

PRO : The upside of pot

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The flowers or buds of the female plants have properties that are very well known to most and valued highly by others. But what about its other properties? There was a time before prohibition when presidents grew hemp for fiber and food on the White House property. There was a time when hemp clothing was very popular amongst the upper class because of its strength and longevity. In the recent past, we have also discovered that hemp can be grown for the production of nutritious foods and biodiesel.

According to the USDA hemp can produce four times the paper per acre that trees and is less caustic to manufacture. BMW is using hemp in the manufacture of some of its cars with the goal of making its cars more recyclable. Biodiesel, health and beauty products, wood replacement and other construction materials for concrete reinforcement and even plastic are some of the uses that have been found for hemp.

A Google search of "hemp" will open a Pandora's Box of products and possibilities of this potential "wonder"

plant. To get a better perspective, Paul Stanford, founder of the Hemp and Cannabis Foundation established in 1999 and host of Cannabis Common Sense (Portland Public Access Television, channel 11, Fridays at 8 p.m.) Stanford believes we need to change the law that is already in place regarding medical marijuana, because he believes it's not working.

"People are still going to jail," said Stanford. "Cannabis is one of the greatest gifts. Our future's in jeopardy if prohibition continues."

One of the biggest impacts that legalization of marijuana would create is an entire new crop for farmers. The vast array of products that industrial hemp can be used for is tremendous. The options in fuels such as, biodiesel and heating oils are huge. Nutritious food products like cooking oils and organic fillers and fibers for the use in making fabrics, paper, plastics, concrete and other building materials are just a few of the uses that Stanford talked about. Farmers would have a profitable and sustainable crop to produce and sell. The OCTA initiative could be a solution and

the salvation of our struggling state's economy.

Photo illustrated by Aaron Avelon The Clackamas Print



CON : The downside of 'Mary Jane'

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Clackamas County District Attorney, John Foote doesn't believe the state needs OCTA.

"We don't need a change of law. In most cases you can't go to prison for possession or buying," said Foote. "I don't want to demonize people ... but when use goes up, no one can be better off."

He also pointed out that public health would be an area of concern. A study found in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) tested the long term effects of cannabis use over a 10 year period that included 1,923 individuals that ranged from ages 14 to 24. The study found that long term use of cannabis, of individuals who had no prior history of psychotic problems, showed

increased risk of incident psychotic symptoms. The study suggested the continued use of cannabis might increase the risk for a psychotic disorder. "DWIs would increase. Marijuana would be easier to get, like alcohol, and more irresponsible [users] would obtain the drug and get behind the wheel, thus causing a higher number of DWIs but potentially more car accidents," said Foote. "So passing this bill could put motorists' life at risk as well."

After seeing all the downsides of this act, it's easy to conclude that the people who need marijuana are already able to get it legally and that legalizing it further could potentially put lives at risk. Whether it's the smokers own mind, or someone else's, it's clear that this

act doesn't solve any problems, but makes more for everyone. As Foote said, "Same problem, no need."

There are others who don't view this potential law change as a positive thing, particularly for kids. Rachel Forbister, a Clackamas Community College student pursuing an English degree, is concerned about the message young people may get if OCTA becomes law.

"What about our kids?" she said. "What kind of example does that set for our children? We tell them, 'This drug is OK,' it's crazy. The line gets pushed back more and more. It's a classic 'snowball effect,' one thing leads to another and another till nothing is illegal anymore."



Patrick Emerson The Clackamas Print

Paul Stanford (left) and co-host Casper Leach (center), receive a \$3,000 donation from show producer/director William "Bill" Appel (right), to the Cannabis Tax Act on Cannabis Common Sense.

CCC's new website has hits and misses



By Brian Baldwin
Editor-in-Chief

The new face of Clackamas Community College's website has finally been released after being teased for months and delayed from its initial launch, but is it any better? After a look at the new slimmer and fancier website, my answer is a mixed 'sort of.'

When compared to the old website, the new version is obviously more crisp, organized and targeted to attract new students coming to Clackamas. Main categories are divided up into Programs & Certificates, Admissions & Aid, Student Experience, College Information and then News & Events, as opposed to the previous vague categories. At the right side are sub-topics the user can explore to find out more information, such as the complete course listings for technical career

programs that the college offers.

Tools and forms for current students are scattered and buried around in the site. Documents such as petitioning for graduation and transcript requests are in Admissions & Aid, tutoring services is buried in Student Experience with no specific office to visit, as well as no links for distance learning tutoring, although it gives the phone number for the office of Student and Academic Support. Also further buried in Student Experience are details for the Cougar Cave, textbook and childcare grants and links to find health insurance for students. If a student needed to access the library resources, they need to navigate through College Information, click on the college resources sub-topic, and then find the library's website at the bottom of the article.

There are other tools that are missing from the site as well. There is no academic calendar visible, so you have to use the website's search bar to find it. The search bar itself did not work upon launch while Google was reindexing the site. It is working now, however search result links are often from the old site and do not work. The biggest item missing is a link to Moodle. Looking through categories where a link would

logically be yielded no results, even in the Distance Learning sub-topic. This forced me to log into myClackamas and then find a link at the bottom of the page in 'bookmarks' to get to the Moodle login.

Students will likely have Moodle saved as a bookmark on their browsers but if they are using a computer that doesn't have it or there is a new student looking to be introduced to Moodle, a convenient link on the main website does not exist. It would be simpler to access Moodle through the same site so we do not have to login into myClackamas just to login to Moodle.

Not everything on the site is bad. There is another main section on the website that allows users to search through a term's classes without having to log onto CougarTrax.

Overall I think that the new website is a major improvement, but there still seems to be areas that need to be ironed out or elaborated upon, such as a very lean "student life" section. My first reaction to the new site was that it was one big focus on public relations, and why shouldn't it as the face of Clackamas online? Now I feel that the website can function efficiently as a resource to students if a few bugs were worked out in the design.

Want more news? Read more pros of pot, nightlife for under 21 students and spring activities exclusively online at [www.TheClackamasPrint.com!](http://www.TheClackamasPrint.com)