

Family Living

Parents Don't Panic

BY JOHN S. DUFF & CLARK CARR

The passage of Proposition 215 in California, the medical use of marijuana, and a similar Proposition in Arizona have sparked quite a debate. While White House Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey warns doctors not to violate Federal law and various law enforcement officials voice concern over this being the wrong message to youth that will expand drug addiction, as parents, don't panic.

Let's take a deep breath, sit back and evaluate the situation by looking at both the pro's and the con's here. As you probably already know, many of these propositions often do more than they say, or do different and unsuspected things. The backers of various bills have agendas and not always the ones that are being communicated. In the case of Proposition 215 in California this is true, but most people knew this and still voted for it anyway. How to read this phenomena? We're not sure, but the issue of the legalization of marijuana is not at all new and will continue to face the national voting public.

What is clear is that the citizens of California and Arizona are willing to allow doctors to utilize marijuana as a medicine for ill people. Proposition 215 seems to have hit a sympathetic chord with the voters in particular, concerning those that are seriously ill.

Could this be a step towards the "legalization" of marijuana? Yes it could, but there will be many legal battles to come, so don't wait for any resolution soon. Assuming that mari-

jua can now be legally grown and used for medicinal purposes as parents we should actively educate your children about marijuana and the many problems it can cause through non-medical use of this drug.

Well known author and philosopher L. Ron Hubbard, who developed the Narconon Drug Education and Rehabilitation Programs stated, in 1968, "Drugs essentially are poisons. The degree they are taken determines the effect. A small amount gives a stimulant. A greater amount acts as a sedative. A larger amount acts as a poison and can kill one dead." Because drugs are basically poisons changing a drug's legal status will not change the effects of the drug. One of the best analogies we have heard is that drugs are like a coin. On one side you have a potion and on the other you have a poison. You cannot experience one side without experiencing the other as well. The poison side is often called the "side effects." But this is really a bad choice of words as the side effects are really just more effects of that drug.

Now, most drugs have medical uses such as morphine for pain, codeine for dental pain, cocaine for nasal and ocular operations, etc. The fact that marijuana can have medicinal uses is no surprise. Ironically, it is the legal drugs tobacco and alcohol that have no medical values.

That marijuana may have medical uses is limited, specific circumstances does not change the fact that marijuana is an addictive hallucinogenic drug. It is a very complex

substance and has shown itself after decades of study to have many damaging qualities. These damaging qualities do not change because pot can now be considered a "medicine." There are many other medications that are destructive outside their limited medical applications.

The most obvious pro of 215's passage is compassion for ill people. The less obvious would be freeing up our law enforcement resources for other activities and allowing adults and their doctors to choose their own medicines. Granted, this means giving adults the right to choose. But just remember, with the black market they have this choice anyway. Last but not least, anytime a law damages the illicit drug syndicates and helps stop the siphoning off of billions of dollars into the black market, we all gain.

The worse con to the passage of 215 that we must deal with as parents is the message our children receive from the passing of this new law. Most parents will not want their children addicted to any drug, including marijuana. And if there is any issue all the opposing sides of Proposition 215 would probably agree with, it is the desire for less addiction amongst our youth, not more. How California communicates with its youth about this proposition can make a difference. Another con to the passage of 215 is that doctors might be able to prescribe marijuana for just about "any ailment."

For more information on Narconon services or help call 1 (800) 468-6933.

Vessels Host Wedding Workshop

Brides and grooms-to-be are invited to attend "Before Jumpin' the Broom," a wedding planning workshop on Saturday, March 22, from 2-4 p.m. at Vessels, "Tableware With Meaning."

The workshop will feature details on wedding invitation etiquette and offer many helpful do's and don't's to follow to make this essential prelude to your wedding day a success. In addition, the workshop will include

ways to enhance your wedding by blending cultural elements into the ceremony. From decorating the broom to viewing an African wedding gown, the session is an event not to miss.

"Before Jumpin' the Broom" will feature a presentation by Barbara Taylor, president of Positive Gatherings, a meeting planning and consulting services business. Co-sponsors include It's My Kind of Face! Photography Studio and the Ramada Plaza

Hotel. Discounts and door prizes will be available. Because seating is limited, registration is required. Call Vessels at 249-1952 to reserve a space or for more information.

Vessels, "Tableware With Meaning," features ethnic items for the dining room, bath and kitchen. Located at 2605 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, at the corner Russell, Vessels is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

B of A Jammin' Arts Fest

Bank of America Jammin' Arts Fest, a free, family event brimming with stage performances, creative crafts and local information about arts opportunities for kids, comes to Portland April 5.

Hundreds of families from Portland will participate in this inaugural program, which will be held at The Friendly House Community Center, 2617 NW Savier, Portland, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Endorsed by the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Bank of America Jammin' Arts Fest aims to broaden children's interest in art-making, while encouraging families to incorporate the arts into their everyday lives. "Bank of America Jammin' Arts Fest allows kids to sample much of what the arts have to offer--music, theater and crafts--while giving parents information they need to further their child's interest," said Larry Ogg, Bank of America's area executive for Oregon and Southwestern Washington.



Tim Noah

The full-day event, which encourages participation either on stage, at art stations or with the many singers and actors mingling through the crowd, is free and open to the public.

Crisis Volunteers needed

The Portland Women's Crisis Line is pleased to announce openings in its May 1997 training for volunteer crisis intervention counselors on the Crisis Line. In order to qualify, volunteers must be female, at least 18 years of age, and committed to ending domestic and sexual violence. The volunteer training is 46 hours in length, spread out over a three week period. Women who successfully complete the training are asked to commit to working with the crisis line for 24 hours per month for at least six months.

For further information and an application, please contact LeAnn Medeiros at 232-9545 during normal business hours. Deadline for application is April 18th. Practicum students are encouraged to apply. Credit is available. Portland Women's Crisis Line is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, funded in part by the United Way.

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LaShawn Elliott

Female; February 28th, 1997
8lbs 13oz; 21 1/2"

Mother: Lakeitha Rona Elliott

Courtney Lynn
Burger

Female; Feb. 23, 1997
Father: John B. Burger
Mother: Rachael L. Burger
of Hillsboro, Oregon
9lb 2oz; 21 1/2"

Kayleisha
Ann Amerson -
Roberson

Female; Feb. 26, 1997
Mother: Kimberly Ann Amerson
Father: Dale Terrance Roberson
7 lb 4oz; 19 inches

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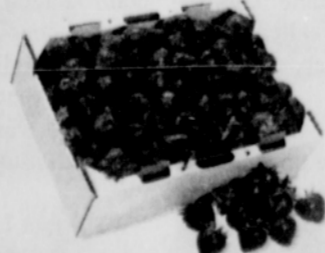
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