

FEDS PUSH BACK AT MEDICAL MARIJUANA

By **Kris Hermes**, *Americans for Safe Access*

Oakland City Attorney John Russo asked the Obama Justice Department in February 2011 whether the federal government would approve a city plan to regulate large-scale medical marijuana cultivation. As expected, US Attorney Melinda Haag responded with a declarative, "No!"

Little did patient advocates realize then that Haag's letter signaled the launch of a barrage of similar US Attorney letters

Delaware newest medical use state

By **Morgan Fox**, *Marijuana Policy Project*

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell signed SB 17 into law May 13, making it legal for state residents with certain serious medical conditions to use cannabis with a doctor's recommendation. The bill had bipartisan sponsors and support in the legislature, as Delaware became the 16th state to pass an effective medical marijuana law, along with the District of Columbia.

Qualified patients will not be permitted to cultivate their own medicine, but may obtain up to six ounces of medical-grade cannabis from state-licensed compassion centers regulated by the state Dept. of Health and Social Services, which will also issue ID cards to patients who receive a recommendation from their doctors. Public use of marijuana and driving under the influence are prohibited.

Please turn to page 8

Five years for Doc Fry Clemency sought for Cal doctor and attorney husband

By **William Dolphin**, *Americans for Safe Access*

Heads still held high, medical cannabis patients Dr. Mollie Fry and her husband, attorney Dale Schafer, turned themselves in to federal authorities in Sacramento, CA May 2 to begin serving five year prison terms for cultivating cannabis.

First, they spoke to the assembled crowd about why they remain committed to helping other patients. Dr. Fry ended with the shout, "Free God's medicine!"

Fry and Schafer were joined by family, friends and dozens of cannabis patients and advocates for a rally and press conference at the federal courthouse. Activists also protested the sentences and federal policy at the Dept. of Health and Human Services building in Washington, DC.

"Today is an affront to justice," Don Duncan, California director for ASA, told the media covering the rally. "We're demanding clemency for Dale and Molly. And we're demanding an end to the war on all the other sick and dying patients."

A clemency petition was filed at the end of April on their behalf in the federal Eastern District Court of Sacramento and sent to President Obama in an effort to avoid or shorten their imprisonment.

The couple were prosecuted in federal court for cultivating cannabis, though they were both state-qualified patients who

aimed at local and state officials in at least nine different medical marijuana states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

At the same time, a blistering wave of federal raids in several states seems to contradict a 2009 federal policy memo on state medical marijuana laws.

"Every time there's a raid, or a threatening letter is sent to an elected official, hundreds if not thousands of patients are left wondering where they're going to get their medication," said Steph Sherer, Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access. ASA recently launched its 'Sick and Tired' campaign to bring attention to the continued harassment, discrimination and stigmatization of patients and to call for a comprehensive federal policy.

The tactic of sending letters threatening public officials with criminal prosecution is *Please turn to page 15*

Kentucky decriminalizes 8 ounces for personal use

By **Mickey Martin**, *TCompConsulting.com*

Kentucky is not known as a hotbed of drug policy reform, but in March the State Legislature and Senate overwhelmingly passed House Bill 463, which was signed into law by Governor Steve Bershear.

The bill reduces personal possession of up to eight ounces of marijuana to a Class B misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 45 days in jail. This landmark legal over-



Reaching for new heights

Mendocino County's tag-permit process uses third-party inspectors for compliance
Story inside.

Julia Carrera, who works as a third-party inspector for the Mendocino County medical marijuana garden permitting program, seen inspecting a crop last October.
Photo courtesy of Julia Carrera

haul is set to save Kentucky taxpayers a whopping \$422 million dollars over the next decade by reducing the cost of prosecuting and jailing low-risk drug offenders. It reinvests some of those savings into treatment options for those needing help.

Hemp backers praise Cal farm bill, SB 676

By **Steve Levine**, *Hemp Industries Assn.*

California state Senator Mark Leno introduced Senate Bill 676 Feb. 18 to make the legal distinction that industrial hemp is separate and distinct from the forms of cannabis used to produce marijuana. Industrial hemp is the non-psychoactive, low-THC, oilseed and fiber varieties of the *Cannabis sativa* plant and has absolutely no value as a recreational drug. If passed, SB 676 will allow commercial farming of industrial hemp, which occurred in the state until shortly after World War II.

Leno said that hemp farming will help revitalize California's economy. "The time is long overdue for California farmers to be allowed to grow this sustainable and profitable crop once again. The passage of SB 676 will create new jobs and economic opportunities for many farmers and manufacturers throughout the state."

A variety of products made from imported industrial hemp, such as healthy food, natural body-care products and eco-friendly clothing, are already being made in California.

"Dr. Bronner's currently purchases 20 tons of hemp oil each year from Canada," said David Bronner, President of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps of Escondido. "We look forward to the day that we can meet our supply needs from hemp produced right here in our home state."

"Farmers in California want to grow hemp and manufacturers are ready to buy their crops," agreed Hemp Industries Assn. (HIA) President Steve Levine.

Please turn to page 7

Governor Bershear hailed the passage of HB 463 as a major step forward, stating, "Over the last three years, we've made

Please turn to page 6

California legislature may reduce cultivation penalty to 'wobbler'

By **Dale Gieringer**, *Cal NORML*

California legislators are considering several interesting bills this session, the fates of which remain to be determined.

On the plus side, the State Senate Judiciary Committee approved SB 129, a bill by Sen. Mark Leno to protect medical marijuana patients against employment discrimination by protecting qualified cannabis patients from drug testing in non-safety-sensitive jobs.

Another 'plus' bill by Leno to legalize industrial hemp, SB 676, was approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Like SB 129, the hemp bill is based on previous legislation that was passed but vetoed by former Gov. Schwarzenegger.

Meanwhile, the Assembly Public Safety Committee has approved a bill to downgrade marijuana cultivation from a mandatory felony to a 'wobbler,' meaning an optional misdemeanor. The bill by Tom Ammiano, AB 1017, is sponsored by Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster and other North State DAs, with predictable opposition from mainline law enforcement groups.

Several more dubious bills address the knotty issue of medical marijuana distribution. A pair of ambitious bills to establish statewide regulatory systems, SB 847 by Sen. Lou Correa and SB 626 by Sen. Ron Calderon, were withdrawn by the authors in view of the many political difficulties involved. Both bills had attracted criticism from medical use advocates.

Senator Calderon subsequently revised *Please turn to page 6*



Dale Schafer (l) and Dr. Mollie Fry (on bullhorn) spoke to a throng of supporters in Sacramento before surrendering into federal custody. Photo by Dale Gieringer.

never grew more than 44 plants. Federal prosecutors argued that they were guilty of felony cultivation and conspiracy, which carry five-year mandatory minimum sentences, because the number of grown over several years added up to more than 100.

Dr. Fry used cannabis to ease the effects of chemotherapy she underwent for breast cancer; she had a radical mastectomy in 1997. This led her to start a specialized clinic for cannabis patients.

Schafer used cannabis to manage chronic back pain and symptoms related to his hemophilia. A candidate for district attorney of Eldorado County in 2001 and contributor to the county's guidelines on cultivation, he helped grow his wife's medicine and went on to provide free cannabis to a handful of local patients and to teach classes on cultivation.

Please turn to page 4

West Coasterdam Report

CITY REAPS CANNABIS TAX HARVEST — The City of San Jose, CA, reported first month revenues of \$290,000, collected in March, 2011 from the 7% tax levied on medical marijuana collectives in the city. The tax was passed by voters Nov. 2, 2010. It is estimated that the city could reap about \$3.4 million for the year if payments continue at the same level, which would help offset a \$115 million budget deficit. "The new revenue collected has the potential to cover approximately 17 to 18 police officers or three libraries year-round," Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, sponsor of the tax measure, told the *Mercury News*. This tax is on top of the city business tax and sales tax collected. Of the 105 collectives identified in San Jose, 73 submitted the tax payment. The non-paying collectives are threatened with a 25% penalty plus interest on late taxes once the program is in place. However, it is unclear what to expect if and when new city regulations are implemented which currently would allow only 10 collectives to operate. — *Mikki Norris*

OAKLAND GETS NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION — The Oaksterdam Cannabis Museum (oaksterdamcannabismuseum.com) and Information Center opened its doors at 1776 Broadway, Oakland, CA for preview showings April 20, 2011. It is the first cannabis museum in the US to show living medical marijuana plants in an exhibit. The garden is being grown legally under state law. The museum is seeking donations or loans of artifacts of particular historic significance as well as patrons, sponsors and volunteers.

OREGON GROWERS CUP RESEARCH — In the month leading up to the seventh annual Oregon Green Free (OGF), Care Growers Cup, 90 cannabis judges tested 22 strain samples and five hash samples. Greg Barton, an OGF Board member with a Masters Degree in Microbiology, tested each entered sample for cannabinoid content. Information gathered by judges has been compiled for years, and OGF is working to formulate its data into a paper for publication. Over 500 people gathered in a huge log cabin to see Central Oregon patient Tony Gibson, who grows for his girlfriend who suffers from cluster migraines, win first place with Grand-Daddy Purple. Five Star won first place for the Tasters' Choice with his Pfrut cut. First place for hash was an "ice-made mix of three strains from Muddy. A live painting was done by Portland-based artist Eatcho and at the end of the evening the painting was auctioned off to benefit OGF. All money raised at this year's events goes to support the work of OGF, a federal 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to helping patients in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. — *Angela Fairless*



Angela Fairless announcing winners

CANNABIS CAFÉ HOSTS NWA EVENT — The NORML Women's Alliance (NWA) hosted a clothing swap at the World Famous Cannabis Café with the Oregon NORML Women's Council March 20. A sister event took place in Salem at the same time thanks to Salem Oregon NORML. Proceeds were donated to the local Dress for Success chapter and the Japan Relief Drive, with support from Brothers with Glass, Stoned Made and Urbage Designs. The value of the donations to Dress for Success was estimated at \$5000 worth of usable career clothing. "With many human-service programs suffering from severe budget cuts, the NWA and World Famous Cannabis Café anticipate more events like this to help those in need," said Café owner Madeline Martinez. — *Anna Diaz*, NWA Steering Committee 503-239-6110, anna@ornorml.org.



Juliana of Auntie Dolores Edibles urges people at the Oaksterdam Cannabis Museum meet-and-greet to join NCIA. Aaron Smith (center) and Etienne Fontan look on. Photo by Mikki Norris

New cannabis lobby presses for tax code reforms

By Aaron Smith, NCIA Executive Director

For decades, groups like the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and Americans for Safe Access (ASA) have lobbied in Washington, DC on behalf of cannabis patients and consumers. That advocacy has helped bring policy changes and legal victories that increased medical access in more than a dozen states.

The National Cannabis Industry Assn. has now joined this effort in the nation's capital. As its name implies, NCIA represents businesses involved in the rapidly growing cannabis industry. Its primary mission is to lobby on behalf of member businesses in DC, where it is also promoting the societal and economic benefits of the industry.

The NCIA has taken the lead in advocating for a fix to the tax code so it will not be applied to providers of medical cannabis in states where such activity is legal. Months of dedicated work by the NCIA and the businesses it represents will be rewarded soon, when Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) introduces "The Small Business Tax Equity Act" in the US House of Representatives. Now, the work turns

toward getting it enacted into law.

The group held its first Congressional lobby day March 30, when five prominent members of the medical supply industry — Michael Backes of Cornerstone Research Collective, Brian Cook of Altitude Organic Corporation, Stephen DeAngelo of Harborside Heath Center, Tripp Keber of Dixie Elixirs and Edibles, and Jill Lamoureux of Colorado Dispensary Services — joined NCIA lobbyist Steve Fox for a series of meetings on Capitol Hill.

Never before had medical cultivators and distributors joined together to assert their rights as legitimate business people in the US. The delegation focused its advocacy on Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code, which bars businesses involved in "drug trafficking" from deducting standard operating expenses. The IRS is using this provision during audits of California dispensaries to penalize state-legal cannabis distributors.

The NCIA contingent explained to members of key committees that the section, if fully enforced, would make it extremely difficult for medical cannabis providers following the letter of the law to compete with the still-existent under-

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Wash governor intimidated, vetoes safe access

Feds threaten Evergreen State over dispensary plan

By Martin Martinez, www.medmj-wa.com

Washington State patients have had medical cannabis rights since 1998, but few have had legal access. Most patients have relied on black- or grey-market sources.

With the 2010 increase in the number of medical recommenders allowed, thousands of new patients have entered the marketplace, along with a plethora of dispensaries that bravely opened their doors.

This year, Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles introduced Senate Bill 5073 to allow regulated dispensaries. Following months of wrangling, it passed the Senate and House with bipartisan support. Cannabis patients and providers rejoiced in the proposal. Advertisement of medical distributors exploded, turning a grey market green and astonishing the medical marijuana community that had remained underground for longer than a decade.

The burgeoning culture was not unnoticed by federal drug enforcers. Spring of 2011 marked a new assault on medical access across the nation, and pointedly in the Evergreen State. Feds threatened to prosecute providers, and followed through by raiding shops in Spokane, just as SB 5073 landed on the governor's desk. Gov. Gregoire caved in to the pressure, citing the threat of federal prosecution as her reason for a veto of most sections of the bill, in a move that negated the new business model already in place at more than 100 locations. That twist of events turned the grey market jet-black, leaving scores of dispensary owners exposed, without a legal leg to stand on.

Sen. Kohl-Welles and other sponsors quickly whipped up SB 5955, a modified bill to allow, in place of dispensaries, cooperatives with strict rules, such as a 99-plant limit, nonprofit licensing, and mandatory registration for those seeking arrest protections. To counter Gregoire's fears, regulation authority was placed in the hands of local jurisdictions.

A majority of advocates have voiced opposition to SB 5955, largely due to the

registry requirements. During a May 11 public hearing, detractors contended that many locales would simply use the new rules to ban the co-ops. Yet, without it, Officer Pierce of the Sheriffs' Association described the new legal mess as "chaos."

Police generally oppose dispensaries and support the registry, but at least one lawmaker strongly supports SB 5955. King County Prosecutor and Seattle's top cop Dan Satterberg released a letter in favor of the 'fixer' bill, explaining that, "... the law that will go into effect, if no alternative comes forward, makes these dispensaries clearly illegal, setting up a showdown with no winners."

Seattle Mayor McGinn and City Attorney Pete Holmes publicly support legalization, and with special cannabis policy meetings on the city's calendar, it appears the City is poised to take a stand to protect public safety and implement legal access.

Oregon bill to give police full access to patient registry

By Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator

Law enforcement will be given warrantless, at-will access to the patient and caregiver registry if a bill sponsored by Oregon Rep. Andy Olson becomes law.

House Bill 3664, a hostile Omnibus Medical Marijuana Bill, would require the Health Authority to provide to law enforcement a list of addresses of registered medical grow sites every quarter.

Robert Wolfe of the OR Marijuana Policy Initiative, a coalition of state activist groups, has been lobbying Rep. Olson to strike the worst provisions of the bill.

"I believe that Olson is quite serious about this bill," writes Wolfe in a recent email. "We need to take this threat more seriously than any of the previous bills. The final bill is much less dangerous than the original proposal he showed me — that said, it still has some terrible provisions, particularly regarding law enforcement access to the patient registry."

In addition to the unfettered access to patient information by law enforcement, the bill contains provisions requiring quarterly physician recommendations for



Medi-Cone's George Bianchi and Matt Witemyre join Alex Toccoli of Port City April 20 to celebrate their Oaksterdam Spring Bowl trophies. Photo by Mikki Norris

Medi-Cone wins O'dam 4/20 Spring Bowl

By S.G. Farmer

For the second year in a row, West Marin collective Medi-Cone took top honors at Oaksterdam's 4/20 2011 Spring Bowl, taking home both the coveted People's Choice and Judge's Choice trophies.

This year's winning strain, recently named "JV-86," is a cross between the famous Northern California *sativa* strain with its soaring high, Trainwreck, and

Shiva Skunk, a potent yet mellow, earthy and relaxing member of the *indica* family. The entry was submitted by Port City Health and Wellness, one of three newly permitted dispensaries in Stockton.

This hybrid, stabilized by Medi-Cone Director of Strain Development Mark Martin, produces dense, lavender-colored buds when it finishes at eight weeks.

Matt Witemyre, Medi-Cone Chief of Staff, emphasized that Medi-Cone cannabis is tested at SteepHill Lab for potency and pathogens, and only organic fertilizers and pest control methods are used. "Our commitment is to the patients and to making sure they have access to safe, effective, high-quality cannabis, and we're excited about any partnership that furthers that goal," he added,

This 4/20 success brings some Medi-Cone staff full circle. Witemyre is a product of Oaksterdam University, where he taught Civics and Advocacy after his win as campaign manager for the 2008 Michigan initiative to legalize medical use.

Director of Operations and head of security Jeff Studdard, a decorated former LA County Sheriff's Deputy and current L.E.A.P. speaker, attended classes at both OU campuses and taught at the LA branch. Finally, Medi-Cone's anonymous master gardener earned valedictorian of his OU class in spring 2010.

Witemyre indicated that the company may soon be expanding to include the sale of its proprietary grow-light technology.

To stay up to date on Medi-Cone's new developments or inquire about stocking Medi-Cone products at a cooperative or collective, see medi-cone.com.

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Veteran allowed medical use in federal probation

By Vanessa Nelson

MedicalMarijuanaofAmerica.com

Michael Lombardo entered a federal prison camp this spring, having lost his home and his freedom in a legal struggle with the federal government. His is the latest story of a well-intentioned grower caught in the vice between state laws that allow medical marijuana and federal laws that prohibit it.

What's distinctive about Lombardo is that the 52-year-old Air Force vet has a prize awaiting him when he's released next spring. Unlike other patients on federal probation, Lombardo has formal permission to use cannabis in accordance with California law. During a March sentencing hearing, US District Judge Lawrence Karlton held that state law — not federal — will apply to Lombardo's substance use during his three years of probation.

Lombardo didn't explicitly request the order, but he did make a compelling speech explaining why he needs marijuana to treat his pain from work-related back injuries. He grew up watching family members destroy their health through substance abuse, he told the judge, and was determined to avoid that fate for himself by choosing the safe, natural and effective relief marijuana offered. If he couldn't use it, he said, he expected to spend the rest of his life in pain.

That fate is not just theory. Lombardo was forced to live it for years, while he waited for his criminal case to resolve. Pre-trial services prohibited him from using cannabis, and failed urine tests led to court hearings and threats of jail time, which he barely escaped.

Lombardo's life and bodily functions came under government scrutiny back in September 2007, when federal agents uprooted 93 marijuana plants growing at his Northern California home. The agents also seized 18 clones and 76 dead plants from a previous harvest, for a total of 187.

State medical-use laws don't provide a defense in federal court. The government was quick to initiate forfeiture of Lombardo's home and to charge him with cultivating at least 100 plants, a felony that carries a minimum of five years in prison.

Lombardo made the best of a bad situ-

ation. He eventually took a guilty plea but qualified for a strict set of safety-valve conditions that give judges discretion to sentence below the mandatory minimums. He ended up sentenced to one year and one day in prison, just long enough to make him eligible for good-time credits. If all goes well, he could be puffing on probation by 4/20/2012.

Or, if government attorneys successfully challenge the order, Lombardo's 'federal probation pot pass' could get revoked before he has the chance to use it.

Whatever the outcome, Judge Karlton's probation order is a signal of progress for medical marijuana, and a brave gesture of compassion.



The Schafer children hold a photo of their parents from the Human Rights and the Drug War exhibit April 23. Photo by Mikki Norris

Fry and Schafer behind bars

Continued from page 1

More than 20 state and federal agents raided their home and offices on Sept. 28, 2001, seizing 34 plants and less than two pounds of cannabis. Dr. Fry's private patient records were also seized.

Nearly four years later, in June 2005, Fry and Schafer were arrested on federal charges of manufacturing and conspiracy to manufacture and distribute. They refused a plea deal of 18 months in prison for Schafer and probation for Fry, were convicted at trial in 2007, and sentenced to mandatory five years each by Judge Frank Damrell. They also had their licenses to practice medicine and law revoked. They lost their final appeal in November 2010.

Urge Obama to grant clemency through ASA's action center at AmericansForSafeAccess.org/clemency.

Competitive application processes shape up

Napa, Stockton, Richmond

By Mickey Martin, TCompConsulting.com

The process of selecting organizations to operate permitted medical cannabis dispensaries has begun in several California cities over the past months, including Napa, Stockton and Richmond.

These processes attempt to quantify the worthiness of an organization before issuing a permit in an effort to find the best-qualified applicants. The process can be costly, with application fees, leases, professional services, and much hard work involved in submitting a good application. The processes can also take months to complete, with hearings, meetings, testing and waiting for city bureaucrats to act. But this has not discouraged potential operators from putting their names in the hat, hoping to be a part of this emerging industry. Some applicants are industry veterans expanding their horizons, while others are interested and optimistic newcomers.

Napa was the first to begin taking applications in October 2010, and required detailed information on operations, inventory control, quality assurance, record keeping, security and more. It was modeled after Oakland's competitive process of 2005. As of May, there had been no decision made on their 'preferred applicant,' and recently the City sent out a request to all applicants for additional information, including tax records for the last three years and proof of capital.

The drawn-out process has proved costly, as some continue to maintain properties and pay bills. Seven groups are vying for one dispensary permit, including some well-known local business owners and dispensary operators from other areas.

The deadline for the latest information request was May 20, with an interview process on June 3. It is unclear when staff will select an applicant, or when a dispensary would actually open. There likely will be appeals and possible litigation regardless of which applicant is chosen.

In Stockton, 11 applicants came forward to seek three permits offered for dispensaries who submitted applications in December. Its application process is also

modeled on Oakland's, with a list of categories to submit plans and a test on local and state law. Three finalists were chosen for the planning and public hearing process and hope to open by August.

There was a controversy when former CannBe partner and land-use attorney James Anthony accused an applicant of plagiarizing a CannBe application and falsely stating that CannBe would represent them. The final three applicants were rated by cumulative scores from seven committee members, one appointed by each councilperson. The applicant that came in third was not granted a permit: although they got the third-highest score they were in the same council district as the other two highest-scoring applicants. Under the ordinance, the permit passed to the fourth-highest-scoring applicant, since their location was in a different district.

Richmond put out an application in April for three permits to operate collectives there. The application was structured differently, asking for minimally detailed operational information categories and inviting applicants to offer additional information showing they were competent to run a dispensary. The city reports six applicants came forth by the May 2 deadline to go through a process to verify completeness. The decision process will involve the Regulatory Unit of the Richmond Police, Public Safety Committee, and the entire Council in some capacity, but it has yet to be made clear what that will look like. If applications are deemed complete they will go through building, planning and other city channels before being scheduled for a public hearing.

The planning agent tasked with the issue said she believed there would be no final decision until July at the earliest and it could be weeks later, depending on appeals and unforeseen issues. Richmond forced roughly 10 dispensaries to close their doors through cease-and-desist orders last year while crafting its ordinance, in some instances through litigation.

Several other cities have considered or are in the process of developing competitive applications for dispensaries. Some

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Most Californians want to reduce drug penalties

Not just marijuana, poll finds

By Margaret Dooley-Sammuli,
Drug Policy Alliance

Just weeks before Californians came close to voting to tax and regulate marijuana in 2010, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation to reduce the penalty for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana from a misdemeanor to an infraction. This single sentencing reform will keep about 60,000 Californians a year from being saddled with a criminal record.

But what about penalties for possession of other drugs?

A Lake Research Partners poll, conducted in late March, 2011, commissioned by the Drug Policy Alliance, the ACLU of Northern California and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, finds that a whopping 72% of California voters sup-

port reducing the charge for possession of a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use from a felony to a misdemeanor.

The poll found that 51% of state voters believe that people caught with a small amount of drugs for personal use should spend fewer than three months (27%) or no time at all (24%) in jail. The current penalty for heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine possession is up to three years behind bars.

Support for reducing drug possession penalties crosses all the partisan, regional, and demographic lines that normally divide voters. Most Democrats (79%), independents (72%) and Republicans (66%) from every corner of the state agree that it's time for a new approach.

The overwhelming consensus is so broad and so strong that politicians now stand in the way of sentencing reform at their own risk.

A 41% plurality of those surveyed say they'd be more likely to support a candidate who reduced the penalty to a misdemeanor, compared to just 15% who say they'd be less likely.

At a time when California is slashing funds for education and health care and billions wasted on incarceration remain untouched, this poll offers important proof that voters believe subjecting people to lengthy jail or prison terms for possession of a small personal supply of drugs is both wrong and costly.

Simply reducing such penalties from felony to misdemeanor levels would cut down prison costs by hundreds of millions of dollars every year — up to \$4.5 billion over 10 years — and free up resources for other much-needed services that are far more cost-effective, including treatment and prevention.

It would also reduce the number of people saddled with felony conviction records, a stigma that can be harder to overcome than a drug problem.

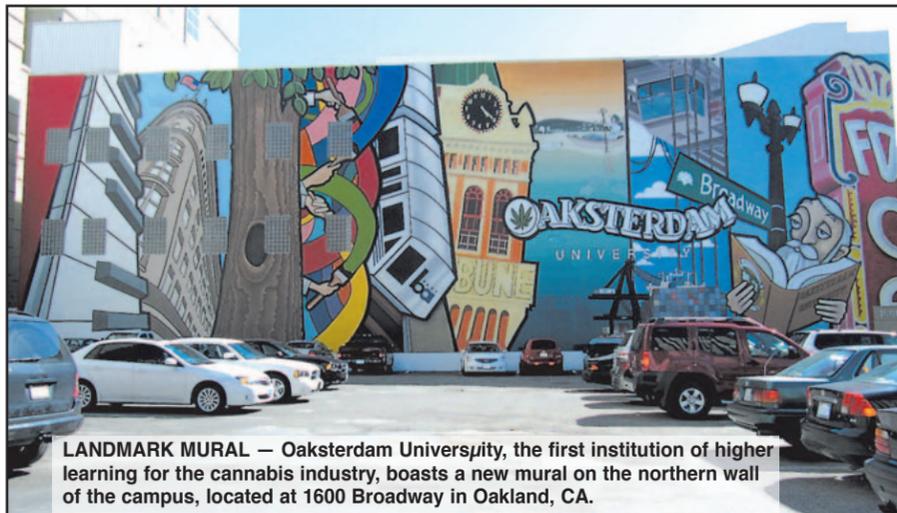
Poll results are online at drugpolicy.org.

Groups must compete for cannabis dispensary permits

Continued from page 4

have decided that the benefits outweigh the issues and look toward new revenues, while others have seen programs work in other cities and believe this is a good option for theirs. Sacramento has accepted applications from the 39 dispensaries that registered before a deadline and met a costly and detailed process to ensure compliance. San Jose is attempting to shut down most of its 100+ dispensaries and limit the number to 10, using a first-come-first-served process that has applicants talking about camping out on the street to be first in line.

As time passes and these processes morph from city to city, there will be more hurdles to jump and more costs simply to seek consideration for permits. Hopefully this will help ensure that patients are served by qualified and compassionate organizations that are capable of providing lasting care.

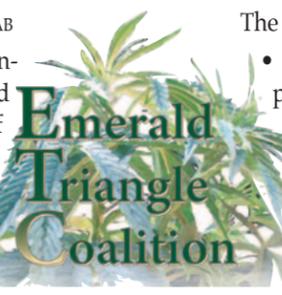


LANDMARK MURAL — Oaksterdam University, the first institution of higher learning for the cannabis industry, boasts a new mural on the northern wall of the campus, located at 1600 Broadway in Oakland, CA.

Emerald Triangle Coalition brings together 3 northern counties

By Pebbles Trippet, MMMAB

Northern California cannabis activists announced in May the formation of the Emerald Triangle Coalition (ETC) as a multi-county, community-based rural coalition for the



purpose of developing cannabis-friendly policies that will enhance the character of the Emerald Triangle region, encompassing Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties in Northern California.

The region has a reputation as the 'cannabis capital,' where prized, high-quality marijuana increasingly sustains a rural way of life, as the counties' other industries (logging, fishing) collapse.

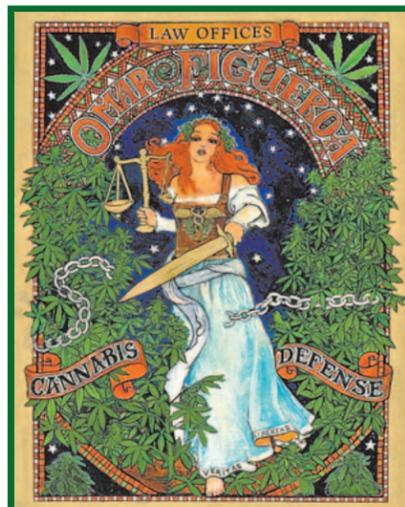
With a theme of "All Things Cannabis," ETC seeks to represent the voice of the rural producer counties, to coordinate policies and strategies among them, to consolidate multi-county voting blocs, and to influence statewide, county and local cannabis regulations and ballot initiatives.

The role of the counties includes:

- promoting sustainable farming practices with market access for producer counties;
- linking up small collectives and mom-and-pop growers for mutual benefit; and
- developing resources for post-petroleum regional economies as alternatives to corporate models.

Three meetings were held in Mendocino and Humboldt, with representation from policy organizations, farmers' collectives, local dispensaries and small businesses including Emerald City, Hemp Connection, MMMAB, Humboldt Growers Assn., Humboldt Seeds, SunBudsFarm, HuMMMAB, Leonard Moore Wellness Center, LoveInt, and others.

The cultural and agricultural history of the Emerald Triangle is rich in back-to-the-landers who became owner-builders, expert organic gardeners and stewards of a rural way of life. These authentic stories link us to one another and to the future.



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Cal legislature tinkering with dispensary laws

Continued from page 1

SB 626 to establish a state study of how best to regulate medical marijuana, with a task force including representatives from the BOE, law enforcement and medical marijuana groups. Patient advocates subsequently endorsed SB 626, and it was approved by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

Senator Correa took a different tack with SB 847, turning it into a bill that would prohibit the location of medical marijuana collectives within 600 feet of a residential zone. The bill extends last year's Buchanan bill, which forbade them within 600 feet of a school. Like that bill, SB 847 would allow local governments to override the restriction if they wish. Unlike other bills, which were opposed by Republican lawmakers, SB 847 passed the

committee on a unanimous vote.

Yet another bill, AB 1300 by Assembly member Robert Blumenfeld, seeks to explicitly define marijuana cooperatives and collectives, which are referred to but not defined in state law SB 420. The suggested definition would make clear that they are establishments where qualified patients collectively or cooperatively "cultivate or dispense" medical marijuana. Opponents in law enforcement object that this would effectively legitimize the sale of medical marijuana, which they would like to make illegal. AB 1300 would also explicitly authorize local governments to regulate the location, operation and establishment of collectives and cooperatives, effectively putting an end to numerous lawsuits that have challenged the authority of local governments to regulate or ban collectives. The bill was approved by the Assembly Health Committee.

Like the other bills, AB 1300 faces uncertain prospects in the legislature, which has become skittish about dealing with marijuana in light of ongoing local controversies and lawsuits, the loss of Prop 19, and heavy-handed federal opposition.

US Supreme Court expands search power

The US Supreme Court ruled 8-1 to overturn another protection against unreasonable searches in *Kentucky v. King*, a case in which police officers saw a drug deal and followed a suspect to an apartment building with two doors. They went to the door from which was coming an odor of smoked marijuana and officers claimed that there was a scuffling sound, which made them fear that evidence was being destroyed, so they went in without a warrant. It was the wrong unit. The KY Supreme Court held that the resulting search was illegal and suppressed the evidence found. The US Supreme Court reversed that protection. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg strongly disagreed with the majority. "The court today arms the police with a way routinely to dishonor the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement in drug cases," she wrote.

Kentucky decrimns half pound

Continued from page 1

headway with aggressive efforts to bring common sense to Kentucky's penal code, and our prison population has dropped each of the past three years. House Bill 463 helps us be tough on crime, while being smart on crime." The change in law takes effect on June 24, 2011.

The bill was a collaborative effort between legislators, prosecutors, the chief judge of Kentucky, local officials and members of the Justice Cabinet, forming a diverse and experienced task force of experts and stakeholders. It passed the House with a 92-2 vote and the Senate unanimously on a 38-0 vote.

Kentucky is the second state to lower its marijuana penalties this year. In January 2011, California law SB 1449 went into effect, making possession of up to one ounce an infraction rather than a misdemeanor, in another effort to reduce the cost of prosecuting marijuana offenders.

Chronic pain patients benefit from cannabis

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

Cannabis inhalation and administration of cannabinoids are both associated with "significant analgesic effects" in treating chronic non-cancer pain, according to a systemic review of randomized controlled trials published online in April by the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

Investigators from the University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children conducted a literature review on the efficacy of cannabinoids in treating chronic pain, including neuropathic pain, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid arthritis and mixed chronic pain. Eighteen randomized controlled trials published between 2003 and 2010 met inclusion criteria, involving a total of 766 participants. Four used inhaled cannabis; others assessed the analgesic properties of plant-derived or synthetic cannabinoids.

"Overall the quality of trials was excellent," they wrote. "Fifteen of the 18 trials that met inclusion criteria demonstrated a significant analgesic effect of cannabinoid as compared to placebo, several reported significant improvements in sleep. There were no serious adverse effects."

All four trials involving inhaled

cannabis "found a positive effect with no serious adverse side effects," they added.

"Of special importance is the fact that two of the trials examining smoked cannabis demonstrated a significant analgesic effect in HIV neuropathy, a type of pain that has been notoriously resistant to other treatments normally used for neuropathic pain. In the trial examining cannabis based medicines in rheumatoid arthritis, a significant reduction in disease activity was also noted. This is consistent with pre-clinical work demonstrating that cannabinoids are anti-inflammatory."

Investigators added, "[C]annabinoids are a modestly effective and safe treatment option for chronic non-cancer (predominantly neuropathic) pain. Given the prevalence of chronic pain, its impact on function and the paucity of effective therapeutic interventions, additional treatment options are urgently needed. More large-scale trials of longer duration reporting on pain and level of function are required."

"Cannabinoids for treatment of chronic non-cancer pain; a systemic review of randomized trials," appears in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

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FDA blesses research, but NIDA still blocks it

By Stephen Morseman and Rick Doblin, Ph.D., MAPS.org

In a significant step forward for medical marijuana research April 28, 2011 the Food and Drug Admin. approved a new study of cannabis for treatment of PTSD in war veterans. Yet resistance from two other federal agencies — the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Drug Enforcement Admin. — has prompted researchers to reach out to the broader reform community.

The nonprofit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), sponsor of the study, has tried for the last year to get approval to explore the safety and effectiveness of smoked or vaporized cannabis for PTSD symptoms in 50 veterans. Thousands of veterans already use it to treat symptoms such as anxiety and insomnia, emphasizing the pressing need for research into the different strains of cannabis and delivery methods.

NIDA is sole provider of cannabis for US research. The FDA has approved the protocol, but the study is on hold until NIDA and the Public Health Service allow MAPS to purchase the amount and strains it requires. Cannabis is unique in this sense: MAPS has no trouble getting permission to purchase LSD, MDMA, or other psychedelics it uses in government-approved studies.

MAPS Director of Communications Brad Burge said, "We're doing research, but we're working within a larger context. We're not trying to end the war on drugs, but the honest knowledge that we're producing — our public education — can play a role in clarifying people's support or opposition to prohibition."

MAPS has a strong connection with the cannabis reform community. It hosted the Mile High Marijuana Summit in Denver,

CO in November, where prominent reformers and researchers discussed what was in store for medical marijuana. It recently hosted educational booths at the Colorado Cannabis Cup and the Deep Green Festival in the San Francisco Bay Area, and co-sponsored NORML's 40th anniversary conference. MAPS is also co-sponsor for the upcoming International Drug Policy Reform Conference in Los Angeles this November.

There's no legal limit to how long NIDA/PHS may take to respond to MAPS' request; it could be a year or more. NIDA's monopoly and its mandate to support only studies into marijuana's harmful effects obstruct drug development research.

MAPS has tried for over a decade to break the NIDA monopoly by starting its own marijuana farm, but so far the DEA has refused to grant the required license. The recent FDA approval is encouraging; it is the first time the agency has approved outpatient marijuana research.

Scientists and activists are speaking out in favor of medical marijuana research. As they wait to see whether other federal agencies will follow the FDA lead in putting science over politics, we can expect to hear more from them, not less.

NCIA building membership

Continued from page 2

ground market. This could result in the closure of the best-run and most transparent medical providers, with a loss of tax revenue for the federal government as sales shift back to the criminal market.

Most importantly, delegation members helped congressional staffers understand that medical cannabis business owners are no different than other business owners and deserve equal treatment.



CALIFORNIA LEGALIZATION VOTER INITIATIVE FILED — Office of the Attorney General Initiative Coordinator Krystal Paris congratulates chief proponent, retired Judge James Gray May 18, 2011, after accepting filing documents requesting the California AG to prepare a Title and Summary and a financial impact report for the *Regulate Marijuana Like Wine* voter initiative for 2012 (RegulateMarijuanaLikeWine.com). Photo by Steve Kubby.

California hemp bill once again raising hope

Continued from page 1

The HIA and Vote Hemp, the two leading hemp advocacy organizations, applauded the provision in SB 676 allowing hemp cultivation pilot projects to be established in Imperial, Kern, Kings, San Joaquin and Yolo counties only.

"Senate Bill 676 would not conflict with federal law or interfere with the enforcement of marijuana laws," said Patrick Goggin, California Legal Counsel for Vote Hemp. It would only allow farmers to produce and enter into the marketplace the parts of the hemp plant already legal to import under state and federal law: seed, oil, fiber and woody core.

"Working with then-Assembly member Mark Leno, now State Senator, we were able to pass AB 1147 in 2006 and AB 684 in 2007. But both bills were vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger caving in to the California Narcotics Officers' Assn.," said Levine. "With the election of Gov. Brown and the

introduction of the latest version of a state hemp farming bill, we have an excellent opportunity to get a bill through the legislature and signed into law."

"There are over 50 member businesses of the HIA alone that make or sell hemp products in California and could benefit from an in-state source of hemp seed, fiber and oil," said HIA Executive Director Eric Steenstra. "Because of an outdated federal policy these businesses are forced to import millions of dollars of industrial hemp from Canada, China and Europe."

To date, 17 states have passed pro-hemp laws or resolutions, including California, whose state assembly in 1999 passed a resolution declaring that "the Legislature should consider action to revise the legal status of industrial hemp to allow for its growth in California as an agricultural and industrial crop."

For more info, see hempindustries.org and votehemp.com.

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DC hemp store raises funds for bio-remediation in Japan

By Martin Williams

One hemp store in the US capital used 4/20/2011 as the launch date to help save the planet from radioactive contamination. Capitol Hemp has two stores in Washington, DC, founded by former coffee shop owner Alan Amsterdam and political activist Adam Eiding. "In the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in

the former Soviet Union," said Eiding. "the Ukraine Institute of Bast Crops and other stake holders began to grow industrial hemp to soak up and trap much of the metals and toxic waste, thereby preserving the nutrient rich topsoil. We thought, 'Why not employ this clean up method in Japan?'"

To donate to the Hemp Bio-Remediation effort, send a check to Capitol Hemp, 1802 Adams Mill Rd, NW Washington, DC 20009 with "Japan" in the subject line.

For info contact Eiding at 202-744-2671 or email adam@capitolhemp.com

San Bernardino County sued for ban on collectives, outdoor grows

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance March 22, 2011 banning medical marijuana collectives and all outdoor cultivation, claiming these activities would cause an increase in crime. Other than unsubstantiated anecdotes from the discredited "White Paper" put out by the California Chiefs of Police Assn., no evidence was submitted to support these claims.

Over 100 cannabis patients and advocates had offered testimony opposing the ordinance over a two month period at two Planning Commission hearings and two Supervisors meetings, but their testimony fell on deaf ears as the Board passed the bans with a unanimous vote.

The County has spent over \$100,000 to date in failed and frivolous lawsuits to overturn and decimate Prop 215, and it looks like it will be spending another big chunk of taxpayer money to defend its ill-advised new ordinance.

A court hearing to determine if the ordinance should be declared null and void is set for June 27, 2011, 8:30 a.m. in San Bernardino County Superior Court Dept. S32. Local attorney Letitia Pepper filed a lawsuit April 28 seeking to overturn the county ban, alleging that Ordinance 4140 is illegal for the following reasons:

- By failing to include an Environmental Impact Statement and claiming that the ban had no environmental consequences, the Board violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the ban on collective outdoor growing will force patients to grow indoors, thereby causing an increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to a significant increase in electric usage for indoor lighting. The ban also violated a Green Plan that the county agreed to implement as a condition of avoiding a threatened lawsuit by AG Jerry Brown for the county's refusal to comply with state environmental regulations.
- Patients' rights to free speech were denied and the Brown act violated because of restrictions placed on public comments at the hearings.
- The county violates the constitutional freedom of association by banning collectives of three or more patients.
- The ban violates Prop. 215, SB 420 and the Attorney

Delaware stands up to the Feds

Continued from page 1

"There are so many people in Delaware who are suffering unimaginable pain that this will help, and we want to be able to do what we can to provide much-needed relief for those citizens," said Senate Majority Whip Margaret Rose Henry, D-Wilmington East, who sponsored the bill.

"I am very grateful that so many of my colleagues were able to look past the myths surrounding marijuana and into the eyes and hearts of those who were crying out for our help. Needless to say, I am profoundly grateful to Gov. Markell for his support of this important legislation."

"This is an amazing victory for seriously ill Delaware patients, who have been waiting a long time for the chance to use the medicine they need without fear," said Marijuana Policy Project legislative analyst Noah Mamber.

National Guard veteran and chronic-pain patient with severe wasting syndrome Chris McNeely said, "Until this law was passed, I was afraid to use cannabis, although it helped me in the past; if I was arrested and put in jail, they could not properly care for me, and I could actually die. I am so happy I will be able to get legal relief soon."

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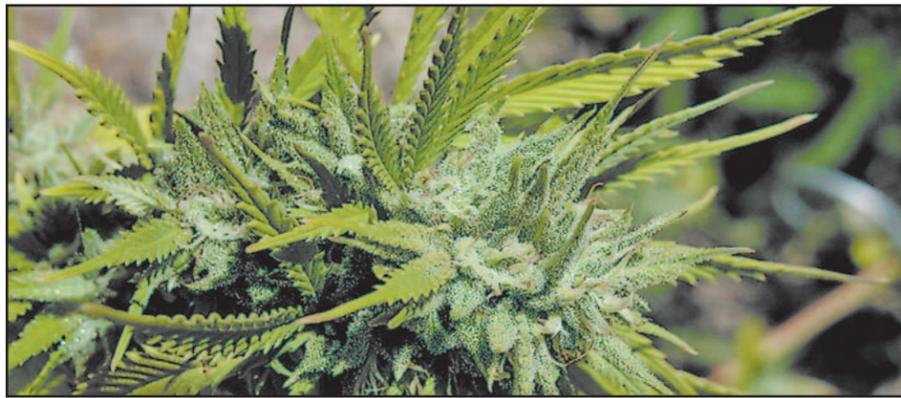
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Re-greening cannabis using sunlight, not lamps

By Tomas Balogh, MendoGrown

How green is your cannabis garden? A recent independent study conducted by Evan Mills of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimated that indoor grows consume one percent of national electrical use — enough to power 2,000,000 average US homes. This energy, plus transportation use, is valued at \$5 billion annually, with CO₂ emissions estimated at 17 million metric tons — that's a lot of hot air.

To put this in more simple terms, the environmental impact of smoking a single joint grown indoors is like running a 100-watt light bulb for 17 hours, or the equivalent of two pounds of CO₂ emissions.

Ready to throw indoor cannabis under the bus? Not so fast. There is a good reason why cannabis went electric, but it's not because indoor production would yield a better product — it's because of prohibition. Production moved indoors to avoid aerial detection from law enforcement under President Ronald Reagan, and an entire new sub-industry was born that involves grow lamps, synthetic fertilizers — and huge amounts of energy.

While it's not very environmentally friendly, indoor cannabis production has helped advance the industry during arduous legal and political times, and improved the lives of many patients along the way.

Today, cannabis is more mainstream than ever and, if current medical trends continue, it will become even more conventional. This ever-increasing legitimacy affords an opportunity for 're-greening' cannabis, a chance for the plant to come back to the light — sunlight that is. In an unprecedented show of support, local and state governments across the country are working on plans to allow outdoor production — a phenomenon that has already occurred in Mendocino County, CA. Groups like MendoGrown are forming to educate and lead the influx of growers who want to go green by using sustainable, outdoor farming methods.

MendoGrown is a membership-based business association to promote

and protect local, sustainably grown cannabis for Mendocino's medical cannabis industry. It is working with the Institute for Market Ecology (IMO), one of the first and most renowned international agencies for inspection, certification and quality assurance of eco-friendly products.

MendoGrown is formulating sustainable outdoor cannabis production and processing standards with IMO. Once in place, they hope these standards will become the touchstone for the industry.

"We want to turn Mendocino County into the greenest medical cannabis-producing region in the world," said chairman Matt Cohen.

San Jose ordinance creates more barriers to access

By Lauren Vazquez

Attorney, Patient, and Cannabis Advocate

After a year and a half of struggle for safe access in the South Bay, San Jose City Council finally set some rules for storefront collectives. Unfortunately the rules are so restrictive they may make it impossible for collectives to operate. Included in the new rules are zoning restrictions and a cap of 10 city collectives — with only two allowed in each council district.

Patients complain that this is insufficient for a city of a million residents who are spread over a large geographical area.

The Council also decided to grant collective operating permits on a first-come-first-served basis. This means the first 10

Cannabis and PTSD

Ask *MedicalCannabis.MD*

By David G Ostrow, MD, PhD

Question: I suffer combat related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), am under treatment by my doctor and participate in a monthly support group. Several members of my group tell me they use cannabis to get a lot of relief from PTSD symptoms, but my doc tells me that if I test positive for cannabis, the VA will no longer provide my medical care or fill my prescriptions. What gives?

Dr Medical Cannabis responds: While no treatment involving medicinal cannabis is US government approved and cannot be until it is taken out of Schedule I by the DEA, you suffer from the one condition that the VA has certified as helpful in its treatment. After many years of urging by patients and doctors against refusing vets treatment for 'dirty urines,' the VA Chief Medical Officer recently issued a policy statement saying that a positive urine test for cannabis is no longer grounds for denial of care, as long as it was provided for PTSD, in a state with a medical use program, and the individual has discussed the situation with their VA health caregivers.

Continued on page 10

'Descrowling' plants

By Samuel Janovici

After an indoor grower switches plants from an 18-hour photoperiod to 12-hours, it is time to top and pup the plants for clones. It's also time to descrowl unnecessary plant material, so plants can put their full energy into producing great buds.

Descrowling is a part of the pruning process. It is the act of removing growth below the perceived bud-line, where the light is not strong enough to fully mature buds. Tearing into a healthy plant takes faith, finesse and informed talent. Indoor growers should have a goal in mind and a clear understanding of the plant's architecture. It helps focus plant energy on those buds that are able to ripen fully.

Remember to use the sharpest tools available. Clean your tools before and after using them. Alcohol or hydrogen peroxide is best. Follow up by dipping trimmers in some clean vegetable oil — make sure to wipe away any excess oil. The oil will lubricate the trimmer and remove any remaining, stubborn bits of resinous material, including trichomes.

Work from the bottom of the plant up. Clean the main stem of all those small bits of growth that collect on the lower nodes. The same process should be used on all the lateral branches, until the remaining bud sites seem productive and have easy and equal access to your light source. Lumens and wattage determine the depth to which light will penetrate the canopy. Growers using 1000-watt bulbs can leave more of the growth than those with 600-watt bulbs. The 400-watt seems to produce weak tea.

There is controversy about thinning out the biggest leaves. Some say each fan leaf is a vital solar collector that must remain intact until it yellows and falls off by itself. Others believe that removing the large shade leaves pushes the plant's energies in bud production — it's considered a form of productive stressing that forces more resin up into the fruit. Don't get locked into cannabis dogma. There is usually more than one way to do anything.

Indoor lighting allows the grower to vary their approach and try different techniques. After shaping and pruning plants into working shrubs, it would be a shame if those big leaves at the top of your plants shade productive bud sites. Remember that growing is a practiced art where perfection is an ideal, not a reality.

Whether you are pruning, topping or descrowling, the goal is to produce the maximum amount of healthy, high-quality buds per square foot. Understanding your cultivars' specific needs will help you choose the best method for maximizing quantity, quality and flavor.

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applications submitted will be accepted, so long as they are complete and meet the minimum requirements. There will be no review of applicant experience, qualifications, or history of compassion towards patients. Theoretically, the first person in line could submit 10 applications and be granted all the operating permits.

Worse yet, the Council's insistence that all medicine be grown on-site at the storefront collective may be impossible to comply with. Due to the federal threat and the amount of space required to grow all the strains needed to serve members, most collectives would not be able to comply and would be forced to shut down. The on-site cultivation requirement also adds a big security concern.

Fortunately, these new rules are not yet final, as the Council still needs to decide a number of issues and have a second reading of the regulations, so there is still time for *West Coast Leaf* readers to act.

The struggle is expected to last through the summer, so San Jose patients and supporters should contact their city council members to ask that the on-site cultivation requirement be lifted, and the cap on dispensaries be raised.

Patients and supporters who live outside the city should email Mayor Chuck Reed at mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov.

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Light deprivation, enhancement catching on

From the field: May 2011

By **Chris Van Hook**, Clean Green Certifications

By this time in the 2011 outdoor growing season, the young plants have been started, and sexing of the plants has been done or soon will be. Now is the time to assess the young female plants to determine which ones are best suited for replanting and growing for the season.

There's been a lot of growth in the outdoor/greenhouse light-deprivation or "dep" crop this spring; expect this to find its way into the market starting in early to mid-June. www.Grobots.com has a cost-effective solar-powered light-dep commercial-size hoop house that can be expanded, easily taken apart and moved — handy attributes for many locations.

An interesting development with indoor pest control is that some growers are reporting that regular applications of neem oils, safer soaps and natural pyrethrums have become less effective at controlling pests and powdery mildew. They are having better luck controlling spider mites and powdery mildews by foliar-spraying compost teas onto the leaves up to just before bud-set. The thinking is that the live biology of compost teas competes with mites and mildews, reducing pest populations. greanbicycles.com is hosted by an award-winning cannabis grower who offers instructive videos on compost teas, and soil building.

Cleaning the growing rooms between crops is always a good precaution to help keep pathogens in check. There is a new cleaning company (sanitizesystems.com) with interesting technology that might be helpful. They claim their product has a 90-day residual effect in controlling molds and mildews on walls and surfaces.

Speaking of the indoor industry, this reporter recently visited his first (indoor or outdoor) "zero waste" facility. Table and vegetable scraps are worm-composted onsite in three to four weeks, producing a

beautiful worm casting. All of the potting soils are recomposted and re-amended with nutrients allowing them to reuse the soils — and they claim the soils improve over time. This both reduces the cost of purchased, bagged soils and improves the soils at home.

Any cannabis plant matter is shredded and mixed into the compost. They make their compost teas from their own composts plus a few purchased inputs. They grow only as much as they can care for well, thereby eliminating any loss due to spoilage, pests or molds. They deliver to a nearby collective, reducing energy consumption by eliminating the need for long-distance transport of small shipments. Their energy consumption is reduced to the draw from lights and fans, but overall a very high quality product is produced with a minimum of energy. People need to work toward this type of farming; there are moral and ethical obligations to reduce human carbon footprints.

There was a very well attended end-of-season meeting at Mateel Community Center in Redway last fall. A presentation was made about animal abuse in the cannabis industry. Guard dogs have been found left in grow houses with little or no food or water, or left chained or fenced in outdoor gardens for long periods of time with no care. Some have been found in such poor shape they have had to be put down. This is inexcusable, and not to be tolerated. It gives the entire industry a bad name at a time when we should all be working towards greater acceptance. See notapotdog.org for more.

Last thoughts? Grow only as much as you can care for properly. The market demands only top-quality cannabis. Start early discussions with your collective to find a spot for your product in the legal market. Or, create your own direct access to patients — there are many who still do not feel comfortable going into the local dispensary. Enjoy the summer.

THC tunnel vision hampers plant's potential

The Lab Bench

By **Jahan Marcu**, cannabinacion.com

The cannabis plant varieties that have dominated the market of North America for 100 years have been THC-dominant strains.

But the plant yields more than tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); it is a treasure trove of potentially therapeutic compounds (Mechoulam 2005). 'THC tunnel vision' has discouraged the identification and exploitation of other strains, until recently. CBD varieties express many ancient and unique genes that produce medically-relevant cannabinoids. Strains with high CBD content have become a popular second choice for the medical cannabis supply. This has spurred interest in the identification and exploration of other varieties.

Recently CBG has been shown to have greater pain-relieving and anti-depressant effects than THC (Evans 1991, Musty-Deyo 2006). It does not interact with CB1 and CB2 receptors like THC; it interacts with different receptors, some that multi-billion-dollar drugs target, including α 2-adrenoreceptors and serotonin (5-HT1A) receptors (Cascio 2010).

Today, the only known high-yielding CBG variety is in the greenhouses of GW Pharmaceuticals. CBG makes up a small but consistent portion of Sativex, the natural-cannabinoid mouth spray. So while CBG and other varieties exist, their current exploration and usage seem to be sparse or closely held.

Instead, there is a proliferation of high-THC cultivars going by many different names (e.g., Skunk, Haze, O.G., Diesel, Purple). Although these plants are slightly differentiated due to growing and storage conditions, they are not as genetically distinct as patients are led to believe.

Fortunately, CBG-, THCv- and other unique cannabinoid-profile strains may appear, either by natural proliferation of CBD types or due to the plant's 'hypermor-

phic genetics' that can jump around spontaneously — it is a weed, after all.

Potency testing may identify these compounds post-harvest, but genetics allow the medical industry to track heritability. This will greatly enhance the generation of new therapeutically useful cannabis strains like those that have been created over the last 20 years in Europe.

Marcu, of Americans for Safe Access, is science editor at freedomisgreen.com. He was part of a research team that published a study in *J. of Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* on CBD's ability to enhance the anti-cancer effects of THC in aggressive brain cancer.

The VA, cannabis and PTSD

Continued from page 9

How does the largest healthcare system in the nation, the VA, make an exception for PTSD, yet still not recognize the medical utility of cannabis for other illnesses and symptoms where it has been shown to reduce pain and suffering in double-blind, placebo-controlled studies? It took years of lobbying and educating on the widescale anecdotal use of cannabis in treating service-related PTSD that resists treatment by FDA-approved medicines. See VeteransforMedicalMarijuana.org.

New scientific evidence on cannabis in the treatment of PTSD may be on its way now that Multi-disciplinary Assn. on Psychedelic Studies (MAPS.org) has received FDA approval to sponsor a double-blind study of VA patients with PTSD using active and placebo cigarettes to be provided by the only licensed grower of research cannabis for the US.

This small pilot study will be the first US FDA-approved study to test cannabis' efficacy for PTSD using the 'gold standard' double blind placebo control method. If it works, the long process of getting FDA approval for smoked whole cannabis can get going.

Meanwhile, another government agency, the National Cancer Institute *Please turn to page 15*

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Feds unleash IRS on medical cannabis providers

By Angela Bacca,* green-aid.com

The federal government has launched a new assault against medical cannabis that has the potential to eliminate every licensed dispensary in this country.

The IRS has begun a series of audits of licensed California dispensaries to determine tax liabilities and the initial results are staggering. Using an old tax code instituted by President Reagan, 280e, the IRS says that dispensaries cannot write off any expenses of doing business, including the core of their business, the cost of medicine.

One such dispensary is Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana (MAMM), the longest standing licensed dispensary in America, licensed and zoned in 1997. The Marin Alliance intends to use this case to set major precedent.

This is gearing up to be a key battle for medical use and stakes are high. Every dispensary in the nation could soon be closed, enormous debts levied on the businesses, a tax void in the communities benefiting from them and the seizure of all the property of these collectives — not to mention long jail terms for both drug dispensing operations and tax evasion.

This tactic harkens back to Prohibition-era arrests of alcohol mobsters like Al Capone. The Feds couldn't catch them for smuggling then-illegal liquor, but they could catch them laundering money. The difference here, however, is that while mobsters were gun-wielding smugglers who terrorized society, modern cannabis

collective owners are tax-paying citizens operating in the open who contribute positively to their communities.

Shaw, founder of MAMM, is ready for the fight. She has been preparing for such a battle for 13 years, saving documentation and paperwork and working with lawyers.

"We hope for a formal hearing review of our medical and case evidence and a sincere consideration of the irrefutable proof offered. Our goal is an order to stop the deliberate mis-scheduling of cannabis immediately," Shaw says.

She adds that Marin Alliance followed every rule outlined under state law. The MAMM filed an appeal March 30 on the basis that they have been paying and filing taxes since the day they opened. "We are ready to finish this matter, shoot down schedule I for marijuana, free our POWs, and save all the dispensaries," Shaw says.

Green Aid Board of Directors member Mike Whitty will be working closely with Shaw and Executive Director of Green Aid Ed Rosenthal to challenge the IRS case and eliminate the IRS as a DEA tool.

* Green Aid is The Medical Marijuana Legal Defense and Education Fund. Info on the case and how to donate time or money to its defense is posted at Green-Aid.com.

CalNORML takes 'next steps' to Los Angeles

By Susan Soares, VibeNation MultiMedia*

After the very successful CalNORML Next Steps for Marijuana Reform event in Berkeley, activists turned their attention to Southern California for a March 19 multi-organization event to discuss strategies.

After speaking with Dale Gieringer, Don Duncan, Stephen Gutwillig, Sarah Lovering and Dale Jones, Vibenation brought in groups such as Americans for Safe Access, CalNORML, DPA, MPP and some of the key Prop. 19 organizers, they held the conference in less than six weeks so as to have an influence on the next round of legislation that was being written.

Amazingly, the Ricardo Montalban Theatre not only agreed to allow organizers to hold the conference there, the venue bent over backwards to support the event.

The program started with a session on "where we've been and where we hope to go." The panel included leaders from all the sponsoring organizations. Next, attendees heard public-policy perspectives from Judge James Gray, congressional candidate Marcy Winograd and Assemblyman Jim Beall. Then came a "political reality" panel, a panel on legal issues, a 'movement-build-

ing' session, a medical use panel, and finally a "perspectives and proposals" panel.

The event was harmonious and productive, as people talked throughout the day in small groups to sort through a maze of ideas and details, hoping to all pull together for a 2012 ballot measure. Having the conferences in two parts of the State helped people engage the reform process.

* VibeNation Multimedia. 310-923-3857

Hemp History Week events held in all 50 states

By Ariel Vegosen

The second annual Hemp History Week was a huge success, with over 550 celebrations in all 50 states from May 2-8, 2011 and an online petition drive urging the Obama administration and Congress to change federal policy and allow American farmers to once again grow industrial hemp.

The Hemp Industries Assn. and Vote Hemp organized this grassroots education campaign. The 2011 campaign's theme of "Hemp for Health and Sustainability" was endorsed by Dr. Andrew Weil. More info is online at hemphistoryweek.com.

Create indoor-quality buds using a solar power system

By Martin Williams

Patients and collectives can now obtain indoor-quality, medical-grade marijuana using the ultimate free power source: the sun. A 12-hour-per-day light-deprivation system provides multiple harvests of top quality flowers in greenhouses — as well as outdoors — during the long, dry days of the summer season.

By combining century-old methods of the flower industry with modern technology, cannabis can be kept in a vegetative cycle during the spring and autumn by extending light hours in the garden with the "12 and one" method, using only the SunGates 12VDC solar power supply.

Along with organic, sustainable growing methods, this process has a smaller carbon footprint than heavily criticized indoor-style timed harvests, yielding a net positive effect for the planet, and produces top quality, sun-grown organic medicinal cannabis bud.

Grobots' SunGate System is a 100% solar powered, automatic, programmable, mobile and modular row-cover. SunGates turn any normal greenhouse into a versatile grow operation that can grow cannabis in all growth cycles simultaneously in different light-sequestered units — all under one roof. Info: grobots.com.

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Medical marijuana clemencies

Doctor Mollie Fry and husband Dale Schafer had heads held high May 2, as they surrendered to US federal custody for five years imprisonment simply because they did the right thing by helping seriously ill California patients obtain state-legal cannabis. They showed class and dignity in duress, based on a commitment to doing good, even at personal risk.

Ironically, they are incarcerated just as the US Supreme Court has, in *Schwarzenegger v. Plata*, ordered California to reduce its prison population, and state legislators are looking for ways to get non-violent people out from behind bars. Marijuana offenders should certainly move to the front of that list. Marijuana felonies should be reduced to misdemeanors or eliminated outright. Passing Assemblymember Tom Ammiano's AB 1017, which downgrades cultivation to a wobbler would be a good start in achieving that.

It is time for President Obama to do right and, at a minimum, extend Presidential Clemency to Fry, Schafer, and other medical marijuana POWs; time to show he's the boss and rein in the DEA, DOJ and IRS from their flagrant attack on the medical rights of patients and the self-determination rights of states and voters. Readers of the *West Coast Leaf*, Obama needs to hear from you. Please call 202-456-1111, write or email the White House and start with this simple request: Grant clemency to Mollie Fry and Dale Schafer.

Legislators rise to the occasion

The President can draw courage from the likes of State Senator Mark Leno, who has two cannabis bills moving through the California Legislature. Senate Bill 129 would protect the jobs of cannabis patients in non-safety-sensitive jobs. Just as good employees should not lose their jobs over random piss tests, likewise employers should not lose their best workers to arbitrary, discriminatory drug screens that test bodily fluids but not job performance. Leno's SB 676 would bring back industrial hemp to California in pilot projects that may lead to lush fields of fiber- and oil-bearing strains of hemp one day again growing here. The long term benefits include design, manufacturing, processing, farming, marketing and other jobs plus investment opportunities offered by the Earth's premier sustainable cash crop, the hemp plant. It will also mean a cleaner environment for the future.

Likewise, amid the federal assault on medical marijuana rights, US Congressman Barney Frank (D, MA) has upped the ante by introducing a bill that reclassifies marijuana from its current status as a dangerous drug with no medical value to instead allow doctors to prescribe it — not merely "recommend or approve." Another bill, introduced by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO), will allow banks and other financial institutions to provide services to medical marijuana businesses without being subject to "suspicious activity" reporting requirements. A third bill, introduced by Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA), changes the federal tax code "to allow a deduction for expenses in connection with the trade or business of selling marijuana intended for patients for medical purposes pursuant to State law." We could use that kind of leadership from the White House.

We urge our readers to support these reforms, although they have not yet been assigned bill numbers at press time.

Setting the record straight

Photos of the Laguna Woods conference on pages one and five of the Spring 2011 issue of *West Coast Leaf* were printed courtesy of Steve Baker. The courtroom photo on page nine was provided by Sam Sabzehzar.

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Patients need to get behind broader legalization

By Brian Vicente, Sensible Colorado

Since voters passed Colorado's original medical marijuana law, Amendment 20, in 2000 our state has witnessed both heartache and heroism. We've watched police return medicine plants to grateful patients, heard teary-eyed cancer survivors describe how cannabis helped them through chemotherapy, and witnessed the collective joy of mass civil disobedience at the annual 4/20 rallies. We've witnessed great tragedy in employers firing patients for off-site medical use, and felt the heart-breaking loss of reform advocate Ken Gorman.

After all these experiences one thing is very clear: It's time for full legalization.

Over the next 18 months, Colorado will engage in a historic conversation about the pros and cons of legalizing and regulating cannabis. Reform groups, including Sensible Colorado, are determined to place a statewide measure on the 2012 ballot, to let voters decide whether to regulate the herb like alcohol. There are many reasons that voters should support such a sensible policy shift. Perhaps the group with the most compelling reasons to support 'mainstreaming marijuana' in Colorado are state licensed medical marijuana patients.

Reason 1: Better medical access. Unlike some states, Colorado does not allow those suffering from mental conditions to use medical marijuana. As such, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), elderly pre-disposed to Alzheimer's, and people suffering from crippling depression face criminal sanctions for trying this medicine. The thought of a veteran who has bravely served our country and witnessed horrific events later being criminally prose-

cuted for using medical marijuana to treat their PTSD is sickening. Only legalization will allow all adults to utilize this medicinal herb, free of the threat of criminal prosecution.

Reason 2: More protection, less prejudice. If voters legalize marijuana, patients can obtain double protection by keeping their 'red card' and also benefit from the shield of a new state-passed legalization law. Gone will be the days when patients were considered 'second class citizens,' who must produce papers to possess their medicine. Patients will retain the power to grow, possess and travel with cannabis with the likely added benefit of paying less for their medicine, which should be exempt from any excise tax.

Reason 3: Jump-start research. Colorado has seen serious advances in recent years with the emergence of medical marijuana testing labs and dispensary-driven research. In May, the state legislature may pass a bill to license and regulate laboratories to both analyze and study medical marijuana. Once cannabis is legal and a more accepted as a mainstream substance, we are sure to see increased scientific research by universities, and the state and local governments, that will benefit patients by greatly expanding knowledge about the plant they are ingesting.

Reason 4: If not now, when? By the time citizens hit the voting booth in 2012, it will have been 12 years since the passage of Amend. 20. The time is ripe to stop making criminals out of responsible adults and allow those 21 and older to access marijuana — whether to treat PTSD or simply for relaxation.

For more on the 2012 effort to legalize and regulate marijuana, contact brian@sensiblecolorado.org today.

Cannabis to heal the heart, mind and body

By Michael Whitty, Ph.D.

Wholistic medicine works with the body, mind and spirit. Dr Andrew Weil has observed that, for complete and true healing, cannabis helps not only in coping with body issues but reduces stress to the mind and is helpful to the spirit. Perhaps cannabis helps us see more and embrace the world. The Beckley Foundation (UK) has documented that depth psychology and the spiritual aspects of life benefit from thoughtful and reflective cannabis use. The foundation has researched positive connections between cannabis and creativity and the therapeutic use of cannabidiol (CBD).

Beckley has pioneered the mental health applications of cannabis and is creating an international network of spiritual thinkers who believe that spirit medicine can change the world through a change of human consciousness — in other words, improving the mental health of the entire society by improving human consciousness. Many of our ancestors' healing traditions also used cannabis for heart-opening psychological healing breakthroughs.

How we see, think and feel about life affects how we handle illness, stress and the daily choices and decisions that create our sense of life's meaning and ultimate value. How we see and feel life and the world influences our human behavior and the possible future. To that end, cannabis as a spiritual medicine can be very helpful in advancing healing on the psychological and spiritual level.

Why not start or restart your life-long vision quest by utilizing it with one of the self-help processes or rituals mentioned below to create your future? Among close and trusted friends and caregivers, explore body, mind and spirit by self-created ritual,

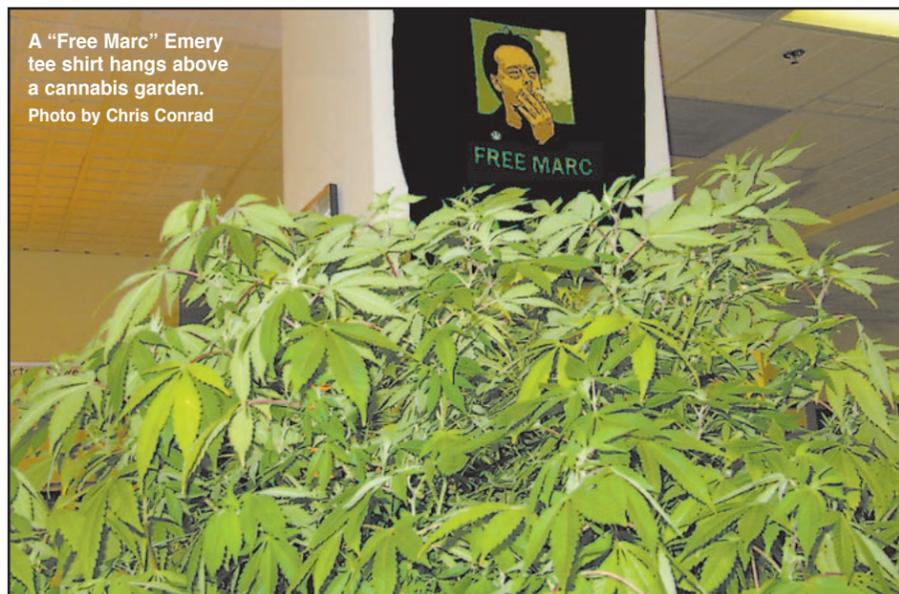
meditation, quiet walks, silent settings, sitting before the fire pit, dance, or yoga stretching complimented by attending a support group on life issues. Psycho-spiritual reflection allows a deep look at family issues, relationships, sexuality, wealth, spirituality, health and life legacy. Attempting to heal our lives is the wholistic journey of how we think, feel and see life.

This requires listening to the inner guide, often helped along by cannabis as a caregiver to our sixth sense. Skeptics can think of this as being 'gut' feelings or heartfulness. It helps us think with our hearts and our heads. For seekers and those on vision quests, think of it as the inner shaman, that deepest part of you who really loves and accepts you.

Cannabis can help with one's unique, personal journey to self acceptance, self-forgiveness and an open heart toward all of life. It just takes a little bit of solitude, a whole lot of gratitude, a loving attitude and a little bit of cannabis.

Feinstein wants you in prison

US Senator Dianne Feinstein wrote on April 13, 2011, "I do not support the legalization of any illegal narcotics, including marijuana. As you may be aware, I opposed California Prop 19, which would have allowed adults to possess and cultivate marijuana for personal use. My convictions on this matter have developed over many years of experience in criminal justice, including nine years as a mayor who worked very closely with the law-enforcement community. ... If I may be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my staff on the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, of which I am chairman."



A "Free Marc" Emery tee shirt hangs above a cannabis garden.
Photo by Chris Conrad

MARC EMERY, Canada's premier cannabis activist, serving a five-year term in a US penitentiary for selling cannabis seeds, was recently denied a transfer back to Canada. Emery had applied to the US Dept. of Justice for permission to finish his sentence in a jail close to friends and his wife, Jodie. The case against Marc (www.freemarc.ca) has always been about his political activism and support of cannabis law reform on both sides of the border through *Cannabis Culture* magazine (cannabisculture.com) and the International Marijuana Party. — Kirk Tousaw, Esq., April 2011.

Forfeiture laws spawn American kleptocracy

By Mary Jane Borden, Drugwarfacts.org

Civil asset forfeiture raises many very serious questions. It can be used to seize any amount of currency, hauling conveyances of unlimited value and personal property valued at \$500,000 or less, such as cars, guns and boats, among other things. In 2009, US Attorneys confiscated an estimated \$1.1 billion in assets, roughly four times more than in 1989. The sum value taken over the last 21 years exceeds \$10 billion.

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) states, "Civil forfeiture is a proceeding brought against the property rather than against the person who committed the offense. Civil forfeiture does not require either criminal charges against the owner of the property or a criminal conviction." The DOJ claims that real property cannot be forfeited administratively.

Consider a 350-acre music venue called Camp Zoe, valued at \$600,000 (*Riverfront Times*, Dec. 2, 2010). As of April 15, 2011, owner Jimmy Tebeau had not been charged

with any drug-related crimes, but federal prosecutors are trying to snatch up the Missouri concert venue, claiming it was "knowingly rented, leased, profited from and made available for the use of ... manufacturing, storing, distributing or using controlled substances."

The DOJ boasts, "Civil forfeiture expanded greatly during the early 1980s as governments at all levels stepped up the war on drugs," and adds, "Asset forfeiture can assist in the budgeting realm by helping to offset the costs associated with fighting crime. Doing what it takes to undermine the illicit drug trade is expensive and time-consuming. Forfeiture can help agencies target these difficult problems, sometimes without the need to seek additional outside resources to offset their costs."

If Camp Zoe is taken, a process called 'equitable sharing' will split the profit between the federal DEA and State Highway Patrol, the same two agencies *Please turn to page 19*

Garden guard dogs should not be abused

By Jim Ferguson*

While most cannabis farmers treat their pets well, some guard dogs are little-noticed victims of marijuana prohibition.

Abusive practices include taunting a dog to make it vicious, feeding it gunpowder to enhance aggression, even leaving it chained without food and water to starve to death after the harvest is complete.

Barbara Shults, RN, founder and director of the nonprofit North Coast Animal Welfare Advocacy Center and host of the program *Animal Advocate* at KMUD radio, has a campaign (notapotdog.org) to raise awareness of the potential for cruelty and abuse. She has been involved with animal welfare issues for over 13 years in California's Emerald Triangle counties of Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity.

"Every time I table at community events, someone will approach me with their own stories about witnessing this type of abuse," Shults said.

"About 18 months ago, I found a severely abused dog roaming the neighborhood. It was a dog well-known to the community for being tethered for years without shelter on a two-foot rope at an outdoor grow. I took it to our local animal shelter ... and now Humboldt County is prosecuting me for theft."

Chris Van Hook, founder of Clean Green Certified, works in medical cannabis compliance, and takes animal protection seriously as one of the Mendocino Sheriff

Dept. third-party inspectors for Ordinance 9.31 cultivation sites.

"If we saw anything of this nature, that would prohibit someone from getting certified," said Van Hook.

* Ferguson, a member of the Board of Directors of the North Coast Animal Welfare Advocacy Center, has been politically active in Humboldt County for more than 20 years.

Federal assault hits patients across the USA

Continued from page 1

not new — the Bush administration made similar threats against New Mexico officials in 2007. However, Obama is now using it to obstruct the democratic process and impede the development of local and state laws regulating cultivation and distribution of medical marijuana.

In Montana, more than eight federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Admin. (DEA), Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), Occupational Safety and Health Admin. (OSHA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the criminal division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), executed 26 raids on the same day a state Senate bill was up for a vote to repeal the voter-approved medical use law.

The legislature later passed the bill, but Gov. Brian Schweitzer vetoed it. US Atty. Michael Cotter sent a letter to the Montana legislative leadership in April urging them to reject a law to regulate medical production and distribution, which led to the passage of a bill that instead criminalizes this activity and is expected to drastically and arbitrarily reduce the number of authorized patients. That bill was not vetoed by Schweitzer and has become law.

At the end of April, a day before the Washington State legislature put a bill on Gov. Christine Gregoire's desk to regulate medical production and distribution, the DEA raided three distribution centers in Spokane. The raids came two weeks after US Atty. Michael Ormsby sent a letter to Gregoire threatening criminal prosecution if the law was passed. These actions compelled the governor to veto portions of the bill that would have licensed the same facilities raided a day earlier. The Associated Press reported at the time that Gregoire said she "could not approve a measure that might put state workers at risk of federal criminal charges." The result was a serious loss of patients' rights.

Threatening letters sent to the governors of Arizona and Rhode Island resulted in the suspension of their two recently passed, but not yet implemented, medical production and distribution laws. Thousands of patients are harmed by this suspension.

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, however, refused to buckle to federal intimidation after an official received a threatening US Attorney letter in May.

Shumlin signed into law a bill that will license four medical marijuana distribution sites in the state.

The letters come nearly two years after the Obama Justice Dept. issued its "Ogden memorandum" to these same US Attorneys in October 2009 signaling a different policy from the prior administration's. Even before becoming president, then-Senator Obama campaigned on the promise that he would not use "Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws." However, today his administration is not only circumventing these laws, it is undermining the right of cities and states to implement their medical marijuana laws accordingly.

"The federal government gets a lot of mileage from saying it doesn't target patients, but the reality is that large numbers are directly impacted by these federal actions," continued Sherer.

"Patients are sick and tired of broken promises and half-measures from the Obama administration. The president must answer for his inconsistent and harmful policies and work with us to address medical marijuana as a public health issue." ASA has argued that such tactics have forced untold patients into illicit markets, thereby jeopardizing their safety and making them more vulnerable to arrest and prosecution.

As for next steps, there are some promising signs. According to the *Seattle Times*, when Gregoire was vetoing parts of Washington's medical marijuana bill, she said she would use her position as chair of the National Governors Assn. "to lead an effort to change marijuana federal classification." ASA and other patient advocates will be working with Gregoire and governors from medical marijuana states in the coming months in order to place increased pressure on Obama.

Cancer Institute lends support

Continued from page 10

(NCI) has recently changed its Website information from totally negative on cannabis to cautiously recommending its use for cancer pain and noting potential usefulness for the anti-cancer properties of a number of its active ingredients.

Keep reading *West Coast Leaf* and Ask Dr.MedicalCannabis.MD for the latest news on this exciting development.

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This March, fifty years after the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was signed, activists declared the treaty dead and held a mock funeral in Vienna, Austria. Photo by Mike Krawitz

Unhappy birthday: A century of pot prohibition

100th Anniversary of the first anti-marijuana law

By Dale Gieringer, California NORML

This spring marks the centennial of the nation's first anti-marijuana law.

Massachusetts enacted a law on April 29, 1911 making it illegal to sell or possess without a prescription cannabis or other 'hypnotic' drugs such as opium. Violators were subject to a whopping \$100 fine and up to six months in jail.

Ironically, there is no record of any public concern about cannabis at the time. *Marijuana*, a Mexican slang term for cannabis rolled into cigarettes, was still unknown outside of a few border settlements in the Southwest.

The Massachusetts law was not primarily aimed at cannabis, but at opium, morphine and other narcotics, abuse of which had become a concern among Progressive Era reformers and temperance advocates. By prohibiting the use of narcotics without a prescription, it was hoped their abuse could be stemmed. Cannabis, being one of the familiar hypnotic drugs traditionally available in pharmacies, was added to make the ban comprehensive.

Significantly, the law expressly permitted pharmaceutical sales of cannabis, the medical value of which was widely accepted at the time. Only in 1937 was medical use suppressed at the insistence of federal narcotics boss Harry Anslinger, whose last-century 'reefer madness' policy sadly remains largely intact today.

Other states soon followed Mass-

achusetts in passing anti-cannabis laws of their own, beginning with California, Maine, Indiana and Wyoming in 1913. Again, there was no public concern about marijuana at the time or outcry for a ban.

These laws were largely the handiwork of pharmacy boards and Progressive reformers who believed that Americans' drug use should be controlled by cops and bureaucrats. Officials admitted that cannabis was not a problem at the time, but warned that it *might* become one if no steps were taken to prevent that.

Ironically, America's problems with marijuana post-date the laws that were supposed to prevent them. Since 1911, the number of consumers has soared from a handful to tens of millions. Meanwhile, over 20 million Americans have been arrested on pot charges; over 40,000 are now in prison for marijuana crimes; cannabis production has become a multi-billion dollar illicit industry; hemp farming is banned; billions of taxpayers dollars have been spent on eradication and enforcement; and thousands of lives are lost each year in prohibition-related violence in Mexico and elsewhere.

Today, the evidence is overwhelming that the government's 100 years' war on cannabis has failed. As in 1911, its strongest promoters are now government drug bureaucrats and cops who might otherwise be unemployed. This unhappy birthday is an opportunity to reject their bankrupt paternalism and reclaim the historical freedom to use cannabis.

For more, see: "The Forgotten Origins of Cannabis Prohibition in California," canorml.org/history.html.

A half century of the UN's Drug War failure

By Michael Krawitz

Veterans for Medical Marijuana

Fifty years after the 1961 *United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs* was signed, activists from around the world declared the treaty dead and held a mock funeral March 25 in Vienna, Austria.

Readers may recognize the name Harry Anslinger as the bureaucrat who dragged America into the quagmire of fighting the "drugs evil" and got Congress to jump out of the frying pan of Alcohol Prohibition and into the fire of drugs prohibition. Long after the passage of the 1937 *Marihuana Tax Act*, he became an ambassador and the US point-person at UN drug meetings. He was key in the writing of the international treaty to consolidate all previous drug treaties and, for the first time, demanded international prohibition of cannabis.

Anslinger's MTA was a deeply flawed law that required self-incrimination, and was ruled unconstitutional when Timothy Leary won his landmark 1969 case in the US Supreme Court. Many believe that Anslinger championed the treaty in an effort to 'shore up' the Act. According to the Constitution, treaties entered into by the USA become the supreme law of the land. The US Congress took advantage of this authority when it passed the *Controlled Substances Act* in 1970.

Since the last drug-control treaty was signed in 1988, there has been considerable change in the tone of drug-policy meetings at the UN. In 1998, an ad in the *NY Times* from the Lindesmith Foundation proclaimed that the war on drugs was causing more harm than good. Opposition became formalized in 2008, when the world's Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGOs, converged on the Vienna UN complex with a message of drug peace.

This year, the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies, or ENCOD, a pan-European network of about 150 NGOs, held a funeral ritual for the treaty just outside the entrance to the Vienna UN Plaza, announcing that, "After

50 years it is time to acknowledge that prohibitionist policies have become worthless, and can no longer serve as basis for what is misleadingly called the 'global drug control system.'"

See cannabisculture.com/v2/content/2011/04/04/Unhappy-Birthday-50th-Anniversary-Single-Convention-Treaty-Outlawing-Cannabis; encod.org/info/AFTER-50-YEARS-THE-SINGLE.html

Federal DEA proposes to reclassify natural THC

By Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director

The US Drug Enforcement Admin. (DEA) is considering reclassifying plant-derived THC, the primary psychoactive compound in marijuana, from a Schedule I to schedule III controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act, according to a report in the February 2011 *The Daily Caller*.

The agency announced its proposed action in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 1, 2010, to "expand the schedule III listing to include formulations having naturally-derived dronabinol and products encapsulated in hard gelatin capsules."

The DEA presently defines dronabinol as synthetic THC in sesame oil in a soft gelatin capsule in a US Food and Drug Admin. (FDA) approved product.

The November announcement states that DEA has received four petitions from companies wishing to bring potential products to market containing "naturally-derived or synthetically produced dronabinol." Those products, if approved by the FDA, would be marketed as generic alternatives to Marinol, which has been legally available in the US by prescription since 1985. In 1999, the DEA downgraded Marinol from a schedule II to a schedule III controlled substance.

Under the proposed change, both the marijuana plant and plant-derived THC that is not contained in an FDA-approved pharmaceutical drug would remain classified as schedule I illicit substances.

Contact Armentano at paul@norml.org.

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National and International Reports

MAJOR RALLIES IN NETHERLANDS AND MEXICO — Over 4000 cannabis consumers, growers and freedom-lovers came together May 8, 2011 in Amsterdam’s Westerpark for the third annual Cannabis Liberation Day, the biggest such demonstration in the Netherlands since the 1970s. The gathering, organized by the Society for the Abolition of Cannabis Prohibition sent a clear signal opposing the ‘weedpass’ and the right-wing Dutch government’s increasing repression of cannabis and coffee shops. Police estimated that as many as 150,000 people took part in march the same day in the Mexican capital, after which people gathered in the plaza to hear grieving families call for an end to the Drug War perpetuated by the US. — *Derrick Bergman*, GONZO Media

FEDS RATTLE RHODE ISLAND PLAN — Almost 6,000 Rhode Island residents have cannabis ID cards, about two-thirds patients and one-third caregivers. The General Assembly in 2009 authorized Compassion Centers (CC), non-profit retail facilities for patients. The Dept. of Health received 21 applications in 2010, and in March 2011 chose three compliant applicants: Thomas Slater CC in Providence, Summit Medical CC in Warwick, and Greenleaf Compassionate Care Center in Portsmouth. Gov. Lincoln Chafee included compassion center taxes in his 2011 state budget proposal, estimating that a marijuana sales tax would raise \$802,000 in the coming year and \$1.3 million the next, and a 4% dispensary fee would raise \$1.4 million over two years.

US Attorney for RI Peter Neronha delivered a three-page letter to Chafee April 29 threatening to raid any CC that opens. At a May 4 press conference in the State House, patients, caregivers, CC operators and advocates called on Chafee to issue licenses despite the federal threat. On May 9, the ACLU asked the federal government to stand down and honor the Ogden memo on marijuana policy. — *Jesse Stout*, RIPAC

LATE-SUMMER OPENING FOR NJ DISPENSARIES — The New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued permits March 21, 2011 for six non-profits to open medical marijuana dispensaries, or Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs). DHSS said patients can expect cannabis to be dispensed by late summer. The NJ law, signed in January 2010, does not allow home cultivation. Qualified patients with an ID card from DHSS will be eligible to purchase up to two ounces a month from an ATC.

There are still many concerns about the program. The entire state legislature agreed that regulations DHSS proposed in December were inconsistent with the intent of the law. A resolution in the legislature would invalidate significant parts of those rules, such as the 10 percent cap on THC content, limiting of ATC supply to only three cannabis strains, and prohibiting home delivery. — *Ken Wolski*, RN, MPA Coalition for Medical Marijuana, NJ cmmnj.org

AMERICAN EXPRESS REFUSES DISPENSARIES — American Express “has made a decision to not allow card acceptance for medical marijuana,” according to published reports. “It is our policy to adhere to federal law,” said a spokesperson.



NORML Women’s panel Georgia Edson of Mile High NORML, Chair of the NORML Women’s Alliance (NWA) Sabrina Fendrick, SSDP Assoc. Director Stacy Cosner, Kyndra Miller of CannaBusiness Law, Inc., and Diane Fornbacher of Coalition for Medical Marijuana NJ, unveiled plans April 22 for a “Sister-to-Sister” mentoring project. Photo by Steve Bloom, CelebStoner.com.

NORML conference a rousing success in Denver

By Robert Raich, Attorney at Law

The annual conference of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) took place in Denver on April 21 - 23, 2011. Of particular note were the high-profile presence and support of elected officials and politicians.

The conference provides a space for reform advocates from across the country to assemble and share experiences, ideas and strategies. At the convention this year, the general sentiment was one of widespread optimism, resulting from progress on many fronts in the local, regional and national fights for more rational policies.

In years past, buoyant attitudes at the conference were often linked to significant yet relatively isolated developments, such as a positive election result. This year, however, there was a palpable sense that the movement is gaining momentum and monumental policy change is likely in the near future and inevitable in the long run.

A highlight of the conference was the debate among Denver mayoral candidates, which drew seven of the nine contenders in

the race and was moderated by nationally televised talk-show host Montel Williams. The debate became the lead story in local newscasts and attracted wide attention. Refreshingly, all but one of the participants sought to bolster their candidacies by demonstrating the depth and authenticity of their support for (rather than opposition to) the marijuana policy reform movement.

Another positive indicator of the changing political climate was the keynote luncheon address by US Congressman Jared Polis (D-Boulder). Polis showed that he understands the urgency of the need to reform America’s marijuana laws, and spoke about his eagerness to lead the charge at the national level.

Several local candidates and political organizations had booths at the event. In addition to the vibrant political activism on display, booths at the conference reflected the growth of the entrepreneurial aspect of the industry. The administrator in charge of Colorado’s medical use program spoke about issues that have arisen under the law, such as harms from overregulation.

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Colo patients make headway in state legislature

By **Laura Kriho**, CannabisTherapyInstitute.com

Colorado patients won some big victories in the state legislature this year. Three bills were introduced that would further erode the rights of patients and caregivers under the state constitution. The Cannabis Therapy Institute helped organize patients to oppose and kill two of the three bills.

The first bill, HB 11-1250, would have banned active cannabis edible products. It fell relatively quickly, as the entire patient community spoke out very strongly against a ban on edible therapy.

HB 11-1261 was a THC-DUI bill that would have set a limit of 5 nanograms/milliliter of THC in the whole blood as being DUI *per se*, and patients could lose their driver's licenses and face criminal DUI charges. It would have eliminated the requirement for the prosecution to prove the driver was actually impaired. Through intense grassroots lobbying, the bill was changed to instead authorize a study on whether THC causes impairment. Just as the session was to end, the 5 ng rule got stuck back into the bill. Despite last-minute lobbying by law enforcement, however, the bill lost, so THC-DUI is dead for now.

The CTI argued that patients with constant medical use would test positive while not actually impaired. Reporter William Breathes of the *Denver Westword* submitted a blood sample after abstaining for 16 hours. His result: 13.5 ng THC. Breathes' physician affirmed that he was not impaired. Bill sponsor Rep. Claire Levy (D-Boulder) could provide no evidence that THC was the cause of any accident, and admitted that her 5 ng standard came from an "intuitive feeling," not hard research.

Unfortunately, a third bill, HB 11-1043, passed with no opposition in the legislature, as a 'cleanup bill' for last year's law, which created a statutory entity called a Medical Marijuana Center (MMC). The bill extends the statewide moratorium on new MMC applicants for another year. Over 1,000 people applied last July, but the Dept. of Revenue's Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division (MMED) has not granted any licenses.

The problem is that the bill provides that the state constitution does not apply to MMCs, whereas the US Attorney's office indicated that the state constitution would afford greater protection than a statute. Colorado was among the states that got threatening letters from the Feds, but no MMCs have yet been targeted in raids.

Another disturbing aspect of HB 11-1043 is the Caregiver Grow Location Registry. For the first time, medical marijuana caregivers will be required to register themselves, their patients' ID numbers,

and their grow locations with the Dept of Revenue. Many caregivers and patients are nervous that their confidentiality rights will be breached, and that more regulation of caregivers is on the way.

The MMC applicants, meanwhile, are forced to comply with an ever-growing list of restrictions, with no guarantee that they will ever be granted licenses to open. Every week, MMCs are being shut down because they can't comply with the pages of new restrictions. Activists with the Patient and Caregivers Rights Litigation Project are working to file an injunction against all the laws and regulations before July 1.

Polls show 50% support for legalization in Colorado. Legalize2012.com is building a coalition to bring a legalization initiative to the 2012 ballot.

Court battle for Michigan medical marijuana

By **Tim Beck**, Michigan ASA

Michigan experienced a Republican Party tsunami in the November 2010 election. The GOP took over every branch of government. Prior to this election, Democrats had controlled the governor's office, the State House, and the Supreme Court.

Fortunately, the state constitution requires a 3/4 super majority in the Senate and House to change or overturn a law passed by ballot initiative, as was the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act (MMMA). As a result, Republican efforts to gut the law are tied up in the courts.

Specifically, newly elected Attorney General Bill Schuette, who led the campaign against the MMMA in 2008, has been using the full power of his office in filing *amicus* briefs in the Court of Appeals, advocating the narrowest interpretation of the law. His core claim is that the MMMA was meant only for a narrow class of persons who are either terminally ill or completely incapacitated. More than 77,000 Michigan citizens are registered patients, most of them certified because of "severe and chronic pain" or "seizures and nausea," and AG Schuette is not happy about that.

The two most serious cases on the Court of Appeals docket involve the concept of "patient-to-patient transfer." The MMMA is not fully specific as to whether patients have the right to share medicine with other patients. Those who believe this practice is legal are using the concept as a rationale for opening dispensaries in Michigan, which are staffed by patients serving patients.

Should such transfers be ruled illegal, it could put an end to dispensaries and other 'hybrid' delivery systems not mentioned in

Colo 2012 legalization effort picks up steam

By **Mason Tvert**, SAFER

Cannabis policy reformers across the state and around the country have formed a coalition to end cannabis prohibition in Colorado in 2012. No single organization or individual is leading the effort; rather, various activists, organizations, professionals, businesses and others have come together to draft and campaign for the best possible ballot initiative.

State reform leaders, including those from SAFER (Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation) and Sensible Colorado, have established the Colo Alliance for Marijuana Reform to serve as a hub, in coalition with Marijuana Policy Project, NORML, Drug Policy Alliance, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and the Women's

Marijuana Movement, among others.

"We're really beginning to pick up steam," said Sensible Colorado Executive Director Brian Vicente, serving as chairman of the Colorado Alliance. "We are on the verge of making history, and it's very exciting to have such a solid coalition of organizations working together."

The coalition spent several months crafting ballot initiative language that has yet to be finalized, but a general framework has emerged. First, the measure will remove criminal penalties for adult use and possession and for privately growing small amounts in one's home. Second, it establishes guidelines for a legal cannabis market that allows for cultivation, infused-products manufacturing, testing and retail sales. The group is also working on language removing the ban on industrial hemp cultivation.

Dozens of attorneys in Colorado and across the nation have taken part in drafting and reviewing the language, said Vicente, who is coordinating the process with Steve Fox of MPP. The coalition published ads and sent out e-mail blasts soliciting ideas and comments from the public, and got feedback from hundreds of supporters throughout the state. The group made a point of reaching out to the medical use community, including patients, caregivers, industry members and advocates.

"We went to great lengths to include as many people as possible within reason," Vicente said. "We really wanted to get buy-in from the whole community, and make this a campaign everyone can get behind."

The next step is to submit finalized ballot language for an approximately month-long process of approval for the language, a formal ballot title, and the petition itself to qualify the measure for the ballot. At that point the group will have six months to gather about 86,000 valid signatures; it is aiming for at least 130,000 to ensure it qualifies. To get involved, see saferchoice.org.

the act. The only transfer specifically mentioned in the law is the "caregiver" model, permitting a state-registered caregiver to grow up to 12 plants per patient for up to five patients.

"If the AG is successful in his attacks on patient-to-patient transfers," said Kalamazoo attorney Dan Grow, a specialist in medical cannabis law, "any patient or caregiver who suffers from a bad crop, a police raid, or other interruption will be denied their medicine. Schuette's hostility is absurd. The language in the Act is broad enough to allow patients various options in meeting their medical needs."

"It could be a bloodbath for some folks, if patient-to-patient transfer goes down" explained Jamie Lowell, a board member of the Michigan Assn. of Compassion Centers and an owner of Third Coast, a cooperative serving cannabis patients throughout Southeast Michigan.

"The AG has power to file charges anywhere in Michigan, so even facilities in friendly communities like Ann Arbor are potentially at risk," Lowell asserted. The Appeals Court decision is expected about October of 2011.

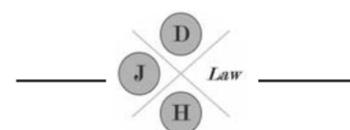
Forfeiture law corruption

Continued from page 15

that both started and would benefit from, the forfeiture action.

A 2010 Institute for Justice report goes a step further, terming forfeiture "legal fiction that enables law enforcement to take legal action against inanimate objects for participation in alleged criminal activity, regardless of whether the property owner is guilty or innocent — or even whether the owner is charged with a crime."

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Disappointment for Hawai'i cannabis patients

By **Matthew Rifkin**, bigislandsafeaccess@gmail.com
 At the start of the 2011 legislative session, Hawai'i medical cannabis patients had hoped for the first improvements to the program since its inception in 2000. With a Democrat in the governor's seat they thought that, should a bill reach his desk, it could get signed. Unfortunately, things did not go according to plan.

The Senate is the more liberal chamber at the Capitol, and all five bills sailed through committees and passed (the most "no" votes a bill received was two out of 25 senators). The bills were to decriminalize possession of one ounce or less (not medical), to increase the number of plants, dried ounces and caregiver-patient ratios, license compassion centers, move the program from the Dept. of Public Safety to the Health Dept. and create a three-year research program. Public testimony was very much in favor of these bills, with only token opposition almost exclusively from the law enforcement community.

However, the bills hit road blocks once they got to the House. In the end, only SB 1458 moved forward with the help of a lobbyist. What started as a bill to license compassion centers on each island turned into a five-year pilot program of only one dispensary on one island. As the bill worked its way through the committees, it became more restrictive and less useful. Patients protested the unfairness of making the majority of patients wait five years for the pilot program to be completed. It passed 40-11. Since the House and Senate versions were so different, the bill moved to committee to attempt to merge the bills.

Then things took a turn for the worse. Senator Josh Green, from the Big Island, offered a major "clean up" overhaul to the program by eliminating "chronic pain" as a qualifying condition. The Big Island has about 60% of the state's cannabis patients, despite having only 14% of the population (there are only about 8,000 patients state-

wide), and Green cited data claiming that over 50% of patients were under the age of 30, and that 500 were 21 or younger. He used information from the head of the Narcotics Enforcement Division, Keith Kamita, who has been an opponent of the program since its inception.

In the end, the House stuck by its intent for a limited pilot program, and the Senate versions could not be reconciled, so the bill died in conference for this session.

Argentine activist jailed

Uruguayan home raided

By **Mike Bifari**

Alicia Castilla, the 66 year old Argentine cannabis activist and author of *Cannabis Culture* and *Growing Cannabis*, was sent to prison for more than two months for the cultivation of 20 small plants after a special police squad burst into her home in Uruguay Jan. 31 and found her garden. Current regulations in Uruguay create a legal vacuum, where it is legal to possess a reasonable amount for personal consumption, but it is illegal to cultivate any.

The arrest and incarceration of Castilla, named the 'Cannabis Grandmother' in the press, sparked demonstrations in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo, Uruguay, and a major discussion about legalization in the entire region. Her imprisonment was brought to the attention of the president, who expressed his concern for her. She was released May 5 pending trial and is currently on house arrest.

Meanwhile, her case has led to the drafting of a bill that was sent to congress to change marijuana laws to legalize self-cultivation of eight plants per household and possession of 25 grams.

If it passes, 30 of the 350 marijuana prisoners would be automatically released in Uruguay, and her sacrifice would not be in vain. Info at plantatuplanta.net/Alicia-castilla/free-alecia-castilla.



URUGUAY — demanding the legalization of self-cultivation and the release of Castilla and 350 other Uruguayan consumers, activists held a demonstration outside the Supreme Court Feb. 24, 2011.

Photo by Mike Bifari

Louisiana man gets life in prison for two pounds

Some states are despotic

By **Morgan Fox**, Marijuana Policy Project

Sometimes the progress being made can overshadow the reality that there are still backward places in this nation that hang far behind the curve when it comes to cannabis policy reform. In some states, possessing a weed can still make your whole life forfeit. Two recent events highlight how much work is still to be done.

On May 5, the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* reported that Louisiana Judge Raymond Childress sentenced Cornell Hood, II to life in prison for possessing less than two pounds of marijuana. It was Hood's fourth marijuana conviction, and even while the jury reduced the charge in this case from what prosecutors originally alleged, Childress chose to apply a "repeat offender" law to give Hood the maximum sentence possible.

Supporters of cannabis reform will no doubt view any amount of jail time as an unjust sentence for mere possession, but this goes beyond all reason. As the evidence supporting the relative safety and myriad medical benefits of marijuana grows and solidifies, such punishment is irrational. To take away a person's freedom

permanently over a natural herb that never killed anyone seems to be the very epitome of "cruel and unusual punishment." But not to the court in Slidell, LA.

Nor to the state of Oklahoma, perhaps, where Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill May 2 making production of hashish punishable by a \$50,000 fine and two years to life in prison. There is no stipulation on quantity, duration, or whether the person was making it for distribution or profit. For making one ball of hash, a person could spend the rest of their days behind bars.

This defies common sense. There is no life sentence in Oklahoma for possessing cannabis or hashish. A person who turns one into the other through any number of simple processes, however, is apparently such a danger to the community that a judge can hand them over to the prison-industrial complex forever. This sounds like the *Reefer Madness* mentality that activists had hoped was a thing of the past, and yet the Draconian bill passed overwhelmingly in the Oklahoma legislature.

These actions are akin to policies in countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, where, as in much of Asia, marijuana offenders can be punished with life in prison or even execution.



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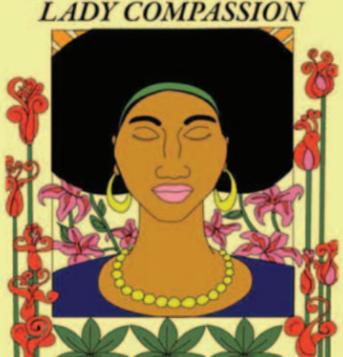
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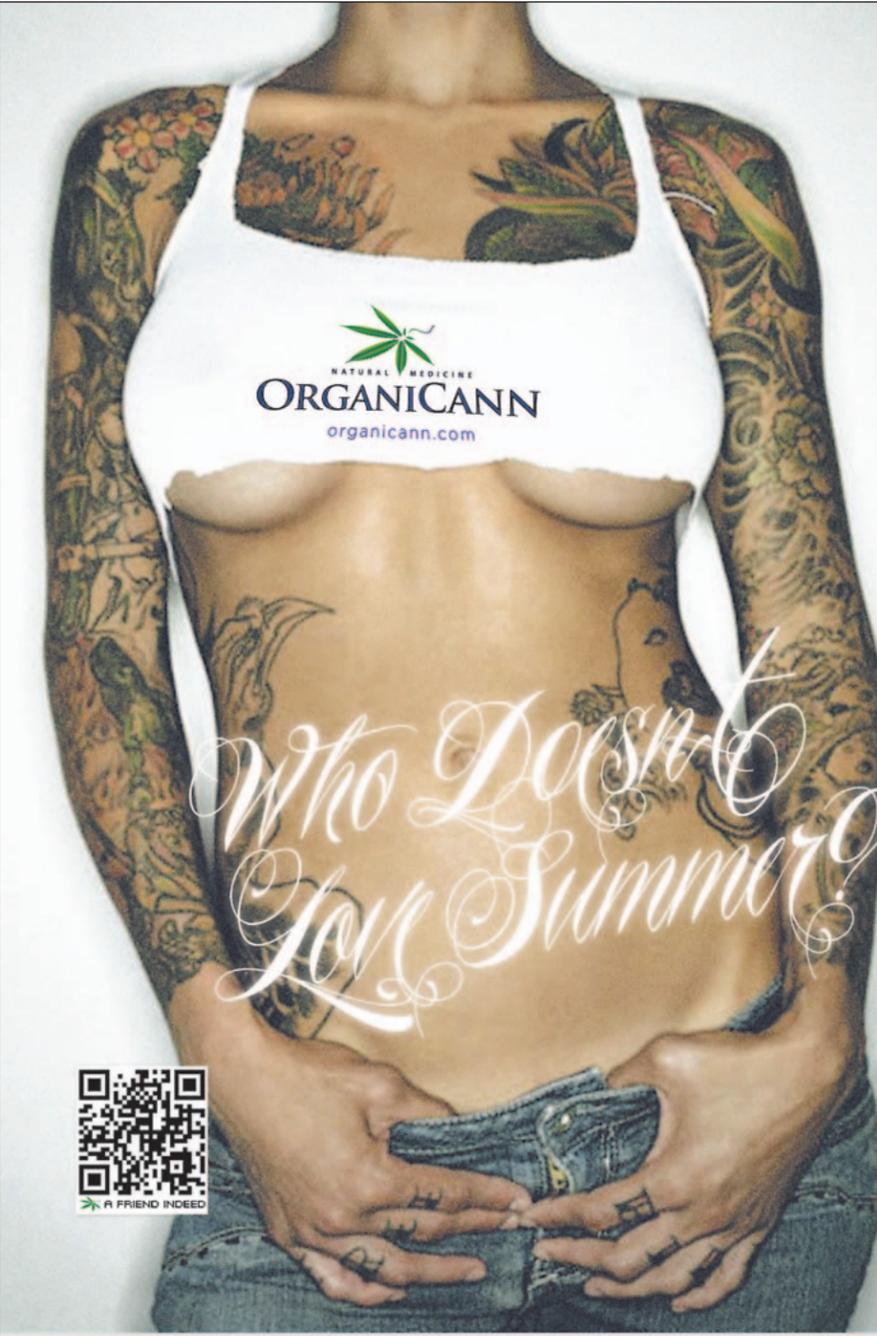
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Montana medical marijuana conflicts mount

By Tom Daubert,

Founder/director, Patients & Families United*

Marijuana policy conflicts in Montana show no signs of abating. By press time, reform advocates had sued to prevent a Draconian new medical cannabis law from taking effect July 1, 2011 and were preparing to gather signatures placing the issue on the 2012 ballot, possibly along with progressive non-medical policy changes.

A lopsided Republican majority, elected last November, ardently opposed the very concept of medical marijuana, and sought to repeal the state's compassionate use policy adopted in 2004 by 62% of voters. Wild claims were made that the medical marijuana program had spun out of control and was being abused by legions of 'stoners' who had spawned a 'billion dollar industry' which would soon begin to 'buy elections' in the state.

House leadership refused to allow fixes to the medical use law, and instead passed a repeal bill, which was vetoed by the governor. Pro-repeal legislators began writing a regulatory bill to get as close to repeal as possible. After many amendments, it passed, literally moments before legislators adjourned for the biennium.

Despite an outpouring of opposition

calling on him to veto this "repeal in disguise," the Governor allowed it to become law without his signature. He "held his nose" in the process, he said, because it was a bad bill fraught with problems, yet he didn't think it "advisable" to leave the voter-adopted law unchanged.

Reform advocates promptly formed a new group, the MT Cannabis Industry Assn. (MTCIA), to spearhead fundraising and management of the patient and caregiver response. Within four days, MTCIA raised \$50,000 to hire the state's leading constitutional attorney in order to mount a legal challenge, and filed a referendum petition with the Secretary of State. Enough signatures on a MT referendum petition could nullify the new law, pending the election outcome. See mtcia.org.

SB 423 would give Montana the worst, most punitive and deliberately unworkable medical use policy in the US.

The 2011 Montana legislature's repressive actions are consistent with its overall extremism. The Governor characterized the Republican majority as "bat-crap crazy," and polls found that only 14% of the public approved of the legislature. Marijuana reformers hope this sentiment will help fuel their efforts.

WEST COAST LEAF Calendar and Community Directory

June 10-12, Hemp Con, San Jose, CA. San Jose Convention Center - South Hall, 435 South Market St., SJ. Hempcon.com

June 18/Aug. 27, Cannabis Freedom Rally, Laguna Beach, CA. Main Beach. See orangecountynorml.org or call 877-OCNORML.

June 25-26, High Times Medical Cannabis Cup, San Francisco, CA. Medical marijuana and hemp expo. Prizes for best medical cannabis, hash, and edibles from California's dispensaries. medcancup.com

June 25, Tacoma Hempfest, WA. Wright Park, Tacoma. Entertainment, vendors. tacomahempfest.com

July 7, Liberty Belle Ball / Marijuana Policy Project Benefit, Los Angeles, CA. Playboy Mansion. Co-sponsored by GreenLife Medical Systems and others. Major musical act, burlesque performances, and more. mpplorg/pb2011.

July 15-17, Emerald Empire Hempfest, Eugene, OR. Maurie Jacobs Park, Eugene. See emeraldempirehempfest.com

July 23, Cannabis Freedom Rally, Huntington Beach, CA. Meet at the pier. See orangecountynorml.org or call 877-OCNORML.

Aug. 6, HanfParade, Berlin, Germany. Europe's largest legalization demonstration. Beginning at 1 PM at the Television

Tower, followed by event at Tiergarten Park. En.hanfparade.de.

Aug. 6, US Surf Open / Cannabis Freedom Rally, Huntington Beach, CA. See orangecountynorml.org or call 877-OCNORML.

Aug. 19-21, 20th Annual Hempfest for Victory, Seattle, WA. Myrtle Edwards Park, 12-8 Fri., 10-8, Sat. and Sun. World's largest cannabis event. Music, speakers, vendors, food. Free. See hempfest.org

Aug. 26th - 28th, Hemp Con, Los Angeles, CA. Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 South Figueroa St. Hempcon.com

Sept. 3-4, International Cannabis and Hemp Expo with Connoisseur's Cup & VIP, Oakland, CA. Fox Theater/Telegraph Ave. area, near City Hall. Cannabis competition, vendors, speakers, patient medicating area. intche.org

Sept. 10-11, Hempstalk 2011, Portland OR. Kelley Point Park, Portland, OR. Hemp, music, speakers, vendors, food. Free. See hempstalk.org

Nov. 2-5, International Drug Policy Reform Conference, Los Angeles, CA. Westin Bonaventure Hotel. For details and registration, see reformconference.org

Nov 5-6, Wonders of Cannabis, San Francisco, CA, SF Courthouse, 635 Eighth St. at Brannan, see wocsf.com

An Oral History of the Drug War and US Criminal Justice

The Exile Nation Project: An Oral History of the War on Drugs and the American Criminal Justice System
A Film by Charles Shaw

By Tony Newman, Drug Policy Alliance

This powerful documentary is a collection of testimonials from people formally incarcerated, family members, and experts on America's criminal justice system. The film puts a human face on the millions of Americans subjugated by the US drug war.

The film points out that the 'Land of the Free' punishes or imprisons more of its citizens than any other nation. The US has only 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners. At 2.5 million, the US has more prisoners than even China, which has five times the population. Eight million Americans (1 in every 31) languish under some form of state monitoring known as 'correctional supervision.' On top of that, the security and livelihood of

over 13 million more has been forever altered by a felony conviction.

"When 20% of a nation's adult population (65 million) cannot pass a background check to gain employment — and a majority of those because of drug arrests — you have got a runaway criminal justice system that is piling up insurmountable social costs," said director Charles Shaw.

"You will meet some of these disenfranchised people in *The Exile Nation Project* and learn about the human side of the drug war. When the stories hit home, people get involved, and policy can finally begin to change. It is my greatest hope that once these voices find a broader audience, Americans will feel compelled to pressure the government to change these unfair policies and end the era of prohibition and mass incarceration."

See exilenation.org for more details about the film and touring dates.

Remembering Peter McWilliams

Peter McWilliams died in 2000 at age 50, after the federal government disallowed his use of medical marijuana. June 14, 2011 marks the 11th anniversary of his death; poet, photographer, an advocate of those suffering depression, self-publisher of more than 40 books, including *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* — a few that were *NY Times* bestsellers, Libertarian Party candidate, and medicinal marijuana activist.

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youtube.com/WeRememberPeter

www.petermcwilliams.org

contact: petermcwilliams tribute@yahoo.com



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Community Announcements

Alan Bock: OC Register

Born 1944; Died May 18, 2011

Alan Bock, 67, a senior editorial writer and columnist for the *Orange County Register* who gained national prominence as a champion of libertarianism in work spanning more than three decades, died May 18 at his Lake Elsinore home.

Bock's libertarian beliefs played a large role in his support for ending drug prohibition. His position on the editorial board helped secure the *Register* as perhaps the

only California mainstream daily newspaper to endorse both Prop 215 and Prop 19. He was a hemp enthusiast who used his newspaper as a bully-pulpit, and wrote the book *Waiting to Inhale: The Politics of Medical Marijuana* (2000). Bock frequently came to conferences and events with his notepad and papers in tow. He is survived by his son, Stephen, 25.



David Ford: Author, advocate

Born Jan. 12, 1928; Died April 15, 2011

By the time David Ford graduated from high school he'd already published his own newspaper, produced elaborate stage shows, created and hosted a popular radio show and interviewed Hollywood stars.



When he passed away at age 83, Ford was a star national spokesperson for seniors who love, and who love to smoke pot.

Ford smoked his first joint at age 17, and over the next six decades used pot to prime his creativity in enterprises ranging from building homes to appearing in TV shows at the CBS affiliate in Hawai'i.

Ford wrote two books about cannabis.

Marijuana, Not Guilty as Charged deconstructs many anti-cannabis claims. He wrote, "Far from being a curse, cannabis is nothing less than a miracle plant." In *Good Medicine, Great Sex*, Ford promoted cannabis use as a way to get in touch with one's sensual self.

The ever-charming Ford was an active patient advocate for medical use, and a beloved fixture on the Sonoma County cannabis scene. He found a voice in the national media as well at NORML conferences and other reform events as a champion for the use of cannabis to reduce the aches, pains and complaints of old age.

Ford was returning from a family trip to Hawai'i in April when he suffered a heart attack at the airport and died at a nearby hospital. He is survived by his sister Carol Lavelle, children David and Sandra Ford, grandson Scott Ford, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Damien Russell: Artist

Born 1965; Died, May 2010

By Kelly Russell

Damien Russell, the artist who created such well known cannabis images as "Bearijuana Republic" and "This is How We Roll", passed away suddenly in Petaluma, CA in May 2010, at age 45.

Over the 25 years of his artistic career, he sought to blend novel twists on familiar images/phrases with humorous commentary on social issues to champion social and ecological causes. His body of work includes thousands of images, including his own artistry and many pieces he commissioned other talented artists to render



based on his concepts.

During his years in Florida, he developed the "Save the Manatee" design and made his first forays into the cannabis movement, creating such images as "Jah Camel" and "Tokeymon."

He relocated to the Petaluma area in 2008. Here he found people who loved all the causes he had supported for his entire career (surfing, skiing and earth-friendly enterprises). Most importantly, he rediscovered the cannabis movement. He became a passionate supporter of medical cannabis and began developing new images including "Hey, Ho! Let's Grow!"

Damien's brother, Kelly, is continuing the legacy with the formation of DamienRussellArtWorks.com. Visit the site to see an online gallery of his work, and to join the celebration of earth-friendly social transformation.

Ben Masel: Most-arrested cannabis activist

October 17, 1954; Died April 30, 2011.

By Don E Wirtshafter, J.D.

An arrest at the tumultuous 1968 Democratic National Convention sent Ben Masel on a life journey like no other. Masel joined the protestors who sued the city of Chicago and Mayor Dailey over illegal detentions and police brutality. After several years fighting city hall, he collected \$40,000 in damages for that one case. His career course was set.

Masel adopted the progressive politics and theatrics of the Youth International Party (Yippie) movement. In 1971, when his dealer got busted and was held in a Wisconsin jail, Masel organized a support rally. Protesters marched to the Capitol building in Madison carrying banners



demanding "Free Dana Beal." Masel called this event *The Great Midwest Harvest Fest*. His *Weedstock* became the prototype for hundreds of freedom festivals and hemp events around the country each summer.

Masel could not miss a good protest and became a fixture at political events around the country. He was proud of his 137 arrests, most all of them at protest events. He fought each ticket, accepting only minor misdemeanor penalties in six of these prosecutions. He constantly sued back, winning 12 civil judgments.

It was not until the election of Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson that the Harvest Fest became controversial. Thompson pledged to get rid of the annual protest on the State Capitol grounds, and had Masel arrested for trespassing. Masel sued the state and quickly won a permanent injunction forbidding it from interfering with the rights of peaceful protestors at the Capitol, even those without permits.

The next year he upped the ante by bringing a large sound system to the Harvest Fest. Capitol police arrested him for a noise violation. Masel again sued the state, this time winning a permanent injunction that prevented the state from interfering with the rights of peaceful protestors to have large sound systems that draw large crowds to the statehouse lawn.

Through the determination of one activist, Madison became the only state capital in the nation with well-defined rights for civil protestors. The recent, vocal protests against Gov. Scott Walker's attempt to bust the unions could not have happened but for the work of Ben Masel.

Masel set an example of courage and determination that should inspire all of us to action.

Doug McCarty: Del Norte SAN

Born Sept. 24, 1952; Died April. 20, 2011)

Douglas (Doug) McCarty, 58, passed away 4/20/11 in Fort Dick, CA, after a long illness. He served enthusiastically as the Safe Access Now representative for Del Norte County, and helped devise and secure that county's original medical marijuana patient safe-harbor guidelines.

Born in Fresno in 1952, McCarty was an avid falconer and professional mushroom grower. He was active with several law enforcement agencies in both California and Oregon, but was also tireless in his efforts to promote and protect medical access to cannabis. His work laid the groundwork for other local activists.

McCarty loved spending time with his daughters, singing oldies, mushrooming, hunting, fishing, crabbing, falconry, and helping people access and benefit from medical marijuana. He is survived by his two daughters and three brothers.

Local and regional meetings

- Americans for Safe Access**, meetings held throughout California. For details, see safeaccess-now.org
- 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 Imperial Valley Collective, 119 N. 5th St., El Centro 92243. 760-799-2055
- Oakland Measure Z Oversight Committee**, third Thurs/ mo. 6 PM, City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.
- Orange County NORML**, third Fri./mo. 7 PM. OC ASA, 8 PM. Giovanni's Pizza, 922 W. Williamson, in Fullerton. Free pizza. ocnorml.org
- Palm Springs/ Coachella Valley Area MAPP**, first Sat/ mo. 3 PM, 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, 92262. 760-799-2055
- Sacramento County Patients & Collectives**, first & third Thurs./mo. 7:30 PM if needed, 5207 Auburn Blvd. #H, Sacramento, CA 95841. 916-361-1612
- Victorville MAPP**, third Thurs./mo. 7 PM, Coco's Restaurant, 15570 Park Ave. E, Victorville, 92392. 760-799-2055
- Western Inland Empire Area MAPP**, first Wed / mo., 7:30 PM, THCF Medical Clinic, 647 Main St. Riverside, CA 92501. Also hosts seminars on Anti-aging and medical benefits of cannabis, First Fri./mo. 8 PM. 951-782-9898
- Yucca Valley/Landers MAPP** third Wed/mo. 6:30 PM Castle Inn, 1388 N. Golden Slipper in Landers 92285. Lanny 760-799-2055

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OF OSCARS AND OUNCES

By Ellen Komp, veryimportantpotheads.com

Comedy icon Whoopi Goldberg was high on weed when she accepted her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Ghost*. TMZ.com has posted a 1992 tape of Goldberg speaking candidly about lighting up before the Oscars ceremony.

Saying she smoked "a wonderful joint" to relax before the show, she added, "It was the last of my homegrown, and honey, when they called my name!" After her speech, she recalled, "My mother called me and she said, 'You smoked, didn't you? Your eyes were just glistening.'"

Whoopi backed away from her outing a bit during a post-revelation CNN Piers Morgan interview, saying only that she'd "probably" smoked a joint that night. During that flap, Goldberg admitted on *The View* that, "I have smoked pot." She stood by her defense of Michael Phelps for "smoking weed," saying, "If he wanted to smoke a bong at home, he had that right."

"Glee" star Jane Lynch chatted about this year's *Vanity Fair* post-Oscar party with Jay Leno on the *Tonight Show*. "I ended up in a corner somewhere, and somebody lit up a marijuana cigarette," Lynch said to Jay's mock shock, and after the partiers sat at her table, "All of a sudden everyone's saying, 'Jane's got pot!'"

Turns out, it may have been another 'Jane' who did all the inhaling.

"Gatecrasher" at the *New York Daily News* wrote that Peter Fonda was spied nearby when his sister Jane (seated next to Lynch at the party) "used one hand to shield her mouth while puffing what looked like a handmade cigarette." The aroma was noticed.

Peter Fonda, of course, produced and

starred in *Easy Rider*, in which Jack Nicholson masterfully played an innocent fellow trying marijuana for the first time. Jane Fonda played a similar role in *9 to 5*, as a divorced woman empowering herself in more ways than one. "You don't mind if I turn on, do you?" she asked film critic Rex Reed before puffing some of "the real thing" on New Years Eve 1969, the day she found out she won a NY Film Critics Award for her performance in *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*

Nicholson criticized America's 'War on Drugs' in a recent interview with a British newspaper, and said he still smokes pot. "I don't tend to say this publicly, but we can see it's a curative thing," the Oscar-winning actor told the UK's *Daily Mail*.

Even old Hollywood enjoyed its hemp.

According to Ellis Amburn's biography of Elizabeth Taylor, the recently departed star partied with Peter Lawford and his son Christopher in mid-1973. Peter's friend Arthur Natoli recalled, "[Lawford] and Elizabeth used to turn on together. They were high on pot a lot."

Taylor was 19 when she was cast in *A Place in the Sun* opposite Montgomery Clift, who smoked it. According to Amburn, "Elizabeth sometimes ditched [second husband Michael] Wilding to slip off to Oscar Levant's Beverly Hills house with Monty, where the pianist serenaded them with Gershwin tunes as they whiled away afternoons and early evenings."

Sounds like a good Oscar-style pot party to me.



Sensible students take on DC lawmakers

By Jon Perri, Students for Sensible Drug Policy

When Students for Sensible Drug Policy convened in Washington, DC for its 2011 Training Conference and Lobby Day, the staff wasn't sure what to expect. This was the first time SSDP would abandon programming focused on drug policy education at its event. The goal this time was to create a uniquely interactive conference providing student activists with skills to lobby their representatives, manage effective chapters, run campaigns on campuses or at local and state levels and plan events that would change minds about the current US approach to drug policy.

Throughout the campaign for Proposition 19, SSDP's California chapters were active and mobilized. The chapter at CSU Chico registered over 1,000 voters and nearly every chapter hosted a debate or event aimed at educating voters. This was the first time these students had been thrown into a campaign of this size and there was a lot they needed to learn. Thus was born SSDP's first "training conference." Nearly 400 students registered from all over the world.

SSDP structured the event with a lobby/training session taking place the day before students went to Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives. Executive Director Aaron Houston provided training on both basic and advanced lobbying skills and answered a sea of questions from eager SSDP'ers.

The next day, over 200 lobby meetings took place. The focus was on removing funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Anti-Drug Youth Media Campaign (such as the commercials with talking dogs and aliens that will steal your girlfriend if you smoke a joint) and on

Coast Associate Director Stacia Cosner and this writer led breakout sessions on chapter management, event planning and online-activism. One of the most highly praised sessions was the advanced online-activism workshop led by SSDP's webmaster and graphic designer, Garret Overstreet, and Michael Whitney of Firedoglake and Just Say Now.

Riveting and inspiring speeches were given by drug policy reformers like Ethan Nadelmann and Jasmine Tyler of Drug Policy Alliance, and Eric Sterling of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation. A standing ovation was given to Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) and former NM Governor and 2012 Republican presidential hopeful Gary Johnson, who provided keynote speeches to a packed house.

After closing remarks by Executive Director Aaron Houston came the annual Awards Dinner and Benefit Concert, with Roots of Creation, which honored the year-long work of the SSDP chapters.



Deep Green turns Earth Day a cannabis shade of green

By Linda Stokely and Gaynell Rogers, medicalcannabismediaconsultants.com

Thousands of cannabis lovers streamed into the eco-friendly Craneway Pavilion in Richmond, CA April 23 for Deep Green, the first event of its kind to integrate cannabis, ecology, health and the holistic side of the cannabis plant.

More than 75 vendors, plus five musical acts, eight DJs, a vapor lounge, and seven educational panels on two stages helped make the event a success. Panels included the Science and Promise of Medical Cannabis; Portrayal of Cannabis in the Media; and a Spiritual Ally panel. The Earth Temple Dome had a Cannabis and Ayurveda for Health Workshop.

building support for marijuana legalization at the federal level.

All the workshops were interactive. SSDP's East

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