

Marijuana Legalization
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approximately \$18 million.

Whelan went on to say it is a very complicated and layered system.

“There’s also the marketing of it, the tourism market, the black market,” Whelan explained, “but it is very hard to get a factual basis.”

For Anthony Johnson, the issue became personal at while at the University of Missouri, several decades ago. His African-American friends received harder treatment when getting in trouble, even small amounts of marijuana, while his white friends, with lots of paraphernalia, only got a slap on the wrist.

“I saw my black friends handcuffed in front of everyone at a party,” Johnson said. “Most of [those arrested] would eventually lose their financial aid. What inequity!”

Johnson helped start a student-run organization at the University of Missouri to address the issue. “The U.S. imprisons the most people in the world according to the International Centre for Prison Studies,” Johnson quoted. “That’s over two million individuals, many for minor infractions.”

Johnson co-authored Measure 91 but wanted to let the audience know he was pro-regulation, not

a pro-marijuana. “It will be taxed, and restrictions of advertising will be in place.”

According to Johnson, 40 percent would go to education; 25 percent to law enforcement, and the rest to mental health.

Johnson explained that arrests for marijuana possessions follow people throughout their lives and interfere with job applications, rental agreements, and relationships.

“Our last three presidents used marijuana. So did [Olympian] Michael Phelps, and the late astronomer, Carl Sagan.

Yin mentioned he had an ongoing interest in this issue. As an activist in his early days in Berkeley, he sat at a hemp table on Telegraph Avenue.

He saw how much money was spent on the drug war instead of providing money for low-income housing, education, and much needed jobs.

Questions were abundant from the diverse group of faculty, students, and others in attendance.

One student asked, “What happens after you smoke [marijuana] and drive under the influence?” “It’s a DUII which is already a law. Nothing changes,” Yin answered.

Some in the audience were not excited that the Oregon Liquor

Control Commission would regulate marijuana if passed.

“The respect of OLCC is low,” said one young lawyer who admitted using marijuana. Johnson responded that the OLCC has experience regulating the alcohol industry, licensing, and fees, despite its reputation.

“Certainly we don’t want to create a new bureaucracy,” Johnson said.

The [state] taxes will be a one-time only \$35 per ounce. Some cities are passing local taxes as well. “What about federal preemption?”

“Nothing under federal law would block the state law,” Yin said. “However, that could all change if a Republican administration or Senate becomes a reality next year.”

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has said he won’t enforce the federal ban.

“Drug prevention education will happen but parents still need to step up like alcohol, guns, and smoking,” said Johnson.

“What happens after Election Day if Measure 91 passes?” asked this reporter.

Johnson replied, “On New Year’s Day, the state agencies will begin to develop rules and regulations. On July 1, possession and cultivation begins and arrests will subside. “The OLCC will have to issue permits after Jan. 1, 2016.”

Age friendly businesses
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about how he reached out to senior clientele. At an annual event one year, Wittenberg didn’t know why his product wasn’t selling. His grandmother said it was because he didn’t provide a senior discount.

“The next year, I provided a senior discount and made record sales! Nana was right. Plus they just loved being carded!”

“Elders in Action provide other services as well,” Corella explained. “Help dealing with an eviction notices, utility bill questions, or tax issues can be overwhelming and complex even for the youngest among us. We can help.”

Several business owners thought it’d be a great idea to have both Hillsdale and Multnomah Village businesses go through age-friendly business training by Elders in Action.

Respect, listening, and catering to any age, man or woman, and even dogs in some cases, remains more important than ever, said Corella.

For more information about Elders in Action, visit www.eldersinaction.org or call 503-235-5474.

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