

Pot: getting back to NORML

Editor's note: This article is the second in a series on background information and the possibility of forming a chapter of NORML on the Clackamas Community College Campus.

The next time you light up a joint think of those people in jail right now for doing the same thing.

Quoth the NORML, "Nevermore."

By Jerry Wheeler
Photo Editor

Now that Oregon has decriminalized marijuana, no one in this state can be thrown in jail for possessing less than an ounce of grass, right?

Want to bet?

"Marijuana offenses, even the most minor ones, are the subject of federal as well as state criminal laws. Under current federal law, the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-513), possession of a small amount of marijuana carries a possible one-year jail term and a fine up to \$5,000.

When someone is caught with a small amount of marijuana, the authorities have the choice of prosecuting under either federal or state laws. Even in the eight states that have 'decriminalized' under state law, the federal law still remains technically available. Complete decriminalization requires a change in both federal and state laws."

This statement, from the "National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws' NORML -- A special report", means simply that the work in Oregon is far from finished as far as decriminalization is concerned. The fact remains - anyone can still go to jail for smoking marijuana.

Seventy-one percent of the adult population views the problem of 'heavy drinking' as very serious, while only 48 percent feel that way about marijuana. This is a complete reversal of public attitudes since 1969, when 73 percent viewed pot smoking as 'very serious', compared to 53 percent who felt the same about heavy drinking.

The same trend is evident when people are asked to choose between marijuana and alcohol as 'more dangerous for people in the country to use'.

Although about three out of ten feel both are equally dangerous, 35 percent single out alcohol, compared to 29 percent who choose marijuana.

"In 1969, a substantial 58 percent of the public felt that marijuana was more dangerous than alcohol," states Louis Harris, referring to the latest Harris survey on marijuana published in the Chicago Tribune on January 26, 1976.

The film "Reefer Madness" was shown recently at the Clackamas Community College Fireside Lounge with a good turn-out. The film depicts a group of high-school students who try marijuana, with murder, rape, prostitution and insanity the end result of their folly.

The problem is that this 1936 release was made in perfect seriousness, and substantially helped in the forming of today's harsh penalties for pot.

It was one of the classic examples of propaganda in this country. NORML acquired distribution rights to the film in 1973 and uses the profits in their fight for decriminalization.

"While a nationwide survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows that

86 percent of the public no longer favors sending marijuana smokers to jail," says Keith Stroup, NORML Director, "an estimated 600 million dollars is spent each year on marijuana enforcement.

"The frightening result is that seven out of ten of all drug law arrests in this country are for marijuana violations. The annual toll is an almost half million of otherwise law abiding citizens tragically and needlessly caught up in a heavy-handed criminal justice system. Even those who don't go to jail are left with the scar of a life-long criminal arrest record."

Marijuana, or hemp as it was called, was an essential crop in colonial America. First planted in Jamestown in 1611, as required by the settlers' contract with the Crown's Virginia Company, marijuana was cultivated throughout the colonies for the long fiber strands of the stalk. Many basic necessities for the self-sufficient colonists were made from the hearty plant.



A bottle of cannabis fluid extract, listed in the Parke, Davis & Company's 1929-30 physician's catalogue of pharmaceutical products. It was used legally for medicinal purposes.

"One source," states The Leaflet, NORML's quarterly publication, "reports that by 1630 one-half of the winter clothing worn by the colonists were made from hemp fiber." The tough fiber was also used to make twine, blankets, and long-lasting paper for Bibles and currency.

Early transportation also depended on hemp. Ships were rigged with hemp sails and ropes, and canvas, a coarse hemp fabric that derives its name from cannabis, covered many of the wagons which took the pioneers westward.

The colonies rapidly became the British

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Jazz artist coming

Jazz artist Chuck Mangione brings his quartet and star vocalist Esther Satterfield to Portland's Paramount Northwest concert Saturday, Nov. 13 at 8 p.m.

Educated at the prestigious Eastman School of Music, Mangione served his musical apprenticeship while playing with jazz greats as Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, Maynard Ferguson and Art Blakey. Mangione is leaving his mark all over jazz land as an instrumentalist, lyricist, composer, and conductor.

This melodic style provides a solid foundation for singer Esther Satterfield who appears on the bill as special guest.

Mangione, whose new A & M "Main Squeeze," is due for release next month, plays the flugelhorn and electric piano. Other members of the quartet include Joe LaBarbera on bass and Vadala on saxophone and flute.

Tickets for the Northwest Releasing are on sale at the Ticket Place at Lincoln Stevens and Son, First Federal in Vancouver and the Paramount.

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By Lenna Fitch
Staff Writer

When all else fails, one takes the board.

"Hope it works. . . or we'll see Ed Mike Ayers, student body president of The Clackamas Community College Student Government (CCS) unanimously to support Bonnie Nelson, an art major confined to a wheelchair due to Multiple Sclerosis, who's had no access to classes.

"The board should take the problem," said Jerry Nelson, assistant to the student body president.

Bonnie Nelson is on the agenda for the Nov. 10 CCC Board of Education. The board meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday of each month and is encouraged to attend.

Even though the law requires federal and state institutions to make facilities safe and accessible to persons (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act), Nelson found 17 stairs and two of her art classes a

She declined the many of the risks involved in climbing up and down the steep staircases.

She hopes to see a wheelchair. The Montgomery Elevator estimates the cost of this installation between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

"That doesn't seem like a lot," said Nelson, "when we consider that a school can afford a 'goof off' Community Center with 3 pool tables, and 4 pin ball machines, let alone the cost of the roof, the paneling and fixtures. At that time they deny handicapped students."

Shortly after enrollment she made her problem known to the administration. CCC President John Nelson said that every attempt would be made to solve the situation.

"But I still can't get up the stairs," Nelson said.

Nelson made arrangements for instructor Leland John, to do assignments in painting and drawing. She pays tuition and has a rigorous instruction.

John said that she does not suggest that since she is in a wheelchair perhaps CCC could pay her tuition college until the situation is corrected. One factor to be considered

