



sumers to growers and distributors will continue to move weed on the down low. “I don’t think you’re going to stop the black market growers from growing. They’ve been doing it so far and haven’t gotten caught,” he says, adding that buyers as well will “continue to use their same channels — one, it’s cheaper, and you’ve been smoking that weed for the past 20 years.”

Not necessarily so, says Mark A. R. Kleiman, professor of public policy at New York University’s Marron’s Institute of Urban Management. Kleiman, one of the nation’s leading experts on the impact of legalization and co-author of the book *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know*, says that when it comes to legalization and the black market, it helps to take the long view.

“The black market’s not going to disappear the day after legalization, and it’s not going to exist five years later,” he says. He points out that in states that have had “wide-open medical marijuana” such as California, “you already had the black market eaten away.”

Other factors eroding the black market, Kleiman says, are the increased productivity of higher quality bud allowed by legal grows, which removes shortages in supply that states like Oregon and Colorado suffered after pot first went legal. Also, he adds, “as illegal production and retailing capacity comes on line, prices fall.”

When it comes to legal weed and the black market, Kleiman suggests drawing comparisons with the end of alcohol prohibition, and how that played out over time. “There’s no moonshining,” he says, “and it’s not because we do enforcement.” Market factors are at work here: First, it’s cheaper to make booze in breweries. There’s also the issue of branding.

“If people’s identity is bound up in the fact that they drink Coors instead of Bud, moonshining’s sort of irrelevant,” Kleiman says. “If the cannabis industry generates brands, they create a generation of consumers.” And, like drinkers, weed smokers will have a choice among a wide range of marijuana in terms of price, quality and quantity. For instance, Kleiman points out Uncle Ike’s in Colorado, which offers a strong budget bud at \$95 an ounce — essentially, the malt liquor of weed.

“The budget bud is all outdoor grow,” he says. “That’s going to squeeze the market pretty hard. The illicit dealers are basically whistling in the graveyard.”

On the legal side, Kleiman says, the idea that legalization would get law enforcement out of the criminal market is “backwards” in terms of what it will take to eliminate the black market. “If there are parallel licit and illicit markets, then arresting illegal dealers is exactly how you grow the legal market,” he says. “The illicit cannabis market is a paper tiger, but it won’t fall over unless somebody pushes.”

Overall, Kleiman says that “the illicit market is a transitional phenomenon,” though so long as legalization remains a changing reality from state to state — federally, weed is scheduled alongside heroin as a criminal substance — the black market in interstate trade will exist. “There’s nothing about legalization that changes that,” he says. “My guess is that most of the Oregon-grown was going out of state to start with, and that won’t change at all.”

HIGHTIDE

S M O K E S H O P



1958 Pacific Blvd SE, Albany, OR
(Next to Oregon Cannabis Co.
& House of Noodle)
541-791-7392

FULLY LICENSED MEDICAL
MARIJUANA DISPENSARY ALSO
SERVING RECREATIONAL CUSTOMERS



GRAND OPENING
SELECT FLOWER STRAINS
SUPER SAVINGS - \$20.00 FOR 1/8
SERVING THE SANTA CLARA AREA
AND GREATER EUGENE

Located at 2644 River Road, Eugene OR
Phone: (541) 653-8523 - Email: oregonsgreenrush2644@gmail.com

Open: 10:00am to 10:00pm all week

Visitors must either have a valid OMMP card or be 21+

Cannabis is for adult use only. Do not operate vehicles or machinery under the influence of cannabis. Keep out of reach of children.



Find us on
Facebook oregonsgreenrush.com