

# The **NORML** Legislative Bulletin

A guide to current marijuana policy developments from NORML

## Marijuana Law Reformers Convene In Washington, DC For NORML 2000 Conference

Over 200 marijuana law reformers convened on Feb. 3-5 in Washington, DC at the Washington Plaza Hotel for the NORML 2000 Conference, where attendees were treated to spirited speeches, informative panel discussions and great social events.

NORML Board Chair Dan Viets, Esq., kicked-off the conference with an overview of recent marijuana-related news. Viets also discussed the Congressional amendment to the Higher Education Act which takes effect July 1, 2000, that will deny federal funds to students convicted of drug crimes. He called the legislation "counterproductive" and firmly stated, "We will not rest until this is repealed."

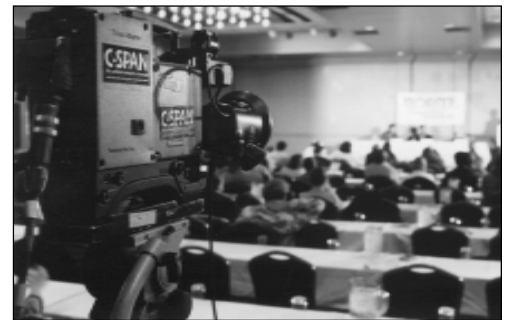
The absurdity of arresting responsible marijuana smokers was the focus of the opening comments by NORML Executive Director and founder Keith Stroup. Stroup advanced the premise that in order for the marijuana legalization movement to succeed, we must

bridge the gap between public opinion, which is generally favorable to our agenda, and public policy. "Arresting and jailing marijuana smokers serves no legitimate purpose and destroys the lives and careers of hundreds of thousands of genuinely good citizens each year," Stroup said.

### Keynote Speech

American Civil Liberties Union President and New York Law School professor Nadine Strossen, Esq., delivered the conference's keynote speech. Strossen theorized that the nation's founding fathers, most of whom were hemp farmers, would be shocked to hear about the current prohibition of marijuana. She further questioned the government's claim that marijuana prohibition is part of their support for family values, stating the government should "get off our backs." "I don't think the traditional family includes big brother," she said.

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Dan Viets, Nadine Strossen and Keith Stroup. Above: C-Span broadcasts the conference live on Friday.

## Legalization Initiative On Alaska Ballot Other States To Vote On Decriminalization and Medical Use Initiatives

### RECREATIONAL USE INITIATIVES ALASKA

An initiative sponsored by Al Anders of the 99 Hemp Committee, which would legalize marijuana and industrial hemp in Alaska, will appear on the November 2000 ballot.

Petitioners handed in 40,234 signatures, almost double the 22,716 needed to place the initiative on the ballot. The language of the petition was adapted from the seminal work on hemp, Jack Herer's *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*. Contact the 99 Hemp Committee at (907) 248-2606.

### ARIZONA

The group that successfully ran a medical use and drug sentencing reform initiative that passed in 1996 and again in 1998 have another reform initiative being circulated for signatures this year. Initiative 9-1-2000 would decriminalize minor marijuana offenses, reform mandatory sentencing and asset forfeiture provisions, and establish a legal supply of marijuana for medical patients. 100,000 valid signatures needed by July. Contact Sam Vegenas

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# STATE LEGISLATION

## Medical Use and Industrial Hemp Bills Introduced For 2000

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILLS

#### HAWAII

Separate medical marijuana bills have passed both the House and Senate and are awaiting consideration by the opposite chamber.

House Bill 1157 and Senate Bill 862 would both allow for the acquisition, possession, cultivation, distribution, transportation and the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

The legislation would allow for the medical use of marijuana with a doctor's recommendation, for patients who suffer from such medical conditions as cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, a chronic or debilitating disease, wasting syndrome, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, severe muscle spasms including multiple sclerosis, or any other medical condition approved by the department of health.

#### IOWA

Legislation introduced in the State Senate of Iowa (Senate File 2076) that would legalize the medical use of marijuana for certain medical conditions is now before the Senate Human Resources Committee.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Elaine Szymoniak (D-Des Moines), would protect patients who are diagnosed by a physician with having glaucoma, nausea related to chemotherapy, multiple sclerosis, hyperparathyroidism and AIDS. The patients would obtain their marijuana from a licensed physician, surgeon, or pharmacist who are part of the Therapeutic Research Program. The research program would receive their marijuana from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. If an agreement can not be made with NIDA, the program's board would look to the courts to disperse confiscated marijuana.

The Therapeutic Research Program may add other illnesses that could be effectively treated by marijuana.

#### MARYLAND

A medical use bill was introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates (House Bill 308 entitled "Marijuana—Exceptions for Compassionate Use,"), but was killed in March by the House Judiciary Committee. Sponsored by Del. Donald Murphy (R-Baltimore), the proposal would have exempted from state law, seriously ill patients who possessed marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

The bill would have allowed for the use of marijuana for cancer, glaucoma, HIV (AIDS), chronic or debilitating disease, wasting syndromes, severe pain, nausea, seizures and persistent muscle spasms. Other uses could have been added if approved by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

NORML Executive Director Keith Stroup testified in favor of the proposal before the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 24.

#### RHODE ISLAND

Medical use bills were introduced in both chambers of the Rhode Island General Assembly and are awaiting committee approvals.

Both House Bill 7398, sponsored by Edith Ajello (D-Providence), Nancy Benoit (D-Woonsocket), Steven Costantino (D-Providence), Gordon Fox (D-Providence) and Nancy Hetherington (D-Cranston) and Senate Bill 2390, sponsored by Thomas Izzo (D-Cranston), Rhoda Perry (D-Providence) and Elizabeth Roberts (D-Cranston), would legalize the medical use of marijuana with a doctor's approval for patients who are diagnosed with cancer, HIV, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and seizure disorders, intractable pain and glaucoma. Patients would be allowed to possess a 60-day marijuana supply.

The Senate held a hearing for the bill in the Judiciary Committee on March 30. The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare held a hearing on March 14.

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## Medical Use and Industrial Hemp Bills Introduced For 2000

*continued from page 2*

### INDUSTRIAL HEMP BILLS ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Senate approved legislation that would authorize the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University to plant and study industrial hemp.

Senate Bill 1397 passed by a vote of 49-9. The bill, now in the Illinois House of Representatives (House Bill 3559), co-sponsored by Rep. Judy Erwin (D-Chicago), Rep. I. Ronald Lawfer (R-Stockton), Michael Smith (D-Canton) and Charles Hartke (D-Teutopolis), is currently in the House Rules Committee.

The bill requires the two universities to "[O]btain all federal and state permits needed to legally grow industrial hemp for fiber or seed production before importing any non-sterilized industrial hemp seeds capable of germination into the state." The universities must report their findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by Jan. 1, 2002.

### KENTUCKY

A bill has been introduced in the Kentucky House of Representatives which would legalize industrial hemp cultivation and establish an ongoing study of the crop's potential.

House Bill 855, sponsored by Rep. Joe Barrows (D-District 56) and Rep. Roger Thomas (D-District 21), is now in the House Agriculture and Business Committee. The bill would require the Kentucky Agricultural Department to license hemp farmers and inspect industrial hemp crops to ensure the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level is less than one percent.

Because of a 65 percent decline in tobacco acreage over the last two years, supporters of the bill suggest that farmers who grow industrial hemp could benefit tremendously from the crop. They also point to a 1998 University of Kentucky study that determined a legal hemp industry could reap hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars.

### MARYLAND

A bill has been introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates that would establish a four-year pilot program to study the growth and market potential of industrial hemp.

House Bill 1250, sponsored by Del. Ronald Guns (D-District 36) and Del. Dan Morhaim (D-District 11), would require the state's secretary of agriculture to administer the pilot program in consultation with state and federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, which would have to approve any cultivation plots as it has done in Hawaii. Only state property would be used to cultivate industrial hemp during the duration of the study. The bill has received a favorable report in the Environmental Matters Committee.

### NEBRASKA

The Nebraska unicameral legislature is considering a bill that would allow farmers to grow, harvest, plant, possess, process, sell and buy industrial hemp with less than .003 percent THC.

Legislative Bill 1079, sponsored by Sen. Ed Schrock (District 38) and Merton Dierks (District 40) would require farmers to obtain a license from the Department of Agriculture in order to cultivate hemp.

The bill was approved by the Agriculture Committee 6-1 and is awaiting a final vote in the legislature.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

A New Hampshire hemp bill (HB 239) called for the development of a licensed and regulated hemp industry. The bill, introduced by Rep. Amy Robb-Theroux (D), was defeated when House members sent it back to the Environment and Agriculture Committee to be studied further.

Opposition from both Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and the state attorney general was enough to sway House members to all but kill the legislation. Law enforcement in the state continues to claim that planting industrial hemp would make it more difficult to enforce marijuana laws.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

A hemp bill was defeated in the South Dakota House of Representatives that would have allowed for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

The South Dakota bill (HB 1267), sponsored by Rep. Robert Weber (R-Srandburg), died in the House Agriculture Committee after extensive testimony was heard from both sides. Testimony offered by law enforcement, with encouragement from Governor William Janklow, was instrumental in the defeat of the bill.

Following the defeat of HB 1267, Rep. Weber introduced House Concurrent Resolution 1015 urging the U.S. government to remove its barriers regarding the production of industrial hemp.

For the latest information on state legislation, please visit <http://www.norml.org/laws/stateleg2000.shtml>

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Support marijuana reform by giving to the NORML Foundation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent the law allows. You can donate appreciated securities to the Foundation account at Salomon Smith Barney. Call Wesley Tate at (800) 621-2251 for information. You can also name NORML or (for an estate tax deduction) the NORML Foundation in your will. We wish all our supporters a long and happy life. But wouldn't it be nice to enter the Pearly Gates knowing your bequest continued to help those you left behind?

## Marijuana Law Reformers Convene For NORML 2000 Conference

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### Media and the Drug War

The first panel discussion of the day, titled "The Challenge of Reporting Objectively on the Drug War," was led by Michael Shellenberger, President of Communication Works in San Francisco. *High Times* Senior Editor Steve Bloom discussed who should be considered a reliable source for a story, citing the controversy surrounding a recent book by a former co-worker of Vice President Al Gore who claims to have smoked marijuana regularly with him. The author's credibility was later called into question and the book never saw the light of day. NORML Foundation board member and editor of *Marijuananeews.com*, Richard Cowan, talked about the increased role of the Internet in reporting the news. Author and freelance journalist Michael Gray suggested that one-sided journalism is often the result of a reporter relying on prohibitionists for the majority of the information they use. *USA Today* editor and writer Dennis Cauchon offered advice on how marijuana advocates can effectively present their side to the media. "Newspapers are always looking for something fresh," he said.



David Boaz

### Luncheon Speaker

David Boaz, Executive Vice President of the Cato Institute and NORML board member, was the featured speaker at the first day's luncheon. Boaz discussed the consequences of the war on drugs and the constitutionality of marijuana prohibition. "This is a decision that

should be made by the individual and not the government," he declared.

### The Parents' Perspective

The next panel, entitled "Marijuana Prohibition: The Parents' Perspective," featured four speakers, all with teenage children. Panel chair Marsha Rosenbaum, Ph.D., Director, The Lindesmith Center (West), led the discussion of how to talk to children about mari-



Marsha Rosenbaum and Loren Siegel

juana. She said that the days of telling children that they had tried marijuana and it's something they regret are over. "Either your teen is an idiot, or they are going to look at you like you are one," she said. Gara Lamarche of the Open Society Institute talked about his personal experience with marijuana as a student and how he learned from his parents how to be reasonable with his children. Loren Siegel, Director of Education at the ACLU, told the audience of the problems teens run into because of marijuana prohibition. She said that teens risk arrest because they are afraid to discreetly smoke at home and frequently smoke in public places. Chuck Blitz, a Santa Barbara, CA businessman, talked about meshing family values with the truth when talking to teens about marijuana.

### Race and Marijuana Prohibition

"Race and Marijuana Prohibition" was the next panel, chaired by Deborah Small, Esq., Director of Public Policy and Outreach at the

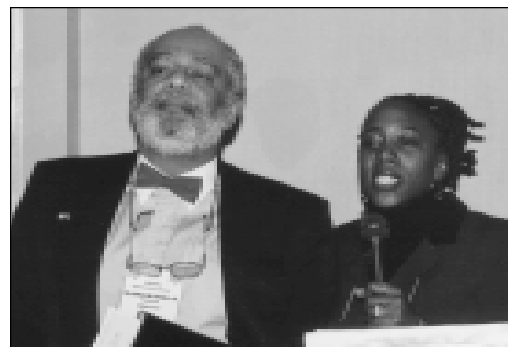
## NORML 2000 AWARDS

At the opening reception, co-hosted by *High Times*, the following NORML awards were presented:

**NORML Lifetime Achievement Award** — Richard Cowan, editor of *marijuananeews.com*, NORML Foundation board member, former NORML director.

**Lester Grinspoon Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Marijuana Law Reform** — Co-authors of *Marijuana Myths, Marijuana Facts* Lynn Zimmer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology at Queen's College; and John P. Morgan, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology at the City University of New York Medical School, NORML board member.

**1998 NORML Lifetime Achievement Award** — Arnold Trebach, Ph.D., professor emeritus at American University; president of the Trebach Institute; founder, former president and board member of the Drug Policy Foundation. *Dr. Trebach was unable to accept his award at the 1998 conference due to illness.*



Cliff Thornton and Deborah Small

Lindesmith Center. She spoke about the alarming rate at which African Americans are being incarcerated for drugs. Clifford Thornton, Jr., Director of Efficacy and NORML board member, said that the problem is classism and not racism. He suggested that, "Drug legalization is the first step to a peaceful society." Marc



# CONFERENCE



Barbara Ehrenreich

Mauer of The Sentencing Project talked about the crack cocaine epidemic and its effect on the poor, while Paul Chang, Founding Director of the Legalize Ganja Campaign in Jamaica and NORML Jamaica director, discussed issues that have complicated the reform movement in his country.

## Anti-Marijuana Fungus

The final panel of the day turned to the issue of "Environmental Hazards Presented by *Fusarium oxysporum*, the Anti-Marijuana Fungus." John McPartland, D.O., M.S., Clinical Assistant Professor and Adjunct Curator of Pringle Herbarium, University of Vermont, discussed how everything from industrial hemp to hops will be affected by this anti-marijuana fungus. "When we start talking about mutation, anything can happen." Montana NORML president John Masterson discussed his efforts to obtain information from Montana State University at Bozeman, where the research on the fungus has been centered. NORML Foundation Litigation Director Tom Dean, Esq., said NORML has filed a Freedom of Information request with the DEA and several other federal agencies seeking information about the anti-marijuana fungus.

## Drug Testing

The issue of drug testing headlined day two of the conference, which began with a presentation entitled "Drug Testing: A Mechanism for Social Control," by Barbara Ehrenreich, author, historian and NORML board member. Ehrenreich discussed the absurdity of drug testing in the workplace. "With 80 percent of big companies testing, we have obviously gone beyond the safety-sensitive occupations," she said. "Do you feel reassured that the person giving you change is drug-free?"

## False Promise

"Drug Testing: Is It A False Promise?" was the first panel discussion of the day and was

discussed a study he has published that concludes drug testing in the workplace is frequently ineffective. "For some people drug use harms productivity, and for some it enhances productivity," he said.

## Drug Testing Technology

Dr. Morgan then chaired the next panel called "Drug Testing Technology: What Works and What Doesn't." Anne Watters Pearson of Pearson Consultants in Oklahoma suggested that "false positive hysteria does not help anybody," and warned the attendees not to adulterate urine samples, saying, "They will find it and you are dead meat." Steven Karch, M.D., editor of the Forensic Drug Abuse Advisor, discussed the varying tests that employers and law enforcement use in the field. Loren Siegel, ACLU Director of Education, discussed the recently released ACLU publication "Drug Testing: A Bad Investment." She said the ACLU is using the publication to educate human resources directors about the ineffectiveness of drug testing.

## Constitutional Issues

The day's final drug testing panel addressed the legal and constitutional issues raised by drug testing. NORML Foundation Executive Director Allen St. Pierre introduced the panel by stating, "The Fourth Amendment only protects citizens from the government, not private business." NORML Legal Committee member William E. Rittenberg, Esq., of New Orleans, summarized recent

Supreme Court decisions pertaining to drug testing. Kevin Zeese, Esq., director of Common Sense for Drug Policy, talked about societal damages caused by the drug war and called drug testing "the worst thing about the drug war." Graham Boyd, Esq., of the ACLU Drug Reform Project, talked about where he believes the laws on drug testing are headed. "Drug testing will be fairly uncommon and I think it's on its way out," Boyd said. "It is a sham product that does not increase productivity."



Edward Shepard, John P. Morgan, and Dale Gieringer

chaired by Dale Gieringer, Ph.D., state coordinator of California NORML and NORML board member. Gieringer questioned if drug testing was a "worthwhile technology" and said that the necessary scientific proof is lacking. John P. Morgan, M.D., City University of New York professor and NORML board member, talked about the history of drug testing, and discussed the infamous "Firestone Study," which never existed, but is frequently cited by advocates of drug testing as evidence that drug users cause accidents in the workplace. Edward Shepard, Ph.D., professor at LeMoyne College,

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### Roadblocks to Legal Hemp

The final panel of the day, called "Federal Roadblocks To Legal Hemp," was led by NORML board member and president of the Ohio Hempers, Don Wirtshafter, Esq. Wirtshafter briefed the audience on the history of industrial hemp and its future. "The drug czar stuck his big neck out there and it's up to us now to take this opportunity to chop it off." David Frankel, Esq., an environmental lawyer from San Francisco, further discussed the hemp seed embargo.

The final two panels of the day were broadcast live on C-SPAN.

### Grinspoon Speech

The final day of the conference began with a presentation by Lester Grinspoon, M.D., Harvard professor, chair of the NORML Foundation board, and author of the leading book on medical use, *Marihuana, the Forbidden Medicine*. In the presentation titled "The Pharmaceuticalization of the Marijuana Issue," Grinspoon told of the institutional difficulties faced in legalizing marijuana

that without full legalization "patients will not get the full potential of this medicine or they will abandon the legal system for the black market."

### Problems for Patients

Dr. Grinspoon also chaired the first panel of the day which tackled, "What the Lack of a Legal Supply Does to Patients' Lives." Valerie Corral of Wo/Man Alliance for Medical Marijuana of Santa Cruz, CA, discussed the inner workings of her medical marijuana patients' collective. Florida medical marijuana patient Greg Scott discussed the fear of arrest that comes with being a patient. Stormy Ray, chief



Richard Evans

Cooperative, talked about recent court decisions that lead him to believe the prohibitionist wall is crumbling. "We are fighting a guerrilla war against a corrupt government and like Vietnam, the U.S. cannot win this war," he said. "It is a matter of time." William Panzer, Esq., NORML Legal Committee member and counsel for the Marin County Buyers' Club, compared marijuana prohibition today to past social evils such as slavery and Japanese internment during World War II. "Americans are going to look back at this period and think it's ridiculous." John Sajo of Voter Power in Oregon, talked

about the success of the identification card system implemented for medical marijuana patients in Oregon. "The card is a beautiful thing," he said. "It is a source of power and a source of clarity." Dave Fratello of Americans for Medical Rights commented that medical marijuana law reform efforts must continue in the states and suggested the need for continued public education to help the issue along.

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Jack Herer and Arnold Trebach

petitioner of the successful 1998 Oregon medical marijuana initiative, talked about the success of the medical marijuana law in her state. Kathleen Tucker, Esq., medical user from Takoma Park, MD talked about her recent arrest and the extensive troubles it has caused for her family. She stated, "It's time for the people of my generation...to come forward and say 'let's stop this lie about marijuana.'" Christina Hines, M.D., a medical user from St. Louis, MO, talked about her role as a psychiatrist and how marijuana can help patients with bipolar disorders and attention deficit disorder.

### What We Have Learned

The last panel to discuss the medical use of marijuana, titled "What Have We Learned About Making Marijuana Available as a Medicine?" was chaired by Dale Gieringer. Gieringer said he was surprised that the federal government continues to prohibit the medical use of marijuana. Robert Raich, Esq., counsel for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers



Lester Grinspoon

for medicinal purposes. "How do you make access to this substance relatively hassle free...while at the same time continuing a prohibition for all other use?" Grinspoon questioned. "It is very unlikely that marijuana as we know it is ever going to be approved by the FDA process," Grinspoon said. He concluded



Ethan Nadelmann



# MEDICAL MARIJUANA

## Researchers Link Marijuana And The Suppression Of MS

**R**esearchers at the University College of London have found a link between marijuana and the suppression of multiple sclerosis. The research, led by David Baker, studied mice suffering from chronic allergic encephalomyelitis, an animal autoimmune model for multiple sclerosis, and said a synthetic form of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) ameliorated the mice's symptoms by reducing tremors and spasticity. The compounds injected into the mice stimulated cannabinoid receptors on the surface of nerve cells.

Testing on humans has not begun, but the results from this latest study are encouraging.

"This lends credence to the anecdotal reports that some people with multiple sclerosis have said that cannabis can help control these distressing symptoms," said Lorna Layward, one of the study's authors and head of research at the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"This study is reassuring to anyone who is a recreational user and also has multiple sclerosis," said multiple sclerosis specialist Denis J. Petro, M.D.

## Marijuana Law Reformers Convene For NORML 2000 Conference

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### Positive Non-Medical Uses

Dr. Grinspoon led the next panel in a discussion of marijuana's various non-medical uses. Panelists ranging from authors and professors to architects and computer technicians discussed how marijuana has improved their lives and enhanced their work. The panelists included: Rochester Institute of Technology professor Sam Abrams; Laura Boutwell, New York architect; Joanna Cohen, New York; Oakland, CA author Martin Martinez; Buffalo, NY writer and professor Theodore Pelton, Ph.D.; Berkeley, CA writer Floyd Salas; and Jay Stamps, Stanford University computer technician.

### Getting to Legalization

The final panel, chaired by NORML Board member Richard Evans, Esq., was titled, "Getting To Legalization From Here." Evans discussed the different models of legalization and said he personally does not care if marijuana is regulated or not; he just hopes law enforce-

ment stops arresting responsible marijuana smokers. NORML board member Nancy Lord Johnson, Esq., discussed the history of drug laws in America and the legal obstacles presented by international treaties. Bill Zimmerman, Esq., of Americans for Medical Rights, talked about how public perception of an issue dictates the laws. "Leaders cannot go too much farther than where the people want to go," he said. Robert Lunday, Director of the Campaign to Tax and Regulate Marijuana in Washington state, discussed the legalization initiative in his state. Hemp activist and author Jack Herer talked about the initiative that will be presented to voters this year in Alaska that seeks to legalize marijuana and industrial hemp. "With all of our energy, we can win this battle in Alaska," Herer said. European journalist Jerome Thorel addressed marijuana laws in Europe, saying the majority of the nations have in one way or another adopted "depenalization" laws.

### Closing Remarks

The day concluded with closing remarks by Arnold Trebach, Ph.D., founder of the Drug Policy Foundation and president of the Trebach Institute, and Ethan Nadelmann, Ph.D., Director of the Lindesmith Center. "We

## Study Indicates THC May Eradicate Brain Tumors

**S**cientists at Complutense University and Autonoma University in Madrid, Spain have discovered that compounds acting at cannabinoid receptors eradicate brain tumors (gliomas) in one third of rats treated, and prolong the survival of another third.

The experiments led by Manuel Guzman suggest that cannabinoids kill glioma cells by inducing a programmed cell death (apoptosis) by a second messenger protein called ceramide and an intracellular signaling cascade.

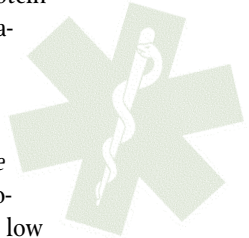
Guzman said the experiment, published in the March issue of *Nature Medicine*, tested tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) at very low doses and at a stage when the rats were a 1 - ready starting to die. He predicts that the THC would be more effective if given earlier.

Guzman said he hopes to start studies in humans in about a year. "We observed a very remarkable growth inhibiting effect," he said.

"It's very exciting if it makes a dent in the treatment of glioma," said Harvard Professor Lester Grinspoon, MD. "If there is truly some promise to it, that would really be quite phenomenal. However, we have to be very cautious before we jump to any conclusions on how it affects humans."

have a job of continually educating people and at the same time we have to get more political," Trebach said. Nadelmann discussed legalization and how we can get there. "I'm looking forward to the day when NORML does not refer to how to get marijuana legalized, but about what legalization is going to look like...Let's get there and then fight over the details," Nadelmann said.

The conference ended with a Saturday night NORML fundraiser at Madam's Organ, a popular Washington, DC nightclub.



## Drug Czar's Anti-Drug Media Campaign Comes Under Fire

*Additional advertising revenue offered to networks who promote anti-drug message in programming*

A program initiated by drug czar Barry McCaffrey to increase anti-drug messages on prime time television and in major print publications has been slightly modified following a firestorm of national criticism accusing the drug czar's office of attempting to buy-off the networks and influence the content of programming.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) advertising initiative that began in 1997 offers additional advertising dollars to television networks for anti-drug content embedded in programming, in lieu of airing ONDCP public service announcements. The government received \$2 billion worth of anti-drug advertising for \$1 billion, by requiring the media to provide \$1 of free anti-drug messages for every \$1 spent. If the networks include anti-drug messages or show drug use in a negative light in programming, the drug czar's office gives "credits" to the network. The credits

would allow the networks to sell to other companies the advertising time previously allotted to the drug czar's office.

At a House appropriations subcommittee last October, McCaffrey explained the credit system: "An on-strategy story line that is the main plot of a half-hour show can be valued at three 30-second ads...If there is an end tag with an 800 number or more information at the end of a half-hour show, it is valued at an additional 15-second ad. A main story-line in an hour-long prime-time show is valued at five 30-second ads, while such a story-line in a one-hour daytime show is valued at four 30-second ads."

The ONDCP would review the programming, and in some instances, would receive scripts for credit approval, before the show was aired. White House press secretary Joe Lockhart stated, "They've (ONDCP) revised their policy to no longer look at scripts or do changes in programming for credit before a

program is finished." ONDCP spokesman Bob Weiner said their office will continue to do consulting work for producers who request their assistance.

Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA), chairman of the House Commerce Committee's telecommunications panel, is planning hearings this spring on the policy and its guidelines. He said about the program, "We're not going to allow the federal government to become a censor."

"This is further evidence of the erosion of Constitutional rights resulting from the 'war on drugs,'" said Keith Stroup, NORML Executive Director. "First, the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure was dramatically reduced; now the First Amendment protection of free speech is being undermined."

NORML recently filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the ONDCP to learn more about this effort to censor programming, and filed a formal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission, asking that they examine the likelihood that the ONDCP has violated the "anti-payola" provisions of the Federal Communications Act.

Check NORML's webpage for the F.C.C. complaint and related information

## Legalization Initiative On Alaska Ballot

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of The People Have Spoken at 602-222-6639.

### MICHIGAN

The Personal Responsibility Amendment 2000 in Michigan would legalize marijuana for recreational and medical use. The amendment to the state constitution would allow for the possession of three marijuana plants and three ounces by adults at least 21 years of age. Petitioners need to collect 302,711 signatures by July 10 for the initiative to appear on the 2000 ballot. Contact PRA 2000 at (517) 799-4641.

### OREGON

The Oregon Cannabis Tax Act would regulate the sale of marijuana to adults in liquor stores. Ninety percent of taxes generated from marijuana sales would go to the state general fund; eight percent would be used for drug treatment

programs; one percent would be used for a drug education program for school children; and one percent would finance a committee to promote industrial hemp.

The sponsors need 26,000 more signatures by July, 7, 2000. Contact CRRH at (503) 235-0120.

## MEDICAL USE INITIATIVES COLORADO

Coloradans will vote on an initiative to legalize marijuana for medical use in the November 2000 election. Amendment 19 appeared on the November 1998 ballot, but then-Secretary of State Vikki Buckley said the initiative fell 2,338 signatures short of the 54,242 needed to put it to a vote.

In September 1999, the new secretary of state said a re-count of the signatures showed there had been enough to qualify the initiative for the 1998 ballot and a district court judge ordered the initiative to appear on the 2000 ballot.

Exit polls in 1998 showed 60 percent support for the initiative which would allow seri-

ously ill patients who have a doctor's recommendation to possess up to two ounces of marijuana or grow three plants for medical use. Contact Coloradans for Medical Rights at (303) 832-2444.

### NEVADA

Nevada voters return to the polls in November to reaffirm their support for medical marijuana.

Nevadans gave initial approval to the medical initiative (Question 9) in 1998, but because this initiative is being offered as an amendment to the state constitution, it must be approved by the voters in two consecutive elections. Contact Dan Hart of Nevadans for Medical Rights at (702) 259-0300.

Similar medical marijuana initiatives are being circulated in Arkansas and Florida. Petitioners in those states are continuing to gather signatures.

For more information, please visit <http://norml.org/laws/stateinit2000.shtml>