



OAKSTERDAM NEWS



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After months of debate, San Francisco Supervisors adopted an ordinance to keep most of the County's medical marijuana dispensaries open for business, such as the Green Cross, shown here. More on dispensaries on page 6. Photo by Marcy Boas

Courage under fire in San Diego

Cannabis outlets continue to serve patients after raids

By Justin Baker

Police raids hit 13 San Diego dispensaries on Dec. 12. Soon thereafter the County Board of Supervisors instructed its attorneys to file a federal lawsuit seeking to recriminalize medical marijuana in California. Dispensary operators and patient groups said they are, in turn, taking action against the Supervisors.

Within days, many of the dispensaries were open and serving patients again, as government officials said they were continuing to investigate the supply network that provides medicine to qualified patients consistent with State law. Drug agents, who used forged documents to entrap the staff, alleged that each dispensary had failed to verify at least one fraudulent physicians' letters when presented.

Support rallies were held in San Francisco, Sacramento and a dozen other cities nationwide to protest the raids and denounce the Supervisors attempt to thwart the will of the voters.

"San Diego is the touchstone for medical marijuana in the state," said Oakland attorney Rob Raich on his return from a recent trip to the area. "That's where both the good and the bad are going down."

ACLU threatens suit

The American Civil Liberties Union announced Jan. 18 that it was sending a letter to warn the County that it would intervene to force the county to follow state law, which was approved by 56% of state voters. "For this one county to decide to go against the will of California voters — it's unprecedented and it's unconstitutional," said the ACLU's Anjuli Verma.

The Board's attack on the rule of state law prompted local activists to announce a petition for a voter initiative to impose term limits on the five county supervisors, all of whom have sat on the Board for at least 12 years and have drifted out of touch with the community they serve. If successful, the effort would still not remove any Board member during the current term.

The raids appeared to be part of a larger scheme hatched in San Diego to outlaw Please turn to page 14

San Francisco permits cannabis outlets

Most of the city's existing dispensaries to stay open

By Chris Conrad

An ordinance to regulate San Francisco medical marijuana sales, authored by District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, won approval Nov. 15. The measure was hashed out in a gauntlet of neighborhood groups, patients, cannabis providers, activists, media hype, law enforcement agencies and internal Board politics, but came through in surprising good form.

"It enacts a number of zoning restrictions and guidelines for existing and new dispensaries," said Mirkarimi. "New dispensaries face a Public Health and Planning Dept. hearing to make sure their applications conform to city policies."

Under the new code, licensed cannabis dispensaries can operate throughout the city but must be situated 500 feet or further from a school. About 35 existing clubs would be exempt from the city's zoning

requirements, but must abide by the new county health provisions, which forbid clubs to allow smoking at any facility within 1,000 feet of a school.

The provision would essentially ban cannabis smoking at 13 dispensaries, but the phrase "unless not required by state law" leaves the door open for an interpretive ruling by the state Attorney General's Office. State law bans cigarette smoking only within 25 feet of a school.

While the ordinance allows most clubs to stay open, it makes it harder for new clubs to come to the city and for existing clubs to relocate. Both the Green Cross and Mendocino Health Alternatives are seeking to relocate and would be considered as new dispensaries. Dispensaries were also excluded from residential and industrial districts, which affects the Vapor Room and Re-Leaf Herbal Center.

In a last-minute amendment by Sup. Michela Alioto-Pier, the ordinance tightened its guidelines for patients, setting a

maximum cannabis purchase of one ounce at a time and possession of eight ounces without arrest. Patients are also extended immunity to grow 24 cannabis plants each or 25 square feet total of garden canopy, not 99 plants in 100 square feet, as was proposed. However, each patient may designate more than one caregiver to possess a similar amount for them.

HopeNet raided by feds

The ordinance was tested Dec. 20, when federal DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) agents raided a home and buildings where medical marijuana was allegedly grown. An action alert from Americans for Safe Access and others drew nearly 100 demonstrators to quickly gather outside the Hopenet Medical Cannabis Cooperative. The well respected 1000-member collective provides free medicine to over 40 seriously ill, low-income patients. Hopenet directors Steve and Cathy Smith were detained and released in time to join a press conference Please turn to page 7

Mayoral candidate Nancy Nadel supports Measure Z adult use clubs

Comments on voter poll

By Zack Kaldver

Oaksterdam News commissioned an Evans McDonough poll over Jan. 6 - 9 that found Oakland voters are ready for private, adult-use clubs, and 58% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supported Measure Z.

In the Oakland mayoral race, that candidate is Councilmember Nancy Nadel.

When voters are reminded that Nadel supported Measure Z and that Ignacio De La Fuente opposed it, she gains enough undecided votes and he loses enough support to put her in 2nd place. Ex-Congressman Ron Dellums, who has a long history of supporting cannabis reform, leads the race with 44%, followed by Nadel with 21% and De La Fuente with 20%.

The primary election is June 6, 2006. Reacting to the new poll numbers, Nadel remarked, "The voters were clear when they voted and polls show their feelings haven't changed — they want to decriminalize private marijuana use.

"Taxpayer dollars are tragically wasted on imprisoning people for private use of marijuana when those dollars are so needed for basic services."

Oaksterdam News contacted Nadel for some questions and answers.

Q Do you agree that the City should ensure Measure Z rules include private adult use clubs as the initiative intended, not just home sales and use?

A Yes. At the last council discussion of this, I suggested that the definition of Continued on page 5



Steve and Cathy Smith, directors of HopeNet, went to San Francisco City Hall on Jan. 11 to hold a compassionate medical marijuana giveaway to 20 indigent patients after a federal raid on their home and dispensary. Photo by Michael Aldrich

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Council says Oakland vote means your home is your cannabis castle

Tells police to ignore cultivation and sales in residences

By Justin Baker

Oakland City Council voted Dec. 20 to reinterpret Ballot Measure Z, Oakland's voter initiative making "private, adult cannabis (marijuana) use, distribution, sale, cultivation and possession" the City's lowest law enforcement priority.

The Council's interpretation of Measure Z allows adult cannabis sales from and deliveries to homes, as well as cannabis gardens set in residential areas.

Sixteen people, outraged at the attempt to thwart the will of the voters, spoke against the modification at the meeting. They pointed out that when clubs or businesses are licensed and regulated, they normally operate in commercial zones rather than residential neighborhoods.

The initiative did not grant the Council such authority; however, it did create an oversight committee to ensure compliance, which would be the appropriate body to interpret any ambiguities.

Nadel stands up for voters

Councilmember and mayoral candidate Nancy Nadel proposed an amendment to ensure that cannabis use, sales, and distribution in private clubs is part of the lowest police priority. She also proposed that the Oversight Committee set up by the initiative be asked to advise the council on what the definition of private should be.

Nonetheless, the Council voted five to two to accept an opinion from the city attorney that "private" means residential,

despite the measure's clear intention to move cannabis dealing off the streets and into legitimate commercial establishments.

Each Council member who spoke premised their remarks that they do favor legalizing adult cannabis sales at the state and federal levels. Most went on to express an unwillingness to implement or initiate any such process at the local level, other than minimal compliance with Z.

As interpreted by the City, the ordinance clearly protects cannabis sales and cultivation in the home, but would not go farther. This could apparently take the form of individual sales, home deliveries, or "Tupperware" style house-parties.

The initiative, which passed with 65.2% of the vote in 2004, also instructed councilmembers and other city officials to appoint a Community Oversight Committee to "oversee the implementation" of the measure. More than a year later, the committee has not yet met. At the council meeting it was revealed that two more councilmembers made appointments, so the committee finally has a quorum.

De La Fuente defies mandate

Council President De la Fuente, who failed to make his appointment to the committee for a year, said its input was not needed and pushed for the city attorney's arbitrary interpretation. Four other councilmembers voted to accept it, while Nadel and Desley Brooks opposed the definition, and Councilwoman Brunner abstained.

Dale Gieringer, executive director of California NORML and a sponsor of Z, said, "Measure Z was meant to provide an



BAKERSFIELD — Nature's Medicinal and friends celebrated their success in moving the City Council to take a more supportive position regarding local dispensaries. The county is implementing a patient ID card program. Photo by Jaime Galindo

alternative to the failed Bush war on drugs. But the city council seems intent on blocking its implementation."

"One of the goals of Measure Z was to get cannabis dealing off the streets and move sales and distribution into private, regulated settings. But this vote would just push it right back into neighborhoods and private residences," said Richard Lee, president of the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance, sponsors of Z.

Measure Z supporters see the Council vote as a setback, but remain confident that the voters intent will ultimately be upheld. "The city council actually does not have the authority to rewrite a citizens' initiative. If the initiative is not being implemented properly, we will consider pursuing a court order," said Mikki Norris, a representative of the group.

Local cannabis reform initiatives have become a trend in the West recently. In November, Denver passed a measure to legalize possession of up to one ounce of cannabis. A Seattle measure deprioritized personal use in 2003. Advocates say at least four cities in California will consider initiatives similar to Measure Z in 2006.

Supreme Court upholds public health rights of States

The US Supreme Court Jan. 17 affirmed the power of States to control their own public health policies, in a 6-3 ruling that upheld Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. State voters passed the 1997 initiative to legalize physician-assisted suicide for terminal patients.

The Court focused on the historic role of States in regulating medicine and safeguarding public health. It reaffirmed their power to pursue measures that are novel, controversial or face strong disapproval elsewhere. The Court read the Controlled Substances Act as respecting that role.

Two lower courts also ruled against the Attorney General, but the case made its way to the Supreme Court. The American Public Health Association and the Drug Policy Alliance submitted *amicus* briefs to the Court, urging it to reject the government's all-encompassing view of the CSA.

Justice Clarence Thomas dissented from the decision, saying it is inconsistent to rule against States Rights on medical marijuana, but for them on suicide.

LA County announces plan to regulate cannabis sales

By Martin Williams

The Los Angeles County Supervisors' Regional Planning Commission has advanced an ordinance to allow medical cannabis dispensaries with on-site consumption to operate in unincorporated areas of the populous county.

The Board of Supervisors must approve the final ordinance and is set to hear the issue in the next couple of months. A county-wide moratorium had been implemented in late May, 2005, and is set to expire at the end of this coming May.

The Commission voted 4-0 on Jan. 18 to approve a permanent zoning ordinance for medical marijuana outlets, essentially clearing the way for qualified patients to buy and smoke cannabis on-site or consume it in an edible form. The commission allows on-site smoking if it occurs in a separate room with proper ventilation and air purification systems. Dispensaries would also be allowed to provide their clientele with devices used to inhale their medicine,

such as pipes, rolling papers, water pipes and vaporizers.

The most burdensome requirement of the proposed ordinance is that dispensaries be located 1000 feet from schools, parks, playgrounds, youth and "religious" facilities, and other dispensaries.

The proposed ordinance allows for on-site smoking, vaporization and paraphernalia sales.

"Hopefully, this will not be as problematic in the vastness of LA County as in more urbanized locales such as Oakland," said CA Norml director Dale Gieringer. "On the plus side, the proposed ordinance does allow for on-site smoking and paraphernalia sales."

The shift to allowing on-site consumption has grown due to the obvious burden on patients who need to medicate promptly and discretely. Oakland's is one of the few ordinances to deny on-site use.

Oakland patients have repeatedly asked the City to modify its policy with no success.

Fortunately, LA County seems to have learned from Oakland's shortcomings.

"It's a great step and we support local cities and counties regulating (dispensing collectives)," agreed Rebecca Saltzman, field coordinator with Americans For Safe Access. "It's very important for localities to permit these dispensaries and give them credibility."

Other permit requirements include:

- No on-site cultivation would be allowed at a medical marijuana dispensary.
- A licensed security guard must be on-site at all times, and a security system with cameras and alarms installed.
- All dispensary applicants must agree to release the county from any liability for injuries or damages resulting from arrest or prosecution of its owners, employees or clients for violating state or federal laws.
- A minor conditional use permit would be required to establish and operate a dispensary, which requires public notification and input, but a public hearing would only be held if there is a public protest.

Tell Oakland City officials to implement Measure Z

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(between 14th and 15th at Clay St.)

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Measure Z-style reforms set to blossom around the state

By Mikki Norris*

Inspired by the success of Oakland's Measure Z campaign, activists in four other California cities have formed local committees to run similar initiatives on the November 2006 ballot.

The Next Generation (TNG), the Oakland-based political consulting group that ran the Measure Z campaign, is overseeing the California Cities project. They analyzed the demographics and voting records of various areas in the state, and looked particularly to areas where activists have expressed an interest in running Z-style initiatives.

As a result, local activists formed exploratory committees in Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, and San Francisco. Polls were conducted to further determine the feasibility of running and winning cannabis reform initiatives in each of these cities.

According to the polls, voters in all of these cities were overwhelmingly receptive to making cannabis offenses law enforcement's lowest priority, and a majority were interested in also legalizing, taxing and regulating cannabis for adults. Communities in the southern part of the state were of special interest to broaden support for future statewide reform efforts.

The next step was for the committees to draft initiatives to reflect the sensibilities and political climate of each area. Safeguards are built into the initiative language to avoid the bureaucratic foot-dragging that has plagued Oakland's implementation.

"We made sure that these initiatives had teeth, and are not simply symbolic," said a campaign spokesperson. "We are

especially excited to help activists advance cannabis reform in Southern California. It is vital that the southern part of the state gets on board and stop criminalizing good, productive members of society who happen to be cannabis consumers, if we ever want to make changes to our state marijuana laws - which, of course, we do."

"We made sure these initiatives had teeth."

Each measure includes an oversight committee that is responsible for its implementation with twice-yearly written reports. They include substantive and timely reporting requirements to make sure that the police comply with the voters' intent to stop cannabis arrests and prosecutions and to enable local law enforcement to concentrate their resources fighting violent and serious crime.

Measures reflect localities

Activists in two Southern California communities, Sensible Santa Barbara and Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy, drafted initiatives similar to I-75, the highly successful Sensible Seattle initiative passed in 2003 that deprioritized personal, adult cannabis use.

The West Hollywood Civil Liberties

Alliance (WeHoCLA) filed an initiative that goes a bit further by making all adult cannabis offenses law enforcement's lowest priority. In addition, it requires the city clerk to regularly send letters to all its state and federal representatives and the US President, informing them that the city of West Hollywood's official policy is for deprioritizing cannabis and that its voters support legalizing, taxing and regulating cannabis for adults.

Santa Cruz Citizens for Sensible Marijuana Policy filed an initiative that is very similar to West Hollywood's.

The San Francisco committee decided against an initiative and plans to work with members of the Board of Supervisors on a cannabis reform ordinance that gives extra protection and rights to all adult, cannabis consumers - not just patients. At a recent ASA benefit where Supervisor Ross

Mirkarimi was given an award for his work on the SF medical marijuana dispensary ordinance,

when asked if he was "burned out" on the cannabis issue following his recent

struggle,

Mirkarimi

replied,

"Never!"

adding

that, on this

issue, he is

"tireless."

Nuts and bolts of policy change

Once an initiative is filed in their respective cities, city clerks offices have 15 days to look them over and issue titles and summaries that will appear on the petitions. The petition drives begin in February and will continue into April or May, depending on the local deadlines. The Marijuana Policy Project has committed to provide some financial backing for these efforts, but committees are asking local constituents to also donate and raise funds

for their campaigns.

TNG is looking for people in other areas with progressive and receptive city councils that might be interested in local

Local committees were formed and polls taken in each area.

ordinances to deprioritize cannabis offenses. Sebastopol and Arcata, which have "Green" city councils, are considered good candidates for this kind of effort.

For more information, or to volunteer to collect signatures in an area, please send an email to info@taxandregulate.org.

* Norris is a board member of OCLA, the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance (the sponsor of Measure Z), and a consultant for this project.

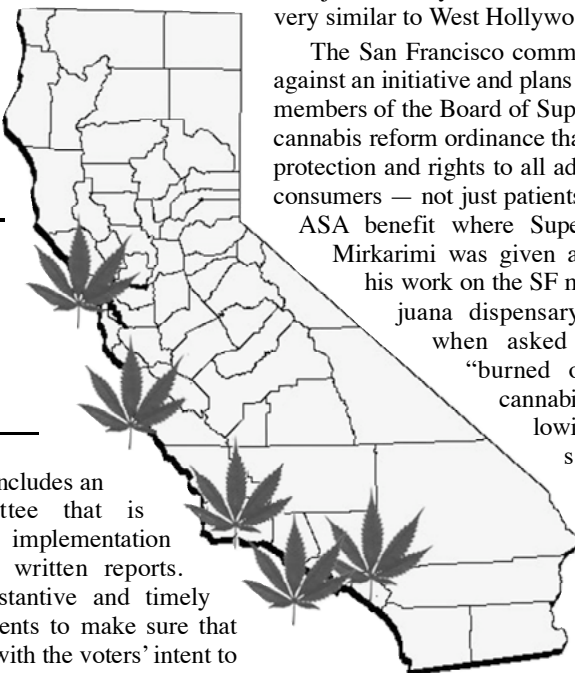
Medical marijuana gets unanimous vote in NM

Dept of Health may grow cannabis

A bill that would legalize medical marijuana cleared its first hurdle Jan. 24, getting a unanimous, bipartisan "do-pass" recommendation from the Senate Public Affairs Committee, according to a report in The New Mexican. Senate Bill 258 would allow patients with debilitating medical conditions, including cancer and AIDS, to use marijuana to treat their symptoms -- and in some cases the side effects of treatment for those diseases.

The state Department of Health would administer a program under which doctors would be allowed to recommend marijuana for their patients. The marijuana used in the program would be grown in a secure facility by the state or a private agency contracting with the state.

Human Services Secretary Pam Hyde told the committee, "It's time we sent a message to the federal government."



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Denver votes to legalize cannabis use within city limits

Denver voters adopted the Alcohol-Marijuana Equalization Initiative Nov. 1 by 54%, making Denver the first US city to make marijuana legal for private adult use.

The purpose of the initiative is to make the use and possession of up to one ounce of marijuana non-punishable under Denver city ordinances for adults 21 and older. It

did not cover sales or cultivation.

Before the vote, on Aug. 17, Capt. John Kilpatrick, Denver Police Dept. vice and drug bureau, told the *Fort Collins Weekly*, "If they vote to pass it, we'll follow the will of the people." After the vote there was a lull in arrests, and the first case after the vote was dismissed on technical reasons unrelated to the initiative language.

Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER), an organization committed to the fact that marijuana is safer than using alcohol, spring-boarded from college campus elections to the Denver ballot in an effort to show support for its message.

"First and Worst" local medical cannabis ordinance:

Oakland permit ordinance needs big overhaul

By Richard Lee

In the summer of 2003, Oakland City Council began writing the first medical marijuana dispensary ordinance in the country. While the legislation that passed in early 2004 was far from perfect, it was groundbreaking local opposition to federal cannabis prohibition for its time.

Under De La Fuente, Oakland's dispensary policy became known as "the first and the worst."

The ordinance was written during the height of Old Oaksterdam, when ten cannabis outlets occupied and flourished in formerly empty buildings that have since been boarded up again. Before June 2004, patients enjoyed a wide variety of products, competition kept prices low, and hundreds of jobs were created in Oakland.

Oakland City Council, led by Ignacio De La Fuente, sought to close down this BART-accessible mecca of tolerance, free enterprise and urban revitalization.

The ordinance called for four special activity permits to be issued to individuals. Along with limiting the number of outlets, the new law imposed severe zoning restrictions. Dispensaries were banned from 95% of Oakland and 1000 feet from each other.

In September of 2005 two permits were revoked for building code violations. Ten applicants rushed to find suitable locations and complete a lengthy application process for the public hearing a few weeks later. The short deadline, combined with the severe zoning limits, led to a hearing with zero acceptable applicants.

In late 2005 the process was revised with Oakland City Administrator Deborah Ederly adding new elements that were not in the original ordinance. Applicants had to pass a virtual civics test on medical marijuana laws.

Many applicants found the red tape and restrictions too burdensome. Debby Goldsberry from the Berkeley Patients Group, one of the oldest clubs in the bay area with an excellent operating history, pulled out after losing \$15,000 in real estate acquisition costs and inspection fees.

So in January 2006 only six individuals were quizzed on the confusing and often conflicting city, state, and federal laws. When only two applicants passed, Ederly changed the cutoff to allow four applicants to continue the process and compete for the two available permits.

The next step is a grading of applications based on a long list of criteria, with site inspections that cost hundreds of dollars, followed by another public hearing.

The two winning applicants will be given time to remodel, followed by post-construction inspections.

Permits will finally be issued sometime this summer, after employee background checks and guard training are complete, and a \$20,000 annual permit fee is paid.

However if a charter school or rehabilitation facility leases space within 1000 feet of their site before they open, or anytime thereafter, they would have to find another location, requiring more site inspections and public hearings.

And that does not even consider the issues such as the need for a better ratio of facilities to local population and allowing on-site consumption — an area in which Oakland lags far behind San Francisco, LA County and most of the state.

Americans for Safe Access is planning to lobby the City Council this spring to amend the ordinance to make it more fair and reasonable, patient-friendly, and allow clubs to locate closer to public transit.



Nadel has long supported Measure Z both on council and as mayoral candidate

Continued from page 1

"private use" include "private clubs" not just private residential use" but there was only minimal support for that from other council members who expressed concern about proliferation of clubs and enforcement to assure that youth are not customers.

Q Do you believe taxing and regulating the sale of cannabis would better serve Oakland than current incarceration laws?

Nadel: Like the period of Prohibition of alcohol sales, we are currently experiencing significant violence in our city from turf wars over illegal drug sales.

Taking the profit out of illegal sales and allowing controlled legal sales makes enormous policy sense. While the end of Prohibition didn't bring the end of alcoholism, it did end the terrible violence and waste of costly police resources associated with that period. We should learn from that lesson.

Q Do you believe the sale, cultivation, and private use of cannabis should be the lowest police priorities for the City of Oakland, as Measure Z intended?

Nadel: Yes, but the devil is in the details. As long as the sale and cultivation is still in the underground economy, uncontrolled, it has negative impacts on some communities who are plagued by street dealing that is violent. In addition, frequent in and out traffic, often accompanied with loud music in the middle of the night and other inconsiderate behavior is disturbing in residential neighborhoods."

"People in Denver were fed up with a law that prohibited adults from making a rational, safer decision" — Mason Tvert

Unlike many states, Colorado has separate municipal and superior court systems that allow cities to effectively write their own laws. In California, municipal codes are adopted but legal cases all end up in state or federal court, where a local ordinance has no direct role. The purpose of modifying ordinances in California is to change local enforcement policy, not state law, which requires a statewide action.

Nonetheless, SAFER plans to launch a statewide campaign in Colorado, as well.

"I think it just goes to show that people in Denver were fed up with a law that prohibited adults from making a rational, safer decision regarding what they put into their bodies," said Mason Tvert, the Safer coordinator who spearheaded Initiative 100.

Santa Clara County adopts ID card plan

The Santa Clara County Supervisors passed a medical marijuana program by a 5-0 vote Jan. 24, to issue ID cards by March 1. Three locations will be staffed on a rotating basis, and patients will be served by appointment from the county DHS.

State now leaves it up to the counties to decide what documents to retain on file for confidentiality and accountability.

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First in a series:

San Francisco's cannabis dispensaries offer distinct atmosphere and services



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1884 Market St, 415-864-6686

Hours: Tues-Sun 12pm to 7pm, Monday 12pm to 3pm

Accessibility: ADA Accessible, Public Transportation, Close to Freeways, Ample Street Parking.

Atmosphere: This facility is very low-key and private. From the moment I entered and identifies myself, the employees expressed their desire to maintain the privacy of the patients and facility. In addition to a dispensary, they are a politically active group. The facility offers free literature about many issues (i.e. environmental activism). For more information, please visit the dispensary (if you are a patient), or visit their website www.ActUpSF.com. Additionally, on Sundays only, they offer a movie and consumption on site. They also offer fully Organic, Vegan Edibles. Finally, they feature Free Yoga once a week (call them for times).

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Keif, Hash, Organic and Vegan Edibles.
- Accessories: None.
- Extras: Political Literature, Free Yoga Once a Week, Consumption and a Movie on Sundays.

Mr. Nice Guy

174 Valencia St, 415-865-0990

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-9pm, Friday-Saturday 11am-11pm

Accessibility: ADA Accessible, Ample Street Parking, Public Transportation.

Atmosphere: This is probably the biggest dispensary that I visited. The ceilings are very tall and they have a spectacular mural painted on one enormous wall (if you are into art, it is worth a visit). The dispensary is still a work in

Left: Serving qualified patients at the Green Cross.

Below: Mr. Nice Guy. Photos by Marcy Boas

By Marcy Boas

I recently visited several dispensaries in the Portrero, Mission, Castro and SOMA Districts of San Francisco.

Every one of the dispensaries had security who checked my ID and recommendation before ushering me in to the facilities. All the dispensaries had competitive pricing for their different products. The following details what accessibility, products, and extras each had to offer.

Re-Leaf Herbal Center

2980 21st St, 415-235-3307

Hours: Monday-Saturday 12pm to 8pm, Closed Sundays.

Accessibility: ADA Accessible, Street Parking.

Atmosphere: This family-owned dispensary is on the smaller side. It was very un-obtrusive from the street. The people I spoke with were friendly, easy-going and low key.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Assorted Hemp Elixirs, Keif, Hash, Honeybud Oil, Joints, Edibles.
- Accessories: Sealed Travel Jars, Grinders, Pipes, Scales.
- Extras: Free Water, Calendars, T-shirts.

The Green Cross

3420 22nd St, 415-648-4420

Hours: Monday-Friday 10am to 6pm, Saturday 12pm to 5pm, Closed Sundays.

Accessibility: ADA Accessible, Limited Street Parking (you can be banned from the dispensary for parking illegally), Incentives Offered for Proof of Public Transportation.

Atmosphere: The Green Cross was extremely professional. Though it was a rainy day, a Security Guard stood outside (with an umbrella) waiting to verify patients' documentation.

The dispensary offers an exceptional selection of products, from clothing to medicine. The space is chock full of information, products, and gift items and also included a plasma television, a steady stream of patients, and relaxed



and friendly employees. Unfortunately, due to newly adopted San Francisco Regulations, The Green Cross is being forced to move by March 22. Owner Kevin encourages friends and patients to write the Board of Supervisors to express their support for continued existence of The Green Cross. For more information about this issue or about The Green Cross, visit www.thegreencross.org.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, THC Sprays, Keif, Hash, Oils, Pre-rolled joints, Infused teas, Edibles (Incredible Edibles).
- Accessories: Pipes, Vaporizers, Ashtrays.
- Extras: Tank Tops, T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Caps, Beanies, Shot Glasses.

SF Med Cann #2

194 Church St, 415-626-4781

Hours: Monday-Friday 11am to 7pm, Saturday-Sunday 12pm to 5pm

Accessibility: Free Hour of Parking at Safeway (across street), Public Transportation, Second Floor.

Atmosphere: A very relaxed and quiet dispensary. People were hanging out, eating, medicating and watching TV.

Free internet access is offered for patients. This dispensary also offers other benefits for its' patients. They organize field trips to various places (i.e. Marin Headlands) for patients (in cooperation with Healing Waters). They sell pipe cozies (sewn by patients) and donate the proceeds to Camp Sunburst (for children with AIDS).

They also offer free pizza or lunch for their patients on occasion.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Edibles.
- Accessories: Pipe Cozies.
- Extras: Free Lunch, Field Trips for Patients, Internet Access.

progress as they are still building and organizing inside, but they are fully operational, and have plenty of space for people who want to hang out (they are temporarily allowing smoking on site). They were even playing a comedy show on a large TV while I was there. They will occasionally offer free snacks for patients. The employees were nice and very accommodating.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Hash, Keif, Edibles (Vegan when available), Ice Cream (Vegan Ice Cream when available — it was there when I visited).
- Accessories: Coming Soon.
- Extras: Occasional Free Snacks, Temporarily allowing Consumption on Site.

The Love Shack

502 14th St, 415-552-5121

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am to 7pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm

Accessibility: Street Parking, Public Transportation.

Atmosphere: The Love Shack will not be accepting new patients until April 1, 2006. If you are one of the fortunate few to have a "Love Shack" sticker on your recommendation, you can expect an easy-going and relaxed environment. Apparently, they became so popular that patients were lining up along the sidewalk, so in the interest of peace in the neighborhood, they decided to pare down the numbers by making the dispensary "members only." Unfortunately, for non-members, this dispensary was tapped "Best of the Bay" by *The Guardian* for 2005. If you are interested in putting yourself on their list, give them a call.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Hash, Keif, Hunny Oil, Pre-Rolled Joints, Edibles (Butter Brothers).
- Accessories: Bubblers, Jack Herer Pipes.



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New rules will change the face of the San Francisco dispensary scene

Continued from page 1

in front of the dispensary, along with Supervisor Chris Daly and a spokesman from Rep. Mark Leno's office.

After a five-hour standoff, drug agents left without entering the dispensary, returning in the early evening hours, after the protesters were gone, to finish the raid.

On Jan. 11 there was a support rally and press conference followed by a compassionate giveaway outside City Hall. The Smiths and others distributed medicine to 20 HopeNet patients. Several political leaders were represented at the press conference expressing support, with statements from SF Mayor Gavin Newsom, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-SF), Senator Carole Migden (D-SF) and SF District

Attorney Kamala Harris. Supervisor Chris Daly spoke at the press conference. Supervisor Mirkarimi, speaking at the compassionate giveaway, said the raid showed that County officials need to know what the federal government is up to. "No matter what legislation we craft, we always have to look over our shoulder."

The Drug Policy Alliance played a key role in negotiating the dispensary approval process, and DPA spokesperson Camilla Field was present at the giveaway.

"In this time of gross overextension of our federal resources both abroad and at home," said Field, "it is disgraceful that our government deems it acceptable to waste valuable taxpayers' dollars targeting the medical cannabis community."



Public Transportation. Atmosphere: Eclectic and Artsy, Ketama has a mellow, Moroccan feel. There were more than a few patients consuming and hanging out. There was funky music, low-lighting, and lots of art — a very ethereal vibe. This is one of only a few dispensaries that

letproof glass. Even though the purchasing bar is closed off, they do have another bar around the perimeter of the dispensing area for patients to sit and consume on-site, though most only sit for a few moments.

It is spacious and unencumbered compared to most of the other dispensaries (even if there is a line, there is plenty of room to maintain your personal space). Not only is this facility one of the most easily accessible for local San Franciscans (only a couple blocks from BART, MUNI, and major bus lines), but it's also good for patients from outside San Francisco as it is centrally located in the SOMA district (very close to the Bay Bridge and most major highways).

There is a wide selection of dried product. You can expect friendly, energetic, and helpful employees. For more information about this dispensary, please visit www.greendoorinfo.com.

- Products:
- Medicine: Dried Product, Keif, Hash, Amber Oil, Edibles.
 - Accessories: Coming Soon.
 - Extras: T-shirts, Free Water and Consumption on Site.

- Extras: T-shirts, Books (at cost).

Mission St. Caregivers

1760 Mission St, 415-553-7780

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-8pm, Sunday 9am-8pm

Accessibility: Some Street Parking, Pay Lot one block away, Public Transportation, ADA Accessible.

Atmosphere: Mission Street Caregivers has the most extensive clone selection of the dispensaries I visited. They have quite a few employees working, so there are many people to help the patients when they come in. They have a good selection of medicine in its various forms.

Products:

- Medicine: Clones, Dried Product, Concentrates, Dry Product, Keif, Hash and Tinctures
- Accessories: None
- Extras: None

offer clones.

The staff was easy-going and relaxed, much like the patients who were there. I definitely got the feeling that patients can always be found occupying the sitting area as long as the dispensary is open. On Sundays, they have a compassion program for underprivileged patients.

Products:

- Medicine: Dried Product, Hash, Keif, Oils, Tainted Honey, Edibles.
- Accessories: Moroccan Hash Pipe (AKA a Sipsie).
- Extras: Occasional Free Snacks, Sundays Action Compassion (small free packages for less fortunate patients).

The Green Door

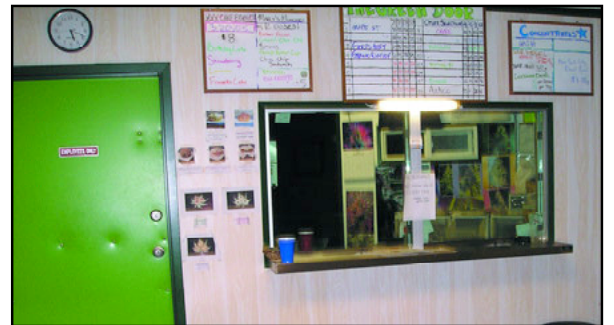
843 Howard St, 415-541-9590

Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11:30am to 8:00pm, Friday-Saturday 10am-9pm

Accessibility: ADA Accessible, Public Transportation, Street Parking, 3 Pay Lots within 2 blocks.

Atmosphere: The Green Door runs a very professional business with personal touches. They have the most extensive security with a fully closed off counter featuring bul-

Top: Ketama. Below: Green Door. Photos by Marcy Boas



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Ten Years Later: Human Rights & the Drug War

By Mikki Norris,
Virginia Resner and Chris Conrad*

It's been 10 years since we unveiled the first *Human Rights and the Drug War* photo exhibit in San Francisco, CA, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Originally called *Human Rights 95: Atrocities of the Drug War*, we hoped that as soon as the public and the world saw the faces and heard the stories of how the US government violates so many articles of the *Declaration of Human Rights* in its Drug War against its own people, there would be a great public demand to end the

President Bill Clinton before his term was over. All struggle with the label and stigma of "drug felon" hanging over them. Some have become successful business people. Most are quietly living their lives trying to re-establish their relationships and careers.

Those serving long prison sentences, mostly low-level offenders charged under conspiracy statutes, remain in prison trying to cope with the prospect of release dates well into the next decade or beyond. Many marriages are over.

Many haven't seen their children for years or have never held their grandchildren. They continue



Hands cuffed to a wire cage greeted viewers at the 10th Anniversary showing of the Human Rights and the Drug War exhibit, as a reminder of all the prisoners who could not attend the DPA conference. Photos: Chris Conrad

Left: California cannabis patient and former Drug War POW Marvin Chavez sat near his piece of the display.

Below: Amy Povah (formerly Pofahl) won presidential clemency in 2000 and attended the showing.

Bottom: Viewing the display at the DPA conference.



policies that destroy so many lives and families and to end America's longest war.

Ten years later, there is a growing consensus that the Drug War has failed. However, today even more people are being sent to prison in this country. More non-violent drug offenders are behind bars in the US (over 500,000) than the entire prison population in the European Community for all offenses, making the US the leader in incarceration rates and out of step with the the modern free world.

to miss the birthdays, holidays, graduations, weddings, and funerals in their loved ones' lives, but try to maintain family ties via phone or mail. Many preserve their hopes and take advantage of courses and programs offered to develop skills or to become better human beings.

Some feel it's a waste of time considering their skills will be obsolete by the time they are released, or they don't have the money to participate in them. A few have even died behind bars.

But, they all manage the best they can. A new-found spirituality and faith in God sustain many through their darkest hours, as they try to cope with the dysfunctional environment of prison life, inadequate health care, and the prospect of more years of their lives on hold.

Children of inmates do the best they can to survive and grow up without the presence of their parents or the love, support and nurturing that only they can bring. Some have gotten into trouble with the law or become teen parents. Some have learned to get by without parents. All have missed the mothers and fathers they once had to tuck them in at night, to celebrate important occasions in their lives, or to buy them their first....

It's time to end the destruction, injustice, and hypocrisy that is the Drug War.

We call upon you, the public and the international community, to look into and stop the human rights violations and abuses that continue in the name of trying to create a drug-free world.

We pray it doesn't take ten more years to realize that there are more humane, compassionate, cost-effective and pragmatic ways to deal with the so-called drug problems in society, as drugs are here to stay. But, human lives are irreplaceable and redeemable. It is imperative, for the sake of our democracy and the soul of this country that we find another way.

* Norris, Resner and Conrad are Coordinators & Designers of Human Rights and the Drug War, PO Box 1716 El Cerrito CA 94530. email: Mikki@hr95.org • www.hr95.org



It's time to end the Drug War's vicious destruction of lives.

Ten years is a long time in someone's life. For the inmates and their families who have participated in our project, ten years means changes or stagnation.

The inmates who received mandatory minimum sentences of five or ten years have now been released and have picked up their lives and moved on. A few, persistent, lucky ones who gained media attention and support from the outside were able to receive parole or clemencies from



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Largest-ever drug reform conference brings out crowds



The biennial Drug Policy Alliance conference, held Nov. 9-12, 2005 in Long Beach, drew participants from many nations and all areas of drug policy reform.

Panels cover wide spectrum of policy approaches

By **Tristin Coffman**

Drug Policy Alliance director Ethan Nadelmann welcomed nearly 1000 participants to Long Beach in November for three days of intensive panel discussions, workshops and informal networking among drug policy reform at the biennial DPA conference.

The 2005 *International Drug Policy Reform Conference* lived up to its theme of "building a movement." This was the largest such gathering on record, and by a show of hands, nearly half those present had never before attended one. Common Sense for Drug Policy had provided scholarships to many who would otherwise have been unable to attend the historic gathering. With over 200 presenters in the lineup, panels were led not only by academic experts, but by people directly affected by the policies being discussed. Speakers included formerly incarcerated people, drug users, youth, parents and more.

Half the crowd had never before attended a drug reform conference.

Among the elected officials who attended were CA Assemblyman Mark Leno, who announced his new bill AB 1147 during a panel on industrial hemp, and Mayor Rocky Anderson of Salt Lake City. Students for Sensible Drug Policy was well represented, as were NORML, MPP, Americans for Safe Access, needle exchangers, harm reductionists, and scores of other community action groups.

Human Rights and the Drug War

marked its tenth anniversary with a display showing convicted drug offenders, their sentences and their families along with updates on where they are now (see hr95.org for more). Several former POWs were at the conference in person working the crowd to support various reform projects. Many POWs from the original exhibit are still in prison, some served their full sentences and some got early releases, but depressingly few of the nation's cruel and unusual criminalization policies have changed in a decade. Tragically, some policies are even worse than in 1994.

Law enforcement now engaged

One noteworthy improvement has been the rise of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, a group founded by former undercover narcotics officers such as LEAP director Jack Cole, who received an award from DPA for his work. Seattle's former police chief and recently avowed drug legalizer Norm Stamper introduced Cole, who spoke of his own epiphany and regrets, and humbly acknowledged all his colleagues in LEAP, noting that law enforcement is actually another victim of the drug war by driving a wedge between it and the community and making it hard to convince idealistic young people to become police officers and district attorneys. The corruption and abuses fostered by drug prohibition make it hard to keep quality personnel and to keep them from becoming corrupted or disillusioned.

The conference featured an unusually tight schedule that often had nine panels speaking simultaneously on needle exchange, harm reduction, medical marijuana, local voter initiatives, international issues, race, public records, community

With a focus on movement building, one panel featured activists who had helped pass local cannabis reform measures including (below) Dale Gieringer (CA), Mason Tvert (CO), Mikki Norris (CA) and Dominic Holden (WA). Dan Viets (MO) is not shown.

Photos: Chris Conrad



Assemblyman Mark Leno (CA, left) spoke on Prop 36, SB 420 and his new industrial hemp bill, AB 1147.



organizing, the Internet, news media or one of dozens of other topics. This gave many people, who otherwise would have been excluded in the interest of time, an opportunity to present their work and share experiences and for others to sit in on discussions they rarely hear.

A multi-denominational religious service brought together a cross-section of activists to speak and meditate on the moral implications of the Drug War and to commemorate the passage of reformers and victims of the Drug War. The DPA (drugpolicy.org) was formed when two major reform groups, Drug Policy Foundation and the Lindesmith Center, merged. Among this year's awards:

Corrals receive research award

Californians Valerie and Michael Corral won *The Norman E. Zinberg Award for Achievement in the Field of Medicine*. This award recognizes medical and treatment experts who perform rigorous scientific research and who have the courage to report their findings that may be at odds with current dogma. Valerie began using cannabis as replacement for a rigorous pharmaceutical regimen following an auto accident in 1973 that caused a brain trauma and resulted in epilepsy.

The Corrals were arrested in 1992 for cultivating five plants. Spurred by the arrest, they became involved in the campaign to legalize medical marijuana and were first in the state to win on a necessity defense. Both have served as expert witnesses in court, they head up WAMM, co-developed the Santa Cruz County Medical Marijuana ID Card Program, and Valerie testified to the Senate Health Committee.

MAP activists honored

DrugSense and its Media Awareness Project (MAP) took the *Robert C. Randall Award for Achievement in the Field of Citizen Action*, which honors citizens who make democracy work in the difficult area of drug law and policy reform.

DrugSense and MAP comprise a nationwide network of volunteer activists dedicated to disseminating honest and accurate information on all aspects of drug policy to the media, policy makers, and the

general public. DrugSense.org is devoted to informing the public of rational alternatives to the drug war, and helping organize citizens to bring about reforms. Matt Elrod and Mark Greer accepted the award. They have helped generate over 20,635 published letters to the editor, the development of an online archive of over 163,000 drug policy news and opinion pieces, and the creation of numerous internet-based drug policy reform discussion groups.

Mayor Ross C. "Rocky" Anderson of Salt Lake City, UT, received *The Richard J. Dennis Drugpeace Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Drug Policy Reform*, an award given to individuals who most epitomize 'loyal opposition' to drug war extremism. Anderson is the most outspoken and effective elected local official in the US in terms of drug policy reform. Within months of taking office in 2000, he eliminated the costly, ineffective and misleading DARE program as "an absolute fraud on the people of this country." Since then he has continued to innovate: police in Salt Lake City now receive harm reduction trainings. In partnership with numerous drug policy reform groups, Anderson recently hosted the first comprehensive conference on harm reduction and methamphetamine.

For more information on the DPA and its activities and online photos from the conference, visit www.drugpolicy.org.

New hemp bill passes out of Assembly committee

A bill was approved by the state Assembly Thursday to add California to the growing list of states out to legalize the cultivation of industrial hemp, a non-psychoactive cash crop relative of marijuana.

"This makes sense," said Leno, author of AB 1147. "It could provide an opportunity of great value to family farmers. This could be a bonanza of job growth." This would be the first state bill to bypass the federal DEA licensing roadblock and offers huge potential to the state economy due to the myriad uses of hemp in products ranging from food and clothing to cars.

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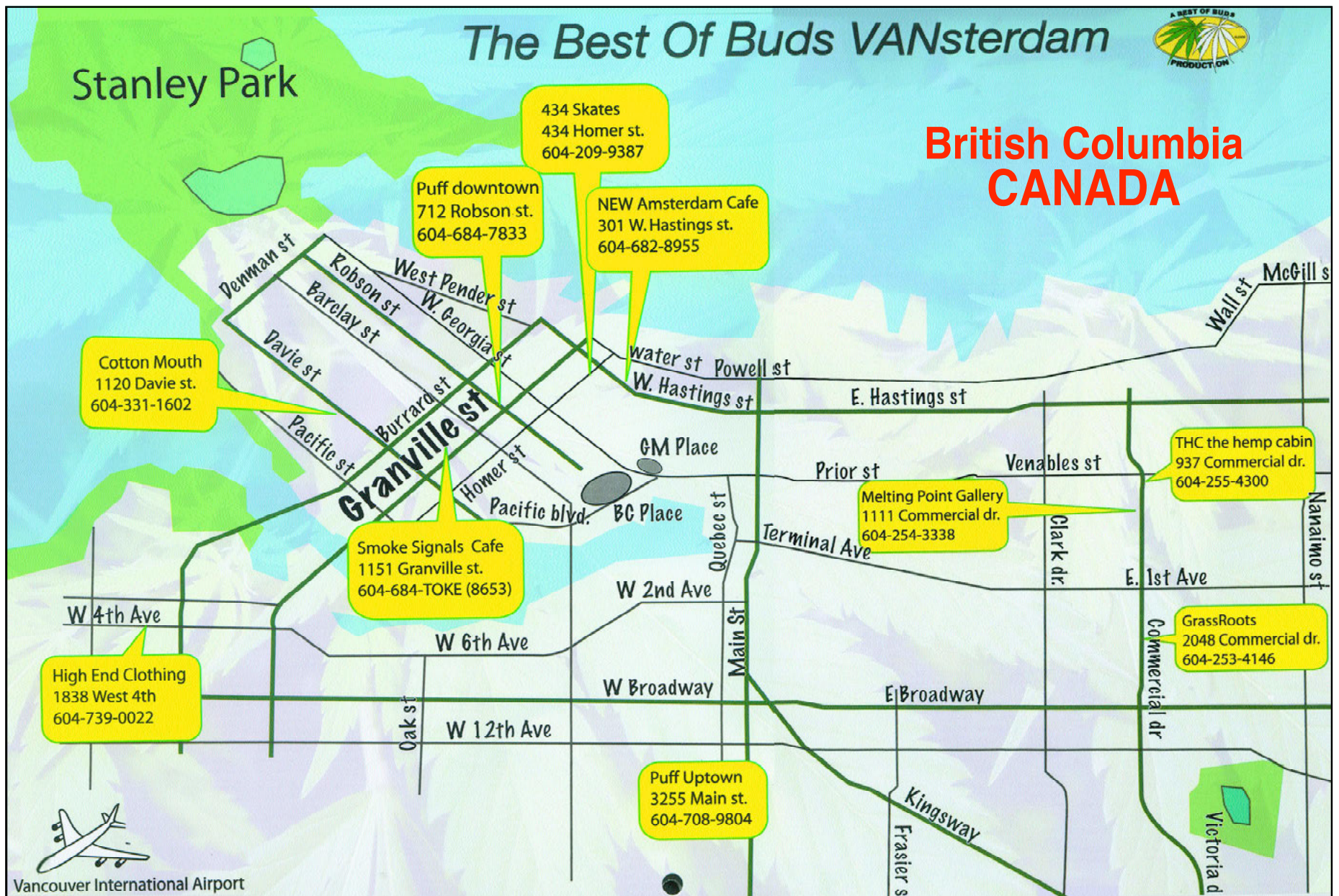
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Oaksterdam's sister city in British Columbia is the Vansterdam section of Vancouver BC. Our good friends up north want to let Oaksterdam News readers

know about their cannabis-friendly neighborhoods and locations. This map is offered to enhance your next trip to the Great White North.

Kubby deported to US and arrested

Former Libertarian candidate for governor and long-time medical marijuana refugee Steve Kubby lost his eleventh-hour appeal for asylum in Canada Jan. 20 when Federal Justice Yvon Pinard rejected his suit to avoid deportation to the US.

Immigration Canada promptly returned Kubby, his wife, Michele, and their two young children to the US, where he was arrested. He has been allowed to use marijuana, but denied medicinal cannabis.

Kubby fled to Canada with his family five years ago to avoid a short jail stint he called a death sentence due to his rare medical condition that requires up to an ounce of cannabis per day to control. Otherwise, his adrenal cancer can cause life-threatening blood-pressure spikes that his doctors say are controlled by his cannabis use.

Kubby, active in the Prop 215 campaign and a gubernatorial candidate in 1998, was arrested in Placer County. His wife was acquitted of all charges in 2001 while Kubby was sentenced to four months in jail for possession of a peyote button and a psilocybin mushroom after jurors acquitted him of charges that he was growing cannabis in his basement and selling it.

Kubby argued that he had the cactus and mushroom as an illustration for a book he wrote on the drug war, not for sale or consumption. The amounts were usable for testing purposes, but not enough for a psychedelic experience.

Judges in Placer County ordered his original misdemeanor convictions converted to felonies when he fled, so he could face significantly more prison time than his original sentences.

55-Year sentence upheld for first-time pot dealer

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Jan. 10 upheld a 55-year sentence for the first-time conviction of pot dealer Weldon Angelos, 27, who had but did not use a gun.

Angelos had no prior felony convictions but did have a gun in his pocket that he neither brandished nor displayed during

three alleged sales totaling 24 ounces of cannabis, and was convicted of "possessing a firearm while involved in a drug deal."

Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) had been watching the case because under Utah law he was convicted of three violations; the first has a mandatory minimum five-year sentence, and each subsequent conviction added a mandatory 25-year sentence to the total, with no hope for early parole.

Nearly 160 ex-Justice Department officials signed onto an amicus brief, including four former U.S. attorneys general (Janet Reno, Benjamin Civiletti, Griffin Bell and Nicholas Katzenbach), former FBI director William S. Sessions and numerous federal judges, arguing the sentence was so excessive as to constitute "cruel and unusual punishment."

Veto override legalizes medical cannabis in RI

Rhode Island became the 11th State to legalize medical marijuana on Jan. 3, and the first legislature to do so by overriding a governor's veto. Eight States have done so through voter initiative. Rhode Island is the first State to legalize the medical use of cannabis since the US Supreme Court's *Gonzales v. Raich* decision authorized ongoing raids and arrests of patients by federal drug agents. The law allows up to 12 plants and 2.5 ounces (70 grams). The House voted 59-13, with one abstention, to override the governor's veto of the bill passed the day after the *Raich* ruling.

The vote seems to be part of a regional trend, with Maine having legalized medical cannabis some time ago. Now Massachusetts State Sen. Robert Hedlund, R-Weymouth has co-sponsored a bill to allow qualified patients to grow and use small amounts of medical marijuana. In November 2004, voters in five South Shore towns near Boston supported allowing seriously ill people to grow and use cannabis, with a doctor's permission. In the same election, voters in four parishes passed a resolution calling for possession of one ounce or less of cannabis to be treated as a civil, not criminal, offense.

British scientists prevail against recrim plan

Members of a top drug advisory panel who wrote a secret report to the home secretary on cannabis threatened to resign if the government reclassified the drug to class B. They were concerned that the UK had considered upgrading cannabis legal penalties and said that would be in direct contradiction to the findings of their unpublished report. Cannabis has been in the less serious class since Jan. 29, 2004.

Lord Victor Adebawale, director of the drug treatment charity Turning Point and member of the Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), had said: "I am increasingly concerned about the politicization of this — the playing to the gallery." He said it would be "very serious" for the Home Secretary Charles Clarke to ignore the council's advice. "These are some of the best pharmacolo-

gists in the country with worldwide reputations," he said.

Clarke had been quoted as saying, "I'm very struck by the advocacy of a number of people who have been proposers of the reclassification of cannabis that they were wrong." The scientific community was able to prevail in the end.

Cocalero wins in Bolivia

Coca farmer Evo Morales, who came to prominence as a leader of the coca growers union, won Bolivia's Dec. 18 presidential election with a solid majority vote. The first indigenous person and the first *cocalero*, or coca farmer, to ascend to the presidency, he soundly defeated former Bolivian president Jorge Quiroga and political newcomer Samuel Doria Medina.

Morales stirred international interest with his bold pledge to decriminalize coca production if elected.

Making the transition from counter culture to over-the-counter culture

With legal use of cannabis comes associated responsibilities. Cannabis outlets share their neighborhoods with homes and businesses. To be successful, they work hard to establish a positive relationship with their neighbors, the city, and the police department. The most likely cause for trouble is complaints by neighbors regarding operations or the activities of their clientele.

The *Oaksterdam News* suggests that everyone follow some common sense, good-neighbor principles.

- Please be respectful of the neighbors' rights, privacy and property. Never litter.
- Always be careful and courteous when driving, particularly when entering or exiting neighborhoods and parking areas.
- Be very careful not to block or park in driveways or in the neighbors' parking lots. You will probably be inside the establishment longer than you think.
- No loitering or nuisance behavior around cannabis outlets.
- Not everyone shares your opinions about cannabis or your taste in music. Keep the volume down.
- Do not divide-up or consume your cannabis inside your car or on the streets around your favorite outlet, or in the vicinity of a school.
- A physician's approval is not a trophy. Don't wave it around and act like it is.
- If you have an indoor home garden, keep the grow area under 100 square feet and be sure that any electrical or plumbing is safe and up to code.

These simple guidelines will help keep the state's cannabis collectives and outlets operating smoothly and with less legal interference.

New accident studies confirm cannabis is less a driving hazard than alcohol

Studies find drivers with cannabinoids in urine as safe as drug-free drivers

By Dale Gieringer

Drivers who test positive for marijuana in urine are no more likely to cause accidents than drug-free drivers, according to a study led by Dr. Carl Soderstrom^{1,11} at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (2005). The study examined 2,405 drivers hospitalized in automobile accidents from 1997 through 2001.

Statistically, cannabis-using drivers aged 41 to 60 were less likely to be at fault for accidents than drug-free drivers, perhaps because they tend to slow down.

The study investigated the circumstances of each accident to assess which drivers were at fault or culpable. Drivers testing positive for cannabis were found to have no greater culpability than drug-free drivers. In every age group, alcohol was the drug most strongly associated with crash culpability. Cocaine users also showed higher crash culpability, especially in the age range of 21-40.

Significantly, cannabis-using drivers aged 41 to 60 were statistically less likely to be at fault for accidents than drug-free drivers. Similar results have been suggested in other studies, perhaps because cannabis-using drivers tend to slow down.

This evidence flatly refutes the rationale for random testing of truck and bus drivers, say critics of the government's far-reaching and invasive drug testing program. Two other studies^{1,2,1} have also failed to find higher accident rates for drivers testing positive for cannabis in urine.

An essential reason for these negative results is the reliance on urine tests to

detect cannabis. Urine tests are poor indicators of impairment because they detect non-psychoactive metabolites that stay in the system for days after cannabis is smoked. Blood tests, which measure the presence of psychoactive THC, provide a better indication of current impairment. Usually they register positive for only a few hours after smoking, though low levels of blood THC may persist in heavy users for a day or two. Some — though not all — studies have found higher accident rates for drivers with THC in blood.

French officials embarrassed

In the most recent accident study^{3,1} — the largest yet — French researchers examined 10,748 drivers involved in fatal automobile crashes for traces of drugs and alcohol in blood.

The study found that the presence of THC in blood was associated with a somewhat higher risk of responsibility for accidents, but significantly less so than alcohol. The increased risk for THC was dose-dependent, ranging from 1.6 at trace levels to three at the highest levels (above five nanograms THC per milliliter of blood).

In contrast, for alcohol the risk ranged from 3 at the low end (below 0.05% blood alcohol) to over 40 at the highest levels.

The study proved embarrassing for drug warriors in the French government, who had prematurely rushed to pass a "zero tolerance" DUI law barring any blood traces of THC. The study showed that driving with THC in blood was in fact no riskier than driving at blood alcohol levels below 0.05%, which is legally permitted in France. The U.S. allows alcohol levels up to 0.08%.

Numerous other studies have found that cannabis is a significantly lesser driving hazard than alcohol. Current scientific evidence shows clearly that a zero tolerance



standard for THC in blood is unjustified, according to most experts.

An expert panel report chaired by Dr. Franjo Grotenhermen^{4,1} of the International Association for Cannabis Medicine concluded that levels above 3.5 to five nanograms per milliliter of THC in blood are generally indicative of impairment. On the other hand, there is considerable evidence indicating that lower levels of blood THC are compatible with safe driving.

Data favors on-site consumption

Despite overwhelming evidence that cannabis is safer than alcohol, local public officials have been skeptical. Oakland City Council members voiced concern about driving safety in voting to ban on-site consumption in cannabis dispensaries. Cannabis advocates replied that on-site smoking would be a negligible concern in a city with 802 licensed alcohol outlets. In Alameda County, advocates prevailed upon the Supervisors to allow on-site consumption with vaporizers, but only with prior approval by the Health Department.

A California NORML poll found that

75% of San Francisco voters approved of on-site smoking at medical cannabis dispensaries. The Board of Supervisors voted to allow on-site smoking in the city's dispensary ordinance. Advocates are lobbying for a similar policy in Oakland.

* Gieringer is director of California NORML. Adapted from CANorml December 2005 reports, www.canorml.org/healthfacts/drivingstudy_new.htm

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Freedom Calendar ...

Get cannabis events listed here

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February

Spannabis in Barcelona

Feb 24 - 26, 2006: Third Spanish Hemp Fair (Feria del Cañamo) and Alternative Technologies. Palau Sant Jordi, Barcelona, Spain www.spannabis.com

March

CannaTrade in Switzerland

Mar 24 - 26: Sixth Annual International Hemp Fair, Bern, Switzerland. <http://www.cannatrade.ch>

MPP fundraiser in Playboy Mansion

Mar 30: Marijuana Policy Project party at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles, 8pm. Tickets: \$650; \$500 before Feb 28. Playmates give tours of the grounds as you enjoy great music and comedy to open bar and sumptuous *hors d'oeuvres*. Have access to the pool area, with its lagoon-shaped swimming pool, waterfalls, and stone bridge to a Japanese koi pond. Explore the grounds, grotto (a little underground cavern with love seats, flickering candles, and three jacuzzi pools), exotic zoo and more. Limited capacity, so make reservations early at <http://mppplayboy-party.kintera.org>. Benefits the MPP Foundation. (Tax-deductible price minus \$200 per ticket. E.g., buy two tickets for \$1,000, take a \$600 tax-deduction.) www.mpp.org or 202-462-5747.

April

Santa Barbara hosts cannabis therapeutics research symposium

Apr 6 - 8: *The Fourth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics* at Santa Barbara (CA) City College. Open to public, limited attendance. Registration fees from \$155 to \$355. CME credits from UCSF and California Nurses Association; other professions also accredited. Faculty, agenda, online registration: www.medicalcannabis.com.

NORML Conference in SF

Apr 20-22: National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws returns to San Francisco for its annual conference. Register online at www.norml.org.

May

Million Marijuana March

May 6-7: Cannabis Liberation Day events held worldwide this weekend, including May 6, noon to 6 pm in San Francisco; SF booth space available, email to freemansullivan@yahoo.com. Details TBA and posted online at www.cures-not-wars.org. SF info at HempEvolution.org or call 415-424-0125.

June

Oakland City Elections

June 6: Vote for Dellums or Nadel.

Weedstock

June 2-4: Weedstock, a campout/music event in Central WI; 'Back by Court Order.' Details TBA, weedstock.com

July

Washington DC Cannabis Rally

July 4: Annual protest across the street from the White House; High noon.

August

Seattle HempFest in WA

Aug 19 - 20: Seattle Washington hosts the world's biggest reform rally: two days, five stages, many bands and speakers. Free, but please donate generously as it takes 1500 volunteers and a lot of coordination and money to pull off this event.

Oly Hempfest in WA

Aug 27: Annual event at Olympia, WA www.olyhempfest.org

September

Boston Freedom Rally

Sept 16: Boston, MA www.masscann.org

Santa Barbara Hemp Festival

Sept 30: Eighth Annual Santa Barbara Hemp Festival, Santa Barbara, CA. www.santabarbarahemp.com

Missoula Hempfest

Date TBA: Hempfest and Alternative Living Faire, Caras Park, Missoula, MT. www.missoulahempfest.com

October

Great Midwest Harvest Fest in WI

Oct 7-8: Annual event, Madison, WI.

November

National election day

Nov. 6: Vote for a candidate that supports reform, or a voter initiative if possible. Work get out the vote for campaigns.

Humboldt Hempfest

Nov 11: Annual event, near Garberville at Mateel Center, Redway.

High Times Dutch Cannabis Cup

Thanksgiving weekend, Amsterdam; great city, great bud. www.hightimes.com

HIA Hemp Industries Convention

Details TBA: Annual convention, www.hempindustries.org

... Join the Fight

Americans for Safe Access

www.safeaccessnow.org/ A patient support network. 510-251-1856

California NORML

www.canorml.org/ California NORML 510-540-1066 canorml@igc.org

Cannabis Consumers Campaign

www.cannabisconsumers.org/ Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.

Change the Climate

www.changetheclimate.org/ Mass media campaigns to open the dialogue.

DRC Net

www.stoppedrugwar.org/ Drug Reform Coordination Network was founded is a major national and global network of parents, educators, students, lawyers, health care professionals, academics and others working for drug policy reform from a variety of perspectives, including harm reduction, reform of sentencing and forfeiture laws, medicalization of currently schedule I drugs, and promotion of an open debate on drug prohibition.

Drug Policy Alliance

www.drugpolicy.org/ DPA works on new drug policies based on science, compassion, health, human rights and a just society free from prohibition.

Drug Sense

www.drugsense.org/ A daily compilation of drug-related news excerpts.

Family Council on Drug Awareness

www.feda.org/ Accurate information on the effects of various drugs and drug policies. Offers downloadable literature for local activists to print and hand out.

Harm Reduction Coalition

www.harmreduction.org/ The HRC works to reduce drug-related harm among individuals and communities, by programs such as clean needle exchange.

Hemp Industries Association

www.hempindustries.org/ The HIA is a non-profit trade group representing hemp companies, researchers and supporters.

Human Rights and the Drug War

www.hr95.org/ This project puts the drug war into the perspective of preserving and respecting human rights for all.

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

www.leap.cc/ Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.

Marijuana Policy Project

www.mpp.org/ MPP focuses on removing criminal penalties for cannabis use, with a particular emphasis on making cannabis medically available to seriously ill people who have the approval of their doctors.

Media Awareness Project

www.mapinc.org/ Have your voice heard; MAP has helped generate for millions of letters to the editor. Help gather news for their clearing house.

NORML

www.norml.org/ National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The original activist group with info, legal referrals and an annual convention. 202-483-5500

Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance

www.taxandregulate.org/ Political action committee behind Measure Z in Oakland. 1714 Franklin Street, #100-118 Oakland, CA 94612

Safer

www.saferchoice.org/ PO Box 40332, Denver CO 80204, mason@saferchoice.org

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy

www.ssdp.org/ Students seeking to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.

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Patient Services & Support

Thanks to California Norml. Online updates at canorml.org. *Oaksterdam News* makes no representation as to the service, quality, reliability or compassion of any of these groups. For a discussion of the legalities of cannabis clubs, see CA NORML's *Tips for Would-be Cannabis Providers*.

Oakland

• Official city patient IDs, info: The Co-op Store. 510-832-5346. 1733 Broadway. www.rxcbe.org.

City Licensed Clubs

- SR-71, 377 - 17th St. Open M-F 9-8; Sa 10-8; Su 10-6
- CARE. 701 Broadway
- Two city permits under review

Berkeley / East Bay

- Berkeley Cannabis Coop. Shattuck Ave, 510-486-1025
- Berkeley Patients' Group. 2747 San Pablo Av. 510-540-6013. berkeleypatientsgroup.com
- Berkeley Patients' Care Collective. 2590 Telegraph. 510-540-7878. medicalmarijuana@info.com

Contra Costa

- ME Delivery 510-758-3269
- Maricare - 2155 Colfax St, Concord (also deliveries) 925-459-2929. 11am - 7 pm
- Holistic Solutions 925-609-9655 1120 Contra Costa Bl, Concord
- Natural Remedies Health Center Coll., 3817 Macdonald Ave, Richmond 510-965-1735.

Alameda County, Hayward Area

- Hayward Patients Resource Center. 22550 Foothill Bl. daily 11-9; also delivery, MD clinics. 510-581-8640. 888-389-6360.
- Local Patients' Cooperative (22630 Foothill Bl. 2nd Floor). Daily 10-10 (wheelchair access to 9:30, call first) 510-537-2405.
- Garden of Eden, 21227 Foothill Blvd Castro Valley. 9-9 daily, 510-881-2160.
- The Health Center, 15998 E. 14th St, San Leandro 510-278-4251. 11-7 Daily

- Alameda Co. Resource Center 16250 B E. 14th St, San Leandro 510-317-2150. Open M-SA 11-8 (high grade organic).
- A Natural Source 510-276-7224. 16360 Foothill Blvd, San Leandro. M-F 11-7. Sa-Su 12-6.
- Compassionate Collective of Alameda Co, 21222 Mission Bl, Hayward. M-F 9-7, Sa-Su 11-7.
- Tri Valley Area: The Greene: 580/680 access. M-F 2-8pm, Sa 12-4. For appt: 925-989-0724.
- We Are Hemp 913 E Lewelling Blvd, San Lorenzo. 510-276-2628. M-Sa 11-8

San Francisco

- Patient ID Cards,**
City Dept of Health. 101 Grove St. #105. 415-206-5555
- SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #1, 122 Tenth St (at Mission) 415-626-4781 Open M-W 11-7; Th - Sa 10-7; Su 11-6.
 - CannaMed Care Center, 1211 Sutter St (lower). M-Sa 1-9, Su 1-6. 415-885-8007. cannamedcare.com
 - Alternative Herbal Health, 442 Haight St. 415-864-1300. (MD consultations by appt)
 - The Vapor Room, 609A Haight St. (MD consultations avail.) M-Sa 11-9; Su 12-8
 - The Hemp Center, 4811 Geary Blvd, 415-221-HEMP
 - Love Shack. 502 14th St. x Guerrero. 415-552-5121. lssf.com
 - SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #2, 194 Church St. 11-7 M-F, 11-5 Sa-Su. 415-626-4781
 - Ketama, 14 Valencia St. 11-8 M-Sa, 12-6 Su. 415-706-2679.
 - Holistic Solutions, 11-6 daily 722 Columbus St. 415-296-7614.
 - Mission St. Caregivers. 1760 Mission x Duboce. 415-553-7780 (open 365 days)
 - Green Door, 843 Howard St. 11-8 daily 415-541-9590 www.GreenDoorInfo.com
 - Alternative Patient Caregivers, 953 Mission St. #40

Alameda AA proximity no barrier to dispensary

By Justin Baker

Alameda County Supervisors agreed that proximity to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting site is not an obstacle to issuing a cannabis permit; but a school still is.

At issue at the January meeting of the Public Safety Committee were appeals on two permit applications. The sheriff's department and a county panel had earlier rejected both applications.

The ordinance states that no dispensary may be closer than 1,000 feet from a school, public park, playground, drug recovery facility or recreation center. The Health Center lost its bid to have that limit waived for two school grounds.

The Alameda County Resource Center, however, did convince the supervisors that

having an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting hall located next to its outlet doesn't meet the restriction. The two have coexisted for years without problems. The decision did not award the ACRC a permit; the dispensary is still competing with two other applicants for a slot in the county.

County supervisors voted to reduce the six outlets in the unincorporated areas to only three, each located in a distinct geographical area. We Are Hemp is expected to get the permit covering San Lorenzo and western Cherryland. A Natural Source has appealed the denial of its application for eastern Ashland and Castro Valley. The Garden of Eden, Compassionate Collective and ACRC are vying for the permit covering eastern Cherryland and most of Ashland.

415-618-0680. 12-6 M-F, 11-5 Sa. Clones available.

- Alternative Relief Co-Op. 1944 Ocean Ave, noon-7, M-Sa. Natural herbs, tea. 415-239-4766. Deliver to SF hospital in-patients
 - San Francisco ACT-UP. 1884 Market St. 415-864-6686 actupsf.com
 - Sweetleaf Collective 415-273-4663, For low-income AIDS, cancer patients
 - SF Patients' Cooperative. 350 Divisadero St. 415-552-8653. www.sfprc.org
 - Golden Triangle Sanctuary, 1334 Haight St. 415-431-6764. M-Sa 10:30-9; Sun. 12-8.
 - Hopenet Coop, 223 Ninth St. 415-863-4399. M-F 12-7, Sa 12-5
 - The Green Cross. 3420 - 22nd St x Guerrero. 415-648-4420. Daily 10-8. thegreencross.org
 - Bernal Heights Co-op Disp. 33 - 29th St. 415-642-4702. 10-9 M-Sa, 12-7 Su
 - The Divinity Tree. 958 Geary St. 415-292-6052. Open 11-7 except Tu
 - Mason St. Dispensary. 124 Mason St. (downstairs) 415-433-4420, 7-9 daily masondispensary.com
 - Emmalyn's. 1597 Howard St. #A. Daily 10-9. 800-588-4218 / 415-345-8248
 - Patients Helping Patients Home Bike Delivery. 415-240-7190
 - Good Fellowes Smoke Shop. 473 Haight St 415-346-4338
 - Grass Roots. 1077 Post St. 415-346-4338
 - Sanctuary. 669 O'Farrell. 415-885-4420
 - Re-Leaf Herbal Center. 2980 - 21st St. 415-235-3307
 - Mr. Nice Guy, 174 Valencia St. 415-865-0990. Open 11-9 Su -Th; 11-11 F-Sa
- ### Marin, North Bay
- Marin Alliance for Medical Mj: 415-256-9328. cbemarin.com
 - Here2Help-707, Solano Co. delivery to homebound patients only 707-208-9023. M-Th 9-7 here2help_707@hotmail.com
- ### South Bay
- Cal Medical Mj Patients Association. Belmont (delivery to San Mateo, SF, East Bay. 650-492-1487, 24 hrs. 650-595-0113, 4-6. cammjpa@yahoo.com / cammjpa.50megs.com
 - Mobile Herbal Therapy (San Mateo, San Jose deliveries). 866-240-9121
 - Area 420. Santa Clara Co patients, political and info only. 408-246-0052. area420.com
 - San Jose area deliveries: Growth Unlimited. 1-888-MED-CANN
 - My Green Heaven Ministry. Millbrae. www.mygreenheaven.org
 - West Coast Medical Sunnyvale Deliveries 9-9. 408-481-0331. Office Hours 10-5 M-SA;
- ### Santa Cruz
- Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Mj, WAMM 831-425-0580. www.wamm.org
 - Greenway Compassionate Relief 140 Dubois St #D. 831-420-1640. M-F 11-6, Sa 10-6
 - Med Ex. Info: 831-425-3444
 - Hemporium, LLC Delivery Service. 831-295-3511
- ### North Coast
- MMPU, Medical Marijuana Patients Union POB 2059, Fort Bragg 95437. 707-964-YESS. info@mmpu.org
 - Mendo Healing. Ft Bragg. 707-964-3677
 - Herban Legend, 18300 Old Coast Hwy#3, Fort Bragg. 707-961-0113; M-Sa 11am-6pm.
 - Redway Herbal Options, Evergreen Center #7, Redway. 707-923-9147. Open 9-5. red-

way420@yahoo.com

- Mendo Remedies. 44975 Hwy 101, Laytonville: 707-984-7101; low-income patients welcome.
 - Caregiver Compassion Center. 4349 Montgomery #D, Sta Rosa. 707-537-7303 M-F 1-6; Su 3-6.
 - Resource Green Caregivers & Patients Group. 532-D Sonoma Ave, Santa Rosa. (deliveries too) 866-420-5020. 11-9 daily
 - North Bay Wellness Coop- 3386 Santa Rosa Ave, Santa Rosa northbaywellness@yahoo.com Open 10-6:45 M-F; 10-4:45 Sa.
 - Sonoma Alliance for Medical Marijuana. SAMM. 707-522-0292. patient support group
 - Marvin's Gardens. Guerneville. 707-869-1291
 - Sonoma Co. Compassionate Services Delivery. 707-972-7818
 - Cheops Herbal Apothecary Delivery (Sonoma Co.) cheops-herbal@hotmail.com 707-974-9465
 - Holistic Solutions, 14240 Lakeshore Dr, Clearlake. Lake co. 707-995-9000. M-Sa 11-7.
 - D & M Compassion Center, 9990 E Hwy 20, Clearlake Oaks. Lake Co 707-998-9781
 - Lake Co Alternative Caregiver Clinic, Clearlake Oaks. 707-998-0358. lacc@mchsi.com
 - Ukiah CBC Info. 707-462-0691
 - Hemp Plus Ministeries. 892 N. State St, Ukiah. 707-468-1478. Open M-Sa 10-6.
- ### Central Valley to Redding
- Amador Co. Sierra Foothills CC (delivery service) 209-274-6727.
 - NorCal Medical Cannabis Collective, Chico 530-354-1114 indicanna@gmail.com
 - Calaveras CC. 866-401-2228. delivery 7 days, 8-8; low-income patients welcome.
 - Merced Patients' Group (patient support) 209-726-5216 mercedpg@sbcglobal.net
 - Merced County Patient Coalition (patient support). merccountypc@aol.com
 - California Healthcare Collective 1009 McHenry Ave. Modesto
 - MMJ Caregivers Association of El Dorado Co. Placerville. 530-642-8258
 - Golden State Patient Care Collective. 233 Hwy 174, Colfax. 530-346-2514. M-Sat 10-6
 - Dale's Delivery Service (Nevada City - Roseville) 530-277-1810. M-F 10-6pm, Sa 11-3pm
 - Plumas Co., Feather River Coop. 530-283-4517 (info)
 - Jim's Deliveries. Roseville area 916-519-5328, 10-6.
 - San Joaquin, Medi-Caregivers delivery. 209-456-0680
 - Shasta Patient Alliance. shapatall@hotmail.com, info only
 - Dixon Herbs. 925 Merchant St #5, Redding 800-730-0772 (raided 12/05; re-opening late Jan.)
 - Shasta Caregivers (530) 945-3571
 - Siskiyou County Medical Cannabis Co-op Research & Registration Ctr. Weed. 530-938-1768. littleloulou@snowcrest.net
 - Stanislaus/Central Valley Co-op: Primary Caregivers & Consultants. 209-818-2932. CACaregivers@aol.com
 - Tuolumne CC delivery 866-882-1129. 7 days, 8-8. low-income patients welcome.
 - Yuba County CBC 530-749-7497
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Patient Services Guide

Continued from previous page

Sacramento

- River City Patients' Center (916) 649-0114
- Capitol Alternatives. 2020 - 16th St. Sacramento, 916-497-0277 / 916-728-1967. Open 9-7 M-Fri; 9-5 Sa.
- Advanced Medicinal Health Center: call for appt. 916-482-1971. M-Sa 11-6.
- Doctor's Orders, 4011 Winters St. #A, Sacto. 916-564-2112. M-Th 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-3pm
- Canna Care, 320 Harris Ave #G M-F 9-6; Sa-Su 10-3. 916-925-1199.
- Greenhouse 916-366-0420, 916-868-9566 call for verification, directions; Daily 10-6.
- MedSac916: 916-806-2314 www.medsac916.com
- End of the Rainbow deliveries: end-of-the-rainbow@hotmail.com 916-369-6000 or 916-698-6249.
- Growth Unlimited deliveries Sacto/Solano/Central Valley/San Jose. 1-888-MED-CANN
- Today's Holistic Caregivers, 661-946-6600 Sacto area deliv. caregivers420@yahoo.com
- Sam's deliveries 916-717-4848. Hours 10-6.
- Healing Hands of Nature delivery. Rancho Cordova/Sac/Citrus Hts area. 916-256-5277

Kern Co., Bakersfield

- Nature's Medicinal, 323 Roberts Ln, Bakersfield. 661-392-9353. Daily 11-9.
- Canna-meds, 1450 Crestmont Dr, Bakersfield 661-871-0420 Open 11-7 M-Sa

Central Coast, Santa Barbara, Ventura

- Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers, 7425 El Camino Real #P, Atascadero 805-461-9180 Open 11-7 M-Sa
- Hezekiah Inc, 92 - 2nd St. #H, Buellton (805) 264-1774 - open M-F 9-5.
- Compassion Center of Santa Barbara County - SBC Collective, 119 N. Milpas St #C, Sta Barb, 805-963-9797 M-F 12-5, Sa 11-3
- Santa Barbara Patients' Group, 3114 State St. 805-687-8988. M-SA 11-5. Fax MD documentation to 805-456-0710.

- Helping Hands Wellness Center, 4141 State St. #F-4 Santa Barbara (805) 692-1419. Open 10:30-8:30 daily.

- Santa Barbara Patient Doctor Coalition. 805-687-2380 PDCoalition@cox.net

- Cal Alliance for Medical Mj Patients (Ventura Co) 805-890-1365. ID cards, medical referrals stoparrestingpts@aol.com

OC, San Bernardino, Riverside

- 215 Patient Bakery (edibles only) / 420 Primary Caregivers. 421 N.Brookhurst #130 Anaheim. 714-758-3500. M-Sa 11-7; delivery. 420primarycaregivers.com
- Legal Ease 1077 E. Main St., Tustin 714-508-3633, M-F 10-8, 11-7 Sa-Su
- Pharmakeia (LA/Orange/Riverside/ S.D./ S.Barbara) 323-462-1516. M-Sa 10am - 5 pm. pharmakeia.org, info@pharmakeia.org
- Inland Empire Herbal Caregivers, San Bernardino Co. delivery 951-537-0235.
- CAPS. Palm Springs. 760-325-1112
- CannaHelp, 73350 El Paseo #204, Palm Desert, 877-760-4367 Open 10-8
- OCMC Coop, Orange Co. 949-855-0310.
- Humble House deliveries to Orange and Riverside counties 949-395-9588
- Yorba Linda Alt. Herb Coop 714-692-0072, 714-276-4238. M-F 11-8, Sa-Su 11-7
- ARC Col.-Orange Co. deliv. 714-999-9696
- KGB Meds delivery to San Bernardino, High Desert. 760-246-7047. kgbmeds@yahoo.com
- Dank Meds, San Bernardino delivery, 760-247-3275 Daily 9 - 6 dankmeds@yahoo.com.
- Freeway Pharmacy, delivery to Beach cities, Huntington Bch - El Segundo. 310-349-9135
- Northern Lights Church, statewide support. 949-222-4209. Laguna Beach. northernlights-church.org / thehealingexchange.org

Los Angeles area

- Inglewood Wellness Center. 310-674-4444. InglewoodWC.org
- A-1 Compassionate Col., 301 N Prairie Ave #512, Inglewood 213-952-1857 M-Sa 11-7
- Cal Medical Caregivers Assoc., 15838 Halliburton Rd. Hacienda Heights 626-336-2652 daily 11-7
- United Medical Caregivers Clinic, 1248 S.

Fairfax, LA 310-358-0212 Open 10-7 M-F.

- Quality of Life Activities (QOLA) Silverlake - Los Angeles Call for info: 323-644-1209 Hours: 10-7 M-Sa.
- LA Compassionate Care Silverlake 13th - 2227 Sunset Blvd 213-272-9488; en español 213-272-9489
- California Patients' Group, 6208 Santa Monica Blvd (between Vine & 101) 323-464-7052 www.CaliforniaPatientsGroup.org Free valet service M-F after 4 pm
- NoHo Caregivers, 4296 Vineland North Hollywood 818-754-0834 Daily 11-8
- Caregivers Christian Alliance Discount Dispensary - 122 S. Lincoln Ave #204, Venice 877-219-3809. Open M-Sa 12-8
- Marina Caregivers, 3007 Washington Blvd. #225, Mar. Del Rey 310-574-4000. 4- 11pm
- Lomita Collective - Palos Verdes deliveries 310-432-3262
- Crescent Alliance for Sickle-Cell Self-Help Group (Sister Somayah) LA
- Today's Holistic Caregivers, Lancaster. 661-946-6600 caregivers420@yahoo.com

San Fernando Valley

- Trichome Healing Caregivers. 7100 Van Nuys Blvd #204, Van Nuys. 818-373-5000. 10-7 daily except Wed. - disabled access
- Therapeutic Medicinal Health Resources, 14836 Burbank Blvd, Sherman Oaks (818) 988-9615 Hours M-F 11-7; Sa-Su 12-6
- Valley Collective Co-op, 12500 Riverside Dr #201B, Studio City 818-508-8787 Open M-SA 11-7, Su 11-5
- Valley Independent Pharmacy, 10-7 daily. 19459 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana. 818-345-5477.
- Cannamed of Northridge, 9349 Melvin Ave. #9. 818-882-4849 - 10 am -8 pm daily.
- Valley Co-Op, 8363 Reseda Blvd #203, Northridge (818) 727-1419. Hours 11-7 M-Sa, 11-5 Su.
- Compassionate Care of Studio City (no relation to "Compassionate Caregivers"), 11314 Ventura Blvd 818-506-7207 (med. menu on website) www.cscity.com Open 11-8 M-F, 12-8 SA
- West Valley Caregivers, 23067 Ventura Blvd #102, Woodland Hills (818) 222-9212 Open 10 - 10 daily
- HIM, 22831 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills (818) 225-2426. Open 12-8 everyday
- RNS Caregivers United, 10545 Burbank Blvd, N Hollywood 818-763-7479 M-SA 11-7
- Natural Relief Center, 7223 Owensmouth, Canoga Park 818-703-8599 Daily 11-7
- North Hollywood Collective, 10929 Vanowen St. #110 (818) 763-4008.

West Hollywood

- LA Patients and Caregivers Group, 7213 Santa Monica Blvd, W Hollywood x Formosa. 323-882-6033. lamedicalmarijuana.com
- AHHS (Alternative Herbal Health Services) 7828 Santa Monica x Fairfax. W. Hollywood. 323-654-8792 call for hours.
- Medical Marijuana Pharmacy 323-848-7981. 7825 Santa Monica Bl. Delivery. 10-9.
- West Hollywood Caregivers. 7901 Santa Monica Bl #206. 323-656-2033. 10-7 daily.
- CA Cannabis Pharmaceuticals, 8464 Santa Monica Blvd, W. Hollywood 323-656-1600

- West Hollywood Center for Compassionate Healing, 8921 Sunset Bl. 310-626-3333.
- The Health Center. 8961 W. Sunset Blvd W. Hollywood. 310-275-0446. call for appt
- West LA Collective Caregivers. West side delivery. 310-953-2475. daily 9:30-10. wlacc.net.

Beach Cities

- Cancer Help Center Herbal Collective. 3381 LB Blvd x Wardlow, Long Beach. 562-424-HERB. M-F 11-8, Sa-Su 11-7
- CCLB — Compassionate Caregivers LB (not affiliated with "Compassionate Caregivers") 562-621-9777 call for details.
- Med-a-Cab delivery service, Long Beach and mid-cities 562-256-5066 everyday 11-7.
- Freeway Pharmacy delivery Beach cities El Segundo - Huntington Beach 310-349-9135
- South Bay 420 Collective Delivery Service - Palos Verdes and South Bay beach cities only - 310-561-3515; FAX 866-619-5942 harpinsb@netscape.net
- Whittier Collective in Washington Medical Center 562-696-9696 or 714-276-4238

San Diego

- North County Medi Caregivers delivery 760-277-4059 daily 12-9 northcountymedical@yahoo.com.
- San Diego Legal Ease, Inc. 3024 Meade Ave #D (North Park) 619-398-3467. Daily 10-7.
- San Diego Caregivers. (delivery serving SD / south Riverside Co.) 760-580-0745
- California Medical Center, 4010 Morena Blvd #103, SD 858-405-9496. Everyday 11-8.
- Tender Holistic Care, 2109 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego 619-497-1105. Open 11-9.
- Tender Holistic Care, 4972 1/2 Cass St. San Diego 858-272-2700 Open 11 -9
- Ocean Beach Dispensary, 4230 Voltaire Ave. #2. 619-549-2014 obdispensary.com. 11-8.
- First Choice Caregivers. San Diego area delivery 858-472-1225 everyday 10-7. firstchoicecaregivers@msn.com.
- Native Sun Dispensary, 3806 Rosecrans, San Diego 619-299-2837. Open M-Sa 9-7.
- Co-Op SD, 7875 Convoy Ct #6, San Diego. 858-610-1674. Daily 11-7.
- Mother Earth Co-op, 4017 Brant St. San Diego. 619-955-5611 Daily 9:30 - 8
- American Caregivers Co-op, North SD County delivery 760-420-0478.
- San Diego Patients Health & Caregiving Co-Op, 1806 W. Washington St, San Diego 619-417-0006 info@sdphca.com Daily 12-7.
- The Healing Room, 4438 Vandever Ave. San Diego 619-501-1970 Open 12-7 except Sun.
- San Diego Compassionate & Safe Access, 3778 - 4th Ave. 619-795-9447 Daily 11-8.
- Morena Care Group, 1231 Morena Blvd. San Diego 619-276-1146 morenacaregroup@sbcglobal.net Daily: 12-8.
- Farm AC, 6070 Mt Alifan Dr #202 (by Coco's on Balboa) San Diego 858-278-5880 Daily 12-8
- Utopia Dispensary, 4843 Voltaire St. #A, San Diego 619-222-6900 10 -8 M-Sa, 12-6 Su. utopiadispensary.com

For updates, see
www.canorml.org

Courage under fire in San Diego

Continued from page 1

medical marijuana by trumping up charges against the dispensaries, feeding information to federal agents and trying to get the popular law passed by voters in 1996 held unconstitutional by federal courts.

Two separate jurisdictions

The separation of state and federal

jurisdictions goes back to the slave era, when states refused to enforce the federal Runaway Slave Act that required African Americans to be returned to slavery after they escaped to so-called "Free States." The Supervisors are essentially trying to return to the era of policies that propped up slavery and led to the Civil War.

California's state law, Prop 215 (HS 11362.5) has twice been revisited at the US Supreme Court level which held, in 2001 and 2005, that state law does not trump a federal ban on medical cannabis. However, in 2006 the court voted to uphold an Oregon law legalizing death with dignity under limited circumstances. The medical restriction of Prop 215 is similar in that it affects medical use of a federal controlled substance, in California to relieve suffering and in Oregon to end it.

Cannabis is not a listed controlled substance in California law, it has its own sections of the health code that apply to its possession, cultivation, production, sales, transportation, and other aspects. (See sidebar on this page.)

San Diego County voters are decidedly unhappy with their Board's scheme to attack the law in federal court. In a poll taken Jan. 3-4, San Diego County voters favor the landmark state law by a margin of two to one, and an even larger percentage of voters do not want their tax money spent trying to overturn it.

The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) commissioned the poll late last year after the Supervisors refused to implement a state law requiring counties to provide ID cards to protect qualified patients and caregivers from arrest for possessing or providing small amounts of medicine.

Some 67% of San Diego County voters surveyed said they support the initiative approved by voters and 80% agreed that, the pending lawsuit "is wasting taxpayers' money." In a statement released with the poll, MPP director Rob Kampia warned that, "The supervisors pursue this suit at their own peril."

Summary of California Marijuana Laws

As a public service, *Oaksterdam News* provides the following brief summary of California's current marijuana laws.

- **Health and Safety code 11357** -- Having less than 28.5g (an ounce) of marijuana is a \$100 fine; hashish or larger amounts are \$500 fines, plus possible jail time.
- **11358** -- Prison for cultivation or processing cannabis, or diversion for first time personal garden
- **11359** -- Prison for intent to distribute
- **11360** -- Prison for sales, furnishing or transportation, \$100 fine for furnishing less than 28.5g
- **11361** -- Prison for involving a minor
- **11362.5** -- Exemption to 11357 and 11358 for qualified people with a physician's approval
- **11362.7** -- Voluntary medical ID cards, limited immunity from 11357, 11358 for up to eight ounces of bud and six mature plants, limited immunity from HS 11570, 11359, 11360, and 11366
- **11362.8** -- Prison for violating ID card program
- **11366** -- Maintaining a place where cannabis is sold or cultivated (also 11366a, 11570)
- **Vehicle Code 23222** -- Transportation of less than 28.5g.

For more information, please go online to www.chrisconrad.com.

Principles of Sensible Cannabis Use

Tips from the Berkeley Patient Group

Like anything, cannabis can be misused. Excessive or inappropriate use can contribute to problems including sleepiness, overeating, and time management issues. Due to the political climate surrounding cannabis research, clinical studies have produced widely conflicting conclusions about the benefits and potential side effects of cannabis. Always listen to the advice of your doctor and use good judgment when using medical cannabis.

These guidelines help identify ways of using cannabis in a positive way.

1. Adults should use cannabis as part of a healthy, balanced, and responsible lifestyle.
2. The decision to use cannabis should be made freely, and not as a result of social pressure.
3. Cannabis users should be well informed about its effects on themselves and others. These effects include legal and health risks as well as personal consequences.
4. Never use cannabis as an excuse or a cue for antisocial or irresponsible behavior.
5. Cannabis users should model and reward responsible use, particularly with new users.
6. Use cannabis as part of positive social interactions, rather than primarily in isolation or as a remedy for negative feelings.
7. Develop sensible cannabis use limits for yourself based on personal, health, situational, and cultural factors. It is important to be objective about your personal cannabis use and listen to the constructive advice of others.
8. Avoid cannabis use that puts you or others at risk, such as when driving, at work, or in public places.
9. Use of cannabis by children is inappropriate and should be discouraged.
10. Cannabis use should contribute to, rather than detract from, users health, well-being, creativity, work, relationships, and social obligations.

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A guide map to Oaksterdam

Make Oaksterdam more pedestrian friendly

- Observe 25 mph speed limit
- Watch out for pedestrians crossing against lights and for jaywalkers
- Yield to peds when turning, check adjacent crosswalk before turning
- Check sidewalks when entering and exiting garages and parking lots
- Check your mirror before opening your car door when parked on street
- Pedestrians, watch for turning cars and keep out of drivers' blind spots.

WAMM, Raich refile

Attorneys for the Wo/Man's Alliance for Medical Marijuana are filing court briefs in January. They will lay out a 10th amendment argument which could be very strong since the city of Santa Cruz has passed that ordinance for the Office of Compassionate Use, according to Mike Corral. The other will be for substantive due process. These

will be heard in San Jose District Court with Judge Fogel presiding.

Also, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals set a March 27 hearing date in the Angel Raich case, at the Court of Appeals in Pasadena, Hearing Room 3. "We still have the same panel as before with one

judge from the Eighth Circuit," said Raich. "The judges have been pulling this case through the Ninth Circuit really fast, which is a good sign."

The Oaksterdam Map Key

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| A Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Broadway | H Fox Theater, 1850 Telegraph |
| B SR-71, 377 - 17th St. | I CARE, 701 Broadway |
| C Oaksterdam News, 376 15th St. | J Paramount Theater, 2025 Bdwy |
| D Oaksterdam Gifts, 405 - 15th St. | K Kaiser rooftop garden |
| E Post office, 1446 Franklin St | L Lake Merritt Park boat rentals |
| F Frank Ogawa Plaza | M Norcal MMJ, 1504 Franklin |
| G Medicann, 1814 Franklin # 901 | N Van Kleef Cafe, 1621 Telegraph Ave. |
| | O Americans for Safe Access (ASA), 1322 Webster # 208 |
| | P Paid parking |

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Entertainment

No more beer at Giants Stadium?

It's time for a kinder bud than booze

By Paul Armentano*

There was less "buzz" than usual during the NFL season's final regular season Monday night football game between the New York Jets and defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots and it had little to do with the Jets' dire season record.

Following a string of violent incidents between rowdy football fans during the team's previous games, including stabbings, Giants Stadium officials made the call to halt beer sales. Jets spokesman Ron Colangelo could not have been more blunt: "It's for the safety of our fans."

The Dutch secret to keeping the peace: a clamp down on alcohol and regulated access to cannabis.

Alcohol's long-standing association with aggressive behavior begs the comparison to another social lubricant, cannabis.

No credible research has shown cannabis use to be a causal factor in violence, aggression or delinquent behavior, dating back to the U.S. government's *First Report of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse* in 1972, which concluded, "In short, marijuana is not generally viewed by participants in the criminal justice community as a major contributing influence in the commission of delinquent or criminal acts." (The Commission also recommended that Congress remove all criminal and civil penalties on the possession of small amounts of the herb.)

A more recent Canadian Senate review reaffirmed: "Cannabis use does not induce users to commit other forms of crime. Cannabis use does not increase aggressive-

ness or anti-social behavior."

"Cannabis differs from alcohol in one major respect. It does not seem to increase risk-taking behavior," stated the British Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in its 2002 report recommending the depenalization of cannabis. (Parliament eventually did so two years later.) "This means that cannabis rarely contributes to violence either to others or to oneself, whereas alcohol use is a major factor in deliberate self-harm, domestic accidents and violence."

British soccer fans recently experienced this first hand after their team's loss to Portugal at the Euro 2000 tournament in the Netherlands. According to news reports, the British fans, whose reputation for post-game, alcohol-fueled tirades is known worldwide, took the loss without incident and not a single fan was arrested after the match. The Dutch secret to keeping the peace: a clamp down on alcohol and regulated access to cannabis.

It's a lesson we can pay heed to here in America, as well.

* Paul Armentano is a policy analyst at NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. www.norml.org

BULLDOG
BULLDOG
 COFFEE SHOP
Bulldog Coffeeshop
 The Miracle Side Of Nowhere
 1739 Broadway Ave. Oaksterdam, CA 94612

Show pride in Oaksterdam: Keep it clean!

Please do not litter while visiting the Oaksterdam District — always pick up your trash. A city ordinance requires that storefronts keep the sidewalk in front of their business clean, so do your part. Report any persistent garbage problems to keep Oaksterdam clean and attractive.

Medical Marijuana Evaluations

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