

EPILEPSY NO DEFENSE

A 51-year-old Minnesota man may not use the claim that he grew marijuana to treat his own epilepsy as a defense in court, according to the judge in the case.

Gordon Hanson, who was arrested last summer when 127 marijuana plants were found in his home garden, said that smoking marijuana was the only way to reduce the frequency and severity of epileptic seizures that had made his life unbearable. In fact, he says that he has gone from averaging several attacks a year to several each week since his supply was cut off by the July raid.

Hanson grew the plants, he said, to ensure a steady supply and to avoid dealing with the risks of the market for illegal drugs. The state maintains that the quantity of marijuana involved is sufficient to establish "intent" to sell and intends to prosecute the case on that basis.

CALIFORNIA: RE-CRIM, DE-CRIM OR LEGALIZE?

Parroting the tired line that marijuana is a "gateway" to a life of addiction and despair, a California state senator has introduced legislation that would dramatically increase penalties for possession of even small amounts of marijuana.

Under the bill, SB2897, possession of less than a quarter-ounce would be a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine (the maximum fine is now \$100). The fine would be doubled for possession within 1,000 feet of a school. Possession of more than a quarter-

ounce would become a felony punishable by up to a year in prison and fines of from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Republican senator Bill Leonard said the change would help "atone" for the mistakes made in drug policy in the '70s. He also said that targeting casual marijuana users would allow law enforcement to "intervene earlier in the drug abuse process."

Meanwhile, another group of Californians is apparently seeking to atone for the policy errors of the '80s with an initiative petition that would repeal "all laws prohibiting the use, cultivation, transportation, or possession of marijuana in any form." It's an ambitious proposal and certainly one in need of all the support it can get. For more information and copies of the petition, contact Thomas Neece, 9475 Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

1990 DRUG PLAN SHOWS FEW CHANGES

More police, more prosecutors and more prisons. Sound familiar? It should. It's the 1990 Bush-Bennett anti-drug plan which, except for an increase in total outlays, calls for a continuation of the same failed policies that have been in place for nearly a decade.

The plan calls for an increase of just over \$1 billion for fiscal year 1991, but the funding mix, roughly 70 percent for law enforcement and 30 percent for treatment and education programs, remains virtually unchanged from the Reagan years.

The biggest changes are an increase of 37 percent to fund Pentagon efforts at interdiction, and a near doubling of funds available for eradication of domestic marijuana.

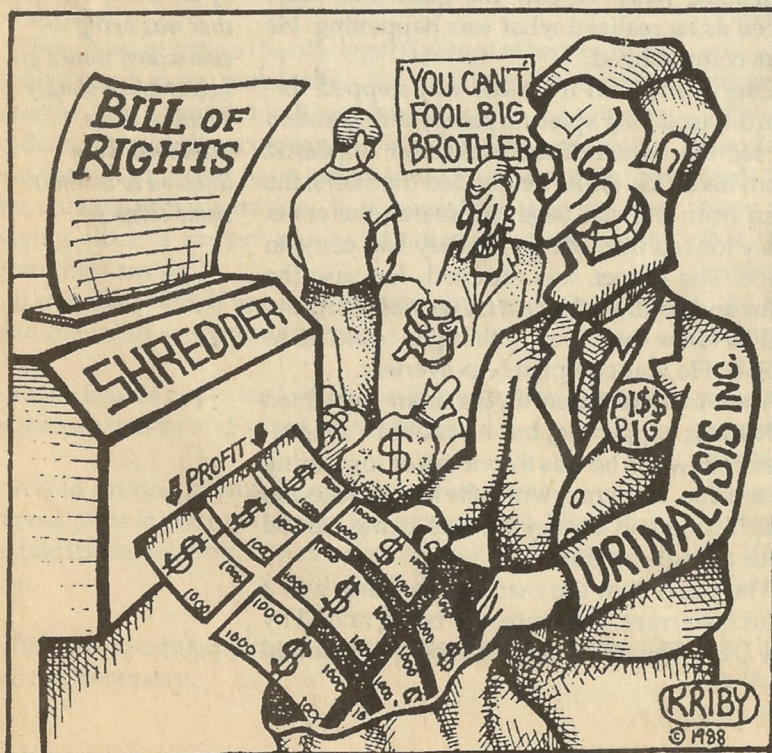
ALASKANS FIGHT RECRIMINALIZATION

An initiative petition that would recriminalize possession of marijuana in Alaska has prompted the formation of a group dedicated to protecting the state Supreme Court decision that permits possession and cultivation of small quantities by adults in the home. The initiative will go before voters in elections in November.

For more information on how you can help contact Bill Bryson, 810 west Second Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501, or call: 907-276-8611.

PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE BONG

A van with the words "Christ is Coming Group" painted in Spanish on its side was seized when local police in the Texas border town of San Benito discovered nearly 600 pounds of marijuana inside. The five occupants of the van, apparently intent on doing a little herbal proselytizing, were arrested.



repeatedly during the hearings.

"We have a situation where monied pharmaceutical companies are willing and able to spend great sums of money to win approval for drugs," Young said. "The petitioners argue that the federal standards are not slanted toward natural drugs."

Mapes said that the Food and Drug Administration "is constructed toward the needs of pharmaceutical companies," adding that "the federal standards for drug approval are also accepted by the medical community."

Also speaking at the final hearing session was Karl Burnstein, president of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth. Burnstein restated the group's long-standing opposition to any rescheduling of marijuana, even if it means further unnecessary suffering by cancer and glaucoma patients.

"If marijuana would be rescheduled, what kind of message would that be sending to this nation? he asked, adding that he feared the nation's youth would say that "if marijuana is good for all these (medical) things, why isn't it good for me?"

An exact date for Judge Young's final ruling in the case has not been set, but attorneys on both sides expect a decision by early fall at the latest. Of course that may not be the end of it. Just last year, Judge Young recommended that the drug MDMA be dropped from Schedule 1 and placed on Schedule 3. But the DEA has simply ignored the judge's recommendation. That decision has been rejected on appeal by the U.S. Court of Appeals and the DEA may be forced to redefine some of its scheduling definitions. Just what that might mean for the future of marijuana as a medicine in the United States remains to be seen.

\$2 Million Awarded in CAMP Litigation

U.S. District Judge Robert P. Aguilar in May awarded plaintiffs' counsel in the Operation CAMP litigation, *NORML v. Mullen*, \$2 million in attorneys' fees for the successful litigation of a consent decree governing CAMP's air and ground

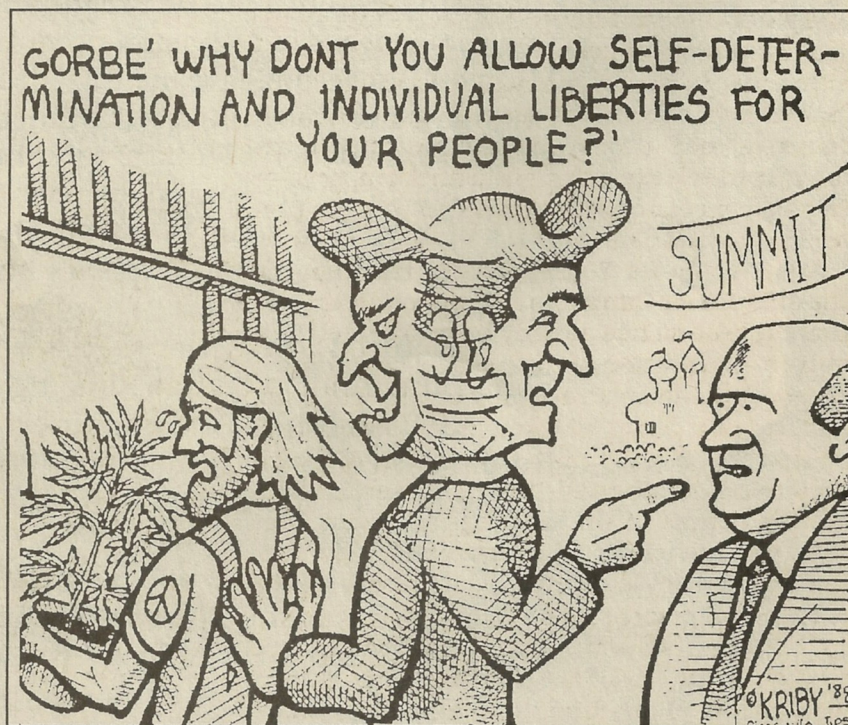
operations at least through the end of 1990.

Under federal civil right's laws, the winning party is entitled to an award of attorney's fees paid by the losing party, in this case the federal and state governments. The award was based on the hours of work performed by the plaintiffs' lawyers and their staffs. The Judge awarded a base rate of \$1 million and multiplied the figure by two because of the overwhelmingly successful results achieved.

Under the agreement between the parties, which was part of the consent decree, the defendants will actually pay \$899,000. The government had refused to sign the decree without such a cap, and because of the sweeping protection of civil rights contained in the agreement, the plaintiffs agreed to the fee limit.

The lawsuit was filed in 1983, alleging massive violations of civil rights by CAMP personnel during marijuana raids in California. In 1984, the judge handed down an injunction governing CAMP air and ground operations. The injunction survived an appeal by the federal and state governments and was expanded in 1985 because of continuing violations. The court also appointed a monitor at that time to guarantee compliance with the injunction.

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READERS RIGHTS

Continued

Editor's Note: As a post script to the response above, we have since received a letter from a reader who says that he ordered seed from USSC. He received a package with an East Coast postmark in only 21 days. He got an 80 percent germination rate, and by the fourth leaf set, presumably when the letter was written, all were showing characteristic Indica traits as promised.

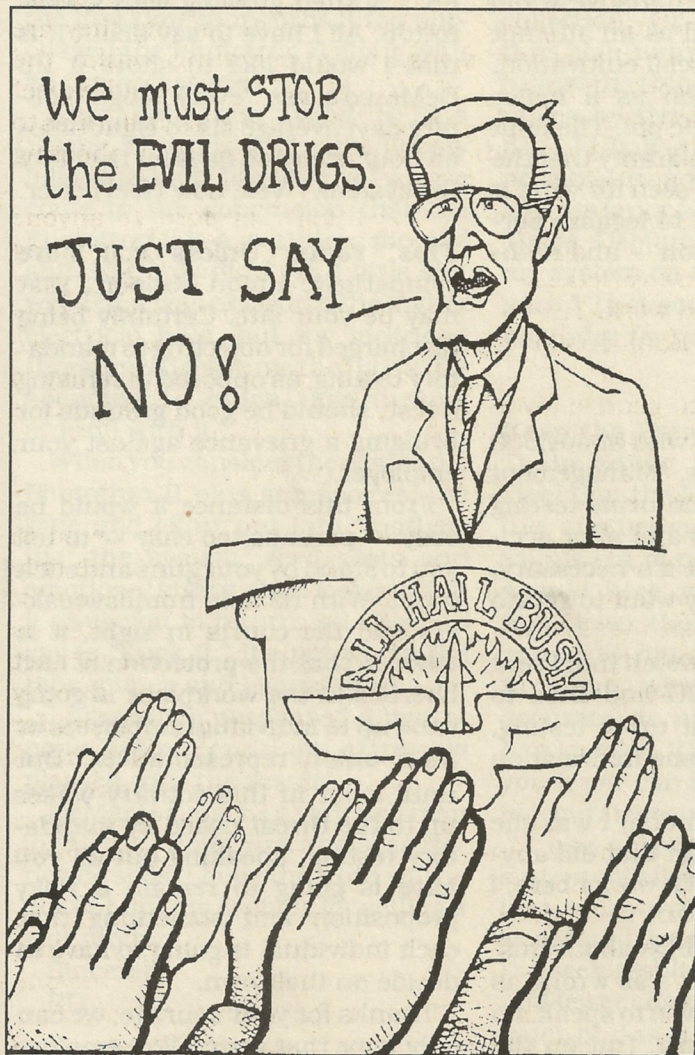
The experience of one grower, however, is not reason enough to abandon the cautions given above. In case you haven't noticed, by the way, the company's ads are conspicuously missing from the latest issue of *High Times*.

N.F.G.

I'm slightly pissed at the O.M.I. A three plant maximum for \$50 which

goes into "fucked" programs is bullshit. I can see more asshole alcohol rehabilitation instructors being hired for drunk drivers (alleged). I can see more people not passing tests and being told they had severe alcohol problems, like drinking three beers a day, just so these assholes can justify the need for their new jobs. If you flunk the test, you pay for the course again here in New York. So your \$50

RHETORIC



REALITY



(Continued from page 29)

Ditch Weed

Using tractor drawn mowers and herbicides, highway crews near the Indiana town of Napanee destroyed about one million marijuana plants after state police found the illegal weed growing south of town along a state highway.

Police said the weed had a street value of \$2 million — \$2 per plant.

Grass Tax Survives Court Challenge

A ruling by the state's Supreme Court will allow Minnesota to continue to put liens on and seize the property of dealers who fail to purchase the red, green and blue tax stamps.

The stamps, which cost \$3.50 per gram of marijuana with a minimum purchase of \$150, are required

by law on all drug packages sold. Dealers caught without stamps can face charges for the tax plus a 100 percent penalty and felony charges, regardless of whether they are convicted on drug charges.

Earlier this year Minnesota's NORML chapter had delivered a series of petitions calling for the repeal of the law claiming that it resembled the 1937 Federal Marijuana Tax Act, which was eventually ruled unconstitutional. Opponents say the law violates protections against self incrimination and double jeopardy.

A spokesperson for the State Revenue Department said a number of other states have been considering a similar approach, but were waiting for the Minnesota Supreme Court to rule on the numerous challenges brought in the state's tax court. Twelve other states already have similar laws on the books.

Drug War Profiteering

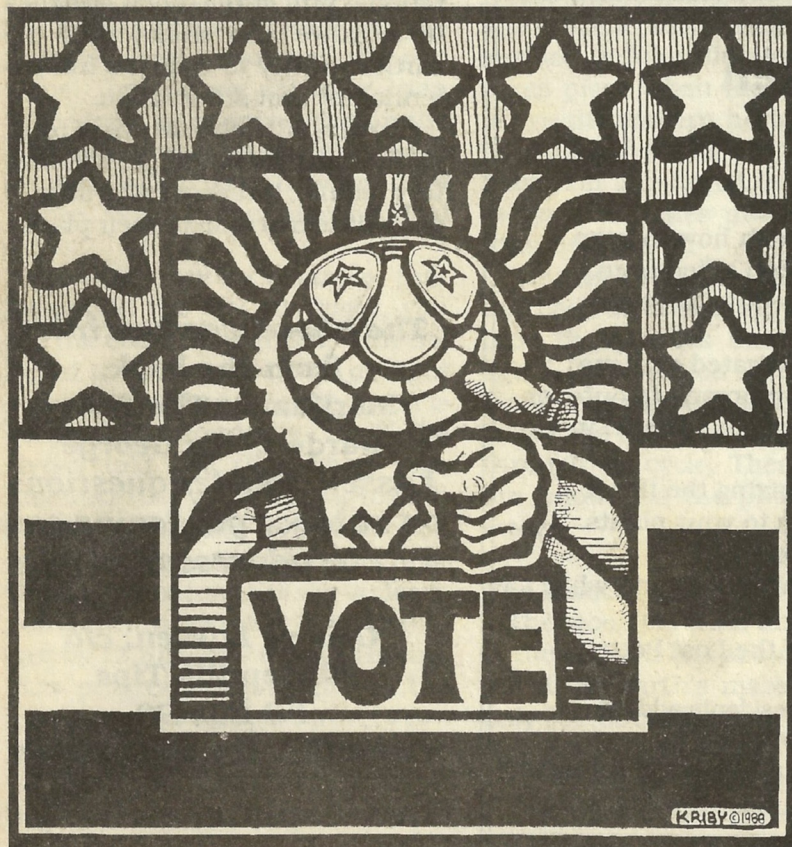
Why leave all the profits for big city crack dealers and Central American dictators? As long as there is money to be made, American business will find a way.

Hoping to cash in on the current wave of drug hysteria, Proctor & Gamble, the soap-peddling behemoth, recently kicked off a "Just Say No" campaign with a slick packet including glossy ads for company products and cents-off coupons. Every packet also comes complete with a "Say No to Drugs" pledge form.

Apparently the idea is to provide viable alternatives — soaps, toothpastes and shampoos, all at bargain prices — for kids strung out on drugs.

If such a bare-faced attempt to capitalize on the real and imagined problems of drug use and abuse seems to lack subtlety, it is a problem wholly lost on Proctor & Gamble. The company, which claims to have approval from the high priestess of intolerance herself, Nancy Reagan, now wants to beat out possible corporate competitors by claiming exclusive rights to the familiar rallying cry.

In a recent letter to the nonprofit foundation responsible for popularizing the phrase, P&G executives reminded the director that



told a reporter from *People Magazine*.

Pictured in a recent edition of the national magazine in a conservative plaid skirt, and a white blouse under a "Marijuana Liberate" sweatshirt, the recently elected mayor and widow of the town physician seems to represent a common sense that seems all to uncommon these days.

The mayor was drawn into the controversy over legalization when a local couple were hauled off to jail in handcuffs for a potted wild pot plant they had in their front window. Jo Knox said she found the plant growing in her back yard and dug it up because she thought it was pretty.

Mayor Cartmell was outraged that an upstanding citizen like Knox could be jailed just for having a plant in her window. The mayor said that while she doesn't favor pot smoking, she was just being realistic. "I also don't believe that people should smoke tobacco, but they do."

Cartmell called marijuana a "totally usable" plant and suggested that marijuana cultivation might take the place of the dying local tobacco industry.

"The tobacco industry is dying around here," she said. "And we've got marijuana growing all over. We have hungry people who could be put to work spinning marijuana in the old mill."

But the inescapable logic of the mayor's arguments were apparently too much for the city commissioners who voted unanimously in December for her censure.

But Mayor Cartmell remains unintimidated: "I was raised to raise hell," she said. She has vowed to complete her two-year term.

Employers Shun Smokers

Suspected marijuana use was listed as the biggest single disqualifier for otherwise qualified job applicants in a recent survey of more than 250 Fortune 500 companies.

Fourty-seven percent of managers responding to the survey said they would be "very unlikely" to hire a qualified applicant who they believed used marijuana off the job. Another 22 percent said they would be "somewhat unlikely" to hire such a person.

More than two-thirds of those surveyed said they thought that smoking marijuana after work had a detrimental effect on productivity.

Only two percent said they would be very unlikely

to hire an employee who drinks alcohol after work.

Alaska Considers Recrim Bill

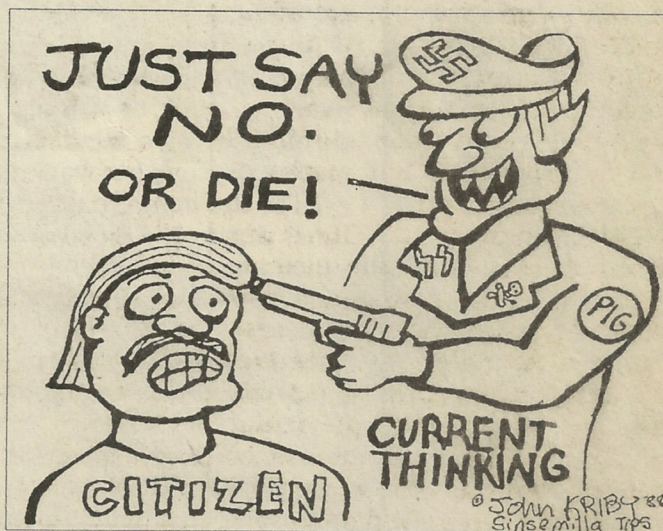
After more than 13 years as the only state in the nation to legalize the personal use and possession of marijuana, Alaska is considering a bill that would make simple possession punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Supporters of the bill, which was passed by the state Senate by a vote of 17 to 1 in February, said that new evidence of the harmful physical effects of marijuana justify the change. The bill is now before the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

The 1975 legalization of the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use came, not through the state legislature, but through the appeal of a possession conviction to the state Supreme Court. In the case, *Ravin v. State of Alaska*, the court unanimously ruled that the possession of marijuana by adults for personal use at home is protected by the constitutional right to privacy.

"The state cannot impose its own notions of morality, propriety, or fashion on individuals when the public has no legitimate interest in the affairs of those individuals," Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz said following the decision.

Opponents of the bill maintain that privacy and the protection of constitutional guarantees are still the issue in Alaska, as they were in 1975.



lons of highly concentrated salts, and chemical nitrogen and phosphorous rich nutrients into the municipal sewer systems and private home septic systems fits right in with those concerns.

We are constantly testing various organic products in our store with mixed results. The biggest problems seem to be the difficulty of monitoring nutrient levels in the organic solution, and the tendency for suspended solids in the solution to gum up the works.

Neither problem would appear to be insurmountable. We've heard

that it is possible to use organics with NFT tubes and rockwool cubes if the capillary mat, which tends to trap solids from the solution, is removed. But without more input from readers, we cannot confirm the success or failure of this approach.

We hope to come up with enough information on the subject to put together an article for the next issue.

Hope you can hold out that long. In the meantime, why not do a little research on your own and send us the results.

Heads or Tails?

My plants are now seven to 10 weeks old and from 3 to 5 feet tall. I am using one 400-watt HPS and growing in 5-gallon pots in a 5-foot square room with an 8-foot ceiling. I use both intake and exhaust fans and a 9-inch oscillating fan over head. All three run 24 hours a day. I use rockwool and pea gravel and EcoGrow R and EcoBloom R; they are pH balanced for use with rockwool.

I've had good luck so far with no real problems with pests. There are 11 Indica/Sativas and one Skunk #1 — all females. I have taken clones for my next crop and am using Olivia's Cloning Solution (the float method) with good results. Here is my question:

After the clones have rooted, can or should they be left in the vegetative stage for 30 days, or is it okay to go ahead and flower them? I would like to take clones from them, but I'm not sure when to take them. I was told that it was okay to take clones during the flowering cycle, but that it could stress them into turning male. Should I let them grow until clones can be taken, or should I go ahead and flower and take my chances with the odds on them split-tails becoming hard-tails?

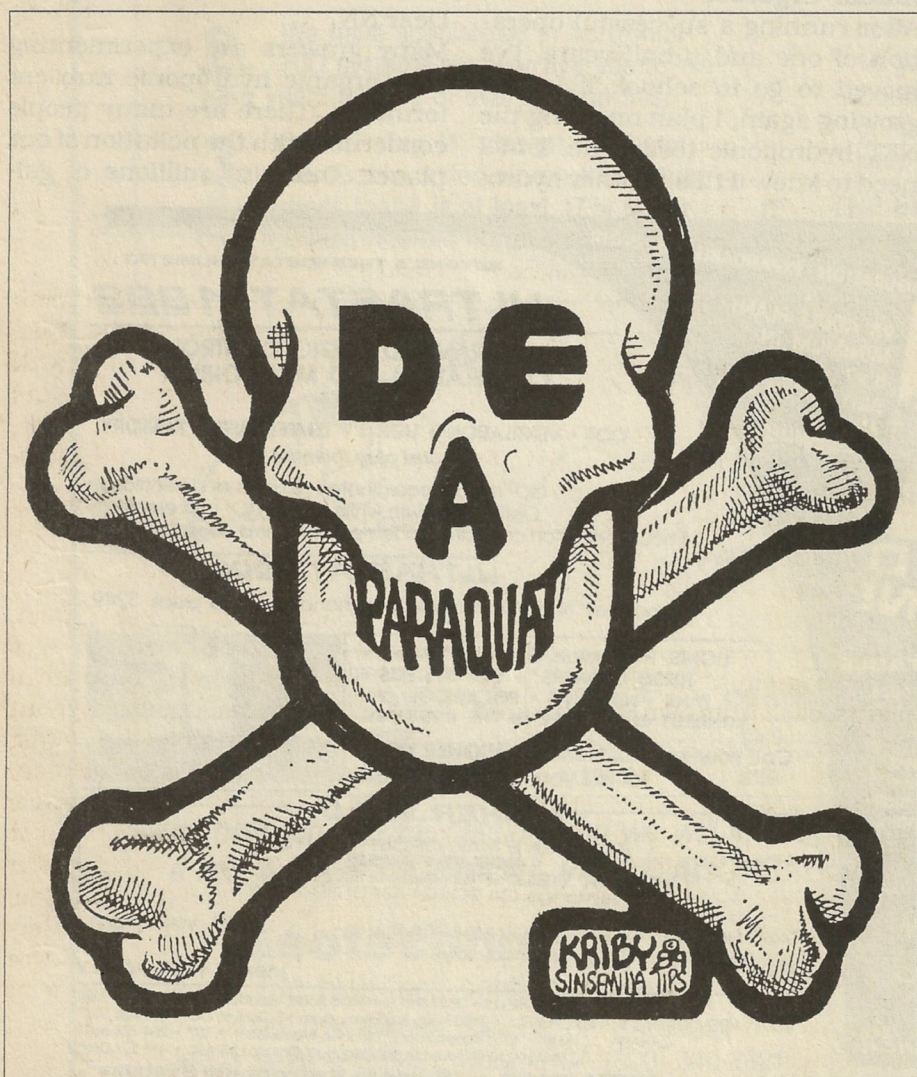
Sincerely,

Not gettin' high, just stayin' stoned

Louisville

Dear Stoned,

The further into the flowering cycle a clone is taken, the longer it takes for the clone to snap back into the vegetative cycle. It could also stress them into becoming hermaphrodites. Most growers like to let the clones grow for 15 to 30 days in the vegetative cycle to pick up a little bulk.



READERS RIGHTS

Continued

brought about revolutionary action in a former time! Let us not forget the factors that led to the need for more freedom in the early days of this country: the Intolerable Acts, excessive tea taxes, tyranny, imperialism and the presence of the military as a means to suppress dissent against unjust laws were all factors. The cry for "life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness" echoes across the land again!

History books tell us that only 10 percent of the colonists actively participated in the successful armed rebellion against King George and the Crown.

Since the 1960s, marijuana has been a symbol of freedom to the peace movement. The movement, dedicated to non-violent direct

action against the powerful military-industrial complex represents the conscience of this nation. Because it is a grass roots pacifist movement, it will take more than 10 percent of the population to bring about the much needed economic, social and environmental changes. It may take 40, 50, even 60 percent of the population to bring about the vision of a world in harmony that can sustain future generations.

But you should take note of our numbers, as evident when the Oregon Marijuana Initiative was on the 1986 ballot. At that time, the most liberal possible proposal, allowing 18-year-olds to grow unlimited amounts of marijuana without a license, received 28 percent of the vote.

That's one out of every four voters — over 280,000 people in one state alone. And the numbers are rolling and growing. You will see more support for the next OMI which stipulates the age of 21 for possession and limits it to three live plants and four dry ounces. Also included is a \$50 certificate, just like a nurseryman's license, purchased from the county.

Marijuana is a burning social justice issue that just won't go away. It's discreetly being grown, consumed or discussed in every third or fourth house in your neighborhood.

People say that legalizing marijuana sends a wrong message, that drugs are OK. Feeding misinformation to young people about the safety of illegal drugs, as opposed to the socially condoned addictive drugs, with the threat of fines, forfeiture and jail if they don't buy the myths, is the wrong message. Putting people in jail for possession of small amounts of marijuana is cruel and unusual punishment.

They may keep marijuana illegal, reap huge amounts of money by creating excessive fines for victimless crime, they may even eradicate this beneficial plant to extinction, but will they win the hearts and minds of the people? I think the "wrong message" to youth is that the economy is fixed on a course of ecocide and that the police will put us in jail rather than allow us the freedom of a fleeting moment of euphoria as offered by this gentle and beautiful flower.

I also hear the argument that marijuana is a "gateway" drug leading to hard, addictive drugs like

(Continued on page 68)

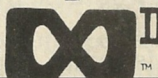


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