

Big Win for Cannabis at Cal Supreme Court

Kelly decision maintains safe harbor, patient collectives; strikes down quantity limits

By Chris Conrad

The California State Supreme Court gave patients a unanimous victory Jan. 21 in its long-awaited *People v Kelly* decision.

The Court handed patients a four-way win. It affirmed the constitutionality of the Medical Marijuana Program (MMP), commonly known as the SB 420 patient ID system. It affirmed state and local guidelines as a safe harbor from arrest for patients in the state ID-card program. It struck down the nominal quantity limits on a patient's legal defense. It affirmed the constitutionality of state patient collectives.

In other words, while preserving all existing patient and collective protections, the ruling means that every patient is entitled to cultivate and possess a reasonable — but not unlimited — supply of cannabis, regardless of state or local policy.

The Court held that the MMP voluntary statewide program with its ID cards, safe harbor, local guidelines and doctor's exception can spare patients from arrest and does not violate Prop 215. It held that the default HS 11362.77(a) quantity limit of eight ounces plus six mature or 12 Please turn to page 10



INSURING QUALITY — As cannabis businesses emerge into the mainstream, they face the same insurance needs as other companies. Max Del Real and Michael Aberle are seen inspecting the budding crop of a potential client for Statewide Insurance. Story inside.

California voter initiative collects, hands in sigs in less than half the time allowed

By Chris Conrad

For the first time since 1972, California voters will have an opportunity to cast ballots for legal adult cannabis this November.

Proponents of the Tax Cannabis 2010 initiative, TC2010, collected and turned in nearly 700,000 signatures Jan. 28, much more than the required 433,971, using only 40 percent of the time allotted by law.

The initiative takes a restrained approach to control cannabis by legalizing adult personal possession of one ounce plus a very small garden. It gives localities the option of allowing taxed and regulated cannabis sales, and forbids sales to minors. Please turn to page 10

Legalization still active in Cal legislature

Ammiano's AB 2254 bill is identical to earlier language

By Dale Gieringer California NORML

California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D-S.F.) has re-submitted his bill to legalize, tax and regulate cannabis. The new bill, AB 2254, is identical to its predecessor, AB 390, which was approved by the Public Safety Committee in January but ran out of time to be heard on this year's calendar because it had been introduced last year.

AB 2254 would establish a statewide system of licensed production and sale of cannabis like that for alcohol. Cannabis would be legal for adults 21 and over, and personal-use cultivation of up to six plants would be allowed. Existing medical marijuana laws would not be affected. Non-medical cannabis would be assessed a \$50/ounce excise tax.

Unlike the proposed Tax Cannabis 2010 initiative on this year's ballot, which would establish a local option system with continued felony penalties for sales, manufacture and transport except in localities that decide otherwise, Ammiano's AB 2254 would legalize sales and production on a statewide basis.

Advocates hope that it will move forward for hearings by the Assembly Health Committee. The legislature has yet to hold hearings on the health aspects of legal cannabis. Recent years have seen mounting evidence that cannabis is safer than previously imagined — for example, that it doesn't cause lung cancer and is a minor high-way safety hazard.

Meanwhile, the state's budget crisis remains a potent force for legalization. The Legislative Analyst's Office has estimated that the bill would net the state \$1.4 billion.

"It's obvious that the existing model of

prohibition has been a tragic failure," said Ammiano. "Our prisons are overflowing and it's easier now for teenagers to get marijuana than alcohol. But yet we continue to spend our limited resources on a failed war on drugs instead of education, health care or job training. With this bill, California can finally have a policy towards marijuana that reflects reality."

In a separate move, Sen. Ronald Calderon (D-Montebello) announced a bill to tax sales of medical cannabis. Calderon's bill would require vendors to pay a state license fee to sell medical cannabis, and tax it at a rate "equivalent" to tobacco products — an amount not clearly specified in the bill. Calderon's proposals would do nothing to advance the legal status of cannabis, medical or otherwise. Calderon's office has declined to discuss plans for the proposals, which have met a cool reception in Sacramento and seem likely to die without receiving legislative hearings.

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TURN-IN — TaxCannabis 2010 proponent Richard Lee (l) and petition consultant Ken Masterton turned in thousands of signatures to the Alameda County Registrar Jan. 28. Once the signatures are validated the initiative will get its number. WCL photo by Mikki Norris

New Jersey becomes 14th medical marijuana state

By Ken Wolski, RN, MPA

Executive Director, Coalition for Medical Marijuana

Outgoing Governor Jon Corzine signed the *Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act* into law on Jan. 18, 2010 making New Jersey the 14th medical cannabis state.

The new law removes statewide penalties for the possession and use of up to two ounces of cannabis a month when a licensed physician recommends it for qualifying medical conditions, including cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, seizures, ALS, Crohn's disease, glaucoma, intractable muscle spasticity, or a diagnosis of less than 12 months to live.

The recommending physician must

take responsibility for the patient's ongoing condition. Qualified resident patients will be issued ID cards in a program run by the state Dept. of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

Patients will obtain cannabis from alternative treatment centers that operate under permits from the DHSS. These centers will be authorized to grow, harvest and sell cannabis and related supplies to patients or their caregivers who possess valid ID cards. These centers will be tightly regulated by the state. The DHSS will monitor, oversee and investigate all activities performed by these centers.

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Clinical studies confirm medi-cannabis efficacy

By Paul Armentano NORML Deputy Director

Peer-reviewed clinical studies released Feb. 18 repudiated the basis for the federal ban on cannabis as being a Schedule 1 drug with "no currently accepted medical use."

The results of a series of randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials assessing the efficacy of inhaled cannabis consistently show that cannabis holds therapeutic value comparable to conventional medications, according to the findings of a 24-page report issued to the state legislature by the California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR).

The studies come in the wake of last year's American Medical Assn. (AMA) policy shift to support cannabis research. Placebo-controlled clinical crossover trials are considered to be the 'gold standard' method for assessing the efficacy of drugs under the US FDA-approval process.

Four of the five trials demonstrated that cannabis significantly alleviated neuropathy, a difficult to treat type of pain resulting from nerve damage. Two additional clinical trials are ongoing.

"There is good evidence now that cannabinoids (the active compounds in the cannabis plant) may be either an adjunct or Please turn to page 15

LA passes ordinance, launches crackdown on a score of dispensaries

By Kris Hermes Americans for Safe Access

With Mayor Villaraigosa's signature, the second largest city in the country adopted an ordinance Feb. 3 to regulate the sale of medical marijuana and establish rules for operating dispensing collectives and cooperatives, otherwise known as dispensaries.

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office soon began filing lawsuits and sending eviction letters to 21 locations on Feb. 18.

Although patient advocates were able to improve parts of an ordinance that took more than two years to develop, provisions in the final version will effectively shut down nearly all the existing facilities and make it almost impossible to locate anywhere in the city. Specifically, advocates point to a 'poison pill' provision that would prevent dispensaries from operating anywhere near residential property or within 1,000 feet of a laundry list of so-called 'sensitive uses,' including schools, libraries, parks and churches.

"This is a bittersweet victory for medical marijuana patients in LA," said Don Duncan, state director with Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the nationwide advocacy organization that played a pivotal role in convincing the City Council to reject a proposal banning medical marijuana sales. "Although historic, the passage of medical marijuana dispensary regulations in LA has been undermined by restrictions that threaten to wipe out nearly all of the dispensaries in the city."

Although the city adopted a moratorium, or Interim Control Ordinance, in 2007 Please turn to page 29

West Coasterdam Report

Seattle Hempfest expanding mid-August event to a third day

The World's largest cannabis reform rally will be even bigger in 2010 by adding a third day in Myrtle Edwards Park, Seattle WA, Aug. 20-21 from noon to 8 p.m. More than 90 bands, hundreds of vendors and many of the foremost reformers will be on hand. Last year's political/ cultural event drew an estimated crowd of more than 300,000 attendees.

Dana Point collectives keep their patient records confidential

Garrison Williams from Dana Point's Holistic Health Collective reports that the HHC and four other Dana Point dispensaries won a stay at the end of November so they did not have to turn over any patient records. After some patients came into the collective concerned about an article in the last *West Coast Leaf*, Williams contacted the newspaper to reassure people that their records are safe.

WAMM Collective settles long-running case with Feds

The Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) has reached a settlement with the federal government in its case, County of Santa Cruz, et.al. v Eric H. Holder, Jr., et al.

The case stems from a 2002 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) raid on WAMM's collective garden, where armed agents used chainsaws to destroy the medicine for 200 sick and dying patients. The new administration has agreed to relax such aggressive actions.

"We hope that over time the federal government will recognize its senseless position on medical marijuana and will formally codify protections for sick, dying and marginalized patients," said Valerie Corral in a Jan. 22 statement read before US District Court Judge Jeremy Fogel. "We are heartened by the federal government's newly declared position suggesting deference to state medical marijuana laws and we are extraordinarily proud of our Collective's role in effecting this change in policy."

"Though the new federal policy is far from ironclad, it is a marked improvement, and, we hope, a sign of even better things to come," said Allen Hopper, of the ACLU. "Should the federal government once again move to improperly target patients or those who care for them, we will immediately be back in court." — **Joe Paquin** WAMM, wamm.org

Marvin's Gardens stays open in downtown Guerneville

Sonoma County's longest-operating cannabis dispensary, Marvin's Gardens, is open at its new downtown Guerneville location, despite pressure from the City to close. "We were closed for two months," said Sean Riley, "but since we reopened employees have volunteered their time to stay open." Within two days of its move, the group was hit with a stop order and forced to fight for survival.

Seal Beach settles medical marijuana suit for \$32,500

The city of Seal Beach CA paid \$32,500 to settle a lawsuit with cannabis patient Bruce Benedict, resulting from his claim that the police illegally confiscated 40 to 50 of his plants and wrongfully arrested him. Benedict sued Seal Beach police for \$1 million, for false imprisonment, trespassing, battery and civil and safety code infractions after a 2008 raid. Benedict provided proper documentation as a patient and caregiver to police officers Mike Henderson and David Barr, who photographed evidence that was eventually turned over to the federal DEA. Benedict said he was arrested, locked in a cell and handcuffed to a chair for nearly 10 hours without being charged. He was coerced into becoming an informant to avoid federal charges. "They wronged me something fierce," Benedict said. His attorney Jeff Schwartz stated, "These are officers sworn to uphold the law in the state of California and I don't think it's appropriate...to go out and intentionally interfere with people's rights under the medical marijuana program."



Aundre Speciale prepares to cut the red ribbon for the Jan. 9 grand opening of the newly permitted Cannabis Buyers Club of Berkeley. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris

Patient gets back drivers license, attorney fees

Policy cost DMV nearly \$70K

By Kris Hermes, ASA

The California Dept of Motor Vehicles (DMV) was ordered to pay Americans for Safe Access (ASA) \$69,400 in December 2009, after the advocate group forced a policy change to prevent unjust revocations of the drivers' licenses of qualified patients.

Merced Superior Court Judge Brian McCabe found that, "As a result of the Plaintiff's efforts, there was a substantial change in the DMV regarding its policy and behavior in the treatment of medical marijuana," and that, "Administrative Officers were operating under the inaccurate and mistaken belief that medical marijuana use was illegal." The court concluded that, "Plaintiff [appeared] to be the catalyst in effectuating change in both the DMV's formal, public policy on the subject and the agency's adherence to the policy."

"We're very pleased with this result," said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford, who represented the plaintiff, Rose Johnson, a 53-year old patient from Atwater whose license had been revoked. "The new DMV policy and the fees award will hopefully deter any further unwarranted license suspensions and revocations by the DMV."

After several patients reported problems with the DMV, including unjustified license suspensions and revocations, ASA filed suit against the DMV in November 2008. As a result, Ms. Johnson not only got her license back, she also forced the DMV to change its policy. Since March 2, 2009, DMV policy states that "use of medicinal marijuana approved by a physician should be handled in the same manner as any other prescription medication which may affect safe driving," and the presence of medical cannabis use "does not, in itself, constitute grounds for a license withdrawal action."

ASA claimed that the DMV policy of suspending and revoking the licenses of cannabis patients was widespread, occurring in at least eight counties, including Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, Glenn, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, and Sonoma.

Like other reports received by ASA, Johnson's license was revoked "because of...[an] addiction to, or habitual use of, [a] drug," thereby rendering her unable to safely operate a motor vehicle, even though no evidence existed to substantiate this claim. In fact, Johnson's driving record is impeccable. In 37 years of driving, she has never caused an accident.

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William Gunn enjoys speaking about the cultivation techniques he uses to grow the various strains he makes available to collective members.
Photo by Lanny Swerdlow

Inland Empire uses a farmer's approach

Farmers' market style local collective opens in Riverside

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN

As patients walk up and down the aisles and among rows of tables staffed by medicinal cannabis cultivators, they decide which has just the right medicinal cannabis at the best price. Providers display the strains they grow in apothecary and other ornate jars.

The collective is uniquely situated among California's collectives as being modeled on the farmers' market

Welcome to the Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center at 647 Main St., Riverside. This collective is unlike any other large-scale in that it does not operate on a storefront dispensary model, but merely furnishes space for members of the collective who grow to provide cannabis to members who cannot grow. It is, literally, a farmers' market for medical marijuana.

William Sump, manager of the Collective states, "We are a private patient based membership collective. We ensure our patient members' gather the information they need in order to make an informed and wise selection when treating their ailments."

In the large back area, the Collective provides table space for up to 16 individual members who have medicine available for distribution. Patient members browse competing tables at their leisure, speaking with growers about the different strains they cultivate and gaining information on fertilizers, chemicals and other cultivation methods used.

Payment for the selected medicine is not made to the cultivating member, but is made to the Collective. The Collective deducts state sales taxes and a 16 percent service fee to pay for rent, utilities, labor and other business expenses. The balance is returned to the cultivator to cover their growing expenses. It is hoped that competition between cultivators and a commitment to providing members with affordable medicine will result in prices for medicine that are significantly lower than afforded by the traditional dispensary model.

Sump believes that the farmers' market model of administration used by the Collective is one of the most legally compliant. He points to the AG Guidelines, which specifically state that a collective should only provide a means for facilitating or coordinating transactions between members. "That's all we are doing - facilitating and coordinating the allocation of medicine between patient members so that all legal requirements are fulfilled," Sump said. "We collect and pay all taxes, as well as make sure the collective meets all the requirements under state law."

In addition to providing patients with a safe, reliable, local and more affordable source for their medicine, the Collective will provide health information and screenings along with social programs and other membership activities. All monies above and beyond the expenses of operating the Collective will be used for public educational programs as well as a fund to provide cannabis recommendations and medicine to qualified low-income patients.



BIG MAN ON CAMPUS — Richard Lee, sponsor of the TaxCannabis 2010 Initiative campaign and founder of Oaksterdam University, beams outside of the new Oakland campus at 1600 Broadway. The grand opening and ribbon cutting for the building was held Jan. 7. The new location is over 30,000 square feet including classrooms, lab space, administrative areas and even a theater. Oaksterdam University has trained thousands of people in the legal, horticultural, political and "good neighbor" aspects of the growing cannabis industry. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris

Rapid expansion of collectives comes to San Jose

By Mickey Martin

For years San Jose had no safe access and patients there were forced to travel long distances for medicine. Some 20-30 collectives are now reported operating in the city. City Councilperson Pierluigi Oliverio last fall suggested legalizing and taxing them, as do other municipalities. His remarks did not go unnoticed, as many operators began opening their doors shortly thereafter, prompting code enforcement officials to begin sending cease-and-desist orders to try to gain control of the situation. The letters threaten a fine of \$2500 dollars a day and target the landlords of the properties as well. It is unknown how many letters have been sent out.

The first to open was San Jose Cannabis Buyers Club in October 2009. Erika Taylor Montgomery reports that they were open about seven weeks before other organizations began operating in the area. Her organization was visited by the San Jose Police about two weeks after opening; officers were reasonable, said Montgomery, checked the business license and left without incident. Code enforcement officials also visited them recently.

"We spent a lot of time educating them about SJCBC and medical cannabis in general," said Montgomery "They did not know very much about the industry and asked a lot of questions, which was a good thing." SJCBC did receive a cease and desist letter, but said they do not fear the process. "We are concerned about patient

care first and foremost. We serve over 3000 patients who will be denied access if we are forced to close," says Montgomery.

While San Jose is the third-largest California city and the eighth-largest in the nation, with over one million residents, advocates cannot be sure what is the right number of collectives for the area. They don't want to see proliferation cause a

"We have to take a stand against this biased treatment of medical cannabis organizations." — James Sooner

backlash from the local government and the community, and most agree that it is time for the city to develop and implement regulations. While no officials have vocally opposed collectives, there has been concern over the sheer number that have sprung up in recent months. "We've gone from a couple of places that have opened to several," Councilperson Oliverio said. "The council needs to have a discussion."

That discussion is slated to take place at a March 30 City Council meeting. According to real estate developer and San Jose Patients Group staffer James Sooner, a coalition of 20 or more collectives has formed to fight the efforts to close them down. He believes that the city's assertion that collectives are illegal due to zoning restrictions is ludicrous.

"We have to take a stand against this biased treatment of medical cannabis organizations."

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Confidential mediation can prevent legal problems

By Daniel M. Bornstein*

For years, Robert's medicinal cannabis dispensary ran smoothly and had great working relationships with its vendors.

Last fall, however, a dispute broke out when Jamie, a vendor/member, provided product that contained mold. Robert's dispensary refused to pay for the product. Jamie disputed the claim, and argued that the dispensary had an opportunity to inspect the product before accepting it. Robert and Jamie exchanged harsh words and could not come to an agreement. Jamie stormed out of the dispensary and claimed he would "make sure this place gets shut down." Robert was upset at the loss of a vendor and also worried about his business, given Jamie's threats.

As the medical marijuana industry continues to flourish, such unfortunate scenarios are bound to occur. Over time, more complex and severe business disputes are inevitable. Unlike traditional industries, disputes within the cannabis community create not only stress and financial worry but also anxiety over potential criminal sanctions. Because the industry is still evolving from its past underground status, disputes between business partners can lead to false accusations, extortion, threats to one's safety, and/or other financial/personal danger. One effective way for industry professionals to protect themselves against these risks is mediation.

Mediation is a process wherein the parties meet with a mutually selected, impartial person to help negotiate their differences. In many cases, business partners incorporate a mediation clause in their contracts that obligates the parties to attempt resolution confidentially through a mediated agreement rather than litigation.

Discreet, confidential mediation is especially important for those who operate within a gray area of law. Legal in many states, medical marijuana remains illegal under federal law. While the Obama administration has a more accommodating policy, it is vulnerable to shifting political priorities. So, there always remains a risk that a disenchanted business partner may report another to federal agencies for prosecution. Likewise, it is less than ideal to pursue public litigation, as it might lead to criminal investigation.

Lawsuits and binding arbitration are polarizing and can destroy business relationships. Mediation helps preserve existing relationships by bringing both parties to a voluntary agreement. The parties talk about all the issues that are generating friction and come to a solution that takes into account problems that are more complex

than just money. Each party has the opportunity to present its side of the dispute to a neutral person. Working together toward a common solution prompts cooperation and mends relationships.

Failing to prepare for dispute resolution is risky or downright dangerous to any business. Mediation helps preserve relationships and unity in the cannabis movement. Therefore, when businesses use private mediation to resolve conflicts amicably, it benefits both individual business owners and the movement as a whole.

How does mediation work?

Courts have generally found that mediation clauses are enforceable. A good mediation clause will state that parties will use mediation to settle all disputes before resorting to the courts. The clause will also address how the mediator will be selected. The following is a sample mediation clause that business owners may insert into contracts whether the contract is simple or complex.

"MEDIATION OF DISPUTES: Mediation is a voluntary, informal attempt to resolve a dispute with the help of a neutral individual who has no decision-making authority. In the event a dispute related to this Contract shall arise, the parties hereby agree to attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute through private confidential mediation. The parties agree to participate in at least four hours of mediation, and to share equally the costs of the mediation.

"The parties shall select a mediator who is knowledgeable in the medical marijuana industry to administer the mediation proceedings.

"Any party may petition a court of competent jurisdiction for an order compelling appearance at mediation, and the court shall award all expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by the petitioning party."

* Bornstein, attorney, mediator, and law professor, is founder of Confidential Mediation Services, 415-0409-7611, confidential-mediation.com, Daniel@confidential-mediation.com.

Insurance company finds its cannabis niche

Underwriter offers coverage for cannabis businesses

By Dan Downey

Where can a grower go to purchase fire, theft or liability insurance? When Michael McCauley of the Redwood Coast Collective in Crescent City, California needed coverage, he called Statewide Insurance Services.

Michael Aberle, Director of the Statewide Insurance Services National Medical Marijuana Insurance Division, sees security, safety and staffing as primary concerns of any successful business.

"We work hand in hand with dispensaries and insurance carriers to address concerns of theft and operations, just as we would with any business," said Aberle, who will speak on 'Medical Marijuana Business Insurance' at the THC Expo in Los Angeles April 23-25, 2010. Aberle works directly with insurance companies and growers to develop insurance programs and coverage for the burgeoning cannabis industry.

Even as these operations continue to increase their legitimacy and presence in cities and neighborhoods, the supply chain remains in what M. Max Del Real of California Capitol Solutions and others still call a gray area. "Too many cultivators," said Del Real, "are still growing in the dark ages without the legitimacy they deserve." Del Real works with the cannabis industry and local and state agencies to "bring increased legitimacy" to the trade.

With cannabis cultivation occurring in apartments, basements, and other marginal locations that may have faulty wiring or irrigation systems, people in the cannabis



Mike Aberle specializes in helping cannabis businesses get appropriate insurance that is needed to protect any business.

industry recognize legitimate quality and safety concerns, and are increasing outreach efforts to include farmers and urban growers. Redwood Coast Collective is developing its best-practices guidelines for dispensary operations by enlisting the skills and knowledge of its members.

Aberle and his specialty insurance division continue to work with growers nationwide to develop appropriate insurance products for their cultivation efforts. With continued interest and support from the insurance industry and growers, Statewide Insurance Services offers innovative coverage to cultivators in the cannabis industry. These new insurance programs insure growers against crop loss, equipment breakdown, fire and other eventualities.

More info on this coverage is available at mmdinsurance.com.

National Grange wants *only* GMO hemp — with strong-arm enforcement

By Adam Eidinger VoteHemp.com

One of the nation's leading farming organizations passed a bizarre new policy statement in support of industrial hemp farming, but only if it is genetically modified (GMO) and retains cannabis prohibition with very heavy law enforcement.

The National Grange of the Order of Patron of Husbandry, known simply as "The Grange," made the statement in November at its annual meeting, against the

urging of advocacy groups such as Vote Hemp that GMO hemp is offensive and unnecessary because varieties of the cannabis with low THC are widely available in Canada and elsewhere.

The Grange policy statement states: "The National Grange supports research, production, processing and marketing of

industrial hemp as a viable agricultural activity. We do not in any way support or condone the growth or use of marijuana as a hallucinogen.

"We support strict enforcement of all laws that currently ban the production and sale of marijuana or that classify all species

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With Berkeley City Council member Kris Worthington (blue shirt, no jacket) and former cannabis confectioner Mickey Martin (blue shirt and maroon tie with jacket) standing by, Oakland Council member Rebecca Kaplan spoke out in support of licensed and regulated cannabis businesses and against the Drug War attacks on medical access. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris.

Activists rally in Oakland to end raids

By James Patrick

A lively and colorful crowd gathered on Jan. 4 at noon in Oakland with signs, spirit, and a host of bells to ‘Ring in The New Year’ as cannabis activists, public officials, and supporters gathered for the first annual ‘Ring in the New Year Rally and Protest.’ The event was put together by cannabis activist and political prisoner Mickey Martin to raise awareness of the need for federal, state, and local governments to work together and end the war on cannabis patients and providers.

Worthington stated, “Mickey Martin is not a criminal. Incarcerating Mickey Martin is a crime.”

City Councilpersons Kriss Worthington (Berkeley) and Rebecca Kaplan (Oakland) were on hand to show support, call for an end to the assault on patients’ rights, and

extoll the benefits patients and collectives have had in their communities. Americans for Safe Access and Students for Sensible Drug Policy promoted the event and provided speakers.

After first gathering at the Federal Building, participants marched to the State Building, and finally to City Hall. A large line-up of speakers from the cannabis community included Dr. Frank Lucido, Mikki Norris, Chris Conrad, Jeff Jones, and Ed Rosenthal. The group demanded that the Feds respect states’ rights and that the state do more to support patients and providers, while commending local governments that have taken the initiative to ensure community access.

The action was also to protest the commencement of Martin’s one year federal incarceration for providing food-based medicine.

A press conference was highlighted by

passionate statements from Kaplan and Worthington about the need for safe access and an end to the injustices that are caused to communities by present policies. Kaplan said she was “proud and honored” that Oakland has created a system for legal permits allowing dispensing of cannabis medicines. Worthington stated, “Mickey Martin is not a criminal. Incarcerating Mickey Martin is a crime.” Both councilpersons shared their experiences of positive contributions by dispensing collectives in their

communities. The City of Berkeley has even designated the Berkeley Patients Group with its own honorary day.

Collective operators gave rousing speeches at City Hall.

They told of their experiences providing medicine to open-minded communities with sound policies that benefit patients and the public. Rosenthal accused the federal agencies of being terrorists in their actions against patients.

Voter initiative filed for Washington ballot

By Vivian McPeak Sensible Washington.

Frustrated by a Washington state legislative impasse, activists have filed a citizens’ initiative with the Secretary of State to repeal all existing civil and criminal penalties for adults 18 or older who cultivate, possess, transport, sell or use cannabis. Driving under the influence and selling to minors would remain illegal under the proposed legislation. Initiative 1068 would also remove the Washington paraphernalia and civil forfeiture statutes as they pertain to cannabis.

Buoyed by recent national polls showing legalization finally having majority support, the initiative’s sponsor, Sensible Washington, cites the lack of progress made by state legislators as the impetus for its grass-roots effort. Initiative proponents have until July to submit 241,000 valid signatures for the November 2010 ballot.

National attitudes about cannabis are changing, but the state legislature recently fumbled two chances at reforming the state’s pot laws in the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committees.

House Bill 2401 to legalize cannabis to be dispensed in state-run liquor stores

failed to get out of committee. “My motivation was to get the criminals out of the business and stop the harm that the current prohibition is doing,” said Rep. Roger Goodman (Kirkland), cosponsor with Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (Seattle).

Proponents have until July to collect 241,000 valid signatures

The other bill, HB 1177, would have decriminalized cannabis and reduced possession from a criminal offense to a civil offense with a \$100 penalty. Rep. Sherry Appleton, D-Poulsbo, who voted for both measures, said, “The amount of money that we could realize over legalizing it and regulating it is close to \$300 million a year.”

Initiative proponent Doug Hiatt said, “This initiative can be a very powerful first step in drug policy reform. It can help medical marijuana patients; it can help anyone that wants to farm hemp. It’s something that the people of Washington state can send a very clear signal to the federal government and the state government that yeah, we want this done.”

More info at sensiblewashington.org.

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Police field test mistakes herbal smudge for cannabis

By Martin Williams

Robin Brown was arrested and facing prison in Florida in April 2009 after her herbal ‘smudge’ tested positive for marijuana. Charges were filed after the officer in her case relied on the most widely used presumptive field test, Duquenois-Levine.

Fortunately for Brown, however, her attorney found expert witness John Kelly, a Pulitzer Prize nominee and author of *False Positives Equal False Justice* and *Tainting Evidence*. Using excerpts from his book manuscript, *How to Obtain a Pretrial Dismissal or Acquittal of Marijuana Charges*, describing a scientific basis for challenging the test, they got the police lab to do a GC/MS analysis which turned out negative, and all charges were dropped.

Back in 1975, Dr. Marc Kurzman and 12 other scientists had made this startling discovery: “The microscopic and chemical screening tests presently used in marijuana analysis are not specific,” (i.e., they give false positives). Hence, the tests used to prove the presence of cannabis in a seized substance are not scientifically reliable. “DeFaubert Maunder has reported finding . . . 25 plant species besides Cannabis which will give a positive Duquenois-Levine test. Smith has also found that 12 of 40 common plant oils and extracts will give a positive Duquenois-Levine test,” wrote Kurzman, who succeeded in challenging the test results in court.

The Supreme Court subsequently agreed that the D-L test could not be the sole basis for prosecution or conviction. Unfortunately, defense attorneys across the country have not picked up on Kurzman’s work or the Supreme Court decision, for which Kelly largely blames a media black-out of the subject.

Absent this awareness, the government continues to use the flawed D-L test to pursue unsubstantiated prosecutions and convictions, and all too often, to win them.

Kelly, kjohn39679@aol.com, provides consultations and maintains the website beatfalsemarijuanacharges.blogspot.com and is looking for a publisher.

Vibrationally-infused cannabis medications

By Rev. Violet Kashewa, Metainterface

Endogenous *anandamides* (cannabinoid neurotransmitters) unlock the human bio-energy field and non-local consciousness, catalyzing therapeutic use. This creates the opportunity for co-creative healing outcomes for cannabis patients.

Energy medicine and cannabis conjoined represent a new frontier in therapeutic applications.

The current re-evaluation of both endogenous and entheogenic source, activity and use may help civilization take its next leap in planetary stewardship and consciousness evolution.

The impact of cannabinoid activity on the human bio-field consciousness, subtle energy bodies and chakra energy system has yet to be fully researched. Still, these aspects are fully demonstrated in therapeutic ‘energy medicine,’ a fast-growing branch of integrative healthcare. Energy medicine and cannabis conjoined represent a new frontier in therapeutic applications.

When one prepares to ingest cannabis or any other substance known to alter consciousness, one engages in a personal *intention*. This serves as a natural catalytic consciousness trigger, activating brainwave

San Francisco engages community to form its medical cannabis task force

By David Goldman San Francisco ASA

A wide variety of activists representing the broad spectrum of the medical cannabis community have been meeting under the auspices of San Francisco Supervisor

David Campos’ office since April 2009. Campos’ former aide Lynette Haynes facilitated the group that was designated the SF Medical Cannabis Working Group. The purpose of this group was to help formulate legislation to form a 13-member SF Medical Cannabis Task Force. The Task Force will advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the city government’s various departments on how best to ensure that SF’s laws regarding medical cannabis are functioning smoothly and effectively.

The SF BOS passed this legislation on Feb. 2, by a vote of 8 to 2, with Sups. Elsbernd and Carmen Chu voting against it, and Sup. Alioto-Pier absent. The working group selected a slate of 13 people, representing a wide variety of interests within the medical cannabis community. The board will ultimately decide on who will serve on the task force.

Recommended candidates for the various designated seats on the task force are: For community organizer, Stephanie Tucker; two patient advocates, Shona Gochenaur (Axis of Love) and David Goldman (SF Americans for Safe Access); hospice representative, Mary Schroeder (Maitri); two cannabis dispensary owners, Raymond Gamley (The Divinity Tree) and Martin Olive (The Vapor Room); delivery service owner, Kevin Reed (The Green Cross); drug policy organization rep, Sarah Shrader (ASA national office); Attorney with MCD experience, Patrick Goggin; cultivator to low income patients, Albert Blais; cultivator for dispensaries, Stewart Rhoads; long-term activist, Michelle Aldridge (CANORML); and neighborhood rep from a district with an MCD, Maureen Burns.

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Mendo ordinance would label collectives and patients a ‘public nuisance’ to reduce their rights

By Pebbles Trippet MMMAB Boardmember

Mendocino County Supervisors propose to further regulate collectives and cooperatives as “public nuisances” under an administrative law (MCC9.31) that already limits patients to 25 plants per parcel, rather than on objective land use impacts under zoning laws that balance environmental and neighborhood concerns with patients’ rights. The nuisance framework is punitive and gives patients second-class status for purposes of regulation.

Patients have fewer constitutional protections under administrative law than under criminal law.

The proposed changes are vehemently opposed by the Mendocino Medical Marijuana Advisory Board (MMMAB).

The question remains, how to regulate cannabis collectives and cooperatives without discriminating against patients or putting them at a disadvantage in court. Patients have fewer constitutional protections under administrative law than under criminal law.

Patients can lose their right to a jury trial, the protection of warrants required for law enforcement to enter property, the need for corroborating evidence beyond a single deputy’s say-so, and the right to dispute accusations before being found guilty of a violation such as aroma, ‘excess’ quantity, broken gate lock or fence-hole. In the proposed revisions anyone who wishes to challenge an abatement order must pay a non-refundable fee of \$1140 within ten days to gain the right to appeal.

Under this law the nuisance abatement

process is centered in the sheriff’s office, which can initiate an action against a patient at will. This increases law enforcement’s role in regulating medical marijuana rather than shifting it away as voters intended — as a health issue, not a crime.

The ordinance is being challenged in *Hill v Mendocino County* by patient taxpayers on constitutional grounds. A hearing is scheduled for May 14 in Superior Court, detailing 9.31’s multiple violations of patients’ rights and state law.

Jim and Trelanie Hill and Andrea and Marta Nagy are co-plaintiffs; Edie Lerman and J. David Nick are their attorneys.

An Appeals Court is expected to rule in a similar case April 20, *Qualified Patients Assn. v City of Anaheim*, challenging a ban on dispensing collectives that was issued under a city nuisance ordinance. Whatever that outcome, it will likely be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

It is hoped that the Anaheim decision will stop the neo-prohibition nuisance strategy of labeling patient-growers ‘public nuisances,’ a special category of people with reduced rights, who are assessed fines and fees. *Anaheim* will serve as a precedent in *Hill*, since the rights of collectives are at the heart of the patient challenge to county ordinance 9.31.

College students want campus to be SAFER

By Eva Enns SAFER Outreach Director

National Alcohol Awareness Month will have a different theme this year: *Marijuana is Safer*. The group SAFER is channeling the growing momentum message toward a nationwide day of action on April 1. It is working with students at more than 50 schools, including dozens of campus chapters of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana *Please turn to page 14*

Court ruling puts WA patients at greater risk

By Martin Martinez medmj-wa.com

The Washington State Supreme Court upheld the rights of police to arrest patients who use cannabis with their doctors’ recommendation in a ruling Jan. 21, 2010 in Clayton v. Wilson. The affirmative defense intended to protect patients seems to have made them even more vulnerable. Patients must be aware that there are jurisdictional interpretations of state law. Until the legislature addresses this issue, patients will face persecution and police abuse.

Kristie Choate was a registered nurse for over 17 years before being diagnosed with a severe case of interstitial cystitis, a disease involving blisters inside the bladder. That very painful and potentially dangerous condition required her to take up to 22 medications, including narcotics. She was unable to work. Her husband introduced her to cannabis, and she was amazed to find the herb quelled her severe nausea, while also providing superior pain relief. Well-intended, Brad and Kristie set out to help others. Unprepared for the heavy-handed response of the Tacoma police, they hung a sign on their house identifying it as a “Marijuana Ministry.”


The couple opened themselves up to a police investigation by reporting that they had been robbed at gunpoint. Officers appeared, demanding entry to their garden, then returned in force. The couple was

immediately arrested and handcuffed, then forced to endure lengthy questioning from hostile narcotics officers. One officer told the prisoners that there was no medical marijuana law in Pierce County. Kristie repeatedly tried to explain her condition and her need to urinate frequently, but her plea was ignored. She was not allowed to use the bathroom, which caused her intense agony. She was berated and mocked by the narcotics officer, who yelled at her without cause. Officers confiscated 50 cannabis plants and many personal belongings, including a computer.

Police refused Kristie any assistance whatsoever. Citing severe disabilities, she asked for mercy and received none. Unable to walk to the shower or the bathroom, Kristie was ridiculed and harassed by other inmates. She was beaten and dragged through the hall. The situation worsened until guards took her to solitary confinement for her own protection, where she spent eight days in a tiny concrete room, with none of her regular medications — withdrawing from prescription narcotics. By the time she was finally allowed to make bail, she was sent directly to a hospital for intravenous nutrition.

Nearly two years passed while Kristie awaited trial. She had lost nearly everything during that time. Her gas, electricity, and water were all turned off. She had no phone, no computer, no friends and no support from Brad, who had left her. Thanks to persistent negotiations by her *pro bono* attorney, Kristie was finally let off with a misdemeanor.

This type of drug war tragedy will only end when authorities accept cannabis as a life-saving medicine and the legislature acts to protect its citizens.



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Documents show WA State AG’s office complicit in depriving patients of access to legal medicines

By **Lee Rosenberg** Cannabis Defense Coalition

Following the release of nearly 1800 pages of documents from the Washington State Dept. of Corrections (DOC), the history of that department’s efforts to undermine the state medical marijuana law for individuals in their custody has been revealed.

Defense Coalition’s Public Disclosure Request turned up documents showing that, on advice from Attorney General Rob McKenna’s office, DOC crafted a policy that made it impossible for nearly any authorized patient to be able to use cannabis while on probation.

All correspondence between the AG’s office and DOC has been redacted, citing attorney-client privilege. The rationale likely stems from language that requires individuals on probation to obey all laws. The DOC likely believed they could force probationers to follow federal law instead of state law. No court in Washington has yet ruled on this argument.

Even within DOC, there was some hesitation about the harshness of the policy, with one administrator asking his colleagues in an email, “Do we want to die on this hill?”

When the policy was finalized, it amounted to little more than a formal way to deny any and all cannabis patients the use of their medicine. It even required doctors to provide peer-reviewed studies on the effectiveness of cannabis for the patient’s condition, despite the fact that the

federal government has a policy of blocking research. The doctor assigned to approve or deny the requests, Dr. Steven Hammond, even went so far as to suggest in an email that DOC could deny prescribed Marinol to an individual with terminal cancer.

What DOC’s actions effectively did was to allow law enforcement to arrest and brutalize legal patients and bully them into plea deals that left them on probation. Then, while on probation, agencies impose drug testing to keep them from using medical marijuana.

This scenario played out for Pamela Olson of Kitsap County. Her husband Bruce refused to accept his plea deal and was able to come out victorious at trial once their story began to grab the attention of local activists and the media. Despite the victory, the Olsons lost their home trying to defend their perfectly legal cannabis.

There are a number of similar cases of cannabis patients being denied medicine. In one particularly nasty case, Washington resident Kathy Parkins was arrested for possession in Arizona and allowed to return to Washington to serve out her probation. Then she was improperly arrested in West Seattle and thrown in jail for a week. The documents show that the corrections officer who made the arrest falsified an Interstate Compact report in an attempt to have her sent back to Arizona.

Lee Rosenberg writes a blog at horsesass.org

Dr. Eidelman prevails in Medical Board case

By **Martin Williams**

William S. Eidelman, MD, one of the first California doctors to issue cannabis recommendations, triumphed over state Medical Board efforts to take away his license. He was among the Board’s first targets.

Dr. Eidelman’s problems began with visits to his office by four undercover police officers and board investigators. The officers misrepresented key details of the case in their initial affidavits. Based on those, plus testimony from the Board’s hired ‘expert,’ Dr. Eidelman’s license was suspended at a hearing where he was unable to confront his accusers.

At a later hearing, something closer to the truth came out, and Judge Waxman ruled, “Dr. Eidelman provides a valued and valuable service,” and should be allowed to continue with cannabis recommendations if he does it according to “standard of care.” He got five years of probation, supervised by a physician from UC San Diego, who went over seven random, anonymous patient charts per month.

One parole officer objected to a recommendation for a migraine sufferer and complained to the Board. By the time it was investigated by the Board, Eidelman was already getting the UC doctor’s quarterly reports, which were all positive, showing that he was doing a good job.

In spite of this excellent record, the Board ignored those reports and asked for revocation of his medical license.

As in all their cases against cannabis

consultants, the Board exaggerated the standard of medical care. That is difficult for the accused to overcome. However, the standard for migraine patients was clear — they should not be re-evaluated once the diagnosis is made, unless a significant change occurs. This information is widely available and known by every doctor, so when confronted with information from authoritative web sites for patients and doctors who agree with Eidelman, the Board’s expert did not have a reply.

Eidelman was vindicated when the Medical Board lost its efforts to take his license at a 2009 probation hearing.

Part of the original complaint stated that since the patient/parolee had committed a related crime, cannabis could not be recommended to him. The Deputy Attorney General, the complaining parole officer, and the Board’s expert all suggested that a letter to the migraine sufferer from years before Eidelman’s legal problems began had violated some vague standard of care. The UC doctor, however, a distinguished professor and for many years involved with doctors being ‘rehabilitated,’ disagreed.

Based on the positive testimony from the UC doctor, the judge denied the Board’s petition for revocation. Dr. Eidelman’s administrative probation is now over and he told *West Coast Leaf* that he is looking forward to continuing to help sick people in the community and advance the science and practice of good medicine using natural substances.

See drEidelman.com and beAddictionFree.com.

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Judge won't let jury decide case against drug cops



Mollie Fry (l) and her son Geoffrey Schafer, who sued police for excessive force during the 2001 raid on his parents' property. Photo by Vanessa Nelson

Schafer civil suit tossed aside

By Vanessa Nelson medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com

It took more than eight years for Geoffrey Schafer's civil case to get to court, but only three days for it to come to a crashing halt.

In front of a federal jury this January, Schafer accused officers of using excessive force against him when they raided the home of his parents, attorney Dale Schafer and medical marijuana doctor Marion 'Mollie' Fry. Midway through the trial, however, the judge dismissed the jury and rendered a verdict in favor of the cops.

"They took every step to make sure there wasn't excessive force," US District Judge Morrison England Jr. concluded about the accused officers.

Geoffrey Schafer, 22, was barely into his teens when local and federal drug agents raided his home in September 2001. Before his trial was cut short, Schafer testified about the severe and lasting psychological damage he suffered as a result of being handcuffed and guarded at gunpoint during the lengthy search of the home.

The basis for halting the trial was Federal Rule 50, which allows the court to

make a judgment "when a party has been fully heard...and there is no legally sufficient evidentiary basis for a reasonable jury to find for that party," or in this case, to vote in favor of Schafer.

Specifically, the judge pointed to evidence that officers had kept their guns in the 'low ready' position while detaining Schafer, rather than pointed directly at the adolescent's head. Handcuffs were a necessary precaution, ruled England, because an adolescent can be more impulsive and energetic than an adult. The judge also ruled that the three hours Schafer was detained were reasonable given the search of a rural property that spanned 26 acres and contained multiple out-buildings.

Although officers found only 34 plants, Schafer's parents were charged with cultivating over 100 plants — subject to a five-year mandatory minimum prison sentence. Prosecutors used records from sheriffs who had conducted friendly 'medical marijuana compliance checks' at the residence over the course of five years.

Since federal courts don't follow state cannabis laws, Schafer's parents weren't permitted to defend themselves by proving compliance with Prop 215. As a result, they were ultimately convicted and sentenced to the mandatory five years in federal prison, but have been permitted to remain free while their case is on appeal.

Fry, who testified for her son during his civil trial, broke into tears in the gallery when Judge England decided in favor of the police. As for Schafer himself, he called the ruling in his case predictable, but said that it signaled the need for citizens to become more politically involved. "This is why everyone needs to vote," he declared. "The masses can change this."



FREE AT LAST — Drug War POW and medical marijuana patient Will Foster celebrated his return to California from Oklahoma, with friends and supporters at Ed Rosenthal's Festivus party on Dec. 23 in San Francisco. Foster spent more than a year in Sonoma CA county jail over charges related to a medical grow at his home, that were later dismissed. He was then extradited back to Oklahoma in August 2009 where he was facing serious time over an alleged parole violation, stemming from his 1996 bust for a small grow, for which he was originally sentenced to 93 years. After being held in jail for a few more months, the Oklahoma parole board finally decided to release Foster and allow him to return home. Photo by Mikki Norris

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Proponents hand in signatures for CA initiative

Continued from page 1

This was the second of four initiatives filed last year, but sponsors of the Common Sense Cannabis Initiative quickly withdrew and gave full support to TC2010. “We urge all Californians to work vigorously for the passage of the initiative,” said Casey Peters, and his co-proponent John Donohue added, “Now let’s get all eligible voters registered and out to vote.”

The California Cannabis Initiative (CCI) put up a spirited, all-volunteer petition drive for months using Internet-based strategies, but were unable to secure the necessary funding to make the ballot. That initiative would have repealed all existing marijuana laws and legalized cultivation and possession of any personal amount, use as well as regulated sales with a set tax of \$50 per commercial ounce. Hundreds of volunteers got involved and thousands of voters were registered to vote after being inspired by the campaign.

The fourth ballot measure was filed in honor of long-time hemp activist Jack

Herer, who barely survived a massive heart attack in September 2009. Herer made repeated attempts to place measures on various state ballots and once pledged to get cannabis legalized in his lifetime or to die trying. The language was filed in honor of his wish to see California voters approve legal cannabis. No serious signature drive has been undertaken, however.

The TC2010 initiative proposes to carve out a middle ground of control to “Implement a legal regulatory framework to give California more control over the cultivation, processing, transportation, distribution, and sales of cannabis.” It would allow personal adult use and empower local governments to regulate sales. The tax revenue is an incentive for tolerant communities to permit retail outlets.

Because it does not mandate that state officials violate federal law, however, TC2010 skirts federal jurisdiction — much like Prop 215 did by using the phrase “recommendation or approval” rather than requiring a doctor’s *prescription*.



Judge James Gray joined Tax Cannabis 2010 Initiative proponent Jeff Jones Jan. 28 to deliver boxes containing thousands of voter signatures calling for a new cannabis policy in California. Photo by Devin H. Calloway, founder of Ajnag.com / iMedicalCannabis.org

The campaign is now in the process of gathering endorsements and raising funds for the Autumn campaign.

For more information, to donate or to get involved, contact Tax Cannabis 2010 at 510-394-5344 taxcannabis.org.

California Supreme Court’s Kelly decision solidifies protections of both Prop 215 and SB 420

Continued from page 1

immature plants cannot burden a patient’s legal defense of any specific quantity of cannabis or plants, per its earlier *Mower* decision. After medical immunity is raised, a prosecutor’s burden is proof beyond reasonable doubt that the quantity was not reasonably related to the patient’s current medical need, or it was intended for non-medical use.

“[T]he MMP’s identification card system is a discrete set of laws designed to confer distinct protections the CUA does not provide” wrote Justice C. J. George, “without limiting the protections the CUA does provide. For example, unlike the CUA, which did not immunize medical marijuana users from arrest but instead provided a limited ‘immunity’ defense to prosecution under state law for cultivation or possession of marijuana [citation], the MMP’s identification card system is designed to protect against unnecessary arrest”.

It added, “Because the MMP’s identification card program has no impact on the protections provided by the CUA, we reject Counties’ claim that those provisions are invalidated by...the California Constitution.” (*San Diego NORML*; accord, *People v. Hochanadel* (2009) [holding that § 11362.775 of the MMP, concerning collectives or cooperatives, does not constitute an unconstitu-

tional amendment of the CUA].)”

The ruling appears to include patients who do not register in the state program as being immune from arrest while staying within the appropriate threshold amounts.

“The MMP’s safe harbor provision, subdivision (f) of section 11362.77, authorizes possession of certain amounts of medical marijuana. It provides that a ‘qualified patient or a person holding a valid identification card, or the designated primary caregiver of that qualified patient or person, may possess amounts of marijuana consistent with this article [that is, as provided in subds. (a)-(c) of § 11362.77];’ By its terms, this safe harbor provision, which is not directly implicated on the facts of this case, would apply not only to those who hold MMP identification cards, but also to qualified patients or their primary caregivers — those persons who are entitled to the protections of the CUA but who do not obtain a program identification card that may provide protection against arrest.”

This is one of the biggest wins to date for patients. The

Kelly ruling was handed down after three separate Appeals court rulings struck down the quantity limits as unconstitutional. The Kelly case went farther and struck out a key section of the statute. The High Court has now made a more nuanced ruling that kept the language intact and articulated how the safe harbor could be implemented by law enforcement in a constitutional manner.

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Ammiano bill's 'yes' vote makes history

New effort already in works

By Mike Meno Marijuana Policy Project

The California Assembly Committee on Public Safety voted 4-3 to pass AB 390, a bill that would remove criminal penalties for adult marijuana possession and cultivation, and institute a statewide regulatory system for cannabis sales. The Jan. 12, 2010 vote marked the first time in American history that a government committee voted to overturn marijuana prohibition.

Aaron Smith, California policy director for the Marijuana Policy Project, told the committee that the bill would "finally put California on track toward having a marijuana policy that's sensible, results-based and in line with the views of most California voters who overwhelmingly know that prohibition has failed."

Stephen Gutwillig, California director for the Drug Policy Alliance, closed the supportive testimony, saying, "It's time to bring marijuana out of underground economy, regulate it appropriately, and redirect criminal justice resources to matters of real public safety."

Testimony in opposition to the bill was permitted to run significantly longer than committee decorum normally permits by the committee's vice-chair, Curt Hagman (R- Chino Hills). Opponents included former deputy drug czar Andrea Barthwell, San Mateo Police Chief and acting California Police Chiefs' Association president Susan Manheimer, regional director of the National Narcotics Officers Assn. Coalition Claude Cook, former crack addict Pastor Ron Allen, and a long line of local police chiefs.

After hearing the opposition testimony, the bill's author, Rep. Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco), urged the committee to "discount the alarmist, *ad hominem* remarks made." He added, "There was a movie once called *Reefer Madness*. Some of the arguments today reminded me of that." Assemblymembers Jerry Hill (D-South San Francisco), Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) and Ammiano voted in support of the bill. 'No' votes were cast by Warren Furutani (D-Long Beach), Danny Gilmore (R-Hanford), and Hagman.

Hill and Skinner both expressed concern with provisions of the draft bill but indicated that they cast their 'aye' vote to continue the discussion of an important issue. Although AB 390 did not progress any further than the Public Safety Committee due to legislative calendar constraints, advocates nevertheless hailed the vote as an historic victory.

"A legislative committee has (finally) taken a vote on taxing and regulating marijuana," said Aaron Smith. "It's certainly an encouraging sign that they decided to send prohibition to the ash heap of history." Ammiano vowed to re-introduce reform legislation in 2010.

California legislative update

Continued from page 1

In other legislative action, State Senator Mark Leno (S.F.) is sponsoring a resolution, SJR 14, calling on the federal government to stop interfering in state laws and implement a policy to ensure legal access to medical marijuana. The bill passed the State Senate 23-15 and is awaiting action in the Assembly.

A bill to legalize paraphernalia when used for medical marijuana, AB 1811, has been introduced by Assemblyman Ammiano. Currently, sales of any cannabis paraphernalia remain technically illegal in California despite passage of Prop. 215

Economic analysis of the bill posted at canorml.org/background/CA_legalization2.html. For up-to-date information on the status of legislation in California, see canorml.org

Washington State poised for big legislative gains

By Alison Holcomb

Drug law reform is making significant strides in the Washington state legislature. As this article goes to press, two bills have been passed out of the Senate and are making their way through the House, and a third – the first marijuana decriminalization measure to be debated in a state legislature in more than three decades – received committee hearings in both chambers and was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with a bipartisan 'do pass' recommendation.

The Senate voted nearly unanimously Feb. 5 (with only one 'nay') to pass SB 5516, sponsored by Senator Rosa Franklin. This bill would make Washington the second state, after New Mexico in 2007, to adopt a '911 Good Samaritan' measure that extends immunity from drug possession charges to people who summon medical care in overdose situations. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental injury death in Washington, ahead of motor vehicles, falls, and firearms. Drug overdose deaths in the state have more than doubled over the past decade, from 360 in 2001 to 794 in 2008. Research consistently identifies fear of police involvement as the primary reason people hesitate to call 911 in overdose situations. Providing immunity from drug possession charges, and treating drug use as a public health concern rather than a crime, will save lives.

Senate Bill 5516 also

expands access to naloxone, an opiate antagonist commonly known by its trade name *Narcan*. Naloxone reverses opiate overdose within moments of administration. Prescription opiate overdoses are the largest segment of the increase in drug overdose deaths in recent years.

The Senate also passed SB 5798, sponsored by Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, which will make it easier for persons suffering terminal and debilitating medical conditions to become qualifying patients under Washington's medical marijuana law. SB 5798 expands the list of health care professionals who may authorize the medical use of marijuana to include, in addition to medical and osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, osteopathic physicians' assistants, naturopaths, and advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Senate Bill 5615, also sponsored by Sen. Kohl-Welles, would have reduced the penalty for adult possession of marijuana from a misdemeanor carrying mandatory jail time to a civil infraction imposing a \$100 ticket that could be paid by mail. Last session, SB 5615 was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with a bipartisan "do pass" recommendation. This session, its companion HB 1177 received a *Please turn to page 23*



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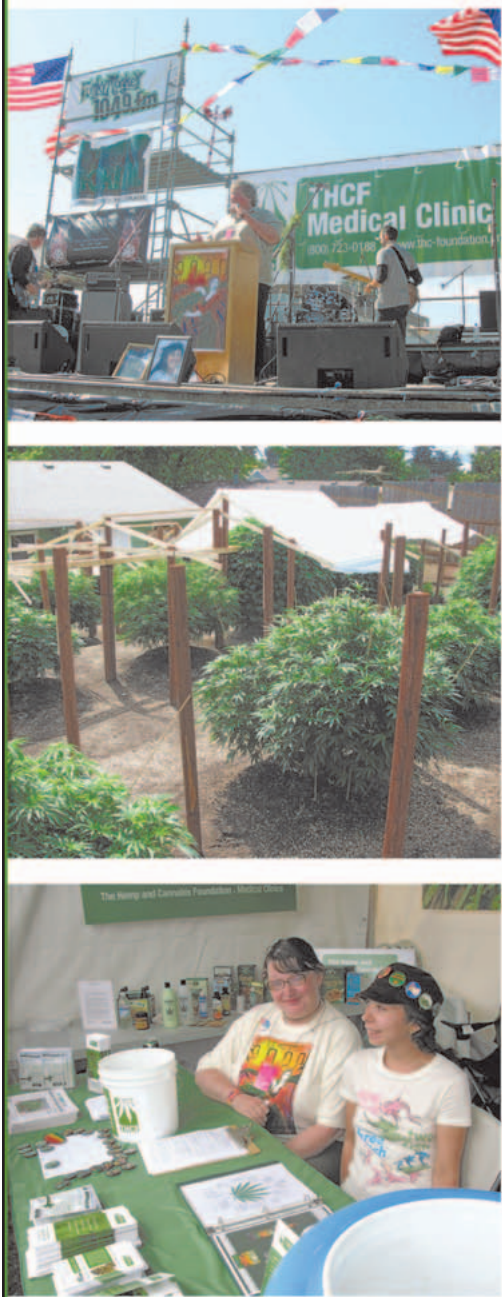
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Preview of cannabis research for 2010

The Lab Bench

By Jahan Marcu jahan.marcu@gmail.com

Each year thousands of articles are published about cannabis and cannabinoids. Because of this promising research, scientists and doctors around the world are taking interest in cannabinoids. Part of the excitement comes from established data showing that cannabinoid receptors may be the most abundant protein in the human brain, and humans also produce a natural, THC-like compound, *anandamide*. In the first few months of 2010 a wide range of relevant research articles have already been published. Among the highlights:

Researchers at the University of Leiden analyzed cannabis smoke and vapor by comparing their effects at the cannabinoid type 1 receptor (CB1R) (1). Both smoke and vapor activate the cannabinoid receptor equally, but vaporization is more efficient because fewer compounds are destroyed or degraded. However, what was shown for the first time was that terpenoids, the fragrant molecules such as myrcene, are a major component of the smoke and vapor. The authors believe compounds such as myrcene may contribute to therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis.

Guinea pig studies suggest that the cannabinoid type 2 receptor (CB2R) may be helpful in preventing asthma (3). The development of asthma is linked to the activation of C-fibers, and researchers did find that CB2R activation, but not CB1R, could prevent the activation of C-fibers.

Activating CB2R could be important in attenuating HIV-associated inflammation, which ultimately leads to destruction of parts of the body such as neurons, resulting in changes in cognitive and motor functions. When HIV infects a cell, it releases viral proteins that create inflammation and attract healthy immune cells. One such viral protein called *tat* causes immune cells to arrive at the site of infection and usually become infected by HIV. *Tat* appears to be inhibited by cannabinoids that activate the CB2R. THC and CP55,940 were both able to inhibit *tat*-mediated attraction and thus suppress this aspect of HIV/AIDS (4).

The cannabinoid receptors are also abundant in the gut. A lot of work has studied the therapeutic role of cannabinoids to treat diseases of the intestines such as infections, irritable bowel syndrome, abdominal pain, etc. Cannabinoids help control the two main functions of the gut:

digestion and host defense. The collective research on this subject was reviewed and the authors suggest that academia and industry should fully develop cannabinoids as a treatment for diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract (2).

Nearly every week positive research on cannabis and cannabinoids is published by labs around the world. Despite the promising implications, the work of these pioneering scientists often goes unnoticed in media and the 'science sections' of national newspapers. Furthermore, medical schools do not provide any classes on cannabinoids, which forces patients to stay up-to-date with the research on their own, in order to better inform their doctors of potential benefits of cannabis.

These examples offer a glimpse of a blossoming research field. By discussing cannabis research with doctors, other patients, friends and family you can prevent more studies from remaining unnoticed, underreported, or misunderstood.

Send your science questions to Jahan.Marcu@gmail.com

- 1) Fischeidick et al. Cannabinoid Receptor 1 Binding Activity and Quantitative Analysis of Cannabis sativa L. Smoke and Vapor. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* 58(2) 201–207 (2010)
- 2) Izzo et al. Cannabinoids and the gut: New developments and emerging concepts. *Pharmacol Ther* (2010).
- 3) Fukuda et al. The Cann. Receptor Agonist WIN 55,212-2 Inhibits Antigen-Induced Plasma Extravasation in Guinea Pig Airways. *Int Arch Allergy Immunol* 12;152(3):295-300 (2010)
- 4) Raborn et al. Cann. Inhibition of Macrophage Migration To the TAT protein of HIV-1 is linked to the CB2 cannabinoid receptor. *JPET* (2010).

Synthetic cannabinoids found in streets of Europe and Japan

A team in Japan analyzed 46 herbal preparations sold on the black market and found that 44 of them contained synthetic cannabinoids (2).

Previously, "Spice" and other herbal preparations were found to contain synthetic cannabinoids in the UK and some parts of Europe. Surprisingly high amounts of alpha-tocopherol, or vitamin E, were also found in many of the samples. The three main synthetic cannabinoids found varied greatly in their concentrations: cannabicyclohexanol (1.1 to 16.9 milligram/gram), JWH-018 (2.0 to 35.9 milligram/gram), and oleamide (7.6 to 210.9 mg/g). The authors call for more research into these synthetic cannabinoids, as well as continued analysis of herbal products. They conclude, "Monitoring and surveillance analyses are a first-step in the regulation of abused compounds."

N. Uchiyama, et al., Chem analysis of synthetic cannabinoids as designer drugs in herbal products, *Forensic Sci. Int.* (2010)



The resin from a mature female flower contains a wide spectrum of cannabinoids.
Photo by Chris Conrad

Public support continues its march toward reform

National poll shows dramatic increase in support for change

By Kurt A. Gardinier Marijuana Policy Project

A new ABC News/Washington Post poll reveals that more than eight in 10 Americans support efforts to make cannabis legal for medical use. That figure is up from 69 percent in 1997. Fifty-six percent say that if it's allowed, "doctors should be able to prescribe medical marijuana to anyone they think it can help."

In January the New Jersey state legislature passed a medical cannabis bill that was signed into law days later by outgoing Governor Jon Corzine. Maryland is likely to introduce a similar bill by the time this article is printed.

In Arizona, the Marijuana Policy Project has nearly collected the 250,000 signatures required to place an initiative on the November 2010 ballot, which will legalize medical marijuana, including authorizing 120 dispensaries throughout the state. Current polling in Arizona puts voter support of this initiative around 65 percent. MPP has also made significant progress on medical marijuana bills in Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and New York; if initiatives can succeed in those seven states between now and the summer of 2011 the number of medical marijuana states will jump from 14 to 21, plus the District of Columbia.

Additionally, the ABC News/Washington Post poll finds 46 percent support for making the possession of small amounts of cannabis legal for personal use,

up from 22 percent in 1997. In November, California voters will likely be the first state to attempt to end cannabis prohibition entirely. The Tax Cannabis 2010 Campaign submitted nearly 700,000 signatures (only 433,971 required) to qualify its initiative for the 2010 ballot. The initiative seeks to make personal possession (up to 1 oz.) and cultivation (up to 25 square feet) legal for adults 21 and up.

MPP now has an office in Las Vegas, Nevada for building a statewide coalition to pass a ballot initiative in November 2012 to tax and regulate cannabis like alcohol. Basically the law would make the possession of cannabis paraphernalia and up to one ounce of cannabis legal for individuals 21 years of age and older.

2009 was by far the best year for cannabis policy reform in US history and 2010 is shaping up to be even more successful.

Gardinier is director of communications at the Marijuana Policy Project, at mpp.org.

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A GOOD START — Whether starting with seedlings (below) or scions, cuttings or clones, (right), the cannabis cultivator needs to select the most desirable plant characteristics of vigor, shape, aroma and other qualities in order to decide



which starts to keep and grow to fruition, and which to cull from the garden and discard.

West Coast Leaf photos by Chris Conrad

Spring greening: Working with nature's sundial

By Samuel Janovici

Spring has always been a time for renewal — time to start anew and put into action those dreams and plans for the immediate future. Most growers are forward thinking, ecologically-minded folks who'd rather use organic solutions than chemical shortcuts. The best of these seek holistic answers to mildew, molds, fungus and insect infestations. Some have found alternatives to the commonly accepted practice of using chemicals to protect their garden and supply its vital nutrient values.

There are pioneers out there, such as Kyle Kushman's *Veganics: Beyond Organics for Medicinal Quality Cannabis*, Danny Danko's *Organics for Beginners*, and my perennial favorite Jorge Cervantes' *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible*. He has done as much to promote good gardening practices as any other horticulturalist in the industry. Read their books and blogs, and apply their proven technologies.

There are traditional remedies learned from decades of farming experience to remedy issues that may overwhelm even those who are up-to-date or supposed experts. The book *10,000 Garden Questions Answered by 20 Experts* should be on every grower's reference shelf.

Every strain has its own personality, so a gardener needs to know their plants. Understand the variety you have chosen and set in motion those practices that best suit your goals and your plant's needs.

Seed growers face an uphill battle with the elements. It's a time for outdoor growers to ready their land, get their garden starts going, and keep them protected from the elements until they can be put into the earth's nurturing bosom.

The challenge is to time the transition with nature's sundial. Some may choose to start their plants indoors, but timing is everything. Remember, this crop is triggered to bloom by its photo-period: the closer it gets to the 12-hour cycle, the more likely a plant is to bloom. Transplanting a healthy vegging plant from indoors to outdoors is a balancing act that requires applied knowledge and considerable experience, but it's well worth the effort. Seed growers should heed their local climatic and weather conditions, remembering to start their efforts under glass or in plastic containers that protect their seedlings from the ravages of nature.

Security is the watchword. Apply the rules of being good neighbors and good stewards of the land. It's important to protect crops from prying eyes and wayward noses. When outdoors, fence the land, add hedges to the property, landscape the crops and plant scented species to cover that marvelous and most obvious skunky aroma cannabis produces. Indoor growers need to minimize noise by sound proofing their grow-rooms. Stop telltale odor by using industrial charcoal filters. Don't steal power by chopping into power-lines, that's one of the fastest ways to get caught.

THC, CBD pack double punch against tumors

By Bruce Mirken

For three and a half decades, lab and animal studies have reported that cannabinoids have relatively potent anti-cancer properties. While politics and bureaucracy continue to thwart human clinical trials — which, in a rational world, would have happened decades ago — interesting new results continue to come from laboratories around the world. The latest suggest that the combination of THC and cannabidiol (CBD) may be more potent against brain tumors than either drug alone.

The journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* published a new study in January providing the first evidence that combination cannabinoid therapy is more potent against cancer than using THC or other cannabinoids as single agents.

Sean McAllister and colleagues from the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute in San Francisco tested THC and CBD, and the two combined, on human glioblastoma brain cancer cells. In all three cell lines tested, both drugs showed antitumor activity, with CBD the more potent. In two of the three cell lines, the THC/CBD combination proved more potent, presumably adding the anti-cancer effects of the two drugs together and suggesting a synergistic action.

"Combinations, compared to individual drug treatments with specific cannabinoid-based compounds, may represent an improvement for the treatment of patients with glioblastoma and perhaps additional cancers," McAllister says. "It is also possible that other constituents of cannabis sativa which are not structurally related to cannabinoids could improve antitumor activity when combined."

One obvious way to combine multiple cannabinoids with other components of the cannabis plant is to simply use the plant itself -- whether smoked, vaporized, or in some sort of extract. McAllister isn't quite ready to jump on that bandwagon yet. "In regard to brain cancer, it is highly unlikely that effective concentrations of either Δ^9 -THC or CBD could be reached by smoking cannabis," he says. "In regard to additional cancers, I feel defined formulations and dosing will be needed in order to effectively treat patients."

McAllister says his team is moving toward "clinical trials in both breast and brain cancer, but it is a slow process." His next step will be to try to replicate test-tube results in animals. "No agency in the US would allow me to move forward to clinical trials without some form of proof of concept data in a relevant preclinical *in vivo* model." That may well be an accurate assessment of the regulatory environment

in which researchers operate, but it's frustrating to cannabis activists. They note that test-tube data on the antitumor action of THC goes back to 1975, and argue that the safety of cannabinoids is clearly established. The politicization of science regarding cannabis, they argue, is the reason that only one human study of cannabinoids for cancer treatment has been published so far — a tiny pilot study which found THC infusions into terminal brain tumors to be safe. The study was not designed to confirm whether the treatment worked.

* Mirken is a writer and media consultant in San Francisco. He served as director of communications for the Marijuana Policy Project from 2001 to 2009. *Mol. Cancer Ther.* abstract available at mct.aacrjournals.org/content/9/1/180.abstract.

Safer campuses

Continued from page 7

Laws (NORML) and Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). SAFER, a national cannabis reform organization based in Denver, will help the students to generate media coverage highlighting the relative safety of cannabis compared to alcohol, and inspire public debate on the potential danger of current laws and policies about both drugs.

Public support for ending cannabis prohibition has reached an all-time high, and with more Americans than ever believing cannabis should be treated like alcohol, a new debate is emerging on college and university campuses nationwide.

SAFER began helping students raise this question at two Colorado universities in 2005. In just five years, the refrain has spread to more than a dozen schools, and is now beginning to echo around the country.

Pointing to the relative harms of the two popular substances, students are speaking out against disproportionately punitive policies that steer students toward using alcohol instead of cannabis, contributing to increased incidence of violence, injuries, overdose death, and other serious alcohol-related problems.

"We're looking at it from the angle of marijuana being safer than alcohol," said Sarah Wislocki, spokesperson for a successful SAFER campaign at Purdue University last spring. "As a woman, I'd rather be around men smoking [cannabis] than those who are drinking — they have less aggressive behavior," Wislocki told a local newspaper following her group's successful campus campaign. "Yet the university's policy is more lenient toward alcohol."

In particular, students face far more severe penalties for cannabis, including the loss of student financial aid, campus

Please turn to page 31

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Federal agency in charge of research admits to stifling studies on cannabis' medical benefits

By Paul Armentano, NORML

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) presently oversees an estimated 85 percent of the world's research on controlled substances.

A spokesperson for (NIDA) told the New York Times in January that the agency does "not fund research focused on the potential medical benefits of marijuana."

Under federal law, the agency must approve all clinical and preclinical research involving cannabis. NIDA strictly controls which investigators are allowed access to the federal government's lone research supply of pot—which is produced and stored at the University of Mississippi.

NIDA spokeswoman Shirley Simson was quoted in a Jan 19, 2010 article, "Researchers Find Medical Study of Marijuana Discouraged," stating, "As the National Institute on Drug Abuse, our focus is primarily on the negative consequences of marijuana use. We generally do not fund research focused on the potential beneficial medical effects of marijuana."

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner ruled in 2007 that NIDA's monopolization of cannabis research is not "in the public interest," and ordered the federal government to allow private manufacturers to produce the drug for research purposes. In January 2009, DEA Deputy Administrator Michele Leonhart set aside Judge Bittner's ruling.

President Barack Obama selected Leonhart on Jan. 26, to be the DEA's Executive Director.

So, "NIDA has finally admitted to the world the Catch-22 that has been facing

medical marijuana advocates and patients all these years," responded a NORML spokesperson. "Lawmakers demand clinical research regarding the safety and efficacy of medical cannabis, and the agency in charge of such research blocks these studies from ever taking place. It's sickening that these public officials have let political ideology, not science, determine American's health decisions."

Last November the American Medical Association's (AMA) Council on Science and Public Health declared, "Results of 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." However, the Council lamented that despite these encouraging results, "there is a contrast between the relatively small number of patients who have been studied over the past 30 years in controlled clinical trials involving smoked cannabis and survey data from patients with chronic pain, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis that indicates a significant use of cannabis for self management."

As a result, the AMA's House of Delegates resolved "[The] AMA urges that marijuana's status as a federal Schedule I controlled substance be reviewed with the goal of facilitating the conduct of clinical research and development of cannabinoid-based medicines."

Since any future clinical trials would require NIDA approval, it remains unclear what effect, if any, the AMA's declaration will have on facilitating cannabis research.

Paul Armentano is Deputy Director of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, NORML.



Dr. Igor Grant (above) presented his clinical research data on medical cannabis. Senator Mark Leno and Dr. Barath Wisley, M.D., Clinical Prof. at UC Davis (right) also spoke at the press conference. Photo by Dale Gieringer



New studies show marijuana listed incorrectly

Continued from page 1

a first-line treatment for...neuropathy," said Dr. Igor Grant, Director of the CMCR, at a news conference at the state Capitol. He added that the efficacy of smoked cannabis was "very consistent," and that its pain-relieving effects were "comparable to the better existing treatments" presently available by prescription.

"A first-line treatment for neuropathy" — Dr. Igor Grant

A fifth study showed that smoked cannabis reduced the spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis. A separate study conducted by the CMCR established that the vaporization of cannabis — a process that heats the substance to a temperature where active cannabinoid vapors form, but below the point of combustion — is a "safe and effective" delivery mode for patients who desire the rapid onset of action associated with inhalation while avoiding the respiratory risks of smoking.

The CMCR program was founded in 2000, following an \$8.7 million appropriation from the California state legislature. The studies are some of the first placebo-controlled clinical trials to assess the safety and efficacy of inhaled cannabis as a medicine to take place in over two decades.

"These scientists created an unparalleled program of systematic research, focused on science-based answers rather than political or social beliefs," said former California Senator John Vasconcellos, who sponsored the legislation in 1999 to launch the CMCR.

He called the studies' designs "state of art," and suggested the findings "ought to settle the issue" that cannabis is a safe and effective medical treatment for patients.

"This [report] confirms all of the anecdotal evidence — how lives have been saved and pain has been eased," said Senator Mark Leno at the press conference. "Now we have the science to prove it."

The text of CMCR report is posted at cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR_REPORT_FEB17.pdf.

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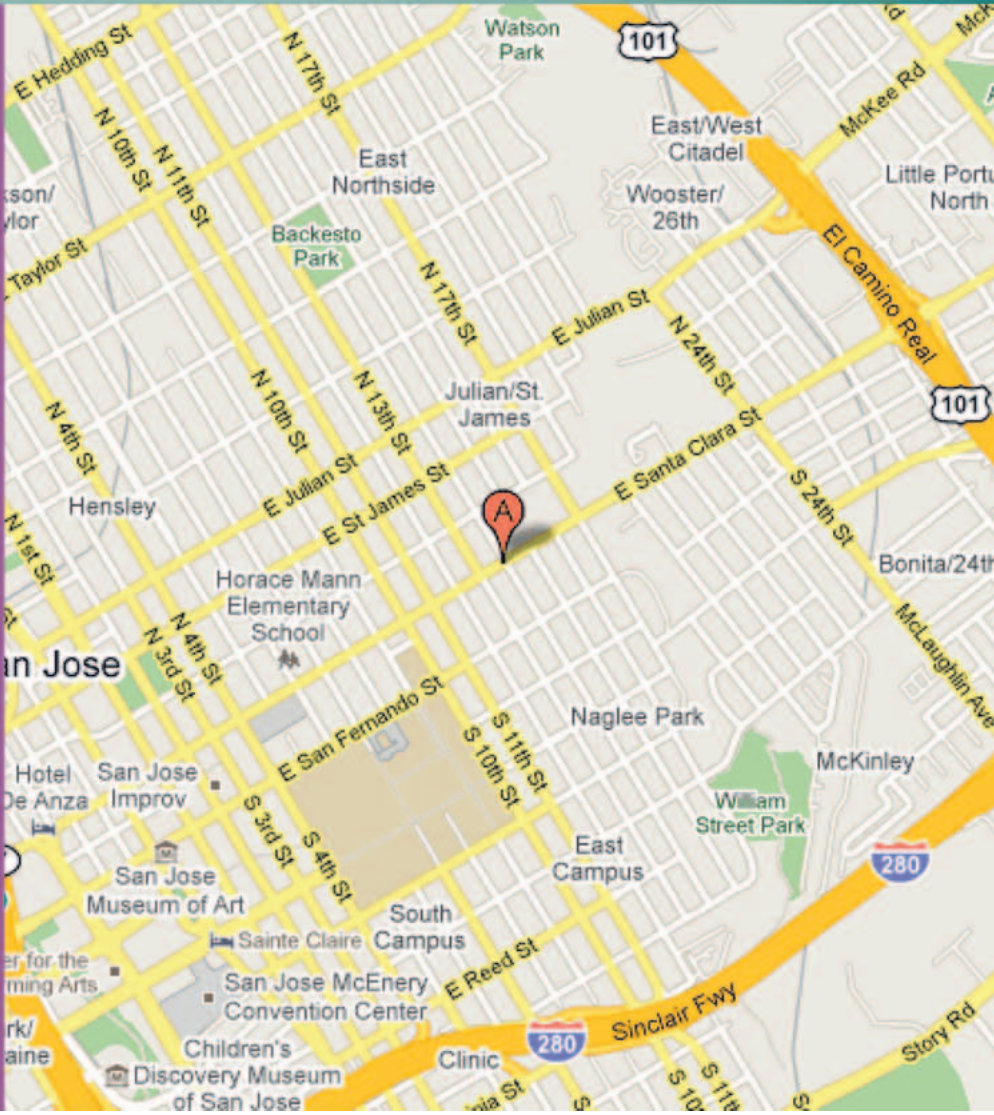


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Wine plus weed can wipe people out

Ask the Cannabis Doctor

By David G. Ostrow, MD, PhD

What's in a name — especially when it is *cannabis v. marihuana*?

Dr. David Bearman tells an interesting anecdote in his new book about the politics of drug policy in the US. Apparently, when the government first decided that smoked cannabis was a dangerous drug, it had to convince people that the stuff the Mexican migrant workers, jazz musicians, homosexuals and such used was different from the cannabis in dozens of popular over-the-counter tonics sold by prominent US drug companies as 'patent' medicines to relieve pain, depression, etc. They made up a new name, 'marihuana,' and outlawed its use, never referring to the sale of cannabis in patent medicines. Which brings the Dr. to

this week's question.

Q. Reader CC asks: Over the past year or so, I have seen a few rare instances of persons who drink a glass of wine before smoking strong cannabis, then begin to hypoventilate, get pale and drowsy; their eyes roll back, and they may pass out and twitch slightly. Hot weather, lack of sleep, hypoglycemia, hypotension, and eating excessive sweets were common factors; but none as consistent as the emptied wine glass, so I call it the 'grape effect.' Is this due to the wine, strong cannabis or what?

A. If someone already has low blood sugar (*hypoglycemia*) and drinks alcohol, their blood sugar will fall, potentially to seriously low levels. That, combined with smoking strong cannabis turns up their metabolism and can cause such a severe drop in blood sugar that they may get dizzy, pass out or even go into convulsions. Similar anecdotal accounts came out of England and the resulting 'hospital emergency room visit' statistics were cited to roll back cannabis reform in the UK. Mexican brick weed seems not to have this effect.

They might just need a little sugar, but if your friend starts looking pale, don't let him take a spill.

So do we call this 'the grape effect,' a 'marijuana side effect,' or just acute hypoglycemia resulting from poly-drug use when running on empty? Whatever you call it, the point is that people who drink and smoke need to keep an eye out for it, particularly in hot or humid weather, to make sure their friends don't take a spill.

If this happens, before you reach for the phone to call 911, see if the person is awake enough to drink a small glass of orange juice or other sugary drink, which, if they are having an acute hypoglycemic reaction, will bring them back from a stupor. Hypoglycemic persons will react to sugar by waking up or otherwise indicating that they are okay. Lay anyone who suffers dizziness or fainting in this situation on the ground and raise their feet to get the blood flowing. Make them rest a few minutes after giving them juice and before getting up. If they don't improve quickly, you might call 911, but be sure to tell the paramedics what happened and that you think the person just needs an IV of sugar solution to get better.

BEWARE:

Drinking alcohol and smoking strong cannabis really can cause people to pass out.

West Coast Leaf photo



Report finds cannabis use replacing more harmful drugs

By Amanda Reiman

Whether choosing Tylenol over ibuprofen or Zoloft over Prozac, people are making decisions about their health based on which substances give the best results with the fewest unwanted consequences. "Drug substitution" exists in the world of non-medical drugs as well. When considering alcohol, it is common to hear a person choose beer because 'hard alcohol does not agree with me.'

Substances such as cocaine, ecstasy and heroin have been found to be psychoactive and economic substitutes among those who use them [1-3]. The decision to substitute one drug for another can be driven by issues of effectiveness, cost, accessibility, legal sanctions and unwanted consequences [4]. Not surprisingly, many cannabis patients report that they use cannabis as a substitute for alcohol, prescription, and illicit drugs. A 2008 study at Berkeley Patient's Group in California looked at this practice.

A sampling of 350 patients was surveyed anonymously and asked about their demographic characteristics, health status, cannabis-use patterns, history of alcohol and drug treatment, current alcohol and drug use, if they practiced substitution and why. The sample was 68 percent male, 54 percent single, 66 percent white. The mean age was 39, and 74 percent had health insurance, including MediCal. Forty-one percent work full time, 81 percent have completed at least some college, and 51 percent make under \$40,000 a year.

Seventy-one percent report having a chronic medical condition, 52 percent use cannabis for a pain-related condition, and 75 percent use it for a mental health condition. Fifty-three percent drink alcohol at an average of 2.6 drink-

ing-days per week, with an average of 2.9 drinks per occasion. A quarter use tobacco at 9.5 cigarettes average per day. Eleven percent used a non-prescribed, non-OTC drug in the past 30 days, with cocaine, MDMA and Vicodin reported most frequently. Twenty-five percent reported growing up in an abusive or addictive household, 16 percent had previous alcohol and/or drug treatment, and two percent were then in a 12-step or other recovery program. Forty percent used cannabis as a substitute for alcohol, 26 percent for illicit drugs, and 66 percent for prescription drugs. The most common reasons for substituting cannabis were fewer adverse side effects, 65 percent; better symptom management, 57 percent; and less withdrawal potential, 34 percent.

Substituting one psychoactive substance for another to reduce negative outcomes can be helpful within the framework of harm reduction

This raises two important points. The first is self-determination, the right of an individual to choose a treatment or substance that is found most effective and least harmful. Secondly, substitution may be a viable alternative to abstinence for those who are not able, or who do not wish to, stop using psychoactive substances.

1. Pacula R: Does increasing the beer tax reduce marijuana consumption? *Journal of Health Economics* 1998, 17:557-585.
2. Sumnall H, Tyler E, Wagstaff G, Cole J: A behavioural economic analysis of alcohol, amphetamine, cocaine, and ecstasy purchases by polysubstance misusers. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2004, 76:93-99.
3. Petry N: A behavioral economic analysis of polydrug abuse in alcoholics: asymmetrical substitution of alcohol and cocaine. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2001, 62:31-39.
4. Reiman A: Patient Profiles: Medical cannabis patients and health care utilization patterns. *Complementary Health Practice Review* 2000, 12:31-50.

Iowa Board shifts stance

By Phil Smith DRC Net

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy voted unanimously Feb. 17 to recommend that state lawmakers reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II controlled substance and set up a task force to study how to create a medical marijuana program. Medical marijuana bills have previously failed to move in the state legislature, but the board's action could help spur forward momentum.

Similarly to the federal Controlled Substances Act, Iowa law classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug with no proven medical use and a high potential for abuse. By recommending that it be rescheduled to Schedule II — potential for abuse, but with accepted medical use — the board acknowledged the herb's medical efficacy.

Given the board's initial reluctance to take up the issue, the unanimous vote comes as something as a pleasant surprise to advocates. In May 2008, Iowans for Medical Marijuana founder Carl Olsen petitioned the board to reschedule marijuana, arguing that the evidence did not support its classification as Schedule I.

The board rejected that request, and Olsen, three plaintiffs, and the ACLU of Iowa sued to force it to reconsider. Last year, a Polk County judge ordered the board to take another look at the matter. The board again declined to reclassify marijuana, but this time it did agree to a series of four public hearings.

It was after those hearings, packed with medical marijuana supporters, and after a scientific review of the literature, that the board took action. In doing so, it becomes the first state pharmacy board in the nation to take such a step before voters or lawmakers have legalized medical marijuana.

The board's action also puts it squarely in line with popular sentiment in the Hawkeye State. According to an Iowa Poll released Tuesday, 64 percent of Iowans want medical marijuana to be legal.

Smith writes for Drug War Chronicles, stopthedrugwar.org

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WEST COAST LEAF
Editorials and Commentary

Get ready for an onslaught of lies

Now that an adult cannabis reform initiative has gathered enough signatures — once verified — to go before the voters in November, the die is cast and the election inevitable. Seemingly just as inevitable is a flow of lies and disinformation that will soon come streaming from prohibitionists and opponents of equal rights once this campaign is underway. Fortunately, the American Medical Assn. and the California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research completed important work *before* the initiative was presented. Otherwise they might have come under tremendous political pressure to suppress their reports showing health benefits from cannabis, just as the Institute of Medicine was forced to delay its report on medical marijuana until 1999 in order to conceal its findings from voters preparing to vote on compassionate use initiatives in six states. Had the report not been delayed, the voting public would have learned that the National Academy of Science knew about cannabis' medical benefits well before the 1998 elections.

Basically, any claim of negative reactions to cannabis we see published in the news media from now to November should be taken for what it probably is — drug warriors spreading lies to deceive voters just as they did during the *Reefer Madness* era and in the 1960s. When the 1972 Shafer Commission came out for decriminalizing use and advancing science, federal 'scientists' made careers out of staging sham studies claiming negative effects from cannabis that later proved to be overblown or downright false. Under the Bush administration, science was seen as a joke and Obama, unfortunately, still relies on Bush holdovers. So, expect the same playbook: sensational claims of previously unheard-of dangers will pop up in widely publicized news reports; only after the election will they be exposed as wild exaggeration. Lots of out-of-state cash will pour in to buy advertising time, the Drug War lobby will churn out lies, the media will spout pious hypocrisy, and our taxes will be spent to undermine democracy. Same old, same old.

We already know the relative risks, and while cannabis is not for everyone, it is by every standard a safer choice than alcohol — unless you get arrested, and end up behind bars then stigmatized as a drug offender. Those are the consequences of prohibition, not cannabis. We also know that Californians want to keep it away from kids, and the initiative is written to do that. People who care about children support this approach, yet those who oppose equal rights will again hide their real agenda by invoking 'the children.' The prison lobby wears many disguises, and sometimes dons a minister's collar. Don't be fooled. If these crusaders care so much about children, they will want the blood money that is now wasted on the Drug War to be invested in our schools. Instead, they use at-risk youth as a cynical prop in their campaign against personal adult liberty.

This will be California's first ballot measure on cannabis since Prop 215 in 1996. While Prop 215 was written to maintain the general ban on cannabis but allow patients medical access, Tax Cannabis 2010 will preserve medical marijuana but also allow personal adult use. It is written to clear up confusion, stop most marijuana arrests, and let local communities decide how to assimilate cannabis consumers, both socially and economically. We hope that voters will ignore those desperate lies and vote for common-sense change, and we urge our readers to help convince everyone to do so.

Pollution is not part of cannabis core values

There is some common ground between prohibitionists and cannabis proponents: None of us like growers who poison the environment with diesel spills, trash and pesticides. We all want that to end, which is why so many of us want the commercial market controlled. Something consumers can do right now to reduce pollution is to cut back on the disposable lighters that choke landfills and oceans. Half of them sputter out with unused butane inside, anyway, adding to the pollution. May we suggest that people simply pick up some matches and get a refillable lighter to use.

WEST COAST LEAF

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Chris Conrad, executive editor
Mikki Norris, managing editor

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We were glad to see Students for Sensible Drug Policy at the California State Capitol to show support for legalization and the Tom Ammiano bill on Jan. 12.

From left to right: Suzy Sim, Alex Woon, Kraig Negrete, Jonathan Perri, and Alan Kumar.

Photo by Mikki Norris

Taxation + regulation + representation = liberation

By Rebecca D. Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At-large.

As it turns out, the best way to promote cannabis liberation is to support taxation. By showing that dispensaries can be responsible employers, respectful neighbors and contributing members of the community, we make possible a new dialog.

For many years, almost all responsible people have agreed that the decades-long war on marijuana has been a miserable failure. It has cost us billions of taxpayer dollars while vital public services face devastating cuts. It has caused deep human suffering to individuals and families, has pushed marijuana profits into the hands of criminal cartels and it has failed to accomplish any of its goals, while consuming an ever-larger share of the budget. The policy has remained, because although everyone can see it isn't working, they are not sure what will work.

Some tried a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, by simply ignoring cannabis. While this

is less costly both in dollars and human suffering than the war approach, we can do much better. When cannabis businesses are regulated, get permits, obey local laws, provide benefits for employees, and pay tax revenue to support their communities, a new option becomes available. Then, even people who don't care about cannabis have a reason to be supportive — for sound economic and community reasons. Profits removed from criminal enterprises can be directed instead to provide economic opportunity in our local communities.

Responsible regulations can be used to make sure that cannabis facilities are safe and responsibly run — just like restaurants and every other business that has to undergo certain rules and inspections.

This new approach can supplant the 'war' on cannabis and the record-breaking imprisonment records of our state and our nation. While it seems incongruous, having more rules and paying taxes can actually bring more freedom.

Time to legalize marijuana — but don't stop there

Police chief blames prohibition for problems, not drug users

By Norm Stamper*
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

It seems like everyone is now talking about marijuana legalization. Indeed, a national poll in December found that 53 percent of Americans support ending its prohibition.

Bolstered by increasing public support for something once considered a political third rail, lawmakers across the country have put the issue up for consideration, and citizen initiatives are cropping up faster than ditch weed.

These are welcome developments to a retired police chief like me who oversaw the arrests of countless people for cannabis and other drugs, but saw no positive impact from all the effort and resources expended. Soon, it seems, cops may no longer have to waste time and risk lives enforcing laws that don't actually prevent anyone from using cannabis.

Yet, I'm alarmed that the poll showing support for cannabis also found that fewer than one in 10 people agree it's time to end the prohibition of other drugs.

At first glance this might make sense to some readers, since more are familiar with marijuana than other drugs like cocaine or heroin. However, a cursory study of drug war policies reveals that legalizing pot but not other drugs will leave huge social harms unresolved, largely because cannabis is not a major problem.

It will take more than legalizing just marijuana for society to:

- Stop gangs from selling other drugs to kids (since illegal dealers rarely check IDs);
- Stop dealers from murdering rival traffickers for the purpose of controlling the

remaining criminal market for other drugs;

- Stop dealers from killing cops charged with fighting the war on other drugs;
- Stop dealers from killing kids caught in crossfire and drive-by shootings;
- Stop overdose deaths of drug users who can't call 911 for fear of legal repercussions;
- Reduce the spread of infectious diseases like AIDS and hepatitis, since cannabis users don't inject their drug like heroin users (who sometimes share dirty syringes because prohibition makes it hard to secure clean ones);
- Stop the bloody cartel battles in Mexico that are creeping over the border to the US;
- Stop the Taliban profits from illegal opium cultivation in Afghanistan.

Of course, cannabis should be legal. Most Americans understand that legalizing cannabis will produce many benefits. No longer will 800,000 people a year be arrested on pot charges; governments will be able to tax sales; regulation and revenues will finance effective drug abuse prevention and treatment programs; and traffickers will lose as much as half their illicit profits when they can no longer sell weed.

Once people get used to the idea of legal sales for one previously banned drug, we can point to successful regulation as a model for similar treatment of other currently illicit substances.

Legal cannabis is a step in the direction of sensible drug policy. Reformers must remember that some police are working for legalization not because drugs are safe, but because prohibition is far more dangerous to users and nonusers alike.

* Stamper, a LEAP member (CopsSayLegalizeDrugs.com), is a 34-year police veteran and served as Seattle's chief of police from 1994-2000. He is the author of *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Exposé of the Dark Side of American Policing*.

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Change.org: Listen to your core supporters

Open letter from a voter

Dear Change.org,

You recently announced the launch of your 'Ideas for Change in America 2010' that seeks to "empower citizens to identify and build momentum behind the country's best ideas for addressing the major challenges we face." This noble effort uses direct democracy to encourage the online audience to submit and vote on 'Ideas.' change.org/ideas

On Feb. 4, 2010, the second most popular Idea within the most popular category, Criminal Justice, was "legalize recreational use of marijuana." In fact, seventy percent of the Ideas submitted in that category pertained to cannabis, accounting for 80 percent of the category's vote total. Overall, no other idea captured more votes or consumed more of a category than 'Marijuana.'

On Jan. 27, CitizenTube allowed viewers of the *State of the Union* address to submit and vote on questions to ask President Obama. Questions on the issue of "marijuana legalization" outdistanced all other issues by more than two-to-one. Obama never answered this top question, because YouTube never asked it.

youtube.com/CitizenTube#p/c/EB843ABAF59735FD

In December 2009, Chase Bank held a competition to award grants to 100 charitable organizations that received the most votes on its Facebook fan page. Students for Sensible Drug Policy and the Marijuana Policy Project were among the top vote getters, but Chase disqualified them from the final tally, with no explanation. mapinc.org/drugnews/v09/n1131/a07.html

After the 2008 presidential election, the Obama Administration established "Open for Questions." Three rounds of voting by over 200,000 people placed "Legalizing marijuana" first in each of the top five cat-

egories. At his March 26, 2009 press conference, Obama quipped, "I don't know what this says about the online audience," and dismissed the idea.

whitehouse.gov/openforquestions

Do you see a pattern?

As a Change.org member, I'm dismayed that "marijuana" (medical, recreational, or hemp) garners only a fraction of your coverage. Few stories concerning it have appeared in your Criminal Justice news or as *Featured Ideas*. "Legalize marijuana" is your third most popular petition with 16,000 signers. Isn't that home-page material?

Change.org appears to endorse fair voting. It rightly decries bias against people of color, gays, and the homeless. It embraces human rights. Yet, these noble ideals become diminished by brushing aside the most popular idea.

The corporations, non-profits, and governments, which are leveraging the power of the Internet's online audience to engage in direct democracy, should understand that in a democracy, the will of the people is made real by the most votes. When voting is not fairly reported and implemented, these campaigns do little to foster public participation in the democratic process and much to further cynicism of it.

Speaking on behalf of the "online audience," I want my voice to be heard. I'm tired of being ignored, as if I'll just disappear.

Here's an idea: please accurately report and implement the results of the 2010 *Ideas for Change in America*. Treat all submitted ideas with the respect they deserve, even the one that wins the competition hands down. Please note that this is Idea #154 in the Government Reform and Transparency Category. drugsense.org/url/NgppFWQ4

Sincerely, **Mary Jane Borden** DrugSense

Legitimizing cannabis' economic role is key to putting California's budget back on track

By Stephen Gutwillig and Mary Moreno Richardson

California's budget turmoil is the worst in the nation. Sacramento closed a \$42 billion deficit this summer only to face tens of billions more in red ink already. Most expect another round of tortured budget balancing that further slashes aid to the most vulnerable, raises taxes and fees on everyone, and kicks the can down the road by borrowing billions more.

Meanwhile, California's largest cash crop is being largely ignored in the frenzied search for politically-viable revenue.

While law enforcement focuses ever-increasing resources on arresting cannabis users, there were 185,173 reported violent crimes in California in 2008

The state's cannabis yield is conservatively valued at \$14 billion annually — nearly double the combined value of our vegetable and grape crops. The state Board of Equalization estimates that taxing adult cannabis consumption like alcohol would generate \$1.4 billion in new revenue for the state. While that's only a modest contribution toward our fiscal woes, it's one more incentive to end decades of failed marijuana prohibition. In fact, the financial and human price that we currently pay for criminalizing cannabis is far too high.

California, which decriminalized low-level cannabis possession in 1975, arrested more than 78,000 people for marijuana offenses last year alone, a nearly 30 percent increase since 2005. Of those arrested, four out of five were for simple possession, and one in five was a child under the age of 18. Police disproportionately arrest young people of color, many of whom permanently enter the criminal justice system and suffer severe limitations to their educational and employment opportunities.

California spends hundreds of millions of dollars to enforce pot prohibition. While law enforcement focuses ever-increasing resources on arresting cannabis users, there were 185,173 reported violent crimes in California in 2008, but only 125,235 violent crime arrests. Where are our priorities?

Opponents of cannabis reform have mostly abandoned 'reefer madness' rhetoric and allude instead to 'societal costs' associated with cannabis consumption. They assert that revenues generated from taxing alcohol and cigarettes don't approach the damage those substances cause. It's a fair issue. However, cannabis is objectively far safer for adults to use. Regulation has dramatically decreased cigarette use among all age groups, and is pre-

cisely the way to address concerns about youth access, potency and consumer safety — as well as take the financial incentive away from the violent black market.

Despite the enormous death and suffering wrought by alcohol and cigarettes, who thinks we should abandon regulation and cede control to violent cartels by making them illegal? And who wants the profound societal costs of criminalizing tens of thousands of otherwise law-abiding citizens each year simply for smoking cannabis?

The US ended alcohol prohibition just over 75 years ago, when its failure — in the form of unchecked violence, official corruption and routine violation of the law by millions of Americans — could no longer be ignored. But what finally hastened its demise was the Depression itself, as public opinion and a progressive new president insisted the waste of resources and potential revenue had to stop.

The sheer scale of our current fiscal misery demands a similar reality check: Marijuana already plays a huge role in the California economy. It's time to end the unjust charade of marijuana prohibition, tax this flourishing multibillion dollar market and redirect criminal justice resources to matters of real public safety.

Gutwillig is the California director of the Drug Policy Alliance. The Rev. Canon Richardson is coordinator for Hispanic Ministries at San Diego's St. Paul's (Episcopal) Cathedral and the creator of the Guadalupe Art Program, devoted to stopping violence against women and children.

Laws ban schools from teaching responsibility

It is widely known that DARE does not work, but state and federal laws forbid schools from teaching students to learn about responsible behavior in schools. Health and Safety code 11999.2 and 11999.3 no state agency may allocate funds for a drug or alcohol related program without written assurance that no aspect of the program may include a message on 'responsible use,' if such use is unlawful.

Progressive Drug Educators (PDE) plans to shift the party line paradigm by offering its programs directly to parents via the Internet. Find out more about their 'Just Say Know' program at ProDrEd.org, or search FaceBook for Progressive Drug Educator. Another option for parents is the "Safety First" program with info online at drugpolicy.org/safetyfirst/.

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National and International Reports

Israeli hospital offers its patients medical marijuana

Twenty patients have received cannabis as a treatment for various illnesses in a pilot project at an Israeli hospital, it was announced Nov. 24, 2009. Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, Israel began administering cannabis to patients in Spring 2009, and has finalized protocols for providing medical marijuana to patients. The Sheba protocol allows patients to use their medication either in the hospital's smoking areas or in private rooms with an open window.

The Israel Association for the Advancement of Medical Cannabis, which has been involved in the project from the start, is raising money to buy more vaporizers so patients can inhale their medication without the need to light a joint. Israel is among the few countries to allow medical cannabis, along with the Netherlands, Germany, and Canada.

Four states have reciprocal medical marijuana laws

Qualified patients' use of cannabis is not generally recognized outside their home state. However, four of the 13 effective state medical laws include reciprocity: Montana, Rhode Island, Michigan and Maine. Montana was the first state with reciprocity in 2004. Then Rhode Island copied it into their law in 2006. Next, Michigan incorporated it into their law in 2008. Most recently, Maine added it in November 2009.

Giants' Lincecum gets small fine for cannabis, big raise in pay

Two-time Cy Young Award winner and San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum spent 10 minutes in a Clark County WA court Jan. 19 to pay a \$513 fine for his Oct. 30 arrest for 3.3 grams of cannabis. "I'll try not to let this happen again," he told the court. On Feb. 17, the Giants and Lincecum signed a two-year, \$23 million contract. The cannabis consumer is now among the highest-paid athletes, set to receive \$8 million this season and \$13 million in 2011, with a \$1 million bonus payable each year. He also will get \$100,000 each time he's an All-Star, \$100,000 for being the National League's Most Valuable Player, \$75,000 as World Series MVP and \$50,000 as league championship-series MVP.

In latest CBS controversy, network nixes NORML ad in NYC

While standing by its decision to air an anti-abortion commercial during the Super Bowl, CBS refused to let NORML run an anti-prohibition ad on its billboard in Times Square. The 15-second ad would have read, "Taxing and regulating the adult use and sale of marijuana would raise billions of dollars in national revenue." In refusing the ad, CBS told NORML, "If CBS changes their morals we will let you know."

Viewers can deduce CBS's morals from the wholesale blood and gore on 'NCIS,' 'CSI,' 'Criminal Minds,' etc., nestled between ads for cars, Viagra and beer. Once a respected network, CBS is turning off viewers who, in turn, are turning off CBS.

Patient / veteran fights for his right to bear arms

By Chuck McIntosh

Shasta County Collective Members Assn

Retired Army Specialist Sean Merritt thought he understood the Second Amendment to the US Constitution pretty well. So the vet was shocked to discover that he was not permitted to buy a gun at a shop in Redding, California where the owner knew Merritt was a qualified patient. By coincidence, the shopowner is also the town mayor and has seen Merritt speak as a patient advocate at City Council meetings.

Merritt contends that state law protects his right to confidentiality in section HS 11362.71(d)(1). He can't sign a pre-purchase FBI background check form because the sales staff said he had to answer 'yes' to a question about cannabis. This "breaks the confidentiality of SB420," said Merritt, adding that it "sets me up to perjure myself if I mark *no*, or I can mark *yes*, in which case I still won't get a weapon because federal law treats marijuana as illegal."

Merritt confronted Mayor Jones at the Feb. 2 Council meeting during public comments. The mayor responded that he could not comment on non-agenda items but wished he could, thereby ducking the

issue. Under the Brown Act, the Council cannot take action or have an extended discussion of non-agendized items, but it is permissible for a councilman to answer a question or make a brief comment.

The US Attorney's office refused to comment, saying the incident is still under investigation. California law prohibits anyone who is "addicted to the use of a narcotic drug" from possessing firearms, but cannabis is not considered a narcotic under HS 11019. Nothing in state law prohibits a qualified patient from owning a firearm.

Merritt mused, "I fought for my country and now I am fighting for its people. I believe that we — as vets, patients and believers of the Constitution — are owed an explanation on why our elected officials can't live up to the oaths of office to uphold and defend the Constitution."

Specialist Merritt has dug in for the fight. He has attended all City Council and committee meetings concerning cannabis regulations. He is deputy director of the newly formed Shasta County Collective Members Assn., and is helping organize a regional chapter of Cal NORML.

Contact the SCCMA at www.sccma.us.

Washington legislature looks at reform options

Continued from page 11

standing-room-only hearing before the House Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness. People testifying in favor of the measure included the presidents of the Washington State and King County Bar Associations, the executive director of the County Medical Society, and former Republican state legislators. HB 1177 missed making it out of committee by two votes (5-3), and SB 5615 was not brought to the Senate floor for a vote before the deadline for passing it out.

Representative Mary Lou Dickerson also introduced a marijuana legalization measure this session. HB 2401 would have put the Washington State Liquor Control Board in charge of regulating the marijuana trade. It did not make it out of committee (6-2).



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Medical cannabis comes under attack in CO

By Laura Kriho, Cannabis Therapy Institute

Colorado’s medical marijuana growth is being challenged by state and local governments who want the rapid expansion of dispensaries and patients to end. Where Colorado had about six dispensaries in Jan. 2009, estimates are that there are now close to 400 statewide, just a year later.

The legislative backlash hit in the Fall, when local governments all over the state began enacting temporary moratoriums. On Jan. 11, Denver adopted tough new regulations that include a \$5,000 license and application fee and the right for the city to enter and search all dispensaries without notice, warrant or probable cause.

The government attacks on cannabis patients, caregivers and physicians went into high gear when the state legislature convened. On Jan. 20, the first of the law enforcement-supported bills was introduced by state Sen. Chris Romer (D-Denver). SB019 would redefine the term ‘bona-fide physician-patient relationship’ so that patients must receive a full physical examination yearly by the recommending physician, increasing the cost to patients. SB109 also would allow the government to use information in the confidential Medical Marijuana Registry to fish for evidence of ‘fraudulent’ physicians. The bill allocates over \$1 million in patient application fees to investigate and prosecute physicians. SB109 sailed through two committees by unanimous votes, and passed the full Senate by a vote of 34 to one. It is now on to the full House for final consideration.

The second law enforcement bill, HB 1284, was introduced Feb. 5 as a 45-page monstrosity that would further restrict patients and caregivers. It would set up a state cannabis licensing board run by the

Dept. of Revenue, not the Dept. of Health.

It would require all dispensaries to be run as non-profits. Ninety-percent of all the cannabis used by the dispensary would have to be grown onsite. HB1284 would require dispensary owners to pass background checks and submit fingerprints to the FBI. They could not own a dispensary if they had ever had a felony drug conviction — but any other felony is okay. It would require caregivers to give up their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and even prohibit the cannabis leaf icon from being used in advertising.

Colorado lawmakers clearly want to restrict the industry to the point where there are only a few mega-Walmart dispensaries. They don’t understand the variety of medicines or the strains and special services that the smaller care-giving businesses provide to patients.

Meanwhile, patients keep getting arrested and prosecuted, and still lose their jobs, homes, and children due to a choice of medicine. While patients’ real problems are ignored, legislators scramble to appease law enforcement and put the cannabis genie back into its bottle.

Patients have adopted the slogan “Nothing about us without us” and are encouraging lawmakers to work with them to form a commission to study the real problems, instead of railroading through un-Constitutional laws that violate basic human rights without any patient input.

The Cannabis Therapy Institute is intensifying its educational and its grassroots lobbying campaigns, in the hopes of slowing down or stopping the mad rush to end the Colorado Green Rush. www.cannabistherapyinstitute.com

Starbucks, North Face respond to boycott threat

By Eva Enns SAFER Outreach Director

Not long ago, businesses seemed to think it necessary to keep up an appearance of opposing cannabis use and legalization. A recent *brouhaha* with Starbucks Coffee demonstrated that the times are changing.

Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) called for a nationwide boycott of Starbucks Coffee in December after it and other companies were listed on the ‘sponsor’ page of the Colorado Drug Investigators Assn. (CDIA), a shady group of law enforcement officials lobbying to wipe out the state’s voter-approved cannabis dispensaries. The call to action spread quickly across the Web. With a boost from traditional media coverage, it resulted in thousands of people contacting Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz to tell him they would not be giving any business to his company until it switched positions.

Soon after, Starbucks issued a formal statement to distance itself from the CDIA and assure the faithful that Starbucks does not support anti-marijuana crusaders. Another ‘sponsor’ listed on the site was The North Face, a leading producer of hiking and mountain sports equipment and apparel. After receiving messages from people swearing off their products, TNF took action to ensure everyone knows they do not sponsor the CDIA and do not support the group’s mission.

Following the bad publicity about ties to the CDIA, the group deleted its site entirely, prompting SAFER to call off the boycott.

“In the past, businesses faced with anti-marijuana publicity either remained silent or spoke out to assure the public of the opposition to cannabis use and its legalization,” said SAFER Executive Director



Mason Tvert. “Yet these major companies did not stay silent; instead, they took action to ensure the public knows they are not opposed.

“They’re coming to realize they must respect the fact that cannabis consumers and supporters of reform are everywhere,” he said. “If they expect to keep their business, maintain market-shares, and ensure healthy bottom lines, they must end their support of the anti-marijuana madness.”

1,700 pounds missing

An Interstate Drug Interdiction Unit allegedly pulled over a tractor-trailer in Tennessee Feb. 10 with 1,700 pounds of marijuana on board, according to Memphis Police records. When DEA agents asked that the load continue to its destination for a controlled drug delivery, officers agreed and trailed the shipment to Louisville, KY.

Officers followed the tractor-trailer to its destination and watched, hoping to interrupt a big transfer and make arrests. Several people came and went in cars, but when agents went inside to investigate, they discovered the truck was still there but the cannabis was gone. An agent told a *Memphis Commercial Appeal* reporter that in Shelby County a pound of bulk marijuana could cost between \$300 and more than \$1,000, depending on the type. DEA officials have not made any comments on what may have happened to the weed.

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New Jersey passes restrictive new cannabis law

Continued from page 1

New Jersey will be unique among medical marijuana states in that home cultivation of cannabis will be prohibited.

The DHSS is charged with adopting regulations to implement this law within 90 days. Specific information about how to apply to the DHSS for an ID card, or to apply to open a treatment center will not be available before April 2010. The entire program is expected to be running by July.

Patient advocates note that the new law is too restrictive in a number of ways:

- The largest group of patients, those suffering from chronic pain, was arbitrarily disqualified from program eligibility,
- Out-of-state ID cards are not recognized.
- Physicians who specialize in cannabis therapeutics will not be eligible to certify patients in the state.
- The two-ounce a month limit will be

inadequate for many qualified patients.

- The ban on home cultivation eliminates a low-cost option for patients.

The DHSS will establish procedures to add other debilitating medical conditions to those included in this law. DHSS will later reevaluate the adequacy of the two-ounce limit. Advocates hope that the federal government will soon protect patients who need to cross state lines.

New Jersey patients who believe that cannabis can help them should now begin a dialogue with their physicians and specialists that might be involved in their care. Patients should discuss why they think cannabis can benefit them, and ask that these discussions be documented in their permanent medical records. If a physician is not familiar with cannabis therapy, there are many online resources available. It is a patient's right to ask for a second opinion.

Europe: Czech government decrims five plants, 15 grams

By Phillip Smith

Editor, Drug War Chronicle, www.stophthdrugwar.org

Possession of up to 15 grams of marijuana or up to five plants (and up to 40 entheogenic mushrooms) is no longer a punishable offense in the Czech Republic since the beginning of the year. The limits were announced in December after the cabinet decided to change policy.

Possession of amounts greater than 'small amounts,' but less than those assumed to indicate trafficking, will result in prison sentences of up to one year for cannabis and to two years for other drugs. According to the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction's latest annual report, Czechs are among Europe's leading cannabis smokers. Among young Czechs (age 16 to 34), 22 percent toked up at least once a year. The European average was 16 percent.

Medical marijuana in Washington DC, at last

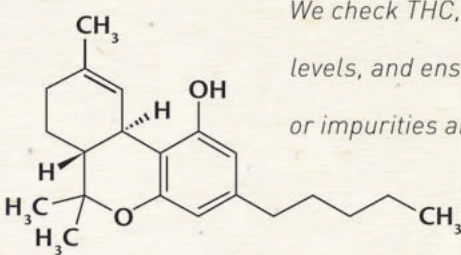
Patients in Washington DC inched closer to having legal access to cannabis, more than 10 years after voters there passed Initiative 59 to legalize medical marijuana.

City Council member David Catania introduced a bill to implement the decade-old measure, with the sponsorship of nine out of 13 Council members. Once the bill goes into effect, the city will consider how many dispensaries to allow, what regulations to enact, and which patients' conditions will receive treatment. Catania anticipates that there will be five to 10 dispensaries allowed and that they will be required to be formed as non-profits.

The DC voters passed I-59 by a large margin, but because DC is a federal territory, implementation will require an act of Congress, which may come this summer.

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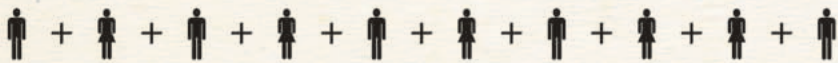


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The iGrow garden store's Grand Opening made news Jan 28 as being the first superstore of medical marijuana, although the shop near Oakland airport does not provide cannabis. Rather, it caters to the patient gardener by requiring a doctor's approval to get advice specific to the medical cannabis grower.

Photo by Mikki Norris

Obama dissappoints with Bush-era DEA pick

By Dale Gieringer California NORML

To the disappointment of drug reformers looking for change in Washington, President Obama announced the re-appointment of Bush appointee Michele Leonhart to head the DEA.

Leonhart, who was named deputy administrator in 2003 and acting administrator in 2007, is notorious for having presided over the DEA's raids on cannabis dispensaries in California and other states.

"We're obviously very disappointed about this," MPP lobbyist Aaron Houston told the *Drug War Chronicle*. "She presided over the worst abuses of the Bush administration raids against patients and providers, she presided over some of the worst periods of activity in Los Angeles as Special Agent in Charge, she doesn't have a clue about the fact that the Mexicans are begging us to change our drug laws."

Leonhart is also responsible for blocking Prof. Lyle Craker's application to establish a cannabis research garden at U. of Mass., Amherst. This effectively continued the DEA's roadblock on FDA development of medical marijuana, since the only legally available supplies are controlled by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), which has refused to support medical marijuana research. Leonhart explicitly overrode the decision of administrative law judge Mary Ellen Bittner, who ruled that NIDA's continued monopolization of medical marijuana supplies was "not in the public interest" and recommended that Craker's application be approved.

"This nomination is disconcerting, to say the least," said Tom Angell, media relations director for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). "It's hard to see how giving the DEA directorship to someone who went out of her way to block medical marijuana research aligns with President Obama's pledge to set policies based on science and facts."

It is typical for new administrations to appoint new agency heads when they want to change an agency's policy. President Bush appointed Asa Hutchinson to head the DEA just months after taking office. Drug reformers waited more than a year to hear the disappointing news that Obama was re-appointing Leonhart. Obama has also left Bush holdovers in key US attorney offices, including the northern district of California, the site of several pending medical marijuana cases.

Leonhart's performance in office has

been marked by other misjudgments. Last year, she spent \$123,000 to charter a private plane to Colombia, rather than use a DEA plane. She also vigorously defended her use of 'supersnitch' Andrew Chambers, who made a record \$2.2 million as an informant from 1984 to 2000 before being caught as a perjurer.

"I hope that the Judiciary Committee looks aggressively at her career, and what role she may have played in promoting the career of this informant who seems to be a career perjurer," said Eric Sterling, a former Congressional staffer now with the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation. "If her practice was to knowingly tolerate perjury and encourage the use of an informant who is a perjurer, she is not qualified to be head of DEA by any stretch."

Drug reform lobbyists agree that the Senate is unlikely to reject Leonhart's appointment, but her confirmation hearings will offer a good opportunity for senators to probe her performance.

Special thanks to Phil Smith and *Drug War Chronicle*, online at stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle.

Hawai'i reformers face a busy legislative year

By Andrea Tischler

Americans for Save Access, Big Island Chapter

Hawaii's state lawmakers are considering a cornucopia of more than 18 cannabis-related bills this session. A bill decriminalizing an ounce or less and one calling for statewide 'lowest law enforcement priority' are already in play.

Other bills include new provisions to the state medical cannabis law. Pam Lichty of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, who co-chairs the Medical Cannabis Working Group, hopes to see some changes to a law which has not been amended since its passage in 2000. She said, "The MCWG has brought together patients, physicians, caregivers and advocates and has energized them to work for some much-needed changes to the program." Their most important recommendations are establishment of a legal distribution system, raising the quantities for plants and dried cannabis, permitting caregivers to care for more than one patient, and transferring the program from the Dept. of Public Safety to the Dept. of Health.

Big Island voters wanted peaceful skies, not 'policeful skies.'

This being an election year, legislators tend to position themselves as being tough on drugs. Even if bills are passed, lame-duck Governor Lingle has stated that she will veto any cannabis bill that lands on her desk. It remains to be seen if the legislature will override a veto. The new governor in 2011 may be more receptive to reform.

On the cannabis-friendly Big Island, where 53 percent of county citizens voted for the Lowest Law Enforcement Priority of Cannabis initiative in 2008, the new law makes 24 or fewer plants, or the equivalent in dried cannabis, to be LLEP, the most liberal provision in the country.

It also prohibits the county from accepting federal and state grants or using local public funds for the purpose of eradicating plants. Big Island police and a hostile prosecutor have been defiant, and the council weak in its support for the law.

The Peaceful Sky Alliance (PSA) watchdog group, formed following the passage of the initiative, has written numerous letters to officials protesting county noncompliance with the law. Most recently the council voted 5-2 not to ask the State legislature to pass the statewide decriminalization bill and voted to accept a federal grant for a narcotics task force. President of the PSA Wolf Daniel Braun asserted, "Our call to action is to ensure that we have peaceful skies, not 'policeful skies.' We will continue to work toward that goal."

Attorneys from the ACLU of Honolulu recently visited the Big Island for a meeting with residents at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Most of the attendees expressed outrage that the helicopters still fly low overhead, small gardens are being ripped up and personal-use grower arrests continue. Advocates are hopeful that the ACLU will join in a lawsuit against the county for violating citizens' right to privacy.

Andrea Tischler, Big Island ASA, andreatischler@yahoo.com



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WEST COAST LEAF

Calendar and Community Directory

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. For info see ssdp.org

April 3, 39th Annual Hash Bash, Ann Arbor, MI, Noon. U of Michigan Diag., For info, contact Adam at 313-999-0329

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 in the 21st Century, San Jose, CA. A Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference open to physicians, medical professionals and the 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. Exhibitors, speakers, vendors, medicating area. 1 day - \$15, 2-Day - \$24. For info, intche.org or call 408-314-6297

April 17-18, First Annual Western Slope Cannabis Crown, Aspen, CO. Featuring live music, speakers, information booths, and a competition of the best strains. For info, see cannabiscrown.com or call 866-956-6317

April 23-25, THC Expose - Hemp Products and Art Show, LA, CA. Los Angeles Convention Center. Vendors, speakers, seminars. \$10 / day. See thcexpose.com

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

June 4-5, NORML Aspen Legal Seminar, CO. The Gant Hotel, Aspen. 2-day CLE



Tommy Chong and Cheech Marin were honored with the Trailblazer Award at the Marijuana Policy Project's 15th Anniversary Gala in Washington DC on Jan. 13, 2010. The comedy duo are currently on tour. See cheechandchongtour.com. Chong wears a tee shirt supporting Canadian entrepreneur Marc Emery in his struggle against deportation to the US on charges of selling cannabis seeds. Photo by The Grasshopper.

program for attorneys and advocates, with benefit party. For info, see norml.org

June 19-20, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, San Francisco, CA. Terra Gallery and Events, 511 Harrison St. Medical marijuana and hemp expo, with cultivation seminars, VIP party, award ceremony for best strains and more. For details, see medcancup.com

July 16-18, Medical Marijuana and Hemp Expo, Toronto, Canada. Metro Toronto Convention Centre "Hall A". Sponsored by Treating Yourself magazine. Featuring vendors, workshops, films, seminars, and vapor lounge. For info, see medicalmarijuana-hempexpo.com

Aug. 20-22, Seattle Hempfest, WA. Myrtle Edwards Park, on the downtown waterfront. The largest annual gathering of cannabis supporters. Over 90 bands, speakers, education, arts, crafts, food vendors. See hempfest.org

On the green carpet at the Ganja Grammys

By Ellen Komp, veryimportantpotheads.com

Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin, who smoke pot with Meryl Streep in the new movie *It's Complicated*, will also host this year's Academy Awards ceremonies on March 7 in Los Angeles. They're not the only pot smokers who will be represented.

Leading the pack in nominations, and breaking box office records, is James Cameron's 3D masterpiece, *Avatar*. Cameron has admitted to smoking pot in his youth, and recently told Rolling Stone he "absolutely" enjoyed LSD. Accepting the Best Picture Golden Globe, Cameron told the audience that the aim of *Avatar* is to remind us that "everything is connected, all human beings and the Earth."

Competing for Best Actor at the Oscars will be Jeff Bridges, known to many as the pot-puffing "Dude" from *The Big Lebowski*, along with George Clooney and Morgan Freeman. Freeman famously quit cocaine but told UK's *The Guardian* in 2003, "Never give up on the ganja. It's God's own weed." Clooney was quoted in 1997 saying, "I loved acid when I was at college. It was an escape. I liked mushrooms. They were like easy acid."

Nominated in the Supporting Actor category are pot activist Woody Harrelson and Matt Damon. Damon has said, "The first time I smoked was at home with my mother and stepfather. They were like, 'If you are going to do this, we'd rather you did this with us.'"

The multi-talented Martin returned to his banjo-pickin' days and won Best Bluegrass Album Grammy for *The Crow* Jan 31, when Neil Young finally won his first Grammy. In his biography *Shakey*, Young says homegrown is still all right with him, but, "I try not to smoke too much. I don't

wanna set a bad example for the kids."

Leonard Cohen and Bobby Darin were given Lifetime Achievement Awards. According to *Various Positions: A Life of Leonard Cohen*, Cohen began experimenting with cannabis, peyote and LSD in the mid-fifties. Darin underwent a hippie awakening later in his career, when he sported a

"Never give up on the ganja.
It's God's own weed."

mustache and penned "Me and Mr. Hohner," which talks about cops asking him, "That's a cute mustache/Have ya got any hash?"

Pot-loving band Green Day's *21st Century Breakdown* took the Best Rock Album prize, and Californian Jason Mraz walked off with a pair of Grammys. "Everybody I know smokes pot for every possible kind of purpose," Mraz told CelebStoner. "I think pot laws are ridiculous."

Stephen Colbert took the comedy album award. In a January 2006 City Arts and Lectures interview in San Francisco, Colbert said he smoked "a lot" of pot for a period of time in high school.

Beyonce, the evening's biggest award winner, said in a *60 Minutes* interview that aired just before the Grammys that she was careful to avoid alcohol and drugs. Then she sang Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know." In December, Morissette told *High Times* that cannabis is part of her creative process.

It's high time we recognize that cannabis consumers contribute mightily to our culture.

Activist/author Ellen Komp manages the website VeryImportantPotheads.com

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



Industrial hemp products like these could be the key to reviving America's farming and industrial sectors, but the Grange wants only genetically modified hemp to be grown. Photo by Mikki Norris

Grange passes resolution calling for GMO hemp

Continued from page 4

of cannabis as a Class 1 controlled substance in the US. We oppose amending these laws as the primary means of promoting industrial hemp production. Instead we urge further research and application of existing biotechnology techniques to develop genetically modified industrial hemp that will be biologically incompatible with all other forms of cannabis or marijuana. We further urge that genetically modified industrial hemp contain distinct chemical markers that will quickly and easily identify industrial hemp varieties using low cost and accurate on-site testing methods for the purpose of contract compliance, law enforcement and as evidence in court."

Since organic products must not be made with GMO crops, Vote Hemp is concerned that GMO hemp envisioned by The Grange would undermine the already strong demand for certified organic hemp seed while alienating organic consumers who make up the core of demand for hemp food and body care products produced in North America.

Furthermore, no GMO hemp has been developed and with the prospect of the Dept. of Justice finally recognizing state hemp farming laws as they recently did with medical marijuana laws, the GMO hemp envisioned by The Grange would be irrelevant to the current market demand for hemp seed, oil and fiber now valued at \$360 million in annual sales according to the Hemp Industries Association.

Vote Hemp representatives speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the issue, say "If GMO hemp were developed to be 'biologically incompatible' with marijuana it would

only benefit marijuana growers who have real concerns of cross pollination between high THC marijuana and low THC hemp."

Outdoor marijuana growers fear cross pollination and ultimately seeding of their crop. "Ironically, The Grange states it does not support changing marijuana laws and is arguing for a policy that ostensibly would protect marijuana growers from cross-pollination while alienating their customers in the natural marketplace who want non-GMO hemp," says the Vote Hemp spokesperson.

Vote Hemp has worked with members of National Farmers Union (NFU), The Grange, and the American Farm Bureau to get pro-hemp resolutions passed. NFU members will be presenting pro-hemp resolutions at their annual meeting this March, which already passed on the state level. New NFU president Roger Johnson is the former Agriculture Commissioner from North Dakota and a strong supporter of hemp farming. Vote Hemp worked closely with Roger Johnson and North Dakota state legislators to pass bills, promulgate farming regulations, and issue the first state hemp farming licenses in 2008.

As a result of those North Dakota state licenses being issued to state Rep. Dave Monson and Wayne Hauge, Vote Hemp was able to assist them in filing for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) licenses and then later filing suit for the right to grow hemp under state license without permission from DEA. The decision on the farmers appeal in the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit was not in favor of the farmers who are currently weighing their options and plan to push for DEA approval of their license applications.

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, 4th 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 Castle Inn, 1388 N. Golden Slipper in Landers 92285.

Lanny 760-799-2055
Medical Cannabis Safety Council /East Bay third Tues/mo. 12-2 PM, OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. **North Bay**, 2nd Mon./mo. 6-7:30 PM, Peace in Medicine, 6771 Sebastopol Ave., Sebastopol. 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
SoCal NORML, second Sat./mo. at 10AM, World Beat Center, 2100 Park Bl., San Diego. Contact 619-467-1235, craig@normlsc.org
UC Santa Barbara NORML, Every Wed, 7:30 PM, Bldg. 387 Room 101, ucsbnorml.org
UC Berkeley SSDP, Every Tues at 8 PM, 200 Wheeler

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. Lanette at 916-924-3455, cannacare@earthlink.net

San Diego ASA second Tue. / mo., 7 PM, International Cannabis U, 6070 Mt. Alifan Suite 202 San Diego. 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

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
civilliberties.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
fcd.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.

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
prisonerswithchildren.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
mmmab.net/ info@mmmab.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*.
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oregongreenfree.net. Free OMMP info.
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SENSIBLE COLORADO
[sensiblecolorado.org /](http://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
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County contact phone number and filing fees for CA state cannabis ID cards

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

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Sixth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics set for April 15-17

An accredited conference for health care professionals, the Sixth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics will be held April 15-17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island. The program, co-sponsored by the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine (AACM), the University of California San Francisco's School of Medicine and Patients Out of Time, welcomes patients

and advocates to explore the science and clinical efficacy of medical cannabis.

Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, PhD, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, who isolated THC in 1964 and has been a central figure in the discovery of the human endocannabinoid system, will be a speaker on both days.

For more conference information, on-line registration, faculty and agenda, please see medicalcannabis.com.

Student conference on West Coast March 12-14

By Jonathan Perri SSDP

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) is hosting its 11th Annual International Drug Policy Reform Conference March 12-14 in San Francisco at Fort Mason Center. Students and non-students alike are welcome to attend.

Hundreds of students, alumni, and drug policy reform advocates from around the world will be in attendance to learn how they can help create a society that embraces sensible drug policy. Speakers include former New Mexico Gov. Gary

Johnson, Ethan Nadelmann of the Drug Policy Alliance, and CA Assemblyman Tom Ammiano.

This is the first time SSDP has hosted its international conference on the west coast for students to learn how to end the drug war through discussion panels featuring experts on drug policy and hands-on workshops on everything from working with the media to running a campaign.

Registration and other info can be found at ssdp.org/conference

Safer campuses

Continued from page 14

housing, and their jobs, as well as fines and other criminal penalties. Meanwhile, their peers who engage in alcohol use and binge drinking – including those who are underage – typically receive repeated warnings or face just a ‘slap on the wrist.’

“College drinking has become such a problem that administrators nationwide are considering everything from encouraging students to drink responsibly to lowering the legal drinking age as potential solutions,” said SAFER Executive Director Mason Tvert. “They should also be discussing whether laws and policies that punish students more severely for cannabis are partly to blame,” Tvert said.

SAFER is looking for students to work with on all campuses, both for the nationwide day of action, and on an ongoing basis.

Information on the SAFER Campuses Initiative is available at SAFERcampuses.org; contact SAFER at campuses@safer-choice.org.

Ninth Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards held

By Anna Diaz, Oregon NORML

Despite storm warnings and weather scares throughout the state, the ninth Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards saw a steady stream of attendees throughout the day of Dec. 12, 2009 and a full banquet in the evening.

The highlight of the day was Danny Danko's three hour grow seminar. He focused on all aspects of cannabis cultivation geared to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program participant.

The banquet featured Santee Sioux activist, artist and actor John Trudell as keynote speaker. He gave all pause to reflect on our individual and collective importance to the cannabis movement.

This year's top three entrants have not been in the top three before.

First place went to Purple Urkel. Second place was awarded to Afgani Bull Rider, and third place went to Limon. For a full list of how each strain placed, see ornorml.org.



HANDS ABLUR — The fastest fingers took part in the joint rolling contest (top).



MMMBA — Pebbles Trippet is a boardmember of the Advisory Board.

Photos courtesy of Carole Brodsky.

Emerald Cup draws crowd to Laytonville

By Pebbles Trippet

A dozen judges graded 100 entries of outdoor bud and hash—tasting and testing over the course of several days—based on aroma, visual appeal, with double points for medicinal effects. Seven hundred people packed the Sixth Annual Emerald Cup Celebration and Bud Competition at Area 101 in Laytonville CA, in the heart of the Emerald Triangle.

By offering his land as a healing center and gathering spot for experienced medical growers to come together once a year, proprietor Tim Blake has resparked the tradition of the original Amsterdam Cup.

The highlight was a new travel

video called “Cash Crop,” which takes a journey around California, asking questions and assessing the state of cannabis. The journey ends at Area 101 in Mendocino County and includes interviews from Sheriff Tom Allman offering to respect patients' rights, as well as Dr William Courtney, his partner Kristen and her plain-spoken mother standing in support of her daughter's health decision.

Delights of The Cup included all organic food, a photography contest, a how-many-roaches-in-a-bottle contest, merchandise, hours of music and Sunday morning breakfast.

film available on order from MMMAB POBox 2555 Mendocino CA 95460. mmmab.net info@mmmab.net

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CLIENTS WE SERVE

- **Residential & Commercial Growers**
- Dispensaries/Cooperatives/Collectives
- Caregivers
- Edible Manufacturers/Commercial Kitchens
- Delivery Services
- Associations (Non-Profit/For-Profit)
- Product Manufacturers
- Contractors
- Consulting Firms/Lobbyists
- Television & Film
- Promotion & Event Planners
- Doctors/Lawyers
- Wholesalers/Retailers



Exclusive Nationwide Cannabis Insurance Program

Working directly with businesses in the Medical Cannabis Industry, the Statewide MMD Specialty Division designs coverages specifically for Medical Marijuana provisioners and service providers. Statewide Insurance Services now offers the first-ever coverage specifically for Medical Cannabis Cultivators. Visit www.mmdinsurance.com for free quotes and additional information on coverage options, including an exclusive Nationwide Cannabis Insurance Program, or call **888-844-6222 x 4808**. Statewide Insurance Services, covering the future of the cannabis industry.

License # 0D44005

CHECK OUT

Statewide Insurance Services Medical Marijuana Specialty Division
at the **International Cannabis and Hemp Expo** April 17-18, 2010 in San Francisco, CA at the Cow Palace
and the **THC EXPOSE** April 23-25, 2010 in Los Angeles, CA