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Search and seizure

Veteran Leroy Stubblefield fights to grow medical marijuana plants despite contradictions in state and federal laws

Caron Alarab
Freelance Reporter

Ordinarily, Leroy Stubblefield enjoys it when his friends stop by unannounced.

As a 54-year-old Vietnam veteran, however, Stubblefield said he was not happy when a "friend" from the Drug Enforcement Agency stopped in without notice — and without identifying himself — and seized his state-authorized marijuana plants during a search of his Lebanon ranch in late September.

"I try to lead a very simple life," he said. "It's an ultimate shock."

On Sept. 23, during a state investigation of a potentially excessive number of legal plants on the premises, DEA agent Michael Spasaro took 12 plants from Stubblefield's 2.5 acre ranch, eight of which belonged to his two caregivers, fellow veterans and medical marijuana card holders Scott Russell, 46, and Clarence Vandehay, 48.

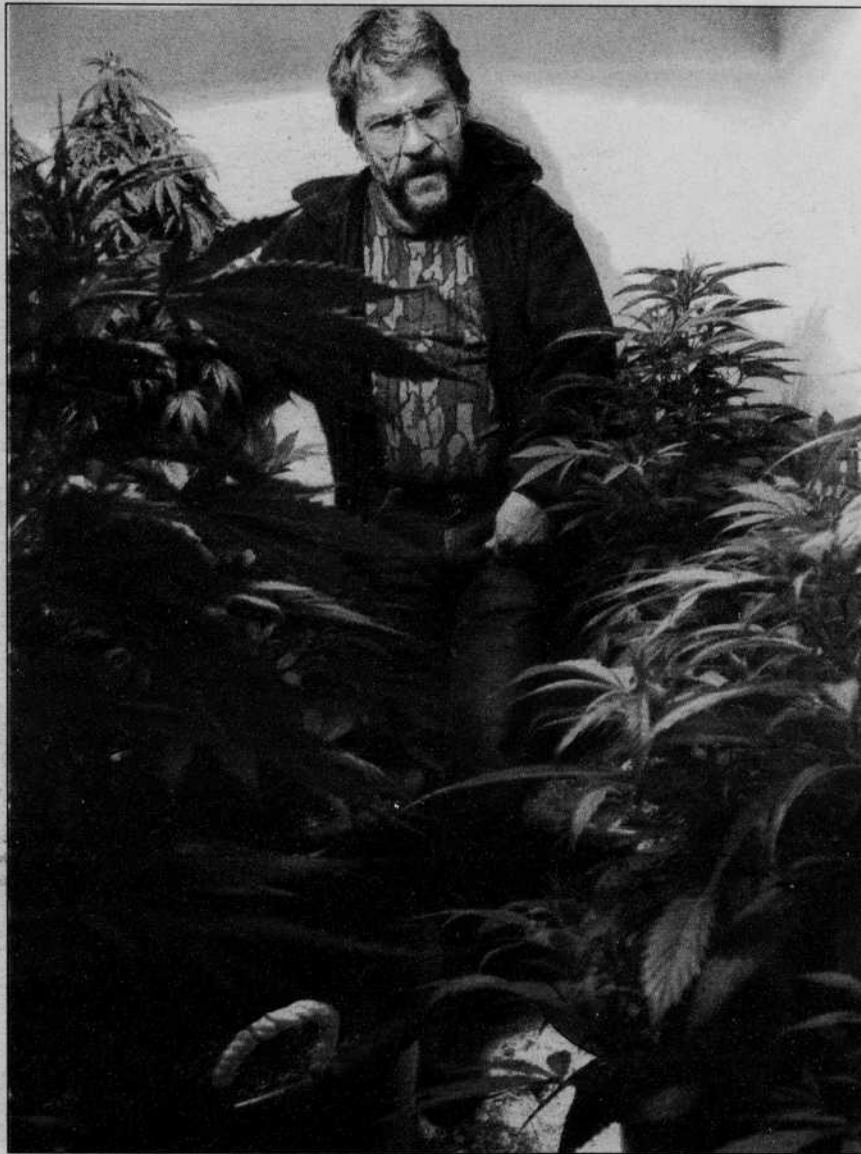
Although the three men were in accordance with state law, which allows up to seven plants per person, Stubblefield said he would not have allowed the members of the Valley Interagency Narcotics Team (VALIANT) to perform the search had he known a federal agent — enforcing federal laws — was with them.

Spasaro was unable to be reached for comment.

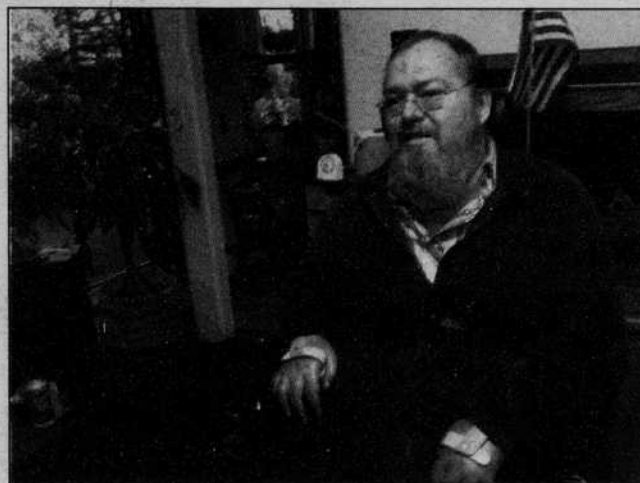
Stubblefield, a quadriplegic who has been registered with the Oregon State Health Division as a medical marijuana user since 1999, said he uses marijuana to relieve pain associated with post traumatic stress disorder and to repress sleep apnea, two conditions his doctors say are a result of his combat experience overseas.

Marijuana has been a point of contention between states and the U.S. government since the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937. Fighting against federally assisted state searches and for the return of his plants, Stubblefield has teamed up with a Portland attorney and The Hemp and Cannabis

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Veteran Daniel Scott Russel (above) is the primary caretaker of the marijuana plants and holds a medical marijuana card.



Leroy G. Stubblefield, (left) former serviceman for the United States, has had to use a wheelchair for 33 years and has used medical marijuana since 1999.

Adam Amato Emerald

Group logos must have UO approval

At meetings this week, ASUO student groups are given more rules about publishing new materials, including University approval of groups' logos

Jan Montry

Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The University and ASUO officials have spent this week spelling out a new policy that will require ASUO-funded groups to use the University's "O" logo on all new publications.

But at a Wednesday meeting, officials announced if student groups want their own logo included with the "O" logo, they must submit it for University approval first. The rules are all part of a new policy that ASUO-funded groups must follow immediately to order new materials, such as letterheads and posters.

Director of Publications George Beltran confirmed Wednesday that group logos must be cleared with Strategic Communications Associate Vice President Harry Battson before Jan. 1.

Beltran said the process would be a good time for groups to consider updating their old logos.

Groups may want to "use this as an opportunity — or this

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Crime patrol program lacks participants

The University Yellow Jackets Volunteer Program currently has only 12 members and needs more committed volunteers in order to keep operating

Danielle Gillespie

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

A lack of student interest has prevented the University Yellow Jackets Volunteer Program, a crime prevention team that patrols the campus at night, from operating this year, and the program's future remains undetermined.

The group of students, staff and community members came together in April in response to the 10 campus attacks that occurred from February 2001 to March 2002.

Yellow Jacket Student Coordinator Meghan Madden said that even though the program is having trouble finding enough volunteers — the group only has 12 committed members — she hopes to see patrols start Monday.

Unless more people show interest, Department of Public Safety Director Tom Hicks said he is unsure if the program will work. He said because volunteers are required to work in pairs for safety reasons, the program needs more than just a

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WEATHER

Today: High 55, Low 45, rain, chance of thunderstorms
Saturday: High 55, Low 45, rain at times

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday

A state commission helps make up for lost need grants

Tuesday

Ay, where's the rub? Pulse
Relax kneads to know

Symposium teaches sustainability

Speakers and workshops for the Sustainable Business Symposium educate students about successful, environmentally friendly practices

Jody Burruss

Environment/Science/Technology Reporter

The sixth annual Sustainable Business Symposium began on campus Thursday, featuring a variety of speakers and workshops addressing topics ranging from transportation solutions to the Federal Organic Act.

This year's theme is "Turning Vision Into Reality: Linking Economy, Ecology and Community." The symposium will bring together speakers to discuss and investigate sustainable theory and how it can become a working reality

in the world of business.

"(The goal is) to show that businesses can be successful and profitable while practicing business in a way that doesn't degrade the environment," Shandra LeVan, SBS board member and project manager, said.

One of the workshops, "How to Start a Sustainable Business or Cooperative," focuses on lending, marketing, accounting, financing and environmentally friendly purchasing for people interested in starting and running their own green business.

"We see that businesses can really be a leader in creating sustainability," LeVan said.

Organizers say they hope people who attend the workshops and panels will carry out what they learn in their everyday business practices.

Scott Pope, a certified financial planner for

Progressive Investment Management, will lead a discussion in the "Socially Responsible Investing for Businesses" panel. Pope will talk about how people can invest their money while keeping the goal of sustainability in mind.

"It's an attempt to fit people's investments with their personal values," he said.

The "Renewable Energy" panel will examine the future of energy use and the implementation of more renewable technologies. Jim Maloney, Eugene Water and Electric Board energy resource projects manager, will speak about making sound investments in renewable energies to provide a better future. He said even though new investments may seem costly now, it is important to look past the short-run.

"You can't take your eye off the long-term

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