

Since Bush took office the federal government has continuously conducted raids on sick patients and care-providers in California. The federal attack on medical marijuana patients recently spread to Oregon when the DEA raided the home of Travis Paulson, a medical marijuana patient in Lebanon. Voters should know whether the candidates will continue this harmful campaign against patients, or whether they will take a more compassionate approach. Here is what I've found.

Kucinich has stated that as president he would sign an executive order that would permit the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. He is also a cosponsor of the Truth in Trials Act, an act that would allow prosecuted patients to speak about their medical use of marijuana at trial.

Kerry would stop the federal raids on marijuana patients. He has also called on the DEA to allow marijuana to be grown and studied for its medical value in the state of Massachusetts.

Gephardt supports states rights to medical marijuana and would discontinue the raids. Edwards has vowed to continue the raids.

Dean would direct the FDA to study medical marijuana and make a recommendation on its use within a year. As governor of Vermont he vetoed a bill that would have allowed the medical use of marijuana.

*Kevin Feeney  
Eugene*

**NADER AGAIN?**

Ralph Nader is a highly principled man, one of the reasons, I imagine, he ran for the presidency in 2000, thereby diluting the voter pool for Al Gore, the end result of which need not be gone into in detail: the Bush administration.

If Nader decides to run again in 2004, he no longer could be considered a principled man; he knows what he did, doing it again would be purely selfish, putting his personal political agenda ahead of the national political agenda and the greater good of the country.

This is a dilemma facing members of the Green Party. I urge you to seriously think about the consequences of four more years

under the Bush administration. Your political agenda, while laudable, does not make Ralph Nader electable.

Take into account the greater good of the nation when voting in the next election and, in the year ahead, I suggest you work with Howard Dean's campaign and vote for him in November 2004.

*Pauline Hutson  
Eugene*

**LACK OF OUTRAGE**

Kevin Mannix has a plan to restore a small portion of hundreds of millions of dollars of further cuts to Oregon's human services and education. Once voters are successfully lobbied to repeal the new taxes legislators agreed upon, Mr. Mannix dreams of relaxing state certification for teaching, slowing teacher pay scale increases, and eliminating educator mastery programs while defunding the institution. Clearly education is not a priority to this legislator.

The lack of outrage over comments like these proves Oregonians have resigned themselves to levels of apathy and ignorance that are unprecedented. Education was not this boldly attacked even during the great depression.

Legislators like Kevin Mannix may be hoping for an uneducated and apathetic citizenry to overlook their disservice to the state. If so, their strategy is working. As this deliberate erosion of education and social services takes hold in Oregon we will pay the costs exponentially in future generations. Record higher education tuition increases and numbers of students in a classroom are not an accident. They are designed. We need to wake up and defend what little education we have left on all levels before class level sizes and inexperienced teachers makes attending school ineffective and eventually counterproductive.

*Mike Meyer  
Eugene*

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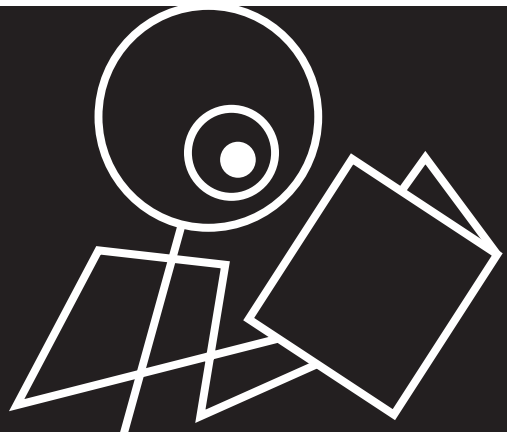
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