

The
NORML

Leaflet

A publication of the NORML Foundation

NORML Foundation Launches Largest Ever Pro-Pot Media Campaign

NYC Ads Featuring Mayor Bloomberg Proclaim: "It's NORML to Smoke Pot"

From New York City buses to phone kiosks, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's smiling face seems to be almost everywhere. And underneath it are the words: "It's NORML to Smoke Pot."

In April, The NORML Foundation unveiled its much-anticipated New York City ad campaign urging Mayor Bloomberg to reverse the city's decade-long policy of arresting and jailing minor marijuana offenders. The Foundation kicked off the campaign with a full-page advertisement in the April 9th edition of *The New York Times*. The ad featured a head shot of New York's new mayor along with his now-famous pot-smoking admission: "You bet I did. And I enjoyed it."

The ad called on Bloomberg to end the city's notorious marijuana enforcement policies, which had skyrocketed under former mayor Rudolph Giuliani from fewer than 2,000 pot possession arrests per year to more than 50,000 annually.

"There is an alternative," NORML's ad declared. "Private adult use of marijuana should be just that: a private matter. Those who light up in public can be issued a citation, as is currently done for public drinking, instead of being arrested and jailed. Is that a common sense policy? You bet it is."



Allen St. Pierre, Keith Stroup and Dr. John P. Morgan at The NORML Foundation's New York City press conference

Later that day, NORML Foundation Executive Director Allen St. Pierre joined NORML head Keith Stroup and Foundation Chairman

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Annual NORML Conference Draws Record Crowd, Coverage and Enthusiasm

An overflow crowd of more than 550 marijuana-law reformers jammed the halls of San Francisco's Crowne Plaza Hotel to attend this year's largest-ever national NORML Conference and call for an end to America's criminal pot laws. For many in attendance, NORML's presence — along with the unusually high turnout — sent an unmistakable message to the federal government and Drug Enforcement Administration, which had

recently raided several of the state's more prominent medical cannabis dispensaries.

We're here. We're high. Get used to it.

4/20: A TIME TO "COME OUT OF THE CLOSET"

As in past years, April 20th marked a time for those in the cannabis community to celebrate past victories and strategize for future cam-

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Drug Czar Admits \$1.8 Billion Federal Anti-Drug Ads Having Opposite Effect On Teens

Some Adolescents More Likely To Use Drugs After Viewing Ads, Federally-Commissioned Report Says

Advertisements paid for by the federal government to deter teens from using drugs may actually be encouraging some viewers to experiment with marijuana. So say a series of reports commissioned for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and of all people, the Drug Czar himself!

Do NORML and the Drug Czar finally share something in common? “We agree on one thing,” NORML’s Keith Stroup said. “We both acknowledge that despite spending hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars, the government’s anti-drug media campaign is having the exact opposite effect on America’s teens than the one lawmakers intended.”

Based on the ads’ content however — the latest of which falsely allege a link between recreational marijuana smoking and international terrorism — the unintended result should come as no surprise. “Kids know the difference between honest education and government propaganda,” Stroup said. “They acknowledge the reality that marijuana is not the same as heroin, even if their government does not.”

According to a new report by the private research firm Westat Inc. and the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, “there is no evidence” indicating that the government ads — which first began airing in 1997 — have had a “desirable effect on youth,” or led to a decline in adolescent marijuana use. In fact, the evaluation noted that among 12- and 13-year old viewers, the ads were more likely to *encourage* the use of marijuana. In response to the report, Drug Czar John Walters admitted to *The Wall Street Journal*, “This campaign isn’t reducing drug use.”

The report defined the primary objective of the government’s anti-drug ad campaign as “reduc[ing] the number of young people who try marijuana.” To date, federal officials have spent nearly \$2 billion — half of it funded by

taxpayers, the other half coming from network and media donations — on the campaign. According to the Westat and Annenberg evaluation, adolescents are exposed to the White House anti-drug ads an average of 2.7 times per week.

A previous Westat and Annenberg review conducted in December yielded similar results, concluding “Thus far, there is relatively little evidence for direct effects of the [National Youth Anti-Drug Media] Campaign on youth.” The report further stated that the only significant association attributable to the ad campaign was an *increase* in marijuana use among 14- to 15-year-olds. The evaluation also found “some evidence” of an increase in marijuana use among suburban 14- to 18-year-olds.

Nevertheless, despite the campaign’s obvious failings, Drug Czar John Walters is asking Congress to continue funding the program at present levels — approximately \$180 million annually for five years. Walters alleges that he will manage the monies more efficiently than previous administrations. NORML calls that claim ridiculous.

“As long as the government insists on substituting ‘reefer madness’ in lieu of honest information, these ads will continue to have a negative impact on teens,” says Stroup. “Rather than continue down this failed path, federal officials ought to take a page from their more successful campaigns to discourage drunk driving and teen tobacco smoking, both of which we have significantly reduced in recent years. We have not achieved this by banning the use of alcohol and tobacco, or by targeting and arresting adults who use them responsibly, but through honest education campaigns. We should apply these same principles to the responsible use of marijuana.”

Perhaps one day, NORML and the Drug Czar may agree on that point as well. ■



JUDICIAL WATCH

Update: Medical Necessity and the Cannabis Clubs in California

By Donna Shea, NORML Foundation Legal Director

Despite last year's Supreme Court ruling in the case of *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and Jeffrey Jones*, legal action and questions still remain. In response to the misconceptions surrounding this historic legal battle, we are providing a brief discussion of the history of this important case and its current status.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In January 1998 the U.S. government filed a civil lawsuit against each of six California defendants, seeking a court order to stop them from distributing cannabis to patient-members. The defendants were the Cannabis Cultivator's Club and Dennis Peron; the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana and Lynette Shaw; the Ukiah Cannabis Club, Cherrie Lovett, Marvin Lehrman and Mildred Lehrman; the Flower Therapy Medical Marijuana Club; the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative (OCBC) and Jeffrey Jones; and the Santa Cruz Buyers' Club.

Five months later, U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer ordered the defendants to stop "engaging in the manufacture or distribution of marijuana, or the possession of marijuana with the intent to manufacture and distribute marijuana", in violation of federal law. At least one of those clubs (OCBC) refused to cease distributing medicine to their patient-members, so in October 1998, Judge Breyer held them in contempt of the May court order. At that time, the court rejected the legal "necessity defense", finding that only four patients to whom cannabis was allegedly provided met the criteria to qualify for legal neces-

sity. Jeffrey Jones and the OCBC appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

MEDICAL NECESSITY

In states where affirmative rights to use marijuana for medicinal purposes have not been enacted, and under federal law, individuals prosecuted for growing, possessing or using marijuana for treatment of their medical condition may raise the "medical necessity defense" as a means of avoiding a criminal conviction.

The medical necessity defense is usually grounded in either a state's common law or a general necessity defense statute. The basis of the necessity defense is that society will sometimes excuse or even justify conduct that would otherwise be illegal if that conduct was done to avoid an even worse or greater evil. This defense theory reflects society's understanding that external forces beyond a person's control sometimes place that person in an emergency situation where he or she must choose between the harm or "evil" of breaking the criminal code or complying with the code and

allowing an even greater harm or "evil" to occur. In these situations, if a person violates the law in order to avoid the greater harm, the necessity defense excuses that person from being guilty of what would otherwise be a crime.

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the medical necessity defense is legal and should have been considered by the lower court. The U.S. government appealed that decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court granted their request to hear the case.

In May 2001, the Supreme Court decided that, under federal law, there is no medical necessity defense to the distribution of marijuana. The court determined that it is unlawful under federal law to manufacture and/or distribute marijuana regardless of the medical need of the recipient. The Supreme Court did not address the constitutionality of the Controlled Substances Act, and likewise did not rule — contrary to numerous erroneous news reports — that medical uses for marijuana do not exist, or that medical marijuana was illegal. The case was sent back to the California federal courts for further proceedings and to settle the cases against the remaining cannabis distribution clubs.

THE CASE TODAY

In May of this year, Judge Breyer granted the government's request for summary judgment against all the defendants. Whether or not the court will order the clubs to permanently stop distributing cannabis has not yet been decided, although it is likely. In his opinion, Judge Breyer ruled that the courts cannot decide whether cannabis is properly scheduled under Schedule I as a drug with "a high potential for abuse", with "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States", and "has a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug . . . under medical supervision." Rather, under federal law it is the Administrator of the DEA who determines whether a drug has currently-accepted medical use in the United States. Many of our readers will recall that NORML petitioned the DEA for rescheduling, and, after 18 years, and despite a very favorable 68-page opinion by Administrative Law Judge Francis L. Young, the DEA administrator refused to reschedule marijuana. Subsequent efforts thus far have likewise failed to have marijuana's medical benefits recognized so that it could be rescheduled for medical use.

As a result of the OCBC litigation, cannabis distribution clubs cannot assert a necessity defense under federal law based on the club members' suffering. Lawyers for the OCBC are appealing this latest District Court decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

We encourage our readers to check NORML's website for future updates on this continuing legal battle. ■



OCBC Legal Counsel
Robert Raich



Annual NORML Conference Draws Record Crowd, Coverage and Enthusiasm

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paings. And for many, it also marked an opportunity to “come out of the closet” regarding their own experiences with Mary Jane.

“There’s nothing more important that any one of us can do than be honest about your marijuana smoking,” announced Keith Stroup during the conference’s opening remarks. “We cannot win this issue until more mainstream personalities . . . come out of the closet.”

One such personality on hand was late-night host Bill Maher — star of ABC’s “Politically Incorrect” — who delivered a stirring “call-to-action” speech to the standing-room-only crowd. “I’m getting tired of being treated like a second class citizen, by people who through their preference for liquor or

pills to mood-alterate themselves show not a superiority of taste, but an inferiority,” Maher said. “There is a vast silent majority, and it’s up to us in this room who have commissioned ourselves to lead this battle to awaken that silent majority and tell them that they can’t be silent anymore.”

Among those in attendance, few were silent. Local activist Mikki Norris, head of the newly established Cannabis Consumers Campaign urged attendees to demand “equal rights for pot smokers,” while NORML board member and cancer survivor Norm Kent led the 550+ crowd in a unified: “I smoked pot and it was good” chant.

“You have to have the courage to say it’s normal to smoke pot,” said Kent, a prominent Fort Lauderdale, FL attorney who recently went public regarding his use of medicinal marijuana while undergoing chemotherapy. The marijuana community needs to “wake up, stand up and be counted!”

TOKIN’ POLITICS

Like any constituency, marijuana-law reformers have their political allies. This year’s politi-

cal guests included Minnesota heavyweight Gov. Jesse Ventura — who in a specially taped video message welcomed attendees to the conference and urged support for H.R. 2592, the federal medical marijuana bill — longtime California state Senator John Vasconcellos, San Francisco Supervisor (and soon to be state assemblyman) Mark Leno, and SF District Attorney Terence Hallinan.

Hallinan, who was the sole California DA to endorse both Propositions 215 and 36, beamed with pride when he announced that San Francisco has a “no jail” policy for pot smokers, and admitted that for many, marijuana holds both religious and medicinal value. Regarding

the Fed’s ongoing wars against California’s medical marijuana providers, Hallinan said that his administration “totally accepts the marijuana clubs as legitimate” and that they receive full police protection. Reflect-

ing upon his political career, Hallinan left attendees with one valuable, guiding principle: “If you do what you do because you think it’s right, then in the end you’re going to win, and we are all going to win.”

PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS STRIKE BACK

For many of California’s medical marijuana providers and patients, the past few months have been nothing short of “ground zero” in the Bush administration’s war on medical pot. Speaking from the front lines, local patients, providers, attorneys and activists spoke passionately about the future of California’s unique and very much under siege medical marijuana network.

The showdown between the federal government and the state’s estimated 51 medi-pot dispensaries marks the drug war’s final battle, California NORML Coordinator Dale Gieringer said — adding that the federal government’s opposition to the clubs stems from the fact that they provide a successful model for pot distribution and legalization. His statements were echoed by patient providers Dr. Molly Fry and Dale Shafer, who saw their Sacramento-based medical marijuana clinic

Top to bottom:

San Francisco Supervisor **Mark Leno** receives the 2002 Peter McWilliams Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Advancing the Cause of Medical Marijuana

“Politically Incorrect’s” **Bill Maher** delivers a crowd-pleasing 4/20 address.

San Francisco District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**

Former Shafer Commissioner **Dr. Thomas Ungler**

Berkeley super-activist **Debbie Goldsberry** of the Cannabis Action Network

“WE’RE HERE.
WE’RE HIGH. GET
USED TO IT.”

raided by DEA agents last fall. Nevertheless, the couple remains defiant, declaring their actions to be “politically incorrect and morally right.”

Legally speaking, the battle is far from over. Oakland attorney Robert Raich, legal counsel for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers’ Cooperative, told attendees that they would be shortly rearguing their case before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. (A history of the OCBC case appears on page 3.) Raich was joined by a number of medi-pot attorneys and activists, including San Francisco’s David Michael and J. David Nick, Oakland’s Bill Panzer, Angel McClary of Angel Wings Patient Outreach Inc. and OCBC founder Jeff Jones, who — despite a less-than-friendly Supreme Court — still predicted “imminent” change in our nation’s antiquated medical marijuana policies.

30 YEARS AND STILL SMOKING

One of the conference’s many highlights was a look back at the Nixon administration’s First Report of the National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse (a.k.a. The Shafer Report), which recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, former Shafer commissioner Dr. Tom Ungerlieder led a humorous yet informative panel discussion on the history and relevance of the report.

“Neither the marijuana user nor the drug itself constitutes a legitimate threat to public safety,” the Commission stated in 1972 — a conclusion that Ungerlieder affirms is still true today. The Commission went on to recommend abolishing federal criminal penalties for the possession and cultivation of small amounts of marijuana. “The Commission legitimized ‘decriminalization’ as a political concept,” Ungerlieder explained.

Former California NORML and national NORML Executive Director Gordon Brownell gave the groundbreaking report even higher praise, commenting that it “changed the landscape of drug policy.” Indeed. From 1973 to 1977, NORML relied on the commission’s findings to persuade 11 state legislatures to pass laws decriminalizing pot. And in virtually every case, those laws remain in effect today.

GLIMMERS OF HOPE

From Australia to Canada, the international wall of pot prohibition is crumbling. This year, NORML was fortunate to have several inter-

national speakers on hand to give attendees first-hand accounts. NORML Foundation board member Richard Cowan and Eugene Oscapella from the Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy spoke about the ongoing cannabis reforms sweeping across Canada and the U.K., and the “enormous” impact these changes will likely have upon U.S. drug policy. Longtime New Zealand NORML head Chris Fowlie delivered a similarly upbeat report from down under, noting that the government recently allowed farmers to plant hemp, and that Parliament is seriously considering legalizing the use of medical marijuana.

University of California at Santa Cruz researcher Craig Reinerman unveiled newly compiled statistics comparing U.S. marijuana use rates with those of countries with more liberal pot policies. “If you make marijuana available, there is no evidence that all hell will break loose,” explained Reinerman. The reality, he said, is that marijuana smoking becomes “just one more cultural practice in an otherwise sane society.”

Lest one mistakenly believe that modern-day marijuana liberalization is only occurring beyond U.S. borders, Nevada state assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani gave a hands-on

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Top Row: St. Cloud Minnesota University NORML head and “future leader” **LeeAnn Ilminen**

Van Jones, Executive Director of San Francisco’s Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Bottom : Legendary hemp activist **Jack Herer** and *High Times*’ editor **Steve Bloom**

Highlights From Maher’s Speech

Bill Maher may be best known for his wit, but when it comes to abolishing the federal government’s war on marijuana smokers, the late night talk show host made it clear to everyone in attendance that he’s deadly serious.

“I’m here because my friend [medical marijuana patient Todd McCormick] is in prison and it hurts me a lot. . . . It makes me mad. It makes me mad that so many hundreds of thousands of Americans are arrested. That is a big number. If that was a disease, people wouldn’t stand for it.”

“It doesn’t seem that hard when you think about that it should be that hard to get the vast majority of people in this country to . . . support publicly the idea of decriminalizing the one drug that never kills anybody.”

“In America you have to be a victim. It’s a victim culture. The irony is [that those arrested for marijuana] really are victims. They’re truly victims in a war that we can’t win.”

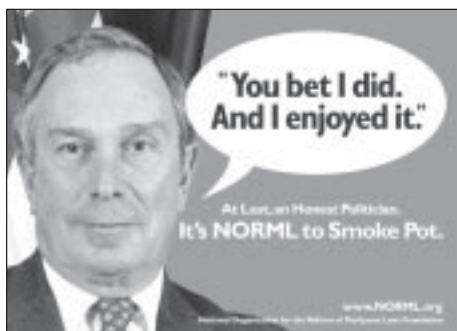
“[Pot smokers] should be as offended as everyone else is in America for their . . . causes. When you hear someone support the drug war, be offended. If they make a bad pot joke, that offends us. How about us having a little zero tolerance? I have zero tolerance, thank you. I have zero tolerance for the ridiculous notion that sobriety is the time-tested route to mind expansion.”

“So President Bush said a few weeks ago that we have a new slogan and we should all get behind it and I agree. That’s why I say to you tonight, and I hope you take what I say seriously: make change happen and let’s roll.”

NORML Foundation Launches Largest Ever Pro-Pot Media Campaign

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John P. Morgan at a press conference at New York's Sheraton Towers to formally commence the spring campaign — which featured an array of outdoor ads and radio spots reiterat-



ing “It’s NORML to smoke pot.” As part of the campaign, NORML purchased 30-days worth of ads on one-quarter of all New York City buses.

Thus far, Bloomberg’s reaction to The Foundation’s campaign has been politically predictable. Although the mayor initially said that he was “not thrilled” by the ad campaign — the largest ever undertaken by any marijuana-law reform organization — he acknowledged the organization’s First Amendment right to run it. Regrettably, Bloomberg later added that he had no intention of ending the

city’s notorious pot crackdown, a stance that was immediately criticized by NORML’s Keith Stroup.

“While we appreciate Mayor Bloomberg’s refreshing candor about his own pot smoking, we cannot have two systems of justice; one for the rich and famous and another for the rest of us,” Stroup said, adding that New York state decriminalized minor pot possession nearly 30 years ago.

Under a 1975 state law, pot offenders who possess 25 grams of marijuana or less in private are to be issued a citation in lieu of a criminal arrest. Prior to 1992, those New Yorkers caught smoking or possessing marijuana in public were also issued citations. Former Mayor Giuliani reversed that policy and began arresting minor pot offenders, while continuing to issue citations to those caught illegally drinking in public. “It’s time to end the double standard by which ‘open container’ violations are handled with a ticket and a fine, while those adults found to be possessing pot in public are arrested and jailed,” Stroup concluded.

Not surprisingly, a majority of New Yorkers agree. According to the results of a recent Zogby poll commissioned by The NORML Foundation, 56 percent of New Yorkers oppose arresting marijuana smokers. Only 39 percent of respondents say they favor the city’s current pot policies.



“There are millions of citizens in New York City and across the nation who — like Mayor Bloomberg — enjoy marijuana, work hard, pay taxes and contribute positively to society,” NORML Foundation head Allen St. Pierre said. “They are not criminals and they should not be arrested or put in jail. It’s time for New York City’s pot policies to reflect this reality.”

“There is no doubt that this ad campaign has brought the issue of marijuana-law reform out of the closet and into the mainstream — where it belongs,” Stroup said, noting that coverage of the campaign appeared in *The Associated Press*, *Reuters*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Daily News*, and the *BBC*, among others. Stroup was also featured on several nationally televised talk shows, including “The O’Reilly Factor” and “Hannity & Combs” to discuss the campaign.

“Marijuana is not now, nor has it ever been, a fringe activity engaged in only by those on the margins of society,” Stroup concluded. “Smoking pot is normal, and it’s high time somebody came right out and said it.”

To view *The NORML Foundation’s New York City poster ads* or listen to the radio spots, please visit http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5229. Photos of NORML’s press conference and news coverage of the campaign are also available online. ■

Reduce taxes your



INCREASE THE NORML
FOUNDATION’S RESOURCES

Support marijuana-law reform by giving to the NORML Foundation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent the law allows. You can donate appreciated securities to the Foundation account at Salomon Smith Barney. Call Wesley Tate at (800) 621-2251 for information. You can also name NORML or (for an estate tax deduction) the NORML Foundation in your will. We wish all our supporters a long and happy life. But wouldn’t it be nice to enter the Pearly Gates knowing your bequest continued to help those you left behind?

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Putting The Breaks On Doped Driving Misconceptions

Policy debates regarding marijuana-law reform, including those involving the legalization of medicinal cannabis, invariably raise the question: “What about marijuana and driving?” The concern is a valid one. In fact, NORML’s own “Principles of Responsible Cannabis Use” invoke a “no driving” clause, stating: “Although cannabis is said by most experts to be safer than alcohol and many prescription drugs with motorists, responsible cannabis consumers never operate motor vehicles in an impaired condition.”

Nevertheless, concerns regarding doped driving should not be an impediment to pot-law liberalization. Alcohol is legal in America, yet every state maintains tough laws punishing those who choose to drive impaired under its influence. There is no reason why a similar model could not regulate cannabis consumption.

Moreover, emerging scientific research indicates that the illegal herb actually has far *less* impact on psychomotor skills than alcohol, and is seldom a causal factor in automobile accidents. A pair of recently released international studies bolsters this argument.

The first, conducted by Britain’s Transport Research Laboratory, found that drivers performed better under the influence of pot than they did after consuming alcohol. According to the study, marijuana only adversely impacted subjects’ ability to maintain a constant speed and control while driving around a figure-of-eight loop. Drivers’ reaction time and all other measures of driving performance remained unaffected by pot. Researchers further

noted that subjects under the influence of marijuana — contrary to alcohol — were aware of their impairment and attempted to compensate for it by driving more cautiously.

Similar results were also reported in March by a South Australian team at the Department

of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology at the University of Adelaide. Their epidemiological review of automobile accidents found that alcohol “overwhelmingly plays the greatest role in road crashes... [and] conversely, ... marijuana has a negligible impact on culpability.” The study was a follow up to a 1998

analysis of 2,500 injured drivers that previously determined cannabis to have “no significant effect” on drivers’ culpability in motor vehicle accidents.

In fact, *most* marijuana and driving experiments give pot a relatively clean bill of health, particularly when compared to alcohol. A review of two-decades worth of driving simulator and on-road studies by Alison Smiley for Toronto’s Centre for Addiction and Mental Health concluded that although marijuana temporarily impairs driving behavior, “this impairment is mitigated in that subjects under marijuana treatment appear to perceive that they are indeed impaired [and] where they can compensate, they do.”

With respect to direct comparisons between the effects of alcohol versus marijuana, the author asserted, “In contrast to the compensatory behavior exhibited by subjects under marijuana treatment, subjects who have received alcohol tend to drive in a more risky

manner.” Smiley’s assessment concludes, “The more cautious behavior of subjects who have received marijuana decreases the impact of the drug on performance, whereas the opposite holds true for alcohol.”

Transportation data say likewise. A 1997 examination of motor vehicle injuries by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute concluded that alcohol is “the major drug associated with injury,” and found no evidence to support the accusation that illicit drugs are a major factor in auto crashes. An earlier analysis published by the U.S. National Highway Transportation Safety Administration of 1,882 drivers killed in motor vehicle accidents also determined that alcohol, not pot, was the “dominant problem” in drug-related traffic accidents.

That said, are we to believe that it’s ever appropriate to get high and drive? Not at all. However, what is apparent is that pot’s slight impairment of psychomotor skills generally falls within the range of safety Americans accept for prescription medications and other legal, potentially debilitating factors such as fatigue or cell phones. As such, the question of marijuana and driving should remain a public policy concern for drug law reformers, but not a serious political obstacle to marijuana-law reform.

A more detailed white paper on the impact of cannabis and driving is forthcoming from The NORML Foundation. Please visit the NORML website for more details. ■

“EMERGING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INDICATES THAT THE ILLEGAL HERB ACTUALLY HAS FAR LESS IMPACT ON PSYCHOMOTOR SKILLS THAN ALCOHOL, AND IS SELDOM A CAUSAL FACTOR IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS.”

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Willie Nelson, Bill Maher, Robert Altman and Others Join New NORML Advisory Board

Top celebrities from the entertainment and music world, along with leading academics and drug policy experts are joining together to help end marijuana prohibition by signing on to NORML's new advisory board. Among those who have agreed to participate on the board are country music star and longtime NORML supporter Willie Nelson, film director Robert Altman, and comedian and political satirist Bill Maher.

"The willingness of these prominent Americans to join with us to call for a ceasefire in the war on marijuana smokers is reflective of the progress we are making politically," Keith Stroup said. "By lending their names and

expertise to NORML, these principled individuals provide added credibility and create new opportunities for our organization to promote our message to both the media and our elected officials."

Other advisory board members include American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) President Nadine Strossen; Nobel Laureate Dr. Kary Mullis; actor Daniel Stern; recently retired NFL star Mark Stepnoski; publisher Bill Regardie; Dr. Louis Lasagna, Dean of Scientific Affairs for Tufts University School of Medicine; and Telluride, Colorado Sheriff Bill Masters — author of the book *Drug War Addiction: Notes From the Front Lines of America's #1 Policy Disaster*.



Left: American Civil Liberties Union President, **Nadine Strossen** Right: **Daniel Stern**, actor

Nelson and Strossen will co-chair the board.

Additional advisory board members will be added in the coming months. ■

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presentation explaining how she successfully navigated her 2001 marijuana decriminalization bill through the state legislature — making the Silver State the first to decriminalize marijuana possession in 24 years.

Perhaps the greatest sign of hope, however, was the unbridled enthusiasm and energy of NORML's "Future Leaders" panelists who, despite being scheduled to speak at precisely 4:20 pm on April 20th, still managed to draw a full house and a standing ovation. In a rousing speech, NORML's Affiliates Coordinator Kris Krane called the marijuana-law reform movement the "anti-war movement of our generation." His sentiments were echoed memorably by Van Jones, head of San Francisco's Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

"Our grandparents' generation earned its reputation as the greatest generation for its ability to fight war," Jones poignantly concluded. "I hope this new generation earns its title for its willingness to stop war."

IN CONCLUSION

"This year's conference attracted tremendous support," NORML Foundation Executive Di-

rector Allen St. Pierre summarized. "From our front page coverage in the local newspapers to the record crowd, this year's conference was a smashing success. This was the first time we had held our conference in California since 1992, and we were delighted at the reception we received from our supporters on the west coast and around the globe."

St. Pierre praised the strength and variety of speakers at this year's conference, which also included renowned California criminal defense attorney Tony Serra; Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) Director Ethan Nadelmann; best-selling author and NORML board member Barbara Ehrenreich; DPA West Coast Director Marsha Rosenbaum; legendary hemp activist Jack Herer; Cato Executive Vice President and NORML board member David Boaz; Common Sense for Drug Policy head Kevin Zeese; and NORML Foundation Chair Dr. John Morgan.

Award recipients at the conference were: John Vasconcellos, recipient of the 2002 Rufus King, Sr. Memorial Award for Outstanding Public Leadership in the Field of Marijuana Law Reform; Marsha Rosenbaum, recipient of

the Lester Grinspoon Award for Outstanding Achievement in Marijuana Law Reform Advocacy; San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, recipient of the 2002 Peter McWilliams Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Advancing the Cause of Medical Marijuana; and Bill Panzer, recipient of the Al Horn Memorial Award for Advancing the Cause of Justice as a Criminal Defense Attorney.

"The definition of a successful conference is that you leave better suited to reach your goals than when you arrived," St. Pierre said, "and it was impossible to attend the 2002 NORML conference without leaving with a renewed sense of purpose, pride and commitment. Let us remember those feelings as we prepare for the many battles that lie ahead."

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON 4/20?

The success of this year's conference has expectations for next year's event at an all time high. "We definitely raised the bar with this year's conference," St. Pierre said, "and while the site of next year's conference is not yet determined, I hope all NORML supporters will mark their calendars now to make next year's conference even bigger."

Photos and speeches from the 2002 NORML conference are available on the NORML web site at: <http://www.norml.org>. ■