angeles officials and patients in stand-off

Continued from page 3

two years. Under pressure from an increasingly galvanized base of patient-advocates, the Council rejected the first four drafts. In response to the fifth version, published only one business day before the joint committee hearing on Nov. 16, Councilmember Ed Reyes said the posture and timing of the City Attorney's office was "disconcerting."

The two-year campaign to develop and adopt sensible regulations has energized a new grassroots base of support for medical cannabis in LA. More than 400 patients and advocates packed the Nov. 16 meeting, despite the fact that the hearing started at 8:30 AM on a Monday. ASA has worked hard to train hundreds of patients to speak effectively to elected officials and media.

The Greater LA Collective Alliance (GLACA), one of several autonomous self-regulatory bodies seeded by ASA, has organized collective operators into a pow-

erful voice in local politics. ASA and GLACA have been joined by an alphabet soup of other patient advocacy groups representing tens of thousands of Angelinos.

Advocates hope the City Council will move quickly to adopt and implement a sound regulatory ordinance. Many blame the long delay on entrenched staff in Trutanich's office. Former City Attorney and medical cannabis opponent Rocky Delgadillo protected tenure for much of his senior staff before leaving office earlier this year. Advocates worry that these holdovers have led Trutanich down the same path as his predecessor. This is a particularly bitter pill for the medical cannabis community, which rallied around Trutanich in a runoff election earlier this year.

With battle lines drawn between advocates and the DA, the period following adoption of an ordinance in LA may be turbulent. Cooley is likely to use his position to make an example of some collectives and cooperatives, but LA's new medical cannabis coalition is ready to respond.

## Dana Point dispensaries told to hand over records

By Kandice Hawes

The City of Dana Point served subpoenas to the five collectives operating in city limits in July seeking business records and the names of its members, purportedly to determine if the collectives are operating legally under California law. After the collectives refused to comply the city went to court asking for assistance in enforcing the subpoenas.

Lawyers representing the collectives argued that the request for records was in violation of medical and financial privacy rights and the First and Fifth Amendment rights of the collectives. A judge ruled in November that the collectives must deliver the records. However, the court narrowed down who would have access to the names of the collective members.

Those records will need to be submitted by Dec. 7, subject to an appeal.

## Marijuana arrests rise in California, despite Prop 215

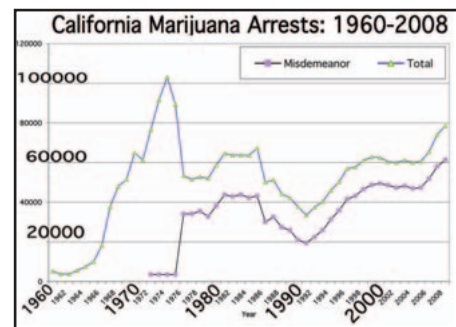
By Dale Gieringer, California NORML

Marijuana arrests in California increased in 2008 to their highest level since possession was decriminalized in 1976, according to data from the Cal DOJ Bureau of Criminal Statistics. The state reported 17,126 felony arrests in 2008, up from 16,124 in 2007, while misdemeanor marijuana possession arrests jumped from 57,995 to 61,366.

Possession arrests have soared 127 percent since 1990, a time period when arrests for other crimes plummeted by an average of 40 percent, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco. African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested, and five times more likely to be imprisoned, for a marijuana offense.

California NORML estimates that the state currently spends over \$200 million

per year to arrest, prosecute and imprison cannabis offenders. Over 2.5 million such arrests have been recorded since the state first prohibited "Indian hemp" in 1913.



The state medical marijuana laws have brought no perceptible decline in arrests.

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# WAMM garden has brush with Santa Cruz fire



**CURTAIN OF FLAMES —**  
Left: A fast moving sheet of fire descended toward the WAMM medical marijuana collective garden near Santa Cruz. Members joined in to hold back the blaze.  
Above: After the garden was saved, Valerie Corral took photos of the fire fighters who came to the rescue.  
Photos courtesy of WAMM.

By Mikki Norris West Coast Leaf

Valerie Corral of the Wo/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) watched awestruck by the majesty of nature in mid-August, as 300-foot flames from the Santa Cruz fires surrounded her home and acreage. Fortunately, eight firefighters from the Encino and Oceanside Fire Departments were granted permission to work on their own time to defend the property, which had been designated as an ‘indefensible’ area. Working after a 24-hour shift, they saved the property’s three houses and its garden.

Although the meditation cabin was destroyed and some of the land burned, firefighters were amazed as they watched

the flames unexpectedly jump over a hill where ceremonies are performed and some WAMM members are buried in a small graveyard. Also spared were Ram Dass’ collection of books on death and dying, and paintings and indigenous artwork in the Corral home.

With friends, Valerie and Mike Corral walked the land, filled water tanks and did what they could, as firefighters worked along with volunteer prisoners earning \$1 per hour to ‘coerce’ the fire away from the property, cutting trees and brush and creating fire breaks.

The Corrals and WAMM watched the fire jump over the road without touching a blade of grass or leaf of tree, while 188 acres next to their land were burned. They are extremely grateful to the firefighters and prisoners for saving much of the property from devastation.

# Airport TSAs allow local law to rule the skies

By Mickey Martin

Cannabis patients can travel with their medicine if they are within the bounds of state and local laws of the airport in which they are traveling, according to the Transportation Security Admin. (TSA).

With the help of attorney Rob Raich, Oakland International Airport crafted a written policy in 2008 stating that they would not arrest patients or confiscate their medicines if they were within the legal bounds of the state’s medical marijuana laws. The *West Coast Leaf* first reported this story in September, which was then picked up by local and national media outlets. Upon further questioning, TSA spokeswoman Suzanne Trevino confirmed that the federal agency would allow patients to travel with cannabis if the local authorities deemed it appropriate.

Airport officials in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, and Sacramento confirmed that they had no interest in confiscating legitimate cannabis medicines or arresting legitimate users. Patients can now travel from these airports without fear of losing their medicine or facing arrest.

This landmark realization comes on the heels of the new federal policy curbing federal interference into state medical cannabis affairs. It is a major victory for patients who in the past have been forced to travel without their medicine or forced to purchase cannabis at their destination from often-illicit sources.

“It’s clearly a good thing that airports such as Oakland and SFO allow patients to be able to travel with their medicine. That’s a positive policy,” Americans for Safe Access spokesperson Kris Hermes said. “Some patients cannot be without their medicine for more than a few hours.”

While tolerance at some California airports is a welcome relief to many patients, it is still a far cry from complete tolerance. Patients can still be subject to prosecution at their final destination or at airports in jurisdictions where local law enforcement chooses to ignore state law, such as Burbank and San Diego. Even with enforcement policies left to local authorities as stated by the TSA, this can still create confusion for patients, as policies will differ from city to city

and airport to airport. Patients look forward to having a statewide or federal policy in place with clear protections for patients choosing to travel with cannabis.

As patients, activists, and concerned citizens continue to demand clarification, it is possible that state boundaries for medical cannabis will become the standard by which federal agencies, such as TSA, abide. It is possible this policy could evolve to other agencies such as US Postal Inspectors or National Park Service agencies.

While patients can feel a bit safer in their travels, it is important to understand that they must still be discreet and not flaunt their cannabis in the face of what could be less tolerant authorities. Attorney Rob Raich suggests not declaring one’s medicine unless asked. Individual officers and their agencies may still choose to ignore state laws and hassle qualified patients who possess their cannabis while traveling. It is best to inquire about the policy of the airport in which one hopes to travel before showing up and meeting unexpected resistance.

# Oregon initiative moving

*Continued from page 3*

are drafting proposed rules, including a program similar to food stamps that needy patients could use at any dispensary.

The initiative also allows DHS to conduct research that could result in quality control standards for commercial medical cannabis. These could be used to regulate product uniformity, prohibit dangerous contaminants, and provide content labels for THC, CBD and other ingredients.

If Voter Power prevails, Oregon voters will decide the initiative’s fate in the November general election. Polls show 59 percent of Oregonians support the measure, with just 32 percent opposed.

For more info, see [voterpower.org](http://voterpower.org).

# TaxCannabis 2010 initiative gets signatures to qualify

By Richard Lee, Oaksterdam University

The TaxCannabis2010 campaign, one of four adult cannabis reform initiatives filed in California, reports that it is near completion of its signature gathering drive.

It expects to submit the signatures to voter registrars’ offices across the state in mid-January, timed for the November 2010 ballot. Overwhelming support enabled signature gathering to be completed in 40 percent of the time allowed by state law.

The campaign is now in its education and fundraising phase. It plans to air radio commercials this Spring and generate continued media coverage of this historic vote.

TaxCannabis2010 allows adults to possess and cultivate small amounts of cannabis for personal consumption and lets cities and counties decide how to tax and regulate sales and commercial cultivation. To make a donation online or get more info, see [TaxCannabis.org](http://TaxCannabis.org).

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**CAPITOL IDEA** — Proposed AB 390, sponsored by California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (at podium) to establish legal and regulated adult use of cannabis, was kicked off at a Oct. 28 press conference and committee hearing in Sacramento. From left to right: Rev. Mary Moreno Richardson, Allen Hopper of ACLU, Drug Policy Alliance staff attorney Tamar Todd, Cal NORML Director Dale Gieringer, Tom Ammiano, Aaron Smith of Marijuana Policy Project, and Steve Gutwillig, California State Director of DPA. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris

## Soaring marijuana arrest rates show no effect on use

By F. Aaron Smith, Marijuana Policy Project

The most comprehensive collection of national data on marijuana arrests, penalties, and usage was released this week by Jon Gettman, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. The detailed report shows that harsh penalties and aggressive law enforcement have essentially no effect on cannabis use rates.

According to data Gettman collected from government sources, marijuana arrests have almost doubled since 1991 but use rates have remained more or less unchanged. Despite the serious budget crises many states faced last year, the report concluded that marijuana arrests were often the 5th, 6th, or 7th largest category of state-level arrests.

In California, where cannabis was ‘decriminalized’ in 1976, marijuana arrests are rising faster than the national rate.

However, California had more users in 2007 than in 2003. The state’s decriminal-

ization regime saved California \$857 million in 2007, but advocates say the state should do even better at prioritizing police resources by taxing and regulating it.

“These figures paint a devastating portrait of a failed policy that burns through tax dollars while doing nothing but harm,” said Marijuana Policy Project Executive Director Rob Kampia, in Washington, DC. “Most Americans agree that marijuana prohibition doesn’t work, even if most politicians aren’t yet ready to publicly agree with their constituents.”

The report also revealed a dramatic racial disparity in marijuana enforcement. The cannabis use rate for African Americans is only about 25 percent higher than for whites but blacks are three times more likely than whites to be arrested for marijuana possession.

Gettman’s report, “Marijuana Arrests in the US (2007),” is online at [drugscience.org/Archive/bcr7/bcr7\\_index.html](http://drugscience.org/Archive/bcr7/bcr7_index.html). The full Marijuana Policy Almanac, including state rankings and individual reports for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, is at [drugscience.org/States/US/US\\_home.htm](http://drugscience.org/States/US/US_home.htm).

## News analysis:

# Ammiano hearing marks an historic shift

By Stephen Gutwillig, Drug Policy Alliance\*

Many Americans are following the escalating rhetoric over proliferating medical marijuana dispensaries in Los Angeles. The Obama administration’s Oct. 19 announcement that the federal government will consider state laws got even more attention.

Around the same time, another kind of cannabis news was made in Sacramento. The Assembly Public Safety Committee convened an unprecedented public hearing Oct. 28, the most prominent consideration of legalization in American history.

Formally titled “Examining the Fiscal and Legal Implication of the Legalization and Regulation of Marijuana,” the hearing featured testimony from a range of regulation advocates and opponents. The meeting chaired by Assembly Member Tom Ammiano, author of California’s landmark cannabis legalization bill (AB 390), proposed the same regulation for adult use of cannabis as for alcohol.

It was a remarkable moment in the struggle to change decades-old policies.

A recent avalanche of high-profile media has declared that although illegal, cannabis has gone mainstream. Its use is second only to alcohol and cigarettes, is objectively far less harmful than either, is dramatically less addictive and cannot cause an overdose. Every major independent study has debunked the gateway myth. Those of us concerned about youth access note that children across the country consistently report that pot is easy for them to get from their peers and the black market while there are significant barriers to stop them from buying alcohol and cigarettes.

As a result, Americans are increasingly turning against a prohibition that fails to protect kids and guarantees a market share to brutal criminal syndicates. While polls have long confirmed that large majorities

favor treating pot possession as an infraction without arrest, support for ending cannabis prohibition outright is quickly gaining speed. A Gallup poll in the Fall reported that a historic 44 percent of Americans favor legalization, a 10-point jump since 2001. Respondents across the Western states registered that opinion in sizable majorities.

Even with reform moving forward, arrests have tripled nationwide since 1991. In California, which decriminalized low-level possession in 1975, arrests have jumped 127 percent. Police made nearly 850,000 marijuana arrests across the country last year, which represents half of all drug arrests and more than all violent crime arrests combined. No law in the US is enforced so widely, yet deemed so unnecessary by so many.

These laws are enforced selectively and racially. African Americans are three times more likely than whites to be arrested for marijuana in California.

A recent expose by the *Pasadena Weekly* found that blacks, 14 percent of that city’s population, account for more than half the marijuana arrests of the last five years.

It’s hard to overstate the significance of that Sacramento hearing, the first legislative discussion in the US about taking legal control of the massive cannabis market through state regulation. The Public Safety Committee has its hands full considering prohibition’s failures and the new mainstream movement for reform.

Regulation will end the criminalization of millions of responsible adult users, redirect scarce police resources, generate new tax revenue, and reduce youth access. This is a conversation that’s long overdue.

\* Gutwillig is the California State Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, the nation’s leading organization working to promote alternatives to the failed Drug War.

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**DISMISSED —** Addison and Jessica DeMoura have decided to sue local agencies that raided the Oakdale Natural Choice collective in July 2007 since a Superior Court Judge Nancy Ashley threw out the search warrant Oct. 16 after police failed to mention that they provided only to qualified patients.

Photo by Vanessa Nelson, Medical Marijuana of America

## Oakdale's Natural Choice gets charges dismissed

By Vanessa Nelson,  
MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com

Six defendants in a central California dispensary case finally got a break Oct. 16. Superior Court Judge Nancy Ashley threw out the search warrant used to raid the Oakdale Natural Choice collective in July 2007. The ruling elicited an outburst of applause in the courtroom, causing the bailiff to eject observers.

After hearing testimony from a trio of investigating officers, the judge's decision was based on glaring omissions in the affidavit officers presented to get the warrant. In particular, it left out information that indicated Oakdale Natural Choice was serving qualified patients in compliance with state law.

Defense attorney Ean Vizzi argued that officers made the omissions in an attempt to portray the dispensary to the magistrate who issued the warrant as a "clandestine marijuana distribution ring." Vizzi declared, "Nothing could have been further from the truth."

The officers' testimony revealed that they arranged an undercover buy operation during their investigation. However, the affidavit did not mention that the undercover operative used a valid medical marijuana card to access the facility. "It left out facts that were important," Judge Ashley concluded.

This forced the deputy DA to promptly dismiss the charges against former dispensary operator Addison DeMoura, his wife Jessica, and former dispensary workers Michael Cadiz, Angel Herrera and Russell Green. A sixth defendant, Joseph Young, had some confusion over scheduling and had to wait two months for the formal dismissal of his charges.

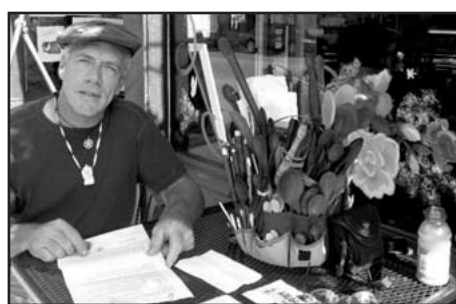
This victory was unambiguous, but that's not to say the case is definitely over. The district attorney could re-file charges, or federal prosecutors could take over the case, strip away their defense under state laws, and leave them facing a near-certain conviction. Still, it's not a likely scenario; the handover of medical marijuana cases from local DAs to federal prosecutors has

slowed in recent times.

As it turns out, the DeMouras are planning a trip to federal court in Fresno, anyway; this time playing offense. Last summer, they filed a civil case against the local governments whose law enforcement agencies were responsible for the raid. The suit alleges a variety of damages, including lost property and lost wages, as well as emotional trauma suffered by their son when police officers held the toddler at gunpoint while searching the family home.

DeMoura is eager to see the outcome of the civil case, which is expected to be heard this January.

"I'm looking forward to Fresno," he said with his signature wry grin.



## Artist-patient seeks reciprocity

By Lindianne Sarno

Award-winning artist, civil rights violations investigator, and California patient 'Alaskan Mike' Glasgow is fighting a medical marijuana case in . . . Arizona.

While doing business at a February 2009 mineral show, Glasgow was peacefully self-medicating on private property when a Tucson Police officer accosted him. "I have a prescription for this," said Glasgow. Arizona does not give reciprocity to CA patients. He had 7.5 ounces of good cannabis bud; the officer ignored his medical approval, and Glasgow was arrested. Imprisoned for 34 days, he was charged and offered a plea bargain of a lengthy probation plus a \$250,000 fine. His travelling lifestyle has caused more complications, including a bench warrant.

He plans to bring a federal civil rights class action suit. Contact [az4norml.org](http://az4norml.org).

## New evidence shows marijuana is safe, effective – and maybe legal drugs aren't

By Bruce Mirken, Marijuana Policy Project

The International Association for Cannabis as Medicine held its *Fifth Conference on Cannabinoids in Medicine* in Cologne, Germany in October.

The conference included significant new evidence that marijuana is a safe, effective medicine for certain conditions, some of which can be found in the conference abstract, online at [cannabis-med.org](http://cannabis-med.org).

Canadian researcher Mark Ware presented results of a yearlong safety study known as the COMPASS study, which compared 215 patients who used cannabis to manage chronic pain with comparable control patients who did not use cannabis.

Ware and colleagues report "no difference in serious adverse events" between the two groups, concluding, "Cannabis use for chronic pain over one year is not associated with major changes in lung, endocrine, cognitive function or serious adverse events."

## Cal Assembly committee considers legalization

*Continued from page 1*

arrests declined, indicating increased emphasis on marijuana enforcement.

California NORML director Dale Gieringer said, "California's millions of marijuana users are tired of being criminals and would like to be taxpaying, law-abiding citizens." He pointed to successful models of legal controls in the Netherlands and India before 1986 (testimony online at [canorml.org/APStestimony.pdf](http://canorml.org/APStestimony.pdf)).

The Rev. Mary Moreno Richardson testified about her experience working with battered wives, who were frequently beaten by drunken husbands but never by those using cannabis.

In contrast, law enforcement exposed its bigotry. "Marijuana radically diminishes our society," testified John Standish, president of the California Peace Officers Assn. (POA), who refused to distinguish between pot and methamphetamine.

Scott Kirkland, the grim Police Chief of El Cerrito who chairs the Cal Police Chief Assn. Task Force on Medical Marijuana, spewed half-baked distortions and factoids about cannabis, while Sally Fairchild, of the AG's High Intensity Drug Trafficking office, led off with a moment of silence for DEA agents who were shot down in Afghanistan "protecting us" from drugs.

Attorneys Allen Hopper of the ACLU and Tara Todd of the DPA debated with Martin Mayer

Meanwhile, results of a much-awaited clinical trial came from the University of California, San Francisco, where Donald Abrams and colleagues tested the effects of adding cannabis to the therapeutic regimen of chronic pain patients on long-term morphine or oxycodone therapy.

Unfortunately, because the researchers were crunching numbers right up until the conference, the abstract available online doesn't include a lot of details.

But the study showed that cannabis did indeed add significant pain relief on top of that provided by the narcotic painkillers. The scientists conclude, "Cannabinoids may augment the analgesic effects of opioids, allowing longer treatment at lower doses with fewer side effects."

That is a strong indication that, for chronic pain patients, medical marijuana can act as a sort of "reverse gateway," enabling them to reduce their use of addictive and risky narcotics.

*Please turn to page 11*

of the POA over whether California can legalize cannabis without there first being changes in federal law.

The Legislative Analyst's Office estimated that legalization would save the state "tens of millions" of dollars in enforcement costs, while the Board of Equalization estimated that a \$50 per ounce excise tax could generate \$1.4 billion in tax revenues.

Economist Rosalie Pacula of the RAND Corporation cautioned that all projections about revenues, supply and demand draw from highly uncertain assumptions, making it impossible to predict the impact.

Dozens of witnesses from both sides spoke up in public comment. Phil Smith of DRCNet wound up the hearing by saying he wants only to be left alone, and will gladly pay taxes in return.

After the hearings, reformers visited legislative offices to lobby for AB 390.

They were well received by legislative staff members, but it was clear that important questions remain to be settled before the "L-word" enters political reality.



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**GROWER'S CUP** — An SF Bay Area Cannabis Cup was held on Nov. 7 at the new Oakland University (OU) campus at 1600 Broadway Street in Downtown Oakland. The event was sponsored by the OU Alumni Assn with 7Stars Holistic Healing Center and others. Assorted samples were judged by luminaries of the industry such as Richard Lee, Dennis Peron, Ed Rosenthal, OU Horticulture Instructors Joey Ereneta and Chris McCatherine, along with other local judges.

One of several local cups, it was a well attended and elegant event. There were tables for guests to relax and enjoy a DJ while socializing, and a 7Stars 'Vapor Room' with purple floor lighting and Volcanoes for people to use, along with various edibles. The Judge's Choice Award went to Ann Green for her outdoor grown 'Michael's Mystery' strain. People's Choice Award winner for indoor grown Sour Diesel was 7Stars Holistic Healing Center. Its staff posed with 'Guru of Ganja' Ed Rosenthal (wearing leaf hat). Left to right Bryant Garces, Kevin Lee, Zee Handoush, Rosenthal, Jawad "J J" Dayem and Adrian Moore. Photo courtesy of SF Bay Area Cannabis Cup

## Nevada MPP challenges prohibitionists: 'Marijuana is safer than alcohol; prove us wrong, we'll pay \$10,000'

By Dave Schwartz, MPP-NV Manager

The Marijuana Policy Project of Nevada put its money where its mouth is at a Las Vegas news conference Sept. 23 with details of its \$10,000 challenge to prohibitionists. MPP-NV manager Dave Schwartz held up a large mock check to show that the group will pay \$10,000 to anyone who can disprove three statements demonstrating that cannabis is objectively and unquestionably safer than alcohol.

To win the prize, MPP-NV is challenging Nevada prohibitionists to disprove all three of the following statements of fact:

1. Alcohol is significantly more toxic than cannabis, making death by overdose far more likely with alcohol.

2. The health effects from long-term alcohol consumption annually cause tens of thousands more deaths in the US than does long-term consumption of cannabis.

3. Violent crime committed by individuals intoxicated by alcohol is far more prevalent in the US than by individuals high on marijuana only.

To receive the \$10,000 award, Nevada residents must provide peer-reviewed studies or government statistics that contradict all three of these statements.

"We are confident that we won't need to pay out this \$10,000," said Schwartz.

"Marijuana is objectively and unquestionably less harmful than alcohol."

## Bill would allow medical defense in federal trials

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

Patients who use medical cannabis under state law would no longer fear federal prosecution, if Congress passes a new bill.

The bipartisan "Truth in Trials" act, introduced by U.S. Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) with more than twenty original co-sponsors, would allow defendants in federal marijuana cases to present evidence that they were in compliance with their state's medical marijuana law.

Federal rules of evidence currently exclude any type of medical defense to marijuana charges, even when a patient is using cannabis under the direction of a physician and is in compliance with a state's medical cannabis program. Thirteen states have laws that allow authorized patients to use and possess cannabis, but federal law classifies cannabis as a drug with no accepted medical use.

Farr's press release quoted the Oakland-based national medical cannabis advocacy group Americans for Safe Access to explain the importance of the bill:

"The Truth in Trials bill seeks to restore the balance of justice and bring fundamental fairness to federal medical marijuana trials," said Caren Woodson, ASA's Government Affairs Director. "This legislation complements the recent Justice Department guidelines for federal prosecutors and is now more necessary than ever."

While the newly released guidelines from the Justice Department caution federal prosecutors against bringing cases against individuals operating under state medical marijuana law, those individuals still lack legal protection.

"This is a common sense bill that will help stop the waste of law enforcement and judicial resources that have been spent prosecuting individuals who are following state laws," Rep. Farr said in a statement introducing the bill. "This legislation is about the fair treatment of defendants in medical marijuana trials, plain and simple."

More than two dozen federal cases involving medical cannabis are currently pending. Because cannabis patients and their providers are allowed no medical defense at trial or mention of state law, convictions are nearly assured, and many defendants take plea bargains in an effort to reduce mandatory sentences of up to 20 years in prison.

Charles Lynch is a case in point. Lynch, a locally licensed medical marijuana provider in Morro Bay, California, was prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to federal prison, even though

he had obtained a city business license, complied with local zoning rules, and even been welcomed into the Chamber of Commerce.

"I was denied an affirmative defense despite my strict adherence to local and state medical marijuana laws," said Lynch, who is currently free on bail pending his appeal. "Passage of this bill will allow jurors to hear the entire story."

Rep. Farr's bill is similar to ones offered without success in previous sessions of Congress. But supporters hope that the change in federal policy indicates President Obama would sign the bill, something that may help push the measure forward.

ASA has set up an online tool at [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/house](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/house) so patients and supporters can contact their representatives to urge them to cosponsor the "Truth in Trials" bill. Members of the House can also be reached through the House switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Nearly 40 health organizations and advocacy groups are endorsing the bill, including patient advocacy groups such as Americans for Safe Access, National Association of People with AIDS, National Minority AIDS Council, AIDS Action Council, and reform groups such as the Drug Policy Alliance, NORML, MPP, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

## Kit makes hash at home

After the seasonal harvest, many people have leftover leaf and trash bud. The X-tractor Kit, from Mendocino County, CA, includes all special tools needed for immediate home conversion. The comprehensive instructional video details a simple process while delving into the history and trend towards natural alternatives. The only necessary ingredients are resinous herbs and ice water.

For info on the kit and process, see [icecold.org](http://icecold.org).



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# Bay cities set out to regulate cannabis production

By Mickey Martin

San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley are all working on regulations for cannabis production to help ensure public safety and legitimize the efforts of providers.

San Francisco is looking to clarify who is a legal medical grower and who is not after a number of cultivation sites were discovered in the Sunset District. Officials raised concerns over public safety issues created by illegal wiring and unprofessional practices by some of the over 40 garden facilities raided over the last few months.

Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan is exploring measures to properly regulate and control production facilities, citing concerns over safety and proximity to residential areas.

Berkeley has begun discussions of regulating producers at the *Medical Cannabis Safety Commission* (MCSC) meetings, a city-appointed commission that was put in place by *Measure JJ* in 2008. All these cities seek the same thing — regulated facilities in which cannabis medicines can be produced safely and in a professional manner.

Oakland may be first to put workable guidelines in place. Kaplan believes the city has industrial areas that are currently dormant but have the proper access and commercial electricity needed for cannabis cultivation. She was a major force behind *Measure F*, an initiative passed in July increasing the tax rate on cannabis sales in Oakland. She sees the Obama administration's memo asking prosecutors not to waste resources on legitimate providers as a good reason to further legitimize all facets of providing medicines, not just the four city-licensed collectives.

San Francisco is also seeking to legitimize legal growing facilities by defining guidelines for law enforcement to follow. Some gardens have caught fire in populated neighborhoods.

The Public Safety Commission met in

October to discuss concerns over unattended houses being used only to grow, unregulated weapons, code violations, undocumented growers, and plant numbers exceeding those allowed by local policy. Representatives from the Medical Cannabis Task Force sponsored by Supervisor David Campos's office agreed that regulations be placed on land use, building and electrical codes, security and protocol regarding the operation of production facilities.

The MCSC also discussed how to best regulate and control production sites with input from local collectives. There was confusion over defining the differences between patient gardens, collective cultivation sites and cultivation sites for dispensing collectives. Cities are finding legislation a complex process, with many aspects to be clarified, thus slowing the process.

Beyond cultivation issues, cities are looking for ways to properly regulate kitchens that produce food-based medicines and facilities that produce extracts. Left to chance, prosecution by law enforcement officials will continue. Providers of cannabis medicines should have the same protections as the collectives that dispense their products.

## Research shows that legal meds are more problem than herb

Continued from page 9

Meanwhile, British researchers added to the body of evidence indicating that cannabis can aid the treatment of multiple sclerosis with a study of 279 patients receiving either a standardized cannabis extract, given orally, or a placebo. Patients receiving the extract were twice as likely to experience relief of muscle stiffness, and also reported relief of body pain, spasms, and sleep problems.

Meanwhile, the number of fatal poisonings involving opioid painkillers more

# Third-party certifications promote safer cannabis

By Chris Van Hook\*

Recently the USDA established an Organic Program to begin certification of agricultural products claiming to be "organic." Its goal is to monitor and verify growing methods, 'inputs' used during production, and safe handling of agricultural products.

Many in the medical cannabis industry see the importance of a third-party certified-organic system for medical marijuana. Unfortunately, the USDA has found that medical cannabis is not eligible for USDA organic certification. Some in the medical cannabis community have requested that such a system be created. Liz McDuffie (mccdirectory.org) has been a leading advocate for a "Clean Green Certified" program, which is now available to both growers and handlers.

The Clean Green Certified program is based on many of the same cornerstones as the USDA Organic program. For growers, these include a review of inputs such as fertilizers and sprays; an environmental component, requiring environmentally sustainable growing methods; and annual on-site inspections, including the taking of labels for off-site product review where necessary; and verification of handling and processing methods.



**HANDS-ON APPROACH** — Chris Van Hook takes a close look at cannabis to assure that it's medical grade.

For handlers, the program includes an application explaining the handling and tracking of product through the facility; on-site inspection verifying proper location, methods for tracking product handling, cleanliness, and safe handling procedures; and review of policies and procedures for screening of membership applications and verifying physician recommendations.

After the on-site inspection and off-site review, a compliance report and certificate is sent to the grower or handler, and all documentation is returned.

The certification process is a valuable tool for growers and handlers to ensure compliance with state and local laws. The inspector for the Clean Green Certified program is a licensed California attorney, familiar with the industry and applicable laws. The on-site inspection provides a safe setting for a grower or handler to ask questions and discuss compliance issues.

In today's climate of rapidly changing laws and regulations, a third-party certification program can provide help and reassurance to growers and dispensaries.

\* Van Hook can be reached at (707) 218-6979, or at cvanhook77@earthlink.net

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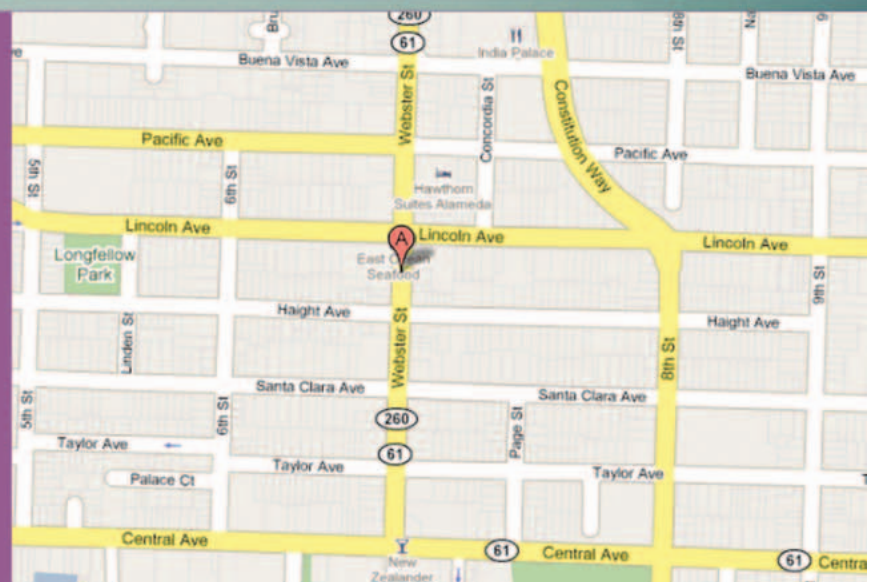
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# An insider's view of the new AMA resolution

Ask Dr. MedicalCannabis.MD

By David Ostrow, MD, PhD

The regular "Ask Dr. MedicalCannabis.MD" column is replaced by the following background story on events leading up to the AMA House of Delegates' decision to support the rescheduling of cannabis and acknowledge its proven and potential therapeutic properties.

Getting the American Medical Association (AMA), the principle US organized medicine society, to recognize the proven and potential therapeutic usefulness of cannabis, despite its labeling by the federal government as "highly addictive and of no potential therapeutic value," was a multi-year process that involved many courageous and dedicated individuals and coordinated efforts by drug policy reform organizations who do not always agree on goals or strategies.

I received a phone call in Fall, 2006 from Joe Haptas of the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), asking if I would be willing to spearhead an effort to get organized medicine to recognize the growing body of scientific evidence that MC was not just a "front" for the legalization of pot, but a legitimate medicine. I thought it should be relatively easy to educate physicians, including the leadership of the AMA and its component state and specialty medical societies, about the recent explosion of scientific and clinical research.

Joe provided an extensive list of doctors who had signed various petitions in favor of cannabis medicines.

As I worked my way through the list, it was obvious that support came in a variety of forms and flavors, including some who saw the MC movement as part of a larger effort to legalize or regulate cannabis in general and some who saw any efforts towards broad legalization as a trap that could de-legitimize the medical advocacy movement. To address that concern, we decided to initiate the "Medical Marijuana Policy Advocacy Project" (or MMPAP) and deliberately distanced the group from the broader objectives of MPP.

My major contribution to the eventual outcome of both the American College of Physicians (in early 2008) and now the AMA HOD supporting rescheduling and expanded research on MC was to assemble a very credible Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) as well as a "shadow" group of persons in support of our goals but who felt they would jeopardize their scientific impartiality or public persona if listed as members. Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Abraham Halpern knew the inner workings of organized medicine and was able to accomplish much within the ACP, AMA and APA.

I worked with the leaders of MAPS Please turn to page 17

# Farmers, hemp industry leaders arrested at DEA office



Left: Wayne Hague shows the hemp seeds he is about to plant into the lawn of the DEA on Oct. 13. Photos by Ryan Fletcher

Below: Adam Eidinger being taken to the ground for planting hemp on federal soil.



Continued from page 1

Nicholson were arrested while digging on the DEA's lawn with ceremonial chrome shovels to plant industrial hemp seed from Canada. They were taken to Arlington County jail and released later that day.

Hauge is licensed by North Dakota to cultivate and process non-drug industrial hemp, just as Canadian farmers across the border have done profitably for over ten years, supplying the booming US market. But the DEA refuses to recognize non-drug industrial hemp cultivars that have been grown for millennia for seed and fiber, and has unconstitutionally blocked all state hemp programs such as North Dakota's. Hauge, along with ND State Rep. David Monson, sued the DEA in US District Court in 2007, and the case is before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"In recent years there has been strong growth in demand for hemp in the US, but the American farmer is left out while Canadian, European and Chinese farmers fill the void created by outdated federal policy," said Hauge. "When hemp is legalized, land grant universities across the nation will develop cultivars suitable to different growing regions to enhance yield and explore innovative uses, such as cellulosic ethanol."

Pictures and video of the action, with hemp farming footage and background information, are available online. HIA-produced video of the action is posted at [votehemp.com/DEAhempplanting.html](http://votehemp.com/DEAhempplanting.html).

With the backdrop of the DEA headquarters gardening action, dozens of hemp business owners attending the weekend's HIA convention fanned out across Capitol

Hill to lobby lawmakers in support of the hemp legislation introduced by Representatives Ron Paul (R-TX) and Barney Frank (D-MA), which would permit the cultivation of industrial hemp in state programs. Bush-era DEA bureaucrats have blocked implementation in the nine states with such programs.

In a May 20 directive on federal preemption, President Obama instructed federal agencies to respect state laws: "Executive departments and agencies should be mindful that in our federal system, the citizens of the several States have distinctive circumstances and values, and that in many instances it is appropriate for them to apply to themselves rules and principles that reflect these circumstances and values."

Vote Hemp and the HIA are dedicated to a free market for low-THC industrial hemp and changes in the current policy against this agricultural crop.

Vote Hemp Director David Bronner stated, "Dr. Bronner's has grown into the leading natural soap brand in the U.S. since incorporating hemp oil in 1999, due in significant part to the unsurpassed smoothness it gives our soaps. As an American business, we want to give our money to American farmers and save on import and freight costs. In this difficult economy, we can no longer indulge the DEA's self-serving hemp hysteria."

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**Drug Truth Network (DTN)**, [drugtruth.net/cms/](http://drugtruth.net/cms/) 4:20 Drug War News, Cultural Baggage (interviews), live shows, archives, Sundays 4:30-5:30 PT, kpft.org or call 877-9-420-420. Exposes the fraud, misdirection, and wastefulness of the war on drugs.

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**NORML Daily Audio Stash** with host 'Radical' Russ Belville, [stash.norml.org/](http://stash.norml.org/) current podcasts, news, interviews, etc. See [RadicalRuss.com](http://RadicalRuss.com) for archives of his shows. *California Marijuana Report* with Eric Brenner is a weekly segment that features interviews with elected officials and marijuana law experts as well as profiles of California residents currently incarcerated or being prosecuted for marijuana offenses.

**NORML SHOW LIVE: Marijuana Nation**, [live.norml.org/](http://live.norml.org/) live talk radio hosted by 'Radical' Russ Belville, recap of week's top cannabis stories, interviews with top activists, politicians, celebrities, etc. Call in 347-994-1810, Saturdays 6 to 8 PM PST.

**Tax Cannabis 2010 Initiative** video interview with Dale Clare and Jeff Jones is posted online at [blip.tv/file/2810667](http://blip.tv/file/2810667).

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# Smoking cannabis is a link to ancient history

## The Lab Bench

By Jahan Marcu

The practice of smoking cannabis has probably been around since pre-historic times. There is strong evidence that the plant was extensively cultivated about 6,000 years ago in North Eastern Asia, primarily used for its fiber. Records of medicinal use and physiological effects are found in the earliest pharmacopoeia in existence, attributed to Emperor Shen Nung (2,000 BC). Cannabis most likely diffused from Asia to Persia, India, and other parts of the Middle East before entering Africa and Western Europe. Muslim and Persian trade routes probably introduced cannabis or dagga to Africa during the first few centuries AD. Interestingly, cannabis smoking wasn't documented in Jamaica until about 1807, after the British empire brought in slaves from India and Africa.

Researchers recently found the 2,700 year-old grave of a shaman that contained about 789 grams of cannabis flower tops. They speculate that the cannabis was used for ritual or medicinal properties. This was a rare find, but archaeologists also have found other evidence of ancient cannabis smoking. Ornate "smoking bowls" have been found at other sites. These vary greatly in design, intricacy, and often contain ancient cannabis resin. Such bowls have been found throughout Africa. It is also thought that tobacco smoking spread quickly in Europe because humans were already familiar with smoking cannabis.

Methods for smoking cannabis have been developed over thousands of years. Early implements worked similarly to the so called Persian "hubble bubble" or hookah. Ancient societies made waterpipes from gourds, animal horns, earthenwares, and even straight out of the ground using a "smoking bowl" and a tube or reed. The modern age offers something new: vaporizer technology. Vaporizers are the result of

thousands of years of humans exploring new and better methods for the use of cannabis.

Since the advent of vaporizers the inadequacies of smoking have become more apparent. Vaporizers basically pass 'hot air' over the plant material to make a mist or steam. In addition to reducing the exposure to smoke, vaporizers are a more efficient delivery system for cannabinoids.

Take the example of a cannabis cigarette or joint which contains 1 gram (1,000mg) of cannabis with 5 percent CBD (cannabidiol) by weight, or about 50mg of CBD. Upon lighting the cigarette, cannabinoids begin to be destroyed by burning and lost through side stream smoke. Vaporizers can reduce much of this flame-related cannabinoid loss. From that 50mg, some 11.5mg will be delivered to the body through smoking. Research has shown that vaporizers can recover up to 99.5 percent of cannabinoids. However, some loss cannot be prevented, as only some of the CBD is absorbed by the lungs and the rest is exhaled. It is unlikely that cigarettes, vaporizers, or hookahs can change the amount absorbed through the lungs. Scientists aren't sure how much is exhaled but some estimate it at 30 to 80 percent.

As cannabis re-enters mainstream medicine, vaporizers are beginning to be accepted in hospitals and have been used in recent clinical trials exploring the medical benefits of cannabis. Finding efficient non-smoking alternatives to deliver cannabinoids may be key to gaining widespread acceptance in modern medicine.

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# A time for reflection . . . and indoor gardening

By Samuel Janovici

Whether growing indoors or out, winter is a time for reflection and review. It's a time to take stock of successes and correct past mistakes. Also, it's the perfect time to learn and investigate new technologies. One should look hard at whether the process has maximized plant potential or squandered opportunities to perfect the craft.

Since there is no single-way to grow, gardeners must seek to understand all the modalities available to form a perfect union. Some believe in organics only. Still others think the right chemicals can produce any desired effect. Many have blended those techniques and have come up with ways to minimize the downside of chemical nutrition by supplementing with organic soils and natural fertilizers.

A few adherents practice on the cutting edge. One such grower was at this year's NORML Conference, Kyle Kushman, the author of *Veganics: Beyond Organics for Medical Marijuana*. He explained indoor techniques that do not use animal products or damaging chemicals, so a practitioner can create a living growth medium that sustains perfect conditions for maximum results. He claims a pH balance that is so steady a grower can put away their meters and just grow. Kushman said that his practice minimizes mold and disease too.

Kushman and Danny Danko took the panel on a high-paced ride through organic practices, reviewing and expanding on ideas many have tried, and few have perfected. Both agreed that growers cannot be

too complacent about what they know.

Exploring new strains is another seasonal suggestion that may expand your horizon. Thanks to a dedicated corps of cannabis gnomes, evolution and science have created a never-ending supply of new breeds that can produce some of the most effective natural medicines available today.

No review can be complete without a hard look at the last year's security measures. Understanding the ever-changing laws and statutes is the best way to start. Knowledge is our best protection. If you are an outside grower, check your perimeter fencing and enhance your landscaping to reduce your visual profile and minimize those tell-tale smells that accompany the flowering season. Make sure that your space is protected from wandering eyes and the explorations of neighborhood children.

Indoor growers need to look at the fire potential they have created. Make sure your wiring is up to or beyond the required safety codes, that you have installed enough ventilation and air-filtration to handle the smell of a successful crop. Make sure your entrance and egress are covered from wandering eyes, too. Insulate your walls to minimize noises and make sure your power supply is yours and not one you have tapped into illegally. Most importantly — be a good neighbor.

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## WEST COAST LEAF

### Editorials and Commentary

# A new year brings high hopes

Along with a much-needed policy change presented Oct. 19 by a more receptive White House, the year 2009 also saw an upswing in positive media, record high poll numbers on support for legalization — and record numbers of marijuana arrests around the country.

Now is the time to look ahead. We thank President Obama for his steps towards justice, but urge him to go further by issuing clemencies for cannabis POWs, backing Rep. Barney Frank's decrim and hemp bills, and ordering the DEA to reschedule cannabis. NIDA should recognize that cannabis is safer than alcohol or tobacco and act on the AMA's call for research. An election year, 2010 promises to be a pivotal time with vast potential for change. California voters may pass the TaxCannabinis2010 initiative to allow adults to legally possess an ounce and grow a small, personal garden, and to allow cities and counties to tax and regulate non-medical adult sales as a local option. This approach, while too conservative for some, may strike the right balance for the general voting populace and advance the cause as it lays a framework for future reforms. If advocates collect enough signatures, Arizona may vote to become another medical state, and Oregon may approve a dispensary system to increase access for patients there. Californians will choose a new governor and all American voters will elect Congressional representatives and other officials, giving everyone the opportunity to press candidates about their positions on Frank's bills, the Truth in Trials Act, and California's AB 390 legalization bill, etc.

Los Angeles needs to come up with fair and reasonable regulations for an adequate number of patient dispensaries and reject the ongoing attempt to put medical cannabis back on the streets for the profit of gangs and criminal markets. People setting up collectives need to insist on their right to do so, but also to act as models of responsible community business and avoid becoming 'nuisances' that draw negative attention and neighborhood opposition. San Diego needs to recall and replace its DA.

The worsening economic crisis will force more budget cuts. Will students continue to pay for prison expansions with a rise in their tuitions — or will legislators wake up to the fact that the best way to ease prison crowding is not only to support education but also to release non-violent marijuana prisoners and stop violating parolees caught in the revolving prison door for failing flawed and discriminatory drug tests? Too many serious and violent crimes need the attention of law enforcement's limited resources for politicians to continue to be whores to the prohibition lobby. Consider the savings decriminalization will bring to the budget combined with new revenues that a regulated market will bring — estimated at \$1.4 billion for California alone by the State Board of Equalization.

The cannabis movement has gained much momentum over the past year. We need everyone to keep it going, to get involved, and to show up in court to support those facing unjust prosecutions. Hopefully this time next year will bring hemp farming and equal rights for cannabis consumers back to America. The wind is at our backs.

## Jim Crow in the medical marijuana era

Los Angeles DA Steve Cooley, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, San Diego DA Bonnie Dumanis, Mendocino DA Meredith Lintott and other law enforcement officials stand figuratively on the courthouse steps blocking justice to the lawful cannabis community, with the secretive California Narcotics Officers Assn. pushing them. They remind us of Gov. George Wallace on the Birmingham, AL school house steps in 1963, wielding an axe in a futile effort to deny basic rights to Black children, backed by Sheriff "Bull" Connor and the secretive Ku Klux Klan. Bigotry is as ugly and offensive today as it was 47 years ago, and violating people's rights under color of law is now a crime. It's time for corrupt officials to follow laws that voters and legislators pass — or face grand jury prosecutions and Title 52 civil lawsuits . . . and be tossed into the trash bin of history.

### Setting the record straight

Regarding the Autumn 2009 issue of *West Coast Leaf*, Keith Stephenson was shown in the front page photo. Also, Steele Smith is not allowed to argue a "medical defense" *per se* in federal court, he simply will be allowed to explain in his own testimony on the stand that he grew for collective medical purposes.

## WEST COAST LEAF

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Mikki Norris, managing editor

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## California's use of states' rights changed the world

By Tamar Todd, Drug Policy Alliance Staff Attorney

With the passage of Prop 215, California became the first state to legalize marijuana for medical use. Many believed it would be a symbolic gesture; that in the face of federal government efforts to criminalize all use, state-based efforts to relax the law would never work. Now 12 states have followed this lead and have proved it to be a sensible approach that worked.

California once again appears poised to lead a serious move toward ending prohibition with a regulatory system. Some legislators and law enforcement officials still question whether it is possible for the state to legalize adult use in the face of federal law. The answer is the same one as 13 years ago when California led the way with prop. 215 — a simple, unqualified yes.

Opponents of reform typically raise a laundry list of constitutional provisions in an effort to deter policymakers from considering creative and progressive reforms. But it is clear that nothing in the US Constitution requires any state to criminalize cannabis use. One could scrap its entire penal code at anytime. Under our federal system, the states get to decide.

Our Founding Fathers built a framework for state sovereignty. If California decides to legalize marijuana, nothing in the Constitution forbids it. Under the Supremacy Clause, federal law trumps state law only in certain circumstances. In

the area of drug law, only when there is a direct conflict — i.e., a state cannot require a person to break federal law — does federal preemption come into play. Otherwise, states can do as they please.

One goal of federalism is to foster innovation of public policy. Dispersing power to the states encourages the evolution of ideas that can help advance an issue nationally. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once explained, "It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."

Medical use is a perfect example of states acting as laboratories. Several currently legalize and regulate it, and these laws differ in their details, but all legalize conduct that is illegal under federal law.

The reality is that the federal government has neither the resources nor the political will to enforce state drug crimes. Over 95 percent of all arrests in this country are made by state and local law enforcement. Even when the federal government was actively hostile to state medical cannabis laws, the state programs thrived.

The vast majority of patients faced no significant threat or interference from the federal government. The federal government did not seek to strike down a single

*Please turn to page 17*

## 'Legalize' inches its way into national dialogue

By Charmie Gholson, LEAP Staff Writer

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition staffer Tom Angell asked US Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske his thoughts last June on the recent discussion on drug legalization. He replied, "As regards to legalization, it's not in the president's vocabulary and it's not in mine." Four months later, a *Washington Post* op-ed by two prominent LEAP speakers, both Baltimore police veterans, garnered a response from Kerlikowske.

"Recently . . . members of a group called Law Enforcement Against Prohibition published an op-ed in the *Washington Post* calling for the legalization of drugs. They claimed that legalization would increase officer safety," he wrote. Kerlikowske then quoted a letter by the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police, which the *Post* did not publish. "It's increasingly difficult for the 'drug czar' to keep legalization out of his vocabulary when so many prominent people — especially police officers who have risked their lives enforcing prohibition — are calling for legalization," said Angell.

Mexican Ambassador to the US Arturo Sarukhan said, "[T]hose that would suggest that some of these [legalization] measures be looked at understand the dynamics of the drug trade. . . . This is a debate that needs to be taken seriously."

The *Economist* magazine wrote "[F]ar from reducing crime, prohibition has fostered gangsterism on a scale that the world has never seen before. . . . Legalization would not only drive away the gangsters; it would transform drugs from a law-and-order problem into a public-health problem, which is how they ought to be treated." Republican California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said America should study the effects of drug legalization in other countries, and noted the probability that legalization "could very well go on an initiative and ask voters directly. If voters make that decision, that's fine."

In March, Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) introduced bipartisan legislation to create a commission to conduct a thorough review of the nation's entire criminal justice system and offer concrete recommendations for reform. Webb called the situation a "national disgrace," and highlighted sky-high incarceration rates for drug users due to the US's 40-year-old Drug War. Webb

spokesperson Jessica Smith reports that 21 amendments have been filed regarding the bill. "I imagine a large amount of them are going to be about drug policy. . . . They don't want to go home and say 'I'm legalizing drugs.'" Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, offered an amendment forbidding the commission from even discussing drug decriminalization or legalization.

"For a long time prohibitionists have refused to debate us," Angell says of the Grassley amendment.

"It's no wonder — because reformers know when we have that debate, we will win. The facts are on our side."

## PayPal is no pal of reform

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML

The online payment company PayPal has shown that it is no pal of medical marijuana. It cut off service to California NORML for accepting listing fees at canorml.org from cannabis-recommending physicians.

PayPal first froze the NORML account in June, when it complained that on-line payments were being collected for listing fees by patient collectives. Paypal cited its Acceptable Use Policy: "You may not use PayPal in the purchase or sale of narcotics." Although narcotics were not being sold through the NORML Web site, it reluctantly agreed to stop accepting payments from dispensaries, since they are against federal law. However, it continued to accept payments from doctors, attorneys and members, plus merchandise orders.

Afterwards, PayPal told Cal NORML that it was terminating the account because NORML continued to accept listing fees from cannabis physicians.

Under a federal court ruling upheld by the Supreme Court (Conant v. Walters, 2003), physicians have the legal right to recommend or approve medical marijuana for their patients. PayPal told Cal NORML, "We are not arguing the legality of this issue; we are simply stating that we have made the business decision to not be involved with this type of business."

California NORML believes that marijuana supporters should make the decision not to do business with Paypal or other such businesses. Located in San Jose, PayPal was acquired by eBay in 2002.

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**SHINE THE LIGHT OF JUSTICE** — Dorsey Nunn, Co-founder of All of Us or None, was among the speakers at a candle light vigil in Albuquerque NM Nov 12 at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference hosted by Drug Policy Alliance. The participants came out in solidarity with those affected by the Drug War, particularly those incarcerated and their families.

Photo © by Lisa Law

## AMA position shift may change cannabis status

*Continued from page 1*

medicines." Aggarwal is also on the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the largest US medical marijuana advocacy organization.

In February 2008, a resolution was adopted by the American College of Physicians (ACP), the country's second largest physician group and largest organization of doctors of internal medicine, calling for an "evidence-based review of marijuana's status as a Schedule I controlled

substance to determine whether it should be reclassified to a different schedule."

"The two largest physician groups in the US have established medical marijuana as a health care issue that must be addressed," said ASA Government Affairs Director Caren Woodson. "Both organizations have underscored the need for change by placing patients above politics."

The CSAPH report has not officially been released to the public, but AMA documents indicate that it: "(1) provides a brief historical perspective on the use of cannabis as medicine; (2) examines the current federal and state-based legal envelope relevant to the medical use of cannabis; (3) provides a brief overview of our current understanding of the pharmacology and physiology of the endocannabinoid system; (4) reviews clinical trials on the relative safety and efficacy of smoked cannabis and botanical-based products; and (5) places this information in perspective with respect to the current drug regulatory framework."

AMA Summary: [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/AMA\\_Report\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/AMA_Report_Executive_Summary.pdf)  
Recommendations of AMA Report: [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/AMA\\_Report\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/AMA_Report_Recommendations.pdf)  
American College of Physicians resolution: [apconline.org/advocacy/where\\_we\\_stand/other\\_issues/medmarijuana.pdf](http://apconline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/other_issues/medmarijuana.pdf)

## NY drops 'the Rock'— Rockefeller penalties

By Anthony Papa, Drug Policy Alliance\*

October 7, 2009 was an historic date for New York; Rockefeller Drug Law reforms kicked in, setting in motion the release of 1,500 low-level, nonviolent drug offenders. The new law restores judicial discretion to judges, who can again decide if people should get treatment for addiction instead of a jail cell. I went to Brooklyn's Supreme Court and attended a public event to mark the milestone. The courtroom was full of activists, politicians and service providers who have been working for years to make this reform happen.

As an activist who has felt the sting of the Rockefeller laws firsthand — serving 12 years under a 15-years-to-life sentence for a first-time, nonviolent offense — I understand the full meaning of these changes. For years the Rockefeller Drug Laws became a political hot potato that was thoroughly debated, but nothing was ever done. Bills were submitted, arguments were made and each political party blamed the other for the impasse. In the meantime, those imprisoned were rotting away in the gulags of New York State. No better off were the family members of the incarcerated, whose hopes and aspirations slowly died as nothing was done.

Gov. David Paterson deserves thanks and praise for getting the job done. He has worked tirelessly, first as a state senator from Harlem and then as governor, to make these reforms happen. He said that "today was a day for second chances." For me, the governor's statement summed up the purpose of the new reforms. For years the Rockefeller Drug Laws were a symbol of a purely punitive approach to the problems of the drug war in New York State, one based on the archaic and outdated criminal justice mentality of "lock 'em up and throw away the key." Under Paterson's guidance, New York has abandoned that failed strategy and committed itself to a new approach that emphasizes addiction treatment not incarceration.

Now that the laws have

been reformed, we have to make sure the changes are done right. Advocates and service providers have been working diligently to prepare for implementation. Legal aid and public defender agencies are providing legal counsel. Hundreds of social service agencies around the state have volunteered to provide a broad range of services to individuals who will be released from prison as a result of drug law reform.

In NY City alone, more than 100 social service groups have agreed to work with legal aid and public defender agencies to provide services like housing, job training and drug treatment to people returning from prison in the course of reform. For 35 years, New York was known as the state with the worst drug laws. It's time to make it known for having the best practices, based on public health and safety.

\* Anthony Papa is the author of "15 To Life" and a communications specialist for the Drug Policy Alliance.

## Behind the AMA shift

*Continued from page 14*

(Rick Doblin) and Americans for Safe Access (Stephanie Sherer and Caren Woodson) to help refine the objectives of MMPAP. Ethan Nadelmann, charismatic director of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), provided advice and material support for a symposium at the 2008 meeting of the AMA HOD on "Current Aspects of Cannabinoid Medicine."

An MD-PhD student from the University of Washington (Seattle), Sunil Aggarwal worked tirelessly within SSAMA, along with several other AMA component organizations, to gain support for passing a resolution that was essentially the same one passed by the AMA.

\* Ostrow is co-founder of the first gay community health facility in the US, the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) of Chicago, and Founding Principle Investigator of the Chicago Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS)

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## National and International Reports

### Dutch Cannabis College celebrates 10 years in Amsterdam

The world-famous Cannabis College in the Netherlands marked its Tenth Anniversary in 2009. Together with the Hash, Marijuana, and Hemp Museum, the College sponsored festivities in Amsterdam Nov. 23 to Dec. 2, with street musicians, open-air displays and events about environmentally friendly uses of industrial hemp. People dressed as 17th-century farmers demonstrated traditional hemp trades and handicrafts as a boat plied the famous canals, handing out bags of hempseed. The program featured the First Annual War on Drugs Film Festival.

### Minnesota court ruling can't distinguish bud from bong water

The Minnesota Supreme Court made the incognizant holding Oct. 22 that dirty water from a pipe is just as illegal as an illegal drug, gram-for-gram by weight. The court ruled 4-3 that it is a felony to have 25 grams or more of water that tests positive for residue. Drug agents raided Sara Peck's home in 2007 and found a glass pipe with 2-1/2 tablespoons (37 grams) of liquid that tested chemically for methamphetamine residue. The divided Court ruled that such water is unambiguously a drug "mixture," but dissenting Justice Paul Anderson said the majority's decision "does not make sense, and borders on the absurd." Lower courts held that pipes and bong water are mere paraphernalia used to consume drugs, and possession a misdemeanor offense. Unless the state legislature changes its law, college students could land long terms in state prison for forgetting to pour water out of their bongs.

### SF Giants' pitcher catches ganja citation in Washington State

San Francisco Giants All-Star starter pitcher Tim Lincecum, 2008 Cy Young Award winner and local-hero U of Washington baseball star, was pulled over for speeding Oct. 30 and cited for possession in Washington, his home state. A State Patrol officer stopped the 25-year-old Lincecum for driving 74 in a 60 MPH zone on Interstate 5 some four miles north of the Oregon border, when he allegedly smelled the odor of cannabis. Lincecum immediately complied with a request to hand over his 3.3-gram stash and a pipe from the car's center console. Possession of up to 40 grams for personal use is a minor misdemeanor in WA, but Lincecum pled down to an infraction: possession of the pipe. *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Scott Ostler noted that far from being a negative for Lincecum, the incident "might even enhance his stature" among Giants fans in the Bay Area. He made history Nov. 19 when he became the first to win the Cy Young for two consecutive seasons.

### Blunts charge dismissed for Super Bowl MVP Steelers receiver

Acting on an anonymous tip, Pennsylvania police pulled over Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver and Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes driving a black Range Rover Oct. 23 with Florida license plates. Although it was not the vehicle police were seeking, they allegedly smelled cannabis as they approached it. Holmes admitted to having a small amount of marijuana, pointing out three blunts to officers. He was issued a summons for possession of marijuana. An Allegheny County DA told the judge she agreed with the defense that police didn't have sufficient cause to pull Holmes over, given that police were unable to identify who called in the tip, and dismissed the charge.

### US Army accidentally sows wild hemp where the buffalo roam

Hemp has been grown in Eastern Europe to remove contaminants from the soil and clean arable land to be used for food crops. But it was not very well received when US Army officials discovered in June that some "weed-free" mulch used in its clean up effort to plant ground cover in an area outside of Denver, CO was rich in cannabis seeds. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal was a chemical weapons manufacturing facility during World War II and the Cold War. Feral hemp, or "ditch weed," still grows in Kansas, where the mulch supplier is located. When the Army learned that it had inadvertently been growing cannabis on the property, it pulled up about 100 wild hemp plants. "It was a little surprising," Charlie Scharmin, who heads up the project, told CBS News, but added that they plan to mow, burn or simply let the bison who roam the plains eat the rest of the plants.

### 'Prince of Pot' in and out, but still fighting extradition to US

Marc Emery, founder of the Marijuana Party and the entrepreneur behind Marc Emery Seed Company and *Cannabis Culture* magazine, was taken into custody on Sept. 28 after he took a plea deal for a five-year sentence in the US federal system. He was then released Nov. 18, and his case continues its way through the legal process. He is waiting to see if the Justice Minister will sign the extradition order that could put him in US prison. His co-defendants, Michelle Rainey and Greg Williams, were each given two years probation for their role in the business that shipped cannabis seeds from Canada.



**PRO ATHLETES FOR POT** — A panel of sports figures backed cannabis reform spoke at the NORML conference in San Francisco Sept 26. (L-R) Mark Stepnoski, who won two Super Bowl rings as a Dallas Cowboy; Former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Heavyweight Champ Rob Van Dam; former ESPN producer Sean Neumann; and MMA fighter Toby Gear.

## Portugal – a living laboratory for drug reform

By Mike Bifari

Portugal's decision to decriminalize drug possession for personal use in 2001 has proved to be a wise one. So far, the data show a decrease in consumption and no adverse effects on drug usage rates, and in some cases rates in Portugal remain among the lowest in Europe.

Figures revealed little evidence of drug tourism, with 95 percent of those cited for drug misdemeanors since 2001 being Portuguese residents. The level of trafficking based on the convictions has also declined. Drug-related statistics, such as those for sexually transmitted diseases, have decreased dramatically.

Social and sanitary problems usually related to heavy drug addictions and the fast spread of HIV have waned, said Manual Cardozo of the government's Institute of Drugs and Drug Addiction, Portugal's main drug-prevention policy agency. He added that drug users now know that they will be treated like patients and not as criminals.

"Now police have clear instructions to take anyone suffering from addiction syndrome to a hospital, not to a police station." According to Cardozo, the number of addicts registered in drug-substitution pro-

grams has risen from 6,000 in 1999 to over 24,000 in 2008, reflecting a rise in treatment over prosecution.

Portugal has one of the lowest usage rates for cannabis. Most notably, heroin and other abused substances have decreased among vulnerable younger age groups, reports Cardozo.

Since Portugal adopted these measures, opposition voices in Europe and the US have predicted a social nightmare of drug abuse linked to violence and increased crime. That has not proven to be true.

Liberal policies are still new, but the figures show that Portugal's policies respecting human rights and harm reduction are a better approach than money wasted on the corrupt Drug War. Proving the efficacy of medical marijuana through scientific research and human testing remains a major obstacle. Even with decriminalization, there is still no guaranteed safe access for patients, who constantly wonder where they can purchase their medicine safely.

Moreover, acquiring seeds and clones for medicinal use is still not assured. Full and safe access will be achieved when all sectors of society and government acknowledge the benefits of cannabis as a viable medicine and as a safe intoxicant.

## Montana issues first hemp license, farmer vows to grow

By Chris Conrad

A receptionist at a medical cannabis facility received the State of Montana Dept. of Agriculture's first industrial hemp license Oct. 14. Montana is one of nine states that allow industrial hemp production or research. Laura Murphy said she plans to use her new license to defy the federal ban on farming the cash crop. A DEA spokesman said federal drug agents will be watching to see if she moves ahead without a federal permit — a formality that Murphy said she plans to skip. The DEA has not issued any commercial licenses since the WWII-era War Hemp Industries program was terminated in the 1950s.

Montana passed Senate Bill 261 in 2001, creating a hemp licensing process.

The State asked the DEA to recognize its hemp law in 2002, but was summarily denied. Due to the federal prohibition, farmers and the Dept. of Agriculture have been hesitant to sow seeds or issue permits. In the last legislative session, the Montana Hemp Council helped pass Senate Joint Resolution 20, asking the state's Congressional delegation to "introduce and promote federal legislation to eliminate the federal prohibition on domestic hemp production in order to allow full implementation of Montana law."

Armed with SJR 20, and signatures gathered at the Missoula Hempfest, the Council sent delegates to Washington DC to seek more sponsorship of HR 1866: the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2009.

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**SAN FRANCISCO —** TV host, best-selling travel author and NORML Advisory Board member Rick Steves (left) told conferees that cannabis makes daily life into an enjoyable adventure. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris

**COLORADO —** Patient Jason Lauve (right) got medicine back after his acquittal. Photo courtesy of Laura Kriho



Colorado on new ground

By Laura Kriho, Cannabis Therapy Institute\*

From medical marijuana bills in the legislature to ballot initiatives for re-legalization of all uses, cannabis continues its prominence on the Colorado political scene.

Although its medical marijuana law has been on the books since 2000, until recently there were little more than a dozen dispensaries in the state. Recent events have spurred a rapid increase in this number, with current estimates at more than 200 dispensaries and collectives statewide.

The state Board of Health ruled Jan. 20 that there would be no limit on the number of patients that a caregiver could serve.

Cannabis patient Jason Lauve, defended by attorney Rob Corry, won the first jury acquittal of a Colorado patient Aug 6. The jury correctly interpreted the medical marijuana amendment to the state constitution as allowing a patient to possess any amount of medicine felt to be medically necessary. The jury foreman said that Jason could have had “a ton” and the jury would have acquitted him. This has effectively eliminated the use of the jury trial as a government tactic against medical marijuana.

The Obama administration announced its new, more lenient medical marijuana enforcement policy Oct. 19.

The state Court of Appeals issued its first case-law ruling on medical marijuana

Oct. 29, finding that caregivers had to “do more” for their patients than simply provide medical cannabis. In response, more dispensaries now incorporate alternative and holistic practitioners in their medical cannabis businesses, and the Cannabis Therapy Institute has started a patient referral network to “do more” for patients, further expanding the industry.

The state legislature plans to take up the issue in its next session, starting Jan. 13. Colorado’s provision is not a statute, but a constitutional amendment that can only be changed by a vote of the people, so the power of the legislature is limited. Several bills will likely be introduced to “clarify” the issue of distribution in the state.

\* For more, see [cannabistherapyinstitute.com](http://cannabistherapyinstitute.com)

**Breckenridge legalizes**

*Continued from page 1*

The campaign, which had no formal opposition, received a chorus of local support including endorsements from Breckenridge Colorado Town Councilman Jeffrey Bergeron, former State Representative and Breckenridge resident Gary Lindstrom, and the *Summit Daily News*.

Measure 2F was placed on the ballot when over 1400 local supporters signed a petition supporting the reform measure. The ordinance change goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

Campaign seeks to end death penalty for cannabis

By Alun Buffry, Legalise Cannabis Alliance\*

Even in the 21st Century, people around the world are being sentenced to death for trafficking in cannabis.

Malaysia is preparing to hang arrestees allegedly caught with as little as half a kilogram of cannabis — just over a pound. Khairul Idzham was sentenced to death Aug. 27 for trafficking 4.3 kilos of cannabis five years ago. Lim Kok Yong was sentenced Sept. 2 to be hanged after he was found guilty of trafficking 625.7 grams five years ago. Khalil Anuar Sukirman was sentenced to death for trafficking over a kilo three years ago. Indonesian Nasir Ibrahim, 31, was given the death sentence Sept. 30, after he was found guilty of trafficking 868 gm of cannabis more than five years ago.

Groups such as Amnesty International, the world-wide cannabis legalization movement’s Legalise Cannabis Alliance (LCA) and European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies (ENCOD) are taking action on these atrocities, writing to the heads of government in Malaysia to ask that the death sentences be reversed.

Although several other countries execute people for cannabis, China is one of the worst. It celebrates June 26, the UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking, by executing convicted traffickers.

The Government of China does not make records public, but Amnesty International estimates that around 500 people are executed there each year for drug offenses. Those executed have typically been convicted of smuggling or trafficking in drugs, including cannabis.

“The 1988 convention does provide a legal framework for waging war against drug trafficking. As far as I am aware the convention does not provide for the application of the death penalty,” UN deputy spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva told a New York press conference.

A spokesperson for the UK-based Legalise Cannabis Alliance said, “The vast majority of cannabis users benefit from the plant and there remains no justification for capital punishment for anyone that has done no harm to others.”

\* For more information, visit [lca-uk.org](http://lca-uk.org).

NJ may be the next medi-cannabis state

By Ken Wolski, RN, MPA, Executive Director CMMNJ Coalition for Medical Marijuana New Jersey

New Jersey may become the 14th medical marijuana state. Sponsor of the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act Assemblyman Reed Gusciora predicted a favorable Assembly vote in December. If so, some version of a bill the Senate passed in February 2009 will need only the governor’s signature to become law.


Outgoing Governor Jon Corzine said he would sign the bill if it got to his desk. Governor-elect Chris Christie, who takes office in January, also supports medical marijuana, with “appropriate safeguards.”

State Senators Nick Scutari and Ray Lesniak, sponsors of S-119, urged their colleagues to act quickly in response to the case of 37-year-old multiple sclerosis (MS) patient John Ray Wilson, who faces 20 years in prison for using cannabis to treat his disease. The senators urged the governor to pardon Wilson. (Readers can sign a pardon request online at [norml.org](http://norml.org).)

Bill S-119 was first introduced in 2005 to remove state penalties for possession of up to one ounce of cannabis and cultivation of up to six plants when a physician recommends it. Qualifying medical conditions include chronic pain, cancer, AIDS, MS and Crohn’s disease.

Patients would be issued ID cards in a program run by the Department of Health, and could designate a registered

Please turn to page 20



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POT, PARENTING AND LEGALIZATION — Attorney Jessica Corry (center) made the case for reform as a Republican mom at the NORML conference Sept. 25 in San Francisco. With her are her husband, Robert Corry, Esq., left, and George Rohrbacher, NORML Board of Directors.

West Coast Leaf photo

## Writing letters to the editor makes a difference

By Richard Lake, DrugSense.org

Letters to the editor (LTEs) are always helpful. Even if a newspaper does not publish your letter, you let them know that the Drug War is important to its readers.

September 2009 ended with 1,805 letters published in support of drug policy reform, many of them from the DrugSense and Media Awareness Project (mapinc.org) online activists. If the trend continues it will see the largest number of published letters since 2005. Visit this link to see the latest counts as shown in our published letters archive: [mapinc.org/lte/](http://mapinc.org/lte/).

Activists today are fortunate to have the best tool yet to write LTEs — internet access. Everyone can help sustain the activism represented by all the reform letters published so far this year.

Tips from MAP's most successful letter writers include *How to Write a Letter to the Editor* [mapinc.org/resource/how2lte.htm](http://mapinc.org/resource/how2lte.htm) and *Tips for Getting Letters to the Editor Published* [mapinc.org/resource/tips.htm](http://mapinc.org/resource/tips.htm).

One tip suggested by MAP's top letter writers is that recent newspaper opinion items make the best targets for your letters. These may be found at [mapinc.org/opinion.htm](http://mapinc.org/opinion.htm) Other recent articles which could be letter writing targets may be accessed from the MAP home page

Readers enjoy the Published Letters Awards page at [mapinc.org/lteaward.htm](http://mapinc.org/lteaward.htm),

and the designated best letter of the week at [mapinc.org/lte\\_awards/weekly.php](http://mapinc.org/lte_awards/weekly.php)

A website that gives people a one-stop approach to getting their online activism done is DrugSense.org. The site has sections on activism including sign-up alerts, media watch and newlists, archived news reports, research information, and resources for organizations to do their own public relations work more effectively. This includes media contacts as well as tips.

DrugSense also sponsors [drugpolicycentral.com](http://drugpolicycentral.com), which provides free hosting to 160 reform-themed websites.

All of these resources are FREE, but they're not free to produce. These are tough economic times, and unfortunately, organizations like DrugSense that speak truth to power run the risk of closing their doors, potentially allowing draconian drug policies to creep back in.

This project needs donations to survive and continue its important work. An easy way to help out is to go online to [drugsense.org/donate](http://drugsense.org/donate).

It's quick, easy, secure — and tax deductible. For more tips on writing LTEs, see these online resources:

How To Mount An Effective Letter Writing Campaign [norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3464](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3464)  
Letters to the Editors [ssdp.org/resources/media.php](http://ssdp.org/resources/media.php)  
How to Write Letters to the Editor [druglibrary.org/schaffer/activist/howlte.htm](http://druglibrary.org/schaffer/activist/howlte.htm)

Letters to the Editor How-To [safeaccessnow.org/article.php?id=310](http://safeaccessnow.org/article.php?id=310)

## Student activists turn up the reform volume

By Jonathan Perri, SSDP

Tapping into the historically strong bond between music and activism, the nation's largest college-based reform group, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) recently launched the AMPLIFY project: Artists Making Political Leadership Inspirational For Youth.

With over 120 campus-based chapters and growing rapidly, SSDP organizers act as street teams for bands on tour, who in turn allow SSDP members to do outreach at their shows.

Some of the hottest touring acts have joined up, starting with long-time SSDP supporters Roots of Creation. John Brown's Body, a world-leading reggae/dub band, takes the project further, putting SSDP's logo on nearly 20,000 posters and handbills

### Will New Jersey be next state?

*Continued from page 19*

caregiver or alternative treatment center to grow plants for them.

The Assembly may pass the same language, but a substitute bill, A-804, would forbid patients to grow their own supplies, place severe restrictions on doctors' recommendations, deny access to most chronic pain patients and limit patients to an ounce of cannabis per month.

The two versions of the bill must be re-ociled. If the Assembly approves S-119, it will go straight to the governor for signature. If the Assembly approves the substitute bill, the Senate will have to vote on it again. If it fails to pass into law by January, it could be re-introduced in the next two-year legislative session.

Already the bill has had a positive regional impact.

Since the NJ Senate approved the bill, similar bills have been introduced in legislatures of neighboring Pennsylvania and Delaware.

for their Fall 2009 tour. They are joined by up-and-coming groups like Passafire and acclaimed reggae/soul superstars The Black Seeds from New Zealand.

The jam-band and electronica scenes have also taken note of the project. The noted touring bands Pnuma Trio and Lotus are providing table space at their shows. AMPLIFY has also gained the support of Boston based hip-hop phenom Mr. Lif, and the San Francisco-based Sellassie, who headlined the annual San Francisco Power to the Peaceful Festival.

Slightly Stoopid, who toured with Snoop Dogg's "Blazed and Confused" tour, plans to use their powerful sound, huge fan base, and dedication to cannabis reform to take help take AMPLIFY to the next level.

Reaction from bands and SSDP members has been overwhelmingly positive. Tommy Benneditt, drummer for John Brown's Body, said, "Everyone we've met through SSDP has been so knowledgeable and passionate about their activism, and that's inspiring for us. It's right in the name: 'Sensible.' There just seems to be no common sense in some of our current drug policies." According to Pnuma Trio member Alex Botwin, "The decriminalization of marijuana is long overdue. A network such as AMPLIFY has the potential to be very powerful!"

At [ssdp.org/amplify](http://ssdp.org/amplify) are bios, streaming tracks, and other info about the bands involved and how SSDP chapters can start amplifying their activism.

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- Glass & Vaporizer raffles - win one for \$1, (see website for raffle ticket details)
- Concert details coming soon!

WEST COAST LEAF

Calendar and Community Directory

**Dec. 5, SSDP Benefit Party, San Francisco, CA**  
An evening of dining, mingling, dancing. All proceeds will benefit SSDP's conference scholarship fund. \$75, ssdp.org/seeds

**Dec. 19, Los Angeles NORML Party, CA**  
Annual Awards Party & Fund-Raiser, 7 PM - midnight, 8749 Holloway Dr., West Hollywood. 310-652-8654

**Jan. 7, TaxCannabis2010 Initiative Fundraiser, Oakland, CA.** Oaksterdam University Auditorium, 1600 Broadway. Food and entertainment. 7 PM. \$150. For info or to make a donation, see taxcannabis.org

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

**March 12-14, SSDP 11th Annual Int'l Conference, San Francisco, CA.** Largest gathering of students and youth who are working to end the failed War on Drugs. Fort Mason, SF. ssdp.org

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

**April 15-18, MAPS 2010: Psychedelic Science**

Angel Raich recovering from brain surgery

By Mikki Norris, West Coast Leaf

Angel McClary Raich, the California patient who took a case to the US Supreme Court (*Raich v Ashcroft/Gonzalez*) to assert her right to grow and use medical marijuana, underwent surgery Oct. 28 to remove her 'inoperable' brain tumor and cysts.

Unfortunately, the Cyber knife radiation treatment Raich had in 2007 did not eliminate the brain tumor. Her surgeon, Dr. John Adler, told her in July that she would need to consider risky surgery to treat the tumor and cysts that were wrapping around a nerve deep inside her brain, close to the stem. She had been suffering symptoms similar to a stroke, numbness on the left side of her face, droopiness of her left eye, headaches and the inability to chew food. Eating only blended food, she was dropping weight dangerously.

A week prior to her surgery, *Washington Post* writer Charles Lane blindsided Raich in his mean-spirited Oct. 20 column, "Medical marijuana is an insult to our intelligence." He cruelly suggested that she may be a hypochondriac or dependent on marijuana. However, her records clearly show that she is a medical necessity patient, unable to tolerate most prescription drugs including pain medication, and she could die without cannabis, which she uses to treat her wasting syndrome.

Ever the fighter, Raich and others complained to the *Post*, got it to remove the

characterization from the online version of the newspaper, and let them know how disturbing it was to read just one week prior to surgery. Raich hopes to sue Lane and the *Post* for slander after she recovers.

Following her surgery, her physician, Dr. Frank Lucido, reported that the surgery had gone well. Unable to use her vaporizer in the hospital, she was released early, still in much pain, only to be readmitted a few times, as a post-surgery blood clot developed in her brain along with other complications.

She will be treated with the anti-coagulant medication, Coumadin, for the next six months to prevent future 'brain clots.' It will take about a year to determine the extent of the damage she has suffered. Raich is now recovering at home, and she needs support.

For more information on Angel's case, her health situation, and how to support her, please see angeljustice.org. Donations can be made to 'Angel McClary Raich' and sent c/o West Coast Leaf, PO Box 1716, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Maine voters create state-run cannabis stores

Continued from page 1

as Maine Vocals had opposed the measure, arguing it gave the state too much power.

The MMMA establishes a system of state-regulated nonprofit dispensaries, provides for voluntary identification cards, protects patients and caregivers from arrest, search and seizure, and creates new protections in housing, education, employment and child custody. It allows access for patients with Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease, requires the Dept. of Health and Human Services to develop procedures to expand the list of conditions for which cannabis can be used, and retains current allowable quantities.

The Marijuana Policy Project also supported the campaign. "We're really tickled," said MPP Communications Director Bruce Mirken. "This suggests the comfort level with medical marijuana is growing by leaps and bounds."

"The trend toward licensed dispensaries is a good thing," said Kris Hermes, communications director for Americans for

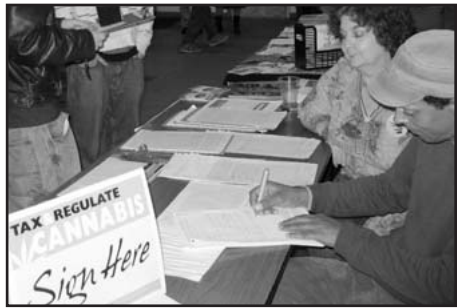


**RECOVERING — Angel McClary Raich, who took her medical marijuana case to the US Supreme Court, is recovering from brain surgery. See story on this page.**

Photo courtesy of Angel McClary Raich

*in the 21st Century, San Jose, CA.* A Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference open to physicians, medical professionals and the general public. Holiday Inn San Jose, at 1740 North First Street, San Jose. See maps.org/conference/

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



**HARVEST DANCE — Petitioners for the TaxCannabis2010 campaign gathered signatures at the Harvest Dance, hosted by Peace in Medicine Nov. 7 in Sebastopol.**  
West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris

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

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

**May 1, 17th Annual SF Cannabis Day and Marijuana March, San Francisco, CA.** Civic Center Plaza. High Noon to 6 PM. Vending: 415-456-4313, deltadove\_events@yahoo.com

A world record 115,000 joints . . . and counting

By Al Byrne, Patients Out of Time

Florida stockbroker Irvin Rosenfeld set the world record for documented consumption of cannabis cigarettes in November; then he promptly surpassed it.

Rosenfeld smoked joint number 115,000 sometime Nov. 20, one of ten he smoked that day. The federal government has for decades supplied him and three other US citizens with smokable cannabis medicine. He's received his medicine for 27 years, the longest known cannabis patient.

One of four patients intensely tested in 2001 by Patients Out of Time as part of the "Missoula Study," Rosenfeld was found to be in excellent health for a man of his age.

All physiological systems were examined by neutral investigators since the US federal government had never required or requested such a complete overview to verify the efficacy of the plant product they were administering under the FDA Investigational New Drug (IND) Program.

The cigarettes, prescribed by federally approved medical doctors, have been harvested from cannabis plants grown at the University of Mississippi in a test location and prepared for consumption in the research triangle area of North Carolina.

Speaking as a patient and Director of the cannabis patient advocacy organization Patients Out of Time, Rosenfeld said, "I cannot fathom the reluctance of my federal government to allow the use of medical cannabis for the sick and dying of the US."

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### Community Announcements

**SABINE WOMEN** — Along with other award winners at the national NORML conference, Ohio Patient Network medical cannabis activist Tonya Davis (seated) was honored as a woman of exceptional leadership skills in the reform movement. Here she is shown with former *Pauline Sabine Award* winners Madeline Martinez of Oregon NORML, who presented the award this year and received it in 2007, and Mikki Norris of the Cannabis Consumers Campaign, winner in 2006.

West Coast Leaf photo by Chris Conrad



## Jack Herer suffers major heart attack after speech

By Robert Williams West Coast Leaf

World famous cannabis activist Jack Herer, author of the best-selling hemp classic, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, suffered a major heart attack Sept. 13, 2009 after delivering a blistering, passionate speech at the Portland, OR HempStalk festival.

Earlier that day, Herer had told several people that he hadn’t felt better in 10 years, but he collapsed shortly after leaving the stage. He suffered extensive damage, even though security personnel performed CPR on him, until an ambulance arrived a half hour later to take him to the hospital. Many at the scene thought Herer had died, and his obituary was published in at least two newspapers.

Herer was still in an induced coma Sept. 25 when Chris Conrad, who edited and designed *The Emperor* in 1990, led the crowd at the national NORML conference in the chant, “Wake up, Jack.” Herer was successfully revived from the coma and

has since made progress, according to people close to him. Updated information is available at jackherer.com.

This is not the first time that the tenacious hempster had fought his way back from the brink of death. In 2000, Herer had a massive stroke under similar circumstances, from which he never fully recovered. In that earlier incident, he spoke at the Oregon WHEE Fest and collapsed after leaving the stage. He had attributed his recent recovery in part to the use of cannabis oil made by Rick Simpson.

Herer has been a favorite speaker at rallies for decades, making tours around the country and the world. While some of his claims about hemp are contested, no one could doubt his sincerity or challenge the fact that he inspired many thousands of people to work for legalization. *The Emperor* was translated into many languages and frequently has been called ‘the Bible of the marijuana movement.’

ing moment in his life.

Vinkenoog was the first celebrity to publicly speak of his use and appreciation of psychedelic drugs and spent six weeks in prison in 1964 for possession of 0.16 grams of cannabis. The trial branded him a ‘drug author’ and started a process of marginalization. A lifelong outsider in the literary establishment, Vinkenoog was an insider in numerous national and international subcultures. His many friends included Allen Ginsberg, Norman Mailer, Alexander Trocchi, Ken Kesey and Timothy Leary, who once referred to himself as ‘the American Simon Vinkenoog’.

For over 50 years, Vinkenoog fought tirelessly against the Drug War and for the fundamental right to alter one’s consciousness. With George Andrews, he compiled the legendary anthology ‘The book of Grass’ (1967). His extensive Web site simonvinkenoog.nl remains as a digital testament, including an English section and multimedia-page ‘see me, hear me’.

**Last portrait: Simon Vinkenoog three days before he passed away on July 12.**

Photo by Derrick Bergman

Simon Vinkenoog (1928-2009)



Vinkenoog’s grave on the day of the funeral, his birthday July 18. Photo by Derrick Bergman

## Dutch cannabis pioneer, poet and author Simon Vinkenoog

By Derrick Bergman GONZO Media

Six days before his 81st birthday, Dutch poet, writer, performing artist and cannabis activist Simon Vinkenoog passed away July 12 in Amsterdam. Over 1,000 people gathered for his funeral; the open casket was filled with flowers, cannabis buds, joints and personal messages.

Vinkenoog was introduced to cannabis in 1953 by Japanese-American sculptor Shinkichi Tajiri, when they both lived in Paris. Returning to Amsterdam in 1956, Vinkenoog became a central figure in the small circle of psychedelic explorers who laid the foundation for the ‘Amsterdam Magic Center’ of the Sixties. In 1959 he was among the fifty volunteers in a scientific LSD experiment; his first trip was a defin-

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www.patientidcenter.org  
Sat. 10AM-5PM

Northern Branch  
1733 Broadway, Oakland 94612  
Tel. 510-832-5346 Fax 510-986-0534  
www.legalcannabis.com  
Mon. to Fri. 10AM-6PM

## Local and regional meetings

**Axis of Love SF**, Every Tues, 4 PM, 223a Ninth St. @ Howard, SF. axisoflovesf@gmail.com

**East Bay NORML**, third Thurs/mo., 7:30 PM (after Measure Z Oversight Comm.), OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. canorml@canorml.org

**El Dorado Co. American Alliance for Medical Cannabis**, fourth Sat/mo., 2:15-4:20, Garden Valley Grange, 4940 Marshall Rd. Garden Valley, CA, 530-621-2874

**Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project Palm Springs/Coachella Valley Area MAPP** first Sat / mo. 3 PM, 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs. Lanny 760-799-2055

**Western Inland Empire Area MAPP/ASA**, first Wed / mo., 7:30 PM, THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main St. Riverside, CA 92501. Also hosts Friday evening seminars on Anti-aging and medical benefits of cannabis, 8 PM. 951-782-9898

**High Desert Area MAPP/ ASA**, third Wed/mo. 6:30 PM

## Local and regional Americans for Safe Access meetings

**Fresno ASA**, second Mon/ mo., 6 PM at Full Circle Brewing Co, 620 F St., Fresno. Contact Diana at fresnocagal@sbcglobal.net

**Humboldt County ASA**, third Thurs/mo., 6 PM, Bayview Courtyard Senior Housing, Rec. Room550 Union St., Arcata. 707-407-8522, asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net

**LA ASA**, 3rd Sat/mo., 1 PM, Patient ID Center, 470 S. San Vicente Bl, LA. Don@americansforsafeaccess.org

**Sacramento ASA** first and third Tues/ mo., 7 PM, Crusaders Hall, 320 Harris Ave., Suite H, Sacto. Lnette at 916-924-3455, cannacare@earthlink.net

## Reform organizations of interest

**AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS**  
safeaccessnow.org / A patient advocacy and support network. 510-251-1856

**AXIS OF LOVE SF/** Activist Resource Center  
Patients organizing for their rights and access 223 A 9th St, SF, 415-240-5247

**BEDPC**  
Black and Brown Equitable Drug Policies Coalition, Redstone Building, Suite #209, 2940 16th Street, SF. Spanish Hotline: 415-595-8251, street actions, support groups, incident reporting

**CALIFORNIA NORML**  
canorml.org/ Advocacy, directories, lobbying, research, news, alerts. 415-563-5858

**CANNABIS ACTION NETWORK**  
cannabisactionnetwork.org/ 1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. 510-486-8083

**CANNABIS CONSUMERS CAMPAIGN**  
cannabisconsumers.org/ Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.

**CIVIL LIBERTIES MONITORING PROJECT**  
civililberties.org/ monitors police eradication abuses, etc, to protect civil rights in the CA northcoast. 707-923-4646

**DRUG REFORM COORDINATION NETWORK**  
stopthedrugwar.org/ drcnet.org, global support network for drug policy reformers with weekly analysis.

**DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE**  
drugpolicy.org/ DPA works on drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition.

**DRUG POLICY FORUM OF CA**  
Listserve for Cal cannabis/drug war issues. Sign up at drugsense.org/dpfca/list.htm

**DRUGSENSE**  
drugsense.org/ Daily compilation of news excerpts. Web site dev. and hosting. 501(c)3 tax exempt fiscal sponsor.

**DRUG WAR FACTS** drugwarfacts.org/ Just the facts.

**FAMILIES AGAINST MANDATORY MINIMUMS**  
famm.org/ Advocates an end to harsh, unjust sentencing laws affecting prisoners and their families.

**FAMILY COUNCIL ON DRUG AWARENESS**  
fcda.org/ Accurate information on effects of drugs and drug policies. Downloadable PDFs to print and hand out.

**GREEN AID** Marijuana Legal Def. & Education Fund, Inc. green-aid.com/

**HARM REDUCTION COALITION**  
harmreduction.org/ works to reduce drug-related harm by programs such as clean needle exchange.

**HEMP INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION**  
hempindustries.org/ The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, supporters.

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DRUG WAR**  
hr95.org/ Photo display of Drug War POWs, analyzes human rights abuses.

Castle Inn, 1388 N. Golden Slipper in Landers 92285. Lanny 760-799-2055

**Medical Cannabis Safety Council**, third Tues/mo. 1 PM, OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. Re safety and quality control issues. contact@cannabissafety.org

**Oakland Measure Z Oversight Committee** third Thurs/ mo. 6 PM, City Hall

**Orange County NORML** meets in Fullerton call 1-877-OC NORML for info., ocnorml.org

**San Jose State SSDP**, Mondays/6 PM, Costanoan Room, Student Union, top floor, alex@sjdrugpolicy.org

**UC Santa Barbara NORML**, Every Wed, 7:30 PM, North Hall 1105, ucsbnorml.org

**UC Berkeley SSDP**, Every Tues at 8 PM, 200 Wheeler Hall, kat.murti@gmail.com

**UCLA SSDP**, Thursdays at 7 PM, Haines Hall A74, lori.singer@gmail.com

**San Diego ASA** second Tue. / mo., 7 PM, International Cannabis U, 6070 Mt. Alifan Suite 202 San Diego. 4cccp@cox.net

**San Diego North County ASA**, first Fri./mo., 7 PM, Academy of World Martial Arts, 1050 S. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, movementinaction@gmail.com, 760-500-8868

**San Francisco ASA** second & fourth Tues/mo., 7:30 PM, Bowers Pizza, 371 11th St, SF. No meeting 11/10/09. Contact dcgoldman@yahoo.com

**Sonoma ASA** first Thurs/mo. 5 PM, Dept. of Health, So. City View Rm., 625 5th St, Santa Rosa, knock loudly. Contact sarah@safeaccessnow.org

**INTERFAITH DRUG POLICY INITIATIVE**  
idpi.us / organizing people of faith to promote reform. 301-270-4473

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST PROHIBITION**  
leap.cc/ Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR PRISONERS w/ CHILDREN** prisonerswith-children.org/ Advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk for incarceration

**MARIJUANA POLICY PROJECT MPP**  
mpp.org/ national membership org. Focuses on removing criminal penalties through initiatives and legislation.

**MENDO MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY BOARD**  
mmmb.net/ info@mmmb.net

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA OF AMERICA**  
medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com/ directory, court reports, POW stories and contacts.

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS UNION**  
Patients’ Rights Network. 707-964-9377. pebbles@pacific.net

**MEDIA AWARENESS PROJECT**  
mapinc.org/ MAP has generated millions of letters to the editor. Help gather news for their clearing house.

**MOTHERS AGAINST MISUSE AND ABUSE**  
mamas.org/ responsible drug education

**MAPS**  
maps.org/ Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies, studies on cannabis, psychedelics. 831-429-6362

**NORML**  
norml.org/ National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. 202-483-5500

**NOVEMBER COALITION**  
november.org/ National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishes *The Razor Wire*.

**OREGON GREEN FREE**  
oregongreenfree.net. Free OMMP info.

**OREGON NORML** ornorml.org

**PATIENT ADVOCACY NETWORK** panorg.blogspot.com.

**SAFER**  
saferchoice.org/ Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. mail@saferchoice.org

**SENSIBLE COLORADO**  
sensiblecolorado.org / non-profit resource for patients and those interested in reforming laws. 720-890-4247

**STUDENTS FOR A SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY**  
ssdp.org/ Students for reducing the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.

**VOTEHEMP** votehemp.com/ Industrial, horticultural hemp.

**VOTER POWER, OREGON**  
voterpower.org, Advocating for fair, cannabis laws and policies. OMMP registration. Portland: 503-224-3051, Medford: 541-245-6634

To get listed, please email info@WestCoastLeaf.com

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

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

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

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

## Montel Williams honored for medi-cannabis advocacy

By **Tony Newman**, Drug Policy Alliance

The International Drug Policy Reform Conference, co-hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), brought together over 1000 leading international experts, researchers, care providers, policymakers and key activists for a global forum held in Albuquerque, NM Nov. 12-14.

Montel Williams was honored for sharing his own story as a cannabis patient and advocate, thus giving voice to thousands of other patients and caregivers whose struggles don't make the news. Williams, a household name with a national TV show that was a platform for people to share their personal stories, now hosts the syndicated daily radio show, *Montel Across America*.

"I utilize medical marijuana to help alleviate the extreme neuralgic pain I suffer from," Williams said. "I am not alone. There are thousands of patients like me, and we should not be treated as criminals."

Williams, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, uses cannabis to relieve chronic nerve pain. He received the biennial *Edward Brecher Award for Achievement in the Field of Journalism* Nov. 13. The award from the DPA, the nation's leading organization promoting policy alternatives to the Drug War, gives the award to media figures with the courage and leadership to question official drug war propaganda.

Since going public with his story in late 2003, Williams has tirelessly campaigned for changes in state and federal laws to expand access. *Climbing Higher*, his 2004 autobiography, detailed his struggle with MS and the therapeutic effects of cannabis.

Williams has hosted TV shows on the topic, authored op-ed pieces in major newspapers and used his platform as a public figure to press legislators across the country to enact new drug policies based on compassion, reason and science. He has traveled to state capitals in Albany, NY and Trenton, NJ and to Washington, D.C. to



**HONORED** — DPA's executive director Ethan Nadelmann and Board member Pam Lichty with Montel Williams on the night of his award. West Coast Leaf photo

urge elected officials to pass legislation.

"Montel is in a league of his own insofar as the effort to legalize medical marijuana is concerned," said Ethan Nadelmann, DPA executive director ([drugpolicy.org](http://drugpolicy.org)). "No one has used his media pulpit as effectively and passionately as he has in combating drug war intransigence."

Previous recipients include: *ABC News* Anchor Hugh Downs, Cartoonist Gary Trudeau, *The Economist* magazine, *Rolling Stone* magazine, *New Yorker* staff writer William Finnegan and Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation* and *Reefer Madness*, among other distinguished honorees.

Photo © Lisa Law

### GET THE MESSAGE?

— Karen Anderson and Howard Wooldridge wore COP\* tee shirts at the conference to start up a conversation.



\* For more information: [citizensopposingprohibition.org](http://citizensopposingprohibition.org)

## Cannabis gains new respect as a financial force

By **John Thomas Ellis**

In a recent in-depth eight-page article, *Fortune* magazine recognized the cannabis business as a mainstream industry. *Newsweek* also enthusiastically explored the issue. *Marie Claire's* 'Stiletto Stoners' has joined a media buzz about the \$100 billion-dollar-a-year cannabis industry. CNN, CNBC and *Fox News* have featured drug policy reform advocates as guests.

Coast-to-coast newspapers including the *NY Times* and *LA Times* have joined in to explore (or exploit) the issue of distinguishing patients who need access to medicine from personal users fighting for their own rights. The *Washington Post* editorialized against marijuana use, and demonstrated a lack of common human decency by insulting Angel Raich just before she had a risky brain surgery. Later, it reported on the growing support for cannabis.

Cannabis use is coming of age, and the financial power of the industry has drawn the attention of profit-conscious entertainment media. Television has at last expanded beyond the Nancy Botwin character on "Weeds" to show mainstream characters openly smoking without stigma or draconian consequences. There is still room for improvement. "Bored to Death," a new, HBO series, stars Jason Schwartzman as young, Woody Allen-style character whose girlfriend breaks up with him because she thinks he drinks too much white wine and smokes too much pot. The entertainment

industry is reluctant to recognize that cannabis commerce grosses more than the film industry and threatens to out-strip TV revenues. Sponsors have yet to wake up to cannabis consumers' purchasing power. However, that may soon arrive, in the wake of Kellogg's huge losses after firing spokesperson Michael Phelps for being photographed inhaling through a bong.

Bill Maher remains a stalwart supporter with weekly reminders that he's a responsible cannabis smoker. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert seldom disappoint, and for that, all tokers may be grateful.

Series TV has produced individual episodes that attempt to catch the wave, but seem to have wiped-out. One of the best was a "Family Guy" episode with the hit tune, "Everything's Better with a Bag of Weed." Several dramatic series have plotlines in which cancer-ridden characters sneak a few puffs. Oddly, other medicinal aspects have largely been ignored.

The media have largely chosen not to portray the positive aspects of marijuana use. Television programmers have lacked the courage to venture into the territory that lies between their big pharmaceutical advertisers and the now-acclimated cannabis industry. They may soon realize that social pressures and changes in medicine and the law will ultimately result in the mainstream acceptance of cannabis use — something as unremarkable as drinking a nice cold beer.

## NORML launches *Marijuana Nation* talk radio

By **Paul Armentano** NORML

The debut of the live NORML radio program *Live: Marijuana Nation* was broadcast Sept. 5. The new talk radio show will air original programming every Saturday from 9 to 11 PM EST while streaming at [live.norml.org](http://live.norml.org).

NORML Outreach Coordinator Russ Belville hosts the two-hour show, which features cutting-edge cannabis-related news and commentary with live guests and phone calls from listeners.

Guests on the show have included ex-smuggler Robert "The Black Tuna" Platshorn, America's Next Top Model win-

ner Adrienne Curry, musicians The Kottonmouth Kings and mixed martial arts champion Toby "Tiger Heart" Grear.

NORML's live Saturday-night show builds on the success of its highly popular podcast, the *Daily Audio Stash*. Launched in June, 2006, the Stash is one of the web's most listened-to shows, averaging over 250,000 downloads per month and consistently ranking among the Top 10 'most subscribed' podcasts by 'government and organizations,' according to Apple Computer's iTunes Music Store.

For more information, or to inquire about advertising, contact Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator, at 888-772-3422, [russ@norml.org](mailto:russ@norml.org). Episodes are archived at [blogtalkradio.com/norml](http://blogtalkradio.com/norml).

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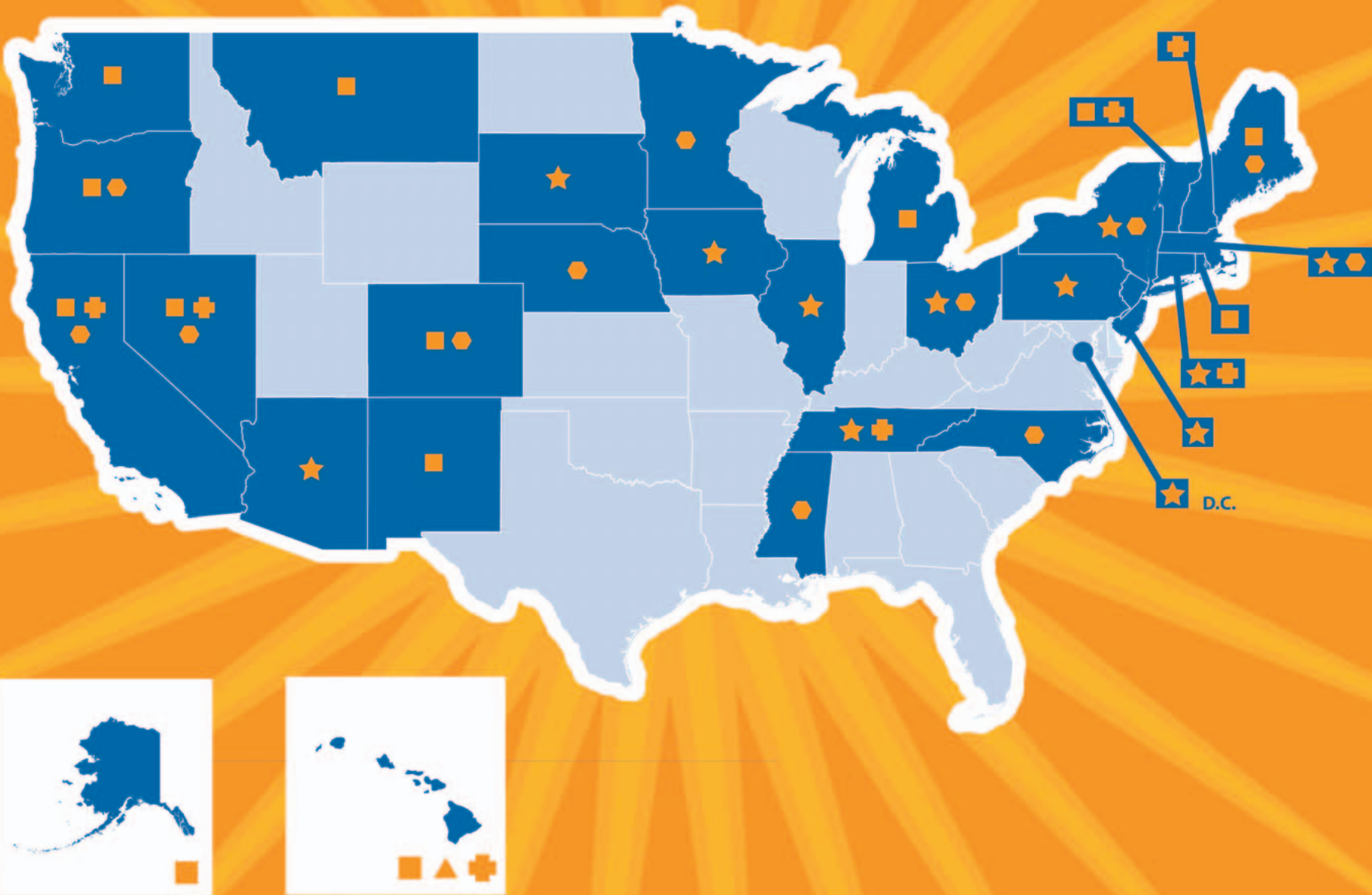
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