

canadian made **Cannabis Health** JOURNAL

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TRAPPED IN THE GREY ZONE

The politics of pot
a faux-pas of flaws,
caught in the middle
with a compassionate cause

Are people criminals
for smoking pot,
are some people ok
why are others not?

The bureaucracy of delegates
unknowingly led,
have just busted the driver
for using his meds

As passengers lay waiting
for the government tour,
the police want to pee test
but the driver is unsure

So what's the problem we say
change legislation they claim,
prohibition must end
cause corruption's a game

But the powers that be
must decide to talk,
one at a time as they
look up at the clock

It's time to come out
and say we smoke pot,
the DEA has no shame
and Canadians won't be bought

Are people criminals
for smoking pot,
are some people ok
while others are not?

161 million global cannabis smokers Source: UNODC - World Drug Report

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The Truth is.....

Don't let the drug war turn you into the #1 Hypocrite

sighted

Recently ~~Cited~~
Physical Science August 2005, pg 24

#1 Hypocrite

What it means.....
#1 Hypocrite
ACTION.
THE ANTI-DRUG ~~choice~~ *choice*

choice

So you smoked ~~pot~~.

And now your kid's trying it and you feel like you ~~can't say anything~~ *don't want to lie* Get over it.

Smoking pot can affect the brain and lead to other risky behaviors. So you have to ~~enforce their~~ *enforce their* rules and expect your kid to live ~~drug~~ *choice* free, no matter how hypocritical it makes you. ~~Because to help them with their~~ *prohibitionists* ~~of helping the pharmaceuticals.....~~ *being uncomfortable being a hypocrite*

problem, first you have to get over ~~your~~ *issues*. To find out more, call 800-368-5566 or visit ~~www.cannabishealth.com~~ *cannabishealth.com*

ACTION.
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Cannabis Health
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The Art Gallery in Grand Forks British Columbia has been in existence since 1984. Since that time the Gallery has become one of BC's premier public galleries. Exhibits range from local to international and from the visual to the performing arts. www.galleries.bc.ca/grandforks/

This issue's cover was generated from a workshop on cameraless photography, in cooperation with the Grand Forks Art Gallery, that I attended. A twin size sheet was prepared with photo sensitive chemicals and laid on the ground in a nearby grassy, sunny spot. One of the other artists and myself immediately laid on the sheet while the others in the course placed hands and plants around. After 10 minutes in the sun we quickly got off and washed the sheet out in cold water for 10 - 15 minutes and voila! I showed the picture to Barb St. Jean, our editor who immediately talked me into using it for the cover art. Barb was so inspired by the relevance that she wrote the poem on the cover to accompany the art. As with most of the graphic design in this Cannabis Health Journal, this cover seems to contain even more of that inspiration of the moment.

Brian McAndrew - Production Manager - Cannabis Health.

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Cannabis Health journal

Cannabis Health Journal is the voice and the new image of the responsible cannabis user. The publication treats cannabis as one plant and offers balanced coverage of cannabis hemp and cannabis marijuana. Special attention is given to the therapeutic health benefits of this plant made medicine. Regular contributors offer the latest on the evolving Canadian cannabis laws, politics, and regulations. We also offer professional advice on cannabis cooking, growing at home, human interest stories and scientific articles from countries throughout the world, keeping our readers in touch and informed. Cannabis Health Journal is integrated with our resource website, offering complete downloadable PDF versions of all archived editions.

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2003 Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce Out of the Box Award



Silver Award "issue 7"



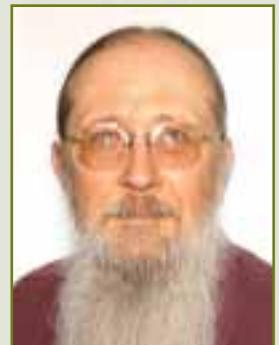
ASK AN EXPERT

This international panel of specialists is now available to assist patients, health care professionals, educators, advocates and all those interested in medicinal cannabis and cannabinoid-based medicines. They will endeavour to answer your questions on any aspect of these topics. Ask An Expert is a new feature of Cannabis Health Journal and will appear in each issue over the next year. Please send your questions via e-mail or regular post. Answers will be printed in the following issue.



DR. LESTER GRINSPOON, MD

Dr. Grinspoon is a professor *emeritus* of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and is one of the world's leading authorities on the uses of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Dr. Grinspoon's knowledge includes the history of medicinal cannabis, a rare degree of understanding and experience in the clinical uses of cannabis, and an appreciation of the social and political issues generated by the reemergence of cannabis as a medicine. Among many other achievements, he has authored 10 books, including *Marijuana Reconsidered* (Harvard University Press) and *Marijuana, The Forbidden Medicine* (Yale University Press), and more than 170 journal articles and book chapters.



DR. DAVID W. PATE, PhD, MSc

Dr. Pate is a researcher specializing in *Cannabis* and the cannabinoids, his academic background encompassing both plant biology and pharmaceutical chemistry. He pursues particular interests in the chemical ecology of *Cannabis*, ophthalmic endocannabinoids and hempseed foods, and has published numerous journal articles, patents and book chapters on these subjects and related areas.



DR. MARK A. WARE, BA, MBBS, MRCP, MSc

Dr. Ware is a pain specialist working at the Montreal General Hospital. He is assistant professor of Anesthesia and of Family Medicine at McGill University, and is involved in epidemiological research and clinical trials of cannabis and cannabinoid medications for chronic pain. He has served on advisory boards to Health Canada and pharmaceutical companies involved in cannabinoid development.



HILARY BLACK

Ms. Black is a medicinal cannabis advocate and educator, having presented this issue to a wide range of audiences including the Canadian Senate, Health Canada, various universities, legal and medical communities, as well as numerous patient groups. She has a thorough understanding of anecdotal evidence pertaining to the use of medicinal cannabis, and is the founder and a past director of Canada's first and largest organization of medicinal cannabis advocacy, The British Columbia Compassion Club Society.



ALAN YOUNG, BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR, PROFESSOR OF LAW

Professor Young teaches law at Osgoode Hall Law School and criminology at the University of Toronto. In his twenty years of practicing criminal law, he has been involved with some of Canada's most significant and high-profile medical marijuana cases. He was one of the key persons responsible for the establishment of Canada's medical marijuana program, the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations (MMAR).

Editorial

"The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the prohibition law. For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced." - **Albert Einstein**

In a recent press release, Karen P. Tandy, DEA Administrator, rolled out their new US drug war game to the entire world. The following is just a few of the highlights; *"Today's arrest of Marc Scott Emery, publisher of Cannabis Culture Magazine, and the founder of a marijuana legalization group - is a significant blow not only to the marijuana trafficking trade in the U.S. and Canada, but also to the marijuana legalization movement."*

"Hundreds of thousands of dollars of Emery's illicit profits are known to have been channeled to marijuana legalization groups active in the United States and Canada. Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on."

Is this DEA statement a direct attack on Canadian's right to freedom of speech?

Marc knew his contributions to the "legalization movement" would one day bring this whole insane drug war to an end. Our bullying neighbour's last ditch efforts to disrupt and dismantle Canada's "marijuana movement", by attempting to extradite one of our most vocal activists, proves beyond a shadow of a doubt, now is the time for Canada to stop playing their idiotic games.

Prohibition is all about money, history has taught us well. We have watched the number of law enforcement agencies/affiliates and their cash cow rapidly expand over the border in the last few years. This "pot of money to rely on" Tandy refers to, is just

another futile attempt to divert suspicions away from the real flow of cash. But it's too late, everyone knows the truth. The largest "pot of money", billions has always been in the hands of the prohibitionists. That's why they must keep trying to protect their precious status quo at all cost.

The Canadian public sees right through their deception and propaganda. The "legalization movement" is not just a bunch of "Pot Heads" or "Dope Smoking Hippies" who have lost their "pot of money" as the DEA would like the world to believe. The fact is Canada's "legalization movement" includes the majority of our citizens. We as a compassionate society believe in saner drug policies and our right to freedom of speech. We are also very tired of being threatened, harassed, and marginalized by the #1 Hypocrites to the south.

Canada's newest Senator, Larry Campbell says; "legalize it, regulate it and tax it". The "legalization movement" says; let's get on with it!

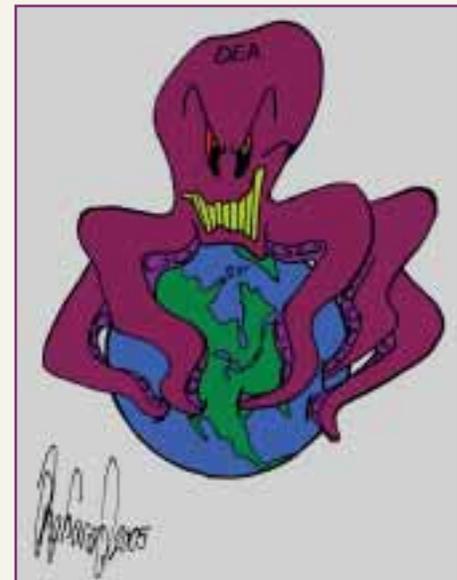
Vancouver's four pillars approach to drug policy reform offers a great alternative solution to the mismanaged enforcement-only structure that is currently in place. This new policy is designed to incorporate all four perspectives: harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and enforcement. Its balanced approach would regulate the flow of cash, allowing diverse groups of grass root stakeholders to start building their own healthy community capacity. But best of all, the perceived illegal "marijuana trafficking trade" would be replaced with a prosperous "legally regulated marijuana industry". The legitimate "legalization movement" would stop being criminalized and the prohibition-

ists and other profiteers of the black market would lose their arbitrary power.

I would say it's a win - win solution. Now let's get on with it people! Don't hide away in your closet, take a stand and make your voices heard.

Barb St.Jean

"Look at the earth crowded with growth, new and old bursting from their strong roots hidden in the silent, live ground, each seed according to its own kind... each one knowing what to do, each one demanding its own rights on the earth... So, artist, you too from the deeps of your soul... let your roots creep forth, gaining strength." **Emily Carr**



Community talking stick

Hello and greetings!

I think the letter from the VICS (July/August) is undeserved and well off target. Your magazine consistently presents empirical evidence that enlightens everyone. You present the most current articles on the medicinal movement. I applaud you on a first-rate publication! Keep up the good work.
Sincerely JR, Vernon, BC

Dear Editor

What really is going on? Three activists in Canada are all facing extradition to the United States.

With Steven and Michele Kubby fleeing to Canada to escape prosecution for their political ideologies, and their determination

for Steven to be able to medicate in peace. Renee Boje who for the most part just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and was arrested for watering the garden of California activists Todd McCormick and Peter McWilliams. After her seventy-two hours in jail she was subjected to a further year of intimidation and threats by DEA and police enforcement agencies. She also chose to flee to Canada and escape the inhumane, unjust pot laws of George Bush and the United States.

Steven and Michele Kubby, Renee Boje and now Marc Emery, all activists in the Medical Marijuana movement, are being persecuted by unjust American laws. Not only in the ability of the laws to be enforced

and prosecuted, but in the infringement on our rights to choose our own mode of health care and political beliefs. The Kubby's and Renee are being extradited back to the States to face charges that are up to eight years old. Charges that are punishable with jail time from ten years to life. Many studies have been done on the inhumane treatment and torture of prisoners in the States backing up their claims for refugee status. To be returned to their country for prosecution of marijuana related charges means they would imminently face cruel and inhumane treatment at the hands of guards and prisoners, as well as lengthy, inappropriate and unfair sentences that wouldn't be stuck to an axe murderer, though somehow they are deemed okay for marijuana users.

Community talking stick

Marc Emery however, is a Canadian citizen who was on Canadian soil when he was picked up by Halifax police forces under DEA direction on July 29th. Yes, that's right, DEA in Canada! One can only speculate that our government has entered into an agreement with George Bush and his "Drug War monkeys." Is our government afraid of the Americans? Could Prime Minister Paul Martin and Minister of Justice, Irwin Cotler be afraid to take a stand that supports the over one million medical marijuana users that live in this country? Could it be that the voices of these people just don't count? The time has come for this country and our government to take a stand and speak proudly about how we support our people and our citizens. All of them. Minister of Justice, Irwin Cotler stop the extradition of Steven and Michele Kubby, and Renee Boje. These are family people who have contributed to our society since they fled the United States to avoid unfair and unjust prosecution. Minister of Justice, Irwin Cotler, stop the extradition of Marc Emery, a man who has helped hundreds of thousands of patients improve their quality of day to day living. A man who, in Canada, has committed no indictable offences and who like the Kubby's and Renee Boje, will face cruel and unfair punishment if sent to the United States. Prime Minister Paul Martin, take a stand and ensure for us now, and our children in the future, that we are truly a free country.

TT, BC

Dear Editor

I am trying to finish my letter to you and the trepidation that I feel is hard to take. This is because my son and daughter are driving across Canada from Ontario to BC with my possessions. They are doing this because of my persecution in Ontario for growing and using something I'm licensed to use. If something happens to them on their journey, I might not be able to take the futility of my efforts to this point.

The last few years have been hard due to family ills, deaths and my stressful situation. My efforts to prevent myself from becoming one of these statistics are being challenged by the very ones elected and hired to help us.

The cost to me and my family to look after my own medical needs is more than any sensible person should have to bear. When the medical system fails me and does nothing but place a financial burden on all of us, I see the Canada Health Act a failure.

Why is it so hard for us to do what is right? Why is ignorance allowed to rule the law?

I've been threatened, falsely accused, driven from my home province and stigmatized for my beliefs. I've been lied to by too

many people to remain quiet about it.

To the public I ask, why would they go to the expense of giving me the permit to possess and produce my medicine and then keep taking it from me, lying in the process? I've had officials tell me I could only grow it in Alberta and others that I couldn't grow anywhere in Canada.

The court of Canada has given me the right to apply for and receive permission to grow my own medicine. I've been a Section 56 exemptee since October, 2001. They have come and taken my garden three times in the last five years. I have no convictions or criminal records. The last garden was cut down on July 21/03. My twentieth court appearance is set for July 27/05 in Ontario Superior Court, Cobourg, Ontario.

How much are they willing to spend to try and stop me from doing what they have allowed me to do? To me the cost is more than it's worth and we all pay in the end. Don't let them make my efforts look bad because it suits their agenda. The double standards have got to stop. They can't say yes and no at the same time. Forked tongue means it's all a lie and I say here and now that it's got to stop.

The recent Supreme Court ruling makes its case for private health care (failing Canada Health Act) being my responsibility, therefore the growing of my own medicine is private (private health care) since the cost to produce is mine (again, private health care).

In a letter I sent to our Deputy PM in 2002 when she was the health minister, I suggested if there was no resolution to this situation (medical marijuana) they should lock me up and send George Bush the bill. That's exactly what they'll have to do to stop me from using marijuana. I cannot tolerate pharmaceuticals and their side effects, so I have no choice but to fight them all the way. I'll fight every lie with a truth because right is might and that's all I have.

May the light of green turn back the gathering gloom. Sincerely, GS, BC
PS: They legalize immorality and criminalize common sense.

Dear Editor

OH CANNABIS (THANK YOU CANADA)!!

My story begins in 1989 when I was 12 years old. I didn't suffer from any sort of medical conditions other than the odd sports injury. That summer I started experiencing "bladder spasms". Even though my bladder was empty, I always felt the urge to use the washroom. They caused excruciating pain until I took Benedryl to calm the effects. This usually took 30 minutes to 1 hour to kick in and help me fall asleep. I would experience

these spasms once every couple months for a few years until I reached junior high where I started to develop allergies which seemed to trigger more frequent spasms. My parents took me to walk-in clinics where it was recommended I take an over-the-counter "antihistamine" for my problems. I tried 24-hour antihistamines which caused daily nose bleeds and severe constipation.

I was first introduced to the positive effects of marijuana when I turned 16. I'd smoke it on weekends and notice on Sundays and Mondays I didn't seem to have the problems I did during the week. When I hit high school I tried to use it every night before I went to bed and it stopped my bowel problems altogether, although I was still having at least one bladder spasm a month. I'd go to the emergency room at the hospital where doctors told me to keep taking Benedryl if that's what helped and send me home. They didn't feel it necessary to look into the problem any further.

I started working full time jobs after high school. Within a few years my body was beginning to feel weaker. I started experiencing a tingling sensation in my bladder and legs and was unable to stand up for my normal 8 hour shifts at work. It was affecting my job performance and was extremely hard on me mentally. I was getting in trouble for sitting down or leaning on the counter at the tills.

I'd never really tried using marijuana for my bladder spasms until I noticed Benedryl was no longer working the way it had. It started giving me extreme stomach pain. I'd heard marijuana helped epilepsy patients with spasms, so decided to try it. I was amazed one afternoon when I smoked a joint during an episode. My bladder spasm had completely subsided by the time I finished smoking it (around 5 minutes). I decided this was much more effective than Benedryl, which took over 30 minutes to take effect.

My last job was full-time in a music store. For five years I was responsible for ordering inventory, closing the store and managing employees working with me. I really enjoyed my job because of my love of music, freedom, the staff and talking with the public. I seemed to be experiencing bladder spasms weekly now as well as having to use the bathroom over 15 times a day. I couldn't function at work because of the level of pain I was experiencing combined with not being able to sleep. That's when I decided I had to find a doctor and help.

Because of the shortage of available GPs in Winnipeg, I was forced to seek a walk-in clinic doctor who wouldn't even acknowledge I was in pain. He said due to my mental state he'd send me to be evaluated by a psychiatrist and take things from there. He

Community talking stick

also gave me bladder control medication and an STD medication (even though I told him I wasn't sexually active). These both made me extremely sick, so I stopped taking them.

I decided this doctor wasn't going to give me the help I needed and it was necessary to find someone new. I found a doctor who took the time to listen and after a few months of trying different bladder medications, told me he felt I might have a condition called Interstitial Cystitis (IC) because I had so many common symptoms. It was recommended I see a urologist. I had been to see this urologist on three separate occasions, each time seeing one of his assistants who had no real record of my last visit and no clue what IC was. They said they didn't believe I was experiencing pain. They wanted to run aggressive tests or they weren't going to help me any further.

After waiting over six months for a phone call from the psychiatrist's office, I decided to call and look into the situation. They told me my paperwork must have gotten lost and they'd book me that week to see a doctor. I went to see him and after an hour, he told me he believed me and would continue to see me to support what I was saying.

After reading up on IC on the net I called The IC Network in the US and spoke with the president. She told me my history seemed to match hers and she understood exactly what I was feeling. She recommended a medication called Hydroxyzine. I wrote it down to ask my doctor about on my next visit. He decided we'd try it, considering the other medications I'd tried only made me sick and worsened my condition.

Hydroxyzine took away the pain in my legs as well as the constant tingling sensation in my bladder. It also helped me relax considering the stress I was experiencing. The Hydroxyzine definitely helped, but it wouldn't stop my frequent bladder spasms. For lack of a satisfactory diagnosis, the insurance company my employer dealt with denied me benefits, so I was forced to apply for disability to help pay my rent and living situation. (My GP had also left the area and I was forced to find a new doctor.)

I decided it was time to mention marijuana to both my GP and specialist. At my next visit they both acknowledged they'd heard it was used to help spasms and believed me when I told them it helped me. They said when a system was in place they'd sign the paperwork and try to get me involved in test studies. They agreed to fill out paperwork to get me involved with two Canadian Compassion Centers (which I still use to this day) to get the medication I needed.

After a phone call to Health Canada, I received paperwork in the mail for both doctors and within a month was able to get everything filled out. I contacted Island Harvest to inquire about receiving marijuana from them. Eric informed me this would cost half of what I was paying at the time. I was using around two grams a day which was giving me my life back but ended up costing me hundreds of dollars I didn't have. I was happy to hear I might finally be able to survive and take control of my condition with the proper amount of medicine. I sent everything in and waited for a response.

Two months later I decided to call and inquire about my application. I was told they hadn't received the information yet but would contact me when they did. Weeks later I called back and was told it had been received, but would take a few more weeks to process. Three weeks later I was told my doctor hadn't filled out the proper information and they'd fax him requesting it. After having my doctor's office fax it multiple times, they finally acknowledged receiving it (a month later). They also left a voice mail saying due to my not having the medications page filled up totally, they wouldn't let my doctors consider giving me this medication until every other pill was tried first. They also told me my specialist (the only specialist I was able to see at the time) was not valid for my condition and they wouldn't accept his recommendation. I went to see my GP, he told me he'd also received a letter from Health Canada telling him the Doctors' Association didn't believe marijuana was effective and he risked losing his license if he went against their statement.

That's when I decided to get my local federal MP involved. They wrote a letter to Health Canada requesting details concerning my situation. A letter was sent back stating that my doctors weren't clear enough on my condition and I needed to see a urologist before they could either approve or deny my file. Apparently this is their way of stalling. I went to my GP and he decided he'd write Health Canada a letter which stated due to the bad luck I'd had with urologists in my city and their beliefs on my condition, he still believes I should be accepted into the program and my specialist, whom I see monthly, believes so as well. Health Canada responded to this letter, saying they wanted my GP to prescribe different medications to me first. My doctor told me he wouldn't prescribe medications he knew would not help just to please Health Canada. They also told my liberal MP's office things would be changing in the next few months and I might fit the new format.

A few months later I got new paperwork

from Health Canada and was able to bring it to my GP to fill out. He agreed to fill out the forms but there's a section which states this doctor has communicated with the proper specialist and both agree marijuana should be used. He said Health Canada would say the same thing about me seeing a psychiatrist and continue to prolong things.

That's where I'm at today. My MP has sent a final letter to Health Canada regarding my situation and I've yet to hear back. Considering our government had hoped I'd be silent, I decided it was necessary to get my story out so people everywhere can see what I've been put through. If it wasn't for marijuana, I know I'd have ended my life a long time ago. It's given me a chance to live life even with this condition. I don't want to be on pills the rest of my life nor do I want pills to shorten my life by destroying my body. I've acknowledged the risks involved in smoking this plant and I've gotten the proper support from both my doctors. I shouldn't have to battle the government for access to medication that works.

Because our Canadian government has prolonged my acceptance into this program, I've lost everything I own, long time friends, my financial credit. They shouldn't force people to take risks by growing medicine. Nor should police put one more sick person in jail.

Thank you for listening. Steve G



TELL US YOUR STORY

CHJ is asking readers to submit their stories. We are looking for personal experiences that are meaningful, insightful, happy, sad, funny, thought provoking or just plain weird. Pictures or artwork will also be accepted.

Each submission published in the Journal will receive a one-year subscription to the Journal as well as being entered into the drawing for the medicine bag. Your anonymity will be respected.

We are your voice for freedom of choice, so if you want your voice to be heard, submit your stories, pics or artwork to:

Cannabis Health Journal Submissions
Box 1481, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0

Email your submission to:
distribution@cannabishealth.com put
"CONTEST" in the subject line



Where do we go from here?



by Laura Webster

There are many unanswered questions that emerge from the depths of the marijuana legislation debate in Canada. Generally speaking it would be impossible to approach the growing pile of uncertainties and seemingly unanswerable questions without an elite task force of highly trained individuals; but specifically speaking there may be answers germinating directly beneath the fertile soil that covers the BC landscape. These answers that we speak of are not as

elusive as they appear at first glance. Questions and answers generally go hand in hand so it is not preposterous to assume that somewhere, there are answers and people who have answers. But where are these people hiding? Is it logical to look towards our trustworthy and minority elected leaders of this great country, who by the way spend most of their time in Eastern Canada? Or do we direct our attention towards our second term elected Liberals in Victoria? Maybe we should disregard these large scale party politics and look towards city hall. Because once we get out of parliament and out from behind the doors of decision making, we enter a garden full of voices, opinions and worries waiting to be listened to. These are the issues that are at the heart of not only the marijuana debate in Canada, but also are part of the core that drives all the cities, towns and villages in BC and propels them into action.

Canadians are blessed with the availability of not one, not two, but three levels of government that we are expected to understand and trust. But while three levels of authority that reside over our individual free will may seem claustrophobic and at times just plain annoying, it does have its advan-

Timeline for Cannabis Reform

1600-1890s Domestic production of hemp encouraged.

1812 The War of 1812 is primarily about access to Russian Hemp.

1834 Young Abe Lincoln reads by hemp oil light.

1840 In America, medicinal preparations based on cannabis become available.

1845 Psychologist and inventor of modern psychopharmacology and psychotimetric drug treatment, Jacques-Joseph Moreau de Tours documents physical and mental benefits of cannabis.

1850 Extract of hemp becomes one of the most widely used medicines in the USA.

1856 British government tax cannabis trade in India.

1860 First governmental commission study of cannabis and hashish conducted by Ohio State Medical Society. It catalogues the conditions for which cannabis is beneficial: neuralgia, nervous rheumatism, mania, whooping cough, asthma, chronic bronchitis, muscular spasms, epilepsy, infantile convulsions, palsy, uterine hemorrhage, dysmenorrhea, hysteria, alcohol withdrawal and loss of appetite.

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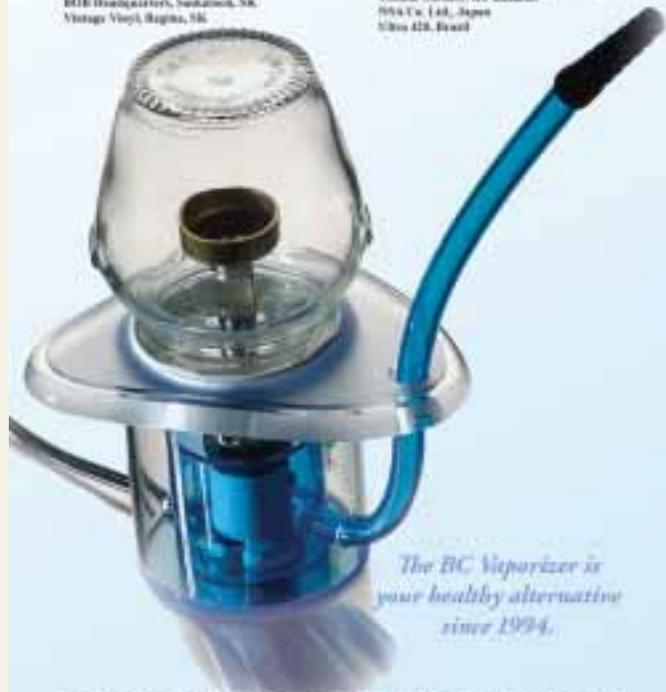
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Where do we go from here?

tages. The first and most obvious example is geography; Canada is too vast a nation to have a central government. Our beloved provincial authorities are in place to give those of us living outside of metropolitan Ontario a voice in the East. But even more importantly than our provincial governments are the municipal teams that far out number anyone at the provincial level. These are the elected citizens who are our neighbours, friends, teammates, people we wave to at the gas station and in the grocery store and more commonly our kids go to school with their kids. This is a nice picture; we elect our friends and neighbours to move our incorporated community forward. And it works.

But how does it work? Can we see it working? And when is a municipal program considered successful? More questions, but this time we have a viable answer. In 2001 the City of Vancouver passed legislation on a comprehensive Four Pillar Approach to attacking the city's drug problem. The adoption of this program was largely in response to widespread use and abuse of all types of illegal drugs in the Vancouver area. Drug use was rapidly becoming a serious health problem primarily as a result of neglect from all

three levels of government in this sector. Something had to be done. The pillars that support and drive this policy are prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement. Ideally they should be delivered in an order similar to what is presented above and as will be seen as you continue reading there is a need for balance and priority among these pillars. This program has been delivered in full force for four years now, is it working? According to documents and reports coming from City reviews of the policy and drug coordinators in Vancouver it is working. As with exercise, results are unfortunately not instantaneous. Dedication and a focus on the large-scale, long-term goal is essential. Part of this goal involves an examination of all the elements that are involved in implementing the policy. And one of the biggest and broadest elements of drug problems that occur at a scale as large as the City of Vancouver is the social costs. Drug abuse affects more than the person using, and these greater effects that result are precisely the reason for an initiative such as the Four Pillar approach.

All in all this policy is a decent example of what a municipality is capable of. In the grand scheme of things most municipalities

1870 Cannabis listed in US Pharmacopoeia as a medicine.

1876 Hashish served at American Centennial Exposition.

1893-94 British Indian Hemp Drugs Commission Report.

1898 The Spanish American War erupts. During the war, the marijuana-smoking army of Panco Villa seizes 800,000 acres of prime Mexican timberland belonging to newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. The timber from this land was used to manufacture newsprint for Hearst's publishing empire. Hearst begins a 30-year propaganda campaign denouncing Spaniards, Mexican-Americans and Latinos, portraying Mexicans as lazy pot-smoking layabouts.

1906 Pure Food and Drug Act - Required labeling of any cannabis contained in over-the-counter remedies.

1910 The white minority in South Africa outlaws cannabis ingestion in an attempt to force blacks to stop practicing ancient Dagga religions.

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are not as powerful at the provincial and national level as they'd like us to think they are. The provincial government still has jurisdiction over many of the proceedings that go on within the boundaries of a municipality. The fact that the City of Vancouver has been successful in devising a way to curb its festering drug problems is a good sign. The hope should be that this plan in some form or another is able to spread throughout BC and plant itself as a viable program to help with drug problems that exist across the province.

This particular policy is also a good example of a grassroots initiative, politically speaking. Action has been taken from the lowest level of government and proved successful despite the little amount of interest shown from above. Although grassroots action is usually thought affectionately of as small non-profit groups or community organizations joining forces to express their

opinions, this city wide policy enforced by elected officials and authorities at a municipal level qualifies as well. It seems imperative that when speaking directly about the marijuana debate that action be taken from below. And while the revered Four Pillar approach does deal exclusively with the swirling discussions of marijuana in our society, it does deal with illegal drugs and education. For now these two points will have to satisfy the restless interests as we wait for a sign of life, any sign, to emerge from government. The Four Pillar approach has set out to prevent drug use, provide treatment and promote education and awareness about the existence of drugs in our

The pillars that support and drive this policy are prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement. Ideally they should be delivered in an order similar to what is presented above

towns. These are all necessary qualifications of a program that has grown from the ground up; we have yet to see this program be picked up on a larger scale.

What will it take for one of our higher levels of government to notice a municipal success? Or better yet, what will it take for a higher level of government to take initiative and reform existing policies to better suit the direction that Canadian society is headed in? Despite what some people may think, Canada is a relatively liberal nation. For starters we were the first country to declare itself as multicultural in 1971 and accept those from various backgrounds as Canadians. Another and very recent example is the passing of Bill C38 in Ottawa. To the discontent of certain churches and Americans same-sex couples have adequate rights in Canadian society. Personally I think these are prime examples of how Canada has taken action in order to

move forward as a modern nation. But there are still more liberal countries out there. It is well known that many European countries have legalized marijuana and maintained a respected position among their international counterparts.

What path will Canada take?

The BC Minister of Health, Dr. Perry Kendall, provides us with some insights into the role that the province plays in the marijuana debate as well as comments on Vancouver's Four Pillar approach. Dr. Kendall, while supporting the ideals of the Four Pillar approach, makes it clear that it is strictly "a municipal initiative" and that the Ministry of Health is not involved in any funding. The Ministry of Health appears to have an indirect role in the funding that is for drug abuse and distributed throughout the province. The regional health authorities are

given money from the province and they can then choose to allocate it as they wish. From the sounds of this it looks as though there are too many levels on which the money changes hands. Dr. Kendall speaks of this when he mentions that "only some of the aspects of the Four Pillar approach fall under the description of health and the rest falls under the realm of enforcement".

Dr. Kendall brings up more important points that need to be touched upon. For example, a large portion of the federal budget goes towards enforcement consequently showing where priority lies at the federal level. This also demonstrates that there is strong influence coming from the United States to enforce against the use of marijuana as opposed to accept growth and forward thinking in terms of prevention and maybe legalization. It is important to remember that while Canada may be a decentralized nation there is a lot of governmental integration and jurisdictional overlap that can cause confusion, frustration and problems when it comes to reform. Dr. Kendall mentions this when he is asked about the possibility of the legalization of marijuana. His answer included many references to the federal government and the role that they would need to play. In short, establishing marijuana legislation in BC or any province at this time is not feasible because it is out of provincial jurisdictional powers. Although health is under provincial jurisdiction, a province does not have the resources, ability or power to change the criminal code of Canada under which marijuana is currently listed as illegal. Dr. Kendall simply states that "the provinces are willing to wait and let the federal government take the lead in this matter".

There we have it. What has started and been acknowledged as a "municipal initiative" is supported by provincial authorities. But that is about as far as it goes. While the Four Pillar approach has proved successful it is still lacking in some areas; such as appealing to a higher authority as a country wide course of action and the possibility of pushing marijuana legalization forward. And while



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Where do we go from here?

municipalities across BC now have a plan in place to adapt to their liking, it has been stated that the province is not an active participant in terms of much needed funding and resources. What has started with the lowest level of Canadian government will have to remain in place until someone, anyone, higher up the ladder decides to take a chance and support a program that makes sense.

Law enforcement is an important part of maintaining peace, safety and civility in Canada. Police officers are a necessary and generally accepted sector of our society. But those of us who are law abiding citizens are hearing more and more horror stories of actions taken by not only our fellow countrymen, but the arresting authorities as well. It is important to remember where Canada presently is in terms of its law enforcement history in order to recognize that some enforcement activities are not worth it. Getting right to the point, marijuana possession arrests are becoming tedious and predictable.

It appears that the police are growing restless with having to continue making arrests that solve absolutely nothing in the end. Because what is accomplished? Do people stop using the marijuana? Does the drug itself cease to exist in the presence of authority? Or (and we know this isn't true) do politicians see the injustice of the law and set out on a mission to right past wrongs and make Canada a more liberal and open minded nation? When all is said and done marijuana is illegal, but somehow it remains a presence in our society despite the millions of arrests, busts and charges placed against people who think otherwise.

An individual who thinks otherwise and who is making headlines recently is well known activist Marc Emery. His arrest is the exact reason why marijuana policy should move through our court system and our mindsets towards legalization. It is also time that Canada re-examines its open border relationship with the United States. The fact that he is facing life in prison at the request of the DEA for selling seeds, which by the way are bought by American citizens, is ridiculous. He was selling seeds, seriously seeds?? Beyond that, he's a Canadian. If he had been caught in the United States it would be an entirely different situation, but he wasn't. And the fact that his store in Vancouver has been in operation for ten years says some-

thing about the direction that Canadian policy is heading. Emery is also a politician and party leader in BC, and although the Marijuana Party is not fully respected nationwide, it is gaining ground and support throughout BC.

So what does this tell us? Written between the lines of the press releases concerning Emery and the Four Pillar approach policy I am seeing a desperate call for regulation and taxation. It is clear that much to the despair of the DEA, marijuana and its supporters will not tremble with fear and simply go away at the sight of this foreign (emphasis on foreign) authority. As Americans and government (both Canada and the US), shouldn't the focus be on the money through taxes that could be made just by regulating the use of marijuana. More importantly look at tobacco and alcohol; legal, but more harmful than marijuana. We know from past experiences that prohibition does not work for a substance that has

become so integrated into our society and culture. Why not legalize? The DEA are scared of what will happen. The police are bored with pointless arrests. Canada already has the example of success from Europe. And

Ottawa is sitting on the fence waiting for pressure from the provinces for a push for growth or from the US for a push for prohibition. Who will push harder and quicker? Of course this is all still to be determined. But it is possible that the future will become known as soon as the decision on Marc Emery is brought down. Our courts work on a system of precedence; what has passed or failed previously is likely to happen the same way if a similar case is brought forward again. Right now though, it appears that we are to continue with our waiting game.

If we are feeling optimistic by this point we can end on a positive note by stating that the seeds of progress have been planted, watered and cared for by municipal actors, and supported provincial politicians as well. But it will be the next steps forward in maintaining and producing a successful policy that lies in the gloved hands of the federal gardeners.



This also demonstrates that there is strong influence coming from the United States to enforce against the use of marijuana as opposed to accept growth and forward thinking

1916-1937 William Randolph Hearst's newspapers introduced the word 'marijuana' into English from Mexican slang. Hearst sold lots of newspapers using stories about "coloured" men using drugs to corrupt white women. Many of them allegedly carried big knives and would go wild at any provocation. New techniques for processing hemp for paper that pose a serious threat to his timber based paper businesses provide the motivation.

1923 Marijuana was first banned in Canada under the Opium and Drug Act.

1930 Creation of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN).

1930 Henry Ford makes his motor cars out of hemp with hemp paint and hemp fuel. New machines invented to break hemp, process the fibre and convert the pulp or hurds into paper, plastics etc.

1931 Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon (head of the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, one of the two banks with which DuPont did business) appoints future nephew-in-law Harry J. Anslinger to head the newly-formed Federal Bureau of Narcotics and remained in that post until 1962.

1932 Uniform State Narcotic Act.

1936 Reefer Madness - Propaganda film Reefer Madness was produced by the French director, Louis Gasnier.

1937 The Marijuana Tax Act is signed into law, initiating 60 years of cannabis prohibition and annihilating a multi-billion dollar industry. DuPont and other synthetic materials manufacturers reap vast profits by filling the void conveniently left by the criminalization of industrial hemp.

1941 Popular Mechanics introduces Henry Ford's plastic car, manufactured from and fueled by cannabis. Hoping to free his company from the grasp of the petroleum industry, Ford illegally grew cannabis for years after the federal ban.

1942 The Japanese invasion of the Philippines cuts off the U.S. supply of Manila hemp. The U.S. government immediately distributes 400,000 pounds of cannabis seeds to farmers from Wisconsin to Kentucky. Just four short years after cannabis was outlawed as the "assassin of youth," the government requires farmers to attend showings of the USDA pro-cannabis classic, Hemp for Victory.

1942 Marijuana was removed from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia because it was believed to be a harmful and addictive drug, causing psychotic episodes.

Marijuana for all



by Alan Young

I am becoming embarrassed by the endless pot debate in Canada. Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan recently stated that marijuana smokers are stupid (Was this her way of saying she smokes the herb?), but the true imbecility lies in the irresolute and confused response of our government to a no-brainer issue of public policy.

Officials are trying to generate a new moral panic over grow ops. Citing a litany of Biblical plagues like fire, mould and child neglect, police and politicians claim that indoor marijuana-growing is turning our communities into living hells.

With shameful audacity, there was even an attempt to link the killing of four RCMP officers in Mayerthorpe, Alberta, to the cultivation of marijuana. In April, the police services board considered a report from Toronto police calling for the establishment of a special "marijuana grow team to deal with this problem."

Scarborough politicians have started going door to door like meddlesome vigilantes to snoop around for grow ops. At a town hall meeting last week, one councillor extolled the virtue of being "nosy" and provided this sage advice: "Don't be nice to your neighbour." I guess the marijuana grower is the 21st-century communist, posing such a grave threat to national security

that the situation warrants turning neighbours into spies and informants.

From my perspective, the marijuana issue is a no-brainer. There are probably more Canadians who smoke pot than play hockey. People have been doing this for more than 10,000 years.

No one has ever died from pot, while a number of approved pharmaceuticals have been pulled off the market this year for causing cardiac arrest or suicidal ideation. Growing pot is perfectly safe, but our harsh, prohibitionist approach creates an unregulated black market in which there is little incentive to comply with safety code standards.

Every moral panic is built on a few real tragedies. There have been grow op fires, and I guess some homes are overrun with mould. Some people have bad experiences smoking pot. But the occasional tragedy does not constitute a social problem, and if the prohibitionists were right, one would expect to find problems of epidemic proportions when there are millions of users and thousands of grow rooms in this great country.

I believe there are six incontrovertible reasons why we should put the tiresome marijuana debate to rest once and for all by truly giving Canadians the liberty to grow and use the marijuana plant for personal use, whether recreational or medical.

First, it is a plant. Criminal law should be reserved for serious predatory conduct, and only in the world of science-fiction can a plant become a predator.

Second, since the 1894 Indian Hemp Commission, virtually every royal commis-

sion and governmental committee, internationally and in Canada, has recommended that marijuana use be decriminalized. Some have even called for outright legalization. It is an affront to democracy to continuously spend taxpayers' money on comprehensive and informed reports that are ignored for no apparent reason.

Third, most of Europe and Australia have decriminalized marijuana use, and the liberalization of the law in these countries has not wreaked social havoc. In fact, consumption rates in decriminalized jurisdictions are significantly lower than in the penal colonies of Canada and the United States.

Fourth, the use of marijuana poses few societal dangers. It is not a criminogenic substance. For most people, marijuana provides a form of deep relaxation and sensory enhancement, and it does not have the unpredictable, disinhibiting capacity of alcohol. No one is getting mugged by Cheech and Chong, and contrary to the false alarms sounded by public officials, marijuana is not significantly responsible for vehicular carnage.

A drug can only possess criminogenic potential if it is a disinhibitor like alcohol or if it has addictive potential. There is little evidence that marijuana is addictive, though many chronic users experience a psychological dependency like that of the compulsive jogger who continues a daily exercise regimen despite failing knees.

Fifth, marijuana is relatively harmless for the user. Admittedly, smoking has some pulmonary risks, but we don't throw junk food makers and their consumer-victims into jail despite the enormous burden these junkies place on the health care system. Criminal law is not the remedy for gastrointestinal distress, nor is it a rational solution to curbing chronic bronchial inflammation. The solemnity and majesty of the criminal law is trivialized when it's used to prevent Canadians from becoming a nation of coughers and wheezers.

Of course, every month we are bombarded by media reports of some new study linking pot to hemorrhoids or some other health risk. More often than not, the study is reporting inconclusive findings from overdosing rats and monkeys, or is a methodologically flawed experiment commissioned by the state.

Marijuana activists and users like myself are accused of disregarding mounting evidence of the ravages of marijuana, but we've heard the doom and gloom before. Even though marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the world, there is no epidemiological evidence showing increased morbidity or mortality among the toking

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Marijuana for all

population. But their failure to prove that the evils attributed to marijuana are anything more than speculative just compels the state and its scientist handmaidens to use science as a tool for propaganda.

My final reason for denouncing the use of criminal law to manufacture cannabis criminals is that the majority of Canadians do not support criminalization of pot use. Democracy is an illusion when the state can maintain a criminal prohibition on an activity enjoyed by 3 million Canadians and tolerated by an overwhelming majority.

Even if marijuana use and production entailed more significant harm, this would not necessarily warrant state intrusion into our private choices. Nothing in this world is perfectly harmless.

Even flush toilets and articles of clothing can wreak havoc. Studies show that 40,000 Americans injure themselves on their toilet seats every year, and 100,000 are injured by their clothing annually, yet no one has tried to demonize Sir Thomas Crapper or outlaw zippers.

Young Canadians have been paralyzed by cross-checks administered in the course of hockey games. We accept and tolerate these risks because we believe there is social utility in having flush toilets, clothing and competitive sports.

Yet when it comes to marijuana, we seem unwilling to tolerate any level of risk, even though credible pharmacologists conclude that the moderate use of marijuana causes no harm and that any suspected harm will only be found among chronic daily users. Less than 5 per cent of users are chronic.

Most people believe that Canada has stalled on the path of law reform, overwhelmed by the stench of American criminal justice policy. Our government is poised to decriminalize marijuana use, yet its spokespeople continue to demonize the plant by suggesting that a Pandora's box of unknowable harm will come about from a few tokes.

The government's message is so mixed, it can only serve as a catalyst for inaction and confusion.

But I think our confusion has more to do with our moral ambivalence about hedonism and the alteration of consciousness. North Americans like to see their vices on the silver screen, not in real life, and we like to leave consciousness-expanding experiments to great thinkers like Aldous Huxley. The ordinary person is condemned to a life of sobriety except for the joys and sorrows of alcohol inebriation.

We have wavered on repealing a bad law because our culture doesn't believe there is

social utility or value in drug experimentation and alteration of consciousness. We cling to the notion that non-medical drug use is always a degenerate and self-indulgent waste of time.

State officials continue to construct false alarms of harm and danger in order to mask their real fear that drug use may potentially foster critical thought and alternative visions of reality.

Experimentation with pot will not lead most people to a dramatic change of consciousness and character, but like most illicit drugs, the temporary alteration of perception may nourish the capacity for critical thinking.

The criminal prohibition of marijuana is all about thought control.

It doesn't matter if you're dedicated to a life of total abstention; you should be alarmed whenever state officials weave a tapestry of lies to justify punishing people. And even if you don't believe people should have the right to make autonomous choices about what they do with their minds and bodies, you should worry about a state that governs through moral panic and not through the rational development of public policy.

The current attempt to demonize grow ops deflects attention from the reality that while growing pot indoors is not inherently risky, the creation of an unregulated black market is dangerous.

Prohibitionists should be ashamed of themselves for spreading lies and hiding the fact that many of them have secretly partaken of the plant. We are at an impasse because the government is simultaneously trying to demonize and decriminalize. And those in power know that if you suck and blow at the same time, nothing will happen on the path to law reform.



1942 Harry Anslinger is appointed to a top-secret committee charged with finding a "truth serum" for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), precursor of the Central Intelligence Agency (which, in later years, investigated the applications of psychedelic drugs for mind control purposes). The group picks a cannabis-derived form of hashish oil as their truth serum of choice. In 1943, the committee abandoned the idea because test subjects tended to laugh hysterically and get the munchies rather than spill the beans.

1944 The LaGuardia Report questions the Government's sanity. Medicine issued an extensively researched report declaring that, contrary to earlier research and popular belief, use of marijuana did not induce violence, insanity or sex crimes, or lead to addiction or other drug use.

1961 The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The act increased the minimum penalty for cultivation to 7 years, and the minimum for importation and exportation to 14 years. This made the marijuana laws carry the second heaviest minimum sentence in Canadian criminal law, surpassed only by that imposed for capital and non-capital murder.



GLOBAL MARKETING OF POT

Estimating the volume of global cannabis production is difficult. Countries report their findings based on the number of cannabis cultivations seized by law enforcement. Worldwide production is estimated at 32,000 metric tons, but due to the absence of accurate surveys and monitoring systems, that figure could be as high as 42,000 mt.

Ninety two countries providing information on the main sources of the cannabis herb they seized in 2001 identified 85 different source countries. Considering the same information collected over the 1998-2001 period from 111 countries, 102 different source countries for cannabis were identified.

The information provided by these countries, collected since 1998, show the source countries as Africa, Europe, South America and North America. The origin of the seized

drugs helps to identify the main source countries. Overall, the most frequently mentioned source countries at the global level in 2001 included Albania, Columbia, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Jamaica and the Netherlands. Thailand,

Ghana and Paraguay are also included. In terms of quantities of cannabis herb trafficked, Mexico, Canada and the US play an important role as source countries. US authorities estimate that more than 10,000 tons of cannabis herb is produced domestically and that more than 5,000 tons a year are imported from neighboring Mexico and Canada. Interestingly enough, Canada provides only 2% of the cannabis herb to the US. Mexico is believed to produce between 7,000 and 8,000 tons of cannabis herb a year according to US estimates.

Pot is big business globally. According to the World Drug Report, cannabis has become more potent, from an average THC content of 2% in 1970 to 6.3% in 2003. In Canada, it would cost 7.1 cents for 1 gram of marijuana, in the US, 1 gram is 11.4 cents and in the United Kingdom, 1 gram would cost 4.4 cents. In

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Global Marketing of Pot

Worldwide production is estimated at 32,000 metric tons

Japan, they pay 43.8 cents for 1 gram and in Cost Rica, they pay 2 cents per gram. In Canada, a kilogram of marijuana sells for \$2820.00 and in the US, a kg sells for \$2035.00. In Hong Kong a kg goes for \$2070.00 and in Greece, a kg would sell for \$620.00. In Israel, a kilogram of marijuana will sell for \$180.00 and in Nigeria, you only get \$10.00 a kg. Production and consumption of cannabis have increased globally, based on the increase in cultivation and trafficking seizures in the past decade. In

Canada, we will consume roughly 2,100 kilograms of marijuana. "7.5% of Canadians reported they use marijuana currently". Dr. Stephan Easton, SFU (Simon Fraser University), Professor of Economics, Fraser Institute and author of "Marijuana Growth in British Columbia".

VIENNA, 29 June (UN Information Service) — According to the 2005 World Drug Report, issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), some 200 million people, or 5% of the world's population age 15-64, have used drugs at least once in the last 12 months.

Source:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/WDR_2005/volume_1_chap1_cannabis.pdf
 Web retrieval Aug 3, 2005



1962 President Kennedy using cannabis as a pain reliever.

1964 Dr. Raphael Mechoulam of the University of Tel Aviv isolates THC Delta-9, the primary active ingredient in cannabis — and one of at least 60 compounds found in cannabis that have therapeutic value.

1967 The UK urges legalization of cannabis. The Beatles sign it. 3,000 people hold a 'smoke-in' in Hyde Park. Keith Richards and Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones are arrested and imprisoned for cannabis. This prompts a Times editorial 'Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?' The convictions are quashed on appeal. In the UK 2,393 persons are arrested for cannabis offences. In the USA over 3,000 joints get mailed to addresses at random by Abbie Hoffman and the Yippies.

1968 Campaign to stop US soldiers in Vietnam from taking cannabis - they switch to heroin.

1969 The UN estimates that there are between 200,000,000 and 250,000,000 cannabis users in the world.

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NORML

PRESS RELEASE from NORML Canada - National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws

Contact: Marc-Boris St-Maurice, National Executive Director, NORML Canada (National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws) Primary Phone: 514-808-8682

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ARREST AND EXTRADITION OF MARC EMERY, MICHELLE RAINEY-FENKAREK AND GREG WILLIAMS OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MARIJUANA PARTY

On Friday July 29th 2005 these three individuals were arrested at the request of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for charges involving conspiracy to traffic and produce marijuana as well as conspiracy to launder money connected to the sale of marijuana seeds over the Internet. They now face extradition to the US to answer to these charges. While Canada and the USA have for a long time had an extradition treaty between them, nevertheless the facts of this case involve the tacit acquiescence of the Canadian government in this open conduct over the better part of the last 10 years. Is it fair for our government to turn a blind eye for almost ten years and then to agree to assist the USA to extradite its own citizens? In our view the conduct of the Canadian Government on this matter in agreeing to

assist the USA in the extradition of these three Canadians is an affront to our Canadian sense of justice and should shock the conscience of all Canadians. We urge the Canadian Government to rescind its co-operation with the USA in this case and to either move ahead with a legislative agenda to regulate and tax all aspects of cannabis use and commerce or, in the alternative to enable these Canadian cannabis political activists to have their day in a Canadian court.

Withdraw from the extradition request and either charge them here or change the law. NORML Canada stands for the regulation and taxation of all aspects of Cannabis production and sale in Canada. See our webpage www.normlcanada.ca for our full detailed "Statement of Principles and Policies". We also feel it germane to point out that any eventual move by Canada to legalize marijuana must be accompanied by strictly enforced legislation prohibiting the export of cannabis and its derivatives so we may avoid these types of situations in the future.

END PRESS RELEASE - 8/2/2005
Press release distributed by PR Direct 866-736-3779



The BC Marijuana Party is committed to cannabis and justice. The party believes that in free and democratic societies such as Canada, the individual should be provided the maximum freedom possible. The only legitimate criminal prohibitions (the most coercive force available to the government) on individual conduct are those that are necessary in order to prevent significant harm to others.

To donate to Marc's defense fund, visit The BC Marijuana Party website. You can donate online at: <http://bcmarijuanaparty.com> by phone 604-684-2803 or by mail: 307 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H6

<http://bcmarijuanaparty.com/main?page=bcmp/2005/platform> retrieval date August 5/05



HELP MARC EMERY



On Friday July 29th 2005 Marc Emery was arrested in Canada at the request of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for charges involving conspiracy to traffic, produce marijuana and launder money connected to the internet sale of marijuana seeds. He now faces extradition to the US to answer to these charges.

To donate to Marc's defense fund visit The BC Marijuana Party website. You can donate online at: <http://bcmarijuanaparty.com> ph: 604-684-2803 or by mail: 307 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1H6

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The War on Drugs is a War on Liberty



Libertarian Party of Canada

Parti Libertarien du Canada

August 9, 2005 - Ottawa, Ontario On July 29, the RCMP arrested Marc Emery, Leader of the British Columbia Marijuana Party along with fellow activists Michelle Rainey-Fenkarek and Gregory Williams. These arrests were the result of a U.S. Federal Grand Jury indictment on charges of Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana, Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana Seeds and Conspiracy to Engage in Money Laundering. Since Marc Emery is alleged to have sold many of his seeds to U.S. customers, the investigation in Canada was actually led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration under the terms of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. The most disturbing fact is that the U.S. Attorney's Office has filed an extradition request with the Canadian government that all three Canadians be brought to Seattle to stand trial. If convicted in the U.S. on any of the

It seems clear that Marc Emery was targeted because of his prominence as a political activist

marijuana charges, they could face cruel prison sentences ranging from a minimum of 10 years to life in prison.

Therefore the Libertarian Party of Canada calls upon Canada's Minister of Justice, Irwin Cotler, to block the extradition of Marc Emery and his associates, and to set them free. We also urge Parliament to narrow the types of crimes that are covered by extradition treaties in order to protect Canadians from legal domination by foreign governments.

Although the sale of cannabis seeds is also illegal in Canada, Marc Emery has not been charged by Canadian authorities, who are well aware that Canada has a medical-marijuana program in which patients can lawfully use marijuana.

U.S. officials have falsely characterized Marc Emery as motivated by greed, but the truth is that, in addition to serving those who are in desperate need of medical marijuana, the proceeds of his seed business have been directed towards political activism and

1970 Afghani hashish varieties introduced to North America for sinsemilla production. Westerners bring metal sieve cloths to Afghanistan. Law enforcement efforts against hashish begin in Afghanistan.

1970 Le Dain Report (Canada) recommended that serious consideration be given to the legalization of personal possession of marijuana. It finds that cannabis use increases self-confidence, feelings of creativity and sensual awareness, facilitates concentration and self-acceptance, reduces tension, hostility and aggression and may produce psychological but not physical dependence. The report recommends that possession laws be repealed. This report cost Canada 4 Million Dollars and was completely ignored by the government.

1971 Medical World News reports that "Marijuana... is probably the most potent anti-epileptic known to medicine today."

1972 Shafer Commission - The bipartisan Shafer Commission, appointed by President Nixon at the direction of Congress, considered laws regarding marijuana and determined that personal use of marijuana should be decriminalized. Nixon rejected the recommendation, but over the course of the 1970s, eleven states decriminalized marijuana and most others reduced their penalties.



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The War on Drugs is a War on Liberty

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It seems clear that Marc Emery was targeted because of his prominence as a political activist and this is another reason why the Minister of Justice should choose to rule against extradition. In these respects the Extradition Act states the following:

44. (1) *The Minister shall refuse to make a surrender order if the Minister is satisfied that (a) the surrender would be unjust or oppressive having regard to all the relevant circumstances; or (b) the request for extradition is made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing the person by reason of their race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, language, colour, political opinion, ...*

Libertarians believe in the principles of self-ownership and individual liberty. We believe that governments act aggressively when they violate these principles by interfering with an individual's freedom to buy, sell or use drugs such as marijuana for medicinal or other purposes.

We believe that each individual should be free to live as they choose, as long as they do not aggress against the life and property of others. Non-coercive means should be used to

discourage the abuse of dangerous drugs instead of the destructive application of the criminal justice system.

That is why we call on Parliament and the people of Canada to not only decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana but to also work towards the abolition of the disastrous policy of drug prohibition, which results in increased criminal activity and the unjust imprisonment of peaceful citizens.

The Libertarian Party of Canada is dedicated to the cause of personal and economic freedom for all Canadians. We believe that individual liberty is a necessary condition for a peaceful and prosperous society.

We welcome enquiries from all Canadians who wish to aid our cause.

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1973 Creation of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) - Merger of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNND) and the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement (ODALE).

1974 Dr. Heath conducts his infamous government-funded Rhesus monkey study at Tulane University, touted for years as "evidence" that marijuana causes brain damage. Dr. Heath would put an airtight gas mask on the monkey, strap it into a chair and force-toke the equivalent of 63 Columbian-strength joints over the course of five minutes. The monkeys suffered brain damage, all right — from suffocation and carbon monoxide poisoning.

1975 FDA establishes Compassionate Use program for medical marijuana.

1976 USA New York Times (Jan 5) declares 'Scientists find nothing really harmful about pot'.

1976 Cannabis is decriminalised in the Netherlands.

1976 DuPont declares cannabis is less harmful than alcohol or tobacco and calls for its decriminalization.

1977 President Carter thinks cannabis should be legalized.

1981 The Coptic Study claims 'No harm to human brain or intelligence' through cannabis use.

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Block the Extradition of a Hero for Liberty

by Michael Cust and Peter Jaworski

Michael Cust is an M.A. candidate in political science at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario. He also runs this web log. Peter Jaworski, M.A., organizes the annual Liberty Summer Seminar (held this August 13-14 in Orono, Ontario) where Marc Emery was a confirmed speaker this year until the events of July 29th. He is an M.Sc. candidate in Philosophy and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and will be starting his Ph.D. in Applied Ethics, Social & Political Philosophy at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Copyright © 2005 LewRockwell.com

On Friday July 29th, 2005, British Columbia Marijuana Party President Marc Emery was arrested while vacationing in Nova Scotia by Halifax police, and his business in Vancouver was raided by Vancouver police, both at the request of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Working in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle, Washington, the DEA is requesting that Emery be extradited to the United States on charges of conspiracy to cultivate marijuana, conspiracy to launder money, and conspiracy to distribute marijuana seeds. All charges relate to the operation of his business Marc Emery Direct Marijuana Seeds, which openly sells marijuana seeds – but not marijuana – over the Internet.

Emery uses the profits from his business to fund his magazine Cannabis Culture, his Internet TV network Pot-TV, and drug law reform and libertarian activism around the world.

Presently, there are many Canadian, English, and Dutch businesses selling marijuana seeds to Americans. To understand why Emery in particular was targeted, the history of his activism must be understood.

Emery's career as an activist began in 1980 when, as proprietor of the City Lights Bookstore in London, Ontario, he stumbled upon *Ayn Rand's* Capitalism: "The Unknown Ideal" and *Murray Rothbard's* "Conceived in Liberty". The influence of these books was profound and, eventually, Emery decided to devote his career to the cause of individual freedom.

While proprietor of City Lights, Emery led several notable campaigns. When the local garbage collectors union went on strike, Emery started a private and gratis garbage collection service. When the Ontario government banned 2 Live Crew CDs, Emery advertised the sale of, and sold, the CDs from his store. While Ontario's Sunday close laws were in place, Emery repeatedly opened his store on Sundays. The law was eventually

overturned in no small part thanks to his efforts.

Emery first became involved in drug law reform activism in the early 1990s, when he sold copies of High Times magazine on the steps of London police headquarters to protest Canada's then prohibition on drug-related literature (which was eventually overturned thanks to his efforts).

In 1994, Emery moved his activist efforts west and set up HempBC in Vancouver, B.C., which he termed his "libertarian capitalist project." His "hempire" included the Little Grow Shop, the HempBC legal aid society, and the Cannabis Café. Together they were to be the political, cultural, and economic centres of British Columbia's burgeoning marijuana culture.

In the late 1990s, Emery's businesses suffered a series of raids from Vancouver police, each coming shortly after Emery was featured in major U.S. media outlets like CNN, the cover of the Wall Street Journal, and



Left: John Walters, US Drug Czar, Right: Marc Emery

ABC's Sex, Drugs, and Consenting Adults. It was rumoured then that the arrests were motivated by pressure from U.S. law enforcement.

In court, B.C. judges refused to send Emery to jail for his peaceful civil disobedience, giving him at most fines. In retaliation, Vancouver police started seizing Emery's inventory, but not charging him, in effect stealing his property.

Eventually run under financially, Emery moved his operation to B.C.'s Sunshine Coast, a short ferry ride from Vancouver. There, he continued both his seed business and his magazine. It was also during this sojourn that Emery founded Pot-TV.

In 2001, Emery moved his operation back to Vancouver when he founded the B.C. Marijuana Party, a provincial political party dedicated to individual rights and ending the drug war. That year, the party ran in its first

provincial election. It was the first political party in B.C.'s history to have a candidate in every riding in its first election, fielding 79 candidates in 79 ridings. The party garnered 50,000 votes on election night.

In the summer of 2003, Emery discovered a loophole in Canadian law that made possession of marijuana legal. When Canadian authorities continued to enforce possession laws, Emery went on an eighteen-city cross-country tour, smoking marijuana on the steps of police stations, daring police to arrest him. He was arrested in six cities, but all of the charges were eventually dropped when it was discovered that Emery was in fact correct. (Since his tour, the prohibition of marijuana possession in Canada has been re-instituted by an Ontario Court of Appeals decision.)

In the 2004 Canadian federal election, Emery supported Canada's left-wing New Democratic Party after party leader Jack Layton appeared on Pot-TV and promised to legalize the growth, sale, and possession of marijuana if elected.

It is because of his long career in activism that the DEA is targeting him. Unlike other seed merchants who quietly conduct their affairs, Emery puts the brunt of his efforts into the movement to end the prohibition of marijuana and to legitimize the culture that has emerged surrounding the plant.

Since the prohibition of drugs is a multi-billion dollar affair, we shouldn't be surprised. Drug cops, prosecutors, judges, politicians, prison construction contractors, companies that use cheap prison labour, and military firms that sell weapons and surveillance equipment to drug law enforcement are all significantly enriched by the continuation of the war on drugs.

Further, those participating in the drug war share a common assumption about members of the marijuana culture. They all believe that marijuana people are second-class citizens who deserve to be vilified. Their views are best expressed in U.S. Drug Czar John Walters' statement that Vancouver's marijuana scene is "moral pollution."

In the public policy sphere, the assumptions of the drug warriors are the rule. With very few exceptions, all politicians operate on the assumption that there is something inherently wrong with using and growing marijuana.

But such views are in direct contradiction with society's values. Consider Cheech and Chong movies, the Simpsons, South Park, late-night talk shows, and the stories most of us have about our own experiences with marijuana. These all involve the implicit understanding that smoking marijuana is

Block the Extradition of a Hero for Liberty

innocent, largely harmless, and fun.

We're right to think that.

Yet, because of the disconnection between public policy values and social values, those involved in the marijuana culture have their properties seized, and are regularly thrown in prison. A turn in prison makes finding work more difficult, creates tension in families, and makes returning to normal life complex and harried.

These actions, however, cannot continue indefinitely. Suppose we were truly serious about marijuana and its dangerous effects, so much so that we gave everyone who tried it a place to stay behind bars. Who would have a criminal record? John Lennon would. So would former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, award-winning Canadian author Pierre Burton, Bill Clinton, and, yes, even George W. Bush himself. He'd have good company in current Prime Minister Paul Martin, who ate marijuana brownies, and former Federal Justice Minister Alan Rock who has taken a puff or twelve.

Further, growing numbers of successful individuals are beginning to call into question the drug war. Nobel-Prize winners Milton Friedman, Vernon Smith, and James

Buchanan, ABC news anchor John Stossel, Officer in the Order of Canada and philosophy professor Jan Narveson, Congressman Ron Paul, the Mises Institute, the Cato Institute, the Fraser Institute, and the Canadian Senate committee on the non-medicinal use of drugs, have all argued that marijuana prohibition should end. No, more than that – this list of sophisticates have argued for the outright legalization of marijuana.

All the while, Canada's experiment with marijuana tolerance continues to be successful. Most cases of pot smoking are greeted with a shrug and a chuckle. And, in spite of the hostility towards marijuana shown by the official organizations of the police, for instance the Canadian Police Association, many on-the-street police officers share in the chuckle, rightfully acknowledging marijuana use as a benign form of recreation.

Canada's judges have the opportunity to send a powerful message to American lawmakers, and to Canada's Parliament. They can, and should, block the extradition of Marc Emery making plain in the process that the only moral pollution here is the war on drugs.



1983 The USA government (Reagan/Bush) orders American universities to destroy all 1966-76 research work on cannabis.

1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act - Mandatory Sentences - President Reagan signed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, instituting mandatory sentences for drug-related crimes.

1986 Dronabinol is placed into Schedule II by the DEA.

1988 DEA chief administrative judge, Judge Young, rules the US government should allow the medicinal use of cannabis. He says "Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man". DEA rejects report.

1988 In the USA - a clear violation of rights to free speech - laws were passed prohibiting the right to explain how drugs are produced, advocate use of drugs or hemp, and even promoting legalization of drugs was outlawed. The penalties were \$100,000 for the first offence and \$300,000 for the second, with six months to a year's incarceration.

1989 Ignoring evidence to the contrary, Drug Enforcement Agency Director John Lawn orders that cannabis remain on the Schedule One narcotics list, reserved for drugs which have no known medical use.

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The Policy of Pot - A Discussion with Eugene Oscapella

Eugene Oscapella, B.A., LL.B., LL.M., is a Barrister and Solicitor in Ottawa, Canada. Mr. Oscapella completed undergraduate studies in economics at the University of Toronto in 1974 and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ottawa in 1977. He obtained his Master of Laws degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1979. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 1980. Mr. Oscapella has written and lectured extensively in Canada and abroad on privacy and drug policy issues.

At the Drug Policy Reform Conference in Castlegar, BC on March 12, 2005 Eugene Oscapella had this to say:

“Let’s look at cannabis. In 1923 Canada prohibited cannabis, there were no scientific studies, there was no debate in Parliament, none whatsoever, the only thing said in Parliament about criminalizing this drug, which has since made criminals out of hundreds of thousands of Canadians for simple possession, was that a new drug had been added to the schedule of prohibited drugs. That was the extent of the debate. There wasn’t a single conviction for cannabis possession until fourteen years after the law was enacted. It was essentially a solution

without a problem and as best as we can tell the prohibition of cannabis was probably heavily influenced by the hysterical and rather racist rantings of Emily Murphy, Canada’s first female magistrate and one of the famous five suffragettes. This vitriol may have been responsible for the addition of cannabis to the schedule of prohibited drugs, but there was no science behind it. Now just because there was no science behind it back then, doesn’t mean that it’s not a bad drug, but it just so happens that cannabis is probably relatively benign for most people who use it. I’m not one of the people who believe it’s totally harmless, I believe some people can be harmed by it, but for most people who use it the way it’s used currently, it’s not a significant health issue at all. The biggest risk is of course, the risk of being prosecuted.”

Canadians are concerned at the confusion regarding the decriminalization of marijuana.

For those who profit from the drug war industry, the war on drugs has been a raging success. For the rest of society, the war on drugs is one of the most egregious failures of the 20th century.

we have in many provinces for alcohol where you can go to the liquor control board store and purchase something of known potency and known quality. There would be age restrictions, taxation policies and education policies built in around that. That’s a regulatory model, that’s more in line with what most people would think of as being legalization. Legalization does not mean a total absence of controls, which is how some people try to portray it. Legalization, for most people, means a regulatory system, but not a punitive one. So, in other words, you as an adult could possess small quantities of cannabis. You could produce small quantities for your own consumption, you could share it with neighbors if they came over on a Saturday night for dinner, just like you could share a bottle of your homemade wine. That’s the model that might well work.”

What, as Canadian citizens, can we do? Mr. Oscapella suggests we go to the lawmakers. “You have to let the lawmakers know that you will not tolerate the nonsense that they’ve been spouting and the policies they’ve been perpetuating on drugs right now. Politicians want to get re-elected, they react to their constituents. Some of them also have genuine public interest at heart, but many of them also just want to get re-elected and they have to understand that if they continue this folly that you’re going to call them to task for it. So it really is about getting to politicians and saying we don’t want this anymore, this isn’t working. Prohibition is harming us, it’s harming our kids, it’s harming our communities, it’s fostering organized crime. We’ve really got to look for an alternative model.”

In 1998, Eugene Oscapella wrote, “Drugs, Criminal Justice and Social Policy”, for an address he gave, “Profiteers and Prohibition” in St. Michael, Barbados. In this address he states that there is an even more influential dynamic that’s keeping rational drug policy at bay. That dynamic is blatant self-interest, self-interest accruing from the advantages to individuals who support pursuing the war on drugs.

Eugene points out that drug money purchases the good things in life, including expensive cars and consumer goods, thus helping to prop up the industries of many countries.

In a sense, the war on drugs represents the intersection of capitalists and socialists.

Mr. Oscapella says, “The decriminalization process is confusing, even amongst people who work within the field. To me decriminalization means it is still an offense, but not a criminal offense. So you get a ticket, might be a \$100 fine. The scheme that the federal government has concocted in the bill before Parliament right now is that you would not go to jail for simple possession. It would be a fine, but they’ve backed away from calling it decriminalization, they call it instead, you know, just a change to the penalty structure but it’s still to them a criminal offense, but you won’t get a criminal record. So there is confusion. Ultimately, a better way to look at it would be to say we need a regulated system, similar to what



The Policy of Pot A Discussion with Eugene Oscapella

The capitalists are the profiteers and the socialists are those trying to suppress the profiteers by force:

Snip: - The war on drugs has also provided an enduring excuse for governments to avoid dealing with the real problems behind drug use – why people use drugs in the first place. A much more convenient solution is simply to blame societal evils – from lack of productivity to spousal abuse to underdeveloped children to unemployment to the deterioration of inner cities – on drugs rather than on failed, negligent, incompetent or corrupt government policies.

Clever politicians and state authorities simply use the war on drugs as an excuse to enhance their control over society. They use the war on drugs to nudge along the authoritarianism that we now see creeping into even supposedly democratic countries.

The war on drugs is also protecting the pharmaceutical industry, which benefits by the protection offered against competition from substances that could, in the absence of the war, be produced more cheaply and that might sometimes prove just as or more effective than pharmaceutical products. The war protects the “other” drug industries in our countries too – alcohol and tobacco. By vilifying users of “illicit” drugs, we have proven effective in steering our citizens to those other psychoactive substances that are manufactured by organizations that then fill our political coffers, perhaps quietly thankful for the protection offered by governments against competition from “illicit” substances.

The war on drugs is also teaching governments a lesson in propaganda management. Governments around the world see how easy it is to manipulate public opinion through misinformation. They can paralyze the intellectual faculties of many otherwise intelligent people simply by using the right dose of anti-drug rhetoric.

The war on drugs works wonderfully in another way. It benefits from easy opponents. Although I’ve never been in the military myself, I believe that even I recognize the soundness of the advice that you should never fight a war that you cannot win. The opponents in the war on drugs are not those who you might immediately suspect – the drug

barons and other criminals. No, in fact, they are your allies, for without them there would be no drug war industry. The real opponents in the war on drugs are drug users themselves. And what more carefully chosen opponents could one wish for? Marginalized, stigmatized, these people have little political or public support after their vilification through drug war propaganda. Drug users have very little hope against the powerful armies that are being assembled to fight the war on drugs and to support the drug war industry.

Yes, this is a truly intelligent war, waged against opponents who may be too weak, too sick, too stigmatized and too afraid to challenge the might and the force that is being directed at them. It really is a perfect little system. In a sense, I do congratulate those who have made their system work so well – that is, work so well for everyone but ordinary citizens whose fundamental human rights and civil liberties are being plundered in the process. It is a perfect system, except for these citizens and those unfortunate enough to use or work with the “wrong” drugs.

For those who profit from the drug war industry, the war on drugs has been a raging success. For the rest of society, the war on drugs is one of the most egregious failures of the 20th century.

Lest you think that I am labeling every supporter of the war on drugs a knowing, self-interested, beneficiary of the war, to the detriment of the public, I am not. Many people support the war on drugs out of a genuine belief that it will protect society. I disagree with you, but I do not criticize your sincerity. I am here to suggest that you reconsider your position.

The full notes of this address can be found at: <http://www.cfdp.ca/barbados98.htm>
Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy,
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1991 THC receptors found in the brain.

1992 USA over 340,000 arrests for cannabis.

1992 U.S. President Clinton admits he smoked cannabis, but did not inhale. Howard Marks admits that he smoked cannabis, but never exhaled.

1994 An Ontario farmer, Joe Strobel, is granted a federal licence to grow 10 acres of marijuana for research into the plant's industrial agricultural potential.

1995 The U.S. prison population has grown an average of 43,266 inmates per year. About 25 per cent are sentenced for drug law violations.

1997 The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act comes into force, consolidating marijuana laws previously found in the Narcotic Control Act and Parts III and IV of the Food and Drugs Act.

1997 A court in Texas, USA, sentences medical marijuana user William J. Foster to 93 years imprisonment for cultivation of one plant.

1997 An 8-year study at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine concluded that long-term smokers of cannabis do not experience a greater annual decline in lung functions than non-smokers.

1997 In the USA a \$2 million study to prove cannabis smoking can cause cancer fails and announces that it does not. The release of the report is delayed due to 'lack of supplies'.

1998 The UK Government has granted a license to grow and possess cannabis for the purposes of medical trials, to Dr. Geoffrey Guy of GW Pharmaceuticals. The crop at a secret location in south-east England is guarded by electrified razor-wire fences, security cameras and guard dogs.

1998 Italy decriminalizes possession of drugs and permits small-scale cultivation of cannabis for own use.

1999 Switzerland legalizing Cannabis.

How much is too much?

ALCOHOL

Ethanol produced by the action of yeast on sugars.

Very high doses cause vomiting, coma and death through respiratory failure. The fatal dose varies but is somewhere around 500 milligrams of ethanol per 100 milliliters of blood.

AMPHETAMINE-TYPE STIMULANTS

A class of synthetic drugs invented and still used as appetite suppressors. Includes amphetamine itself and derivatives including methamphetamine and dextroamphetamine.

Overdosing can lead to convulsions, heart failure, coma and death. The fatal dose varies from person to person, with some reports of acute reactions to as little as 2 milligrams and others of non-fatal 500 milligram doses. Most deaths from overdose have been among injecting users.

CAFFEINE

An alkaloid found in coffee, cocoa beans, tea, kola nuts and guarana. Also added to many fizzy drinks, energy drinks, pep pills and cold and flu remedies. Caffeine

raises heart and respiration rate and promotes urine production. Higher doses induce jitteriness and anxiety. The fatal dose is about 10 grams.

CANNABIS

Leaves, buds, flowers and resin from the cannabis plant, *Cannabis sativa*, a native of central Asia. The plant contains numerous psychoactive compounds called cannabinoids, the most potent of which is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Cannabis is usually smoked in the form of dried leaves and buds, or as a dried resin (hashish). No fatal dose has ever been recorded in humans.

COCAINE

An alkaloid extracted from the leaves of the coca plant (*Erythroxylon coca*), a native of the eastern slopes of the Andes. The drug increases heart rate and blood pressure, sometimes fatally. Very high doses depress brain stem function, potentially leading to cardiac arrest and respiratory failure. The fatal dose can be as low as 1 gram.

DISSOCIATIVES

A class of hallucinogenic drugs that produce feelings of depersonalization and detachment from reality. The most commonly used are ketamine and its relatives DXM (dextromethorphan hydrobromide) and PCP (phencyclidine, angel dust). Accidental overdoses are unknown: the drug has a wide safety margin.

ECSTASY

The amphetamine derivative MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine). What is sold on the street, however, often contains no MDMA. MDMA is not toxic per se but can cause death due to over-

heating and dehydration. It also inhibits the production of urine and so can lead to a fatal build-up of fluid in the tissues.

HALLUCINOGENS/PSCHEDELICS

A broad class of natural and synthetic compounds that profoundly alter perception and consciousness. The most commonly used are the LSD group, including LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), LSA (d-lysergic acid amide), DMT (dimethyltryptamine, found in ayahuasca) and psilocybin (the main active ingredient of magic mushrooms). LSD is one of the most psychoactive substances known. Only 25 micrograms are required to produce an effect; 100 micrograms will induce 12 hours or more of profound psychedelia.

OPIATES

Any compound that stimulates the opioid receptors found in the brain, spinal cord and gut. The fatal dose depends on tolerance and how the drug is taken but a naive user would probably die after injecting 200 milligrams.

TOBACCO

Dried leaves of the tobacco plant *Nicotiana tabacum*, a native of South America. Usually smoked but can also be snorted as snuff or chewed. The main active ingredient is the alkaloid nicotine. The lethal dose is about 60 milligrams; a typical cigarette delivers about 2 milligrams of nicotine into the bloodstream. Large doses cause hallucinations and death.

Source: *New Scientist*, Vol. 184, Iss. 2473 – 13 November 2004 – page 40

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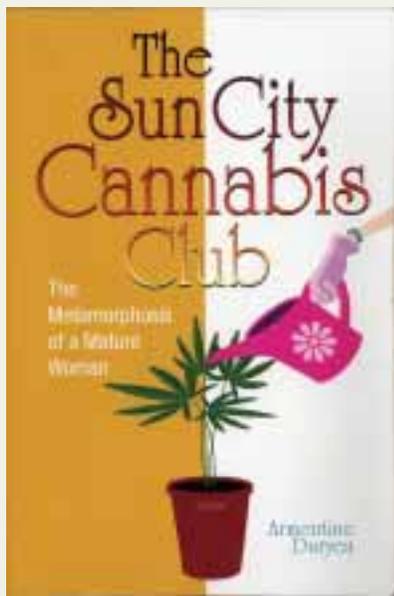
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The Sun City Cannabis Club

The Metamorphosis of a Mature Woman

- When one smokes marijuana, one's eyes become bloodshot, one's appetite increases, one's mouth becomes dry, and one becomes mildly euphoric.**
- To eliminate the redness, use eye drops.**
- To eliminate the increase in appetite, have a healthy, nutritious snack.**
- To eliminate the dryness of the mouth, drink some pure, cool water.**
- To eliminate the mild euphoria, scrutinize the government.**



By: Armentine Duryea
 Okey Dokey Press – www.okeydokeypress.com
 \$17.00 US

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind those gates in a retirement community? Well this book; *The Sun City Cannabis Club - The Metamorphosis of a Mature Woman*, will open your eyes to the strength and determination of a secret group of free thinking senior citizens living behind the confines of the gates. You'll laugh, you may even be shocked, but you will definitely become enlightened.

Armentine Duryea (a nom de plume) draws you into this book with a sort of innate knowledge of the cannabis movement's

network. The characters and their loosely linked associations to key players are very intriguing. You will find yourself wondering, "Just who is Armentine Duryea?"

We asked Jock McNeill, Armentine's liaison and publisher, why the author felt a pseudonym was necessary, he replied; "because of the controversial nature of the book and that she lives in an ultra-conservative community, she demands absolute anonymity. However, she told me 'Once I have enough scratch to get out of town, I'll remove the mask.'"

McNeill went on to say; "I don't know 'Armentine's' exact age, but I know that she is over seventy. She has traveled the world and is vastly experienced, and although she refuses to discuss some of her experiences she is unstoppable regarding others. I have personally heard some that know her, call her "the Grandma Moses of Contemporary Literature." This is her first novel, and she refers to it as her 'dogma drive-by.'"

Duryea's true identity is a guarded secret but after reading this book you will start to understand why.

The story centers on Faye McCrae (a frumpy West Coast housewife) who happens to move to Sun City with her close-minded and controlling husband. However, after his suicide, she finds herself on an incredible journey of self-discovery. A brief bout with alcoholism and a mugging brings a mysterious woman named Marian Higgins into her life. Marian takes Faye under her wing and introduces her into the world of cannabis and compassion. During Faye's awakening, she comes to the realization that perhaps all the things she's been led to believe for years are simply untrue and it ultimately changes the way she participates in life forever. You could say, Marian plants the seeds of new ideas which allows Faye to open her mind and move into the "inner circle". Meanwhile, Marian's passion for exposing corrupt politicians lands them in the middle of a Mexican grow-up and that's where the intrigue begins.

If a fictional work with a real life twist is what you're looking for, this is a great read from beginning to end.



1999 The Canadian Federal government has given permission for the cultivation and use of marijuana for medical purposes.

2000 The Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs announces that over 30,000 Canadians were charged with simple possession of marijuana.

2000 Roughly one third of voting adults in the US have acknowledged smoking pot at some time during their lives. Presently, one person is arrested every 45 seconds for simple possession.

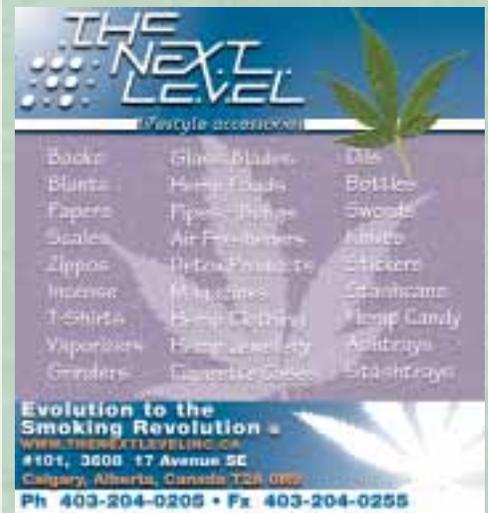
2000 Over 90% of Canadians support decriminalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes, according to a National Post poll.

2000 The judgment in *R. vs Parker* declares the prohibition on the possession of marijuana in the Act "to be of no force and effect", but suspends that declaration for a year to give Parliament time to amend the federal legislation to comply with the Charter.

2000 UK reports that cannabis is less harmful than Aspirin.

2001 Canada becomes the first country in the world to legalize the use of marijuana by people suffering from terminal illnesses and chronic conditions.

2002 The Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs reviews Canada's current anti-drug policies and legislation and says that marijuana is not a gateway drug and should be treated more like tobacco or alcohol rather than like harder drugs.



Festival of Freedom at the Forks

by Gord Taylor

It was a great time in our "little piece of paradise" as our flags flew high and proud at one of Canada's premiere venues for the betterment of mankind. Cannabis Health Journal was proud to be a gold level sponsor.

The entertainment that poured from the stages all day long, for this three-day event, was impressive to say the very least. Included in a diverse all-star line-up were Freeflow, masterfully blending hip-hop, reggae and rock. Rodney DeCroo and the Killers created quite a buzz. Each night concluded with a major headliner.

Lisa Brokop delivered a real tight performance Friday night. A truly profes-

sional performer who is not too busy to talk to her fans. Nice job Lisa!

Everyone came out to see April Wine on Saturday night and they played their hearts out to a very appreciative crowd. They have



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Festival of Freedom at the Forks



Cannabis workshop speakers, Ted Smith, left, and Dr. David Pate, right, discussing issues while taking in the festival.

very big hearts that drive them to promote the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. A substantial portion of the band's income goes to support this very worthy cause which strikes a personal chord with them. Our personal favorites were Dragonfly, a family band with a great sound, and Kettle River Drive, who performed an excellent set of tunes to the delight of their fans.

Our special guests were; John Conroy and his wife Sherri, Dr. David Pate, Ted Smith and his partner Marie from the Cannabis Buyers Clubs of Canada.

Barb St. Jean opened a well attended workshop on Medicinal Cannabis for which an hour and a half did not seem nearly long enough. John Conroy, QC gave a very clear and up-to-date account on the inadequacies of our current laws as they apply to medicinal cannabis. Ted Smith delighted us all with humorous anecdotal accounts of his adventures within the wild world of activism. Ted is very easy to listen to and draws you in like you're just hanging out in his kitchen. Cannabis and the cannabinoids are a special interest of David Pate. Dr. Pate's soft spoken manner held the crowd as he skillfully sketched a visual picture on a very complex subject. Some of the topics he covered were the chemical ecology of cannabis, endocannabinoids and, in particular, hempseed foods.

The Family Friendly Zone on the festival grounds, co-spon-

sored by Success by 6, was a real treat for parents of young children. This is another example of how this truly is a family event. Zero waste for a pristine environment is also one of those initiatives that seemed to go unnoticed until you paused for a second and noticed how clean the grounds were for such a major event. Clean washrooms at all times, what a concept, and a washstand with soap made for a lot of happy campers. All concert promoters should take a

look at this model

of waste management. Thanks to all our staff and volunteers who help make Cannabis Health Journal the # 1 voice for freedom of choice. www.freedomrocks.ca



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2003 The U.S. federal government spent over \$19 billion dollars in 2003 on the War on Drugs, at a rate of about \$600 per second. The budget has since been increased by over a billion dollars. Arrests for drug law violations in 2005 are expected to exceed the 1,678,192 arrests of 2003.

2005 In a segment of the tapes made available to CNN by ABC News, the president appears to admit to trying marijuana. Bush says he "wouldn't answer the marijuana question ... 'cause I don't want some little kid doing what I tried."

2005 Sativex, the world's first cannabis derived medicine is licensed for use in Canada. The drug is developed by British Company GW Pharmaceuticals. The UK considers licensing Sativex as well.

2005 Marijuana becomes focus of drug war - The Washington Post reports that the focus of the drug war in the United States has shifted significantly over the past decade from hard drugs (namely heroin and cocaine) to marijuana, which now accounts for nearly half of all drug arrests nationwide, according to a recently released analysis of federal crime statistics.

2005 Bush administration officials said individual users have little reason to worry. "We have never targeted the sick and dying, but rather criminals engaged in drug trafficking".

2005 The House rejects an effort to undercut a Supreme Court ruling on medical marijuana, defeating an amendment to protect people who smoke marijuana on the advice of their doctors in the 10 states where the practice is legal.

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A pot policy that works In my opinion

by Ailee Slater

Sometimes you have to see it to believe it. Hippies of the United States have rallied around the idea of decriminalized marijuana for decades, but few have the experience to say whether such a policy would actually work. Taking a trip to Vancouver, BC, was proof enough for me: The United States' current laws on marijuana need to be seriously reevaluated.

During sightseeing expeditions in Canada, my friends and I decided to visit a Vancouver cafe, an establishment whose logo

has a giant pot leaf in the middle of it. Like a few other Vancouver locations, this cafe has a policy of "tolerating" marijuana smoking. This, coupled with Vancouver's notarized statement that local police should not waste their time prosecuting small amounts of marijuana, creates a certain atmosphere within the cafe. In brief, this cafe is like none other; standing in the cafe doorway alone was enough to become pleasantly buzzed.

The cafe was warm, dark and ultimately an experience in comfort. Patrons chatted, sipped coffee and smiled freely as they passed joints and glass



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A pot policy that works - In my opinion

pipes around the tables. The music was loud, but the atmosphere was laid back. No one got on top of the counters and did body shots; no one puked all over the floor. The scary, exciting depravity of the bars from our previous night of vacation had been replaced with low-key enjoyment in a slightly unusual situation.

Vancouver police stay true to their unspoken agreement not to bother marijuana users within the cafe. The best part of this agreement is that it is perfectly possible for this cafe to run without police intervention. Imagine a similar situation wherein cops promised to avoid prosecuting minors at a bar. It would be impossible to do so, because even those legal users at a bar create situa-

Whereas the dynamics of alcohol caused men to befriend women only to rub against them, the dynamics of marijuana created a social situation that truly was social rather than sexual.

tions (drunken fights, sexual harassment) wherein police intervention is necessary. Not so at a pot cafe. The mood is friendly and relaxed rather than uproarious and violent.

The relations between genders are likewise remarkably different when comparing this cafe to any other place where substances and social interaction are the main purpose of the establishment. At bars the women in our group were continuously privy to the sexual advances of men. Sometimes these advances were appreciated and reciprocated; more often, they were not. We found ourselves leaving dance floors and clubs simply to escape the man who would not leave us alone, refused to let go during a song or trailed one of us around demanding to buy us a drink. These kinds of advances were relentless and only created uncomfortable situations and ruined nights of merriment.

At this cafe, however, there was no such sexual tension. When a girlfriend and I approached two men and introduced ourselves, they shook our hands immediately and engaged in cordial conversation. The four of us discussed our homes, our schools, our lives, without once turning the conversation sexual. Whereas the dynamics of alcohol caused men to befriend women only to rub against them, the dynamics of marijuana created a social situation that truly was social rather than sexual. The smoke clouding up the cafe was a breath of fresh air.

This cafe was the equivalent of an upscale lounge. Yes, most customers were using mind-altering substances. But like a 40-something executive entertaining a gin and tonic with lunch, the cafe smokers were committing a basically innocuous act. After this cafe, it is mind-boggling that the U.S. government can sleep at night having criminalized marijuana to the nth degree. How alcohol is legal and marijuana illegal is question enough, to say nothing of the fact that other drugs such as cocaine are regulated even less than marijuana. Perhaps it is the image of the businessman who sips liquor versus the image of the hippie who pokes smot and doesn't ever get a job. The government seems to defer to that image every time a marijuana debate emerges, and apparently our society has not grown past its goal to protect capitalism based on mental pictures regarding which drug hurts society the most. I don't envy the government's responsibility to create law. It is often hard to know what will work and what will not, so creating regulations without an empirical example of utopia is certainly a difficult task. Vancouver, B.C., took a chance on de-regulating marijuana, and it worked. Police have more time and money to prosecute rapists and murderers, and young people looking for a fun night out (topped off with a little bit of mind alteration) can choose a cafe over a bar. If it worked there, it can work here.

How about it Oregon? I'd say we're ready for a revolutionary stand on marijuana, but the truth is this: Because we already know de-regulation worked in Canada, de-regulation of marijuana in the United States would not be revolutionary at all. It would just be the implementation of a policy that has already proven itself to be a damn good idea.

Source:

Oregon Daily Emerald, the independent campus newspaper at the University of Oregon
www.dailyemerald.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/07/12/42d400083fae5#feedback



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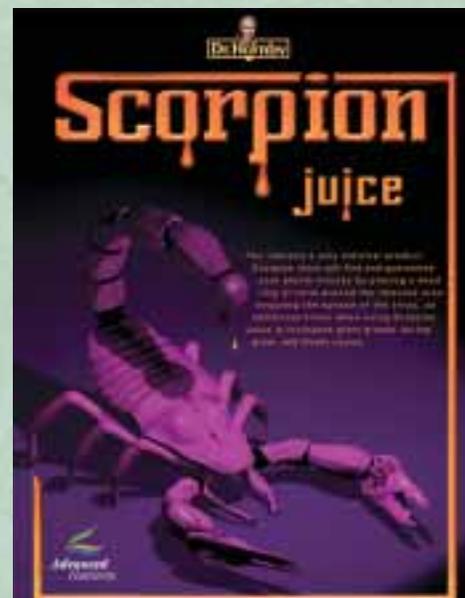
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2005 The Kansas City Star reports: The government is violating federal law by obstructing medical marijuana research, scientists contend in lawsuits seeking faster action on applications to grow the drug.

2005 News10- Gannett Company reports; "The state attorney general has reviewed this concern and says that California can issue ID cards to medical marijuana users without state employees facing prosecution for assisting in the commission of a federal crime".



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yours, peace. This bag is valued at \$2,500 CDN. The winner will be announced in the May/June 2006 issue of Cannabis Health Journal. Good luck to all.

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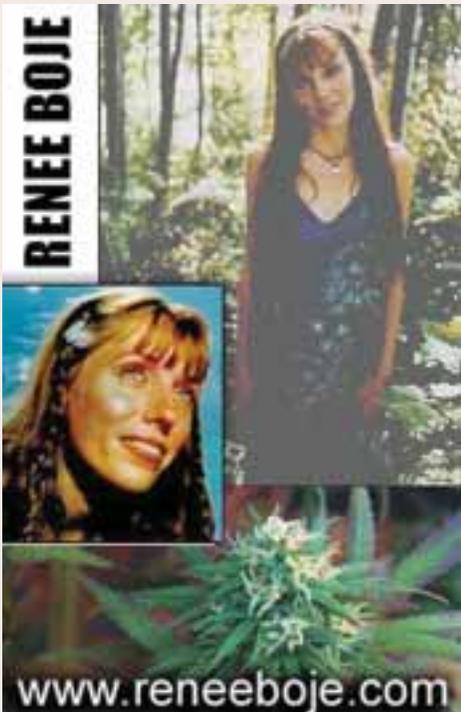
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People from across North America are hearing and learning about a woman named Renee Boje from musicians Johnny Punish and the Shabbabs.

Johnny Punish and the Shabbabs have taken a song originally performed by "The Clash", ("Julie's Working for the Drug Squad"), and came up with a song called "Renee and the Drug Squad" in support of Renee Boje's fight against extradition from Canada, and her certain imprisonment if returned to the United States.

Arrested in California eight years ago (1997) for helping care for a Medical Marijuana garden, Renee Boje fled to Canada to avoid ten years to life in prison for not speaking out against her friends and fellow activists.

Now living in Vancouver Canada and married with a three year old son, Renee had been hoping for a more compassionate ruling by the Canadian Justice Minister, Irwin Cotler, who had previously been known for his fair rulings on human rights, and issues pertaining to women and other minorities.

Song Lyrics

It's Dylan in the sky nothing left of apple pie
 We stare at the screen cause cancer go mean
 And Renee's in the rain
 Ganja means the pain
 But sooner or later the Canucks will realize
 Renee's been fighting against the drug squad
 (repeat)

Well it seemed like a dream too good to be true
 The weed grows high so the patients can live
 In their millions,

Don't ya know you gotta give
 But there's someone looking down
 From that mountain side
 Renee's been fighting against the drug squad
 (repeat)

Chorus
 It's 10 years for you
 19 for you
 May get us for 25
 That is if we're all alive

And then there came the night of the greatest ever raid
 They arrested all Renees that had ever been made
 But she's not there
 Off to Canada to fight what's fair
 But they didn't halt the pull
 Cause those jails are all full
 Renee's been fighting against the drug squad
 (repeat)

Well they put her in court in the land of the snow
 And Cotler said Renee that it's time that you go
 You've gotta face the man
 You're a thorn in our plan
 But she's gonna give a fight
 Cause Renee stands alright
 Renee's been fighting against the drug squad
 (repeat)

COTLER!
Chorus

It's not fair DEA, Free Renee Boje
<http://www.twistednixon.com/punish/reneeboje.htm>



2005 CBC News Marc Emery - The 'Prince of Pot' arrested; U.S. seeks extradition.

Source:
<http://www.torontohemp.com/timeline.htm>,
<http://www.torontohemp.com/canadian.htm>,
http://www.cannabishealth.com/issue_03/index.html#time,
<http://www.cannabisworldwide.com/us02.html>,
<http://www.viperrecords.com/newprohibition/timeline.shtml>,
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http://www.erowid.org/plants/cannabis/cannabis_timeline.php,
<http://www.news10.net/story-full1.asp?id=12327>



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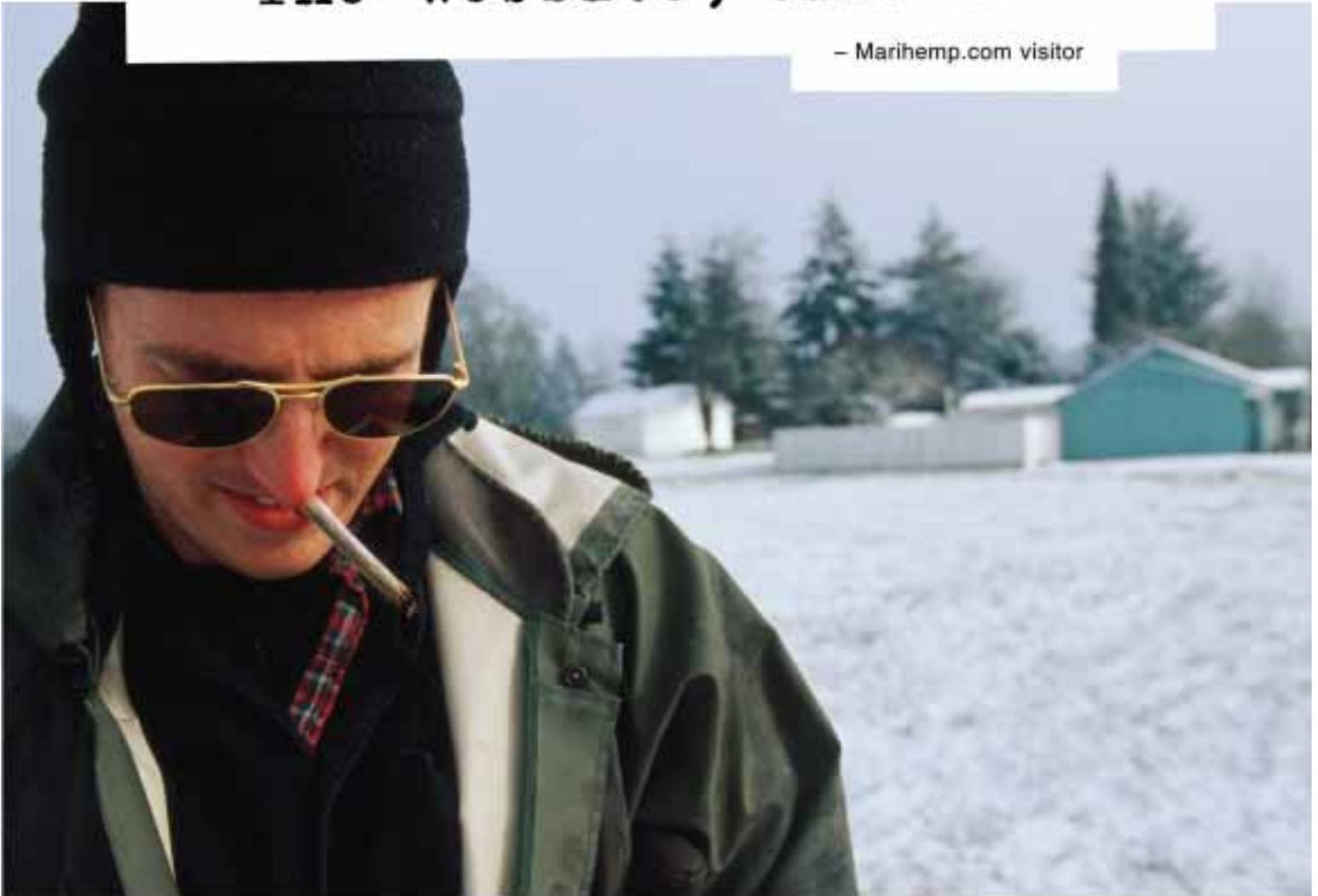
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