

# Cannabis Community News

## IN THIS ISSUE

OREGON MEDICAL CANNABIS AWARDS..... 1

PDX POT INITIATIVE MISSES BALLOT GOAL.... 1

OREGON NORML REPRESENTS AT 15TH ANNUAL SEATTLE HEMP FEST ..... 2

EXCITEMENT AT OUR CARDHOLDERS MEETING ..... 3

2ND ANNUAL PORTLAND HEMPSTALK ..... 4

OUR LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE FRANK..... 5

LEGAL GREEN - BY ROBERT PLAIN..... 6

THE VIEW FROM HEMP STREET: DON DUPAY.. 7

PORTLAND FASHION WEEK DEDICATES AN EVENING TO SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN CLOTHING ..... 7

"A BUNCH OF STONERS WHO WANNA GET HIGH" ..... 8

## 5TH ANNUAL OREGON MEDICAL CANNABIS AWARDS

(by RB) Our year-ending extravaganza, the **Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards (OMCA)**, is coming this December 9 from 10am to 10pm.

The awards are Oregon's premiere cannabis strain evaluation. 28 medical marijuana patients act as judges for awards. Caregivers and growers submit their best strains of cannabis and the judges rate them for medical effectiveness, potency, time to onset, and taste, smell, and appearance.

The **Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards (OMCA)** offers medical marijuana patients a chance to evaluate up to **28 strains** of medical cannabis. Medical marijuana growers submit their strains to a panel of medical marijuana patients who then judge the strains on medicinal effect and po-

tency. The medicine must be grown in Oregon and strain and growing techniques are carefully noted.

**Trophies and prizes** are awarded to the top three strains in terms of overall score. Fourth and fifth place

*(Continued on page 3)*



David Verstoppen, 2005 OMCA Overall winner for "Dynamite"

## PDX POT INITIATIVE MISSES BALLOT GOAL

(by CI) Friends,

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I make this announcement. On August 7th, 2006, we learned that **our Portland City initiative did not have enough signatures to qualify for the November**

**ballot.** After the City and County went through the required validity and checking process, we learned that we had officially made it 2/3 of the way towards our goal.

The fact that we got 2/3 of the way in less than four

months is quite an accomplishment. Of course we wanted to qualify for the ballot; however, the fact that **we collected over 40,000 signatures in four months** is a positive sign. With more time we would have surely collected enough signatures to qual-

ify.

Here's what seems to have happened. We collected over 40,000 gross signatures in four months. Of those 40K we ended up crossing off what we estimated as almost 5,000 sig-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*14 million Americans consume cannabis at least once per month.*

*30 million Americans consume cannabis at least once per year.*

*100 million Americans admit to trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.*

*Marijuana users make up 85% of the population of "illegal" drug users.*

*75% of marijuana smokers never try any other "illegal" drug in their lifetime.*

*Only 1 out of 100 marijuana users ever becomes addicted to cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamines.*

*Responsible adult marijuana use, if taxed and regulated like alcohol, would reap \$14 billion per year in savings and revenue.*

*Long term studies of heavy marijuana smoking populations show no ill health effects to memory, fertility, cancer rates, intelligence, or any other measure when compared to non-marijuana smoking populations.*

*Recent studies suggest that marijuana may actually prevent the formation of cancerous tumors and may protect brain cells from the onset of and degeneration from Alzheimer's disease.*

*America has the world's largest prison population at 2 million. Over 50% of these prisoners are serving time for drug crimes*

## OREGON NORML REPRESENTS AT 15TH ANNUAL SEATTLE HEMPFEST

(by AD) **We just got back from the Fifteenth Annual Seattle Hempfest.** It is always exciting to go, but this year was the best one yet. I don't even know where to start! We had a great group of volunteers



*Main stage at Seattle Hempfest (note Oregon NORML banner at left)*

who worked hard and worked well together. Madeline's inspirational and passionate voice for our cause was well received at each of the venues where she spoke throughout the event. **We gathered almost 1000 signatures for our latest letter to Congress.**

I would like to thank **Paul Stanford and the THCF Medical Clinic** volunteers for sharing their time and booth with us. The booth was in an excellent location - close to the main stage and right on the water. The weather was perfect; my tan is looking

good! We all worked together and had a great time doing it. The folks from THCF made us feel like family; everyone was treated with kindness and respect regardless of affiliations. The THCF booth became a meeting place for activists in every aspect of the cannabis movement; it was wonderful to participate. As we continue to break down the barriers that separate our organizations, the impact we make will be much greater. Paul, you, the THCF and all the THCF peeps totally rock! Thank you for making us feel so welcome and for sharing it all with us.

For me, Hempfest is a great opportunity to meet my he-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## PDX POT INITIATIVE MISSES BALLOT GOAL

**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

natures that were from out of the Portland boundary. When we started we had no idea of this dynamic and didn't realize that **people were so confused about whether or not they actually live in the City of Portland.** The boundary is also confusing as it zigzags all around the city.

In the process of collecting the signatures we entered every name into an Excel database hoping to find and eliminate duplicates, which can cost campaigns dearly. **We found almost 3,000 duplicates** and managed to cross all of them off. When the final numbers came in it appeared that our 'scrubbing' system worked well as only 21 duplicates were found in over 5,000 signatures checked in two samples (great job Melodie and Floyd!).

Although we had collected over 40,000 gross signatures, at this point **we only had about 32,000 to turn into the city.**

Then while going through every sheet, **the City found several sheets that had problems with the circulator sign off.** We have yet to examine the sheets (we will soon) but when we were going through them in our own scrubbing process we did see several common circulator mistakes that are made on any petition. Things like missing dates or wrong dates were noticed by us but we could only do so much within the law to fix them. I am sure that the City went over our petition with a fine tooth comb and threw away many sheets because of very slight errors.

The biggest issue coming out of all this seems to be a problem that we had with five petitioners that collected signatures for us, signed off on the sheets and turned them in. **When they signed the sheets off they did so using a signature that looked like**

**shorthand, or initials. They did this because they were signing hundreds and hundreds of sheets.**

The rule from the Secretary of State says that if the City cannot read the signature (in most cases they probably can't) then they refer to the Voter Registration database. If they can find the person on the database then they take that signature and use it as the exemplar to validate the sheets. **If the signature is not an exact match then they throw away the sheets.**

Unfortunately for us these individuals signed their voter registration cards different then they signed the circulator certification. One of these individuals collected over 500 signatures and the other one collected almost 2,000.

**This rule works entirely against grassroots campaigns.** In our campaign we had several sheets that were sent to us from volunteers

*(Continued on page 5)*

## EXCITEMENT AT OUR CARDHOLDERS MEETING

(by PA) We had some real excitement at one of our OMM Cardholders Meetings. **There was a very disruptive patron** that we asked to leave in the best interests of our members. Ultimately, Portland Police arrived in the midst of our gathering and quickly, quietly, and very respectfully escorted this person out.

As this individual was led out, the room erupted in applause of 1) the person leaving, & more importantly, 2) the police department respecting what we were doing without further incident.

Oregon NORML provides the only monthly event in town that is private for OMMP cardholders. Here we sit, clones laid out, meds in hands of many, and the

Portland Police come in and handle the situation with complete respect for us and what we are doing.

I feel this was a great stride in our movement. So many people portray us in such a negative light. Either we are hippy freaks, drug addicts, lazy people, or criminals. Instead, we all behaved as any other citizens would and showed what decent law abiding people we are.

### Cardholder Meeting Tips

Our monthly Oregon Medical Marijuana Cardholders' Meetings are fast becoming a runaway hit. We want to welcome all of the new members of Oregon NORML we met at the last meeting. As we prepare for the next meeting we'd like to remind everyone of a few simple rules:

- You must be an Oregon NORML Member to attend. You may purchase an annual membership at the door for \$35, or you may buy your membership online using PayPal.
- You must have your OMMP Card - patient or caregiver - or receipt of recent submission of paperwork to DHS.
- You must have an official Oregon Photo ID (Drivers License or ID card).
- Entry is limited to 250 people. First come, first served, so come early and get in line.
- If you bring clones / seedlings or medicine to donate, you get into the front of the line.

## REEFER MADNESS!

*The following quotes are from the 1930s news media, newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst (WRH) and the federal "drug czar" of the era, Harry J. Anslinger (HJA). These were arguments used to justify the prohibition of marijuana in 1937:*

*"Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men." - HJA*

*"Marihuana leads to pacifism and communist brainwashing" - HJA*

*"A California man decapitated his best friend while under the spell of the smoke." - Newsweek*

*"[Marijuana] is highly intoxicating and constitutes an ever recurring problem where there are Mexicans or Spanish-Americans of the lower classes." - NY Times*

*"Marihuana produces a wide variety of symptoms in the user, including hilarity, swooning, and sexual excitement ... it often makes the smoker vicious, with a desire to fight and kill." - Scientific American*

*"Marihuana makes fiends of boys in thirty days -- Hashish goads users to bloodlust." - WRH*

*"Marihuana influences Negroes to look at white people in the eye, step on white men's shadows and look at a white woman twice." - WRH*

## 5TH ANNUAL OREGON MEDICAL CANNABIS AWARDS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



©2005 Lexx SkyHigh Productions

*"Dynamite" - the reigning champ!*

strains receive ribbons. Judge's Choice ribbons will be awarded to the top finishers in each judging category (trophy winners are ineligible for Judge's Choice).

The event is also a festival of vendors and demonstrations on the subjects of medical marijuana, industrial hemp, and consumer cannabis. The top experts in medical marijuana and drug

law reform will be available at our educational panel. The evening concludes with the awards banquet and the presentation of the awards.

the Ambridge Events Center, 300 NE Multnomah, Portland. **Tickets are only \$10 for entry.** Tickets for the evening banquet are

### CAREGIVERS AND GROWERS SUBMIT THEIR BEST STRAINS OF CANNABIS AND THE JUDGES RATE THEM FOR MEDICAL EFFECTIVENESS, POTENCY, TIME TO ONSET, AND TASTE, SMELL, AND APPEARANCE.

Judges and Entrants receive a free Oregon NORML Gift Package, an OMCA 2006 T-shirt, two free tickets to the event, and choice of beef, chicken, or vegetarian dinner at the awards banquet.

One may be both a Judge and an Entrant, however, Judges will not know which of the samples are their own entry/entries. We will remove all of the Judges' scores for their own submissions, so Judges' scores will only count for entries other than their own.

The event is open to the public and takes place at

only \$35 and you may choose between a chicken, a ham, or a vegetarian entrée.

Also this year we will be presenting a **Hemp Fashion Show**, featuring local designers and models exhibiting the best clothing and jewelry made from the hemp plant.

We will also be highlighting the environmentally-friendly aspects of cannabis hemp with a demonstration of hemp biodiesel as an alternative fuel for vehicles.

## OREGON NORML REPRESENTS AT 15TH ANNUAL SEATTLE HEMPFEST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

roles and inspirations; this year was no exception. I was honored to meet **Ethan Nadelmann** and his lovely daughter. He is the man behind the **Drug Policy Alliance**. They have been around forever and have become a pillar of the cannabis movement. If you've never been to their website, I highly recommend it. You can sign up for their action alerts and get all kinds of info there. The address is [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org).

I also spent a little time at the **National NORML** booth where I visited with **Executive Director Allen St. Pierre** and founder, **Keith Stroup**. Keith has been on my hero list since I was a teenager and I saw him speaking out for cannabis in the early '70s. It is always

revitalizing to talk with them both. They are excited and supportive about the cannabis movement in Oregon.

I have to say that the most exciting part of Hempfest for this old groupie was going backstage to meet **Pony Boy and Los Marijuanos!** Not only did I get to dance right next to **Eddy Lepp**, but I got to be just a few feet away from this great Latino hip-hop!

I can't finish this post without giving a shout out to my



*Eddy Lepp of Eddy's Medicinal Gardens, PonyBoy or Los Marijuanos, and Oregon NORML Executive Director Madeline Martinez*

boys in Booth 420, right next door to us. These three

glass blowers are talented young men who do custom work out of Seattle. Sure wish I had their contact info for ya, but I just kinda spaced it. They had the very best Festival Brownies! I ran quality control and was happy - very happy - for a long time - to give them the Abbie NORML seal of approval and endorsement by Oregon NORML.

As we packed up to go on Sunday night, I looked around and took a moment to reflect on the weekend. As I overheard others say, I can't wait until this becomes a festival to celebrate the end of cannabis prohibition!

## 2ND ANNUAL PORTLAND HEMPFEST

(by RB) The cannabis community turned out by the thousands to this year's **Portland Hempstalk by the Waterfront**. Organizers were impressed by the turnout; Seattle Hempfest's Vivian McPeak even remarked, "Wow, we weren't even close to this big in our second year!"

Musical acts kept the crowd grooving with an eclectic mix of **blues, folk, reggae, rock, and hip-hop**, and we

even enjoyed some cannabis comedy. **Tim Pate**, a big supporter of the Oregon cannabis community, opened up Hempstalk, just like he opened up Seattle Hempfest a couple of weeks earlier, and Oregon NORML favorites **State of Jefferson** came



*Associate Director "Radical" Russ Belville speaking on the main stage*

up from Southern Oregon and rocked the house.

On both days we enjoyed the smooth hip-hop of **PonyBoy and Los Marijuanos**, who were the special guests of Oregon NORML. We were honored to hear the very first performance of their new song, **"Relax It and Tax It"**, written especially for the tax & regulate marketing campaign we began at the Million Marijuana March.

Between acts the assembled crowd benefited from the wisdom and teachings of many fine speakers on the subjects of biodiesel & industrial hemp, marijuana as medicine, marijuana as spiritual sacrament, legal issues in cannabis, the poli-

tics of marijuana, and more.

**Special Guest Jack Herer**, "The Emperor of Hemp," spoke twice, exhorting the crowd on the benefits of hemp. Famous California Medical Grower **Eddy Lepp** spoke while being filmed for an independent documentary of his life about the four life sentences he faces in federal court for cultivating medicine for patients. **Dr. Tod Mikuriya** surprised everyone with his excellent singing voice and his own composition against prohibition.

There were **vendors of clothing, glass, jewelry, art, and very tasty food**, including our friends at **Mary Jane's House of Glass** and **UrbAge Designs**. There were also

medication tents onsite for patients, so you could catch the occasional whiff of herb in the air.

Oregon NORML was there in full force. We presented the

**"Busted" DVD** every two hours to dozens of people who gathered around to grab some shade and learn their rights.



*MA - The Cannabis Dragon*

Our own **Madeline Martinez** and **"Radical" Russ Belville** also spoke to the crowd from the main stage and called for more signatures on our letter to Congress calling for the end of prohibition. We even set up **MA: The Cannabis Dragon** near our booth and she attracted a lot of attention from passers-by.

# OUR LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE FRANK

(Editor's Note: This is the latest letter we are collecting for our fight to end marijuana prohibition. Congressman Barney Frank has been one of our most vocal supporters and we have collected over 1,000 of your signatures on this letter to be added to the Congressional Record.)

(by MM) The signers listed below ask that this letter and signature count be entered into the official congressional record for the House of Representatives. **The government needs to reschedule cannabis and protect patients and the medicinal use of marijuana.** Support the industrial use of hemp to provide food, fuel, and fiber for America and a viable cash crop for farmers. Tax and

regulate cannabis for private use by adults. Most importantly, reform federal laws and bring an end to the harassment, arrest, and imprisonment of responsible taxpaying American citizens.

In these days of global warming, diminishing fossil fuels and global deforestation, **it is a travesty that our Congress continues to prevent industrial hemp farming.** We are the only industrial nation in the world that does not produce industrial hemp. Farmers across Canada planted over 50,000 acres in 2006 to meet the expanding demand for the nutritious and versatile plant in the United States. Our farmers and ranchers nationwide would flourish once again. As a

nation, we could eliminate our reliance on fossil fuel; hemp can replace the majority of petro-chemical based products we use today. The laws surrounding hemp need to change now before further damage is done to our environment.

Almost fifteen million Americans consume cannabis at least once a month. **Replacing marijuana prohibition with a system of taxation** and regulation similar to that used for alcoholic beverages would produce combined savings and tax revenues of between \$10 billion and **\$14 billion per year**, finds a June 2005 report by Dr. Jeffrey Miron, visiting professor of economics at Harvard University. The report has been endorsed by more than 530

distinguished economists, who have signed an open letter to President Bush and other public officials calling for "an open and honest debate about marijuana prohibition."

In 2004, **over 684,000 Americans were arrested on charges for simple possession of marijuana**, not cultivation or sale. Please consider the fact that twelve states have stopped arresting individuals for possession of a small amount of marijuana. Instead they substitute a fine enforced with a citation. This allows prosecutors and police to dedicate more time to violent crime and keeps productive citizens from carrying the burden of

(Continued on page 7)

## PDX POT INITIATIVE MISSES BALLOT GOAL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

that we never met. Some of these people's sheets seemed to have been thrown out because we didn't have any "official government documentation" for them, as they were not employees. According to this rule, if the City cannot find the person in the voter registration database and if we don't have any official government documentation then they throw out the signatures!

Once the city got through with examining every sheet they **ended up submitting only 27,000 to the County.** The County then did their validity check and applied the specific formula for determining the final outcome and this is where we are now. Our own validity check was within 2% of the number that the County came up with (65%, great job Samantha!), so now we know that our system worked and can work in the future.

We did not make the ballot,

but we got 2/3 of the way there in four months with not a lot of money. In the process many positive things happened and even though the citizens of Portland will not be able to vote on our initiative in November I still feel positive about what we accomplished. We will learn from our mistakes and not make them again in the future.

A lot of the rules from the State are bad and need changing. **If we have the opportunity to go into a court of law and change some of these bad rules for everyone's benefit then we will.** I truly hope this opportunity presents itself, as these types of rules are anti-democracy and work against the very principals of democracy.

Is it no wonder that here in Oregon in the last election

we had a record low turnout? People are feeling disenfranchised with the whole political system. After personally having **thousands of valid signatures thrown out because of a technicality** with the circulator I now understand fully why people are disenfranchised with the government and are so apathetic.

Many of the rules designed by the Secretary of State are hard to follow, confusing and work against everyone but the well-funded campaigns. It will be a sad day when the only issues that can afford to make the ballot are conservative, well funded ones.

Yes, I am disappointed, but hopeful at the same time. I do know that the War against marijuana rages on and on and I still have a lot

of work to do.

The initiative did succeed in uniting many people and groups who have not worked together in the past much. **For our activism to really be successful in Oregon we must move forward with unity and clarity.** I for one believe that our initiative helped unite the activist community here in Portland. There is still much work to be done on this front though.

Now we look forward to the next effort and hope that we are successful in the near future. Until then we will be meeting with the Portland City Council and other people and see if there is anything we can do in the short term to make adult marijuana offenses the lowest law enforcement priority for the City of Portland.

Kind regards,

Chris Iverson

Citizens for a Safer Portland

# LEGAL GREEN - BY ROBERT PLAIN

(from the Ashland Daily Tidings, September 23, 2006)

In one hand, Robert Kridel holds his prescribed Oxycotin, in the other he holds his medicinal marijuana.

Robert Kridel is 53 years old, confined to a wheelchair and in constant, agonizing pain.

Eight years ago he cut off his finger while working on an engine and after it was sewed back on he contracted tetanus, the bacteria that causes what used to be known as lockjaw.

"My muscles have been turned into rope," he said. "They don't respond. I can't believe the pain I experience."

He takes a host of pharmaceutical drugs to reduce the pain and discomfort. To deal with the side effects of the pharmaceutical drugs, he smokes marijuana.

Kridel is one of the 1,038 Jackson County residents — there are 11,143 state-wide as of July of this year — who can legally use marijuana for medical reasons.

"It's a tool in the tool box that people should be able to use," he said. "When you look at all the narcotics I take every day, pot is a non-issue."

He smokes pot for the nausea his pharmaceutical drugs cause. Without it, he said, he would have no appetite and would slowly waste away to nothing.

In November of 1998, Oregonians passed a law that stated, in part, "Patients and doctors have found marijuana to be an effective treatment for suffering caused by debilitating medical conditions, and therefore, marijuana should be treated like other medicines."

But after eight years of being legal in Oregon, medical marijuana is still largely

misunderstood. Federal law considers marijuana to be illegal, despite the fact that 11 states have approved it for medical purposes. And many mainstream doctors refuse to endorse it, even though it was listed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia, the official public standards-setting authority for all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, from 1850 to 1942, and a recent Supreme Court decision — *Conant v. Walters* — protects doctors from prosecution.

Despite the law, and the numerous sick Oregonians who benefit from it, law enforcement is still largely unconvinced.

Detective Randy Snow of the Ashland Police Department thinks most people in the state medical marijuana program are using the system to obtain otherwise illegal drugs.

"It definitely increases the difficulty for us because of those who would abuse the system," he said. "That is what is mostly happening with medical marijuana."

Jeanette Carpenter disagrees. She said most people — police included — don't understand the extent of marijuana's medicinal properties.

She smokes pot to relieve her asthma. Though this may seem counterintuitive, marijuana acts as an expectorant. In other words, the quality of marijuana that makes people cough actually helps to clear her lungs of her sickness.

"Some mornings I have a hard time breathing until I expel the mucous in my lungs," said the 63-year-old grandmother of six.

"Generally I don't have to smoke too much."

Carpenter tries to live a healthy lifestyle and eats mostly organic, whole foods. For this reason, she prefers using marijuana to the albuterol asthma inhalers that mainstream doctors prescribe. "It kept congestion in my lungs," she said. "Why should I want to use something that would worsen my medical condition?"

Though she has used marijuana recreationally since the 1960s, the plant took on a different meaning to her when she learned it could help with her asthma.

"Over time I have learned to respect the medicinal properties of marijuana," she said. "I think we should all try to get away from the recreational aspect of it and come to understand the medicinal properties."

According to Geri Kulp, a former Ashland resident who helped to write the initial medical marijuana law in Oregon, Carpenter and Kridel are some of the more lucky ones because they know someone who will produce pot for them.

A big shortcoming in Oregon's medical marijuana law, she said, is that patients either have to grow it themselves or recruit someone to grow it for them for free. The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act does not allow growers to be compensated for their efforts.

"There are a lot of people who see it as a calling," she said about these good-natured growers.

Kulp is a volunteer with Voter Power, an organization that hosts medical

marijuana clinics around the state, including in Medford. She said they have set up a network of growers to produce pot for needy patients. "We give it to them," she said, noting that she has met people with their medical marijuana cards who couldn't obtain it.

Voter Power is currently working to institute a dispensary system in Oregon, as is used in California. A dispensary would give patients a place where they could legally obtain medical marijuana, Kulp said.

"The biggest stumbling block to someone who has just been diagnosed with cancer is they can't get it," she said. "Under the current law you need to either grow it yourself or have someone give it to you."

Kulp said it is largely untrue that many people in the program aren't really sick. "You can't legally grow enough to make it profitable," she said. "Unless someone is really sick, they aren't going to go through the trouble."

But she admitted, "It hasn't deterred the people who were growing and selling marijuana illegally before the medical marijuana act was passed."

Perhaps the one point activists like Kulp and law enforcement officers like Detective Randy Snow can agree on is that everyone would benefit if greed and marijuana could be separated.

Kulp said the abuse that does happen "all gets back to greed."

Snow agreed. "We don't have any problems with people who truly need medicine," he said. "If we could take the greed out of it, it wouldn't be an issue for us."

*(Editor's Note: Oregon NORML is lobbying to create a state-run dispensary system to avoid the federal raids that would be sure to follow in a private-run dispensary systems similar to California's.)*



# THE VIEW FROM HEMP STREET

(by DD) I see these folks in the medical clinic every day. Men that spent 20 years carrying sheet rock, 20 years on their knees kicking in carpet or setting tile or floating concrete. 20 years of swinging a framing hammer, 20 years painting bridges and inhaling paint fumes.

These are the men and women that drive the corporate profits, the ones that make the stock holders happy and in the mean time, try and make a living wage to support a family.

But now you are in your 40s or 50s, your knees are shot, you can't raise a hammer above your head, years of inhaling paint fumes have clouded your thinking...and you can't work any more. Besides the company went broke, down sized or out sourced or moved to Bangladesh, probably with your pension, and you folks that made \$600.00 a week swinging a hammer are now trying to figure out how to live on \$603 a month SS disability.

Are any of you out there trying to figure out how this

happened? How you went from wage earner to poverty heap?

We are a throw away society. We throw away every thing from beer cans to human beings. No longer useful? No longer a tax payer? Off to the disability scrap heap. \$603 a month and have a nice day. Maybe we'll get you some food stamps, and put you on a list for substandard government housing.

So it takes awhile to realize you have been consigned to poverty by who? By the government that writes the checks for \$603. Whose fault is poverty? It is the government's fault. Your government spends your tax money on everything except you. Bombs and bullets and all the other expensive war things that destroy our humanity and allow us to think it is OK to maintain a poverty class!

This president is trying to legalize torture, has tortured and still is torturing. He will always keep a poverty class, that is until he figures out a way to get rid of those that no longer are

producers. To these guys there are only two classes of people, the producer elite and the suckers, the elite and the (scrap) heap .

So if you are just now figuring out you don't matter any more, you have just figured out you're on the government's crap heap. But the crap heap is a data base and we're all in the computer, the SS suckers, the homeless suckers, the methadone patients, all of us that are addicted to something big pharma is selling.

Seems to me it's the same thing the Nazis did. It's just that Bush/Cheney have better computers.

We've lost our privacy, we've lost our constitution, we've lost our freedom and somewhere I just know they are building the gulags. Seem too far fetched for you...? Well, that's the way I see it... — *Don DuPay*

*(Editor's Note: Halliburton already has the contracts and has begun construction on secret "detention camps" in the case of an "immigration emergency".)*

## PORTLAND FASHION WEEK DEDICATES AN EVENING TO SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN CLOTHING

October 25, 2006

### *The Green & Sustainable Design Showcase*

Bancorp Tower, 43rd Floor  
111 SW 5th Ave

See Portland's own apparel & accessories design talent strut their stuff on the runway from the panoramic top floor of the U.S. Bancorp Tower.

Featured Designers include: Saffrona, Nora Catherine Jewelry, MEWV, Maiti Nepal, EXIT, Flood Clothing

### Show Dates for the week:

Fri-Sat-Sun, Oct. 20-21-22  
Wed-Thu-Fri, Oct. 25-26-27

ALL DATES:  
RECEPTION 7:00PM  
FASHION SHOWS 8:00PM

The series will be opened on Friday October 20th by Mayor Tom Potter and MC'd by Commissioner Sam Adams.

Advance Tickets on sale Tuesday October 10 at these locations:

Visage Eyewear (1046 NW Johnson), Moda Nova (Pioneer Place Mall), sofa d a boutique (4623 NE Fremont), Dragonlily Boutique (1740 SE Hawthorne), Dana Lynn (720 NW 23rd Ave).

Advance Tickets: \$10 Gen Adm - \$30 VIP (Limited)

Tickets at the Door: \$15 Gen Adm - \$40 VIP (Limited)

Week-Long Pass-All Shows-Gen Adm - \$55

For Opening show Friday, October 20 (sofa d a)

Advance Tickets: \$20 Gen Adm

Tickets at the Door: \$25 Gen Adm - \$40 VIP (Limited)

## OUR LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE FRANK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

a criminal record.

Congress denies our future generations the education they will need to succeed in this world for this type of simple possession. **The federal government continues to prohibit financial aid to students with drug convictions.** This must change. The future of our country depends on it.

Modern research suggests that **marijuana is an effective medicine that relieves the pain and suffering for patients with a wide range of illnesses.** Marijuana is also a powerful appetite stimu-

lant, specifically for patients suffering from HIV, the AIDS wasting syndrome, or dementia.

Eleven states have legalized the medical use of marijuana for patients if their physician recommends it. However, marijuana is not recognized as a medicine under federal law, and Congress has thus far refused to amend federal law to permit its use. **It is time to reschedule cannabis so it can be fully utilized now.**

According to a recent CNN/Time Magazine poll, 80% of the American public

favor legalizing the medical use of marijuana; only 17% want it to remain illegal.

In a 2005 Supreme Court decision in *Gonzales vs. Raich*, Justice Stevens stated, "Perhaps even more important is the democratic process in which the voices of voters allied with **these respondents may one day be heard in the halls of Congress.**" We want our voices to be heard now.

The potential for economic growth for this nation with the incorporation of cannabis/hemp is unlimited. We appreciate your time and consideration.



### Oregon NORML

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Madeline Martinez  
Executive Director

PO Box 16057  
Portland, Oregon  
97292-0057

Phone: (503) 239-6110  
Email: [info@ornorml.org](mailto:info@ornorml.org)  
Web: [www.ornorml.org](http://www.ornorml.org)

#### Editor

Anna Diaz

#### Contributors

"Patient Advocate" (PA)  
"Radical" Russ Belville (RB)  
Anna Diaz (AD)  
Don DuPay (DD)  
David Bram (DB)  
Madeline Martinez (MM)  
Chris Iverson (CI)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Medical Marijuana Card-holders' Meetings** - for OMMP Patients only - 11:30am at Sabala's Mt. Tabor Theater (49th & SE Hawthorne)

Saturday, October 14

Saturday, November 11

Saturday, December 16

Saturday, January 13

**General Membership Meetings** - open to the public - Noon at It's a Beautiful Pizza (33rd & SE Belmont)

Saturday, October 21

Saturday, January 20

**Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards** - open to the public - 10am to 10pm at Ambridge Events Center, 300 NE Multnomah

Saturday, December 9

## OREGON NORML'S MISSION

(by RB) We are the Oregon affiliate of the **National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws**. We began our organization in 1999 and NORML has been around since the 1970s.

We are dedicated to promoting positive legal, social, and political change with information and action in **support of cannabis (marijuana) and the many adults who use it**.

At Oregon NORML, we are leading the fight for **common-sense regulation** of the most useful plant ever known to mankind -- cannabis hemp.

We stand for the **safe protected medicinal use of marijuana** by patients legally enrolled in the Oregon Medical

Marijuana Program.

We stand for the **industrial use of hemp** to provide food, fuel, and fiber for America and a viable cash crop for Oregon farmers.

We stand for the **regulated private use of cannabis by adults**.

Most importantly, we work to **reform state and federal laws** regarding marijuana and bring **an end to the harassment, arrest, and imprisonment** of responsible taxpaying American citizens.

We are an **all-volunteer domestic non-profit agency**. We count over 900 Oregonians as dues-

paying members and many more support our work through volunteerism at our events. Our website, television show, podcast, and events bring our message to thousands more all over Oregon and the world.

You can help support us. **Membership is only \$35/year**, or you can donate whatever you wish. All proceeds from membership and donations go directly to supporting our mission and events.

We host three major public events (Million Marijuana March, Portland Hempstalk, and the Oregon Medical Cannabis Awards), a monthly patients' meeting, and a quarterly public meeting. See <http://ornorml.org> for details.

### "A BUNCH OF STONERS WHO WANNA GET HIGH"

(by RB) A huge hurdle we face in the drug policy reform movement is escaping from the shadow of drug stereotyping. Say the word "marijuana" and the first thing people think is "Cheech & Chong".

We get this all the time when we stand up for our rights. When we marched in the streets for marijuana legalization, the newspapers characterized the attendees as "groggily gathered" and the tone of the report further minimized and degraded us.

The media could have reported how peaceful our march was, how the ages ranged from teens to retirement, and how most marchers resembled your average person, not some tie-dyed hippie stereotype. But no, people exercising their First Amendment rights to overturn a cruel, wasteful, and needless government policy are just a joke.

When we circulated a petition this fall to make marijuana the lowest law enforcement priority in the city of Portland, the headlines read "Puff, puff, pass (the petition)".

The media could have re-

ported on how the state of Oregon spends \$66 million per year on marijuana law enforcement and how marijuana offenses take 9 hours of police time for arrest and booking. But no, wasting taxpayer money on pot-heads while our schools are faltering is just a joke.

Story after story in the media (see page 6) feature comments from law enforcement and elected officials who believe that the issues of medical marijuana or industrial hemp are just "a bunch of stoners who wanna get high legally".

While some reporters have been good at noting the medical benefits of marijuana for treatment of pain, spasms, nausea, and other conditions, they always seem to find someone to "balance" the reporting with an unproven assertion about large numbers of patients who are supposedly abusing the system for recreational use.

I always wonder, "So what if they are?" Let's suppose, despite no evidence, that a few people do get medical marijuana cards just to get high. Does that justify de-

nying the medicine to the truly sick or disabled? We don't deny people OxyContin for their severe chronic pain just because Rush Limbaugh downed 30 a day to get high.

The invisibility of industrial hemp in the media is even more unbelievable. I see so many stories about our addiction to foreign oil and many stories in response about alternative biodiesel fuels as a solution, yet virtually nowhere in these stories is it mentioned that industrial hemp is by far the best biomass energy crop.

No, the articles talk about corn, canola, and vegetable oil from McDonald's, but not hemp, because it's illegal, and it's illegal because it looks like a plant that can get you high. Which makes as much sense as outlawing powdered sugar because it looks like cocaine.

All we can do is continue to educate the public. We've got truth, facts, and logic on our side. As more responsible adult cannabis consumers stand up for their rights, the public will begin to notice we aren't all "Cheech & Chong" and that our cause is righteous and just.