

Colorado, Washington Vote To Legalize

Mass allows medical use, Oregon, Arkansas bids fail

By Chris Conrad

In a pivotal election, voters in the states of Colorado and Washington passed the first marijuana legalization initiatives in US history Nov. 6, 2012. Massachusetts became the 18th state to legalize medical use of cannabis, and voters there approved six

resolutions calling on the federal government to legalize adult use of cannabis. Michigan voters approved five local reform measures, as well.

Meanwhile, voters in Oregon rejected personal adult legalization, voters in Arkansas narrowly defeated medical use, California voters removed marijuana offenses from the onerous “Three Strikes” life imprisonment penalty and a spattering of local votes in that state made it more difficult for collectives and individual patients to cultivate, obtain or provide medical marijuana.

Results were: Colorado Amendment 64 passed 55 to 45%; Washington Initiative 502 won 55 to 45%; Massachusetts medical use act passed 63 to 37%; Oregon Measure 80 lost 45 to 55%; and Arkansas medical use act lost 48 to 52%.

This seismic shift in the political landscape comes just two years after California voters narrowly defeated adult legalization via Prop 19. In that election, federal officials threatened the state were it to pass, and the governor signed a law that decriminalized marijuana to the level of a traffic infraction just weeks before the vote to undercut the measure’s majority support among voters. No such threats or action occurred during the 2012 campaigns.

Cannabis reform legislation got more favorable votes than Obama in three of the five initiative states and more votes than Romney in four out of five states.

Cal Court gives big boost to dispensaries, sales

By William Dolphin, americansforsafeaccess.org

California’s medical cannabis dispensaries are entitled to provide cannabis for purchase to qualified patients, according to a landmark appeals court decision.

In reversing the conviction of a dispensary operator in *People v Jovan Jackson*, the Fourth District Court of Appeal unanimously held Oct. 24, 2012 that state law does not require active participation by all collective or cooperative members and that participation “may be limited to financial support by way of marijuana purchases from the organization.”

The case was the second time Jackson had faced a jury over state charges for operating a San Diego storefront patient collective. Raided by local law enforcement in 2008, he was acquitted of marijuana. Please turn to page 5

Amsterdam cannabis coffeeshops remain open

Coffeshop battle in the Netherlands: past the worst

By Derrick Bergman, GONZO Media, VOC*

The struggle against the “wietpas” (weed pass) and the banning of foreigners from Dutch cannabis coffeeshops isn’t over yet, but the worst seems to have passed.

Weed pass was introduced into three southern provinces of the Netherlands on May 1, 2012, with the rest of the country to follow suit on Jan. 1, 2013. As predicted by activists and opposition politicians, the scheme led to chaos, especially in the city of Maastricht. The black market welcomed a stream of foreign customers with open arms. Then, just a week before the pass took effect, the national government resigned and called new elections, held in September. The new government is a coalition of the conservative VVD party and the social democrats of PvdA, who want to regulate and legalize cannabis and abolish weed pass.

This coalition of political rivals and opposites forced the government to find compromises, marking the return of the Dutch *polder* model of dialogue and compromise. To bridge the gap between the two parties on cannabis policy, a local option was adopted. Because justice minister Ivo Opstelten returned to his post in the new cabinet, it was not likely the whole idea would be labeled a big failure. Instead, local authorities now have a lot of freedom to enforce the new rules as they see fit. The mandatory membership club system, with a 2000-members maximum and a roster open to police inspection, has been abolished nationally, but the ‘inhabitant criterion,’ to exclude non-residents from coffeeshops, remains in place.

There is no clear answer as to whether foreigners are allowed in coffeeshops. The mayor of Amsterdam seems to have made the best deal: he can postpone enforcement of the criterion for as long as he wants. So tourists remain welcome in all coffeeshops in the Dutch capital. A number of other big cities announced they also will not enforce. Please turn to page 13

Washington measure takes conservative tack

I-502 wins with 11% margin

By Doug Honig,

ACLU of Washington Communications Director

Voters in Washington State gave Initiative 502 (I-502) an 11-point margin of victory Nov. 6, 2012 to legalize, tax and regulate cannabis for adults 21 and over, sending a clear message that the public is ready for a change in policy.

The impact of the vote was seen even before I-502 took effect on Dec. 6. Prosecutors in several major counties dropped cases against people arrested under the old law, saying it didn’t make sense to pursue prosecutions for conduct that soon would be legal. They also knew it would be difficult to get a jury to convict.

I-502 makes adult possession of an ounce of marijuana permissible under state law, but not cultivation. During a year-long process that ends in December 2013, the State Liquor Control board will create a system for licensing the production, processing and sales of cannabis by private entities, and it will be taxed at each step along the way. The state’s Office of Financial Management estimated that. Please turn to page 3



LEGALIZATION TAKES ROOT — Brian Vicente, Mason Tvert and Betty Aldsworth of Yes on 64 spoke at a press conference the morning after the Colorado vote that legalized personal cultivation and possession and set the groundwork for legal production and sales. Photo by Chris Wallis

Colorado legalizes cultivation, sales

By Chris Wallis

Personal possession, use and home-growing of cannabis became legal for adults in Colorado on Dec. 10, 2012, when Gov. John Hickenlooper issued an executive order adding Amendment 64 to the state constitution. Voters approved the measure Nov. 6 by a decisive 55% to 45%.

Hickenlooper also signed an order creating a task force to make recommendations to the legislature on how to establish a legal market for businesses to cultivate and sell cannabis to adults. They also must develop regulations for cultivating, processing and distributing industrial hemp.

“We were very glad to see our governor implement A-64 in such a timely fashion and immediately end the needless arrest and prosecution of adults for marijuana possession,” said proponent Mason Tvert, who co-directed the Yes on 64 campaign. “Things are moving forward exactly as we and the voters intended.”

The Task Force on the Implementation of A-64 consists of government officials and other stakeholders. Among them is attorney and advocate Christian Sederberg, representing Yes on 64.

“My primary goals are to ensure the task force develops recommendations that demonstrate the will of the voters and to promote a system that will make Colorado a better place for all of its citizens,” said Sederberg. “Our state-regulated medical marijuana system has set an example for the rest of the nation and I am confident we can lead the way when it comes to establishing a legal marijuana market that

serves all adults.”

The task force met for the first time on Dec. 17, at which time members laid out a list of topics to address in its recommendations. The entire group will meet sporadically in the next months, and it has until. Please turn to page 4

Federal ban on trial in DC court

By William Dolphin, americansforsafeaccess.org

The federal appeals court for the DC Circuit heard oral arguments Oct. 16, 2012 in *Americans for Safe Access v Drug Enforcement Administration (ASA v DEA)*, a legal challenge to the government’s contention that cannabis has no medical use.

The panel of three federal judges focused on the question of legal standing, whether the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit have been directly injured by the government’s classification of cannabis. Following oral arguments, the court requested additional briefing on the harm sustained by one plaintiff in the case, US Air Force veteran Michael Krawitz.

“The court’s request for clarification is a sign that this case is being taken very seriously,” said ASA Chief Counsel Joe Elford, who argued the case. “The current classification of cannabis is based more on politics than science.”

Krawitz is rated 100% permanently disabled by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs but is denied treatment because he uses cannabis on the advice of a physician to treat pain, trauma and an eye disease. That forces him to pay for medical care that would otherwise be covered by the VA, which has a policy of denying pain management care to anyone who uses cannabis.

The suit is an appeal of the DEA’s 2011 denial of a 2002 petition by the Coalition for Rescheduling Cannabis, of which ASA is a member. It argues that the DEA acted arbitrarily and capriciously in ignoring scientific evidence of the commonly employed therapeutic uses of cannabis and contends that the federal government’s intransigence is keeping cannabis out of reach for millions of Americans who would otherwise benefit from its therapeutic value. This marks the first time in nearly. Please turn to page 4



GOING ON HIATUS — The staff of the West Coast Leaf (l-r) editorial assistant Jackie Gay Wilson and editors and publishers Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris wish to thank our many readers, advertisers and contributors for their support during the past five years. West Coast Leaf photo by Kalil Amar Wilson

West Coasterdam Report

Cali conference to end 100 years of state cannabis prohibition

"Cannabis in California: Ending the 100-Year War" is set for Jan. 26 and 27, 2013 at Ft. Mason Conference Center, San Francisco. California NORML is holding the conference on the 100th anniversary of the war on cannabis in California. Although national prohibition of cannabis was initiated by the federal Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, many states banned it earlier. In 1913, the state Board of Pharmacy led the legislature to pass a bill outlawing possession of "Indian hemp." It features leading state and national advocates against cannabis prohibition. See canorml.org/100years. — **Dale Gieringer**, California NORML

Humboldt State creates institute for marijuana research

Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA developed an academic institute in autumn 2012 to focus on marijuana-related issues. This development highlights the impact cannabis has had on the Northern California county's economy and culture. The school chose not to shy away from the once unspoken mystery but to study it from an academic standpoint. The institute is co-chaired by Sociology professor Josh Meisel and economics professor Erick Eschker, who developed the idea in 2010 when state ballot measure Prop 19 made the issue a hot-button topic in the area. "Our goal is to try and aid some more-informed policy-level decisions," Maisel said. Eschker hopes to host a large conference of global cannabis researchers some day. "If anyone is going to have a marijuana institute, it really should be Humboldt State," he said. — **Mickey Martin**, weedactivist.com

Oakland dispensary funds local gun buy back program

The FBI ranked Oakland, CA the fourth most dangerous city in America for 2012, at 1,683 violent crimes per 100,000 people, and 26.3 murders per 100,000 people. These staggering statistics inspired a local cannabis dispensary, Purple Heart Patient Center, to donate \$100,000 to increase public safety through a local gun buy-back program in December 2012. It succeeded in taking more than 600 guns off the street; they can no longer be used to cause violence in the area. Executive Director Keith Stephenson called the donation "part of the philosophy we practice called 'capitalism with a conscience'. I just felt the public needed to know that medical marijuana can have benefits besides just paying taxes," he said. "Hopefully, this might spread to a national buy-back day."

Since the Oakland Police Dept. could not directly accept funds from the cannabis collective due to federal prohibition, they worked with PHPC through two local non-profit groups, Oakland's Youth UpRising and San Francisco's Omega Boys Club, to manage the financial transactions, with OPD overseeing the process and disposing of the guns. Purple Heart Patient Center members were proud to contribute to making the community safer and envision more buy-back days in the future. — **Mickey Martin**, weedactivist.com

Emerald cup moves north, Serra honored for decades of trials

The ninth annual Emerald Cup, founded by Tim Blake for Area 101's outdoor organic medical marijuana farmers, brought 500 connoisseurs to Humboldt County's Mateel Community Center Dec. 15, 2012 in Redway, CA, the heart of the Emerald Triangle. They shared music, panels and an awards ceremony for the best bud, hash and photo. Speakers covered the ins and outs of seeds, "dabs," labs, organic growing in the sun, medical discoveries and legal issues. Trial lawyer extraordinaire Tony Serra was honored with the 2012 Emerald Lifetime Achievement Award. — **Pebbles Trippet**, pebbles@pacific.net

Oaksterdam U launches scholarship program for vets

By **David Abernathy**, OaksterdamUniversity.com

When the Dept. of Veterans Affairs formally accepted qualified cannabis patients at its hospitals and clinics in states where medical marijuana is legal, Oaksterdam University immediately began getting calls asking about applying GI Bill benefits for OU tuition. The college did not recommend using federal dollars to teach about marijuana, but it saw a growing need.

"Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, depression, mental illness or other cognitive disabilities make veterans' integration back into civilian life even more difficult," said Oaksterdam University Executive Chancellor Dale Sky Jones Nov. 12, 2012. "While OU teaches skills designed to help anyone interested in the cannabis industry, we want to especial-

ly thank our veterans by providing an education leading to opportunity and a better quality of life here at home."

Jones announced the creation of the Freedom Fighter Scholarship Fund to help fulfill this promise with financial aid options to help prepare veterans to succeed through OU's multifaceted curriculum. Private contributions are needed for veterans to learn how to be safe and responsible under state law, develop skills for successful law enforcement encounters, take control of their medication and find gainful employment. OU is currently sponsoring the first 25% of tuition for any veteran who enrolls, and it needs the investment of others in these veterans' futures.

America's first cannabis college was
Please turn to page 4

Marijuana arrests plummet in CA since decrim

By **Dale Gieringer**,* canorml.org

Reported marijuana arrests plummeted a dramatic 86% as California's new decriminalization law took effect in 2011.

Data from the state Criminal Justice Statistics Center released in 2012 show that misdemeanor arrests for possession dropped from 54,849 in 2010 to 7,764 in 2011. However, these figures don't include citations for possession of less than an ounce, which were misdemeanor arrests under the old law but became infractions in 2010. Because infractions aren't counted in arrest statistics, the total number of people cited for possession in 2011 is unknown and may even have increased.

Petty possession of marijuana was a misdemeanor prior to 2011, with possession of one ounce or less punishable by \$100 fine but not imprisonment. Under the decrim signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger, it was downgraded to an infraction. While the penalty remains the same, offenders are spared a criminal record and court appearance. Savings for the court system could be up to \$485 per case.

But until possession is truly legalized

or felony arrests significantly reduced, it is premature to say that California has entered a new era in marijuana enforcement. Felony arrests for sales and cultivation continue to consume the bulk of enforcement costs, estimated to run into the \$100 millions per year. While such arrests declined from 16,585 to 14,092 from 2010 to 2011, this hardly marks a dramatic change, as felony arrests have hovered in the range of 12,000 to 17,000 for the past 20 years. Last year, the state assembly rejected a bill by Tom Ammiano to reduce felony penalties for cultivation, despite the fact that a poll showed voters support the reform by 58%.

California's war on cannabis is nearly a century old. In 1913, the State Board of Pharmacy pushed through the legislature a bill to outlaw *Indian hemp*. At the time, the word *marijuana* was virtually unknown, as the public more often knew preparations of cannabis as *hasheesh*. Since the passage of that pioneering law, the state has logged more than 2,670,000 marijuana arrests.

* Gieringer is Director of Cal NORML, sponsor of a conference to end the state's 100-year war on cannabis Jan 26-27, 2013 at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

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If you see Connor Lange, know how to reach him, or have any useful information about him and his whereabouts, please call us.

Connor! Your family needs to hear from you right away.

Connor, 18, left his home in Woodland Hills on June 3, 2012 and has been missing ever since. He is a shy young man with brown hair and eyes, 5'11" in height, 130 pounds, with a small birth mark on his forehead. He was interested in working in the medical marijuana community. We need him to check in with us. Nobody is angry, but the whole family is worried. Please help us find him.

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Steve DeAngelo of Harborside Health Center (HHC) spoke Sept. 20, 2012 at a rally in front of the Obama presidential campaign headquarters in Oakland CA as part of the Americans for Safe Access campaign, "Wake Up Obama." The effort calls on the President to get involved in resolving the national conflict caused by federal prohibition of medical marijuana. Photo by Mikki Norris

Mendocino moves to quash federal subpoenas

By Mikki Norris

Mendocino (CA) County Counsel Thomas Parker announced Dec. 21, 2012 that the county had filed suit to quash five federal subpoenas seeking information on its '9.31' medical marijuana cultivation policy, saying, "The scope of the subpoenas is overbroad and burdensome, oppressive and constitutes an improper intrusion into the ability of state and local government to administer programs for the health and welfare of their residents."

Ordinance 9.31, adopted in 2008, restricts gardens to 25 plants per parcel, but allows qualified patients to voluntarily purchase "zip-ties" with unique identifying numbers to attach to each plant, so that law enforcement can easily identify authorized gardens. It was amended in 2010 to allow collectives to grow 99 plants with a permit issued by the sheriff, sufficient zip-ties and a series of inspections.

Federal subpoenas had been issued in October to compel the release of "any and all" records on the program, including zip-tie purchases, 99-plant applications, inspection records, financial accounts and all correspondence, emails, memoranda, notes, files or records between county officials, permit applicants, permit holders, inspectors and/or third parties.

The 9.31 program grew from 18 permits in 2010 to 91 in 2011, and other counties began to consider similar programs. In

October 2011, DEA raided the Northstone Organics cooperative, regarded as a model of compliance with state law and the 9.31 program. In January 2012 federal prosecutor Melinda Haag ordered the county to repeal its program or face federal action. The county did repeal its 99-plant permit program in February, but retained the voluntary zip-tie program of up to 25 plants. Former 9.31 participants have retained attorneys to file a motion in support of the county. No court date has yet been set.

Cal Supreme Court holds key to patients' access

By Robert Raich,* Attorney at Law

The state Supreme Court will affect the future of California medical cannabis dispensaries in 2013 by ruling on whether the Medical Marijuana Program Act (MMPA), also known as Senate Bill 420 (SB420), prevents municipalities from banning dispensaries. Thus far, answers from the various courts of appeal have been contradictory.

The Court has granted review in five cases regarding municipal regulation of dispensaries: two cases hold that local ordinances may entirely prohibit dispensaries (*City of Riverside v Inland Empire Patient's Health and Wellness Center, Inc.* and *People v G3 Holistic, Inc.*); two cases hold that municipalities may not ban dispensaries (*City of Lake Forest v Evergreen Holistic Collective* and *County of LA v Alternative*

Legalization comes up short in OR vote

By Doug McVay, Common Sense for Drug Policy

Oregon voters rejected marijuana legalization Nov. 6, 2012, with 46% voting in favor of activists' latest attempt at a voter-led initiative, Measure 80.

Had it passed, M-80 would have created an agency to oversee marijuana sales that operated similar to the state's liquor control agency and would have allowed home cultivation and sale of seedlings and clones. Revenue from taxing cannabis would have gone to cannabis-related education that was to be "honest, thorough, and to include the history of hemp."

"People are ready to legalize marijuana on a state-wide basis," said M-80 author and longtime Oregon cannabis activist Paul Stanford. "We were just a half million dollars away. If we come back with enough money to get the message out, we win."

Supporters of M-80 raised and spent only \$70,000 during their campaign, according to one source.

"More than half the people in the state will be an hour's drive away from being able to legally buy marijuana in 2014, any-

way," Stanford said.

"Do we really want our tax dollars to go into Washington's state coffers or Oregon's? It's a strong incentive for the legislature to legalize before the next election."

No cultivation in WA law

Continued from page 1

legalization could yield upwards of a half-billion dollars annually to public coffers.

The ACLU of Washington's strong support for I-502 is part of its broader work of criminal justice reform. State and national unfair marijuana policies have damaged civil liberties in many ways — eroding constitutional protections against searches and seizures, putting large numbers of non-violent individuals behind bars, and disproportionately targeting people of color. Over the last 25 years there were almost a quarter million arrests of adults for marijuana possession in the state. While African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans combined constituted just 14% of its population, from 2001 through 2010 they were 25% of the people arrested for possession — even though use rates are similar to those of whites.

Led by New Approach Washington, the campaign stressed that prohibition is a failed policy that wastes law enforcement resources better used to fight violent crime. I-502 gained broad support from not only social justice organizations, but health care professionals and some law enforcement officials. Endorsers included two former US attorneys, the former head of Seattle's FBI office, and its city attorney. Opposition from law enforcement officials was muted.

Marijuana use remains a federal crime. The fact that federal officials are still talking about how to respond is good news. The ACLU and other supporters of I-502 are encouraged by President Obama's initial statement that, "We have bigger fish to fry." He did not say that the federal government is going to crack down on production or rush in to stop what's happening.

Medicinal Cannabis Collective [AMCC]; and one case holds that municipalities may regulate collectives strictly, albeit short of a total ban (*420 Caregivers, LLC v City of LA*).

Briefing in the Supreme Court is complete in *Riverside* and *G3 Holistic*, though the Court has not yet scheduled oral argument in either case. In those cases, the lower courts upheld ordinances banning dispensaries in the cities of Riverside and Upland, reasoning that state law does not pre-empt such bans because the MMPA does not expressly prohibit municipalities from enacting zoning and business-licensing regulations.

In contrast, the *Lake Forest* court struck down a city ordinance prohibiting dispensaries, noting the legislature's stated intention. Please turn to page 6

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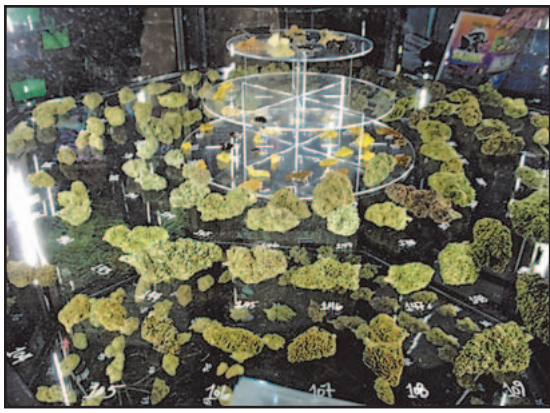
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EMERALD CUP — Judges had their work cut out for them Dec. 15, 2012 in Redway. Ten days earlier, they had begun assessing 200 blind entries for smell, potency, taste, trichome and appearance — with double points for effect. Each entry was numbered and tested for purity and cannabinoids. The winner, 'Chem Dawg' of Cannabis Aficionado, was from Elenah Elston and Leonard Bell, who won an all-expenses-paid trip to Jamaica. Nona Martin, mother of Texas hash prisoner Chris Diaz, took Best Photography. Photo by Steve Elliott, TokeoftheTown.com

NIDA runs low on excuses to block PTSD study

By Ethan Ash, maps.org

The University of Arizona (UA) Internal Review Board (IRB) informed researchers at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) Oct. 25, 2011 that it had approved their protocol for a marijuana study treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 50 US veterans. The IRB joins the Food and Drug Administration in approving the study, increasing pressure on other federal agencies to let it move forward.

Getting IRB approval is vital for MAPS and UA psychiatrist Dr. Sue Sisley's research. Despite its April 2011 approval by the Food and Drug Admin. (FDA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse has refused to provide the cannabis necessary to implement the study. One reason cited by NIDA was the lack of IRB approval, so researchers are now re-submitting their proposal to NIDA.

The federal government uses the agency as one of its major obstacles to hamper privately funded research on cannabis.

NIDA's additional review requirement is exclusive to cannabis studies, and the organization has an inherent conflict of interest in considering them, as its charter forbids the agency to support research into

the beneficial potential of illegal drugs.

News of the IRB approval comes on the heels of previous feedback from the Board this summer.

Upon correcting a number of minor issues related to the project, Sisley resubmitted her application and received its approval. If NIDA rejects the protocol a second time, it will further expose the political nature of its decisions.

OU offers vets a helping hand

Continued from page 2

founded in 2007 to provide students with the highest quality training for the cannabis industry, and it has provided more than 15,000 people with important skills for success. The veterans scholarship application process begins in Jan. 2013. Recipients will be selected through self-nomination and veterans'-group submissions. Screening and job placement are aided by OU veterans coordinator and long-time veterans' advocate Donna "D.J." Jacobs, who founded "Not This Time Vets." Upon certification, NTTV will assist in job placement through the program called "Veterans Growing Victory Gardens".

Companies and private donors can contribute to the Veterans Fund via oaksterdamuniversity.com.

Study: Cannabis may lower diabetes risk

By Paul Armentano, norml.org

Adults with a history of cannabis use have a lower prevalence of type 2 diabetes and a lower risk of contracting the disease than non-users, according to clinical trial data published Feb. 24, 2012 in the *British Medical Journal*.

Scientists at University of California, Los Angeles assessed the association between diabetes mellitus (DM) and marijuana use in 10,896 US adults aged 20 to 59, split into four groups: non-users (61.0%), past users (30.7%), light users, 1-4 times/month (5.0%) and heavy, 5+ times/month current users (3.3%). Diabetes was defined based on self-reporting or abnormal glycemic parameters.

The investigators reported that past and present cannabis consumers had a lower prevalence of diabetes, as adjusted for other variables (ethnicity, level of physical activity, etc.) and family history of DM, and found no association between cannabis and hypertension, stroke, myocardial infarction (heart attack), or heart failure. They hypothesized that the prevalence of type 2 diabetes would be reduced in users because of the cannabinoids with immunomodulatory and anti-inflammatory properties.

Upending common stereotypes, current users tended to engage in more frequent physical activity than non-users, but had higher overall levels of total cholesterol and triglycerides. The highest prevalence of use was found among those with the lowest glucose levels.

Court seeks more information

Continued from page 1

20 years that a federal court has heard arguments on the classification of cannabis as having a high potential for abuse with no current accepted medical use and being unsafe, even under medical supervision.

A previous challenge to the classification in 2002 was rejected by the DC Circuit after the court concluded the plaintiffs lacked legal standing to bring the suit. No cannabis patients were part of that case. *ASA v DEA* includes five patient-plaintiffs, and ASA argues that the organization has standing because it incurs significant costs countering the government's false claims with valid scientific information.

Investigators concluded, "Our analysis of adults aged 20-59 years ... showed that participants who used marijuana had a lower prevalence of DM and lower risk relative to non-marijuana users." However, "studies in rodents and humans are needed to determine a potential causal relationship between cannabinoid receptor activation and DM."

Previous studies in animals have indicated that certain cannabinoids possess anti-diabetic properties. A 2006 preclinical trial published in the journal *Autoimmunity* reported that injections of 5 mg per day of the non-psychoactive CBD significantly reduced the incidence of diabetes in mice compared to a placebo. Control mice all developed adult-onset diabetes at a median of 17 weeks (range 15-20 weeks), while 60% of CBD-treated mice were diabetes-free at 26 weeks.

*Decreased prevalence of diabetes in marijuana users: cross-sectional data from National Health and Nutrition Exam. Survey III, bmjopen.bmj.com/content/2/1/e000494.full

Colorado on new legal ground

Continued from page 1

Feb. 28 to issue its final report. Smaller working groups will meet more frequently to focus on issues falling under five specific topics: taxes and matters of civil law, such as employment issues; matters of criminal law; social issues, such as consumer safety; regulations for retail stores; and details of local regulations by cities and counties.

City councils and county commissions across the state have begun to examine the new law and plot their next steps. Some are beginning to consider how they might integrate new non-medical cannabis businesses into the regulatory structures they created for the medical-use industry. Others are holding off on action until state regulations are established, while still others have already taken action to establish local bans.

"Localities have the right to prohibit these businesses, but it is incredibly premature for them to be doing it," Tvert said. "There is no way to know what these businesses will look like until the legislature establishes regulations at the state level, and quite frankly, I don't know how these elected representatives can be so confident that their constituents support these bans, seeing as A-64 received majority support in a majority of counties."

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Study finds cannabis is exit drug away from addiction

By Martin Williams

A study published Nov. 20, 2012 in the *Journal of Addiction Research and Theory* adds more evidence that cannabis may be a safer substitute for alcohol, illicit substances and pharmaceuticals. The community-based research, which took place at four Canadian dispensaries (three in Vancouver and one in Victoria), had cannabis patients answer a 44-question anonymous survey to gather data on the self-reported impact of cannabis on the use of other substances.

The results support previous findings by co-researcher Amanda Reiman and others on 'cannabis-substitution effect,' the conscious and subconscious use of cannabis in place of other substances. Over 41% stated that they use it as a substitute for alcohol; 36.1% use it as a substitute for illicit substances; and 67.8% use it as a substitute for prescription drugs. The three main reasons cited for cannabis-related substitution are "less withdrawal," "fewer side-effects" and "better symptom management," suggesting that many patients already use it as an effective and potentially safer adjunct or alternative to their pre-

scription drug regimen.

"With 75.5% of respondents citing that they substitute cannabis for at least one other substance, randomized clinical trials on cannabis substitution for problematic substance use appear justified," suggests lead author Philippe Lucas, a research affiliate with the Center for Addiction Research of BC.

Lucas, Reiman, et al, "Cannabis as a substitute for alcohol and other drugs: A dispensary-based survey of substitution effect in Canadian medical cannabis patients" *informa-healthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/16066359.2012.733465*

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The bogus marijuana DUI scare campaign

By Dale Gieringer, canorml.org

Data show that California has an excellent DUI record, but unfounded scare stories about marijuana and driving were raised again in the news.

A survey of nighttime drivers by the Office of Traffic Survey reported Nov. 19, 2012 that one in seven were "under the influence of drugs," according to the *LA Daily News*. The study did not pretend to assess whether motorists were affected or impaired by drugs, however, only if they had used them recently, as it employed oral-swab drug tests that are sensitive to use for up to three days.

Marijuana was reported in 7.4% of drivers, more than any other drug, including alcohol (7.3%). Police spokesmen predictably opined that marijuana is a bigger DUI risk than alcohol. "The biggest problem right now is medical marijuana," said LA Sheriffs' Deputy Sgt. Philip Brooks. "People seem to think it's a legal substance." [Editor's note: It is.]

However, the OTS study was biased by being far more sensitive to cannabis than alcohol because it detected alcohol using breathalyzers that are only sensitive for the

few hours alcohol is active in the system. In contrast, oral tests can detect cannabis for one to three days, long after any impairment has faded. The study therefore greatly exaggerated the use of marijuana relative to alcohol.

In fact, the most recent California data from OTS show no evidence of an epidemic of cannabis DUIs. California recorded its lowest DUI death rate ever in 2010. DUI arrests dropped by over 8% in 2011, to the lowest level in years. Overall, the state has experienced a long-term, continuous decline in highway fatality rates for many years, extending back through Prop 215, the state's landmark decrim law of 1976, and the mass popularization of marijuana in the sixties. In short, highway safety has improved during the same time period in which marijuana has been legitimized.

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that marijuana is a lesser driving hazard than alcohol and other legal drugs. A comprehensive analysis of 66 driving studies by Rune Elvik found that the increased odds for fatal road accidents due to cannabis are marginal, significantly

San Diego prosecutor stepped on Jackson's rights; new trial

Continued from page 1

possession and sales charges in 2009. Raided again in 2009, at his second trial prosecutor Bonnie Dumanis successfully argued that Jackson was not entitled to a medical defense because the members of his collective did not participate in cultivation. Unable to present evidence in his defense, he was convicted in 2010 and sentenced to 180 days in jail.

The appeals panel reversed that finding, preventing state judges in future jury trials from blocking a medical defense on that basis. The court said "Jackson was only required to produce evidence which would create a reasonable doubt as to whether the defense provided by the [Medical Marijuana Program Act] had been established."

ASA filed the appeal of Jackson's conviction in late 2011, but it took the appeals court only two weeks to release its decision after hearing arguments last month.

"This landmark decision not only recognizes the right of dispensaries to provide medical cannabis for purchase by their patient members, it ensures a defense for those providers in state court," said Joe Elford, ASA's chief counsel, who argued Jackson's appeal. "The court is establishing a clear standard for dispensaries across the state."

The attorney general has accepted the ruling and will not appeal it to the state Supreme Court. Dumanis has decided to retry Jackson under the rules established by the appeals court, even though they mirror those under which he was acquitted in 2009.

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Growers learning new tricks for better output

By Chris VanHook, Esq., cleangreencert.com

From pre-planning to final preparation, the world of cannabis cultivation saw many technological advances in 2012.

One of the most important was the development of the ozone machine, which aids the grower in cleaning indoor grow rooms between cycles. This step, often neglected by growers, is important for the control of molds, mildews and spider mites. Ozone machines sanitize the air and surface areas more effectively than liquid cleaners, because their emissions permeate the room's cracks and crevices to kill unwanted bacteria and pathogens.

Once the grow room has been prepped, it can be powered by a new grid developed by Grean Bicycles Research Lab. Their new digital switches control a grow room's climate while requiring 75% less energy than standard 120/240 volt mechanical timers. The Northern California-based laboratory also developed a passive cooling system which ducts outside air over the room's lights and carries their heat to warm adjacent rooms, obviating additional climate control and lowering power bills.

With the power and ventilation systems built, growers can train their plants to maximize production per plant — a vital consideration when having too many plants on-site can lead to law enforcement problems. By training a young plant to shape its limbs in a 4'x4' box, growers can encourage large buds to grow lower on the trunk, maximizing yield per area and keeping plant counts low. (See *Secrets of the West Coast Masters* by Dru West.)

After harvest, growers should trim their bounty according to the latest research, which suggests that the most intoxicating resin on a bud is often left on the trimming room floor in the quest for a closer shave. Because the most mature trichomes on a bud are found on the bud's outside edge, while immature trichomes

develop in the flower's interior, closely trimmed cannabis often loses cannabinoid diversity when the amber-colored mature resin falls to the floor with the exterior protective leaves. This explains an increasing interest in "farm cut" bud which still has its small leaves intact to protect the delicate trichomes within. Besides giving the consumer the option of trimming medicine according to their preference, this technique also lowers the grower's labor costs.

Meanwhile, users are beginning to realize that following the time-honored preference for highest-possible THC count is like choosing a wine by the alcohol content alone — an unfortunate choice that ignores the wonderful flavors, colors and nuances of the multitude of cannabis types available. This consumer demand for greater product diversity has brought an explosion of new strains, crosses, and hybrids. As laws move cannabis to legality, activists must work to ensure that this virtual revolution in cannabis science continues.

Little risk from stoned drivers

Continued from page 5

lower than for legal prescription drugs such as opiates, tranquilizers, and sleeping medications. Other studies have concluded that whereas drunken driving raises the odds of an accident by a factor of five or six, cannabis raises it by a factor of about two — comparable to the risk of driving with legal amounts of alcohol. All this suggests that increased cannabis use could actually improve highway safety to the extent that drivers substitute cannabis for alcohol and other drugs.

Despite strong evidence of marijuana's safety, law enforcement officials continue to push for tougher laws. A mandatory *per se* DUI limit for marijuana was recently adopted by Washington voters as part of their legalization initiative, and similar proposals are in the works elsewhere.



TEN-FOOT PLANT — A spacious greenhouse can yield a heavy harvest from only a few plants. Note the size of the man on the right. Photo by Chris Van Hook

Strains, cultivars and preserving future genetics

By Samuel Janovici

After decades of work trying to perfect endless varieties and cultivars, 2012 brought cannabis to the crossroads of legalization — and all the labor growers have put into identifying and establishing their plants' genetic stability is at risk.

Good medicine comes from great strains, and there is an endless list of them, yet we have no system in place to protect them. As commercial interests flood the market, many strains will become extinct, as did the once-common Acapulco Gold, Santa Marta Blond and Thai Sticks that survive as pure strains in name brand only. It would be criminal if Purple Kush, Jack Herer or Sour Diesel were to be lost or abridged by those with the big money.

Like avocados, peaches and apples, cannabis needs a reliable system to codify and guarantee that when a grower says it is Afghani, it really is, and that these genetics are preserved for the future. Not all seeds are what the vendor claims they are. One sample plant can be sweet like Juicy Fruit gum and produce sticky tight buds while the next one — supposedly the same seed-line — has citrus overtones and fluffy flow-

ers. Consumers and commercialists alike have a stake in creating a system to protect cannabis genetics.

Cannabis has recessive genes that make it difficult to breed a fully stable crop by seed. In most cases, seeds drift genetically. As with apricots, plums and nectarines, for consistent characteristics it is best to take cuttings from one particular plant and root them to establish clones. Yet, how does one know if a clone or seedling is as represented? Protecting strains, breeds and cultivars will require forward thinking throughout the community to address the issue.

It's rare to find places like Harborside in Oakland that have made the commitment to keeping a vast selection of clones available to our community. More people should join Steve DeAngelo in his quest to keep cannabis cultivars readily available.

Securing plant genetics is paramount, but securing one's own efforts from the prying eyes of neighbors, thieves and law enforcement must come first.

It has been my pleasure to remind us all: Be safe out there, especially now that legalization is just around the corner.

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Chris Van Hook, California Attorney

Key cases before Cal High Court

Continued from page 3

tions when enacting the MMPA included promoting "uniform and consistent application of the act . . . within the state" and enhancing "access of patients and caregivers to medical marijuana through collective, cooperative cultivation projects." Similarly, in AMCC the court found "the Legislature necessarily contemplated a dispensary function by collective or cooperative cultivation projects."

Citing Civil Code section 3482 ("Nothing which is done or maintained under the express authority of a statute can be deemed a nuisance."), both cases held that total bans on dispensaries directly conflict with state law and are thus invalid. The 420 Caregivers court ruled that a 2011 amendment to the MMPA permits city dispensary-regulation ordinances that allegedly fall short of a total ban on collectives. Briefing in these three cases has been deferred pending the disposition of Riverside and G3 Holistic.

The rulings in these cases will have enormous impact on patients' safe access to California's medical cannabis.

Until the courts, the legislature and the voters clarify the parameters of permissible cannabis regulation, operators of collectives and cooperatives, cognizant that uncertainty can also create opportunity, should consider how aggressively to structure operations based on their own risk tolerance, business imperatives, locality and the relative legal merits of competing courses of action.

* Raich is the attorney who took both medical cannabis cases to the US Supreme Court. See robertraich.com.



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Get Active: People Make the Difference

Legalization now mainstream

By Tom Angell,* MarijuanaMajority.com

The war on marijuana has failed. Pretty much everyone knows it, but many people who support replacing prohibition with legalization or decriminalization are afraid to say so. They don't realize that a majority of Americans feel the same way, including some of the most influential voices across the political spectrum, so these silenced supporters see speaking out as risky.

The MarijuanaMajority.com project was launched in late 2012 to help people understand that ending cannabis prohibition not only makes perfect policy sense, but is a completely mainstream idea.

Part of the site showcases quotes and videos from politicians, religious leaders, celebrities, medical professionals, members of law enforcement and others who agree it's time to end the war on marijuana. It also provides tools that make it easy for anyone to help grow the majority and make the movement more effective.

By making content shareable on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, Marijuana Majority makes it easy for supporters to help spread the word that most sensible people agree it is time to change the marijuana laws.

A conservative family member might be more likely to tell co-workers that they support legalizing marijuana if they knew they could add, "Even evangelical

Christian leader Pat Robertson agrees." The sharing tools on the site help make it much more likely that these kinds of important conversations will take place.

The site aims to make it more likely that influential celebrities and opinion leaders will add their voices to the growing marijuana policy consensus.

Visitors will see photos of a handful of prominent people who are likely to support changing marijuana laws but just haven't yet been given the opportunity to say so publicly. The "Get Out the Quote" link enables tweeting pre-written messages to these people with just a few clicks. When enough supporters take action to reach these celebrities and elected officials with tweet after tweet about marijuana policy, they will take note.

Visit MarijuanaMajority.com and take some time to read quotes and watch videos. But don't stop there. Share the content on social networks and tweet to some celebrities. Together, we can and will help more people understand that speaking out is the right thing to do.

* Angell is chairman of Marijuana Majority.



LA activists (l-r) Brennan Thicke (GLACA), Don Duncan (ASA), Yami Bolanos (GLACA) and Matt O'Malley (UFCW) turned in the petitions Dec. 7, 2012.

Photo by Jean Tong, UFCW 770

770 on behalf of patients, caregivers and dispensary employees.

The City Clerk declared the signatures sufficient Jan. 2, 2013 for a medical cannabis ordinance on the May 21, 2013 city ballot. "The Medical Marijuana Regulation and Control Act" would force all city cannabis dispensaries to close except about 100 that were set up before a 2007 city-imposed moratorium on new locations. Council may adopt such a proposed ordinance without alteration or hold a special election.

When the City repealed its ban [in October], it sent a powerful message to patients," said proponent Linda Leek, a two-time cancer survivor who suffers from multiple sclerosis and fibromyalgia. "Our plan will help provide safe access to needy patients, dramatically reduce the number of clinics and significantly increase oversight and transparency of their operation," added another co-proponent, UFCW Local 770 President Rick Icaza.

Two days later, on Jan. 4, Angelenos for Safe Access qualified a separate initiative, backed by dispensaries that have opened since the 2007 moratorium. "Regulation of Medical Marijuana for Safe Neighborhoods and Safe Access" sets higher taxes along with zoning regulations and requirements intended to naturally limit the number of dispensaries to about 150.

"It would put 70%-85% of operating dispensaries out of business," noted one of its backers, attorney David Welch.

Ballots to beat the ban

By Sarah Armstrong, StoptheBanLA.org

The Committee to Protect Patients and Neighborhoods delivered over 72,000 signatures to the Los Angeles City Clerk's office Dec. 7, 2012 for a voter initiative to block a citywide ban on dispensaries. The CPPN was formed by the Greater LA Collective Alliance (GLACA), Americans for Safe Access-LA (ASA) and UFCW Local

Yuba patients reach agreement with county

By David Frankel, Attorney at law

Yuba County supervisors amended a May 2012 medical marijuana ordinance by a 4-1 vote Dec. 18, resulting in what some see as being one of California's most progressive cultivation ordinances, but only after successful negotiations to settle a lawsuit brought by attorney Jeffrey Lake on behalf of the Yuba County Growers Assn., Sam McConnell, Lew Neal, Kathie Thelen and their patient collectives.

"This revised ordinance strikes a balance between the County's interest in regulating marijuana cultivation for public health and safety, and the legally protected interest of patients to have safe access to their medicine," said Lake.

The amended ordinance restricts outdoor cultivation of medical marijuana to six mature plants on parcels under one acre, but allows patients to cultivate up to 18 mature plants on parcels from one to five acres, 36 on parcels between five and 20 acres, and 60 on parcels over 20 acres. The revised ordinance requires that at least one patient live in a legal residence near the site and sets potentially costly fencing, setback and child-protection restrictions on gardens. It sets severe financial penalties for anyone who exceeds the plant counts or fails to comply with other requirements.

A deadlocked vote at the supervisors' February meeting led to the creation of an *ad hoc* committee. McConnell, Neal and Thelen participated in the committee but became interested in being plaintiffs after it became clear that it was not leading to the need for changes.

"It became evident that the County did not understand the need for collective grows or other important medical marijuana patient rights and we were going to have to tell it to the judge," said plaintiff Lew Neal, of the Old Crow Collective.

Legitimate growers from the Foothills and Valley came together in consensus-talking circles to form one voice. Since the lawsuit represented the voice of county growers, the plaintiffs were able to raise

funds to pay the legal bill and were authorized to speak for the growers.

The judge urged both sides to mediation, where the growers took a realistic approach and focused on areas of the ordinance that were most restrictive to patient access, such as small canopy limits, and the county responded in kind.

The Supervisors emphasized that the county was looking to the Growers Assn. to inform its members and get them to comply with the compromise ordinance.

For information, see ycgainfo.com

Shift in public opinion and political climate

By Paul Armentano, norml.org

As 2012 wound down, national polls reported that a majority of US citizens favor legalizing marijuana and even more want the federal government to butt out in states that legalize.

In a Public Policy Polling automated telephone survey of 1,325 voters — commissioned by the Marijuana Policy Project — 58% of respondents said they thought cannabis should be legal and only 34% opposed legalization. A solid plurality of voters said the federal government should not interfere with the new legalization measures in Colorado and Washington.

A recent Angus Reid Public Opinion poll of 1,002 randomly selected adults found that 54% of US citizens favor legalizing cannabis. Respondents in the Northeast expressed the highest support (61%), while those in the South voiced the least (51%). Nationally, 65% of respondents aged 18 to 34 favor legalization — but only 49% age 35 and older do. Some 66% of Americans said they expect cannabis to be legal within the next 10 years.

A Quinnipiac University national survey of 1,949 voters reported that the majority of Americans support legalization, with men and younger voters holding more tolerant public views about use than their counterparts — 59% of men support legalization while 52% of women oppose it. Two-thirds of voters under the age of 29 support legalization, while a majority of voters over the age of 65 oppose it.

Similarly, a *Washington Post* and ABC News national survey of 1,023 adults found that a majority aged 65 and under

Democrats send Obama a resolution on legalization

By Lanny Swerdlow, RN LNC

The Riverside County (CA) Democratic Central Committee overwhelmingly passed a Dec. 10, 2012 resolution calling on President Obama to respect the will of state voters who legalize marijuana, end federal interference in states that have medical use laws and appoint a national commission on marijuana law reform.

The local Brownie Mary Democratic Club introduced the resolution when club members were concerned that the administration could threaten Colorado and Washington's legalized cannabis use and sales laws.

Despite Obama's statements to Barbara Walters that the Feds have bigger fish to fry than recreational users of marijuana, an article in the Dec. 6, 2012 *New York Times* reported that none of the options being considered by the administration allows for states to implement reform laws without a drastic federal intervention.

Members of the BMDC went to the Riverside offices of Sen. Barbara Boxer Dec. 13 to ask that she help deliver a copy of the

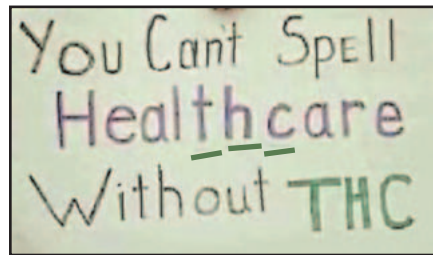
resolution to the White House. It is hoped that she will get it into the hands of someone there who will actually read it and give it some serious consideration.

The BMDC is asking other local Democratic Central Committees to pass the resolution and has an on-line petition for people to let the President know they want real change and a fresh look at our nation's marijuana laws.*

Recent polls conducted by Gallup, Angus Reid, Public Policy and Quinnipiac have found that a majority of US voters support marijuana legalization and that the percentage of Democrats in favor is consistently higher than that of the general population, with Quinnipiac reporting that 58% of Democrats support legalization. A CBS poll found that 59% of Americans believe the states should decide whether or not to legalize marijuana — including 49% of respondents who oppose legalization.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and nine other members of the US House of Representatives have sponsored HR 6606 to exempt marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act in states which have legalized its use.

* The petition can be accessed at marijuanareform.org.



LET PEOPLE KNOW — Even a hand made sign can be effective at spreading the good word about cannabis reform.

WEST COAST LEAF

Community Organizer's Guide

Learn from others

The ballot successes in Colorado and Washington did not burst full grown from nowhere. They were the culmination of the cumulative ballot experiences ranging from California's original Prop 19 in 1972 to its most recent Prop 19 in 2010, then further refined to win over voters in the Rocky Mountain and Evergreen States.

As adults, we have earned more respect, freedom and responsibility than children. Establishing an age of consent for cannabis is a consensus value in America.

The articles and information in this keepsake section of the *West Coast Leaf* are all designed to show you what a group of people is doing and how they are doing it, so we can all learn from each other.

Read and talk about the issue. Sign up online to receive the Drug War Chronicle. Blog, comment on blogs, call into talk radio stations, and write letters to the editor of local and national publications.

If you are a cannabis consumer, come out of the closet and be a stigma buster and an ambassador of goodwill as a responsible adult consumer who contributes to society. Friends and families of cannabis consumers need to stand up, too, especially mothers speaking to others. To be part of the dialogue, go to the websites tellmichell.us and equalrights4all.us.

Keep in touch with and donate to legis-



lators. Lobby them on key issues, using the portals at drugpolicy.org, mpp.org, norml.org and votehemp.com. Better yet, go to city and county meetings and state hearings and to town hall meetings when federal legislators are in town.

Legislature or ballot box: Which is better? It depends. A legislative bill can end up completely different than it began. An initiative is costly and easily lost. Before spending time and money on an initiative, make sure it can pass. Polls and focus groups point the way to success, even if it means accepting compromises.

Organizing is a local issue. Join or start a local group to promote reform and also use online organizing tools to connect with reformers around the world.

WEST COAST LEAF

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How to not get busted

By **Jeffrey Steinborn**, Attorney at law, potbust.org
While everyone you know may think it's fine to use cannabis responsibly, 750,000 Americans get busted for it every year. Here are 10 keys to staying out of jail.

1. Break only one law at a time. If you're holding or using cannabis — that's one. Don't break any more. Particularly in your car, all laws must be religiously obeyed.
2. Practice home hygiene. Sooner or later, someone is going to come to your house who might turn you in if s/he sees something such as a pipe, a joint, a bud or a grow room. These things should always be kept where they can't be seen.
3. Never invite trouble home, and don't do things that bring police to your house. Smoke out back, away from the front door.
4. Protect the privacy of your home as best you can. Remember noise and odors travel. 'Private property' signs, gates and fences give your lawyer a chance to argue

that the cop should not have come to your door (and smelled pot) without a warrant.

5. Don't think you're safe out in the countryside. Your car privacy is less protected than at home. Keep your travel stash in an odor-free container.
6. Don't take your pipe out of the house. Smoke joints. In public or semi-public places, smoke joints that look like tobacco cigarettes and hold them like cigarettes.
7. Don't be afraid to blend in if you're on the wrong side of the pot laws. It's your right to express yourself or dress any way you choose, but if what you want is to go unnoticed, camouflage is the key.
8. Don't talk, don't talk, don't talk, *no digas nada*. Never, ever make inquiries or deals by text message. When you're buying (or selling) weed, don't talk about things that aren't necessary to the deal. If you are growing, you can't tell anybody.
9. When confronted by police, ask, "What's this about?" No matter what the answer, ask to call your lawyer. Period. Then invoke your right to remain silent.
10. Don't forget it's still against the law.

Internet radio shows & podcasts focusing on cannabis

- 420radio.org**, 24-hour Cannabis Community Radio, The Voice of the Marijuana Nation, featuring The Russ Belville Show (radicalruss.com), live weekdays 3pm-5pm PT, with news, music, rants, and live call-ins at 4 pm to 971-533-7111.
- Cannabis News of the Nation**, Let's Connect USA, live radio show at blogtalkradio.com/LetsConnectUSA, Mon.-Fri., 9 AM PT or call in at 646-721-9929, archived shows at LetsConnectUSA.com
- Drug Truth Network** (DTN), drugtruth.net/cms/ 4:20 Drug War News, Cultural Baggage (interviews), live shows, archives, Sundays 4:30-5:30 PT, kpft.org or call 877-9-420-420. Exposes the fraud, misdirection, and wastefulness of the war on drugs.
- HempRock Radio**, Mon 4-5 pm & Thurs 4-6 pm EST, WVQC-LP Radio Free Queen City, Cincinnati 95.7 FM, wvqc.org, Phone App at tunein.com. Archives at hemprock.com or weedradionetwork.com.
- Marijuana Compassion and Common Sense**, with host Lanny Swerdlow and special guests, broadcast live Mondays at 6 PM on IE KCAA 1050AM, simulcast at kcaaradio.com, with podcasts and archives for this award-winning show.
- Time 4 Hemp** Radio Show with Casper Leitch/ Time4HempRadio.com, live shows with special guests and co-hosts Mon.- Fri. 10-11 AM PST, (sponsored by americanfreedomradio.com). Time4hemp.com hosts podcasts, hemp music, video, interviews, archives.
- Word on Weed**, fccfreeradio.com/?page_id=2079 , Sundays 12-2 PM PT, information, news, tips, discussion, reviews on medical marijuana movement.

Local and regional Americans for Safe Access meetings

- CA ASA Meetings (see listing for chapters in other states at americansforsafeaccess.org).
- Central California ASA**, second Tues/ mo, 6 PM at C.A.F.E., 935 F St., Fresno. robertfromasa@yahoo.com.
- East Bay ASA**, third Wed/mo, 6:30 PM, OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. eastbayasa@gmail.com.
- Humboldt County ASA**, third Thurs/mo, 6 PM, Bayview Courtyard Senior Housing, Rec. Room 550 Union St., Arcata. 707-407-8522, asa-humboldt@sbcglobal.net.
- Imperial Beach ASA**, second Thurs/mo, 6 PM, 1233 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, rasmwboyd@yahoo.com.
- LA ASA**, third Sat/mo, 1 PM, West Hollywood Gateway Mall, 7100 Santa Monica Bl.. Room 152, WeHo. Enter thru doors between "Jersey Mike's" and BevMo. Don@americansforsafeaccess.org.
- Marin County ASA**, second Wed/mo, 7:30 PM, Whistle Stop, 930 Tamalpais Ave., San Rafael. marinsafeaccessnow@yahoo.com.

- Orange County ASA / OC NORML**, third Fri/mo, 7 PM, Giovanni's Pizza, 922 Williamson, Fullerton. ghostladyjames@gmail.com.
- Sacramento ASA** last Thurs/ mo, 7 PM, Sugar Plum Vegan, 2315 K St., Sacramento. safeaccesssacramento@gmail.com.
- San Diego ASA** second Tues/mo, 7 PM, La Jolla Brew House, 7536 Fay Ave., La Jolla.San Diego. **San Diego North County ASA**, fourth Tues/mo., 7 PM, the Fish Joint, 514 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside. Eugene@safeaccessnow.org.
- San Francisco ASA** first and third Tues/mo, 7:30 PM, 847 Howard St., SF. dcgoldman@yahoo.com.
- Santa Cruz ASA**, fourth Thurs/mo, 7:15 PM, 140 Dubois St., Suite A, Santa Cruz. matt_roth@santacruzasa.org
- Sonoma ASA** first Thurs/mo. 5 PM, 99 W. Sixth St. at Wilson in Railroad Square, Santa Rosa. sarah@safeaccessnow.org.

Local and regional community meetings

- East Bay NORML**, third Thurs/mo., 7:30 PM (after Measure Z Oversight Comm.), OU Student Union, 1915 Broadway, Oakland. canorml@canorml.org.
- El Dorado Co. American Alliance for Medical Cannabis**, fourth Sat/mo., 2:15-4:20, Garden Valley Grange, 4940 Marshall Rd. Garden Valley 530-621-2874.
- High Desert Area MAPP**/ first Sat./mo. 2:30 PM JTOPIA Residential Artists Colony, 61850 Chollita, Joshua Tree 92252. A cannabis friendly meeting. Lanny 760-799-2055.
- Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project Palm Springs**/ Coachella Valley Area MAPP first Sat / mo. 11:30 a.m. 266 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs 760-799-2055.
- Orange County NORML**, First Fri/mo, 7 pm, Fuddruckers, 26221 El Toro Rd., Lake Forest kandice@orangecountynorml.org.
- Western Inland Empire Area MAPP**, first Wed / mo., 7:30 PM, Presto Quality Care Medical Clinic, 647 Main St. Riverside, CA 92501. 760-799-2055.

Resource guide for information and reform organizations

- A New PATH** anewpathsite.org/ Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing. Advocacy organization of parents, families, individuals in recovery, and healthcare professionals working for therapeutic not punitive policies.
- All of Us or None** allofusornone.org/ National organizing initiative of prisoners, former prisoners and felons, fighting against discrimination for those with felony convictions.
- Alternet** alternet.com/drugs/ Independent daily news source.
- American Cultivator** theamericancultivator.com/ Midwest news periodical with national coverage.
- Americans for Safe Access** safeaccessnow.org/ The premier patient advocacy and support organization with local chapters. Legal support services, resources for patients and dispensaries, action alerts, lobbying.
- California NORML** canorml.org/ Advocacy, directories, lobbying, research, news, alerts, conference.
- Cannabis Consumers Campaign** cannabisconsumers.org/ Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.
- Cannabis Defense Coalition** cdc.coop/ Washington state based organization that advocates for sensible, science-based drug policies, safety and civil liberties.
- Celebstoner.com** Celebstoner.com/ News that focuses on cannabis culture and high society.
- Civil Liberties Monitoring Project** civilliberties.org/ Monitors police eradication abuses, etc, to protect civil rights in the CA northcoast.
- Drug Policy Alliance** drugpolicy.org/ DPA works on drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition, sponsor of the International Drug Policy Reform conference.
- Drug Policy Forum of CA** drugsense.org/dpfca/list.htm / Sign up here for the listserv and discussion for Cal cannabis and drug war issues.
- DrugSense** drugsense.org/ Web portal for Media Awareness Project, provides daily compilation of news from around the country and world and generates LTEs; and Drug Policy Central, which provides web site development and hosting, 501(c)3 tax exempt fiscal sponsor.
- Drug War Facts** drugwarfacts.org/ Just the facts and latest research on all topics related to drugs and Drug War.
- Emerald Growers Association** emeraldgrowers.org/ Humboldt and Mendocino growers, businesspeople and patients advocating for a sustainable cannabis industry.
- Families Against Mandatory Minimums** fam.m.org/ Advocates an end to harsh, unjust sentencing laws affecting prisoners and their families.
- Family Council on Drug Awareness** fda.org/ Accurate information on effects of drugs and drug policies. Downloadable PDFs to print and hand out.
- Greater Los Angeles Collective Alliance GLACA** glaca.net/ Association of medical cannabis collective and cooperative operatives.
- Green Aid Marijuana Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.** green-aid.com/ Non-profit to protect rights of medical marijuana stakeholders in the community.
- Harm Reduction Coalition** harmreduction.org/ Works to reduce drug-related harm by programs such as clean needle exchange.
- Hemp Industries Association** hempindustries.org/ The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers, supporters.
- Human Rights and the Drug War.** hr95.org/ Photo display of Drug War POWs, analysis of human rights violations.
- Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.** leap.cc/ Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.
- Lawmen Protecting Patients.** lawmenpro.org/ Founded by members of law enforcement community whose lives

- have been changed by medical use of cannabis, advocating for patients.
- Legal Services for Prisoners w/ Children.** prisonerswithchildren.org/ Advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk for incarceration.
- Life for Pot** lifeformpot.com/ Info and clemency petitions for people serving life sentences for marijuana.
- MAPS** maps.org/ Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies sponsors studies and research on cannabis, psychedelics.
- Marijuana Majority** Marijuanamajority.com/ Building mainstream support for cannabis reform, and info on celebrities, elected officials and opinion makers who support legalization.
- Marijuana Policy Project** mpp.org/ MPP is a national membership organization that focuses on removing criminal penalties through initiatives and legislation.
- Moms United to End the War on Drugs** momsunited.net/ Mothers and families working to end the stigma and criminalization against people who use or are addicted to drugs with actions like vigils, events, lobbying.
- Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse** mamas.org/ Responsible drug education, now providing clinic services to OMMP patients.
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women** advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/ Protecting human and civil rights of women, health and welfare of pregnant and parenting women, especially low income / drug-using.
- National Cannabis Industries Association NCIA** thecannabisindustry.org/ Trade organization for businesses and organizations promoting a responsible and legitimate cannabis industry.
- NORML** norml.org/ National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, state and local chapters.
- NORML Women's Alliance** norml.org/women.
- November Coalition** november.org/ National support group for Drug War POWs, public education on prison issues.
- Oregon Green Free** oregongreenfree.net/ Free OMMP info for Oregon medical marijuana patients.
- Patients Out of Time** medicalcannabis.com/ Educating healthcare professionals and public about medical cannabis, conferences, CMEs.
- Safe Access Now** safeaccessnow.net/ Court rulings, downloadable PDFs, county cultivation guidelines.
- SAFER** saferchoice.org/ Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation, educating the public on the relative safety of marijuana compared to alcohol.
- Sensible Colorado** sensiblecolorado.org/ Non-profit resource for patients and those interested in reforming laws in the state.
- StoptheDrugWar.org** stopthedrugwar.org/ Produces weekly analysis of drug policy issues in the Drug War Chronicle, action and legislative alerts.
- Students for a Sensible Drug Policy** ssdp.org/ Students organizing for reducing the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies, local chapters.
- Token of the Town** tokenofthetown.com/ Cannabis news, views, humor and rumor.
- Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access** veteransformedicalmarijuana.org/ Educational and patient advocacy resource on medical cannabis-related veterans issues.
- Very Important Potheads** veryimportantpotheads.com/ Featuring prominent and renowned cannabis consumers.
- VoteHemp** votehemp.com/ Industrial, horticultural hemp advocacy, education and lobbying.
- Voter Power, Oregon** voterpower.org, Advocating for fair cannabis laws and policies, OMMP registration.

Government leaders voicing support for reform

By **Tony Newman**, drugpolicy.org

California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom is the latest elected official to call for marijuana legalization. In a front-page *New York Times* story Dec. 21, 2012, he called marijuana prohibition counterproductive and voiced support for making it legal. Widely considered a leading contender for governor in 2016, he said, "These laws just don't make sense anymore. ... It's time for politicians to come out of the closet on this."

On the same day, the Drug Policy Alliance ran a full-page *Times* ad thanking Colorado and Washington voters and emphasizing the growing support for drug policy reform among leaders all across the political spectrum.

“Even as public support for legalizing marijuana and marriage equality have both increased dramatically over the past seven years, senior elected officials have shied away from speaking out in favor of the former,” said DPA’s executive director Ethan Nadelmann. “Newsom’s leadership on this issue is thus all the more important.”

Newsom first came to international prominence as the newly elected mayor of San Francisco, when he issued a directive in 2004 to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. He joins a rapidly growing number of former and current political leaders who have come out over the past year in support of cannabis legalization and ending the Drug War.

President Bill Clinton joined several other former presidents in sharply criticizing the war on drugs in the 2012 documentary *Breaking the Taboo*.^{*} Two US governors from opposite sides of the aisle who are often mentioned as 2016 presidential candidates — New York's Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey's Chris Christie — have embraced varying degrees of drug policy

reform. Christie broke ranks with fellow Republicans by calling the drug war a failure, while Cuomo committed to ending New York's racially discriminatory marijuana arrest crusade. Evangelical leader Pat Robertson and former President Jimmy Carter spoke out in support of legally regulating cannabis this year. In Latin America, presidents such as Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia), Otto Pérez Molina (Guatemala) and José Mujica (Uruguay) are calling for alternatives to prohibition.

Newsom's comments come just one week after President Obama commented on marijuana legalization, framing the conflict between federal and state law as a question to be resolved and adding that people who use marijuana in states that have legalized it should not be a "top priority" for federal law enforcement.

* *Breaking the Taboo* can be viewed online at youtube.com/user/breakingthetaboofilm

Surge of support for cannabis

Continued from page 7

favor legalizing personal possession. Examining the ages of the respondents, the study found that 55% ages 18 to 29 favor legalization. Pro-legalization votes fell to 51% for ages 30 to 49 and 52% for ages 50 to 64. By contrast, only 30% aged 65 or older said small amounts should be legal.

In a recent Gallup-led poll of 1,015 adults, nearly two-thirds of Americans said they oppose federal interference in state marijuana laws and 64% of respondents didn't believe that the federal government "should take steps to enforce federal anti-marijuana laws in those states." Despite this, Gallup found Americans to be evenly divided on legalization; 48% of respondents endorsed it while 50% opposed it, a statistical dead heat.



COME TOGETHER — Representatives of the 2010 Prop 19 campaign joined forces with backers of a number of other ballot proposals that failed to make the 2012 ballot and various state and national organizations to agree on a plan to write and poll test a progressive state legalization initiative that will draw support from funders in 2014 or 2016. West Coast Leaf photo

California activists meet to plan legislative strategy

Unity conference in Cali

By Diane Goldstein,* LEAP.cc

California cannabis activists set aside years of acrimony at a unity meeting held at Oaksterdam University on Dec. 7, 2012 and agreed on a basic statewide strategy.

The summit was initiated by the NORML Women's Alliance and facilitated by Judge Jim Gray. Proponents of most of the state's 2012 initiative proposals were on hand and even an Oregon Prop 80 campaign delegate attended. The meeting included notable journalists, political strategists, physicians, attorneys, growers, patients, dispensary owners, patient associations, both Richard Lee and Dale Sky-Jones of the 2010 Prop 19 effort and representatives from NORML, Drug Policy Alliance, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), The Marijuana Majority, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCWU).

Discussions included lessons learned by proponents of both the repeal and regulate-like-wine models. It was noted that the success of the Colorado and Washington ballot measures was fueled by fundraising and by targeted messaging based on polling data. Strategic organizations and donors included DPA and Marijuana Policy Project, while the messaging utilized the conservative face of the campaigns — former criminal-justice professionals and women. Polling and focus groups provided the foundation for the campaigns while the Presidential election turned out the

youth vote necessary to win.

The debate over 2014 versus 2016 in California quickly boiled to the surface. With so many issues facing the cannabis industry, there was no commitment to a timeline. If things fall into place for a 2014 ballot initiative, so be it, but it was agreed there should also be a focus on development of parallel tracks for interim legislation and a winning initiative at least by 2016. Meanwhile, various approaches and language should be poll-tested, and that data used to draft an initiative.

Dale Sky Jones offered an organizational infrastructure under the umbrella of the Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform (CCPR) and the offer was approved. This means having an established non-profit, a political action committee and a strong social-media presence to accelerate fundraising, communicate with stakeholders and begin crafting legislation and/or an initiative that is likely to win.

To kick off fundraising for polling on the initiative-writing process, members of the group pledged \$32,000 in hopes of raising matching funds from donors.

Other action items included the development of preliminary committees for fundraising, nominations, media relations, legislation, a legal/drafting team, and a future goal for the development of a media, legal and political-strategy action plan designed to legalize and create access to cannabis. Look for the rollout of the CCPR campaign starting in 2013.

* Goldstein is a LEAP speaker and retired Police Lieutenant

OCLA: Local PAC packs a big political punch

By Robert A. Raich,* Attorney at law

Oakland voters passed Measure Z in 2004 by 65.4%, making private marijuana offenses, including cultivation and sales, the city's lowest law-enforcement priority. The citizen group behind its passage is still affecting the course of city politics.

To qualify and pass the initiative, advocates formed a political action committee (PAC), registered with the state Fair Political Practices Commission, to serve as a conduit for raising and spending funds on behalf of the ballot measure. It has since served a number of other useful purposes for promoting drug-law reform.

Named the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance (OCLA), in its first election cycle the PAC endorsed candidates for all manner of local offices. It sent out questionnaires or scheduled candidate interviews, which helped cement candidates' favorable stances on issues, introduced candidates and other political leaders to members of the Alliance, and showed candidates and their operatives that an organized political constituency supports drug policy reform.

After passing Measure Z, OCLA endorsed candidates and ballot measures, made direct monetary campaign contributions and made independent expenditures to publicize its endorsements to its con-

stituents — people most likely to vote favorably upon learning of its endorsements, such as readers of alternative newsweeklies and patrons of dispensaries and non-medical clubs.

The PAC backed a string of impressive victories. In 2012, the great majority of OCLA-endorsed candidates won, including in its two highest-profile Oakland races: Councilmember-at-Large Rebecca Kaplan, a staunch ally of medical cannabis and social use; and City Attorney Barbara Parker, who filed the City's lawsuit challenging the federal government's forfeiture attempt against a local dispensary.

In recent years, candidates have solicited the support of the OCLA board, each claiming to be a stronger supporter of reform than others, have proudly featured OCLA's endorsements in their campaigns.

Although OCLA could have conducted some projects without forming a PAC, its most influential work has involved financial activity, for which a PAC is required. Any group that makes contributions or expenditures exceeding \$1,000 to influence an election must register and report as a PAC. Doing so involves some recordkeeping and paperwork, but the results have proven to be well worth the effort.

Robert Raich, robertraich.com, is a founder of the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance.

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT



Under the 10th Amendment, any powers not delegated to the United States (as a federal entity), nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Clearly, the U.S. Constitution does not make mention of cannabis, and thus applicable laws surrounding its sale, possession and use are reserved solely for the people of each State.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cannabis businesses build pressure for reform

By Chris Walsh, NCIA

Nearly 400 cannabis professionals gathered in Denver CO in November for what turned out to be the largest business-focused medical marijuana event ever held in the US, the National Marijuana Business Conference 2012. The event was produced by *MMJ Business Daily* and sponsored by industry leaders including the National Cannabis Industries Assn., TetraLabs and Dixie Elixirs.

The crowd consisted primarily of middle-aged professionals from 27 states, DC and Canada in suits and ties. These dispensary owners, infused-product makers, lawyers, investors, and ancillary products and services executives represent the true face of the legal cannabis industry today.

Nobody was expecting to get rich quick, or thought running a cannabis-related company or non-profit was easy. They know the risk of tax audits and bankruptcy is extraordinarily high. Many risk jail time.

Yet, the mood was upbeat. These professionals are passionate about laying it all on the line because they deeply believe in helping patients and bringing beneficial cannabis products into the mainstream.

Aside from the obvious legal problems that exist — Obama's continued crack-down on dispensaries, local governments frequently changing positions — the industry has two significant concerns:

The banking problem is spreading to companies that don't even deal directly

with marijuana, such as those that provide packaging. Even Marijuana Policy Project and the NCIA had challenges setting up accounts and accepting contributions in 2012. Landlords in legal states have had their mortgages revoked due to hosting dispensaries. Notably, there's no law stopping banks or credit card companies from doing business with medical cannabis companies — banks are just risk-averse.

An 'image problem,' largely caused by "bad actors" such as dispensaries with ads featuring intoxication and/or half-naked women and public cannabis celebrations or expos that focus more on partying than wellness, harms the public perception of the industry. And, much of the public is not aware that many products containing cannabinoids do not have intoxicants at all.

Conference attendees vowed to work in their communities to continue educating neighboring businesses, local officials and media, and organizations such as senior centers, churches and veterans groups.

Although questions remain about the future, it's an exciting time and the industry's potential is as great as it's ever been. The next National Marijuana Business Conference will be held Nov. 7-8, 2013 in Seattle WA.

* For more info NationalMarijuanaBusinessConference.com

Help in fighting court cases

Legal consultant and cannabis expert witness Chris Conrad, author of *Cannabis Yields and Dosage*, offers advice and professional services for court cases, sometimes paid by a county's indigent defense fund. Info at chrisconrad.com.



Drawing strength from ill son, mom uses Toons to send message

By John Dvorak, hempology.org

Georgia Peschel is a cartoonist who draws strength from her son, Storm, born with multiple synostosis syndrome, an extremely rare and painful condition that caused his bones to fuse. He cried in almost constant pain over years of trial and error with different therapies, including debilitating pharmaceuticals. Peschel began researching cannabis and made a courageous deci-

sion to allow Storm to try it at age 14. The results were immediate. His pain was reduced and he became an honor student.

Peschel used her art to come to terms with the experience and to advocate that people take a new look at this plant.

Others draw strength from her drawings, as she draws from all aspects of cannabis including industrial hemp.

georgiatoons.com

\$452m US market for hemp products drives federal bills

By Ryan Fletcher, theHIA.org

Retail sales of hemp food and body care products in the US continued to set records in 2011, reaching at least \$43.5 million, and sales by conventional retailers are estimated to have grown by 11% in 2011.

The Hemp Industries Association (HIA), a non-profit trade association consisting of hundreds of hemp businesses, released data Sept. 19, 2012 showing that sales of popular hemp items like non-dairy milk, shelled seed, soaps and lotions add to increasing grassroots pressure to restore hemp to legal domestic farming for US processors and manufacturers.

The sales data, collected by the market research firm SPINS, was obtained from natural and conventional food retailers, excluding establishments that do not pro-

vide data — and thus underestimates sales. According to SPINS, combined US hemp food and body-care sales grew in the sampled stores by 8%, or \$2.98 million, over the year ending Dec. 26, 2011.

Because high-volume retailers such as The Body Shop, Whole Foods Market and restaurants were excluded from the data, and because many leading mass-market brands of lotions and sunscreen products use unreported hemp oil, the HIA estimates the total retail value of US hemp food, supplement and body-care sales to be in the range of \$130-152 million for 2011.

"The total US hemp food and body-care market in [2011] accounted for at least \$130 million in retail sales," said David Bronner, president of Dr. Bronner's Magic. Please turn to page 16 or at westcoastleaf.com

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National Cannabis Industry Association's 2nd Anniversary Gala
at
The National Marijuana Business Conference
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1770 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203
Thursday, November 8, 2012 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Industry happy hour from 6 to 7, Gala immediately follows.

Get your tickets today!

Advance tickets are available at CannabisIndustryGala.com
Price: \$75 advance; \$100 at door


Join NCIA and cannabis industry leaders from across the country to celebrate the progress made over the last year and to share in our vision for the bright future ahead for responsible cannabis commerce.

Each ticket includes appetizers, one drink ticket, and a unique gift. All proceeds support NCIA's work to defend and advance the cannabis industry at the national level.


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The shapes of legalization to come

The question of which state would be first to legalize adult use of cannabis and take steps to regulate its production and sale has been put to rest. Colorado voters came in first on Nov. 6, 2012 just ahead of Washington state voters by a time zone difference of one hour. Both campaigns have earned our respect and warm congratulations, and ripples are being felt around the world. Meanwhile, Massachusetts voters elected to become the 17th state to give recognition and protection to medical marijuana.

This came less than a month after the Netherlands restored its local option policy that allows cities such as Amsterdam to continue to welcome international tourists into their cannabis coffeeshops. These combined events have sent shockwaves out across the world and are resounding in the national deliberations of Mexico, South and Central America and they may soon affect international marijuana treaties — if Spain, Portugal and Uruguay decide it's time to make their move to denounce or seek to amend them.

This is no aberration or bolt from the blue. These developments reflect the maturation of the cannabis movement over the past 25-plus years into an acculturated social and political movement. The ballot victories for non-medical adult use would not have been possible but for the groundbreaking coalition building and social dialogue that stemmed from California's 2010 Prop 19 effort, which built on the efforts before it.

This may be the tipping point to restore fundamental human rights to those whose lives can benefit from cannabis, whether it's a hemp farmer's right to earn an honest living, a doctor and patient to engage in cannabis therapies, a religious user whose sacramental rights are universally violated, a personal user who risks their freedom, job, property, and/or family and the economy bereft of cannabis businesses with regulatory oversight.

One way or another, cannabis is moving from under the table to over the counter.

Tell Michelle — It's time to talk to Barack

Now that the election is over, it's time for all Americans and particularly women to tell Michelle Obama that we need her help to end marijuana prohibition. The president should know better — he is living proof that a person can smoke a lot of cannabis and go on to achieve great things, as long as they don't get a criminal record in the process. Yet his administration's drug policies are anti-social, anti-democracy and anti-science. It is up to us to help the Obamas "evolve" on this issue, as they did on gay rights, to recognize that cannabis consumers should not face ruination and persecution by the US government.

TellMichelle.us is a national campaign to empower women to talk to each other, make their voices heard and build a new platform to speak out against marijuana prohibition and the Drug War. If we can reach Michelle, she can reach Barack, who can tell the DEA to deschedule cannabis. Check out the TellMichelle.us web site often, as it is evolving, too.

So long for now and thanks for reading WCL

As the *West Coast Leaf* goes on hiatus, as announced in our previous issue, we would like to again thank our writers, advertisers, subscribers and helpers for making it possible for us to publish "the cannabis newspaper of record." These past five years have been among the most exciting in the history of reform, and we are glad to have played a role in informing and inspiring people to create change. See WestCoastLeaf.com as to our future plans.

How the federal government might respond to legal marijuana

By Morgan Fox, mpp.org

In the wake of the historic, voter approved legalization in Colorado and Washington, members of state and national government have been reacting in a number of ways.

Officials in Colorado and Washington are respecting the will of the people and have begun implementation of the new laws. Prosecution of adults for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana have ceased in both states. Lawmakers in Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire are expected to introduce bills in 2013 to tax and regulate it like alcohol. Senator Patrick Leahy, current head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, wrote to the US Drug Czar in December to suggest a legislative solution to the conflict between federal and state law.

How the federal government will react to these laws is uncertain. Since cultivation and sale of marijuana remains illegal under federal law, the government could simply ignore state law and continue to prosecute anyone involved in these businesses, whether they are in compliance with state law or not. The Obama Administration may not want to spend resources going after individual users, but going after suppliers is within the stated scope of federal policy and consistent with legal precedent.

Another option would be to sue the states to prevent full implementation

under the argument that the provisions establishing a legal market are contrary to federal law and cannot be put into effect legally. There is no requirement that the states must punish individuals for violations of federal law, so the portions of the laws that remove criminal penalties would not be challenged. A state government taking part in activity that is against federal law is another story. To invalidate the portions of the law that require the establishment of rules and licensing for cultivators and distributors, the feds would have to prove that establishing a regulatory scheme for such businesses amounts to aiding and abetting a federal crime. This is subject to debate among legal scholars.

What seems most likely, given the statements made by the administration and its track record on this issue, is that enforcement of federal marijuana laws in Colorado and Washington will be similar to how it has dealt with medical marijuana in the last four years.

There is little to be gained politically by interfering with the will of the voters, squashing legitimate businesses or enriching criminal gangs that would profit from legal adult use in the absence of a regulated industry. Yet, there is considerable pressure to control "large drug traffickers" and send a message that states cannot simply override federal law whenever they see fit.

Harborside collective fight is for all patients

By Steve DeAngelo, Executive Director, HHC

Harborside Health Center (HHC) was one of the first of hundreds of dispensaries targeted in the federal crackdown on medical cannabis. Unlike many others, we had the determination and the resources to fight back, and have been doing that — hitting back hard. If luck holds, and our legal team prevails, HHC could well become the last dispensary they decide to tangle with.

Our federal troubles started in early 2010, when banks were pressured to close our accounts and credit card processing service. Then the IRS audited us, demanding the kind of detailed financial records that are almost impossible to keep without a bank account. Despite that obstacle, we submitted complete records to the IRS — which they certified as being 100% accurate.

It didn't matter: IRS handed us a \$2.5 million tax bill, denying all our deductions on the grounds we're a DTO, a drug trafficking organization. Then, as if that were not enough, federal agents sneaked up to our front door in July 2012 before we opened and taped a notice of property seizure on our front door, scurrying away before anybody could confront them.

The notice informed our landlords that their property was going to be seized, as it was being used to commit a federal crime. The feds also threatened our landlords with criminal prosecution, unless they worked in "good faith" with the feds to get rid of us. Our terrified landlords, with whom we have had a long and cordial relationship, were forced almost at gunpoint to file eviction proceedings against us. When the City of Oakland heard what was going on, they came to our defense and filed their

own lawsuit to block the federal government's attack on Harborside.

For the last six months of 2012, these various pieces of litigation have been moving through state and federal courts. A few weeks ago, state court gave us our first victory when it quashed the Oakland eviction suit, ruling that California courts cannot evict a tenant for selling medical cannabis if the tenant is otherwise in compliance with their lease. This legal precedent puts a spike in the federal campaign of forced evictions, which closed over 600 state dispensaries before Harborside stood up and fought back. It won't do the US attorneys much good to threaten landlords anymore, since landlords can't evict state-legal dispensaries anyhow.

On Dec. 20, 2012 HHC had its first hearing in federal court, with supporters overflowing into the hallway and 13 lawyers representing seven different parties: two landlords, the landlord's bank, the City of Oakland, ASA, Harborside, and of course the feds themselves. Major legal and constitutional issues of first impression were debated, and the stakes were high. Unfortunately, but understandably given the amount of material she has to consider, Judge James decided to wait before issuing her ruling.

If Judge James rules in our favor — and I am optimistic that she will — Harborside will stay open and continue to serve patients until the trial in about a year. I am sure we will win that trial and that victory will be the final end of this litigation, and hopefully the end of the whole long federal nightmare. Of course, they could always attack us again — but at some point, you would expect they'll get tired of losing.

Law enforcement is key ally in all reform efforts

By Stephen Downing,* LEAP.cc

I came from a rural community to Los Angeles at age 22 and joined the LAPD. I entered a culture that truly believed drug users were the bad guys and that we were protecting society by jailing them. As the years passed, I began to question that culture and to think for myself.

Prosecuting people for marijuana is a waste of money, squanders scarce law enforcement resources and endangers public safety because the illicit status of the drug creates huge profits for the violent cartels who currently run the trade. And every minute the police spend going after nonviolent drug offenders is one fewer minute they have to spend on the shooters and violent crimes being committed.

During my time as a police officer, I cannot tell you how many young people's lives I saw ruined because of their involvement with marijuana — not because of the drug itself, but because of the arrest record that would follow them throughout their lives. Because law enforcement must prosecute for consensual 'crimes' such as marijuana, we've lost much of our moral authority and are less effective at preventing and solving real crimes.

Some officers don't question the system as I did; it takes those who do raise questions to provide the information to enlighten others. In a broken system, the most effective agents of change are those on the inside. All of us, police or not, can be in that process, but it cannot happen in an environment of finger-pointing and hate; it must happen in an environment of mutual respect and positive dialogue.

Police officers are natural allies because they, better than most, see all of the issues mentioned above. They are not bad people.

They see what goes on in our streets. They went into their field because they wanted to help people, not to blindly enforce unjust laws. The Drug War hurts them, too.

Law enforcement officials are important to us because they influence lawmakers and, while they may not have the power to change the laws, they can exercise judgment and discretion in applying them.

That's why I ask all legalization advocates who read this article to please remember that many of us in law enforcement see the problems of the Drug War, too, and we're not the enemy. Rather than attack police, please respect what they do to protect society and encourage them to do it better by supporting the elimination of bad laws that hurt people.

Likewise, any and all members of law enforcement are invited to join in this conversation by contacting LEAP.

* Downing was Deputy Chief of the LAPD and is a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

Longer versions of many of these articles are posted at WestCoastLeaf.com.

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The West Coast Leaf™ is a free speech publication owned and operated by Creative Xpressions. ISSN 1945-211X. *The Leaf* supports tolerance and maintains that cannabis sales and cultivation should and will be legal for adult consumption. We invite your submissions and advertising. WCL fosters a socio-political community by providing photos, news, directories, features, ads and regional information of interest to our readers. Special thanks to Jeremy Daw.

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National and International News

Senate committee hearings coming on fed cannabis laws

Responding to state legalization initiatives passed by voters, US Senate Judiciary Committee chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced Dec. 13, 2012 that he will hold a hearing on the impact the laws have on federal drug policy. He sent a letter to Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske Dec. 6, asking what assurances the Justice Dept. has for "state officials involved in the licensing of marijuana retailers that they will not face Federal criminal penalties for carrying out duties assigned to them under state law."

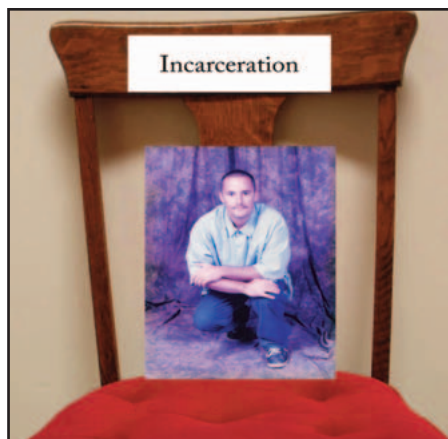
One idea he proposed was to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow possession of one ounce of marijuana in states with laws allowing it. Leahy framed his inquiry in terms of how Congress can work on "legislative options" to resolve conflicts between state and federal law. "In order to give these options full consideration, the Committee needs to understand how the administration intends to respond to the decision of the voters in Colorado and Washington," he wrote. Leahy did not announce a specific policy position at his press conference. His spokesperson David Carle clarified, "That's one option; there are others that are probably being discussed. That's what the purpose of the hearing is." — *Mickey Martin*, weedactivist.com

NFL, NBA say legalization will not change their policies

National football and basketball league officials did not take long to announce that their substance-abuse policies would not change after two states legalized cannabis. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told *USA Today* that even where its possession and use by adults over 21 years is legal, "Marijuana remains prohibited under the NFL substance abuse program." NBA spokesman Mike Bass took a similar stance, stating that, "Marijuana is a prohibited substance under our collectively bargained anti-drug program." In a 2010 *Wall Street Journal* article, Aiello had said "The league doesn't grant therapeutic use exemptions for medical marijuana. Medical advisers say it is 'extremely unlikely' that a person would have a condition that requires this medication and would also be able to play professional football." That was before the recent evidence of cannabis as an effective treatment for sports-related concussions and head trauma. — *Mickey Martin*, weedactivist.com

Kentucky Hemp Commission gets \$100,000 from Bronner, Paul

Kentucky revitalized its Hemp Commission in November 2012 to draft a farming bill for the state General Assembly to open the state's agriculture industry to legal industrial hemp production. The Commission met for the first time in 10 years and received \$50,000 from Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps President David Bronner and another \$50,000 from US Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) to move forward. Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, who chairs the commission, is optimistic the legislature will legalize hemp in 2013. "This is an exciting time," he said. "This is an important issue, and hopefully it will make a difference that will affect farmers for years to come." — *Ryan Fletcher*, votehemp.com



EMPTY CHAIRS — As part of the national Moms United to End the War on Drugs campaign, A New PATH has been collecting photos on its Facebook page, containing three elements: a chair with a picture of a lost or missing loved one and a sign stating: 'stigma,' 'accidental overdose,' 'drug war violence' or 'incarceration,' such as this one of Elon. The photos are a part of a growing collage of personal stories and loss that can also be viewed at momsunited.net.

Cannabis tourism survives

Continued from page 1

the criterion. Two court cases by groups of coffeeshop owners are pending. So, all in all, things are looking up.

Unfortunately, the new government wants to ban "strong cannabis" with over 15% THC as a List I narcotic in the same category as heroin and crack. According to government statistics, around 80% of all cannabis sold in Dutch coffeeshops has over 15% potency, so a new black market is expected. Meanwhile, a growing number of cities want to experiment with some form of regulated cannabis production to cut out the criminal element, and they point to Colorado and Washington State to make their case for legalized cannabis.

* Union for abolition of cannabis prohibition, info@voc-nederland.org, voc-nederland.org, twitter/vocnederland

Michigan election news all good for reformers

By Michael Whitty, PhD

Election night in Michigan was celebratory as marijuana ballot proposals were passed in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Ypsilanti.

Detroit voters approved changing city ordinance by 65% to legalize one ounce or less possessed by an adult on private property. It is unclear what action the city council will take. None of the councilmembers said he/she would be leading the effort to write a new ordinance or implement the ballot proposal, given the conflict with state law that allows cannabis for medical purposes only. Tim Beck was chair of the Coalition for a Safer Detroit, which put the proposal on the ballot, assisted by attorney and NORML head Matt Abel.

Voters in Flint and Ypsilanti also went to the voting booths to tell local govern-

ments and police to make marijuana enforcement ordinances the lowest law enforcement priority.

Voters in Grand Rapids, a more conservative and economically healthy city in the western part of the state, made the use and possession of small amounts a civil infraction punishable by fines up to \$100.

Kalamazoo voters approved up to three dispensaries after voting last year to make possession a lowest priority.

Now the attention of activists is focused on the expected state supreme court decision concerning the legality of dispensaries. The hope is that the court will reverse an unfavorable appeals court decision of last year. At press time, a lame-duck session of the legislature could still amend the medical marijuana law before adjournment.

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First cannabis dispensary opens in New Jersey

By Ken Wolski, RN, MPA

Twenty patients purchased a half-ounce of marijuana each from the Greenleaf Compassion Center in Montclair Dec. 6, 2012, the first day of New Jersey's Medicinal Marijuana Program (MMP), nearly three years after the state's medical use bill was signed into law in January 2010. Patients are entitled to two ounces a month, but Greenleaf CEO Joe Stevens said it initially has to ration the supply to accommodate demand. Over 300 patients have obtained ID cards from the state and are in desperate need of medicine.

The NJ medical use law is regarded as the strictest in the nation. Only a limited list of debilitating conditions qualify and home cultivation is not allowed. Cannabis must be obtained through state-licensed dispensaries, or alternative treatment centers (ATCs). The law calls for six to open, two each in the northern, central and southern regions. So far, Greenleaf is the only ATC in the state. There is no word on when or if other facilities will open.

Governor Chris Christie's administration has repeatedly delayed dispensary

openings and imposed restrictions such as a 10% cap on THC, a limit of three strains that ATCs may grow, the two-ounce per month limit on registered patients, and the creation of a physician registry. Licensed physicians who want to recommend marijuana must register with the Dept. of Health and complete training on addiction control and pain management. So far, the registry has attracted less than 1% of the state's practicing physicians.

Attorneys on the Board of NORML NJ filed a lawsuit for patient Richard Caporusso, who qualifies for cannabis in NJ but has been unable to obtain it. The lawsuit asks the court to remove many restrictions in the MMP so as to provide patients greater ease of access. The first hearing is set for mid-January 2013.

The advocacy group Coalition for Medical Marijuana, NJ estimates that tens of thousands of patients qualify for marijuana in the state, even given the state's short list of qualifying conditions. Many patients report problems finding a physician who has registered for the MMP and is willing to accept new patients.

Mass becomes 17th medical use state

By Michael Cutler, [EvansCutler.com](#)

In a decisive victory, Massachusetts voters approved the state medical marijuana initiative by 63% — three percent more than then-candidate Barack Obama's support in the same Nov. 6, 2012 election. Likewise, the state's 2008 decriminalization initiative had also edged President Obama by three points (65% to 62%).

The new law protects doctors, caregivers and qualifying patients from prosecution or the denial of any right or privilege under state law as long as they comply with rules for recommending, cultivating or using cannabis. Patients must have a good-faith relationship with a certifying doctor and have one of eight serious illnesses or symptoms: cancer, AIDS, glauco-

ma, hepatitis-C, ALS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or some other condition deemed sufficiently debilitating by the doctor. Cultivation is protected in a quantity sufficient for a patient's 60-day supply. Caretaker cultivation is permitted until state-licensed dispensaries open, after which non-dispensary cultivation will be allowed only in a few instances of extreme hardship.

State law stipulates that there will be at least one dispensary in each of the state's 14 counties with no more than five per county, and no more than 35 statewide by the end of 2013. The state Dept. of Public Health is tasked with licensing and issuing regulations for the operation of dispensaries. Applications are due May 1, 2013.

Montana, still reeling from raids, plans for future

By Tom Daubert, [montanane.org](#)

Despite dramatic set-backs over the past two years, Montana's marijuana policy reformers are back at it.

The state medical use law, adopted in 2004 by a record 62% vote, enticed nearly 30,000 people to participate in the program at its height, expanding the ranks of those to be hit in state and federal crackdowns. Four cases targeted the partners in one of the state's most visible and politically involved providers, Montana Cannabis, featured in the documentary film, *Code of the West*. The partners regularly gave tours of the operation to top state and local law enforcement leaders, legislators and community leaders, and had widespread approval when the Feds hit.

Federal raids in March 2011 destroyed much of the state's medical marijuana program. A 'repeal-in-disguise' law passed the

legislature soon after, but the Montana Cannabis Industry Assn. successfully enjoined several of the new law's worst provisions and Patients for Reform, Not Repeal gathered nearly 40,000 signatures to put a referendum on the new law on the 2012 presidential election ballot. A workable medical marijuana law needed "no" votes to repeal the bad law, a "yes" vote was bad. By election day, it was so confusing that many cannabis advocates weren't certain which way they should vote.

Days after their defeat at the polls, Montana activists looked at legalization in Washington and Colorado, formed a new group, Montana Next, and filed a proposed constitutional amendment for 2014 that to make adult production, sale, possession and use of cannabis a guaranteed right for all. They will begin petitioning in June 2013 to get 50,000 signatures by June 2014.

Michigan hit with flurry of new medical use legislation

By Matthew Abel,* Attorney at law

After four years of no change in the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act and almost two years of political posturing, in a lame-duck session Dec. 14, 2012 at around 4 a.m. the state legislature rushed through bills on medical marijuana. They take effect April 1, 2013.

House Bill 4856 creates a new misdemeanor with a maximum 93 days confinement and/or \$500 fine for transporting usable marijuana in a car or other self-propelled vehicle unless it is enclosed in a case in the trunk or, if there is no trunk, enclosed in a case that is not readily accessible from the interior of the vehicle.

Bill HB 4834 requires proof of state residency for cards that will now be valid for two years. It codifies rules of the review panel, which has since met to consider addition of new qualifying medical conditions. It allows privatization of card processing and creates a segregated fund to be spent for operation and oversight of the

program. In four years, the program has generated over \$8 million in revenue for the state, after expenditures.

Under HB 4851, to be protected from arrest patients must present a medical card and driver's license or state identification card. It requires that physicians complete a full assessment of the patient's medical history and condition, including an in-person evaluation; maintain records; have a reasonable expectation to provide follow-up care to monitor the efficacy of the use of cannabis; and, if granted permission by the patient, notify the primary care physician of their condition and certification.

Please turn to page 15

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Few: Champion of legalized cannabis and prostitution

Robyn Few

Born Oct. 7, 1958 – Died Sept. 13, 2012

Proud prostitute and fierce advocate for medical marijuana Robyn Few came from Paducah, KY to California, where she touched many people's lives before she passed away after a four-year struggle with cancer.

Few was a patient and advocate who worked with ASA, among other groups, and was frustrated in her efforts to set up first a dispensary and then a cannabis museum in San Francisco.

When US Attorney General John Ashcroft swept her up in a crackdown on prostitution, always true to herself, Few came back with a campaign to legalize prostitution as she organized the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) in 2003. In June 2012, the Robyn Few Sex Workers' Resource Center opened in Tucson, AZ.

A natural born rabble-rouser, Few was the MC at a series of "Million Marijuana March" events held in front of San Francisco City Hall. At an Oct. 1, 2012 gathering there was an opportunity for her fans and family to celebrate who she was, to mourn her loss and to march for legalization. Few is survived by her husband, daughter, granddaughter and friends.

US Senator Arlen Specter

Born Feb 12, 1930 – Died Oct. 14, 2012

"If it were legalized in Pennsylvania and if I were in pain and my doctor prescribed it, then yes, absolutely I would" use medical marijuana to help combat his cancer, US Senator Arlen Specter told the *Philadelphia Daily News* June 17, 2008. A Republican, he joined Senator Jim Webb the following year to propose a major prison-reform package, including federal drug-sentencing reforms.

Specter switched parties after three decades to become a Democrat April 29, 2009. He gave a strong endorsement to a state medical use bill during a Jan 30, 2010 candidates forum, but eventually both he and the bill lost. State Sen. Daylin Leach (D) promised in December 2012 a renewed effort to pass a new medical use bill in the 2013 session of the state senate.



RED UMBRELLA, GREEN LEAF — An Oct. 1, 2012 tribute to Few took the form of red umbrellas, a symbol of legalized sex work, and green buds on Market Street, San Francisco. Photo by Chris Conrad

Youngest cannabis patient

Cash Hyde

Born June 21, 2008 – Died Nov. 14, 2012

At the time of his death, 4-year old Cash was considered to be the youngest medical marijuana card holder in Montana.



Diagnosed with brain cancer at age 20 months, he endured chemotherapy, radiation and surgeries. The family credits cannabis, juiced and in oil form that they put in smoothies, with extending his life by helping him to eat and sleep during treatments. Cash twice went into remission. Doctors were amazed.

The world was moved by his story. When the Montana legislature reduced the amount of cannabis a patient could grow to four plants, combined with raids on dispensaries in 2011, it was difficult to provide Cash with his life-saving medicine for 73 days. The cancer returned. Cash is survived by his parents, Mike and Kalli, and siblings Colten and Catherine. For more on his story, see cashhydefoundation.com

Flor dies in federal custody

Born Jan. 6, 1944 – Died August 30, 2012

By Tom Daubert

Cannabis patient and caregiver Richard Giles Flor of Miles City, MT, became a martyr to the cause of patients' rights Aug. 30, 2012, when he was functionally murdered by the federal government's draconian crackdown on safe access in his home state.

Flor participated in the state's successful 2004 ballot effort to legalize medical use. His home was among 26 Montana locations the DEA raided in mid-March 2011 for following the law he helped enact.

Jan. 26-27, *CA NORML conference, Cannabis in California: Ending the 100- Year War, San Francisco, CA.* Fort Mason Conference Center, Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St. with medical, scientific and legal experts, activists, public officials, reform leaders and more. canorml.org
Feb. 22-25, *Bridging the Gap Between Public & Policy – Americans for Safe Access National*

Host of new laws in Michigan

Continued from page 14

Plants may be transported only to a with the intent to keep them at the second location permanently. Only the patient and caregiver may be in the vehicle. Outdoor plants "are considered to be in an enclosed, locked facility if they are not visible to the unaided eye from an adjacent property when viewed by an individual at ground level or from a permanent structure and are grown within a stationary structure that is enclosed on all sides, except the base, by chain-link fencing, wooden slats, or a similar material that prevents access by the general public and that is anchored, attached or affix to the ground, located on land that is owned, leased, or rented," and access is restricted to the registered grower.

* Abel is executive director of Michigan NORML

Flor was sentenced to five years in a federal medical facility, given his serious ailments, which included diabetes and a heart condition. His son Justin was sentenced to five years in a federal prison and wife Sherry to two years. He died in federal custody, while being transferred to the federal medical facility to which a judge had sentenced him some six months earlier.



Medical Cannabis Unity Conference, Washington DC. Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW. Networking, panels, workshops, and Congressional Lobbying Day. See safeaccessnow.org

April 19-21, Second International Psychedelic Science conference, 2013 Oakland, CA. Oakland Marriott Civic Center, 1001 Broadway. Panels, workshops, speakers, social events, dinner, performances. For registration and details, see maps.org

Aug. 16-18, Seattle Hempfest, Seattle, WA. Centennial Park (north entrance), Myrtle Edwards Park, and Olympic Sculpture Park (south entrance). World's largest pot protestival (rally, music festival, vendors, speakers, education). To volunteer, vend or for more info, see hempfest.org

Sept. 23-24, Hemp Industries Association Conference, Washington DC. Details, thehia.org

Oct. 23-26, International Drug Policy Reform Conference, Denver, CO. Sheraton Downtown. Biennial gathering of drug policy reform experts, elected officials, researchers, criminal justice advocates, educators, students, activists and organizations. Networking, panels, workshops, benefit. See reformconference.org

Nov. 7-8, National Marijuana Business Conf., Seattle, WA. Further details to come at mmjbusinessdaily.com/

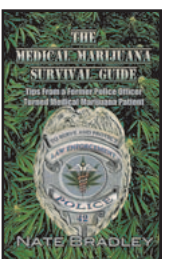
Book Review

The Medical Marijuana Survival Guide:

Tips from a Former Police Officer Turned Medical Marijuana Patient (2012)

By Nate Bradley

A step-by-step guide to police encounters and medical use, with basic safety education about California laws and potential legal risks to experienced and new patients. Simple, elegant and compelling, *Medical Marijuana Survival Guide* is a stroll into Bradley's world of medical use from both a law enforcement and patient's perspective, since he's been both. — Charmie Gholson



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INFORMATION VISITORS DIRECTIONS

Legalization in US spurs debate throughout the Americas

Daniel Robelo, DPA, DrugPolicy.org

Just hours after the Nov. 6, 2012 Colorado and Washington elections, Mexican politicians from across its political spectrum demanded an end the drug war or to legalize marijuana. A bill to regulate cannabis was introduced into the lower house of congress, while politicians spoke of holding a national referendum in three years.

“The prohibitionist paradigm is a complete failure,” said the bill’s author, Fernando Belaunzaran, of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). “All this has done is spur more violence, the business continues ... and the country that has paid the highest costs is Mexico.”

It is unclear if newly inaugurated President Enrique Peña Nieto will pursue substantive reforms. Before taking office, he said, “I’m in favor of opening a new debate in the strategy in the way we fight

drug trafficking ... and the US especially should participate in this broad debate.”

Secretary of Finance Luis Videgaray, a key aide of Peña Nieto, stated, “We can’t handle a product that is illegal in Mexico, trying to stop its transfer to the US, when in the US ... it now has a different status.” The vote “changes the rules of the game.”

Elsewhere in the Americas, leaders are taking similar steps forward. Uruguay President José Alberto Mujica has been the most forceful. Immediately after the election, he worked with legislators on a bill to regulate cannabis production, distribution and use but then delayed a vote on the proposal to allow more time for debate.

Legislators in Chile and Colombia are also eyeing regulation. In Mid-November, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica and Belize called for a review of current drug policies at the Ibero-American summit in Spain.

Economy is forcing Congress to look at domestic hemp

Continued from page 10

Soaps, which uses hemp oil in its products.

“Canadian hemp production almost doubled in 2011, to 38,828 acres,” said HIA Director Eric Steenstra. “The total retail value of hemp products sold in the US is at \$452 million, including clothing, auto parts, building materials and various other products.”

In 2012, Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Rand Paul (R-KY), Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced S

3501. Like HR 1831, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2011, it allows cultivation of industrial hemp, defined as the non-drug oilseed and fiber varieties of cannabis.

“Introducing this bill is the first step towards a common-sense policy on hemp that helps create American jobs,” said Wyden. “It is vital that all advocates for industrial hemp redouble their efforts to win support in Congress to reestablish this economically important crop.”

Bill text and status at votehemp.com/legislation.

EARLY STARTS — Even a small plastic covering can serve as a greenhouse for gardeners who want to get an early start on the springtime. Not only do the plants get a head start in size, the cool conditions also help make them harder and last longer into the autumn.

West Coast Leaf photo.



Hawai'i eyes decrim as federal religious-use case looms

By Emery Garcia

There is new interest in cannabis decriminalization in Hawai'i, where a 2011 decrim bill, SB1460, passed in the Senate but died in the House.

Activists hope that a major leadership shakeup in the House will create a more favorable climate for much needed changes to the state's medical use program as well as decrim of an ounce.

“We have had a bad medical cannabis law since 2000 and no changes in all that time,” said Andrea Tischler, chair of the Big Island Americans for Safe Access.

“State law allows certified medical use but provides no way to access the medicine other than to grow it yourself or find a primary caregiver. For a sick person that is a daunting task. Big Island ASA is making dispensaries and transferring the medical cannabis program to the Health Department two of our priorities for this legislative session.”

In a major travesty of justice, Big Island resident Reverend Roger Christie has been held for the past 30 months without bail or trial in a federal detention facility in Honolulu over his sacramental use of cannabis. Christie, along with 13 others, including his wife, Share, is charged with cultivation and sales via his THC Ministry church in Hilo. Trial is set for March.

Christie has petitioned the court for bail and been denied it seven times. Although he has never been charged with another crime, the judge has ruled repeatedly that he must remain in custody as a “danger to society.”

Rastafarian minister Nancy Harris noted, “Reverend Christie has endured the harsh conditions of pretrial confinement, denied almost all visitors, yet he remains hopeful, positive and loving.”

Christie strongly believes his right to use cannabis religiously is guaranteed in the First Amendment.



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