

# THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

## Hemp: Lifeline to the Future



Canadian hemp, circa 2000. (Should be a picture of Oregon hemp, circa now.)

**This uniquely versatile, productive and efficient plant would save the world.**

The economic and environmental impact of using hemp in paper production alone would be of major consequence. Why is a plant that was proclaimed by popular mechanics magazine to have the potential to be manufactured into more than 25,000 different environmentally friendly products being systematically withheld from U.S. farmers? It is because the plant is hemp - otherwise known as marijuana - and for the last sixty years, it has remained the United States public enemy #1.

### *What is hemp?*

Often described as marijuana's misunderstood cousin, industrial hemp is from the same plant species (*cannabis sativa*) that produces hemp. Unlike marijuana, however, industrial hemp has only minute amounts of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient that gives marijuana its euphoric and medicinal properties. An indispensable raw material throughout our nations history (In 1640, the governor of Connecticut declared that, "every citizen must grow the plant."), industrial hemp is acknowledged as one of nature's strongest and most versatile agricultural crops. Various parts of the plant can be utilized in the making of textiles, paper, paints, clothing, plastics, and cosmetics, foodstuffs, insulation and animal feed. In France, where more than 10,000 tons of industrial hemp is harvested annually, companies even use coated hemp hurds to restore and build houses. Besides its spectrum of commercial uses, hemp offers other advantages as well. It provides a much higher yield per acre than do common substitutes such as cotton and requires virtually no pesticides. In addition, hemp has an average growing cycle of only 100 days and leaves the soil virtually weed-free for the next planting. Currently, hemp is grown legally throughout much of Europe and Asia and is being cultivated successfully in test plots in both Australia and Canada.

Despite America's bureaucratic moratorium on industrial hemp cultivation, overwhelming evidence in favor of hemp production continues to emerge from this growing, international industry. Domestic sales of imported hemp products raked in an estimated \$25 million dollars in sales in 1994 alone and the American farm bureau federation called hemp "one of the most promising crops in half a century." Fashion giants Adidas, Ralph Lauren, and Calvin Klein added hempen goods to their clothing lines and Klein has predicted that hemp would become "the fiber of choice" for the home furnishing industry. The number of outlet stores selling hemp products has exploded in recent years and the amount of American manufacturers producing a variety of hemp-based goods ranging from socks to skin care is now numbers in the thousands. In addition, many nutritionists and health professionals are now singing the praises of the hemp seed, noting that it is second only to soy in protein and contains the highest concentration of essential amino and fatty acids found in any food. Most importantly, none of the countries that currently cultivate hemp for industrial purposes have reported experiencing rates of rising marijuana use because of their position regarding hemp.<continued on page 4>

The CLARION, your basic Cannabis Law Reform Information and Outreach Newsletter, is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit venture committed to ending cannabis prohibition. It is intended to inform and educate the reader on the medical truth about cannabis and the benefits of hemp.

For compliments about the CLARION, call or stop on by and thank our volunteer staff. Complaints, etc is the department of Perry Stripling - editor.

## Contact Us Today!

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*Check it out!*

the CLARION would not be possible without the fine folks at **Rough House Furnishings** (see Ad page) and the **Medical Cannabis Resource Center**. Many thanks for their support.



## Latest from the Mercy Center ...

**Regular meetings started.** The Medical Cannabis Resource Center is reaching out to the community and starting regular, public monthly meetings with the next being Wed., Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at 1695 Fairgrounds Road in Salem. The last one drew a good crowd of people and most made the commitment to come back and bring someone. Agenda items included financial reports (*still dirt poor. C'mon patients, contribute! See NOTE below*), a report on members (*too few*) and *contacts (a bunch)* and information about the Patient Resource facilities themselves.

Current projects are supplying patients with medicine (ongoing, donations needed!), educating people about cannabis's therapeutic benefits, helping to fill out OMMP forms, answer questions and generally communicating with walk-in contacts through the office. It is a daily effort to provide information to the public so they can decide, or help loved ones decide, if cannabis is right for them and the steps they should take from there. Many thanks to the volunteers at the MCRC who make this possible. Other projects discussed at the meeting were Doctor Clinics, Tyranny Response Teams (TaRTs) and the Million Marijuana Marches. The challenge now is for the MCRC to turn this into organized action. Drop on by and help out. See you next meeting!

**OMMP NOTE:** There is no exchange of medicine for consideration (cash or other valuable prizes) allowed within the OMMP - Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. However, concerned parties can (and should!) help with the cost of producing and providing medicine and may directly contribute to expenses by writing a check straight to the utility (such as PGE) or other vendor, among other means.

**Doctor Clinics.** In order to best serve those who use cannabis for medical purposes but are not in the OMMP, as well as current patients, the MCRC is exploring hosting clinics where certified physicians can perform the necessary examinations and consider qualifying a persons OMMP application. <see more EVENTS, next page>

<from previous page> Volunteer staff is training to follow the recent strict Board of Medical Examiners rules concerning the process and resources are being lined up. This project ties in with a planned symposium on working within OMMA for doctors and attorneys. Stay tuned for details!

**Tyranny Response Teams (TaRTs).** Immediately following a recent raid, local friends and patients of a medical cannabis club in California assembled and effectively responded to the event. They blocked the only road out and forced the DEA to call in local sheriffs' deputies. The local cops, while sympathetic, were unable to do anything about the bust per se, but were able to gain the release of the arrested leaders (charges pending). The action also received media attention, who caught the shamed DEA agents on film as they skulked out in their bloated, SUV-rich caravan. The MCRC wants to be the kind of group that organizes such responses to tyranny. Help make it happen.

**Salem Liberation Day and the Million Marijuana Marches.** On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 people in over 150 cities will rise up and march to raise awareness about cannabis. The MCRC plans to have a Salem entry and needs your help. This is our chance to show the people just what kind of "terrorists" we really are. The plan is to make it a general human rights and freedom day and invite all related organizations to join. Opportunity knocks, folks. Let's make like yeast and rise to this occasion.

## EVENTS:

### **The Jeff and Tracy Shows continue featuring the Old Time Marijuana Revival Hour!**

**Cannabis Community gatherings** hosted by Jeff Jarvis and Tracy Johnson. Meet and socialize with other marijuana-law reform supporters 7:30 p.m. every first and third Thursday, including Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, at The Old Church, SW 11th and Clay, downtown Portland, Oregon. Jeff and Tracy plan an entertaining evening of information and education. Bring your friends and family members! Ask <page 5>

## **DEA Begins Final Solution for Medical Cannabis Problem**

### **Despite DEA Claims of Low Enforcement Priority; More Arrests for Medical Marijuana than Terrorism in California**

The U.S. Justice Department has begun to escalate its war on medical marijuana by pursuing small-scale providers and personal use growers in California.

Recent raids contradict prior claims by **DEA chief Asa Hutchinson** that the DEA is not interested in minor medical marijuana cases. Speaking at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Hutchinson claimed, **"I don't know of any instance in which there's been a federal targeting of any user; that's not within the federal priority system. We have gone after traffickers. If you have 500 marijuana plants, that is of concern"**

In recent weeks, however the federal government has attacked patients with much smaller, personal use gardens with no connection to trafficking.

\* On Aug. 15th, DEA agents destroyed a **6-plant** patient garden belonging to **Diane Monson** of Oroville, **openly defying a plea from Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey to leave her plants alone.**

\* The same day, DEA agents in Santa Rosa ripped up the medical garden of **Alan MacFarlane**, a cancer patient who was acquitted of growing 100 plants for his personal medical use in a jury trial last year. This time, the agents took 128 plants, which MacFarlane says were being grown for 10 seriously ill patients in accordance with Sonoma County guidelines.

\* In Orange County, patient **Michael Teague** was arrested by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms after his Prop 215 cultivation case was dismissed in state court. Teague, who had a legal handgun in his closet, was arrested on spurious charges of being an "unlawful drug user in possession of a handgun."

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## **WHAT'S UP IN CANADA, EH?**

### **Officials Propose An End to Canadian Cannabis Prohibition**

I confess, I was caught off guard by the Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs Report (1). Don't get me wrong. I knew the report was coming. I had been looking forward to it since the Committee was founded in 2000 to study all aspects of illicit drug policy and then reconvened in 2001 with the narrower mandate of considering just cannabis policy "in context."

Nor, based on my own reading of the evidence the committee reviewed and heard from such witnesses as Gov. Gary Johnson, Ethan Nadelmann and Dr. John Morgan, was I surprised that the Committee made the enlightened recommendations they did. That the evidence and the experts were crying out for legalization seemed as painfully obvious as it always has. Still, on the eve of the report's release, I confidently predicted that the Committee would recommend decriminalization, or perhaps legalized personal cultivation and possession.

I had covered the work of previous parliamentary committees for Cannabis Culture Magazine (2). These committees are struck up whenever Parliament needs to back burner a politically sensitive issue. Most recently, an Advisory Committee on Medicinal Marijuana Regulations is being formed to ease the discomfort of our health minister. Legislators can procrastinate as long as some study or other is in the works; as long as the jury remains out. If they can stall long enough, then our courts are forced to deal with the problem and suffer both the domestic and international heat.

What I failed to take into consideration is that our senators, like the judges who struck down our medicinal cannabis laws, are appointed, not elected, and are therefore not as vulnerable to pressure from Canadian and American prohibitionists. The Senate Committee were able to make recommendations based on science and outcomes, not sending symbolic messages to teens and American drug warriors. <continued on page 7>

## *History of hemp*

<continued from HEMP, page 1> Researchers trace hemp's history as an industrial crop back some 10,000 years when the fiber was first utilized by the Chinese to make ropes and eventually paper. Hemp's wide array of industrial uses first rose to prominence in America during the colonial era when many of the founding fathers espoused its versatility. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were strong advocates for a hemp-based economy and both cultivated the crop for its fiber content. Most of the sails and ropes on colonial ships were made from hemp, as were many of the colonists bible's and maps. The early settlers also used hemp seeds as a source for lamp oil and some colonies made hemp cultivation compulsory, calling its production necessary for the "wealth an protection of the country."

Hemp continued to be cultivated in America until 1937 when congress passed the Marihuana Tax Act outlawing marijuana. Although not a bill specifically aimed at industrial hemp production, legal limitations posed by legislation quickly put an end to the once prominent industry. Hemp production briefly re-emerged in 1942 when the federal government encouraged hundreds of American farmers to cultivate hemp for the war effort. Armed with a United States department of agriculture (USDA) film entitled "Hemp for Victory", thousands of farmers grew hundreds of thousands of acres of hemp for wartime needs. Unfortunately, when WWII ended, so did the governments allowance of hemp cultivation. By 1957, prohibitionists had reasserted a total ban on hemp production. The federal ban remains in effect today.

## *Hemp today*

Although the federal government refuses to waver on hemp prohibition, the popularity and knowledge surrounding the numerous advantages hemp production holds for American industry and the environment is rising dramatically. Not surprisingly, even some politicians are beginning to catch on. In 1996, politicians in four states introduced legislation allowing for domestic hemp cultivation and by legislative session's end, both Hawaii and Vermont had passed measures promoting industrial hemp research. In addition, some activists such as Hollywood actor and hemp businessman Woody Harrelson have presented the federal government with high profile legal challenges that question the legitimacy of hemp prohibition.

Its sometimes hard to believe, but just a few years ago there existed no such thing as a hemp industry in America. Today, hemp importers, retailers, manufacturers and products are springing up everywhere. Similarly, in 1995 only one state politician introduced legislation pertaining to hemp cultivation; it was defeated soundly. Just one year later, politicians in four different states proposed such legislation and garnered significant support.

## *Why Hemp?*

Our world is drowning in the flood of disposable products promoted by the mass consumer culture. Many concerned citizens today are committed to working with eco-resources, such as hemp and flax that have served our ancestors well for many millennia. Our modern production systems have and development with our

incorporation of new technologies and styles.

Cotton is one of the most environmentally destructive agricultural crops, annually using over 275 million pounds of pesticides in the US alone. This is in addition to massive quantities of fertilizers, defoliants, growth regulators, general biocides such as methylbromide, and water. Hemp, in contrast, is the most environmentally positive of crops, one that actually leaves the soil in improved condition. Hemp grows tall and thick, shading and mulching the ground while its deep taproots break up and aerate the soil. This contributes to healthy microbial life and nutrient content in the soil, and the shading eliminates competing weeds. It is also naturally resistant to most insects, molds, and other pests.

We must wean ourselves from our fossil fuel dependence; working with plants in a renewable way moves us in that direction. Hemp can help us shift to a carbohydrate based sustainable economy. For one thing, it is a huge biomass producer and, as such, would benefit any biomass energy generation system. It can also be processed into construction materials and paper products, easing some of the unsustainable burden placed on our forests. An acre of hemp actually produces more than four times as much pulp for paper making than an acre of trees when figured on an annual basis.

## *Where does the DEA stand on the issue?*

Squarely in the middle of progress. Despite hemp's growing emergence as a worldwide economic industry, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) remains firmly opposed to any notion of revising the federal law to allow for its domestic cultivation. Currently, only the DEA has the power to license farmers to legally grow hemp. Not surprisingly, the DEA has continued to deny every permit for large-scale hemp farming within America's borders for the last 40 years. Recently, the DEA reaffirmed their opposition to hemp in a 1995 USDA "White Paper" regarding the economic viability of alternative crops. In it, the DEA stated that the agency is "opposed to any consideration of hemp as a legitimate fiber or pulp product." The paper further stated that current policy mandates any USDA researcher who wishes to explore the issue of hemp cultivation and research must first briefed by White House anti-drug officials. In addition, DEA officials have stonewalled several state efforts to enact hemp cultivation and research bills by threatening to arrest any farmers contracted to grow the crop.

Sorry, the statistics in our base article were old, but you get the idea. Go up on the internet and dig up the latest numbers, you'll be REALLY impressed. Then spread the word! If you're ready to effectively change the laws concerning hemp, the most valuable thing you can do is join the MCRC family! The Mercy Center, along with our compatriot local organizations and National resources, stands ready and able to tackle the issues that lie ahead in the new millennium and beyond (!) With your support, we can and will make a difference.

<from **EVENTS**, page 3> questions! Get informed! Listen to great music! Sip coffee and mingle with like-minded folks. Join a local activist group! Get involved! All shows are for mature people at least 16 years old. There are 300 seats, first come, first served. For more details go to [www.jeffandtracy.com](http://www.jeffandtracy.com). Admission costs \$5.00 at the door.

## Doctor Clinics

If you suffer from a debilitating medical condition and you think marijuana alleviates your condition, but your doctor won't qualify you, Voter Power might be able to help. They can explain the exact requirements of the law and give you information to educate your physician and gain their approval. Also, if that doesn't work, and if you have records diagnosing a debilitating illness or condition covered by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, the Doctor Clinics are a possible option for your health management. Dr. Phillip Leveque is seeing and qualifying potential new patients under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. Clinics are scheduled: at Voter Power, 333 S.W. Park Ave., Portland. See the Voter Power online calendar (<http://www.voterpower.org>) for the latest Doctor Clinic schedule. They are typically held between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call (503) 224-3051 for an appointment. The cost is \$175, be prepared to provide copies of your relevant medical records.

## Beginning Grow Classes

The notorious pot felon Phil Smith, who once legally grew while serving time for growing, (don't ya just love the injustice system?) will lead classes on growing for beginners. This will be the dirt on doing it in the dirt. Classes on hydro by the Garden Guy are also available. Only cardholders registered under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act may take part. The classes will be held at Voter Power, 333 S.W. Park Ave., Portland. For more details and to register in advance, so the instructor can prepare properly, please call Voter Power at (503) 224-3051 or 1-800-669-3037. The cost is \$25. See their calendar (<http://www.voterpower.org>) for the latest schedule. For more info from the Garden Guy, visit: <http://www.ornorml.org/garden.html>

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<continued from **DEA**, page 3>

\* In Mendocino County, the federal government filed charges against disabled patient David Arnett and his caregiver David Kephart for growing just 27 plants on BLM land after their case was dismissed by the D.A. under Prop.215.

Further, numerous prosecutions have been targeted at known medical marijuana activists involved in high-profile cases.

\* **Lynn and Judy Osburn**, who were recently arrested by the DEA for growing a personal use garden of 35 plants at their Ventura County ranch. The Osburns had been raided last year for cultivating for the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center, but no indictment was delivered in that case. However, the government

moved to forfeit their home, and they were put under DEA surveillance.

\* Another well known medical marijuana grower, **Charles "Eddy" Lepp**, was raided by the DEA in Lake County last week. Lepp who was acquitted for growing 132 plants in a high-profile trial in 1998, had been openly growing for himself and other patients. In Sonoma County, another former Prop. 215 defendant, Mike Foley, who was acquitted for providing marijuana to a San Francisco patients' group last year, was re-arrested by the FBI for growing a modest garden that was within county guidelines for personal use.

\* **WAMM**. On September 5th Santa Cruz, CA., 30 armed Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents raided the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM), carting off 130 plants, arresting the club's outspoken director and leaving it's members wondering where they will get their medicine.

WAMM co-founder **Valerie Corral**, who suffers from epilepsy, is a longtime medicinal marijuana activist who is widely admired for her tireless and dedicated care for the seriously ill. She had been documenting ongoing research regarding the efficacy of various medicinal marijuana strains, as well as the use of medical cannabis for young people with multiple behavior disorders. A member of Attorney General Lockyer's state task force on medical marijuana, she was one of the original organizers of California's Prop. 215. An inspiring feature about Valerie and WAMM was published in Mother Jones magazine:

[http://www.motherjones.com/mother\\_jones/JF01/marijuana.html](http://www.motherjones.com/mother_jones/JF01/marijuana.html)

Suzanne Pfeil, an alliance member staying at the Corral's, said she was awakened by two-dozen camouflage-clad agents in helmets who pointed automatic weapons at her.

"They told me to stand up," said Pfeil, who suffers from post-polio syndrome and uses a wheelchair. "I told them I'm sorry. I can't stand up." She said some weapons seized in the raid - three rifles and a shotgun - were unloaded family heirlooms belonging to Michael Corral. Corral herself was taken to jail in her pajamas.

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt called the DEA's actions "absolutely appall[ing]" and praised WAMM as an "extremely responsible collective; they have operated in a way that has been exemplary".

WAMM is a medical marijuana collective that had operated openly and in conjunction with the Santa Cruz sheriff's office since 1993 and is highly regarded as one of the best cannabis patients' clubs in the state. The cooperative, which grows marijuana for members, serves some 250 patients, providing medicinal marijuana and other health related services free of charge.

Unlike many other clubs, which sell marijuana to their members, WAMM distributes it for free to those who have a doctor's prescription, and does not sell to the public. For more info about WAMM, visit their website: <http://www.wamm.org>

The alliance also offers hospice care and support for its members and has a months-long waiting list of applicants. Members take turns helping with harvesting and tending the garden, attending meetings, caring for each other's health, and sharing the crop amongst themselves. Because of space <continued next page>

<continued from previous page> limitations, WAMM had to turn away many applicants and maintained a waiting list for admission. Following the raid, Alliance members salvaged what leaves and buds they could. Amid the stems, some the diameter of a fist, Tibetan prayer flags fluttered in the wind.

About 80 percent of the group's members are terminally ill, said Diana Dodson, an alliance board member.

"We've lost several members this year," she said. "We lose members constantly." The patients' stories were similar - cancer, AIDS, epilepsy. Dan Rodriguez, an AIDS patient, said marijuana eases his nausea and boosts his appetite.

"If I don't smoke a little, I can't eat," Rodriguez said. Like others at the garden, he said he didn't know where to turn now for marijuana.

"What are we going to do, go down to the river?" he said, referring to the San Lorenzo River levee in Santa Cruz, where illegal drug sales are a frequent problem.

DEA spokesman Richard Meyers claimed that the DEA was not targeting medical marijuana, but was rather concerned with the quantity of marijuana at WAMM. However, the WAMM bust was small by federal standards observed heretofore in a state where busts of 1000's of plants are common. Meyer said the raid was triggered by a tip from a confidential source, though the club has been in existence for years - it has been the subject of national media stories and has never hid its operation from area authorities.

## Medical Marijuana A Growing Federal Priority, Contrary to DEA Claims

Recent actions belie prior DEA claims that medical marijuana is not a major enforcement priority. A survey of current federal cases by California NORML shows that there have been more arrests for medical marijuana than terrorism in California since Sept. 11th. In Washington state, which also has a medical marijuana law, U.S. attorneys in the western district have announced that they will no longer adhere to Clinton guidelines of not prosecuting cases of fewer than 100 plants. Seattle defense attorney Jeffrey Steinborn says that prosecutors told him they are under orders from Attorney General Ashcroft to target medical marijuana providers.

So far, over a half dozen medical marijuana growers have been sent to federal prison this year for activities they had reason to believe were legal under state law. The latest is Brian Epis, convicted for growing marijuana for a Chico patients' group, who faces sentencing in Sacramento on Sept. 23.

In California, medical marijuana accounts for 50% of all federal marijuana cases filed in the U.S. district court in San Francisco this year. By way of contrast, only about 1% of California's 3 million marijuana users are medical patients, according to a recent survey by California NORML at:

<http://www.canorml.org/prop/cbcsurvey.html>

Medical marijuana advocates say this shows federal drug enforcement priorities are seriously distorted. "The feds are targeting honest providers who openly supply medicine to sick

people under state law rather than large-scale criminal traffickers who clandestinely supply the recreational market," comments California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer.

For a complete listing of federal medical marijuana cases since Sept. 11 see <http://www.canorml.org/news/fedmmjcases.html>. Included are 21 cases involving some 37 defendants. Only one arrest for terrorism is known to have been reported in California in this time. Half the medical marijuana cases involve fewer than 300 plants; only two or three more than 1,000. For more information on this story contact: Dale Gieringer (415) 563-5858, [canorml@igc.org](mailto:canorml@igc.org), 2215-R Market St. #278, San Francisco CA 94114

## Demonstrations planned

Americans for Safe Access is an aggressive grassroots campaign designed to force the federal government to stop its attack on patients and respect the rights of voters to choose medical marijuana policy. In conjunction with AAMC, and many other groups, they are planning a series of demonstrations and rallies at every DEA office we can get to.

Demonstrations are a vital part of our grassroots opposition to the federal crackdown. Please make plans to attend and encourage others to do so. Please check their web site or call the ASA office if you need additional information about the location of your federal building or other demonstration site. Their web site is [www.safeaccessnow.org](http://www.safeaccessnow.org) You can reach the CAN/ASA office directly at (510) 486-8083.

Call and write your representatives and local media and:

1. Demand that all prosecutions of medical marijuana patients, growers, and dispensaries cease immediately.
2. Demand that President Bush & Attorney General Ashcroft declare a moratorium on the Federal anti-medical marijuana campaign.
3. Demand President Bush declare his support for HR 2592, the States' Rights to Medical Marijuana Act.

We are asking for national support on this. Thousands of people have pledged to participate in actions following raids on patients in California, but folks in every town will have to mobilize them. For citations, go to:

<http://www.safeaccessnow.org/article.php?id=109>

Thank you for your active support and participation.

Steph Sherer  
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Cannabis Action Network [www.cannabisaction.net](http://www.cannabisaction.net)  
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<continued from page 3> Not so Parliament's back-up House of Commons Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs (3), due to release their findings this November. I expect their report will redeem my pessimistic powers of precognition. In fact, they seem to have already made up their minds. MP Paddy Torsney, chair of the 15-member committee, said there is "no possibility it will recommend legalization of pot." Vice-chair Randy White added, "The general consensus is that legalization is not the route to follow."

Canadian prohibitionists were also quick to condemn the report, perhaps too quick. For example, the Canadian Police Association, a trade union representing over 50 municipal police boards and commissions across Canada, held a press conference a scant four hours after the Committee released their report. Four hours is about how long it takes to send a fax from Ottawa to Washington and receive a reply, not how long it takes to carefully analyze a 600 plus page report that was two years in the making.

However, as touched on above, this political hot potato will be making its way to the Supreme Court of Canada this December. (4) The Court has agreed to entertain J.S. Mill's argument that "The State has no business or interest or authority to proscribe private conduct that does not involve harm or a definite risk of harm to another individual or other individuals or to society as a whole."

Mill defined a "harm threshold", a degree of harm that must be exceeded before the deprivation of liberty inherent in criminal sanctions can be justified. We aren't talking about the right to get high, but rather, the right not to be criminalized for engaging in relatively harmless conduct. If the Court concludes that responsible cannabis use by consenting adults exceeds the "harm threshold," then they will establish it so low that fast food will rise above it.

What makes the constitutional challenge the most significant of these three northern developments is that our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, on which the challenge is based, only came into effect in 1982. A mere fortnight on the legal time-scale. This will be the first time that our Supreme Court has put the ghosts of Harry Anslinger and Emily Murphy on the stand, and now the judges will have the new Senate Committee report at their elbows.

What does all this mean to our American cousins? The U.S. media has been doing a remarkable job of ignoring it, but according to Canadian press accounts, American warriors are staying the course. (5) Last July, when our Justice Minister timidly hinted at the idea of studying the concept of decriminalization, DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson responded, "We have great respect for Canada and Britain as well, and if they start shifting policies with regards to marijuana it simply increases the rumblings in this country that we ought to re-examine our policy. It is a distraction from a firm policy on drug use." (6)

I hate to say it, but Hutchinson is right. Unlike the Netherlands, Canada is too close, both geographically and culturally, to dismiss. Unlike Colombia, we are too white to fumigate, arm and/or invade. Of course, if the DEA were confident that cannabis law reform invariably leads to ruin, then you would

expect them to welcome our proving their hypothesis. So, at a minimum, the Senate Committee's unequivocal call for legalization should make lesser reforms, such as decriminalization, more palatable. It should increase "rumblings" in the U.S. that they too should re-examine their policy (note to MAP letter writers). Finally, I pray it distracts the DEA from their senseless raids on compassion clubs and illegal interference with ballot initiatives.

Matthew M. Elrod,  
Metchosin, B.C.

<http://www.drugsense.org/me/>

- 1) Special Committee on Illegal Drugs,  
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/illegal-drugs.asp>
- 2) Canada's Farce of a Drug Policy Review Continues,  
<http://www.cannabisculture.com/backissues/cc08/oppression/fallacy.html>
- 3) Special Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs,  
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/InfoCom/CommitteeMain.asp?Language=E&CommitteeID=217&Joint=0>
- 4) Canada: Top Court Challenge In Works  
<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v02/n1657/a08.html>
- 5) War On Drugs Is Still On, U.S. Insists,  
<http://www.mapinc.org/cancom/321A10D3-69E8-4D45-9FBD-A222C7A1C2B>
- 6) Let's Just Say No To The Drug War  
<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v02/n1351/a02.html>

*Eds NOTE: Mr. Elrod maintains and provides support for a number of drug policy reform organization web sites such as the Media Awareness Project (<http://www.mapinc.org/>) and DrugSense*

*(<http://www.drugsense.org/>). View the list (including a few in the Oregon area - thanks, Matt!) at: <http://www.drugsense.org/sitemap.htm#hosted>*

## **DRUG DOGS TERRORIZE KINDERGARTEN CLASS; Is Your School District Next?**

ST. LOUIS, MO--The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal class- action lawsuit on behalf of 17 Native American students - some as young as six years old - who were terrorized when public school officials and law enforcement officers brought in a German Shepherd to conduct a suspicionless drug sweep of all K-12 classrooms at the Wagner Community School. The case, Shenona Banks et al. v. Wagner School Board, is being filed in rural Wagner, located near the Yankton Sioux Reservation, two-and-a-half hours west of Sioux Falls.

According to the ACLU complaint, on two separate days in May a number of local and federal law enforcement officers led a large German Shepherd police dog through the classrooms after the principal announced a "lockdown" over the loudspeaker. A school official who accompanied the police instructed the students to put their hands on their desks and avoid petting or looking at the dog or making any sudden movements. In some classrooms, a school official told students that any sudden movement could cause the dog to attack.

In at least one instance, the ACLU complaint said, the dog escaped its leash in a kindergarten class and chased students around the room. Some students had been traumatized by previous dog attacks and one young girl still has the scars of a previous attack on her face. Many began crying and trembling and at least one urinated involuntarily. The story is at:

<http://www.aclu.org/news/2002/n072502c.html>

# THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

## What can you do right now to support hemp?

- **Educate** learn about the benefits of hemp and educate those around you, including your community and political leaders. Purchase and read such informative guides as Chris Conrad book *Hemp: Lifeline To The Future*, HempTechs *Industrial Hemp, The Emperor Wears No Clothes* by Jack Herer and *The Great Book Of Hemp* by Rowan Robinson. Donate copies to your local library and/or send copies to your elected officials along with a letter informing them of the many practical uses of hemp. During hearings regarding industrial hemp legislation in Vermont, hemp proponents in the House of Representatives both cited and distributed copies of industrial hemp to members of the state legislature. Many legislators were positively influenced by the booklet.
- **Teach farmers** about the value of hemp: even though the sale of American hemp products are on the rise, federal prohibition of industrial hemp cultivation continues to effectively shut out the Americana farmer from this booming market. Educate the farmer in your area of the value of hemp as a vital agricultural resource and make them aware of the need to end hemp prohibition. In the wake of declining tobacco sales, many farmers are actively searching for an economically viable, low maintenance alternative crop. Explain to them hemp is the answer.
- **Encourage farm organizations** to endorse hemp cultivation: the American farm industry is one of Americas most influential lobbies on both the national and state level. For example, two chief backers of Colorado's hemp proposal were the Colorado Farm Bureau and Colorado State Grange. Encourage local farm organizations in your state to become involved in the movement to end hemp prohibition and actively lobby for reform. In addition, contact the American Farm Bureau (call 202-457-3600 or write to: 600 Maryland Ave. SW, #800, Washington, DC 20024) and tell them that you support endorsing domestic hemp production. Request that they become more active and vocal in their support for industrial hemp on the federal level.
- **Target the media:** people in general and the media specifically are receptive to hearing about new job and business opportunities that will also benefit the environment. Encourage your local media to feature articles on industrial hemp by writing letters to the editor, op-eds, and/or sending correspondents weekly press releases (call for more details). Recent articles in such publications as *Wired*, *Vegetarian Times*, *New Age Journal*, *The Environmental Magazine* and *The Washington Post* have provided needed publicity to the blossoming hemp movement and have heightened national awareness of hemp's industrial value. Encourage additional media outlets to cover the latest hemp-related stories such as the recent planting that took place on American Indian soil so they can learn the truth about hemp.
- **Write your representatives:** write a letter to your local representatives and members of congress informing them that, as a voter, the issue of industrial hemp is important to you. Elaborate on the many uses of industrial hemp and explain why you support repealing its prohibition. Be sure to stress hemp's ecological and economic benefits, including the creation of jobs. (Its very difficult for a politician to argue against an issue that is good for both the environment and the economy.) Request that they introduce legislation that would amend the federal and/or state law to allow research to take place on the viability of domestic hemp cultivation.
- **Join MCRC**, the Medical Cannabis Resource Center, or similar cannabis law reform organization. It is one of the "Mercy Center" mission objectives to educate the public and national media and lobby for hemp reform. Comprised of a staff of dedicated volunteer individuals in Salem, Oregon, they work to establish a team that will feature a variety of distinguished activists, scientists, researchers, and farmers, well as host a legal committee that they hope will include many skilled attorneys statewide who will specialize in cannabis law. The MCRC serves as a local voice with national connections to the millions of Americans who believe it is both counter-productive and unjust to deny individuals the right to cultivate hemp as an industrial source.  
  
The MCRC is planning important steps to end Cannabis Prohibition and now is a good time to begin taking a more active role in the marijuana law reform efforts in your region and nationally. For membership dues of \$50 per year you will receive the monthly newsletter, *the Clarion*. MCRC publications will keep you apprised of the latest developments in the field and in capitol building, and alert you when a vote is scheduled and the need is crucial for a letter to your state or federal elected officials. And you'll be informed of national and regional activist meetings where you can meet other reform advocates and help shape reform efforts around the country.
- **Buy hemp products:** support the growing hemp market by purchasing hemp goods and frequenting retail outlets that distribute hemp products. As hemp becomes more common in the marketplace, it will become harder to stigmatize. In 1990-1996, American sales of hemp products have grown from less than \$1 million to an estimated \$50 million. Let your political leaders and manufactures know that the hemp market is a legitimate and growing industry and not just a passing fad. Encourage local retail outlets to carry hemp-based products. The most effective way for a community to learn and appreciate the value of hemp is to become familiarized with its various products and practical uses in daily life. The retail community and the consumer can make this a reality.