

THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

Hempy New Year?

It's Up to YOU

Government continues war on Hemp, Free Speech Threatened

When Alex White Plume planted a field full of industrial-grade hemp, he hoped that his crop might lift his family and community out of poverty. He called it his "field of dreams": an acre and a half of plants so tall and strong they seemed to touch the sky; a crop representing hope for a new and self-sufficient life for his family, residents of the desperately impoverished Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The Slim Butte Land Association encourages sustainable agriculture, including hemp, on the reservation. Five years ago, they decided to pursue a hemp project to create jobs and housing. They began by purchasing industrial hemp from Canada -- where it's been legally grown since 1998 -- to build a "demonstration house." The house, which is nearing completion, is built from "hemcrete" -- durable, concrete-like blocks that are made from hemp, cement, lime, and sand.

But if the hemp project is to succeed long-term, supporters said, the Oglala Lakota will have to grow their own instead of relying on expensive imports. That's why the tribe passed the ordinance, and Alex White Plume became a farmer. In the tribe's view, the decision to grow industrial hemp is well within its right to self-determination. The tribal council based its approval of the hemp ordinance on the Fort Laramie Treaty, which sets apart land for the "absolute and undisturbed use and occupation" of the Lakota. Ironically, industrial-grade hemp was already growing wild on Pine Ridge, thanks to the federal government's "Hemp for Victory" campaign during World War II. White Plume used seeds from plants growing locally and from the Nebraska wetlands for his field.

"I can't describe the beauty of those plants," said White Plume. "Other than the pulling of the weeds, you don't have to add anything; no pesticides or fertilizers. They just grow. People came from all the country <continued on page 6 >



Write, email and call & generally encourage every seed-bearing and planting hempster. Do it today!

Miscellaneous War Mongering Your tax dollars at waste

We interrupt our coverage of the war on terrorism to check in with that other permanent conflict against a stateless enemy, the war on drugs. To judge by the glee at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the drug warriors have just accomplished the moral equivalent of routing the Taliban helping to halt a relentless jihad against the nation's drug laws. Ballot initiatives in Ohio (treatment rather than prison for nonviolent drug offenders), Arizona (the same, plus making marijuana possession the equivalent of a traffic ticket, and providing free pot for medical use) and Nevada (full legalization of marijuana) lost decisively in November. Liberalization measures in Florida and Michigan never even made it to the ballot. <continued on page 3>

**The CLARION,
your basic Cannabis
LAW Reform
Information and
Outreach Newsletter,
is a 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.**

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Check it out!

the CLARION would not be
possible without the fine
folks at the



Many thanks for their
support.

MCRC - the Mercy Center ...

Regular meetings continue. The Medical Cannabis Resource Center is a not-for-profit group dedicated to helping and advocating for those involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). Their goal is independence for their Patient Members in the short term and freedom for the rest of us by ending cannabis prohibition. To this end they provide, among other things, ongoing education to clinics, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general. They also continue to reach out to the community with regular, public meetings the first Wednesday of the Month. They start at 7pm, and are being held at 1695 Fairgrounds Road in Salem. Still drawing a good crowd of people, so come on by and check it out. The challenge now is for the MCRC to turn this into organized action. See you next meeting!

Some news items and issues the folks at the Mercy (MCRC) Center are trying to follow up on. If you have more info on these -or- items of your own, please contact us.

There have been 2 reports of busts of valid Patients in Oregon by the DEA, same agent. Among the propaganda accompanying these actions are statements that cannabis is not medicine. There was also a report of some local yokel police in Gresham "busting" and taking medicine from a cardholder in compliance, taunting the victim with tales of how "they" were going to shut down the OMMP "scam" and "get" Dr. Leveque too. Combined with reports of doctors in the Roseburg area having been systematically hassled, it appears some education of law enforcement is still necessary. The volunteers at the MCRC will endeavor to generate or direct the proper information to these misguided souls. Many thanks for their efforts.

EVENTS:

If you have an ongoing -or- big one-time events you want let people know about, contact us at the Clarion.

Salem Liberation Day and the Million Marijuana Marches. On May 3rd, 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. Be a part, help make it so! Contact Wendell Basye at 503.363-4588 or MercyCenter@hotmail.com.

For more on the Status of things, Listen to M.A.M.A. - and Thanks for Giving!

This morning, between cleaning for this afternoon's dinner and the press of my "to do" list ... I found myself a few quiet moments of reflection. While only a short pause, I realize how fortunate I am to be involved with all of you in a mutual effort to bring sanity to our many conflicting drug laws.

For twenty years I have been on the front lines of this war and though it has been a slow process, as change usually is, there has definitely been changes for the better. We can see gains in the arena of medical marijuana, with the announcement on Nov. 15th by Dr. Higginson, head of the Oregon Department of Health, that the OMMA registration fees will be going down in May 2003. We also learned that the Department is <next page>

<from prev page> tracking secondary medical conditions for which patients use cannabis, those that are not allowed for approval of an OMMA registration. This will help in the future in adding new conditions, which is allowed under the Act.

There have been some problems with theft from patients and a few actions from law enforcement, but we have not seen an aggressive attack from the Feds on Oregon patients as we have seen in California. Many Oregon patients benefited from the bountiful harvest this year, as those with excess medicine shared with those less fortunate.

However, the most precious part of working in the drug policy reform arena has been meeting and getting to know all of YOU, people with the conviction to stand up for the principles in which you believe. It is not an easy position to take, especially those of you who live in smaller communities, where your position effects you and your families personally as you go about your daily affairs. I am grateful for those in the media, in the medical, political, criminal justice and academic worlds, who have stood up to the drug war nonsense by speaking out and writing unpopular, but accurate opinions. I value the countless hours of volunteer time given by busy people who wanted to do what they could to help. I appreciate all those who have reached deep into their pockets to send what they could afford; whether it is five dollars or five million dollars, for without financial support it is so hard to have impact. I sorely miss those who have stood by our side, but who have now passed to another dimension.

So it is you, my colleagues and friends, that have shown it is up to each one of us to make this world a better place to live, and what a good example you have set! Today, in this season of thanksgiving, I feel honored and privileged to know and work with you ALL. Thank you for the part that you play in my life and the role you have in making life better for others. Please keep it up!

Sincerely,

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<continued from WAR, page 1> Some of this was due to the Republican election tide. Some was generational boomer parents, fearful of seeing teenagers become drug-addled slackers. (John Walters, the White House drug czar, shrewdly played on this anxiety by hyping the higher potency of today's pot with the line, "This is not your father's marijuana.") Some may have been a reluctance to loosen any social safety belts when the nation is under threat. Certainly a major factor was that proponents of change, who had been winning carefully poll-tested ballot measures, state by state, since California in 1996, found themselves facing a serious and well-financed opposition, cheered on by Mr. Walters. The truly amazing thing is that 30 years into the modern war on drugs, the discourse is still focused disproportionately on marijuana rather than more important and real problems. Drug warriors are still allowed to talk about heroin, cocaine and methamphetamines while most of the budget (and arrests, etc) really goes for the crusade against (some!) of the pot-

heads.

Cannabis is key to the drug war, and important to the White House. They understand using the pot laws to control the people, mostly the have-nots, and generally distract them from King George's latest corruption and incompetence. The memorable achievements of Mr. Walters's brief tenure have been things like cutting off student loans for kids with pot convictions, threatening doctors who recommend pot to cancer patients and introducing TV commercials that have the tone and credibility of wartime propaganda. One commercial tells pot smokers that they are subsidizing terrorists. Another shows a stoned teenager discovering a handgun in Dad's desk drawer and dreamily shooting a friend. (You'll find it at www.medicampaign.org. Watch it with the sound off and you'd swear it was an ad for gun control.)

Some drug czars used to draw a distinction between casual-use drugs like marijuana and the hard drugs whose craving breeds crime and community desolation. But this is not your father's drug czar. Mr. Walters insists marijuana is inseparable from heroin or cocaine and offers two arguments, both of which sound as if they came from the same people who manufacture the Bush administration's flimsy economic logic. One excuse is that marijuana is a "gateway" to hard-drug use. Actually Mr. Walters, who is a political scientist but likes to sound like an epidemiologist, prefers to say that pot use is an "increased risk factor" for other drugs.

The point when your nonsense-alarm should go off is when he likens the relationship between pot and hard drugs to that between cholesterol and heart disease.

In fact, the claim that marijuana leads to the use of other drugs appears to be unfounded. On the contrary, an interesting new study by Andrew Morral of RAND, out in the December issue of the British journal *Addiction*, shows that the correlation between pot and hard drugs can be fully explained by the fact that some people, by virtue of genetics or circumstances, have a predisposition to use drugs.

Mr. Walters's other justification for turning his office into the War on Pot is the dramatic increase in the number of marijuana smokers seeking professional help. This, he claims, reflects an "alarming" (aren't they always) rise in the number of people reportedly hooked on cannabis. But common sense and the government's own statistics suggest an alternative explanation: if you're caught with pot, enrolling in a treatment program is the price of avoiding jail. And marijuana arrests have doubled in less than a decade, to 700,000 a year, even as use of the drug has remained static. In other words, the stampede of pot smokers into treatment is probably not a sign of more dependency, but of more aggressive enforcement.

Cannabis law reformers - an alliance of legal advocates, liberals, libertarians and just plain potheads - know they are at the cornerstone of the drug war. They hope to gather a lot of the needed energy and money for their campaigns from people who like to smoke pot and want the government off their backs. Also, there is the very marketable truth about the use of cannabis to relieve the suffering of AIDS and cancer patients. Never mind that the medical benefits of marijuana <continued next page>

<continued from previous page>are still denied by the government, the the F.D.A. almost never approves the research and the pharmaceuticals industry sees no money in it - in fact contributes to the war to prevent it.

So, while the issue may be peripheral to some, and a hoax to others, it appeals to our compassion, especially when the administration plays the heartless heavy by sending SWAT teams to arrest people in wheelchairs. Thus a movement that started, at least in the minds of reform sponsors like the billionaire George Soros, as an effort to reduce the ravages of both drugs and the war on drugs, has become mostly about pot smoking.

So what's really going on at the White House drug office? One can think of several answers. (1) A possibility is that they are starting to believe their own propaganda and are "sincerely" worried about pot. Marijuana is not absolutely harmless. But, the danger is exaggerated and still does not justify the war or any of it's tentacles. Any true health risk involved is merely an excuse for other things.

For proof, let's look at the Viagra scenario. For years it was preached that we could not legalize pot because it caused unnatural sexual urges and killed people (neither true). Yet along comes Viagra which has already hundreds of recorded deaths and was only developed for artificial sex lives. Not only do these moral guardians fail to oppose it, but some of them do commercials for it.

As we can see from the government run sin businesses, whether it's a private liquor company or a state-run lottery, they may preach responsible behavior, but are more than willing to profit from addictions. A more likely reason is ...

(2) **The old political-bureaucratic imperative.** To justify a \$19 billion drug control program you need a threat that touches middle-class voters not just the few million mostly wretched, mostly inner-city, mostly nonvoting users of heroin and cocaine. And you want to be able to claim success. When he appointed Mr. Walters, President Bush announced he wanted "measurable results," and the measure would be a reduction in the number of people who admit to being recent drug users 10 percent by 2004. Well, since three-fourths of illicit drug users are pot smokers, the easy way to get the numbers down is to attack the least important aspect of the drug problem. That will give President Bush some bogus victories to boast about when he runs for re-election. Plus there's always the ...

(3) **Culture war**, an excuse for abuse. For those stopped or randomly raided and prosecuted it usually turns out to be not the pot they may possess or even grow. It's who they are or what their life-styles are perceived to be by their dress, etc.

Mr. Walters is a veteran of the conservative political bunkers, where pot is viewed as a manifestation of moral degeneracy. "It's still about the war in Vietnam and growing your hair long," says Mark Kleiman, a drug law expert at U.C.L.A. and a thoughtful centrist in a debate monopolized by extremes. "It's the 60's being replayed again and again and again the S.D.S. versus the football team." For this White House, to give ground on pot would be a moral surrender.

Mr. Kleiman's view is that the way to deal with marijuana is to remove criminal penalties for possession, use (recreational or medicinal) and cultivation of small amounts, but not to legalize sale. It's silly and costly to treat people as outlaws for enjoying a drug that is roughly as addictive as caffeine and far less destructive than tobacco or alcohol.

If your experience of the hard-core drug world is mostly from movies like "Traffic" or two splendid HBO series, "The Corner" and "The Wire," you may be inclined to despair of easy answers. You would be wrong, it's really quite simple. The moralistic drug war has overstuffed our prisons, left communities fatherless, fed corruption, consumed vast quantities of law enforcement time and money, and led us into some cynical foreign ventures, all without making drugs scarcer or more expensive. Legalization, on the other hand, means less crime and inner-city misery and the benefits of medical cannabis & industrial hemp to fund improved, more humane drug policies.

The things worth doing are incremental and unglamorous and lacking in demagogic appeal. They aim not at winning a spurious war but at minimizing harm - not only the harm caused by a hypocritical drug education - but the harm caused by corrupt and incompetent draconian enforcement. Drug reform requires not only money, creativity and patience, but also the political courage to face down ideologues. And political courage, you may have noticed, is a lot harder to come by than drugs.

But action must be taken, so we must be the leaders. The Drug Czars office has already been caught once illegally influencing media content in violation of Payola laws. Are they up to their old tricks again? They probably figure to pay a few bucks - slap on the wrist - at most ... if ever charged or anything. Did they ever suffer sanctions for the last? Let's follow up.

We also need to demand an accounting for the Censoring System and the news it filters out. Vital, life-saving news is being denied the American people. More, there is the reported destruction of valid medical research for political purposes. We must stand up for our right to information gained by the peoples funding. We must stand up for our right to the truth.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA'S EFFECT ON CRIME DISCOUNTED

In a study by the General Accounting Office, which covered four of the states that allow medical use of marijuana, law enforcement officials say the relaxed drug laws in those four states have had minimal impact on crimefighting. This information means the prohibitionist-driven government argument that these laws would allow a proliferation of illegal drug dealers has proved false.

Only a small fraction of the people in Oregon, Hawaii and Alaska used marijuana for medical purposes. The GAO found that a total of about 2,450 people in Oregon, Hawaii and Alaska use marijuana for medical purposes - accounting for no more than .05 percent of the population in any of the states.

The GAO examined only four of the eight states that have allowed medical uses for marijuana. The other states are Nevada, Colorado, Washington and Maine. <continued next page>

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Most Medical Pot Users Older Men

The typical medicinal marijuana user is likely to resemble someone from the Baby Boom generation - or older - rather than a 20-something poster child, according to the congressional study.

More than 70 percent of registered users in each of those three states were age 40 or older. In Hawaii and Oregon, about 70 percent of the users were men, and most were taking marijuana to treat severe pain and persistent muscle spasms. Such information was not available for Alaska or California.

Alaska had the only registered user under 18 years old, and Oregon had 145 users between the ages of 19 and 29.

The results in California, the fourth state studied, were limited to only four counties, and no statewide data were available. That state's law does not require medicinal marijuana users to register, although about 4,500 people have done so voluntarily in four of the state's 58 counties, the study said. In Northern California, Humboldt County officials said marijuana growers are allowed to grow hundreds of plants while claiming to be a medical caregiver to multiple patients, and no documentation is required.

Bad Laws Alert!

The Bush administration disagreed with some of the report's findings.

The state marijuana laws have resulted in a "worsening of relations between federal, state and local law enforcement," Robert F. Diegelman, an acting U.S. assistant attorney general, wrote in a review of the report. Also, he stated, they create "legal loopholes for drug dealers and marijuana cultivators to avoid arrest and prosecution". In some cases, law enforcement officials said the marijuana laws resulted in "a general softening" in attitudes among the public toward marijuana, the report said,

Some law enforcement officials said that while crimefighting was not harmed, the laws allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana at times has complicated efforts to seize illegal marijuana or to prosecute some cases. For example, according to the report, an Oregon police official cited a series of cases in which suspects were arrested for distributing marijuana for profit, but were able to obtain medical marijuana registry cards after their arrests, stymieing prosecutors.

Further, local law enforcement officials in California questioned how effectively they could prosecute criminal marijuana cases since the state has no limit on the amount of marijuana that can be held by a patient or a caregiver.

Alert! These are all examples of the propaganda campaign that will precede politician oriented legislation to roll back people generated initiatives. This is all part of the build up while they plan to sneak past bills to roll back current laws or institute new bad ones. The "Rave Act" and "Anti-Methamphetamine Bill" come to mind as seemingly acceptable laws with hidden clauses to show their true purposes - suppression of basic freedom of speech and rights in general. In the case of the "Anti-Meth" Bill,

it had a small provision which would have made every drug law reform virtually illegal over-night. Next will be some bill concerning driving laws, judging from the latest propaganda.

Just think where they could go with the latest from "approved" sources about how cannabis "causes" cancer, or the one about it being responsible for depression. Any bets they use them for excuses to keep in place the official motto "marijuana (*they always use that word. Heck, they invented it!*) has no medical value".

Action?! Write and contact > reply to these lies each and every time. Do not let them go unanswered, even when you think your statement goes nowhere!

For more information on the story see "Reefer Madness" by BILL KELLER, visit: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

For the GAO report on the medical marijuana laws in the West Coast, Go to the US General Accounting Office home page: <http://www.gao.gov> find a report titled "Marijuana: Early Experiences with Four States' Laws That Allow Use for Medical Purposes. (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03189.pdf>) GAO-03-189, December 29, 2002. The 63 page report, which is recommended reading, is in PDF form, so you will need Adobes PDF reader to view this file

For more information visit: URL:

<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v02.n2179.a04.html>.

Newshawks, for follow up stories Bookmark:

<http://www.mapinc.org/mmj.htm> (Cannabis - Medicinal)

<continued from HEMPY, page 1> to see them and -they were in awe."

White Plume and the tribe knew that they'd be walking a thin line between sovereignty and US drug law. Pine Ridge's ordinance makes a distinction between industrial hemp and its psychoactive cousin and sets a threshold for distinguishing between the two at 1 percent THC. The US government makes no such distinction; any THC is too much, according to US law. Robert Ecoffey, superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs covering Pine Ridge, gave the tribe some hefty warnings before the seeds were planted. Ecoffey says, "I told them, if you're going to plant, I want to be upfront with you, you may be subjecting yourself to arrest and penalties."

The DEA comes to Pine Ridge

On Aug. 24, 2000 at sunrise, just four days before White Plume and his neighbors planned to harvest their bounty, White Plume awoke to the sounds of helicopters. He looked out the window and saw a convoy of vehicles heading for his field. He raced down to investigate, and was met by a slew of black-clad and heavily armed figures -- 36 agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the US Marshal's office. When White Plume rolled down the window of his pick-up to ask what was going on, he says, one US marshal pointed a gun in his face. Meanwhile, the other agents chopped down each plant near the roots and hauled them away.

According to tests conducted later by the BIA, <next page>

<continued from previous page> White Plume's hemp contained only trace amounts of the psychoactive element THC. But US drug laws do not distinguish between marijuana, which has a higher THC content, and other kinds of hemp; growing either is illegal. (Federal law does permit the possession or sale of mature stalks, fiber, and products made from hemp fiber and hemp seed oil.)

Still, the raid at Pine Ridge wasn't your typical drug bust. The Oglala Sioux tribal government, which passed a resolution allowing White Plume to plant his crop, argued that the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 gave Pine Ridge absolute sovereign status as an independent nation. The BIA, however, says Pine Ridge enjoys only "limited" sovereignty: While the tribe has its own government, constitution, and laws, it is subject to some federal oversight.

In the activists' view, the DEA raid contrasts sharply with other messages the federal government has been sending to Pine Ridge. Just one year before the raid, President Clinton visited the reservation to celebrate its designation as a federal "empowerment zone."

"You have suffered from neglect, and you know that doesn't work," Clinton said at the time. "You have also suffered from the tyranny of patronizing inadequately funded government programs, and you know that doesn't work. We have tried to have a more respectful, more proper relationship with the tribal governments of this country to promote more genuine independence, but also to give more genuine support."

In October, the DEA got authorization from a district court in South Dakota to burn the plants. Now the entire crop is, as they say, up in smoke. In late November, a trailer full of Canadian hemp arrived on Pine Ridge. The shipment, donated by the Kentucky Hemp Growers Cooperative Association and the Madison Hemp & Flax Company, replaced the hemp lost in the raid so the tribe can finish its demonstration house.

But the tribe didn't settle for charity. Hemp seeds were once again sown somewhere on the Pine Ridge reservation, although not on White Plume's land. The tribe's new president, John Yellow Bird Steele, endorsed what was sure to be another bumper crop. But there was another raid yet again the next year.

A Dance of Deception

A leading Native American scholar and educator says the federal raid on Alex White Plume's hemp crop is yet another manifestation of the US government's two-faced policy toward Indians. Winona LaDuke, an Ojibwe activist from the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota and Ralph Nader's running mate in the past two presidential elections, says, "I think it's federal double-speak or forked tongues. The federal government likes to support the sovereignty of Indian tribes when we talk about nuclear-waste dumps and casinos and toxic-waste dumps, but doesn't support their sovereignty when they try to do something which is absolutely healthy, sustainable development with grassroots initiatives."

"They're treating us like second-class citizens, like wards of the state," says White Plume, who is considering suing the

government for compensation and has started soliciting donations to a legal fund. "To me, it's like the US going into Canada and raiding a hemp field over there."

The gray zone between the Oglala Lakota people's right to self-determination and federal drug laws is where Alex White Plume now finds himself trapped.

"The US position is [that] the general drug laws apply equally on Indian reservations as they do anywhere else in the US," says Ted McBride, US Attorney for the district of South Dakota, who is handling the case. He says that federal law supersedes tribal law.

That sentiment infuriates some members of the tribe, whose resentments go back more than 200 years of treaties made with -- and broken by -- the US. The bloody history of US-Lakota relations includes the 1890 massacre of 180 Lakota at Wounded Knee, and the 1973 siege at the same site.

Like many American Indian tribes, the Lakota were once a self-sufficient nation. Today the reservation is known for high rates of poverty, disease, alcoholism, and suicide. Poor living conditions are exacerbated by overcrowding because of a shortage of as many as 2,000 housing units on Pine Ridge -- one family of 23 lives in a single trailer.

But, wait, there's more!

First, let's catch you up on the story. In 2000 and 2001, Alex White Plume planted industrial hemp legally on his land within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In August of each of those years, armed paramilitary groups financed by the United States invaded the Pine Ridge Reservation, destroyed White Plume's hemp crops, then fled back across the border to U.S. strongholds. In 2002, White Plume planted hemp again and, in August, the White Plume tiospaye (extended family) harvested the hemp, which had been contracted to the Madison Hemp & Flax Co. of Lexington KY. Thus, White Plume became the first farmer within the borders of the U.S. to complete the cycle of planting, cultivation, harvest, sale and delivery of industrial hemp since 1958.

Later in 2002 federal agents, acting for the US Attorney for South Dakota, came to his home near Manderson SD and served a Summons & Complaint on: "ALEXANDER "Alex" WHITE PLUME, PERCY WHITE PLUME, their agents, servants, assigns, attorneys, and all others acting in concert with the named Defendant." Strangely, the feds decided to use a civil route this year, rather than the brutal and frightening tactics they usually seem to prefer. There are a number of ramifications to the civil court approach, many of which are probably not apparent yet. The Summons and Complaint are posted at: <http://www.sodakhemp.org/summons.htm>

These documents are interesting reading. Not only do they contain a unique perspective and documentation of events since the Oglala Sioux Tribe re-legalized hemp on the Pine Ridge Reservation (a sovereign nation) in 1998, but they provide a glimpse into the minds of U.S. Attorneys (perhaps a little tired of being required by politics to terrorize peaceful honest people?).

This is possibly one of the most remarkable <next page>

<from prev page> documents ever published by a US Attorney, and in the midst of one of the most dramatic developments in our "war on the war on hemp". A Colorado attorney sent the following analysis of why the US Attorney for So. Dak. decided to seek civil "relief" from Alex White Plume's annoying hemp fields. This does seem like the essence of the government conspiracy to prevent the Lakota people of the Oglala Sioux Tribe from producing industrial hemp, the ONLY crop which has a chance of making a few more tribal members self-sufficient and economically productive.

"The government is seeking injunctive relief because it's quick and efficient. The judge decides whether to issue the injunctions and is not likely to 'nullify'. Assume the injunctions will issue. Once the injunctions are in place, any further hemp growing/distribution activities by the White Plumes can be charged as violations of the injunctions, thus contempt of court. Government can ask for contempt citation; a quick hearing can be convened; and the judge alone will decide punishment if punishment is less than six months in jail. Also see 18 USC sec 3691, where jury trials for contempt (where acts also constitute a statutory crime) are available under limited circumstances, but not if the charge is disobedience to a lawful court order when the US government is the plaintiff.

So civil injunction route will allow for criminal contempt punishments by judicial conviction. Pretty neat, huh! No grand jury indictments, no jury trial, just proceedings before a judge. A slam dunk!"

For more information, like best action to take at this point, contact:

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You can also visit:

http://www.motherjones.com/news_wire/pineridge_hemp.html

Supreme Court clears the way for teacher's suit

Woman fired after she let actor talk about hemp in class.

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The Supreme Court has refused to intervene in a case between school officials and a teacher who was fired after twice having actor Woody Harrelson talk to her fifth-grade class about industrial hemp. This means a lawsuit can proceed. The high court refused yesterday to consider an appeal from the Shelby County Public School District, a decision that opened the way for a trial next year at which Donna Cockrel will try to show that her First Amendment right to free speech was violated when she was fired five years ago.

"I'm happy to hear that decision," said Cockrel, reached at Detroit Advantage Academy, a charter school where she has taught third grade for three years. "I've been praying. . . . It brings on the sunshine in my life."

Cockrel, who had worked as a teacher in the county for six years, was fired from Simpsonville Elementary School in 1997. The school board gave 17 reasons for the termination, but none dealt directly with Harrelson's classroom visits in 1996 and 1997. She

was accused of insubordination, conduct unbecoming a teacher and neglect of duty. Cockrel sued the school system in 1998, arguing that her firing violated her constitutional right of free speech and was a breach of her contract as a tenured teacher. She contended she was let go in retaliation for "her classroom and public statements about industrial hemp." Hemp, a plant related to marijuana, can be made into paper, fuel and fiber. Harrelson is a longtime activist for the crop, arguing it would save trees. Cockrel invited Harrelson to give students a lesson on alternative crops that could help save the environment.

Harrelson's visits drew heavy media coverage and intense criticism in the community. Parents removed students from the school during the second visit, and the school's PTA called for Cockrel's dismissal. In May 1999, Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board, which polices teachers, suspended Cockrel's teaching certificate, retroactive to 1997 when she was fired. Her certificate was reinstated without conditions in July 2001, according to the board's general counsel, Allison Weber. Last November, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled that a lower court wrongly dismissed Cockrel's lawsuit, which sought unspecified damages, before it went to trial.

"On the face of it, it appears inappropriate for a fifth-grade class to have a celebrity speaker on a matter as complicated as legalizing industrial hemp," Judge Eugene Siler Jr. wrote in a concurring opinion with the unanimous three-judge panel. "However, the school approved in advance the subject matter and the speaker. It must now pay the penalty for giving prior approval, because it cannot now be heard that such conduct by Cockrel was disruptive."

Eugene Mooney of Lexington, Cockrel's attorney, said she was fully protected by her right to free speech. He said he was pleased with the high court's decision not to intervene. Cockrel was fired when the school district "got mad because CNN broadcast all over the world that they were upset about Woody Harrelson," Mooney said. For more info visit:

<http://www.globalhemp.com/News/2002/October/>

Stop and take Time 4 Hemp

Highlights of the nation's first television series about marijuana, 'Time 4 Hemp', have been released in a two-hour presentation and made available on DVD and videotape. This independent production focuses on the value of hemp as a cash crop with interviews that feature many knowledgeable and interesting speakers. Over 60 video clips from the series can be viewed and downloaded from their website. The selected segments for this presentation focus on hemp as a billion-dollar crop that, if re-legalized, would anchor our country's economy and free us from the dependency of fossil fuels. Time4Hemp was the nation's first cable TV show exclusively about Hemp/Marijuana and the good things it means to the planet. Leitch Productions was formed with the intention to preserve and distribute the truth about the remarkable plant known as hemp, i.e. marijuana.. Contact:

Leitch Productions, eMail: Casper@atime4hemp.com
4326 Scatterfield Rd. #112, Anderson, IN. 46013
call, dial first 1.800.MY.YAHOO, then Ext. A.TIME.4.HEMP
Or visit: <http://www.Time4Hemp.com>

THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

What you can do for hemp

Write and otherwise contact the media, your representatives, organizations and businesses about the issues - the truth about hemp and our right to that truth, to name a few. Protest tax dollars spent on ludicrous propaganda. Let them know we intend to vote with our dollars also and will boycott those who support the war. At the same time you can educate them about hemp and inform them of places where they can get more info and support should they decide to act upon the info.

We must empower and support as well as engage if we expect anyone, especially politicians, to stand up or help us in any way.

VOTE HEMP is a non-profit organization dedicated to the acceptance of and free market for Industrial Hemp. Industrial Hemp is non-psychoactive low THC varieties of the cannabis sativa plant. Currently, it is illegal for U.S. farmers to grow Industrial Hemp because it is improperly classified as a "drug" under the Controlled Substances Act. Since changes in law require shifts in thinking and this requires education in the facts, their primary goal is the education of legislators and regulators, farmers and businesses, students and other concerned citizens.

Vote Hemp published a Voter Guide for the 2002 election listing the positions on industrial hemp for all candidates for U.S. Congress and Senate. Make sure to check the positions of your representatives and let them know where you stand on the issue. Stay informed about industrial hemp news and pending legislation. Visit their website and sign up for their Action Alert e-mail list.

Hemp is the world's premier renewable resource for food, fiber and energy. The 10 year old global hemp market is a thriving commercial success. Unfortunately, due to outdated attitudes and drug-war paranoia in Washington, the U.S. is the only major industrialized nation to prohibit the growing and processing of hemp. Since Jamestown and up to 1937, American farmers cultivated industrial hemp. Now a large, well-educated cross-section of citizens is demanding that this right be restored.

The United States is a republic founded on the spiritual insight that each individual citizen has a divine right to self-governance. Our elected representatives are in place to assure this process and to protect the rights and property of those whose voices may not be heard above the inevitable din of fear, ignorance and greed. However, the responsibility falls upon the citizens to continually insist that their government serve them and not the other way around.

You can help by fulfilling your primary duty as a U.S. citizen- to become well informed and use that knowledge to protect your rights. At VoteHemp.com they offer visitors the opportunity to learn the facts about industrial hemp. They offer tools to communicate your concerns about hemp to your elected officials and hold them accountable for their actions. And just as importantly, they provide the tools to register and vote for the pro-hemp candidate(s) of your choice.

Distinguished statesmen and hemp farmers, our founding fathers understood well the duty of the people to remain educated and eternally vigilant. At Vote Hemp you are invited to join a campaign to put an end to 64 years of unlawful hemp prohibition through education, activism and fundraising.

The Vote Hemp Report - Now Available

After a huge effort on the part of Vote Hemp board members working with Arthur Hanks of the Hemp Report and various industry experts, the comprehensive 2002/2003 Vote Hemp Report printed on Living Tree Paper's hemp content paper has arrived. The 28-page newsletter summarizes industrial hemp's progress in various seed and fiber markets, and details the current state of hemp in North America. It is a great educational tool which covers the gamut of hemp markets and features ads from many of North America's top hemp companies.

The report discusses:

- why voters should support allowing farmers to grow hemp for industry;
- recent state legislative efforts in support of hemp farming;
- the nutritional benefits of hemp seed, nut and oil;
- hemp as an environmentally sustainable feedstock for bio-composites, paper and ethanol production; and
- the progress of the hemp industry in Canada and Europe.

The report also features statements from former Kentucky Governor Louie Nunn and Hawaii State Representative Cynthia Thielen, as well as an interview with North Dakota State Representative Dave Monson.

Distribute this report (or the link) far and wide to all your friends, family and colleagues. Help educate and inform. You want everyone to hold a copy of the Vote Hemp Report in their hands and feel the beautiful hemp content paper. It is a wonderful and effective way to educate yourself and others about industrial hemp. Get your hard copy today by contacting Vote Hemp. Send a copy with a cover letter to all your elected state and federal officials. They make it easy.

They need contributions to make this happen BUT if you cannot afford to donate anything towards the cost of producing and distributing this amazing report, you may also send us your request for FREE copies. Please detail your plan for distributing them and state how many copies you would like. We want this report to be read widely, and you can help.

Please find out more about the 2002/2003 Vote Hemp Report at their special web page, where you can download a PDF copy of the entire report or certain excerpts. Further they have a cover letters, requests for hard copies, and more. Visit: <http://www.VoteHemp.com/report.html> For more information about **VoteHemp.com** or how you can get involved, contact:

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