



## AMERICA'S #1 CASH CROP: CANNABIS

### San Francisco joins call to deprioritize cannabis offenses

*Becomes first county to make cannabis laws lowest priority*

By Mikki Norris\*

San Francisco has joined the growing list of cities that make cannabis offenses the lowest law enforcement priority (known as LLEP). Following the stunning statewide sweep of voter initiatives that passed in Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, and Santa

*“There are many better ways that we can be using our tax dollars and empowering our law enforcement than wasting money and police resources on marijuana offenses.” — Supervisor Ammiano*

Cruz last November, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to pass a similar ordinance on November 14. A second vote a week later made it official.

The ordinance was sponsored by long-time ally to cannabis reform, Sup. Tom Ammiano, and co-sponsored by Supervisors Ross Mirkarimi, Chris Daly, and Jake McGoldrick. The legislation gained the support of four more supervisors — Bevan Dufty, Geraldo Sandoval, Aaron Peskin and Sophie Maxwell, with Michaela Alioto-Pier, Sean Elsbernd, and Fiona Ma opposed.

A coalition of activists representing such groups as Marijuana Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance, California NORML, Cannabis Consumers Campaign, Californians for Civil Liberties, and Axis of Love, worked together to lobby the supervisors, mayor's, and district attorney's offices to support this policy.

Speaking in favor of the policy, Ammiano claimed, “There are many better ways that we can be using our tax dollars and empowering our law enforcement than wasting money and police resources on marijuana offenses.”

*Continued on page 8*

### Odam in the Dellums era: A ‘perfect storm’

*for cannabis reform?*

By Richard Cowan\*

The phrase “perfect storm” describes how several unrelated events can combine to create a force much more powerful than any of its components taken separately. Something like that seems to be happening with cannabis policy in Oaksterdam.

For some time, the prevailing wind in this old port has been moving cannabis policies away from prohibition, starting with the city's long history of medical cannabis distribution and regulation.

In 2004, voters passed Measure Z by a two-to-one margin, to make private adult

*Continued on page 6*



**ECONOMIC GROWTH AREA** — A new report shows that cannabis is still America's top earning cash crop, and a growing chorus of Californians are calling on the State to control adult access to cannabis as a way to reduce incarcerations and bring in new revenues for vital public services.

Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad

### California leads the nation with \$13.8 billion industry

By Bruce Mirken\*

Cannabis is now the most valuable cash crop grown in the US, exceeding the value of corn and wheat combined, according to a study released Dec. 18, 2006. The trend harkens back to the early days of the American Republic, when hemp was the cash crop traded by gentlemen farmers like George Washington, Tom Jefferson, and other of the nation's founders.

Today's domestic cannabis crop comprises 56.4 million plants cultivated outdoors worth \$31.7 billion, plus 11.7 million indoor plants worth \$4.1 billion, according to the report *Marijuana Production in the US*. The study by public policy analyst Jon Gettman, PhD, draws on data from the federal government.

California is home to more than a third of the nation's emerald harvest, with an estimated production of \$13.8 billion: higher than the value of the state's combined grape, vegetable and hay harvests.

Moreover, herb is the top cash crop in a dozen other states, the report states, despite billions of tax dollars spent over decades of cannabis “eradication” campaigns in which over 100 million plants have been destroyed.

“The fact that marijuana is America's number one cash crop after more than three decades of governmental eradication efforts is the clearest illustration that our present marijuana laws are a complete failure,” said Marijuana Policy Project executive director Rob Kampia.

“America's marijuana crop is worth more than our nation's annual production of corn and wheat combined. And our nation's laws guarantee that 100 percent of

*Continued on page 9*

### Feds raid 11 LA area dispensaries; more than 200 others remain open

By Justin Baker

Like a wave of terrorist blasts rippling through the Los Angeles area, federal DEA raids hit 11 dispensaries Jan. 17. All the locations were providing medical marijuana that is legal under state law, prompting W. Hollywood protests and leaving over 200 locations still operating in the area.

Drug agents seized medicine, cash and guns. Twenty people were detained, but no charges were filed. A number of the raided facilities had reopened within a few days.

“The DEA strategy appears to be similar to that used by terrorist cells in Iraq: Disrupt the infrastructure, undermine democracy, and instill fear through force,” said a Republican political consultant, on condition of anonymity. “California is moving in the right direction with controlled cannabis access. The state could do even better if the DEA got out of the way, but these Bush drug warriors seem determined to snatch failure from the jaws of success.”

Only one day before the raids, LA Police Chief William Bratton had publicly called for a moratorium on new facilities until regulations can be adopted, citing a rapid rise in the number of cannabis dispensaries in the city over the last year.

*Continued on page 6*

### Marijuana laws put pressure on prisons

By Dale Gieringer\*

While serious crimes go unsolved and unprosecuted, California has over 1,400 cannabis prisoners; more than 14 times the number for 1980. The state currently spends over \$160 million per year to arrest, prosecute and imprison these offenders, with African-Americans being over-represented among them by a factor of five.

The costs of cannabis enforcement are unduly inflated by the fact that minor but

common activities, such as small-scale cultivation and distribution, are felonies. Simply downgrading them to misdemeanors would save the state's taxpayers court and imprisonment costs. Similar laws have been adopted, in Alaska, Maine, Colorado, Ohio, Australia and elsewhere.

A recent Evans-McDonough poll shows that 58 percent of state voters agree that reducing cannabis penalties is a good way to reduce prison crowding.

Governor Schwarzenegger, however, recently proposed spending even more money on new prisons. He also proposes cutting Prop 36 drug treatment programs intended to keep offenders out of prison, and vetoed a 2004 legislative effort to improve access to medical marijuana.

You can let him know what you think online at [www.govmail.ca.gov/](http://www.govmail.ca.gov/) or by mail: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger State Capitol, Sacramento CA 95814

Tell him it's time to stop wasting taxpayers' money imprisoning people for victimless cannabis offenses. How? By eliminating felony penalties for minor offenses, such as home cultivation, petty sales and possession of hashish.

California NORML has recommended several concrete legislative decriminalization proposals to reduce the number of non-violent cannabis prisoners.

*Continued on page 19*

### FIJA: Group reminds jurors they can acquit defendants in Federal medical marijuana cases

By Richard Lee

Jury selection in the retrial of Ed Rosenthal is scheduled to begin in February 2007.

Rosenthal is famous for writing cannabis cultivation books and fighting to legalize the plant for over 25 years and is being prosecuted for supplying medical plants to patients. His conviction four years ago was overturned because a juror was misinformed that she would be punished if she did not vote to find him guilty.

“Jurors cannot fairly determine the outcome of a case if they believe they will face ‘trouble’ for a conclusion they reach as jurors,” ruled Judge Betty Fletcher. “The threat of punishment works a coercive influence on the jury's independence.”

The Fully Informed Jury Association, [fija.org](http://fija.org), is teaming up with local jury rights activist to pass out literature around courthouses reminding potential jurors that they cannot be punished for their verdicts.

Jury education volunteers have already begun to leaflet around the San Francisco Federal courthouse in an effort to make sure all federal jurors know they cannot be punished if they vote to acquit and are better educated about the historical role juries have played in reforming unjust laws.

FIJA is also leafleting around federal courthouses in Oakland and Sacramento, and plans to expand to other California cities where there are high profile cannabis prosecutions.

# State medical marijuana patients win big as court upholds CA law

*Judge sides with Americans for Safe Access, ACLU and Drug Policy Alliance in saying California can protect patients*

By William Dolphin\*

A San Diego Superior Court judge handed a critical victory to medical marijuana patients nationwide Dec. 7, 2006, affirming the ability and authority of states to exempt qualified patients from criminal penalties, despite federal policy that prohibits all cannabis use.

Following oral arguments by the Americans for Safe Access, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Drug Policy Alliance, Judge William Nevitt confirmed the validity of California's medical marijuana laws, rejecting the contention of San Diego, San Bernardino and Merced counties that such laws are made invalid by federal law.

"The judge agreed with us that there is no real conflict between federal and state law, and that the state's voluntary ID cards program does not interfere with the purpose of Prop. 215," said Joe Elford, chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access (ASA). "This ruling upholds both the will of the voters and the legislature's attempt to help implement it. The protections provided to patients under state law have been confirmed."

Since the judge's ruling, Merced county officials have announced that they will be implementing the ID card program immediately. San Diego and San Bernardino counties have said they will appeal the decision.

The Medical Marijuana Program act, enacted by the state legislature in 2003 as SB420, requires counties to implement an identification card program that allows law enforcement to properly identify legitimate patients. The judge ruled that SB420 does not alter the intent of the Compassionate Use Act, passed by voters as Proposition 215, which allows qualified patients with a doctor's recommendation to use medical marijuana. Voter initiatives cannot be substantially changed or overturned by the legislature.

"This is a vital win for patients and a resounding step forward for the medical marijuana movement," said Adam Wolf, an attorney with the ACLU who joined ASA's Joe Elford in arguing the case. "This case, the first and only frontal assault on medical marijuana laws in the nation, has been soundly rejected. The victory here saves state medical marijuana laws from a cruel and ill-founded suit by a handful of rogue counties."

The California Attorney General's office argued in parallel with ASA, the ACLU, and Drug Policy Alliance (DPA)

*"The judge agreed with us that there is no real conflict between federal and state law, and that the state's voluntary ID cards program does not interfere with the purpose of Prop 215." — Joe Elford*

that state medical marijuana laws are not rendered invalid by conflicting federal statutes – consistent with the opinions of the attorneys general of several other states, including Colorado, Hawaii and Oregon, which permit medical use of cannabis.

"The ruling is a triumph for not only patients and the rule of law, but for the democratic process as well," said Tamar Todd, an attorney for DPA. "Americans need not march in lock step with the federal government's failed drug war"

The case originated from a lawsuit initially brought by San Diego County, and later joined by San Bernardino and Merced counties, against the state of California. ASA, the ACLU and DPA intervened in the proceedings on behalf of qualified patients and their caregivers and doctors in order to assure adequate representation of those most impacted by the case.

The groups represented Wendy Christakes, William Britt and Yvonne Westbrook, Californians who use physician-recommended cannabis to treat medical conditions and their side-effects, including chronic pain and sciatica, multi-

ple sclerosis, rectal cancer, epilepsy and post-polio syndrome.

The groups also represented Pamela Sakuda, a patient who passed away after the lawsuit was filed, as well as Sakuda's spouse and caregiver, Norbert Litzinger and Dr. Stephen O'Brien, a physician who specializes in HIV/AIDS treatment in Oakland, California, and believes that many of his seriously ill patients benefit from the medical use of cannabis.

"For the tens of thousands of seriously ill Californians who depend on medical marijuana, this victory could not be more significant," said Steph Sherer, ASA executive director. "We just wish Pam had lived to see this."

In addition to being co-counsel, ASA was also a party to the proceedings on behalf of its membership, which includes thousands of medical marijuana patients, caregivers and physicians residing in California. The Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) was represented by the groups as well. WAMM is a medical marijuana collective and hospice located in Santa Cruz, California, whose 250 members, the majority of whom are terminally ill, use cannabis to treat a range of conditions.

\* Dolphin is communications director for Americans for Safe Access. The groups' legal papers are online at [AmericansForSafeAccess.org/briefbank](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/briefbank). The ruling issued by Judge William Nevitt is available at [safeaccessnow.org/downloads/SD\\_Ruling.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/SD_Ruling.pdf).

## Setting the record straight

The previous issue of *Oaksterdam News* was Volume 2, Number 5, our final issue for the year 2006.

A photo of Mason Tvert published on page 6 was provided by SAFER.

A report on page 15 about curing recently harvested cannabis was written by John Thomas Ellis.



**PATIENT VICTORY: Joe Elford, Chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access in their battles with San Diego county and other jurisdictions that are out of compliance with state laws, announces the recent favorable court ruling.** Oaksterdam News photo courtesy of ASA.

## Grover Beach police chief returns man's cannabis

By Justin Baker

When Grover Beach Police Officers pulled over Ken Parson for suspicion of DUI last year, he was not arrested; but 20 grams of cannabis were seized because he didn't show a doctor's approval. Later, when Parson tried to reclaim it, police refused to return the cannabis, citing federal law.


On Jan. 17, a San Luis Obispo Superior Court judge ruled the department must return the pot or pay a \$5,900 fine.

Grover Beach city officials met the next day to decide the fate of the medicine. After about an hour in closed session, Council emerged with a statement that it wanted to fight the ruling, but couldn't afford to fund the litigation.

"Given the potential costs of filing a suit in federal court and appealing the state courts and our limited resources, we made a decision that it's not prudent to pursue this any further," said Police Chief Jim Cosey. With that, he escorted Parson to the Police Department and the patient finally got his medical cannabis back.

"It's a good decision," Parson told the press. "It's kind of a long time coming."

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**A LOT OF WORK AHEAD** — Americans for Safe Access (ASA) Director Steph Sherer (above) welcomed participants Jan. 13 to the statewide conference and workshop, and the group outlined an ambitious agenda for change.

Below: Regional breakout sessions spoke to local needs and concerns while it made networking easy.

Right: The Farmacy, a local dispensary, provided free information to attendees, only to have armed DEA thugs raid its facility. Oaksterdam News photos by Chris Conrad



## Pelosi needs to hear from more medicinal cannabis supporters

By Justin Baker

Inside sources at the office of Congressman Nancy Pelosi from San Francisco have privately indicated that the newly elected House Speaker and local Congressional Representatives are waiting to hear from supporters of cannabis reform.

The staff member said on condition of anonymity that while recent polls show some 80 percent public support for ending the war on medical marijuana patients,

there have been only about 100 phone calls made to her office on the topic over the past year, compared to multiple-thousands of contacts on other hot button issues, like senior benefits and health care.

The staffer indicated that Pelosi needs to hear from a lot more voters in order to get the new Congress to make the issue a priority. They also indicated that having a companion bill introduced into the Senate would add impetus by showing that there

is a chance of putting a bill before the president. Matching legislation has to be adopted by both houses of Congress before it can be signed into law.

“The clear solution is for Oaksterdam News readers to contact Rep. Pelosi’s office (415-556-4862, sf.nancy@mail.house.gov) and tell her to get the States Rights to Medical Marijuana act passed this spring,” said Chris Conrad of the Family Council on Drug Awareness.

“The real key might well lie in getting Senator Barbara Boxer (415-403-0100, or online emailboxer.senate.gov/contact/email/index.cfm) to introduce a similar bill in the US Senate and then pressure Feinstein to agree to back it.

“It’s time for supporters of medical rights to make some noise and be heard.”

Dana Rohrabacher to prohibit spending any funds to go after medical marijuana in states where it is legal. It lost in a 148 to 268 vote, but has since gained ground and will likely be reintroduced in the next session. The text of her statement follows:

“Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment offered by my colleagues Sam Farr, Dana Rohrabacher, Maurice Hinchey and Ron Paul, and I salute their courage in bringing it to the House floor.

“This amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations bill would prohibit the Justice Department from spending any funds to undermine state medical marijuana laws. It would leave to the discretion of the states how they would alleviate the suffering of their citizens.

“Eleven states, including my home state of California, have adopted medical marijuana laws since 1996. Most of these laws were approved by a vote of the people. More than 70 percent of Americans support the right of patients to use marijuana with a doctor’s recommendation.

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## Pelosi endorses reform

By Representative Nancy Pelosi\*

Editor’s note: House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi inserted the following statement into the Congressional Record on July 7, 2004 regarding an amendment by California Congressmen Sam Farr and

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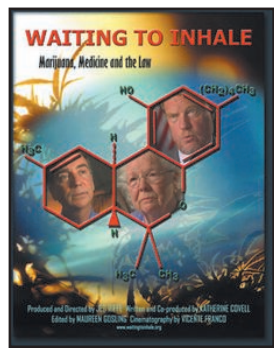
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# Award winning documentary film shows the faces and facts about therapeutic cannabis and the laws

By Tristin Coffman

Now available as a DVD for home viewing, the powerful documentary *Waiting to Inhale* explores the battle between patients, doctors, activists and the US government over the legalization of medical marijuana. The film gives a first-hand look at the first major scientific study of medical marijuana to take place in over 30 years, in progress at the University of California, San Francisco.



“Anyone can help out by ordering a copy and then hosting a private screening in your home! Or you and all your activist friends can simply watch

it at home for inspiration.”

When Borden saw the the video, he found it so valuable a resource that DRCNet makes it available to its supporters as a membership premium — donate \$30 or more to DRCNet to get a copy of *Waiting to Inhale* as a token of appreciation.

The film looks at the history of cannabis over the past century, documenting how its early use as an ingredient in patent medicines eventually led to its prohibition in 1937. It takes us beyond the commonly known cannabis mythology of the 1970s to a very different history: young Valerie Corral is thrown by a car accident into a unique position in American legal history; Mae Nutt, fueled by the grief of losing two sons to cancer, becomes an unlikely face in the medical marijuana movement; and Irvin Rosenfeld, a law-abiding youngster with a rare bone disorder, discovers by accident that pot is the only thing that provides him relief.

The film follows these stories from their beginnings to the present; we learn about the rise of the parent anti-drug movement, examine current efforts to legalize medical marijuana under state and federal law, and explore the diverse motivations behind attempts to criminalize the sick and dying for seeking medicine.

It examines groundbreaking research,

led by Dr. Donald Abrams, tests the ability of cannabis to provide pain relief for patients with HIV and cancer and has added an exciting new dynamic to the debate over legalization. Jed Riffe heads to its core by interviewing Dr. Abrams and patients affiliated with the study.

*Waiting to Inhale* takes the viewer from underground cannabis dispensaries to the US Supreme Court; from Israeli science labs to government approved cannabis gardens outside London.

Among its 2005 honors: CINE Golden Eagle Award; Gold Special Jury “Remi” Award 38th Annual WorldFest-Houston; Best Documentary Feature, Eureka! Int. Film Festival; Co-Winner: Best Doc. Film/Video, New Jersey Int. Film Festival.

For more information on film screenings, panel discussions, Court decisions and latest news from the scientific community, visit online at [waitingtoinhale.org](http://waitingtoinhale.org)

Producer and director Jed Riffe is an award-winning independent filmmaker, broadcast journalist and digital media producer. Over the last 25 years, Riffe has produced numerous highly acclaimed documentary and dramatic films and interactive projects for PBS, NHK-TV (Japan), cable, international broadcast and the web.

He produced and directed *Ishi, The Last Yahi* a dramatic documentary film, written by Anne Makepeace, which won six Best Documentary awards.

The producers are making bulk prices available to groups and dispensaries for resale or use as fundraising premiums.

For more info on the film or buy a copy online, visit [WaitingToInhale.org](http://WaitingToInhale.org) or simply call 510-845-2044.

“The interviews in this movie should be shown far and wide.”

Close up and personal conversations with people whose powerful stories rarely made it to the front pages, the award-winning film takes its audience inside a world where critically ill patients are arrested at gunpoint for growing the only effective medicine for their pain.

These patients speak compellingly about the relief cannabis provides them from the symptoms of debilitating and terminal illnesses, and ask why the US government continues to resist studies showing significant clinical evidence supports of cannabis’ efficacy in treating symptoms of cancer, epilepsy, AIDS, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma. The government replies that medical marijuana is just an excuse to make cannabis legal altogether.

“I’ve known about *Waiting to Inhale* for a few years, and I am pretty psyched to see it out and making waves. People featured in the movie — medical marijuana providers Mike and Valerie Corral and Jeff Jones, patient spokesperson Yvonne Westbrook, scientist Don Abrams — are heroes whose stories deserved to be told and whose interviews in this movie should be shown far and wide,” said David Borden of DRCNet, [stopthedrugwar.org](http://stopthedrugwar.org).

## Berkeley filmmaker struggles to finish her MMj Chronicles after project stalled by computer crash

*Burch films history, players*

By Tristin Coffman

Claire Burch has made a reputation for herself as an earthy chronicler of life on the streets and the social counterculture. Her dedication has generated a catalog of films, hundreds of hours of film to be edited down, and won acclaim as feature presentations at local venues and film festivals.

Burch’s take on the medical marijuana movement, *California Chronicles of Medical Marijuana*, was already taped and well into the editing stage when her computer went down, leaving her and husband Mark Weiman hanging.

With her eyesight failing and the project unfinished, Burch is hoping for help.

*Chronicles* covers a 20-year slice of the cannabis movement. It opens with a rousing speech by Brownie Mary at Berkeley’s People’s Park, and includes rare archival footage of earlier smoke-ins held there, as

well as footage made at major events like Seattle Hempfest and national NORML conferences. She tracks the reform movement, and includes speeches by and interviews with groundbreaking activists like Dr. Tod Mikuriya, Chris Conrad, Mikki Norris and other forward thinking advocates of human rights and political justice.

While keeping an objective perspective, Burch empathizes with and respects the people she interviews.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates called her a “wonderful Berkeley institution. For over 20 years, she has used her camera and pen to document the plight of homeless people in our community. She is respected for her skill as a filmmaker and for her deep commitment to improving our society.”

For online info about Burch and her many projects, how to buy copies of her films and how you might help her, visit [claireburch.com](http://claireburch.com), email [regentpress@mindspring.com](mailto:regentpress@mindspring.com) or call 510-546-7602.

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— Robert W. Butler, *Kansas City Star*

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# Medical marijuana patient reports for federal prison; scores of Californians face similar fate



**LEGAL FLOWERS:** Steph Landa's path to prison was strewn with daisies by her supporters. A notorious San Francisco drug agent first led her and two others to think it was safe for them to open a local cannabis dispensary, then betrayed their trust and turned the information over to federal prosecutors. Oaksterdam News photos courtesy of Clark Sullivan.

By William Dolphin

Yet another medical marijuana patient was incarcerated in federal prison Jan. 4. Stephanie Landa reported to federal authorities in San Francisco to begin a 41-month sentence for her part in growing medical cannabis as part of a patient collective there.

At least 91 Californians face a similar fate, as federal arrests and prosecutions have escalated since 2005, when the US Supreme Court ruled in *Gonzalez v Raich*. The Court held that state laws do not protect patients from arrest and prosecution on federal charges. It reversed a Ninth Circuit Court ruling that non-commercial activities within a state go beyond federal jurisdiction to regulate interstate commerce.

Despite requests from Congress, the federal DEA and Department of Justice refuse to account for the money spent on medical cannabis raids and prosecutions.

"Washington needs to put this tax money into helping patients, not arresting them," said Steph Sherer, ASA's executive director. Based on budget reports from law enforcement agencies, ASA estimates that the raids and prosecutions of the past 18 months have cost taxpayers in excess of \$9 million, not counting the cost of incarceration or the lost wages and productivity of those arrested.

Landa's case drew attention because San Francisco police drug agent "Marty" Halloran apparently turned her



**SURRENDER OF LIBERTY:** Landa makes her way to turn herself in and begin her prison sentence for cultivating medical marijuana for a dispensary.

and two others over to federal prosecutors. The three had met with the city's district attorney and police including Halloran before beginning cultivation. Landa and two co-defendants — Tom Kikuchi, her partner, and noted Hollywood actor Kevin Gage — accepted a plea agreement in 2003 when the federal prosecutor threatened them with charges that could have meant life in prison for Landa. Her incarceration was delayed until now because the judge allowed her to care for her and Kikuchi's child while he served his sentence, which just ended.

For a breakdown of the estimated DEA and other prosecution costs, see ASA's website, safeaccessnow.org.

## Speaker sides with voters

Continued from page 3

"I am pleased to join organizations that support legal access to medical marijuana, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Bar Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, and the AIDS Action Council.

"Religious denominations supporting legal access to medical marijuana or state discretion on this issue include the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the National Council of Churches, the National Progressive Baptist Convention, the Presbyterian Church, the

Union for Reform Judaism, the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the United Methodist Church.

*"Prohibit the Justice Department from spending any funds to undermine state medical marijuana laws. It would leave to the discretion of the states how they would alleviate the suffering of their citizens.*

— Rep. Nancy Pelosi, July 7, 2004

"Proven medicinal uses of marijuana include improving the quality of life for

patients with cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other severe medical conditions.

"In San Francisco, we have lost nearly 20,000 people to AIDS over the last two decades, and I have seen firsthand the suffering that accompanies this awful disease. Medical marijuana alleviates some of the most debilitating symptoms of AIDS, including pain, wasting, and nausea.

"In 1999, the Institute of Medicine issued a report that had been commissioned by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The study found that medical marijuana 'would be advantageous' in the treatment of some diseases, and is 'potentially effective' in treating pain, nau-

sea, and anorexia of AIDS wasting and other symptoms."

"To fight the war on drug abuse effectively, we must get our priorities in order and fund treatment and education. Making criminals of seriously ill people who seek proven therapy is not a step toward controlling America's drug problem.

"Again, I commend Mr. Farr, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Hinchey and Mr. Paul for their leadership on this issue, which affects the health and well-being of so many Americans."

\* Pelosi is a Congressman from San Francisco and Speaker of the House. Her statement is posted online at [house.gov/pelosi/press/releases/July04/MedicalMarijuana070804.html](http://house.gov/pelosi/press/releases/July04/MedicalMarijuana070804.html)

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# A 'perfect storm' for Odam?

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cannabis sales, cultivation and possession the lowest law enforcement priority and calling for taxed regulation of adult sales, similar to alcohol, as soon as possible.

After two years delay, the city may be ready to implement the will of the voters more completely, in no small part as the result of its new mayor, former Congressman Ron Dellums, a very long-term supporter of cannabis legalization.

Back in the 1970's while a member of Congress, he was also a member of the Advisory Board of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and even spoke at a number of NORML conferences.

Opposing the war on cannabis was probably not his most controversial position. He is also a very long-term opponent of US militarism, and now he has been shown to have been well ahead of his time on both issues. Today, he has a chance to act on his opposition to two seemingly

unrelated wars in his home town.

The Iraq fiasco, like the Vietnam War, has had the effect of undermining the credibility of government propaganda on the home front. Of course, the government's reefer madness campaign is America's longest running incitement to violence, at home and abroad. It would appear that the media have once again learned the hard way that "reporter" and "stenographer" are not synonyms and are beginning to ask long suppressed questions.

Violence at home was very much on Dellums' mind when he delivered his inaugural address. He sadly noted that Oakland had 148 murders in 2006, a 57 percent jump from 2005; these "murders do not speak to community; people with a sense of community don't kill each other."

If these murders were typical of those in the rest of the country, most of them were the result of the misuse of a legal drug and the rest were the violence surrounding the trade in illicit drugs. In short,



Mayor Dellums. Oaksterdam News file photo.

they were the result of drunkenness and the drug war. It is virtually certain that none were the result of cannabis use.

The trade in contraband cannabis is much less violent than that in most other contraband, but one should not underestimate the violence caused by its prohibition. Almost 700,000 Americans were arrested for cannabis possession in 2005;

searched, handcuffed, shackled and placed behind bars. In order to arrest these hundreds of thousands, millions must feel threatened. Does all of this violence have no impact on society as a whole? Does the promotion of alcohol and the suppression cannabis not promote violence?

Dellums rightly says that "people with a sense of community don't kill each other." But doesn't the suppression of cannabis kill the sense of community for a large part of the population?

"Chaos theory" says that the ripple effect from small isolated events can have a much wider impact. This is certainly true of the chaos of cannabis prohibition.

Regarding the Drug War, I reflect on the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means." — *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*

Chaos or community?

Ron Dellums has made his choice.

\* Cowan is a former director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

## This 'gateway' is closed and latched

By Bruce Mirken\*

Two recent studies should be the final nails in the coffin of the lie that has propelled some of this nation's most misguided policies: the claim that smoking marijuana somehow causes people to use hard drugs, often called the "gateway theory."

Such claims have been a staple of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy under Drug Czar John Walters. Typical is a 2004 speech in which, according to the Albuquerque Journal, "Walters emphasized that marijuana is a 'gateway drug' that can lead to other chemical dependencies."

The theory presents drug use as a tidy progression in which users move from

legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco to cannabis, and on to hard drugs like cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. Thus, zealots like to warn, herb is bad because it leads to things that are worse than it.

It's a neat theory, easy to sell. The problem is, scientists keep poking holes in it — the two new studies being just the most recent examples.

In one National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded study, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh tracked the drug use patterns of 224 boys, starting at age 10 to 12 and ending at age 22. Right from the beginning these kids confounded expectations. Some followed the traditional gateway paradigm, starting with tobacco or

alcohol and moving on to cannabis, but some reversed the pattern, starting with cannabis first. Some never progressed from one substance to another at all. When they looked at the detailed data on these kids, the researchers found that the gateway theory simply didn't hold; environmental factors such as neighborhood characteristics played a much larger role than which drug the boys happened to use first. "Abusable drugs," they wrote, "occupy neither a specific place in a hierarchy nor a discrete position in a temporal sequence."

Lead researcher Dr. Ralph E. Tarter told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "It runs counter to about six decades of current drug policy in the country, where we believe that if we can't stop kids from using marijuana, then they're going to go on and become addicts to hard drugs."

Researchers in Brisbane, Australia, and St. Louis reached much the same conclusion in a larger, more complex study involving more than 4,000 Australian twins whose use of cannabis and other drugs was followed in detail from adolescence into adulthood. Then they matched real-world data from the twins to mathematical models based on 13 different explanations of how use of cannabis and other drugs might be related. These models ranged from pure chance, assuming that any overlap between use of cannabis and other drugs is random, to models in which genetic or underlying environmental factors lead to illicit drug use or those in which cannabis use causes use of other drugs, or vice versa.

Their conclusion: "Cannabis and other illicit drug use and misuse co-occur in the population due to common risk factors (correlated vulnerabilities) or a liability that is in part shared." Translated to plain English, the data doesn't show that cannabis causes use of other drugs, but rather that the same factors that make people likely to try cannabis also make them likely to try other substances.

In a final blow to the theory, researchers added that any gateway that does exist is "more likely to be social than pharmaco-

logical" because cannabis "introduces users to a provider (peer or black marketer) who eventually becomes the source for other illicit drugs." So, the gateway isn't herb; it's laws that put it into the same criminal market with speed and heroin.

The lie that marijuana somehow turns people into junkies is dead. Officials who insist on repeating it as a way of squelching discussion about common-sense reforms should be laughed off the stage.

\* Mirken is director of communications for the Washington DC-based Marijuana Policy Project, online at mpp.org.

## Feds attack LA patients

Continued from page 1

The very next day, federal warrants were served at five locations in West Hollywood, four in San Fernando Valley, and others in Hollywood and Venice.

Acting Special Agent Ralph Partridge, in charge of the DEA's LA Field Division, announced that "as a result of today's warrants, agents seized several thousand pounds of processed cannabis, cannabis plants, large quantities of cannabis laced edibles, numerous weapons and a significant amount of US currency."

Apparently the weapons were used by security guards, who protect the dispensaries like any other business. Both the cannabis and its sales are legal under state laws that authorize medical use.

Chief Bratton had called for rules to regulate the facilities. In a report to the Police Commission, Bratton cited the opening of 94 medical marijuana dispensaries in LA in a year and said he wants to ban existing dispensaries within 1,000 feet of schools, churches, parks and limiting their hours to 10 am to 6 pm.

While some cities and counties across the state have developed workable, albeit overly restrictive, regulations, others such as El Cerrito cited the unwillingness of the federal government to agree to respect the voters, state law and local communities as an excuse to deny patients safe access.

## Thanks to Measure Z



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# Measure Z Measure

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

# College activists prepare to flex new political clout

By Kris Krane\*

The Bush administration wages its War on Drugs in the name of protecting young people. Students for Sensible Drug Policy mobilizes students who are fed up with policies that hurt the younger generation.

Over the past eight years, SSDP has fought back against attacks on youth while creating an organization at the national and chapter levels. The year 2006 was the most successful in its history, and the group plans to build on this success in 2007.

The recent announcement that Rep.

Dennis Kucinich will chair the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the House Government Reform Committee, giving him jurisdiction over the Drug Czar's office, the ONDCP, bolsters reform opportunities. Kucinich met with SSDP staffers during his 2004 run for President, so they have a good relationship on which to build.

Oversight of ONDCP was previously conducted by a committee chaired by rabid drug warrior Mark Souder, who lost his office in last year's election. Overnight, responsibility shifted from Congress' most



**SUPPORT IN HIGH PLACES —** Congressman Dennis Kucinich met with SSDP staff during his Presidential bid in 2004, who educated him on how drug policy affects students. Kucinich has been named chairman of the House drug policy oversight committee for the upcoming session. Oaksterdam News photo courtesy of SSDP.

extreme drug warrior to one of its most outspoken drug policy reformers.

The SSDP is building a *bona fide* student movement to bring about sensible drug policies on college campuses and in communities nationwide, working with a staff of four and a relatively small budget.

Here's a sampling of some of SSDP's accomplishments in 2006:

- **HEA Reform:** After eight years of lobbying and hard work, SSDP and its coalition partners convinced Congress to scale back the HEA Aid Elimination Penalty, the law that has denied federal financial aid to nearly 200,000 students with drug convictions. The law now no longer applies to students with past convictions, allowing tens of thousands of students to return to school in 2007. Meanwhile, we launched a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the penalty. While a judge wrongly dismissed the lawsuit, it put the impetus back on Congress to fully repeal the penalty in the coming year.
- **SSDP Conference:** This was the largest, most successful SSDP conference yet. Over 300 students from 70 campuses came to Washington, DC to learn about the Drug War and gain activist skills training to become better advocates. They heard from MSNBC's Bill Press, The *Chicago Tribune's* Clarence Page, former DNC Press Secretary Terry Michael, and others. They also held a Congressional Lobby Day, where they met with staffers for more than 80 members of Congress.
- **Freedom of Information lawsuit:** When the Department of Education illegally tried to charge SSDP over \$4,000 to fulfill a Freedom of Information Act request, it sued the government and won, getting the requested data, and sending a message to the federal government that they can not bully small non-profits with outlandish

fees for information simply because they disagree with the group's message.

The SSDP used that data for a report detailing the state-by-state breakdown of

*Overnight, ONDCP oversight shifted from Congress' most extreme drug warrior to one of its most outspoken reformers.*

200,000 students denied educational financial aid due to a drug conviction. The report was covered in hundreds of local and campus newspapers nationwide, and cited by the Congressional Research Service.

- **Chapter growth:** Over the course of the year, the number of SSDP chapters more than doubled to nearly 100 in the US and Canada; the largest expansion since the SSDP was founded.
- **Canada SSDP:** For the first time, SSDP expanded beyond the US into Canada. There are now ten chapters of the newly formed Canada Students for Sensible Drug Policy, which is awaiting approval of their non-profit status from the Canadian government.

### Campus Change Campaign

Earlier this year SSDP officially launched its Campus Change Campaign to help activists get rid of punitive drug policies on their campuses. Over the course of the year many SSDP chapters ran highly successful campaigns:

- The University of Maine at Farmington SSDP chapter convinced the administration to stop evicting students from university housing for first time marijuana possession offenses.

*Continued on page 8*



Mason Tvert addresses a 2006 Colorado rally. Oaksterdam News photo courtesy of SAFER.

## SAFER goes back to schools

By Mason Tvert\*

This spring Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) is working with college students to pass campus ballot initiatives and generate news stories that convey the message that cannabis is safer than alcohol and should be treated as such.

The group will work with campus NORML chapters and SSDP chapters, as well as other students and student organizations around the country. If all goes as planned, there will be 15 or more college campuses voting on whether their universities should continue punishing students more for using cannabis than for using alcohol.

SAFER passed such student referenda at the University of Colorado-Boulder and Colorado State University in 2005, and it worked with campus NORML and SSDP chapters in 2006 to pass them at Florida State University, the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Maryland. Students will continue to work with SAFER to pressure the administrations at these schools to adopt policy changes that reflect the student votes.

The previous campus victories led to extensive media coverage at the local and national levels. Stories about the CU and CSU victories appeared in the Washington Times and repeatedly in the Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News and other local outlets; the UT-Austin victory made the Dallas Morning News; the Washington Post reported on the UMD win; and the collective SAFER effort was documented in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The shift in focus from local and statewide ballot initiatives to campus referenda is a return to SAFER's roots. The organization's first project upon its formation in January 2005 involved the campaigns at CU-Boulder and CSU. Students at those schools voted 68-32 and 56-44, respectively, and the effort garnered a great deal of local and statewide media coverage, as well as some national media coverage.

Following its initial success on campus, SAFER placed a citywide initiative on the ballot in Denver, which voters approved 54-46 in November 2005. Initiative 100 (I-100) effectively amended city ordinances to make the possession of up to one ounce of cannabis legal for adults 21 and older. Nevertheless, police

continued to cite people and the city continued prosecuting them under state law.

This set the scene for SAFER to go statewide in Colorado.

The Alcohol-Marijuana Equalization Initiative Campaign – a project of the SAFER Voter Education Fund – oversaw the collection of 130,000 signatures to qualify an initiative for the November 2006 ballot. If passed, Amendment 44 would have amended state statutes to make cannabis legal under the same circumstances as the Denver initiative.

The measure ultimately failed, although it received an impressive 41 percent of the vote. Despite the loss at the polls, the measure was an overall victory. In fact, more Coloradans voted for cannabis than did for the sitting

*Continued on page 17*

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# SF County deprioritizes adult cannabis offenses

Continued from page 1

Much to everyone's delight, the head of the police department's narcotics squad, Capt. Tim Hettrich, spoke out in support of the policy during the committee hearing, the day before. "It does not tie our hands enforcing the law," he said.

In order to secure passage of the ordinance by the board, a safeguard was added to the legislation that exempts from the policy offenses involving minors, acts or threats of violence, sale or distribution on or within view of public property, and driving under the influence.

These safeguards did not satisfy the Fair Oaks Neighbors group, however, which spoke out against the ordinance. Resorting to fear tactics with claims that the policy would bring chaos and allow large scale distribution that undermine the medical cannabis regulations, the group fought to derail the policy. But, the majority of the board and the public did not buy it, especially since the police and district attorney's office were on board.

This policy reaffirmed an initiative passed by the voters in 1978, Prop. W. The language Prop. W was simple, but was



**ADVOCATES FOR SAN FRANCISCO "LLEP" MARIJUANA ORDINANCE—** Left to right: Susan Stephenson, Sup. Ross Mirkarimi, Shona Gochenaur, Camilla Field, Dale Gieringer, Erich Pearson, Michael Goldstein, Tim Patriarca, and Mikki Norris. Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad.

subsequently ignored: It stated, "Declaration of Policy: We, the people of San Francisco, demand that the District Attorney, along with the Chief of Police, cease the arrest and prosecution of individuals involved in the cultivation, transfer, or possession of marijuana."

In contrast, the new ordinance has built in some requirements that will ensure its implementation.

Supervisors are charged with selecting a seven-member oversight committee consisting of a medical marijuana patient, a representative from a medical marijuana dispensary, a civil liberties advocate, a member of the public defender's office, a harm reduction practitioner, a representative of a drug policy reform organization; and an advocate for juvenile justice, the homeless, or public housing residents.

In addition, representatives from the police and public health departments and the district attorney's office are invited to the meetings as non-voting liaisons. The clerk's office has applications available for

these seats on the committee.

The ordinance also has built-in restrictions preventing the city's law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal agents, and receiving federal deputization and funds to be used in violation of the policy. Like Santa Cruz' Measure K, it goes one step further to put the county on record advocating further reform by requiring the clerk's office to issue letters notifying all state and federal officials representing San Francisco.

The letters shall state, 'The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco has passed an ordinance to deprioritize cannabis offenses by adults, and requests that the federal and California state governments take immediate steps to tax and regulate cannabis use, cultivation, and distribution and to authorize state and local communities to do the same.' The Clerk is to send a letter annually until state and federal laws are changed accordingly."

\* Norris is director of the Cannabis Consumers Campaign, cannabisconsumers.org.



**TRAINING FOR SUCCESS —** The SSDP conference gave students from around the country an opportunity to network together and prepare to fight for their rights. Oaksterdam News photo courtesy of SSDP.

## Students gird for battle

Continued from page 7

- Chapters at the U of Maryland and Florida State ran successful campus voter initiatives calling on their schools to lower penalties for cannabis to equal those for underage drinking.
- Truman State SSDP ran a successful campus voter initiative asking the administration to stop notifying parents when adult students are caught with drugs on campus.
- The U of Georgia and U of Connecticut chapters are working to enact medical amnesty programs to make sure students aren't punished when they call campus security to help a friend who is overdosing on drugs or alcohol.
- SSDP chapters are also changing punitive drug policies at the state level. In Rhode Island, two SSDP chapters teamed up to form a coalition that helped win passage of a bill making it the nation's eleventh medical marijuana state. The Brown SSDP chapter played an integral role in passing the Right to Vote constitutional amendment, restoring voting rights for convicted state felons who have been released from prison.

## SSDP in 2007

In 2007, SSDP hopes to finally see financial aid restored to students with drug convictions. To that end it plans to train activists to change harmful campus drug policies, and continue to grow our network across North America. Here are just a few of our goals for the coming year:

- **HEA Repeal:** SSDP is optimistic that 2007 will be the year to finally repeal the Higher Education Act's aid elimination penalty once and for all. In 2006, 71 House Democrats co-sponsored a bill to repeal the penalty. With the leadership change in Congress and the entire Act to be reauthorized soon, this could be the best chance yet to repeal the penalty through an amendment to delete it from the HEA.
- **Student Drug Testing:** SSDP will turn up the pressure on Congress to stop providing funding for public schools to implement random student drug testing. In particular, it will ask legislators to shift funds to programs that are proven to keep kids from abusing drugs, such as youthful re-entry programs.
- **ONDCP Youth Media Campaign:** When the Office of National Drug Control Policy's budget is debated this year, SSDP will pressure Congress to stop funding the anti-drug propaganda ads. These offensive ads have cost taxpayers more than a billion dollars and are proved not to work by the

government's own studies.

- **Campus Change Campaign:** Many chapters spent 2006 planning to modify harmful campus drug policies, and SSDP hopes to provide the resources and support needed to see these campaigns through. Dozens of chapters will be working on campaigns to lower penalties for marijuana possession on campus, stop evicting students from university housing for drug possession, cease bringing local police on campus to arrest students caught with small amounts of drugs, and enact medical amnesty policies that will save the lives of thousands of students nationwide.

None of these goals can be achieved without financial support from people who share the group's concern about the Drug War's attacks on young people. It relies upon the involvement and generous contribution to SSDP by people like you.

For nearly nine years, Students for Sensible Drug Policy has been the leading voice for young people who are fighting back against the Drug War. For information or to contribute online, visit [ssdp.org](http://ssdp.org).

\* Krane is Executive Director of SSDP

## Santa Barbara Council votes to implement Measure P; City Attorney wants it clarified

By Mikki Norris\*

A month after Measure P passed with 66 percent support of the voters, making personal cannabis offenses Santa Barbara's lowest law enforcement priority, City Attorney Steve Wiley convinced the City Council in closed session to allow him to seek "judicial clarification" on the measure's constitutionality. Wiley is seeking this court action asking whether voters are limited from setting policy that effect such day-to-day police activities, and not directed at the initiative per se.

"If the city attorney suggested Measure P was unconstitutional, then clearly he's in

the wrong profession. He should be in Hollywood, writing fantasy," said Dr. David Bearman, a supporter of the measure. "We're not saying don't enforce the law; we're saying make it a low priority. And elected officials prioritize implementation of the law all the time. Is he saying that's not constitutional?"

Showing deference to the strong vote of support, however, at the same meeting the mayor and city council also voted to go forward and appoint the required Community Oversight Committee to make sure the police are complying with the policy and the measure is implemented.

According to Measure P, "The committee will be composed of two city residents; one criminal defense attorney; one civil liberties advocate; one medical marijuana patient; one medical professional; and one drug abuse, treatment, and prevention counselor, each of whom shall be appointed by the Santa Barbara mayor."

The police and public health departments, along with the district attorney's office are invited to send a representative to the committee meetings as a non-voting liaison.

Measure P's oversight committee is charged with such tasks as developing a supplemental form for the police to complete in the event of an arrest, receiving grievances from the public for violations of the policy, issuing semiannual reports regarding number and kind of marijuana arrests, and analyzing the money and time spent on marijuana law enforcement.

While proponents are secure that the measure is constitutional, they designed it to be "severable," meaning that any invalid parts can be removed while leaving valid parts in tact. In addition, Councilmember Brian Barnwell suggested that he would introduce a resolution to the city council in support of the policy, if the measure is found to be legally vulnerable, ensuring that the intent of the voters is respected.

For more info on Measure P and other initiatives, visit [taxandregulate.org](http://taxandregulate.org).

\* Norris, a consultant to the 2006 California Cities Campaign, produces [cannabisconsumers.org](http://cannabisconsumers.org).

# Marijuana



## It's Not for Kids.

Join the Oaksterdam News in encouraging young people not to use cannabis until adulthood, and in reminding adults to consume it responsibly.

## Number 1 cash crop

*Continued from page 1*

the proceeds from cannabis sales go to unregulated criminals rather than to legitimate businesses that pay taxes to support schools, police and roads.”

Gettman is an adjunct instructor in public administration at Shepherd University in WV, specializing in economic development. His report is posted online at [drugscience.org/bcr/index.html](http://drugscience.org/bcr/index.html).

Key findings include:

- Using conservative price estimates, cannabis is America’s top cash crop, with a value of \$35.8 billion this year — exceeding the combined value of corn (\$23.3 billion) and wheat (\$7.45 billion) combined.
- The top cannabis producing states are California, Tennessee, Kentucky, Hawaii, and Washington. Cannabis is the top cash crop in 12 states and among the top three cash crops in 30 states.

### US cannabis production increased tenfold from 1981 to 2006.

- Despite intensive marijuana eradication campaigns that seized over 103 million cultivated cannabis plants and wiped out an average of nearly 36,000 cultivation sites per year, US cannabis production increased tenfold from 1981 to 2006, from 1,000 metric tons (2.2 million pounds) to 10,000 metric tons (22 million pounds), according to US government estimates.
- This enormous growth in cannabis cultivation, despite massive eradication efforts, indicates that “marijuana has become a pervasive and ineradicable part of our national economy” that should be put under a system of legal regulation.

Marijuana Policy Project believes that the best way to minimize the harm associated with cannabis is to regulate it in a manner similar to alcohol.

\* Mirken is director of communications at MPP, online at [marijuanapolicy.org](http://marijuanapolicy.org)

# State’s new billion-dollar medi cannabis market offers millions in tax dollars; Federal policy impedes collection

By Dale Gieringer\*

Californians consume between \$870 million and \$ 2 billion worth of medical marijuana per year, according to a report to Oakland’s Measure Z cannabis policy oversight committee.

The report projects that the state could receive some \$70 million to \$120 million in sales tax revenues alone if medical marijuana was taxed legally like other herbal medicines.

At present only a portion of the state’s medical cannabis dispensaries pay sales taxes. In principle, medical cannabis is subject to sales tax under current Board of Equalization rules, which exempt only drugs dispensed in licensed pharmacies by a physician’s prescription. However, many patients’ groups contend that sales tax shouldn’t apply to non-profit cooperatives and collectives.

A substantial portion of medical cannabis sales remains off the books due to the continued illegality of cannabis under federal law, which discourages accurate reporting. Despite this, a growing number of communities, led by Oakland, have begun to legally regulate and license medical cannabis sales through dispensaries. Although federal officials have sought to portray dispensaries as criminal enterprises, most have lawfully complied with local regulations like other legal businesses.

According to the Oakland business tax office, the city’s medical cannabis dispensaries reported \$26 million in revenues in fiscal year 2004. Revenues declined dramatically to just \$5 million in FY 2006 after the city forced all but two of the city’s cannabis clubs to close. Revenue is expected to rebound this year, as two new clubs have opened. The report estimates that potential revenues from medical dispensaries in greater Oakland could range as high as \$64 million. Oakland’s cannabis

clubs pay the city an annual licensing fee of \$20,000 plus a business tax of 0.1 percent on revenues.

*Between 150,000 and 350,000 Californians have a physician’s authorization to use cannabis.*

In addition, many dispensaries pay substantial payroll taxes. A Modesto dispensary, California Healthcare Collective Inc., reported paying \$93,000 per quarter in federal IRS taxes, \$25,000 per quarter in state payroll taxes, and \$50-60,000 per month in sales taxes before being raided by the DEA. Closure of the club has deprived the public of over \$1 million in tax revenues per year.

It is estimated that between 150,000 and 350,000 Californians have a physician’s recommendation to use cannabis. Because California does not have a comprehensive patient registry, these numbers are based on projections from physician surveys and data from other states. Medical users represent around 10 percent of the state’s total cannabis-using population. Average consumption is around one pound per patient annually.

The cannabis used by California patients is entirely locally grown. However, due to steep federal penalties against cultivation, growers operate underground completely unregulated and untaxed. Prop 215 advocates have long sought to establish licensed production of medical cannabis to assure pharmaceutical purity and quality, but have been rebuffed by federal agencies intent on keeping cannabis illegal.

California NORML supports changing federal law so the state can legally regulate and tax commercial production and distribution of medical cannabis. A bill to allow



Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad.

states to regulate medical marijuana has been proposed by Rep. Barney Frank in recent sessions of Congress.

Advocates argue that it makes better economic sense to legally regulate and tax cannabis than to criminalize it. State taxpayers currently spend over \$160 million per year to arrest, prosecute and imprison cannabis offenders. Altogether, Californians consume nearly \$6 billion of cannabis per year. California NORML estimates that the state could net some \$1.5 - \$2.5 billion per year by legalizing cannabis for general adult use: [canorml.org/background/CA\\_legalization.html](http://canorml.org/background/CA_legalization.html).

California voters have shown growing interest in legalizing cannabis. In 2004, Oakland voters approved Measure Z, calling on the state to "tax and regulate" cannabis for general adult use, by 65-35 percent. Last November, similar measures were approved by the voters of Santa Cruz and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

A copy of the Oakland Measure Z Oversight Committee report, "Revenue & Taxes from Oakland’s Cannabis Economy," can be found at: <http://www.canorml.org/background/OakZFinancialReport.pdf>

\* Gieringer is director of California NORML, 415-563-5858, [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org), [www.canorml.org](http://www.canorml.org)

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**SATIVA SLEUTHS** — Two intrepid Oaksterdam News investigators volunteered to take a close up look at the resin gland development and maturity of medical samples offered by Southern Cal dispensaries. Oaksterdam News photos by Jaime Galindo.

*LA Confidential:*

## My kind of town; my kind bud

By Nature boy

Twenty years ago I was an art student in downtown Los Angeles. Like any aspiring artist, I enjoyed cannabis on those late nights when inspiration was lacking.

Typically I would trudge down to MacArthur Park, navigating the homeless panhandlers, and score a dime bag. Wrapped in tinfoil I would buy some and using my limited Spanish, I would try to haggle. Some was downright awful, some was okay. Occasionally I would get some uncrushed sativa with a reasonably decent taste. If I wanted good green bud I had to travel to San Francisco. It was almost unheard of to get green bud consistently back then.

Fast forward 20 years: I'm in the office of the *Oaksterdam News* and I'm being asked to sample ten varieties from LA clubs. We had a number of criteria to judge including look, smell, taste, and high.

Usually in a Cannabis cup one finds only the best and this case was no exception. First I must say Kush has a foothold and then some. There were some eight Kush varieties ranging from very good to superior. One Hawaiian strain had a beautiful smell and finally a Train Wreck which was very good. Purple Kush, won on nearly every criteria and it deserved it. Its presentation was breathtaking.

While top-grade cannabis has been available for Hollywood connoisseurs for



some time, only now is it becoming available to the average person.

Moreover, the advances in indoor cultivation and the medical club economy have provided the freeway for the genetics to travel south. Even if some of these strains were grown up North, it must be said, the demand for higher grades acts like a magnet for North Coast growers.

It must also be said that Southern California has plenty of indoor grows. I wonder where all the Mexican herb goes now? Do the rancheros south of the border, who cranked out the same product for years, notice a decline in sales? Are they nervous? Have they gotten their own Dutch seeds to compete with domestic growers? Time will tell.

However, in the meantime, the tectonic plates of social change have shifted quite a bit from a few decades ago.

As I first began to sample the entries I made a point of smoking a very tiny amount. Getting accurate results from so many samples becomes almost impossible. Differentiating between different highs in my one brain was not possible. Ultimately I would like to have sampled one a day for ten days, but deadlines were looming and we pressed on. After the third or fourth sample I realized that I'm no longer the heavy smoker I used to be.

I kept commenting how amazing each sample was. All were winners. There were

no losers. Soon after I set down the pipe on the tenth hit, I found myself making my way to a Chinese restaurant to eat a large plate of chicken fried rice, an order of pot stickers, chow mien ... I ate every scrap.

The next day came word of federal raids. How sad a day. After sharing her bounty, LA took a huge hit. Amazingly, no one was arrested and some clubs had reopened the next day. The battle of LA

*It's safe to say that, in the years since I lived there, LA now has top-rate herb all year round.*

was on! This community would not just be content with good medicine; they knew it was time sow their political oats too. Large protests were organized in the following days. The people were fighting back.

They had a taste of freedom and would accept no less than liberty. So this LA confidential is confidential no more.

The city has set a new standard and the whole world is watching.

*"If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads."*

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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# A year later, San Diego area patients still resist county, federal oppression

By Degé Coutee\*

Twelve medical cannabis dispensaries in San Diego city and one in San Diego County were raided by DEA and local authorities on Dec. 13, 2005. All medicine, cash and many electronics such as computers, security equipment and cell phones were seized. No one was arrested and agents reportedly told operators they were welcome to reopen within minutes.

Later, in June of 2006, eight of those patient collectives received indictments, two on federal charges and six on state charges. Soon after those indictments were served every other collective in the city and county was visited by local and federal agents and advised to close their doors or face the same fate as their colleagues.

By mid-summer every cannabis dispensary in San Diego was officially closed, forcing indigent patients to the streets and able-bodied patients traveling for hours.

“Patients feel betrayed, by their local government and San Diego police,” states Wendy Christakes, a patient advocate in San Diego. “Local police worked in collaboration with the DEA. This is the breaking down of our democracy.” She said at least four San Diego patients have died as a result of the loss of medical access. All were unable to keep down food or other safe-saving medications and died ultimately of starvation or dehydration.

Of the 18 or more providers eventually arrested last summer, almost all have been given the option to plead guilty or face having charges moved into federal court where medical defense cannot be entered and harsher sentencing applies.

“The US Supreme Court has had the opportunity to strike down California’s medical marijuana law but has failed to do so,” said Allison Margolin, counsel for of the Native Sun Dispensary. “I’m sickened by the collusion between state and federal

authorities in their unrelenting war against these patients and those who seek to provide safe access to their medicine.”

None of this is preventing patients from moving forward though.

San Diego Cedar patient and burn victim Rudy Reyes filed a lawsuit against the county for damages resulting from the county’s reluctance to uphold state law as well as a misuse of public resources. His garden was raided and seized by local drug agents days before the first DEA raids in the area. He was never arrested or charged but lost his entire garden to police.

“I was put out of medicine for months. If I had had the county card, this would not have happened,” Rudy argues. Since filing his suit, Rudy has learned that several other patients have had very similar incidents and are now considering a class action suit against San Diego County.

Christakes, along with other advocates, has presented a patient resolution to the city council requesting safe access for the city’s patients again. Barbara McKenzie, a long-time patient advocate and one of the first medical cannabis providers in San Diego, is working on a collective model that adequately provides for patients while remaining within the city’s guidelines.

McKenzie is also trying to get the city’s medical marijuana task force to resume but admits that movement within the city is slow. “They keep delaying and delaying,” she said. “We’re waiting on a report by the city attorney for an answer about the task force and the resolution.” Barbara and Wendy both urge more patients to get involved by speaking at city council and county board of supervisor meetings. Christakes argues that education of local patients is key, and is scheduling workshops and trainings to prepare patients to be effective advocates.

\* Coutee is with the Patient Advocacy Network

# \$9 Billion a year to fight a flower

By Paul Armentano\*

American taxpayers now spend more than a billion dollars per year to incarcerate its citizens for pot, according to an October 2006 report by the US Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics.

According to the report, *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*, 12.7 percent of state inmates and 12.4 percent of federal inmates incarcerated for drug violations are in for cannabis.

Police arrested 786,545 Americans on marijuana charges in 2005.

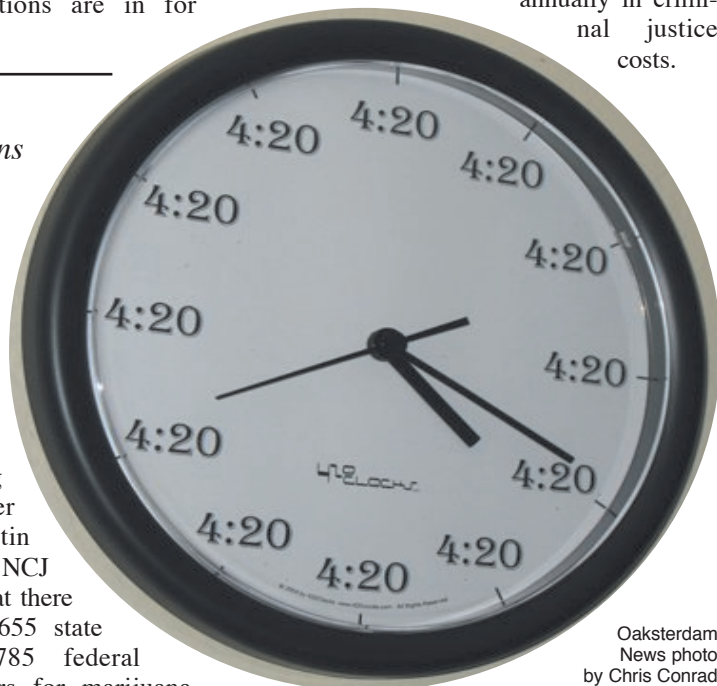
Combining these percentages with separate US Department of Justice statistics on the total number of state and federal drug prisoners (October 2005 BJS Bulletin “Prisoners in 2004,” NCJ 210677) suggests that there are now about 33,655 state inmates and 10,785 federal inmates behind bars for marijuana offenses. (The report failed to include estimates on the percentage of inmates incarcerated in county jails for pot-related offenses.)

Multiplying these totals by US DOJ prison expenditure data (June 2004 BJS Bulletin “State Prison Expenditures, 2001,” NCJ 202949) reveals that taxpayers spend more than \$1 billion annually to imprison pot offenders.

The new report is noteworthy because it undermines the common claim from law

enforcement officers and bureaucrats, specifically White House drug czar John Walters, that few, if any, Americans are incarcerated for cannabis offenses. In reality, nearly one in eight US drug prisoners are locked up for pot.

Of course, several hundred thousand more Americans are arrested each year for violating cannabis laws, costing taxpayers another \$8 billion dollars annually in criminal justice costs.



Oaksterdam News photo by Chris Conrad

According to the most recent figures from the FBI, police arrested an estimated 786,545 Americans on marijuana charges in 2005 – more than twice the number arrested just 12 years ago. Among those arrested, about 88 percent – some 696,074 Americans – were charged with mere possession.

Another 90,471 were charged with “sale/manufacture,” which is a category  
*Continued on page 17*

# keɹama

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**Patient garden photo contest:**

# Patio plantings put patient in Paradise

*Sometimes when someone is in too much pain to bear, a small breath of cannabis makes life tolerable. Sometimes it takes a lot more, as for our currently featured patient. And sometimes it's healthy simply sharing space with the plants as they grow and show their personalities.*

Many patients who submit photos to Oaksterdam News\* say that cannabis gardening is —in itself— therapeutic.

Our winning contributor for this issue likes to fill up his patio with plants and watch them grow. Something about sitting there in his Garden of Eden makes life seem better and more positive, so he keeps a chair parked where he can go out and sit anytime to enjoy the view. See page 18 for how you can get photos published.

**By The Chairman of the Yard\***

Here are some photos of my outdoor medical garden grow in Sonoma County, for your consideration," he wrote.

This is my third year with a full garden. I changed a few things this year and the results were amazing.

I waited until late May before placing clone starters out-



doors. Seeds were started May 1. I typically start earlier but due to break needed from my winter crop it was a little later this year.

I fed all plants heavy doses of seabird guano for veg period and bat guano for flowering.

I also pumped about two pounds of turbanado (granulated cane sugar) through the garden during the course of the whole growing season. Something about the sugar would cause the plants to burst with aroma the day after watering.

I also went to bigger pots. I've never used anything larger than three-gallon pots, but this year I went as large as eight-gallon. Bigger pots means less frequent waterings.

I had a few problems with bugs but I went on the offensive and had a lot of fun counter-attacking with predator bugs.

All-in-all, other than my neighbors giving tours to their friends over my fence, it was a good year. Time to enjoy what I've reaped.

Keep it easy and enjoy.

\*For information on how you can submit your photos and story for consideration in the Garden Photo Contest, send an email to oaksterdamnews@gmail.com, or see the guides on the bottom of page 18.

## Major fee increase coming soon for state's medical cannabis ID card

By Martin Williams

The CA Department of Health Services (DHS) announced in January a more than tenfold increase in the fee for a state medical marijuana ID card, from \$13 to \$142. The voluntary program, created by Senate Bill SB 420, took effect in 2004 to improve patient access to cannabis through ID cards and locally regulated sales outlets.

Ironically, the same Health and Safety Code section that created the state ID card program also prohibits undue profits from the distribution of medical marijuana; yet DHS can impose its own 1100 percent fee hike.

County contact numbers and application fees for state ID card		
County	Phone	Fee*
Alameda	(510) 444-6111	\$50
Amador	(209) 223-6407	\$60
Calaveras	(209) 754-6460	\$45
Contra Costa	(925) 313-6740	\$75
Del Norte	(707) 464-3191	\$15/70**
Humboldt	(866) 597-1574	\$88
Imperial	(760) 482-4438	\$58
Kern	(661) 868-1220	\$100
Marin	(415) 499-3288	\$60
Mendocino	(707) 472-2784	\$70
Napa	(707) 253-4506	\$63.74
Riverside	(888) 358-7932	\$100
San Benito	(831) 636-4011	\$40
San Francisco	(415) 206-5555	\$50
S. Luis Obispo	(808) 781-4811	\$78
San Mateo	(650) 573-2371	\$45
Santa Barbara	(805) 681-5150	\$108
Santa Clara	(408) 423-0745	\$60
Shasta	(530) 245-6426	\$53
Sierra	(530) 993-6701	\$53
Sonoma	(707) 565-4442	\$80
Tehama	(530) 527-8491	\$72.75
Trinity	(530) 623-8209	\$57
Tulare	(559) 733-6123	\$100

\* Medi-Cal recipients pay half listed fee

\*\* Del Norte: \$15 patient / \$70 caregiver

**If your county is not listed, contact Safe Access Now: 866-287-6792 or safeaccessnow@gmail.com Find out how you can help bring this important program to your area.**

That increase represents only the state's portion of the total fees charged; counties charge an additional fee to cover their own administrative costs. The increase is said to be needed to cover the cost of the program, which has been running at a major deficit. Applications for the state card have been running far behind expectations: so far only 5,631 cards have been issued.

Compounding the shortfall, only 23 of the state's 58 counties currently offer ID cards. Officials from DHS expect enrollment to take off once the San Diego lawsuit is settled and other, large counties come aboard, such as Los Angeles.

California NORML director Dale Gieringer expressed fears, however, that the fee increase is likely to have the opposite effect by discouraging new applicants. He said that estimates of the number of the state's Prop 215 qualified patients run from 150,000 to 350,000, meaning they have a doctor's approval. All would theoretically be eligible for a state ID card.

Aaron Smith of Safe Access Now, a patient support organization, called it "frustrating" that the state is spending that kind of money to print a card, mail it, maintain an electronic database on their server and give minimal training to staff.

Plumas County Supervisors voted 4-0 Jan. 23 to begin implementation of the ID card program through their DHS. Cards will be available March 1 and cost \$184 (\$113 for MediCal patients). The state increase is already factored into the fee.

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## American Caregivers Collective

By Daniel

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**3615 Gillmore Ave**  
**Bakersfield, CA**

American Caregivers Collective understands the needs of our community and meets them by providing safe access to affordable medical cannabis. When I come here, I don't feel like a criminal or a patient with a card that can get away with crime. It's my legal right! As long as I don't abuse it or take my right for granted. I am diagnosed with anxiety and depression and used to have a very hard time being around or in front of people without becoming extremely nervous. My medical cannabis helps me overcome this outcome I have become confined with. I am 18 years old, have a job, a home, enrolled in college, and now I feel normal and perform better at doing all these things. I have been a patient at American Caregivers Collective since the moment I discovered how handicap friendly the entire place is including the restroom, for a wheelchair bound person like myself.

  
 Jacob

  
 Martha

  
 Susan & Jeff

  
 Maria

  
 Daniel

  
 Ed

  
 Debbie

  
 John

  
 Mrs. Robinson

  
 Steve



# Nature's Medicinal providing Nature's Medicine

By  
Jason E. Friedly

I recently visited Nature's Medicinal, a medical marijuana dispensary located at 323 Roberts Lane in Bakersfield, California. I found my visit to be very satisfying and would recommend the dispensary to all patients.

My visit began with a quick but thorough verification process. The attendant at the door checked my identification and my physician's recommendation. After a brief wait, my recommendation was verified by my doctor and I was allowed into the dispensary in order to purchase my medication.

I notified them that it was my first visit to the dispensary and I was immediately showed my way around. I was especially pleased at the time they took to explain exactly how prices and quantities worked. I really felt comfortable in the fact that the staff was so knowledgeable. Furthermore, when one associate didn't have an answer, they would ask around until they found one. I liked this and I was able to find out whatever I needed.

I found that the variety in the dispensary grounds for assistance. There were approximately seventy or more strains for patients to choose from, myself included.

I explained my medical conditions and medicinal preferences. These preferences would help the associate recommend what type of medicine



was best for what ailments and the potency of the selected cannabis. I was shown various flavors and different types of sativa and indicas, with the associate explaining the differences in between the two.

The variety of Kushes and purple strains was impressive and I felt the prices were very economically feasible after shopping at other dispensaries throughout California. Frankly, I honestly felt I truly got what I paid for. Furthermore, the selection and quality made me feel as if my money would be well spent regardless of my choice of medicine.

I liked the fact that they sold individual medicinal cigarettes in various strains as well, allowing for patients to sample different medicines without purchasing a large quantity.

During my tour I noticed a large amount of literary items available for purchase as well. There were various books on topics such as medical marijuana laws and policies, instructional manuals for growing medicinal cannabis and publications regarding various medical maladies and illnesses.

The dispensary is easily accessible from either direction and the parking lot was clean and secure. I felt very relaxed with the atmosphere and security provided by Nature's Medicinal.

Overall I was pleased with Nature's Medicinal and will return on a regular basis. I feel that the quality, service and economics make it my top choice of dispensaries throughout the state and definitely number one in Kern County with plenty of room for second place.

If driving south on highway 99, take the Olive drive exit. Proceed east on Olive drive to Roberts lane. Turn right on Roberts lane and continue to 323. The club is on the right hand side.

If driving North on highway 99, take the Airport drive exit. Continue on Airport north to Roberts lane. Make a right onto Roberts lane and head east until you reach 323.



# Medical Marijuana in Kern County

By  
Isaac Rocha

Nature's Medicinal Cooperative is located in a suburb just north of Bakersfield, the largest city in Kern County.

Not open to the public, this dispensary provides medicinal marijuana to patients and caregivers in Kern County and other California residents who are in possession of identification through the statewide Medical Marijuana Program (MMP), or local residents who provide a prescription from a doctor. Nature's Medicinal operates in full compliance of county laws and ordinances, and therefore are required to check and keep records of every customer as well as verify the recommendation for medicinal use.

"When patients first come in, we make a photocopy of their I.D. and prescription. We also verify their doctor is in good standing with the Medical Board of the State of California," said John Wyatt, supervisor at the dispensary. Although it is still possible for a patient with a just a prescription and doctor verification, Wyatt recommends the voluntary state identification program. "With just a prescription, say an officer needs to verify it with doctor-what if it's a weekend and he can't get a hold of the



doctor? The card will ensure that you are in compliance with the law," said Wyatt.

The Kern County Department of Public Health can provide identification cards that will verify patients and caregivers to possess, grow, transport and/or use medical marijuana in California. You must be a resident of the county where you apply for the MMP. The department will require proof of residency, a doctor's recommendation and a fee for the card. It may take up to 35 days for a patient to be approved and receive their card. More information on all California Compassionate Use Act, as well as applications, can be found online at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mmp/>.

It is also important for those not familiar with Kern County to recognize city boundaries. To date, Bakersfield and Taft have voted to not allow medical marijuana dispensaries in their cities. Nature's Medicinal is listed under a Bakersfield address, but are actually located in Oildale, a suburb of Bakersfield that is technically not part of the city. Taft is locat-



-ed about 19 miles southwest of Bakersfield. A map of city boundaries can be found online at [www.bakersfieldcity.us/](http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/). Nature's Medicinal Cooperative 323 Roberts Lane/Bakersfield, CA 93306(661) 392-9353 Open 8am-8pm(Mon-Fri), 10am-8pm(Sat), and 11am-7pm(Sun). Closed holidays. Kern County Department of Public Health 1800 Mt. Vernon Avenue 93306(661) 868-1220 8 am-5pm(Mon-Fri) <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mmp/>

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*It's more than just a good smoke for adults:*

## Santa Cruz Hemp Museum opens as a new grassroots initiative gets underway

By Justin Baker

A new Hemp Museum opened its doors at 2017 N. Pacific Ave. in Santa Cruz to let people know that, far from being a "devil weed," as Drug War propagandists like to brand it, cannabis hemp is a useful farm crop and something of a planetary savior.

In its industrial and horticultural forms, the plant doesn't make enough THC to make anyone high or work as medical marijuana.

Nonetheless, many believe that hemp is essential to healing the planet by providing a food, fuel and fiber crop that can be used to restore the environment and reduce the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Responding to the failure of Gov. Schwarzenegger to sign AB 1147, an industrial hemp bill that was passed by the legislature last year, the California Hemp Initiative language that made it halfway to the ballot on volunteer power alone in 1994 is again about to be circulated in slightly revised form as the *Cannabis Hemp and Health Initiative*.

Michael Jolsen of the Youth Federation in Santa Cruz told *Oaksterdam News* that the petition drive is set to begin in December 2007, with a goal of collecting signatures from a million registered voters over the course of 150 days in order to qualify for the November 2008 ballot.

The initiative takes a holistic

approach to cannabis reform, addressing industrial hemp, medical marijuana and adult access to cannabis for personal use. It would allow farmers to grow hemp like any other agricultural crop, allow pharmacies to carry medical marijuana along



**SHOW AND TELL** — A new hemp museum has opened its doors in Santa Cruz. Aaron Carvajal keeps the shop open every other day at his hemp products shop and museum, US Hemp Co, [www.ushemp.us](http://www.ushemp.us). Not only can you learn about hemp, you can bring some home as a souvenir. Oaksterdam News photos by Jaime Galindo.



with the existing dispensaries, and allow adults to garden and possess a personal supply of cannabis. It also calls on the legislature to license commercial production and sales and attach an excise tax of no more than \$10 per ounce (tobacco has a tax of less than \$1 per pack).

The language originated in 1990 in Los Angeles by Jack Herer's group, Help End Marijuana Prohibition, with Chris Conrad and the American Hemp Council. During the early 1990s, hundreds of thousands of signatures were secured without ever qualifying for the ballot. Those efforts were co-opted into the Prop 215 medical marijuana campaign.

With medical marijuana already in place in state law, the Republican governor having vetoed the 2006 state industrial hemp bill, and cities around the state having called for adult cannabis sales to be taxed and regulated at the state level, Jolsen and Herer agreed to make another run at the ballot.

The move is controversial because the effort lacks significant funding and does not have any polling to show the extent of its support within the state.

However, past signature campaigns have been essential to educating voters and the public about cannabis reform, and Prop 215 did not secure financial backing until after a grassroots effort had demonstrated its potential. For those reasons, volunteers are critical to its success.

For more information, contact the Youth Federation at 831-425-3313, PO Box 1406 Santa Cruz CA 95060 or visit online at [youthfederation.com](http://youthfederation.com)

## SAFER moves campaign back to the campus

*Continued from page 7*

Republican congressman running for governor. But more importantly, the campaign made local and statewide headlines on a regular basis for virtually an entire year.

It also generated some national and even international coverage, including a segment on Saturday Night Live in which one of the "Weekend Update" anchors pretended to have left the show to go to Colorado for "one ounce of hassle-free weed."

There has been discussion of another statewide initiative in Colorado in 2008 or 2010, but for now SAFER will focus on working with college students and other local cannabis reform activists to generate media coverage and spread the message that cannabis is safer than alcohol.

If you are a college student interested in working with SAFER on your campus, or if you or your organization wishes to work with SAFER, please contact us at [mail@saferchoice.org](mailto:mail@saferchoice.org) or 303-861-0033. Otherwise, please see [SAFERchoice.org](http://SAFERchoice.org) for more information.

## Billion \$ price tag

*Continued from page 11*

that includes all cultivation offenses, even where the cannabis was being grown for personal or medical use. It also includes people who were not selling, but merely charged with sales.

These totals are the highest ever, and make up 42.6 percent of all drug arrests in the US. Nevertheless, self-reported pot use by adults, as well as the ready availability of cannabis, remains virtually unchanged.

Cannabis isn't a harmless substance, and those who argue for a change in the drug's legal status do not claim it to be. However, it's relative risks to the user and society are much fewer than those of alcohol and tobacco, and do not warrant the expenses associated with targeting, arresting and prosecuting hundreds of thousands of Americans every year.

Federal statistics show that about 94 million Americans — 40 percent of the population age 12 or older — self-identify as having used cannabis at some point in their lives, and very few claim any significant deleterious health effects due to their use.

America's public policies should reflect this reality, not deny it. It makes no sense to continue to treat nearly half of all Americans as criminals.

\* Armentano is senior policy analyst for the NORML Foundation, [norml.org](http://norml.org), in Washington, DC. This article originally appeared in the *Washington Examiner*.

## Cal Supreme Court confirms that SB 420 guidelines are 'floor'

By Chris Conrad

The California State Supreme Court has handed down a powerful, far-reaching interpretation of the meaning and effect of the marijuana reform bill passed by the legislature in 2003.

In this case, Shaun Wright was convicted of transporting a pound of cannabis after the trial court denied a medical use defense. The High Court ruled Nov. 27, 2006 that a patient is entitled to the defense without a state ID card and without divulging the information to a police officer (it can be presented in court).

Most importantly, a patient can exceed the amounts set forth in the state guidelines and still defend their medical rights to a judge or jury using the standard set forth earlier in *Trippet*.

"The Attorney General fails to cite any provision of the MMP that supports his assertion that a defendant must identify himself as a medical user of marijuana before he or she can assert a CUA defense to a charge of transporting marijuana. To the contrary, the relevant provisions of the MMP contain no such requirement. ...

"The AG's claim that defendant's possession of a greater amount of marijuana than that specified in the MMP negates his entitlement to its defense against a transportation charge fares no better. The Attorney General relies on section 11362.77, subdivision (a). ...

"Moreover, the sponsors of Senate Bill No. 420 (2003-2004 Reg. Sess.) made clear that, although couched in mandatory terms, the amounts set forth in section 11362.77, subdivision (a) were intended 'to be the threshold, not the ceiling.' ... [noting that "the quantity limitations [set forth in § 11362.77, subdivision (a)] serve only as a floor".]

You can read the text of the ruling, *Cal SC # S128442*, online at [chrisconrad.com/expert.witness/wright.html](http://chrisconrad.com/expert.witness/wright.html).

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Under California Law, a qualified medical marijuana patient, may grow, possess and use marijuana for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately some law enforcement agencies don't think so.

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## Plant for a Patient

# Springtime coming soon; time to get seeds ready

By Jorge Cervantes\*

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

With springtime and the outdoor planting season just around the corner, many patients give their gardens a head start by getting their outdoor crop going indoors. In this issue of Oaksterdam News, we present an excerpt from *Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* "Chapter Two – SEEDS," by Jorge Cervantes. (512 color pages, 1120 color photos and illustrations, glossary, index, \$24.95.)



Power Plant seeds. Photo by Jorge Cervantes

We continue our expanded goal to provide a venue where patients can show their gardens, tell their story in a few words and help inspire other patients and caregivers. Send a brief description of your garden and tell readers how the medicine you grow helps patients enjoy a better standard of life. Many, many patients are too ill to grow their own, so caregivers are also urged to send in photos of their gardens. We can't receive too many photos!

### Germination

Cannabis seeds need only water, heat, and air to germinate. They do not need extra hormones to germinate. Seeds sprout without light in a wide range of temperatures. Properly nurtured seeds germinate in two to seven days, in temperatures from 70-90°F (21-32°C). Temperatures above 90°F (32°C) impair germination.

At germination, the outside protective shell of the seed splits, and a tiny, white sprout (radicle) pops out. This sprout is the root or taproot. Cotyledon, or seed leaves, emerge from within the shell as they push upward in search of light. Seeds are prompted to germinate by water, temperature, and air (oxygen).



Soak seeds in moist paper towel. Photo by Jorge Cervantes

## How you can 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: oaksterdamnews@gmail.com.

Subject: Plant for a Patient

Please include a few words to a paragraph or two about each photo you submit. 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.

### Water

Soaking seeds in water allows moisture to penetrate the protective seed shell within minutes. Once inside, moisture continues to wick in to activate the dormant hormones. In a few days, hormones activate and send enough hormone signals to produce a radicle. The radicle emerges upward to bring a new plant into the world. Once a seed receives moisture, there must be a constant stream of moisture to transport nutrients, hormones, and water in order to carry on life processes. Letting germinated seeds suffer moisture stress now will stunt seedling growth.

### Temperature

Cannabis seeds grow best at 78°F (25°C). Low temperatures delay germination. High temperatures upset seed chemistry causing poor germination. Seeds germinate best under the native conditions where they were grown. Once germinated, move seedlings to a slightly cooler growing area, and increase light levels. Avoid high temperatures and low light levels, which cause lanky growth.

### Air (oxygen)

Seeds need air to germinate. Moist, soggy growing mediums will cut off oxygen supplies and the seed will literally drown. Planting seeds too deeply also causes poor germination. Seedlings do not have enough stored energy to force through too much soil before sprouting. Plant seeds twice as deep as the width of the seed. For example, plant a 0.125-inch (0.3 mm) seed 0.25-inch (6 mm) deep.

Household water contains enough dissolved solids (food) to nourish seeds through their first few weeks of life. Although seeds need only 30-50 ppm of nitrates before they germinate, any more will disrupt internal chemistry. Some growers prefer to use distilled water that contains virtually no dissolved solids to germinate seeds.



This germinated seedling was allowed to dry out for a little more than an hour, and the tip of the root shrivelled, which caused the plant to have a very slow start in life. Photo by Jorge Cervantes

### Timeline for germinating seeds

At 55-72 hours Water is absorbed;  
Root tip (radicle) is visible

At 10-14 days First roots become visible

At 21-30 days At least half of seeds  
are rooted by day 21.

Seeds not rooted by day 30 will probably  
grow slowly, if at all.

Once seeds are rooted, cell growth accelerates;  
stem, foliage, and roots develop quickly.

Seedlings develop into full vegetative growth within  
four to six weeks of germination.

In fact, a high concentration of dissolved solids (salts) in the water will actually pull moisture out of the seed!

Start feeding two to four weeks after seedlings have sprouted. Some growers wait until leaves yellow to begin

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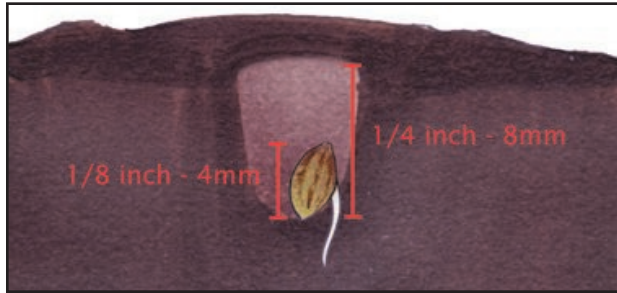
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**Plant seeds twice as deep as the seed is wide.**

Diagram courtesy of Jorge Cervantes

feeding. Use a mild quarter-strength solution. If yellowing persists, give seedlings a little more fertilizer. Some seeds have a very hard outer shell, testa, and must be scarified to allow water to penetrate. To scarify, line a matchbox with a piece of fine-grain sandpaper or emery board. Put the seeds in the matchbox and shake for about 30 seconds. Remove the seeds, and make sure they have been scuffed a bit. Just a little scuffing will allow water to enter and germination in motion.

### Two Popular Germination Techniques: One — Pre-soaking in water

Soak seeds overnight in a glass of water. Make sure seeds get good and wet so growth is activated. Do not let seeds soak more than 24 hours, or they might get too wet, suffer oxygen deprivation, and rot. Once soaked, seeds are ready to be placed between moist paper towels to sprout or be planted in a root cube or fine, light soilless mix.

In a warm location (70-90°F, [21-32°C]), place seeds in a moist paper towel or cheesecloth, in darkness. Set the moist cloth or paper towel in a vertical position (so tap root grows down) on a grate (for drainage) on a dinner plate. Water the cloth daily, and keep it moist. Let excess water drain away freely. The cloth will retain enough moisture to germinate the seed in a few days. The seed contains an adequate food supply for germination.

Prevent fungal attacks by watering with a mild two-percent bleach or fungicide solution. Once seeds have sprouted and the white sprout is visible, carefully pick up the fragile sprouts (with tweezers) and plant them. Take care not to expose the tender rootlet to prolonged intense light or air. Cover the germinated seed with 0.25–0.5-inch (1–2 cm) of fine planting medium with the white root tip pointing down.

To quick start your seeds, place a small emery board inside a matchbox along with seeds. Close the match box with the seeds and emery board inside. Shake the box for about 30 seconds to rough up and scuff the seeds, so water can penetrate the outer shell. Soak seeds in water overnight to germinate before planting. Place seeds between leaves of a paper towel on a plate to germinate. Add water to moisten the paper towel. Tip plate to drain off excess moisture.

Jiffy pellets expand when water is added. They make excellent pop-up pots to grow seedlings. They are also very easy to transplant.

### Two — Direct seed into medium

One of the problems with rockwool can be that the seeds heave out before germinating. This is why it is best to germinate seeds before putting them into the rockwool substrate. Once seeds have sprouted and the white sprout is visible, carefully pick up the fragile sprouts (with tweezers) and plant them in a pre-drilled hole in the rockwool with the white root tip pointing down. Take care not to expose the tender rootlet to prolonged intense light or air. Cover the germinated seed with one-quarter to one-half inch of moist rockwool. Keep the rockwool evenly moist. Once the taproot sprouts, small fuzzy feeder roots will grow in 12-14 days.

Water penetrates the outer protective shell, continues to wick in, and activates dormant hormones that induce

germination. Once a seed receives moisture, there must be a constant stream of moisture to transport nutrients, hormones, and water to carry on life processes. Letting germinated seed suffer moisture stress now will stunt or stop seedling growth. The black tip of the root tells me this is what has happened. Soggy growing mediums cut oxygen supplies and cause seeds to drown. Planting seeds too deeply causes poor germination. Seeds set inside rockwool blocks often heave up and out. Germinate seeds before planting to avoid this common problem.

Seedlings do not have enough stored energy to force through too much soil before sprouting. Plant seeds twice as deep as the width of the seed. For example, plant an eighth-inch seed one-quarter inch deep.

Seeds do not need any extra hormones to germinate. Household water contains enough dissolved solids, food, to nourish seeds through their first few weeks of life. Supplemental nutrients will disrupt internal chemistry. Some growers prefer to use distilled water which contains virtually no dissolved solids to germinate seeds.

Sow (direct seed) or move the sprout into a shallow planter, small seed pot, peat pellet, or rooting cube. Keep the planting medium evenly moist. Use a spoon to contain the root ball when transplanting from a shallow planter. Peat pellets or root cubes may be transplanted in two to three weeks or when the roots show through the sides. Feed with a dilute, quarter-strength fertilizer solution.

Construct a moisture tent over the seedling container to help retain even grow-medium moisture. To build, place a baggie or piece of cellophane over the seeded soil. The



**Cannabis sprout.** Photo by Jorge Cervantes

cover will keep the humidity and temperature elevated. Seeds under a humidity tent usually need only one initial watering. Remove the cover as soon as the first sprout breaks ground. Leaving the tent on after seeds sprout through soil will lead to damping-off and other problems.

Place planted seeds under an HID lamp to add dry heat while germinating. The heat dries soil, which requires more frequent watering. Place a heat pad or soil heating cables below growing medium to expedite germination. Cannabis seeds germinate and sprout quickest when the soil temperature is between 78-80°F (24-27.5°C) and the air temperature is 72-74°F (22-23°C). But stems will stretch between internodes if temperatures exceed 85°F (29°C) for long. Over-watering and under-watering are the biggest obstacles most growers face when germinating seeds and growing seedlings. Keep the soil uniformly moist, not waterlogged. Do not let the growing medium surface dry for long. Keep it evenly moist. Setting root cubes or planting flats up on a grate allows good drainage. A shallow flat or planter with a heat pad underneath may require daily watering, while a deep, one-gallon pot will need watering every three days or more. A properly



**"Willow" cannabis seedling.** Photo by Jorge Cervantes

watered flat of rockwool cubes needs water every three to five days when sprouting seeds. When the surface is dry (0.25-inch [7 mm] deep) it is time to water. Remember, there are few roots to absorb the water early in life, and they are very delicate.

### Grow More Female Plants from Seed

Environmental factors start influencing sex the moment the seedling has three pairs of true leaves (not counting cotyledon). Environmental factors that influence sex determination of cannabis include but are not limited to:

Increasing the level of nitrogen makes more female plants. Lower the nitrogen level to create more male plants. Increase the level of potassium to increase male tendencies; lowering the potassium level encourages female plants. A higher nitrogen level and a lower potassium level for the first two weeks increases females.

Low temperatures increase the number of female plants. Warm temperatures make more male plants.

High humidity increases the number of female plants. Low humidity increases male plants.

Low growing-medium moisture increases males.

More blue light increases the number of female plants. More red light increases male tendencies.

Fewer hours of daylight (e.g. 14 hours) increases the number of females. Longer days (e.g. 18 hours) make more male plants. Stress: any environmental stress tends to yield more male plants when growing from seed.

Henk, the owner of Dutch Passion Seeds, [www.dutchpassion.nl](http://www.dutchpassion.nl), was kind enough to allow us to adapt this information from his archives.

\* 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 12 magazines in six languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. See [marijuanagrowing.com](http://marijuanagrowing.com) for info.



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## Downgrading cannabis offenses proposed

Continued from page 1

- Under current law (Health and Safety Code 11358), cultivation of any amount of cannabis is a felony — even a single plant. This perversely encourages otherwise responsible, adult cannabis users to buy from criminal traffickers rather than grow their own at home, since the former is subject to at most misdemeanor possession charges, while the latter is punished as a felony.

While “personal use” cultivation defendants can apply for “deferred entry of judgment” under PC 1000, this is subject to numerous restrictions and involves burdensome diversion and court costs. The present law is especially burdensome to medical marijuana patients, who, even though they are legally entitled to grow under Prop 215, are still often arrested and taken to court on felony charges, an expensive and harrowing ordeal.

California could make small-scale personal use home cultivation a minor misdemeanor punishable by a fine below a certain threshold. This policy has been adopted in Ohio, Colorado and some Australian states. A more liberal approach was recommended by California's Research Advisory Panel in 1990, calling for complete elimination of criminal penalties for personal possession and cultivation of cannabis. This is currently the law in Alaska.

California could make other low-level cultivation offenses regular misdemeanors (punishable by possible jail time), provided they take place on property owned or controlled by the grower. This would create a useful distinction between small, private gardens and large-scale plantations that are currently being grown by organized criminal gangs on public lands, which are more properly treated as felonies.

- Under current law (HS 11359 and 11360), sale, transportation, distribution and pos-

session with intent to sell or distribute are felonies for ANY amount of cannabis — even a single joint. (Giving away or transporting less than an ounce are minor misdemeanors). In contrast, assault and battery are misdemeanors, although they cause direct violence to others. This sends an irresponsible message about the relative harm of marijuana crimes.

Convictions for intent to sell account for the majority of the marijuana felonies that are currently crowding prisons. Many involve petty dealers, who are more commonly arrested than major traffickers. As a public nuisance, petty dealing is akin to prostitution, which is presently treated as a misdemeanor. Moreover, the personal stash of a heavy-consumer who keeps a few pounds on hand is often cited as showing an intent to sell.

Downgrade minor sales to a misdemeanor or wobbler. This is presently done in the state of Maine, where sales of one pound or less, or cultivation of 100 plants or less, are punished as misdemeanors.

One possible alternative: make first-time sale/intent to sell for one ounce or less a misdemeanor; other sales of less than 10 pounds a wobbler.

- Under current law (HS 11357A), possession of hashish or concentrated cannabis is a wobbler punishable as an optional felony, and is not eligible for the standard \$100 misdemeanor fine. The distinction between hashish and marijuana is obsolescent given recent increases in marijuana potency. Hashish is not distinguished from marijuana under California's medical marijuana law, H&SC 11362.5. In its 2002 budget cut proposals, the LAO estimated that treating hashish as a misdemeanor would save the state \$4.8 million.

California could treat hashish like marijuana, at a ratio of 1 ounce marijuana = 1/4 ounce of concentrated cannabis. This would make possession of <1/4 oz hashish a minor misdemeanor, >1/4 oz. a regular misdemeanor, and in no case would it be a felony.

California spends far too much of its resources imprisoning citizens for cannabis and victimless drug crimes, and should at least adopt proposals along these lines.



**EVERYTHING'S GOOD** — At PAP, a staff member packs the weighed medicine into an odor-proof container. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

## Los Angeles cannabis outlets coming of age

By Jaime Galindo

### Patients Against Pain

Mon-Fri 11am-7pm Sat & Sun 8am-5pm  
818-752-7274

6240 Laurel Canyon Blvd, # B  
North Hollywood, Ca 91606

PatientsAgainstPain.com

MySpace.com/PatientsAgainstPain

Public transportation: Bus line 230 stops right outside the door

PAP is one of the most affordable clinic I've ever come across. They have a great staff, and look to be the most compassionate club in LA. "We have \$40 eighths from personal vendors with strains ranging from authentic Og X Bubba Kush, Sour X Bubba Kush, Afghani Kush, Sour Diesel, Train Wreck, Red Citrus, Orange Musk, just to name call a few," said Dr. K. "We don't just try, we give back to the community. We have the most affordable prices in town, for the best medical grade cannabis. Why pay more? All of our edibles such as cookies, Horchata, brownies, soda, choco bananas, honey, cup cakes, ice cream are made by staff so we know exactly what goes into all of our products. We provide a friendly environment with out the intimidating security." Dr K., who helps operate the dispensary wants to let the community know that he has been around for years serving the community and plans to continue the mission. We have donated over 2000 pounds of cloths and food through out my crusade."

PAP is not as flamboyant as other clubs with the exception of their medical cannabis. There's plenty of parking. More to the point, they are great, compassionate, humble guys. There is no glass separating people. It's all hands-on. Touch it. Smell it. Become one with it before you decide which strain suits your particular mood. Herbo super cool motorized bong are available for the adventurous.

### California Herbal Remedies

Cannabis Cup Winner, 2nd place\*

Mon-Sat. 10am-8pm  
323-342-9110

5470 Valley Blvd

Los Angeles CA 90032

This roomy dispensary features high end flowers and concentrates and presents them through an Asian influenced / art gallery environment and presentation.

From romantic lighting to the most elegant fish tank placement and fish I've ever

### Dispensary Owners!

Ready to upgrade from plastic baggies? Check out sunpacksupply.com if your in the market for a more cost effective medical cannabis, medically approved container that keeps your patients cannabis from being pancaked and fresher, longer.

Check out their ad on page 19.

seen. The fish tank greets you at the front entrance and follows you around inside the dispensary through the wall. I'll just say seeing the tank design and feeling the vibe here is worth stopping by. The two owners of this fine artistic, cultural dispensary felt there was need for a not-so-stereotypical setting for a cannabis dispensary. Both were also vendors before so are both more than just tasteful, honest, businessmen, they have complete knowledge of what they are providing. In addition, both worked at medical cannabis dispensaries, so they also have an understanding of what customer service means.

"People had to drive too far so we made it so they don't have to or have a



**CAL HERBAL REMEDIES** — The friendly staff at the CHR center are ready with information and medication, depending on the patient's needs.

Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

choice," they told me.

There's plenty of parking with a headshop located next door. CHR is very comfortable. Sophisticated. Very chill. Very safe. Offers superior medical cannabis and extracts. \$35-80 per eighth. Makers of Kush Chocolate Cannabis Creations, which are just exquisite. I'll be back.

### Arts District Healing Center

Mon-Sat 10-11pm

213-687-9981

620 E. 1st St

Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Located in the Arts District, downtown LA, just down the street from Little Tokyo, MOCA, and a multitude of fine eateries, Arts District Healing Center has carved out a niche in the community. Arriving at ADHC, one is immediately impressed by ample parking directly next to their ivy covered 1911 brick building.

You've got to pay attention though, the only sign directing you to their location is an "ADHC Parking" sign hanging off the fence.

Registration has all the formalities. Once inside, their culturally diverse membership enjoys the benefits of a large selec-



**COUNTER INTUITIVE** — The trained staff at West Valley Co-op offer advice on how different strains of cannabis affect various symptoms, and which are preferred by other patients with similar problems. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

tion of herbs, over fifty strains, in a delightfully relaxed environment. They have a medicating lounge with music and video that extends into an outside garden oasis, most unusual for downtown LA. Their finished brick walls are punctuated with art, and the lounge is cozy with a variety of tools for medicating.

Repeat patients seem to be drawn to family like values found at ADHC. Not only is their staff helpful and knowledgeable, but the membership serves as resource for information, activities, and socializing. On any given day you might catch a potluck meal, or a barbeque on Taco Fridays. Their is a sense of community at ADHC which they believe is important for the healing process. Their membership and staff offer counseling on nutrition, and support groups. A free cookie is given with every visit, doubled for first timers!

ADHC has quality medicine at fair prices, starting at \$35 per eighth up to \$70. They are also the only cannabis outlet in the Arts District of Los Angeles. They are

handicap accessible through out the entire building and you will find the staff to be friendly and helpful. It is organized around a series of guiding principles:

A. To provide Members with an alternative place to heal and relieve their symptoms of serious illness.

B. To provide Members with quality and affordable goods by utilizing their united funds and efforts for the purchase and consumption of those goods, and the performance of services and such other activities as will benefit the Members;

C. To supplement traditional medicine with natural medicine to provide relief from pain and suffering

### Valley Coop

Cannabis Cup Winner, 3rd place\*

Mon-Sat 11-10pm Sun 12-7pm

818-727-1419

8363 Reseda Blvd #203a

Northridge, Ca 91324

Have you stopped by this place lately? It's Under new and improved ownership. These folks have a whole new attitude towards patient satisfaction.

"We take pride in serving existing clients and new clients".

They have completely updated all of their strains offered. Heavenly relief awaits the patient. Be sure to stop by and experience their whole new meaning of flavor and high potency medicinal cannabis that's sure to alleviate even the most gruesome of pain. Is it Wednesday yet? Patient appreciation day falls on every single Wednesday of every single week around here.

Now that's what I call putting a cherry on top of their already great prices. All else I can say is that it brought me great pleasure to see a club that puts the patients interest before their own.

It might not be the biggest and fanciest club I've been to, but the buds were quite couture. Wheel chair accessible.

### West Valley Co-Op

Mon-Thu 11am-9pm Fri-Sat 11am-10pm

Sun 12pm-7pm

818-713-0258

19709 Ventura Blvd # B

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

100% discrete location in a medical professional, atmosphere. Plenty of parking in rear of building or on Ventura Blvd. Next to Luggage-4-Less. Use east side entrance of florist building. Large selection of Indicas, Sativas, hybrids, concentrates and edibles. Discounts for patients who qualify (SSI, severe disability, terminally ill). Free Gram Mondays. 10%-off concentrate Wednesdays, and \$55 Bubba Kush Fridays.

Professional, clean, well lit, very relaxing feel. Eighths are moderately priced at \$40-65.

This place is awesome. The staff here really takes pride in their work and workplace, thus the patient enjoys the benefits such as the large selection and sweet aromas of all the fresh green cannabis strains. Right off the bat, you get a sense of wow, I am alive. Very courteous people here.

Unfortunately these kind people were victims of the Los Angeles DEA raids of Please turn to page 22

very hospitable, welcoming people, who always keep patient satisfaction as their top priority. It was nice to finally meet these freedom fighters in person.

### Venice Beach Care Center

Mon-Thu 12pm-8pm

Fri & Sat: 11am-10pm Sun 11am-7pm

310-399-4307

410 Lincoln Blvd

Venice, Ca 90291

VeniceBeachCareCenter.com

Venice Beach Care Center VBCC specializes in only in High Grade / Quality Medication. As all medical cannabis dispensaries, products are only available to patients/members and only with a valid doctors recommendation. VBCC was founded by a group of patients dedicated to providing a safe and friendly experience with extraordinary service and quality medication. They are always interested in your comments and feedback and welcome your questions and requests.

This Collective is formed by a group of people who collectively donate labor, materials, money, and knowledge to empower and alleviate the sick and disabled from serious illness. They are fully

## Cruz Cup result: excellent!

Presented by Glass Roots Smoke Shop at The Attic.

### Odam News field results:

There were seven submissions. Packaged in gram size zip lock bagies marked with images or bag colors as described below without using reference to strain.

Our judge sampled each strain in cigarette form, and smoked in sets four hours apart so as to achieve the most accurate results for effect. Below are his results alone, and not to be interpreted as being from the actual event. See Arnold Swchwarzenegger demonstrate his 'joint' method; video online at OaksterdamNews.com

### Bulldogs-5 stars 1St Place

look: hairy king taranchula, body/legs covered with sparkling brilliance

smell: kush like

taste: kush like

effectiveness: 0 to 60 in 15 sec. when held in for 15 seconds

### koalas-5 stars 2nd Place

look: at least 3k worth of dimonds on this little nug,

meaty, dense, light orange, neon green

smell: classic kush like, subtle

taste: pungent lemon

effectiveness: 0 to 60 in 20 secs. when held in for 15 seconds

### Pink-5 stars 3rd Place

look: sugar coated nug, orange, hairy

smell: fruit paradise

taste: mouthwatering

effectiveness: 0 to 60 in 25 secs. when held in for 15 seconds

### Blue-4 stars

look: strawberry, perfect trim

smell: fruit bowl

taste: mouth watering, sweet watermelon, strawberry

effectiveness: 0 to 60 in 30 secs. when held in for 15 seconds

### owls-4 stars

look: highly resinous, perfect cure

smell: sweet melon, honey dew

taste: same as smell

high: 0 to 60 in 35 seconds or less. when held in for 15 seconds



GLITTER — The resin family sparkles off this bud from the competition. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

### suns-4 stars

look: orange, hairy, frost, nice trim

smell: pine cone

taste: woody, earthy

effectiveness: 0 to 60 in 45 seconds. when held in for 15 seconds

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Great Selection of Cannabis, Extracts, Clones, Books, Glass,  
Shirts, Water Extraction Bags, & Much More



**SENSITIVITY** — Patients Sensitive Services verifies that patients are qualified before they can become members. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo.

## LA dispensary review

*Continued from page 20*

January 2007. Do your part to help, please stop by and show support and help West Valley Co-Op get back on its feet. Tell them *Oaksterdam News* sent you.

### The Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary

Mon-Sat 11am-8pm  
818-980-2266  
12021 1/2 Ventura Blvd  
Studio City, Ca 91604  
www.TheWeed420.com

Located in Studio City directly over the hill from Hollywood. Hop over Laurel Canyon and you're there. Plenty of parking. WEED prides itself on their high quality, freshness, and flavor. Select from many of the perfectly cured, authentic cannabis strains, stored for display and sample purposes in some of the most beautiful, simple,

clear, glass jars I've come across. Medicine is then packaged in cost-effective, properly labeled, medically approved, sterile plastic containers. Nothing like being kind to the environment, they have a recycle program for used medicine jars so be sure to do your part and bring down your empty containers and toss them in the barrel. They won't be re-used but they will be recycled. Free glass accessory for first time patients. After that patients may purchase a new glass accessory for only \$5. The WEED is located in a very clean well lit, safe neighborhood.

### Patients Sensitive Services

#### Cannabis Cup Winner, 1st place\*

7 Days 12pm-8pm  
818-926-7890  
5761 Whitnall Hwy Unit A  
North Hollywood, Ca 91601

Plenty of parking. Pool table. Ping pong table. All their medical cannabis is imported from Humboldt direct, from where the World's Finest cannabis comes from. (In case you didn't know, now you do.)

It is owned and operated by patients. The true sense of hospitality and warmth found in the personalities and compassion here seemed to warm up the place, which felt quite good as it was freezing outside! Got a dog? Guess what, you can bring him or her or them along, they have a really nice dog park right across the street! Come on down with your best friends and enjoy the park and the fresh air and watch your pals enjoy the ride as much as you did! What else does a dog and a dog lover want?

The world's best cannabis? I think I already mentioned they have that too, and guess what, you will not believe the compassion found in their prices. Eighths are only \$60 for this unbeatable High Grade Medical Cannabis, plus the more you buy, the more you save. Simply, this medical cannabis dispensary left me with one of the best experiences I've ever encountered, even though the place isn't all "decked out" yet, their cannabis is. So there you go. What else can I say? Oh wait until you see the dog portraits the director of this place can draw and paint of any dog. just be sure to ask about them and his other business, backyard doodies, "when your pets poop, we come to scoop" is their motto. You can learn more about his other business at [www.backyarddoodies.com](http://www.backyarddoodies.com).

### Green Earth Collective

7 Days 11am-8pm  
323-982-9042  
5045 York Blvd  
Los Angeles, Ca 90042  
[GreenEarthCollective.com](http://GreenEarthCollective.com)

Here at GEC, little sister to Earth Collective, they offer first time patients a free gram of choice with any eighth obtained by donation. Also, they have a referral program that offers the referring party a free gram of choice as long as the new member donates towards an eighth. Patients that travel from out of town will even be given 5% discount to accommodate their travel expense! They have a rewards card program that generously gives patients 5% credit towards their future donations.

They offer a wide range of flowers, edibles, concentrates, and clones. Flowers range from \$35 and up packaged in beautiful glass containers to ensure top quality. The environment of the collective offers a warm and welcoming feeling for the patients. The staff behind the counter was very knowledgeable and courteous, I told them of my preferences and they made absolutely perfect recom-

mendations of what I wanted in quality, taste and potency. the staff was very honest, no b.s. here! GEC is located in the middle of four different freeways, the I-5, 134, 2 and 110, which makes it very easy for patients, and there's plenty of easy access parking.

### Compassionate Patient Resource

Mon-Fri 12pm-8pm  
Sat-Sun 12pm-7pm  
818-343-3690  
19237 1/2 Ventura Blvd  
Tarzana, Ca 91356  
[www.CPRMeds.com](http://www.CPRMeds.com)

Plenty of parking. Free, quality, non-cannabis snacks, drinks, and a super clean, culturally diverse comfortable professional environment.

The check in / waiting lounge is great if you travel with non-patient company as they can chill and wait for you inside, instead of the car and enjoy the complimentary treats. CPR made me feel good. I don't mean the generic goodwill elicited by fine cannabis at sensible prices. I mean something more. True, the good buds and low prices are at the heart of my positivity but it's a lot more than just getting high. Respect, that's what it's all about.

There's a mixed crowd of people who can grab some



**PURPLE LIGHT** — From the Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo.



**HOT & COLD** — These cannabis condiments range from hot sauce to cold beverages, but they share one critical link: They can be found at the Venice Beach Care Center. Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

complimentary snacks and a soda on the way out. Come back next week and do it again. The place is really large also, so you're not cramped. Anywhere! It smelled good and clean inside, had peaceful music playing and was very well lit. The 2 strains I tried were the K-9 and Sweet Tooth x Purple Kush. Both of them are really good, especially at the \$55 an eighth in the LA cannabis market.

\* A group of patients, including this reviewer, sampled and rated products from the various dispensaries represented here. Patient Sensitive Services took First Place for Indoor Purple Kush. Second Place went to California Herbal Remedies for Maui X Banana. Valley Coop took Third Place with Bubba Kush.

Because you don't need a medical card to buy a beer.

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To learn about **Measure** visit [www.JoinClubZ.com](http://www.JoinClubZ.com)

510-839-CLBZ  
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Los Angeles CA

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**In Memoriam: Dr Mike Alcalay: Compassionate physician**

By Chris Conrad

Longtime cannabis reform advocate and cannabis-consultant / physician Michael Alcalay, MD, passed away on Nov. 18, 2006 in Oakland, CA. He was the medical director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and a local icon.

Dr. Alcalay was a medical marijuana patient and lived with AIDS for decades. He was also a pediatrician and a Vietnam veteran. Alcalay was also the founder of a migrant farm workers clinic in Watsonville, CA, and had used his medical skills all over the world — including Kenya, Nicaragua, England, Germany, and Mexico.



**Dr. Mike Alcalay, MD 1941 - 2006: Longtime Bay Area AIDS activist, medical cannabis advocate**  
Oaksterdam News file photo.

Affectionately known as “Dr Mike” among the many patients and groups he worked with in the East Bay area, Alcalay saw his role as being a duality as physician and political activist. He was a common presence at conferences in the state, often with a videocam in hand to record the event.

“I see the medical marijuana movement as part of a much larger movement that is global now and it has to do with economic and social justice. And most of it you’re not going to hear in the corporate media,” Alcalay once said in an interview on the radio show *Democracy Now*.

“It’s all below the radar, but anybody who’s in these various movements the tentacles are linking together. Pacifica radio is part of it. Air America is now a part of it. The Internet in great measure is a part of it, and we’re coming together in ways that the other side doesn’t even want to acknowledge and will do everything to stop. But,

we’re in the great majority.”

His brother, Glenn Alcalay, talked about their story in an interview available online at [democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/11/20/1448252](http://democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/11/20/1448252).

**Share Parker: Musician, Seattle Hempfest organizer**

Seattle Hempfest’s treasurer, steering committee member and “five-star general” Share Parker, passed away Dec. 4 after battling ovarian cancer for a year and a half.

The bass player for the esteemed band The Herbivores, Share had been participating in Pacific Northwest peace rallies and demonstrations for years, and had been a part of the Seattle Hempfest family for many years. Share was also known for her wonderfully long dreadlocks that fell down past her feet.

In 2000 Share took the job of Hempfest Steering Committee treasurer. When Hempfest came up disastrously short in 2005, even while her step son was fighting terminal cancer, Share mortgaged her property to bail out Hempfest, paying over \$18,000 in Hempfest debts.

Share Parker’s dedication was ceaseless, her loyalty was unwavering, and her sacrifice incalculable. She was as brave as ever as she valiantly fought to survive cancer, and she died peacefully.

**Pam Sakuda: Fought SD County for patient rights**

Medical cannabis patient Pam Sakuda, passed away on Nov. 10, 2006, after a long battle with cancer. She died before she could receive a favorable court ruling in the landmark medical marijuana case in which she had been a plaintiff.

Sakuda, who suffered from rectal cancer, was a tireless and fearless advocate for *Please turn to page 24*

**PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT**

Thanks to the *Oaksterdam News* cannabis dispensary research team for composing the most up to date directory in the world. *Oaksterdam News* makes no representation as to the service, quality, reliability or compassion of any of these groups. Updates at [www.oaksterdamnews.com](http://www.oaksterdamnews.com).

For a discussion of the legalities of cannabis clubs, see CA NORML’s *Tips for Would-be Cannabis Providers*, [canorml.org](http://canorml.org).

**When you visit, be sure to mention *Oaksterdam News*.**

**Oakland**

**SR-71, 377 17th St. Oakland 94612, 9 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm Sat. / 10 am- 6 pm Sun.**

We The People, 925-595-8879 Delivery Service  
OCBC 1733 Broadway Ave Oakland 94612, 510-832-5346

Harborside Health Care 1840 Embarcadero Oakland 94606, 510-533-0147

Purple Heart 415 4th St. Jack London Square Area  
CARE, 701 Broadway Ave Oakland 94607

**Bakersfield**

Sweet Relief Compassionate Care, 1340 Roberts Lane #1 Bakersfield CA 93308, 661-399-4200, 9 am-10 pm Mon-Fri 9-5 pm Sat / closed Sun

California Compassionate Services, 376 Bernard St. Bakersfield 93305, 661-324-9080

American Caregivers Collect., 3615 Gillmore Av. Bakersfield 93308, 661-324-1353, 10- 7 Daily

Charity Caregivers of Tulare, 219 North M St. Tulare 93274, 559-688-2001, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Fri closed Sat & Sun

7 Seas Compassionate Care Ctr, 6403 Seven Seas Ave. #A, 93308, 10-6 Mon-Sat 10-2 Sun

Free & Easy Compassionate Care 1905 1/2 N. Chester Bakersfield 93308, 661-387-0509

Nature’s Medicinal, 323 Roberts Ln. Bakersfield 93308, 661-392-9353, 11-9 Mon-Sat, 11-7 Sun

Green Cross of Torrance, 1658 B West Carson Street Torrance 90501, (310) 533-9363, 10-8 pm Everyday

**Beach Cities**

Cancer Help Cntr Herbal Collect., 3381 LB Bl. Long Beach 90804, 562-424-HERB ( 4372 ), 11 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm Sat & Sun

Nature’s Way Compassion Group, 1111 S. Pacific Av. San Pedro 90731, 310-514-9665, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

Herbal Solutions Compassionate Caregivers, 5746

E. 2nd St. Long Beach 90803, 562-434-5075

Cal Caregivers Assoc. of Gardena, 17901 S. Vermont Av. #D Gardena 90248, 310-352-1188, 11:30-8 pm Daily

LBVLC, 1088 Redondo Av. Long Beach 90814, 562-434-6761, 11-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 -7 pm Sat&Sun  
Palos Verdes Collect., PO Box 2002 Rolling Hills Estate 90274, 310-541-0608 877-420-2150, 12-8 pm Tue-Sat closed Sun & Mon

Nature’s Holistic Caregivers, 14000 #A Crenshaw Bl. Gardena 90249, 310-327-3551

Peace of Green, 22828 Western Av. Torrance 90501, 310-530-4135, 12-8 pm Mon-Fri 12-6 pm Sat&Sun

**Berkeley**

Berkeley Cannabis Co-op, 3124 Shattuck Berkeley 94705, 510-486-1025, 10 am- 3 pm Tue-Sn / closed Mon 10:30 am- 5 pm Fri

Berkeley Patient’s Care Collect., 2590 Telegraph Av. Berkeley, CA. 94704, 510-540-7878, Noon- 7 pm Tues- Sun closed Mon`

Berkeley Patient’s Group, 2747 San Pablo Av. Berkeley 94702, 510-540-6013, 11am- 7 pm daily

**Central Coast, Santa Barbara**

HortiPharm Caregiving & Consulting 4 W. Calle Laureles Sta Barbara 93105, 805-563-2802

Central Coast Compassionate Caregivers, 780 Monterey Av. #B Morro Bay 93442, 805-772-4879, fax# 805-456-0389, 11 am-6 Tue-Sun closed Mon

ACME, 211 W. Victoria St. Sta Barbara 93101, 805-679-1569, 8-10 pm Daily New

Pacific Greens, Inc., 816 Milpas St. Sta Barbara 93101, 805-963-0616, 10-8 pm Daily

Cal Alliance for Medical Mj Patients (I.D. Cards, Referrals), Ventura Co., 805-890-1365, 11:30-4:30 Thurs-Sat, by appointment on Sunday

Compassionate Cntr of Sta Barbara Co. #1, 2915 De La Vina St. Sta Barbara 93105, 805-682-8383, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Sat

Hezekiah Inc., 92 2nd St. #H Buellton 93427, 805-



**The first time a verified patient comes to CCS our primary goal is to understand exactly what that particular patient needs. If the patient is interested, we will discuss whether they need help with sleep, pain, nausea, appetite enhancement or any other ailment for which cannabis provides relief. After understanding the individual patient's needs our friendly staff will guide them to several options that can potentially provide the necessary relief. We also have some high grade extracts, including an exclusive product called HoneyComb. You'll have to try it to believe it.**

## PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

693-5790, 9 am-5 pm Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm daily  
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Nature's Path Care, 414 E. Haley St. #B Sta Barbara 93101, 805-331-4567, 10-8 pm Daily

Helping Hands Wellness Center, 4141 State St. #F-4 Sta Barbara 93110, 805-692-1419, 10:30 am-8:30 pm Daily 805-708-7844

Sta Barbara Collect. 234 E. Haley St Sta Barbara 93101

Compassionate Cntr of Sta Barbara Co. #2 SBC Collect. 119 N. Milpas St. #C Sta Barbara 93103, 805-963-9797, Nn-5 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-3 pm Sat Sta Barbara Patients' Group, 3128 State St. Sta Barbara 93105, 805-687-8988 / 898-2377, 10 am-6 pm daily

### Central Valley, Redding

The Compassionate Coalition 1500 Oliver Road Suite 248 Fairfield 94533,

CHARITY CAREGIVERS OF TULARE 219 N. M Street #106 Tulare 93274, 559-688-2001, M-F 11-6

City and County of Trees 219 Walnut St Woodland CA, (530) 383-6714

El Dorado Pain Reduction Cntr., 645 Main St. #3 Placerville 95667, 530-642-1642, 11-6 pm Daily The Hemp Shack { Recommendations ID Cards } 220 E. Olive Av. Fresno 93728, 559-485-4367, 10-8 pm Mon-Sat. 12-5 pm Sun

Dr. William Toy, 120 Richerdson St. #B Grass Valley 95945, 530-273-5804

Calaveras CC, 11855 Goldstrike Rd. Pine Grove 95665, 866-401-2228, DELIVERY ONLY 8 am- 8 pm EVERYDAY

Golden State Patient Care Collect., 233 Hwy 174 Colfax 95713, 530-346-2514, 10 am- 5 pm Mon-Sat

Dr. Solovan, 1522 Charles Dr. Redding 96003, 530-242-6784

VWCC Valley Wellness Center Collect. 130 W.11th St., Ste E Tracy 95376, 209-834-8929

420 Smoke Shop The Smoking Dragon 983 Lake Blvd. Suite C Redding 96003, 530-772-9420

Norcal Medical Cannabis Collect., 1444 Warner #A Chico 95926, 530-354-1114, 1 pm-8 pm Mon-Sat

### Contra Costa

MED Dispensary, 3823 San Pablo Dam Rd. El Sobrante 94803, 510-758-3269, 10 am-6 pm Daily call for appt.

Natural Remedies Health Center, Richmond, CA. 94805, 510-444-5771

Dragonfly/Holistic Solutions, 2924 Hill Top Mall Rd. Richmond, CA. 94806, 510-243-7575, Mn-Fr 11am-6pm / Sat&Sun 11am-4pm

Maricare, 127 Aspen Dr. Pacheco, 94553, 925-459-2929, Mon-Fri / 10 am-7 pm Sat / 11 am-6 pm Sun

### Hayward

Alameda Co. Resource Cntr, 16250 B E. 14th St. San Leandro 94578, 510-317-2150, 11 am- 8 pm Mon-Sat.

Hayward Patients Resource Cntr, 22550 Foothill Bl. Hayward 94541, 510-581-8640 888-389-6360, 11 am-9 pm daily also delivers MD clinic

Garden of Eden, 21227 Foothill Bl. Castro Valley 94541, 510-881-2160, 9 am-9 pm daily

Compassionate Collect. of Alameda Co., 21222 Mission Bl. Hayward 94541, 9-7 pm Mon-Fri NEW Spt'06 11-7 Sat & Sun

We Are Hemp, 913 E Lewelling Bl. Hayward 94541, 510-276-2628, 11 am- 8 pm Mon- Sat

A Natural Source ?, 16360 Foothill Bl. San Leandro 94578, 510-276-7224, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Fr 12 pm- 6 pm Sat & Sun

### Los Angeles

Whittier Medicinal Patients Collect. & Lounge WMPC 11618 Washington #D Los Angeles 90606, 562-692-3576, 7 days 11-7

420 Bros., 117 1/2 S. Western Av. L.A. 90004, 877-420-BROS

Venice Beach Care Center 410 Lincoln Blvd. Venice 90291, 310-399-4307, M-Th 2-9,F-Sat 11-10, Sun 10-6

Relief Caregivers Coop, 24602 Raymond Way, Suite #201 Lake Forest 92630-4461, 949 735-9112, Hours: 11-7 Mon-Sat

Absolute Herbal Solutions 901 S. La Brea Suite 3 Los Angeles 90036, 323-896-6777, opens

Angel City Caregivers 441 1/2 E. 16th Street Los Angeles 90015, 213-291-8180, 10-8 daily

420 For the People (420FTP) 15300 Devonshire St. Suite 11 Mission Hills 91346,

SoCal Consultants Dispensary, 486 W. Arrow Hwy Covina 91722, (626) 967-1300?, M-F 12-8, Sat and Sun 10-8

Herbal Solutions Collect. (HSC) 22122 Sherman Way #206 Canoga Park 91303, HOURS: 11am-8pm S-Th 11am-9pm Friday-Saturday 12-7 Sunday

Lake Forest Collect. 24370 Muirlands Blvd. El Toro 92630, 949-302-5235

DMC Inc. Downtown Medical Care, Inc 1301 S. Main St. #209 Los Angeles 90015, 213-741-0901, Mon-Sat 10-6

Galaxy Caregivers 11428 Vanowen North Hollywood 91605, 866-977-BEST, daily 11-8

Organic Century Pharmacy 404 W. 7th Street # 1405 Los Angeles 90014, 323-215-5021

Compassionate Caregivers-Studio City 11314 Ventura Blvd. Ventura 91604, 818-506-7207

The Health Center 5161 Melrose Hollywood 90038

Quality of Life Activities(IMO Francis), 4323 W. Melrose Av. L.A. 90029, 323-644-1209, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat / 12-7 pm Sun

Living Earth Wellness Center, 4207 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles 90019, 323-936-5000, Daily 10am-6pm

West Valley Caregivers, 23067 Ventura Blvd #102 Calabasas 91302, 1-818-222-9212

Venice Beach Wellness Collect., 1501 Pacific Av. Venice 90291, 310-399-7100, 11 -8 pm Daily

The Dana Point Collect. (TDPC) 24662 Del Prado, Suite 1a Dana Point 92629, (949)439-8148

Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary (WEED) 12021 1/2 Ventura Blvd Studio City 91604, (818) 980-2266, HOURS: Mon. to Sat. 11a to 8p

California Organic Treatment Center, 11644 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604-2613, (818) 506-5948, Hours: 11a to 8p & Sun.12p to 8p

Exclusive Caregivers of California (ECC) 5327 Sta MoniBlvd., Los Angeles 90029, (323) 463-3429, HOURS: 7 Days: 11a to 12a

**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.”

Korea Town Collect. 3567 W. Third Los Angeles 90020, 213-384-2403, M-F 1-7, Saturday 11-5

Trichome Healing Caregivers 7100 Van Nuys Blvd Van Nuys 91405, 818-373-5000

Live For Care, 1151 S. Robertson Bl. LA 90035, 310-435-0028

Silverlake Caregivers Group, 240 N. Virgil Av. #10 Silverlake 90004, 213-487-5442, 10-8 Mon-Sat

Supplemental Organic Solutions, 328 S. Lincoln Bl. Venice 90291, 866-SOS-5141, fax 310-450-9148, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat

Caregivers Earth Ordinance (CEO) 17050 Chatsworth St #243 Granada Hills 91344,

Arts District Healing Center ADHC 620 E. 1st St. Los Angeles 90012, 213-687-9981 310-709-1544.M-Sat 11-10 Downtown

Herbal Relief Caregivers 6317 Wilshire Blvd Suite 100 LA 90048, 323-951-9992, M-Sat 11-7

Premium Care Inc. PCI 16900 Lakewood Bl. #202 Bellflower 90706, (818) 752-7274,



Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo.

Shiva's Gardens Caregivers, 2002 S. Robertson Bl. L.A. 90034, 310-841-0550, 11-8 pm Daily

United Med Caregivers Clinic, 1248 S. Fairfax Av. L.A. 90019, 310-358-0212, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

California Herbal Remedies (CHR) 5470 Valley Blvd. Los Angeles 90032, (323)342-9110, Hours: Mon to Sat. 10am to 8pm.

Herbal Remedies Caregivers, 4743 Fountain Av. L.A. 90029, 323-913-0931, 8-8 Mon-Fr 10-6 Sat.

Purelife Alter. Wellness Cntr, 1649 S. La Cienega Bl. L.A 90035, 310-246-9345, 12-8 pm daily

California Compassionate Care Network 4664 Lankershim ToluLake 91602, 818-980-MEDS, add 12/4

Discount Patient Collect. 1200 N. Vermont A# Los Angeles 90049, 818-625-5314, Hours 10-7

Cahuenga Care Givers Inc 5656 Cahuenga Blvd. North Hollywood 91601, 818-985-0012, Sun-Wed 11-9, Thurs-Sat 10-10

Patient Sensitive Services 5761 Whitnall Hwy #A North Hollywood 91601, 818-926-7890, 7 days 12-8

Hollywood Compassionate Collect., 1110 N. Western Av. #204 L.A. 90029, 323-467-7292, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Fri Nn-8 pm Sat

420 Compassion Center, 6116 W. Pico Bl. 90035, 877-573-3990, T-Sat 12-8, Closed Sun & Mon

KB Center for Compassionate Care (KBCCC) 9960 Canoga Ave Unit D-7 Chatsworth 91311, (818) 576-9877, hours: m-th 12:00-8:00 F-Sa 12:00-9:00 closed Sundays

North Hollywood Collect. 10929 Vanowen Blvd North Hollywood 95605, 818-761-9430

Natural Hybrid, Inc. 5065 Hollywood Blvd. #201 Los Angeles 90027, 323-665-2499, M-Th 11-7, Fri-Sun 10-7

Boo Ku CC (BKCC) 6817 Sepulveda Blvd. Van Nuys 91406, (818) 908-9255

Woodland Hills Caregiver's 23043 Ventura Blvd. Woodland Hills 91467

Western Caregivers Group, 467 N. Western Av. L.A. 90004, 323-464-5571, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

Hezekiah Inc., 6051 Hollywood Bl. #202

L.A. 90028, 323-467-6484, 10 am-6 pm Mon-Fri 10-4 pm Sat

Long Beach Specialty Health (LBSH) 4100 East 7th Street Long Beach 90813,(562) 434-2633,M-F 3PM-8PM, Sat & Sun 11-8

Eagle Rock Patient Collect. 5716 N. Figueroa Eagle Rock 90041, 626-610-3145, Hours: 10-10 daily

Hollywood Holistic 1543 Sawtelle Los Angeles 90025, 310-481-0660, Daily 11-7 add 11/28

Higher Path Holistic Care 2227 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles 90026, 213-484-1001, en espanol 213-272-9489

Sunset & Fountain (S&F) 4343 West Sunset Blvd. #410 Hollywood 90029, (323) 660-6337 (MEDS), HOURS: 7 Days: 11a to 7p

Nature's Holistic Caregivers 14000 Crenshaw Blvd Gardena 90249, 310-327-3551, M-Sat 10-6 also has a Compton location

Green Earth Collect. (GEC) 5045 York Blvd. Los

Angeles 90042, (323) 982-9042

Los Angeles Compassion Act Care 2227 W. Sunset Los Angeles 90026, 213-484-1001

Compassionate Patient Resources, INC. (CPR) 19237 1/2 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana 91356, (818) 343-3690

Cal Medical Caregivers Assoc. CM15838 Halliburton Rd. Hacienda Heights 91745, 626-336-2652, 11 am-7 pm Daily

Whittier Collect., 12450 #A E. Washington Bl. Whittier 90602, 562-696-9696, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm Sat

California Caregiver's Association C1151 Pacific Coast Hwy Suite 4A Harbor City 90710, 310-530-1628

Today's Health Care Inc. (THC, INC), 18118 Parthenia Street, Northridge 91325, (818) 700-2THC (2842), Open: Mon. to-Sun. 11a to 7p

Southwest Caregivers 4961 Sunset Blvd Los Angeles 90027, 310-500-9365

Inglewood Wellness Center, 318 S. Market L.A. 90301, 310-674-4444, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

L.A.M.C Los Angeles Medical Caregivers 5589 W. Manchester Av. L.A. 90045, 310-410-9954, 10-7 pm Mon-Sat

So. Cal. Therapeutic Herbal Caregivers (So. Cal. THC) 22209 Sherman Way Canoga Park 91303, (818) 999-4THC, HOURS: m-f 11:00-7:00 & sat-sun 12:00-6:00

M M L A ( I. D. Cards ) Medical Marijuana of Los Angeles 9663 Sta MoniBl. #999 Beverly Hills 90210, 310-923-2626, Evaluations & Cards

Superior Herbal Health 1011 W. 84th Place Los Angeles 90044, 323-971-6333, 11-7 M-Sat

Medi-Mart 16218 Ventura Blvd #12 Encino 91436, 818-501-6334 310-384-1359, M-Sat 10-8, Sunday 10-7

Universal Herbal Center 3177 Cahuenga Blvd. Los Angeles 90068,

Fairfax Caregivers, INC. 1700 Lincoln Bl. Venice 90291, 310-396-7093

Kush Mart 6115 Selma #103 Hollywood 90028, 323-464-6465

Midtown Caregivers 5113 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles 90019, 323-934-5242, 11-8 Mon-Sat

Westside Compassionate Caregivers, 2355 Westwood Bl. W.L.A. 90064, 310-474-8459, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm Sun

Patients Against Pain 6240 Laurel Canyon North Hollywood 91606, 818-752-7274, Hours 11-7, Sat & Sun 8-5

KUSH Collect. A Kinder Healing Sensitive Healing 1111 S. La Brea Bl. L.A. 90019, 323-938-5874, 11-11 pm Everyday

Caregvr's Christian Discount Disp., 122 S. Lincoln Av. #204 Venice 90291, 877-219-3809, 12-8 pm Mon-Sat

Reseda Discount Caregivers (RDC) 6102 Reseda Blvd. Tarzana 91335, (818) 757-0434, HOURS: 7 Days 10a to 8p

The Healing Center 10239 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Chatsworth 91311, Hours: M-Th 10-10, Fri & Sat 10-11, Sun 11-8

Downtown Wellness Center 312 W. Olympic Blvd Los Angeles 90015-1606, 213-746-3355, Tues-Sun 10-6

Delta-9 Compassionate Caregivers (D9CC) 7648 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys 91405, 11am-7pm...

Melrose Therapeutic Herbal Caregivers 7266 Melrose Ave. Los Angeles 90046, 323-934-4835, 7 days 11-8

Golden State Caregivers, 5711 E. Beverly Bl. LA 90022, 323-888-0865, 11-8 pm Daily

Healthy Herbal Care (HHC) 313 N. Virgil Ave Los Angeles 90004, (323) 660-0386, hours: 10am-8pm

Ironworks Collect., 4100 Lincoln Bl. Venice 90292, 310-305-8425, 10 -10 pm Mon-Sat 11-6 pm Sun

California Caregvr's of Sta Monica, 12107 Sta MoniBl. Sta Moni90025, 310-826-3536, 10-8 pm Daily

Medical Caregivers Association 4966 Monte Vista Highland Park 90042, 323-551-5874

Majestic Natural Remedy 6722 White Oak Van Nuys 91406, 818-343-1831, Sun-Thurs 10-9, Fri-Sat 10-10

Galaxy Caregivers GC-PC 8741 Van Nuys Room#201 Panorama City 91402-2440, Mon-Sat 11-7 new 11/17

Greenlight Pharmacy Discount 15507 Cobalt #4 Sylmar 91342, 818-367-9190, daily 10-10

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Studio City Caregivers, 11026 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604, (818) 985-1722, 7 days:11am to 8pm

Apothecary Collect. (AC) 5404 Alhambra Ave. Los Angeles 90032, (323) 222-4420, hours: 7 Days: 11a to 8p

Perennial Holistic Wellness Center (PHWC) 14542 Ventura Blvd Ste 201 Sherman Oaks 91403, (818) 728-4883

California Patient's Group, 6208 Sta MoniBl. L.A. 90038, 323-464-7052, 12-8 pm Daily

Earth Collect., 5115 Sunset Bl.

L.A. 90027, 323-668-7633 fax 7637, 11 am-11 pm daily

United Caregivers Group, 643 S. 2nd Av. #G Covina 91723, 626-967-2080

## Odam News drops WeedTRACKER review plan

By Chris Conrad

A proposal to combine the dispensary review section of the *Oaksterdam News* newspaper with services of the online website WeedTRACKER.com have been dropped, according to *Oaksterdam News* managing editor Jaime Galindo.

Galindo does still hope to hear from readers, however, as to what they think of various dispensaries and the products they offer. “We encourage our readers to go online to oaksterdamnews.com and submit a review for consideration for the newspaper’s pages,” he said, “but we plan to preserve our editorial integrity by taking sole responsibility for what we publish, so our reviews, photos and materials will not be coordinated with any other organization for the foreseeable future.”

## In Memoriam: Pam Sakuda

Continued from page 23

all patients, along with her husband, Norbert Linzinger. She joined five other patients and caregivers represented by the ACLU, Americans for Safe Access and other advocacy groups, on the side of the State in its lawsuit to force all counties to comply with state medical marijuana law.

She was a featured patient in the commercial ASA aired in the San Diego area, posted online at safeaccessnow.org/downloads/san\_diego\_small.mov, but did not live to see the County of San Diego lose its challenge against the State over implementing the statewide cannabis ID card program. That case was decided Dec. 7 in

San Diego Superior Court. The county has filed appeals against following the law.

Pam is survived by her husband, Norbert, and all those who benefit from her work or whose lives she touched.

## Economist Friedman

Milton Friedman died on Nov. 16, 2006, an American economist and intellectual who advocated *laissez-faire* capitalism, privatization, and ending the Drug War. His view that “the government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem” certainly rings true for cannabis policy.

## Hollyweed sign man

Danny Finegood, the prankster who on Jan. 1, 1976 changed the Hollywood sign to ‘Hollyweed,’ died on Jan. 22. He made the letter swap in an offbeat approach to a school assignment that earned him an “A” for the day California’s relaxed cannabis possession laws went into effect regarding an ounce or less of “weed.”

## Americans for Safe Access

A patient support network.

## PATIENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

Herbalology Collect., 1811 Ocean Front Walk #D Venice 90291, 310-823-2909, 10:30-8

Downtown Collect., 1600 S. Hill St. #D LA CA, 310-746-5420, Mon. 11a to 8p, Tue. to Sat. 11a to 8p & Sun. 12p to 5p

Tujunga Hills Caregivers 6920 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga 91042, 818-352-9400

A Kush Valley Collect. (AKVC) 11626 Ventura Blvd. Studio City 91604, (818) 985-HASH (4274)

Shaman Caregivers (SC) 14546 Vanowen St. Van Nuys 91405-3940, (818) 785-CARE (2273), Hours 10AM-8PM Monday-Saturday 11AM-6PM Sunday

Eagle Rock Herbal Collect., 4729 Eagle Rock Bl. Eagle Rock 90041, 323-257-4420

The Wilshire Clinic 6399 Wilshire Blvd. #208 Los Angeles 90048, 310-595-0803, 11-7 daily

Happy Days Herbal Relief, 5126 Vineland North Hollywood 91601, Tues-Thurs 10-8, Fri-Sat 10-10, Sun 10-5 CLOSED MONDAY

CMCA-LA Ca. Med. Care. Assoc. L.A. 3430 Whittier Bl. L.A. 90023, 323-261-2009, 11-7 pm Everyday

California Caregivers Alliance, 2815 W. Sunset Bl. #201 Silver Lake 90026, 213-353-0100, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Marina Caregivers, 3007 Washington Bl. #225 Marina Del Rey 90292, 310-574-4000, 12-11 pm Mon -Fri 12-10 pm Sat 12-8 pm Sun

Farm Assist Caregivers, 268 San Lorenzo St. Pomona 91766, 909-620-0275, 11-6 pm Mon-Sat

California Medical Caregivers 15838 Halliburton Rd. Hacienda Heights 91745, 626-336-2652

Natural Caregivers, 609 S. Westmoreland Av. L.A. 90005, 310-927-0911, 11 am-7 pm daily

LAX Compassionate Caregivers 6218A Manchester Ave. Los Angeles 90045, 310-568-9602, 10-8 daily

Downtown Patients Group, 928 East 12th St. Los Angeles 90021, 213-747-3386, 11-10 daily

The Holistic Caregivers, 1321 E. Compton Bl. Compton 90221, 310-889-4799, 310-764-4740 for Deliveries, 9 am-8 pm Mon-Thr 9 am-9 pm Fri & Sat 11 am-5 pm Sun

Northridge Caregivers 8672 Lindley Northridge 91325, 818-772-1990, M-F 10-8, Sat Sun 11-7

ECHO Collect. Earth Choice Healing Organization 716 N. La Brea Av. LA 90302, 310-672-3246, 11-9 M- Sat, 12-5 Sun

Alternatives Caregivers Discount Dispensary 122 S. Lincoln #204 Venice 90291, 877-219-3809, M-Sat 12-8

Fairfax Healing Services Inc. Hollywood FHS 1041 Highland Hollywood 90038, 323-469-0560, M-Th 11-8, Fri 11-9, Sat 11-8, Sun 12-7

Mother Nature's Remedy Caregivers 17302 Saticoy Van Nuys 91406, 818-345-6337, Tues-Sun 2:15-10

Hollywood Patients' Collect., 6115 Selma Av. #103 L.A. 90028, 323-464-6465, 10 am-10 pm Daily

### Malibu

The Calm at the Beach Compassionate Caregivers 21355 Pacific Coast Hwy #100 Malibu 90265, 310-317-6298

PCH Collect. (PCHC) 22333 Pacific Coast Hwy Malibu 90265, 310-456-0666

### Marin, North Bay

Marin Alliance for Medical MJ 6 School St. Plaza #215 Fairfax 94930, 415-256-9328, 9:30 am- 5 pm Daily 7 pm- 8:30 pm Thur & Fri

### North Hollywood, San Fernando Valley

West Valley Caregivers, 23067 Ventura Bl. #102 Woodland Hills 91364, 818-222-9212, 12-10 pm daily

HC Remedies, 19327 Ventura Bl.#A Tarzana 91356, 818-758-9613, 10-9 pm Sn-Th 10-10 pm Fr-Sa

Mother Nature's Remedy Caregivers, 17302 Saticoy St. Van Nuys 91406, 818-345-MEDS (6337), 2 pm-10 pm Tue-Sun

Fairfax Caregivers Inc., 14303 Ventura Bl. Sherman Oaks 91423, 818-990-0401, 11-8 pm Mon-Sat. Fri till 9 pm 12-7 pm Sun

San Fernando Valley Patients Group, 8805 Reseda Bl. Northridge 91324, 818-734-2778, 11 -9 pm Daily

North Hollywood Collect., 10929 Vanowen St. #110 Nth. Hollywood 91605, 818-761-9430, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

Natural Care Collect., 18341 Sherman Way #213 Reseda 91335, 818-344-7420, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

RNS Caregivers United, 10551 Burbank Bl. Nth. Hollywood 91505, 818-763-7479, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

ToluLake Collect., 10628 Riverside Dr. #1 ToluLake 91602, 818-752-8420, 10-9 pm

CannaMed of Northridge, 9349 Melvin Av. #9 Northridge 91324, 818-882-4849, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

West Valley Co-Op, 19709 Ventura Bl. #B Woodland Hills 91367, 818-713-0258, 10-9 pm Sun-Thr 10-10 pm Fri & Sat

California Collect. Center, 14532 Friar St. #A Van Nuys 91411, 818-781-8865, 11-7 pm Everyday

Valley Independent Pharmacy, 19459 Ventura Bl. Tarzana 91356, 818-345-5477, 10 am-9 pm Sn-Wed 10 am-10 pm Thr-Sat

Valley Co-Op, 8363 Reseda Bl. #203 Northridge 91324, 818-727-1419 949-287-1744, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

Valley Healing Caregivers Center, 7232 Van Nuys Bl.#204 Van Nuys 91405, 818-908-0198, 10 7 pm Mon -Sat

North Valley Discount Caregivers, 15600 Devonshire #203 Granada Hills 91344, 818-920-

3110, 12-9 pm daily

Caregivers Medical Resource, 12458 Magnolia Blvd. Valley Village 90068, 818-980-8420, 7 Days a week 10-8

Mid Valley Compassionate Caregivers, 5658 Sepulveda Bl. Van Nuys 91411, 818-785-7440 818-317-1863, 11-7 pm Mon-Th 11-8 pm Fr & Sat.

C.C.C.N., 4664 Lankershim Bl. ToluLake 91602, 818-980-MEDS, 10-8 pm Daily

HIP, 22831 Ventura Bl. Woodland Hills 91364, 818-225-2426, 10-10 pm daily

Trichome Healing Caregivers, 7100 Van Nuys Bl. #204 Van Nuys 91405, 818-373-5000, 10 am-8 pm Daily / Sun. till 7 pm

Collect. Caregivers Pharmacy, 8239 Canoga Av. Canoga Park 91304, 818-264-0790, 11 am-8 pm EVERYDAY

215 Club, 22148 Ventura Bl. #A Woodland Hills 91364, 818-887-2106

S. California Caregivers, 15333 Sherman Way #Q Van Nuys 91406, 818-998-0699, 10-7 pm Daily

The Karma Collect., 16115 Vanowen St. Van Nuys

91406, 818-373-7733, 12-10 pm Mon-Fri 10-10 Sat-Sun

Green Light Discount Pharmacy, 13051 San Fernando Rd. #4 Sylmar 91342, 877-367-9190, 10-10 pm Daily

Little Cottage Caregivers, 8133 Foothill Bl. Sunland 91040, 818-353-7204, 10 -10 pm Daily

Therapeutic Medicinal Health Resources, 14836 Burbank Bl. Sherman Oaks 91411, 818-988-9615, 11 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm Sat 11 am-5 pm Sun

Conejo Wellness Center, 29399 Agoura Rd. #112 Agoura Hills 91301, 818-706-1143, 11-8 pm Mon -Fri

Compassionate Care of Studio City, 11314 Ventura Bl. Studio City 91604, 818-506-7207, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Thr 11 am-8 pm Fri 12-8 pm Sat

Chatsworth Caregivers Group, 21708 Devonshire St. Chatsworth 91311, 818-998-9700, 11 am-8 pm Mon-Sat

The Health Center Studio City, 11324 Ventura Bl. Studio City 91604, 818-509-0574, 11 am 7 pm daily

KIND MEDS, 14649 Victory Bl. #24 Van Nuys 91411, 818-908-9580, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat. 12-5 pm Sun

Holistic Caregivers A Wellness Center 10652 Magnolia Bl. N. Hollywood 91601, 818-760-0717, 10 -8 pm Mon-Fr 12 -7 pm Sun.

**The Greenhouse, 5156 Sepulveda Bl. Sherman Oaks 91403, 818-386-1343**

Natural Relief Center, 7223 Owensmouth Av. Canoga Park 91303, 818-703-8599, 11 am-7 pm daily

### North Coast

North Bay Wellness Co-Op, 3386 Sta Rosa Av. Sta Rosa 95407, 10 am-7 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm Sat

Resource Green Caregivers & Patient's Group, 532-D Sonoma Av. Sta Rosa 95401, 866-420-5020, 11 am-9 pm Daily

MMPU Medical Marijuana Patient's Union P.O. BOX 2059 FT. BRAGG 95437, 707-964-YESS

Ukiah Hemp Plus Ministries 892 N. State St. Ukiah 95482-3410, 707-468-1478

Lake Co. Alternative Caregiver Clinic Caregiver Clinic

P.O. Box 1353 Clearlake Oaks 95423, 707-998-0358, 11-7 pm Tu-Fr 11-5 pm Mn & Sa

Lake County D & M Compassionate Center, 15196 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake 95422, 707-994-1320, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm Sat

The Holistic Solutions, 14240 Lakeshore Dr. Clearlake 95442, 707-995-9000, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat

Sonoma County Compassionate Services Delivery, 707-972-7818, M-S 11-6

Herban Legend, 18300 Old Coast Hwy #3 Ft. Bragg 95437, 707-961-0113, 11 am-6 pm Mon-Sat

Marvin's Gardens, 707-869-1291

Caregivers Compassion Group, 4349 Montgomery

#D Sta Rosa 95356, 707-537-7303, 11 am- 5 pm Mn, Tu, Fr-till 6:30 W&Th 11 am-3 pm Sat closed Sun

SAMM Sonoma Alliance Medical Mj. 880 1st St. Sebastopol 95472, 707-522-0292

Mendo Remedies, 42400 Hwy 101 Laytonville 95454, 707-984-7101, 10 am-6 pm Tue-Sat .

Humboldt Patient Co-Op, 601 I St. #B Arcata 95521, 707-822-9330

Lake County Holistic Solutions 14240 Lakeshore Dr Clearlake 95422-8159, 707-995-9000

### OC, San Bernadino, Riverside

Palm Springs Caregivers, 2100 N. Palm Canyon Bl.#105 Palm Springs 92264, 760-327-8810, 11-8 pm Daily

C 3 (California Compassionate Caregivers ), 2166 W. Broadway #100 Anaheim 92804, 714-618-5221, 9 am-9 pm Mon-Sat

Laguna Beach Collect., 220 Park Ave., Suite 1 Laguna Beach 92651, 949-400-9345, Mon.- Fri. 11a to 7p Sat.-Sun. 12p to 5p

420 Primary Caregivers, 421 N. Brookhurst #130 Anaheim 92801, 714-758-3500, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat 215 Patient Bakery delivery

Orange County Patient Group (OCPG) 2315 E. 17th St., Suite 4 Sta Ana. 92705-6855, (714) 547-2525, Hours: Mon. to Fri. 10a to 8p & Sat. to Sun. 11a to 7p

A Commpassionate Collect., 301 N. Prairie Ave

#512 Inglewood 90301, 213-952-1857

OCMC, 24412 Muirlands Bl.#1 Lake Forest 92630, 949-855-0310

CAPS, 333 N. Palm Canyon #118 Palm Springs 92262, 760-325-1112, 11 am-7 pm Daily

CannaHelp, 73350 El Paseo #204 Palm Desert 92260, 877-760-4367, 10 am-8 pm Daily

Healing Nations Collect., 80 W. Grand #122 Corona 92882, 951-737-5100, 11-8 pm Mon-Sat 12-8 pm Sun

APCC, 22600-A Lambert St. #702B Lake Forest 92630, 949-689-3106, 10-8 pm Daily

Peninsula Patient's Choice Resource Co-Op, 70 N. El Camino Real #B San Mateo 94401, 650-458-9505, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 Sun

**Sacramento** Capitol Alternatives, 1611 G Street Sacramento 95814, 916-497-0277

Compassionate Patient's Center 1621 Fulton #22 Sacramento 95825, 916-486-7001

Greenhouse, 9555 Folsom Bl. #J Sacramento 95827, 916-366-0420, 868-9566, 10 am-6 Daily

Capitol Wellness Collect., 2400 14th St. Sacramento 95818, 916-497-0277

Canna Care, 320 Harris Av. #G Sacramento 95838, 916-925-1199, 9 am- 6 pm Mon-Fri 10am- 3 pm Sat & Sun

River City Patient's Center, 1611 20th St. Sacramento 95814, 916-649-0114, 10 am-6 pm Mon-fri 10 am-5 pm

Doctor's Orders, 1704 Main Av. Sacramento 95838, 916-564-2112 / 730-9032, 10 am- 6 pm Mon- Sat 10 am- 3 pm Sun

**San Francisco** Patient Place, 4811 Geary Bl. S.F. 94118, 415-386-4367, 11 am- 7 Mon- Fri Nn- 5 Sat @ 12th St

Green Door, 843 Howard St. S.F. 94103, 415-541-9590, 11 am- 8 pm daily

Good Fellows Smoke Shop, 473 Haight St. S.F. 94117, 415-255-1323, 10 am- 10 pm daily

San Francisco Dept. of Public Health 1001 Potrero Av. S.F. 94110, 415-206-5555, 1 pm-4 pm Mon-Fri

I.D. Cards Only S.F. General Hospital / Main Lobby

Ketama, 14 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-706-2679, 11 am- 8 pm Mon-Sat Noon- 6 pm Sun

Nor Cal Herbal Relief Center, 1545 Ocean Av. SF 94112, 415-469-7700, 10 -7 pm Daily

Patient & Caregivers Services of S.F., 1935 Mission 94114, 415-701-9537, 4- 7 Mon- Sat

Hopenet Coop, 223 9th St. S.F. 94103, 415-863-4399, Noon- 7, Mon-Fri Noon- 5 Sat closed Sun

Green Cross, 2701 Leavenworth S.F. 94110, 415-648-4420

SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #2, 194 Church St. S.F. 94114, 415-626-4781, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Fri 11 am- 5 pm Sat & Sun Associated w/#1

Alt. Patient Caregivers, 953 Mission St. #108 S.F. 94103, 415-618-0680, 11:30 am-6:30 pm Mon-Sat closed Sun.

Valencia Street Caregivers 208 Valencia Street San Francisco 94103, 415-621-0131

CannaMed Care Center, 1211 Sutter. 94109, 415-885-8007, 2 pm- 9 pm Mon-Sat 2 pm- 8 pm Sun

Holistic Solutions, 722 Columbus, S.F. 94133, 415-296-7614, 11 am- 7 pm Mon- Sat 11 am-6 pm daily

Vapor Room, 609 A Haight St. 94117, 415-436-9063, 10:30 am-8:30 pm Mon-Fr 12-8 Sat & Sun

Emmalyn's, 1597 Howard #A S.F. 94103 ` , 415-861-1000, 10 am-7 pm Daily by 12th St.

Mr. Nice Guy, 174 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-865-0990, 11- 9 Sun- Thr 11- 11 Fri & Sat

Bay Area Safe Alternative Collect. BASAC, 1326 Grove St. S.F. 94117, 415-409-1002, 11 am-9 pm Daily

Bernal Heights Co-Op, 33 29th St. S.F. 94110, 415-612-5895, 8-8 pm Daily

Love Shack, 502 14th St. S.F. 94577, 415-552-5121, 10 am- 7 pm Mon-Sat 10 am- 5 pm Sun

Happy Days Herbal Relief, 607 Divisadero St. S.F. 94117, 415-359-9927, Nn- 10 pm Mon- Thr Nn-Midnight FRI & SAT 11 am- 5 pm Sun

Grass Roots, 1077 Post St. S.F. 94109, 415-346-4338, 10 am- 8 pm

Sanctuary, 669 O'Farrell St. S.F. 94109, 415-8 85-4420, Noon- 8 pm daily near Hyde St.

Alternative Herbal Health Services, 442 Haight St. S.F. 94117, 415-864-1300, 11 am- 8 pm Mon- Sat Noon- 5 pm Sun

The Divinity Tree, 958 Geary St. S.F. 94109, 415-614-9194, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 11 am-7 pm Sun

1944 Ocean Alternative Relief 1944 Ocean MCC 1944 Ocean Av. S.F. 94127, 415-239-4766, 12-7 pm Mon-Sat

San Francisco ACT-UP, 1884 Market St. nr Octavia S.F. 94102, 415-864-6686, Noon- 7 Tue-Sun

SF Medical Cannabis Clinic #1, 122 10th St. S.F. 94103, 415-626-4781, 11 am- 7 pm Mon-Wed 10 am- 7 pm Thr-Sat 11 am- 6 pm Sun

Re-Leaf Herbal Center, 2980 21st St. S.F. 94410, 415-235-3307, Nn-8 pm Mon-Sat near Folsom

208 Dispensary, 208 Valencia St. S.F. 94103, 415-621-0131, 8 am-10 pm Daily by Duboce

New Remedies Co-Op, 1760 Mission St. S.F. 94112, 415-864-0114, 8 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 9 am-8 pm Sun

Mason St. Dispensary, 124 Mason St. S.F. 94102, 415-433-4420, 7 am- 9 pm daily

SF Patient's Cooperative, 350 Divisadero 94117, 415-552-8653, 11- 5:30 Sat-Mon 11-7:30 Tue- Fri

**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..."**

### Santa Cruz

MED EX, Info only, 831-425-3444

Sta Cruz Patients Collect., 115 Limekiln St. Sta Cruz 95060, 831-425-SCPC, 11-7 pm Mon-Sat

Wo/Men's Alliance for MMJ ( WAMM) 309 Cedar St. #39 Sta Cruz 95060, 831-425-0580

Greenway Compassionate Relief, 140 Dubois St. #D Sta Cruz 95060, 831-420-1640, 11 am- 6 pm Mon- Fri 10 am- 6 pm Sat

**South Bay** Kind Care Resource Center, 5423 Central Av #13 Newark 94560, 510-796-KIND

Patient's Choice Resource Cooperative 70 N. El Camino Real San Mateo 94401, 650-458-9505, Mary Jane's Collect., 7805 Sunset Bl. #211 W. Hollywood 90046, 323-874-7805, daily

**West Hollywood** AHHS Alternative Herbal Health Services 7828 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90046, 323-654-8792, 10 am-8 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Zen Healing Collect., 8464 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90069, 323-656-6611, 12-8 Mon-Sat

LA Patients & Caregivers Group, 7213 Sta MoniBl. W. Hollywood 90046, 323-882-6033, 11 am-7 pm Mon-Sat 12-7 pm Sun

Medical

# FREEDOM CALENDAR

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Get cannabis events listed here**  
Email to [info@oaksterdamnews.com](mailto:info@oaksterdamnews.com)  
**More organizations and meetings**  
[oaksterdamnews.com](http://oaksterdamnews.com)

### Media Activism Roundtable, Online

The conferences will be held every Tuesday evening starting at 9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain and 6 p.m. Pacific in the DrugSense Virtual Conference Room. [mapinc.org/resource/paltalk.htm](http://mapinc.org/resource/paltalk.htm)

### OCLA Social Hour, Oakland

Third Thursday of every month at 4 pm, before attending the Measure Z meeting, come to the Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Broadway, Odam. Join OCLA for coffee and drinks to discuss how to best work with our cannabis-friendly new mayor Ron Dellums, and other projects to promote taxing and regulating cannabis in Oakland.

### Measure Z Committee, Oakland

Third Thursday of every month at 6 pm Oakland Regulation and Revenue Ordinance Oversight Committee meets at City Hall, Council chambers. Items on agenda are adult cannabis sales, cultivation, and possession, and zoning and protocols for Measure Z clubs.

### Free Monthly Grow Class, Oakland

Third Saturdays, 2:30 – 4:30pm, Bulldog Coffee Shop, 1739 Broadway, Oakland

### CAN Berkeley

Second Monday each month, 7:30 pm at 1605 Ashby Ave, Berkeley.

### ASA: Local and regional meetings

**East Bay, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties:** 4th or last Wednesday (TBA) 7 pm, Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Coop, 1734 Telegraph (back entrance), nr 19th St BART. 510-251-1856 x 308, [Rebecca@SafeAccessNow.org](mailto:Rebecca@SafeAccessNow.org)

**Hollywood, LA:** 3rd Sat, 1-3p, 6208 Santa Monica Blvd (nr Vine), 323-464-7719. [rea@lamedicalmarijuana.com](mailto:rea@lamedicalmarijuana.com), [ana@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:ana@safeaccessnow.org)

**Orange County:** meets irregularly, 7 pm at 1520 Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (by tattoo shop). Info, Adam, [adamgingras@gmail.com](mailto:adamgingras@gmail.com) 949-246-9395

**San Diego:** 2nd Tues / month, 7-8 pm, 619-518-0776. Twiggs Coffee House, Green Room, 4590 Park Bl. Info, Dion, [4cccp@cox.net](mailto:4cccp@cox.net), [sdasa.4mg.com](http://sdasa.4mg.com).

**San Francisco:** 2nd / 4th Tues, 7 pm, 415-794-1543 Woman's Building, 3543 18th St #8, Room B. Info, Alex, [alex@safeaccessnow.org](mailto:alex@safeaccessnow.org)

**Sacramento:** 2nd / 4th Thursday 6pm, Capitol Wellness Collective, 2400 14th Street, Sacramento. 916-325-9000

## APRIL

### 4-20 Events, Nationwide

Apr 20: There are events planned in communities throughout the world to mark the late planting season and unofficial holiday of the cannabis movement.

### NORML Conference moved to Fall

The Board of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, NORML, voted to hold the group's annual convention in the Autumn this year rather than on April 20, as has been tradition. This facilitates other events going on around the country on that date.

## MAY

### Cannabis Liberation Day

May 6, noon - 6 PM: San Francisco will again host this annual celebration of cannabis culture in Civic Center Plaza as part of the global Million Marijuana March, in which 1,000,000 activists demonstrate for reform worldwide, everywhere. Booths, music, speakers.

### World Marijuana Film Festival

May 28-30, 2007, Ibiza, Spain, *High Times* is hosting the World Marijuana Film Festival (WMFF) in cannabis friendly Ibiza. Enjoy the very best in cannabis related cinema. This tradition continues today and the best of the best will be awarded at the *World Marijuana Film Festival*. [worldmarijuanafilmfestival.com](http://worldmarijuanafilmfestival.com); [myspace.com/marijuanafilmfestival](http://myspace.com/marijuanafilmfestival)

## AUGUST

### Seattle HempFest, WA

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

### Oly Hempfest, WA

Aug 27: Annual rally, Heritage Park, Olympia. 360-456-3517 [olyhempfest.org](http://olyhempfest.org)

## SEPTEMBER

### Portland Hempstalk, OR

Sep. 9-10: Portland, OR. Music, Mirth and Merriment! Waterfront Park. Contact 503-241-7368, [seusuwa@hotmail.com](mailto:seusuwa@hotmail.com), or [hempstalk.org](http://hempstalk.org)



**PLANNING THE FUTURE — Oakland's Measure Z Board meets in City Hall to navigate the transition of cannabis into an over the counter culture.** Oaksterdam News photo by Jaime Galindo

### Boston Freedom Rally

Sept 16: Boston, MA [www.masscann.org](http://www.masscann.org)

### Santa Barbara Hemp Festival

Sept 30: Eighth Annual Santa Barbara Hemp Festival, Santa Barbara, CA. [www.santabarbarahemp.com](http://www.santabarbarahemp.com)

## OCTOBER

### Great Midwest Harvest Fest, WI

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

... JOIN THE FIGHT!

### 2007 Measure Z Meetings Meets 6 pm, Oakland City Council Chambers

January 18, 2007  
February 15, 2007  
March 15, 2007  
April 19, 2007  
May 17, 2007  
June 14, 2007  
July 19, 2007  
August 16, 2007  
September 20, 2007  
October 18, 2007  
November 15, 2007  
December 20, 2007

### Americans for Safe Access

[www.safeaccessnow.org/](http://www.safeaccessnow.org/) A patient support network. 510-251-1856

### California NORML

[www.canorml.org/](http://www.canorml.org/) California NORML 510-540-1066 [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org)

### Cannabis Consumers Campaign

[www.cannabisconsumers.org/](http://www.cannabisconsumers.org/) Come out of the closet to stand up for equal rights.

### Change the Climate

[www.changetheclimate.org/](http://www.changetheclimate.org/) Mass media campaigns to open the dialogue.

### DRC Net

[www.stopthedrugwar.org/](http://www.stopthedrugwar.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/](http://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

Listserves for California cannabis and drug war issues. Send email to [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org) to subscribe.

### Drug Sense

[www.drugsense.org/](http://www.drugsense.org/) A daily compilation of drug-related news excerpts.

### Family Council on Drug Awareness

[www.fcda.org/](http://www.fcda.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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.leap.cc/) Current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition.

### Marijuana Policy Project

[www.mpp.org/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.november.org/) National support group for Drug War POWs. Publishers of *The Razor Wire*.

### Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance

[www.taxandregulate.org/](http://www.taxandregulate.org/) Political action committee behind Measure Z in Oakland. 1714 Franklin Street, #100-118 Oakland, CA 94612

### SAFER

[www.saferchoice.org/](http://www.saferchoice.org/) Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation. PO Box 40332, Denver CO 80204, [mason@saferchoice.org](mailto:mason@saferchoice.org)

### Students for a Sensible Drug Policy

[www.ssdp.org/](http://www.ssdp.org/) Students seeking to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies.

### VoteHemp

[www.votehemp.com/](http://www.votehemp.com/) Lobby for industrial and horticultural hemp.

### Drug War Facts

[www.drugwarfacts.org/](http://www.drugwarfacts.org/) Just the facts.



# California NORML

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

## The Comprehensive On-Line Guide to:

- California Marijuana Laws
- Proposition 215 Guidelines
- Medical Cannabis Physicians
- Medical Cannabis Patients' Groups
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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

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.

**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
- L Lake Merritt Park boat rentals
- M Norcal MMJ , 1504 Franklin
- N Van Kleeef Cafe 1621 Telegraph Ave.
- O Americans for Safe Access (ASA), 1322 Webster # 208
- P Paid parking

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