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## Cuba

continued from page 3

Red Tails be relevant to those 50 percent of young black men who drop out of high school yearly?

**CG:** I hope so. If some youngsters are inspired to go back and complete their education based on the achievements of these warriors, that would be God's gift.

**KW:** Patricia Turnier also says: One of my favorite roles you played in your career is Dr. Ben Carson. What did it mean to you to represent this great physician who became the first African-American medical doctor in history to



more happy than fearful.

**KW:** When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

**CG:** Accomplishment. I'm 44. I made it. [Laughs]

**KW:** The Ling-Ju Yen question: What is your earliest childhood memory?

**CG:** Watching it snow in

## Pot

continued from page 1

jurisdiction," Kohl-Welles said.

The bill sets off what is likely to be a big year for marijuana-policy debates. Lawmakers are expected to send to voters in November an initiative that would legalize and tax recreational-marijuana sales.

Whether lawmakers have the stomach — or the time — to legalize dispensaries is unclear in a session already crowded with a budget deficit of roughly \$1.5 billion and a gay-marriage proposal.

Police oppose dispensaries, and federal authorities recently raided some shops.

Cody, who has invested about \$20,000 in Herban Legends, said he is patient, if nervous. "We're still in this limbo," he said. "As time goes on, more people will come on board. Things take a while, and they should."

After Gregoire's partial veto of a 2001 bill that would have set up statewide regulation of dispensaries, storefront shops gravitated to perceived safe havens, particularly Seattle.

Sections of the bill that survived the veto authorized 45-plant patient gardens. Those provisions were not intended to create storefront dispensaries, but shops nonetheless reorganized as networks of gardens.

Cities have made their own rules, many enacting moratoriums. Issaquah

requires a background check to obtain a regulatory license, and Shoreline this month mandated buffer zones between dispensaries, which are also called "collectives."

The legal uncertainty hasn't ended bigger dreams.

Bellevue real-estate broker Tom Gordon, who has helped 10 dispensaries find storefronts, said good commercial parcels can attract inquiries from 40 to 60 people looking to open dispensaries. Some are Californians or Coloradans who "tell you it's like the Wild West out here, with less competition and a good taxing structure," Gordon said.

"I think we're only at 20-30 percent of capacity," Gordon said, "but you can't find the sites," in part because few landlords are willing to lease to dispensaries.

Storefront dispensaries began popping up at least 10 years after Washington voters in 1998 authorized medical marijuana for qualified patients. In November, federal authorities raided 10 shops, including several in Seattle, accused some of using state law to hide money laundering and, in one case, a backdoor sale of 5 pounds of pot going to the Midwest.

Philip Dawdy of the Washington Alternative Medicine Alliance, a medical-marijuana group, estimates about 135 dispen-

saries are open now, half in Seattle. He said the new proposal in Olympia is needed to end "a patchwork of regulations."

"Our goal is to have reasonably clear state law that is unambiguous and won't lead to the feds making threats," Dawdy said.

The state Department of Revenue (DOR), which last year warned dispensers they must tax their sales, said 15 marijuana-related businesses paid a total of \$243,600

Although dispensaries say they intend to help those who need marijuana, patients are likely to oppose the legislation Wednesday.

The new bill would guarantee arrest protection if patients join a voluntary registry, an idea that is anathema to some. Those not signed up would have lesser protection — an "affirmative defense," if criminally charged.

"I don't understand why I need to register. It seems

The new bill would guarantee arrest protection if patients join a voluntary registry, an idea that is anathema to some

in state and local taxes in the first nine months of 2011, including \$52,600 in local sales taxes.

That's nearly tenfold as much as the marijuana industry paid in 2010, "but it is unlikely it represents all the taxable sales taking place," DOR spokesman Mike Gowrylow said.

like a lot of headache, paperwork and bureaucracy," said Ric Smith, a patient advocate who is on kidney dialysis.

The registry is intended to mute law-enforcement opposition to dispensaries. Police groups favor registries, and Kohl-Welles said a registry was part of a

'It's my passion to play characters that show how great it is to be not just African-American, but American'

receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

**CG:** [Shouts] You see! I forgot about that one while we were just focusing on military men. It's my passion to play all these types of characters that help educate how great it is to be not just African-American, but American.

**KW:** The Columbus Short question: Are you happy?

**CG:** Yes, sir. Every day.

**KW:** The Tasha Smith question: Are you ever afraid?

**CG:** Yes, from time to time, but God has blessed me with the ability to be

the Bronx.

**KW:** If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?

**CG:** Longevity.

**KW:** What is your favorite dish to cook?

**CG:** Top Ramen. [Laughs]

**KW:** The Sanaa Lathan question: What excites you?

**CG:** Adrenaline.

**KW:** Thanks again for the time, Cuba, and best of luck with both Red Tails and Double Victory.

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Bids Due: February 10, 2012

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