

“POT WARS” FROM SECOND PAGE

Keeping hemp and marijuana legal would have really put a damper on the oil/plastics, paper manufacturing, cotton producers/manufactures (until the introduction of the cotton gin in the 1820s, 80% of fabrics, textiles, linen etc. were made from hemp) and even to an extent, tobacco/alcohol industries. Hemp is much more useful, economical, environmentally friendly, and all around better than using fossil fuels and trees. One can produce 2-3 hemp crops in a year, making it much more efficient than cutting down slow growing trees. The process for making hemp into paper has far less environmental effects than making paper from trees. Medicinal marijuana is already present in twelve states and voters here in Colorado are working to make recreational use of one ounce or less legal for adults 21 and over.

The fact is that for decades, the American people have been sold lies and exaggerations on the effects of marijuana simply for profits and personal judgements. Our constitution, the supreme law of the land, does not give the federal government jurisdiction over what we can put into our bodies, or what we can grow in our garden. The people have to stand up and speak out to the injustices wrought upon us by those politicians, corporations, and others who feel they need to control our lives. •

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the copious amounts of hemp that they grew and the Declaration of Independence was printed on hemp paper. Does that make the document void and illegal since it is printed on such a persecuted and ‘dangerous’ plant?

The amount of taxpayer money wasted on marijuana prohibition is just as amazing and insane. The government annually spends an estimated 7 billion on eradication, 4.2 billion on processing and charging marijuana offenders, 2 billion plus on housing convicted offenders and an additional 257 million on probation for marijuana offenders. How much longer can the American public justify such wasteful spending and destruction of lives for the simple use of a plant that has been used by humanity since 8,000 BCE? In 2002, it was estimated that 94.9 million Americans had used marijuana in their lives (<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>) www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov). Should we build prisons for all of those people? Should we persecute 94.9 million Americans and their families for the recreational or medical use of a plant?

Will we wake up to the hypocrisy and injustice prevalent in our own courts, police and prison systems. Many of the laws regarding crimes that ended with death were repealed by the British government, because judges and juries refused to participate in a system that was corrupt and paranoid. We need to stop wasting time, money and lives on a war against a plant. Legalize it and stop the war on marijuana, you can’t imprison 94 million people... •

State of Disunion

NUMBER OF PEOPLE arrested for drug law offences this year: 474,626	NUMBER OF PEOPLE arrested for cannabis law offences this year: 220,702
APPROXIMATE DOLLARS SPENT in the War on Drugs this year: 17,000,000,000	AMOUNT OF DOLLARS spent on marijuana prohibition in FY 2004: 3,670,000,000
NUMBER OF STATES that allow medical marijuana: 12	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PRODUCTS that can be produced from hemp: 25,000+
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES to use capital punishment for cannabis charges (US included): 9	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF AMERICANS who have tried pot: 94,900,000
PERCENT OF cannabis charges for manufacturing and production: 12	PERCENT OF cannabis charges that are for simple possession: 88

CALL TO ACTION

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers: graphic designers, writers, poets, cartoonists, artists, and photographers are needed. Get your work published now. Help distribute The Red Pill in your community, church, and school: contact us at editor@gjredpill.org. You can also do your part to keep us in print by donating time, paper, film, copies, and of course money (it doesn’t print itself).



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IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

The Red Pill



LEGALIZE

IT

APRIL 2006

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GET OFF YOUR ASS: LEGALIZE IT

Stoners can often be heard bemoaning pot’s illegal status. This fall they may have a chance to do something about it. A group named Safer Alternatives For Enjoyable Recreation has been collecting signatures since March 1st, and they already have 20,000 of the 68,000 signatures that they need to get the Marijuana—Alcohol Equalization Initiative put on the Colorado ballot for this November. SAFER is coming off of a surprise victory last election which legalized adult use of marijuana in the city of Denver.

The Red Pill was recently able to sit down with SAFER Colorado head, Mason Tvert, 24, to ask him about the campaign to legalize marijuana. “Right now our only focus is getting the initiative on the ballot,” Tvert said. “No one thinks that we can do this, and that is what is great, because just getting this thing on the ballot proves them wrong.”

Tvert said that SAFER has about four-hundred volunteers in the field collecting signatures, and that another 250 or so people want to “help out in some capacity during the campaign.” In addition to the legions of volunteers, many different groups are backing the initiative. Here in Grand Junction, Western Colorado Liberty Alliance is collecting signatures. Elsewhere, the Colorado Green and Libertarian Parties are expected to endorse the initiative. In Fort Collins, the Libertarian Party of CSU, and Students for Sensible Drug Policy have formed an alliance to work on this issue. Sensible Colorado and Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition round out SAFER’s allies. “This is the grassroots,” Tvert said.

When SAFER launched their campaign to legalize marijuana in Denver, the campaign was dismissed as impossible. “We did only one poll, which found that only 32% favored the measure,” Tvert said. “But we won 54% to 46%.” Tvert attributed discrepancy to the fact that many young people have only a cell phone and don’t receive polling calls. Tvert also said that this time around it’s not going to be as easy because there is going to

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be an organized campaign against the measure.

Tvert was drawn to the marijuana issue because it “embodies so many different issues: social, environmental, criminal justice, and racial,” he said. Tvert said that he is opposed to current marijuana laws because “it is a blanket policy with no regards for local rights or self-governance.”

If you want to get off your ass and help make pot legal there are a number of things you can do. You can visit www.saferchoice.org to get signed up

to help gather signatures for the ballot initiative. If you are not registered to vote, you can't collect or sign petitions, so if you have moved, switched parties, or haven't voted for five-years, you need to go down to the county clerk's office at 6th and Rood and register to vote. You can also download the form from www.elections.colorado.gov/DDefault.aspx?tid=415. If you want get involved with the local group Western Colorado Liberty Alliance in collecting signatures, call 245-3720. •

POT WARS

The demonization of marijuana in our country is rooted in racism, yellow journalism, and behind closed doors wheeling and dealing between politicians, corporations, and media. Billions of dollars have been spent in making the public believe marijuana is harmful and has no medicinal or other beneficial value.

Since the early 1900s, many powerful figures, financially and politically, had their hands in this issue. In 1930, Andrew Mellon, Hoover's Secretary of Treasury, appointed (his future nephew-in-law) Harry J. Anslinger to be head of the newly created Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. He took over the enforcement of anti-cocaine and anti-opiate laws. Although he technically had no legal jurisdiction over the plant, Anslinger had a primary interest in marijuana. Reading over the following quotes by Anslinger, one has to wonder what his real motivation was in trying to make marijuana illegal.

“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 use. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers, and any others.”

“Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind.”

“... the primary reason to outlaw marijuana is its effect on the degenerate races.”

Up until the mid-1900s, hemp was grown, manufactured, and used extensively in the United States. It was used for paper (one acre of hemp produces the same amount as 4.1 acre of trees), ropes, canvas, clothes, etc. It was seen as a harmless and useful plant. In fact, up until the early 1800s, one could pay their taxes with hemp. Its association with the psychoactive

drug, marijuana, allowed the powers-that-be to manipulate the public into thinking this was a dangerous plant. In order to do this, a series of ‘secret’ meetings took place, in which those invested in the illegalization of hemp picked up an obscure Mexican word, marijuana, to refer to hemp. They sold to the public the idea that marijuana was dangerous, can lead to violence, and should be outlawed. The unsuspecting population was not told that by marijuana, they really meant hemp.

The politicians and corporate money-mongers could not spread their new message without the help of the media. Enter here, William Hearst of Hearst newspapers, owner of the majority of the newspapers in the US at the time. The Hearst Paper Manufacturing Division of Kimberly Clark, who owned large amounts of timberland, obviously had an ulterior motive in making hemp/marijuana illegal. Anslinger was well acquainted with the Hearsts as well as the DuPonts. Hearst sensationalized marijuana stories, purporting that smoking just one joint could cause violence, loose morality, and other devastating effects. Films, such as “Reefer Madness” and “Marijuana: The Devil's Weed” (both 1935), were shown to the public to support anti-marijuana laws. Still many at the time did not know that Hearst and Anslinger and company were using this word synonymously with hemp.

So what we have is William Hearst (owner of vast tracks of forested land) spreading anti-marijuana propaganda, Harry Anslinger doing everything in his power to make marijuana illegal, and the support of Andrew Mellon, who just happened to be DuPont's primary investor. In 1937, the marijuana tax act was passed, essentially making it illegal to possess or use marijuana and consequently, hemp as well. Also in 1937, DuPont patented their plastics using petroleum (hemp can be used to produce biodegradable plastics).

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HASHISH FOR BEGINNERS

Marijuana was the first domesticated plant, being farmed in central Asia at least 8000 years ago. Hashish, made from these same marijuana plants, was one of the first products ever to be traded for commerce. The history of hashish is as colorful as it is old.

Cultivation of hashish quality marijuana quickly spread out of its Siberian roots and now grows profusely in Pakistan, Turkey, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Morocco, and much of North Africa, and the Middle East. Morocco is by far the world's largest producer of hashish. Western Europe is by far the world's largest consumer of hashish.

Hashish is made by stripping the plant of its leaves and flowers. This material, called ‘skuff,’ contains numerous tiny resin producing hair-like glands. These resin glands are isolated by rubbing the skuff over a fine cloth screen. They are then pressed hard into various shapes, depending on the intended use of the hashish.

Special hashish is made in the Rif Mountains of Morocco, where on one special day, children of the villages are allowed to frolic naked in the cannabis fields. At the end of the day, the resin and sweat are scraped off of their bodies and is pressed into hashish. The result is a blond Moroccan hashish that is supposed to be an absolutely delightful smoke.

Hashish found its way into two ancient religions. The Zoroastrians of Persia wrote about it in their sacred text, the Zend-Avesta, where they refer to it as “God's good narcotic.” The Hindus believe that it was created by Lord Shiva “for people's enjoyment.”

The word “assassin” is derived from the word hashish. This relates to the killing cult established by Hasan ibn-Al-Sabbah, the “old man of the mountain.” Sabbah had a nearly impenetrable fortress in the high

mountains of Persia, in the year 1009. The group specialized in targeted political assassinations. Young male recruits were taken to the front gates of the fortress, then given enormous doses of hashish, which induced unconsciousness. While still asleep, the recruits were carried inside. When they awoke, they found themselves in lush, verdant gardens, fed sumptuous food, and surrounded by beautiful maidens who would happily attend to their each and every need. Most thought that they had died and gone to heaven.

When an assignment came up, some of Hasan's “assassins” would go take care of business. When the mission was complete, they would return to their mountain paradise.

France developed a strong hashish culture in the 1800s. In 1843, Le Club Des Hachishins, the Hashish Eaters Club, opened in Paris. People would come together to eat hashish and have deep meaningful discourse with each other, in what they called “seances.” The list of writers with ties to the club is long and impressive. Baudelaire, Coleridge, Hugo, Poe, Wordsworth, Wilde, and Browning are just a few of them. Hash culture remains quite strong to this day in France.

Hashish use peaked in the United States in the 1970s. After two decades of decline, hashish is back and is rapidly regaining its popularity. Hash represents a good bargain, just two or three tokes and you are quite high for hours. People also really like its dreamlike quality and its rich, distinctive earthy smell.

Hashish has been around for millennia and is not likely to disappear anytime soon. May the Hash Gods smile upon you and place themselves in your path soon! •

THE COST OF THE WAR ON POT

In 1937, marijuana was made illegal in the United States and since then hundreds of thousands of Americans have been unjustly punished and incarcerated. Considering that marijuana prohibition came into effect after the dismal failure of alcohol prohibition in the country is surprising, what's even more surprising though is the country's continued enforcement and punishment of marijuana users.

Let's face it the prohibition of marijuana has failed, hundreds of thousands of lives are destroyed, billions are wasted on eradication attempts and still millions of people use the substance with regularity. In 2003, the FBI reported that 755,186 people had been arrested and jailed for the possession of marijuana. To put this into perspective the state of South Dakota has a population of 754,844 people, if everyone in the state of South Dakota had been

arrested at the same time the government would have to poach a few citizens from North Dakota just to match the number of marijuana arrests nationwide.

Under the laws of fifteen states non-violent marijuana offenders can receive life in prison for possession of a plant that has been proven to be relatively harmless in comparison to alcohol and tobacco. Meanwhile the average time served by people convicted of murder nationwide is only six years, six years for taking a life versus a life sentence for using a plant that has been used by humanity for thousands of years by different cultures across the world to no ill effect. The imbalance of justice is absolutely mind-boggling, the founder's of this country could easily have served life in prison for

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Every Sunday • 6PM

Weekly Vegan Dinner. We'll cook the main dish. Please bring a vegan side dish, dessert, or drink. Dinner starts around 6:30PM. *The Confluence Collective (1450 Elm).*



Thursday, April 20 • All day

Get stoned with friends
Anywhere, Everywhere



Monday, May 1, 2006 • All day

The Great American Boycott 2006
“A day without an immigrant” NO to HR4437
A CALL TO ACTION!
NO WORK•NO SCHOOL•NO SELLING•NO BUYING

Friday, May 5, 2006 • 6PM

Fundraising/Petition turn-in dinner for all those collecting signatures to get the Alcohol-Marijuana Equalization Initiative on November's ballot.
*Diorio's Pizza & Subs, 1125 North Avenue,
Grand Junction*