

# THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

## Support Your Local Hempfest

July 19, 2003

**EMERALD EMPIRE**



**HEMPFEST**

**Alton Baker Park, Eugene OR**

### From the First Emerald Empire HempFest in Eugene to The BIG ONE in Seattle - Of, By and For the People

The year is 2003, it's Eugene. It's the summertime. And something's ... missing. Ah, a Hempfest!

Putting on Eugene's first official Hempfest is meant to bring something back to the city and the region, and bring something to embrace the unique forefront in Northwest culture that exists here today. This is scheduled to be a free one-day event with vendors, food, and live entertainment for the community and visitors across the west coast - all with legal permission and recognized by the City of Eugene.

The first annual Emerald Empire HempFest will be at the Alton Baker Park, Eugene, Oregon Sat July 19, 2003 from 10am-10pm. It will be a free to the public event, although they'll need to collect a nominal fee for parking, and they have a vendor providing free artesian water. All of the bands are providing the music at no cost, so check them out around town on other dates.

Mission Statement: To promote education and involvement by organizing a yearly Hempfest, as well as fundraisers to raise awareness of Hemp's uses and benefits. Ultimately the Emerald Empire Hempfest should be encouraged to grow into a financially healthy organization capable of successfully putting on a Hempfest in Eugene, Oregon on an annual basis. To counteract, neutralize and eradicate government propaganda regarding the plant, Cannabis Sativa. To facilitate research and development of Hemp based products and processes.

The hempfest team have accrued some large debts in making it happen and can still use some help.

"It costs a lot of money to sponsor a free event," said Dan Koozer, one of the organizers, most of which have been working since September 2002 in preparation for the fest. <continued next page>

### High School Hopes for Hemp

A wonderful thing happened in 2000. Tragically, it may never happen again. That year there was a hemp initiative launched in Oregon. This in itself is nothing special, hemp bills are put forth every year in a number of states either through popular initiative or legislative process.

What made this one special is that it was *not* put forth by the law reform community, such as NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. It was *not* a result of a special interest group or vested interest for political or financial gain. It was simply a logical class project by high school students.

<see HIGH HOPES on back page>

**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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**pdxnorml.org/orgs/clarion**

*Check it out!*

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



**www.MercyCenters.org**

*Many thanks for their support!*

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"We need the peoples help to get this fledgling organization off it's feet and turn into a successful, positive event in the eyes of the community. We can come back next year to become a financially successful non-profit organization capable of running this event in the future. They can help by donating services, materials, or money by check/money order, or cash to the EEH." The EEH is a non-profit operation and their tax-exempting Oregon Non-Profit Number is available upon request.

**What's a hempfest?**

"A hempfest, in our case, is a festival where we inform about, celebrate and otherwise promote the benefits of hemp." explains organizing team member Eileen Erdelt.

"We have speakers on various uses, like paper and fuel. We will be having fashion shows to see and food to try. We are trying to get groups here that can demonstrate how we could build an entire building or a car out of hemp. You can then heat and run them on hemp oil and fuel as well. In fact, you could run most of your diesel cars today on bio-fuels. We' re trying to get a live demonstration for that - if we can' t make it this year, next hempfest we' ll have a hemp powered car here."

Previous years saw hempfests held at Conde' s lumberyard in Harrisburg, just north of Eugene, Oregon. Bill Conde, a local businessman, was active in calling for the industrial use of hemp, the medical use of cannabis and an end to prohibition in general. As such he held annual events at his place of business that went under various names - WHEE (World Hemp Expo Extravaganza), for example. The purpose of them was to promote cannabis liberation as people celebrated, organizations recruited and supportive vendors sold their wares. Music, food, fun and activism. A win-win. Except for the powers that hate the herb.

Mr. Conde came under increased scrutiny due to his activism, was continuously hassled and eventually forced to sell the lumberyard and cease his overt community involvement in the Eugene area. Rumor has it he spends most of his time with business and family interests in Belize. HempFest fans recall his efforts at this time of renewed action and wish him well in his endeavors.

This year the Eugene area (and Oregon' s only) hempfest is being organized by a mosaic of volunteers from all over the state. Part of a grassroots effort involving environmental, health, nutrition political and civil rights support groups. A coalition of courage and compassion.

**Worried about hassles? a 'bad name'?**

"No, not really. We are just group of citizens, following procedure for a legitimate purpose." responds Ms. Erdelt. "A family affair - music, fun and education in a nice, safe, peaceful atmosphere. Our team is more focused than some previous events may have seemed. This is not a pot party."

For more info the website for the Emerald Empire Hempfest is up and running at:

**www.emeraldempirehempfest.com**

Write P.O. Box 10957, Eugene, OR 97440-2957 or call: (541) 606.3062

Get a copy of their flier for a momento and future reference. Copy it and Send it to friends! Print it and post it at your local bulletin board, and help them get this off the ground every year, for sake of future hempfests. As soon as the dust settles form this years effort they will be lining up Vendors and Volunteers for next year, so be in a position to get the choice spots. <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> Potential vendors can call the info line listed until more information is available. They need an army of Volunteers - they have tons o' slots to fill, and need managers in certain areas too. Including but not limited to: Parking and Traffic control, Security, Vendor Hospitality, Bike Valets, Stage Hands, Set-up crews, Go-fors. Contact Glen, their Volunteer Coordinator directly at:

**gameochange@yahoo.com**

\*\*\*\*\*

other Emerald Empire HempFest contacts:

Dan Koozer  
Cannabis Liberation Front  
Phone: 541.517-0957  
eMail: canlibsoc@hotmail.com

*The CLF is a Eugene area cannabis law reform organization seeking to end prohibition.*

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Aaron Reddick  
The HENsters - Hemp Education Network at the U-of-O.  
Phone: 541-334-2058  
eMail: acoolblue@myway.com

*The HENsters are a student-oriented cannabis law reform organization at the University of Oregon. Starting the fall term they will be meeting at the EMU, Umqua River room every Monday at 7pm.*

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Eileen Erdelt  
Producer and Hostess,  
"Eugene's Cannabis Television":  
emeraldempirehempfest@hotmail.com  
Phone: (541) 606-3062

Watch EUGENE CANNABIS TV on Channel 22/29 EVERY WEEK; 8:30 PM on Wednesdays, 8:30 AM on Thursdays, Mondays at 12 noon and Sundays at midnight. Check it out and contact them with your cannabis-related issue or project. Visit their website at:

**<http://eugenecannabistv.home.comcast.net/>**

... or ...

**<http://home.comcast.net/~eugenecannabistv/>**

Community Television AT&T Cable Channel 22/29 is CTVLC - Community Television of Lane County. CTVLC is on Channel 22 in the AT&T non-upgraded areas and on Channel 29 in the upgraded areas. Tape the show and share it with your friends and family. The Channel 22/29 Schedule is in the Register-Guard *TV Week* (in Saturday's paper). Their schedule is online at:

**<http://home.comcast.net/~chuckayl/acvid/nextwk.htm>**

Call CTVLC at 341-4671 or mail to CTVLC, 1430 Willamette ST #321, Eugene, OR 97401 - for more info.

## **The Hempfest - A Temporary Liberation. Enjoy Them While You Can!**

Traditionally, the hempfest has been an escape from the wasteland that is cannabis prohibition. People entering the fest often feel as though they are coming out of a harsh desert into a green, cool garden. From the hateful and repressive world of the War on Some of the Potheads into a world of hemp products and people and places where truth is free. Music and conversations mix with the aromas of foods and herbs and spices. The smells of incense and sage interweave with our favorite weed to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Merchants often do well and a sense of prosperity also can occur.

In addition to the basic amenities people also have a chance to contact groups advocating industrial hemp, medical cannabis or ending prohibition in general. The people are served, and often flock to these events, as one of the few sources of information and general help on these issues. Armed with facts they educate their doctors, or farmers, or even law enforcement in their communities and continue the effort towards change.

Activism is protected free speech under the U.S. Bill of Rights and Constitution. The American experience has been forged by people who were not afraid to put themselves on the line for their beliefs, in the face of daunting adversity, in spite of the odds. But basic rights to assemble and freely speak are not always guaranteed. The chance of government terrorism against our community is high.

This is a critical period for the movement to change marijuana laws. Despite judicial victories for the drug warriors, a growing momentum has galvanized the commitment to defend medical marijuana, industrial hemp production, and the rights of responsible adult marijuana users. There has never been a time when it was more crucial that we ramp up our efforts. There is an ominous black cloud descending on the freedoms and liberties of All Americans, and the cannabis community is in its cross hairs.

We have all recently witnessed unprecedented moves by the Federal Government to further criminalize the sick and dying (the stories are too numerous to mention here), and it doesn't stop there. They have targeted caregivers and providers who assist those in need of medical marijuana, even though many of the patients are terminally ill.

The United States has become the world's leading jailer, with over two million Americans in jails and prisons. One out of every 142 citizens is incarcerated, with a marijuana arrest occurring every 44 seconds.

The Federal Government is even going after hemp foods, despite the fact that they possess virtually no intoxicating effects at all.

Add to this list of disturbing developments the passage of the Patriot Act, the recent passage of the Rave Act, and the recent federal prosecutions of glass art wholesalers and retailers. It becomes easy to see that this administration is intent on virtually crushing not only the cannabis community, but legitimate businesses and many of our sacred liberties under a slew of new draconian laws.

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<continued from previous page> It seems dangerous even to speak, yet we have much more to fear from standing on the sidelines and letting this rampage against our freedoms continue than from getting involved and taking action.

### The 'Anti-HempFest' Act, it's all the RAVE at the DEA

Sponsored by Senator Biden (D-DE), the RAVE Act (also known as the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act) was first introduced last year. It proved so controversial then that two of its original co-sponsors withdrew their support because they feared it would send innocent business owners to jail.

Business owners collected over 20,000 signatures in opposition to the bill. Protests against it were held around the country and tens of thousands of voters urged their elected official to oppose it. Controversy over the bill stalled it last year, but Senator Biden attached it to the popular "Amber Alert" bill without public debate or a vote of Congress earlier this year and snuck it into law. These questionable provisions became law without public debate or an actual vote in Congress.

The RAVE Act gives the federal government the power to prosecute business owners and event organizers if they make their property available for "the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance." This overly broad and overly vague law applies to "any place," including bars and nightclubs, hotels, apartment buildings, and homes.

The RAVE Act expands federal law to make it easier to jail and imprison event organizers and property owners that fail to stop drug offenses from occurring on their property - even in cases when they take serious steps to reduce drug offenses. It applies to "any place", including bars and nightclubs, hotels, apartment buildings, and homes. Legal experts warned that the law was so broad that it could be used to shut down not only raves and electronic music events, but also Hip Hop, rock, and country music concerts, sporting events, gay and lesbian fundraisers, political protests, and any other event federal agents do not like.

The drug warriors and others who hate liberty laughed off the warnings, issued even more lies and generally slandered and libeled any protesters.

Yet, no sooner was the ink dry on its passage and they struck. And was it some mean, inner-city rave house that had constant complaints as was propagandized in getting it passed? No it was just a NORML little hempfest in the country.

### NORML Chapter becomes first Victim of the Rave Act

Only two months after the RAVE Act was passed by Congress it has been used by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to intimidate the owners of a Billings, Montana, venue into canceling a Highly publicized and expensive combined benefit for the Montana chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) and Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). One of the biggest reasons the Drug Policy Alliance waged a national campaign to stop the RAVE Act was that we feared it would be used to shut down political events like this.

On the day the fundraiser was set to take place, a Billings-based

DEA agent approached the venue management just hours before the benefit, presented the venue owners with a copy of the RAVE Act and reported that they could be fined \$250,000 if anyone smoked marijuana during the planned benefit. The bands - most of which regularly played at the venue - were also approached and warned that their participation in the event could result in a fine.

After consulting with their attorney, the venue owners felt that they could not risk their business and consequently cancelled the show. Aside from the obvious recruiting opportunity, the local NORML chapter also lost several hundred dollars spent on radio spots promoting the show, not realizing the DEA would be one of the lucky listeners.

Promoters of the fundraiser attested to the fact that the same bands have played at the same location on previous occasions without problems or federal government interference. Local concertgoers were shocked to see the Feds use their authority to shut down a small gathering intended to raise money for a good cause. The incident is believed to be the first time the law has been used to prohibit a public event since it was enacted in April. But it is more insidious than that.

The purpose of the benefit concert was intended to raise awareness and funds for an upcoming the medical marijuana Campaign in Montana in 2004 and this blatant intimidation by the DEA was obviously designed to shut down the mere discussion of this particular marijuana reform effort. And warn the rest.

The real purpose of the DEAs actions was to prevent voter registration, organization and initiatives. The people attempting the benefit were summarily punished, not for what they might do but what they would definitely say and what kind of legislative action they might inspire. This unprecedented threat of enforcement marks the first time that the government has used this legislation to target events they deem politically unpopular.

Here are links to three articles on this story. Read them and pass the link around or print it out. Spread the word! If you do not, don't expect mainstream media to do it, they're in the drug warriors pocket.

- "Free Drugs or Free Speech?", URL:  
<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v03/n883/a05.html>
- "A Long, Tough Week in the Land of the Free", URL:  
<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v03/n883/a06.html>
- "DEA Uses RAVE Act Threats to Block Montana NORML/SSDP Benefit", URL:  
<http://www.mapinc.org/drugnews/v03/n860/a04.html>

This is an attack on our freedoms in the United States the likes of which has not been seen since Senator Joe McCarthy's attacks of 50 years ago has started. Already a fear has set in that is showing results.

SANTA ROSA, CA: The Sonoma Health & Harmony Festival has cancelled plans to have a medical marijuana smoking area due to fears of prosecution under the RAVE Act. The festival's promoters had originally proposed the idea of a designated MMJ smoking area for the many patients who attend so as to discourage indiscriminate smoking elsewhere. Concerns about possible prosecution under the RAVE Act caused the promoters to drop the



idea. This is another example of how the federal government's meddlesome RAVE legislation has undermined local efforts to promote responsible drug use. Wisconsin's annual Weedstock has moved to Canada for their Hempfest >

<http://www.planetarypride.com/comingsoon.html>

< as a result of the RAVE Act. And expect that the RAVE act will soon impact on brave harm reduction work, like the folks at DanceSafe > <http://www.dancesafe.org> < do.

For more information on the RAVE Act, the DEA and the Eagle Lodge see: <http://actioncenter.drugpolicy.org/>

So what can you do? Please support the work of organizations who are working to stop this attack on our freedoms. Unless the American people speak out against this attack on free speech, the DEA will be emboldened to use the law against other events they do not like, such as all-night dance parties, hip hop concerts, hemp festivals, and circuit parties.

Join the Drug Policy Alliance, National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and numerous other organizations in our campaign to pressure the DEA to stop using the RAVE Act to shut down political events.

#### **ACTIONS TO TAKE**

Immediately Contact government officials and the media.

1) Fax and contact the DEA. Urge Acting Administrator William Simpkins to stop using the RAVE Act to harass innocent business owners and stifle free speech. You can communicate online thru NORMLs dedicated website at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/> Support legislators working with us in this effort to educate the DEA.

2) Forward this alert to friends and family. Send it to e-mail lists and post it in chat rooms. Have them also hit up the DEA as well as ...

3) Members of Congress. And ...

4) Send an op-ed to your local and national media. You can use NORMLs online tool for this at:

<http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/alert/>

Right now, NORML is spearheading the response to this injustice by working with groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and Drug Policy Alliance on a potential lawsuit to enjoin the RAVE Act as unconstitutional. Other allies such as SSDP, DRCNet, and MPP have all voiced their outrage over this incident and NORML will continue to work with their networks of supporters to try and repeal the RAVE Act.

NORML fears that this vague law will soon be used to target much larger political rallies like the Seattle Hempfest, the Boston Freedom Rally, and even the annual national NORML conference. It's your responsibility to make sure this type of persecution does not continue!

But, NORML needs your help, to make sure that these actions do not go unchecked. They need donations to legally challenge and publicize such an outrageous violation of our previous First

Amendment. Frankly put, with a law on the books like the newly passed RAVE Act and the DEA interpreting it to mean shutting down First Amendment-protected events like rallies, voter drives, conferences, seminars, concerts and fundraisers - NORML (and all drug law reform groups) are in jeopardy.

Help NORML prevent future attempts to squash free speech and trample the First Amendment. Use the URL below to donate to NORML's legal defense efforts. The overzealous enforcement of unjust laws cannot be tolerated!

You can donate to **NORML** or the Foundation online at: <http://www.norml.org/> or contact R. Keith Stroup, Executive Director and Founder of NORML, at: 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832 \* Phone: (202) 483-5500 \* Fax: (202) 483-0057 \* Email NORML at: [norml@norml.org](mailto:norml@norml.org)

For more online information about the "RAVE Act," please visit:

<http://actioncenter.drugpolicy.org/action/>

Please play the role of a modern Paul Revere and let a like-minded friend or family member know about this unbelievable First Amendment violation. Forward this alert to everyone you know today!

Oppose this assault on the cannabis community! We Americans won't take this lying down. The movement for reform has been fighting back, and the campaign for just and sensible cannabis laws has been steamrolling ahead and winning many victories.

America has a rich heritage of courageous freedom fighters who have blazed the trail for reform of unjust policies. Together we have abolished slavery, won equal rights for women, defeated alcohol prohibition and won the right for all Americans to vote. Now we have the opportunity to defend our right to enjoy the myriad of positive uses that the Cannabis plant has offered the world for over 5,000 years.

We know the truth behind the war against us. We see through the veil of lies and disinformation, the racism and cultural war that the right wing is waging against our peaceful culture. And we are fighting back, legally and responsibly, to make this country more free for those who threaten no one. In a democracy, the inherent rights of the people must be continually reclaimed and articulated in order to be assured.

This is what America is about, and it's time we take our message of equal treatment for responsible adults to the halls of justice. But we can't do it all without your involvement.

#### **Even Author of RAVE Act Pushes DEA to Create Guidelines**

In the wake of a recent incident in Billings, Montana where the DEA used the threat of the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act to shut down a medical marijuana fundraiser, Senator Biden – the author of the law – strongly criticized the incident and pushed the DEA to enforce the law in a fair and proper manner.

Senator Biden was instrumental in getting the DEA to adopt internal guidelines to reduce the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act's potential for abuse. While these guidelines do not go far

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It is very important for voters across the country to send him a thank-you letter. He needs to know you are concerned about this issue, appreciate his work to ensure his law is not enforced unfairly, and that you want him to do more. (Members of Congress are more influenced by letters than e-mails – because they feel that people that take the extra time to write a letter must really care – so we encourage you to mail Senator Biden a letter. If you do not have the time, however, you can e-mail him at [senator@biden.senate.gov](mailto:senator@biden.senate.gov). The letter should be addressed to:

Honorable Joseph Biden  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2203

\*\*\* Sample Letter \*\*\*

Dear Senator Biden,

I'm writing to thank you for pressuring the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure that incidents like what happen in Billings, Montana never happen again. Your pressure was crucial in getting the DEA to adopt guidelines to help prevent the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act from being misused to stifle free speech. I thank you for that. I also want to thank you for asking President Bush's nominee for DEA Administrator, Karen Tandy, critical questions about the DEA's enforcement of the law.

Like many Americans, I am very concerned that the Ashcroft Justice Department will use this law to shut down events he does not like and that the DEA will enforce it in a manner that punishes innocent business owners for the crimes of their customers. I am particularly worried about what the Bush Administration and future administrations will do with the law. I'm heartened that you too are concerned that the law might be enforced in a manner it was never intended and that free speech and innocent business owners may suffer as a result.

Thank you for taking steps to reduce the likelihood of such things happening in the future. I encourage you to take more steps to protect your law from misuse by the executive branch, including amending the law to add a 'safe harbor' provision whereby property owners that take steps to stop drug offenses on their property are protected from prosecution.

Again, thank you for pressuring the DEA to enforce the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act fairly.

\*\*\* end of sample letter \*\*\*

**Support your local HempFest**, a fine American tradition. Defy the threats and lies and attend every hempfest when you're not making one happen yourself. It's your right. It's

your duty! Act today - write, protest (register, vote!) over the RAVE Act and all these wasteful violations of constitutional rights that have come about due to cannabis prohibition. The country you save just may be your own.

## The Seattle HempFest

Since 1991 Seattle Hempfest has been serving our community and speaking out against reefer madness. They declare they will not rest until Americans can choose for themselves that which they will take into the sovereignty of their own bodies.

Seattle Hempfest started out as a humble little gathering of stoners and has grown into one of the most sophisticated marijuana/hemp policy reform events in America. Originally billed in 1991 as the "Washington Hemp Expo", the first Hempfest started in Volunteer Park where it would stay for three years. With a meager attendance of only 500 people, and a staff that consisted of 20 members of the Seattle Peace Heathens Community Action Group, they had no way to know that we were sowing the seeds that would make Pacific Northwest history.

The fallout from Jack Herer's groundbreaking publication "The Emperor Wears No Clothes" was just beginning to permeate the atmospheric climate of American society. The time was right for a new wave of marijuana activists to emerge on the political scene.

In 1992, they were amazed that 2,000 hempsters showed up for the second annual event. Seattle's "grunge" scene was starting to zenith and there was no shortage of bands chomping at the bit to support the cause. Jack Herer himself as our keynote speaker that special year.

Hempfest 1993 brought 5,000 supporters. Hempfest was growing at the same rate as the increasing public awareness of the half truths, lies and misinformation that had been generated by our government for over 60 years, and it became apparent that they would have to find a larger site...Volunteer Park had been maxed out.

By 1994 a strong tribe of dedicated volunteers had been established, and it became clear that a very special and unique spirit of community had developed around this group, a spirit that has only grown stronger with the passage of time. The move had been made to beautiful Gasworks Park, a former petroleum production site, huge towers and stacks still standing...ironic for an event promoting alternative sources of energy. That year brought out 15,000 people and blew the lid off of Seattle while creating a snarled traffic cluster for miles around. This was the last year that Hempfest was able to exist without charging fees for vending and forming a formal, city approved security force.

As the event was growing exponentially in size and notoriety, the cost of production and promotion grew as well. The need for sound equipment, staging, scaffolding, radios, and advertising required the introduction of musical benefits and merchandising to offset the monetary demands of their growing phenomenon. Famed Seattle clubs such as the Crocodile Cafe, Rckndy, The Off Ramp, and The OK Hotel all opened their doors to help raise green energy for the cause. To date, literally hundreds of Northwest bands have contributed by playing gigs for free, and without any promise of playing the "big kahuna".

The sheer girth and magnitude of Hempfest '94 brought the scrutiny of city officials and alarmed residents (traffic was clogged for miles) who saw a sleeping giant just starting to wake from a haze of political apathy and indifference. Up to that point not a single uniformed officer had ever stepped foot into Hempfest. That would change. A growing concern from police, parks department, and neighborhood groups would be reflected in a series of negotiations that would span 5 months, and involve 6 subcommittee meetings to determine their ability to meet the new demands of the "Special Events Permit" that was now required of them.

These negotiations culminated with assistance from the ACLU, and required a \$1,000,000 insurance policy, the addition of paid licensed bonded and insured security, strict contingency plans (emergency evacuation contingency), an on site ambulance and paid EMT's. Meetings with concerned community groups soon followed, establishing Hempfest as a legitimate political rally, not a "pot party" in the park, as had previously been claimed by their critics.

None of them were ready for the success of Seattle Hempfest '95. This time police were very present and for the first time ever citations were issued for public smoking and there were three marijuana-related arrests. The event was now located at Myrtle Edwards Park, downtown on Seattle's beautiful waterfront. Police reports said 25,000 people attended, but local news media proclaimed that the '95 event drew an estimated 50,000 people. They were greeted by speakers like Jack Herer, Chris Conrad, Dennis Peron, Bill Conde, and Elvy Musika. The legend had been born...Hempfest gained international acclaim and proved that hemp/marijuana reform supporters could gather by the tens of thousands peacefully to educate on the historical, industrial, medicinal, and spiritual uses of the cannabis plant.

Elated from a successful event, but exhausted from the high stress diet of marijuana activism, organizers took 1996 off to produce the first-ever, statewide Hemp Voters Guide.

Blessed with searing hot weather for years, 1997 produced a staggering contrast by delivering a literal torrential downpour of epic proportion, closing down the mainstage several times, but creating an atmosphere of solidarity reminiscent of the tribal consciousness and determination of Woodstock. The defiant and courageous spirit of 1997's event was symbolized by the presence of the late medical marijuana movement hero, Ralph Seeley.

Despite the agonizing pain of terminal bone cancer combined with his bittersweet and short lived judicial victory against Washington state's medical marijuana laws, Ralph made a historic, brave and articulate address to the rain drenched hempsters looking on. Only 25,000 showed up for Hempfest '97.

They started earlier in '98 and later expanded the inner core group to around 30 people. The size and complexity, as well as the intense responsibility associated with producing such an influential and controversial event comes with a price. And the Drug War rage on.

In 1998 they realized to fight for medical, industrial or personal use for adults means to fight the greater War On Drugs, as it is this policy that is preventing all aspects of the cannabis plant

from being utilized in this nation.

Hempfest 1999 was the last of the century, and 90,000 strong supporters came out to show the world that the Pacific Northwest is a bastion of political awareness and activism. The same year WTO paralyzed Seattle with property damage and violence, Hempfest kept it's reputation as a civil, orderly demonstration against the Drug War as thousands poured into the long park for music, speakers and freedom.

The year 2000 brought over 100,000 enthusiastic supporters to rally for the cause, listen to speakers and tunes and catch some Seattle sunshine. The year also saw the introduction of their terrific compilation CD Hemplennium. Hemplennium features cuts from various Northwest musicians including Merl Saunders with Jerry Garcia, John Trudell, Herbivores, High Times Cannabis Cup Band, Phat Sidy Smokehouse.

2001 saw the introduction of another day to the Hempfest formula. The first ever two-day Hempfest went off with nary a hitch, breaking records with a 150,000 person attendance over two days. The theme was No Prison for Pot, and an amazing array of bands and speakers all answered the call for an end to the drug war and its injustices. The highlight of the event was Woody Harrelson taking the stage at 4:20 to address the screaming crowd. We also had several digital cameras and a hydraulic boom onsite to record the event for our upcoming documentary.

In 2002 we threw out all the stops and declared pot pride! Seattle City council member Nick Licata received a Green Ribbon Award for excellence in cannabis activism. That year also saw city initiative I-75 qualify for the 2003 ballot. I-75 will make simple possession by adults of 40 grams or less of marijuana lowest police enforcement priority.

"The morally unlawful and intolerable human rights abuses and violations that have resulted from this failed 'war' are greater than the destruction caused by all drug use in America." states SHF Director Vivian McPeak on their website:

**[www.seattlehempfest.com](http://www.seattlehempfest.com)**

"As the resistance to the persecution of Cannabis supporters continues to grow globally we are prepared to expand our call for justice and increase our collective voice calling for change. After decades of lies, persecution, and injustice, Americans are calling for sweeping reforms in our nation's pot laws. And we are vocal."

"We are demanding that patients get their medical marijuana, that American farmers be allowed to produce the world's friendliest plant, and that humans not suffer the indignity and immeasurable injustices that we have endured for our love of one of our Earth's finest creations...the Cannabis plant. Please join us for another peaceful, educational and informative year of inspiration as we prepare the world for a change in Cannabis policy everywhere!"

The Seattle Hempfest turns twelve this year. In its short history, Hempfest has become the planet's largest marijuana policy reform rally, drawing a record-breaking crowd in 2002 of over 175,000!

Fun, focus, purpose and pleasure fuel the fire of this monster-sized rally for justice. An agenda for legal reform is on the front burner while speakers, bands, artists, **<continued on next page>**

# THE CLARION

"CALLING FOR AN END TO CANNABIS PROHIBITION"

comedians and DJ's set the backdrop. Enjoy specialty craft and food vendors, and relax in one of Seattle's most beautiful waterfront parks. In an environment of personal responsibility, the Seattle Hempfest advocates defending the rights of the sick and dying, using limited law enforcement resources wisely and allowing cultivation of domestically grown hemp.

Furthermore, they act with pride in demanding that adults who use marijuana, without harm to themselves or others, should no longer have to tolerate living as second-class citizens in a free country. The individuals who make Seattle Hempfest happen come from every walk of life including executives, laborers, service industry professionals, teachers and elected officials. Join them in Seattle this August 16 and 17, and help push forward the movement for civil liberties, fiscal responsibility and sustainable resources.

## HIGH HOPEs <continued from front page>

**Senate Bill 531, Title:** Relating to industrial hemp; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 475.005 and 561.144. It was sponsored by Senator Lee Beyer (State Representative, 42nd District, Springfield) *at the request of Mapleton High School students.* Summary: "Permits growing of industrial hemp. Authorizes State Department of Agriculture to administer licensing and inspection program. Authorizes civil penalty not exceeding \$2,500."

Mapleton HS is located in the town of Mapleton, pop appx. 2,400 in the county of Lane. It is west of the Eugene, Oregon metro area located about 15 miles east of the coastal town of Florence. Our most recent contact info for Mapleton High School is: 541.268-4322, P.O. Box 98, Portland, OR, 97453.

SB531 died in committee out of neglect, lost among other measures pending that year. It made it as far as it did on it's own steam as it was not shepherded along by the student body or any other advocates. When contacted in '01, even the teacher/advisor involved, Mr. Pat Wondra, was surprised that it went as far as it did. He led project for his senior class in 2000 and it became Lee Beyers hemp bill in '01.

According to Mr. Wondra the class graduated and did not back their initiative personally or recruit underclassmen to follow through, reason unknown. We were not able to track any of the students down so we don't know why they did it originally or what they hoped to gain, if anything. Perhaps they didn't truly understand the potential, the need. Maybe they just saw the logic of hemp and how it could help Oregon, but did not see prohibition's relation and how they could make a difference.

Just think. If a group of kids made it a long-term, continuous project to not only launch such an initiative but recruit underclassmen to follow through. A group with the time, energy and integrity to rise above mere petty politics and just get the job done. An action committee of young people constantly registering voters, learning

the legislative process, effecting change and, best of all, training and empowering leaders of tomorrow.

It could happen. It should happen. It, or something like it, had better happen, and soon, or our future may not be very prosperous. These organizations are just a few of the resources available to the movement around the nation. Contact them and join -or- start your youth-oriented political action today!

**Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)** is a non-violent youth oriented organization that neither encourages nor condemns drug use. Rather, they seek to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies. Contact: 1623 Connecticut Ave., NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC, 20009 \* Phone: 202-293-4414 \* Fax: 202-293-8344 \* email: [ssdp@ssdp.org](mailto:ssdp@ssdp.org) \* or visit: <http://www.ssdp.org/>

**Teachers Against Prohibition (TAP)** is current and former members of the education community who support drug regulation rather than prohibition. Contact: Adam Jones at: [msubnorml@yahoo.com](mailto:msubnorml@yahoo.com) -or- Richard Lake, Escanaba, MI \* (906) 789-1093 \* [info@teachersagainstprohibition.org](mailto:info@teachersagainstprohibition.org) \* or visit: [www.TeachersAgainstProhibition.org](http://www.TeachersAgainstProhibition.org)

**Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)** is made up of current and former members of law enforcement who support drug regulation rather than prohibition. Contact: Jack A. Cole, Executive Director at: [jackacole@leap.cc](mailto:jackacole@leap.cc) \* mail to: LEAP, Educational Fund, 27 Austin Road, Medford, MA 02155 \* or visit: <http://www.leap.cc/>

**Media Awareness Project (MAPinc).** DrugSense and its largest project MAP combine to provide accurate information relevant to drug policy in order to heighten awareness of the extreme damage being caused to our nation and the world by our current flawed and failed "War on Drugs." Contact: Mark Greer, DrugSense \* 14252 Culver Drive #328, Irvine, CA, 92604-0326 \* (800) 266-5759 \* email: [greer@drugsense.org](mailto:greer@drugsense.org) \* or visit: <http://www.mapinc.org/>

**Drug Policy Alliance (DPA)** is the nation's leading organization working to end the war on drugs and promote new drug policies based on science, compassion, health and human rights. Contact: D.P.A., 925 15th Street NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20005 \* phone: (202) 216-0035 \* fax: (202) 216-0803 \* or visit: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/>

**Marijuana Policy Project (MPP)** works to minimize the harm associated with marijuana -- both the consumption of marijuana, and the laws that are intended to prohibit such use. To this end, MPP focuses on removing criminal penalties for marijuana use, with a particular emphasis on making marijuana medically available to seriously ill people who have the approval of their doctors. Contact: MPP Foundation, P.O. Box 77492, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC 20013 \* Fax: 202-232-0442 \* or visit: <http://www.mpp.org/>