



Federal Court: Juries free to acquit

Appellate ruling affirms Feds can disregard medical rights, juries cannot be punished for their verdicts

By Martin Williams

When cannabis activist and “guru of ganja” Ed Rosenthal was convicted on cannabis cultivation charges in 2003, federal judge Charles Breyer gave him only a day behind bars — time served — due to extenuating circumstances.

Many considered it a victory; but not Rosenthal. He appealed his conviction, and in an extraordinary turn of events, members of his jury came forth to disavow their own verdict after they learned that the cannabis was medicine and the grow-book author was working as an appointed deputy of the Oakland city government.

All medical evidence and discussion had been suppressed during the trial held in California, where state voters have legalized medical marijuana. However, that omission was not the reason the Ninth Circuit federal appeals court overturned the conviction April 26. Instead, the court held that “Juror A” had improperly sought out a legal opinion from an attorney, who told her she would be “in trouble” if she voted her conscience when she figured out the medical nature of the case.

“Jurors cannot fairly determine the outcome of a case if they believe they will face ‘trouble’ for a conclusion they reach as jurors,” said the majority opinion. “The threat of punishment works a coercive influence on the jury’s independence, and a juror who genuinely fears retribution might change his or her determination of the issue for fear of being punished.”

Unfortunately, while the three-judge panel reversed his conviction because of juror misconduct, it concurred with the lower court on all other matters, including its not allowing “a ‘medical marijuana’ defense, introducing evidence or argument aimed at jury nullification,” and that his being appointed a deputy did not shield Rosenthal from prosecution.

Last summer, the US Supreme Court, in its *Gonzalez v. Raich* decision, again rejected allowing defendants to raise medical marijuana or state law as a defense against federal drug charges.

Legal activists argue that, by denying jurors access to “the whole truth” about cannabis offenses, federal courts give every juror the “reasonable doubt” needed to acquit cannabis defendants. They point out that alcohol Prohibition also led to a refusal of jurors to convict.

Federal prosecutors have several options, such as asking the court to reconsider, appealing to the Supreme Court or going ahead with a new trial.



Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

New police chief supports Measure Z

By Richard Lee

The Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance Oversight Committee heard from police Chief Wayne Tucker at their April 20 meeting. The Chief answered questions about cannabis arrest statistics and Measure Z implementation issues.

Measure Z was the 2004 voter mandate that made private adult cannabis sales, cul-

tivation and use the city law enforcement’s lowest priority and put the city on record in favor of taxing and regulating cannabis as soon as possible under state law.

Data show, however, that the Oakland Coliseum is not a friendly place for cannabis consumers while alcohol, a more dangerous recreational drug, is sold and

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Congressmembers, media ridicule FDA cannabis statement

By Chris Conrad

In a blatant political maneuver, the US Food and Drug Administration made an out-of-thin-air announcement on April 20 (4/20) that no studies support medical marijuana. The release was timed to coincide with the national NORML conference

Three weeks later, on May 15 the agency announced that it has approved Cesamet, a second drug containing synthetic THC, the primary active compound in cannabis. Marinol is the other. It seems it is not the THC but the presence of nature itself that the FDA finds offensive.

This raised obvious questions: Why is THC medicine but not cannabis, and what happened to all the studies done over the past century? The answer, apparently, is that the US government doesn’t like to deal with logic or peer-reviewed studies.

The 4/20 Interagency Advisory notice was intended to trump the 1999 National Academy of Science / Institute of Medicine federal report that outlined and analyzed scores of scientific studies and identified specific compounds and benefits. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has catalogued many more, and new studies are being reported in the international press on a regular basis. The *New York Times* decried the FDA as “disingenuous. The government is actively discouraging relevant research, according to scientists.”

The FDA press release had a threatening political tone. “[The] FDA, as the federal agency responsible for reviewing the safety and efficacy of drugs, DEA as the federal agency charged with enforcing the CSA, and the ONDCP [drug czar’s office], as the federal coordinator of drug control policy, do not support the use of smoked marijuana for medical purposes.”

“Despite the fact that you are responding to a scientific question, your press release failed to provide any scientific expertise. We call on you to show us the purported scientific evidence for the basis of this response. There is no evidence that you have new scientific proof or that you oversaw clinical trials.” Congressman

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Dellums’ victory in mayoral race looks good for Oakland

By Justin Baker

Oakland political icon and former NORML boardmember Ron Dellums took a commanding lead in the city mayoral race that may power him into office without needing a runoff vote.

Dellums rode popular disaffection with the status quo of the entrenched political machine represented by his main opponent, Ignacio De la Fuente. Council member Nancy Nadel made a respectable third place showing in the race.

When asked about Measure Z and whether his past cannabis advocacy would continue, Dellums said “I’m here to support you.” A January poll by *Oaksterdam News* showed candidates who support cannabis regulation gain votes when the public becomes aware of their position. De la Fuente’s negative bias against cannabis

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HONORED — SF Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi received an award April 20. Oaksterdam News photo by Rob Ryan

Mirkarimi receives award at NORML conference for the SF dispensary plan

By Tristin Coffman

Comic Tommy Chong made a special guest appearance when the grassroots of cannabis reform met in San Francisco April 20-22. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, NORML, held its well-attended annual conference in the Bay city to educate, network and strategize with US activists. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi welcomed the attendees and received an award for spearheading the city’s dispensary ordinance.

“NORML is the toker’s lobby,” said

director Allen St.Pierre in welcoming the crowd. “We have the best name recognition of any drug policy reform group in the country.” He said that NORML, norml.org, relies upon its chapters to do local work and upon activists to pay membership dues that fund the Washington DC-based group and its efforts. Despite government claims that cannabis reformers are well-funded, St. Pierre said NORML is struggling and needs donations.

Panels included presentations on how

Continued on page 15

FDA hits patients, Colorado ASA effort, Emeryville pays Americans for Safe Access Highlights

By Rebecca Salzman

Americans for Safe Access is a patient advocacy group on the forefront of the defense of patients' medical marijuana rights. ASA organizes rapid response actions, as needed, and maintains legal and political arms. Here are some recent highlights of its activities.

Questioning FDA statement on medical cannabis

The April 21 *New York Times* ran a front page story headlined, "FDA dismisses medical benefit from marijuana." Americans for Safe Access (ASA) sees three major problems with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) claim:

1. The FDA conducted no scientific study of the evidence related to cannabis as medicine to treat those with cancer, AIDS and other serious illnesses. Their "inter-agency advisory" was simply a press release that contained no new information, yet still received widespread national attention.
2. The FDA's dismissal of cannabis as a safe and effective treatment for certain illnesses directly contradicts the 1999 National Academy of Science / Institute of Medicine report *Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base* and a rapidly growing body of research on the safety and efficacy of cannabis for treating a wide range of afflictions. Unlike the FDA's press release, this million dollar study got almost no publicity because its findings conflict with the Drug Czar's agenda.
3. The timing of FDA advisory is suspect given that just nine days earlier, April 12, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which houses the FDA, for the eighth time postponed a decision on a medical cannabis petition filed pursuant to the provisions of the Data Quality Act, which requires that federal agencies justify regulatory decisions with scientific data. If HHS feels confident enough in their position that cannabis has no accepted medical

value to permit FDA to release an inter-agency advisory, then they should be compelled to answer our appeal without further delay.

In response to the FDA press release, 24 Members of Congress have drafted a strongly worded letter to FDA asking the agency to either produce evidence of new research or explain the motivation behind its statement. This effort was led by Representatives Hinchey (D-NY), Paul (R-TX), Frank (D-MA) and Farr (D-CA) in collaboration with ASA.

Furthermore, ASA will be sending a letter to HHS and FDA asking these agencies to explain their contradictory statements on medical marijuana and produce any evidence that supports the administration's position. The FDA's job is not to play politics; it is to protect public health. If the government is going to stick to its position that cannabis does not have medicinal benefits, then HHS should be compelled to show us the science and respond to our DQA petition. If not, ASA will take the government to court. It's that simple.

Emeryville pays patient \$15,000 for lost medicine

Medical marijuana patient James Blair was arrested on cultivation charges in 2003 and had his medicine and equipment confiscated. Blair, who is partially paralyzed from a diving accident, received a check for \$15,000 from the City of Emeryville on April 11, 2006, for cannabis seized by police. With help from ASA, Blair got one of the largest cash settlements to date in a case of wrongful seizure. The City has now adopted a policy of not confiscating cannabis from qualified patients.

"By making government pay for their transgressions through successful lawsuits like mine," said Blair. "Americans for Safe



Blair displays the remains of his medical garden.

Photo by Chris Conrad

Access and I are going to force police agencies to adopt sensible policies that uphold patients' rights."

After the dismissal of criminal charges, stemming from the 2003 raid on Blair's home by Emeryville police (EPD), a Superior Court judge issued a 2004 court order to return his property. When Blair went with order in hand to pick up his property, it was verbally denied. Under threat of contempt of court, EPD finally agreed to return only some of Blair's prop-

erty. Blair learned that due to a burglary at an off-site, secured police evidence locker, many of his possessions, including cultivation equipment and much of his cannabis plants, were stolen.

ASA hopes that cases such as the Emeryville settlement will bring about change.

It is ASA's hope that financial pressures such as these will bring about change. With this monetary penalty, and ASA's recent success in reversing a mandatory seizure policy by the CHP, patients are winning the battle for their rights under state law. Widespread adoption of sound police policies on medical marijuana are within sight.

Announcing the Colorado Campaign for Safe Access

A cannabis dispensary. A legal support hotline for patients. A diverse network of rural and urban patient support groups. Only in *Continued on page 5*

Congressmen challenge FDA pronouncement

Continued from page 1

Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) led a bipartisan group of 24 House members who wrote and signed onto a letter sent April 27 to FDA Acting Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach. "It perplexes us that even though the FDA is responsible for protecting public health, the agency has failed to respond adequately to the IOM's findings seven years after the study's publication date."

"If anyone needs proof that the FDA has become totally politicized, this is it," said Bruce Mirken of the Marijuana Policy Project, mpp.org. "For shame."

This is part of a recent US trend to force researchers to produce policy reports instead of research. Prestigious scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates and several science advisers to past Republican presidents, accused the Bush administration on Feb. 18, 2004 of manipulating and censoring science for political purposes. In an open letter and in-depth evaluation, more than 60 top US scientists alleged the administration of misusing research to further its political objectives by "suppressing, distorting or manipulating the work done by scientists at federal agencies."

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California cities wrap up signature drives, get ready for the fall election

By Mikki Norris*

Committees in the cities of Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, and Santa Barbara wrapped up their petition drives and submitted sufficient numbers of signatures to place initiatives on their city ballots making adult cannabis offenses law enforcement's lowest priority. This is a coordinated policy effort to show widespread support for cannabis reform across California.

Santa Cruz Citizens for Sensible Marijuana Policy was the first to turn in over 6,000 signatures to the city clerk on April 20. The county clerk took the allotted thirty days to verify the signatures to ensure that they had met the minimum amount required (3,423) and notified the proponents that they had qualified for the November ballot.

"Voters in Santa Cruz are tired of the failed and immoral federal war on drugs," said Andrea Tischler, chair of Santa Cruz Citizens for Sensible Marijuana Policy. "Let's move to a more reasonable cannabis policy, and make sure that our police and courts are not wasting their time and resources arresting and prosecuting nonviolent marijuana offenders. By passing this initiative, Santa Cruz can be a beacon of light showing the way to a more sensible policy that is compatible with the values of the majority of citizens."

On the same day that Tischler got the good news, Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy turned in over 8,000 signatures to the Santa Monica city clerk's office. On May 24, campaign coordinator Luciano Hernandez, proponent Corey Garnett, and consultant Mikki Norris, witnessed city clerk Maria Stewart and three assistants count and certify that they received the signatures. Next, the city clerk sent the petitions to the Los Angeles County Clerk's office where they are currently being verified. Qualifying for the

ballot requires 5,580 valid signatures.

"We feel the time is right for this initiative," said Hernandez. "George Bush has made cannabis the number one priority, and as a result over 700,000 people are arrested on marijuana charges in the US each year. By passing this initiative, Santa Monica voters can help to create a sensible alternative to the war on drugs."

Sensible Santa Barbara turned in their signatures May 31. Unlike the other cities, which required 10 percent of registered voters' signature to qualify, they needed a little extra time to collect 15 percent as it is considered a "special election" since no other city initiative will be on the ballot. They exceeded all expectations as they submitted more than double the 5000 such signatures needed to qualify.

Once the signatures are certified, each city council can either adopt the initiative as law or place it on the ballot. "We think this is a common sense policy, and we hope the city council will adopt it. We had a really overwhelming number of signatures - 11,556. That's almost as many votes as we would need to pass it," said Heather Poet, proponent of the Sensible Santa Barbara initiative.

Meanwhile, activists in West Hollywood and San Francisco are pursuing city ordinances similar to the initiatives.

Good endorsements that show broad support for this policy change will be key to the initiatives' success. To get involved and help garner support from community organizations, respected individuals and leaders, or for online information on these efforts, please check out these websites: sensiblesantabara.org, sensiblesantamonica.org and taxandregulate.org.

* *Norris is a board member of Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance and a consultant to the California Cities Campaign. For information online, see taxandregulate.org.*



PETITIONING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS — Above: Santa Monica election officials review signatures submitted by petitioners to secure ballot standing for a cannabis reform measure.



Left: Santa Cruz proponents Theodora Kerry and Andrea Tischler gathered signatures that were included in the successful turn in that put their initiative on the city ballot.

Oaksterdam News photos by Mikki Norris

CAN: Cannabis Action Network regroups

The Berkeley-based legalization group Cannabis Action Network is holding regular meetings and planning a busy schedule of tabling at events this summer. CAN believes that ending the war against our fellow citizens starts with everybody getting educated and involved from the grassroots level up to the White House. The group meets the first Monday of each month at 1605 Ashby Ave. at 7:30 pm.

Cannabis Action Network is a nationwide team of individuals working to make cannabis legally available for medicinal, industrial, and personal uses. This network unites over 250 groups, from 50 states and around the world, in a powerful grassroots coalition. Its national headquarters, in Berkeley, serves as an information clearinghouse and support center for activist campaigns.

For info, call 510-486-8093.

Measure Z progress

Continued from page 1
heavily used there.

The Chief said that he saw taxing and regulating cannabis as workable, and agreed with the committee that a change in state law was urgently needed.

Lt. Peter Sarna said that the OPD had already made cannabis offenses the lowest priority before Measure Z became law because of limited resources and more serious crime problems.

At its May meeting the committee voted to issue a report on the meaning of "private" as it applies to cannabis sales, cultivation, and use in the regulation and revenue ordinance. Vice Chair James Anthony suggested using alcohol laws as a model, noting the difference between public and private alcohol use and sales.

A subcommittee will draft a report for the June 15 meeting. The Oversight Committee meets the third Thursday every month at 6 pm in Oakland City Hall.

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Safe Access Now:

State's voluntary cannabis ID card adds protections, responsibilities

By F. Aaron Smith*

California voters approved Prop. 215, the Compassionate Use Act, almost a decade ago. However, issues involving the medicinal use of cannabis continues to be a daily subject in news and courts around the state.

The Act, now Health and Safety Code 11362.5, affirms the legal right to cultivate, possess and obtain cannabis with a doctor's approval. However, enforcement of this law has been sketchy, at best.

The status of different county-run ID card programs is available online at safeaccessnow.net.

To clarify the law and provide further protection to patients, the legislature adopted Senate Bill 420 (HS11362.7, et seq.), signed into law in October 2003. It set minimum "floor" quantity and cultivation guidelines as a safe harbor from arrest and authorized co-ops and collectives to serve multiple patients, including limited immunity from sales charges.

Without specific legislative direction, procedures for state and local law enforcement encounters involving medical marijuana are left up to each jurisdiction and, all too often, the personal discretion of individual officers. In less progressive communities, law enforcement will ignore a physician's note, arrest, prosecute, and leave it up to a court to sort out. Some patients are willing to fight charges and get property returned, but it is an unnecessary hardship on the patient community.

A key part of SB 420 was to create an official, statewide voluntary identification card program, to be made available

through the patients county of residence. The status of different counties can be looked up at safeaccessnow.net.

The ID card program works to provide clear direction to state and local law enforcement personnel throughout CA and serves as an added layer of protection from detention, arrest or seizure of medicine. For patients choosing to carry an ID card, the law is black and white. HS11362.7 states, "No person or designated primary caregiver in possession of a valid identification card shall be subject to arrest for possession, transportation, delivery, or cultivation of medical marijuana in an amount established pursuant to this article..."

At this year's NORML conference, founder Keith Stroup called the ID card a "get out of jail free card, or even a not-get-arrested-at-all card."

Unfortunately, the debate is not over. Many counties are still finding ways to cut off safe and legal access to cannabis through dispensary bans and moratoria as well as refusal to offer the cards.

This program is supported by all major medical cannabis advocacy groups but has not been completely embraced by the patient community, mainly due to concerns over privacy. Many patients fear the federal Drug Enforcement Administration may someday subpoena the patients' documentation retained by the counties.

Because of this concern, the state Department of Health gives counties the option of whether or not to retain patient records after issuing cards. Some counties, such as San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma either shred or return all applications after the ID card is issued.

In January, San Diego County filed a lawsuit in State court claiming our medical



Having a state ID card gives more access to the cannabis dispensaries.
Photo by Jaime Galindo

marijuana laws are pre-empted by the federal Controlled Substances Act. In the eyes of most legal experts, this case is without merit, but that didn't stop San Bernardino and Merced Counties from joining the suit using local tax dollars to pay for this swipe at the voters. Other counties use the suit as a rationalization for not implementing the card program as they take a "wait and see" approach to the issue.

Such counties oppose the program for the same reasons many patient advocates support it. Once residents become valid card-carrying cannabis patients, counties have no choice but to accept them as legitimate. No more excuses about the difficulty of verifying a doctor's recommendation during a traffic stop after business hours; no more police speculation as to whether a carded patient qualifies for immunity.

Making each county sign-on to the program locally means that every county's Board of Supervisors will be on record as accepting the legality of medical marijuana in CA. For example, in Tulare County Prop 215 only garnered 37 percent of the vote, but the card program was approved by the Supervisors unanimous vote. Progress on Tulare's program was driven by local patients and advocates who demanded that the county follow the law.

The federal government has made no attempts to seize the records of the registry

programs in the seven other states that have them, including Oregon's, which has been in place since 1999.

Additionally, the DEA has already seized thousands of patient records from various dispensary raids throughout the state but has not indicated that they were going to use them in any attempt to conduct a mass-raid on individual patients. Even if they did have the resources to do so, they know it would be political suicide.

In a more equitable world, such a program would not be needed. However, for the time being, the county ID card program seeks to protect patients from needless harassment by state and local police, who conduct almost all cannabis arrests.

This program also helps to form a more positive perception of California's groundbreaking medical marijuana laws throughout the nation. Statewide implementation of the here could have a politically positive effect on cannabis laws both within the state and nationally.

The bottom line is that the cards are voluntary and it is up to you to decide if it's in your best interest to apply for one — but making them available to those who want or need them is the right thing to do.

* Smith heads up the Safe Access Now cannabis ID card project. For more information about the state ID card program in your county, contact Aaron Smith at 707-291-0076 or email safeaccessnow@gmail.com.

OCBC gets Alameda county contract, retains its own cards

By Tristin Coffman

Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative director Jeff Jones confirmed May 30 that his organization has been awarded the agency contract to issue the Alameda County patient ID cards as part of SB 420. He said that the popular and well-received non-governmental OCBC card will continue to be an option offered by the group for all patients and caregivers that live in the State. The state ID card will be handled like a drivers license application, with information submitted and authenticated, a photo taken and a card picked up later at the center or issued by mail, with some records kept for purposes of county audit. The OCBC card will continue to be an option for patients or caregivers that do not want to be on the State list. OCBC plans on opening a Southern California ID Center by later this fall, to offer more support for patients statewide.

"OCBC Members will continue to be part of the largest patient group in the country, although it is not clear if some protections offered by the state ID program will limit the legal protection of carrying your OCBC card and physicians statement," said Jones.



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Battle for equality with beer drinkers motivates CO cannabis campaign

SAFER: On campuses, on cable TV, and all over

By Steve Fox

The Colorado-based organization Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation, SAFER, that coordinated the successful legalization initiative campaign in Denver last fall,

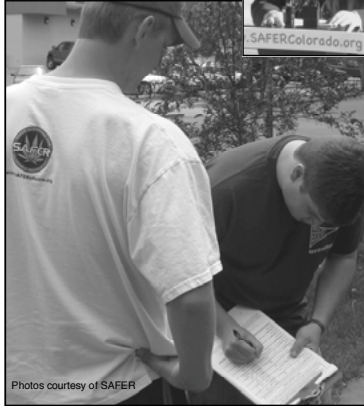
A student on each campus had died as the result of alcohol overdose; students then passed referenda urging universities to make penalties for cannabis no worse than for alcohol.

is now fully engaged in spreading its "marijuana is safer than alcohol" message across the nation. Over the past months, SAFER has helped coordinate activities on major college campuses and appeared on numerous national cable news programs. At the same time, SAFER continues to press the envelope and attract substantial attention in Colorado.

One of SAFER's primary goals is to

Director Mason Tverdt.

Below: getting signatures for the SAFER CO initiative.



Photos courtesy of SAFER

work with students to change cannabis policies on university campuses. In fact, the organization was launched in the spring of 2005 on the campuses of Colorado State University (CSU) and the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU), where four months earlier a student on

each campus had died as the result of alcohol overdoses. On each campus, students passed referenda urging the universities to make penalties for use of cannabis no worse than penalties for alcohol.

In spring 2006, SAFER helped coordinate similar referenda at Florida State U, U of Texas at Austin, and U of Maryland. The referenda asked students whether the university should bring penalties for cannabis use and possession in line with those for alcohol violations. Students at all three universities overwhelmingly passed the referenda, by margins of 60-40, 64-36, and 65-35, respectively.

On each campus, SAFER worked with chapters of National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and/or Students for Sensible Drug Policies (SSDP). With the help of these two organizations and their chapters, SAFER expects to see 20-30 referenda on university campuses in the spring of 2007.

In other campus-related news, SAFER recently helped attract national attention to an outrageous action by the University of Colorado Police Department (CUPD). After the annual 4/20 event on campus, the CUPD posted photos of participants on the Internet and offered \$50 rewards to anyone willing to identify an individual pictured. SAFER decried this "snitching program" to the media and brought two prominent civil rights attorneys to campus to inform students of their rights in this situation. As a result, SAFER was a prominent part of the coverage of this story, with campaign director Mason Tverdt appearing live on MSNBC and Fox News.

Some of the individuals pictured on the Web are considering suing the university for violating their constitutional right to assemble peacefully. A number of students have expressed an interest in doing so.

Colorado campaign update

The focal point of SAFER moving forward this year is its initiative campaign to make the possession of up to one ounce of cannabis legal under Colorado state law. This campaign is being coordinated by the SAFER Voter Education Fund, which is SAFER's lobbying arm.

The grassroots support for this initiative is impressive. Since February, more than 400 individuals in Colorado have volunteered to help collect the 68,000 signatures needed to qualify the initiative for the ballot. The deadline for turning in signatures is August 7 and SAFER is confident that a sufficient number of signatures will be collected by that time.

Win or lose, the campaign in Colorado

is certain to inspire a major debate about the wisdom of laws in this country that prohibit the use of cannabis and end up steering people toward a more harmful substance, alcohol. Already, SAFER has participated in an hour-long live debate with Colorado Attorney General John Suthers on the Colorado PBS station.

For more information about the Colorado campaign or to make a contribution to help support the signature drive, please visit SAFERColorado.org online.

South Dakota medical marijuana initiative makes November ballot

South Dakota officials certified May 31 that a petition drive had submitted enough signatures to qualify a medical marijuana initiative for the fall ballot. Sponsored by South Dakotans for Medical Marijuana, sdmedicalmarijuana.org, the initiative would make SD the twelfth state to pass a such a law; the first in the Midwest.

The group turned in more than 24,000 signatures May 2. According to organizers, the state initiative, if passed, would:

- Protect seriously ill patients and caregivers who possess and cultivate limited amounts of cannabis with a doctors' approval from arrest and prosecution ;

SD would be the first state in the Midwest to adopt medical use.

- Create registry identification cards, so that law enforcement officials will be able to easily tell who is a qualified patient and who is not, and establish penalties for false statements and fraudulent ID cards;

- Protect doctors from being punished for advising their patients that -- in their sincere professional judgment -- the benefits of the medical use of cannabis for the patient would exceed the risks;

- Allow patients and caregivers to raise a medical defense in court; and
- Prohibit the public use of cannabis and driving under the influence of cannabis, among other restrictions.

The SD legislature has refused to act on medical marijuana bills in recent years. Similarly, in the case of Matthew Ducheneaux, a paraplegic Lakota who used cannabis to ease muscle spasms, the SD courts passed on the opportunity to allow the medical necessity defense.

Now, the voters will have their say.

Medical cannabis, ASA gain firm foothold in CO

Continued from page 2


California, right? Wrong. These are parts of a burgeoning medical marijuana renaissance occurring in the traditionally conservative state of Colorado.

One of the most longstanding medical marijuana states, CO has recently made considerable strides towards securing safe and reliable access for its approximately 750 licensed patients. Many of these changes have been spearheaded by the Colorado Campaign for Safe Access (CCSA), a shared project of ASA and Sensible Colorado, which has emerged as the state's primary patient resource.

Began in August 2005, the group serves as a combined organizing and legal campaign aimed at protecting the rights of cannabis patients in Colorado. Through litigation, education and organizing, CCSA has helped the state reach a number of important milestones including opening its first dispensary and medical marijuana clinic, fostering the growth of numerous patient support groups, and establishing positive case law for patients. The campaign's well-traveled website features an array of legal and educational materials on issues from housing and eviction to law enforcement encounters.

On April 28, Sensible Colorado joined ASA at a press conference to officially launch the Colorado Campaign for Safe Access. Several patients spoke at this event and local media outlets covered the story. To learn more about the vibrant and growing CO medical marijuana community, please call 720-890-4247 or visit SafeAccessColorado.org.

For information on this and any ASA activities, visit safeaccessnow.org.



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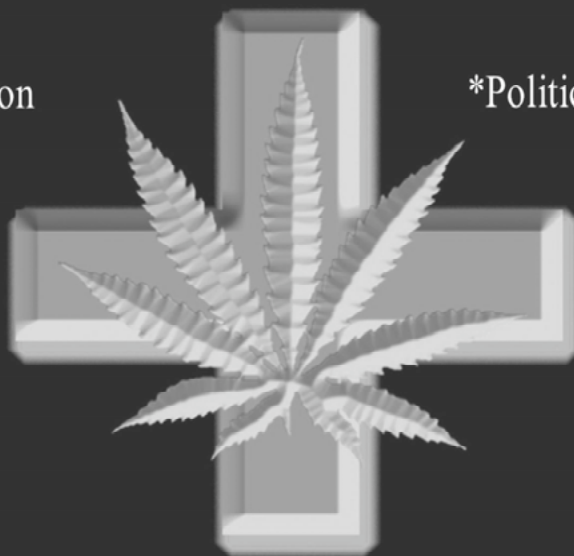
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California racing North Dakota to restart industrial hemp farming

By Adam Eiding

Is 50 years of prohibition on "industrial" hemp farming about to end? That's what US farmers are asking as they have new reasons to believe 2007 could mark the first US hemp crop harvest since 1957. Since demand for hemp seed and oil has exploded in recent years, legislative and legal challenges to bring back versatile low-THC hemp have new momentum. Healthy hemp foods such as breads, salad dressing, cereal and snack bars as well as body care products such as soaps and lotions are more popular than ever. With hemp imports including fiber products such as clothing and rope estimated at \$250 to \$300 million annually, US farmers feel left out and are speaking up.

The official meeting marked a turning point in the federal government's relations with hemp-friendly policy makers, who have been routinely ignored by DEA officials.

In response, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson formally proposed rules May 3 to license farmers in his state to grow industrial hemp under existing state law. Meanwhile the California Senate is expected to pass hemp farming legislation in early summer and hemp industry experts are optimistic Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will sign the bill which has bipartisan support in the CA legislature.

The progress in two of the nation's biggest agriculture states plays to the backdrop of farmers across Canada planting over 30,000 acres of industrial hemp this

year. Canadian farmers have reported net profits averaging \$250 per acre over the past three years. This might seem low, but farmers say they are earning three to ten times what they would make growing traditional crops such as wheat, soy or corn.

In February, Commissioner Johnson, along with agriculture commissioners from three other states, met with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials in Washington, DC to explore acceptable rules on industrial hemp farming. The official meeting marked a turning point in the federal government's relations with hemp-friendly policy makers who have been routinely ignored by DEA officials.

"This is seemingly an about face for an agency that has threatened to prosecute anyone who tries to grow non-psychoactive hemp in America," says Vote Hemp President Eric Steenstra whose organization is working to promote industrial hemp farming and was instrumental in getting the first federal hemp bill (HR 3037) introduced last year.

ND has restrictive approach

While ND's rules would require farmers to secure a permit from DEA before their licenses would become effective, there is precedent for this as the DEA permitted a test plot of industrial hemp in Hawaii from 1999 to 2003. ND's proposed rules cover commercial hemp farming and include a number of restrictions to alleviate law enforcement concerns.

Proposed rules include:

- Farmers must consent to a criminal background check including fingerprints;
- How much and who the farmer sells to must be documented within 30 days;
- Location of the field must be provided using geopositioning (GPS) coordinates;

Continued on page 18

Cannabis pioneer 'Dr. Tod' Mikuriya honored

Dr. Tod Mikuriya, perhaps the world's foremost cannabis practitioner, was recently honored by Patients Out of Time, NORML and the California Coalition Against Prohibition. Mikuriya, shown here holding his CCAP award, was a staff researcher with President Nixon's *Shafer Commission* (1972) who also collected and published the book *Marihuana Medical Papers, 1842-1972*. He was among the first to recognize the value of cannabis as a safer substitute drug for alcoholics.

He contributed the phrase "any other condition" to Prop 215, which gives physicians great latitude to approve use of the drug. He was targeted by both the federal drug czar and the state medical board for his work with thousands of patients. "I'm so used to having my work taken for granted that it's hard to know how to take being not taken for granted," quipped Mikuriya, who has recently had health problems.



DOCTORS OF COMPASSION — Prominent medical marijuana and pain physicians attended a party to honor Dr. Mikuriya. Around him, clockwise from top, are Drs. Jeff Hergenrath, William Eidelmann, Frank Fischer, Frank Lucido, William Courtney, Eugene Schoenfeld and Tom O'Connell. Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad

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Largest-ever federally-sponsored smoking study clears the air NIDA: Even very heavy marijuana smoking does not cause cancer

By David F. Duncan, DrPH, FAAHB*

Opponents of the legalization of marijuana frequently argue that marijuana smoke contains a number of carcinogenic chemicals and that therefore the prohibition of marijuana use must continue to protect the public from lung cancer. From the standpoint of an epidemiologist, these arguments have never been credible. Persuasive evidence that marijuana use causes cancer or contributes to any serious health problems simply does not exist. A presentation in May at the American Thoracic Society conference, reported that the largest study ever conducted to specifically test the hypothesis that cannabis use causes lung cancer has again found no support for this idea.

This study, funded by National Institute on Drug Abuse, was a case-control study that involved 1,200 patients in the Los Angeles area who had cancer of the lung, neck or head, compared to an additional 1,040 persons without cancer, matched for age, sex and neighborhood. Researchers found that even very heavy cannabis smokers showed no increased incidence of any of the three cancers studied. While no association between cannabis smoking and cancer was found, the study did find a 20-fold increase in lung cancer among people who smoked two or more packs of cigarettes daily.

The principal investigator of this new study was Dr. Donald Tashkin, of UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, who has been conducting studies for three decades searching for respiratory damage due to marijuana use. In the past, his studies have been widely quoted by the federal government and other defenders of the war on drugs and have been harshly criticized by epidemiologists and statisticians. Dr. Tashkin acknowledges that the study's findings were contrary to his biases. "We hypothesized that there would be a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer, and that the association would be more positive with heavier use," he said. "What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of

some protective effect."

Despite the existence of a body of epidemiologic evidence finding no major health problems due to cannabis use, Tashkin has stated that he still believes marijuana is potentially harmful. While his study adds to the evidence of no cancer risk, he is only prepared to acknowledge that marijuana's cancer causing effects appear to be of less concern than previously thought. Clinging to the fact that some chemicals in smoke will cause cancer when administered in massive doses to lab rats, he continues to argue, in effect, that smoking cannabis must cause cancer even if it doesn't.

The problem, Tashkin suggests, may be that in addition to all those purported carcinogens, cannabis also contains the chemical THC, which he suggests may kill aging cells and keep them from becoming cancerous. In other words, the only reason they didn't find any harm was that it is so harmful that one harm cancels out the other - a strikingly irrational argument. A far more logical suggestion would be that any carcinogenic effects are compensated for, not by some cell destruction but by the protective anti-cancer effect some studies seem to indicate that cannabis possesses.

* Published with permission from the National Association for Public Health Policy website, naphp.org, May 28, 2006. Oakland News first reported on this study in October, 2005.



Online activism made easy

How to reform drug policy using DrugSense / MAP

By Mary Jane Borden

DrugSense is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides accurate information about drug policy, offers wide-ranging services from an archive of news articles to web hosting, to promotion of broadcast media events. Everyone interested in drug policy issues should be aware of the helpful services it offers, including the Media Awareness Project, or MAP.

One frequently requested topic is *Help: how to find and use the myriad resources available on DrugSense Websites*. Below are a number of useful topics, which can be used to explore the many, versatile, and interactive components available to assist activists in adding their voice to the growing chorus calling for reform.

A treasure trove of services

- DrugSense Web Portal. All DrugSense services can be accessed by registering at DrugSense.org, including video, blogs, and reform-focused collateral material.
- Media Awareness Project (MAP), MAPinc.org, includes the DrugNews Archive of drug policy news clippings, DrugSense Weekly e-Newsletter, and resources pertaining to letter writing and media activism.
- Drug Policy Central Web Services, DrugPolicyCentral.com. Web-based resources for drug-policy groups: Web hosting, e-mail discussion lists, tech support.
- Media Activism Center, MAPinc.org/resource. All you need to engage the media on drug policy issues: Internet meetings, media training, Drug Policy Writers Group for OpEds, and schedule of OnAir events.
- How to Search the DrugNews Archive, MAPinc.org/search/shelp.htm. Find news articles about drug policy in our DrugNews Archive using one of three search forms.

- How to be a MAP Newshawk, MAPinc.org/hawk.htm. Learn how to locate, format, and submit news articles to the DrugNews Archive.
- How to Become an Active Member of MAP, MAPinc.org/how2.htm. Volunteers drive MAP. Here are activities activists can do to change drug policy.
- Features of the DrugSense.org Website. DrugSense.org/help/ Moving a mouse over various features shows how to uses the DrugSense Web portal.
- How to Handle the Media, MAPinc.org/media2.htm. Learn how to pitch stories, generate messaging, and stage media events.
- Tips for Writing Letters-to-the-Editor, MAPinc.org/source/tips.htm. Platinum letter writer Robert Sharpe reveals secrets of a record-setting 1,000+ published LTEs.
- How to Get Drug Policy On Air, MAPinc.org/resource/maf_howto.htm. Learn how to gain local radio and TV coverage for drug policy topics.
- Media-Contact-on-Demand Tutorials, MAPinc.org/mcod/. Connect local media to drug policy reform using the DrugSense Media Contact Database.
- MAP Virtual Conference Room, MAPinc.org/resource/Paltalk.htm. Join an Internet-based, voice conference on drug policy topics by downloading software and accessing this "room".

To reform the draconian drug policies are dedicated activists ready, willing — and trained — to respond proactively in the media. This is what DrugSense does, heightens awareness of the extreme damage caused by the flawed and failed system of drug prohibition, commonly known as the "War on Drugs," and informs the public on rational alternatives to the Drug War by helping organize citizens to take actions that bring about needed reforms.

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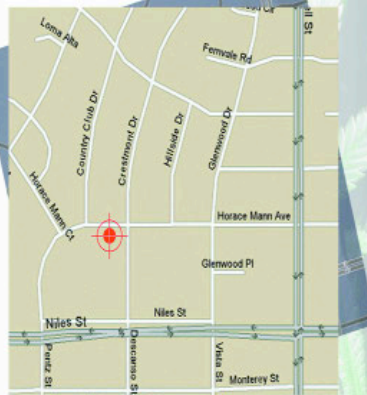
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YOUNG PLANTS —This vegetative crop of cannabis plants sits on a balcony. It can be relatively easy to cultivate a terrace full of medicine, once you know how.

Plant for a patient:

Grower's pride is part of the process of cultivating high quality medicine



Here is the same crop of females a few months later, nearly mature. There is enough medicine here to last some patients an entire year. Photos by Jorge Cervantes

The first winner is the Cowgirl in the Black Hat!

By Jorge Cervantes*

We do not advocate breaking any laws with the information provided in this column.

Here we are with our first garden contest winner, and we're already changing the rules. The *Plant for a Patient* idea was originally patterned after the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program. However, the first winning entry made it clear that we must amplify that concept in order to support medical patients more.

Our expanded goal is to provide a publication where patients can show their gardens, tell their story in a few words and provide inspiration to other patients and caregivers. By participating in this program medical growers and patients help

people understand how and why medicinal cannabis helps them live a less painful life.

Of course we still encourage medical growers in a caretaker capacity to send in photos of their gardens and tell how they are helping patients. We emphasize that many patients are unable to grow for themselves and providing them with free cannabis eases their stress level and the financial burden of acquiring non-subsidized medicine.

* Cervantes is author of *Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (2005) *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing*, *Jorge's Rx* and *Jorge's Ultimate Grow DVD* He writes for twelve magazines in six languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. Hit www.marijuanagrowing.com for more information.



Above: Part of the harvest. It was first manicured and hung to dry. The buds shown here have been removed from large branches. Photos by Jorge Cervantes

Left: Cervantes working on a DVD on Vancouver Island.

The patient gardener:

Black hat / green bud

I raise horses and was a professional farmer prior to getting RA, a blood disease. This form of arthritis requires chemotherapy. It sucked! I was issued a medical cannabis card and it saved me from wanting to quit living. The cannabis reduced my pain. I am mellow and accepting of my fate; I have several more surgeries and a crippled body in years to come.

With this renewed gift of enjoying life, I am again showing horses and participating in everyday life with joy. I am a



lifetime member of APHA/ A QHA and NFQHA — all horse breed registries. I am also vice president of our local club. Some people might be hard on me for saying I use medical marijuana. My career is important, but my love of life is a higher priority.

I stand tall and support rallies and politics to make medical marijuana available to those who need it. This is the third crop that I've been able to grow, thanks to the approval note that I've had just over a year.

Thanks for letting me share,

— Free 2 Farm



How to enter the Odam News garden photo contest

Every issue, *Oaksterdam News* will choose a winner of the contest for medical gardens and send them an autographed copy of *Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* — 512 full color pages and 1120 professional color images.

We urge other publications and websites to start similar programs in their communities to help raise the awareness of medical marijuana growers and patients.

Here is what we are looking for:

1. High quality digital images, at least 5 megapixel in size.
2. Medical marijuana gardens only
3. Send digital images with a short descriptive paragraph and return e-mail to: jaime@oaksterdamnews.com.
4. Mail high-quality photo prints to Odam News, 405-15th St., Oakland CA, 94612, Attn: Plant for a Patient

Please include a few words to a paragraph or two about each photo you submit when possible. The information provided by the images of cannabis gardens will help other qualified medical growers produce better gardens. The contest will also help expand the feeling of camaraderie within the cannabis community.

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by Jorge Cervantes

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"If you want to grow weed, this is the book you need!" David Bienenstock - Editor, (www.hightimes.com).

"The new Bible is without a doubt the best grow book on the market," Phil Kilv, Editor in Chief, (www.weedworld.co.uk).

"Fun, informative, illustrative, hands on and authoritative," Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director, NORML, Washington, DC, (www.norml.org).

"... a true and valuable encyclopaedia for the modern cannabis cultivator. This is a must read." Rob Tuinstra, Chief Editor, (www.highlife.nl).

"Putting aside any legal and moral judgements one may have about marijuana, this is one hell of a book." - Jeff Lowenfels, America's Longest Running garden columnist, Fellow and Hall of Fame member, GWA, America's dirtiest lawyer.

"well-researched, well-written and well-put together. It is high quality knowledge. A must-read!" Cliff Cremer, International Editor, (www.softsecrets.nl).

"Jam-packed with tons information, a must-have for any ganja lover." Kaya Spring, Editor, (www.headsmagazine.com).

"With this most recent edition of his Bible, Jorge proves once again he remains far ahead of the pack." Steven Hager, Cannabis Cup Founder, (www.cannabiscup.com).

"This is the most complete and up-to-date manual for growers." Daniele Levi, Chief Editor, (www.spannabis.com).

"Weighty, comprehensive, beautiful. The outright world leader. Nuff said." Lyndon, Editor in Chief, (www.CCNEWZ.com).

"In my book, it's an A+, read." Soma, Soma Seeds, (www.somaseeds.nl)

"No stone is left unturned in this must have book." David Strange, Editor in Chief, Skunk, (www.skunkmagazine.com)

"This opulently illustrated book is overflowing with marijuana expert knowledge," G.B.J., German Cannabis Journalist, (www.seednews.de)

"Jorge Cervantes published the best growing book ever" KIMO, Hemp Journal, Germany (www.hanfjournal.de/)

"It credits more than 300 contributors and reads like a who's who in the world of cannabis cultivation." Martin Palmer, (www.avalonheadshop.co.uk)

"The new Bible is a must read for all marijuana lovers, from novices to experts." Moseñor Jose Maria, Soft Secrets, Spain

"The new Bible is great!" Ryoichi Maeda, BURST HIGH magazine Japan (www.coremagazine.co.jp/burst/high.html)

"The new Medical Grower's Bible is fantastic in everyway!" Lorna, Director Cannabis College, Amsterdam, Holland, (www.cannabiscollege.com)



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Part three in our series:

Odam News visits SF dispensaries

by Jaime Galindo

Ok, here's the city where the cannabis movement began. San Francisco has dozens of medical cannabis dispensaries available to visit and purchase low grade to "one hitter quitter" type grade cannabis anywhere from 8 am to midnight.

I recently visited several to review the atmosphere and quality of their merchandise. I loved it and loved meeting the people who make it all possible.

The US government says buying marijuana from tax-paying, job-creating, community-minded cannabis dispensaries is no better than buying from a tax-evading thug on a dark street corner.

That's ridiculous, as anyone who goes to the regulated outlets in places like Oakland or San Francisco clearly knows. There are some great, good-hearted people taking a positive step forward, inside local and state governments that value compas-

sion and democracy — and here's what I found.

Grass Roots

1077 Post St., San Francisco
415-346-4338
10am-7pm 10-5pm Sun.

Accessibility: Van Ness BART station, Polk St. bus stop. Street parking.

Walk right in, have a seat if there's a line and become mesmerized by the selections available on the menu here. Grass Roots reminded me of a hometown art gallery type space and setting. Very clean, well lit, and safe. Their mouth-watering buds are displayed in large, clear, air tight glass jars. I like the way they weigh your selection in front of you. This assures you get the weight you pay for. Grass Roots offers premium grades, high grades, oils, kief, hash, edibles and more.



QUALITY — Top left: the entrance to 208 Valencia. Above: GrassRoots collection. Oakland News photos by Jaime Galindo

Good Fellows Smoke Shop

473 Haight St.
Open late 10-10pm 7 Days
415-255-1323

Accessibility: Haight St. bus stop. Street parking.

This was my favorite of them all, even though there's no smoking. As I entered this fine establishment, I found myself in a cannabis connoisseur's fantasy. Up high, they feature beautiful eastern hookahs. Below, all the San Francisco-made, intricately blown glassware you desire, from bongos to pipes. This smoke shop stocks it all. Eventually, I did make it to the dispen-

sary portion of the shop, after picking out the most beautiful, blown glass bong I've ever owned to display at our new Oakland News headquarters.

Good Fellows also stores cannabis in glass jars and weighs the goods in front of you. It was so hard to make a selection that I had to try five. I got some Ingrid, Victory, Rom, Mystic and Blueberry. Many sell the same names. Only few have the real deal. They have the real. You'll want to take your time finishing a joint rolled with any of their top shelf strains. Good Fellows offers too much to list, so you need to stop by and see for yourself. They have the neon sign shown on the cover of this issue.

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Two new dispensaries to open in Oakland

By Steve DeAngelo

In two long awaited announcements, the City of Oakland recently released the names of its final choices to receive medical cannabis dispensary licenses.

Keith Stephenson won approval for his proposal for a facility at 415 Fourth St, downtown between Broadway and Franklin. Stephen DeAngelo and David Wedding Dress were approved for a dispensary at 1840 Embarcadero, on the waterfront at the 16th Avenue exit on the 880 freeway.

The decision ends several months of suspense and speculation that began when the City declined to renew licenses for two of its legally mandated four dispensaries, citing building code violations and other irregularities. The City Manager's office then launched a new, more rigorous application process for would-be replacement dispensary operators.

This included criminal background checks; proof of adequate capitalization; staffing, security and business plans; a location that met strict zoning require-

ments; a legal test; and an interview with the City Manager. Despite these demanding requirements, 11 applicants participated in the highly competitive procedure.

Stephenson is Oakland's first African-American licensed dispensary operator. In his public hearing he stressed his deep ties to the local community, and his willingness to fully and faithfully comply with all City regulations. Stephenson also stressed the insights gained through his own experiences as a medical cannabis patient, referring to himself as the "primary patient" rather than CEO.

DeAngelo and Wedding Dress offer the Harborside Health Center, a state-of-the-art, 6500 sq. ft. facility, with easy freeway access, parking for fifty cars, and a holistic health care clinic. Both DeAngelo and Wedding Dress have long backgrounds in the activist community, as well as extensive business experience.

They promise a not-for-profit, community-service oriented dispensary that will provide superb customer service in unparalleled surroundings.

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Purple Heart

1326 Grove corner of Divisadero
415-409-1002
9-9pm Mon-Thu, 9-10pm Fri-Sat, 12pm-6pm Sun.
Accessibility: Divisadero St. bus stop. Private parking.
Purple Heart is under new management.

These guys are part of the Bay Area's Safe Alternative Collective. The place was poorly managed before and this new collective is working hard to clean things up. The interior is pretty bare and limited, until these guys finish with their new redecoration. Meanwhile, I'd say their convenient parking lot still makes it worth a trip.

208 Valencia

208 Valencia
Open late 8am-10pm 7 days
415-621-0131

Accessibility: 16th St. BART off of Mission, Plenty of street parking.

From the street, 208 Valencia appears to be an ordinary home town style café/sandwich bistro; but once you are verified, a secret door opens. Inside you will find it small but cozy. I would say it's very reminiscent of a Dutch coffeeshop. Too bad there's no smoking. The establishment, also in the Bay Area's Safe Alternative Collective, is clean, well-lit, and feels very safe. Not to mention a lot of great food to eat — actual meals, not just snacks.

I would love to sample lunch items while I sample some of their high grades.

Hopenet

223 9th St.
415-863-4399
12-7pm Mon-Sat

Accessibility: Civic Center BART station, Howard St. bus stop. Street parking.
Wow! This is a high-end cannabis dispensary. Most patients I saw during my visit were in pressed, tucked, collared shirts.

Nothing but the best at HopeNet; from high-end strains to hash, kief, chocolates — you name it! They even have a small outdoor garden you can smoke in and an indoor smoke room similar to a nice, cozy living room. These fine folk maintain the same level of strength and determination in their work for ending the war on cannabis. Even after being raided by US agents they continue to press ahead, only stronger. Hopenet is a "must see" when visiting SF.

Happy Days

607 Divisadero St
415-359-9927
12-10pm Mon-Thu 12-12 Fri-Sat 11-5pm Sun

Accessibility: Divisadero St. bus stop. Street parking.

This place has a strong hip hop feel and scene. I personally didn't feel comfortable here; too small and crowded. Some of the selections were over-priced. I don't know what else to say, so let's move on.

Alternative Patients Care

953 Mission # 40
415-618-0680
Hours: 12-6 Mon - Fri, 11-5 Sat
Accessibility: Plenty of street parking.
APC has over a dozen strain varieties available, from sativas to indicas, edibles, concentrates, and a small selection of clones are also available.

Everything is organic and soil grown. Currently there is no smoking, but soon APC will open a patient lounge in the same clean, safe building so patients can relax and enjoy their selection. I look forward to stopping by and checking out the new addition. The APC staff was professional and compassionate. They even provide medicine to over 30 patients who are in desperate need and can't afford their medicine. Some call themselves compassionate caregivers, but APC lives up to that claim.

Sanctuary

669 O'Farrell
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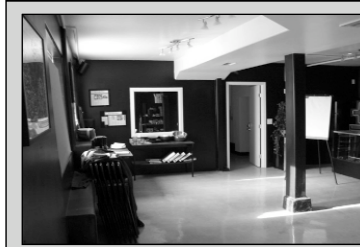
Accessibility: Civic Center BART, #38 to Geary St. bus stop. Street parking
Sanctuary is my other favorite dispensary. Talk about healthy premium grade clones available on hand and dozens more you can special order from an extensive collection. Each strain in the catalog is meticulously described, education seems to be their niche. Want organic cannabis? Sanctuary has Ak-47, Ak-48, Cinderella 99, Citral, Grand Daddy Purple, Hawaiian Maui Wowie, Hawaiian Snow, Hindu Kush, Jack Flash, Hog, Master Kush, MK Ultra, Mother's finest, NYC Diesel, Mango, Eraser Head, Pineapple Punch, to name just a few!

Hash is another specialty here, as seen in our cover photo. Sanctuary has some of the most potent hash I've tried, like the Train Wreck and Diesel hash I got to taste using their vaporizer. It's a unique experience. The staff is extremely educated on the product line. Sanctuary staffers will give you personal attention, take you around and tell you what type and where things came from, and many other details of the production and proper use of high quality cannabis. I'll see you guys next time. Thanks for your hospitality.

Mayoral race favors Oaksterdam's future

From page 1
has been a sore point that has drawn angry public comment at City Council meetings.

As of press time, it looked like Dellums would receive more than 50 percent of votes cast in the race and thus avoid a runoff. In District 2, challenger Aimee Allison forced incumbent De la Fuente ally Pat Kernighan into a November runoff. Allison supports taxing and regulating cannabis in the city and supports Measure Z. If Allison wins this fall, it will add a reliable vote for reform.



Leavenworth Street. Here is a peek inside our new "potential" home," almost finished. It may be a good time to start writing considerate and encouraging letters to planning department case worker "Aaron Starr" (Aaron.Starr@sfgov.org) Case # 2006.0455D to ensure that the city has a file of supportive San Francisco citizens as we enter the Planning Department's July 13, 2006 Discretionary Review Hearing on the The Green Cross application. I will keep you updated as we move forward, and please c/c me on any letters you may write.

"Thanks again for all your support." — Kevin Reed

Sneak peek at the new Green Cross location

"We've been working very hard to obtain a permit to provide our patients with a New ADA compliant, Safe & Professional pharmacy located at 2701

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Interview:

Chong revels in stoner stereotype

By Chris Conrad

Tommy Chong of Cheech and Chong was keynote speaker at the 2006 national NORML conference. After the showing of his forthcoming documentary, *AKA Tommy Chong* was cancelled due to smoking in the screening area, the former Drug War POW came by to talk with me at the *Oaksterdam News* table.

Q: The film *AKA Tommy Chong* shows how your early career took you from being a couple of regular comics who played at strip joints to major movie stars, to social stereotypes, and then you end up as a Drug War POW for smoking paraphernalia.

Chong: Yeah, I learned the hard way that I should never put my picture on a bong.

Q: It looks like you were not initially into politics, just humor?

Chong: Nah, my arrest forced me to be a spokesperson rather than just another comic, but I'm glad that my celebrity gets people to hear what I have to say.

Q: What are you up to these days?

Chong: Nowadays I'm an advisor — and my advice for people is to watch out for the Feds, because they're really, really mean.

Q: Do you have a medical approval?

Chong: Yeah, I've had my card for years now, but the feds took it when they busted me. I got so much anxiety and stress from them that I had to get a new one. Seriously, I used weed to get off cigarettes. Whenever I felt like a smoke, I'd just light up a joint instead of a cigarette. It really worked: I'd forget I hadn't smoked a cigarette.

Q: When did you start smoking herb?

Chong: I first used it when I was 18. I got high the first time and loved it. I nursed that joint along for weeks. I call it the rat technique, trying to make everything last.

Q: Are you concerned about the stereotype that your Cheech and Chong characters created and how they have created such a lasting stigma, like when the drug czar referred to medical marijuana as "Cheech and Chong medicine"?

Chong: I was actually kind of proud of that. Anyhow, we created these stereotypes based on people that we liked and got a big kick out of being around. They became a stereotype for the right wing but are seen as friends by friendly people. Look, what was Carl Sagan's contribution to the movement? He was a genius who smoked pot everyday; but when you point to some brilliant guy who comes up with scientific theories while smoking pot every day, he's treated like an anomaly, not a stereotype. But most people aren't geniuses and they can't relate to him. He can't be the stereotype because there aren't enough people like him. But everybody knows a Cheech and Chong type, so it sticks.

Those fundamentalists are like talking to a stone; they can't get far enough out there in their moral condemnation, so you can't reach them. With Cheech and Chong, we show the simplest guys getting high and just getting goofy. They aren't shown as geniuses or heroes. But they aren't bad



Tommy Chong signs autographs at the Oaksterdam News booth during the NORML conference.
Photo by Jaime Galindo

Inset: The comic duo Cheech and Chong in its day.

people; they aren't mean. They're looking to get high and get laid — and if you get high you don't care if you get laid, so getting high is more important.

Q: I know you've been to Amsterdam because I saw *Nice Dreams* and even went to the *Nice Dreams Coffeeshop* back in the day; did you have anything to do with it?

Chong: (Laughing) Nah, they did that on their own; I thought it was funny.

Q: What do you think about transferring the Amsterdam model to America?

Chong: I'm not interested in that. We have to create our own system here, and it's not going to be the same as in Amsterdam. We're creating our own system here and it has to match our economic realities. Bush and Cheney are so criminal it reeks. We have to overcome that or fit into it. So, here's the system. A plant grows that gives you all these gifts, one of which is it makes you happy. And that scares the shit out of these guys, so they try to get rid of us. But with pot, you're not dealing with people who are criminals. So here's the deal, the jails are now run by potheads. They're the smartest people in there and they do the clerical work, the gardening and come up with all the suggestions. Plus lots of guards sell pot. Just like the DEA busts dealers, takes their money and pot then lets them go ... and the cops end up selling it.

You know what else is criminal; the prisons are privately run. The one I was in was run by Wackenhut — who changed its name to GEO — but what this whole thing about is making money for them. So we already have a system, but you have to realize that the US government is the most corrupt in the world; people just don't want to admit it.

Q: So why did they come after you?

Chong: I think my troubles began when I went to Missouri and started outing people on the radio, whether they really smoke it or not. They didn't like it when I started saying shit about these politicians, and some callers got rather irate, but it was just

a joke. Still, the reality is that Kareem smoked pot and it probably extended his basketball career by ten years by keeping him off other drugs. Look at Ricky Williams, who failed another drug test for pot and got banned from football for life. "Smoke a joint and lose your career"? You've got to admit it's not very fair.

Q: Are you coming to Seattle HempFest this year, the world's biggest hemp rally?

Chong: They just asked me, and I'm thinking about it. You know, Woodstock was really the first cannabis event ever held at such a large scale; a half-million people with no plan. But it was all mellow. Without pot, that could've been a disaster.

Q: How did your arrest affect things?

Chong: There is no upside. When I went to jail, a lot of people wouldn't come near me anymore. It's easy to keep at arms length; even good friends abandon you.

Q: So what keeps you in this?

Chong: I've always had profound spiritual experiences. I went to Bible camp when very young — seven or eight years old —

NORML conference considers past, future of herb

Continued from page 1

to better argue for reform, the science and politics of medical marijuana, electoral campaigns, international and national updates, cannabis cultivation and conversion, religious use, and much more.

"The Drug War is an American obsession, not an American monopoly," said Richard Cowan, warning of prohibition's tentacles. "The US is working with many of the most repressive and brutal regimes in the world to maintain a UN majority in support of a global albatross. Human rights and civil rights are trampled."

No sooner had the lights gone out for a screening of *AKA Tommy Chong*, a documentary on him and the 2004 federal paraphernalia raids, then they came back on as the hotel shut down the show claiming that smoke detectors were about to unleash a torrent of water on the audience. Chong, of the famous comic duo "Cheech and Chong," told the audience that he had been politicized by his arrest after decades of seeing himself as a simple comic. "I guess it was a mistake to put my face on the front

I was really into it all and came to understand so much. When I smoke, I go back to that place of spiritual sensibility at a gut level that helps make sense of things.

Like when you make a mistake, it's really a learning event. You don't learn from your successes; you learn from your mistakes. People are so worried and brain-washed that they have to be perfect but you can learn some great stuff when you screw up. You learn what not to do. Then you actually look forward to your mistake, because it's like skiing or skateboarding you might get hurt — but you don't do that again, do you?

Q: I know you've got other people who want to talk, but is there anything in particular you'd like to say to our readers?

Chong: Well, maybe one thing. There's this whole unseen level of understanding of reality that goes back and forth between that which is physical and real, and all these other things — the invisible aspects of the world and reality: time, spirit, and all the possibilities they encompass. Certain people can naturally comprehend them and others are drawn to try to understand it.

So if you have that natural curiosity and interest in whatever is below the surface, you go looking for it; exploring and bringing back new insights to your daily life. Basically, it's that we're in a multi-level, multi-dimensional reality but most people get locked into their own little part of it and don't get any farther. If you open up to it, there's so much more out there. Most people will never know it. But pot can take you there or give you a taste of it. We're so lucky to be able to get glimpses of it, and once you do, you aren't so afraid of life and what it holds, even if it involves mistakes or prison. It's all a great adventure, and that's what makes life so great.

Q: I never knew Tommy Chong had this heavy, philosophical side.

Chong: Nobody does, and if you tell them, they won't believe you anyhow.

of a bong," he quipped, "that made it really hard to deny it was mine."

Cannabis Consumers Campaign director Mikki Norris was honored for women's leadership, *O'Shaugnessy's* editor Fred Gardner for journalism, SB Norml director Lauren Vasquez as student activist, Jane Weirick in memoriam, and Dr. Tod Mikuriya for his pioneering work in medical cannabis. *Oaksterdam News* publisher and OCLA boardmember Richard Lee was *High Times* activist of the year.

Dr. Tom O'Connell spoke of his work with state patients. "The architects of Prop 215 faced arguments that cannabis was not a real medicine. They were working from the wrong patient profile and responded by putting forth a serious-illness model without knowing what would really happen. Now they're painted into a political corner that is not rooted in the real patient base, which is often those people who already had experience with using cannabis and other drugs. ... They're the ones who are experienced with cannabis and not afraid to try it when a medical problem arises."

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Freedom Calendar ...

Get cannabis events listed here

Email to info@oaksterdamnews.com

Ongoing activities

Cannabis Action, Berkeley

First Monday of the month, 7:30 pm at 1605 Ashby Ave. The Berkeley-based legalization group Cannabis Action Network is holding regular meetings and planning a busy schedule of tabling at events this summer.

June

Weedstock, WI

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

Know your legal rights, SF

June 28, 6-9 pm: Central City SRO Collaborative, 253 Hyde Street (at Turk Street). Covers legal basics for handling cops, including questioning, searches, staying safe and legal, cops' dirty tricks, and much more. For info, 510-444-6969

July

Cannabis Rally, Washington DC

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

Freedom Run, SF

July 4, Freedom Run & Walk NORML Benefit, Golden Gate Park, SF, 10th & JFK. 10K & 2 mile race. 8:30 am, register from 7:30 am. peopleevents.org/Freedom_Road_2006.html 415-563-5858

Summer Internship in East Bay

July 8 - Aug 26: STRONG SEED Youth Leadership & Entrepreneurial Summer Program. Socially Responsible Network invites Bay Area youth & young adults ages 16-21 to participate. Application due June 21. For more information please contact srnbay@hotmail.com.

August

Seattle HempFest, 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, WA

Aug 27: Annual event, Heritage Park 5th and Water, Olympia, WA. 360-456-3517 www.olyhempfest.org

September

Portland Hempstalk, OR

Sept. 9-10: Portland, OR. Music, Mirth

and Merriment! Waterfront Park. Contact 503-241-7368, seusuwa@hotmail.com, or hempstalk.org

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, WI

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

Wonders of Cannabis, SF

Oct. 28-29, 11-7pm, County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, Ed Rosenthal's 2nd annual fall extravaganja, with music, rolling contests, vendors, comedy, prizes, symposia, Ninth & Lincoln. Sponsored by Cannabis Action Network.

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. Cannabis reform initiatives on the city ballots of Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, possibly others.

Harm Reduction Conference

Nov 9 - 12. The 6th National Harm Reduction Conference, "Drug User Health: The Politics and the Personal" Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel. Details, registration online at harmreduction.org.

Humboldt Hempfest

Nov 12 starting around 11 am: Annual event, near Garberville. All day event centered around Hemp. There are a large number of booths and crafts centered around one of the earth's most benign and purposeful plant. The stage is filled all day long with speakers, performers, and Native American dancers. Chris Skyhawk at 3 pm Mateel Center Center, 59 Rusk Lane, Redway, 707-923-2586

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

December

Festivus Celebration, SF

Ed Rosenthal hosts this annual bash "for the rest of us." Details TBA.



CANNABIS FREEDOM DAY
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... 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.stopheddrugwar.org/ Drug Reform Coordination Network is a national and global network of drug policy reformers from perspectives such as harm reduction, sentencing and forfeiture law reforms, medicalizing schedule I drugs, and promotion of open debate on 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 Policy Forum of CA

Listserve for California cannabis and drug war issues. Send email to canorml@igc.org to subscribe.

Drug Sense

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

Family Council on Drug Awareness

www.fdaa.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.

MAPS

www.maps.org/ Multidisciplinary Association on Psychedelic Studies, 2105 Robinson Ave., Sarasota FL 34232, 941 924-6277. Membership-based, non-profit 501(c)3 research / educational group that helps scientists design, fund, obtain approval for and report studies of risks and benefits of cannabis and psychedelics.

NORML

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

November Coalition

www.november.org/ National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishers of *The Razor Wire*.

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/ Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. 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.

VoteHemp

www.votehemp.com/ Lobby for industrial and horticultural hemp.

Drug War Facts

www.drugwarfacts.org/ Just the facts.

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Patient Services Directory

Thanks to the *Oaksterdam News* cannabis dispensary research team for compiling the most up-to-date directory in the world with online updates posted at oaksterdamnews.com. We make no representation as to the service, quality, reliability or compassion of any of these groups. For a discussion of the legalities of cannabis dispensaries, see CA NORML's *Tips for Would-be Cannabis Providers* at canorml.org.

Oakland

- The Co-op Store (ID Cards Only), 510-832-5346, 1733 Broadway, www.rxcbecc.org.
- SR-71, 377 - 17th St, Open M-F 9-8; Sa 10-8; Su 10-6
- CARE, 701 Broadway
- Harborside Health Center, 1840 Embarcadero*
- 415 Fourth St, downtown between Broadway and Franklin.* *Coming soon*

Berkeley / East Bay

- Berkeley Cannabis Coop, 3124 Shattuck Av. 510-488-1025 10-3pm
- Berkeley Patients' Group, 2747 San Pablo Av. 510-540-6013. berkeleypatientsgroup.com 11-7pm
- Berkeley Patients' Care Collective, 2590 Telegraph, 510-540-7878, medicalmarijuanainfo.com Nn-7pm

Contra Costa

- MED Dispensary 3823 San Pablo Dam Rd. El Sobrante 510-758-3269. 10-6pm delivery/ call for appt.
- Mariacare - 127 Aspen Dr. Pacheco (also deliveries) 925-459-2929. 10 - 8pm
- Holistic Solutions/Dragonfly 2924 Hill Top Mall Rd. Richmond 510-243-7585 11-6pm
- Natural Remedies Health Center Coll., 3817 Macdonald Ave, Richmond 510-965-1735 11-7pm

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.
- A Natural Source 510-276-7224, 16360 Foothill Blvd, San Leandro. M-F 11-7pm.
- We Are Hemp 913 E Lewelling Blvd, San Lorenzo. 510-276-2628. M-Sa 11-8

San Francisco

- City Dept of Public Health.(L.D. Cards Only) 1001 Potrero Av. S.F. General Hosp., 415-206-5555
- Purple Heart 1326 Grove St. 415-409-1002 11-9pm
- Happy Days 607 Divisadero St. 415-359-9927 Nn-10pm
- 208 Dispensary 208 Valencia St. 415-621-0131 8-10pm
- SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #1, 122 10th 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
- Patient's Place - 4811 Geary Blvd, 415-221-HEMP 11-7pm
- Love Shack, 502 14th St. x Guerrero, 415-552-5121. lssf.com 10-7pm
- 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, 722 Columbus St. 415-296-7614 11-6pm
- New Remedies Co-Op, 1760 Mission x Duboce, 415-864-0114 8-8pm
- Green Door, 843 Howard St. 11-8 daily 415-541-9590 GreenDoorInfo.com
- Alternative Patient Caregivers, 953 Mission St. #180. 415-618-0680. 12-6 M-F, 11-5 Sa. Clones.
- Alternative Relief Co-Op, 1944 Ocean Ave, 12-7pm, 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 Nn-7pmfc
- SF Patients' Cooperative, 350 Divisadero St. 415-552-8653. sfpc.org 11-5pm.
- Hopenet Coop, 223 9th St. 415-863-4399. M-F 12-7, Sa 12-5
- The Green Cross, (moving to N. Beh.) . 415-648-4420 thegreencross.org
- The Divinity Tree, 958 Geary St. 415-861-1000 10-8pm except Tu
- Mason St. Dispensary, 124 Mason St, downstairs 415-433-4420, 7-9 daily masondispensary.com
- Emmalyn's, 1597 Howard St. #A. 415-861-1000 10-8pm
- Patients Helping Patients Home Bike Delivery, 415-240-7190
- Good Fellows Smoke Shop, 473 Haight St. 415-346-4338 10-10pm

- Grass Roots, 1077 Post St. 415-346-4338 10-8pm
- Sanctuary, 669 O'Farrell. 415-885-4420 12-8pm
- Re-Leaf Herbal Center, 2980 - 21st St. 415-235-3307 12-8pm
- 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. cbmarin.com
- Kind Care Resource Center 5423 Central Av. 510-796-KIND 10-8 pm
- Mobile Herbal Therapy (San Mateo, San Jose deliveries). 866-240-9121
- San Jose area deliveries: Growth Unlimited, 1-888-MED-CANN
- My Green Heaven Ministry. Millbrae. mygreenheaven.org

South Bay

- WoMen's Alliance for Medical Mj, WAMM 831-425-0580. 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

North Coast

- MMPU, Medical Marijuana Patients Union POB 2059, Fort Bragg 95437, 707-964-YESS. info@mmpu.org
- Herban Legend, 18300 Old Coast Hwy#3, Fort Bragg. 707-961-0113; M-Sa 11am-6pm.
- Mendo Remedies, 42400 Hwy. 101, Laytonville:

HS11362.5: "seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician..."

- 707-984-7101; low-income welcome. 10-6pm
- Caregivers Compassion Center 4349 Montgomery #D, Sia 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, S.A.M.M. 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, 15196 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake Oaks. Lake Co 707-994-1320 10-8pm
- Lake Co Alternative Caregiver Clinic, Clearlake Oaks. 707-998-0358. lace@mchsi.com
- Ukiah CBC Info, 707-462-0691
- Hemp Plus Ministries, 892 N. State St. Ukiah, 707-468-1478. M-Sa 10-6.

Central Valley to Redding

- Healthy Choice Collective 4213 McHenry Av. #E Modesto 209-918-2849
- 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), mercountypc@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 deliv. 209-456-0680
- Shasta Patient Alliance, shapatall@hotmail.com, info
- 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

Sacramento

- River City Patients' Center 916-649-0114
- Capitol Alternatives, 2020 - 16th St. Sacto, 916-497-0277 / 916-728-1967. Open 9-7 M-Fri; 9-5 Sa.
- 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. medsac916.com
- End of Rainbow delivery: 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
- 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

- PCH Collective 22333 P. C. Hwy. #102A Malibu Noon-8pm
- Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers 780 Monterey Av. #B Morro Bay 11-6pm
- Hezekiah Inc, 92 - 2nd St. #H, Buellton 805-264-1774 - open M-F 9-5.
- Compassion Center of Santa Barbara Co #1- SBC Collective, 2915 De La Vina St. San Barb. 805-682-8383 11-6pm



- Compassion Center of Santa Barbara Co.#2- SBC Collective 119 N. Milpas St.#C San Barb. 805-963-9797 12-5pm Sat 11-3pm
- 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 (Veneta Co) 805-890-1365. ID cards, medical referrals stoparrestings@sbc.com

OC, San Bernardino, Riverside

- C3 714-618-5221 9-9pm (regional delivery)
- 420 Primary Caregivers (215 Patient Bakery), 421 N.Brookhurst #130 Anaheim. 714-758-3500. M-Sa 11-7; delivery, 420primarycaregivers.com
- Pharmakeia (LA/OC/Riverside) 323-462-1516. M-Sa 10-5. pharmakeia.org, info@pharmakeia.org
- Inland Empire Herbal Caregivers Riverside Co. delivery 951-537-0255.
- 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. 11-7
- 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
- KG Meds delivery to San Bernardino, High Desert. 760-246-7047. kgmeds@yahoo.com
- Northern Lights Church, statewide support. 949-222-4209, Laguna Beach, northernlights-church.org / thehealingexchange.org

Los Angeles

- The Holistic Caregivers, 1321 E. Compton Blvd, Compton 310-889-4799; for deliveries phone 310-764-4740 M-Sa 9am-7pm.
- Inglewood Wellness Center 318 Market 310-674-4444. InglewoodWC.org 11-7pm
- A-1 Compassionate Cal., 301 N Prairie Ave #512, Inglewood 213-952-1857 M-Sa 11-7pm
- 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 10-7 M-F.
- Quality of Life Activities (QOLA) #323 W. Melrose Silverlake - Los Angeles Call for info: 323-644-1209 10-8 pm M-Sa.
- The Health Center of Studio City, 11324 Ventura Bl. 11-7 daily, 818-509-0574, San Fernando Valley.
- Hezekiah Inc, 6051 Hollywood Bl. #202. 10-6 pm daily, 323-467-6484.

Continued on page 18

Patient Services Directory

Continued from page 17

- 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 CaliforniaPatientsGroup.org Free valet service M-F after 4 pm
 - Hollywood Patients' Group, 6115 Selma Ave #103 Hollywood 323-464-6465 10-10 daily
 - Earth Collective, 5115 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 323-668-7633.
 - Hollywood Compassionate Collective (HCC), 1110 N. Western Ave #204, Hollywood 323-467-7292, M-F 11-7; Sa 12-8 pm hollywoodcollective.com.
 - 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 12-11pm
 - Lomita Vapor Lounge, 14829 Hawthorne Blvd #203, Lawndale 310-432-3262 11-7pm daily.
 - Lomita Collective - Palos Verdes deliveries 310-432-3262.
 - Comfort Care Group, 1720 Westwood Blvd, Westwood 310-441-8315 Open 7am-10pm.
 - Crescent Alliance for Sickle-Cell Self-Help Group (Sister Somayah) LA
 - Westside Compassionate Caregivers 2355 Westwood Bl. W. LA 310-474-8459 10-8 Su 10-6
 - WMPC, 11618 Washington Blvd #D, Whittier 562-692-3576 Open 11 am - 7 pm.
 - Whittier Collective 12450A East Washington Blvd. 562-696-9696, M-F 11-7; Sa 11-6; Su 10-3
- San Fernando Valley**
- NoHo Caregivers 4296 Vineland N. Hwd. 818-754-0834 11-8pm
 - Trichome Healing Caregivers, 7100 Van Nuys Blvd #204, Van Nuys. 818-373-5000. 10-7 daily except Wed. - disabled access
 - Mother Nature's Remedy Caregivers, 17302 Satcoy St., Van Nuys 818-345-MEDS mothernatureremedy.org. Hours 2:15 - 10 pm Tu-Su.
 - Therapeutic Medical 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 M-SA 11-7pm Su 11-5pm
 - Valley Independent Pharmacy, 10-7 daily. 19459

HS11362.775: Qualified patients, persons with valid identification cards, and the designated primary caregivers of qualified patients and persons with identification cards, who associate within the State of California in order collectively or cooperatively to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes, shall not solely on the basis of that fact be subject to state criminal sanctions under Section 11357, 11358, 11359, 11360, 11366, 11366.5, or 11570.

- 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) cecscity.com 11-8 M-F, 12-8 SA
- North Valley Discount Caregivers, 15600 Devonshire #203, Granada Hills 818-920-3110. Open 12 - 8 daily.
- 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. 12-7pm

Beach Cities

- Palos Verdes Collective 716 Warmouth Rd. #215 310-541-0608 12-8pm
- 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 11-7pm
- Freeway Pharmacy delivery Beach cities El Segundo - Huntington Beach 310-349-9135
- South Bay 420 Collective Delivery Service - Palos Verdes / So Bay beach cities. 310-561-3515; FAX 866-619-5942 harpinscb@netscape.net
- Diamond Delivery - Long Beach to North Orange Co. 562-331-5415

West Hollywood

- 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.
 - 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.
- San Diego**
- North County Medi Caregivers delivery 760-277-4059 daily 12-9 northcountymedical@yahoo.com.
 - San Diego Legal Ease, Inc. 4411 30th St. 619-516-2471 10-6pm
 - San Diego Caregivers. (delivery serving SD / south Riverside Co.) 760-580-0745

- San Diego area deliveries: medbud4u.com
- California Medical Center 5544 La Jolla Bl., 858-405-9496 Ni-7pm
- P.B.R., 1145 Garnet Ave, Pacific Beach 858-270-6337. Open 11 - 9.
- Ocean Beach Dispensary, 4230 Voltaire Ave. #2. 619-549-2014 obdispensary.com. 11-8.
- Co-Op Mira Mesa, 11271 Camino Ruiz, San Diego 11-7 daily. 858-271-8020 firstchoiceregivers@msn.com
- Native Sun Dispensary, 3806 Rosecrans, San Diego 619-299-2837. Open M-Sa 9-7.
- Co-Op SD (moved TBA) San Diego. 858-610-1674. Daily 11-7.
- Mother Earth Co-Op 2103 University Av., San Diego. 619-955-5611 Daily 9:30 - 8pm
- American Caregivers Co-op, North SD County delivery 760-420-0478.
- The Healing Room 5805A Mission Gorge Rd. San Diego 619-501-1970 Open 11-7 except Sun.
- San Diego Compassionate & Safe Care, 3778 - 4th Ave. 619-795-9447 Daily 11-8.
- Morena Care Group, 1231 Morena Blvd, San Diego 619-276-1146 morenareggroup@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

Will hemp be growing in US next year?

Continued from page 7

Planted hemp must contain less than three-tenths of one percent THC. Many uses, such as foods, animal bedding, biofuel and composites, will be more viable if hemp is treated like other crops. "How can a raw material that's legal to import, to sell, to eat and to use in all kinds of everyday products not be legal for farmers in America to grow? No other agricultural commodity is restricted to just importation," says Steenstra.

While ND progress could get hung up by DEA disapproval, lawyers with the hemp industry are preparing a court challenge if the DEA fails to cooperate with ND or CA when hemp legislation becomes law. The legal theory supporting the right of these states to regulate hemp farming stems from language in the Controlled Substances Act which exempts hemp from federal control.

Using this legal theory the Hemp Industries Association created a legal precedent when the group which represents 300 hemp businesses won their lawsuit in 2004 against DEA, protecting sales of hemp foods and body care the agency tried to ban. Building upon HIA v. DEA makes sense since its legal to grow poppy plants in the US even though it's a controlled substance. Since the DEA ignores poppy cultivation so long as the farmer isn't making heroin, one would think the DEA would also ignore hemp farming that is regulated by local authorities who ensure it is not the "marijuana" variety of cannabis.

Currently seven states (Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Montana, ND and West Virginia) have passed pro-hemp farming laws. Sales of hemp foods in 2004/2005 grew by 50 percent over the previous 12-month period. There are more than 2.5 million cars on US roads that contain hemp composites. Hemp cultivation in Canada is expected to exceed 30,000 acres in 2006, while European farmers now grow more than 40,000 acres. More information about hemp legislation and the crop's many uses can be found at www.VoteHemp.com.

For updates on voter initiatives nationally: www.drugsense.org/caip#take



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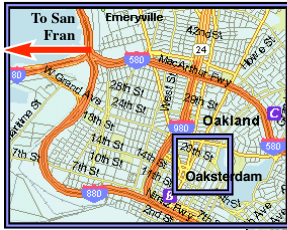
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**Visitor's guide map
Oaksterdam**

Oakland, California USA

**A brief history of the
Oaksterdam district**

Some 220 years after the founding of the American Republic, California voters had qualified the first statewide medical marijuana initiative for the ballot and the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club was in its heyday.

Across the Bay, on July 4, 1996, Jeff Jones opened the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Coop on the fifth floor of 1755 Broadway. When the OCBC was prevented from distributing cannabis by the federal government in 1998, other clubs opened, starting with The Zoo at 1736 Telegraph Ave. Thus began the uptown district of Oaksterdam.

The OCBC stayed open issuing medical cannabis ID cards and operating a hemp store, moving to 1733 Broadway in 1999, next door to the



**The Oaksterdam
Map Key**

- A Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Broadway
- B SR-71, 377 - 17th St.
- C Oaksterdam News 376 15th St.
- D Oaksterdam Gifts, 405 - 15th St.
- E Post office, 1446 Franklin St
- F Frank Ogawa Plaza
- G Medicann, 1814 Franklin # 901
- H Fox Theater, 1850 Telegraph
- I CARE, 701 Broadway
- J Paramount Theater, 2025 Bdwy
- K Kaiser rooftop garden, 1733 Bdwy
- L Lake Merritt Park boat rentals
- M Norcal MMJ , 1504 Franklin
- N Van Kleef Cafe 1621 Telegraph Ave.
- O Americans for Safe Access (ASA), 1322 Webster # 208
- P Paid parking

Four Seasons hydroponics store that had just opened.

The Bulldog Coffeeshop opened in December 1999, followed by Compassionate Caregivers the next year at their original location, 1740 Telegraph. By 2004, eight cannabis

dispensaries gave visitors a wide selection of products and created hundreds of jobs in Oakland.

Oakland can be proud to have helped thousands that came from all over the state before cannabis dispensaries opened where they lived.

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