WWW.WESTCOASTLEAF.COM ISSN 1945-221X • VOLUME 3 No. 3 AUTUMN 2010

ALL EYES ON CALIFORNIA VOTERS

Important measures on state and local ballots across USA

By Mary Jane Borden Media Awareness Project

Voters will be deciding on a number of ground-breaking initiatives this Nov. 2. The most prominent is Proposition 19, to allow Californians 21 and over to tend a small cannabis garden, possess up to one ounce, and give state and local governments the authority to control its sale.

Other states and communities are considering cannabis initiatives.

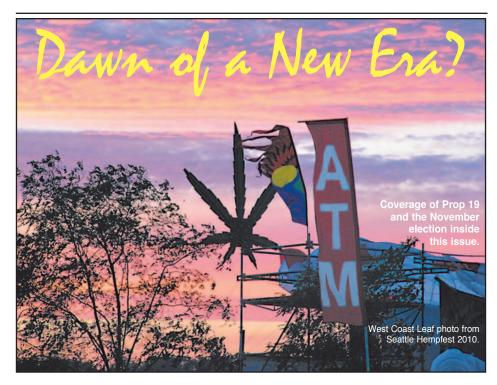
Similarly to Prop 19, voters in Detroit, Michigan may decide whether to allow those 21 and older to legally possess less than an ounce on private property. However, as of this writing, the Detroit Election Commission has rejected this proposal, and the matter is back in Court.

By approving Measure 74, Oregon state voters could authorize opening statelicensed cannabis dispensaries.

Arizona (Prop 203) and South Dakota (Measure 13) have medical-marijuana initiatives on their ballots.

At the local level, proposals to permit or ban dispensaries will be voted on in the Colorado cities of Fraser, Granby, Loveland and Paonia, as well as Colorado counties of Alamosa, Garfield, Grand and Windsor.

An advisory referendum will ask Dane County, WI voters whether they think the Please turn to page 21



Hundreds of LA dispensaries fighting closures Prosecutor Cooley's bid for attorney general worries patients

By Jessica Gwyn Gelay, CannAssist.com

The glory days of dispensing medical cannabis in Los Angeles are over. That's a get-tough theme that GOP candidate Steve Cooley is running on in his bid for California state attorney general.

The streets of LA tell a different story. In one central-city neighborhood patients say

18 of 23 collectives are still open, in defiance of city law. These clubs began operating *after* the city declared a moratorium, and are dubbed the "post-ICO" clubs. Some of the post-ICO groups have filed suit against the city. A first move failed when a District Court judge denied an injunction preventing the law from taking effect. This decision has been appealed.

The day after the ruling, June 7, LA Municipal Code Ch. IV, Art. 5.1 governing cannabis collectives went into effect; since then any entity in the city that is not part of the pre-ICO collectives is in violation of the ordinance and may face stiff penalties.

In late August, the city halted the entire process after only 41 collectives were found eligible during pre-registration, and requested a judicial opinion on the constitutionality of the ordinance. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich filed a complaint seeking a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction to close 125 collectives listed as ineligible on a "Preliminary Priority List" published by the City Clerk's office Aug 25. Judge Anthony Mohr set a hearing date for Sept. 21.

Please turn to page 8

Few emergency room visits related to marijuana

New national study released

By Paul Armentano, NORML

Lifetime use of marijuana is rarely associated with emergency room visits, according to an analysis of epidemiologic survey data published online by the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

Investigators at the University of Michigan reviewed the overall prevalence of drug-related emergency department (ED) visits among lifetime users of illicit substances. Researchers analyzed national data from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, a representative survey of 43,093 residents age 18 or older.

The study is the first to use nationally representative data to examine patterns and correlates of drug-related ED visits.

Among those surveyed, subjects who reported using cannabis were the least likely to report an ED visit (1.71 percent). Respondents who reported lifetime use of heroin, tranquilizers, and inhalants were most likely (18.5 percent, 6.3 percent, and 6.2 percent respectively) to report experiencing one or more ED visits related to their drug use.

Investigators concluded, "[M]arijuana was by far the most commonly used (illicit) drug, but individuals who used [it] had a low prevalence of drug-related ED visits."

A 2009 Swiss study published in the journal *BMC Public Health* previously reported that the use of cannabis was inversely associated with injuries requiring hospitalization.

A prior case-control study conducted by the University of Missouri also reported an inverse relationship between cannabis use and injury risk, finding, "Self-reported marijuana use in the previous seven days was associated ... with a substantially decreased risk of injury."

Most recently, a RAND study published in July reported that fewer than 200 total patients were admitted to California hospitals in 2008 for "marijuana abuse or dependence." By contrast, an estimated 73,000 annual hospitalizations in California are related to the use of alcohol.

These findings belie the myth that adult cannabis use is a primary cause of hospitalizations or ED visits. The reality is that few if any therapeutic or psychoactive substances possess a safety profile comparable to that of cannabis.

Oakland mega-medical gardens plan approved

Size worries small growers

By Dale Gieringer California NORML

The Oakland City Council approved an ambitious ordinance July 20 to license four commercial medical cannabis cultivation

facilities of unprecedented size. Licensed collectives will still be able to buy from members and do not have to rely on the large producers for a supply.

The proposal, coauthored by Council members Rebecca

Kaplan and Larry Reid, sparked heated debate among marijuana proponents, many of whom complained that it froze out small- and medium-sized growers while granting a monopoly to selected large corporate interests. Aside from the four licensed mega-grows, the ordinance prohibits any other collective grows over 96 square feet indoors.

The plan calls for licensing four football-field sized indoor grows, large enough

to supply up to 20 percent of the state's medicinal pot, by January 2011. Each facility would pay a \$211,000 annual licensing fee plus a business tax currently set at 1.8 percent of revenues, but likely to increase to 5 percent under a proposed November ballot measure.

Proponents saw the proposal as a

progressive measure to keep Oakland on the forefront of the cannabis industry and generate much-needed employment and revenue for the city. "This is an industry that's going to grow," said Councilwoman Please turn to page 6

VA shifts course on cannabis use

Directive protects vets' use

By Eugene Davidovich San Diego ASA

Undersecretary of Health for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) Robert E. Petzel, MD, issued a July 27, 2010 directive to provide clarification and guidance on the use of and access to cannabis by veteran patients. It states, "Patients participating in state medical marijuana programs must not be denied VA services."

Although Directive 2010-035 prohibits VA doctors from actually prescribing or recommending cannabis, veterans who use cannabis can now participate in VA substance-abuse, pain-control, and other clinical programs where cannabis might otherwise be considered inconsistent with treatment goals, without being denied services.

The directive follows a letter sent to Michael Kravitz, executive director of Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access (VMMA), in which Dr. Petzel wrote, "If a veteran obtains and uses medical marijuana in a manner consistent with state law, testing positive for marijuana would not preclude the veteran from receiving opioids for pain management in a Dept. of *Please turn to page 11*

Feds raid THC Ministry

Christie arrested, denied bail By Don E Wirtshafter

Rev. Roger Christie, leader of the THC Ministry based in Hawai'i, is in jail without bond. In the last issue of *West Coast Leaf*, an optimistic Christie said he had been raided but not charged and felt safe. Early on the morning of July 8, agents from the Drug Enforcement Admin. stormed the THC Ministry and the homes of many of its practitioners, and 14 were arrested.

The Ministry, Roger and others had sued in federal court in 2004 to establish their legal right as sincere believers to use their chosen sacrament.

The government responded by arguing that even though the Ministry was engaged in the production and distribution of marijuana, it was not under federal investigation or prosecution. Since the ministry could not prove that arrest and prosecution for use of their sacrament was imminent, the court ruled Christie did not have standing to pursue the suit.

Six years later, the government pulled out the big guns to bust Christie and his flock. Over a period of two years, countless agent-hours were spent on round-the-clock surveillance and wiretaps that captured more than 17,000 telephone calls. The bust was conceived as a big publicity stunt and show of government power. The government even used a huge Coast Guard C-130 military plane to transport the 14 arrestees to their hearings in Honolulu.

Now Christie's prosecutors are using their power to prevent his release on bond. Christie is a military veteran with a perfectly clean criminal record. There are no allegations of violence at all in this case. *Please turn to page 21*



WEST COAST LEAF

West Coasterdam Report



Josh Howard uses chopsticks to weigh medicine at Apothecary Assistant's Collective in Long Beach, where roughly half of the estimated 90 collectives currently open are scheduled to close when the new municipal code takes effect Aug. 29. As part of the new code, collectives are no longer allowed to offer medicine not cultivated within the city of Long Beach, and consumables other than plant matter are to be made in a licensed facility within city limits as well. Photo courtesy of Sam Sabzehzar from MedicalMarijuana411.com.

Cal Athletic Commsn still doesn't get medical cannabis rights By Bill Murrow

Despite its demonstrated benefits, California college and professional athletes still get into trouble for using legal medicinal marijuana. The state medical-use laws are designed to prevent criminal charges, yet athletes who use it are not protected. Amateur and professional boxers, mixed martial arts fighters, and combat athletes must be approved under the State Athletic Commission (CSAC) before fighting in its events.

Current Strikeforce welterweight champion Nick Diaz had one of the biggest wins of his career changed into a no-contest decision after testing positive for medical marijuana.

A mandatory CSAC rule bans illegal narcotics, banned substances and performance-enhancing drugs. Marijuana is not a performance-enhancing drug, CSAC rules state, but it "could slow a fighter's reflexes and endanger his or her health or safety." The CSAC policy is unlikely to change unless California passes Prop 19 this November. If that fails, it will be much more difficult to protect athlete patients.

Washington moves closer to collective model

Evergreen State update

By Martin Martinez Lifevine Foundation

Even though Washington's medical marijuana law allows patients to possess up to 15 plants and 24 ounces of processed medicine, there is as yet no allowance for group cultivation.

But group gardens may soon become legitimate, based on the 'Lifevine collective model.' Some patient advocates already are drafting proposed dispensary rules for the fall legislative session.

While multiple-patient gardens have been frequently and willfully ignored in Seattle, that tolerance is not secure under law. Roughly half the state's population resides in other counties, and Seattle's progressive attitude is not shared in even its closest neighboring cities.

Tacoma followed the example of Spokane in May, going after cannabis patient groups. Westnet officers served warrants at the North End 420 Club and at the home of club owner Guy Casey. Forty mature plants were seized. The federally funded multi-jurisdictional task force included police investigators from Poulsbo, Bremerton, Port Orchard and Shelton, sheriff's deputies from Kitsap County, Mason County and Pierce County, the State Patrol and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. When agents first encountered Casey's 14-year-old son, they pointed a gun at the boy's head, told him his father was going to prison, and left the teen in handcuffs for two hours while ransacking the home. Officers took cash from the room of Casey's 9-year-old daughter — \$80 from a Mickey Mouse wallet.

Two months later, Tacoma Hempfest founder Justin Prince was arrested with

two other employees for operating the Tacoma Hemp Company dispensary. A high-ranking officer allegedly told Prince, "We aren't going to have marijuana dispensaries here in Tacoma." That same week, three other Tacoma dispensaries were told to close. All complied, but two reopened the next day. As of this writing, police have not returned and no criminal charges are pending. Jeremy Miller, founder of the Olympia Hempfest and owner of Sacred Plant Patient Coop in Tacoma, said, "It's much like what happened in California. Police here are trying to create confusion and scare patients away. Cops are robbing cooperatives to try to force them out of business."

Washington's Medical Use Act was amended in 2008, but wording that would have allowed dispensaries was removed from the final bill. Three years later, state legislators and Seattle civic leaders understand that the majority of patients are physically unable to manage production of this life-saving herb. Instead of criminalizing and harassing legitimate patients who grow medicine *en masse*, authorities are now seeking to legitimatize responsible groups. There is hope that Washington patients will find themselves on the right side of the law for once, and for good.

For more info, see medmj-wa.com.

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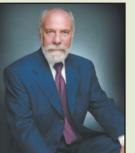
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Oregon heads to polls after mixed legislative year

By Sandee Burbank

Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse mamas.org

Oregon's political situation is a patchwork of good and bad outcomes. There are currently no legal sales of medical cannabis allowed in Oregon.

Measure 74, to authorize state-regulated cannabis dispensaries run by non-profit organizations, is on the November ballot. Dispensaries and growers would pay a \$1000 fee to produce and sell to registered patients. Registered patients would still be able to grow their own cannabis.

A separate initiative to allow sales to anyone over 21 fell far short of enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

A recent effort to add five qualifying medical conditions to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program also failed. Retired nurse Ed Glick petitioned the OMMP to add anxiety, depression, insomnia, severe agitation and PTSS. Through three hearings it became obvious that this effort was stymied by an 'expert panel' that included people who were biased against medical cannabis. The one hearing that took public testimony was crowded and attended by many veterans who were eloquent in stating the need to add these conditions, especially PTSS, but to no avail. Efforts are underway to require that in the future the members of an 'expert panel' must understand the therapeutic value of cannabis.

The Advisory Committee on Medical Marijuana (ACMM) has been aggressively seeking clarification on policies that affect registrants in the OMMP. A request for an explanation about the Port of Portland airport policy resulted in a letter from Wendy Hain, Assistant General Counsel, Port of Portland, with the following statement.

"Marijuana is not seized from a passenger who holds a valid Oregon Medical Marijuana card when boarding aircraft at the Portland International Airport as long as the passenger is not carrying a quantity that exceeds an amount that he or she is lawfully authorized to possess."



San Francisco regulating edible products

By Mickey Martin, T-Comp Consulting

San Francisco's Dept. of Public Health has become the first to provide proper regulation on how edible forms of cannabis should be prepared, packaged and stored. The groundbreaking "Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD) Regulations for Preparation of Edible Cannabis Products" are sure to be a model for other cities of sensible and safe guidelines for food-based cannabis medicines.

Since California collectives are private membership organizations, "this is somewhat like regulating an ongoing bake sale," said DPH's Larry Kessler. Because the products are not distributed publicly the regulations allow for cannabis foods to be prepared at private homes under strict conditions, as long as certain professional standards are maintained.

Home-based providers of cannabis foods are advised that children and pets should not be in the preparation area, to use certain sanitary standards in their kitchens, and to adhere to the rules set forth for food preparation in California. The regulations clearly state that these are advisory standards and that DPH does not plan to conduct home inspections of producers. The final regulations preserve the 'mom and pop' providers' ability to produce small-batch medical foods, a contentious point for cannabis advocates in the local community.

To prevent food-borne illness, the regulations do not allow for cannabis products that require refrigeration or hot-holding facilities. They do permit cannabis-dispensing collectives to apply for an "exemption" for some products, such as ice cream, but the city may require a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) plan.

The proposal also clearly states that baked medicinal products (i.e. brownies, bars, cookies, cakes), tinctures and other non-refrigerated items are acceptable for manufacture and sale at MCDs. Just a few years back, many municipalities were considering banning edibles, and Alameda County did ban distribution at collectives in unincorporated areas of the county.

Another issue the regulations cover is the packaging and labeling aspects of foodbased medicines. They require that edibles be individually packaged at the point of preparation and that certain information be clearly printed on labels. Other labeling requirements include prominent warnings, known allergens, the total weight of cannabis used in the product (grams or ounces), and the date of manufacture. It also forbids packaging that makes the product attractive to children or imitates candy. These requirements generally ensure that sound standards are met by all producers and legitimize their efforts. Although it is unclear what indicating the dry weight of cannabis in a product can really tell about its strength, given that cannabis can vary greatly, it would provide a baseline amount and placate fears of

The SF edible regulations also require that if one produces edibles for more than one collective there must be an owner or staff member who has completed state -certified food-handler classes.

The regulations provide that production collectives may serve more than one patient base, thus affording further protection to providers of all products. The San Francisco proposals respect its patient population by considering the need for cannabis foods and creating reasonable regulations. This effort will be looked at by communities grappling with this issue for years to come.

OR M-74 initiative would license dispensaries

By Russ Bellville NORML Outreach Coordinator

Patients flying out of airports with sim-

ilar policies should be cautious. Most

states, even those with similar programs,

do not recognize medical cannabis

approvals from other states. It is important

to know the local airport rules and guide-

lines or patients could find themselves in

jail. Patients may wish to call before they

travel. A plane with a terrorist scare or that

is diverted to another location may require

passengers to disembark and re-board,

factual data from claims made by law

enforcement. In letters written to a variety

of law enforcement officials and agencies,

ACMM is asking for documentation of

statements made by law enforcement offi-

cials about abuses of the OMMP.

Coalition for Patients' Rights at coalition-

For more information visit the

Responses have been slow in coming.

forpatientsrights2010.com.

The ACMM is also actively pursuing

which could cause legal trouble.

Oregon voters will decide this November whether to establish a state-regulated nonprofit dispensary program for the state's more than 36,000 cannabis patients.

Measure 74 would create a system of dispensaries and licensed producers to supply the dispensaries, which would be non-profit but would be reimbursed by cardholders for the costs of producing and dispensing the medicine, including labor. These dispensaries could serve any cardholder, without limits; no 'caregiver' relationship is implied or required. The annual fee for a license would be \$2,000.

The producers would pay an annual fee of \$1,000 for the right to supply the dispensaries and be reimbursed by dispensaries for the costs of production. Producers could also, for no consideration, donate medicine to cardholders and nonprofit organizations that assist patients in need. Dispensaries could become their own producers, and producers would not have to be qualified patients or be designated by any dispensary or patient.

Both producers and dispensaries would pay 10 percent of gross revenues to the state in the form of quarterly fees. Producers and dispensaries would be owned and operated only by Oregon residents and all employees would be over 21. Employees of producers and dispensaries, as well as producers and dispensary principals themselves, would be subject to criminal-records checks by the state. Producers and dispensaries would file quarterly reports on sales and donations.

Both producers and dispensaries would be subject to the same limits the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act sets for current 'person responsible for a marijuana grow site' cardholders (or 'growers') who tend to gardens for four or more registered patients. This means a limit of 96 plants, 24 of which could be "mature" (greater than 12 inches in height or diameter), and six pounds of dried, usable medicine.

Measure 74 explicitly protects the rights of patients, caregivers and designated growers to produce their own medicine if they choose not to use the dispensary system. Nothing prevents an individual from obtaining several OMMP cards: a patient also could be a caregiver, grower, producer, and dispensary owner.

The initiative mandates the creation of a program to supply medicine for indigent patients, ensuring that the entire supply system is self-funded through its fees. Scientific research to evaluate the efficacy of cannabis for medical purposes is to be funded by funds from dispensary sales.

The last effort in Oregon to establish a dispensary system, Measure 33 in 2004, was defeated 57-43 percent. It would have mandated that counties establish dispensaries if no other entity did so.

Supporters of M-74 now hope that a new requirement that government create dispensaries, along with other new provisions, the passage of time and the success of the OMMP, will stimulate the support needed to win in 2010.

For info on M-74, coalitionforpatientsrights2010.com

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Drug War POW updates; several recent releases

By Vanessa Nelson,

Medical MarijuanaofAmerica.com

Several notable medical marijuana providers have been released from federal prisons recently. One was Kenneth 'Kena' Affolter, whose company, Beyond Bomb,

Fighting Santa Barbara ban By Ethan Kravitz*

Santa Barbara, often considered a leading city on progressive health and environmental issues in Southern California, is at risk of losing the safe access to medical cannabis that its citizens have been afforded for the last 10 years. The City Council voted Jun. 29 to approve a revised dispensary ordinance and to place a proposed outright ban on the November ballot. The ordinance, which went into effect at the end of July, is one of the strictest in the state, limiting the city to three tightly regulated non-profit collectives.

The city enacted an ordinance in March of 2008, and met at least 22 times to discuss the current ordinance before coming to an agreement that was able to garner enough votes to pass. A group known as the Red Shirts and conservative councilmember Dale Francisco have led the calls for a ban.

Francisco, who drafted the current regulations from the city Ordinance Committee, still publicly claims that dispensaries are not legal. Eventually, in a less-than-ideal compromise, he agreed to vote for an ordinance limiting the city to three dispensaries, but only if the proposed ban, titled Measure T, was placed on the November ballot.

Concerned citizens have formed Santa Barbara Voters for Sensible Regulations (VSR) to defeat Measure T.

Enlisting the assistance of prominent attorneys, political consultants, and medical professionals, with volunteer support from many cannabis patients, the VSR is confident that Measure T will not succeed. It is not, however, taking its task lightly.

Thousands of patients in the city and surrounding areas rely on safe access to dispensaries to obtain medicine. If the ban is passed, dispensaries in neighboring Goleta and unincorporated Santa Barbara County could face increased hostility. Santa Barbara is a trendsetter in Central and Southern California, so this is an important battle for the whole state and people who support medical rights every-

Visit NoOnMeasureT.com for more on the campaign and how you can help.

* Ethan Kravitz was co-founder of Sensible Santa Barbara, which passed the city lowest police priority Measure P in 2006, making adult cannabis offenses. He is currently the campaign manager for No on Measure T.

supplied dispensaries with a wide array of medicinal edibles. A tripped burglar alarm at an Oakland warehouse in 2006 led to a raid and federal charges for Affolter and his employees. All the defendants took plea deals, but Affolter's 70-month prison sentence was the longest by far. A naturally deep thinker, he spent much of his incarceration reading, writing and meditating. He finished serving hard time this spring.

Former medical grower David Davidson also finished off a federal sentence this spring, ending a seven-year ordeal. Davidson was initially busted by local Tehama County authorities in 2003 but disappeared after they turned his case over to federal prosecutors. He was captured in New Mexico in 2007, after his codefendant revealed his whereabouts in exchange for leniency in her sentence. With remarkable fortitude, Davidson waited in Sacramento County Jail for three years for his case to be resolved. When he finally accepted a plea deal for a 41-month sentence, he had already served all but a few days of that time. Davidson was released this spring and is now living happily with his girlfriend in Iowa.

After serving time in prisons across the country, former San Diego dispensary operator John Sullivan was released to a halfway house this summer. Two of Sullivan's dispensaries were hit during massive federal raids on San Diego's medical marijuana facilities in 2006. Sullivan was then indicted on federal charges for cultivation and distribution, and he ultimately accepted a plea deal for five years in prison. He served that sentence in Oregon and in Florida, but is now glad to finally be back with his wife and two daughters in southern California.

Sadly, many medical marijuana providers remain in federal prison, and still more are being sent there. This past May, former San Diego dispensary operator Joseph Nunes began serving a yearlong sentence at a federal detention center. Two dispensaries associated with Nunes were raided during a crackdown in San Diego in September 2009, leaving him with a long list of federal charges.

Nunes accepted a plea deal and was taken into custody at his sentencing hearing. Please turn to page. 14

From Prince of Pot to Prince of Pot POWs

By Vanessa Nelson

Medicalmarijuanaofamerica.com

For 13 years, the world has known Canadian political activist Marc Emery as the Prince of Pot. Now that he's locked up in the US, Emery may also be the Prince of

Both titles naturally come to the former seed seller. Emery has a knack for inspiring the fascination and devotion that's usually reserved for royalty.

The camera loves him, and Emery attracts positive press coverage like a super-charged magnet. His life has been the subject of an award-winning stage play and the focus of numerous documentary films. His worldwide fan base includes friends who carry "Free Marc" signs wherever they go, die-hard allies who get arrested while promoting his cause, and even a class of students at a Cambodian university who study him as a model of political

After helping overturn laws against selling drug-related publications in Canada, Emery set up a cannabis seed shop in Vancouver in 1994. He withstood a series of raids by local police and the resulting fines, but eventually made the seed business mail-order only. He used the profits to publish Cannabis Culture magazine and to fund the Marijuana Party and countless pro-cannabis efforts.

The US Drug Enforcement Admin. had Emery arrested in Canada on July 29, 2005 for extradition to the US to face charges for sending cannabis seeds here. Emery asserts that this has never happened to any other Canadian seed merchant, and he was singled out because of his politics. "Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on," DEA Administrator Karen Tandy concluded in a public statement about Emery on the day of his arrest.

Emery remained out on bail for four years while negotiating a plea deal, but in May 2010 Emery was finally extradited to the US. He made the trip having already agreed with US prosecutors to accept a five-year prison sentence in exchange for the dropping of charges against his



Marc and Jodie Emery on visiting day, July 4, 2010. Emery endorsed Prop 19 from his prison cell and admonished everyone to support it. Photo by inmate photographer.

Canadian co-defendants, Greg Williams and Michelle Rainey.

Such heroism is princely stuff, but the US prison system didn't exactly give him a prince's welcome. Just days after he arrived, Emery was put in solitary confinement because his wife Jodie made recordings of their phone calls to post on the Internet. Emery says there aren't any rules barring this, but the prison claims it violates rules against third-party calls.

During his three weeks in 'the hole,' Emery lost over 15 pounds and suffered sanity-testing isolation. He was released from solitary confinement at the end of June, but Jodie reports he is prohibited from using the word "demonstration" in any communications and from contact with members of his own political party (the British Columbia Marijuana Party).

Each hardship strengthens Emery's resolve to be repatriated to Canada to serve his sentence. He has this right, based on a treaty agreement between the US and Canada, but it's a multi-phased process, so he relies on citizens of both countries to lobby the appropriate authorities. To help, please visit freemarc.ca. "Free Marc" rallies will be held worldwide Sept. 18, 2010.

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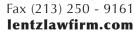
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Cannabis casualties show that prohibition kills

By Mickey Martin, T-Comp Consulting

A series of unrelated deaths relating to cannabis gardens and dispensaries has tarnished the normally peaceful cannabis markets and has all sides questioning the current legal and political climate.

Police point to murders stemming from robberies at two LA dispensing collectives and the killing of rogue gardeners in Napa, Santa Clara, Lake and Mendocino counties as evidence that pot causes crimes. Reformers see these tragedies as proof that prohibition and the black market fuel violence and put cannabis users at risk from police raids, robberies and needless deaths.

Every year there are incidents of cannabis-eradication efforts by narcotics agents going horribly wrong, and people losing their lives because of prohibition.

Napa County officers raided a remote garden and killed a 38-year-old Fresno resident. Sheriff Captain Tracey Stuart stated the suspect "pulled out a gun and did not drop it and did not run away," prompting officers to shoot and kill him.

A similar incident occurred in July in Santa Clara County when officers killed a person tending to a large garden in "rugged terrain" near the Alameda County border. The man killed was reported to be Latino, prompting officers to speculate about Mexican cartels.

Lake County deputies shot and killed a "middle-aged Hispanic male" in a garden when officers said he "raised a rifle" at them. "Deputies ordered the man to put down the firearm," LCSO Sgt. Brian Martin said. "The man instead raised his rifle towards the law enforcement officials."

An eerily similar incident happened in Mendocino County when a 20-year-old cannabis farmer allegedly "leveled his rifle" at officers, prompting them to shoot; he died a short time later.

A recurring narrative in the mainstream media is that many of the larger gardens being eradicated are allegedly run by Mexican drug gangs, because the few workers found are of Hispanic descent, or rations left at nearby campsites contain tortillas, beans, and other remnants suggesting this. Little evidence linking the gardens to any particular cartel or organized crime outfit has ever been found or reported. Given the large Hispanic population native to California, it is unclear whether the gardens are cartel operations or merely grows tended by citizens of Latin descent.

On a single day in June, two people lost their lives and another was injured in unrelated shootings that occurred just hours apart during robberies at Los Angeles dispensing collectives.

"There's a matter for us having to be on full alert as to what the reasons were for such brutal murders. It's one thing to go in and put a gun in the face of a person whose running a commercial establishment and ask him for the money. It's totally different than assassinating the person that you're robbing; that, to me, is very cartelish in its style," speculated LA Sheriff Lee Baca.

"To me, that's the scariest thing in the world," said GLACA president Yamileth Bolanos. "We're just sitting ducks, and everybody says that."

Advocates point out that, because the black market inflates the value of cannabis, its quasi-legal status poses dangers to cannabis businesses. They say that treating cannabis as an illegal commodity is the root of the problem.

Once the laws change, cannabis will find its place in the controlled market.

Feds raid first Mendo-approved collective

By Pebbles Trippet, MMMAB.net

The DEA raid of Joy Greenfield's Light the Way collective spotlights the crossroads where states' legal medical marijuana provisions run up against the federal ban.

Joy 'Grandma Grower' Greenfield, 69, was the first patient-grower applicant to be approved by Mendocino County, CA Sheriff Allman's zip-tie program for patient collectives, which can exempt gardens of up to 99 plants from Nuisance Ord. 9.31's limit of 25 plants per parcel.

Shortly before the raid, a sheriff's helicopter hovered over Greenfield's Covelo property. She met with Lt. Rusty Noe of COMMET, exclaiming, "I thought you guys were supposed to protect me." Noe said the Sheriff had merely leased the planes to the DEA; her application was approved. This raises the spectre of county-federal complicity. The next week, DEA agents raided the property when Greenfield wasn't home and seized her entire garden. One agent scoffed, "We don't care about Allman's ordinance."

Supervisor John McCowen, author of NO 9.31, said he was "appalled by the mistreatment." Sheriff Allman went on local KZYX-FM radio, stating he would refund Greenfield's zip-tie fees, at \$25 each.

Meanwhile, the dispensing end of Greenfield's Light the Way collective association, managed by family members in San Diego, was not raided, despite that city's hostility to all dispensaries.

Light the Way pays sales tax under an approved business license with Willits as the official address connecting the farm with the San Diego collective. That suggests the collective is above-board,

attempting to comply with local and state law, and suggests the Covelo

raid was not based on anything that happened in San Diego. The record was sealed, hiding the source of the complaint. A DEA agent asked Greenfield about other grow sites. "I told him

Dr. Doo: "Thugs, by Fred Sternkopf on the raid there weren't any." Last week, the DEA again contacted her, this time

offering to return her cash and computer, no longer evidence of "crime." They added they were looking for someone else, Jake Anderson, whom they raided on July 23.

No charges have been filed against Greenfield, who felt she had complied with Obama's policy memo to leave medical patients alone who are in "clear and unambiguous compliance" with state law.

Perhaps it was a big mistake, or maybe the DEA's plan was to break Mendocino County's 99-plant policy, fearing that an entrenched medical marijuana program taking hold in a producer county might set a standard for the entire state.

The raid certainly added a new level of mistrust to existing skepticism about the zip-tie program. It regulates cultivation while reducing patients' constitutional rights under administrative law, allowing law-enforcement searches of growers' properties without warrants or corroborating evidence, using civil law to pre-empt the right to jury trial and negate the presumption of innocence. Those concessions were made in exchange for what presumably was to have been protected status.

Two Mendocino lawsuits have been filed challenging NO 9.31's constitutionality, and the Anaheim Appeals Court ruling left the issue undecided and vague.



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Oakland mega-grows stir fears of big business

Continued from page 1

Jean Quan. "I'd like to see it grow here."

Critics complained that the ordinance does nothing to legalize the hundreds of smaller growers currently operating in the city. "It's not providing a pathway for folks to become more legitimate," complained Dan Grace, owner of Dark Heart Nursery, one of many small growers to speak.

Arguing that unregulated small grows are a fire hazard, Councilman Reid sponsored a resolution to crack down on illegal grows, which the council adopted along with the ordinance.

"What they're doing is eviscerating a whole cottage industry here in Oakland," said medical cannabis attorney Robert Raich. Oakland's largest dispensary, the Harborside Collective, voiced strong opposition to the ordinance, noting that it relies on a decentralized network of hundreds of patient-gardeners to supply medicine to its membership.

In response to their protests, Kaplan promised to sponsor an ordinance later this year to legitimize and regulate smaller growers. In the meantime, prospective applicants lined up to support the ordinance. Property owner Jeff Wilcox presented plans for making Oakland the "Silicon Valley of cannabis" by converting commercial buildings into what could be the world's largest indoor pot farm, capable of producing 58 pounds per day, three times Oakland's estimated consumption. Wilcox offered to rent out space for smaller growers as well. However, experienced growers objected that this would leave their crops vulnerable to infestations from neighbors.

Dhar Mann, owner of Oakland's iGrow hydroponics superstore, said he is working on plans for an energy-efficient super-grow of 57,000 square feet, beginning with a smaller grow of 10,000 square feet.

Skeptics warn that such ambitious plans could founder due to opposition from the DEA and other legal barriers. Oakland City Attorney John Russo has reportedly advised the council that the plan is incompatible with state law, which is based on patient collectives, not large-scale commercial wholesalers. DEA officials have reportedly contacted the city to discuss the situation.

The upcoming year promises to be interesting in Oaksterdam.

AIDS patient group tackles health, legal, access issues

By Victor Michel

A patient support group has been formed in Riverside to help AIDS/HIV patients who use or are interested in using cannabis to treat their symptoms.

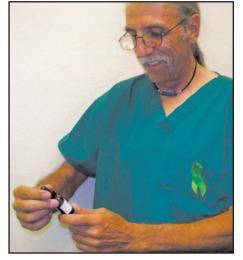
Sponsored by the THCF Medical Clinic, the group meets weekly and provides patients with information on cannabis' health benefits, getting a doctor's approval, methods of ingestion, obtaining medicine, and how to navigate the torturous and potentially life-threatening briar patch of laws, regulations and licensing requirements.

The Inland Empire AIDS Medical Marijuana Patient Group was formed by AIDS patient Tom Place, whose health was restored by using cannabis in conjunction with other medications. Place said, "Marijuana use is still controversial and patients find its use problematic due to a society that still does not understand its immense benefits. Many patients find that cannabis use can cause friction with family members, doctors and social workers and this group helps them deal with it."

Lanny Swerdlow, RN, is the group's facilitator. Nurse Swerdlow is a strong advocate for the use of cannabis to treat the myriad ailments associated with AIDS.

"Both anecdotal and peer-reviewed research have shown incredible benefits for AIDS patients for everything from neuropathy to appetite stimulation," said Swerdlow. "Due to fear of funds getting cut by the federal government, AIDS organizations generally will not provide such information to their clients. It is the purpose of this AIDS-patient medical-marijuana support group to provide this life-saving and life-affirming information."

While many AIDS patients maintain that cannabis keeps them alive and with-



Tom Place examines a bottle of cannabis tincture at the THCF clinic. Photo by Lanny Swerdlow

out it they would be 'zombies,' support organizations often turn their backs on the this remedy. Many patients cannot meet the high price of cannabis. Indeed, some cannot afford any amount when they must choose between purchasing cannabis or paying for food and housing.

The group is turning to the patient community, and the collectives that supply them, for help in providing low-income and destitute AIDS patients with cannabis. It is asking collectives to provide regular donations of free and low-cost cannabis to patients by issuing certificates that could be redeemed at participating collectives.

One of the first to join in the effort is the Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center, which supplies cannabis for a tincture developed by leader Tom Place. As more collectives join in, the group hopes to be able to supply more AIDS patients.

The IE Aids Medical Marijuana Patient Group meets every Monday at 7:30 pm at the THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main Street, #1B, Riverside 92501. All AIDS/HIV patients and caregivers are invited to attend. 951-782-9898.





Anaheim court: State law allows dispensaries

By Kris Hermes Americans for Safe Access

More than two years after an appeal was filed challenging a citywide ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, California's Fourth District Court of Appeal issued a ruling in the case of Qualified Patients Association v. City of Anaheim. The appellate court was expected to decide whether localities could ignore state law by banning cannabis distribution. While the clear line that both sides were hoping for was not carved in the sand, the court did say the case should proceed to trial.

Notably, the unanimous decision, authored by Judge Richard Aronson, reversed part of the lower court's ruling and found that federal law did not preempt the state's distribution laws. The ruling stated that because Prop 215 and the Medical Marijuana Program Act (MMPA) "do not mandate conduct that federal law prohibits, nor pose an obstacle to federal enforcement of federal law, the enactments' decriminalization provisions are not preempted by federal law."

"For the first time, a court decision has held that local officials can no longer hide behind federal law in prohibiting dispensaries in their communities," said Joe Elford, Chief Counsel with Americans for Safe Access (ASA), the country's leading cannabis patient advocacy group, which filed briefs in the Anaheim case and argued before the Court of Appeal last September. Perhaps most importantly, patients have maintained their right to obtain medication from local distribution facilities that are in compliance with state law. The MMPA, which laid the foundation for the state's distribution laws, is unaffected by the ruling. Similarly, the 2008 State Attorney General guidelines, which recognize and set out compliance requirements for storefront dispensaries, also remain in effect.

The Anaheim case stemmed from a lawsuit filed shortly after the city voted to ban dispensaries in July of 2007. Qualified Patients Assn. was a local dispensary that had been in operation for five months prior to the ban. An appeal was filed in March of 2008 after the Orange County Superior Court ruled that Anaheim could prohibit dispensaries from operating within its city limits. As more cities were forced to confront the issue of medical access, the case drew a lot of attention across the political spectrum. Nearly three dozen cities and multiple statewide law enforcement associations filed briefs in support of Anaheim's ban. Then, Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), one of the original co-authors of the MMPA, filed a brief at the behest of the court explaining the legislative intent.

Please turn to page 14

San Jose seeks a high profit at patients' expense

By Dave Hodges, SJCBC

Since San Jose Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio submitted his Oct. 27, 2009 memo to the rules committee calling for an ordinance regulating medical marijuana, San Jose has exploded with collectives—more than 75 are within city limits. The Council has yet to adopt an ordinance regulating collectives, but it is moving forward with both an ordinance and a tax initiative.

City staff separated the ordinance into two parts. As presented in June, both the "Land Use Urgency Ordinance" and the "Title 6 Urgency Ordinance" drew heavy opposition from the patient community. "Title 6" was called one of the most draconian ordinances in the state. Fortunately the Council did not approve either ordinance and decided to table both until after November. One stated reason for delay was to see the fate of Prop.19. The Council approved a memo by Mayor Chuck Reed and Oliverio giving staff guidelines on zoning and sensitive use, and directing staff to draft a tax initiative for November.

The tax initiative was presented at the Aug. 3 council meeting. Staff proposed a 10-percent rate on anyone involved "more than five (5) working days per year, whether operating from a fixed location in the City or coming into the City from an outside location." The tax would be in addition to the 9.25-percent sales tax required by the State Board of Equalization. The verbiage is so vague that the 10-percent tax could apply to a patient caregiver. The initiative states that "transporting cannabis or any ancillary products in the City, whether or not carried on for gain or profit" will be subject to this tax.

The immediate questions that arise are: What is to be put on the business tax application? Would this be one of the 10 permits proposed in the "Title 6 Urgency Ordinance, the City has stated that "simply because you're operating as a business in the City of San Jose and you pay your business tax that doesn't mean you're legal." Requiring businesses to get a permit is a good idea, but only if they are treated as legal enterprises.

Council voted 7-4 to put it on the ballot. The only modification was to add the words "up to" in front of the 10- percent rate. The good news is, if this passes the council will have to vote to set a rate. The bad news is, it could be up to 9.99 percent on both storefront and cultivator/supplier.

"All medical patients and concerned citizens in San Jose should vote no on the tax measure," urged one patient, "and be prepared to make their voices heard at the Council meetings in November."

For the ordinances text see SanJoseCannabis.com

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LA ordinance fiasco threatens patients' access

Continued from page 1

However, there is no enforcement budget in the regulations and no procedures for shutting down the post-ICO collectives. The LAPD has not made a public statement regarding this matter. However, in the days immediately following, the LAPD sent officers to close down some facilities, and some shut down on their own. For the "pre-ICO" collectives recognized by the city, June 7 began a six month timeline.

Now LA's pre-ICO collectives are preparing for a rigorous regulation process. Eligible collectives must: (1) have been open prior to Sept. 14, 2007; (2) have original ownership; (3) have operated continuously since that time; (4) not have moved locations more than once; (5) not have responsible parties that have been convicted of a felony; and (6) not have had any community complaints against them.

One absurd example of the hoops collectives must jump through is forced re-

location. Due to stringent and capricious zoning requirements, only four collectives are in approved areas. This zoning war has fomented greed and confusion as realtors and lawyers have put outrageous finders' fees on the small number of properties that fit the zoning requirements.

In Chatsworth there is a lot of industrial real estate. Some 13 collectives, all in the pre-ICO group, have seperately leased space in the area. Only one of them has been in Chatsworth from the start. Collectives currently located in Eagle Rock and other more central areas have leased space in Chatsworth, because that is where they can find zoning-compliant space. The LA regulations permit one collective for every 57,000 people. Unfortunately, according to the latest census data, the population in the Chatsworth-Porterville community plan area is 84,734, which would permit only two collectives. Thus, there is no way that all 13 collectives in that area can be city-sanctioned. Once disqualified from the regulation process, one cannot re-apply.

All pre-ICO collectives must have passed the initial employee Live-Scan requirement as of Aug. 10 and now await issuance of the 'Priority List,' which should be published any day.

With that, the process of pre-registration begins in Priority Order. At that point collectives must be ready to provide and accomplish everything required when the City Clerk comes calling.

This first round is to be completed by Dec. 7, at which point all collectives that have not made it through the regulating process must shut their doors.

A source close to the process estimates only 40 or so collectives will be legally sanctioned by the City to dispense medical marijuana. If only 40 make it, the regulations dictate that the City Clerk will hold a lottery for the 30 remaining licenses – but only if need is demonstrated by the population size of a given community plan and space is available under the zoning rules.

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Happy birthday, **CB1** receptor site

By Jahan Marcu The 2010 Inter-

national Cannabinoid Research Society meeting marked the 20th



anniversary of the discovery of the human cannabinoid receptor and the founding of the society itself, and was held in Lund, Sweden July 23-27.

In order to present research at the ICRS, the data must be unpublished, so new ideas and cutting-edge research are presented. Most of the findings are conducted and presented by students. The combination of new research and youthful energy makes ICRS meetings distinct from those of most research societies.

Research topics range from the treatment of diseases to the evolution of THC synthase in Sativas and Indicas. A few highlights from the meeting were:

- THCV delayed the progression of Parkinson's disease.
- CB2 receptor activation inhibited cocaine self-administration in mice.
- The CB1 and CB2 receptors appear to have a therapeutic role in bone health and
- Cannabinoid Acids from the cannabis plant inhibit breast cancer cells.
- Characterization of endocannabinoids in stem cells.

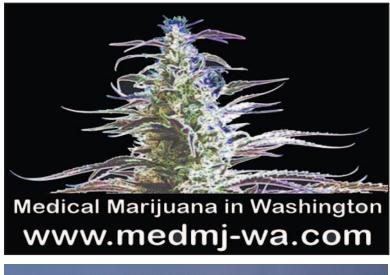
The great debate: 'CB or not CB'

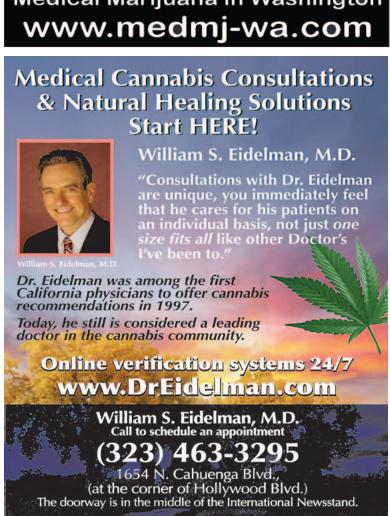
The meeting sponsored a debate followed by a vote to determine if the term cannabinoid should be changed to something "politically neutral" which would better describe all the components of the endocannabinoid system. A move like this would change the name of the ICRS and the terms used in research publications.

Two teams were assembled to debate. Dr. Raphael Mechoulam led the team in favor of changing the term. He suggested, for instance, that the term 'Type 1 cannabinoid receptor' could be changed to something like Human Receptor 184. Another member of his team argued to change the term because, of 100-plus plant cannabinoids, only THC is known to bind efficiently to the CB1 receptor.

The other team rallied to preserve cannabinoid, arguing that changing the term would cause confusion and headaches for decades to come. One scientist jokingly argued that we are lucky to call these molecules cannabinoids, because the CB1 gene easily could have been dubbed the 'pothead' gene. It was also stated that the term tells a beautiful story about how this receptor system was discovered. In the end, the attendees voted overwhelmingly to keep cannabinoid as the official term.

The program with summaries is posted at cannabinoidsociety.org/SYMPOSIUM.2010/ICRS2010.Programme.html







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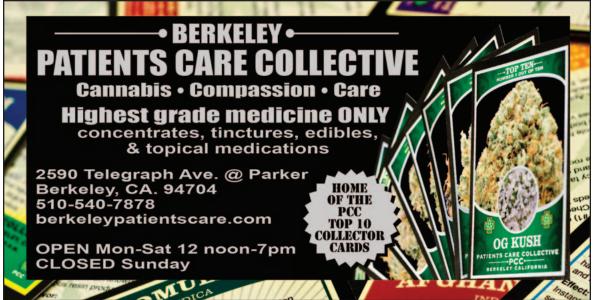
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Colorado dispensers must waive basic rights

By Laura Kriho, Cannabis Therapy Institute cannabistherapyinstitute.com

Colorado's new medical marijuana statutes governing retail sales of medical cannabis went into effect this summer. In a clear shift from a health-based approach to a criminal approach, the state's program will be run by the Dept. of Revenue (DoR) and enforced by agents from its newly formed Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division (MMED). The Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be responsible

Butte County coop raids By Kevin Gorman*

Law enforcement agencies raided and closed down eight storefront collectives in Butte County June 30. Agents destroyed and confiscated property, clones, computers and expensive CCTV equipment. This followed a visit by zoning enforcement officials, who had said that notices of code violations would be received in the mail. Collectives' assets were also frozen.

The Butte County District Attorney was investigating possible crimes in the way the associations were operating. A press release from Chico Police Chief Mike Maloney said officials are particularly concerned about the way marijuana was sold to walk-in customers, many of whom were undercover officers participating in the investigation.

There were no arrests in direct connection with the dispensaries. Some of the collectives are going to court to seek return of their medicine. The High Sierra NORML Chico branch office was closed in the process, as it was housed at the California Harm Reduction Cooperative, one of the closed collectives.

For information or to donate to the cause, please contact High Sierra NORML, PO Box 1953 Paradise CA 95967

only for maintaining the patient Registry. The DoR will have enforcement and rulemaking authority over everything else.

The state has also shifted the status of medical marijuana from a constitutionally protected industry to one protected only by statutes, which can be changed at the whim of a hostile state legislature. Colorado's cannabis patients and caregivers had been receiving constitutional protection under the Medical Marijuana Amendment (MMA) since 2000. However, the new statutes actually require citizens to surrender their constitutional right to be a "caregiver" for the "privilege" of operating a state-licensed "medical marijuana center."

Many attorneys have promised to bring suit against the unconstitutional provisions in the new statutes, specifically the limit of five patients per caregiver, but no lawsuits have yet been filed.

The state application for a medical marijuana "center" demand unprecedented scrutiny, requiring volumes of personal information, including all bank records, tax returns, diplomas, divorce decrees, name and addresses of all children, details of all assets and debts, and fingerprints. The application also requires the applicant to surrender all rights to confidentiality and privacy; give the DoR power of attorney for two years to perform any "act for investigative purposes;" allow the sharing of all information with state and federal law enforcement; and require the applicant to hold the state harmless if the it should accidentally misuse the information.

The application was released July 6 and due back on Aug 1. Fees range from \$7,500 to \$18,000, with an additional \$1,250 for every grow facility operated by a medical use center. Despite misgivings about the

forms used, hundreds of dispensaries scrambled to collect the information and file applications. On Aug 2, the state said it had received applications for 717 "medical marijuana centers," 271 "medical marijuana-infused products manufacturers" and 1,071 "optional premises cultivation" facilities, and collected \$7.34 million in fees.

The Dept. of Revenue will now begin its rulemaking process, creating hundreds of new rules to implement the program. This will include requiring extensive tracking procedures to follow everything from "seed to sale," including Web cameras accessible to MMED agents.

Meanwhile, the state medical marijuana patient Registry, run by the CDPHE, does not have an efficient method to process the two-page patient applications.

The CDPHE currently has a backlog of over 100,000 patient applications waiting to be processed with over \$9 million in uncashed patient checks. Many patients report that they had their application rejected because their check expired while sitting on the shelf at the CDPHE.

Patients are also under attack in Colorado in other ways. In June, patient Joseph Lightfoot was arrested in Denver on

felony child abuse charges for legally cultivating medical cannabis in the basement of the house that he lived in with his three children. The Denver DA says that current statutes allow prosecution for child abuse if a controlled substance is manufactured in the same place children live. Because the cultivation area was legal under state law, the police did not confiscate any of the plants or medicine; they just took the kids.

Patients and caregivers are experiencing so many problems in Colorado because the original constitutional amendment was poorly written.

The Cannabis Therapy Institute is coordinating a campaign to repeal this amendment and replace it with a full relegalization ballot initiative in 2012 that will solve the problems patients and caregivers are facing under the current regime.

For more information, see: www.Legalize2012.com.

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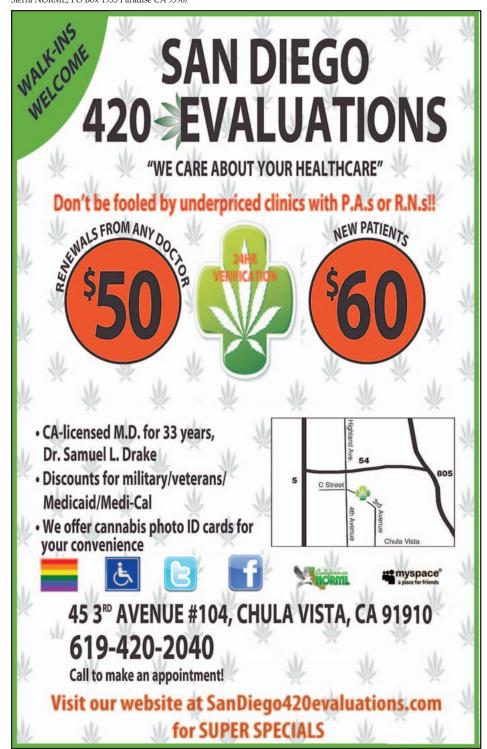
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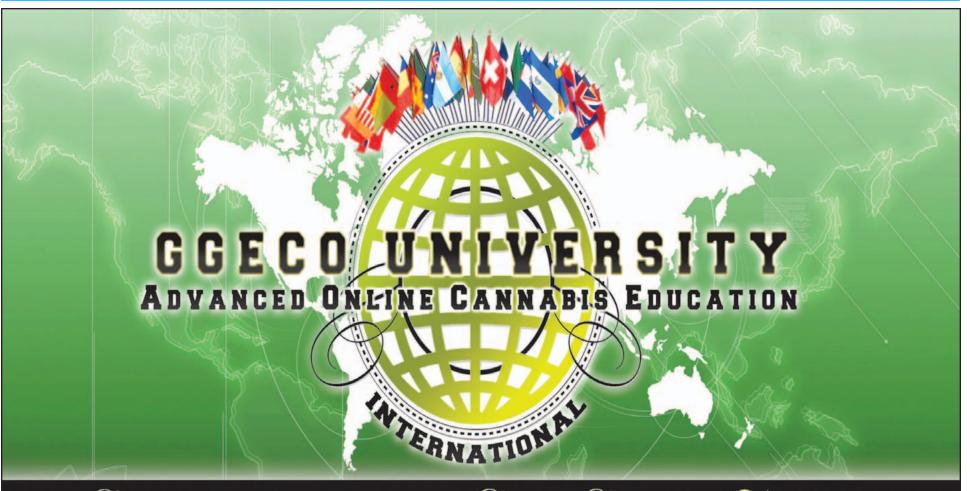
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'History Week' digs up hemp roots at Pentagon

By Ryan Fletcher, VoteHemp.com

The first annual nationwide Hemp History Week featured nearly 200 events in 33 states from May 17-23, 2010. The week highlights a grassroots educational campaign organized by Vote Hemp and The Hemp Industries Assn. to stimulate support for hemp farming in the US.

Thousands of hand-signed postcards addressed to President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder were collected, seeking to end the ban on hemp farming in the US and permit farmers to grow the versatile and profitable crop.

In Washington, DC, 6-year-old Arundhati Eidinger, whose father owns two hemp clothing stores, delivered a stack of postcards signed by hemp farming supporters to Michelle Obama while the First Lady visited the girl's kindergarten.

Political momentum for hemp farming grew during the lead-up to Hemp History Week, with six new Congressional cosponsors for HR 1866, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2009. With 25 co-sponsors, the bill has yet to be heard in the Judiciary Sub-Committee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, which handles legislation affecting drug laws.

Volunteers across the country researched their regions' history of hemp farming and manufacturing. Remarkable among this re-discovered history are the diaries of US Dept. of Agriculture Chief Botanist Lyster Dewey, who bred hemp cultivars extensively in the Washington, DC area during the early 20th century, primarily at Arlington Farms (on which the Pentagon now stands). The diaries and personal photos of the USDA's top expert on fiber production for over 45 years reveal a treasure trove of research on hemp farm-



ing by the US from the 1890s to the 1940s. Additional research was presented at dozens of events across the country.

Hemp supporter Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) submitted a statement to Congress. "Hemp was an important crop for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and thousands of American farmers until it was outlawed completely in 1970 by the Controlled Substances Act. I know many farmers in my district could benefit greatly from the renewed freedom to rotate industrial hemp into their growing seasons," wrote Paul. "Hemp History Week will help other elected officials learn about America's rich hemp heritage along with the tremendous benefits of growing hemp in America once again."

A full listing of events and information on the 2011 Hemp History Week is online at hemphistoryweek.com/events.

Improvements for patients in OR case law

By Leland R. Berger NORML Legal Committee

Although there has been much litigation here, three areas have been especially significant: The ability of out-of-state patients to travel with medicine, and for Oregon patients to have seized medicine returned and obtain concealed handgun licenses.

Joel Berringer, a Nevada County, CA patient, was taking his friend Jeremy Fox to Ft. Lewis, Washington to deploy to Iraq, when he was stopped for speeding on I-205, near Oregon City, Southeast of Portland. Michael Syvertson, also a California patient, had traveled to Horning's Hideout, a popular outdoor music venue by Portland. Each was convicted for possessing cannabis. Each challenged his conviction on appeal and lost.

Berringer and Syvertson argued that Oregon has to give 'full faith and credit' to their California recommendations and that the failure to do so violated the federal constitutional right to travel. The Court of Appeals ruled to the contrary, but in doing

so they also said that the list of required identification to apply was ambiguous, and they could have applied for protection under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act.

The state OMMP program at first declined to issue registry cards to out-of-state patients, but when the attorney general issued an opinion agreeing with the ruling, the office issued emergency temporary rules allowing this. Subsequently, however, OMMP proposed permanent rules which require the applicant to state an intent to remain in Oregon. As of press time, the public hearing on these proposed rules has not yet occurred.

Three Washington County patients and one Jackson County patient had court victories both at the trial (Circuit Court) level and in the Court of Appeals. The trial Appeals courts all held that Oregon Sheriffs must issue and can't revoke concealed handgun licenses to patients.

The reason is simple; Oregon law *Please turn to page* 23

Veterans Admin accepts cannabis therapeutics

Continued from page 1

Veterans Affairs (VA) facility. The veteran would need to inform his provider of the use of marijuana, and of any other non-VA prescribed medications he or she is taking to ensure that all medications, including opioids, are prescribed in a safe manner."

Kravitz has been at the forefront of the struggle for veterans' access to medical cannabis and is on the board of Patients Out of Time. The VMMA veteransformedicalmarijuana.org is an advocacy group committed to protecting the rights of veteran health care professionals and cannabis patients for all appropriate therapeutic uses and to encourage research on

 $cannab is\ the rape utics.$

"The directive shows clearly that there is no federal rule, law or policy requiring doctors to cut off patients from prescription pain killers should the patient also use cannabis," said Kravitz. "The directive also shows that the federal government does know something about the medical attributes of cannabis and that may have some direct implications on its current federal illegal classification."

This directive is a first step that may lead to a serious and lasting change in our federal medical marijuana policy, one that actually protects patients' rights and ensures safe access.



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In a historic decision, the V.A. has announced veterans will no longer be endangering their pain prescriptions by using medical marijuana in states where it is legal.



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Cannabis dependence: Addressing the taboo

By Amanda Reiman, PhD

Many health professionals, including those who practice 'mainstream medicine,' are intrigued by the therapeutic potential of cannabis. The relative safety of cannabis as compared to other pharmacotherapies is hard to ignore. Unfortunately, years of propaganda and fear mongering around cannabis have left health professionals in a quandary. Many of them are understandably wary of recommending cannabis. However, as more patients look to the plant as a source of healing, medical professionals are expected to have evidence-based answers about the risks and benefits of cannabis use.

When looking at the safety of cannabis relative to other commonly prescribed medications, it is easy to see why cannabis might be a better choice.

Table 1								
Drug	Examples	Used for	Negative Effects	Can be fatal				
Opioids	Oxycontin, Morphine	Pain	Severe respiratory depression or death followir large, single d					
CNS Depressants	Barbiturates Benzo's	Anxiety	Seizures after a rebound in brain activity after reducing discontinuing					
Stimulants	Ritalin Adderall	ADHD	Dangerously high body ten erature or irre heart beat afte taking a large	np- gular er				
Cannabis	Flowers Tincture Edibles, etc.	All the above and then some	Potential for anxiety, especially in new users, drowsiness	NO				

Although there is little debate about the addictive properties of medications like Oxycontin and morphine, cannabis dependence continues to be a controversial subject. Cannabis proponents often claim

that cannabis dependence does not exist, while opponents claim that it is a real and certain danger.

Agrawal et al. (2008) found that 29 percent of those who used cannabis during the past year reported at least two cannabis-withdrawal symptoms, such as irritability, anger/aggression, anxiety, sleep difficulty, decreased appetite, and restlessness.

However, assessment is difficult because standard measures of cannabis consumption do not exist. Research has suggested the existence of 'diagnostic orphans' among regular users. That is, users who meet only one or two of the current DMS-IV dependence criteria for cannabis - not enough to be labeled as abusers or dependent - may exhibit similar patterns of use to those with an abuse or dependence diagnosis, but lack the elevated rates of other drug use, mental health symptoms, and social and behavioral consequences to qualify for an abuse or dependence diagnosis. Even daily cannabis use might not be indicative of abuse or dependence, based on the user's individual circumstance and use of other drugs (Degenhardt at al., 2002; Looby and Earleywine, 2007; Alexander, 2003).

Currently, no assessment of cannabis dependence exists in the US. The Cannabis Use Disorders Inventory Test (CUDIT), developed by Adamson and Sellman of the National Addiction Centre, Christchurch School of Medicine (2003), has yet to be used in a US sample. Adapted from the Alcohol Use Disorders Inventory Test, the CUDIT attempts to transfer the AUDIT's method of assessing alcohol problems to cannabis use.

In a sample of 350 medical-cannabis patients, the most common use patterns

were 2-3 times per day (46 percent), and 3-5 grams per week (46 percent). Importantly, 69 percent reported no change in use over the last six months. Use escalation is a common sign of substance dependence. Although misinformation

about use and dependence is likely to continue, health professionals must educate themselves on the relative safety, efficacy and risks of cannabis so they can make informed treatment recommendations.

Small mistake leads to mighty mite invasion, crop damage

By Samuel Janovici

It started as a minor violation of one of the golden rules of indoor growing: Don't introduce a new plant into the garden without a reasonable quarantine period and a healthy dose of Azatrol. The new strain was from a friend, a respected grower, so he put the clones of a new variety straight into the main clone room for a few days before moving them to the veg-room.

That was the last chance to notice the spider mites before they traveled into his healthy, bug-free environment to breed in near-perfect conditions.

Spider mites are usually less than 1 mm in size and they produce small, spherical eggs. The hot, dry conditions of an indoor operation are the perfect breeding ground for a population of spider mites. The two-spotted spider mite that infested this crop can hatch in as few as three days, and become sexually mature in as few as five. One female can produce up to 20 eggs per day and live for 2 to 4 weeks, laying hundreds of eggs.

Mites inhabit the underside of the leaf and are not easily seen. The first indication is tiny brown spots circled by small yellow patches. That's where mites have punctured the leaf surface and sucked the plant's sweet juices. As the population grows they begin to build webs and can be seen migrating from one feeding area to the next.

Three weeks into the flower cycle, the

grower needed help. The crop was infested to a point that webs were going to appear in the next three days, but he still needed three weeks for Urkle and at least five for the new strain, Headband. He sought an organic solution to save as much medicine as possible without using a miticide-insecticide like Avid that would toxify his medicine. Avid is for ornamental plants only.

Since the crop was in its third week of flowering it was impossible to use a horticultural soap. Instead, the grower used large doses of CO2 lasting up to five hours a day for two weeks, dropping the temperatures and the humidity as low as was healthy for the plants. He released Pyrethrin Bombs and increased the air circulation. The plants flourished, but so did the mites. The CO2 and the cold did slow them down and the Pyrethrin would have been more effective sprayed directly on the invaders, but that could have created a mold cycle in the maturing buds.

In the final week of the Urkle the webs began to appear. They were removed with the help of a low-volume vacuum cleaner that wouldn't harm the buds, but the plants were weakening. Pyrethrin spray was the last resort for the Urkle. The combination helped save that half of the crop. Unfortunately, the Headband was a total loss, but it was a valuable lesson in humility and a reminder to always follow good, safe gardening practices.

Stay safe out there.



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Election Special Report on Proposition 19:

Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010

Official Title and Summary: Changes California law to legalize marijuana and allow it to be regulated and taxed. Initiative statute.

Allows people 21 years old or older to possess, cultivate, or transport marijuana for personal use. Permits local governments to regulate and tax commercial production and sale of marijuana to people 21 years old or older. Prohibits people from possessing marijuana on school grounds, using it in public, smoking it while minors are present, or providing it to anyone under 21 years old. Maintains current prohibitions against driving while impaired.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Savings of up to several tens of millions of dollars annually to state and local governments on the costs of incarcerating and supervising certain marijuana offenders. Unknown but potentially major tax, fee, and benefit assessment revenues to state and local government related to the production and sale of marijuana products.

Excerpts from the initiative

Proposition 19, Part B. Purposes

- 1. Reform California's cannabis laws in a way that will benefit our state.
- 2. Regulate cannabis like we do alcohol: Allow adults to possess and consume small amounts of cannabis.
- 3. Implement a legal regulatory framework to give California more control over the cultivation, processing, transportation, distribution, and sales of cannabis. ...
- 6. Provide easier, safer access for patients who need cannabis for medical purposes.
- 7. Ensure that if a city decides not to tax and regulate the sale of cannabis, that buying and selling cannabis within that city's limits remain illegal, but that the city's citizens still have the right to possess and consume small amounts, except as permitted under Health and Safety (HS) Sections 11362.5 and 11362.7 through 11362.9.*
- 8. Ensure that if a city decides it does want to tax and regulate the buying and selling of cannabis (to and from adults only), that a strictly controlled legal system is implemented to oversee and regulate cultivation, distribution, and sales, and that the city will have control over how and how much cannabis can be bought and sold, except as permitted under HS Sections 11362.5 and 11362.7 through 11362.9.*
- * Statutory citations for Prop 215 and SB 420, the medical marijuana laws

Section 3: Lawful Activities

Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, commencing with section 11300 is added to read:

Section 11300: Personal Regulation and Controls

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is lawful and shall not be a public offense under California law for any person 21 years of age or older to:
- (i) Personally possess, process, share, or transport not more than one ounce of cannabis, solely for that individual's personal consumption, and not for sale.

(ii) Cultivate, on private property by the owner, lawful occupant, or other lawful resident or guest of the private property owner or lawful occupant, cannabis plants for personal consumption only, in an area of not more than twenty-five square feet per private residence or, in the absence of any residence, the parcel. Cultivation on leased or rented property may be subject to approval from the owner of the property. Provided that, nothing in this section shall permit unlawful or unlicensed cultivation



Latino endorsement: "The so called war on drugs has been a gigantic failure....approving Prop 19 will strike a blow to violent gangs and Mexican cartels that prey on our communities by removing their profit incentive," said Antonio Gonzalez (center), coordinator of the Latino Voters League (LVL) at an Aug 13 press conference with Prop 19 spokesperson Dale Sky Jones (I) to announce the LVL endorsement. "At a time when our state is laying off firemen, teachers, and police officers, we must pursue common sense, revenue-generating policies. That's why I support Prop. 19," said Hector De La Torre (r), California Assemblyman (50th AD).

of cannabis on any public lands.

- (iii) Possess on the premises where grown the living and harvested plants and results of any harvest and processing of plants lawfully cultivated pursuant to section 11300(a)(ii), for personal consumption.
- (iv) Possess objects, items, tools, equipment, products and materials associated with activities permitted under this subsection.
- (b) "Personal consumption" shall include

but is not limited to possession and consumption, in any form, of cannabis in a residence or other non-public place, and shall include licensed premises open to the public authorized to permit on-premises consumption of cannabis by a local government pursuant to section 11301.

- (c) "Personal consumption" shall not include, and nothing in this Act shall per-
- (i) possession for sale regardless of amount, except by a person who is licensed or permitted to do so under the terms of an ordinance adopted pursuant to section 11301; (ii) consumption in public or a public place; (iii) consumption by the operator of any vehicle, boat or aircraft while it is being operated, or that impairs the operator;
- (iv) smoking cannabis in any space while minors are present.

All hands on deck for Prop 19

2010 Election commentary

By Norm Stamper,

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

This is the home stretch of the Prop.19 campaign. If California is going to make an historic decision to legalize marijuana for adults, every West Coast Leaf reader needs to help inform people, to vote, and to get others to vote Yes on 19 on Nov 2.

As a 34-year veteran police officer who speaks out against marijuana prohibition, I know how tough it can be to talk to people even family and close friends – about why we need to regulate marijuana. Cannabis is a topic that evokes strong feelings, and what many understand as the overwhelming case for regulation can at first seem radical or threatening to others.

When people have the courage to raise a tough topic, the rewards can be great. My colleagues and I in LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) have heard from thousands of people who appreciate our message on how prohibition has failed and why we need to change course.

Talking about Prop. 19 with family, friends, and strangers is not just okay – it's essential. Here's why we need "all hands on deck" right now:

- The vote is likely to be very close. The polls are encouraging, but victory is far from certain.
- Our opponents will spread plenty of

untruths and disinformation from now to Election Day. The defenders of prohibition know they are vulnerable, and they can be expected to be aggressive in spreading fear about Prop. 19.

• Mid-term elections typically draw lower overall voter turnout and more voters whose demographic profiles suggest lower support for legalizing marijuana.

I encourage every West Coast Leaf reader to inform himself or herself about Prop. 19; talk to friends and family about why to vote Yes on 19; read several newspapers and write letters to the editor; and get involved in the campaign.

To get volunteer and started, check out YesOn19.com, facebook.com/taxcannabis, or twitter.com /taxcannabis.

Imagine, for a moment, how great it will feel to wake up on Nov. 3 to read headlines and see broadcasts about the historic vote in California to legalize marijuana for adults. We can make that happen, but we have a lot of work to do. Complacency or over-confidence about the outcome will sink us for sure. Let's act with confidence in the knowledge that Yes on Prop. 19 is right and can win - and then let's each act like we personally had to get every 'yes' voter to the polls ourselves.

The whole world is watching this California election. Let's show them it's possible for people to work together to take a big step toward ending the long national nightmare of marijuana prohibition.

Stamper, a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, was a police officer in San Diego for 28 years and Seattle's police chief for six. See CopsSayLegalizeDrugs.com

Effect of Act and Definitions

11304(d) (d) Definitions(iv)(c) in a criminal proceeding a person accused of violating a limitation in this Act shall have the right to an affirmative defense that the cannabis was reasonably related to his or her personal consumption.

Section 5: Amendment

Pursuant to Article 2, section 10(c) of the California Constitution, this Act may be amended either by a subsequent measure submitted to a vote of the People at a statewide election; or by statute validly passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, but only to further the purposes of the Act. Such permitted amendments include but are not limited to:

- (a) Amendments to the limitations in section 11300, which limitations are minimum thresholds and the Legislature may adopt less restrictive limitations.
- (b) Statutes and authorize regulations to further the purposes of the Act to establish a statewide regulatory system for a commercial cannabis industry that addresses some or all of the items referenced in Sections 11301 and 11302.
- (c) Laws to authorize the production of hemp or non-active cannabis for horticultural and industrial purposes.



When it comes to California medical marijuana defense you need an attorney experienced with handling these cases, knowledgeable about the rapidly evolving law; someone who likes to win and doesn't mind taking the time to do it.

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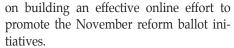
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Just Say Now By Jon Perri, SSDP

Students for Sensible Drug Policy has teamed up with progressive political blog and activist hub Firedoglake to help build momentum for legalization with a newly launched 'Just Say Now' campaign. Students are working



Just Say Now is a transpartisan coalition of organizations with a diverse advisory board that includes police, drug policy reformers, philanthropists and former political advisors. At least one former member of the Reagan administration agrees that marijuana prohibition is a failure and must be ended. Bruce Fein, former General Counsel to the FCC under President Ronald Reagan, is a member of the advisory board and appeared on MSNBC to discuss the campaign.

Only one week after its launch, Just Say Now had garnered international media coverage with SSDP Executive Director Aaron Houston debating Calvina Faye, head of the Drug Free America Foundation, and Bishop Ron Allen, who spread misinformation about California's Proposition 19.

With 150 chapters on college campuses



Evan Nison and John Perri of SSDP register voters, who have until Oct. 18 to register for California's Nov. 2 election. Photo by Mikki Norris

all over the country, SSDP is poised to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures for Just Say Now petitions, calling on President Obama to end the war on marijuana. The petition effort aims at rescinding language in the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act requiring the drug czar's office to "take such actions as necessary to oppose any attempt to legalize." The signed documents will be hand delivered to the White House.

Visitors to JustSayNow.com can sign the petition and learn of other ways to help end marijuana prohibition. The site features an online action center where it is easy to write a letter to the editor and request a campus organizing kit. A \$10 donation gets a very cool Just Say Now sticker and the online store has lots of other cool swag to help spread the word through hemp tee shirts, tote bags and more.

Emerald ordinances seek the green from legalization

By Ellen Komp California NORML

Northern California residents are beginning to look at local legalization options to protect their livelihoods and values, and to overcome fears of legalization and Prop. 19. A proposed ordinance to protect rural farmers' rights was presented at a series of Humboldt County public meetings in recent months. Local officials attended the meetings, expressing support and asking for guidance from the public.

Prop. 19 would allow cities, counties and the state to implement cannabis taxation and regulation, but most proposals for doing so are urban-based and impose retail taxes. Starting from California's wine industry regulations and a proposed Massachusetts bill, a rural-based proposal for public input was first introduced at a 707 Cannabis College event in July.

The proposed ordinance would license cultivators, processors, wholesalers, retailers, nurseries and researchers, and provide for a combined farmer/processor/retailer license. In contrast, the proposed Ammiano bill (AB2254) is based on the hard-liquor model and allows a cultivator to sell only to a wholesaler, who sells to a retailer, who sells to the end user.

The proposal blends state business codes that require a 20-cent-per-gallon excise tax on wine with the 'CHI' initiative model promoted by the late Jack Herer, which would have capped taxes on cannabis at \$10/ounce. The model ordinance proposes a two-tiered tax of \$5/ounce on low-grade cannabis (1–5 percent THC) or \$10/ounce on high grade (over 5 percent THC). At the high end,

taxes and licensing fees for Humboldt county could add up to \$76 million yearly.

Labeling requirements in the cannabis proposal include its grade; certification that the product is organic and/or free of pesticides; whether grown indoors or outdoors; and whether water conservation measures such as catchment tanks were used in its cultivation.

A new group, HuMMAP (Humboldt Medical Marijuana Advisory Panel) has drafted its own version of the ordinance, leaving taxes and licensing fees up to a 'cannabis council' (which would be appointed by the Board of Supervisors), and with some other provisions left to the state. There is much interest in securing a "Humboldt-Grown" brand for the region, which is known around the world for producing high-quality cannabis. Although the group is working under the medical banner, it is looking toward the day when recreational use will be legalized.

A separate group has hired Sacramento lobbyist Max Del Real to promote a Humboldt ordinance that he says would also protect farmers. Another group, Grow It in the Sun, is disseminating information about the carbon footprint of indoor versus outdoor-grown cannabis. A preliminary study published in O'Shaughnessy's showed a strain rich in CBD had 50 percent more of the anti-inflammatory cannabinoid when grown outdoors.

The proposal is posted online at canorml.org/emerald.html. An activist center is being created at The Hemp Connection in Garberville, with literature available from all local groups.

Anaheim ruling keeps dispensaries in gray zone

Continued from page 7

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behind.

Today, nearly four dozen California localities – including some of the most populous cities, like Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland and San Francisco - regulate and tax the sale of cannabis at more than 1,200 dispensaries across the state. By contrast, more than 130 cities have imposed bans like Anaheim's.

After the ruling, ASA sent letters to all of the cities with bans to update local officials on the status of the law and urge them to promptly adopt local ordinances regulating medical access. While it is unclear whether the Anaheim case will remain the best vehicle for challenging local dispensary bans, the patient community remains committed to the fight.

"We will not be deterred by this delay," said Elford. "We will eventually overcome the tragedy that thousands of patients remain without access to their medication simply because of hostile jurisdictions."

For information, AmericansForSafeAccess.org/regulations

Scarmazzo, Montes appeal

Continued from page 6

Former dispensary operators Luke Scarmazzo and Ricardo Montes both turned 30 in separate prisons this summer. They've been locked up since May 2008, when a federal jury convicted them on charges related to the California Healthcare Collective in Modesto. One of those charges, a continuing criminal enterprise, carries a mandatory minimum 20 year sentence, so the judge had little choice but to sentence them to decades in prison. They filed their appeal this summer, and hope for a ruling that will change their fate and reunite them with their young children. If not, it's likely they will spend their birthdays in prison for the next fifteen years.

Another option is a campaign for President Obama to issue clemencies for people who qualify under his 2009 policy memo on medical marijuana.

For information on medical marijuana prisoners, visit MedicalMarijuanaOfAmerica.com

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Some localities not waiting for Prop 19 to tax

Some plans are prohibitive

By Dale Gieringer California NORML

Regardless of whether Prop 19 passes, a growing list of cities are proposing ballot measures to tax medical marijuana sales at ever-escalating rates, as cities look to cash in on revenues from marijuana.

In San Jose, the city council has proposed a ballot measure to impose up to a 10-percent tax on medical marijuana. If approved by voters, that means the city's dispensaries would be taxed at a whopping 19.25 percent including sales tax.

Oakland began the tax stampede last year by approving a modest 1.8 percent business tax on cannabis. The idea was initiated by the city's dispensaries, who had proposed a 1.4-percent rate. That was hiked by the city council before being passed along to the voters, who approved it by a lopsided 4–1 margin.

The Berkeley City Council voted to leapfrog Oakland by putting a 2.5 percent medical marijuana tax on the ballot, rejecting patient advocates' pleas for a more modest rate. The measure also proposes a 10-percent tax on non-medical sales in the event that Prop 19 passes, plus a tax of up to \$25 per square foot on medical cannabis production facilities that would be licensed by the city.

Not to be outdone, the Oakland city council approved a ballot measure to hike the city's tax to 5 percent on medical marijuana and 10 percent on non-medical cannabis, plus an additional 5 percent on the city's four proposed licensed cultivation facilities. Critics warned that such high taxes would encourage patients to shop elsewhere, such as in San Francisco, where there is no cannabis tax.

Other proposed Nov. 2 ballot tax measures include:

Sacramento: 4 percent medical, 10 percent non-medical;

Richmond: 5 percent medical, 5 percent non-medical; Long Beach: 5 percent medical, 10 per-

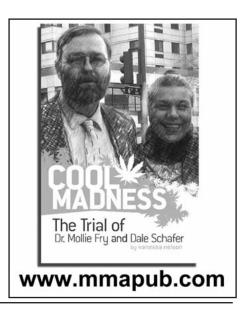
cent non-medical; Stockton: 2.5 percent medical, 10 per-

cent non-medical.

A few cities, including Redding and Sebastopol, turned down tax proposals.

At the other extreme, Rancho Cordova proposed a prohibitive \$600-per-squarefoot tax on cannabis cultivation of any kind — even patients growing for personal use. If approved, the measure is certain to be challenged as an unconstitutional violation of patients' rights under Prop. 215.

Regardless of the wishes of patients who feel prices are too high, the bandwagon seems destined to gain momentum. This year, State Senator Ronald Calderon (D-Montebello) proposed a bill to tax medical marijuana like cigarettes. The bill wasn't heard, but the idea is expected to return next year regardless of the outcome of this election.



Fears of social cost are unfounded, studies show

By Mary Jane Borden Drugwarfacts.org

Fears of increased marijuana use and abuse of other, more harmful, illicit substances are often used to rationalize criminalizing cannabis. However, research suggests that these fears are hardly justified.

According to a 2009 report from the Congressional Research Service, "Medical Marijuana: Review and Analysis of Federal and State Policies," the prevalence of marijuana use has actually dropped in states that have medical-marijuana laws.

The report states, "California, the state with the largest and longest-running medical marijuana program, ranked 34th in the percentage of persons age 12-17 reporting marijuana use in the past month during the period 2002-2003," and "Clearly, more important factors are at work in determining a state's prevalence of recreational marijuana use than whether the state has a medical marijuana program."

The concept that cannabis leads to the abuse of dangerous illicit substances like heroin is commonly called the "gateway theory."

It was questioned in the 1999 Institute of Medicine report *Marijuana and Medicine:* Assessing the Science Base, which found that, "There is no conclusive evidence that the drug effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent abuse of other illicit drugs."

In 2002, the British Home Office Research Study 253 looked at the presumed progression of drug use through defined sequences and came to the same conclusion: "There is very little remaining evidence of any causal gateway effect."

Researchers for the 2006 article, "Predictors of Marijuana Use in Adolescents Before and After Licit Drug

Use: Examination of the Gateway Hypothesis," in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, wrote that, "Evidence supporting 'causal linkages between stages,' as specified by the gateway hypothesis, was not obtained."

The abstract of an April 2010 study in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* states a similar conclusion: "These results suggest the 'gateway' pattern at least partially reflects unmeasured common causes rather than causal effects of specific drugs on subsequent use of others."

Finally, consider numbers from the 2008 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. In 2008, 102 million Americans were estimated to have tried marijuana once in their lifetimes; 15.2 million of them were said to be "past-month" users.

There were an estimated 3.8 million "lifetime" and 213,000 "past-month" users of heroin. By simple math, "lifetime" heroin users were only 3.7 percent of "lifetime" marijuana users," with "past-month" heroin users a mere 1.4 percent of "past-month" marijuana users. If cannabis were a gateway to heroin, wouldn't these percentages be significantly closer?

These facts come from the "Gateway Theory and Drug Usage" chapters of *Drug War Facts* at drugwarfacts.org. This website contains direct quotes from government reports, peer-reviewed journals, think-tank analyses, and other authoritative sources, along with bibliographic citations and links to the source documents.

With so many important policy and research developments concerning cannabis, it is important to understand the facts. This will encourage the crafting and adoption of sensible, compassionate, and effective policies.

PROP 19

Photo courtesy of Sam Sabzehzar, MedicalMarijuana411.com

What Prop 19 will do if passed by voters:

- California's Proposition 19 preserves the current state medical marijuana laws, as mentioned three times in its purposes and also in the ballot argument.
- It makes it lawful for only adults 21 and above to possess, carry or share up to one ounce of marijuana and grow a very small personal garden without a doctor's note.
- It eliminates three misdemeanor penalties and one felony penalty from the Health and Safety Code for engaging in the conduct described above.
- It adds a new affirmative defense for adults age 21 and above for any quantity of marijuana intended for personal adult use, as defined in the text.
- It increases the misdemeanor penalty for adults selling or furnishing to people age 18 to 21 by increasing the fine and including the possiblity of jail time.
- It retains the existing felony penalties for selling or furnishing to minors below 18.
- Prop 19 enables local government to permit, license, tax and regulate non-medical cannabis sales and commercial production, possibly including hemp farming.
- It keeps in place other current marijuana laws including state public safety laws, federal laws and drug-free workplace requirements.
- It allows the legislature to reduce penalties, create statewide regulations for commercial cultivation and distribution of marijuana, and allow industrial hemp farming.

What Prop 19 will not do:

- \bullet Proposition 19 does not change the existing state medical marijuana laws.
- It does not overturn federal laws.
- It does not allow driving under the influence, diversion to minors, unlicensed sales, or smoking around kids.
- It does not create any special arrangements or benefits for corporations.
- It does not force communities to allow marijuana sales, it allows them to do so.
- It does not create a special, tax-exempt status for marijuana, although it allows people aged 21 and above to grow their own and share with other adults.

Partial list of Prop 19 endorsements:

CA NAACP; ACLU of Northern CA, Southern CA, and San Diego; United States Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders, MD (Ret.); Dr. Lester Grinspoon; Latino Voters League; National Black Police Association; United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Northern CA District Council; City Councils of Oakland, West Hollywood and Berkeley; Congressman Pete Stark; California State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (Ret.), Sen. Mark Leno; Assemblymember Tom Ammiano; Assemblymember Hector De La Torre; CA Young Democrats and various Democratic Party clubs; CA Libertarian Party; CA Green Party; Republican Liberty Caucus; Harvard Economist Jeffrey Miron; Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative. For a listing of more endorsements, see yeson19.com

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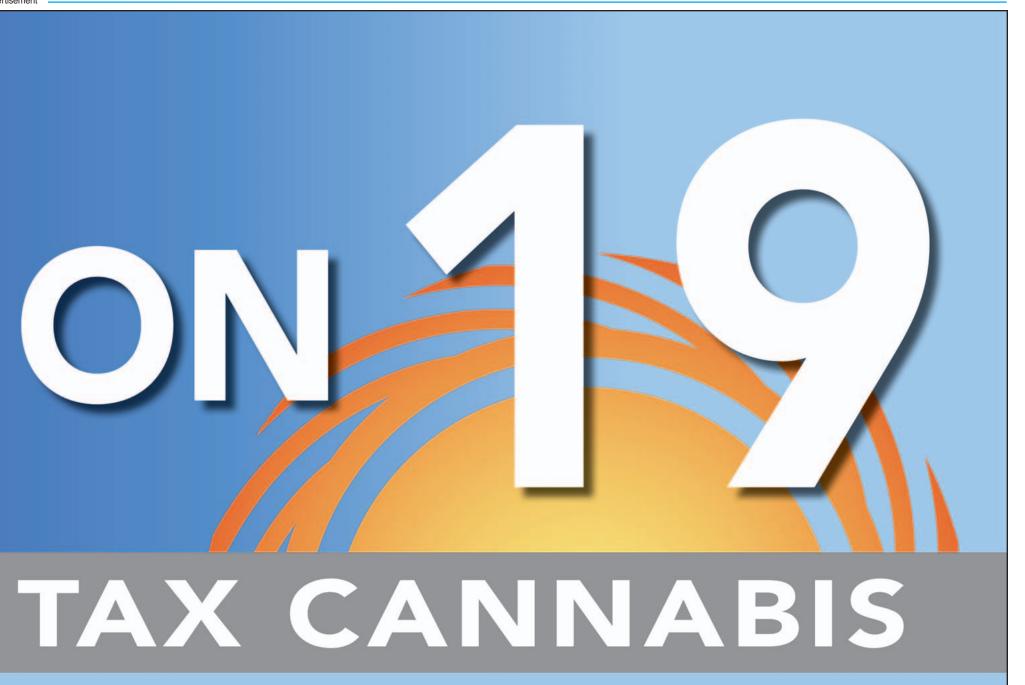
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Prop 19's centrist approach draws critics, rumors from both ends of Drug War debate

By Chris Conrad

California's Prop 19 has vocal opposition from two extremes, both the expected attacks from drug warriors and career politicians, on the one hand, and on the other are self-proclaimed "Stoners" and other critics who say they want legalization but not certain provisions of the initiative, feel it does not go far enough, or fear it reduces patients' current rights.

Regarding the latter group, once it is understood that Prop 19 only affects nonmedical use, most of the resulting concerns for patients disappear. Some issues remain, however. It toughens a penalty for furnishing to minors. Parents smoking around kids would face the same risk as in current law, cities can set high fees and taxes, and the state attorney general can challenge Prop 215 and SB420 laws or Prop 19 if it passes, just as they can challenge any law. Those worries are weighed against the political shift of legalizing cannabis.

Unfortunately, a trove of misinformation stems from a YouTube video in circulation in which a Prop 215 sponsor, Dennis Peron, mistakenly claims that the initiative "creates new felonies" for cannabis. He incorrectly states that marijuana "is already legal" because "all use is medical," that the initiative replaces current medical use laws, and that as an initiative it could not be amended to fix its perceived flaws.

Our investigation found that none of those claims are accurate. Starting with his first error, Prop 19 does not add any felonies – it eliminates one felony as well as three misdemeanor level offenses. It does increase one misdemeanor penalty by adding the possibility of up to six months jail time for furnishing non-medical marijuana to persons aged 18-21. It retains two felonies (section 11361) that are already on the books for furnishing to minors, but Section 5(a) allows the legislature to "adopt less restrictive limitations" and create a "statewide regulatory system."

Likewise, marijuana remains illegal in California with a limited, qualified immunity for patients with a prior physician's approval. Prop 19, on the other hand, adds a list of "Lawful Activities" that "shall not be a public offense" and do not require medical qualification, only proof of age. Prop 19 Purpose #6 calls for "easier, safer access for patients who need cannabis for medical purposes;" it protects medical use, possession, cultivation and collectives by statute number in Purposes #7 and #8 and preserves them in the ballot argument.

Unfortunately, once the "new felonies" rumor got planted, an entire blogospherespawned rumor mill took root.

For example, a claim that the initiative adds a mandatory tax of \$50 per ounce is not true. That's taken out of context from Tom Ammiano's bill in the state Assembly. Prop 19 allows untaxed personal cultivation and gifts and allows localities to regulate and tax commercial operations.

A typical anti-Prop 19 rumor takes a compelling phrase from the initiative out of context, such as to point to its felonies but not mention that they already exist. One rumor notes that Purpose #7 does not list cultivation but fails to note that it is in #8. One hits the low quantities allowed but ignores the new affirmative defense for larger amounts (11304[d](4)[c]). Another says that a requirement that businesses must keep certain records means all cannabis will need a receipt to be legal. Wrong.

for medical use is based on current laws, but it fanned fears of a corporate takeover and a host of conspiracy theories. In fact, Prop 19 sets up a system of local controls where 'mom and pop' or medium-size growers can better organize to keep big business in check and hold officials accountable than at the state level. Meanwhile, the official opposition to

In the midst of this, Oakland's unrelat-

ed plan to license so-called 'mega-grows'

Prop 19 has also been busy spreading its

own false rumors claiming that the initiative will make it impossible to enforce drug free workplace standards or have a negative effect on landlords, when in fact they are protected in Prop 19 Intent #2 and 11300(a)[2]. They also stir up strong fears of stoned drivers, despite all evidence that cannabis consumers tend to be safe drivers.

The fact that Prop 19 is mischaracterized and attacked by both extremes shows how modest and conservative an approach the authors have taken.



Jack Herer family endorses Prop 19, wants more

Open letter from the Jack Herer family Author, The Emperor Wears No Clothes, proponent, California Hemp & Health Init.

Dear Friends of Hemp and Cannabis, Our father, Jack Herer, was a man of leadership, compassion and idealism. He worked relentlessly for decades to achieve his dream of legalizing cannabis hemp in all its forms, personal, medical and industrial. He wanted cannabis to be free and open, and to be given full respect for its enormous economic, environmental and cultural benefits.

As an idealist, Jack was adverse to half measures. He originally opposed Prop 215 because it permits only medical use. He initially opposed Senate Bill 420 because it set limited quantities as a safe harbor. Over time, however, he came to appreciate the freedoms they created, and took pride in the role he played in inspiring those changes. Jack's great fear about Prop 215 and SB 420 was that people would accept those limits, become complacent and stop working for full legalization. He feared we would be stuck with medical use forever.

Likewise, Jack railed against Tax Cannabis 2010, now Prop 19, and its plan for limited legalization and local authority to tax and regulate marijuana sales to adults 21 and above. It falls far short of what he wanted. Jack 'wanted it all,' and Prop 19 is just a part of that dream. Unfortunately, Jack passed away before Prop 19 made the 2010 ballot; many people think he would still oppose it. We don't believe that, and we ask that everyone stop claiming he would cling to that position as we move toward the Nov. 2 vote.

As his family, we want the world to know that the last thing Jack Herer would want is for Californians to vote to keep cannabis illegal. He was smart and had the political savvy to know that once a measure is on the ballot, the time for bickering has passed. That is why he campaigned for Prop 215 despite its shortcomings. That is why, were he able, he would now be telling voters to rally around and Vote Yes on Prop 19.

Does that mean he would want everyone to stop and be happy with the modest changes that Prop 19 affords? Absolutely not! What Jack would want us to do right now is to support Prop 19 and, come Nov. 3, he would be advocating for renewed commitment to bringing a comprehensive California Hemp and Health Initiative to the voters in 2012 or some future date. Jack Herer would ask — no, he would demand — your 'yes' vote on Prop 19, along with a pledge to continue fighting for the plant, the people and the planet.

It is true that Prop 19 does not fulfill our father's dream; but it takes us much closer to achieving it, and for that reason we, his family, endorse Prop 19 today. Please vote yes on Prop 19 Nov 2, but do it with the intention to keep working toward complete legalization in Jack's honor.

Sincerely, Dan Herer, on behalf of the Herer family, Van Nuys CA, August, 2010 Visit jackherermedicalandmemorialfund.org

Data show marijuana no big factor in highway safety

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML

Although Prop 19 would do nothing to change current laws against driving under the influence, its opponents speculate that it could result in a flood of accidents from 'stoned' drivers. Fortunately, there is ample scientific evidence that marijuana is not like alcohol, and cannabis has remarkably little impact on highway safety.

Eleven different studies of fatal accidents involving 50,000 drivers have found that drivers with marijuana-only in their blood are on average no more dangerous than drivers with low levels of alcohol beneath the legal threshold for DUI. The major exception is when it is combined with alcohol, which tends to be highly dangerous: pot does not sober up a drunk.

In contrast, several studies have found marijuana-only drivers to be no more dangerous than those with no drugs at all. To the extent that legalization encourages the substitution of cannabis for alcohol, Prop. 19 might improve traffic safety, although

this could be offset if there were more combined use of the two by drivers.

The highway risks are dramatically overstated in a report by retired NHTSA researcher Al Crancer. Citing data from the federal government's FARS accident reporting system, he points to a doubling in the incidence of marijuana in fatal drivers in California since 2004. Crancer attaches this to the legalization of medical use, which he misdates to 2004.

In fact, California legalized medical marijuana in 1996, and highway accident rates have since declined. US accident rates declined steadily throughout the 1960s and 70s, at a time when millions of Americans began using cannabis.

Crancer's data shows that California ranks 14th in the nation in the rate of marijuana-involved fatal accidents, well below other states with tougher laws, like South Carolina, Indiana and Missouri.

For a summary of scientific studies on marijuana and driving safety: canorml.org/healthfacts/drugtestguide/drugtestdetection.html#accidents.

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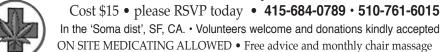
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WEST COAST LEAF

Editorials and Commentary

Please vote Yes on Prop 19

If you smoke cannabis or know someone who does and you live in California, this may be the vote you most remember in your life. It is pivotal to the future legal and social status of cannabis consumers everywhere — a mark of where we stand in society, communities, workplaces, and our families. Will we continue to be subject to arrest, incarceration, asset forfeiture, discriminatory drug testing, loss of jobs, benefits and custody rights, the dangers of the illicit market, and the stigma that marijuana prohibition perpetuates? Is this the next positive step towards exercising our rights as equal partners in society with a growing acceptance and tolerance that common sense cannabis policy holds in store?

This is our historic opportunity to shift a paradigm that has been operating since at least 1937, when the US outlawed marijuana. Prohibition is a scourge wreaking havoc on our lives, devastating our Constitution, and wasting billions of dollars and resources criminalizing a plant and good people who use it. It clogs our courts and our prisons. It has crippled our hemp industries and devastated family farms and forests alike.

The enormity of this moment should not be understated. It has been 38 years since non-medical marijuana legalization was last on the California ballot – which, coincidentally also was numbered Prop 19. It's been 14 years since voters passed the Compassionate Use Act, Prop 215. No one knows how long it will be until we have another chance, but we do know that every day people are arrested for marijuana in California.

We are therefore surprised to hear some 'legalizers' oppose Prop 19 to wait for 'something better.' There is only one marijuana legalization initiative on the ballot this year, and there is no guarantee this opportunity will come again anytime soon. So the choice is clear. We urge an enthusiastic vote: "Yes' on Prop 19.

When personal use and cultivation are "lawful activities," it changes everything. No longer will an odor of cannabis be automatic probable cause to search your home or person. No longer will you be labeled a 'criminal,' ticketed and fined over a small bag in your trunk or purse. No longer will you face the inflated prices that prohibition and the illicit market command for cannabis, as prices drop and adults grow their own and share.

If it passes, Prop 19 will make it easier to protect patients' rights and the gains we've made with medical marijuana. Doctors will still need to approve patients' larger dosages and patient collectives will continue to play their unique role in providing access. But no longer will cannabis be an illegal medicine, so both stigma and skepticism will soon fall away. Passing Prop. 19 will send a message to law enforcement and to the cities and counties currently banning and clamping down on medical cannabis dispensaries that voters want legal outlets. Prop 19 will allow for profit as well as non-profit activity, which makes it clear that cities can permit retail sales of medical marijuana as well.

Change of this magnitude cannot always be smooth. The challenge for many of our readers will be to start planning now for how to engage with a safe, legal, regulated, and commercial market in California localities. That may be as consumer, producer, product development, employee, business operator, or entrepreneur in an emerging industry that will bring jobs and new revenue streams to our cash-strapped state. It's not too early to start organizing and lobbying for regulations that benefit and sustain your communities.

We may stand on the dawn of a new era, where all adults 21 and over can use, possess, grow, and share small amounts of cannabis with other adults if they just follow a few simple rules. The whole world is watching and waiting for California to make the first move towards legalization.

Tell your friends and family. Register to vote, volunteer, donate and phone bank for the campaign to help get-out-the-vote. Go to YesOn19.com to see what you can do to get involved. Make this the vote you remember for advancing the rights of cannabis consumers the world over.

This is *our* time. This is *our* moment. On Nov. 2, please vote Yes on Prop. 19.

WEST COAST LEAF

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Chris Conrad, executive editor Mikki Norris, managing editor

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Vote for 'Not Whitman' and 'Not Cooley'

By William Dolphin, Americans for Safe Access

As they consider the major candidates for statewide office, California patient activists can rightly feel frustrated. Not one candidate has stood up against federal raids on patients and providers.

But make no mistake – there are big differences that will have great impact. Americans for Safe Access urges everyone to vote for candidates who will respect the will of the people and uphold the laws we've fought so hard to pass. That means Jerry Brown for governor and, more importantly, Kamala Harris for attorney general.

Those of us who work to ensure safe access to medical cannabis have seen that passage of a law is only the first step. Convincing officials to respect and implement the law can be an even greater challenge than winning at the ballot box. ASA takes no position on Prop 19 because it does not directly address medical access, but what the candidates say about it does tell us how they would likely implement our medical use laws.

Both Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman, the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor, say they oppose Prop 19. But Brown has said he will respect the will of the people and not undermine the law. This mirrors his position on medical cannabis. He may not promote safe access, but the guidelines he produced as attorney general have helped implement state law. And, as governor in 1975, he signed California's decriminalization bill.

In contrast, Meg Whitman falls back on Drug War rhetoric exaggerating how "dangerous" cannabis is and has even said she would refuse to sign Prop 19 (The governor does not sign voter initiatives, only legislation.), and will do everything possible to block it. And PayPal, a subsidiary of the company Whitman founded, has a policy of blackballing legal medical-use businesses. This suggests a politician who gives only lip service to compassion as she undermines safe access.

Even more important to medical access is the race for state attorney general. Whoever occupies the office will have enormous influence over the state medical cannabis program. And the contrast between Kamala Harris and Steve Cooley could not be more stark. While both candidates signed the No on 19 ballot argument, Harris defended San Francisco's dispensaries and has said she favors statewide regulations for dispensaries.

As LA District Attorney, Cooley has systematically undermined elected officials attempts to implement medical use laws. When LA City Council was creating regulations for dispensaries, Cooley claimed all "sales" were illegal and denounced the council as "irrelevant," saying he would ignore anything they passed, and prosecute anyone operating a dispensary. Cooley calls Prop 19 a "foolish and dangerous initiative that endangers our society." His spokesman says Cooley may find "rare

exceptions" to enforcing the law as attorney general. No surprise, since Cooley participated in a "training" for the California Narcotics Officers Assn. aimed at "eradicating" dispensaries around the state.

In word and in deed, Cooley has revealed himself to be the sort of lawman who enforces laws that suit his agenda and ignores those that don't. That approach is what is truly dangerous for our society. For more on Steve Cooley and what you can do to stop him, check out NotCooley.com.

Mom-and-pop growers need to organize now

By David Harris

Growing quality cannabis for medical or personal use requires skill, capital and hard work. Lower prices are good for the consumer, but they threaten the traditional economics of a cottage industry.

Often people invest valuable personal labor and hard-earned savings to build small community gardens, creating revenue streams that support families and local businesses in areas where cannabis is grown. This has offered small farmers modest livelihoods for generations.

Small growers all over California are now seeing a drop in the value of their harvests, as mom-and-pop farmers compete with more of their own neighbors and more large-scale commercial crops.

Small- to medium-sized gardens, having a total canopy space under 5000 square feet (indoor or outdoor), typically bring in just enough money to pay the bills, with a little extra to reinvest into the next cycle.

The concern facing many mom-andpop gardens is how to survive the process of coming above-ground and facing the regulatory bureaucracies. Increased costs and taxes will bring down profit margins and endanger the stability of these small but important businesses.

This will be especially dangerous as massive business interests are legally permitted to overtake established communities and begin farming industrial spaces over 10,000 square feet.

Should there be restrictions on size? A lottery for growers' licenses? Allotted community gardens? Will brokers act independently? Will the model be like farmers' markets? These are just some of the questions that must be addressed. Cannabis gardeners of all sizes will need to come together and appeal to local governments for clear ordinances that will support current supply networks and ensure that small cannabis growers won't be muscled out by big farming interests.

CanKare is an advocacy group promoting policies to develop small garden spaces under 5000 square feet as a sustainable cottage-industry business model for local communities. People who wish to offer support are invited to contact CanKare of California at cankare@iscweb.com

Cannabis reform on the national voting agenda

Continued from page 1 state should legalize medical marijuana.

In anticipation of Prop 19's passage, voters in several California cities will also consider measures to tax the sale of cannabis. The Sacramento City Council has placed a companion measure on the November ballot for a 5-10 percent local tax on retail marijuana sales. Sacramento is asking voters to decide whether to impose a 2–4 percent tax on gross receipts at existing medical marijuana dispensaries. Similarly, Long Beach voters will consider

whether to charge medical cannabis collectives a 5 percent gross receipts tax. The Long Beach measure would also permit the city to levy a tax of 0.75 cents per square foot on sites used exclusively to cultivate cannabis. The Richmond City Council also placed a 5 percent marijuana tax proposal on the ballot.

Two Berkeley ballot proposals will allow up to 11 large-scale growing facilities in the city's manufacturing zone. The measures would also reduce the buffer zone between dispensaries and schools from 1,000 feet to 600 feet. If approved, the new law would permit growers to bake cannabis brownies, cookies and cakes.

DrugSense and its Media Awareness Project have established a number of ways to track these initiatives right up to election day. The best place to start is at the "Ballot Initiative" Focal Point on the MAP home page, mapinc.org, that leads to numerous

Cannabis church raided in HI

Continued from page 1

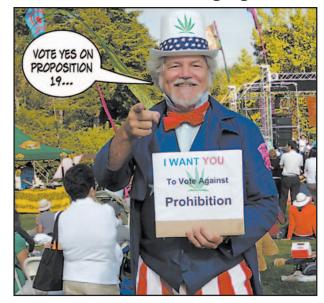
Several of his co-defendants were indicted on even more serious charges. All others got bond, yet Christie remains caged. The government argued that the soft-spoken minister is too dangerous to release, even under house arrest with random drug testing and electronic monitoring.

The government says Christie is a "danger to the community" and that no conditions or combination of conditions could "assure the safety of the community." He remains locked up behind the bars of the Hawaii Federal Detention Center with limited access to telephone, Internet or legal help.

The prosecution says the earliest it can be ready to hold the trial is April 2011. The government, with all its agents and attorneys, cannot put its case together with less than six months of preparation. How is Christie supposed to prepare for this from the isolation of a prison cell? He wants to take full responsibility and fight his case as vigorously as possible. Lack of bail denies him that right. Hopefully, his lawyers can get the court to reconsider and grant him a reasonable bail in the coming weeks.

All fair-minded people who support religious freedom, justice and personal choice of spiritual sacraments need to rally for this cause. Please support the-last-marijuana-trial.com and spread the word. We need your positive prayers and your donations to win this case for Christie, for the 'Green 14' and for all the people of the US who value religious liberty and basic Constitutional rights.

To contact Roger Christie, write to him at: Roger Christie 99279-022, Federal Detention Center P O Box 30080 Code FBOP #DC, Honolulu HI 96820



'Uncle Sam' Miko Sloper came to El Cerrito, CA, July 4 to remind California voters that people all around the world are watching their vote. West Coast Leaf photo by Mikki Norris.

initiative-focused articles at mapinc.org/props.htm. At the Media Activism Center, mapinc.org/resource/, there is even more information and a list of ways to get involved.

Please remember to vote Nov. 2 or vote absentee in advance, particularly if you reside in one of the cities or states fielding ballot initiatives. That's the best way to initiate the end of cannabis prohibition and the beginning of legal regulation.

Pot arrests fuel drug treatment gravy train

By Paul Armentano, NORML

Marijuana prohibition continues to be a windfall for drug treatment providers.

According to the most recent figures published by the US Department of Health and Human Services, nearly six out of ten persons (57 percent) referred to treatment for marijuana as their 'primary substance of abuse' were referred by the criminal justice system.

By contrast, criminal justice referrals accounted for just 37 percent of all drug treatment admissions in 2008.

"Primary marijuana admissions were less likely than all admissions combined to be self-referred to treatment," the study found. Only 15 percent of these admissions were self-referred (a category that includes individual self-referrals and referrals by friends and family). This is less than half the percentage of self-referrals for alcohol and cocaine, and about one-quarter the number of self-referrals reported for heroin abuse (56 percent).

Given the longstanding criticism that America's drug treatment resources are woefully underfunded and unable to meet demand, it is shocking and shameful that so many of these facilities are used to warehouse minor cannabis offenders whose sole criterion for admission is that they ran afoul of marijuana laws.

Yet, since 1998, the percentage of individuals in drug treatment primarily for cannabis has risen approximately 25 percent — even though the proportion of cannabis admissions from all sources other than the criminal justice system has been declining since the mid-1990s.

In fact, some 37 percent of the estimated 288,000 thousand people who entered treatment for cannabis in 2007 (the most recent data available) had not reported using it in the 30 days previous to their admission. Another 16 percent said they had used it three or fewer times in the month prior to their admission.

Are these people addicts? Hardly.

The latest federal statistics make it clear that it is not cannabis use *per se* that is driving these treatment admission rates; it is marijuana prohibition that is driving the drug 'treatment' gravy train. More often than not, ordinary (and typically young — the average admission age is 24) Americans are being busted for cannabis and then forced to choose between rehab or jail. It's a dirty little secret that's been a boon for treatment clinics, and a bust for everyone else.



Harborside hosts its first Red Cross blood drive

By Linda Stokely

Harborside Health Center in San Jose became the first cannabis dispensary to sponsor a blood drive with the American Red Cross Northern Cal Blood Services Region. As a non-profit community service organization, Harborside reached out to the Red Cross for the June 15 drive.

Twenty-two patients and staff members donated blood, yielding 66 total patient treatments, as each blood donation is separated into three products: red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Red Cross local account manager Mona Helmhold thanked Harborside's management for allowing employees to donate blood "on the clock." Plans are underway for another blood drive at Harborside's 2106 Ringwood Ave.

facility. Harborside Oakland hopes to sponsor its first blood drive in the near future



Adriana Ramirez was first in line to donate.

THC may slow progression of Alzheimer's symptoms

By Marion Fry and Dale Schafer

Alzheimer's disease, characterized by a decrease in brain cells and formation of inflammatory plaques in brain tissue, causes loss of memory and inability to care for one's self. Currently FDA-approved drugs such as Aricept and Cognex are designed to slow the enzyme responsible for the degradation of AcTH, one of the brain's important neurotransmitters. These drugs are increasingly prescribed but have had limited success.

A study performed at the Scripps Research Institute found that THC reduced

the amount of plaque formation in Alzheimer's patients, and may slow the disease's progression. THC has been shown to be more effective at increasing the levels of AcTH than are the FDA-approved drugs.

These findings require more research to determine if THC can prevent or slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease. More research is also needed to find out if more effective Alzheimer's medications can be derived from cannabis.

To contact Mollie Fry (also known as "DocFry" or Marion Fry, MD) or Dale Schafer see bodymindsoulandlife.info.

Oregon Board of Pharmacy reclassifies cannabis

By Sandee Burbank MAMA

The 2009 Oregon legislature directed the state Board of Pharmacy to remove cannabis from its list of Schedule 1 Controlled Substances (C-I) and place it into one of the four remaining schedules.

After hearing invited testimony*, written testimony and holding a public hearing, the Board adopted permanent rules June 16, 2010, rescheduling cannabis into Schedule II, effective June 29.

This corrected a technical conflict in state law, which allows cannabis for medical use, yet had it listed as a C-I drug with no accepted medical use. The Board said, "By moving marijuana from C-I to C-II, the board intended only to comply with ORS 475.059 (SB 728) to correct the technical conflict in the law and in no way intended to infer or imply that it is or should be available by prescription. In fact, it will not be available by prescription."

"The Controlled Substances Act is a federal law passed by the US Congress and is administered by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Oregon Uniform Controlled Substances Act is a state law passed by the Oregon Legislature. ... The Board of Pharmacy's action to reschedule marijuana on the state list does not supersede federal law or create a direct conflict with federal law.

"Marijuana is not 'prescribed' in Oregon, it may be 'recommended' by a physician in compliance with the OMMP. It just simply does not address federal law. It does not compel anybody to violate federal law or to participate in any way in the cultivation, manufacture or distribution of marijuana. However, Oregon pharmacy laws do require pharmacists to comply with all applicable state and federal laws. ... [F]ederal officials have full authority to enforce federal laws in Oregon".

Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) supporters are disappointed that it wasn't put into Schedule C-III, C-IV or C-V. A 1978 review by the Board of Pharmacy recommended that cannabis be listed as Schedule C-V. A loud outcry from law enforcement prevented the finding from being filed, thus leaving the Federal scheduling in place.

* Testimony is posted at oregon.gov/Pharmacy/Marijuana-Rescheduling.shtml; Sandee Burbank mama@mamas.org pharmacy.state.or.us/

Privacy victory in RI

By Jesse Stout, Ripatients.org

Rhode Island law now protects the confidentiality of doctors who recommend cannabis to their patients.

In June, both the RI Senate and House of Representatives passed H8172, and the law became effective June 22 without Governor Carcieri's signature. This marks the first time the state legislature has enacted a medical marijuana law without overriding a gubernatorial veto.

This new law amends the Medical *Please turn to page 27*











DEA raids show need for binding federal policy

By Kris Hermes, Americans for Safe Access

In the span of less than a week in July, the federal Drug Enforcement Admin. (DEA) raided medical marijuana patients and providers in California and Michigan. The California raids were similar to those carried out under the Bush Administration, but President Obama was supposed to take a different stance on medical marijuana than his predecessor. Or, so it seemed.

After Obama's Dept. of Justice issued a 2009 directive to US Attorneys discouraging federal prosecution of "individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana," DEA raids have significantly dropped off, but aggressive federal enforcement actions are still taking place.

Two licensed medical cultivators were raided July 6 in Michigan, a state that has had little-to-no federal enforcement on this issue. The next day, DEA raided the first collective to apply for the Mendocino County, CA sheriff's cultivation permit program, and seized plants that had been marked by county-issued 'zip-ties.' Then DEA conducted multiple raids July 9 on dispensaries in the San Diego area, arresting 12 people. As usual, the DEA took medicine, money and supplies, as well as financial and private patient records.

The raids drew protests in both states, with renewed calls by patients and advocates for an end to federal enforcement in medical-use states, and for a binding federal policy that goes beyond criminal enforcement. However, there have been well over 20 DEA raids just in the last year.

While advocates condemn all the raids, two in particular have raised serious questions about the federal government's motivations. DEA raids early this year at laboratories in Denver and Colorado Springs that tested for contaminants, like mold and insects, appeared to undermine the effectiveness and safety of Colorado's medical use program. So troubling were these raids that a Colorado member of Congress and four state lawmakers all urged the federal government to stop interfering with the implementation of state law.

Even more upsetting than the ongoing raids to some is Obama's nomination of Michele Leonhart, a Bush appointee, to head DEA. As Deputy Administrator under Karen Tandy she was responsible for more than 200 federal raids as well as other tactics to undermine state laws.

"President Obama is sending mixed

signals with Leonhart's nomination," said Caren Woodson of Americans for Safe Access. "If he is serious about changing federal policy, he needs to keep Leonhart in line, and also to develop a comprehensive and binding policy that won't be easily reversed by the next Administration."

New hand-held vaporizer a pleasure to sip on

The Vapir NO2

By Mikki Norris with the MontyPats,

A recent three-day trial of the new, portable, digital, cordless Vapir NO2, shows that vaporizers have indeed come a long way. Health-conscious consumers who switch from smoke to vapor will be instantly impressed with its comfortable-in-the-hand size. It is an attractive, nicely made, lightweight product that works quickly and efficiently for under \$200.

Oregon courts lend a hand

Continued from page 11

requires Oregon Sheriffs to issue a concealed handgun license (and prohibits them from revoking it) unless the applicant meets a specific statutory exclusion. Even though the Sheriffs argued that patients' use of therapeutic cannabis is unprotected under federal law, judges have agreed that Oregon Sheriffs must follow state law. The Sheriffs have petitioned the Oregon Supreme Court to review these decisions; their petitions have not yet been ruled on.

Oregon Sheriffs are also resisting returning cannabis to patients. The

Douglas County Sheriff, for example, both appealed the trial court's order requiring he return cannabis to patients and when the Court of Appeals affirmed the order (agreeing with the trial judge that the evidence must be returned), the Sheriff continued refusing to return medicine.

The Vapir NO2's thermostat is convenient. Just turn it on, press a couple buttons to set the temperature, wait for the green light, and start drawing on the plastic

> straw-like tube that attaches to the top. At 325 degrees, excellent herbal flavors linger and expand in the mouth. The very best flavors are produced at lower temperatures. Higher temperatures are recommended for a thicker vapor and a more recognizable effect.

The NO2 comes with a few tools that make it easy to use and clean. It loads from the top using the provided scoop, sized for just the right amount of product. A tool is pro-

vided to loosen any matter that remains in the chamber after a gentle tapping. A small brush is also included. A rechargeable battery and car adapter are optional from

This portable vaporizer could use a carrying case, as you will want to take it with you. It's a welcome advancement in vaporizing technology, a healthier alternative to combusting cannabis, and it's fun to hold and use – kind of like sipping something wonderful and delicious tasting from a favorite bottle.

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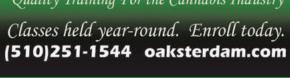
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Medical marijuana may help people quit tobacco

By Jennifer Janichek, MA

When people quit or try to quit cigarettes, cigars, or chewing tobacco, they are hit with cravings and powerful withdrawal symptoms such as headaches, interruption of sleep and eating habits, irritability, tension, stress and the desire for a break, for routines, and for comfort.

Considering the misery of quitting tobacco, a short-term cannabis replacement may make sense for certain individuals trying to change their behavior. Cannabis can provide them with feelings of relaxation. Users report that it helps reduce stress and improves mood, can help with sleep issues and irritability, and may reduce the thoughts that lead to cravings.

In addition, the act of consumption the behavior 'ritual' of holding or rolling a tobacco cigarette — can be replaced with a much less harmful substance.

There are plenty of anecdotes of people using cannabis to help them reduce or quit the use of tobacco. One patient reports, "I used low-grade pot to help me when I got an urge. I found that if I took a hit or two off a joint it really helped with cravings."

Another states, "I ate a cannabis edible every morning and early evening and that really helped me quit."

Patient descriptions highlight various strategies such as, "I bought a bag of shake and chained-smoked cannabis instead of cigarettes. After a week, it got old and I cut way down on the cannabis. It especially helped me to get through the first cranky week of quitting." Or, "At first I would use a one-hitter that looked just like a cigarette to smoke cannabis whenever I craved a cigarette. After a few weeks, just holding the one-hitter in my mouth and hand and acting like I was going to smoke helped. The thing I liked about the one-hitter is that I used less cannabis than a joint, so it was more feasible for me to use it more frequently."

Medical-cannabis patients can enroll in a clinical service that utilizes the therapeutic benefits of cannabis and combines harm-reduction strategies, peer support, one-on-one counseling, cognitive- behavioral techniques, and skill building. This service is now available in Oakland and San Jose at Harborside Health Center.

Growing scientific consensus against Drug War

By David G Ostrow,

Conference Delegate and Signer of Vienna Declaration

In a sharply worded statement by delegates to the XVIII Int. Conference on AIDS July 18-23 in Vienna, Austria, scientists, caregivers and persons living with HIV declared the Drug War is not only an abysmal failure but counterproductive to efforts to halt the spread of HIV. While relatively specific in its request to the UN Global Commission on Drugs to re-examine both the direct and collateral harms of prohibition, the Declaration also recommended that all governments discontinue their disinformation programs about substances such as cannabis, which are scheduled as highly addictive narcotics with no possible value, and instead apply scientifically valid criteria to redraw the politically motivated policies and practices that prevent their therapeutic uses.

"The criminalisation of illicit drug users is fuelling the HIV epidemic and has resulted in overwhelmingly negative health and social consequences. ... Reorienting drug policies towards evidencebased approaches that respect, protect and fulfill human rights has the potential to reduce harms deriving from current policies and would allow for the redirection of vast financial resources towards where they are needed most: implementing and evaluating evidence-based prevention, regulatory, treatment and harm reduction interventions."

The Vienna Declaration calls on governments and international organizations, including the UN, to take steps, including:

- transparently review the effectiveness of current drug policies;
- use a science-based public health approach to harms from illicit drugs; and
- to abolish compulsory treatment that violates the UN Declaration on Human Rights;

To sign on, visit viennadeclaration.com for full text of declaration and list of authors. The 2-page declaration references $28\,$ scientific reports on effective public-health approaches to drug policy and the negative effect of criminizing.

Cannabis metabolite is not a MI-controlled substance

By Matthew Abel Attorney at Law

The Michigan Supreme Court issued a landmark opinion June 8 that 11-carboxy-THC, a byproduct of THC, is not a schedule 1 controlled substance under state law.

People v Feezel* reversed the Court of Appeals, vacated the convictions, and sent the case back to the trial court by overturning the 2006 Derror ruling.

Feezel was charged with driving a motor vehicle that struck and killed an intoxicated person walking down the middle of a street in Ann Arbor, MI on a dark and rainy night. He was convicted at a trial where other drivers testified that only moments earlier they had driven by and almost hit the victim. Feezel's blood was examined and the lab reports admitted at trial. Per the *Derror* decision, Feezel's jury had been instructed that any amount of even a metabolite byproduct was sufficient evidence of impairment.

The new ruling has caused a sea change in cannabis DUI cases in Michigan. It may prevent convictions for driving under the influence when only byproduct is present. Active THC in a driver's blood is still sufficient evidence for a conviction, except for those with a Michigan medical-use card, or its equivalent from another state or district.

For patients charged with DUI in which active THC is present in driver blood samples from shortly after a traffic stop, there is no set amount of THC that automatically proves a patient was "under the influence" or their ability to operate a vehicle, airplane or motorboat impaired.

This may well result in a battle of experts, where both sides will list and call expert toxicologists to testify about the amount of THC in the blood sample that proves impairment by use of cannabis. The data on this is nearly non-existent, and in the absence of new, double-blind studies finding clear impairment, a prosecutor may have substantial issues proving this essential element of a case.

In the meantime, an operator of a motor vehicle is not allowed to smoke while driving (although the law does not address vaporization or medibles).

At some point, the legislature may set a presumptive level of intoxication. In the meantime, the best evidence in cases may be recordings of driving and traffic stops and any field sobriety tests at the scene. Of the three roadside sobriety tests approved by the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.), one (the nystagmus gaze test) is specific for alcohol, and of no use in cannabis cases.

 * See coa.courts.mi.gov/documents/OPINIONS/FINAL/SCT/20100608_S138031_71_feezel-op.pdf



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Ending outdoor contamination

By Chris Van Hook Clean Green Certified Program As the 2010 outdoor medical cannabis growing season progresses, two things should be on the minds of outdoor growers. First, this looks as if it is going to be another bumper crop – perhaps larger then 2009. Second, if outdoor cannabis is going to remain a primary product in the modern medical market, the overall quality standards must rise to meet the perceived market advantages of indoor cannabis, often presumed to be a cleaner and fresher product, as crops come up throughout the year.

As I travel the state doing crop inspections, I see two reccurring issues that could be easily remedied by outdoor growers: dust contamination and poor quality control during on-farm processing.

When dust has settled onto plants, it causes problems in the vegetation stage, but is worse during flowering, as the leaves get stickier each week. Worse yet is dust that contains manure from the family's horses, chickens and other barnyard animals. During the vegetation stage, dust can reduce the leaves' efficiency and serve as a vector for molds and mildews. In the budding stage, it can ruin otherwise nice buds. They may still be salable, but the healthfulness of the product is compromised.

Dust is created by ranch roads or barnyards close to the growing area. Workers pulling up for the day's work stop on a dusty road, and a curtain of dust is sent into the air and across the plants. Winds move dust across growing areas. Areas of bare dirt surrounding the grow sites can create dust even if no roads are present.

Dust can be greatly reduced by keeping ranch roads downwind and away from the

plants. Keeping the roads damp can help, but this uses water resources. Driving slowly and parking far away can help. Areas surrounding the grow should be covered in either native vegetation or mowed grasses. This stabilizes the soil, reducing erosion, and thus reducing dust. If tree-bottom branches and leaves touch the ground, lift them up by trimming until they are 4-6 inches off the ground. This bottom section is often soiled during watering; lifting the plant will promote beneficial air circulation.

When dust is already a problem, plants can be rinsed off with a fine spray head attached to a garden hose. Strong outdoor plants can take a good shower, provided plants can dry off completely before molds take hold. This may not be easy in damp coastal areas, but can be effective in dryer inland climates.

With regard to on-farm processing, medical cannabis is easily contaminated with molds, mildews, e-coli, or other contaminants in the processing room and during the handling process. The entire year's crop is put in a confined area to be dried. As plants are handled, they come in contact with other plants, and contaminants may be spread.

Some easy steps can reduce the risk of contamination for indoor as well as outdoor growers. First: no animals in the processing room or area. People like their family pets, but birds, dogs, and cats are sources of hair and fecal contamination. Second: wash down the entire room with a light bleach solution or a hydrogen peroxide solution to clean and disinfect. In a larger room a small backpack sprayer can be used on walls. Tables and chairs should be washed off and rinsed with fresh water, then allowed to air dry.

All scissors and utensils should period-

ically be dipped in a light bleach or hydrogen peroxide solution, followed by a freshwater rinse. Workers should wash and rinse their hands and, if desired, latex gloves worn. Long hair should be pulled back. Hair and beard nets are common and

are used throughout the food sector.

These are just a few ways that a grower can raise the quality and safety of their medical cannabis to meet the standards of the new market.

Attorney Van Hook works in cannabis compliance law.

Reliable dosage, effect key to edibles insurability

Cannabis lab goes statewide with a Bhang

By John Oram, Ph.D.,

Principle Scientist, CW Analytical

The pot brownie is ubiquitous. Once the darling of gritty, resin-flavored dorm-room experiments or studio-apartment kitchens, this edible creation has become a fine culinary staple. Today, formally trained chefs, many of whom have studied at internationally renowned institutions, are entering the marketplace.

These 'canna-chefs' are creating new, gourmet, cannabis-infused edibles such as pasta sauces, chocolates, sodas, and beers. They bring more than refined, consistent flavor profiles; many are producing their products in health department-approved commercial kitchens and adhering to manufacturing practices that ensure clean, safe products. Some are even adding Nutritional Labeling and Education Act (NLEA)-compliant labels with accurate ingredient statements to their packaging. With these measures, based on current food industry standards, canna-chefs are mitigating the risk of food-borne illness.

But the most difficult challenge still remains: delivering consistent dosages of active cannabinoids in every batch.

Enter Bhang Cannabis Chocolates and CW Analytical Laboratories. This new venture is the first in the cannabis industry to combine commercial food preparation with an on-site quality assurance laboratory. By analyzing the infused raw material, CW will provide Bhang with the information it needs to deliver a consistent quantity of active cannabinoids in each individual chocolate.

This collaboration is providing safe, consistent edibles and also paving the way for a more mature industry, one in which standards for production, testing, labeling and distribution are followed. With such

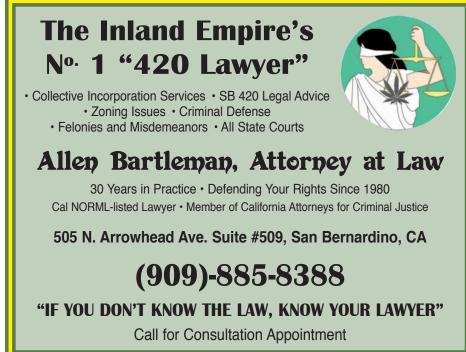


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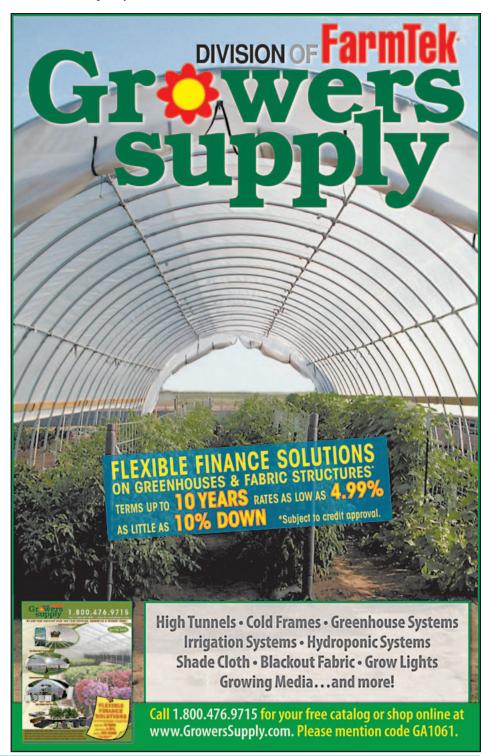
standards, insurance carriers can develop policies to protect the industry from product-liability claims.

Statewide Insurance Services was the first to offer comprehensive coverage to the medical cannabis industry and is now looking to extend coverage to include food-product liability. Statewide is working with Bhang and CW to provide leadership in setting underwriting standards for the evolving medical-cannabis industry. Statewide has developed the first Products Liability with Health Hazard policies for the infused-foods industry.

Links: www.cwanalytical.com, www.bhangchocolate.com, www.mmdinsurance.com







WEST COAST LEAF

National and International Reports

'Ganja Queen' Schapelle Corby deteriorating in Bali prison

Five years into her 20-year sentence for bringing cannabis to Indonesia, Schapelle Corby is reportedly suffering clinical depression and psychosis in a squalid Balinese prison. The subject of HBO's documentary, "Ganja Queen," this young Australian woman's horror story got worldwide media attention as she claimed to be an innocent victim of a smuggling scheme when 4.2 kilos of cannabis were found in her boogie board bag upon arrival for a 2005 Bali vacation. Support groups are organizing a clemency campaign to try to free Corby and save her from further deterioration in prison. Supporters hope that Indonesia's president, who has vowed not to grant clemency for drug crimes but has granted clemency to people based on permanent ill health, will show mercy to Corby. She may be eligible for release in five years due to remissions that reduce her sentence by eight months per year if her petition is denied - and she lasts that long. For more info, see Women for Schapelle Corby on Facebook and saveschapellecorby.blogspot.com . — Mikki Norris

Court eases deportation for minor drug offenses

The US Supreme Court has put some limits on deportations of legal aliens for misdemeanor drug offenses. A recent case involved a legal alien, Jose Angel Carachuri-Rosendo, a permanent resident since 1983 who was arrested in 2004, convicted of misdemeanor cannabis possession, and later got a misdemeanor conviction for having medication without a prescription, the second charge leading to a federal enhancement. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) 237(B)(i) provides that a charge other than a single misdemeanor cannabis possession (30 grams or less) may lead to deportation after one conviction.

The ruling permits judges to look at individual cases and decide jail sentence and deportation options, even with aggravated felony charges. Thousands of aliens similarly entangled could be allowed to return, while others will avoid deportation under similar circumstances in the future. — *Bill Murrow*



Ken Wolski and CMMNJ supporters protest the delay in implementing the medical marijuana law at a press conference at City Hall in Jersey City, NJ on June 17.

Implementing NJ medical marijuana law

By Ken Wolski, RN, MP, CMMNJ

The New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act was signed into law in January, recognizing cannabis as medicine for a number of debilitating health conditions. Implementing the measure has been no easy task.

The state law was to take effect in July, but Governor Chris Christie asked for a delay of up to a year. In June, the legislature granted a 90-day delay, making the effective date Oct. 1, but the earliest patients can expect to actually receive legal cannabis is some time in 2011.

The NJ program is to be run by the Dept. of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), which will establish a patient registry, issue ID cards, and approve permits to operate alternative treatment centers (ATCs). These ATCs will be the only sources of legal cannabis in the state.

The DHSS Commissioner, Dr. Poonam Alaigh, said in a June interview that she understood the scientific basis and clinical need for cannabis therapy. Under the NJ law, initially only six ATCs will be allowed to open. DHSS will grant ATC permits, and it has the power to revoke them. The agency will monitor, oversee and investigate all activities of these ATCs, including cannabis production, processing, distribution, record-keeping and pricing.

There appears to be no need to fear an uncontrolled proliferation in the state since DHSS has control over when, and if, additional ATCs may open. Nevertheless, Alaigh supported the delay, expressing fears that New Jersey would become like the "wild, wild West of California."

More threatening to the program was a proposal floated by the Christie administration to amend the law to allow Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, to be the sole producer of medical cannabis.

This is an unprecedented and, advocates believe, an unworkable proposal. No university in the country is involved in the production of cannabis as part of a state medical program. A university would undoubtedly seek approval from the federal DEA, which has never before granted such approval.

The law would have to be amended for this change to take place, creating further delay. Since all hospice patients, who by definition have less than one year to live, are qualified to receive medical cannabis, even a 90-day delay could see the death of 25 percent of this population. In July, Rutgers declined the request to be the sole producer of medical marijuana, saying that violating the Controlled Substances Act would jeopardize their federal funding.

Patient advocates urge that the law be implemented as it is currently written. The DHSS should issue permits to operate the ATCs based on proposals that will get affordable, high-quality medicine to patients in a timely manner while providing adequate security.

* Executive Director, Coalition for Medical Marijuana, NJ, Inc,

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National outcry as cops shoot dog in MO raid

By Angela Bacca, Green Aid

Police served a routine search warrant at a Columbia, Missouri home, turning up less than a gram of cannabis and some paraphernalia; the suspect was charged with child endangerment. That is where this story begins.

In a now-infamous 4.5-minute video of the Feb. 11 incident, police are seen entering the home, unloading seven rounds into the family dog and manhandling the compliant suspect in front of his wife and 7-year-old son. The mother leads her crying child out of the hallway as police follow the wounded and retreating dog into the kitchen to kill it.

The organization Green Aid publicized the video and encouraged people to file official complaints with the Columbia Police Dept. That video has gotten more than 2 million views on YouTube.

In June, Executive Director of Green Aid Ed Rosenthal and the other 94 official complainants received a letter from Police Chief Ken Burton, whose investigation concluded that officers had done nothing wrong or outside the bounds of standard procedure. The letter closed with a paragraph outlining the appeals process through a newly created Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB).

Green Aid immediately filed its appeal, the first party to do so, and grabbed headlines in mid-Missouri —not because of the raid, but because the staff are Californians.

A meeting was held July 23 with residents, law enforcement and local media, to further research the options.

It was clear from the police file that there was no way their investigation could be fair. Excluded from the investigation: Columbia's 'lowest priority' marijuana law, whether there had been probable cause to issue the warrant, whether a SWAT team should have served it, whether weapons should have been fired, or tactics used by the officers. However, the department admitted it has both the knowledge and means to deal with animals in non-lethal ways.

Green Aid worked closely with U of Missouri NORML, Keep Columbia Free, Americans for Forfeiture Reform, and CoMo Citizens, a group created in response to the incident. Attorney Dan Viets filed a separate appeal on their behalf

At the Aug. 4 appeal in Columbia, CPRB member Susan Smith prefaced her recommendation for handling the appeal by comparing cannabis cultivation and distribution to the Oklahoma City Bombing, rape, methamphetamine, the Times Square bomber and 9/11. She added that although Whitworth was charged with misdemeanor possession, there was suspicion that he was running a drug "enterprise." Her proposal was to throw out the appeal, accept Chief Burton's report and move on.

The board voted 4-3 against reinvestigating the complaints, with board member Steve Weinberg voting against it, "with a troubled mind." The appellants and public comment were heard after the board voted.

The second appeal was heard the following week with the same outcome. Both groups plan to appeal to a higher authority.

For more information, see EdRosenthal.com, Twitter.com/EdRosenthal and Facebook.com/EdRosenthal.

Drug Truth Network (DTN), drugtruth.net/cms/ 4:20 Drug War News, Cultural Baggage (interviews), live shows, archives

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Reform coalition opposes Obama DEA nominee

By Steve Fox Marijuana Policy Project

A coalition of drug policy reform groups including Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), NORML, California NORML, the Drug Policy Alliance, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, and Students for Sensible Drug Policy has publicly challenged the nomination of Michele Leonhart to be administrator of the Drug Enforcement Admin. Leonhart served in the Bush administration, and is currently the DEA's acting administrator.

In a joint statement in August, the coalition called on President Obama to withdraw the nomination of Leonhart, who oversaw a series of DEA raids on state legal cannabis collectives, and blocked muchneeded FDA-level research into the therapeutic benefits of cannabis. In the following days, that call was echoed by two ideologically diverse voices—the Tenth Amendment Center, a states-rights advocacy group, and Jane Hamsher, the publisher of the political blog FireDogLake.com and co-chair of the recently launched "Just Say Now" campaign.

Leonhart has shown an inability to carry out the duties of DEA administrator as related to medical research. In January 2009, she refused to issue to the U of Massachusetts a license to cultivate cannabis for FDA-approved research, despite a DEA administrative law judge's ruling that it would be "in the public interest" to do so. This single act has blocked all privately funded medical cannabis research in the US.

Under Leonhart, the DEA has also staged medical-marijuana raids in appar-

staged medical-marijuana raids in apparent disregard of Attorney

General Eric Holder's direc-

tive to respect state medical

-marijuana laws. The DEA recently flouted a pioneering Mendocino County (CA) ordinance regulating medical cannabis cultivation when agents raided the very first grower to register with the sheriff. Joy Greenfield, 69, had paid more than \$1,000 for a permit to cultivate 99 plants in a collective garden that had been inspected and approved by the local sheriff for compliance with state law.

Informed that Greenfield had the support of the sheriff, the DEA agent in charge responded by saying, "I don't care what the sheriff says," according to the *Press Democrat*. This defied an October 2009 Dept of Justice (DOJ) policy memo directing that individuals "whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana" not be prosecuted.

The next DEA administrator will likely influence the outcome of a cannabisrescheduling petition currently before the agency. It is critical that an administrator with an unbiased mind toward science and research is at the helm. With Leonhart's nomination pending, one would expect her to be more — not less — respectful of the DOJ and the rights of individuals in medical-marijuana states. Her behavior bodes badly for the future of the DEA under her leadership. The Obama administration has reversed many Bush administration policies over the past 18 months, and it is time to transform the culture at the DEA by either withdrawing Leonhart's nomination or directing her to change her attitude toward medical cannabis.

To send a letter to President Obama asking him to withdraw Leonhart's nomination visit mpp.org/leonhart.

Privacy victory in RI Continued from page 22

Marijuana Act (MMA) to restore confidentiality. The *Providence Journal* published a March 12 article naming all 21 doctors who had written more than 10 recommendations, 38 percent of the total issued. Some doctors were so upset that their private medical counsel is now public record that they said they would cease recommending.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Rhoda Perry and Rep. Scott Slater. It exempts "information contained in applications and supporting information under the MMA from provisions of the RI Access to Public Information Act." Names of patients, caregivers, and doctors are already kept confidential by the Dept. of Health under HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, but the new measure adds protection under state law.

In 2009 the legislature authorized three 'compassion centers,' independent, non-profit, retail dispensaries to be licensed and regulated by the Dept. of Health. Since then, the agency has set up a licensing process, issued application guidelines and received 15 applications. Patients testified in favor of some applications at a June 29 public hearing in Providence. A decision is expected Sept. 6. Meanwhile, the department has licensed over 2,000 patients and over 1,300 caregivers.







An all female cannabis art show, 'Justa Space Queen,' is on display through September at Oaksterdam Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland, hosted by muralists Monika of Time is Art and Smokie of Guns and Brushes Studio. Monika's work focuses on the cannabis plant itself and portrays the strains in unique plant portraits, the most popular being Purple Kush and the spray art piece "Sweet Tooth." Smokie's paintings speak to the social aspects of cannabis culture. Her titles include "Pot Head," "Puff Puff," "420 Moment," and a popular collage piece entitled "Grandma's Medicine." See TimeisArt.org, GunsandBrushesStudio.org. Photo by MOJO 2010.

Former Mexican President wants legalization on policy table

By Daniel Robledo, Drug Policy Alliance

The question of whether legalizing drugs would help reduce the killings in Mexico made front page news this summer, and triggered unprecedented debate around the world, when former Mexican President Vicente Fox proposed legalizing drugs and current President Calderon said he is open to the debate.

Drug prohibition bloodshed is rocketing Mexico, and California will vote on an initiative to legalize cannabis in November. More than 28,000 Mexicans have been killed in the three-plus years since Calderon made the drug war his signature issue. Despite many gruesome deaths taking place on a daily basis, there has been no impact on drug availability in Mexico or the US, and the drug cartels appear to be as powerful as ever.

"We should consider legalizing the production, distribution and sale of drugs," wrote President Fox on his blog on Aug. 8. "Radical prohibition strategies have never worked."

"Legalizing in this sense does not mean drugs are good and don't harm those who consume them," he wrote. "Rather we should look at it as a strategy to strike at and break the economic structure that allows gangs to generate huge profits in their trade, which feeds corruption and increases their areas of power."

Fox's nod for legalization came just days after President Calderon, for the first time, said he is open to a debate on drug legalization. "You have to analyze carefully the pros and cons and key arguments on both sides," said Calderon at an Aug. 3 *Continued on page 30*

DC law delayed, restricted

By Mike Meno, Marijuana Policy Project, mpp.org

The medical marijuana law that was first passed by Washington, DC voters in 1998 finally cleared the last remaining Congressional hurdle in July, allowing local officials to begin establishing regulations for what is designed to be one of the most narrow medical marijuana laws in the country.

Under regulations proposed by Mayor Adrian Fenty in August, the agencies tasked with overseeing the program will not begin licensing providers or accepting patient applications until Jan. 1, 2011.

After a series of amendments passed by the DC Council, the District's law will license between five and eight cannabis dispensaries in the nation's capital. However, patients are barred from growing their own medicine, will be allowed to legally use cannabis only from a licensed dispensary, and will be able to qualify for the District's program only if they suffer from one of four conditions: HIV/AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis or glaucoma.

The proposed delay means that patients who have waited nearly 12 years while the US Congress blocked the locally supported mandate will be forced needlessly to endure five more months of prohibition. However, patients will benefit from provisions that forbid cultivation centers from using pesticides or contaminants, and require detailed labeling of products.

The District's program also includes a first-in-the-nation provision that gives low-income patients a discount on registration fees and allows medicine to be purchased on a sliding scale. This could be a life-saving provision for many patients in DC, with one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. About a third of DC residents

receive some form of health-care assistance.

While the DC health department will have authority over patient registration, there will also be an unprecedented role for the local liquor board, which will be tasked with overseeing and licensing cultivation centers and dispensaries.

Day of women's action for 19

By Mason Tvert SAFER Director

As early voting begins in California, women across the state – and the nation – will stand up to speak out in support of Proposition 19.

Polling has found significantly less support for Prop 19 among women than among men. The Women's Marijuana Movement (WMM) is organizing a statewide effort to foster discussion of the issue and the initiative among women and build support for the measure.

SAFER Outreach Director Eva Enns, who is coordinating the WMM project, said "It's imperative that we get more women speaking to one another, discussing the relative safety of cannabis compared to alcohol, and encouraging each other to vote."

The WMM day of action for Prop 19 will be held on Oct. 5, the day voters across the state will begin receiving mail-in ballots for the Nov. 2 election.

News conferences and rallies will be held in major cities across California, as well as on several college campuses.

"These women truly believe that making marijuana available as a legal alternative to alcohol could make our society a safer, and all-around better, place to live," Enns said. "And they could make all the difference this November."

To attend or help organize an event in California elsewhere, see WomensMarijuanaMovement.org or e-mail WMM at women@saferchoice.org.





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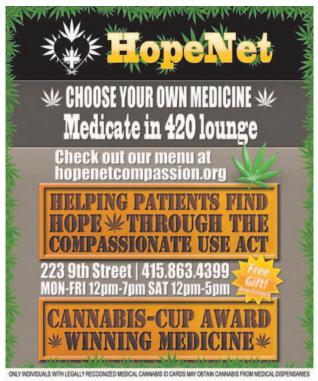
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Calendar and Community Directory

Sept. 9-11, National NORML Conference, Portland, OR. see norml.org

Sept. 11-12, Hempstalk 2010, Portland, OR. Kelley Point Park. Sat. 10 AM -10 PM, Sun. 10 AM -7 PM. A celebration of cannabis culture. hempstalk.org

Sept. 11, Missoula Hempfest, MT. Caras Park. Noon. missoulahempfest.com

Sept. 18, Free Marc Emery Rallies, Worldwide. For info, see www.freemarc.ca Sept. 18, Boston Freedom Rally, Boston. Noon, Boston Commons. Music, speakers, vendors. bostonfreedomrally.com Sept. 25, WAMMfest 2010, the Life in Green, Santa Cruz, CA. 12 -5 PM. Duck Island, San Lorenzo Park. wammfest.org Sept. 25-26, International Cannabis and Hemp Expo, San Francisco, CA. Cow Palace, Daly City. Public education event. Exhibitors, speakers, vendors. intche.org

Maine conference tackles logistics of dispensaries

By John Dvorak hempology.org

Maine voters passed an initiative in 2009 creating a regulated system of medical marijuana distribution. Not-for-profit dispensaries are licensed and regulated by the state Dept. of Health and Human Services. To encourage implementation of the law, the first Maine Medical Marijuana Conference was held in June at the University of Southern Maine in Portland.

Maine has taken a logical and openminded approach to this issue, although many are confused by the new rules and regulations. The conference featured a variety of knowledgeable speakers who did their best to allay concerns and describe how the new program would work.

During opening remarks, Maine Rep. Anne Haskell, a long-time proponent of cannabis therapeutics, re-read the testimony she gave in the 1990s detailing how her daughter used cannabis to increase her appetite and withstand effects of chemotherapy during her cancer treatment. Haskell is actively involved with ensuring that the new law is appropriately implemented.

Keynote speaker and MS sufferer Montel Williams began his talk in tears because his feet were in so much pain. From the audience, Cumberland County Sheriff Mark Dion told Williams it was OK to self-medicate. As Williams took a quick puff, the audience rose in unison to applaud the bravery of both him and

Sheriff Dion. It was recently reported that when Dion's term as sheriff ends, he will become a non-paid board member of the Northeast Patients Group (NPG), which will be one of Maine's licensed distributors of medicinal cannabis.

It was refreshing and a little discombobulating to see a law enforcement officer and politician working forthrightly to implement the law, instead of the common establishment knee-jerk reaction of creating obstacles for patients.

Throughout the day, a range of topics was covered, including the therapeutic applications of cannabis, operating a dispensary, the role of a caregiver and changes in law enforcement.

In a panel for health care workers, Dr. Dustin Sulak noted that many patients use cannabis to reduce their intake of other powerful pharmaceuticals that have deleterious side effects. Dr. Sulak is part of a vanguard of physician visionaries to not only recognize the numerous beneficial aspects of cannabis but to actively research its capabilities and advocate for its reacceptance into the medical pharmacopoeia.

Berkeley Patients Group Director Debbie Goldsberry was present to share her enthusiasm and experience with Maine's fledgling dispensaries. Her organization is providing advisory services to the NPG, hoping to help avert some of the difficulties encountered in California.

Sept. 25-26, Plant Medicine Expo & Healthcare Provider Conference, Denver, CO. Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. plantmedicineexpo.com

Sept. 30, 10th Annual High Times Stony Awards, Los Angeles, CA. 8 PM to 2 AM, at thee Music Box. 21+. hightimes.com.

Oct. 1-3, 40th Annual Midwestern Harvest Festival, Madison, WI. winorml.org

Oct.5, Women's Marijuana Movement National Day of Action, Nationwide. Organized events for women to speak in support of legalization, including Prop. 19, timed for the first day mail-in ballots are received. womensmarijuanamovement.org

Oct. 13, Moms United to End the War on Drugs Rally, Sacramento, CA. 11 AM - 1 PM. West Steps, State Capitol Building. Rally to stop violence, incarceration, overdose deaths related to current, punitive drug policy. For info, contact 619-670-1184, anewpath@cox.net

Oct. 17, LA AIDS Walk/Pot is Hot Mod Squad, Los Angeles, CA. 8:30 AM. The walk begins at West Hollywood Park, Melrose Ave. /La Cienega Blvd. Register voters to vote for Prop. 19. potishot.org

Oct. 17, Howard Dover's Medical Marijuana Comedy ExtravaGANJA, Los Angeles, CA. 9 PM. The Comdey Store, 8433 Sunset Bl, LA. Register voters and get out the vote for Prop. 19. potishot.org. Oct. 18, Last day to register to vote, CA. Oct. 22-24, Women's Visionary Congress,

Petaluma, CA. Featuring visionary

women healers, scholars, activists and artists who study psychoactive substances and altered states. For info and to register, see noetic.org/retreat.cfm.

Oct. 29-31, The International Holistic Health Cannabis Convention 2010 Halloween Harmony & Harvest Festival, *Pontiac , MI.* At the Pontiac Silverdome. For info, see harmonyharvestfest.com

Nov. 2. Election Day, Nationally.

Remember to vote for all the reform measures on the ballot and for candidates that support cannabis freedom.

Nov. 5-7, 12th Annual Harvest Dance and Celebration, Sebastopol, CA. Sebastopol Community Center and Youth Annex, 390 Morris St. Evening concert on Fri. eve., allday expo on Sat., youth panel, Sun. Benefit. For info, peaceinmedicine.org

Nov. 7-8, 17th Annual Hemp Industries Assn. Convention and Annual General Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Holiday Inn -Civic Center. For details, see thehia.org

Nov. 13, 20th Humboldt Hempfest, Redway, CA. 11 AM on. Mateel Community Center. Artists, vendors, speakers, performers. \$20 suggested dona-

Nov. 14, 4th Annual Medical Cannabis Competition, San Francisco, CA. 2 PM -10 PM, Cafe Cocomo. Benefit for Americans for Safe Access, SF chapter. For details, thegreencross.org, 415-648-4420.

Nov. 20, 4th Annual OGF Harvest Fest, Portland, OR. 3 PM to 10 PM. Fun, entertainment. For tickets, oregongreenfree.net

Marijuana Grower's Handbook is a good resource

By John Thomas Ellis

(Quick American Publishing, 2010. \$29.95)

Ed Rosenthal's latest, Marijuana Grower's Handbook, should be considered mandatory reading for anyone who grows cannabis or is thinking about it. This encyclopedia of cannabis growing offers a clear, easy guide to every aspect of the craft. His comprehensive yet accessible style enables the reader to comfortably learn the science and history of Mary Jane.

Tommy Chong writes a loving dedication in the forward. Rosenthal promotes his 'tomato model' before sketching out a patchy history of the movement, but he does better as he writes about the science. He explains THC, CBD, cannabinoid recep-

tors, the many ways cannabis is consumed, and how the brain processes various cannabisproduced compounds. Accompanied by breathtaking photos, the narrative provides an exploration of Indica, Sativa, Ruderalis and Kush, drawing clear distinctions among the vari-

eties available today. Expounding on light, nutrition, soil, growth mediums, hydration and pests, the book educates the novice and reminds the experienced of the many decisions a gardener must face, filter-

ing through the countless solutions available.

There's no single way to grow a good crop, and Rosenthal navigates the choices with his experience, strength and hope for the future of cannabis. Indoors or out, his level of detail makes the journey a pleasure. Rosenthal focuses on soil composition, humidity, ventilation, lighting alternatives, CO2, pH, water, nutrients and fertilizers. He outlines garden sizes, lamp densities, space and yield. He walks the reader through designing a space and choosing a growing style. He mixes and matches technologies that a newcomer might not consider, including LED lighting and trimming machines. With the ease of a man who has done it all before, he reassures as he encourages experimentation. Rosenthal's decades of experience have imbued this tome with spirit and verve. Available at quicktrading.com.

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Community Announcements



Dale Sky Clare and Jeff Jones were joined in marriage in Oakland, CA July 31. The traditional wedding setting held a few unconventional touches, such as the hint of special greens in the bride's bouquet and a vow stating,"I promise to be true to you, and cherish you through whatever the future may bring - taxation, regulation or decriminalization."

The focus of the bride and groom was readily apparent once the reception started. Dale and Jeff dedicated their wedding reception to the 'Yes on Prop 19' Campaign. Dale is the Executive Chancellor for Oaksterdam University, Spokesperson for Prop 19. Jeff is Director for the Patient ID Center and Co-Proponent for Prop 19.

"The friends, family and supporters provided an amazing environment for the wedding and reception, which served as a fund raiser in support of Prop 19," said Dale Sky Jones. "The energy and enthusiasm of our guests in support of our union, as well as generous contributions from those who did or could not attend, made the night very rewarding, both personally and professionally. We are committed to making an important change in our world through the Prop 19 campaign, and we have dedicated our lives, and our wedding, to the campaign." To make your donation, visit taxcannabis.org/jeffanddale"

Chris Conrad, who officiated the ceremony, and his wife Mikki Norris welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Jones as a new 'Power Couple of Pot."

Hempire Expo events promote community

By Ellen Dagley

Todd McCormick relied on his deep connections to the people, organizations and high-profile celebrities of this growing industry when he produced the June 2009 THC Expo in Los Angeles. It was a resounding success, with some 300 exhibit booths and 30,000 attendees.

In addition to his role as executive director of Hempire Expo, McCormick recently volunteered to edit a newly updated edition of Jack Herer's The Emperor Wears No Clothes. "I'm so proud to carry on the torch first lifted by Jack," McCormick said. "We've built a community for the book at ahemp.org, and I urge everyone who has been touched by the book to join and share their story."

His next project is a series of three Hempire Expos, slated for the Los Angeles Sports Arena Dec. 10-11, 2010; Seattle's Qwest Field Exhibition Center March 4-6, 2011; and the Colorado Convention Center in Denver Aug. 5-7, 2011.

"Our events will build on my deep

relationships with many of the key nonprofit organizations to make these shows a wonderful tool to deliver top-notch education to their constituents in each of the local communities where Hempire Expo will be held," said McCormick, a cannabis activist for most of his adult life. "These groups have a lot to share with the community. The non-profits will get classrooms in which to run their curriculums in cooperation with Hempire Expo, in addition to getting marketing and publicity support from the shows. Community education helps speed passage of supportive legislation."

Hempire Expo will also benefit from the support of many celebrities whom McCormick is proud to have as friends. "The 2009 event hosted Tommy Chong and his Electric Hot-Rod, the Kottonmouth Kings were signing autographs, as were Aaron McGruder, Woody Harrelson, Bill Maher, Julia Butterfly and others," he added. "Expect to see that level of luminaries at our future events."

For info visit hempiremedia.com and JackHerer.com

or email todd@hempiremedia.com.

Former Mexican President wants legalization on table From page 28

event with business leaders, security experts and civil groups. The remarks were part of a larger talk wherein he expressed concern about the stability of Mexico. "The behavior of the criminals has changed and become a defiance to the state, an attempt to replace the state."

"What's going on in Mexico today is like Chicago during the days of Prohibition and Al Capone - times 50," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance. "All drug policy alternatives, including various types and degrees of legalization, need to be on the table."

The openness and frankness of Fox and Calderon are in stark contrast to the Obama Administration, which is currently opposed to any debate on cannabis legalization. Obama's drug czar, Gil Kerlikowske, has repeatedly said that not only are he and Obama opposed to legalization, but that the word legalization is not even in their vocabulary.

"It's time for Drug Czar Kerlikowske to stop saying marijuana legalization is not in his vocabulary," added Nadelmann. "At this point he has a moral obligation - to both US and Mexican citizens - to make it part of his vocabulary."

Local and regional meetings

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

El Centro/Imperial County Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project (MAPP), third Tue/mo. 7:30 PM at Imperail Valley Collective, 119 N. 5th St., El Centro 92243. 760-799-2055 Palm Springs/ Coachella Valley Area MAPP, first Sat/ mo. 3 PM, 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., PS. 760-799-2055

Phelan/Victorville MAPP, third Thurs./mo. 7 PM, Freedom Law School, 9582 Buttemere Rd., Phelan,

mo., 7:30 PM, THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main St.

92371.760-799-2055

Western Inland Empire Area MAPP/ASA, first Wed /

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.

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, third Fri./mo. 7 PM. OC ASA, 8 PM Giovanni's Pizza, 922 W. Williamson, in Fullerton. Free pizza. ocnorml.org

Local and regional Americans for Safe Access meetings

Central CA ASA, second Tue/mo., 6 PM, C.A.F.E., 935F Street, Fresno. robertfromasa@yahoo.com

East Bay ASA, third Tues/mo., 6:30 PM, Oaksterdam Student U, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. tspeak33@gmail.com

Humboldt County ASA, third Thurs/mo., 6 PM, Bayview Courtyard Senior Housing, Rec. Room 550 Union St., Arcata. 707-407-8522. asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net LA ASA, 3rd Sat/mo., 1 PM, 7100 Santa Monica Blvd.

#152, West Hollywood. Don@safeaccessnow.org Marin ASA, second Wed./mo., 7:30 PM, Whistlestop, 930 Tamalpias Ave., San Rafael. asa_marin@yahoo.com

Napa ASA, third Tue./mo., 6 PM, Round Table Pizza, 3331 Solano Ave., Napa. edonval@yahoo.com San Diego ASA second Tue. / mo., 7 PM, International Cannabis U, 6070 Mt. Alifan Suite 202 San Diego

eugene davidovich@gmail.com

157 W. Adams St., Stockton.

Lanny 760-799-2055

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. dcgoldman@yahoo.com San Joaquin ASA, first Mon./mo., 6 PM, Valley Brew,

Santa Cruz County ASA, 7 PM, Greenway Compassionate Relief, 140 Dubois St., SC. mentch@sbc-

Solano ASA, first Tue/mo., 8:30 PM, 650 Benecia Rd., Vallejo. twstdlj@aol.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, 415-240-5247 California NORML

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

Cannabis Action Network

cannabisactionnetwork.org/ 1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley.

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

Drug War Facts

drugwarfacts.org/ Just the facts.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums

famm.org/ Advocates an end to harsh, unjust sentencing laws affecting prisoners and their families.

Family Council on Drug Awareness

fcda.org/ Accurate information on effects of drugs and drug policies. Downloadable PDFs to print and hand out Green Aid Marijuana Legal Def. & Education Fund,

Harm Reduction Coalition

Inc. green-aid.com/

harmreduction.org/ Works to reduce drug-related harm by programs such as clean needle exchange.

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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 Intiative

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, fami-

ly members and people at risk for incarceration Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project MAPP

mpp.org/ national membership

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

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

November Coalition

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

Oregon Green Free

oregongreenfree.net. Free OMMP info.

Oregon NORML ornorml.org /

Patient Advocacy Network cannabissaveslives.com

saferchoice.org/ Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation, mail@saferchoice.org Sensible Colorado

sensiblecolorado.org / Non-profit resource for

patients and those interested in reforming laws. 720-890-4247

Southern Oregon NORML

so-norml.org/ Reform activities and OMMP support. Medford. 541-779-1448

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. 503-224-

To get listed, please email info@WestCoastLeaf.com

Fact and fiction about women and their marijuana

By Ellen Komp VeryImportantPotheads.com

"The Party Drug That Can Make You Fat & Ugly" shouted the cover of July's Seventeen magazine. Which drug? Sugar? Beer? You guessed it: marijuana.

The truth as demonstrated by recent news, however, is somewhat different.

The ultra-slim **Paris Hilton** was twice detained for cannabis possession this summer. First, she and her friend, former *Playboy* Playmate **Jennifer Rovero**, were caught smoking a joint outside a World Cup soccer match in South Africa. Hilton walked on the charge, while Rovero was fined and deported. Then, arriving on the French island of Corsica on July 16, Hilton was again detained without charge for less than a gram of cannabis that police said was in her handbag.

Dior perfume has announced the new face of its advertising campaign will be the not-ugly actress **Natalie Portman**, who recently told *Marie Claire*, "I didn't touch pot till I was in my 20s. I didn't get flat-out drunk until I went to college. But I think that's a good thing in many ways." (Presumably not because she feared it would make her fat and ugly.)

Dior seems to have a penchant for pretty potheads when picking their public face. **Charlize Theron** was once photographed smoking pot through an apple, and **Milla Jovovich** appeared on the cover of *High Times* magazine in 1994. Both have been Dior models.

Portman is set to produce a road-trip comedy, "Best Buds," about two best friends traveling to their friend's wedding, in order to save

her by bringing her weed. This will be a welcome female version of the pot-laced "bromances" that are so popular.

Television icon **Betty White**, who was quite the looker in her day, debuted on TV Land's new sitcom "Hot in Cleveland" on June 16 as a caretaker who smells of pot. White, 88, has had a career resurgence since her brilliant "You're playing like Betty White" Snickers ads debuted during the Superbowl. She's appeared in a series of skits on "The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson," once as a Salvation Army bellringer joking about her high medical-marijuana bills.

Polls have shown that women, especially married women, are generally less supportive of cannabis legalization in California. But even 'Mama Grizzly' and former pot smoker **Sarah Palin** said in June that, although she wasn't for full legalization, she thinks law enforcement should not focus its energy on the "minimal problem" of marijuana.

Two prominent African-American women have come out in favor of Proposition 19: retired US Surgeon General **Joycelyn Elders** and **Alice Huffman**, President of the California NAACP, who wrote, "We can make it harder for kids to get marijuana, or we can accept the status quo, where marijuana is easier for kids to get than alcohol."

"The thing that really makes you fat and lazy is alcohol," one reader at Pandora.com commented on the *Seventeen* article. Others wrote about themselves and women they know as pot smokers who are successful ... and svelte.

Have "safe sux" with a bong By E.G. Ace

A California student at Santa Barbara City College noticed in 2009 that even though the highly contagious H1N1 virus was running rampant, people were still taking hits

from shared mouthpieces on water pipes. He watched in horror as people tried to burn or wipe off germs, leaving a cloud of doubt hovering over the pipe for the next person. So Elliott Bush decided to invent something to allow people to share a bong without sharing diseases, illnesses or germs.

Bush was determined to make the device in the USA, and better yet, in his home state of California, using FDA-approved silicone material that could be thrown in the dishwasher or disinfected in boiling water, with a

tight fit to ensure every hit is maximized and clean. He also wanted it to be free of bisphenol A (BPA), a toxic chemical commonly used in commercial plastics. Then he hit



upon a personal sanitary mouthpiece for water pipes that he calls "Badabeez." Its compact size and easy use make it the safer way to share a smoke among friends.

"Seriously, it takes two seconds to put on," says one happy user. "And it's small enough to fit in my pocket. Sometimes, you don't get to choose who shows up around the table. I'd rather not risk it . . ."

Bush hopes to make Badabeez a smoking necessity, like condoms for sex. For info, see badabeez.com



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BREAKING NEWS —SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 (SACRAMENTO, CA)

Statewide Insurance Services Inc., is the first to insure a medical marijuana edibles manufacturer for full product liability. California-based Bhang Chocolates is the first medical cannabis edibles manufacturer to secure insurance for its chocolate products.

Residential and Industrial grow operations can now obtain insurance coverage through Statewide Insurance Services exclusive growers and cultivators insurance program.

Statewide also announces new collective, cooperative, caregiver and dispensary coverage. Coverage options now include delivery coverage for marijuana cargo, assault and battery coverage, and insurance coverage for personal advertising injury. Additional programs provide hospitality insurance coverage for Bed & Breakfasts and Hotels catering to medical cannabis clientele.

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- Crop Coverage
 - Small to Large Operations
- Transit/Cargo for Delivery Operations
- Real and Business Personal Property
 - Including Theft
- General Liability
 - Including Products
 Completed Operations
- Workers' Compensation
- Employment Practices Liability
- Automobile: Commercial/ Personal Use
- Errors & Omissions (E&O)
- Medical Malpractice
- Bonds
- · Cyber and Data Breach
- Crime and Employee Dishonesty
- Special Events Coverage





CLIENTS SERVED

- Edibles Manufacturers/ Commercial Kitchens
- Residential and Commercial Growers
- Dispensaries/Cooperatives
 Collectives/Caregivers
- Hotels
- Delivery Services
- Associations
 (Non-Profit/For-Profit)
- Product Manufacturers
- Contractors
- Security System Companies
- Consulting Firms/Lobbyists
- Television and Film
- Promotion and Event Planners
- · Doctors/Lawyers
- Wholesalers/Retailers
- · Landlords and Building Owners

License # 0D44005

ATTENTION

ALL COLLECTIVES COOPERATIVES, TRANSPORTERS AND GROWERS. GET A QUOTE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS AND HEMP EXPO ON SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26, 2010. COME SEE STATEWIDE INSURANCE SERVICES MEDICAL MARIJUANA INSURANCE UNIT AT BOOTH F8 IN THE SOUTH HALL. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.MMDINSURANCE.COM