

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML



your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

## NORML Marks 20 Millionth Pot Arrest

### Tragic Marijuana Milestone Takes Place In A Country Near YOU

**Washington, DC:** Law enforcement will make its 20 millionth marijuana arrest this Friday, October 10th, according to data compiled by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and extrapolated by NORML.

The FBI provides annual marijuana arrest data dating back to 1965.

"Police have arrested 19.3 million Americans for marijuana violations in the years between 1965 and 2007 - busting a record 872,000 last year alone," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "At this pace, law enforcement will make their 20 millionth arrest this

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### Reminder To Register For NORML's 2008 National Conference. Day Passes, Walk-Up Registration Still Available --- Just Added: Ray Manzarek of the Doors

**Washington, DC:** NORML's 37th annual national conference, "**It's Not Your Parents' Prohibition,**" takes place this week - on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18 - at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center in Berkeley, California.

Join NORML's staff and Board of Directors - and nearly 500 policy activists, medical patients, cultivators, doctors, politicians, and clinical investigators - as we congregate and celebrate in one of America's most

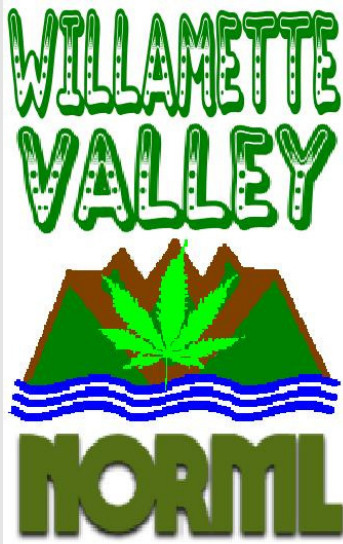
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### Medical Journal Touts 17,000 Pot-Related Studies

Jerusalem, Israel: Cannabis is one of the most studied plants on the planet, according to a review published in the September issue of the journal Medicinal Research Reviews. "Research on the chemistry and pharmacology of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids has reached enormous proportions," the journal states. "[A]pproximately 15,000 articles on Cannabis sativa L. and cannabinoids and over 2,000 articles on endocannabinoids" are available in the scientific literature.

Commenting on the review NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Opponents of marijuana

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## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

----- Making contact -----

You can Snail Mail:

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957  
Eugene, OR 97440**

E-mailing:

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

Check 'em out on-line! visit:

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

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month, and will begin busting over one million cannabis consumers annually by 2010."

Of those arrested, an estimated 90 percent are charged with minor marijuana possession - not trafficking, cultivation, or sale. Three out of every four arrestees are under 30 years old.

"This policy is a tremendous waste of taxpayers' resources; it destroys the lives of millions of otherwise law-abiding citizens, and threatens the personal liberties and freedoms of all Americans," St. Pierre said. "We've now arrested more American citizens for pot than the entire population of Massachusetts, Michigan, and Oregon combined."

Speaking last month on C-Span, Drug Czar John Walters denied FBI data indicating that hundreds of thousands of Americans are arrested each year for pot violations, claiming: "We didn't arrest 800,000 marijuana users. That's [a] lie."

NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano recently responded to the Drug Czar's remarks in the Washington DC publication The Hill in an essay entitled, "How Can We Even Discuss Marijuana Policy When America's Top Drug Cop Won't Even Acknowledge The Facts?" More than 240 readers have commented on NORML's essay. Fewer than five respondents have commented in support of the criminal prohibition of cannabis.

To date, the White House Office of

National Drug Control Policy has not responded to NORML's rebuttal, nor has it issued a retraction for the Drug Czar's statements.

***In Additional News: NORML Launches Cash Contest For Best Pro-Marijuana Advertisement @ High Noon on October 10 In Recognition (and disgust) of America's 20 Millionth Marijuana Arrest. For further details or to submit a contest entry, check [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org) @ noon on Friday, October 10.***

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director.*

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'cannabis friendly' cities.

Detailed conference agenda, speakers list, and information on conference social events - including Saturday night's 'can't miss' **2008 Extravaganja party** at the Oasis Nightclub (which will feature fire dancers, live performances by **Los Marijuanos** and the **Extra Action Marching Band**, and a laser light show) - are available online.

Rooms at the Doubletree Hotel are **sold out**, but alternative hotel accommodations are still available. Online registration for the Conference via NORML's website is available until midnight (Pacific), October 14. On site registration will be available throughout the Conference.

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Featured guests at this year's conference include longtime Democrat **Berkeley City Councilman Kriss Worthington**, former Doors keyboardist and author **Ray Manzarek**, and Saturday Keynote Luncheon Speaker, **Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco)**.

Plenary sessions at this year's conference include:

\* **Getting the Story Wrong: How the Media Lie About Cannabis**

\* **The Legal Marijuana Generation: Growing Up and Raising Children In The Age of Legal Pot**

\* **The War On Pot Is a War On Young People**

\* **What If We Arrested 20 Million Americans, And Nobody Noticed?**

\* **The Politics of Marijuana And Health**

\* **Drug Testing and Cannabis: The Case Against Legally Sanctioned Discrimination Via Forensics**

\* **Pot Culture: A Roundtable Discussion of Cannabis in Society, Entertainment, Music and American Culture**

\* **Pot Politics 2008 and Beyond**

In addition, on Sunday, October 19, NORML's Legal Committee and the faculty of Oaksterdam University will co-sponsor a special, third-day session, entitled "**Everything You Wanted To Know About The Legalities Medical Cannabis, But Didn't Know Where To Ask.**" This unique, one-day seminar will guide attendees through the maze of conflicting federal, state, and local medical cannabis laws and regulations, and will offer step-by-step instruction regarding how to establish a legal medical marijuana business in the state of California.

Learn from the nation's top experts on cannabis and cannabis policy. Strategize with the country's leading marijuana activists and reformers. See what cognitive freedom and tolerance looks like in Oaksterdam, the most cannabis-friendly neighborhood in North America.

Don't delay; register today and join us this week for an unforgettable three days of pot, policy, and politics at the 37th annual national NORML Conference.

For more information, please call (202) 483-5500 or visit:

[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7626](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7626)

<continued from MEDICAL STUDIES, page 1 > law reform - including those who oppose the therapeutic use of cannabis - are fond of claiming that further study of marijuana is necessary before we can amend current law. Yet in reality, cannabis is arguably the most investigated plant on Earth. It's clear that it's politics, not science, that is driving the criminal prohibition of cannabis and unfortunately the

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<continued from previous page> publication of another dozen - or even a thousand - studies is not going to change this reality."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Pharmacological and therapeutic secrets of plant and brain (Endo)cannabinoids," appears in the journal Medicinal Research Reviews.

### **Michigan: Two Out Of Three Voters Back Medical Marijuana Measure**

Detroit, MI: Two out of three Michigan voters support a statewide ballot initiative that seeks to legalize the medical use of cannabis for qualified patients, according to a Detroit Free Press/Local 4 news poll of 602 likely voters. Sixty-six percent of respondents said that they would vote "yes" on the November ballot measure (Proposition 1). Twenty-five percent opposed the proposal. Nine percent were undecided.

Since 2004, five Michigan cities - Ann Arbor, Detroit, Ferndale, Flint, and Traverse City - have each enacted municipal initiatives endorsing the medical use of marijuana. If enacted, Michigan will become the thirteenth state since 1996 to authorize the legal use of medical cannabis, and the ninth state to do so by voter initiative.

For more information, please contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre at (202) 483-5500, or visit:

**<http://stoparrestingpatients.org/>**

### **Health Department Defines Limits For Authorized Medi-Pot Patients**

Olympia, WA: State Health Department officials finalized new rules last week establishing limits on the amount of cannabis qualified patients may legally possess and cultivate under state law.

Under the newly approved guidelines, patients may grow up to 15 cannabis plants and/or possess up to 24 ounces of usable marijuana for therapeutic purposes.

The plant limits were mandated under legislation enacted last year that called on the Department of Health to "adopt rules defining the quantity of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be a 60-day supply for qualifying patients."

Patients found to be in possession of amounts greater than those authorized by the Health Department will continue to receive legal protection under the law if they present evidence indicating that they require such amounts to adequately treat their qualifying medical condition.

The new limits will take effect on November 2, 2008.

*For more information, please visit the Washington State Department of Health's website:*  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/medical-marijuana/>

## **Marijuana Less Harmful To Health Than Alcohol Or Tobacco, British Think Tank Reports**

Oxford, United Kingdom: The potential health risks associated with cannabis are less than those associated with alcohol and do not justify the continued criminalization of the plant or its users, according to a report published last week by The Beckley Foundation - an independent British think-tank that analyzes drug use and drug policy.

"There is no justification for incarcerating an individual for a cannabis possession or use offense, nor for creating a criminal conviction," concludes the report, entitled "Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate."

Authors of the report recommend that governments consider enacting legislation to tax and regulate the sale of cannabis, or - at a minimum - to institute administrative 'fine-only' penalties regarding its use.

"The rationale for severe penalties for possession offenses is weak on both normative and practical grounds," authors state. "In many developed countries a majority of adults born in the past half-century have used cannabis. Control regimes that criminalize users are intrusive on privacy, socially divisive and expensive. ... They clearly do harm to the many individuals who are arrested, they abridge individual autonomy and they

are often applied unjustly.

"In an alternative system of regulated availability, market controls such as taxation, minimum age requirements, labeling and potency limits are available to minimize the harms associated with cannabis use."

The Beckley Foundation report will be submitted to the United Nations, which will conduct a strategic review of global drug policies next year.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. Full text of

the Beckley Foundation report is available at: [http://www.beckleyfoundation.org/pdf/BF\\_Cannabis\\_Commission\\_Report.pdf](http://www.beckleyfoundation.org/pdf/BF_Cannabis_Commission_Report.pdf)

## **California: Governor Permits Employment Discrimination Of Medi-Pot Patients**

**Sacramento, CA:** Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation this week that sought to protect Californians from being fired from their jobs for their state-licensed medical cannabis use outside of the workplace.

As approved by the legislature, Assembly Bill 2279 would have declared it "unlawful for an employer to discriminate against" persons who are authorized under state law to use medical cannabis. The measure sought to reverse a January 2008 California

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<continued from previous page> Supreme Court ruling that held that an employer may fire someone solely on the basis of their therapeutic cannabis use during non-work hours.

"This bill attempts to shield qualified medical marijuana patients employed in non safety-sensitive positions from employment discrimination. However, I am concerned with interference in employment decisions as they relate to marijuana use," Schwarzenegger declared in his veto message. "Employment protection was not a goal of the initiative as passed by voters in 1996."

California NORML Coordinator Dale Gieringer criticized the Governor's veto, stating, "The goal of Proposition 215 was to treat marijuana like other legal pharmaceutical drugs."

For more information, please contact Dale Gieringer, California NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director.

*There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others.* –

- Harry Anslinger, 1937 testimony to Congress in support of the Marijuana Tax Act.

*Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.* –

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

*Honesty is likely to make a greater and more lasting impression on our children than political posturing and hysteria.* –

- New England Journal of Medicine, Aug. 7, 1997

*The dregs seemingly are afraid of the truth. Why not take inventory and ascertain the true conditions. Let us not leave it to the charge of an antiprohibition organization, or to any other private association, let us have an official survey and let the American people know what is going on. A complete and honest and impartial survey would reveal incredible conditions....*

–

- Fiorella H. LaGuardia, The National Prohibition Law, Hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, 69th Congress, 1st Session (1926): 649-52

*Our current drug crisis is a tragedy born of a phony system of classification. For reasons that are little more than accidents of history, we have divided a group of nonfood substances into two categories: items purchasable for supposed pleasure (such as alcohol), and illicit drugs. The categories were once reversed. Opiates were legal in America before the Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914, and members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, who campaigned against alcohol during the day, drank their valued "women's tonics" at night, products laced with laudanum (tincture of opium).*

*I could abide - though I would still oppose - our current intransigence if we applied the principle of total interdiction to all harmful drugs. But how can we possibly defend our current policy based on a dichotomy that encourages us to view one class of substances as a preeminent scourge while the two most dangerous and life-destroying substances by far, alcohol and tobacco, form a second class advertised in neon on every street corner of urban America? And why, moreover, should heroin be viewed with horror while chemical cognates that are no different from heroin than lemonade is from iced tea perform work of enormous compassion by relieving the pain of terminal cancer patients in their last days? –*

- evolutionary biologist Stephen J. Gould, "Taxonomy as Politics," in *Dissent*, Winter 1990, p. 73

*If people let government decide which foods they eat and medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny.*

-- Thomas Jefferson, circa 1776



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



*It's One Hell of A Joint!*

Visit - <http://herbstoastedsubs.com/> - and see!

## **NORML Affiliates Celebrate Fall 'Harvest' Festivals**

Washington, DC: NORML chapters around the nation will be holding a series of 'protestivals' in the coming weeks in support of ending the criminal prohibition of cannabis.

**Madison NORML** will hold the 38th Annual Great Midwest Harvest Festival at the Library Mall in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5.

The event is one of the longest-running marijuana law reform gathering in the United States. Madison NORML and Is My Medicine Legal Yet (IMMLY) will also be holding an awards banquet on Friday night, October 3. Additional information on the Festival and banquet is available online at:

<http://www.madisonnorml.org/>

**North Ohio NORML** will be holding the 2nd Annual NORML Harvest Fest at the Chippewa Valley Campground in Seville, Ohio on Friday, October 3 through Sunday, October 5. Information on Festival speakers, musical acts, and events is available online at: <http://northohio.norml.net/>

**New York NORML** will be holding the 14th Annual New York Harvest Festival and Freedom Fair in at Camp Minglewood in Hancock, New York on Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 13. Scheduled speakers include Jack Herer and Ed Rosenthal. Musical guest include Murphy's Law, Chris Barron and the Time Bandits, and DJ Logic. *Additional information is available online at:*

<http://www.nynorml.org/events.html>