

**Arcata
Humboldt County, CA, USA
1985 - Present**

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New York Times**

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SF Chronicle**

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Norman Shafer

Above, Deputy Sheriff Gary Holder of Humboldt County, Calif., unloading a neck-high load of marijuana after raiding home gardens near Harris last October. At left, another officer empties one of six truckloads of the plant after a similar raid only days later.

Marijuana Crops Revive California Town

By WILLIAM CARLSEN
Special to The New York Times

GARBERVILLE, Calif., March 9 — Spring has come early to the coastal mountains. Already people in this rugged backwoods area are buying fertilizer and trading seeds for planting.

Growers who made a killing on last year's crop are returning to this tiny western hamlet (pop. 800) 200 miles north of San Francisco after vacations in Hawaii and Mexico. The gold rush is on once again.

Today, however, the gold is not metal, but marijuana. In these parts the plants command, ounce for ounce, almost the price of the metal.

Last year was a good year, growers here say. The local sheriff's office confiscated 15 tons of marijuana plants, almost three times the amount seized the year before.

\$500 to \$1,000 a Pound

But the law enforcement officials estimate that in Humboldt and three surrounding counties at least 50 tons of marijuana were harvested last year. Most growers say the amount was closer to 150 tons.

And the marijuana from this area can reportedly bring \$500 to \$1,000 a pound, five to 10 times the price paid five years ago.

With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, the interest in marijuana has spread all the way to the state legislature. State Senator Barry Keane, whose district includes most of the growing areas, is now circulating the survey soliciting his constituents' opinion of a possible bill to decriminalize marijuana cultivation.

"In fact," Senator Keane said, "marijuana is the second or third largest agricultural crop in my district, and I understand that the soil and the climate are ideally suited for it."

"Even some very responsible members of the Chamber of Commerce have asked me whether it wouldn't make sense to decriminalize it," he said, "and use it to diversify the economy, broaden the tax base and create jobs in this high unemployment area."

A Growing Crime Rate

But he is also concerned about the growing crime, including crimes of violence, that the illegally grown marijuana has inspired.

Most residents agree that the huge amount of money generated by this new crop was just the economic shot in the arm that Garberville needed.

Twenty years ago more than 40 sawmills were operating within a 25-mile radius of the community. Now only two

Annually at Harvest, 'the \$100 Bills Start Getting Flashed'

sawmills remain. Years of logging cleared the surrounding hills, and the lumbermen moved north, leaving the area on hard times.

But of late, Mercedeses and new four-wheel drive pickups vie for parking spaces along the half-mile of Main Street. There are more real estate offices than saloons bordering the street; land prices have more than doubled in the last three years.

The key is the astronomical price being paid for the local marijuana, which many connoisseurs consider among the most potent in the world.

Technique Yields 'Sinsemilla'

The high potency that commands such a high price results from a cultivation technique that eliminates the male plants before they can pollinate the female plants. The plant that is produced is called "sinsemilla," Spanish for "without seeds." The lack of fertilization causes the female plant to produce more flowers and resins, which contain the chemicals that produce the "high" marijuana smokers seek.

An ounce of this illegal weed has been going for as much as \$250 in places like Chicago and New York, according to some sources.

The profit is enormous because one plant, which normally grows to a height of 8 to 10 feet, produces about a pound of saleable material. A farmer who grows no more than 50 plants can make \$25,000 to \$50,000 on the annual harvest.

As one resident said, "You can tell when it's harvest time, the \$100 bills start getting flashed around town."

But "there has been a 150 percent increase in violent crime each year for the last two years," said Bernard Di Paoli, the District Attorney for Humboldt County.

Growers Fear Criminals

"The growers are more afraid of rip-offs and the hardened criminals who flock to this area at harvest time than they are of the police," he added.

He attributed one homicide and a number of kidnappings, assaults and burglaries to the presence of marijuana in a once peaceful area.

Fred Cranston, a physics professor at Humboldt State University and a

supporter of legalization of marijuana, agreed that there had been a "loss of innocence" in the last two years. "It used to be you could walk in the woods. That's why people came here, to backpack," he said. "Now you can't do it without the fear of being shot at."

The growers admit that they have set up elaborate alarms and even sleep armed in their gardens at harvest time. "You work nine months and you sure are not going to let anyone waltz in and take it all away from you," one said.

The growers have even more elaborate warning systems to foil law enforcement officers, who fly overhead in the late summer using \$5,500 gyro-stabilized binoculars to scan the mountainsides for bright green plants.

Trees and Bridges Felled

"Large redwood trees mysteriously fall across roads and even small bridges have been blown up to keep law-enforcement officers out," District Attorney Di Paoli said.

He acknowledged a serious lack of enforcement resources. Arrests for cultivation in his county dropped from 16 in 1977 to nine last year, he said, as his department concentrated on violent crimes.

It is not unusual, a grower said, to find out in the mail that one has been arrested. "The sheriffs come in and

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The New York Times / March 11, 1979

take the plants, but, instead of taking you in, they just send a letter telling you your court date."

Most cultivation cases have been thrown out of court on technicalities, however, and at least two local judges have challenged the constitutionality of the state law.

Meanwhile cultivation is spreading around the state. "We are beginning to find sinsemilla cultivation in Santa Cruz County now, and Imperial County in southern California," said Eugene Hollingworth, chief of the State Bureau of Investigation and Narcotics.

Demand Cannot Be Met

Gordon Brownell, western director of the national organization to legalize marijuana, known as NORML, said that domestic cultivation now accounts for 15 to 20 percent of all marijuana consumed in the country and 25 to 30 percent of consumption in California, partly because of the scare about herbicides sprayed on Mexican marijuana.

The Federal authorities quote a much lower percentage.

Growers here said that the demand for their sinsemilla was so intense last year that they could not come close to meeting it. "Buyers with connections all over the country swarmed in here last October," one grower said proudly. "Face it, we grow the best."

"It's gotten so esoteric, so gourmet," said a grower from the northern part of the county, who told of serving as one of eight judges in a harvest festival last November 12 samples of marijuana were appraised for such attributes as bouquet, potency, and color.

In Garberville the fertilizer sales at the feed store are brisk as shafts of spring sunlight cut through the nearby redwood grove.

On one real estate office window on the main street a two by four inch sign reads: "For sale: 52 acres, rugged terrain, secluded — ideal for growing marijuana."

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Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise

A sheriff's department helicopter hovers over a suspected area of marijuana cultivation in Riverside, Calif.

Marijuana Growing Becomes Big Business on Coast

By ROBERT LINDSEY
Special to The New York Times

RIVERSIDE, Calif., Oct. 29 — Commercial cultivation of marijuana has become a booming underground branch of agriculture in California and, according to investigators, is generating many millions of dollars yearly in illicit profits for a new version of the old-fashioned mountain moonshiner.

"These aren't a bunch of kids growing marijuana for their own use," said John Bitzer, an official of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration. "These are sophisticated operations," he said, "a big business" that "has a major effect on the local economy" in some counties.

According to several recent public opinion polls, marijuana, which had long been regarded as an illegal and socially unacceptable drug in much of middle America, has gained increased acceptance among many people. More than 40 percent of adult Americans have tried it at least once and more than 15 percent use it with some regularity, according to pollsters' estimates.

Demand Expected to Rise

Although no one knows how much marijuana is consumed in the United States, some Federal drug officials put the amount at thousands of tons annually, and they say that the demand will probably continue to grow as the drug's social acceptance grows.

In the past, most marijuana sold in this country was smuggled in from Mexico, Colombia, Jamaica or some other foreign country. But in the last two years, drug investigators said, commercial production of the drug has increased significantly in California.

Officials say that there are two main reasons for the rapid growth in domestic cultivation:

Consumer concern exists about the quality and safety of marijuana smuggled into this country from Mexico. Under a program financed by the United States Government, Mexican plantations have been sprayed with the herbicide paraquat.

There is heavy demand for the type of marijuana most commonly produced in California, called sinsemilla, which, because of specialized farming techniques, is chemically more potent than most imported marijuana.

Harvest Time Arrives

It is now harvest time, and from the remote valleys of this rural county in southern California to clandestine farms in northern California, growers are picking and drying marijuana for sale in this state and in the East and Middle West.

Mr. Bitzer estimated that 77 tons of marijuana was grown commercially in California last year. Some law enforcement officials in rural counties have suggested that the figure may be twice that amount.

Investigators say that the illicit production has been concentrated in four counties in northern California: Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake, and two in the South, Riverside and San Diego. Some plantings have been found in six other counties.

Particularly in the four northern counties, which have experienced a sharp economic decline in recent years because of setbacks in the logging industry, the production of marijuana is an important part of the local economy,

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Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise

Deputy hauling seized marijuana plants aboard a flatbed truck for eventual disposal

a source of income to merchants and other businessmen.

Two weeks ago, the Humboldt County Supervisors rejected a proposal by local law enforcement officials to seek a Federal grant to help defray overtime costs incurred in investigating marijuana growers. The rejection was interpreted by some local residents as an indication of the rising political influence of the growers.

Thomas Jondahl, the Mendocino County sheriff, said that it was all but impossible for small counties to police the rapidly expanding industry without outside financial help.

Initially, police officials said, the marijuana growers were mostly counterculture dropouts from the 1960's who had emigrated to the rural communities to find solitude and planted marijuana for their own use. Later, a few began producing the plant to earn a living, and then commercial production began to expand.

More recently, officials said, there have been indications that newcomers,

including businessmen and several lawyers, have come to the area and financed establishment of marijuana farms.

The growers, Sheriff Jondahl said, operated farms ranging from "five or six plants to some in the hundreds or thousands."

"By no stretch of the imagination are these for home use," he said. "Some of these trees get 14, 16 feet tall; the stalks at the base are four or five inches thick; they are fertilized and irrigated just like on a regular farm."

Along with the growth in the illicit business, he added, has come increasing violence, usually in the form of confrontations between growers and people trying to steal their crop.

Here in Riverside County, which is 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles, deputy sheriffs so far this year have closed 51 commercial operations, arrested 72 persons and seized 28 tons of marijuana. Most of the arrests and seizures came in a 10-day period this month in which a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration aircraft was used,

along with 50 policemen, to find growers in the county's remote mountainous reaches.

However, Capt. Jack Reid of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said that the cultivation of marijuana had become so common, and the rural area that had to be checked so enormous, that undoubtedly many operations were continuing to thrive. "We really don't know how much there is in the county," he said.

The operations were so extensive, he added, that he believes growers have probably formed a cooperative, or several of them, to market their product. Most of the crop, he said, is being sold in the East.

"Some of these farms are very sophisticated, with miles of irrigation pipe and brass valves, and it's obvious somebody is making a lot of money from them," he said.

In California, Captain Reid said, the sinsemilla sells for up to \$1,500 a pound; in Salt Lake City for \$2,200, and in New York for \$3,200.

California Marijuana Farms Yield a Billion-Dollar High

By PAMELA G. HOLLIE

New York Times (1923-Current file); Jul 13, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. E2

Pot Is Now the State's No. 4 Agribusiness and the Law's No. 1 Frustration

California Marijuana Farms Yield a Billion-Dollar High

nia sinsemilla is recognized by users as superior to the old Mexican marijuana and sells for up to \$200 an ounce, compared with about \$40 an ounce for regular marijuana. When raids reduce the supply, the price goes even higher.

Some northern California communities have come to depend on the crop. In Gabeville, a little town in Humboldt County where new businesses have opened and the growers have made political allies and gained financial clout, the townsfolk don't talk to strangers about the area's crop. "Don't need no publicity," said Ted Kogan, a nine-year resident of the area.

The more firmly entrenched the industry becomes, the more state law enforcement officials doubt that their eradication efforts will succeed. Last year, officials estimated that they destroyed less than 10 percent of the estimated crop. What is more, marijuana cultivation simply does not have a high priority with most local law enforcement officials. The Humboldt County District Attorney, Bernie DePaoli, says that the stiffest penalty he will seek for a large grower — one in the \$300,000 cash crop bracket — is a year in the county jail.

Except for the state's raids on growers, little has been done to rid California of the crop. Prosecutions are rare and difficult, since the fields are seldom owned by the grower and, unless a grower is caught during harvesting in the fall, possession is often hard to prove. The marijuana isn't easy to find. Many fields are tucked away in rugged state parks. Some growers cultivate as many as 50 small plots.

In addition, marijuana growers have become a new sort of folk hero in California. Hiding out in the mountains and the deserts, they are often romanticized as refugees from the cities who have eked out a life in the wilderness fighting poachers, lawmen and the elements. Of course, many growers are nothing of the sort, but rather practical businessmen and blue collar workers.

Growing even one marijuana plant is a felony in California, even though possession of an ounce is but a misdemeanor, an offense about as serious as a traffic ticket. Pro-marijuana groups are trying to change the law. They would like to see cultivation for personal use legalized. Alaska is the only state which has such a law.

The California legislature, however, has resisted any change. Although an estimated 7 million people — about 42 percent of the state's adult population — have smoked marijuana, legislation introduced by Assemblyman Willie Brown Jr., a San Francisco Democrat, to allow an adult to grow marijuana for personal use failed in the last session of the legislature. An initiative proposition, supported by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, a group based in Washington, D.C., failed to make the November ballot in California.

Such setbacks, however, do not affect the big growers, who would get no protection from such changes. For them, the battle will be won or lost in the fields.

of making a living. In the last three years, two persons have been killed and a number of gunfights and kidnappings have been attributed to disputes among growers. Not long ago, an observation plane carrying four sheriff's deputies was fired on by a sniper, presumably an angry grower. One of the deputies, who were being trained to spot marijuana from the air, was wounded in the attack.

Law enforcement agencies have staged a number of raids. Last fall, in one suburban county southeast of Los Angeles, more than 40 tons of marijuana were cut down or burned. This year, California Attorney General George Deukmejian has promised an even tougher crackdown. With a Federal grant, helicopters and specially trained deputies, a task force will concentrate on several counties, including Humboldt and Mendocino in the north, which are recognized as the state's principal growing areas.

Necessity Mothers an Invention

The trade in marijuana is unregulated and untaxed, and there appear to be few counties that do not produce at least \$1 million worth of marijuana annually. Estimates of the size of the state crop vary widely, and only one county reports marijuana in its agricultural statistics. Mendocino County conservatively estimated the street value of its 1979 crop at \$1.2 million. The business has become so profitable that the Internal Revenue Service has decided to start trying to collect some of the unreported income from growers. Agents already have started files on some of those allegedly in the business.

California owes much of the growth of its marijuana industry to Mexico's efforts, begun in 1976, to stop the trade there by spraying marijuana fields with the poison paraquat. Mexican marijuana continued to flow north, but an increasing number of California users feared lung disease from paraquat-tainted pot and turned to the domestically grown product. California growers — who typically harvest and sell leaves to dealers who then peddle one-ounce bags on the street — now supply about 30 percent of the marijuana smoked in the state. There is not enough to export.

In the last five years, California growers have developed their own potent weed called California sinsemilla — Spanish for "without seed." Growers found that when pollination occurs, the female plant uses some of its tetrahydrocannabinol — the active ingredient in marijuana — to produce seeds. By preventing pollination, the growers force the plants to store the surplus THC in superpotent buds. Califor-

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Riverside Press-Enterprise

A sheriff's deputy confiscates marijuana plants
in Riverside County, Calif.

By PAMELA G. HOLLIE

LOS ANGELES — On tracts hidden away in the mountains and forests of the northern coastal counties and in containers arranged boldly on big-city backyard patios, California seems abloom with marijuana these days. Though cultivating marijuana is a felony, the weed is plentiful and profitable. Indeed, except for cattle, milk and cotton, marijuana earns more than any agribusiness, more than \$1 billion annually. In no other state is more marijuana smoked and produced, authorities say.

In part because the stakes are so high, cultivating marijuana is becoming an increasingly violent way

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Federal Agency Plans Armed Force to Guard Land in West

New York Times (1923-Current file); Nov 27, 1983;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. 63

Federal Agency Plans Armed Force to Guard Land in West

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 26 (UPI) — The Bureau of Land Management, aroused over armed marijuana growers and timber rustlers, is planning an armed force to patrol its 119 million acres of isolated Western land.

"The sheriffs can't take care of all the complaints because they've got problems of their own within their county areas," David Howard, a bureau official, said in an interview published Friday in The San Jose Mercury News.

Mr. Howard, the bureau's chief law-enforcement agent in California, said guidelines on how the armed rangers would be used were being discussed. He said the next step would be how many agents were needed and where they would be assigned.

The bureau manages Federal land not administered by the military, the

National Park Service or the Forest Service. The freedom of outdoor enthusiasts to wander its land has been threatened by marijuana growers who have invaded the rugged areas, Mr. Howard said. Wielding shotguns and other weapons, the growers have seized some of the land and are frightening away hikers and hunters, he said.

People's Land for the People

In northern California's Humboldt County alone, the sheriff's office reported 200 calls last year from outdoors enthusiasts who said they had been forced off Bureau of Land Management property. "It's a tragedy when the people's land cannot be used by the people," Mr. Howard said. "It belongs to you and me."

Local, state and Federal agencies organized a program against the mari-

juana growers that resulted this year in confiscation of a large number of marijuana plants. But that assault focused on bureau lands and pockets of isolated

state and county territory in northern California.

Mr. Howard said he had only five full-time agents for 17 million acres of forest land in California. The agency has 17 other employees who patrol the 12 million acres of desert land in southern California.

Mr. Howard said timber rustlers who cut down pine trees and ancient oaks for their homes and those of their customers were stealing Federal property.

"Any time you have high electricity costs and are near a large metropolitan area that is close to Federal wild land, then you're going to have a problem with timber thefts," he said.

MARIJUANA RAIDS ANGERING RETIREES

Spy Planes Infringe on Rights and Shatter Their Peace, Californians' Suit Says

By CAROLE RAFFERTY
Special to The New York Times

GARBERVILLE, Calif. — Last fall, Judy and Mike Carlson say, the solitude of their retirement home in Hungry Gulch Valley was shattered by a helicopter with 20 heavily armed men circling low over their house.

The helicopter action in Humboldt County, which lasted one day, was part of a series of raids carried out at 524 sites in California in 1983 by a combined force of 27 Federal, state and local agencies, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

The raids, designed to stop the lucrative marijuana industry, have angered some residents of Humboldt County and neighboring Trinity County who say they do not grow marijuana and have raised questions concerning their right to privacy.

The law-enforcement authorities, who say they are not familiar with the Carlson complaints, argue that no constitutional rights were violated by the raids conducted by the antimarijuana force.

'Regret' Over Inconveniences

"If a crime is committed and law enforcement is in the course of trying to apprehend a criminal there will be incidental disturbances in the lives of law-abiding citizens," said Thomas Dove, a Deputy State Attorney General. "All of us regret inconveniences that occur. I'm certain that all efforts are made to try and keep the disturbances that do occur as short as possible."

However, 10 residents from Humboldt County and neighboring Trinity County, including the Carlsons, sued in Federal District Court in San Francisco last fall seeking a temporary injunction against the raids on the ground that their constitutional right to privacy was violated by the authorities' use of U-2 spy planes searching for marijuana and some of the ground operations of antimarijuana force, which they said included the use of roadblocks, detention and the widespread display of firearms.

The temporary injunction was denied, but residents have now filed a suit seeking \$10 million in punitive damages, as well as unspecified general damages for alleged violations of civil rights, including the right to privacy, which attorneys for the plaintiffs argue was violated by the U-2 spy planes used by the authorities to find marijuana through high-altitude surveillance.

"In the name of marijuana eradication the Government feels it can do anything it wants," said Ronald Sinoway, an attorney for the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project. That group, together with the 10 residents and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, filed for an injunction against the raids.

"The issue really is not so much what is legal and what is illegal," Mr. Sinoway said. "The issue is what is society willing to accept as legal law-enforcement tools."

California Privacy Right

Under a 1974 amendment to the State Constitution, Californians are assured the right to privacy. In the state appellate courts, in a series of eight state-wide decisions, there have been conflicting opinions as to whether aerial surveillance by fixed-wing aircraft, the cheapest and most efficient way to find marijuana growing in remote areas, constitutes an invasion of privacy.

The California Supreme Court has agreed to hear five different cases, including one from Humboldt County, in which the main issue will be to decide the propriety of routine warrantless aerial surveillance for detection of marijuana.

Humboldt County, with a population of 111,214, is one of the major areas in California for growing high-grade sinsemilla marijuana. The potent female buds of the sinsemilla plant can sell for \$1,500 a pound and a mature plant can yield a pound of buds.

The unincorporated town of Garberville, which is in the heart of marijuana country, was once a logging area but now has very little legal industry, apart from tourism, to support its population of 1,350 people.

It is typical of Humboldt County as a whole, which has an unemployment rate of 12 percent. In the 1960's the natural beauty of the redwoods, low hills and gushing rivers attracted many people who decided to leave urban areas and settle in rural northern California. Finding employment was difficult, and some newcomers turned to growing marijuana.

'It Is Now a Science'

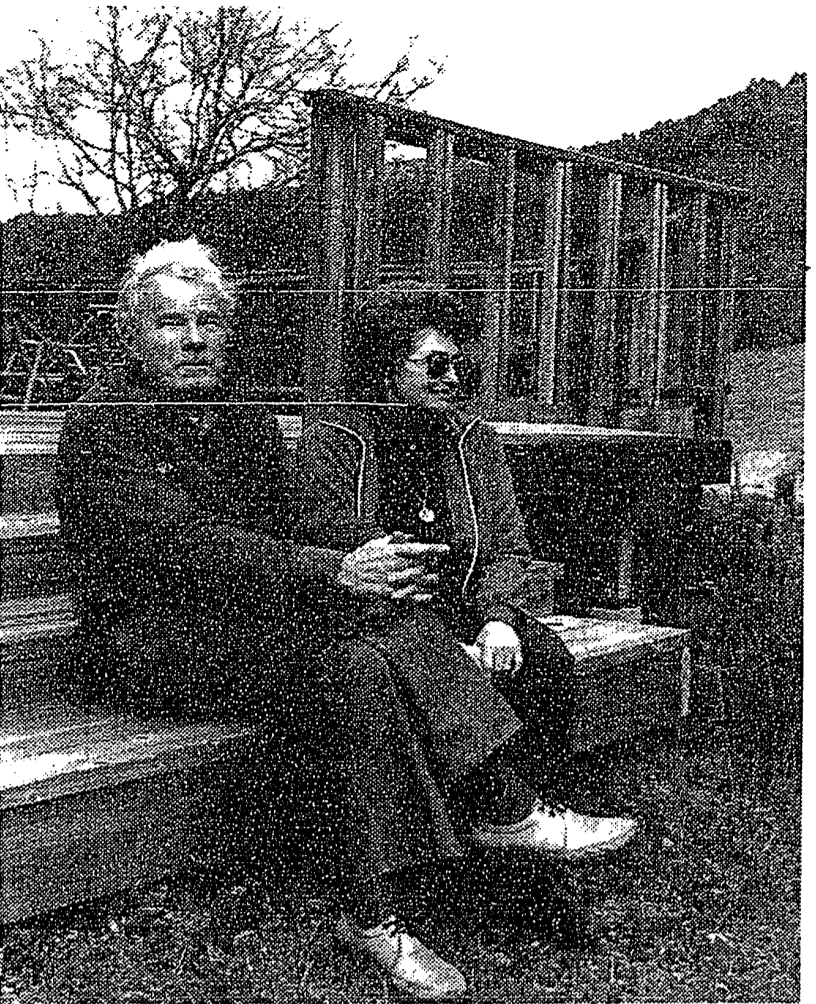
The profits made by the marijuana growers have changed them from 1960's flower children, according to the Attorney General's office. "It has gone from the mom and pop, back-to-the-earth operations to where it is now a science," said Mr. Dove, the Deputy Attorney General. "It has become increasingly sophisticated."

There are no reliable statistics on how much marijuana is cultivated in California, but law-enforcement officials speculate that it has become one of the major cash crops in California and has contributed to an increasing lawlessness in areas, such as Humboldt County, where it is grown.

Last year the Attorney General's office declared war on drugs in an attempt to curb marijuana cultivation and four teams of officials from the antimarijuana force raided places in 14 different California counties, seizing about 215,384 pounds of marijuana and making 78 arrests.

The Attorney General's office has indicated that it will expand its antimarijuana operations this year to include nine teams that will operate in 36 counties. However, officials say they will not use high-altitude surveillance.

State officials contend that without



The New York Times/Terrence McCarthy
Mike and Judy Carlson on the steps of their home in Hungry Gulch Valley.

the use of aerial surveillance their efforts to curb marijuana growing would be severely restricted. If aerial surveillance is found to be unconstitutional,

said Mr. Dove, the Deputy Attorney General, "it would have a tremendous impact on law enforcement — it would be a license to grow."

New Wilderness Peril: Growers of Marijuana

By ROBERT LINDSEY
Special to The New York Times

GARBERVILLE, Calif., Oct. 18 — Law-enforcement officials say many of the nation's most scenic and remote wilderness areas are increasingly dangerous for visitors because of violence linked to illegal marijuana cultivation.

At least four murders related to such production have occurred this fall in the lush, redwood-clad counties of northern California, according to police investigators.

In September, they say, a youth who strayed into a remote marijuana patch in Mendocino County south of here was hit by shotgun blasts in both knees.

Scores of backpackers, hunters and others exploring the backwoods of this region, police investigators say, have reported being forced by marijuana growers, often at gunpoint, to leave public and private lands. Others have been injured by booby traps armed with shotgun shells, razors, and other weapons to discourage intruders and thieves.

Wide-Ranging Problem

"Every one of our 141 national forests in 40 states has reported some activity within the last three years," said Ernest Andersen, director of law enforcement for the United States Forest Service, which manages 191 million acres of timberland.

While California, Oregon and other Western states appear to have the greatest amount of marijuana production, he said it was also a problem in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, West Virginia and Virginia, among others. "It's a national phenomenon," he said.

Mr. Andersen said the vast majority of the violence linked to marijuana cultivation had occurred in the West, but that no part of the country had been exempt from it.

Other Federal officials said that in recent years illegal marijuana gardens had been found occasionally in wilderness areas of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, but that they generally tended to be modest enterprises designed to serve a few individuals rather than commercial production.

'You May Get Shot'

"You want to have a wilderness experience?" asked John Cimolino, a Mendocino County Supervisor. "You won't have one in Mendocino County. You may get shot."

Federal, state and local law-enforcement officials say they have expanded efforts this fall, the harvest season, to eradicate marijuana plots in the wilderness by commercial growers and have destroyed thousands of plants.

But they say that many growers have become more sophisticated in their ability to conceal plants and, with the marijuana in each plant worth \$2,000 to \$3,500, more determined than ever to protect them from police raiders or thieves, called "patch pirates."

Investigators say innocent bystanders are increasingly becoming the victims of growers' efforts to protect their crops with booby traps and firearms. While the violence has been serious in California, where some officials estimate the crop being harvested will be worth more than \$1 billion, investigators say it is a national problem.

John Rooney, director of the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement, at-

tributes the rise in violence to changes in the nature of marijuana growers.

"There's a new element," he said. "These aren't hippie types anymore, but hard-core people who treat it as a business, and they're serious and very protective of their investment."

Jerry Wageman, 34 years old, of Klamath Falls, Ore., told of tracking a deer with two friends in a remote area about three miles north of the California-Oregon border on Oct. 4 when shots rang out. Someone "opened up on us like there was a war going on," he said.

Two men stripped and beat him, then shot him in the head with a long gun, he said.

'I Thought I Was Dead'

"They flat out put the gun up to my head, said, 'We're going to kill you,'" he said. "Then 'Bang!' I thought I was dead."

One companion, Ronald Young, 33, was shot in the head and chest with a .38-caliber revolver, and the third hunter, Clifford Proffitt, 44, escaped unhurt. Despite serious injuries, the hunters who were apparently left for dead survived.

Jeff Maldonado, an investigator for the Jackson County sheriff's office in Oregon, said the hunters had walked into a marijuana patch recently harvested of 30 to 40 plants.

Michael Stanley Dreneider, 45, of Medford, Ore., has since been arrested and charged with 11 felony counts, including three counts of attempted murder and two counts of first-degree assault.

"The end of the growing season and the hunting seasons tend to coincide," Mr. Maldonado said. "I'm surprised that more people haven't been injured. 'Cultivation is big bucks, and the people who are doing it are willing to go a pretty long way to protect their investment.'"

Booby Traps in Backwoods

Mr. Andersen said booby traps were showing up increasingly in the backwoods of America.

Paul Sedillo, an enforcement agent in the Winema National Forest near Klamath Falls, Ore., said that he had found three kinds of deadly traps in northern California this summer: sharpened sticks planted in the ground similar to those used by the Vietcong; a shotgun device triggered by almost invisible trip wires, and branches filled with barbed fishhooks, also activated by a trip wire surrounding a marijuana patch.

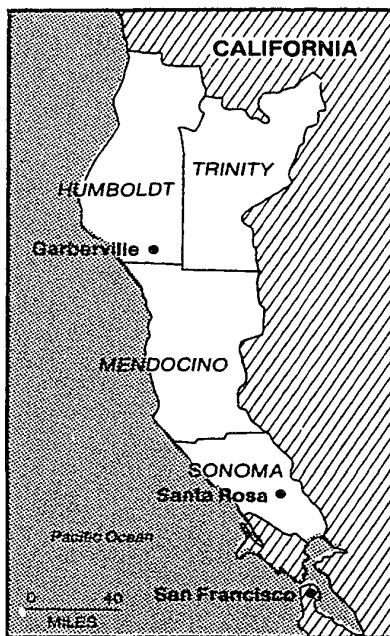
"You never know what you're going to run into when you go to these gardens," he said, adding that a stranger can very easily trip one of the devices or come into a situation where people are armed."

Marijuana growers were so prevalent in the back country of the Shasta Trinity National Forest near Redding, Calif., a year ago, Mr. Sedillo said, that "people were afraid to go into the district" and the Forest Service virtually stopped actively administering the area because agents feared armed marijuana growers and booby traps. This year the agency returned with other law-enforcement agencies, raided marijuana growers and opened it to the public again.

The raids were part of the Campaign Against Marijuana Production, a joint



Police officers burning marijuana plants seized in Humboldt County, in California's "Redwood Country." Law-enforcement officials say the commercial cultivation of marijuana in remote areas has led to violence.



The New York Times/Oct. 23, 1984
California concentrated marijuana eradication efforts in four counties.

project of the Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local police agencies. This week a Federal judge in San Jose ruled that many of the raids by the special group were unwarranted searches and thus violated the Fourth Amendment.

Bill Ruzzamenti, a Federal drug enforcement agent and deputy commander of the authorities' operation, said the ruling would not have a major effect because most of the searches

were on public land and therefore did not require warrants.

Since late summer, about 150 officers, equipped with 11 helicopters and fixed-wing spotter planes, have been at work in the remote northern counties of California, particularly Mendocino, Del Norte, Humboldt, Sonoma and Trinity, trying to locate and destroy marijuana plants growing in some of America's most rugged and spectacular scenery. Through the middle of this week, they had destroyed almost 150,000 plants, made 109 arrests and seized 233 firearms and 46 vehicles.

Known collectively as the "Redwood Country," it is a region of great beauty, considerable poverty, a strong Western spirit of rugged individualism and a general distrust of outsiders.

Regarded as Legitimate Crop

With its timber industry depressed by a long national slump in home building and environmental regulations that have restricted logging of the redwoods, it is an area in which many people have regarded marijuana as a legitimate cash crop (indeed, the only one, some have said) and in which hatred for out-of-town "patch pirates" runs as deep as a frontier town's distaste for cattle rustlers.

Garberville, one of many hamlets tucked into the forests, is a town that investigators say is a major center of marijuana commerce. Some local officials even acknowledge that vigilante groups have been formed by residents to deal with patch pirates.

Many of Garberville's 1,350 residents have angrily attacked as foreign invaders the daily raids of the Campaign Against Marijuana Production. When its helicopters descend and disgorge fatigue-clad police officers with auto-

matic rifles, at least as many comparisons have been drawn to the Vietnam War as to the raids of Federal revenue agents under Prohibition.

Among some residents, however, a previous tacit tolerance toward marijuana production seems to have ebbed recently as it has shifted from a kind of mom-and-pop enterprise to what amounts to a major industry with imported, bloody violence.

Call for Legalization

"The killing and maiming of people occurs almost every day in the county," The Ukiah Daily Journal, the region's largest newspaper, said recently in an editorial concluding that the legalization of marijuana was the only way to end the violence.

Mr. Ruzzamenti of the Drug Enforcement Agency said economic self-interest might be a factor, too. "What's happened, I think, is that the old perception that you had a few good old boys in the business raising 20 or 50 plants has changed," he observed.

If there was a change in attitude, some residents of the Redwood Country said, the reason was not so much economic but the realization that it was no longer safe for them to walk into the forests and enjoy the beauty that had brought them here.

"I want to travel freely again in my county without fearing for my life," said Mr. Cimolino, the member of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. "I want to be able to go for a walk in the woods; I want to be able to ride a horse without being afraid that someone will yank me off of it; I want to go berry-picking without being afraid I'll be shot. I want my county back."

Raids Reduce California Marijuana Planting 40%

By ROBERT LINDSEY Special to The New York Times

New York Times (1923-Current file); Jul 25, 1985;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. A12

Raids Reduce California Marijuana Planting 40%

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Special to The New York Times

GARBERVILLE, Calif., July 20 — Illegal marijuana cultivation in the forested highlands of California's northern coast has been reduced 40 percent by a two-year campaign of federally financed helicopter raids against growers, according to police officials.

But the officials concede that many commercial growers forced out of production here are probably growing marijuana elsewhere in California, or in Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and other states.

In scenes reminiscent of the Vietnam War, helicopter-borne police officers wearing fatigues and bulletproof vests and carrying automatic weapons this week raided dozens of illicit marijuana fields in remote redwood and pine forests near here, resuming operations that were suspended after last fall's harvest. They chopped down and burned thousands of marijuana plants.

The raids have aroused high emotion among some residents of the scenic wilderness region where, after years of setbacks for the local logging and fishing industries, marijuana has provided the principal cash crop.

Test of Administration Effort

Many residents say the raiders sometimes land on private property without search warrants, frighten children and animals, spy on them and otherwise violate their civil rights.

The raids are the most intense effort so far in a program begun by the Reagan Administration in 1983 to reduce domestic marijuana production.

The Administration has selected the three northern California counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity, a largely undeveloped area known locally as the Emerald Triangle, for a program that consists of helicopter raids each summer and fall, together with an effort by the Internal Revenue Service and several Justice Department agencies to put growers out of business by seizing their land, bank accounts and other property.

Although no one knows the size of the marijuana crop here, many in this community of 2,000 people say it has been a mainstay of the local economy for at least a decade, and some police officials estimate its value in the three counties as at least \$500 million annually at wholesale prices.

Growing Began in 60's

According to the authorities, marijuana growing began as a backyard enterprise pursued by counterculture drifters and dropouts who migrated to the region in the turbulence of the 1960's and later evolved into large commercial operations.

Vast expanses of pine and redwood forests on private and public land, they say, have been taken over by marijuana planters, some of whom have killed or injured hunters, hikers and others who wandered into their plantations.

The region has become the scene of a collision between a community that has come to rely, directly or indirectly, on marijuana growing and the Government's efforts to end what it contends

is a huge business. Federal investigators say the existence of the huge commercial industry here hinders Administration efforts to persuade Mexico and other countries to halt the flow of marijuana into the United States.

The raids are conducted by the Campaign Against Marijuana Production, or CAMP, an aggregation of scores of state, local and Federal agencies.

Justice Dept. Coordinates Raids

Five helicopters and several airplanes are used in the program. Raiding parties include police officers from various cities in California who participate on a rotating basis for two weeks.

Although local sheriffs are in command of raiding parties in their own counties, the Federal and State Justice Departments help coordinate the raids and the prosecution of growers. The Federal Government pays expenses of CAMP, which are expected to total more than \$2.6 million this year.

Merchants, residents and law-enforcement officials concur that plantings of marijuana have declined substantially this year because of raids over the past two years. Last year more than a million pounds of marijuana plants valued by the Government at \$320 million were destroyed.

13 Garden Stores

Larry Gobin, a California highway patrol officer, said: "When I moved here 15 years ago this was a sleepy little town with fishing, hunting, tourism. Timber was dying off. Then you got these hippies and flower children."

At first, he said, the newcomers apparently produced marijuana for their own use only. Later, he said, some became entrepreneurs, and before long "marijuana had changed practically everything: we went from one garden supply store here to 13."

Now, Mr. Gobin said, after two years of CAMP raids, the community seems to be changing again.

"Forty percent of the people are gone," he said. "There's a lot of houses to rent, which we haven't had for five years. There's no other reason, except some of the marijuana growers have given up and left."

Objections From Residents

Although the raiders this week encountered no resistance from growers, most of whom were either not at their fields or fled as helicopters arrived, they were often greeted by residents of mountain communities with cameras who took photographs in an effort to produce evidence that the raiders were violating a Federal District Court order last November that prohibits harassment of local residents.

Judge Robert Aguilar in San Jose issued the injunction, which restricted the flights to a minimum altitude of 500 feet and imposed other limitations after hearing complaints from residents that the helicopter crews hovered low over their homes, peered into windows and otherwise kept them under surveillance for long periods.

Ed Denson, 45 years old, who has 30 acres in nearby Alderpoint where he



Mick Mollica, above right, a special agent with the California Department of Justice, checking marijuana plants at a farm that was raided in Humboldt County, Calif. Mike Pretzer, above left, is a strike team member from the Solano County District Attorney's office. Helicopter carries confiscated marijuana away to be burned.



The New York Times/Terrance McCarthy

operates a company that issues recordings of guitar and banjo music under the Kicking Mule label, said the CAMP operation had harassed residents indiscriminately. "I think they're trying to terrorize everybody, to scare the wits out of the area," he said.

He is a member of the Citizens Observation Group, an organization that is monitoring the raids this year in an effort to gather evidence that Judge Aguilar's order is being violated.

Although CAMP officials have said they would not interfere with the citi-

zen group and that they wanted to be informed of any indiscretions by the raiding parties, some members of the citizen group were handed subpoenas to appear before a Federal grand jury investigating the marijuana trade when they showed up at raiding sites this week. The residents called this "intimidation" of their efforts to detect civil rights violations.

"They don't have that many people in El Salvador to stop Communism," one resident complained at a community meeting near Alderpoint

Thursday night. Another resident said she felt her community was under assault from the air.

Whatever the merits of their arguments, many agree that marijuana growing, so entrenched in the texture of local life, seems on its way out.

"We believe we're having some effect," said Jerry Clemons, a senior California Department of Justice official, "but some of the growers are probably in other counties now. There's just so much money to be made in illegal drugs. It's astronomical.

Drug Raid Copter Fired On

New York Times (1923-Current file); Aug 8, 1985;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. A12

Drug Raid Copter Fired On

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug.7 (AP)

— Gunmen blasted dozens of holes early today in a helicopter used in raids Monday and Tuesday on marijuana growers. The helicopter was parked near houses occupied by the families of three sheriff's deputies in Humboldt County. There were no reports of injuries and no arrests were made. The rifle shots put the leased craft out of commission and caused \$60,000 in damages. Federal, state and local authorities are investigating.

Magazine for Ambitious Marijuana Growers

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 25 (AP) — The seeds for Sinsemilla Tips magazine were planted six years ago, when the authorities arrested Tom Alexander and seized his crop of 1,324 marijuana plants.

Thirty hours in jail ridded Mr. Alexander of any desire to raise marijuana, even though he said a police officer had told him that "my crop contained some of the best buds he'd ever seen."

But the charges of marijuana cultivation were dropped after Mr. Alexander found a technical error in the search warrant used in the raid near Corvallis, about 70 miles south of here. Mr. Alexander went back to his turn-

of-the-century house near Corvallis, this time not to raise marijuana but to publish the nation's only trade magazine on the subject.

"There was no electricity, so with kerosene lamps I put together a 16-page magazine on newsprint," said Mr. Alexander, who is 34 years old and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Press Run Put at 10,000

"I knew nothing about journalism, but I had 1,000 copies printed up and I took them to Humboldt County," one of California's chief marijuana-growing areas, he said, adding that he "sold them all at 50 cents apiece."

Gradually he placed the magazine in newsstands and bookstores. By the fall of 1980 he had a San Francisco-based national distributor. The quarterly magazine published in Corvallis now has a press run of 10,000 copies selling for \$4 each.

A recent 72-page edition contains advertisements for products ranging from a kit to detect the sex of marijuana buds (female buds are most potent) to gadgets that detect electronic eavesdropping devices and spot counterfeit money.

Most of the articles in the magazine are geared to helping marijuana growers increase the yield and potency

of their crop. Its title refers to seedless marijuana, the most powerful variety.

A Question-and-Answer Column

The magazine also includes political comment, a four-page cartoon called "Smokey Jokers," an article on what law-enforcement officers look for when flying over marijuana plots, and a question-and-answer column.

"I have heard so much about bat guano," one letter said. "What is it, and how does it benefit plant growth?" In its reply, the column said bat droppings were an excellent fertilizer.

Sinsemilla Tips offers subscriptions, both foreign and domestic, but Mr. Alexander said most readers bought the magazine at bookstores and newsstands. The subscriber list, on computer disks, is closely guarded.

"I'm definitely conscious of the gov-

ernment doing dirty tricks," he said. "So whenever I go anywhere, the disks go with me."

Magazine Called 'Totally Legal'

Wayne Botta, a Corvallis police detective, said the police had no problem with the magazine. "They are totally legal," he said. "I have read copies myself; it's a very informative magazine."

While there are thought to be two million to three million marijuana growers in the United States, Mr. Alexander said he had no direct competition. "A couple of other publications have tried competing," he added, "but they've lasted only one or two issues."

Mr. Alexander said the magazine grossed about \$100,000 a year, but much of that is reinvested to assure future growth of the publication. He said

he paid himself an annual salary of about \$18,000.

With increased aerial surveillance by law-enforcement officers, Mr. Alexander said, much marijuana growing has shifted indoors. But that does not mean large-scale growing is no longer done. On a recent trip to San Francisco, he said, he saw an entire warehouse being used to raise marijuana.

"The government is not losing the war against marijuana — they lost it long ago," he said. "The government is like the advertising arm of the marijuana industry. Their eradication efforts give people the idea to grow it themselves."

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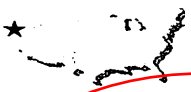
A view of Main Street in Garberville, Calif.

The New York Times/Terrance McCarthy

Garberville Journal

Marijuana Once Reigned as the King

By KEITH SCHNEIDER
Special to The New York Times



GARBERVILLE,
Calif., Jan 21 —
Not long ago, when
hundreds defied
the law and grew

marijuana openly in this region's remote valleys, cash flowed easily along the town's Main Street, spurring one of the biggest bonanzas in the history of a rawboned town whose economic story has been one long chronicle of boom and bust.

But these days shopkeepers fret about a five-year-old police crackdown and the business recession it has produced in this town of 1,400 residents some 200 miles north of San Francisco. Many have complained that the police raids also yielded many civil rights violations. A Federal judge agreed and last month the police consented to changing their procedures.

What was once a blustery rural town has become a conservative and suspicious community down on its luck and afraid of the next police assault in August.

Motels are half empty. Garden supply stores that sold irrigation equipment, organic fertilizer and other supplies — to marijuana growers, among others — have laid off workers. Real estate values have plummeted.

"We figure business in town is off 40 percent or more," said John T. Dimmick, owner of The Feed Store, who is president of the Chamber of Commerce. "The marijuana boom was a phenomenon that won't happen again because the police won't let it happen again. People who didn't think they played a role in the marijuana economy are finding out that it affected all of us."

No one was ever certain how much marijuana was grown in the sunny

The success of a five-year-old antidrug campaign brings an end to one town's boom.

valleys and on the south slopes of the hills surrounding Garberville. But everybody agreed that it was rampant.

The area's mild climate, ample rainfalls and well-drained soils supported marijuana plants that grew thick and heavy with potent buds that growers could sell for \$2,000 a pound or more. A quarter-acre of pot plants could earn \$100,000 for its owner.

The marijuana-selling business was started in the early 1970's by a few hippies who produced their own and traded with friends. Gradually, it became a major agricultural product, bigger even than the Humboldt County timber harvest.

Garberville was recognized as the center of the Emerald Triangle, a region of northern California, including Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, thought to produce 30 to 40 percent of the state's \$1 billion annual marijuana crop.

This drew a criminal element, who brought deadly weapons and a penchant for using them. Murders and other violent crimes soared.

In late 1983, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the state Attorney General's Office and local sheriff departments began the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, or CAMP, in rural California counties to eradicate the illegal harvest. Of

particular concern was the Garberville region, which became a staging area each fall for 600 men, and a small air force of helicopters and light planes.

By 1987, the largest growers had either fled or faced indictments. Many who grew one or two plants to supplement incomes quit the practice. City leaders agree the annual harvest is a shadow of what it was.

"CAMP has been very effective," said Mr. Dimmick. "People are glad that the large grower has been pushed out. But people also feel that there is an overkill. You have to question why CAMP keeps hitting the area again and again."

CAMP officials promised to continue to raid marijuana gardens in the Garberville region. "They say enough is enough and we don't believe that," said Jack Beecham, the program's commander. "There is a feeling among a subculture up there that they have a right to grow an illegal product. The goal of the program is to bring it under control and by no means do we feel the problem is under control."

When they return next August, the officers will be required to abide by a new set of court-ordered rules of conduct. The rules stem from a lawsuit brought by 22 people who said the officers had engaged in a persistent pattern of civil rights violations, including invading rural homes without authorization and buzzing remote farms in helicopters.

The officers denied the charges, but many allegations were confirmed in court. In 1985, a Federal District judge, Robert P. Aguilar, named a retired state superior court jurist to monitor CAMP's activities. Last year, the police and the defendants reached agreement on how raids should be conducted. Judge Aguilar approved it in December.

Military Takes Part in Drug Sweep And Reaps Criticism and a Lawsuit

By KATHERINE BISHOP
Special to The New York Times

GARBERVILLE, Calif., Aug. 9 — In the first use of active-duty troops to fight marijuana growing in the United States, a contingent of about 200 Army soldiers, National Guardsmen and Federal agents have spent the past two weeks raiding clandestine marijuana gardens in the rugged terrain of the King Range National Conservation Area.

The residents of southern Humboldt County have responded with protests, complaining that the military convoys through their towns, the Blackhawk helicopters over their homes and the camouflaged and armed guardsmen prowling the woods have made the war on drugs too much like real war.

In the operation, which ended today, the guardsmen and agents from the Bureau of Land Management and the Drug Enforcement Administration destroyed 1,200 plants producing potent sinsemilla marijuana and seized five tons of equipment used to maintain the remote "guerrilla gardens." No arrests of suspected marijuana growers were reported.

Outdone by Sheriff's Department

Many residents and local law-enforcement officials say the two-week campaign achieved paltry results at the cost of violating civil rights and environmental protection laws and bolstered an outdated image of the area as the center of America's illegal marijuana production.

"This is so frustrating when the Federal Government comes in and spends enough money that would keep my operation going for three or four years," said Sheriff David Renner of Humboldt County. His team of five deputies, cooperating with the state's seven-year-old Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, destroyed over 3,000 plants in one day this week.

"If the Feds have the money for this kind of operation," Sheriff Renner said, "they ought to give it to local law enforcement that is more effective and is truly responsible to local citizens. Their results speak for themselves, and they are not good."

Sheri Bell, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Land Management, which organized the Federal effort, said the operation was designed to return the King Range conservation area to its natural state and make it safe for public use.

"We want to send a clear message that we will not tolerate illegal drug activity on public land," she said. "We want to reclaim King Range for the people who own it."

Ms. Bell said the Government hoped to use the effort here as the model for similar actions on public land in other states where marijuana is grown.

"California presented the first opportunity for an operation of this magnitude with the help of the military," she said, though she acknowledged that the bureau had not received complaints about marijuana growing in the conservation area.

It is difficult to come up with a meaningful cost of the operation. For example, the National Guard said it spent

\$400,000 but emphasized that the money would have been spent in any case on other training exercises.

The campaign has already prompted a civil lawsuit filed by some county residents seeking to bar the use of Army troops for the domestic enforcement of anti-drug laws and seeking to restrict low-flying helicopters over private homes. A hearing was scheduled to be held Friday in Federal District Court in San Francisco.

County residents also demonstrated at the entrance to the campaign staging area, about 20 miles west of here. They carried signs reading "Stop U.S. military terrorism" and waved American flags and giant plastic bubble wands, all to the accompaniment of the Garberville Marimba Band.

While some area residents argue that many of the protesters favor the growing and use of marijuana, many protesters say they oppose drug use, including alcohol, but feel that the military tactics are an unnecessary escalation of the drug war.

In the early 1970's, this rural area of rough-and-tumble loggers and timber workers became a mecca for hippies and back-to-the-land homesteaders fleeing urban areas.

By the early 1980's, the growing of marijuana on remote areas of private

For many, the war on drugs became too much like real war.

and public lands had become so bold and widespread that this town of about 1,500 people had been transformed into something from the Wild West, the unofficial capital of the Emerald Triangle, as the growing areas of southern Humboldt, Trinity and northern Mendocino Counties quickly became known. Growers armed with automatic weapons with booby-trapped gardens became the central image of the area.

But much of the marijuana production has been eradicated as a result of local and state law-enforcement efforts that began in 1983. In the early 80's California ranked first in the nation in marijuana production, according to Federal Drug Enforcement Administration statistics. It has now fallen to sixth, with Missouri ranking first.

But Garberville residents say they believe the Federal Government chose their community as the first domestic target for a campaign of military-assisted eradication because of the area's lingering image.

"This has come just when things had settled down and this whole dope issue was going away," said Ray Raphael, a teacher and local historian who has written several books about the area. "It's like bringing up this old image. People are upset about the area being

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The New York Times

Around Garberville, the war on drugs looks like a real war.

trashed in the minds of the public. They feel the Government is out to get their whole culture."

But military officials say it was essential to involve troops and helicopters in the campaign because of the rough terrain.

"The Bureau of Land Management has a tough mission because they have only a few rangers to police millions of acres of land in California, and they need extra support," said Lieut. Stanley F. Zegotarski of the National Guard's Counter Narcotics Branch.

"The growers are counting on the fact that it's almost impossible to destroy these gardens," Lieutenant Zegotarski said. "The terrain requires the use of helicopters. We anticipated getting a negative response from some residents, but we plan to review this action and definitely work to improve the public relations aspect of it next time."

Some of the most vocal opponents to what the Government calls Operation Green Sweep live on about 50 small private homesteads in remote areas known as Hidden Valley and Whale Gulch that are surrounded by the King Range. Among them are Laura Stern and Timothy L. Day, who live with their two small children in a house built by Mr. Day's great-grandfather.

"The Government always told us that this area was precious and that helicopters and heavy trucks could never be used here," Ms. Stern said. "But now nothing is being treated as precious, including us."

Blossom Edwards, a 17-year-old neighbor, became the focus of much of the protests after she reported running into half a dozen men in camouflage fatigues and armed with M-16 rifles while walking on a public trail in the woods.

"They all had their guns pointed at me," Ms. Edwards said. "I could see down the barrels. I was really terrified and really angry."

Army Provided Transportation

Ronald M. Sinoway, a local lawyer who is representing the families in their lawsuit, said he would ask the Federal court to certify it as a national class action since the Government is expected to try similar military-assisted marijuana eradication operations in other states.

"If the Army belongs anywhere, it's Saudi Arabia, not Humboldt County," Mr. Sinoway said.

Ms. Bell of the land bureau said all the reports of possible violations of residents' civil liberties or of trespassing would be investigated. While some mistakes may have been made, she said, "this is a law-enforcement operation, and, yes, we are being aggressive."

The active-duty Army soldiers came from the Seventh Infantry Division at Fort Ord, Calif., Ms. Bell said, and none were in the woods seizing marijuana plants. Instead, she said, they only provided truck convoys and helicopters for the guardsmen and Federal agents who actually carried out the eradication.

Lieutenant Zegotarski said one helicopter had been fired upon by what was believed to be a small-caliber weapon. The incident is under investigation, he said.

But Mr. Raphael, the local historian, said of the King Range, "I don't know of one incident in these mountains in 20 years in which a gun was raised by one human being against another human being until the U.S. Army came here."

Today, troops began breaking camp, vowing to return if more marijuana gardens on public land are reported in regular flyovers by the Sheriff's Department.

As they left town, the soldiers and guardsmen drove by the Garberville Theater, whose marquee has become the bulletin board for community sentiment about their work. It read: "Green Sweep U.S.A. — Another \$700 Hammer."

Agent Orange Study Was Obstructed, Panel Says

By KEITH SCHNEIDER Special to The New York Times

New York Times (1923-Current file); Aug 10, 1990;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. A12

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microfilm.

Marijuana gardens in southern Humboldt County, Calif., were raided in the last two weeks by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and the

Bureau of Land Management. About 1,200 plants were destroyed in the Federal operation, which included soldiers armed with M-16 rifles.

Agent Orange Study Was Obstructed, Panel Says

By KEITH SCHNEIDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 — After 14 months of investigation, a House committee concluded today that the Reagan Administration had obstructed a \$43 million Federal health study of Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange, causing the study's cancellation.

A panel of Federal officials and scientists halted the study in 1987, saying it was scientifically impossible to establish the levels of exposure for individual veterans.

But the House committee, after reviewing evidence from the National Academy of Sciences, the Defense Department and the Centers for Disease Control who had participated in the health study, said military records could be used to identify veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

A spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control, which had been supervising the study, said today that the agency had not seen the House report and was not prepared to respond.

Fear of Liability Cited

The report, by the House Government Operations Committee, said the White House feared that if a health study found a link between the veterans' exposure to Agent Orange and any illnesses the Government could be liable for billions of dollars in compensation claims. Veterans who say their injuries or illnesses were caused by Agent Orange do not now receive compensation from the Government.

While most Republicans on the committee supported the report, 6 of the 15 Republican members disagreed with the conclusions. In a dissenting report, they said ample evidence existed to

conclude that the health study was canceled solely on scientific grounds, and called the report an "ideological assault upon a Republican White House."

The report is the latest aspect of a scientific and political struggle over Agent Orange that has periodically engulfed Federal health and environmental agencies, Congress, veterans' groups and the courts since the issue arose in 1978.

The report was based on an investigation by Representative Ted Weiss, a Manhattan Democrat who is chairman

Charges and countercharges in a health study.

of the committee's Subcommittee on Human Resources.

Agent Orange, a herbicide widely used by American forces to destroy cover and crops used by Communist troops in the Vietnam War, contained trace amounts of dioxin, a chemical compound known to cause tumors and birth defects in laboratory animals.

Vietnam veterans exposed to it believe Agent Orange caused numerous illnesses and birth deformities. Last week the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America filed separate lawsuits in Federal District Court here against two Federal health agencies and the Department of Veterans Affairs for failing to complete the health study of Vietnam veterans.

In 1979 Congress passed a law ordering the Veterans Administration, the

precursor of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to make the first comprehensive assessment of the health of veterans exposed to Agent Orange. A vital facet of the study was a project to review military records and locate troop movements through regions sprayed with Agent Orange.

The V.A. was unable to develop the protocols for conducting the health study, and in 1982 Congress transferred the research to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Records Termed Inadequate

According to the committee report, the White House began to direct essential aspects of the C.D.C. study through the Agent Orange Working Group, a 34-member panel of Federal scientists and health officials established in the Carter Administration who reviewed studies of Vietnam-era defoliants.

The most important decision of the panel was its determination in 1987 that the Pentagon's records on troop movements in areas that had been sprayed with Agent Orange were not adequate for conducting the study. Gaps and flaws in the records, the panel said, made it impossible to accurately measure a soldier's exposure to the defoliant.

But the House report concluded that such measurements were possible.

The report said, "The White House was deeply concerned that the Federal Government would be placed in the position of paying compensation to veterans suffering diseases related to Agent Orange, and feared that providing help to Vietnam veterans would set the precedent of having the U.S. compensate civilian victims of toxic contaminant exposure, too."

Potency-Increase Myth

To the Editor:

Your Oct. 29 front-page article on marijuana repeats one of the most pervasive myths about American marijuana. The potency of marijuana (the content by weight of active delta-9-THC) has not changed since regular monitoring began. The claim that potency increased tenfold was manufactured by comparing a high potency figure for domestically seized products in the early 1980's (approximately 3.9 percent) to a very low potency number (.4 percent) reported in the early 1970's. This .4 percent figure was generated by assessing a small number of low-potency Mexican "kilobricks" seized by the Drug Enforcement Agency in 1974.

Since the federally funded monitoring product now annually measures more than 100 seized batches, potency has remained constant at less than 3 percent, and 1990 potency was actually lower than 1982. These measures include some high potency unpollinated plants (sinsemilla), a product available in the United States in the 1970's, but not seized regularly by the D.E.A. The repetition of the undocumented potency claims by governmental and governmentally funded speakers parallels the similarly undocumented claims of marijuana's adverse immune, reproductive and motivational effects.

The most common drug arrest in this country remains simple possession of marijuana. More than 600,000 Americans were so arrested and charged last year.

The raining down of misinformation has been matched by the raining down of firepower from police weapons, including helicopter gunships in Humboldt County, California, and Clay County, Kentucky. The price of marijuana has been escalated to the point where an ounce of marijuana costs more in New York City than an ounce of cocaine.

The greatest hazard to the user of marijuana is not drug toxicity, but the legal hazard and the hazard of prohibition's step-child, workplace urine testing for marijuana. Normalization of marijuana use, be it legalization or decriminalization, or the issuance of growing permits, is the solution.

JOHN P. MORGAN, M.D.

Professor of Pharmacology
CUNY Medical School
New York, Nov. 1, 1991

The Anderson Valley: Behind the Redwoods, A California Dream

R W APPLE Jr

New York Times (1923-Current file); Jan 8, 2003;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. F1

The Anderson Valley: Behind the Redwoods, A California Dream



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Photographs by Terrence McCarthy for The New York Times

NATURAL BLESSINGS A split-rail fence guards old vines at Navarro Vineyards in the Anderson Valley in Northern California. Top, Don and Sally Schmitt at their organic farm stand, and one of the area's many sheep ranches.

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

BOONVILLE, Calif.

WHEN you turn off busy Route 101 at Cloverdale and head up into the hills, you leave one world behind and enter another. The lumberyard, gas stations and fast-food joints quickly disappear as Route 128 twists its way northwest through scrawny, moss-covered trees. Only a scattering of houses can be seen.

Forests of evergreens begin to appear as you drop down the western slope of the coastal ridge into the Anderson Valley, California's own Shangri-La. After passing through downtown Boonville, all seven blocks

and 974 souls of it, you start to see grapevines growing in orderly ranks. But this is a vineyard region with a difference, still largely untouched by developers and weekenders. In Napa and Sonoma, the landed gentry drive Range Rovers and wear loafers; here they drive pickups and wear muddy boots. It is, as Bruce C. Cass observes mildly in "The Oxford Companion to the Wines of North America," "an isolated and somewhat eccentric district."

Early in the last century, the locals developed a lingo that they call "boonting," in which Boonville is called "Boont" and Philo, the only other town of significance, is called "Poleeko." A few

people still speak it.

The main purpose appears to have been to confuse outsiders, including the police. The valley and the slopes above it have long sheltered a motley crew of tax-evaders, back-to-the-earthers and other unconventional citizens, including, at various times, Charles Manson and Jim Jones. Marijuana is a major cash crop; last summer the police uprooted 24,500 plants in two days, but the district attorney, a man of sturdy libertarian principles, refused to prosecute.

Crisp sparkling wine,
intense pinot noir
and simple good food

No one asks at local dinner parties whether it's O.K. to light up a joint. It's standard practice.

A lot of people still come

here to get lost," said Don Schmitt, himself a refugee from the Napa Valley, where he and his wife, Sally, operated the French Laundry before selling it to the superstar chef Thomas Keller. They now run a 32-acre organic spread called the Apple Farm with their daughter, Karen, and her husband, Tim Bates, where they grow 85 varieties of apples, including heirloom beauties like Gravensteins, Spitzenbergs and Arkansas blacks.

But the wines are the big noise in the valley, and the big money-spinner. Roederer Estate, owned by the French Champagne house of the same name, produces what many experts (and many enthusiasts, like me) consider the best American sparkling wine, and Navarro bottles a range of outstanding still wines, includ-

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Behind the Redwoods, a California Dream

Continued From First Dining Page

ing a luscious late-harvest gewürztraminer with hints of litchi.

It is geography that makes the vineyards here special. Unlike the Napa and Sonoma Valleys, the Anderson Valley opens onto the Pacific Ocean at its far end, and its floor slopes from 1,300 feet above sea level in the southeast to 800 feet in the northwest. Fog slides up the valley in the mornings, slowing the ripening process, to the benefit of cool-weather northern European grape varieties like riesling, pinot noir and chardonnay.

Driving along the ridge above the valley one day early last November, my wife, Betsey, and I felt as if we were on an island surrounded by vast, fleecy seas of cloud. But that same afternoon, as we tasted wine at a vineyard below, we luxuriated in bright sunshine that had burned through the fog.

Inevitably, the valley is attracting more and larger growers, such as Kendall-Jackson and Duckhorn Vineyards, which now produces an intense, weighty pinot noir on its Goldeneye property here. Mr. Schmitt told me he frets about absentee ownership, about limited water resources and especially about the possibility that the valley will become monocultural, with orchards and sheep pastures being converted to vastly more profitable use as vineyards.

The cultural impact has been substantial. In 1971, there were virtually no Spanish-speakers in the region. Now, following the importation of skilled Hispanic vineyard workers, more than half of the elementary and high school students speak Spanish. The valley is becoming a bit less insular.

"We feel a little like Oregonians," said Milla Handley of Handley Cellars, one of the pioneering Anderson Valley operations, which she and her husband, Rex McClellan, started 21 years ago in their basement. "We

Gewürztraminer, 85 kinds of apples and 'bahl gorms.'

love where we live. There is something comforting about the isolation of the Anderson Valley. It's small and finite, defined by the mountains. We can live by ourselves.

"There's a strong community spirit — the true hippies, the old loggers, the winos like us, the commune people, we all play softball together, we all take part in the variety show every year. We don't hate visitors, not at all, but we don't want to see the valley overrun by tourists or grapes.

"I don't want to wait to make a left turn. That worries me."

But it seems unlikely that the valley will be Napa-ized anytime soon, for all its attractions and all the Silicon Valley millions waiting to be invested. "We're too far from the Bay Area," said a young woman pouring zinfandel at the octagonal Greenwood Ridge tasting room. There's nothing to get people here — no freeways — and nothing to anchor them here — no shopping, and not very many hotels or restaurants."

THIRTY years ago, Louis Roederer of Reims, which produces the luxurious Cristal Champagne, went looking for a place to make sparkling wine in the New World. Its chairman, Jean-Claude Rouzaud, sought growing conditions as close as possible to those in France. After scouring New Zealand and Tasmania, he chose California, but not the Napa Valley, as most of his competitors did. "Here in the backwoods he found a good balance between heat in the daytime and cool temperatures at night and in the early morning," said Arnaud Weyrich, the 33-year-old Alsatian who is scheduled later this year to take over as winemaker from Michel Salgues, who is retiring.

Another advantage was the temperature gradient in the valley, which is cooler at the ocean end, hotter at the inland end. Planting began in 1982, and the first wine was released in 1988. Roederer now has 125 acres of pinot noir and chardonnay vines near the ocean, 160 in the center, around Philo, and 117 at the warmer end, which gives it a variety of lots from which to blend.

The whole Roederer operation was conceived in lavish but understated terms, with handsome stone walls and iron gates surrounding the main property, and the winery tucked carefully behind the brow of a hill to avoid overwhelming the landscape. The public tasting room is furnished with tapestries, antiques and Oriental rugs.

Although the soil here differs from that in Champagne, and lime must be added to lower its acidity every two or three years, Roederer's basic California fizz, known as Roederer Estate brut, can be hard to distinguish from the old-country product. Pale, complex and truly dry, it contains a generous proportion of reserve wines, aged up to five years, as well as wines of the current harvest. The brut bottled in magnum is markedly richer and creamier.

Roederer also makes a rosé here, which has more body than most, and a magnificent vintage brut called L'Ermitage, which is comparable to Cristal in its finesse. Made only in the best years, it has tiny bubbles and deliciously yeasty and nutlike flavors.

Navarro is an entirely different bunch of grapes, planted in 1975 by Ted Bennett, who had made a fortune in the retail stereo business. Experts like Darryl Corti, the Sacramento wine and food maven, told him he'd never sell his gewürztraminer (and other aromatic varieties in which he wanted to specialize) through conventional channels. So he developed innovative techniques.

The Mendocino coast, north of here, was just becoming a destination resort at the time, and Mr. Bennett persuaded people headed there from San Francisco to stop and buy at his tasting room. His wife, Deborah Cahn, an advertising copywriter, began turning out a stylish, witty quarterly newsletter. The Internet beckoned. And restaurants like Ducasse in New York and Peristyle in New Orleans came shopping.

Jim Klein, the winemaker, who was wearing blue wraparound sunglasses when we spoke at an outdoor table next to the Navarro tasting room, told me that Mr. Bennett had bought land cheap and had therefore been able to keep prices low. He sold his 2001 chardonnay for \$9.75.

"He's very cost-oriented," said Mr. Klein, who was named winemaker of the year in 2002 by The San Francisco Chronicle. "That obviously helps. When most people were hit by the post-Sept. 11 slump, we didn't see a

beep, and 95 percent of our sales are direct. Only 5 percent goes to distributors."

In addition to bargain-basement chardonnays, crisp pinot gris, ethereal gewürztraminers and zingy rieslings, Navarro makes excellent pinot noirs, light-bodied but subtle and age worthy, from grapes grown high on the slopes above the winery, where they are exposed to the cool maritime breezes.

Milla Handley, a great-granddaughter of the founder of Blitz-Weinhard, a regionally renowned brewery in Portland, Ore., gradu-

ated from the nation's premier oenological school, at the University of California at Davis. Politically aware and socially active, she operates according to firm principles. She said she is absolutely determined, for example, "never to buy grapes for \$3,500 a ton from some yuppie grower, which would put my wines beyond reach of the average consumer."

The Handley Cellars press kit says: "Milla encourages balance between work and family by promoting a family-friendly

THE UN-NAPA Snapshots of the Anderson Valley in California, left to right from top: redwoods along Route 128 and the Navarro winery; harvesting grapes at Navarro and the dining room at the Boonville Hotel; the entrance to the hotel and Michel Salgues, the winemaker at Roederer Estate; Bruce Anderson, newspaper editor, and a bucolic moment.

atmosphere that leads to the gathering of employees' children after school, and flexible scheduling to accommodate family priorities." Now there's the authentic Anderson Valley ethos speaking.

My own favorites among Ms. Handley's wines are the lean, slightly mineral Anderson Valley chardonnay, which tastes more European than Californian, with none of the overripe butterscotch flavor produced in hot climates, and a pinot noir with overtones of ripe cherries, which she terms "the challenging child."

Others have other specialties. Husch, whose gewürz was the first Anderson Valley wine I ever tasted, 25 years ago, still does a fine job with that grape. Greenwood Ridge excels at merlot and zinfandel. Lazy Creek's young owners make highly concentrated pinot noir from the fruit of old vines.

THE local weekly, The Anderson Valley Advertiser, is as unconventional as the valley itself. Its editorial philosophy may be deduced from its front-page mottos, "Peace to the cottages! War on the palaces!" and "All happy, none rich, none poor." Not surprisingly, the local establishment, such as it is, doesn't agree very often with the paper's feisty self-description: "The country weekly that tells it like it is!"

Its editor is Bruce Anderson, 63, a tall, bearded, surprisingly courtly man who sports a beat-up fedora much like the one Averell Harriman used to wear. He prints 4,000 copies of each issue, some of which go to subscribers who live as far away as New England. In addition to printing the kinds of local tidbits that once filled many American newspapers, plus two or three pages full of readers' letters, he runs a column for the marijuana crowd called "CannibiNotes" and a weekly essay by Alexander Cockburn, the left-wing British journalist, who lives up the coast in Humboldt County.

But the paper's staple is long articles excoriating officialdom, local, national and international, contributed by freelancers who relish seeing their stuff run uncut. (Mr. Anderson pays \$25 a piece). One week in early November, targets included American imperialism, the California Fish and Game Commission and President Bush's decision to withhold all federal funds from the United Nations Agency charged with population control and maternal care.

Mr. Anderson is a relentless campaigner. He has hammered away on the case of a friend named Judi Bari, an environmental activist who was killed by a bomb. The bomber, he told me, "is still unpunished, and no serious effort has ever been made to find the truth, 12 years down the road." He suspects her former husband.

Sometimes The Advertiser goes off the deep end, but always entertainingly. For months, Mr. Anderson promoted the idea that a certain Wanda Tinasky, who wrote regular letters to the paper, was in reality the reclusive novelist Thomas Pynchon, and that Mr. Pynchon was living in hiding somewhere in the region.

"In fact," the editor said, "Tinasky was nothing but an erudite old hippie who later murdered his wife and killed himself. I was wrong — at book length."

The general air of zaniness in the valley is enhanced by boontling. Despite the efforts of Heidi Haughey Cusick of the Mendocino County Alliance, we never managed to find a boontling speaker. But the lingo is all around you. A cafe in Boonville is called "Horn of Zeese" (cup of coffee), a booth on the main drag is labeled "Buckey Walter" (pay phone) and fanciers of the grape refer to good wine as "bahl seep." Handley makes a gewürz-riesling blend called Brightlighter, which means city folk in boontling.

There is plenty of "bahl gorms" (good food) in the valley. On the more casual side, Boonville's Redwood Drive In produces a knockout Ortega burger, made with an Ortega chili and pepper Jack cheese, and Libby's Restaurant in Philo, a funky Tex-Mex place with a hand-lettered "Mendocino County Mobilization for Peace" sign in the window, makes everything from scratch — mole sauce, guacamole and vibrant salsa fresca. It also stocks 25 local wines.

Johnny Schmitt, son of the French Laundry's old proprietors, runs the 10-bedroom Boonville Hotel, which from the outside looks like something on the Paramount back lot, with a broad, two-tiered cowtown veranda. Inside, it's Sante Fe — all autumnal colors, sisal rugs and updated Shaker-style furniture — plus a good dining room.

Mr. Schmitt doesn't mess around at the range. He coaxes real flavors from real ingredients: a rich tomato and white bean soup with spicy sausage, a Caesar salad with superlative romaine (after all, this is California, folks), a thin-crust pizza with cherry tomatoes and killer applewood-smoked bacon, and a rare rib-eye steak and mushrooms on a bed of spinach with proper horseradish cream.

After that feed, there was nothing to do but drive back to the coast, where we were staying, along the glassy Navarro River and through a canyon of second-growth redwoods. Stumps the size of Volkswagens stood among the trees that towered above our heads. The ground was carpeted in fallen red needles, and the air smelled spicy.

The Pacific was foaming and churning when we approached the Elk Cove Inn, our local headquarters, in the waterside hamlet of Elk. As the sky spun through its kaleidoscopic changes, from gold to pink to lavender, fearsome waves crashed into offshore rocks that looked to us like Monet haystacks that had drifted out to sea.

"Perfection," said Mrs. A, who can never resist a good sunset.

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June 18, 2006

MUSIC

Summer of Love Redux

By WILL HERMES

ASA IRONS of the Vermont musical collective Feathers is stroking his beard. It is formidable beard; a biblical beard. He and his band mates — who mainly operate out of a rural farmhouse without cellphones, Internet, manager or booking agent — are at WNYC radio to perform their enigmatic, pixie-ish folk-rock on the long-running show "Spinning on Air." Today their instruments include a lap harp, a toy xylophone, a Middle Eastern hand drum and an acoustic guitar hand-painted with animals and rainbows.

Ruth Garbus, a dark-eyed 24-year-old whose T-shirt depicts tractors flying through space, is talking about conjuring mystery with music, "that whole psychedelic thing of letting your mind go where it will." Mr. Irons, 24, his long hair tied up in a bun, chimes in with a story about working as a carpenter and about growing up with parents who were "woods hippies, not town hippies."

"I'm all about the old world, man," Mr. Irons says with a mischievous laugh.

Perhaps. But he and his band mates are also about a new world: one of the most creatively vigorous strains of underground music. Initially dubbed "freak folk," it looked like a trend of the moment a couple of years ago, when two California artists, Joanna Newsom and Devendra Banhart, attracted attention with charmingly shaggy, deceptively whimsical, largely acoustic albums.

But the scene they spearheaded has grown steadily and expanded sonically, getting less folkie and more, well, freaky. It has also gone international. And this season — the Summer of Love 2.0 — it comes into full, wild bloom with releases, tours and festival appearances that promise nothing less than a new age of Aquarius.

The new music is more a mind-set than a genre. It usually employs acoustic instruments, though it's as likely to have roots in progressive rock, free jazz or Brazilian pop as in Appalachian ballads.

Vocals tend toward the willfully eccentric, arrangements toward the exotic, lyrics toward the oblique. The sound can range from gentle ensemble music befitting a Renaissance fair to electric psychedelia befitting an acid test. The musicians often conjure the 60's in grooming and countercultural/utopian/back-to-the-land vibe. Many are friends, cultivating a communal network of informal collaboration: they tour together, play on one another's records and sing one another's praises. But with a tendency toward art that's both homespun and solipsistic, and that shows little interest in music industry trappings, they can seem less interested in Making It Big than in keeping it small.

Still, the music is on the rise: for every backwoods group of musicians like Feathers, there are equally beguiling bands like Lavender Diamond, which is based in Los Angeles and engaged a publicity firm before

even making a full album. This summer kindred bands like the darkly pastoral Espers, the gorgeously lyrical Vetiver, the raging Comets on Fire, the entrancing Six Organs of Admittance, the boogie-rocking Howlin Rain, the molasses-grooved Brightblack Morning Light, the computer-enhanced Tunng, the improvisatory Wooden Wand and the noisily experimental Grizzly Bear are all releasing CD's, as are others — Jolie Holland, Ane Brun, Cibelle, Juana Molina and M. Ward — less connected to the scene but reflecting its aesthetics. And that's not to mention promising artists like Alela Diane (www.myspace.com/alelamusic) who are popping up almost daily on Internet showcases.

These acts mainly play clubs, and their records remain tiny blips on SoundScan. But that may soon change. Virtually every major indie-rock label has embraced the style, including many veteran marketers of punk attitude that would recently have avoided anything vaguely "hippie." Even Warp, the standard-bearer of British techno, has signed the woodsy Grizzly Bear. And Mr. Banhart is now signed to the hot British XL label, home to the White Stripes and Radiohead's Thom Yorke.

If the major labels are lagging — well, that's what major labels do. But with the endless-summer, hippie-folk-lite of Jack Johnson hitting No. 1 on the charts earlier this year, they probably won't be for long.

Mr. Banhart, who got so much attention in 2004, remains the king of the scene and has extended his reach beyond it. He was recently invited to perform at a Chanel fashion show, to help organize the British alternative-pop festival All Tomorrow's Parties and to perform at this weekend's Bonnaroo Festival in Tennessee. He was even romantically linked, for a moment, to the starlet [Lindsay Lohan](#). Along the way the neo-hippie revival he represents is gaining cultural traction. Vice, the magazine, clothing line, record label and all-around hipster franchise, has scheduled psychedelic-rock acts (the veterans Blue Cheer and Roky Erikson, and Boredoms, a Japanese band) among the top acts at the Intonation Festival it sponsors next weekend in Chicago. And "Just Another Diamond Day," a 1969 song by Vashti Bunyan — an eccentric British singer who's a folksy patron saint of the new scene — is now playing in a T-Mobile ad.

To make the most of all this interest, archival labels are busy bringing out albums that have been out of print for decades. "We're living in the age of the reissue," said Michael Klausman, a buyer for Other Music in New York, a store that is a major source of experimental folk. "For some of the younger musicians, these old records are their formative influences. You see them engaging with the music of their parents' generation almost like it's a contemporary phenomena."

This summer's version of freak folk tends to be darker and more experimental than first-wavers like Mr. Banhart and Ms. Newsom. The guitarist Ben Chasny is a Northern Californian whose pleasantly droning electro-acoustic recordings date back to the late 90's. He appears on three impressive new records this season: "The Sun Awakens," a haunting mix of fingerpicking and feedback by his main creative vehicle, Six Organs of Admittance (who perform at the Mercury Lounge in New York on July 6); "Black Ships Ate the Sky," an "apocalyptic folk" song-cycle by the former industrial rockers Current 93; and "Avatar," a ferocious psych-rock set by Comets on Fire (out Aug. 9).

Mr. Chasny, like many musicians on the scene, is a self-confessed record geek. "The whole thing for me at first was getting the beautiful, mysterious record that made you wonder, 'Who are these guys?' But then I'd mail-order these crazy psychedelic folk records and feel, 'Well, that wasn't really crazy enough.' So I started making the records I wanted to hear."

Mr. Chasny's work with Comets on Fire of Santa Cruz represents the noisier side of new psychedelia, as does the self-titled debut by Howlin Rain, a side project of the Comets' guitarist Ethan Miller. Their screaming guitars are worlds away from the laid-back sound of most modern "hippie rock."

"I come from the biggest hippie area in the world," said Mr. Chasny, who grew up in Arcata, Calif. "But they don't listen to the real hippie music. They listen to Phish and that groove stuff. I love the old psychedelic music because it wasn't just imagery."

"It was music that meant something," he added.

Precisely what the music meant then, and means now, is an open question. "It's a very Aquarian thing," explained Jay Babcock, editor in chief of *Arthur*, a free-distribution music magazine (with articles on progressive politics and herbalism) that has become the central voice of the new scene. "Hallucinogens, rock 'n' roll, love of nature, interest in social justice. These are all people basically fleeing in horror from the homogenizing, materialist, bottom-line corporate monoculture that's overtaking America."

Greg Weeks of the Philadelphia electro-acoustic group *Espers* said, "There's an element in this community that's tied in to the most valid aspects of the counterculture and learning from the mistakes of the earlier generation."

For one thing, he notes that "there isn't so much reckless abandon" with regard to drug use; just alcohol, marijuana and the occasional psychedelic, most say. Politics, meanwhile, tend to be expressed subtly, through the way people live rather than through explicit song lyrics. "You don't have to have a grand statement," Mr. Weeks said. "You can just do things in your own little way, put them out there, and if people respond, it's going to have a chain reaction. And I think that's kind of what's happening."

Nathan Shineywater and Rachael Hughes of *Brightblack Morning Light* are an example of that. Hailing from Alabama, they have spent the last couple of years living in tents (and a renovated chicken coop) near Lagunitas, Calif. Their group — whose *Crystal Totem* tour, with *Espers*, comes to Brooklyn's Southpaw on Wednesday and the *Mercury Lounge* on Friday — will release a marvelously hypnotic self-titled CD this week that's awash in liquid slide guitar and burbling Fender Rhodes progressions.

"Most of the album was written on hikes at Point Reyes National Seashore and is about interacting with the wilderness," said Mr. Shineywater from a truck stop en route to Joshua Tree, where he, Ms. Hughes and their dog planned to do some camping with friends (including Mr. Babcock).

As he speaks about nature worship and what psilocybin mushrooms "could do for our collective consciousness," he obviously relishes his role as hippie ambassador. But he and Ms. Hughes are clearly sincere back-to-the-landers: they work with the eco-activist group *Earth First!* and organize the *Quiet Quiet Ocean* festival, an annual music event in California. Naturally, their friends Mr. Banhart and Ms. Newsom drop by.

Community building is an important feature of the scene, both in the United States and abroad. Members of *Feathers* single out the Finnish experimental folk scene for praise, specifically artists like *Lau Nau* and *Islaja* and labels like *Fonal*, and talk of forthcoming collaborations. Juana Molina of Argentina, whose "Son" is one of the year's top electro-acoustic records, plans to record this month with Mr. Banhart and Andy Cobic of

Vetiver (whose new CD, "To Find Me Gone," showcases some of the new scene's best songwriting).

Judging from the number of international artists exploring similar sounds, collective consciousness may be at work. Last month the debut CD by a Swedish singer named Ane Brun was released in the United States; its slightly surreal folksiness suggests the influence of Mr. Banhart's music, though Ms. Brun says she had not heard it. And in England, Adem and Tunng expand on folk influences with electronics. "You may be in a London basement with a laptop and a guitar, but you can make the city your rural area through music," said Mike Lindsay of Tunng, which will release its second set of clattering fusion music, "Comments of the Inner Chorus," in the United States in August.

Tunng, like many of the scene's players abroad, use loops and digital beats more prominently than its stateside counterparts, an impulse that may have to do with electronic music's larger cultural presence outside America. But the experimental appetite of the new music is inherently broad. "It's not about genre," said Cibelle, a São Paulo musician whose recent CD, "The Shine of Dried Electric Leaves," was partly produced by Mr. Lindsay and features a duet with Mr. Banhart. She says the current movement has much in common with *tropicália*, the omnivorous Brazilian cultural movement of the late 60's. (Os Mutantes, the reunited *tropicália* act, is also touring this summer, performing at Webster Hall on July 21.) "This new state of mind," she said by phone from London. "Even if musicians don't know *tropicália* by that name, they are still making music that way, by intuition, without rules, following their own uniqueness."

Perhaps that is as good an explanation as any for the new aesthetic, which is not everyone's cup of herbal tea. Critics and listeners raised on punk's supposed anti-hippie credo can be suspicious, if not wholly dismissive of the scene, while some 60's folk fans find the new incarnation too politically disengaged. As one critic wrote in *The New Republic*, artists like Ms. Newsom and Mr. Banhart "tend to communicate nothing except self-absorption."

Other old-schoolers, however, are impressed. [Neil Young](#) has invited Ms. Newsom to perform with him, and the Black Crowes singer Chris Robinson has been a devoted supporter of the scene. "For me," he wrote in an e-mail message, "the collection of artists involved in the so-called psych-folk revival serve as a reminder that in the corporate morass of today's sterile music industry, there are artists unafraid, confident and talented enough to flourish creatively in a homegrown environment."

And so it seemed last month while watching Feathers perform at Tonic, a New York club known for its openness to the new music. With five singer-songwriters, the members constantly exchanged instruments — clarinet, violin, mandolin, flute and an electric guitar that threatened like an approaching thunderstorm — and sang of searching for a home "in the fields" and "in the air."

When they finished, they packed up quickly. One needed to be back in Brattleboro by morning for an early shift at the local food co-op; others were visiting friends in Connecticut. But they took time to exchange hugs with members of the audience, leaving a little pixie dust behind before heading back to the woods.

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June 9, 2008

Marijuana Hotbed Retreats on Medicinal Use

By [JESSE MCKINLEY](#)

UKIAH, Calif. — There is probably no marijuana-friendlier place in the country than here in Mendocino County, where plants can grow more than 15 feet high, medical marijuana clubs adopt stretches of highway, and the sticky, sweet aroma of cannabis fills this city's streets during the autumn harvest.

Lately, however, residents of Mendocino County, like those in other parts of [California](#), are wondering if the state's embrace of marijuana for medicinal purposes has gone too far.

Medical marijuana was legalized under state law by California voters in 1996, and since then 11 other states have followed, even though federal law still bans the sale of any marijuana. But some frustrated residents and law enforcement officials say the California law has increasingly and unintentionally provided legal cover for large-scale marijuana growers — and the problems such big-money operations can attract.

"It's a clear shield for commercial operations," said Mike Sweeney, 60, a supporter of both medical marijuana and a local ballot measure on June 3 that called for new limits on the drug in Mendocino. "And we don't want those here."

The outcome of the ballot measure is not known, as votes are still being counted, but such community push-back is increasingly common across the state, even in the most liberal communities. In recent years, dozens of local governments have banned or restricted cannabis clubs, more formally known as dispensaries, that provide medical marijuana, in the face of public safety issues involved in its sale and cultivation, including crime and environmental damage.

"If folks had to get their dope, sorry, they would just have to get it somewhere else," said Sheriff Mark Pazin of Merced County, east of San Francisco, one of the many jurisdictions to impose new restrictions.

Under the 1996 law, known as Proposition 215, patients need a prescription to acquire medicinal marijuana, but the law gave little guidance as to how people were to acquire it. That gave rise to some patients with marijuana prescriptions growing their own in limited quantities, the opening of clubs to make it available and growers going large scale to keep those outlets supplied.

In turn, that led to the kind of worries that have bubbled up in Arcata, home of Humboldt State University, where town elders say roughly one in five homes are "indoor grows," with rooms or even entire structures converted into marijuana greenhouses.

That shift in cultivation, caused in part by record-breaking seizures by drug agents of plants grown outdoors, has been blamed for a housing shortage for Humboldt students, residential fires and the powerful — and

distracting — smell of the plant in some neighborhoods during harvest.

“I naïvely thought it was a skunk,” said Jeff Knapp, an Arcata resident who has a neighbor who is a grower.

In May, Arcata declared a moratorium on clubs to allow the city council time to address the problem. Los Angeles, which has more than 180 registered marijuana clubs, the most of any city, also declared a moratorium last year.

“There were a handful initially and then all the sudden, they started to sprout up all over,” said Dennis Zine, a member of the Los Angeles City Council. “We had marijuana facilities next to high schools and there were high school kids going over there and there was a lot of abuse taking place.”

But while even advocates of medical marijuana say they recognize that the system has problems, they question the bans. “I think there’s no doubt there’s been abuse, but there’s probably no system created by human beings that hasn’t been abused,” said Bruce Mirken, the director of communications for the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, which promotes the drug’s legalization. “But the answer to that is not the wholesale throwing out the baby with the bath water.”

All told, about 80 California cities have adopted moratoriums with more than 60 others banning the clubs outright, according to Americans for Safe Access, which advocates for medical marijuana research and treatment. Eleven counties have adopted some sort of ban or moratorium.

Such laws have led to a kind of Prohibition patchwork of “wet” and “dry” areas. In Visalia, a city of 120,000 in the state’s Central Valley, the local club was denied a permit on Main Street, so instead set up shop on a lonely section of country highway. Other clubs have retreated into people’s homes.

Kris Hermes, legal campaign director for Americans for Safe Access, said that despite the bans, 8 counties and about 30 cities had also established regulations meant to legitimize the clubs.

Mr. Zine said the moratorium in Los Angeles would allow city officials time to develop regulations and zoning, something advocates for medical marijuana say they welcome.

“There’s tons of human behavior that you and I might not want to have anything to do with,” said Allen St. Pierre, the executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or Norml, a nonprofit advocacy group in Washington. “But if they are legal, there ought to be a legal means to purchase the commodity and do business.”

Such regulations were passed in 2005 in San Francisco, which now has a 10-page application for a club permit.

Kevin Reed, owner of the Green Cross, was the first owner to get a permit in January. But he said some of the city’s other two dozen clubs were struggling to get their paperwork. “It’s taking substantially more time to move through the permit process than was envisioned,” Mr. Reed said in an e-mail message. The city’s board just extended the permit deadline until next year.

New regulations are also in the offing for local and state law enforcement, which has often found itself confused by the overlapping — and sometimes contradictory — federal, state and local laws. Under a state

law that took effect in 2004, counties can set their own limits on the amount of medical marijuana; in Mendocino, for example, growers are allowed 25 mature plants, while most counties allow six.

[Jerry Brown](#), the state attorney general, plans to release guidelines this summer to clarify the differences.

“These dispensaries aren’t supposed to be big profit centers,” Mr. Brown said. “This is supposed to be for individual use.”

The 2004 law also recognized the right of patients and caregivers to cultivate marijuana as a group, something law enforcement officials say has been abused.

Bob Nishiyama, the major crimes task force commander in Mendocino County, said there were places with 500 plants and 20 Proposition 215 letters tacked to a fence. “And technically, that’s legal because people can have 25 plants,” he said.

By any measure, medical marijuana in California is a moneymaker. In March, a group of California club owners testified before the state Board of Equalization that their industry had pumped some \$100 million in sales tax into state coffers, representing more than \$1 billion in sales.

Like many law enforcement officials, Mr. Nishiyama says he does not have a problem with medical marijuana, just with those who are exploiting it.

“If you’re growing six plants and [smoking](#) it in your own house, I could care less,” he said.

Most states that have passed subsequent medical marijuana laws have been more precise than California voters were in 1996. New Mexico, for example, allows only patients with seven medical conditions, including [cancer](#), [AIDS](#) and [epilepsy](#), to receive medical marijuana.

“California is an aberration, because it does not designate specific disease types, it does not designate weights or plant source, and it has what might be the most fungible or elastic definition of care-giver,” said Mr. St. Pierre, of Norml. Every proposition after Proposition 215 has been “narrower and narrower and more restrictive in scope,” he said.

Also complicating law enforcement’s job is that marijuana is still illegal in the eyes of the federal government, which has been increasingly aggressive about prosecuting club owners they feel have crossed the line into commercial drug dealing.

Among those recently convicted in California include a doctor and his wife from Cool who were given five years each in March for conspiracy to sell marijuana and growing more than 100 plants; a club owner from Bakersfield who pleaded guilty in March to possession of 40 pounds of marijuana with intent to distribute; and Luke Scarmazzo, a 28-year-old club owner and aspiring rapper who faces 20 years to life in prison after a conviction last month for running a multimillion-dollar club in Modesto that the government called a criminal enterprise.

And last year, the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) threatened to seize buildings from landlords who rented space to clubs, resulting in some closings across the state.

For all the federal and local opposition, marijuana as medicine has become an accepted part of life in many communities in California. Advocates say the drug helps patients with everything from the [wasting](#) effects of [chemotherapy](#) and AIDS to treatment of [anxiety](#) and headaches.

But it is not cheap. At Med X, the raided Los Angeles club, the most expensive marijuana, called Blueberry Kush, was priced at \$490 an ounce. That economic impact includes numerous ancillary businesses that serve the cannabis culture, including thriving horticulture shops, and Oakland's Oaksterdam University, a trade school where students can sign up for semester-long courses on marijuana cultivation.

For some, growing has become a second career. In Arcata, a 29-year-old man, who asked that his name not to be used for fear of arrest, said that he earned about \$25,000 every three months from selling marijuana grown in a back room to club owners from Southern California.

But others in Arcata are less welcoming. Kevin L. Hoover, the editor of the local newspaper, The Eye, has made a practice of confronting people he believes are growing marijuana. Their houses are easy to spot, he said — covered windows, tall fences, cars coming and going late at night. "Sometimes the whine of fans," he said.

Those fans, of course, are eating electrical power, something that also irks many.

"We're all trying to reduce our carbon footprint, but in these places the meters are spinning off the wall," said Mayor Mark Wheatley of Arcata. "When do you say, enough is enough?"

Jigar Mehta and Carolyn Marshall contributed reporting.

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September 19, 2008

Land of the Giants

By BETH GREENFIELD

ALONG [California's](#) mystical redwood coast, 1,000-year-old trees as much as four times the height of the Rockefeller Center [Christmas](#) spruce command rocky bluffs that overlook golden, frothy [beaches](#). Many travelers in search of the California redwoods never venture beyond one of the southernmost groves, the gorgeous but often crowded Muir Woods, just outside of [San Francisco](#). But a journey 300 miles farther north, through Redwood National Park and its surrounding state parks, plus outpost-like towns and the mountainous corner of southwestern [Oregon](#), is one packed with rich rewards.

Begin in Arcata, the Humboldt State University town that was founded by loggers. Today, it's populated with dreadlocked hippies and is known, in these parts at least, for the high number of houses where marijuana is covertly grown. It's also home to a minuscule airport and is a no-fuss place to rent a car, grab a fortifying granola breakfast and start your drive. You'll be going mostly north, but first dip briefly south on Highway 101. You'll pass through Arcata's sister city of [Eureka](#), whose historic district is a colorful jumble of refurbished Victorians, tiny boutiques and stunning inns, and then be on your way toward Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

MILE 35

AVENUE OF THE GIANTS

A 32-mile spur leads you off the highway and along a two-lane road (Route 254) originally built for stagecoaches in the 1880s. You'll drive beneath a canopy of massive branches belonging to the giants themselves, averaging 200 feet tall and 500 years old here. Eight Auto Tour signs offer facts on some of the history of logging (which wiped out an estimated 96 percent of the original redwoods in California) and on local wildlife including the elusive, nocturnal flying squirrel.

MILE 85

TRINIDAD

Backtrack on Highway 101 to Arcata and then continue north to this tiny town of 400, where the bluffs will present you with your first elevated view of the Pacific coastline, slate gray and misty, its shore strewn with tangles of beach grass and smooth driftwood logs. Immerse yourself in the landscape by descending into the pocket of fog along the steep, scrub-oak shaded staircase near the white and cherry-red Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse (a replica of an 1871 structure), which leads you to a rocky, sheltered pocket of Trinidad Bay.

Heading back out of Trinidad, turn left off Main Street onto Patrick's Point Drive and follow it north until,

east of Patrick's Point State Park, it ends at 101 North. You'll wind past several sandy beaches and above ocean coves where sea lions gather to bark and howl, sending eerily mournful echoes up into the trees.

MILE 100

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

The approach on Highway 101 to the southern edge of the park whisks you through a dewy, lagoon-laced landscape made magical by fog-filtered light and the Sweet Tart-like scent of bursting wildflowers. You'll quickly come through the fog (created almost daily in summer, when inland warmth clashes with the cool ocean's morning air) to the Kuchel Visitor Center just outside of the tiny town of Orick.

Redwood National Park was created by Congress in 1968, and together with abutting state parks, makes up nearly 40,000 acres of ancient forest. "The draw among visitors is to see the tallest living things on the planet," noted Jeff Denny, a National Park ranger stationed there, adding that the tallest known redwood is in this forest and stands 379 feet high (to protect the tree, rangers don't divulge its location).

Before leaving the visitor center, pick up a free permit to [hike](#) into the awe-inspiring Tall Trees Grove, and a map to guide you there.

MILE 110

TALL TREES GROVE

A slow-going, 40-minute drive along a narrow gravel road takes you to the head of a mellow trail snaking down into a mossy, shady bowl that holds Douglas firs, rhododendrons and some of the tallest redwoods in the park. Small signs note redwoods with the black, burnt bark of century-old fire scars; "spiketops," or treetops that died after too much exposure when their neighbors were logged; and an ancient streambed, a shallow ribbon of clear water and fist-size polished stones. The trees are so towering that it strains your neck to peer up at their tops, and only if you sit among them for a while, listening to the high-up branches blow and squeak in the breeze, can you truly begin to take in their immensity.

"Time, time as we dissect it in days and hours and minutes loses all meaning in a setting such as this," wrote Philip Hyde and François Leydet in the [Sierra Club's](#) "Last Redwoods," excerpted in the Tall Trees Trail Guide available at the start of the hike. "... Here are trees that have already stood for a millennium or two — and still their lives will outlast yours a thousand years." Return to 101 and drive a couple of miles north to Davison Road; turn left and continue to the parking lot at its terminus.

MILE 120

GOLD BLUFFS BEACH

This gem of a beachfront is a gorgeous spot to visit at the end of the day, when sunsets bathe the sand, [surf](#) and fields of beach grass in a gilded, otherworldly glow. You can pitch a tent and camp right on the beach or simply take the short and simple hike into deep Fern Canyon, where a 60-foot sheer ravine stands smothered in gigantic, bushy ferns. Near the beach, keep your eyes peeled for Roosevelt elk, which graze in the purple lupines.

MILE 126

NEWTON B. DRURY SCENIC PARKWAY

Take Davison Road back to Highway 101 and drive a couple of miles north to Exit 753. The Drury Parkway roughly parallels 101 for about seven miles, taking you through open, grassy land and then back to 101 at 101's Exit 765. From there, drive north on the highway 10 more miles and turn left on Requa Road.

MILE 143

REQUA

At the Historic Requa Inn, a gloriously stuck-in-time hotel on the Klamath River, guests are perfectly happy to read by the main room's fireplace or simply sit and watch the moon rise over the water. In the morning, don't miss a hike along the National Park's Coastal Trail, just a mile from the inn. It's a pathway through thick, high grasses — rimmed with patches of daisies and yellow monkey flowers and dotted with fat banana slugs — that winds along the edge of a soaring bluff, high above the crashing shores of the Pacific and the wide, whooshing Klamath River.

Just north of here, back on 101, you'll pass by the jarringly kitschy Trees of Mystery, where gigantic statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox guard a touristy gondola ride through the trees. Picture snapping is mandatory.

MILE 162

CRESCENT CITY

Though not an inviting place to linger, Crescent City is a town with a striking history. In 1964 it was struck by a tsunami that destroyed 29 blocks and more than 300 buildings and killed 11 residents. Today that history lives on through the rather ironically named local businesses — including Tsunami Lanes bowling alley and Tsunami Landing shopping center — and through its survivors, like Bob Ames, 83, a volunteer at the small and jumbled Del Norte Historical Society Museum. He took refuge in the storage room of his appliance shop when the wave hit. "The windows started to break like cannons going off," he recalled. "The building was creaking and groaning and we thought it was going to cave in. Fortunately, it didn't. But the car washed away." Follow 101 out of town and veer east onto Route 199.

MILE 167

JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOOD STATE PARK

Get in your last views of the trees by passing through California's northernmost redwood park, where easy trails lead you quickly from the roadside into awesome stands of 200-foot-high beauties. A peaceful place to stop is the Simpson-Reed Grove, where a middle-aged couple looked like cheerful wood sprites recently as they took marriage vows amid the trees and behind a colorful, handmade "John and Sandy Eloped" sign. Get back on Route 199 and head north and into Oregon.

MILE 231

GRANTS PASS

The Rogue River rushes past Grants Pass, Ore., named for [Ulysses S. Grant](#). Whitewater tours leave from town, if you want to take the time to experience the nearby rapids. This is also the point where you'll leave Route 199 and head south on Interstate 5, the busy artery that runs through the West Coast states from the Mexican border to the Canadian border, sometimes skirting the scenery but always earning an A-plus for efficiency.

MILE 279

MEDFORD

Oregon's state fruit is the pear, and you can find some of the freshest Comice and Bosc varieties right here in this artsy, picturesque Rogue Valley town, known for its high-yielding fall pear harvest and its April Pear Blossom Festival. Culinary fans will also be happy to find top-notch creameries, berry farms, chocolatiers and a clutch of [wineries](#).

MILE 292

[ASHLAND](#)

Ashland is a liberal river-valley town known for its wineries, great restaurants, strollable downtown and, most of all, its Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which runs nearly a dozen plays each year between February and October at its campus of Elizabethan-style theaters. Make a short stop for lunch or a longer one for some drama. Then backtrack to Medford, where you'll find a well-served commercial airport, and catch a plane for home.

IF YOU GO

The Arcata/Eureka Airport, in the town of McKinleyville, is served by Delta, [United Airlines](#) and Horizon Air, as well as several major rental car companies.

The Redwood [National Park](#) Web site, www.nps.gov/redw, has details on [hiking](#) trails, including the Tall Trees Grove; on campgrounds, including Gold Bluffs Beach; and on surrounding state parks, including the Jedediah Smith Redwood State Park.

There are a handful of inns in Trinidad, including the Trinidad Bay Bed and Breakfast (707-677-0840; www.trinidadbaybnb.com), with rooms, for \$200 to \$250, that have incredible bay views; and the Lost Whale Inn (707-677-3425; www.lostwhaleinn.com), with rooms for \$200 to \$285, perched above a scenic cove.

The Historic Requa Inn (707-482-1425; www.requainn.com), at the edge of the National Park, has rooms, many with river views and all including a big breakfast, for \$99 to \$169.

Hotels in [Ashland](#), Ore., include the Ashland Creek Inn (541-482-3315; www.ashlandcreekinn.com), with rooms for \$230 to \$450, and the restored old [Ashland Springs Hotel](#) (541-488-1700; www.ashlandspringshotel.com), with rooms for \$169 to \$259.

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October 3, 2008

Waiting to Inhale on the Lost Coast

By STEPHEN HOLDEN

So much pot is smoked in [“Humboldt County”](#) that you may come away from it with a contact high. The members of the extended family at the center of this agreeable drama set in redwood country are among America’s last surviving believers in the late-’60s dream of communal retreat into nature.

Their resident patriarch, Jack ([Brad Dourif](#)), a stringy-haired, wild-eyed former physics professor with missing teeth, abandoned his career 25 years earlier to move to the “lost coast” of far Northern California with his wife, Rosie ([Frances Conroy](#)), who cultivates roses and fights off deer.

Sharing the premises are his scruffy surrogate son, Max (Chris Messina), and Max’s radiant young daughter, Charity (Madison Davenport), who knows a lot more about drugs and sex than most girls on the verge of adolescence.

The cultivation of marijuana, a thriving agricultural pursuit in the area, comes with its own hippie code of values. A central tenet shared by many growers, including Jack and Rosie, is to produce only enough plants to earn a modest living and to satisfy recreational needs. If someone gets greedy and begins mass-producing the product, the feds who monitor the industry from their helicopters may notice, swoop down and make arrests.

The filmmakers Darren Grodsky and Danny Jacobs know these people intimately. And the handsomely photographed film portrays the area as a rustic redwood paradise in which one toke of the mighty fine local weed on a summer night can turn you into a blissed-out stargazer.

If “Humboldt County” had been made in the era of [“Easy Rider”](#) and [“Five Easy Pieces.”](#) it would have romanticized these characters as the righteously free-spirited vanguard of an emerging utopia. Instead it portrays them as likable stragglers from an earlier era fighting off the lurking anxiety that their lives might be empty and useless.

The wonderful performances of Mr. Dourif, Ms. Conroy and Mr. Messina, whose Max suggests a young [Jack Nicholson](#) character transported out of time, ring true; so does their modern stoner argot. These characters are fully alive.

But the movie attaches them to a conventional, not to say creaky, hip-meets-square drama in which Peter (Jeremy Strong), a nerdy, uptight medical student from Los Angeles, finds himself stranded in the woods with them and learns to take a deep breath and live in the moment. He arrives there after an improbable one-night stand with Max’s sometime girlfriend, an abrasive, free-wheeling jazz singer named Bogart ([Fairuza Balk](#)). Peter accompanies her to Humboldt County only to be abandoned with just the clothes on his back.

Plopped into Jack’s hippie lair, Peter is frightened and clumsy in the standard manner of the ’60s square. But

as he keeps missing the bus back to Los Angeles, he surrenders to the oh-wow groove of the stoner lifestyle, and his heart opens. In a cliché I had assumed had died from overuse in the 1970s, his enlightenment is accelerated by his first puff on a joint.

Hippie heaven isn't all it's cracked up to be, and Peter encounters the same conflicts he found in Los Angeles in different guises. At the beginning we meet Peter's cold, controlling father ([Peter Bogdanovich](#)), a professor of medicine at the University of California who flunks him on an oral exam, thereby denying him his imminent residency.

Jack and Max carry on a stoner version of the same conflict. Jack, the hippie purist, is very strict about following the local pot growers' code. Max, who entertains entrepreneurial fantasies, secretly rebels. It is what sons do. The consequences are not pretty.

"Humboldt County" is rated R (Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian). It has drug taking, strong language and sexual situations.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Opens on Friday in Manhattan.

Written and directed by Darren Grodsky and Danny Jacobs; director of photography, Ernest Holtzman; edited by Ed Marx; music by Izler; production designer, Freddy Naff; produced by Jason Weiss; released by Magnolia Pictures. At Landmark's Sunshine Cinema, 139-143 East Houston Street, East Village. Running time: 1 hour 37 minutes.

WITH: Jeremy Strong (Peter), [Fairuza Balk](#) (Bogart), [Peter Bogdanovich](#) (Professor Hadley), [Frances Conroy](#) (Rosie), [Brad Dourif](#) (Jack), Chris Messina (Max) and Madison Davenport (Charity).

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The New York Times

March 5, 2010

I.H.T. OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

How California Is It?

By ALEX BEAM

LOS ANGELES — My old friend Nina is on the phone, calling me from Ojai, the bucolic California canyon community where she lives, north of Santa Barbara.

Me: “Nina, how are you?”

She: “Instant, very instant.”

Nina is a Buddhist, and I am reasonably sure she means “in the instant,” or “living in the instant.” But who knows? I left my California phrase book back at the hotel.

I love California with a complicated passion, and what I love most about it is its complete foreignness to me, nurtured in the behavioral straitjacket of America’s East Coast. Thirty years ago, an employer offered me the choice of a transfer from New York to Detroit, or to Los Angeles. I chose L.A., reasoning — correctly — that living in California would be like living overseas.

I had lived overseas, in Eastern and Western Europe, but my two years in California were more exotic, by far. Now I return once a year to my favorite foreign country — currently ruled by an Austrian — that still doesn’t require a visa.

California is different. So different. Pedestrians obey stoplights, which is considered outlandish behavior in most American cities. Motorists heed the traffic laws, which might as well not exist in Boston, where I live. There are no toll roads, only the aptly named freeways. People often greet you on the street, without asking you for money, or for your vote.

The state’s language tics are not limited to “in the instant” and “have a nice day.” My favorite gentility when I lived here was: “May I drive you to your car?” I once enjoyed a dinner with the state senator from Humboldt county, one of the country’s leading mariculture (as in marijuana) regions. When I joshed him about his “doper” constituents, he gently corrected me. “Not ‘dopers,’” he said “growers.”

Aside: As I strolled along the Venice Beach boardwalk about ten days ago, a hawker was bearding passersby to enter his “medical marijuana” clinic. “Walk-ins are welcome!” he shouted. “The doctor is available!” How California is it?

Things happen in California that don’t happen elsewhere. I lived outside of San Francisco in the late 1990s, and when I set out for an August baseball game at the bayside Candlestick Park, a friend suggested I bring a parka. I scoffed. I froze. (Every Californian knows Mark Twain’s famous observation “the coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco.”)

You do see movie stars, or facsimiles thereof. Hiking Runyon Canyon in Hollywood last month, I passed Kal

Penn, “Kumar,” of “Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle,” twice. My children were impressed.

On my most recent visit, I was interviewing a professor in Loma Linda, when her office started to shake. Not Santiago or Port-au-Prince shaking, but enough for me to put down my notebook and take a deep breath. She hardly noticed the tremor, remarking only that “last week it was a lot worse, there was stuff coming off the shelves.”

Aside: North of San Francisco, there is a coffee joint called Shaky Grounds. How California is it?

Of course there is the nutty stuff. No religion or halting spiritual tendency goes unrepresented in the Golden State, and in my years there I have visited Hollywood’s Scientology Center, the famous Seventh-day Adventist supermarket, the Self-Realization Fellowship, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, the seat of Los Angeles Catholicism, erected earlier this decade atop the 101 freeway. Have I met the Dalai Lama? Let’s put it this way: I don’t know anyone in California who hasn’t met the Dalai Lama.

My mother, who grew up in California, claims to have inhaled incense with the renowned spiritualist Jiddu Krishnamurti some time during her youth.

Aside: Krishnamurti, born in a small town in India, died in the aforementioned Shangri-la of Ojai, present-day home of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America. How California is it?

By accident, I recently stumbled into an in-the-instant new restaurant called L.A. Forage, which urges its neighbors “to forage fruits and vegetables for us! Bring us limes from your backyard tree, or peas you’re growing in your garden.”

They vet the food for quality, then serve it gourmet-style. It was delicious. Alas, that meant I could not hear Thai Elvis sing at the Palms restaurant across town, “clearly the hardest working man in Thai Restaurant Elvis show business,” his employer claims. I also failed to visit Pasadena’s Bunny Museum, “the hoppiest place in the world.”

But, as the Governor likes to say: I’ll be back.

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The New York Times

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May 19, 2010

Creating A Cuisine Out of Smoke

By KIM SEVERSON; Rebecca Cathcart contributed reporting from Los Angeles.

CORRECTION APPENDED

EVEN preschool teachers unwind with a round of drinks now and then. But in professional kitchens, where the hours are long, the pace intense and the goal is to deliver pleasure, the need to blow off steam has long involved substances that are mind-altering and, often enough, illegal.

"Everybody smokes dope after work," said Anthony Bourdain, the author and chef who made his name chronicling drugs and debauchery in professional kitchens. "People you would never imagine."

So while it should not come as a surprise that some chefs get high, it's less often noted that drug use in the kitchen can change the experience in the dining room.

In the 1980s, cocaine helped fuel the frenetic open kitchens and boisterous dining rooms that were the incubators of celebrity chef culture. Today, a small but influential band of cooks says both their chin-dripping, carbohydrate-heavy food and the accessible, feel-good mood in their dining rooms are influenced by the kind of herb that can get people arrested.

Call it haute stoner cuisine.

"There has been an entire strata of restaurants created by chefs to feed other chefs," Mr. Bourdain said. "These are restaurants created specially for the tastes of the slightly stoned, slightly drunk chef after work."

As examples of places serving that kind of food, he offered some of David Chang's restaurants; Au Pied de Cochon in Montreal, with its poutine of foie gras; Crif Dogs in the East Village, which makes a deep-fried cheese steak hot dog; and, in fact, the entire genre of mutant-hot-dog stands.

To be sure, substance abuse and addiction are concerns in the restaurant industry, and any restaurant where an employee or owner is caught with illegal drugs could lose its liquor license.

It is also hard to imagine any ambitious kitchen could function safely during dinner rush if the staff were impaired.

And despite what Mr. Bourdain said, a great many cooks get along just fine with no chemical

assistance at all.

Nevertheless, a handful of chefs are unabashedly open about marijuana's role in their creative and recreational lives and its effect on their restaurants.

The chefs and restaurateurs Frank Falcinelli and Frank Castronovo said most of their projects -- going to Sicily to import olive oil to sell at their two Frankies Spuntino restaurants; the concept for their Brooklyn restaurant Prime Meats; even a new restaurant planned for Portland, Ore. -- were conceived with the creative help of marijuana.

Roy Choi, who owns the fleet of Kogi Korean taco trucks in Los Angeles, likens the culinary culture that has grown up around marijuana to the one that rose up around the Grateful Dead years ago. Then, people who attended the band's shows got high and shared live music. Now, people get high and share delicious, inventive and accessible food.

"It's good music, maybe a little weed and really good times and great food that makes you feel good," he said.

"We're not like Cypress Hill," Mr. Choi said, referring to a rap group known for being outspoken advocates of pot use. "It's not like a campaign to make food out of hemp, but it is a culture. It's a vibe we have."

Mr. Choi, who recently opened his first restaurant, Chego!, said he uses marijuana to keep his creativity up and to squeeze in quick breaks in the midst of 17-hour workdays.

"In the middle of a busy day, I'll smoke," he said. "Then I'll go to the record store and hang out and clear my mind or pop into a matinee movie and then come back to the streets."

Getting in touch with the haute stoner food aesthetic, though, does not necessarily mean looking at life through a haze of smoke.

The cereal milk soft-serve ice cream at Momofuku Milk Bar in Manhattan is a perfect example. A dessert based on the slightly sweet flavor of milk at the bottom of a cereal bowl particularly appeals to someone who knows both high-quality food and the cannabis-induced pleasure of a munchie session built from a late-night run to the 7-Eleven.

Christina Tosi, the pastry chef of David Chang's empire, said she was stone-cold sober when she invented it. She was in the basement of Mr. Chang's Ssam Bar late at night, trying to save a failed experiment in fried apple pies.

"I promise you there was no marijuana involved," she said. "It would have made the stress of it more bearable if it was."

Mr. Chang said drugs will always be part of kitchen culture, but that marijuana alone did not

explain the changes in the culinary landscape that his restaurants represent.

"I don't know what happened," he said. "But it certainly wasn't calculated. We wanted to serve great food at an affordable price. That's it."

Patty Scull, who lives in the East Village, recently spent part of an evening at Momofuku Milk Bar spooning up cinnamon-bun cereal milk soft-serve with chocolate fudge topping.

"It's so random that it's something you would eat if you were totally baked," she said. (For the record, she said she wasn't.)

Ms. Tosi defines haute stoner cuisine as the kind of food that tastes good in the altered state marijuana brings.

"You like to eat stuff with texture and that is really deep in flavors," said Ms. Tosi, who acknowledged the stoner appeal of her creations. "You want the ultimate sensory experience."

Even for people who don't use illegal drugs, the deep flavors and sensory appeal of dishes like the breakfast burrito pizza at Roberta's in Bushwick, Brooklyn, have an undeniable appeal. They plug directly into the reptilian portion of our brains, the side that wants what it wants and wants it now -- and also a big bowl of it, please.

"I always call it the Big Mac effect," said the chef Vinny Dotolo, who owns Animal in Los Angeles with Jon Shook. Mr. Shook's version of the French-Canadian dish poutine, built from Cheddar cheese and French fries covered in oxtail gravy, might be considered for the haute stoner food hall of fame.

The McDonald's sandwich is familiar and offers a range of tastes, Mr. Dotolo said. There are savory elements from the cheese and beef, sweetness from the sauce, tartness from the pickle and crunch from the lettuce, all surrounded by soft white bread.

"It's that thing where you're trying to hit all the senses," he said.

If you are still skeptical, check out a Web-based show called "Munchies" (www.vbs.tv/watch/munchies), which follows chefs as they party and eat late into the night, then head back to their kitchens to cook. Billows of smoke and doobie references abound. Although the show can be cagey about who is doing the smoking, featured chefs have included the men from Animal, Mr. Chang and the Franks -- Mr. Falcinelli and Mr. Castronovo.

Joanne Weir, a San Francisco cooking teacher and television personality who went to Woodstock at age 15, said that there is a difference between this period in stoner cuisine and the cooking of the hippie movement. "It's people's pursuit of the best ingredients," she said.

Chefs who smoke say that includes the marijuana itself.

"The quality of marijuana you're getting, just like the quality of booze you're getting and the quality of food you're getting, is better," Mr. Falcinelli said.

Although marijuana has long been a part of restaurant culture, its current prominence results, he said, from "a triple coincidence."

More states are legalizing marijuana or offering medical marijuana plans, so there is more and better pot in circulation, Mr. Falcinelli and other chefs said. At the same time, diners are wild about high-end snacking: witness the rise of food carts and the elevation of humble dishes like pizza, hamburgers and pork buns.

The chefs of the haute stoner cuisine movement are just as obsessive about their marijuana as they are about olive oil, wine or coffee.

"It's like getting the best cheese," Mr. Falcinelli said. "I have like four or five different types of marijuana in my refrigerator right now."

The sensibility extends to the latest wave of coffee culture. Coffee geeks are as infatuated with their Pacas varietal beans from Central America as pot users are with their sticky sinsemilla from Humboldt County in California.

Duane Sorenson, the founder of the coffee roaster Stumptown, said that fat buds of marijuana often end up in the tip jar at his shops.

"It goes hand in hand with a cup of coffee," he said. "It's called wake and bake. Grab a cup of Joe and get on with it."

Yet this is not the '70s stoner culture of a thousand basement rec rooms, with chefs sprawled on the floor saying, "Dude, where's my entree?" Some of the haute stoners claim that marijuana gives them an intense focus.

"We smoke quote-unquote the working man's weed," Mr. Falcinelli said. Mr. Castronovo added: "I'm not spacey at all. It gives me energy."

Much of the food of the haute stoner movement is well crafted and well executed by chefs with traditional culinary training who are trying to create something both countercultural and sophisticated, said Gail Simmons, special project director of Food & Wine magazine.

"You need to have some thought and some skill to make these dishes," she said. "It's not just, 'I'm twirling around at a Dead concert and I stumbled upon this cool dish.'"

Mr. Bourdain said Mr. Chang is a case in point.

"His sensibility is that he makes high-end stoner food in one respect but I feel sorry for anyone

who shows up stoned for their shift at Momofuku," he said. "He'd kill them."

Mr. Chang's establishments, Mr. Bourdain said, typify the stripping away of pretense that defines the haute stoner restaurant. Tables are bare, plates and napkins might be luxe but plain. Food comes flying from the kitchen when it's done, courses be damned.

"If you're stoned in a restaurant, you don't want to deal with six layers of tableware," Mr. Bourdain said.

Diners like the democratization of food that is part of haute stoner cuisine, as well. Rick Darge, 27, who lives in an area he calls "Beverly Hills adjacent," seeks out Mr. Choi's roaming taco trucks about once a week, using Twitter or the Web.

The search is part of the appeal, as is finding a piece of curb to sit while he eats. He feels more involved in the experience.

"We don't have to go into an establishment, or be a certain way inside," he said. "It's more organic than that."

Haute stoner cuisine is a way to reach a generation that was raised on Sprite and Funyuns and who never thought fancy restaurant food was for them, Mr. Choi said.

"We've shattered who is getting good food now," he said. "It's this silent message to everyone, to the every-day dude. It's like come here, here's a cuisine for you that will fill you up from the inside and make you feel whole and good. Weed is just a portal."

Ron Siegel, who runs the Michelin-starred dining room at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco, said he's grown past his partying days. But even he is having a little fun with haute stoner cuisine.

To serve slow-cooked quail eggs and caviar, he places them atop plastic film that tightly covers a white porcelain serving bowl. Then he fills the vessel with smoke from grated Japanese cedar packed into the bowl of a fan-driven bong he buys in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. The smoke escapes when the diner lifts a small spoon covering a hole in the plastic.

He calls it the Lincecum, after Tim Lincecum, the star pitcher for the San Francisco Giants who was arrested last fall after police found marijuana and a pipe in his car.

Like other chefs who have been around long enough to see a few trends come and go, Mr. Siegel thinks stoner food is really another version of comfort food. After particularly high-flying cultural periods or national tragedies, people retreat to dishes that are soothing and familiar, he said.

Or it could be that after an era of intensely designed or pretentious food, a retreat to simplicity

follows, said Ken Friedman, the man behind the Spotted Pig and a self-described "well-known stoner."

He doesn't characterize the food at the Pig or at the Breslin as stoner food as much as simple food. But he is a businessman who recognizes a good trend when he sees one. He designed his bar and snack emporium, the Rusty Knot, to have a '70s feel, with comfortable couches, black-light posters and snacks that are easily consumed with one hand.

"The Rusty Knot is the most stoner of all my places," he said. "It's kind of like the basement we all had when we grew up where we first smoked pot."

PHOTOS (PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES) (D1); HITTING THE SENSES: Roy Choi, top, who owns trucks that sell Korean tacos in Los Angeles, describes the culinary culture that has arisen around marijuana as "really good times and great food that makes you feel good." He also owns the restaurant Chego!, where one dish, above, includes arancini. At the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco, the chef Ron Seigel uses a bong to create cedar smoke to flavor quail eggs, left. The New York restaurateurs Frank Falcinelli, below left, and Frank Castronovo, below right, said using marijuana has helped them create new projects. (PHOTOGRAPHS BY AXEL KOESTER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; PETER DaSILVA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; MICHAEL NAGLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES) (D5)

**Arcata
Humboldt County, CA, USA
1985 - Present**

**(immediately following)
SF Chronicle**

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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

THE LOCAL BEAT / CAMP FOLLOWERS FIGHT MARIJUANA FARMERS; [SUNDAY Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 6, 1985. pg. 50

Abstract (Summary)

The crew from Shanghai, which will remain until January 18, plans to cover the San Francisco Police Department's Traffic Patrol, the St. Francis and Fairmont hotels, the California Highway Patrol's policing of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Larkspur Ferry, a television producers' convention at the Moscone Center, Marine World in Redwood City, the computer scene in Mountain View and the San Francisco Zoo. (And how much time will they spend at the panda bear grotto?)

``Weekend With the Stars ,'' a telethon for cerebral palsy to be aired Saturday night at 11:30 on Channel 7 and continuing all day next Sunday until 7 p.m., will be hosted by Henry Winkler and John Ritter. At 7 a.m. next Sunday, the local portion of the telethon will begin, featuring Bay Area media personalities Russ Coughlan, Melanie Morgan, Pete Wilson, Fred La Cosse, Terry Lowry, Cheryl Jennings, Don Sanchez, Jack Hanson, Beverly Johnson and Joe Carcione.

Don Sanchez begins hosting ``Plays and Players,'' a weekly 15-minute sports wrapup show tonight at 11:45 on Channel 7. Sanchez will spotlight local and national stories ranging from professional to collegiate to high school sporting events. On ``Evening Magazine ,'' tomorrow at 7 p.m. on Channel 5, hosts [Richard Hart] and [Jan Yanehiro] meet fashion photographer Francesco Scavullo, who has transformed his favorite pictures into silk screens.

Full Text (676 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 6, 1985

CAMP, WHICH stands for Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, is a strike force of California and federal law enforcement representatives currently engaged in all-out war on drug traffic.

This force is armed with air support and ground troops and has intensified its raids heavily in counties on the north coast of California - a paramilitary action documented in ``The Cannabis Crusade ,'' a report on ``Express ,'' being repeated today at 5 p.m. on Channel 9.

A spokesman for CAMP reports that 50 percent of the north coast's illegal 1984 harvest was confiscated. On the other side, representatives of the ``pot farmers'' contend that these raids will not curb the lucrative marijuana market, which has filled some of the economic void left by declining lumber and fishing industries in depressed Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

Citizens in these counties have been on edge recently because of a growing war between small-scale local marijuana farmers and well-financed absentee growers who have hired armed guards to protect their crops.

On camera, several small-time pot growers discuss who they are and how they live, and make a distinction between themselves and the big growers.

Norman de Vall, Mendocino County supervisor, points out that many not involved in the marijuana wars have moved because ``they didn't want to be, in essence, in a war zone.''

``When those helicopters come in, it only underlines there is something wrong in the community,'' de Vall says. ``We're very much aware of the Vietnamization of Mendocino County, as it's coming about through the CAMP program."``

A crew of six will arrive tomorrow from Shanghai Television of the People's Republic of China to record life in the Bay Area.

This is part of a cultural exchange with KPIX-TV, which in November sent Jan Yanehiro and Richard Hart of ``Evening Magazine'' to China to shoot a series of stories about life in Shanghai. Those stories will be aired on KPIX January 28 through February 1.

The crew from Shanghai, which will remain until January 18, plans to cover the San Francisco Police Department's Traffic Patrol, the St. Francis and Fairmont hotels, the California Highway Patrol's policing of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Larkspur Ferry, a television producers' convention at the Moscone Center, Marine World in Redwood City, the computer scene in Mountain View and the San Francisco Zoo. (And how much time will they spend at the panda bear grotto?)

``Weekend With the Stars ,'' a telethon for cerebral palsy to be aired Saturday night at 11:30 on Channel 7 and continuing all day next Sunday until 7 p.m., will be hosted by Henry Winkler and John Ritter. At 7 a.m. next Sunday, the local portion of the telethon will begin, featuring Bay Area media personalities Russ Coughlan, Melanie Morgan, Pete Wilson, Fred La Cosse, Terry Lowry, Cheryl Jennings, Don Sanchez, Jack Hanson, Beverly Johnson and Joe Carcione.

The banks of telephones for pledges will be manned by Bay Area comedians, disc jockeys, news anchors, sports heroes, musicians, politicians and other personalities.

Gynecologist Dr. Laurie Green, a guest on ``People Are Talking '' on Monday at 10 a.m. on Channel 5, talks about how a woman's body changes as she grows older and how the aging process can be made easier. Another guest that morning will be fitness expert Joanie Greggains. On Thursday, the Rev. Miles Riley discusses why he feels that Colleen McCullough wrote the best-selling novel ``The Thorn Birds'' as a form of revenge against the church.

Don Sanchez begins hosting ``Plays and Players,'' a weekly 15-minute sports wrapup show tonight at 11:45 on Channel 7. Sanchez will spotlight local and national stories ranging from professional to collegiate to high school sporting events. On ``Evening Magazine ,'' tomorrow at 7 p.m. on Channel 5, hosts Hart and Yanehiro meet fashion photographer Francesco Scavullo, who has transformed his favorite pictures into silk screens.

A member of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting burns off some of the weed in Mendocino County=Russ Coughlan, Melanie Morgan, Pete Wilson: Local celebs for a telethon

[Illustration]

PHOTO (4); Caption: SEE END OF STORY

Indexing (document details)

Section: *SUNDAY DATEBOOK*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 6, 1985. pg. 50

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63149401

Text Word Count 676

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63149401&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

A PRISON TERM FOR GROWING POT ON RESERVATION; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 18, 1985. pg. 6

Abstract (Summary)

Prosecutor Peter Robinson said [Gordon McCovey] is the first Indian to be sentenced in federal court for growing pot on an Indian reservation.

Full Text (130 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 18, 1985

A Hoopa Indian was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison yesterday for growing marijuana on the reservation near Eureka in Humboldt County.

Gordon McCovey, 29, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick in San Francisco after a jury convicted him of growing 391 marijuana plants worth more than \$300,000.

Prosecutor Peter Robinson said McCovey is the first Indian to be sentenced in federal court for growing pot on an Indian reservation.

Judge Orrick granted four years' probation to McCovey's wife, Vicki, who was convicted of possession. The judge said he was leaving her free to care for the couple's two small children.

The marijuana patch was spotted from a Sheriff's Department plane in August. McCovey and his wife were convicted after a four-day jury trial in November.

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 18, 1985. pg. 6

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63151234

Text Word Count 130

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63151234&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

DONATION ASKED TO FIGHT POT GROWERS; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 26, 1985. pg. 2

Abstract (Summary)

Mendocino and Humboldt County officials and aides to Governor Deukmejian met yesterday to discuss more aid to North Coast counties burdened with the costs of prosecuting pot farmers.

Full Text (98 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 26, 1985

Ukiah

Cash-poor Mendocino County is asking citizens to donate money to keep helicopter-borne pot raiders flying this summer.

The fund is an outgrowth of a request from Sheriff Tim Shea's recent for \$128,000 to field a second helicopter-equipped team of pot raiders in the state-sponsored Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

County supervisors, with virtually no cash reserves, denied the request, but vowed to lobby aggressively for more state funds.

Mendocino and Humboldt County officials and aides to Governor Deukmejian met yesterday to discuss more aid to North Coast counties burdened with the costs of prosecuting pot farmers.

Our Correspondent

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Ukiah
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 26, 1985. pg. 2
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 63153915
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Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63153915&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Eureka Jeweler Charged As Pot Farm Financier; [TWO STAR Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 17, 1985. pg. 3

Abstract (Summary)

Lee Grushkin, 61, who owns two Lee's Jewelry Company stores, was charged with conspiring with another man to operate a "sophisticated" indoor marijuana farm on property the jeweler owns in Kneeland, a remote area of Humboldt County.

The FBI raided Grushkin's property last August and seized 316 plants in an indoor pot farm. Grushkin then denied knowing that his tenant, Frank Church, was growing marijuana on the Kneeland property.

Full Text (237 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 17, 1985

A prominent Eureka jeweler became the first Northern Californian to be charged as a "silent partner" in a drug scheme when he was arrested yesterday by FBI agents for conspiring to grow marijuana.

Lee Grushkin, 61, who owns two Lee's Jewelry Company stores, was charged with conspiring with another man to operate a "sophisticated" indoor marijuana farm on property the jeweler owns in Kneeland, a remote area of Humboldt County.

"It's a sad occasion that otherwise respectable business people appear to have been infected with the cancer of marijuana cultivation and the easy money that can be made," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson, who is prosecuting the case.

The FBI raided Grushkin's property last August and seized 316 plants in an indoor pot farm. Grushkin then denied knowing that his tenant, Frank Church, was growing marijuana on the Kneeland property.

Church was convicted for growing marijuana and is serving a three-month jail term.

Yesterday, the FBI charged that Grushkin coaxed Church into growing the marijuana and was sharing in the profits from the drug's sale.

"This is the first time we have been able to go beyond the grower and reach the silent partner or financier," said Robinson.

Besides the conspiracy charge, Grushkin was also accused of making false statements to FBI agents.

If convicted, Grushkin faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$265,000 fine. The jeweler is free on \$10,000 bail.

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 17, 1985. pg. 3

Source type: Newspaper

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237

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San Francisco Chronicle

3 Carl Street Residents Missing / Lake Case Turns to the Haight; [FINAL Edition]

Dave Farrell, Judy Miller. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 19, 1985. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

Investigators also found more bones, stained clothes and a vehicle license plate at a nearby dump site. The three people missing from the Carl Street building were traced after police found Jacobson's 24-hour bank card in Lake's possession after he was arrested on June 2. It was learned that police believe that cryptic coding in Lake's diary refers to the Carl Street building and the three missing tenants.

Little is known about [Maurice Wock] and [Cheryl Okaro], the other two missing tenants from the Carl Street apartment building. An acquaintance who knew Wock described him as a "reclusive man" who rarely ventured out of his room.

Okaro's name was on the mailbox at Lake's Calaveras property until just a few months ago, said a Postal Service worker who asked not to be identified. And packages containing videotapes were mailed from a Southern California company to Okaro. Also packages, with Okaro's return address in Calaveras, were sent to the Philo Motel in Mendocino County where [Leonard Lake] lived in the early 1980s.

Full Text (854 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 19, 1985

Three residents of a Haight-Ashbury apartment house often visited by Leonard Lake emerged yesterday as the latest possible victims in the Calaveras County killings.

The three are Maurice Wock, 38, Cheryl Okaro, 26, and Randy Jacobson, 35, The Chronicle learned. They lived at 198 Carl Street.

In other developments yesterday, Calaveras County searchers unearthed a torso of a white adult buried two feet underground near a chicken coop at Lake's hideaway in Wilseyville. They previously found the remains of two black men, two women and a child. None has been identified.

Investigators also found more bones, stained clothes and a vehicle license plate at a nearby dump site. The three people missing from the Carl Street building were traced after police found Jacobson's 24-hour bank card in Lake's possession after he was arrested on June 2. It was learned that police believe that cryptic coding in Lake's diary refers to the Carl Street building and the three missing tenants.

Lake committed suicide while in police custody, and his alleged accomplice, Charles Ng, remains at large.

Jacobson's girlfriend, who asked not to be named, said that she last saw her boyfriend with Lake on October 15 in San Francisco. Lake wanted to buy Jacobson's van, and was trying to persuade him to help him tend a marijuana farm in Humboldt County. She said that her boyfriend refused.

The woman said she later received a note from Jacobson, her boyfriend of five years, saying he had gone to help "Steve" make marijuana deals in San Jose. She could not identify "Steve."

The girlfriend said that she never suspected foul play until police contacted her last week. "They told me they were 99 percent sure he was dead," she said.

Jacobson's girlfriend said that Lake entered the couple's lives last summer when they met at a 19th Avenue home where she was renting a room. Lake, using the alias Alan Drey, arranged for Ng to live in a basement apartment at the home, she said.

Lake knew of the house because he had lived there in 1983, according to the woman and another tenant.

Ng stayed at the house "for about two weeks," they said. Lake visited often, and the men seemed to be working with video equipment, Jacobson's girlfriend said.

"It was secluded and secretive," she said.

Late last year, Lake showed up uninvited several times at Jacobson's Carl Street apartment, the woman said. She said that he frequently offered to do favors for her, asked her out on dates and photographed her.

"He seemed kind of strange," she said. "He made me feel very uncomfortable. He tried to touch me when he was taking those pictures."

The woman said she was fully clothed during the photo sessions and even sent some of the pictures to her family.

The last time Lake visited was October 15, the day her boyfriend disappeared.

"He said he wanted to buy our van for \$600," said the woman. "Randy said he wanted to think about it more."

Police told the woman that she is named in Lake's diary, adding that Lake wondered in his journal why she had spurned his advances.

Janet Shephard, a tenant of the Carl Street building, said that Wock left suddenly last summer without telling anyone and without taking his belongings.

Wock, she said, was "overly naive and trusting. He always reminded me of a child in the sense that he was looking for a leader, looking for someone to show him the way."

Little is known about Wock and Okaro, the other two missing tenants from the Carl Street apartment building. An acquaintance who knew Wock described him as a "reclusive man" who rarely ventured out of his room.

Okaro's name was on the mailbox at Lake's Calaveras property until just a few months ago, said a Postal Service worker who asked not to be identified. And packages containing videotapes were mailed from a Southern California company to Okaro. Also packages, with Okaro's return address in Calaveras, were sent to the Philo Motel in Mendocino County where Lake lived in the early 1980s.

Meanwhile, it was learned that another San Franciscan disappeared after saying that he planned to "go up to the country with Ng" to spend the money he won in an office Super Bowl pool.

The missing man, Cliff Peranteau, 24, is one of two of Ng's co-workers who have vanished. The other fellow employee of the Dennis Moving Co. was Jeff Gerald, 25.

Ng was a frequent companion of the missing men at the Rockin' Robin bar at 133 Beale in San Francisco, said bartender Liz Cleves.

The last she saw of Peranteau was after he won \$400 in the football pool at work. He told her that he was going "to the country" with Ng to spend the winnings.

Ng had been a regular at the tavern since March, said Cleves, adding that he would come in "almost nightly" attired in his blue-and-white moving company uniform.

Also contributing to this report were Cathy Castillo, Birney Jarvis, Robert Popp, and Stephen Magagnini.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: RANDY JACOBSON / Leonard Lake wanted his van

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Dave Farrell, Judy Miller

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 19, 1985. pg. 1
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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

Body Found at Lake's Place Identified as Missing S.F. Man; [FINAL Edition]

Stephen Magagnini. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 26, 1985. pg. 5

Abstract (Summary)

[Randy Jacobson], who disappeared from his Haight-Ashbury rooming house last October 15 after he was involved in a business deal with Lake, is the first of Lake's victims to be identified. The cause of death is still unknown, but Calaveras County coroner Terry Parker said he doubts that Jacobson was shot.

Jacobson, like several other of Lake's potential victims, had the misfortune of having a female companion who became the object of Lake's affections, Jacobson's girlfriend of five years said yesterday.

Meanwhile yesterday, Kati Corsaut of the Department of Justice said experts have identified prints on four glasses found in Lake's bunker as that of 27-year Lonnie Bond, Lake's next-door neighbor. One of the glasses also had Lake's prints, Corsaut said.

Full Text (855 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 26, 1985

Birney Jarvis and Peter Page contributed to this article.

Authorities yesterday identified a nude, decaying body found last week on Leonard Lake's Sierra retreat as that of 36-year-old Randy Jacobson.

Jacobson, who disappeared from his Haight-Ashbury rooming house last October 15 after he was involved in a business deal with Lake, is the first of Lake's victims to be identified. The cause of death is still unknown, but Calaveras County coroner Terry Parker said he doubts that Jacobson was shot.

Authorities are still trying to identify the remains of two black adults, a Caucasian female, an infant and a headless torso found buried on Lake's 2 1/2-acre Calaveras County hideaway.

Jacobson, described by his girlfriend as a child of the '60s hippie movement, was a slight man whose reddish-brown hair fell below his waist.

When his body was discovered under Lake's doghouse last Tuesday, investigators thought at first that the corpse was a woman's.

Jacobson, like several other of Lake's potential victims, had the misfortune of having a female companion who became the object of Lake's affections, Jacobson's girlfriend of five years said yesterday.

Jacobson's girlfriend, Marcia, who preferred to be identified only by her first name, said the couple met Lake in San Francisco in the spring of 1984.

Lake, who then went by the name of Alan Drey, "was trying to get involved in our lives and he was trying to get both of us to go with him and leave the city," Marcia said.

"Lake said he had a marijuana plantation in Humboldt County and he wanted me to go and take care of it. I said I didn't want to go because he was being very aggressive with me.

``He kept trying to ask me out on a date. He'd say, `Why don't you go out to dinner with me? We'll go to a nice place. I have plenty of money.' He acted like I would have a better time with him because he had money. I said it was kind of mean for him to do that, and I told Randy."

Last October, Jacobson left to go sell his 1961 Ford van to Lake for \$600, Marcia said. ``Lake gave me a ride to school the same day Randy disappeared, and tried to ask me out," she said.

Several days later, Marcia said she received a letter in Jacobson's handwriting saying he had gone to to live in San Jose with a man named Steve. ``It had something to do with pot," she said.

The date of Jacobson's disappearance coincides with a reference Lake made in his diary to PPIII, police said. The PP refers to the Pink Palace, the Haight-Ashbury rooming house where Jacobson lived. Police believe two other notations, PPI and PPII, refer to Maurice Rock, 38, and Cheryl Okoro, 26, who disappeared about the same time as Jacobson.

For several weeks last July, Charles Ng, Lake's suspected accomplice, lived in the basement of Marcia's Sunset District apartment, she said. Lake would often visit Ng, who is wanted on burglary and kidnap charges and is the subject of an international manhunt.

Marcia, who met Jacobson six years ago in a now-defunct Haight Street coffee house, the Shady Grove, described him as ``very peaceful. He had a lot of friends, but he was shy and bashful and a little too gullible. I gave him the nickname Cosmic Angel because he was so handsome and beautiful and looked like an angel. He liked to walk in Golden Gate Park and play his wooden flute."

Jacobson, who was on welfare in San Francisco, worked part-time at a health food store in Marin and had trouble making ends meet, Marcia said. She said Jacobson went to Lake looking for part-time work.

``I'm really upset that Lake could take advantage of people so easily - it was easy to get money from Randy's bank card, because his account had income deposited directly from Supplemental Security Income (federal welfare)."

Meanwhile yesterday, Kati Corsaut of the Department of Justice said experts have identified prints on four glasses found in Lake's bunker as that of 27-year Lonnie Bond, Lake's next-door neighbor. One of the glasses also had Lake's prints, Corsaut said.

Shortly before Bond, his common-law wife, Brenda O'Connor, and their 2-year-old son Lonnie Jr. disappeared last month, Bond had complained to friends that Lake was making advances to O'Connor.

A videotape found on Lake's property shows O'Connor, 20, pleading for the return of her baby.

Among the nearly 800 pieces of evidence recovered from Lake's property was a coin collection buried under Lake's house. Yesterday, The Chronicle learned that the collection, which police thought was stolen, is almost identical to a cache of coins found on Lake's Mendocino County property where he was arrested on weapons charges in 1982.

According to court documents, Lake purchased the collection, then valued at \$50,000, over a 10-year period from San Francisco coin dealer Richard Marcus. Marcus signed a declaration attesting that Lake bought the coins from his Powell Street shop.

Birney Jarvis and Peter Page contributed to this article.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: RANDY JACOBSON / He vanished last October

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Stephen Magagnini

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 26, 1985. pg. 5

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ProQuest document ID: 63184902

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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

Copter Raids Begin the War On Pot Fields; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 16, 1985. pg. 4

Abstract (Summary)

Four helicopters, flying from a state command post on the Eel River, were used in the raids against pot gardens in Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties. The raids will last three months and will involve many areas of the state.

[Jack Beecham] said early surveys indicate thinner pot crops this year in areas raided by CAMP in the past, although more pot gardens are seen in other parts of the state.

Full Text (242 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 16, 1985

Garberville

Helicopter-riding officers swooped into country gardens yesterday and seized marijuana plants up to 10 feet tall, starting the third year of the war on pot in Northern California.

Four helicopters, flying from a state command post on the Eel River, were used in the raids against pot gardens in Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties. The raids will last three months and will involve many areas of the state.

Yesterday's effort involved more than 100 agents, including 60 on four teams dispatched to cut down the marijuana and load it into cargo slings lowered from hovering helicopters. More than 100 plants were seized and placed in a pit at the command center, where they will be burned.

Spokeswoman Kati Corsaut of the state Department of Justice said the first flights went off without interference from local groups that have complained about the military tactics of the marijuana war. Opponents had said they would monitor this year's raids.

Paul Bassis, a leader of the newly formed Citizens Observation Group, said observers would make sure officers operate within the law and do not violate a court order limiting helicopter flights and forbidding searches of homes without warrants.

Jack Beecham, commander of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, said the raids were preceded by aerial surveillance.

Beecham said early surveys indicate thinner pot crops this year in areas raided by CAMP in the past, although more pot gardens are seen in other parts of the state.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Garberville

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 16, 1985. pg. 4

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63188772

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242

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San Francisco Chronicle

Humboldt County Opium Plants Found; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 2, 1985. pg. 71

Abstract (Summary)

[William Ruzzamenti] said the only previous commercial-size opium garden was discovered in Humboldt County in 1979. Scattered patches of up to 100 plants have since been found.

The latest find during one of the 65 CAMP raids in California this season consisted of about 400 poppy plants on a privately owned 80-acre site near Ettersburg. Also found were a solar-powered generator for irrigation and other uses, and a shelter for the growers. Ruzzamenti called it ``a real sophisticated operation."

Full Text (273 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 2, 1985

Sacramento

Opium plants found among marijuana plants in Humboldt County are being analyzed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C., an official reports.

William Ruzzamenti, deputy commander of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting - CAMP - says it has always been believed that it was not feasible to grow opium in the United States because of the climate.

Ruzzamenti said the only previous commercial-size opium garden was discovered in Humboldt County in 1979. Scattered patches of up to 100 plants have since been found.

The latest find during one of the 65 CAMP raids in California this season consisted of about 400 poppy plants on a privately owned 80-acre site near Ettersburg. Also found were a solar-powered generator for irrigation and other uses, and a shelter for the growers. Ruzzamenti called it ``a real sophisticated operation."

He said many of the poppy bulbs had been scored with a knife to milk the black tarry sap that can either be smoked raw or converted into morphine or heroin.

The tests in Washington are to determine the potency of the plants, and where they originated.

A large number of poppy plants are needed to produce enough tar to make them profitable.

``We think this is probably a test situation because the garden was so sophisticated," Ruzzamenti said.

He added that the campaigners are finding much less marijuana this year, probably because of CAMP and new penalties. He said the big growers may be seeking a plant that is harder to find - the average sinsemilla marijuana plant is about 15 feet high, and a poppy plant is about two feet high.

Associated Press

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Sacramento

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 2, 1985. pg. 71
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 63192041
Text Word Count 273
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63192041&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

California Already Has a War on Pot; [FINAL Edition]

Jack Viets. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 6, 1985. pg. 5

Abstract (Summary)

The routine of the state's aerial and ground war on pot gardens was unaffected yesterday even as "Operation Delta-9," a nationwide campaign against growers of the weed, was started with great fanfare in Washington, D.C.

The California attack was focused on the "Emerald Triangle" pot-growing areas of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, where five helicopters and assault teams of law enforcement officers dropped out of the sky to uproot remote pot plots before the harvest.

Full Text (248 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 6, 1985

The routine of the state's aerial and ground war on pot gardens was unaffected yesterday even as "Operation Delta-9," a nationwide campaign against growers of the weed, was started with great fanfare in Washington, D.C.

The California attack was focused on the "Emerald Triangle" pot-growing areas of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, where five helicopters and assault teams of law enforcement officers dropped out of the sky to uproot remote pot plots before the harvest.

"We were already doing everything we can do," said Katie Corsaut of the state attorney general's office.

She estimated that 28,000 plants have already been destroyed in the state this year, the bulk of them in the prime pot-growing triangle, where much of the state's illicit marijuana crop is cultivated.

The five helicopters from the state's \$2.6 million Campaign Against Marijuana Planting program - called CAMP - were reinforced by two additional choppers that had previously been scheduled to join the CAMP battle. They were assigned yesterday to fly missions in Butte and Fresno counties.

The CAMP raids will continue until fall, but the nationwide "Operation Delta-9" campaign by 2200 federal, state and local law officers will end in three days.

Fran McDermott of San Francisco, the California coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, described the nationwide Delta-9 operation as "primarily public relations window dressing."

"It will have no long-term impact on marijuana cultivation," she said. "As long as the demand is there, the supply will come from someplace."

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Jack Viets

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 6, 1985. pg. 5

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63192511

Text Word Count

248

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Growers Moving Indoors And Into Cities; [FINAL Edition]

Daniel Rosenheim, Economics Editor. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 7, 1985. pg. 6

Abstract (Summary)

In response to stepped-up law enforcement campaigns, the nation's marijuana growers are protecting their burgeoning \$17 billion-a-year business by moving the crop indoors.

"The industry is moving into the city," said Thomas Alexander, editor of *Sinsemilla Tips*, a trade journal for marijuana growers that is published in Corvallis, Ore. "You'll find as much grass being grown in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley as you will up in Humboldt and Trinity counties."

Alexander estimated, for example, that a no-frills marijuana patch in a 10-by-10 foot room can be outfitted with dirt, 16 marijuana starter plants and high-intensity lights for less than \$1000. The potential annual return, based on four harvests of high-quality pot a year - about \$30,000.

Full Text (716 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 7, 1985

In response to stepped-up law enforcement campaigns, the nation's marijuana growers are protecting their burgeoning \$17 billion-a-year business by moving the crop indoors.

Some experts estimate that as much as half of all domestic marijuana cultivation now takes place inside, where growers are turning to new technologies to increase yields and escape detection.

"The industry is moving into the city," said Thomas Alexander, editor of *Sinsemilla Tips*, a trade journal for marijuana growers that is published in Corvallis, Ore. "You'll find as much grass being grown in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley as you will up in Humboldt and Trinity counties."

"Indoor growing is creating a whole new set of enforcement problems," conceded Cornelius Dougherty, a spokesman for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Indoor growing is only the latest development in domestic marijuana cultivation's spectacular, 10-year surge from a widely scattered hobby to a big business.

Fueled above all by fears that foreign marijuana was being contaminated with such insecticides as paraquat, domestic pot growing has spread throughout the nation and now rivals corn as the nation's biggest cash crop.


In turn, marijuana's cultivation has spawned trade newspapers, growers' co-ops, even an embryonic form of futures trading, while giving birth to feeder industries for the supply of tools, irrigation systems, rootstocks and other materials.

To be sure, plenty of marijuana is still grown outdoors, particularly in California, which produces 13 percent of the nation's domestic dope supply, and in Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

But though pot growing remains concentrated on the West Coast, virtually every state in the nation now has a crop, from the farmlands of Missouri to the national parks of North Carolina.

Meanwhile, as stepped-up aerial surveillance has increased the odds that law officers will detect the telltale emerald green of marijuana plants outdoors, indoor growing has become an increasingly attractive alternative.


Experts say that indoor growing is a highly decentralized business, which attracts a broad spectrum of participants, from surgeons to school teachers, welfare mothers to winemakers.

"The growers represents a complete cross-section of society," said Alexander. "The day is long gone when they could be stereotyped as long-haired, hippie types." 

For the weekend dabbler, indoor growing offers potentially hefty returns on only a minimal investment - assuming a willingness to break the law and risk a jail sentence.

Alexander estimated, for example, that a no-frills marijuana patch in a 10-by-10 foot room can be outfitted with dirt, 16 marijuana starter plants and high-intensity lights for less than \$1000. The potential annual return, based on four harvests of high-quality pot a year - about \$30,000.

Many growers, however, are using more sophisticated techniques. Instead of rocks and dirt, which can raise suspicions when they are carried into the house, cultivators are turning to new hydroponic techniques, in which the plants grow in plastic tubes and are nourished by special nutrient films.

Having  that careful control of lighting can make plants flower sooner and more fully, some growers are using a rotational method and shifting plants back and forth from vegetative rooms to flowering rooms.

During a bust last week, DEA agents found more than 2000 plants at a suburban Salt Lake City house, in which a computer controlled the supply of light and nutrients and turned on fans to provide ventilation.

Among the new detection techniques used by law enforcement officials are infrared scanners that can sense whether houses are emitting excess heat, a sign that high-intensity light may be in use for marijuana growing.

When police officials find such "hot houses," they may subpoena a home's electric bill and begin investigating the occupants to determine if a basis exists for a search warrant to conduct a drug raid.

Last month, however, a Seattle Court of Appeals dealt such efforts a setback by ruling that high electric bills do not constitute the "probable cause" required in obtaining a search warrant.

In response to the spiraling race between lawbreakers and enforcers, the proponents of marijuana's legalization contend that the spread of pot growing and consumption demonstrates that enforcement efforts are an ill-conceived waste of time and money.

Although estimates for the number of marijuana users vary, roughly 40 million people are believed to have tried the drug at least once, and at least 20 million people are believed to smoke it regularly.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Daniel Rosenheim, Economics Editor
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 7, 1985. pg. 6
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 63192826
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San Francisco Chronicle

Bullets Damage Raiders' Copter; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 8, 1985. pg. 5

Abstract (Summary)

A barrage of high-powered rifle bullets were fired yesterday into a marijuana-raiding helicopter parked near the homes of three sheriff's deputies in Humboldt County. No one was hurt.

The copter was attacked at 3:30 a.m. at the sheriff's substation in the Hoopa Valley, 12 miles north of Willow Creek and 70 miles northeast of Eureka. The chopper was parked 45 yards from the deputies' houses. The officers were away but their wives and children were at home asleep at the time of the assault.

Full Text (250 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 8, 1985

A barrage of high-powered rifle bullets were fired yesterday into a marijuana-raiding helicopter parked near the homes of three sheriff's deputies in Humboldt County. No one was hurt.

Two Molotov cocktails were also hurled at the five-passenger helicopter leased by the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP), but the firebombs did no damage.

The copter was blasted by ``numerous'' rifle shots and was knocked out of commission, suffering \$60,000 in damage. It was immediately replaced by another copter.

``There are no suspects at this point, but we assume there was more than one person involved,'' said CAMP official LaVon Perez. ``Apparently they were out to destroy the helicopter so it couldn't carry out raids planned in the area.''

The copter was attacked at 3:30 a.m. at the sheriff's substation in the Hoopa Valley, 12 miles north of Willow Creek and 70 miles northeast of Eureka. The chopper was parked 45 yards from the deputies' houses. The officers were away but their wives and children were at home asleep at the time of the assault.

The helicopter was one of seven being used in the state by a paramilitary strike force of federal, state and local police officers. The state's effort is part of a federal crusade against marijuana growers in all 50 states. Perez said officers confiscated 2434 plants during raids at 18 locations on Monday in Humboldt County.

``This was not a crippling blow to our campaign,'' said Les Love, a CAMP commander. ``We're continuing with business as usual.''

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 8, 1985. pg. 5

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63192985

Text Word Count 250

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63192985&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Suspected Pot Grower Slain by Law Officer; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 15, 1985. pg. 3

Abstract (Summary)

A suspected marijuana grower was shot to death yesterday by a U.S. Forest Service law officer in Sierra Nevada timber country about 25 miles northeast of Oroville in Butte County.

The shooting occurred about 2 p.m. as Forest Service officers Tom Roland and Jerry Adams were keeping watch on a marijuana plantation straddling Plumas National Forest and adjoining private land, according to Sylvia Brucchi of the regional Forest Service.

The Forest Service officers were accompanied by an unidentified Butte County sheriff's deputy, [Jerry Smith] said.

Full Text (337 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 15, 1985

A suspected marijuana grower was shot to death yesterday by a U.S. Forest Service law officer in Sierra Nevada timber country about 25 miles northeast of Oroville in Butte County.

The fatality was the first known slaying to have occurred in California involving law enforcement authorities and a suspected pot grower.

The identity of the male victim had not been determined last night, according to Sergeant Jerry Smith of the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

The shooting occurred about 2 p.m. as Forest Service officers Tom Roland and Jerry Adams were keeping watch on a marijuana plantation straddling Plumas National Forest and adjoining private land, according to Sylvia Brucchi of the regional Forest Service.

The victim was in a field of marijuana when he apparently spotted one of the officers and attempted to leave, according to a Sheriff's Department statement released last night.

An officer wearing a badge and clearly identifiable Forest Service hat attempted to intercept the man. The man "reportedly worked the action of a shotgun he was carrying and leveled it at the officer," according to the statement. "Another nearby officer discharged his weapon at the man, striking him."

Resuscitation efforts failed to save the man, who died at the scene, the statement said. The shooting occurred about 25 miles northeast of Oroville in the Bald Rock area, Smith said.

The name of the forest service officer who killed the man was not made public last night.

The Forest Service officers were accompanied by an unidentified Butte County sheriff's deputy, Smith said.

Sharon Helbush of the sheriff's office said the episode was not related to the state's 1985 Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

That joint federal, state and local crackdown against California's multimillion-dollar marijuana crop has focused on the so-called Emerald Triangle - made up of the pot-growing areas of Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

However, roving units have scoured other parts of Northern California, including the Sierra, where yesterday's shooting occurred.

All reported fatalities related to marijuana plantations have involved pot pirates and growers.

[Illustration]
MAP

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 15, 1985. pg. 3
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 63194104
Text Word Count: 337
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63194104&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientid=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Law Lets Agents Seize Drug Suspects' Property; [FINAL Edition]

Dave Farrell. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 14, 1985. pg. 2

Abstract (Summary)

Like their fictional counterparts in TV's ``Miami Vice," local narcotics agents are tooling around in shiny new Porsches, Ferraris and Maseratis.

Most of the seizures have involved real estate. During the last year, federal drug enforcement officials have seized 25 parcels of land in California, mostly marijuana plantations in Mendocino and Humboldt counties.

Full Text (265 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 14, 1985

Like their fictional counterparts in TV's ``Miami Vice," local narcotics agents are tooling around in shiny new Porsches, Ferraris and Maseratis.

The cars are just a few of the pricey, fast-lane prizes being claimed for official use by agents under authority of a new federal law designed to strip suspected dope dealers of their illegal profits.

The Comprehensive Crime Control Act, passed last fall, enables agents to seize real estate and makes it easier for them to confiscate cars and other possessions allegedly involved in drug trafficking.

The law allows federal and local government agencies to keep the property or sell it.

Since the law passed last October, Bay Area drug agencies have accumulated a fortune in possessions favored by drug dealers - jewelry, fast cars, fishing boats, homes, property and now a recording studio.

``We haven't seized a plane in our district yet," said James Lassart, a regional coordinator with the U.S Attorney's Drug Enforcement Task Force in San Francisco, ``but it's just a matter of time."

To seize a piece of land or property, drug officials have to convince a magistrate that there is reason to believe the property was used in drug trafficking or bought with drug money.

There is no limit to what drug agents can confiscate. In San Francisco, agents even grabbed a portion of the assets of a law firm they said was financed with narcotics money.

Most of the seizures have involved real estate. During the last year, federal drug enforcement officials have seized 25 parcels of land in California, mostly marijuana plantations in Mendocino and Humboldt counties.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Dave Farrell

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 14, 1985. pg. 2

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 63199460

Text Word Count

265

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San Francisco Chronicle

Hearing Stops Anti-Marijuana Helicopters; [FINAL Edition]

William Carlsen. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 20, 1985. pg. 15

Abstract (Summary)

U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar opened a hearing to determine whether the state has violated his earlier order limiting the use of helicopters and ground teams in the statewide search for marijuana gardens.

Aguilar ruled in April that state and local authorities are barred from using helicopters for surveillance, except over open fields. He said that helicopters are not permitted to fly within 500 feet of any structures, vehicles or people and that agents need search warrants to enter most private property.

Full Text (329 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 20, 1985

The state's marijuana eradication campaign came to a halt yesterday while a federal judge in San Francisco heard rural residents testify they have been terrorized by low-flying police helicopters.

U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar opened a hearing to determine whether the state has violated his earlier order limiting the use of helicopters and ground teams in the statewide search for marijuana gardens.

If Aguilar finds the state in contempt of court, he has the power to issue fines, order jail sentences or halt the operation entirely. The hearing will continue on Monday.

Deputy state Attorney General Thomas Dove said yesterday that the hearing has effectively stopped the operation - called the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting - because all helicopter and other key personnel have been called to testify.

He told the judge that the hearing will disrupt the operation for five days.

The halt has come at a crucial time, as authorities race against the clock to confiscate as much marijuana as possible before the fall harvest ends.

Attorneys suing the state claim at least 80 violations of the judge's order.

Aguilar ruled in April that state and local authorities are barred from using helicopters for surveillance, except over open fields. He said that helicopters are not permitted to fly within 500 feet of any structures, vehicles or people and that agents need search warrants to enter most private property.

The judge issued the injunction in response to a \$100 million lawsuit filed by residents claiming privacy violations. A full trial on the issue is pending.

Yesterday 64-year-old Lloyd Johnson, a retired contractor, told the judge that agents buzzed his Humboldt County home for four hours on August 22. The helicopters so terrified his family that his wife and daughter-in-law left the area, he said.

``This isn't the United States anymore." the WWII veteran complained outside the courtroom. ``This is not what I fought for. . . . These tin soldier outfits, running around with machine guns, are terrifying."

Indexing (document details)**Author(s):** William Carlsen**Section:** NEWS**Publication title:** San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 20, 1985. pg. 15**Source type:** Newspaper**ProQuest document ID:** 63200358**Text Word Count** 329**Document URL:** <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=63200358&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Deukmejian's Last-Minute Rush on Signing Bills; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 3, 1985. pg. 7

Abstract (Summary)

The "pork-barrel" bill, by Assemblyman Jack O'Connell, D-Santa Barbara, was concocted in the session's final hours in exchange for a package of prison construction bills sought by [Deukmejian] and signed last week. The bill spends \$118 million the state is expected to get from a federal settlement of offshore oil leasing firms. The money would go to dozens of local projects ranging from child care to toxic cleanups.

Deukmejian also signed bills to: Increase the penalties for intentional use of a pesticide in violation of state laws or regulations. Keep mentally ill inmates in prison for extra one-year terms as long as they remain dangerous to others, and allow their treatment in state mental hospitals. Exempt property owners from damage suits by trespassers who injured themselves while committing serious crimes. Provide \$1.25 million to fight marijuana growing in Butte County and the three "Emerald Triangle" counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity.

He vetoed a bill that would have spent \$1.5 million on grants and programs to promote exports of California products. He also vetoed a bill that eventually would prohibit the use of landfills for disposal of toxic wastes. Deukmejian said he agreed with the bill's concept, but doubted that "we can assure the development of new hazardous waste technologies merely by legislating an end to current practices."

Full Text (995 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 3, 1985

Sacramento

Governor Deukmejian, rushing to meet a midnight deadline to sign or veto legislation yesterday, vetoed bills to make school buses safer and to help strapped school districts finance new schools.

He signed a bill exempting property owners from damage suits by trespassers who injure themselves while committing crimes. He also approved \$1.25 million for Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity and Butte Counties to fight marijuana growers.

Other bills signed will limit automobile towing charges and will spend \$118 million in anticipated federal offshore oil funds on dozens of "pork-barrel" projects.

The Republican governor was acting on the nearly 1000 bills sent him by the Legislature before it adjourned for the year early on September 14. Most of the signed bills become law January 1.

The school bus bill, by Assemblyman Richard Robinson, D-Garden Grove, would have required all school buses to meet the 1977 federal safety standards and required the California Highway Patrol to recommend whether school buses should have seat belts. Deukmejian said the estimated \$175-million price tag was too high.

The four-bill school construction package was designed to help school districts, which have had trouble paying for new schools since Proposition 13.

Signed was the bill by Assemblyman Alister McAlister, D-San Jose, aimed at removing property owner's injury liability for trespassers committing crimes.

The towing bill, written by Robinson, affects tow trucks called by private property owners to remove cars parked improperly in parking spaces, such as in front of stores. The bill limits charges to \$20 if the motorist returns to the car before the tow truck departs and, in other cases, to the amount charged when a police officer rather than a property owner makes the call. It also requires towing firms to accept bank credit cards as well as cash.

The "pork-barrel" bill, by Assemblyman Jack O'Connell, D-Santa Barbara, was concocted in the session's final hours in exchange for a package of prison construction bills sought by Deukmejian and signed last week. The bill spends \$118 million the state is expected to get from a federal settlement of offshore oil leasing firms. The money would go to dozens of local projects ranging from child care to toxic cleanups.

Deukmejian did cut the bill by \$500,000 for Medi-Cal workshops.

Deukmejian also signed bills to: Increase the penalties for intentional use of a pesticide in violation of state laws or regulations. Keep mentally ill inmates in prison for extra one-year terms as long as they remain dangerous to others, and allow their treatment in state mental hospitals. Exempt property owners from damage suits by trespassers who injured themselves while committing serious crimes. Provide \$1.25 million to fight marijuana growing in Butte County and the three "Emerald Triangle" counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity.

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Associated Press

MAJOR ACTIONS BY DEUKMEJIAN

Here is a listing of major legislation he signed and vetoed during the Legislature's 1985 session, which ended last month.

BILLS SIGNED:

Require drivers and passengers to use seat belts and future cars to have passive restraints such as air bags.

Require 170,000 welfare recipients with children over 6 years old to go through a workfare program of job searches, training and mandatory public service work.

Spend \$22 million for after-school programs for "latchkey" children, \$22.5 million for child care for workfare recipients.

Spend \$80 million to add nearly 5,000 prison beds to ease the state's bulging prisons and allow a complicated lease purchase system to be used to finance other new prisons.

Permit mentally ill prisoners to be confined beyond their terms and treated in mental hospitals.

Spend \$21 million for county programs for the mentally ill homeless and establish programs next year for mentally ill children, elderly, felons and veterans.

Prohibit a local government from requiring a residential property owner from getting a permit to go out of business.

Spend \$4.9 million for research, education and treatment programs for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Restrict court challenges of state spraying of pesticides to combat agricultural pests, such as the apple maggot.

Spend \$26 million for toxic cleanups, including \$16 million for the Stringfellow Acid Pits in Riverside County.

Promise state repayment of the losses of farmers, wholesalers and grocers who had to destroy watermelons last summer because of pesticide contamination.

Require the state to identify pesticides with the potential for polluting groundwater, monitor those pesticides and possibly ban their use if concentrations are found in groundwater.

Allow motorists who don't have current car registration to pay fees without penalties during a Jan. 1 to March 31 amnesty and increase penalties for failure to register afterward.

Make it illegal to wear earphones covering both ears while riding a bicycle.

Require more stringent inspections of plants that pasteurize milk and make milk products like cheese.

Require the state to study whether clove cigarettes are a health hazard.

BILLS VETOED:

The Governor vetoed bills that would have:

Limited imports of foreign wines and champagnes to those by importers designated by the brand owners.

Established a commission to recommend ways to improve people's self-esteem.

Designated Aug. 6 as ``Peace Day" and awarded 10 annual California Peace Prizes.

Provided \$9 million in grants to help counties write hazardous waste management plans.

Required freight trains to have cabooses.

Created a commission to advise the Legislature on ``comparable worth" pay inequities among state workers and ways to combat them.

Required the state to study whether a student exchange program with the Soviet Union should be established.

Created a commission to study whether the old Victorian governor's mansion should be moved closer to the Capitol and used as a governor's residence again.

Associated Press

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: *Sacramento*

Section: *NEWS*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 3, 1985. pg. 7

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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

Outrage Greeted Armed Pot Raid In East Bay Hills; [FINAL Edition]

Elliot Diringer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 4, 1985. pg. 8

Abstract (Summary)

The Contra Costa County narcotics officer who headed the raid insisted yesterday that it was conducted strictly by the book, but howls of indignation echoed nonetheless in Canyon, a wooded enclave in the hills behind Oakland.

Sergeant Ray Rodrigues, of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department, said he was surprised by the furor because the officers were met with no hostility and even were welcomed by a few residents, who complained that growers were stealing scarce well water for their crops.

Rodrigues said investigators had known of pot growing in Canyon for some time but were unable to pick their way through the rugged terrain. They decided on a thorough helicopter search after a bust last month that seized 100 plants at the Canyon home of Karen Mitchell - ex-wife of one of the Mitchell brothers of adult theater fame.

Full Text (497 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 4, 1985

Fear gave way to furor yesterday as the people of tiny Canyon wondered how their placid East Bay community had suddenly become the latest battleground in the government's war on marijuana.

"It was just unbelievable," said Leslie Molina, a 37-year-old mother of four who was babysitting at a friend's home when a raiding party swept into the secluded hamlet Wednesday.

"They came armed to the teeth," she said. "I guess they were afraid we were like people in Humboldt County who shoot at people. But we're not like that. We've never seen anything like this."

The officers combed through the rugged terrain and left more than eight hours later with a haul of 74 bushy pot plants but no suspects.

"I hope they all got poison oak," Molina added.

The Contra Costa County narcotics officer who headed the raid insisted yesterday that it was conducted strictly by the book, but howls of indignation echoed nonetheless in Canyon, a wooded enclave in the hills behind Oakland.

Angry residents claimed their civil liberties had been trampled by officers in camouflage uniforms who packed automatic weapons and traipsed through their back yards as a noisy helicopter directed the action.

Charlotte Price, 74, said she was drawn to her back patio by a rustling noise in the thick foliage behind her home, and expecting to chase away some nibbling deer. Instead she was confronted by "four guys in army fatigues carrying heavy artillery."

The men said they had a search warrant, Price said, and "the implication was, 'We have the right to go anywhere we want.'"

"It scares you," she said, "when you think anyone can take public money and outfit bogeymen like this to move in on private citizens who've never done a thing in their whole lives."

Although witnesses claimed the raiders numbered as many as 35, the officer in charge said the team was made up of 15 people.

Sergeant Ray Rodrigues, of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department, said he was surprised by the furor because the officers were met with no hostility and even were welcomed by a few residents, who complained that growers were stealing scarce well water for their crops.

"You may have been talking to some of the growers for all I know," he said of the protests. "They certainly don't like us out there."

Rodrigues said investigators had known of pot growing in Canyon for some time but were unable to pick their way through the rugged terrain. They decided on a thorough helicopter search after a bust last month that seized 100 plants at the Canyon home of Karen Mitchell - ex-wife of one of the Mitchell brothers of adult theater fame.

Wednesday's raid netted a high-grade haul worth an estimated \$148,000, Rodrigues said, and three arrests are expected soon.

If the officers strayed into someone's back yard, he said, it was only because property lines are so vague.

"It was very much by the book, almost to the letter."

[Illustration]

MAP

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Elliot Diringner
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 4, 1985. pg. 8
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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

11 Death Sentences Reversed By Busy State Supreme Court; [FINAL Edition]

Susan Milstein, Perry Lang. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 1, 1986. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

conviction for conspiracy and assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, but reversed several counts of robbery, attempted murder and murder with special circumstances. [Patrick Croy] was convicted of a July 16, 1978, robbery and hillside shootout with Yreka police. One officer was killed. John Galen Davenport - Justices upheld Davenport's capital murder conviction, but reversed his death sentence for the 1980 murder by torture of Gayle Lingle in Tustin, Orange County. Davenport's case was sent back to Orange County Superior Court for a resentencing hearing.

murder conviction, but reversed his death sentence. [Ronald Lee Deere] was sentenced to death by a Riverside County jury for killing three people. No details of the crime were provided in the court's ruling. A new penalty phase trial was ordered. Bernard Lee Hamilton - Justices affirmed Hamilton's first-degree murder conviction but set aside the special circumstance findings that made his crime punishable by death. He was convicted of the 1979 murder during a robbery, burglary and kidnaping near San Diego. The case was sent back to San Diego Superior Court for a partial retrial.

circumstances findings in the case and reversed the death penalty. He was convicted of killing 18-year-old Randy Watkins during a robbery in June 1979 in Modesto. A partial retrial was ordered. Marvin Pete Walker Jr. - The court upheld the capital murder conviction but ordered a new sentencing hearing because of errors during the penalty phase of Walker's trial for killing a 15-year-old boy during a 1979 liquor store robbery in Santa Clara County.

Full Text (1534 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 1, 1986

In an unprecedented flood of New Year's Eve decisions, the California Supreme Court yesterday reversed 11 death sentences and made 10 other rulings.

The rush of actions included sweeping rulings that will: Bar law enforcement agencies from conducting warrantless aerial surveillance of residential yards for any purpose, including searches for marijuana. Permit transit riders to sue public or private transportation agencies for injuries caused by violent passengers.

The number of rulings - believed to be the most issued on a single day in 10 years - was due to the retirement of Justice Otto Kaus. He officially retired on October 16, but has continued to work by special assignment.

Kaus resumes his law practice today. By law, he cannot participate in any court decision after he resumes the practice of law. If the court had not finished the cases he was involved with, all of the arguments in those cases would have had to be repeated.

The death sentence rulings did not appear to break new legal ground. Most of the rulings upheld lower court convictions but reversed decisions imposing the death penalty.

Chief Justice Rose Bird voted to reverse all 11 death sentences, as did two of her colleagues, Cruz Reynoso and Allen Broussard. The court's most conservative member, Malcolm Lucas, voted to affirm all but one of the sentences.

The penalty phase of these trials must now be reheard. At the minimum, these defendants will receive life sentences without parole.

The cases involving transit riders and aerial surveillance appeared to have broader effects.

The transit case rose out of an assault by a gang of juveniles upon five other passengers, including two pregnant women, riding on a Southern California Rapid Transit District bus in Los Angeles in 1980.

The passengers sued the transit district for damages, but the district claimed it had no duty to protect passengers from third parties and could not afford special safety measures on all buses "because of the colossal cost."

In a decision signed by six justices and written by Justice Joseph Grodin, the Supreme Court said the district did have an obligation to protect its passengers from assault, regardless of the cost.

Chief Justice Rose Bird concurred in a separate opinion.

Grodin's decision said a public carrier had "a special relationship" with its passengers, and compared the relationship to that of an innkeeper and his guests and a psychiatrist and his patients.

Bus passengers, the decision said, "are sealed in a steel cocoon. Large numbers of strangers are forced into very close physical contact with one another under conditions that are often crowded, noisy and overheated . . . Passengers have no control over who is admitted on the bus and, if trouble arises, are wholly dependent on the bus driver to summon help."

These conditions, the court found, "are conducive to outbreaks of violence," and it is the duty of the agency to prevent it.

Safety measures to protect passengers, the court said, could include radios, alarm lights to alert the police and other devices. The drivers, the decision said, also had the duty to eject unruly passengers.

The court ruling could require transit agencies to spend huge sums on these safety devices.

In addition, according to some transit authorities, the decision could open the way for higher insurance costs.

Most transit districts have seen their insurance premiums double in the last year as a result of other court decisions that have broadened their liability.

Donald White, manager of Golden Gate Transit's bus division, said he thought the decision could cause "serious problems" with insurance coverage for the transit industry.

He also questioned the social implications of the decision. "I think they expect transit to cure the ills of society," he said.

In the aerial surveillance case, the court ruled 6 to 1 that warrantless searches of private yards violate the privacy provision of the California Constitution.

The privacy provision provides that "the right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable seizures and searches may not be violated."

Warrantless aerial surveillance has become a common weapon of law enforcement agencies in their battle against California marijuana growers.

"While the skies are accessible to the public . . . simply because one may have to put up with the occasional downward glance of a passing pilot or passenger does not abrogate the force of one's demand that police officers, acting as part of an investigation but without a warrant, refrain from examining from the air the details of one's back yard," wrote Justice Grodin for the court majority.

Signing Grodin's opinion were Bird and Justices Stanley Mosk, Allen Broussard, Cruz Reynoso and Kaus. Justice Malcolm Lucas was the sole dissenter.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in a case raising the same issue of the constitutionality of warrantless searches of yards, but has yet to issue an opinion. Even if the U.S. Supreme Court held that the searches are permissible, however, the ban in California would still stand because the state Supreme Court based its decision entirely on state constitutional grounds.

Ed Denson, an civil liberties leader in Humboldt County, called the court's ruling "astonishing."

"I'm surprised and delighted," said Denson, who lives in Alderpoint near Garberville. "Having Big Brother up there in the sky flying over you all day and night scared the hell out of me. They could do anything they wanted to watch you."

Denson, who works with the Citizens Observation Group and the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project in Humboldt County, said the monitoring project has sued the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, claiming civil rights have been violated by airborne pot raiders, and the observation group sent teams to observe CAMP raids and document civil rights violations.

Carl Nolte and Paul Liberatore also contributed to this story.

THE DEATH PENALTY REVERSALS

Here are the 11 death penalty cases reversed by the California Supreme Court yesterday, either because of improper instructions to jurors by trial judges or inadequate legal representation: David Balderas - The court upheld the first-degree murder conviction, but reversed the special circumstances that made the crime punishable by death. Basing its ruling on a previous court holding, the justices concluded Balderas should be retried, in part because his jury did not specifically find he intended to kill Neil Wanner on Dec. 24, 1979, in Kern County. The court ordered a partial retrial.

[Table]

Patrick Croy - The justices unanimously upheld Croy's

conviction for conspiracy and assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, but reversed several counts of robbery, attempted murder and murder with special circumstances. Croy was convicted of a July 16, 1978, robbery and hillside shootout with Yreka police. One officer was killed. John Galen Davenport - Justices upheld Davenport's capital murder conviction, but reversed his death sentence for the 1980 murder by torture of Gayle Lingle in Tustin, Orange County. Davenport's case was sent back to Orange County Superior Court for a resentencing hearing.

[Table]

Ronald Lee Deere - The court affirmed Deere's capital

murder conviction, but reversed his death sentence. Deere was sentenced to death by a Riverside County jury for killing three people. No details of the crime were provided in the court's ruling. A new penalty phase trial was ordered. Bernard Lee Hamilton - Justices affirmed Hamilton's first-degree murder conviction but set aside the special circumstance findings that made his crime punishable by death. He was convicted of the 1979 murder during a robbery, burglary and kidnaping near San Diego. The case was sent back to San Diego Superior Court for a partial retrial.

[Table]

Billy Ray Hamilton - The court affirmed Hamilton's

three first-degree murder convictions but set aside the special circumstance findings that made the crime punishable by death. Hamilton killed three people during a 1980 robbery of a market in Contra Costa County. A partial retrial was ordered. Michael Todd Leach - The court affirmed Leach's capital murder conviction, but reversed his death sentence in the 1979 murder and robbery of Michael Messer, who was stabbed to death in a fig orchard near Fresno. The case was sent back to Fresno County Superior Court for a resentencing hearing.

[Table]

Darnell Lucky - Justices unanimously upheld Lucky's

felony-murder conviction, but set aside the special circumstances finding. Lucky, described by his attorney as a heavy drug user, was found guilty of a Jan. 20, 1981, robbery and shooting death of the co-owners of a Los Angeles jewelry store. A partial retrial was ordered. Richard Phillips - The court reversed Phillips' death sentence,

but upheld his capital murder conviction. He was convicted in 1980 in Madera County of murder, assault and two counts of robbery for his part in a cocaine deal that went sour.

[Table]

Steven Silbertson - The court reversed the special

circumstances findings in the case and reversed the death penalty. He was convicted of killing 18-year-old Randy Watkins during a robbery in June 1979 in Modesto. A partial retrial was ordered. Marvin Pete Walker Jr. - The court upheld the capital murder conviction but ordered a new sentencing hearing because of errors during the penalty phase of Walker's trial for killing a 15-year-old boy during a 1979 liquor store robbery in Santa Clara County.

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San Francisco Chronicle

U.S. Moving to Seize North Coast Pot Farms; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 28, 1986. pg. 33

Abstract (Summary)

The land, in Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt counties, is owned by 24 people named in federal grand jury indictments handed up in Eureka and made public yesterday. In addition to these criminal charges, the 24 face civil suits that prosecutors plan to file to confiscate their land.

[Ron Sinoway] claims the land seizure provisions of the 1984 statute are almost identical to laws used historically to combat moonshining.

A federal marshal last May received only two mock bids - one for 10 cents and the other for 30 pieces of silver - for a 208 acre ranch owned by Ricque and Natasha Kuru in northern Mendocino County. Title to the land later reverted to the holder of a large mortgage on the land.

Full Text (378 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Feb 28, 1986

Eureka

Federal prosecutors will attempt to seize 16 pieces of North Coast land owned by people indicted yesterday for marijuana cultivation.

The land, in Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt counties, is owned by 24 people named in federal grand jury indictments handed up in Eureka and made public yesterday. In addition to these criminal charges, the 24 face civil suits that prosecutors plan to file to confiscate their land.

"We have been telling people we are going to seize and forfeit land, and now they may begin to believe us," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson.

The 16 parcels total 464 acres and are valued at about \$1.5 million, Robinson said.

Under the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the government can take title to land after demonstrating that the land was used for marijuana cultivation. The land can then be auctioned and the proceeds shared with state and local police agencies.

Those indicted will be arraigned March 21 before a U.S. magistrate in Santa Rosa. In addition to loss of their land, they could face sentences of up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$500,000 fine.

Humboldt attorney Ron Sinoway represents many of the people indicted, including a married couple who he said are accused of growing only 12 plants.

"It is a terrible statement of where our society is headed if someone can lose their home for growing 12 plants when someone can commit murder or rape on their property and not run that risk," he said.

Sinoway claims the land seizure provisions of the 1984 statute are almost identical to laws used historically to combat moonshining.

Laws dating back to 1870 limited the government's land seizure authority to just the portion of a parcel actually used in commission of a crime, Sinoway said.

A federal marshal last May received only two mock bids - one for 10 cents and the other for 30 pieces of silver - for a 208 acre ranch owned by Ricque and Natasha Kuru in northern Mendocino County. Title to the land later reverted to the holder of a large mortgage on the land.

The Kurus had been arrested for growing 52 marijuana plants just four days after the federal law on land seizure was signed into law.

Our Correspondent

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: *Eureka*

Section: *NEWS*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 28, 1986. pg. 33

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San Francisco Chronicle

24 Pot Suspects Plead Not Guilty; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 22, 1986. pg. 34

Abstract (Summary)

All the defendants - who face seizure of their property in addition to drug penalties if convicted - are from Sonoma, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, according to assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson.

Full Text (137 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 22, 1986

Two dozen suspected marijuana growers pleaded not guilty in federal court in Santa Rosa yesterday to illegal cultivation of pot.

They were indicted earlier this year by a federal grand jury in Eureka following an investigation by federal drug agents during last summer's anti-marijuana campaign.

All the defendants - who face seizure of their property in addition to drug penalties if convicted - are from Sonoma, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, according to assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson. He said the "most expensive" property is that of Sebastopol residents Antonio and Debbie Russotti, who, Robinson said, have 1.5 acres of land valued at \$275,000. He said marijuana and processing facilities for drying the weed were found on their land.

At yesterday's hearing, U.S. Magistrate F. Steele Langford set April 28 as the date of the first trial.

Indexing (document details)

Column Name: BAY AREA REPORT
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San Francisco Chronicle

\$2 Million Haul Reported In Year's First Pot Raids; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 6, 1986. pg. 4

Abstract (Summary)

CAMP officers on Monday seized 918 plants in Humboldt, Mendocino and Butte counties that would have yielded about 1000 pounds of buds, worth at least \$2000 per pound wholesale, [Mike Freer] said. The plants, including parts that growers do not process for sale, weighed 2254 pounds.

Full Text (134 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 6, 1986

Sacramento

Government agents seized choice marijuana plants worth about \$2 million wholesale on the first day of this year's raids on California pot farms.

The Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, waged by about 2000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers and now in its fourth year has significantly cut production of prime sinsemilla marijuana in Northern California, officials said yesterday.

CAMP operations commander Mike Freer said pot farmers have been forced from open fields onto smaller, scattered plots or into indoor growing as agents have increased seizures.

CAMP officers on Monday seized 918 plants in Humboldt, Mendocino and Butte counties that would have yielded about 1000 pounds of buds, worth at least \$2000 per pound wholesale, Freer said. The plants, including parts that growers do not process for sale, weighed 2254 pounds.

Associated Press

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: *Sacramento*

Section: *NEWS*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 6, 1986. pg. 4

Source type: Newspaper

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Text Word Count 134

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San Francisco Chronicle

Judge's Ruling Limits Seizure Of Land Used to Grow Pot; [FINAL Edition]

William Carlsen. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: May 20, 1986. pg. 6

Abstract (Summary)

A top government prosecutor, however, last night minimized the importance of the ruling. He pointed out that federal civil forfeiture law still allows the government to seize all surrounding property owned by marijuana growers.

Full Text (188 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 20, 1986

The government is restricted under criminal law to seizing only the land on which marijuana is actually grown, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled yesterday.

A top government prosecutor, however, last night minimized the importance of the ruling. He pointed out that federal civil forfeiture law still allows the government to seize all surrounding property owned by marijuana growers.

The case concerns four parcels of land in Humboldt County owned by Robert Anderson, John Hatcher, Roscoe Littlefield and Steve Bowser.

The government moved to seize the parcels under the 1984 Comprehensive Crime Control Act, claiming that portions of the land had been used for growing marijuana.

In a pretrial hearing yesterday, U.S. District Judge William Orrick granted a defense motion limiting criminal forfeiture to only the actual land used for marijuana cultivation.

But U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello stated yesterday that the ruling left intact the civil forfeiture procedure under the act, which allows the government to seize all the surrounding property.

He said the civil procedure was longer and more cumbersome but his office would use it if they lose a planned appeal of yesterday's decision.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): William Carlsen

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 20, 1986. pg. 6

Source type: Newspaper

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San Francisco Chronicle

Northern California Fumes Over State's Anti-Pot Pamphlet; [FINAL Edition]

Jim Brewer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 3, 1986. pg. 4

Abstract (Summary)

The seven-page, green and white pamphlet put Mendocino and Humboldt counties at the top of a list of 10 "high risk areas" in Northern California. Then, the pamphlet warned backwoods enthusiasts to "take precautions" against miniature minefields and gun traps.

Joining them is state Senator Barry Keene, D-Benicia, whose legislation was responsible for the brochure being produced. A representative of Keane's office said that funds for the pamphlet were authorized last year in a bill that allows counties to charge the state for some of the local costs of the fight against pot farming.

"It's negative, detrimental and I think it is more free advertising for CAMP," said Supervisor de [Norman de Vall], who worries that the pamphlet actually may attract so-called pot pirates to the area.

Full Text (680 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 3, 1986

North Coast businessmen are up in arms over a state pamphlet warning hunters and fishermen that marijuana growers protect their gardens with devices that can inflict serious injury or death.

"Something like this can devastate us," said Kathy Davidson, president of Mendocino County's Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We need to show places where people should go, not places not to go."

Coastal residents have been living with a depressed logging and commercial fishing economy for years, and the last thing they need now, they say, is a blast at the North Coast's \$638 million tourism industry.

Just as the tourist season was getting under way last month, the state Department of Fish and Game printed 65,000 copies of an "Outdoor Alert" and began distributing them in places where hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

The seven-page, green and white pamphlet put Mendocino and Humboldt counties at the top of a list of 10 "high risk areas" in Northern California. Then, the pamphlet warned backwoods enthusiasts to "take precautions" against miniature minefields and gun traps.

"Watch for trip wires along trails or anything else that looks out of place," it said. "Bear traps, deadfalls and snares are sometimes found along trails leading to a garden. Fishhooks (are) sometimes strung on fishing line at eye level across trails.

"Should you accidentally enter a garden or meet a grower, say out loud: 'I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS, AND I'M LEAVING RIGHT NOW.' "

The pamphlet was intended to aid a few hunters and fishermen who might not recognize a pot patch, according to state officials. Local residents complain that it basically tells tourists to go find someplace else to take their money.

"The entire tone is negative and adverse," said Supervisor Norman de Vall, whose district includes the popular tourist town of Mendocino. "I've never seen an explosive device, nor have I read in a newspaper of someone encountering one of those devices."

His board, along with supervisors in neighboring Humboldt County, have demanded that Fish and Game Department officials recall the pamphlet. Also, they want to be consulted before anything like it is ever printed again.

Joining them is state Senator Barry Keene, D-Benicia, whose legislation was responsible for the brochure being produced. A representative of Keane's office said that funds for the pamphlet were authorized last year in a bill that allows counties to charge the state for some of the local costs of the fight against pot farming.

"The purpose was never to warn people to stay away from whole areas of the state," said Greg de Giere, Keene's administrative aide. "Fish and Game is embarrassed about this, to put it mildly."

Fish and Game Department officials were quick to point out, however, that the pamphlet actually was written by the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting. Known as CAMP, the joint local, state and federal program last year ripped 800,000 pot plants out of Northern California fields.

"The pamphlet is out of print and we have no plans to reprint it," said Fish and Game Department press officer Peggy Blair. She denied that her agency is embarrassed by the situation, however, saying, "The legislation said to do it and we did it. If the legislation were printed again, we'd follow that mandate."

Jim Barrera, speaking for CAMP in Sacramento, said that the brochure "is a bit sensational, but does contain common sense advice."

Mendocino and Humboldt county officials are particularly angry because their counties made the top of the list. Rankings were determined by how much marijuana was seized last year, not by how much was grown.

"It's negative, detrimental and I think it is more free advertising for CAMP," said Supervisor de Vall, who worries that the pamphlet actually may attract so-called pot pirates to the area.

Mendocino Sheriff Tim Shea appealed for calm.

"We haven't had any violence of any significance for the past two years," he said. "I don't think there should be any hysteria about this - people should just be careful. You could say the same things (precautions in the pamphlet) about a rattlesnake."

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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

Drug Use in Schools - A 'Disturbing' Report; [FINAL Edition]

Jack Viets. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 30, 1986. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

The attorney general, who commissioned the study of drinking and drug use by students in the seventh, ninth and 11th grades, said the results showed "nearly 58 percent of the seventh-graders in this survey had already tried alcohol."

Alpine, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba

Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura

Full Text (675 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Apr 30, 1986

A statewide survey of drug and alcohol use in California junior high and high schools disclosed yesterday what many parents suspect - the problems are rampant.

By the time California students are in the middle of their junior year in high school, more than half have experimented with illegal drugs, and nearly two thirds have gotten drunk.

Somewhat surprisingly, the survey showed that both alcohol and drug use are higher among students in the rural northern counties of the state than in urban areas such as San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

"The rising tide of drug and alcohol abuse among California teenagers makes them a generation at risk," said Attorney General John Van de Kamp as he released survey results in San Francisco.

The attorney general, who commissioned the study of drinking and drug use by students in the seventh, ninth and 11th grades, said the results showed "nearly 58 percent of the seventh-graders in this survey had already tried alcohol."

But the big jump in serious drinking occurs between the seventh and ninth grades, the survey found.

"Clearly the junior high years are a critical time when many young people take their first steps into what has been forbidden territory," he said.

On the drug scene, he noted, "it is a sad and sobering reality that trying drugs is no longer the exception among high school students. It is the norm."

The most commonly used drug is marijuana, followed by cocaine, amphetamines, inhalants and hashish.

Among 11th graders, about one out of 13 - or 23,000 - reported they smoked marijuana every day.

The total of all high school students who smoke pot on a daily basis is estimated at 60,000.

"Whites are more likely than any other ethnic group to use alcohol and marijuana," Van de Kamp said. "Asians are less likely to use them than are other groups."

The study was conducted by Dr. Rodney Skager, associate dean of the graduate school of education at UCLA, who surveyed 7500 students at 87 junior and high schools throughout the state between December 1985 and February 1986.

The "most disturbing" aspect of the survey is the number of students who smoke pot daily, he said.

Daily pot use "gets in the way of normal maturation and development," he added, warning that students on pot face the danger of becoming "13-year-old 25-year-olds."

There are "some silver linings in the dark clouds of drug abuse patterns," said Van de Kamp.

"One is the arresting data on cigaret use." Nearly 70 percent of 11th graders reported they have never used tobacco, he said, and only about one in seven smoke as often as once a day. This may indicate "the intensive anti-smoking campaigns among young people in recent years are paying off," he said.

If the campaigns against cigaret smoking show promise, perhaps the same techniques can be used on drug abuse, he said. "But we'll have to start working before the seventh grade."

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CHART:

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SUBSTANCE USE

PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS/BY REGION

GRADE 7

	Cent-	S.F.	L.A.	S.D.	North.	Orange	ral
REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1 Beer	36.8%	40.8%	44.3%	55.7%	37.1%	39.8%	
2 Wine	42.7	36.6	43.4	56.4	35.1	36.0	
3 Liquor	20.4	19.2	22.1	28.3	18.1	21.6	
4 Mari- juana	6.4	7.4	7.9	13.1	7.6	18.5	
5 Hashish	1.2	2.2	3.4	2.0	0.6	1.4	
6 Amphetamine	1.1	2.6	2.3	3.4	2.3	2.0	
7 Cocaine	2.4	4.0	3.6	2.4	1.6	2.2	

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GRADE 9

	Cent-	S.F.	L.A.	S.D.	North.	Orange	ral
REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1 Beer	56.3%	61.3%	61.4%	71.2%	63.7%	55.6%	

2 Wine.....53.6...53.1...60.2...63.7...62.4...50.9
 3 Liquor.....43.4...41.4...41.0...54.3...46.6...38.7
 4 Mari-
 juana.....32.2...34.4...31.3...38.1...32.0...25.0
 5 Hashish.....9.2...8.0...13.1...17.9...11.7...4.6
 6 Amphetamine.7.8...9.0...11.7...17.1...12.8...8.4
 7 Cocaine.....9.5...11.8...9.7...12.0...9.8...4.6

GRADE 11

.....Cent-
S.F...L.A...S.D...North..Orange...ral
 REGION.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6
 1 Beer.....65.9%..62.8%..72.9%..74.7%..72.5%..75.4%
 2 Wine.....64.9...55.3...63.7...73.4...60.5...63.5
 3 Liquor.....52.1...48.1...57.6...62.0...50.4...57.7
 4 Mari-
 juana.....37.5...39.6...42.9...50.9...3.9...47.7
 5 Hashish.....9.9...12.4...17.1...19.4...12.4...12.4
 6 Amphetamine.9.7...11.4...21.8...19.0...17.2...21.3
 7 Cocaine....17.4...17.4...22.0...19.7...15.0...17.6

REGION 1 - BAY AREA

Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara

REGION 2 - LOS ANGELES COUNTY

REGION 3 - SAN DIEGO COUNTY

REGION 4 - NORTHERN

Alpine, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, Yuba

REGION 5 - Imperial, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino

REGION 6 - CENTRAL

Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura

Source: State Attorney General's Office

[Illustration]
CHART: SEE END OF TEXT

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San Francisco Chronicle

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF '66 / A reunion of the children of privilege; [FINAL Edition]

SYLVIA RUBIN. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 12, 1986. pg. 24

Abstract (Summary)

They were not quite innocent then, not yet seriously rebellious. Marijuana was only beginning to show up in the parking lots on Friday nights. It was the '60s, but at Redwood High School in Larkspur, remembers Bill Niccolls, the spring student body president, "it was still a lot like `American Graffiti.' We weren't really beatniks, we weren't hippies; I guess you could call us pubescent yuppies."

As senior class president in the fall and spring, [DAVID KILMER] organized fund-raisers, dances, picnics and spent \$2000 on the senior ball, an amount "unheard of at the time," he says. "I think we had the first rock 'n' roll prom," says Kilmer, who tried to get the Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead and Big Brother and the Holding Company to play, but was turned down by Redwood High's administration. "They were fools. It was one of my biggest disappointments as president."

Today, Kilmer is a conservative Baptist minister who believes rock 'n' roll leads kids "away from the Lord and from the truth." He is pastor of the small First Congregational Church in Ferndale in Humboldt County. "I've made a 180-degree turn in terms of my lifestyle; I'm much more conservative politically," he says. "I look back on the '60s with fondness. I feel a strong kinship with my classmates, but I also look back and realize that I wasted a lot of time."

Full Text (2532 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 12, 1986

They were not quite innocent then, not yet seriously rebellious. Marijuana was only beginning to show up in the parking lots on Friday nights. It was the '60s, but at Redwood High School in Larkspur, remembers Bill Niccolls, the spring student body president, "it was still a lot like `American Graffiti.' We weren't really beatniks, we weren't hippies; I guess you could call us pubescent yuppies."

On the whole, the Class of '66 has fared well these past 20 years, as you might expect from a group of privileged kids from some of the wealthiest communities in the country: Tiburon, Belvedere, Ross, Corte Madera, Kentfield and Larkspur.

"We used to grill each other," one student remembers. "What does your dad do? Where do you live? That was really important."

Tomorrow night, the Class of '66 - a well-bred group of people pushing 40 wearing silly name tags and trying to hide their bald spots and cellulite - will meet at the Dock in Tiburon for their 20th high school reunion.

What has happened to them? There is at least one movie star, David Strathairn, on location in West Virginia right now shooting a John Sayles film. Another classmate is a photographer for National Geographic.

There has been tragedy along with success. Early deaths have claimed the lives of 12 alumni. On the bright side, however, says Stephen Kanzee, a member of the reunion coordinating committee, he knows of no one who is in jail right now.

Kanzee spent months finding his former classmates and expects a crowd of 170 out of 522 former Redwood students, plus spouses, to show up tomorrow night. Among them should be:

JIM GARRETT, 37

1966: Yell leader, varsity baseball, voted Playboy of the Western World.

1986: Dentist, married, two children, Corte Madera.

"I was one of those guys who tried to be popular with all the groups," Jim Garrett recalls. "I was a part-time surfer, part-time Fillmore-Winterlander, part-time drinker and part-time intellectual. I couldn't make up my mind."

But Garrett paid attention in class; he was 37th in his class. "The real me is to succeed and to do things in the acceptable manner; but in high school, I got into a whole lot of trouble for having a whole lot of fun."

He was a yell leader who was banned from taking the mike at pep rallies because he liked to do Elvis imitations and throw in a little blue humor.

"I was also the guy who did liquor runs on Friday afternoons, and made a handsome profit off it." He was kicked off the baseball team in his senior year for "you won't believe this," says Garrett. "For having pre-marital intercourse."

Today, Garrett works with his brother and father in the family dental practice in Corte Madera, where he sees many of his former classmates for their twice-a-year checkups.

"Oddly enough," he says, "I always knew I wanted to be a dentist, but I never would have told anybody that. They would have thought I was the biggest nerd in the world. I would tell people I wanted to be a neurosurgeon."

DAVID KILMER, 37

1966: Fall and spring class president.

1986: Minister, married, one child, Ferndale.

As senior class president in the fall and spring, David Kilmer organized fund-raisers, dances, picnics and spent \$2000 on the senior ball, an amount "unheard of at the time," he says. "I think we had the first rock 'n' roll prom," says Kilmer, who tried to get the Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead and Big Brother and the Holding Company to play, but was turned down by Redwood High's administration. "They were fools. It was one of my biggest disappointments as president."

He ended up with a Top 40 group, still an improvement from the big band sounds of previous years, he says.

Today, Kilmer is a conservative Baptist minister who believes rock 'n' roll leads kids "away from the Lord and from the truth." He is pastor of the small First Congregational Church in Ferndale in Humboldt County. "I've made a 180-degree turn in terms of my lifestyle; I'm much more conservative politically," he says. "I look back on the '60s with fondness. I feel a strong kinship with my classmates, but I also look back and realize that I wasted a lot of time."

ANN BASTIAN, 37

1966: Editor of the school paper.

1986: College professor, single, New York.

Ann Bastian was one of those very, very smart girls who kept mainly to herself in high school, studied hard and was accepted by Harvard University in her senior year.

Following in the journalistic footsteps of her father, Bob Bastian, editorial cartoonist for The Chronicle in the '50s and '60s, Bastian became editor of The Bark, Redwood's school paper, in her senior year.

"I think I was in the small group of budding intellectual cynics, whose main activity at the school was putting out the newspaper. We felt in a lot of ways very alienated by Redwood High, by its cliquishness and its conformity and by the sort of generally elitist social atmosphere that pervaded."

After going on to get advanced degrees from the London School of Economics and Rutgers universities and a fellowship at Columbia, Bastian now lives in New York, where she teaches 20th century history and American politics at the School of Visual Arts.

"I got an excellent education at Redwood," Bastian says. "The most important influences came from my teachers, not from my peers."

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STEPHEN KANZEE, 38

1966: Bridge Club, Chess Club

1986: Unemployed, single, Berkeley.

Stephen Kanzee attended Redwood High School for only little more than a year, and he says he never felt as if he belonged. Yet he is probably the most enthusiastic reunion coordinator the school will ever have. Why?

An adopted child, Kanzee decided to search for his natural parents a few years ago, and found them.

"I got very good at locating people," he says. "And, I know what reunions mean now."

Today, Kanzee, who came into an inheritance when he was in his early 20s, is a master bridge player, a member of the American Contract Bridge League, an avid Giants fan and a member of the Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association.

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NAOMI (SUE) KAWAHATA TROUP, 37

1966: FREE (Federation for Racial Education and Equality), choir, chorus

1986: Self-employed businesswoman, married, six children, Santa Rosa.

Sue Kawahata was one of only a few Asians at Redwood High School, and she was reminded of it often.

"I never heard a racial slur until I moved to Marin County in the sixth grade," she recalls. "I was called Chink, Jap, all the names. I was shocked. I'd never heard people say those things before."

Kawahata says she drifted through high school, unsure of who she was or what she wanted to do. "I knew that the world was in bad shape, but I didn't know what to do about it."

Today, she and her husband run a lampshade-making business and have become Jehovah's Witnesses.

"It has solved every problem I've ever had," Kawahata says. "A great deal of my time is spent doing missionary work."

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ROXIE (LEE) And GREGG DWYER, 38

1966: A cute couple.

1986: She's a homemaker; he's an operations manager for a moving company, two children, Fresno.

Every high school in America probably has one of these couples. The perfect twosome, they went steady all through high school, went everywhere together, walked through the corridors hand in hand, and, of course, they got married. And not because she was pregnant.

Roxie Lee and her husband, Gregg Dwyer, met on their first day at Redwood High School. They were going steady by October, and were wed the summer between their junior and senior years, when they were both 17, after getting permission from their parents.

Roxie was the shy type, who stayed mostly in the background. "My major fear in the '60s was that Gregg would end up in Vietnam."

Gregg got a deferment. He worked his way through high school and did not participate in any school activities. "I kind of ran with the crowd that drank beer and smoked cigarets. I went in for the Elvis look, with longish hair and pegged Levi's."

Today, Gregg Dwyer is the operations manager at Bekins Moving and Storage in Fresno. "I was not to be a rocket scientist, violinist or pianist."

The Dwyers say they will graciously accept the "Married the Longest" award at the reunion tomorrow night. They've been married 21 years "and are still on our honeymoon," says Gregg. "I have a hole in the wall in my house that award will fit perfectly over."

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TOM McCARTHY, 38

1966: Voted most likely to succeed, played trombone and tuba in the marching band, yell leader.

1986: Physician, married, three children, Santa Rosa.

Tom McCarthy was voted the most likely to succeed by his classmates in 1966. "That felt great," McCarthy remembers. "UQ I remember thinking, 'Succeed at what?'"

"I was in the marching band; that was uncool. Only the geeks did that. I was also a yell leader. That was cool."

He got good grades ("I was lucky; I didn't have to study too hard"), and when he felt rebellious, he'd sneak a smoke in the boys' room.

Today, McCarthy practices obstetrics and gynecology in Santa Rosa. He, like Kilmer, became a born-again Christian when he was in his mid-20s. "I'm more excited about life now. I feel like I have a direction. In high school, I didn't feel that at all."

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ZOE BROWN STERNBERG, 38

1966: Homecoming princess, song leader, yearbook staff.

1986: Homemaker, married, two children, Larkspur.

Zoe Brown, a member of the 20th-year reunion coordinating committee, wore her blond hair in a perfect flip in high school. She was a homecoming princess, a cheerleader, had a boyfriend on the football team and ran with the popular crowd. She was probably bubbly.

"Looking back, it all seems so rah-rah," she says with a laugh, "but I was very happy in high school. I had a great time and came through the '60s without a scrape."

After short stints as a flight attendant, physical therapy aide, and in the advertising business, today Brown is pursuing an art career and rearing two school-age children. She is president of the Parent's Council at her children's school.

"I'm very very active in volunteer work with my kids' school. I still like to get involved; I still can't say no."

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JOY WURZ STOUT, 37

1966: Swim Club, Math Club, Girls Athletic Association.

1986: Self-employed accountant, married, two children, Berkeley.

In high school, Joy Wurz was outgoing, athletic and a brain in math. She was an officer in the Girls Athletic Association.

Today, Wurz has kept up with both interests: She owns Consultax, a tax preparation business in Oakland, and spends her free time on the ski slopes, tennis courts, hiking or kayaking on the Bay. But with one major difference. A car accident in college left her paralyzed from the waist down.

"I don't want to make a big deal about it; I'm still doing athletics, only now I'm doing it from a wheelchair," she says.

"When you first get injured, you think, I can't do what I used to do. It's been a gradual process of running into people and finding out what it is I can do. It's taken 15 years to find the groups, facilities and equipment to be able to do what I want to do."

MARTHA WERTHIMER CURTIS, 37

1966: Activist.

1986: Nursing student, married, one child, San Francisco.

Martha Werthimer was more political than most of the kids at Redwood in 1966. But she wasn't a loner. "I was a low-key activist, you could say. I had friends from all different groups, but somewhere in the middle, there was a large contingent of us who staked out our own territory and had our own way of surviving high school."

Although she has very positive memories of Redwood, there was one incident that still makes her bristle. "Three or four girlfriends and I wanted to go to a homecoming dance to see our friend Nan (Breidenstein) get crowned Homecoming Queen. We didn't have dates, but we went anyway. And the teachers wouldn't let us in. When I think back on it, that might have been the beginnings of my feminist roots."

Werthimer went on to teach grade school, and was a case worker at the San Francisco County Jail, where she worked on job development programs for women. She was a founding member of Women Against Violence in Pornography and the Media.

Today, she is pursuing a nursing career, hoping to specialize in obstetrics. "At some point, my dream is to form a group called Nurses for Peace, where groups of us would go down to Nicaragua and other places to immunize children."

BILL NICCOLLS, 38

1966: Captain of the football team, student body president.

1986: Mortgage banker, married, two children, Seattle.

Bill Niccolls was one of those perfect kids in high school you wish would show up for the 20th reunion disheveled and destroyed.

Sorry. Niccolls, a successful mortgage banker, is doing just fine, thank you. In the last three years, he has arranged loan commitments for more than \$120 million for the restoration of Seattle and Tacoma landmark buildings.

In 1966, he was a football captain and student body president in the spring semester. "I loved the people in high school; they were the greatest bunch of people I've ever known. I loved being on committees, getting things done, running around. I threw myself absolutely into everything."

Niccolls owned a 1936 Ford with running boards, and he still has his letter jacket.

"It's this absurd puffy jacket with a big letter on it. It's extremely comfortable; I wear it on cold mornings when I'm working in my basement."

PHOTO CUTLINE:(1-2)

MARTHA WERTHIMER CURTIS, 37

1966: Activist

1986: Nursing student, married, one child, San Francisco

`There was a large contingent of us who staked out our own territory'

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(3-4)

STEPHEN KANZEE, 38

1966: Bridge Club, Chess Club

1986: Unemployed, single, Berkeley

`I know what reunions mean now'

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(5-6)

TOM McCARTHY, 38

1966: Voted most likely to succeed , played trombone and tuba in the marching band, yell leader

1986: Physician, married, three children, Santa Rosa

`I feel like I have a direction. In high school, I didn't feel that at all'

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(7-8)

JIM GARRETT, 37

1966: Yell leader, varsity baseball, voted Playboy of the Western World

1986: Dentist, married, two children, Corte Madera

`I got into a whole lot of trouble for having a whole lot of fun'

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(9) Roxie Lee and Gregg Dwyer married in high school and still feel like they're on their honeymoon. / BY DAVE THURBER

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(10) Sue Kawahata Troup thought Redwood High was racist. Now she spends much of her time in missionary work. / BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

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(11) David Kilmer loved the Airplane and the Dead. Now a minister, he thinks rock 'n' roll is sinful. / BY FRED MERTZ

[Illustration]

PHOTO (11); Caption: SEE END OF TEXT

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San Francisco Chronicle

Huge Amount of Forest Land Taken Over by Pot Growers; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 25, 1986. pg. 22

Abstract (Summary)

In the adjacent Six Rivers National Forest in Humboldt County, [Paul Steensland] said, the team this year has seized 6000 marijuana plants, arrested 12 growers and confiscated 16 firearms. But the growers are persistent. A marijuana patch was found this week near a road in the Klamath National Forest, with individual plants wired to explosives that would detonate if the plants were touched, Steensland said.

The intent, according to George Dunlop, the assistant secretary of agriculture who oversees the Forest Service, is to give the agency more muscle to deal with marijuana growers who are increasingly apt to protect their pot patches with guns, booby traps, land mines and attack dogs.

Full Text (476 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 25, 1986

Washington

Marijuana growers have taken over almost 1 million acres of the national forest system, forcing an outgunned and intimidated Agriculture Department to declare the tracts "unmanageable" and to close them to the public.

As a result, the USDA is asking Congress to authorize the arming of special teams of U.S. Forest Service agents and give them sweeping powers against marijuana growers.

The intent, according to George Dunlop, the assistant secretary of agriculture who oversees the Forest Service, is to give the agency more muscle to deal with marijuana growers who are increasingly apt to protect their pot patches with guns, booby traps, land mines and attack dogs.

"The problem is getting to be nationwide," Dunlop said, "but it is most severe in California. North Carolina, Arkansas, Florida and Missouri are other areas with the most serious problems.

"Our present enforcement activity is limited to eradicating the marijuana plants - we go in and rip them up. But that is not working," Dunlop added. "When a supervisor finds booby traps or guard dogs, he says, 'We won't manage that area or let the public into the area.'"

Dunlop said an increase in illicit marijuana growing by "a dangerous criminal element" has forced the Forest Service to close 946,000 acres of its 191 million-acre system.

The assistant secretary said the Forest Service relies on state and local police agencies for enforcement help. But he said Forest Service employees have been injured in shootouts and sometimes have used firearms in defense.

Dunlop agreed that the USDA could use other federal drug enforcers to help regain control of the forests. But he said giving the Forest Service new enforcement powers would "assure that any activity is done consistent with our forest-management role."

Paul Steensland, a Forest Service law-enforcement official in San Francisco, said there has been occasional violence in an area of California known as the "Emerald Triangle," which covers national forests in Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties and is the largest illicit growing area in the forest system.

Steensland said the shooting of a ranger and the burning of two guard stations in Shasta-Trinity National Forest led to the formation of a team of Forest Service agents and sheriff's deputies who have "recaptured" about 40,000 acres once deemed unmanageable.

In the adjacent Six Rivers National Forest in Humboldt County, Steensland said, the team this year has seized 6000 marijuana plants, arrested 12 growers and confiscated 16 firearms. But the growers are persistent. A marijuana patch was found this week near a road in the Klamath National Forest, with individual plants wired to explosives that would detonate if the plants were touched, Steensland said.

According to Dunlop, an estimated 20 percent of the domestic marijuana crop is produced in forest areas deemed "out of control" and too dangerous for the public and forest rangers to enter.

Washington Post

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San Francisco Chronicle

The Marijuana Business Reaches Middle Age; [SUNDAY Edition]

JAMES K. GLASSMAN. *San Francisco Chronicle* (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 28, 1986. pg. 18

Abstract (Summary)

The marijuana economic chain is dominated by small domestic growers, who make an average profit of \$22,500 a year, according to an admittedly dubious survey. The big-time smugglers are still around, with their Colombian connection, but the smart money is now in cocaine. Federal agents are three to four times as likely today as they were 10 years ago to intercept boatloads of marijuana, but the huge majority of the 400,000 to 500,000 annual marijuana arrests (a number that's been fairly constant since 1975) are for possession - with charges regularly dropped.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Mexico was our largest supplier of marijuana. Then, in 1975, at the urging of our government, Mexican authorities began spraying the herbicide paraquat on the marijuana crop and, by 1978, nearly wiped it out. Colombia took over, with 70 percent of the market, and Jamaica became No. 2. But the Colombians let the quality of their product decline and began to switch to peddling cocaine, following American tastes. With the DEA and the Coast Guard becoming more vigilant, smuggling has become harder, and exporters figure that it's easier to get \$1 million worth of cocaine (wholesale) into this country than \$1 million worth of marijuana. The coke weighs 90 pounds; the pot, nearly a ton.

The main reason that marijuana still sells is the advent of sinsemilla, which means "seedless." To produce this sort of marijuana, you get rid of male plants so that their pollen won't be able to fertilize the females. The females put out larger and larger buds in a vain attempt to latch onto some pollen. The trimmed buds are what connoisseurs these days smoke; sinsemilla at retail costs two to four times as much as common sativa from Mexico, with its sticks and seeds. High Times reports in its "Trans-High Market Quotations" section that in Charlotte, N.C., an ounce of the best "Carolina kickass potent buds" (sinsemilla) is going for \$180 to \$190. In Boston, "pretty good Colombian" is \$60. In general, marijuana is better and cheaper (in real dollars) than it was in the late 1970s.

Full Text (1474 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 28, 1986

"Dear Ed," writes a troubled reader, Mr. K.F.

"A few months ago I planted a couple of Thai seeds indoors and had some bushy 4-foot plants growing. In your March issue a reader asked about a 5 percent bleach solution added to water to kill nasty insects. My plants had bugs eating away at the leaves, so I tried your advice. Unfortunately, the solution wilted the entire plants. What happened?"

Ed replies: "A 5 percent bleach solution is used as a disinfectant for rooms and equipment only. It should not be used on plants because it will kill them, as you experienced."

This exchange between Mr. K.F. and Ed Rosenthal, the Ann Landers of the marijuana world, is found in a recent issue of High Times magazine, a thriving 12-year-old publication for druggies. The correspondence gives you an idea of what's happened to the marijuana business over the past four or five years. It's reached middle age - literally gone to seed. It's a fascinating case of an illegal business that operates under the same market rules as a legal one, adapting to ebbs and flows in demand and supply as well as to powerful forces of psychology, sociology and plain old taste.

Marijuana is no longer a symbol of rebellion or creativity. Andrew Weil argues in his 1972 book, "The Natural Mind," that marijuana is not a particularly potent drug. Instead, "the influence of set that is, frame of mind and setting the smoker's surroundings dwarfs the influence of the drug itself." And set and setting are largely social phenomena; they've changed drastically during the Age of Reagan. Yupdom wants more than a buzz or a sedation or a heightened peanut-butter taste. It's practical. It wants to perform, either by being wired on cocaine or by being clearheaded and natural.

Tastes have changed, but marijuana has survived - partly by becoming more blue collar, partly by adopting an odd agrarian mystique. High Times was once filled with articles on drug culture. Today it's obsessed with botany. Pages that once carried ads for roach clips, flavored rolling papers and hookahs now carry ads for powerful indoor "grow lamps," kits to detect the sex of cannabis plants and traps to stop rabbits from eating your young sprouts.

Hunter S. Thompson and Abbie Hoffman are long gone on to other things. The new heroes are cultivators - Rosenthal himself, author of the "Marijuana Growers Handbook," and Jorge Cervantes, author of "Indoor Marijuana Culture." Cervantes - gentle Johnny Appleseedy prophet - writes that indoor marijuana growers "are not the average backyard weed jerk; they are caring people who pay attention to their plants' environment."

While cocaine makes the cover of Newsweek every other week (alternating with AIDS), marijuana has reached a kind of low-profile stasis. It's still America's best-selling drug, but the latest estimate of the Drug Enforcement Administration claims that consumption has dropped from around 9700 metric tons in 1981 to around 8500 in 1984. Use on college campuses is down, and prices have leveled off.

Now, coke is king - for consumers, for criminals and for the law. High Times itself does not glorify cocaine: "The coke lifestyle, it's pretty disgusting," says Steven Hager, executive editor. (High Times, by the way, has a circulation of 250,000. A full-page color ad costs \$4855.)

The marijuana economic chain is dominated by small domestic growers, who make an average profit of \$22,500 a year, according to an admittedly dubious survey. The big-time smugglers are still around, with their Colombian connection, but the smart money is now in cocaine. Federal agents are three to four times as likely today as they were 10 years ago to intercept boatloads of marijuana, but the huge majority of the 400,000 to 500,000 annual marijuana arrests (a number that's been fairly constant since 1975) are for possession - with charges regularly dropped.

Over the past 10 years, marijuana has gone from a strictly imported product to a major domestic cottage industry. Small farmers grow it - often on public lands (the idea is that if they're caught, the feds can't confiscate the fields). It is probably the biggest cash crop in Hawaii, Oregon and Alabama, and certainly in Humboldt County.

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) makes the outlandish claim - blithely repeated by much of the press - that marijuana is now "the most valuable cash crop in the United States," worth \$18.6 billion in 1985. Other sources estimate the wholesale value of the crop to be \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion - still a lot, considering the tobacco crop last year was worth \$2.7 billion.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Mexico was our largest supplier of marijuana. Then, in 1975, at the urging of our government, Mexican authorities began spraying the herbicide paraquat on the marijuana crop and, by 1978, nearly wiped it out. Colombia took over, with 70 percent of the market, and Jamaica became No. 2. But the Colombians let the quality of their product decline and began to switch to peddling cocaine, following American tastes. With the DEA and the Coast Guard becoming more vigilant, smuggling has become harder, and exporters figure that it's easier to get \$1 million worth of cocaine (wholesale) into this country than \$1 million worth of marijuana. The coke weighs 90 pounds; the pot, nearly a ton.

So, in the early 1980s, the most important source of new marijuana in this country became this country itself. Marijuana is one industry in which balance of payments is improving. The DEA estimates that 12 percent of the marijuana consumed in the United States is grown domestically. NORML puts the figure at 50 percent. The real number is probably somewhere in between.

Growing - more than smoking - has become the object of fanaticism, the new focus of the marijuana culture. Marijuana farmers primp their prize plants as though they were blue-ribbon Iowa hogs. They hold contests. The drug magazines run luscious color photographs of particularly good-looking cannabis. The "Ask Ed" column in High Times has a "Plant of the Month" and "Garden of the Month" feature. Readers send in pictures of what they've grown.

In a new book about the marijuana business, "Invisible Hand," Roger Warner writes that many - perhaps most - farmers don't smoke the stuff themselves. They're in it for the money, the aesthetics, the style; they're the vestiges of the hippie agrarian culture of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Cannabis indica plant - originally imported from Afghanistan - has become the most popular American variety, because it flowers more quickly than Cannabis sativa (the plant grown in Mexico, Colombia and Jamaica) and because it's more powerful. It also smells better unsmoked: "like the mingled scents of pine trees, mint and fresh-mown hay." Most indoor marijuana is grown hydroponically, using clones instead of seeds to get the plant started.

But the main reason that marijuana still sells is the advent of sinsemilla, which means "seedless." To produce this sort of marijuana, you get rid of male plants so that their pollen won't be able to fertilize the females. The females put out larger and larger buds in a vain attempt to latch onto some pollen. The trimmed buds are what connoisseurs these days smoke; sinsemilla at retail costs two to four times as much as common sativa from Mexico, with its sticks and seeds. High Times reports in its "Trans-High Market Quotations" section that in Charlotte, N.C., an ounce of the best "Carolina kickass potent buds" (sinsemilla) is going for \$180 to \$190. In Boston, "pretty good Colombian" is \$60. In general, marijuana is better and cheaper (in real dollars) than it was in the late 1970s.

The marijuana business today has all the excitement of truck farming - except at harvest time outdoors, when poachers descend on the fields to steal the mature plants. As a result, says a survey in Sinsemilla Tips (which describes itself as "the technical trade journal of the domestic marijuana industry"), "18 percent of the growers said they are now armed when tending their gardens . . . and 19 percent said they booby-trap their gardens."

The glory seems to go to the marketers. Warner describes one: "The labels were his own design, a wide green indica leaf against an outline of the lower 48 states with a title, Cannabis Americana, running underneath. Under this logo ran a couple of paragraphs telling his customers how great American agriculture was, why they should only smoke American sinsemilla, and so on." Obviously, this entrepreneur keeps up with the latest trends, a follower of Miller beer's Made the American Way.

James K. Glassman is a contributing editor of the New Republic, where this article first appeared. (c) 1986 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: A young budding sinsemilla (female) marijuana plant

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San Francisco Chronicle

NICK CASSAVETES / Violence-Prone 'B' Movies Don't Hide Tall Talent; [SUNDAY Edition]

JOHN STANLEY. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 16, 1986. pg. 21

Abstract (Summary)

In the original script Valence was a psychotic who pulled a yo-yo from his pocket whenever he was on the verge of killing. Early rushes, however, "told us a yo-yo in the hands of a killer just didn't work. So we dropped the yo-yo idea. One day, we had a scene where Valence was supposed to take the string and strangle one of his underlings. What could we use to replace the yo-yo? We stood around laughing and kidding, until someone suggested a cigaret in the ear. It became one of the most talked-about scenes in the movie. Everybody cringes when they see it."

Cassavetes was to play an Indian chief in "Buckeye," but backed out when the part of Valence was offered to him by producer Robert Shaye and Canadian director Clay Borris, who had just seen Cassavetes playing Robert Vaughn's hit man in "Black Moon Rising."

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) [NICK CASSAVETES], son of a famous acting couple, is coming into his own / BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE, (2) In 'The Wraith,' Cassavetes threatens [Griffin O'Neal] with a knife

Full Text (1204 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 16, 1986

THE DRUG overlord stands tall at 6-foot-5 with a deadly demeanor, his coal-black hair slicked down, his eyes those of a coiled rattlesnake. He cocks the long-barreled revolver, placing it against the woman's neck, and takes his time squeezing the trigger. He's enjoying this. His name is Valence, and he's one helluva cold-blooded killer.

Nick Cassavetes stands just as tall in person, but in no other way does he resemble the murderer he coolly portrays in the unquiet action-revenge film, "Quiet Cool." His hair is back to its dark-brown coloring and tends to remain disheveled, spreading upward in several directions. He's a bit gangling, dresses carelessly in the plainest of clothes, and in the right circumstances, could easily play a comic figure.

Cassavetes, the 27-year-old son of Gena Rowlands and John Cassavetes, was looming in the lobby of the Fairmont the other morning, having just arrived from a stint on the Alex Bennett radio show.

San Francisco was city No. 16 on his 16-day tour to promote "Quiet Cool" and he was glad he would be seeing Studio City in North Hollywood that night. His 7-month-old daughter Virginia and wife of two years, Isabelle, were waiting.

He'd picked a fortuitous time to land in the Bay Area, for "The Wraith," a second film in which he appears, will open at the Galaxy and Serra on Friday. Like "Quiet Cool," it's a noisy action picture, though with supernatural overtones, and it stars Randy Quaid, Charlie Sheen (son of Martin), Clint Howard and Griffin O'Neal, who finished the picture just before the Memorial Day weekend accident that killed Francis Ford Coppola's son.

Cassavetes candidly noted that "Quiet Cool" is hardly a contender in the '86 Oscar race, yet it is an important stepping stone in a career that has been gaining momentum since his appearance in Peter Bogdanovich's "Mask" and in John Carpenter's "Black Moon Rising."

If any one thing stands out in "Quiet Cool," a loose dramatization of the drug wars raging in the "Emerald Triangle" of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, it is Cassavetes in the role of a marijuana kingpin in command of a well-defended pot-growing center.

In the movie role, he hardly says a word or registers an emotion; he just stands in the shadows of the mighty redwoods, suggesting 100 different sadistic thoughts, a commanding, photogenic presence.

"The most frightening person in the world," he began, settling down to breakfast, "is someone without emotions, who would just as soon kill you as sip a cup of coffee. To me, that gives a villain believability. This Valence, he's not a hot-headed punk - I hate overstatement. When you portray evil, you don't need to embellish or remind the audience. The greatest actor portraying evil today is Rutger Hauer. He understands villains."

In the original script Valence was a psychotic who pulled a yo-yo from his pocket whenever he was on the verge of killing. Early rushes, however, "told us a yo-yo in the hands of a killer just didn't work. So we dropped the yo-yo idea. One day, we had a scene where Valence was supposed to take the string and strangle one of his underlings. What could we use to replace the yo-yo? We stood around laughing and kidding, until someone suggested a cigaret in the ear. It became one of the most talked-about scenes in the movie. Everybody cringes when they see it."

"Quiet Cool" was photographed last spring in the mountains 15 miles north of Santa Cruz and in Santa Cruz itself at an abandoned camp that was rebuilt into the town of Babylon. The film takes on the characteristics of an old-fashioned Western when a big-city cop (James Remar) comes to the dusty town to look for three missing people and the dialogue runs to such lines as "he's the only law in these parts." A trace of parody can be found in the cop's name (Dillon) and his climactic shoot-out on the main street of town with a pair of sawed-off shotguns.

Cassavetes was to play an Indian chief in "Buckeye," but backed out when the part of Valence was offered to him by producer Robert Shaye and Canadian director Clay Borris, who had just seen Cassavetes playing Robert Vaughn's hit man in "Black Moon Rising."

In "The Wraith," a film he made in Tucson just before "Quiet Cool," Cassavetes is the leader of a gang of road pirates terrorizing an Arizona town. They come up against "a phantom, an unearthly power." His portrayal of Packard Walsh, he said, was also patterned on the concept that one doesn't have to overact when the evil is already inherent in the material.

Although his acting career is on the upswing, Cassavetes still devotes some of his time to writing. His first sold screenplay was a horror film, "Pentacle," which he wrote with his father. The second script he sold, "An American Freedogger in France," which he described as "an 'Animal House' on ice," will be shot in Europe. He will have a small role and it will be directed by Mike Marvin, a specialist in documentary ski films who also did "The Wraith."

There are nine other unsold scripts, which he fears will remain that way until he can develop enough clout to produce them himself.

Nick Cassavetes grew up in the Hollywood environment, but originally didn't have any interest in acting. As a child he made small appearances in his father's independent features, but he doesn't count these as credits - "I knew nothing about acting."

His real dream was to play professional basketball, and that dream seemed to be coming true when he received an athletic scholarship to attend Syracuse University. A pulled Achilles' tendon and "a period when I was depressed and felt sorry for myself" forced him to drop out.

"After that I was down and out. I worked for a year as a janitor. Finally I pulled myself out of it by attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena because that's where my girlfriend was going." She dropped out - he stayed to do enough plays to be spotted by a talent agent.

Nick said he has never had to live in the shadows of his famous parents. "They've always left me alone to do whatever I wanted. And they've never helped me. I'm glad because when things are easy, you never learn anything."

Cassavetes' next film, "Under the Gun," in which he portrays a guy on the run from the Mafia, is already shot. It's another "B" picture full of violence and action. But he's not at all fearful of being typecast. "There are things a hell of a lot worse than playing heavies the rest of your life. But I'm confident that won't happen. There are many different roles I want to play, and with a little luck I'll play them."

"Quiet Cool" is playing at the Alexandria, St. Francis, Alhambra, Grand and the Geneva Drive-In; "The Wraith" opens Friday at the Galaxy and Serra.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) Nick Cassavetes, son of a famous acting couple, is coming into his own / BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE, (2) In 'The Wraith,' Cassavetes threatens Griffin O'Neal with a knife

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San Francisco Chronicle

State Supreme Court Upholds Death Penalty in Triple Slaying; [FINAL Edition]

William Carlsen. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 1, 1987. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

[Joseph Grodin], Chief Justice Rose Bird and Justice Cruz Reynoso, who were also defeated in the election, leave office next Monday. Bird dissented yesterday from both of Grodin's opinions.

In a random 1980 airplane surveillance of the rugged, mountainous area, police photographed the crop and [Allan Norman Mayoff]'s trailers 200 feet away. They used the photos to obtain a warrant to confiscate the crop and arrest Mayoff.

Grodin, writing for the majority, stated that because the police focused their attention on the crop and observed Mayoff's residence only in relation to the crop, they did not violate his right of privacy.

Full Text (753 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 1, 1987

The California Supreme Court yesterday upheld its fourth death penalty since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977, affirming the sentence of a Fresno man convicted of three murders.

In a major victory for law enforcement agencies, the court also ruled in a separate case that police surveillance of "open fields" from the air to find marijuana plants is constitutional.

Both decisions were written by Justice Joseph Grodin, who was rejected for confirmation by voters in November after a bitter campaign in which he was attacked as being soft on crime.

Grodin, Chief Justice Rose Bird and Justice Cruz Reynoso, who were also defeated in the election, leave office next Monday. Bird dissented yesterday from both of Grodin's opinions.

Since August 1979, the court has decided 63 death penalty cases, overturning 59 of them. Yesterday's decision was the first death verdict affirmed by the court since December 1983. The three earlier death penalty cases that were upheld are in various stages of appeal in federal and state courts.

In yesterday's case, the court voted 4 to 3 to uphold the death sentence of Clarence Ray Allen. The 56-year-old Allen was convicted of arranging the murder of three people in a Fresno grocery store in 1980 while he was in prison serving time for an earlier murder conviction.

According to the court record, Allen went on a crime rampage in the 1970s in the Fresno area, using at least 10 members of a "crime family," whom he often terrorized into compliance.

During his 1981 trial, the prosecution introduced evidence of burglaries, robberies, assaults and other crimes Allen allegedly committed, including his arrangement to kill another inmate in the Fresno jail where Allen was being held while awaiting trial.

In the lead opinion, Grodin noted that there were numerous technical errors made during Allen's trial. But he said none of them was serious enough to have denied Allen a fair trial or to overcome the overwhelming evidence against him.

No precedents were created by Grodin's opinion, which was signed by Justice Stanley Mosk. In a separate opinion that formed the majority, Justice Malcolm Lucas and Edward Panelli joined in the judgment but stated they differed with Grodin's reasoning.

Bird, Reynoso and Justice Allen Broussard concurred in Allen's guilty verdict, but they dissented on his death sentence.

Broussard wrote that a jury instruction had misled the jurors into thinking that they did not have the power to sentence Allen to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In the aerial surveillance ruling, the court came down squarely on the side of state law enforcement officials in their attempt to eradicate marijuana cultivation in California.

The decision is expected to have little practical effect because of an anti-crime initiative, Proposition 8, that was passed by the state's voters in 1982. The initiative binds California trial courts to U.S. Supreme Court rulings on search questions. The high court has given police broad aerial surveillance powers.

Yesterday's decision came one year after the state Supreme Court ruled that aerial surveillance of the enclosed area immediately surrounding a person's house is unconstitutional.

The new ruling upheld the marijuana cultivation conviction of Allan Norman Mayoff, who was sentenced to six months in jail and two years' probation for growing a marijuana crop on his isolated, rural Humboldt County property.

In a random 1980 airplane surveillance of the rugged, mountainous area, police photographed the crop and Mayoff's trailers 200 feet away. They used the photos to obtain a warrant to confiscate the crop and arrest Mayoff.

Mayoff challenged the search as unconstitutional.

Grodin, writing for the majority, stated that because the police focused their attention on the crop and observed Mayoff's residence only in relation to the crop, they did not violate his right of privacy.

"There can be no absolute privacy from warrantless aerial surveillance by police of crops growing in open fields," Grodin said.

"There was no physical indication, such as a common enclosure, that the trailers and gardens were considered a common zone of private residential activity," he added.

Grodin's opinion was signed by Mosk, Reynoso and Broussard. Lucas wrote a separate concurring opinion.

In a blistering dissent, Bird said that the majority has "sanctioned an unparalleled program of indiscriminate aerial surveillance of the property, homes and persons of innocent citizens by the government."

"Such a holding is inconsistent with those principles which separate our open and democratic society from societies in which the government may spy on its citizenry unfettered by the rule of law." she wrote.

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San Francisco Chronicle

The Death of / HIP; [SUNDAY Edition]

DAVID REMNICK. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 11, 1987. pg. 6

Abstract (Summary)

I began to see the death of Hip all around, like a new word that suddenly appears in every sentence one hears. I picked up the New York Times Magazine, and there was a huge spread celebrating 29-year-old investment bankers as if they were possessed of the same crazy-wisdom dynamism as Abstract Expressionists. I went through a stack of the supposedly ultra-Hip magazine *Details* and read 427 articles about people going out for cocktails and cocaine in precious New York nightclubs. I sat on a bus one Saturday in Washington, D.C., next to a securities lawyer who was wearing a T-shirt with a drawing on it by Keith Haring. I'd heard he was very Hip. "He can't be that Hip," the lawyer said. "Number one, I read about him in *People* magazine. Number two, he's making a mint."

Hip was a challenge to the stifling consensus of America's assumptions about itself. Hip said no to the country club and the split-level and the Cold War and the virginity of youth. Hip said yes to danger, to release, to rebellion, to (O magical word!) the Moment. Borrowing from '20s Bohemianism, French existentialism and other countercultures, Hip said no the rules of the game. And from that denial emerged many things, some silly and studied, others absolutely liberating and artful.

In the end, Hip was its own worst enemy. Hip, and all the rebellions it led to - the sexual revolution, new literature, the New Left, hippies, biodegradable Vermont communes - pushed the boundaries of acceptable social behavior way beyond what they were in the Eisenhower era. In the '50s all you had to do to be a small-town rebel was wear your hair long and greasy, smoke cigarets and the occasional reefer, listen to Thelonious Monk and Chuck Berry, wear a leather jacket or a leotard, sleep around and use black street vernacular. Nowadays James Dean would be elected to the National Honor Society. Most of the old taboos are gone. The limits of the outrageous are so far out that you've got to be John Wayne Gacey to get noticed. But mass murder ain't Hip; it's just murder.

Full Text (2392 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 11, 1987

David Remnick is a staff writer for the Washington Post Magazine

Hip is dead. The evidence is everywhere - in the bookstores, the theaters, the galleries, the streets - but I happened to hear about it on the car radio driving along the coast of Maine. The endless vision of lobster huts, Bass Weejun outlets and Saab Turbos can numb a driver's mind to the point of hazard, so I turned on an FM station for a bracing blast of rock. On came a bright shuffle, a nice bit of four-square guitar, bass, drums and other electronic folderol. And then the revelatory anthem: Huey Lewis wryly declaring that he "used to fool around/But I couldn't take the punishment and had to settle down./Now I'm playin' it real strict, and, yes, I cut my hair./You might think I'm crazy, but I don't really care./'Cause I can tell what's goin' on./It's hip to be square."

I began to see the death of Hip all around, like a new word that suddenly appears in every sentence one hears. I picked up the New York Times Magazine, and there was a huge spread celebrating 29-year-old investment bankers as if they were possessed of the same crazy-wisdom dynamism as Abstract Expressionists. I went through a stack of the supposedly ultra-Hip magazine *Details* and read 427 articles about people going out for cocktails and cocaine in precious New York nightclubs. I sat on a bus one Saturday in Washington, D.C., next to a securities lawyer who was wearing a T-shirt with a drawing on it by Keith Haring. I'd heard he was very Hip. "He can't be that Hip," the lawyer said. "Number one, I read about him in *People* magazine. Number two, he's making a mint."

Supposedly Hip young authors are marketed as carefully as fine wines. A Bergdorf Goodman clothing ad recently alluded to Tama Janowitz's *Slaves of New York*. What's around the corner? Saks Fifth Avenue featuring a Humboldt's Gift Shop?

It gets depressing. Last year I saw "Stranger Than Paradise" and thought the star, John Lurie, was pretty Hip, or at least a state-of-the-art downtown New York character: skinny, dissipated, maybe even a little talented. Cool, at the very least. Then the next thing you know he's in an ad for Rose's Lime Juice. So this year I'm on to the next Hip movie, "She's Gotta Have It," by Spike Lee, a guy who says he was selling tube socks on the street to get by. Next thing you know he's got a three-picture deal with Island Pictures.

Say hello to Hollywood, Spike. Say goodbye to Hip.

Hip has been misunderstood as fashionable, cutting-edge, informed. But Hip was once something more forceful, more dangerous than that. Hip was a postwar American idea and way of life that exploded in the Eisenhower years. Like a child discovering the power of speech, America was discovering its untold influence and prosperity and reveling in the sheer comfort of it. All you had to do was play by the rules, and virtually everyone did. What image of the '50s is more emblematic than that of an aerial view of Levittown? What work of literature better captured the ethic of those days than "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit"?

Hip was a challenge to the stifling consensus of America's assumptions about itself. Hip said no to the country club and the split-level and the Cold War and the virginity of youth. Hip said yes to danger, to release, to rebellion, to (O magical word!) the Moment. Borrowing from '20s Bohemianism, French existentialism and other countercultures, Hip said no the rules of the game. And from that denial emerged many things, some silly and studied, others absolutely liberating and artful.

In "Howl," Allen Ginsburg immortalized the "angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night,/who poverty and tatters and hollow-eyed and high sat up smoking in the supernatural darkness of cold-water flats floating across the tops of cities contemplating jazz." Hip even seeped into the mainstream. Sexual barriers fell. Harvard boys grew goatees. Sarah Lawrence girls stayed up all night writing and rewriting their suicide notes.

Norman Mailer's essay "The White Negro" was published in *Dissent* 30 summers ago, and in it he declared that the God of the Hipster is "energy, life, sex, force, the Yoga's prana, the Reichian orgone, Lawrence's `blood,' Hemingway's `good,' the Shavian life-force; `It'; God; not the God of the churches but the unachievable whisper of mystery within the sex." Lord, how dated that passage sounds with its studied combinations of Eastern mysticism and radical Freudianism, its self-conscious expressions of vitality and authenticity. But you have to remember the times, an era when the idea of sin was as confining as a rubber tuxedo.

Mailer even went so far as to make dialectical lists of the Hip and the Square in order to help explain his "White Negro" manifesto. And so one had this:

Hip/Square

Dostoevsky/Tolstoy

spontaneous/orderly

Nixon/Dulles

perverse/pious

T formation/single wing

midnight/noon

illegitimacy/abortion

self/society

marijuana/liquor

Trotsky/Lenin

a question/an answer

sex/religion

nuance/fact

What made Mailer's arguments and lists fascinating was not his sense of intellectual or moral responsibility. He was not writing history or philosophy. He was engaged in a kind of surrealist journalism, a momentary way to shock the suburban burghers at a certain time and in a certain place.

Hip must have died somewhere along the line for Mailer, as it did for the rest of the world. When he tried to help a criminal the likes of Jack Henry Abbott, it ended in death and disillusion. The expenses of a big family and an American high life pushed him into some decidedly Square projects. But more than just one man's progress and personal circumstances helped spell the end of Hip. Let's bring in the coroner's report and study the causes of death.

In the end, Hip was its own worst enemy. Hip, and all the rebellions it led to - the sexual revolution, new literature, the New Left, hippies, biodegradable Vermont communes - pushed the boundaries of acceptable social behavior way beyond what they were in the Eisenhower era. In the '50s all you had to do to be a small-town rebel was wear your hair long and greasy, smoke cigarets and the occasional reefer, listen to Thelonious Monk and Chuck Berry, wear a leather jacket or a leotard, sleep around and use black street vernacular. Nowadays James Dean would be elected to the National Honor Society. Most of the old taboos are gone. The limits of the outrageous are so far out that you've got to be John Wayne Gacey to get noticed. But mass murder ain't Hip; it's just murder.

The limits of artistic expression have changed. In the '50s, Lenny Bruce was Hip because he said "f - - -" in public. You knew he was the real thing because he would get censored or his audiences would throw things and walk out - signs of intense Hipness ever since the days when Stravinsky and Picasso were alienating the European arts establishment. But what about now? What are you supposed to do or say? It used to be that so-called performance artists could outrage their audiences by making funny sounds or cutting their hands with a straight razor. Now a woman on the cover of The Village Voice wows her downtown audiences by - and it gets a little rough here, folks - stuffing yams up where the sun don't shine. Lovely.

At the same time, the various social revolutions have had their merciless consequences. As drugs have grown more and more pervasive, more varied and more powerful, you would have to be dumb or boundlessly perverse to laugh off the dangers. And while the various sexual diseases are not, as some fundamentalists might have it, the revenge of God upon the promiscuous or the homosexual, they have made us wary, even terrified. Risking illness or death for a certain kind of sexual freedom isn't wild or dangerous or Hip; it's stupid. And so we find ourselves more conservative by necessity.

Hip Turns to Gold: Anyone showing the faintest trace of cultural innovation is in immediate danger of becoming a commodity. And who can resist the pot of gold? Jack Kerouac probably did more for Levi Strauss stock than any 15 marketing executives, but he couldn't cash in. The advertising vehicles weren't there yet. If he'd been able to do an ad or two, how long would he have remained Hip? He should have lived so long.

Madonna, with all her talent and trappy sexuality, was Hip for about five and one-half minutes. Then, before you could say "Desperately Seeking Susan," there were 6-year-olds dressing up in torn stockings and there were helicopters flying around to get pictures of her wedding to Sean Penn.

There have always been gossip columnists and movie mags and all the rest, but the explosion in media outlets and the increasing obsession with celebrity have created a situation in which it takes an act of willful monasticism to avoid the glare. A couple of years ago I interviewed a young comic actress named Whoopi Goldberg. She was already halfway up the ladder in a one-woman show in New York, but there weren't many articles out yet. She could still joke around about going back home to Berkeley and "coolin' out." Fourteen seconds later, Mike Nichols and Steven Spielberg were at her door, and now she's on "Entertainment Tonight" and she's joining Hands Across America, and she's no Hipper than Ricardo Montalban.

People magazine is the great homogenizer. A guy like Keith Haring causes his mini-sensation in the New York art world, but a week later he's in People (and delighted to be there) along with Joan Collins, Diane Brill, Jane Pauley's twins and Abu Nidal. So what is he now? Just another celebrity, a face you recognize, a caption. How can you be Hip when your picture is smiling up from the checkout counter at the Safeway and "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" is knocking at your door? Can there be any greater symbol of Hip's death than Andy Warhol's silk screen of a huge dollar sign?

The New Myths: Keith Haring and Kenny Scharf may be good businessmen, but they aren't the best. In an era that celebrates money as the ultimate value, the truly envied are the players, the robber barons. Who would have imagined a day when an oil executive would be a great outlaw? Well, Jack Kerouac, meet T. Boone Pickens. Ken

Kesey, say hello to Donald Trump and Saul Steinberg and Steve Jobs. Can it be that the '80s' answer to Black Mountain College is the Harvard Business School?

The '50s were an age of enforced, almost legislated, conformism. To depart from the norm meant something, a stated way of life. The '80s are so seemingly prosperous and liberated that this decade has become an era of voluntary conformism. What was once seen as decidedly drab - long days at the office, gray suits, discussions of the stock market and private schools - is now seen, in the minds of baby boomers, as somehow vital and fresh. But it's not Hip.

The Honeymooners and Other Phony Hipsters: Retro may be a smile, but it's not new. It's fashionable, not Hip. Watching old cartoons and sitcoms while eating Moon Pies is not Hip. Neither is going bowling, ha-ha-ha. In the '80s it's supposed to be funny that nobody means anything, that everything is just an attitude, a joke. Irony is the escape hatch, the means by which you can soothe the guilt of being a greedhead and a coward with a wisecrack. Irony is what lets people think they can be the Man in the Gray Flannel Suit by day and Iggy Pop by night. Irony makes life a cinch.

David Letterman is the global jester in the era of retro, a gap-toothed figure of irony who mocks anyone who isn't as rich and famous and cool as he is, ha-ha-ha. He may even be funny at times, but he's nothing new, he's not risking anything. Hip meant something daring. Steve Allen and Ernie Kovacs did all the daring stuff a long time ago. David Letterman just knows when to retell an old joke.

Thirty years ago Norman Mailer ascribed a certain vitality and otherness to blacks, and hoped that people sickened by the strictures of the era would break loose as white Negroes, as Hipsters. But so many factors, some of them described above, have spelled the death of Hip. A few figures continue to push the envelope, as the aviators say. People like David Byrne, Jean-Luc Godard and Spalding Gray have managed to stay vital even with the paparazzi poking their lenses through the bathroom window. But how many of them are there? For every Jonathan Demme, who hasn't given in an inch to Hollywood, there are a hundred guys in Ferraris plowing along the Harbor Freeway, living off the profits of "Porky's XIV." And they all think Demme's a dope.

The idea of a white Negro was the promise of a bridge between sensibilities and races. But in a greedy era, a gouty, complacent culture that celebrates conservatism and money as the universal style, damn near everyone goes for the gold. There is no creative tension between an official culture and counterculture, just a country of haves and have-nots. Heads, you win; tails, you're a sucker.

And so when the subway comes into the station, and the steel is smeared with the fluorescent names of the outcasts, the poor, the kids who aren't going to make enough bread for the 14-room place on Park Avenue and the big joint in East Hampton or Kennebunkport, Mailer wonders whether the graffiti are not "the herald of some oncoming apocalypse less and less far away . . . sounding like the bugles of gathering armies across the unseen ridge."

They are bugles of discontent and anger. But is anyone listening? Unlikely. The distinction between uptown and downtown is evaporating. Even the would-be Hipsters make little of that bugle - they are all gazing uptown at the money, the fame, the flash and all that is not Hip.

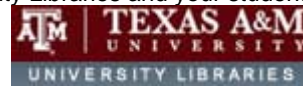
[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: You knew it was over when gourmet cookies came to HaightStreet.

Indexing (document details)

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San Francisco Chronicle

Eureka's Tough Times Behind the 'Redwood Wall'; [FINAL Edition]

Michael McCabe, Chronicle Correspondent. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 13, 1987. pg. 5

Abstract (Summary)

Eureka City Manager Robert Stockwell agrees that the dock fire may be a setback to the fishing industry, but he insists that lull will be brief.

Lynwood Carranco, 63, professor emeritus of English at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, has written several books about the area, including "The Redwood Lumber Industry." He agrees, in general, with [Bonnie Gool]'s pessimistic assessment of the area's problems.

PHOTO (2); (1) Aboard the Tokiwa II, fisherman [Jimmy Smith] said he is optimistic about the return of salmon, (2) [James Nichols] runs the Second Chance junk store in Eureka / PHOTOS BY STEVE CASTILLO/ THE CHRONICLE

Full Text (1420 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 13, 1987

Eureka, Humboldt County

The devastating dockside fire here two weeks ago was just the latest bit of bad luck for the town that has had more than its share of tough times.

Isolated 250 miles north of San Francisco and reachable by land only over twisting, hilly, often potholed highways, Eureka exists "behind the Redwood Wall."

It is a situation that many Eurekaans believe is aggravating the city's economic woes, and residents are wondering when the good times are going to start to roll.

Some city and county officials here insist that the good times are already rolling and that their problems are largely the result of an "obsolete image" of the area that is often harder to overcome than some of Eureka's other problems.

City officials pointed out, after the fire last Friday did as much as \$2 million in damage to the city-owned dock, that reconstruction would begin quickly and that all city-owned property was insured.

Four fishing boats and two fish-processing plants were destroyed, or severely damaged. The fire also left several dozen people out of work, at least temporarily.

Officials here agree that the fire seems to fit a pattern of long-standing problems haunting this beautiful city on Humboldt Bay.

"The psychological distance from the urban areas really hurts us," said Wesley Chesbro, a Humboldt County supervisor. "People think we are a lot farther away, that we're stagnant and a backwater, so it's difficult to attract industry and capital and people up here."

Others around town say the fire only adds to a long string of demoralizing setbacks that have dogged Eureka, whose population of 25,000 has remained virtually the same during the past decade and whose economy is built more on businesses like James Nichols' Second Chance junk store than on a Nordstrom department store.

The problems include a steady decline in the timber industry; the sharp decline of the salmon-fishing industry, which has only recently shown signs of a turnaround; the controversy over the specter of offshore oil drilling, and even the near-extinction of the area's once-flourishing marijuana industry.

"Nobody wants to admit how bad it is up here because they fear business and the tourists won't come," said Bonnie Gool, 63, owner of the Aardvark Ark antique store and a City Council member for seven years before she lost by 85 votes in a bitter election in November.

"Whatever is about to happen here, some force comes up against it," she said. "It's largely the tension between the environmentalists and the industrialists. Everything in Eureka always seems to be in limbo."

For a while, it looked as if Eureka was going to get Exxon Corp. to come in and build platforms for offshore oil wells, Supervisor Chesbro said.

That prospect excited local officials because it meant several hundred new jobs in the area. That deal fell through when oil prices fell.

The timber industry has declined during the past several years as the federal government set aside more lands for forests and lumber companies such as Louisiana Pacific Co. found its source of redwood trees dwindling.

Canadian imports also cut into the industry's profits. The December 1985 takeover of Pacific Lumber Co. by the New York real estate firm, MAXXAM Group Inc., has added to the uncertainty.

Even Humboldt County's colorful marijuana-growing industry has been dealt a severe blow by the state-sponsored Campaign Against Marijuana Planting. Locals say the crackdown has forced many planters out of business and put the entire industry deeper underground than ever before.

Fear of detection by the federal government has driven many big dope cultivators to spend their money for big-ticket items - such as sports cars and trips around the world - in areas outside of Humboldt County.

The decline of salmon fishing in recent years, blamed on everything from El Nino to overfishing to pollution of the Klamath River, has in recent months shown signs of a strong resurgence.

Jimmy Smith, 38, a Eureka native who fishes for crab, salmon and occasionally abalone, says he has become much more optimistic about the future of salmon in recent months.

His hopes were strengthened when the federal government established a coalition of disparate groups, including commercial fishermen and local Native American fishermen, to manage the industry and allocate quotas on the number of fish caught.

"Fishing around here is definitely depressed, compared to 10 years ago," said Smith, a tall, soft-spoken man. "But the problem is that now that the fishing is improving the the city here doesn't want to work with the fishermen to upgrade our docks. Part of it may be ignorance - I think we could improve the tourist situation if we improved the fishing facilities. With this dock fire, the city has a real opportunity to work with us in rebuilding it right for the long-term benefit of everybody."

Two fishermen whose boats were destroyed in the fire, Harold Christiansen and Terry Matson, may be out of business for a long time.

"We're no longer insurable because it's too expensive," said Christiansen, 67, who has been fishing in these waters since 1947. "It really hurt - especially when you have to stand by helplessly. I'm still in shock."

Matson, 39, who thinks he may be able to survive working as a salesman at the Davenport Marine supply store in town, said the loss of his 42-foot Elena H means more to him than money.

"When you spend up to eight days on a boat fishing 24 hours a day, it's like watching a friend burn to death," Matson said. Like Christiansen, Matson did not have insurance on his boat. He dropped it three years ago when the premium was raised to \$5000 a year.

Eureka City Manager Robert Stockwell agrees that the dock fire may be a setback to the fishing industry, but he insists that lull will be brief.

"The damage is an important element to the fishing operations on the dock itself, no question about it," Stockwell said. "But it's not going to shut down our fishing operation, because we can move most of it to other docks along the bay. Things up here aren't nearly as bad as they might appear to be."

To support his point, he says the unemployment picture is improving, declining from a high of 15 percent several years ago to about 8.5 percent last month.

The reasons for that, he says, include a "stabilizing" lumber industry, which keeps people working for longer periods of time, a resurgence in the fishing industry and a gradual growth in the tourist trade.

"It's not a boom, by any means, but the long-term signs are healthy," Stockwell said.

Former City Council member Gool calls that kind of talk "hogwash," saying most of the people she knows have been unemployed for so long and are so discouraged by the lack of jobs that they have stopped applying for jobs and are no longer eligible for unemployment benefits.

"The city officials here lie through their teeth," she said as she sat in her Victorian house in the middle of Eureka. "The truth is that everybody is spinning their wheels. Nothing gets done here."

Gool, still irate over losing a close election she claims was the result of "ballot manicuring," is writing a book about Eureka politics. The title, she says, is "The Pimps of Politics."

Lynwood Carranco, 63, professor emeritus of English at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, has written several books about the area, including "The Redwood Lumber Industry." He agrees, in general, with Gool's pessimistic assessment of the area's problems.

"Things are pretty horrible here, yes, and part of it is the isolation. A lot of people get to drinking too much, partly because of the jobless situation, I expect. Companies just don't want to come up here. The weather is a problem. The rains come in like gangbusters from the south between October and April."

"Personally, I like the rain - and the fog in summer. All you have to do to escape is go over the next ridge here 30 minutes away and it's 90 degrees in the summer. In the winter, sitting down on a jetty you can feel the tremendous vibration of the breakers go right through your body. That's why I've lived here all my life."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) Aboard the Tokiwa II, fisherman Jimmy Smith said he is optimistic about the return of salmon, (2) James Nichols runs the Second Chance junk store in Eureka / PHOTOS BY STEVE CASTILLO/ THE CHRONICLE

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[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

San Francisco Chronicle

Cops Raid Quiet Cove, Find Tons of Pot; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 24, 1987. pg. 24

Abstract (Summary)

With police cruisers speeding down to the beach and two Coast Guard cutters approaching, the crew of the 50-foot shrimper California Sun out of Eureka tried to flee aboard the vessel early Monday, but the boat ran onto rocks and sank in shallow water, said state police Lieutenant John Tichenor.

Deputies identified the men as: Teka T. Luttrell, 35, of Sebastopol; Jaxon Hice, 39, of Santa Rosa; Edward E. Bishop, 51, of Moss Landing; Mark R. Davis, 38, and Richard H. Garrett, 39, both of Trinidad (Humboldt County); Dale J. Kennedy, 44, of Crescent City; Lee W. Carlson, 40, of Cambria (San Luis Obispo County); and Richard M. Thomas, 57, of Coquille, Ore.

Full Text (358 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 24, 1987

Gold Beach, Ore.

Eight Northern California men were arrested while they allegedly unloaded an estimated six tons of marijuana from a fishing boat in an isolated cove on the southern Oregon coast, authorities said.

With police cruisers speeding down to the beach and two Coast Guard cutters approaching, the crew of the 50-foot shrimper California Sun out of Eureka tried to flee aboard the vessel early Monday, but the boat ran onto rocks and sank in shallow water, said state police Lieutenant John Tichenor.

Curry County Sheriff Bob Babb estimated the high-grade Colombian marijuana that was seized would have a street value of about \$2,300 a pound, or \$27.6 million for the estimated six tons.

The boat anchored without running lights off Frankport, also known as Sisters Rocks, at about 11 p.m. Sunday and someone reported it, state police said.

Four hours later, the Coast Guard, sheriff's deputies from Coos and Curry counties, state police, and agents from the U.S. Customs Service and Drug Enforcement Administration converged on the site, state police said.

Frankport, 14 miles north of Gold Beach, served as a port for ships carrying tanbark to San Francisco during pioneer days, but it no longer has any facilities, other than a dirt road up to Highway 101.

The seven Californians and one Oregonian were held on \$250,000 bail each on charges of possession of more than an ounce of marijuana. They were arraigned yesterday.

Deputies identified the men as: Teka T. Luttrell, 35, of Sebastopol; Jaxon Hice, 39, of Santa Rosa; Edward E. Bishop, 51, of Moss Landing; Mark R. Davis, 38, and Richard H. Garrett, 39, both of Trinidad (Humboldt County); Dale J. Kennedy, 44, of Crescent City; Lee W. Carlson, 40, of Cambria (San Luis Obispo County); and Richard M. Thomas, 57, of Coquille, Ore.

A ninth man was arrested after he ran down the beach but was not immediately arraigned, and a 10th man is still sought, deputies said. The ninth man was identified as John Shephard, 38, of Eureka.

At the beach, authorities seized five pickup trucks, two of them loaded with marijuana, and several tents pitched to shelter the bales.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: *Gold Beach, Ore.*

Section: *NEWS*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 24, 1987. pg. 24

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San Francisco Chronicle

Special Jury To Investigate Pot Growers; [THREE STAR Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 19, 1987. pg. 20

Abstract (Summary)

A special grand jury will be named in Eureka to investigate cases of commercial marijuana cultivation in Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma and Del Norte counties, U.S.

Full Text (82 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 19, 1987

A special grand jury will be named in Eureka to investigate cases of commercial marijuana cultivation in Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma and Del Norte counties, U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello said yesterday.

Jurors will be selected August 3 and will serve six-month terms, he said.

Although his office has prosecuted almost 100 marijuana cultivation cases since 1984, and the amount of marijuana being grown in the district has been reduced, Russoniello said remaining growers have doubled their efforts to disguise their clandestine activities.

Indexing (document details)

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Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 19, 1987. pg. 20
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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Smuggler's Ranch to Be Part of a Park; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 22, 1987. pg. 42

Abstract (Summary)

The land is part of a secluded 220-acre spread that belonged to Michael Robert Quinn of San Diego. The ranch, worth about \$250,000, will be deeded over to the federal Bureau of Land Management in a ceremony in Eureka next Friday.

Full Text (172 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 22, 1987

A 200-acre ranch in Humboldt County forfeited by a convicted marijuana smuggler will become part of the King Range National Recreation Area next week.

The land is part of a secluded 220-acre spread that belonged to Michael Robert Quinn of San Diego. The ranch, worth about \$250,000, will be deeded over to the federal Bureau of Land Management in a ceremony in Eureka next Friday.

The property, which had been seized by federal authorities three years ago, includes a ranch house and a barn. Quinn will get to keep the remaining 20 acres of land, said James Woodworth of the Bureau of Land Management.

Quinn agreed to forfeit the property three years ago when he was convicted of participating in a complicated venture to smuggle 12 tons of high-grade marijuana from Colombia to his ranch in 1978-79, said U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello in San Francisco.

Quinn was accused of buying the land with drug money and using it for narcotics trafficking. The allegations allowed federal authorities to seek forfeiture of the property.

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 22, 1987. pg. 42
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San Francisco Chronicle

U.S. Court OKs Seizing of Drug Dealers' Property; [FINAL Edition]

Leslie Guevarra. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 11, 1987. pg. 4

Abstract (Summary)

The appeals court reversed a 1986 decision by U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick Jr. in a case involving a Humboldt County man accused of growing 700 marijuana plants on less than two acres of a 40-acre spread.

[Sanford Svetcov] contended that the request did not constitute unreasonable punishment. The marijuana plants seized by drug agents on [Roscoe L. Littlefield]'s were worth about \$700,000 and his 40 acres were valued at \$50,000, Svetcov said.

"I think this is not what Congress intended," said U.S. Assistant Public Defender A.J. Kramer, Littlefield's attorney. He argued that if the government is entitled to anything, it is only the land Littlefield allegedly used to grow marijuana.

Full Text (480 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 11, 1987

Federal prosecutors can seize all property belonging to drug traffickers as long as the total punishment imposed in narcotics cases is not disproportionate to the actual crime, an appellate court ruled yesterday.

In the first major ruling in the country on drug-related forfeiture cases, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984. The law allows prosecutors to seize and keep all of a drug dealer's land, even if portions of it were not used in a narcotics enterprise.

The decision will help U.S. prosecutors go after the property of marijuana growers targeted by the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) program, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson.

"It will be a big boost to the land forfeiture program in CAMP," he said. Robinson handles federal cases from Sonoma County to the Oregon border, including the North Coast areas that are considered California's prime pot-growing territory.

DECISION REVERSED

The appeals court reversed a 1986 decision by U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick Jr. in a case involving a Humboldt County man accused of growing 700 marijuana plants on less than two acres of a 40-acre spread.

Orrick held that the government could seek only the land that was allegedly used for marijuana cultivation.

Prosecutor Sanford Svetcov, however, argued on appeal that the government was entitled to demand forfeiture of the entire property owned by Roscoe L. Littlefield.

Svetcov contended that the request did not constitute unreasonable punishment. The marijuana plants seized by drug agents on Littlefield's were worth about \$700,000 and his 40 acres were valued at \$50,000, Svetcov said.

In accepting the argument, the appeals court said, "Congress plainly provided for forfeiture of property even where only a portion of it was used for prohibited purposes."

VALUE OF THE LAND

However, the value of the seized land - and the defendant's sentence - cannot be "so disproportionate to the offense committed as to violate the Constitution," wrote Circuit Court Judge Alex Kozinski in the court's opinion.

Svetcov said the ruling means prosecutors cannot, for example, "seize a \$10 million Beverly Hills mansion if its owner only had one marijuana plant on the property."

The appeals court sent the case back to Orrick with directions to balance Littlefield's crime against the government's forfeiture demand and any sentence he may receive.

Littlefield's prosecution on charges of cultivating marijuana, possessing it for sale and being a felon in possession of a firearm had been stayed while the forfeiture issue was on appeal.

"I think this is not what Congress intended," said U.S. Assistant Public Defender A.J. Kramer, Littlefield's attorney. He argued that if the government is entitled to anything, it is only the land Littlefield allegedly used to grow marijuana.

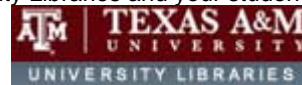
If convicted, Littlefield could receive up to 12 years in prison, \$510,000 in fines and loss of his home and property.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Leslie Guevarra
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San Francisco Chronicle

Observers Of Humboldt Pot Raid Busted; [FOUR STAR Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 5, 1987. pg. 16

Abstract (Summary)

The two Redway residents, Jentri Anders, 44, and Bruce Goulette, 36, were arrested after they refused to leave a 140-acre property that was being raided by members of CAMP (Campaign Against Marijuana Planting), said sheriff's Deputy Tim McCollister.

The arrests took place at 11:40 a.m. near Ettersburg, about 20 miles west of Garberville in the so-called Emerald Triangle marijuana growing area, McCollister said.

Full Text (203 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 5, 1987

Garberville,

Humboldt County

Two members of a citizens group observing a marijuana raid in Humboldt County were arrested yesterday for interfering with an officer, authorities said.

The two Redway residents, Jentri Anders, 44, and Bruce Goulette, 36, were arrested after they refused to leave a 140-acre property that was being raided by members of CAMP (Campaign Against Marijuana Planting), said sheriff's Deputy Tim McCollister.

The pair, who were cited and released on the misdemeanor charge, belong to Citizens Observation Group, which has been monitoring CAMP for civil rights violations for several years.

The arrests took place at 11:40 a.m. near Ettersburg, about 20 miles west of Garberville in the so-called Emerald Triangle marijuana growing area, McCollister said.

Deputies also seized a video camera, a still camera, a radio and armbands worn by the pair as evidence, McCollister said.

"We've been having quite a few confrontations with COG this year," said CAMP Commander Jack Beecham. "They seem to be a little more active than in past. This is the first time that I can recall that there's been arrests."

"They (sheriff's deputies) said they were interfering with a crime scene, but they were 300 feet away," said Bonnie Blackberry, a spokeswoman for the group.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Garberville, Humboldt County

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 5, 1987. pg. 16

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 65740091

Text Word Count

203

Document URL:

<http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=65740091&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Growing Pot To Aid Contras; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 15, 1987. pg. 6

Abstract (Summary)

Humboldt County deputy sheriffs spotted the illegal garden of Linda Hamilton, 43, on July 21 in an aerial search of the terrain surrounding her home in Miranda, according to [Peter Robinson].

Full Text (134 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 15, 1987

A Humboldt County woman who said she grew marijuana to raise money for Contra rebels was indicted yesterday for possessing 239 sinsemilla plants, a federal prosecutor said.

"This is the first time we've seen this defense in a marijuana case," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Robinson, chuckling.

Humboldt County deputy sheriffs spotted the illegal garden of Linda Hamilton, 43, on July 21 in an aerial search of the terrain surrounding her home in Miranda, according to Robinson.

Deputy sheriffs said she offered her unusual alibi when they went to her house later the same day to seize the marijuana plants, which are worth about \$200,000.

"The officers immediately searched the residence to make sure she didn't shred any documents," Robinson said.

Hamilton, who has not been jailed, is scheduled for arraignment on September 4.

Indexing (document details)

Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 15, 1987. pg. 6
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 65743394
Text Word Count: 134
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=65743394&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Wine With a Notorious Past / Drug dealer's goods on the auction block; [FINAL Edition]

TONY BIZJAK. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 17, 1987. pg. C.10

Abstract (Summary)

When a team of San Francisco and Marin County law enforcement officers descended on [Ronald Francis Perry]'s home in September 1986, they found: 1.5 pounds of cocaine, 75 cases of fine wine, a Toulouse-Lautrec print worth up to \$14,000, other pieces of art worth in total between \$5,000 to \$15,000, eight Persian rugs, a revolver and semi-automatic pistol, a Mercedes 350SL worth \$20,000, a 911 Porsche worth \$7,500, a pickup worth \$15,000, a \$4,000 computer, and \$14,500 in "chump change" in a secret panel in a closet. The house with its swimming pool and sauna, which the feds confiscated, is worth some \$250,000.

"Most drug dealers are into pornography," [Dennis Michael Nerney] said. Nerney speaks with a touch of admiration for Perry's sophistication. "This guy was leading the good life.

Since the collected value of his belongings far outstripped any legitimate income he had (Perry reported an annual income of \$21,000 in 1983 to the IRS; other yearly incomes have not been made public record), Perry lost the collection he had been amassing, piece by piece, the last 15 years. Perry told the court he had various drug habits going back to his teenage years. He is serving a three-year term in federal prison for selling cocaine and tax evasion and will then be placed in a drug rehabilitation center.

Full Text (988 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 17, 1987

As drug dealers go, this guy had taste.

At least that's what a federal prosecutor said - the federal prosecutor who put Ronald Francis Perry of Novato in prison; the federal prosecutor who, today, is figuring to rake in for the government about \$30,000 by selling Perry's cache of 75 cases of wine.

"It's good stuff," said Dennis Michael Nerney, assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California office in San Francisco. "Or so I'm told."

The wine sale is Nerney's doing, but he can be forgiven if he doesn't know a Chateau Mouton-Rothschild with the Picasso label from a Chateau Latour-Haut-Brion.

Auctioning wine is a first for him.

Normally, he prosecutes drug and serious crime cases in federal court. However, since the federal Comprehensive Drug Control Act changed in 1984, U.S. officials like Nerney can confiscate and sell the holdings of anyone involved in drug crimes - if officials can convince a federal judge that the person probably bought his booty with drug money. Law stipulates the funds be used to fight drug crime. The rest goes into a federal drug-fighting fund.

AN ARTFUL DRUG DEALER

The wine is only part of an eclectic and unusually sophisticated collection of wines, cars and fine art amassed by Perry, 36, a prosperous cocaine dealer in Novato who worked part-time "above ground" as a truck driver for a potato chip company.

When a team of San Francisco and Marin County law enforcement officers descended on Perry's home in September 1986, they found: 1.5 pounds of cocaine, 75 cases of fine wine, a Toulouse-Lautrec print worth up to \$14,000, other pieces of art worth in total between \$5,000 to \$15,000, eight Persian rugs, a revolver and semi-automatic pistol, a Mercedes 350SL worth \$20,000, a 911 Porsche worth \$7,500, a pickup worth \$15,000, a \$4,000 computer, and \$14,500 in "chump change" in a secret panel in a closet. The house with its swimming pool and sauna, which the feds confiscated, is worth some \$250,000.

"Most drug dealers are into pornography," Nerney said. Nerney speaks with a touch of admiration for Perry's sophistication. "This guy was leading the good life.

"He had taste."

Since the collected value of his belongings far outstripped any legitimate income he had (Perry reported an annual income of \$21,000 in 1983 to the IRS; other yearly incomes have not been made public record), Perry lost the collection he had been amassing, piece by piece, the last 15 years. Perry told the court he had various drug habits going back to his teenage years. He is serving a three-year term in federal prison for selling cocaine and tax evasion and will then be placed in a drug rehabilitation center.

As a result, the U.S. Attorney's office is in the art and wine business. It's not always an easy business, Nerney is discovering.

The wine was easy. That'll sell well at the auction. The vehicles should be easy also. They probably will be given to federal drug agents to use as undercover cars, Nerney said. Agents in Northern California and Southern California will probably trade them back and forth since Porsches and Mercedes are conspicuous.

The U.S. Marshal's office just had the house and pool cleaned to get it ready for sale. It will be brokered by a real estate agent.

Nerney's major headache is the art. A book about the artwork of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec sits on his window sill on the 16th floor of the federal court building downtown as he tries to study up on the value of the Frenchman's work. He is having the print authenticated.

He figures he should give the artwork to museums instead of selling it. That way, the government loses out on some money, but it gets good publicity.

"Why not put it where the public will enjoy it and know its government is doing a good job?" Nerney said.

His first thought was to offer the artwork to the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum. Then he learned that, under the law, he could donate it only to a federal museum.

So he contacted officials at the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. They agreed to take a set of 25 photogravures of American Indians.

But so far, the federal museums are being so picky about what they want that the whole business is getting to be a headache for Nerney. He may end up auctioning off some of the artwork. He has 150 other drug-related civil forfeiture cases under his supervision.

It's extra work and cuts into his prosecuting time, but it is worthwhile because it bolsters the budgets of law enforcement agencies, and gets them cooperating a bit more because they share the spoils, he said.

CASHING IN ON BAD GUYS

Nerney said his office has collected \$12.5 million in illicit drug proceeds - most of it confiscated cash, homes and cars - since enactment of the new law. Of that, \$7 million has been distributed among local law enforcement agencies in Northern California as a reward for helping find the assets or arrest the criminal.

In June, Nerney confiscated 200 acres of timberland owned by a Humboldt County marijuana smuggler and arranged for it to be donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as wilderness area. He also successfully helped argue that \$6 million found in the trunk of a rental car at San Francisco International Airport two years ago was cocaine money, thus reaping the money for federal and local law enforcement agencies.

"I like taking crooks' money and giving back to the effort, and to the people," he said.

PHOTO CUTLINE: Assistant U.S. Attorney Dennis Michael Nerney is dealing with more than criminals. He's selling off fine wines - here a \$1,200 imperial of Chateaux-Margaux 1970 Grand Vin - as well as artworks, fancy cars and homes confiscated from drug dealers. / BY STEVE RINGMAN/THE CHRONICLE

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: SEE END OF TEXT

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): TONY BIZJAK

Section: PEOPLE

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 17, 1987. pg. C.10

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 65766200

Text Word Count 988

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=65766200&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

\$491 Million in Pot Plants Seized in State This Year; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 27, 1987. pg. B.9

Abstract (Summary)

Through October, agents have seized 144,343 marijuana plants, compared with 117,277 in the 1986 campaign, Diana Chavez, operations commander of the state Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, said Tuesday.

Chavez said Humboldt County confiscated most of the marijuana, with 53,669 plants - 7,000 more than a year ago. Mendocino County was second with 40,123 plants, almost double the 1986 total.

Full Text (198 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 27, 1987

Sacramento

Illegal marijuana growers this year lost \$491 million worth of plants to raids by state, federal and local police officers in 39 counties, authorities reported.

Through October, agents have seized 144,343 marijuana plants, compared with 117,277 in the 1986 campaign, Diana Chavez, operations commander of the state Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, said Tuesday.

She said the value of plants seized was \$92 million greater than in 1986.

CAMP officials said each plant is worth an average of \$3,400 wholesale, although more potent North Coast sensimilla can sell for up to \$6,000 a pound in New York. One plant produces about a pound of processed marijuana.

The CAMP effort, which began five years ago, has an annual budget of \$2.5 million.

CAMP Commander Jack Beecham said surveillance and helicopter raids during harvest season five years ago spotted about four times more marijuana under cultivation than this year.

Since the first raids, the price of marijuana has doubled, and growers now plant in smaller, better-concealed gardens, officials said.

Chavez said Humboldt County confiscated most of the marijuana, with 53,669 plants - 7,000 more than a year ago. Mendocino County was second with 40,123 plants, almost double the 1986 total.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Sacramento

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 27, 1987. pg. B.9

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 65780599

Text Word Count 198

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=65780599&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Fortuna Man Shot, Kept in Shed 2 Weeks; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 14, 1988. pg. A.3

Abstract (Summary)

They said three men fled the ranch during the raid. Richard Luis, 26, David Luis, 28, both of Ono, and Ray Wilson, 33, of Rio Dell in Humboldt County, were arrested later the same day on suspicion of conspiracy, false imprisonment and cultivating marijuana.

[Francis Mansfield] had been an associate of the arrested men, but he was not detained by authorities after his rescue. "He turned into a victim by virtue of being kidnaped. Things changed," Sheriff's Detective Sergeant Rusty Brewer said.

Full Text (256 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 14, 1988

Ono, Shasta County

A Fortuna man was shot by former associates then held for more than two weeks in a woodshed on a ranch used for a marijuana farm and drug lab, Shasta County sheriff's deputies said yesterday.

After a telephone tip, deputies freed Francis Mansfield, 49, from the locked shed Wednesday when they raided the Junkans Ranch, about 10 miles southwest of Redding.

They said three men fled the ranch during the raid. Richard Luis, 26, David Luis, 28, both of Ono, and Ray Wilson, 33, of Rio Dell in Humboldt County, were arrested later the same day on suspicion of conspiracy, false imprisonment and cultivating marijuana.

Mansfield said he was held more than two weeks in the 8-by-8-foot shed, which had a mattress on the floor, a sink and a shower. The shed and a barn are the only buildings on the ranch.

Mansfield had suffered a superficial gunshot wound to the head but required no medical attention for the injury, sheriff's Detective Sergeant Diane Davis said.

Mansfield had been an associate of the arrested men, but he was not detained by authorities after his rescue. "He turned into a victim by virtue of being kidnaped. Things changed," Sheriff's Detective Sergeant Rusty Brewer said.

Officers found about 20 pounds of baled, processed marijuana in a metal barn near the shed and 220 immature marijuana plants, the tallest about three feet high.

They also seized chemicals and glassware they said could produce eight to 10 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of about \$120,000.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Ono, Shasta County

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 14, 1988. pg. A.3

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 66935421

Text Word Count 256

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=66935421&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Neighborhood In S.F. May Try Youths' Court; [FINAL Edition]

Dean Congbalay. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 26, 1988. pg. A.27

Abstract (Summary)

"We want to do something other than just push these kids who commit crimes into the juvenile justice system," San Francisco police Captain Paul Kotta told about 30 people attending a neighborhood police forum last night at the Richmond substation. "We have to do something to deal with the juvenile problem and let the youth decide their own fate."

In Danville, youths accused of crimes are tried by their classmates. Jurors, prosecutors and defense lawyers are juveniles, said Danville police Detective Bill McGinnis, who created the program. The only adult in the courtroom is a lawyer, who volunteers as a judge.

As in Danville, youths accused of misdemeanor crimes - including vandalism, petty theft, battery and possession of alcohol or marijuana - would be eligible for the diversion program, von Beroldingen said.

Full Text (427 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 26, 1988

Chronicle Staff Writer

Teenagers in San Francisco's Richmond District soon could have a chance to sentence their peers for misdemeanor crimes.

Police in the neighborhood are thinking about starting a youth court - the third in the state - that would combat juvenile crime by getting children between the ages of 12 and 17 involved in the legal process.

"We want to do something other than just push these kids who commit crimes into the juvenile justice system," San Francisco police Captain Paul Kotta told about 30 people attending a neighborhood police forum last night at the Richmond substation. "We have to do something to deal with the juvenile problem and let the youth decide their own fate."

The juvenile diversion operation would be patterned after a 2-year-old program in Danville, which was started to reduce youth crime in the East Bay city. A similar program has since been started in Humboldt County.

The idea behind the program is simple: Let peers decide punishments, and kids may be more willing to listen and not commit the crime again.

In Danville, youths accused of crimes are tried by their classmates. Jurors, prosecutors and defense lawyers are juveniles, said Danville police Detective Bill McGinnis, who created the program. The only adult in the courtroom is a lawyer, who volunteers as a judge.

Convicted offenders may be sentenced to up to 40 hours of community service. In return, their records are wiped clean of the crimes, McGinnis said.

The program has worked. Of the 200 people who have been tried in the program, only two have returned for committing other crimes, McGinnis said.

San Francisco police Lieutenant Jack Ballentine said a diversion program, which could start in three months, would help reduce crime in the Richmond District, which has seen its crime rate increase by about 5 percent in the past year.

The Richmond substation is short-staffed, he said. Only 68 sworn officers - 20 percent fewer than two years ago - serve a population of about 100,000, he said.

"This is still a safe, nice neighborhood, but we're starting to get some problems that we haven't had before," said Paul von Beroldingen, a member of the monthly police forum on crime at the Richmond substation. "Our police are incredibly busy with all kinds of crime, and we want to help eradicate some of that. It's worth a try."

As in Danville, youths accused of misdemeanor crimes - including vandalism, petty theft, battery and possession of alcohol or marijuana - would be eligible for the diversion program, von Beroldingen said.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Dean Congbalay
Dateline: *Chronicle Staff Writer*
Section: *NEWS*
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 26, 1988. pg. A.27
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 66973776
Text Word Count 427
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=66973776&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientid=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Former Bircher Losing Mendocino Race; [FINAL Edition]

Bill Wallace, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 9, 1988. pg. A.8

Abstract (Summary)

-- A pro-nuclear member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) was being defeated by another candidate who favors keeping the district's Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.

In other Northern California results, a fervent supporter of nuclear power appeared to be losing his race for re-election to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the agency that runs Sacramento's troubled Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.

[Dave Cox], who is backed by the Coalition for SMUD Stability, a pro-nuclear group, is also campaigning to keep the Rancho Seco power plant in operation.

Full Text (527 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 9, 1988

A former John Birch Society member running for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors was being defeated by a local activist with support from a state Senator last night.

Elsewhere in the state:

-- A pro-nuclear member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) was being defeated by another candidate who favors keeping the district's Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.

-- Santa Cruz residents were defeating a measure that would have banned rent control laws.

-- Voters in rural Nevada County were voting to outlaw the use of steel-jawed animal traps.

-- Southern California voters were rejecting a number of slow-growth measures.

-- Voters were rejecting two proposals to allow oil drilling near the posh seaside community of Pacific Palisades, and passing a measure to control oil drilling in Humboldt County.

In the Mendocino County race, Jack Azevedo of Fort Bragg, whose campaign had been endorsed by the county deputy sheriff's association, was being crushed by Liz Henry, an ally of state Senator Barry Keene, D-Benicia.

Henry, who advocates tighter controls on the lumber industry, as well as close monitoring of local law enforcement agencies during marijuana raids, was beating Azevedo by more than 2 to 1 with 81 percent of the vote counted.

Azevedo, a former Birch Society member, created a furor in the North Coast County this fall when it was revealed that he had compiled an "investigational file" on child molestation that contained the names of 120 local residents.

His critics characterized the file as an "enemies list," after an article about it appeared in a Boonville paper.

In other Northern California results, a fervent supporter of nuclear power appeared to be losing his race for re-election to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the agency that runs Sacramento's troubled Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.

However, the likely victor in the race is a candidate endorsed by a pro-nuclear group who is running with the financial support of the nuclear power industry.

John Kehoe, an incumbent on the SMUD board of directors who supports the Rancho Seco reactor, was trailing far behind Dave Cox in the race for SMUD's ward two seat.

Cox, who is backed by the Coalition for SMUD Stability, a pro-nuclear group, is also campaigning to keep the Rancho Seco power plant in operation.

A referendum on the trouble-plagued power plant is slated for next June, and could well result in the decommissioning of Rancho Seco.

Two candidates running with Cox were being defeated with more than half the votes counted.

In Santa Cruz, Measure F was by a two-to-one margin with 122 out of 239 precincts counted.

The measure asked voters to ban any future rent control measures and repeal a rent control ordinance that protects residents of mobile home parks. It also included a provision requiring that a percentage of all new construction in the county be affordable.

In Nevada County, voters were approving a ban on much-criticized steel-jawed leghold traps last night by a 16 percent margin.

The traps have been prohibited in 66 countries and restricted in four states.

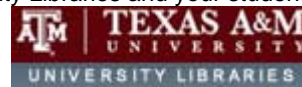
In San Diego, four slow-growth measures became the target of a \$1.6-million campaign backed by the building industry.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 9, 1988. pg. A.8
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 66977225
Text Word Count: 527
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=66977225&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Boat Seized Off North Coast With 10 Tons of Marijuana; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 17, 1988. pg. A.5

Abstract (Summary)

The boat is registered at Georgetown in the Grand Cayman Islands, [Steve Jeffrey] said, adding that it has unloaded marijuana in the North Coast region a "number of times" in the past.

Full Text (130 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Dec 17, 1988

Eureka

The Coast Guard has seized a boat containing 10 tons of marijuana about 25 miles south of Cape Mendocino off California's rugged North Coast, officials said yesterday.

The boat was unmanned at the time of the raid and there were no ownership papers found aboard, said Commander John Mitchell.

Authorities have been tracking the boat's whereabouts for several months and know who owns the 70-foot sailboat, named "Jappy Hermes," according to U.S. Customs agent Steve Jeffrey.

The boat is registered at Georgetown in the Grand Cayman Islands, Jeffrey said, adding that it has unloaded marijuana in the North Coast region a "number of times" in the past.

Authorities are processing evidence pulled off the boat, which is now docked at Humboldt Bay, and are continuing their investigation, Jeffrey said.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: Eureka
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 17, 1988. pg. A.5
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 66985632
Text Word Count: 130
Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=66985632&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Panel Doooms Funds to Curb Pot Production; [FINAL Edition]

Greg Lucas, Chronicle Sacramento Bureau. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 8, 1989. pg. A.10

Abstract (Summary)

Despite California and the nation's high-visibility efforts to squelch drug use, an Assembly committee effectively killed a bill yesterday giving four Northern California counties \$2.75 million to combat marijuana production. Part of the vaunted Campaign Against Marijuana Production program, the money was to help Butte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties defray the costs of finding marijuana gardens. The loss of the money this year may have a dramatic effect on the CAMP program, because it is local law enforcement officers who do the expensive work - including fly-overs - needed to locate stands of marijuana. State CAMP personnel assist only in chopping down and burning the plants.

Full Text (383 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 8, 1989

Despite California and the nation's high-visibility efforts to squelch drug use, an Assembly committee effectively killed a bill yesterday giving four Northern California counties \$2.75 million to combat marijuana production. Part of the vaunted Campaign Against Marijuana Production program, the money was to help Butte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties defray the costs of finding marijuana gardens. The loss of the money this year may have a dramatic effect on the CAMP program, because it is local law enforcement officers who do the expensive work - including fly-overs - needed to locate stands of marijuana. State CAMP personnel assist only in chopping down and burning the plants. But a spokesman for Governor Deukmejian, who supports the bill, downplayed yesterday's action by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, even though it doomed the bill from being approved at least until next January. "We wish the bill would have passed," said Keven Brett, Deukmejian's chief spokesman. "But the Legislature is in session for another eight days, and who knows what will happen." In the committee's haste to act on its long agenda of over 115 bills, Republican committee members did not at first notice the bill. When they attempted to reopen discussion on the measure - authored by Senator Jim Nielsen, R-Rohnert Park - they were voted down by 12 votes to 6. A turf fight has been simmering all year between Deukmejian and the Legislature over this part of the CAMP program. Dissatisfied with the administration of the program, the Legislature stripped authority for the local grant program from Deukmejian's Office of Criminal Justice Planning and transferred it to the Department of Justice, which administers the rest of the CAMP program. When he reviewed the Legislature's proposed budget in July, Deukmejian withdrew the \$2.75 million for the program from the Department of Justice, saying he would replace it when the program's jurisdiction was moved back to his office. The victims of that turf fight are the counties that depend on state money for equipment and personnel costs involved in their marijuana eradication efforts. For example, a recent Humboldt County Sheriff's Department news release said that since early July, 27,998 marijuana plants have been destroyed. More than 18,300 were seized as part of CAMP operations. The county receives approximately \$1 million from the CAMP program.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Greg Lucas, Chronicle Sacramento Bureau
Dateline: Sacramento
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 8, 1989. pg. A.10
Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 67638437

Text Word Count 383

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=67638437&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientid=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pete Makes Hay, Dianne's at Play / Feinstein taking it easy in Stinson; [FINAL Edition]

Jerry Roberts, Chronicle Political Editor. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 7, 1990. pg. A.6

Abstract (Summary)

Pete Wilson went looking for voters this week, while Dianne Feinstein went after herons and loons.

As Wilson, the Republican candidate for governor, campaigned throughout Southern California, Democratic rival Feinstein started a two-week summer holiday at her place in Stinson Beach, where she was reliably reported to be indulging her passion for long walks and watching waterfowl.

Feinstein's position on Wilson's marijuana plan could not be determined, as campaign aides were unable to reach her yesterday at her Marin County digs.

Full Text (857 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 7, 1990

Pete Wilson went looking for voters this week, while Dianne Feinstein went after herons and loons.

As Wilson, the Republican candidate for governor, campaigned throughout Southern California, Democratic rival Feinstein started a two-week summer holiday at her place in Stinson Beach, where she was reliably reported to be indulging her passion for long walks and watching waterfowl.

"I'm starting to get the sense that Dianne is ducking me," Wilson said at one campaign stop.

Taking advantage of a Fourth of July congressional recess, the GOP senator turned up at an Independence Day picnic in Orange County, lectured students on the evils of drugs in San Diego, courted Japanese Americans at a Nisei Week festival in Los Angeles and put in a guest shot at the (all rise) International Boundary and Water Commission Tijuana sewage treaty signing ceremony. POTHEADS & PHOTO OPS

Although most of his events were standard Republican photo op stuff, Wilson did find time to make a little news as he pressed his case as the toughest anti-drug crusader in the race.

In a move likely to be unpopular in Humboldt County, Wilson said Thursday that he would support legislation to make marijuana use a felony again. Since 1976, possession or use of small quantities of marijuana have been misdemeanors in California.

"It is past time we went about changing these attitudes and providing a clearer message - the message is one of zero tolerance for drugs," he said.

Despite Wilson's absolutist rhetoric, his campaign was a little fuzzy on key details of his damn-the-potheads proposal - such as exactly what penalties he believes offenders should receive, how much it would cost the state to throw them in jail and how he intends to pay for it.

"The senator believes the law on marijuana should be consistent with laws on other drugs (but) it should not have a severe penalty, and we should allow judges a great deal of discretion," said campaign press secretary Bill Livingstone. "We don't want to fill the jails with people who smoke marijuana."

SPLENDOR IN THE SAND

Feinstein's position on Wilson's marijuana plan could not be determined, as campaign aides were unable to reach her yesterday at her Marin County digs.

By dropping out of sight for several weeks, she recalls the case of former Attorney General Evelle Younger, who left on a Hawaiian vacation immediately after winning the Republican nomination for governor in the 1978 primary.

Then-Democratic governor Jerry Brown promptly aired a radio ad that began with strains of corny Hawaiian music over the sounds of crashing surf as an announcer contrasted Younger's splendor-in-the-sand vacation with Brown's frenetic efforts to implement the then-new Proposition 13.

Some analysts believe that Feinstein, like Younger, is squandering valuable momentum from her big primary win by starting the summer campaign with a few serene weeks in Marin.

But because Feinstein, unlike Younger, has no official duties to duck, it's probably as good a time as any for a respite from the rigors of the campaign trail. A SCANDALOUS CHARGE

Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, normally the most civil of politicians, this week hurled one of the most caustic insults ever heard in California at his Republican foe.

He compared her to Mike Curb.

Democrat McCarthy charged that GOP rival Marian Bergeson, if elected along with a Democratic governor, might make mischief on the abortion issue when the governor leaves the state.

Bergeson, unlike McCarthy and all other Democratic statewide candidates, is anti-abortion.

"I don't think you can introduce that kind of instability in state government," McCarthy added. "'You had Mike Curb a few years ago creating that kind of instability. I don't think California voters want to repeat that again."

By invoking the name of Curb, McCarthy recalled a golden age of excitement in Sacramento.

Curb, then a 33-year-old record producer associated with such artistic giants as Debby Boone and Shaun Cassidy, was elected as the state's Republican lieutenant governor in 1978, the same year that Democrat Jerry Brown won a second term as governor.

It marked the first time in a century that the two top officeholders were of different parties. Young Curb took full advantage of the situation, appointing judges, meddling with legislation and issuing proclamations when Brown was off on frequent campaign trips for the presidency.

In the most memorable incident, Curb once issued an emergency order relaxing air quality standards when Brown was back East, then discovered that the document included a typographical error that would have reversed its intent. With Brown on an airliner returning to the state, Curb made a wild dash from San Francisco to Sacramento to file an amended order with the secretary of state, beating by three minutes the governor's return to California air space.

Pressed for evidence that Bergeson, a well-mannered state senator from Orange County, might be a Curb clone, McCarthy admitted that "'she's more mature than Mike Curb." But he urged her to issue a "'nice, clear statement" to that effect.

"Marian Bergeson will respect the wishes of the governor," regardless of party, said her campaign manager Ron Smith. "'Clearly it is her intention to follow the lead of the governor."

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San Francisco Chronicle

Bush Pledge Led to Pot Raid / Federal troops continue scouring North Coast for marijuana; [FINAL Edition]

Michael Taylor, Chronicle Staff Writer. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 31, 1990. pg. A.4

Abstract (Summary)

President [Bush]'s pledge to South American leaders that he would solve drug problems in the United States prompted the unprecedented decision to use federal troops in a raid against North Coast marijuana growers, a Bush administration official said yesterday.

[Cy Jamison] declined to give the genesis of Operation Green Sweep. But U.S. Representative Douglas Bosco, D-Occidental, said the federal assault on the Emerald Triangle stemmed from a conversation between Bush and Colombia's then-President, Virgilio Barco, at the drug summit in Colombia last February.

Bush asked Barco for help in curbing Colombia's production and export of cocaine to the United States, Bosco said. Barco then turned to Bush, the congressman added, and said: "'You're down here asking us to clean up. What about the marijuana that's grown on the North Coast of California?' Later, Bush asked drug czar William Bennett to devise a plan to respond to Barco's concerns, Bosco said. SOME RESIDENTS UNHAPPY

Full Text (889 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 31, 1990

Chronicle Correspondents Bill Israel and Bonnie Glantz also contributed to this report

President Bush's pledge to South American leaders that he would solve drug problems in the United States prompted the unprecedented decision to use federal troops in a raid against North Coast marijuana growers, a Bush administration official said yesterday.

"Our neighbors are concerned and say we ought to look at our own house," said Cy Jamison, director of the Bureau of Land Management, which runs the King Range National Conservation Area in Humboldt County. "Those leaders were referring to our production of marijuana, and we were looking at the marijuana gardens on BLM lands."

Jamison said that this weekend's sweep of the conservation area is the first in a series of moves by the bureau to "ratchet up our drug enforcement program. We're trying to eradicate all illicit drugs on public lands."

By late yesterday, a total force of 200 soldiers and agents had located 22 marijuana fields, ranging in size from 10 to 100 plants, said bureau spokeswoman Sheri Bell. HELICOPTERS

Military helicopters swept different parts of the thick, forested terrain for about two hours, at one point landing soldiers in the Chemise Mountain Area, near the Mendocino County border.

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, a group that advocates relaxation of marijuana statutes, denounced the operation as "'an ill-conceived, illogical and idiotic attempt to score a cheap PR victory. The invasion . . . is a bulletless war against a plant."

Asked about reports that the government would raid Oregon growers next, Jamison said, "'We'll look at this one (in California) and see how it works. We'll go wherever the drugs are, and if they're growing in Oregon, then we'll go there."

The Bureau of Land Management is the nation's largest manager of public lands. It controls 274 million acres. Federal lands make up about one-eighth of the United States, according to bureau officials. FORT ORD'S HELP

In the Humboldt County operation, which began Sunday morning, 50 bureau agents were aided by about 75 California National Guard troops and by 60 soldiers and seven helicopters from Ford Ord's 7th Infantry Division. The team swooped down on the coast side of the southern part of the county, near Shelter Cove.

The team sealed off 640 acres in preparation for a two-week search for "marijuana gardens," where transients and others have for years been growing one of the nation's biggest crops of marijuana.

The federal land occupies what is called the Emerald Triangle, a lush rural region of Northern California comprising sections of Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties.

Every year, the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) cuts a swath through the triangle, trying to rip out the substantial crop and make a dent in what many say is California's biggest cash crop.

This year, however, the Bush administration decided to mount its own operation in the Emerald Triangle because the alleged marijuana crops in the King Range are being grown on federal lands. The government also decided, for the first time, to send federal troops.

Jamison declined to give the genesis of Operation Green Sweep. But U.S. Representative Douglas Bosco, D-Occidental, said the federal assault on the Emerald Triangle stemmed from a conversation between Bush and Colombia's then-President, Virgilio Barco, at the drug summit in Colombia last February.

Bush asked Barco for help in curbing Colombia's production and export of cocaine to the United States, Bosco said. Barco then turned to Bush, the congressman added, and said: "You're down here asking us to clean up. What about the marijuana that's grown on the North Coast of California?" Later, Bush asked drug czar William Bennett to devise a plan to respond to Barco's concerns, Bosco said. SOME RESIDENTS UNHAPPY

That response, at least in eyes of some Humboldt County residents, has been overkill. Yesterday morning, about 100 residents of Whale Gulch, a community that is in the federal conservation area, gathered outside Operation Green Sweep's command post in Hidden Valley, about four miles north, and hurled epithets at the soldiers and federal agents.

One demonstrator, dressed as a cardboard Ronald Reagan, shouted, in an apparent reference to the fibrous qualities of the marijuana stalk, that "the Declaration of Independence was signed on paper made of hemp."

What bothered many people in the King Range area was the atmosphere of war, or at least of a large training operation.

Starting about 6 a.m., Army helicopters began taking off, going out on missions, then returning to a landing zone inside a compound sealed off from the outside world.

On Sunday, soldiers dressed in camouflage uniforms had wandered on country roads with their M-16 fully automatic rifles, but yesterday the rifles were put away.

Briceland resident Mary Anderson said the sight of the convoys entering her otherwise peaceful valley was terrifying.

"To watch this procession and know that's your Army and they're here - not to protect you from anything, but to make war on you - it gives you this really bad feeling in the pit of your stomach," Anderson said.

National Guard Colonel Roger Goodrich said that during the next two weeks, troop-carrying helicopters will search the area for marijuana plants. When they find some, the choppers will land, and troops will rip out the plants and later take them to another area for disposal.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot War Has Humboldt Up in Arms / U.S. Marijuana Busters Find "Good Quantities"; [FINAL Edition]

Rick DeVecchio. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 1, 1990. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Under a pine tree in a wild coastal valley, a man in a camouflage uniform sits in a lawn chair, sipping fruit juice and cradling an M-16. He is one of 200 troops from the Bureau of Land Management, the Army and the California National Guard who, since Sunday, have been on a mission to destroy illegal marijuana plants in a mile-square area around this 2,600-foot, redwood-covered peak. Although the BLM touts "Operation Green Sweep" as its most extensive marijuana raid ever in California, local residents call the armor-heavy drug bust an insult to the land and to the people. Scornful messages directed at the government are everywhere, from the marquee of the Garberville Theater, 18 miles east of Ground Zero, to the home of self-employed welder Tim Day, just a short hike from the center of the action. The marquee reads "Why US military invasion of public campgrounds." The sign Day has draped over his driveway pulls no punches: "USA, BLM, Nazism." Day is upset because he cannot hike in his backyard with his two small children, unless he wants to risk a \$1,000 fine or a year in prison for violating the federal order cordoning off the land. LOW ALTITUDES He is also bothered by the low-flying copters buzzing at what he believes are illegally low altitudes through the canyon behind his house, one mile down a dirt road from the ranger with the M-16. Like many people living near the Green Sweep site, he is trying to sneak photographs of the operation for use in possible legal action to restrict such campaigns in the future. Even the local sheriff is disdainful of his federal visitors and chides them for what he sees as an expensive and inefficient foray into his backyard. Federal officials say \$100,000 is budgeted for the operation, not including salaries or the cost of operating aircraft and vehicles.

Full Text (962 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 1, 1990

Under a pine tree in a wild coastal valley, a man in a camouflage uniform sits in a lawn chair, sipping fruit juice and cradling an M-16. He is one of 200 troops from the Bureau of Land Management, the Army and the California National Guard who, since Sunday, have been on a mission to destroy illegal marijuana plants in a mile-square area around this 2,600-foot, redwood-covered peak. Although the BLM touts "Operation Green Sweep" as its most extensive marijuana raid ever in California, local residents call the armor-heavy drug bust an insult to the land and to the people. Scornful messages directed at the government are everywhere, from the marquee of the Garberville Theater, 18 miles east of Ground Zero, to the home of self-employed welder Tim Day, just a short hike from the center of the action. The marquee reads "Why US military invasion of public campgrounds." The sign Day has draped over his driveway pulls no punches: "USA, BLM, Nazism." Day is upset because he cannot hike in his backyard with his two small children, unless he wants to risk a \$1,000 fine or a year in prison for violating the federal order cordoning off the land. LOW ALTITUDES He is also bothered by the low-flying copters buzzing at what he believes are illegally low altitudes through the canyon behind his house, one mile down a dirt road from the ranger with the M-16. Like many people living near the Green Sweep site, he is trying to sneak photographs of the operation for use in possible legal action to restrict such campaigns in the future. Even the local sheriff is disdainful of his federal visitors and chides them for what he sees as an expensive and inefficient foray into his backyard. Federal officials say \$100,000 is budgeted for the operation, not including salaries or the cost of operating aircraft and vehicles. County Sheriff David Renner said his deputies typically seize 500 to 1,000 plants in an average raid, and up to 5,000 when things go well. By contrast, the federal authorities said that by late yesterday afternoon they had seized 360 plants since the operation started Sunday. "We've seized 20,000 plants this year as of today, with a five-officer county Marijuana Eradication Team," Renner said. The sheriff said he expects the federal force to seize no more than 2,000 plants from the King Range national Conservation Area during its entire three weeks of operation. "We have the best history, and a long-established track record of having the best marijuana eradication

team in the state," Renner said. "It's frustrating to see this large federal force here, when we continue to come up short on financial support for our effort." "GOOD QUANTITIES'

Federal officials, however, say they are satisfied with the operation. First Lieutenant T. Stan Zezotarski, public affairs officer for the state National Guard, said the 360 plants destroyed Monday were worth \$1 million. "We're finding good quantities," he said yesterday. The rangers arrived secretly a week ago, refusing to reveal their purpose to people who asked questions. "This past Sunday, four Hueys (Army helicopters) came in, circled and landed," said Day, bearded and shirtless. "I had to call my mom in Reno to see if there was a war going on." Day believes that the federal agencies are using too much firepower for scant gain. He questioned whether it is worth scarring the land with soldiers' tools and boot heels, scaring hikers and horses and closing off public wilderness in order to deal a blow to an industry, that, according to many local accounts, is already in an economic depression. Shortly after Day spoke, helicopters flew close over the nearby home of Blossom Edwards, a 17-year-old high school student. At the same time, soldiers appeared on the Edwards' property, investigating a water line. Blossom's mother got angry and yelled, and the men in uniform turned tail. Blossom was still jittery from her encounter with camouflaged speechless troops on a hiking trail a week ago. "There were men lying down against the brown leaves," she recalled. "They had full camouflage. They had caps pulled over their faces. All their automatic weapons were pointed at me. . . . I yelled. I tried to get them to talk. They wouldn't move, they wouldn't talk, they wouldn't lower their guns." INDIGNATION

Although reports from the frontlines concern frightening personal encounters, the talk in Garberville was infused with political indignation. The ~~strong network of political progressives in the area~~, which recently went into full swing for the Redwood Summer ~~logging protests~~, was shifting its focus to Green Sweep. ~~Since the early 1980s, marijuana eradication campaigns have been run annually in the county by state and local agencies.~~ Ed Denson, a director of the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project, criticized the Green Sweep raiders as "uniformly surly and impolite." "They have no respect for other people's rights," he said. The BLM has said that one benefit of the campaign would be to make the land safe for hikers who presumably could encounter the legendary gun-toting grower who would hurt others to protect his crop. The truth, Denson said, is that no member of the public or of a police agency has ever been shot by a grower. The public may face a greater safety threat from the campaign, he said. The government's reasoning, he said, has created an "incredible reservoir of hostility" locally.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3), MAP; Caption: (1) A longtime resident of Hidden Valley made his view of the raid clear in a sign he placed outside his home, (2) A large force of heavily armed men and equipment assembled in Hidden Valley, near Shelter Cove, yesterday morning, (3) The Garberville Theater's marquee has a message for the raiders / PHOTOS BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

War Is Heck; [FINAL Edition]

Arthur Hoppe. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 1, 1990. pg. A.19

Abstract (Summary)

Well, there's good news today. Even as we speak, our boys from the National Guard and the Seventh Light Infantry are slogging through the thickets of Humboldt County, M-16 assault rifles at the ready, helicopters flying overhead, engaging in constant hand-to-leaf combat and prepared to capture any wily pot grower who crosses their path.

The climate's a bit hot in the summer and a trifle rainy in the winter, but what an improvement over the steaming jungles of the Mekong Delta or the freezing mud of the Pusan Reservoir. Our soldiers won't come down with any strange foreign diseases either, only strange domestic ones, and the clever natives speak our language, more or less.

So here's the first war in our history that our soldiers may possibly enjoy a little. All that's needed is a bit of warlike spirit on the home front. To do my part, I've been writing war songs, like: "'From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Dillon Beach," "'Don't Sit Under the Cannabis with Anyone Else But Me" and "'Praise the Lord and Pass the Paraquat."

Full Text (626 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 1, 1990

EVER SINCE the end of the Cold War, our country's been dawdling along aimlessly without an enemy to hate. Oh, we still manage out of habit to appropriate \$300 billion or so for defense, but defense from whom? Sometimes, a purposeless Washington has seemed on the verge of tossing in the towel.

Well, there's good news today. Even as we speak, our boys from the National Guard and the Seventh Light Infantry are slogging through the thickets of Humboldt County, M-16 assault rifles at the ready, helicopters flying overhead, engaging in constant hand-to-leaf combat and prepared to capture any wily pot grower who crosses their path.

For at last we have met the enemy, and, as Pogo so succinctly put it, "'they is us."

Once we put our hearts into it, what a fine war it will be. First of all, it's nearby. That means our G.I. Joes in the front lines can get home on a weekend pass. What's more, when they crave what our boys in combat always crave - a hamburger and a choc shake - they can stop off at the Garberville Mall on their way into combat.

The climate's a bit hot in the summer and a trifle rainy in the winter, but what an improvement over the steaming jungles of the Mekong Delta or the freezing mud of the Pusan Reservoir. Our soldiers won't come down with any strange foreign diseases either, only strange domestic ones, and the clever natives speak our language, more or less.

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We'll require a dozen war movies. I'm working on a script for "'The Real Stuff." In this one, Tom Cruise, armed only with a combat knife, wrestles a giant, 10-foot sinsemilla plant for the love of Madonna. He wins. Then in "'30 Seconds Over Willits," Arnold Schwarzenegger . . . But I don't want to give the plot away.

Once we get the public stirred up, we can count on Washington to hop on the bandwagon. I can hear our president now: ""We must never surrender to the Godless cannabis growers of the Evil Green Empire." Or maybe I've heard him say that already.

More important, Congress will at last have a good reason to spend \$300 billion on defense. Of course, our representatives can be expected to engage in heated debate over every penny of our hard-earned money. Do we really need 48 Leaf-Seeking Laser-Guided Pop-Up Pot Blasters at \$1.2 billion each? Or will 42 do the trick?

And think how happy all our politicians will be if they can pose for campaign photos at the front with their helmets and binoculars - especially since they can get there on a Greyhound bus.

Oh, what a lovely war! It will accomplish as much as most wars accomplish and at far less cost. Best of all, it's not one of those fly-by-night wars that are over in a couple of years and everyone has to go home. This promises to be an ongoing war that looks good for several lifetimes.

Sure, some cynics say our troops will pull up a few thousand marijuana stalks that will quickly be replanted. They may even arrest a dozen or so backwoods farmers who, if ever convicted, will be released on probation. A wasteful, useless exercise in paranoia, they say. See? It's a perfect replacement for the Cold War.

[Illustration]
GRAPHIC

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Raiders Upset Homesteader / Humboldt man talks about close encounters; [FINAL Edition]

Rick DelVecchio, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 2, 1990. pg. A.2

Abstract (Summary)

He believes the threat to be real - as real as the olive-drab military helicopter that hovered over the walnut tree near his goat barn, and as real as the men in camouflage. bA wiry 57-year-old wearing a green cap and a Moosehead beer T-shirt, [Don Edwards] was bursting with reports of close encounters with the federal government's eradication program nearby, ""Operation Greensweep." As of yesterday, the fourth day of the pot raid, Edwards has become a focal point for the mountain residents who live next to the federal wilderness area where the operation is taking place. Edwards and others complained that low-flying helicopters and trespassing troops are harassing them and violating their privacy. Edwards, who fancies himself an excellent stalker, concluded that five men had trooped through the area to investigate a dry pond and irrigation line. Apparently, they suspected that the pond and pipe were connected to a marijuana patch. He said the raiders were on the wrong track. He raises food for his family and grows nothing illegal. Moreover, he said, he destroys marijuana plants whenever he finds them on Bureau of Land Management land on the ridge behind his property.

Full Text (630 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 2, 1990

Dead oak leaves crunched beneath his feet as Don Edwards searched a wooden trail behind his house yesterday for the boot prints of federal pot raiders. Edwards, a gray-bearded former San Francisco adman with an ulcer, who gave up the fast life to become a rural homesteader straight out of the pages of Mother Earth News, moved uphill through the shadows with the intensity of a man whose land and family were under siege.

He believes the threat to be real - as real as the olive-drab military helicopter that hovered over the walnut tree near his goat barn, and as real as the men in camouflage. bA wiry 57-year-old wearing a green cap and a Moosehead beer T-shirt, Edwards was bursting with reports of close encounters with the federal government's eradication program nearby, ""Operation Greensweep." As of yesterday, the fourth day of the pot raid, Edwards has become a focal point for the mountain residents who live next to the federal wilderness area where the operation is taking place. Edwards and others complained that low-flying helicopters and trespassing troops are harassing them and violating their privacy. Edwards, who fancies himself an excellent stalker, concluded that five men had trooped through the area to investigate a dry pond and irrigation line. Apparently, they suspected that the pond and pipe were connected to a marijuana patch. He said the raiders were on the wrong track. He raises food for his family and grows nothing illegal. Moreover, he said, he destroys marijuana plants whenever he finds them on Bureau of Land Management land on the ridge behind his property. Last spring, he said, he got rid of a patch of 60 seedlings and left a note for the grower.

Copter Overhead High overhead, a helicopter made a circle over the 40-acre homestead, which is situated in a wooded bowl on the opposite side of the mountain from the raiders' encampment. ""I think it's just harassment," he said. "I can't seem to finish watering my garden, I'm getting interrupted so much." In the 1960s, Edwards bought the land and a one-bedroom cabin for \$5,000 down and a \$17,000 note. He had been impressed by an article he read during the height of the Cold War, listing the rugged coastal area as one of the nation's safest spots in the event of a nuclear attack. So the military presence in his back yard, Edwards explained, is a gross violation of the way he has chosen to live his life. "I came to the edge of the continent to get away from this madness, and it followed me here," he said. As angry as he was into the intrusion into his life, he said he was most concerned for



his children. Yesterday, according to Edwards, armed men in the woods brushed close to his 9-year-old son, Logan.

Suit Planned Meanwhile, a local lawyer, Ron Sinoway, threatened to seek a restraining order against the BLM in federal court next week, on behalf of residents who claim harassment. He said the raiders' actions over the next few days will determine whether such a move is warranted. The BLM and National Guard did not respond directly to Edwards' complaints. However, First Lieutenant Stan Zegotarski, a public affairs officer for the National Guard, said troops came under "'verbal harassment" yesterday. He said the raiders were highly disciplined and did not answer back. So far, the operation has destroyed 550 marijuana plants. Citing U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration figures, BLM spokeswoman Joanie Redfield said a mature plant has a market value of \$3,000.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) Don Edwards stood next to his Humboldt County house with companion Bernadette Webster, (2) Logan Edwards, 9, listened to neighbors talk about his brush with marijuana eradication troops / PHOTOS BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Be Sure To Hide the Roaches; [FINAL Edition]

Jon Carroll. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 3, 1990. pg. E.18

Abstract (Summary)

LIKE CONCERNED CITIZENS everywhere, I welcome President Bush's gallant war on marijuana in Humboldt County. Too long has this check been allowed to go unscourged, and vice versa. I believe for every leaf of pot that falls, a robin sings.

Now, a cynical person might think: Surely what the president meant was that he would attempt to control the demand for cocaine while Colombia was attempting to control the supply of cocaine. A cynical person might think that the president's pledge had nothing whatever to do with marijuana.

These troops need to be combat-ready. Today they'll swoop down on the marijuana fields of Northern California; tomorrow they'll swoop down on the cocaine-selling entertainment lawyers of Southern California. Swoop, swoop, swoop; practice, practice, practice.

Full Text (556 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 3, 1990

LIKE CONCERNED CITIZENS everywhere, I welcome President Bush's gallant war on marijuana in Humboldt County. Too long has this check been allowed to go unscourged, and vice versa. I believe for every leaf of pot that falls, a robin sings.

Perhaps I am too emotional. The facts, however, speak for themselves.

Fact: In the 1920s, many so-called "jazz musicians" used marijuana for purposes other than procreation. Today, most of these musicians are dead. These are statistics; I did not make them up.

Fact: Marijuana has been linked to 54 percent of the violent crimes committed in California during the past fiscal year. You know that's true because you just read it in the newspaper.

Fact: Marijuana smoking was virtually epidemic in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Many of these smokers now hold important positions in private industry and have little time for parlor games or the novels of Elmore Leonard. The human wreckage is appalling!

Fact: Many homeless people had homes, smoked marijuana and then didn't have homes. Clearly, these people need our help. They also need our homes, but one step at a time.

Fact: The residents of Humboldt County whine a great deal. Have you noticed that? It's always, "The armed soldiers in my back yard did this" or "The helicopter over my house at midnight did that." And yet, when it came time to support the downtown ballpark, where were these people?

THE PRESIDENT HAS explained, in the clearest possible way, why it is necessary to spend large amounts of money and buckets of time to seize 360 (and the number continues to grow!) vicious, mind-numbing marijuana plants.

As he explained it, he promised the leaders of Colombia that he would do something about his country's drug problem if they would do something about their country's drug problem. (Colombia's drug problem seems to be that it processes an awful lot of it and just can't use it all).

Now, a cynical person might think: Surely what the president meant was that he would attempt to control the demand for cocaine while Colombia was attempting to control the supply of cocaine. A cynical person might think that the president's pledge had nothing whatever to do with marijuana.

But these troops need to be combat-ready. Today they'll swoop down on the marijuana fields of Northern California; tomorrow they'll swoop down on the cocaine-selling entertainment lawyers of Southern California. Swoop, swoop, swoop; practice, practice, practice.

How happy the Colombians must be now!

AND WE MUST remember this: This is a proven tactic. Every time the government makes a concerted military campaign against marijuana, the problem disappears. Of course, it comes back, sometimes only minutes later, but that's because resources are diverted elsewhere.

Remember how successful paraquat spraying was? Remember how the drug trade crumbled when Nixon closed the border? For 60 years the government has been fighting this war, and for 60 years it has been winning. The fact that marijuana is still being smoked only indicates the severity of the problem.

That's why we need camouflaged troops lurking around the hiking trails of Humboldt County. Maybe, some deaf pot grower who never reads the newspapers will walk along carrying a huge bundle and bingo!

The number of seized plants may have skyrocketed to 400 by the time you read this. Progress? I think so.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Dispute on Humboldt County Pot Raid Boiling Over / Experts widely split on the operation's benefits, drawbacks; [FINAL Edition]

Rick DeVecchio, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 6, 1990. pg. A.4

Abstract (Summary)

Local residents and national experts familiar with the pot trade say the immature plants the raiders have been taking are worth a quarter to a third of the amount claimed by the government. Operation Green Sweep was "not worth" the \$600,000 to \$700,000 it cost, said Harvard's [Mark A. R. Kleiman], who has written a book criticizing government attempts to control marijuana production.

Humboldt County residents agree that the actions have greatly diminished the county's status as a world center of high-grade pot production. Yet California-grown pot remains available, if considerably more expensive than it was before law enforcement increased the risks of production. GROWERS MOVE AROUND

Dana Beal, a New Yorker who was a leader of the movement to legalize marijuana in the 1960s, bemoaned what he termed an "enormous pot famine." With good weed costing \$300 an ounce, many of the nation's 25 million pot smokers can no longer afford to indulge regularly, he said.

Full Text (1479 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 6, 1990

Chronicle correspondents Ron Sonenshine and Bill Israel contributed to this report

As the federal government winds up its military-backed pot raid in the Humboldt County wilderness, local and national experts are deeply split over whether such actions are worth taking.

The costs and the benefits of big-scale moves such as Operation Green Sweep, the code name for the Humboldt raid, are not only financial but also political.

For supporters, the expense of maintaining 200 rangers and soldiers and heavy equipment in roadless terrain for two weeks - combined with other liabilities such as damage to the environment and the anger of local residents - is repaid by the anti-drug message the operation broadcasts to the public.

"It's part of a trend," said Chauncey Veatch, chairman of Governor Deukmejian's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. "We have to carry the war on drugs to every place in the state. We're asking our Latin American neighbors to defoliate to get rid of drugs. We have to do something in return."

Veatch said that "citizens in St. Louis and Cincinnati" are also demanding that Californians take a tougher stand against illegal drugs. He repeated federal drug czar William Bennett's recent statement that California should be the target of heavier enforcement because it is "the epicenter" of the nation's drug problem. DESIRE FOR VISIBILITY

Other reasons given for making marijuana eradication a larger and more visible part of government drug programs are to underscore the notion that pot leads to harder drugs and to make public lands safer and cleaner for those who use them for fishing, hunting and hiking.

Such thinking allowed Cy Jamison, chief of the federal Bureau of Land Management, the agency leading Operation Green Sweep, to say in front of dozens of reporters last week that the raid would be worth the cost if only one plant were destroyed.

According to figures given by the BLM and the California National Guard, which is supplying manpower for the operation, the two-week sweep will cost the agencies at least \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Peter Reuter, a drug policy expert at the Rand Corp. in Washington, said cleaning up public lands "alone is a decent reason" to applaud such operations.

Echoing Jamison, Reuter also said it would be justified if it discouraged a single potential pot user.

Critics charge that Operation Green Sweep is an overreaction by the government to the nation's drug problem and that such raids lead to abuses against people living on nearby private lands.

Ron Sinoway, a criminal defense lawyer in Humboldt County, held a community meeting in Garberville yesterday to take statements from residents who claim they were harassed by the armed pot raiders and their helicopters.

Eric Sterling, president of the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation in Washington, which is critical of federal drug policy, suggested that the raiders may be intentionally intimidating the rural residents because many of them are former anti-war protesters who have remained active in progressive causes. "There is a visceral hostility to those people that can now be vented," he said.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Other critics contend that using military forces against marijuana in a sparsely populated area provides a sure public relations payoff. It exposes the uniformed raiders to no real danger, and the government to a manageable political backlash at home.

"They're much safer up there in the woods," said Mark A. R. Kleiman, a lecturer at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. "Can you imagine what would happen if you had a bunch of National Guard troops in Los Angeles trying to catch crack dealers?"

Protesting last week at the gate to the pot raiders' camp, a mother of four who identified herself only as Lynn puzzled over the decision to use military force in an area populated by financially struggling folk who, by their description, are not dope barons but merely people devoted to nature and resisting confrontation. "We're just a bunch of poor people, I swear to God," she said.

On the other side of the debate, a former Humboldt County district attorney's office administrator who identified himself only as Lawrence supported the use of force. "You can't go for a casual stroll in the woods anymore without fear of being accosted by growers," he said. "If you can discourage them from growing it, then it's worth it."

EFFECTS UNCERTAIN

Whether such raids really scare off growers and discourage users are unresolved questions.

The latest move is a reminder of such milestones in the government's pot war as President Richard Nixon's Operation Intercept in 1969. Aimed at importation from Mexico, it reportedly caused a nationwide pot drought for nearly six months.

~~The government kept the heat on through the 1970s, and cheap imports such as "Columbian Gold" and "Panama Red" became less available. But both Mexican and domestic growers responded with stronger stuff, notably sinsemilla, which is seedless marijuana from female plants.~~

Sinsemilla buds, loaded with mind-altering THC, are the contraband that the BLM weed warriors this week are trying to keep away from the public. The first of many such attempts likely to be repeated in the state and elsewhere, their actions are the land agency's response to drug czar Bennett's recent call for a "vigorous program" to wipe out domestically grown marijuana.

Looked at as a straight pot-busting operation rather than as a political move, the early results of Operation Green Sweep have not overwhelmed observers.

National Guard Lieutenant Stan Zegotarski said the raid, due to end Friday, has destroyed 1,000 plants worth \$3 million on the street. He predicted that 500 more plants would be taken this week.

Dollar Estimates Disputed

Local residents and national experts familiar with the pot trade say the immature plants the raiders have been taking are worth a quarter to a third of the amount claimed by the government. Operation Green Sweep was "not

worth" the \$600,000 to \$700,000 it cost, said Harvard's Kleiman, who has written a book criticizing government attempts to control marijuana production.



Although the operation is the largest and one of the most highly publicized pot raids in California history, it is only the latest in a series of sinsemilla sweeps that began with the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Production (CAMP) in 1983.

CAMP has seized more than \$2 billion worth of marijuana throughout the state in the past seven years, said Kati Corsaut of the state Department of Justice.

Veatch, with the governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, said CAMP has helped slash the state's share in domestic marijuana production from 25 percent in the early 1980s to 10 percent today.

Humboldt County residents agree that the actions have greatly diminished the county's status as a world center of high-grade pot production. Yet California-grown pot remains available, if considerably more expensive than it was before law enforcement increased the risks of production. **GROWERS MOVE AROUND**

Large outdoor gardens in Northern California's heavily policed "Emerald Triangle," which includes Humboldt County, are a thing of the past, but other areas of the state have taken up part of the slack. In addition, an increasing share of the state's production is grown indoors, said Ed Rosenthal, a Bay Area horticulturist who writes an advice column for High Times magazine.

"There's no centralized supplier they (authorities) can capture," he said. "In the long run, it forces people indoors."

John Dunlap, director of public affairs for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said 5,000 tons of pot were marketed nationwide in 1989, enough to meet 35 percent of domestic demand. "I'm sure production will continue to grow as the American farmer realizes it's a good cash crop," he said.

Operation Green Sweep "won't make much of a dent," Dunlap said. "It's just a thing to show a bunch of people standing around with plants. You can get it in Texas with a local sheriff standing in a field, or you can get it in California with a whole army standing in a field."

However, Dana Beal, a New Yorker who was a leader of the movement to legalize marijuana in the 1960s, bemoaned what he termed an "enormous pot famine." With good weed costing \$300 an ounce, many of the nation's 25 million pot smokers can no longer afford to indulge regularly, he said.

Dennis Peron, a San Francisco counterculture figure once called the Prince of Pot, said, "The demand is still there, but they just can't get it."

On the plus side, Peron said, government intervention has pushed up prices so dramatically that enterprising growers remain eager. "Now you can grow less and make the same amount of money," he said.

[Illustration]

PHOTO(2); Caption: (1) A young resident took a protest sign to the Bureau of Land Management camp near Chemise Mountain, (2) A Bureau of Land Management ranger from New Mexico surveyed an area near Chemise Mountain / PHOTOS BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Government Concludes Big Humboldt Pot Raid / Class-action suit filed against organizers; [FINAL Edition]

Jim Doyle, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 10, 1990. pg. A.4

Abstract (Summary)

The government's marijuana eradication campaign in Humboldt County was abruptly concluded yesterday, as authorities declared "'Operation Green Sweep" an unqualified success. Several U.S. Army helicopters abandoned a remote encampment in southern Humboldt County that was used as a staging area for raids on backwoods marijuana gardens on public land. Later in the day, a class action lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, charging the federal and state governments with numerous civil rights violations in conducting the marijuana search. The suit was filed by the Drug Policy Foundation of Washington, D.C., six Humboldt County residents and the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project. Named as defendants in the suit are 25 government officials who planned Operation Green Sweep, including drug czar William Bennett.

Full Text (403 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 10, 1990

Chronicle correspondent Bill Israel and Chronicle wire services contributed to this report.

The government's marijuana eradication campaign in Humboldt County was abruptly concluded yesterday, as authorities declared "'Operation Green Sweep" an unqualified success. Several U.S. Army helicopters abandoned a remote encampment in southern Humboldt County that was used as a staging area for raids on backwoods marijuana gardens on public land. Later in the day, a class action lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, charging the federal and state governments with numerous civil rights violations in conducting the marijuana search. The suit was filed by the Drug Policy Foundation of Washington, D.C., six Humboldt County residents and the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project. Named as defendants in the suit are 25 government officials who planned Operation Green Sweep, including drug czar William Bennett. The suit alleges that the drug sweep involved warrantless searches and seizures, destruction of property and illegal detentions, invasion of privacy by nonstop helicopter flights and use of excessive force. It also contends that the military should not be involved in civilian law enforcement operations. The suit asks for \$100 million in damages, plus an injunction to prevent the government from conducting similar operations. The 10-day sweep netted 1,408 pot plants with an estimated street value of \$4.2 million, authorities said. All told, 28 marijuana sites were eradicated and 11 people were arrested on charges of entering the area that the government had made off-limits to the public during the sweep. No one was charged with growing marijuana. "What's important is that we've made the point that marijuana growing will not be tolerated on BLM land," said Roger Bruckner, a special agent for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. "Would-be growers will not only lose their crop and their labor, but they'll also lose their investment in irrigation systems and agricultural equipment." Despite reports of ill feeling from some Humboldt County residents about the anti-pot drive, Bruckner said only a small number of people opposed the joint military-BLM operation. He also praised helicopter crews of the Seventh Light Infantry Division from Fort Ord, who flew BLM agents to the remote sites and later hauled out 12 tons of pot growers' garbage and growing equipment including water barrels and plastic pipe. "That we can carry off such an operation here means that we are able to do it on BLM public lands anywhere in the country," he said.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Troops Joining Fight Against 2 Fiercest California Wildfires; [FINAL Edition]

Rick DeVecchio, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 13, 1990. pg. A.2

Abstract (Summary)

Hundreds of fires in six Western states had burned more than 856,000 acres by yesterday afternoon, said Reed Jarvis, a spokesman for the National Fire Information Center in Boise, Idaho. All major fires in Montana and Nevada were contained yesterday, and the outlook was improving in Idaho and Oregon, said Ken Strauss, spokesman for the Boise Interagency Fire Center in Idaho. Remote Eastern Oregon lost 120,000 acres of timberland to the blazes.

California's outlook was the worst. By early last night, more than 200,000 acres had burned in 1,300 wildfires in widely scattered areas of the state, many caused by the 28,893 lightning strikes recorded since August 3. At least 127 structures had been destroyed and 50 firefighters injured, three seriously. More than 12,000 firefighters were on the lines yesterday.

In Humboldt County, more than 15,000 acres had burned in five fires and the destruction was expected to reach at least 29,000 acres, [Chris Parker] said. The 12,500-acre Mattole Complex fire was 15 percent contained. A 2,500-acre blaze burned in the King Range National Conservation Area north of Shelter Cove, where U.S. military forces last week concluded a controversial marijuana sweep.

Full Text (846 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 13, 1990

A brigade of 1,200 Army infantry troops was ordered yesterday to the front lines of two of the hottest wildfires in California, where they will bolster state and local crews exhausted by a week of around-the-clock duty.

The troop order, plus the possibility that more civilian firefighters will be reassigned from less dangerous fires in other states, signaled that Northern California's forest, brush and grass fires will be the top priority this week for thinly stretched firefighting forces in the West.

The brigade, made up of two battalions from the 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colo., is scheduled to arrive in Redding tomorrow or Wednesday for grueling pick-and-shovel duty in nearly inaccessible ""mountain goat territory" north of Chico, said John Wade, fire information officer for the California Department of Forestry.

A second brigade of roughly the same size was being dispatched to a staging area in Redding from Fort Lewis in Washington, but its final destination had not been determined, said Bonnie Tulysewski, spokeswoman for the Sacramento Multiagency Coordinating Center.

Hundreds of fires in six Western states had burned more than 856,000 acres by yesterday afternoon, said Reed Jarvis, a spokesman for the National Fire Information Center in Boise, Idaho. All major fires in Montana and Nevada were contained yesterday, and the outlook was improving in Idaho and Oregon, said Ken Strauss, spokesman for the Boise Interagency Fire Center in Idaho. Remote Eastern Oregon lost 120,000 acres of timberland to the blazes.

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127 structures had been destroyed and 50 firefighters injured, three seriously. More than 12,000 firefighters were on the lines yesterday.

"The situation in California is, it's still hot and dry, and they're experiencing high winds," Strauss said.

The Fort Carson soldiers will join more than 2,500 civilians fighting a so-far losing battle against the Campbell Complex and Finley fires, which are expected to join into one large inferno, perhaps sometime today.

Raging in state and federal forest 12 miles north of Chico, the Campbell Complex fire, also called the Pine Creek fire, had consumed 112,000 acres by yesterday and was only 10 percent contained last night. Battling shifting winds, firefighters massed in the Ishi Wilderness area in an attempt to check the fastest-moving front.

Blamed on sparks from power lines, the fire late yesterday had destroyed 10 structures, caused 10 minor injuries among firefighters and cost firefighting agencies \$4.25 million.

The raging Finley fire doubled in size to 12,000 acres Saturday and hit 17,000 acres by last night. Late last night it was named as the state firefighters' No. 1 priority for today's efforts.

"It just kept going, like your kids who don't go to bed," Wade said. "These fires up here aren't playing by the rules."

The blaze, five miles north of the Campbell Complex, had destroyed 42 structures, including two houses, 13 trailers and 27 outbuildings, said Chris Parker, a CDF spokesman. It was burning in valuable timberland and threatening to reach both the Lassen National Forest and the hamlet of Manton, with 800 residents scattered in hard-to-reach canyons. Fire authorities hired two dozen bulldozer operators to dig a line between the flames and populated areas.

The second priority for today is the McArthur Command complex, which by last night had burned 5,300 acres 25 miles northeast of Burney, destroying valuable timber and forcing the evacuation of Burney State Park, Parker said. It was 10 percent contained last night. Two bulldozer operators were hospitalized with first- and second-degree burns, Parker said.

The fires in Yosemite National Park were listed as the third highest priority.

More than half of the 20,000 firefighters active throughout the West yesterday were working in California, with most concentrated on the Campbell Complex, Finley, Yosemite and 11 other major fires.

In Sequoia National Forest, the 24,100-acre Stormy Complex fire was only 10 percent contained and continued to grow. A firefighter injured over the weekend when a tree fell on him was in stable condition.

In Humboldt County, more than 15,000 acres had burned in five fires and the destruction was expected to reach at least 29,000 acres, Parker said. The 12,500-acre Mattole Complex fire was 15 percent contained. A 2,500-acre blaze burned in the King Range National Conservation Area north of Shelter Cove, where U.S. military forces last week concluded a controversial marijuana sweep.

In Lassen County, two fires near Highway 395 about 50 miles north of Susanville that had consumed 25,600 acres were expected to be contained by tomorrow.

The Kanaka fire, 10 miles west of Redding, threatened structures and a National Park Service environmental camp.

The Day Complex fire, one of three potentially serious new fires reported yesterday, had consumed 4,000 acres in Shasta County.

Lower temperatures and calmer winds should help the firefighting effort in the early part of the week, Tulyszewski said, and there is a possibility of midweek thundershowers over most of the Sierra.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Nation's First Counternarcotics School / How National Guard works with police, other federal groups; [FINAL Edition]

Michael McCabe, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 15, 1990. pg. A.2

Abstract (Summary)

The air is still and the intersection quiet when a brown Chevy Suburban van cautiously approaches from around a bend. The van rolls along at a dog trot, as five heavily camouflaged soldiers, armed with M-16A rifles and night-vision goggles, slip out the side door and vanish into the oleander brush. The enemy is not Saddam Hussein's soldiers in Middle East deserts. The enemy is the drug lords in California. But on this day, at least, the druggies are imaginary. The soldiers at Camp San Luis Obispo are members of the California National Guard, who were among the participants last week in the nation's first counternarcotics school, established by the National Guard to teach military and civilian law enforcement agencies how to fight the war on drugs together. This particular war game exercise, performed for a class of 48 representatives of various law enforcement and government agencies from around the country, was called "forest penetration," military jargon for setting up a surveillance point. It's also known as "scout insertion." In a real situation, the National Guard squad's mission would be to sit in the brush all night to watch out for narcotics traffickers and to relay the information to local law enforcement or customs officials. COORDINATED EFFORT "This is the first time in this country's history that we are finally training civilian law enforcement people, the National Guard and other military people to work together in the war on drugs," said National Guard Colonel Ronald Kludt, who is project director of the National Interagency Counternarcotics Institute.

Full Text (903 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 15, 1990

The air is still and the intersection quiet when a brown Chevy Suburban van cautiously approaches from around a bend. The van rolls along at a dog trot, as five heavily camouflaged soldiers, armed with M-16A rifles and night-vision goggles, slip out the side door and vanish into the oleander brush. The enemy is not Saddam Hussein's soldiers in Middle East deserts. The enemy is the drug lords in California. But on this day, at least, the druggies are imaginary. The soldiers at Camp San Luis Obispo are members of the California National Guard, who were among the participants last week in the nation's first counternarcotics school, established by the National Guard to teach military and civilian law enforcement agencies how to fight the war on drugs together. This particular war game exercise, performed for a class of 48 representatives of various law enforcement and government agencies from around the country, was called "forest penetration," military jargon for setting up a surveillance point. It's also known as "scout insertion." In a real situation, the National Guard squad's mission would be to sit in the brush all night to watch out for narcotics traffickers and to relay the information to local law enforcement or customs officials. COORDINATED EFFORT "This is the first time in this country's history that we are finally training civilian law enforcement people, the National Guard and other military people to work together in the war on drugs." said National Guard Colonel Ronald Kludt, who is project director of the National Interagency Counternarcotics Institute. Kludt said the goal is to encourage counternarcotics groups to cooperate in their anti-drug efforts, and at the same time let them know what kind of equipment the military has and how it can help them. "But we in the National Guard do not get involved in arrests or search and seizure," Kludt said. "Our mission is limited to offering transportation with Blackhawk helicopters, for instance, and with observation and analysis. We merely support local law enforcement agencies." The National Guard has been involved in the war on drugs in California since 1983. Now, with the establishment of a school, Guard officials hope to up the ante in anticipation of a war that, according to national drug policy director William Bennett, is expected to last 10 years. Currently, there are about 300 California National Guardsmen participating in counternarcotics activities. MORE CLASSES PLANNED After last month's initial class, 27 more courses are planned for the coming fiscal year. The Guard has budgeted \$3 million to

operate the center in the first year. An additional \$2 million is planned for the design and construction of permanent facilities. It could well become the West Point of counternarcotics training. The idea for the center grew out of recent anti-drug operations along the Mexican border, called Border Ranger II, and was given added impetus more recently with the anti-marijuana raids last July and August in Humboldt County, called Operation Green Sweep, said National Guard Lieutenant Stan Zezotarski. "We wanted to go over some of the lessons learned in these and other operations, and share that information with others around the country," Zezotarski said. "What we overlooked in Operation Green Sweep, for example, is how labor intensive it is to try to eradicate not only the marijuana plants but also the entire drug operation infrastructure in an area as inaccessible as parts of Humboldt County are." Operation Green Sweep netted about 1,400 marijuana plants, and 11 people were arrested for trespassing, Zezotarski said. Statewide, Customs agents with National Guard support confiscated \$80 million worth of drugs and other illegal paraphernalia last year, compared with \$40 million the previous year. Also collected in the drug net were such items as counterfeit jeans and stuffed turtles that are listed on the endangered species list, Zezotarski added.

CLASS MEMBERS The first counternarcotics class was made up of drug enforcement agents from around the country, including Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and California. The Customs Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Border Patrol, Coast Guard and the North American Aerospace Defense command sent representatives. "I'm learning to understand the limitations of the National Guard has to operate under," said Commander James Force, chief of law enforcement for the Eighth Coast Guard District based along the Gulf of Mexico. "We got a major problem with drugs being introduced into this country via the gulf up from Central and South America, and this kind of course really helps." Classes were held inside a barracks converted into a war room with detailed maps, communications devices and video equipment. The mock exercise assumed that it is 1992 and that the area war against drugs is along the 2,200-mile border with Mexico. Many of the National Guard "scouts" who trained outside the barracks with the latest high-tech equipment said they would not mind at all moving out for Persian Gulf duty along the Iraqi border. "We're training in desert conditions all the time around here," said one Guardsman, who identified himself as "Indy." He was outfitted in heavily camouflaged fatigues with a black scarf around his face. "Sure, I'd like to go over there, but until then I'll practice my skills here. I think this war against drugs is going to last a long, long time though. I like the action, man."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: A Guardsman dressed in full camouflage gear kept watch through binoculars during an exercise / BY VINCE MAGGIORA/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Marijuana Fans Hold a Harvest Festival / More than 1,000 make sweet smoke at Dolores Park; [FINAL Edition]

David Tuller, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 5, 1990. pg. A.3

Abstract (Summary)

Longtime pot advocate Dennis Peron organized yesterday's event and dubbed it a "'BYOM" - or bring your own marijuana - affair. Peron dedicated the festival to Jonathan West, a close friend who died of AIDS in September and who regularly used the drug to revive his failing appetite and to alleviate nausea, upset stomachs and other symptoms brought on by his medication.

Grimes Toznikov, well-known as the "'human jukebox" in Ghirardelli Square, arrived with a "'marijuana detector" - an electronic keyboard attached to a metal wand. Toznikov pointed the wand at individuals to determine their level of pot use while keeping a firm hand on the power button and volume control.

PHOTO; Katykid the dog was held by [Kevin Comora] after being "tested" for marijuana by Grimes Toznikov / BY CHRIS STEWART/THE CHRONICLE

Full Text (742 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 5, 1990

Thomas Jefferson smoked it. The first drafts of the Constitution were written on paper made from it. And Henry Ford used it to develop methanol for some of his early car models.

Those were among the arcane bits of marijuana lore waiting across Dolores Park yesterday as more than a thousand faithful pot devotees gathered to celebrate the annual harvest of hemp, the marijuana plant.

Amid wisps of pungent marijuana smoke, the event brought together an eclectic mix of latter-day hippies in tie-dyed shirts and earnest proponents of legalizing the drug for its medicinal and ecological as well as recreational uses.

The gathering touched a nostalgic chord in longtime pot users, who remember the days before the "'war on drugs" and the burgeoning "'clean and sober" movement dampened public acceptance of marijuana.

"In the days of old, there would have been 10,000 people here," designer Gilbert Baker said wistfully. "A lot of people are in the closet about marijuana. They're paranoid, and there's certainly reason for that today." FREEDOM TO INDULGE

Yesterday, with no police in sight, many people in the crowd clearly felt free to indulge in a favorite pastime.

"I came to have a good time and spend Sunday under the sun - it's fun to smoke pot publicly," said a stoned and smiling Sabrina Merlo, 23, who works for a San Francisco architecture firm.

Longtime pot advocate Dennis Peron organized yesterday's event and dubbed it a "'BYOM" - or bring your own marijuana - affair. Peron dedicated the festival to Jonathan West, a close friend who died of AIDS in September and who regularly used the drug to revive his failing appetite and to alleviate nausea, upset stomachs and other symptoms brought on by his medication.

"Hemp is one plant that can save the world," said Peron, who was wearing a straw hat adorned with bright green paper cut in the shape of marijuana leaves. Peron and others said that one acre of hemp can supply as much

paper as more than four acres of trees and that using the plant to make methanol could help reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil.

Among the speakers at the rally were Joel Ventresca, a candidate for supervisor in San Francisco, and Eric Garris, a Republican from Santa Clara County who is running for the Assembly. Ventresca said that marijuana is a \$42 billion black-market crop, that 25 million Americans are regular users, and that 10,000 deaths a year can be attributed to alcohol.

In contrast, he said, "Not one person has died from a marijuana overdose. Why turn a large segment of our society into criminals? . . . Government should wage a war on poverty, not on marijuana users." THE PENALTIES

In California, possession of small amounts of marijuana is punishable by a fine, although selling or possessing larger amounts can result in prison terms. Although drug laws are enforced to varying degrees in different counties, legalization advocates rallied together after the federal government's widely criticized drug sweep through Humboldt County earlier this year.

Pot advocates say they are also alarmed at federal attempts to tie highway funds to a state's willingness to crack down on marijuana. One woman, Pebbles Trippet, was soliciting potential plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit she said she planned to file this week challenging pot laws on constitutional grounds.

The gathering had its lighter moments. As a reggae band chanted "Marijuana . . . the Green Herb" in syncopation with a hypnotic drum roll, rag-tag members of the crowd jerked awkwardly to the rhythm.

And Grimes Toznikov, well-known as the "human jukebox" in Ghirardelli Square, arrived with a "marijuana detector" - an electronic keyboard attached to a metal wand. Toznikov pointed the wand at individuals to determine their level of pot use while keeping a firm hand on the power button and volume control.

When he aimed the wand at a nearby Airedale dog, the keyboard suddenly emitted a loud, vibrating sound. "That dog has been smoking weed - put her in the pound," he said to Kevin Comora, the dog's owner.

Comora at first denied that his dog, named Katykid, was a pothead. "But there was a 15-minute period when I couldn't account for her whereabouts," he later acknowledged. "And after she returned, she did get a case of the munchies."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Katykid the dog was held by Kevin Comora after being "tested" for marijuana by Grimes Toznikov / BY CHRIS STEWART/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

New Twist In War on Pot Growers / DEA demands customer lists of 60 indoor gardening firms; [FINAL Edition]

Rick DeVecchio, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 23, 1991. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

"It's an expanding problem," Illa Brown, a DEA spokeswoman, said yesterday. "There's less marijuana coming into this country from foreign sources. Domestic growers are filling the void and are producing a much more potent and harmful marijuana."

In general, however, the agency is trying to trace indoor gardens through the shipping lists of the high-tech suppliers. According to government estimates, indoor marijuana growing accounts for nearly one-quarter of the nation's marijuana supply.

Victor Vivian, owner of the Berkeley Indoor Garden Center on University Avenue, said he was surprised that the government wants his records. He said his store has been open less than four months, although another garden store previously had occupied the same site. Vivian's store caters to organic and hydroponic gardeners and is stocked with horticultural lighting, starter trays, misters and fertilizers. "We have nothing here that's specifically for marijuana," Vivian said. "Anybody who even speaks about marijuana is booted out of the store."

Full Text (896 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 23, 1991

Federal agents hoping to sniff out indoor marijuana operations have demanded the customer lists of a high-tech fertilizer factory in Corte Madera and an organic gardening store in Berkeley.

The two businesses are among 60 establishments around the country served this week with administrative subpoenas approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C. The actions signal the agency's latest campaign against indoor marijuana cultivation - believed to be a multibillion-dollar business.

The agency has been trying to destroy the indoor pot industry since it seized dozens of garden supply businesses in the late 1980s, under the code name "Operation Green Merchant." Last year, the agency shut down more than 1,600 indoor growing operations, a 20 percent increase over 1989.

"It's an expanding problem," Illa Brown, a DEA spokeswoman, said yesterday. "There's less marijuana coming into this country from foreign sources. Domestic growers are filling the void and are producing a much more potent and harmful marijuana."

Brown declined to give any specifics on why General Hydroponics in Corte Madera and the Berkeley Indoor Garden Center were included in the investigation.

In general, however, the agency is trying to trace indoor gardens through the shipping lists of the high-tech suppliers. According to government estimates, indoor marijuana growing accounts for nearly one-quarter of the nation's marijuana supply.

Lawrence Brooke, owner of General Hydroponics, said his products are distributed worldwide, mostly through home and garden stores in the United States and Canada. He said that he has no control over who buys his wares off the shelf but that his direct mail customers are all legitimate.

"We're a small company, and we're certainly not very affluent," the 39-year-old businessman said. "If people are enriching themselves growing illegal crops, I'm sorry to hear that. . . . I frankly do not believe my products are used by people who grow illegal crops." Saying that he turned the subpoena over to an attorney, Brooke called the DEA's action "outrageous and appalling. . . . I found their (subpoena) very marginal, constitutionally questionable."

He said he makes three name-brand fertilizers for gardeners and researchers who want to grow high-yield plants and grow them quickly. He also has the rights to manufacture a hydroponic growing system that was developed in Israel.

Hydroponics is the growing of plants in nutrient solutions with or without the use of a supporting medium such as soil.

Brooke said his customers include U.S. government laboratories, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and prominent universities. His equipment has been used to grow food for miners in Africa and to experiment with ways to recycle astronauts' wastewater on possible missions to Mars.

Closer to home, he sells directly to growers of flowers, cuttings and food crops. He pointed proudly to a family farm in Sebastopol where strawberries and salad fixings aided by his fertilizers are grown in a commercial greenhouse.

TIES TO MAGAZINE

Brooke said he knows of nothing nefarious about his clients, nor has he advocated anything illegal in his own technical writings on hydroponics. His writings include "Water Should Taste Good to Plants," a collaboration with a NASA chemist. He also writes frequently for a publication called "The Growing Edge."

That magazine is put out by the former publisher of the now-defunct journal "Sinsemilla Tips," named after a potent variety of marijuana. Peter Gorman, a New York free-lance writer, wrote recently that the magazine was closed by the drug agency last year because it advocated marijuana legalization and printed grow-your-own advice.

Brooke said he has had no association with any pro-marijuana publication. "I'm a strong opponent of marijuana and feel that society does not need another intoxicant," he said.

BERKELEY CENTER

Victor Vivian, owner of the Berkeley Indoor Garden Center on University Avenue, said he was surprised that the government wants his records. He said his store has been open less than four months, although another garden store previously had occupied the same site. Vivian's store caters to organic and hydroponic gardeners and is stocked with horticultural lighting, starter trays, misters and fertilizers. "We have nothing here that's specifically for marijuana," Vivian said. "Anybody who even speaks about marijuana is booted out of the store."

He said he insists that all buyers of gardening equipment present identification and sign a "statement of intent" that they will not use the products to grow anything illegal.

"GENTLEMAN'S WAY"

Bill Ruzzamenti, a DEA spokesman, said any records of large purchases that turn up on the lists of the 60 stores could lead to search warrants against suspected growers.

He said stores that refuse to comply with the subpoenas could face administrative sanctions, or the DEA could seek court-approved subpoenas. He said the administrative subpoenas, requesting that records be turned over directly to the agency rather than to a court, are a "gentleman's way" of going about the investigation.

Peter Reuter, a drug policy analyst for the Rand Corp. in Washington, D.C., said he is "somewhat bothered by these intrusive methods" used by the government to get the names of customers.

Ron Sinoway, a Humboldt County lawyer with experience defending suspects in federal marijuana cases, said the U.S. Supreme Court allows liberal use of the subpoena as a tool to gather information for grand juries deciding whether or not to make criminal charges.

Over the years, government pressure on the marijuana market has led to steady price increases and local shortages.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Suit Allowed Over Humboldt Pot Raids / Plaintiffs say police searches violated rights; [FINAL Edition]

Jim Doyle, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 7, 1992. pg. A.12

Abstract (Summary)

The suit alleges that the drug sweep involved warrantless searches and seizures, the use of excessive force, destruction of property and the environment, illegal detentions and invasion of privacy by nonstop overflights by U.S. Army helicopters. It also contends that the military violated the Defense Authorization Act by being involved in civilian law enforcement operations.

Full Text (290 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 7, 1992

A federal judge has let stand a landmark lawsuit against federal, state and local agencies that allegedly violated the civil rights of Humboldt County residents during marijuana raids called "Operation Greensweep."

"The allegations of the complaint are serious and troubling," wrote U.S. District Judge Fern M. Smith of San Francisco in a 57-page order made public yesterday. "It appears that these operations deliberately employed methods that reach or exceed the boundaries of constitutionally valid law enforcement conduct."

The judge also ruled, however, that 25 government officials named as defendants in the case -- including former drug czar William J. Bennett and former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh -- have "qualified immunity." Thus, they cannot be held liable as individuals for any damages caused by their official acts.

Smith also threw out the plaintiffs' demand for \$100 million in damages, but ruled that they may seek an injunction to bar the government from conducting similar raids in the future.

The case stems from a joint operation in August 1990 in the state's premiere marijuana-growing region by military and civilian law enforcement authorities, including the U.S. Justice Department, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

Authorities, who have denied any wrongdoing, have tried have the suit dismissed.

The class-action suit was filed in 1990 by the Drug Policy Foundation, a nonprofit group; six Humboldt County residents; and the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project.

The suit alleges that the drug sweep involved warrantless searches and seizures, the use of excessive force, destruction of property and the environment, illegal detentions and invasion of privacy by nonstop overflights by U.S. Army helicopters. It also contends that the military violated the Defense Authorization Act by being involved in civilian law enforcement operations.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Economy Also Jolted In Humboldt County / Some fear damage to tourism industry; [FINAL Edition]

Carl T. Hall, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 28, 1992. pg. A.6

Abstract (Summary)

"We do have a number of economic problems, and certainly the earthquake isn't going to help," said Marc Matteoli, head of Four Star Realty in Eureka and president of the Humboldt County Economic Development Forum.

Initial damage estimates from natural disasters frequently prove to be inflated. But that assumes inspectors in Humboldt County do not discover more major problems lurking in buildings and bridges.

"The biggest impact will be if the perception becomes widespread that this is a dangerous place to live," said Cedric Sampson, president of Humboldt County's College of the Redwoods.

Full Text (590 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Apr 28, 1992

Humboldt County's economy, already shaky before the series of destructive earthquakes rolled through last weekend, now must endure another shock it did not need.

Unemployment in the county stood at 11.9 percent at last count, far above the national average. The timber and fishing industries -- key sources of well-paying jobs for generations -- both are reeling. Attempts to diversify its economy have been moving along slowly, and tourism has been held back by the national recession.

"We do have a number of economic problems, and certainly the earthquake isn't going to help," said Marc Matteoli, head of Four Star Realty in Eureka and president of the Humboldt County Economic Development Forum.

But Matteoli, echoing the view of many community leaders, said he is optimistic.

"I don't think there will be any large (economic) ripples," he predicted. "There will be small ripples."

Despite widespread damage in some communities, most of the area's major employers, transportation arteries and public facilities appeared to have been spared significant damage. As a result, quake-related job losses are expected to be light.

Business leaders and development experts predicted a quick recovery, saying the residents of even the hardest hit communities, such as picturesque Ferndale, will move quickly to pick up the pieces.

FEW CALLS ON EMPLOYMENT

Rod Sandretto, manager of the state Employment Development Department's office in Eureka, said there was only "a trickle" of calls yesterday from people thrown out of work because of quake damage.

"It was basically a regular Monday morning for us," he said.

Don Kasso, Humboldt Division manager for Pacific Gas and Electric Co., said that although his own propane tank fell over in his back yard, utility damage was "surprisingly minor." He called the earthquake "a hurdle we have to get over, and we will."

It is unclear how big the financial hurdle really will be. The key question is what portion of the estimated \$60.4 million in property damage will be borne by local residents, as opposed to insurance carriers and government agencies. If outside money flows in to pay for repairs, then the local economy could end up benefiting from the increase in construction activity.

Initial damage estimates from natural disasters frequently prove to be inflated. But that assumes inspectors in Humboldt County do not discover more major problems lurking in buildings and bridges.

EFFECT ON TOURISM

For the longer term, the big question concerns what PG&E chief economist Tapan Munroe calls "the economics of fear," noting that a perception that a locale is earthquake-prone "does affect people's desire to visit a place."

That makes the increasingly important tourism trade vulnerable. Community leaders also expressed some concern that potential newcomers -- particularly retirees attracted by relatively low real estate costs and not worried about the lack of jobs -- will look elsewhere.

"The biggest impact will be if the perception becomes widespread that this is a dangerous place to live," said Cedric Sampson, president of Humboldt County's College of the Redwoods.

He added that he had just talked with a local real estate agent who had had urban "equity immigrants" in his office during the weekend. "When the quake hit, they were out the door," Sampson said.

Law enforcement officials said they had no doubt that at least one important, if illicit, industry -- growing marijuana -- will pull through the quake in good shape.

"It won't bother those people a bit," said Ingrid Hanson at the Humboldt County sheriff's office. "They're probably happy we're going to be busy for a few days and off their backs."

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San Francisco Chronicle

Timber Firm Has Growth Problem / Environmentalists stymie Pacific Lumber bid to harvest old-growth forests; [FINAL Edition]

Jeff Pelline, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 14, 1992. pg. B.1

Abstract (Summary)

In addition, Pacific Lumber has temporarily agreed not to harvest a 3,000-acre plot 10 miles southeast of Eureka known as the Headwaters forest, because of opposition from environmentalists. The company owns 195,000 acres of timberland all told, but the old-growth acreage is the most valuable, according to Pacific Lumber President John Campbell.

Pacific Lumber says that it was in full compliance with harvesting regulations, but has agreed to stop cutting in the stand for at least a month, while it conducts further surveys. In the meantime, Pacific Lumber is suing the Fish and Game department, charging that the murrelet was listed on inconclusive evidence.

Campbell said that Pacific Lumber's harvesting, though increased, remains within the industry norm when considered as a percentage of total timber holdings. And in 20 years, Pacific Lumber plans to reduce its harvesting to pre-[Charles Hurwitz] levels, he said.

Full Text (1803 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 14, 1992

(Second of two parts)

Few industries have undergone more changes or have been more in the public eye than the multibillion-dollar lumber industry in the Pacific Northwest. And no company has been more in the spotlight than Pacific Lumber.

As the biggest private owner of old-growth redwoods, it has been a key target of environmentalists. And since it was taken over by an out-of-state conglomerate controlled by a multimillionaire Texas investor, the Scotia-based company has come to symbolize the more-controversial leveraged buyouts of the 1980s.

In fewer than seven years, Charles Hurwitz, chief executive of Houston-based Maxxam Inc., has built an empire generating more than \$2.2 billion in annual revenues. Its principal assets include not only Pacific Lumber, but also Oakland-based Kaiser Aluminum. And last week, a Hurwitz-led group agreed to invest \$350 million to buy a majority stake in Continental Airlines.

When he bought Pacific Lumber Co. in 1985, Hurwitz saw the company as undervalued, with gratifyingly little debt and a dominant position in its market.

But Hurwitz, 52, celebrated by some as an ingenious investor, didn't envision the controversy that would erupt from his plan to harvest the company's most valuable commodity over a 20-year period -- the largest remaining private stand of old-growth redwoods, some of which may be more than 2,000 years old. "I clearly underestimated what would happen," Hurwitz said.

Hurwitz wanted to double the company's timber cut to pare the acquisition debt. What he underestimated was the strength of the opposition from environmentalists. Lawsuits by environmental groups have blocked nine of the Hurwitz regime's plans to cut old-growth timber on 2,500 acres.

In addition, Pacific Lumber has temporarily agreed not to harvest a 3,000-acre plot 10 miles southeast of Eureka known as the Headwaters forest, because of opposition from environmentalists. The company owns 195,000 acres of timberland all told, but the old-growth acreage is the most valuable, according to Pacific Lumber President John Campbell.

Industry consultants estimate that the timberland locked up in litigation is worth about \$300 million, and the Headwaters forest is valued at \$500 million to \$700 million. Between them, these properties account for perhaps a third of the company's assets.

"We already have manipulated 96 percent of the forested area in California, so the ancient forests are critical to maintain those threads of diversity that existed beforehand," said Charles Powell, a director of EPIC, the environmental group that has filed numerous suits against Pacific Lumber. "People also are touched by these forests -- many of them feel they are the embodiment of God's wonder."

Pacific Lumber is facing a new challenger to its harvesting plans: a coastal seabird called the marbled murrelet. In March, the California Department of Fish and Game decided to list the murrelet as an endangered species. Last month, Fish and Game inspectors reported that the company may have inadequately surveyed the bird's habitat before starting to cut a 240-acre stand of old-growth redwoods.

Pacific Lumber says that it was in full compliance with harvesting regulations, but has agreed to stop cutting in the stand for at least a month, while it conducts further surveys. In the meantime, Pacific Lumber is suing the Fish and Game department, charging that the murrelet was listed on inconclusive evidence.

Some wildlife biologists say that the black-brown-and-white-speckled bird poses a greater threat to timber harvesting than the spotted owl, because it seems to be more dependent on old-growth forests.

The challenges to the company's timber-harvesting "create some uncertainty, no doubt," said Pacific Lumber Chairman John Seidl, Hurwitz's hand-picked manager. "But we think we're managing very well with that uncertainty."

Last month, the California Supreme Court agreed to review a case that environmental groups often cite in legally challenging timber-harvesting plans. In the case, which involved Pacific Lumber, the state appellate court ruled that regulators have the authority to require extensive wildlife surveys beyond those specified in timber-harvesting regulations.

Many legal experts, mindful of recent property-rights rulings in other states, predict that the high court will scale back or overturn the lower-court decision, making it easier for the companies to harvest their timber. A decision is expected early next year.

Pacific Lumber is looking to increase profits by cutting whatever trees it can. These include second- and third-growth redwoods and Douglas firs, and so-called residuals -- old-growth trees left standing from cuts made years ago.

Last year, for the first time since Hurwitz bought Pacific Lumber, the company posted a decline in profits and revenues. Its operating income fell to \$51.1 million from \$61.8 million, while its revenues fell to \$192.2 million from \$193.2 million. The company said that the declines stemmed largely from the recession, but also from increased regulatory costs.

This year, earnings are rebounding. The company earned \$11.9 million on sales of \$47.2 million for the quarter ended March 31 -- up from \$8.5 million on revenues of \$39.1 million for the year-earlier period.

"The tremendous cutback in federal land sales has made a huge difference in terms of prices and volumes for redwoods, so the first quarter has been unbelievably strong," Seidl said. "We think this is going to be a strong year for us, and 1993 will be better."

An earthquake that struck the region in April -- and shut down one of the company's sawmills for about a month -- dampened second-quarter results. But higher prices are helping to offset the lower production, which fell about 4 million board feet below projections.

Pacific Lumber has been expanding its operations. In February the company bought 300 acres of timberland -- property seized by the government after its previous owner was found guilty of growing marijuana.

Two years ago, the company bought Arcata-based Britt Lumber, a major manufacturer of redwood fence-and-deck lumber. And last year it built a new, so-called edge-and-glue plant at Scotia, enabling it to make wood products from short and narrow boards that formerly were tossed out.

The company's capital investments have totaled more than \$100 million since Hurwitz took control, including a \$50 million, 30-megawatt cogeneration power plant. The number of workers involved in lumber operations has increased by one-third -- to 1,250.

On the other hand, the company's cutting and welding business, which had employed nearly 2,000 people in Southern California, Texas, Kansas and Massachusetts, was sold for \$325 million in 1987 to cut debt. Its former headquarters building in San Francisco was sold for more than \$30 million.

Pacific Lumber is seeking to strengthen its balance sheet. The company is negotiating with lenders this week to refinance its high debt load, which grew nearly 14-fold when Hurwitz took over.

The debt has been cut by about \$90 million -- to \$545 million. Cash flow has been averaging more than \$90 million annually -- enough to cover the company's interest payments of about \$70 million per year. A total of \$377 million in debt becomes payable in 1995 and 1996, and the company plans to refinance that debt at a lower interest rate and extend the maturity dates.

Pacific Lumber also is working to rebuild the company-owned town of Scotia. The town and the company's operations suffered an estimated \$16 million in earthquake damage three months ago. The shopping center and 45 of 272 employee houses were damaged.

The company expects to begin rebuilding the shopping center, which included a grocery store, hardware store, pharmacy and coffee shop, by the fall, and will complete the work in a year. All the homes should be repaired by the end of summer.

Before the arrival of Hurwitz, it was Pacific Lumber's policy to never harvest more timber than it grew in any given year. The company also practiced selective harvesting, where the largest trees in a stand are periodically removed, leaving the younger ones to grow further. The practice is repeated indefinitely, producing what lumbermen call an "uneven-aged" forest.

"We always took a very conservative look at our forests and the harvesting and managing of them," said Stan Murphy, whose family controlled the company before it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. When Maxxam took control, it abruptly doubled the cut to pay off debt, and stepped up the controversial practice of clear-cutting, where an entire stand of trees is removed down to the stump. Pacific Lumber was met by protests from environmental groups, who once had regarded the company as highly sensitive to their concerns. A group of former employees and local politicians support a new plan, called the PL take-back proposal, to slow down the cutting of old-growth trees and wrest the company from Hurwitz's control.

Campbell defends the company's harvesting practices. Clear-cutting, he notes, is practiced on less than 10 percent of the company's timberland -- mainly where the land has been damaged by wind, fire or insects. It is widely practiced elsewhere in the industry, he adds.

Campbell said that Pacific Lumber's harvesting, though increased, remains within the industry norm when considered as a percentage of total timber holdings. And in 20 years, Pacific Lumber plans to reduce its harvesting to pre-Hurwitz levels, he said.

Most of the old-growth trees, he adds, are dying and should be cut down. He also makes the point that the best of the redwoods -- some 157,000 acres worth of virgin growth -- have been preserved in parks.

Critics contend that Pacific Lumber's plan to eliminate its old-growth timber will lead to job cuts. Old-growth trees, generally defined as those more than 200 years old, are larger and harder to handle than others, and therefore more labor-intensive.

Campbell concedes that jobs -- perhaps hundreds of them -- will be lost over a decade as the transition occurs. But he thinks most of the cuts will be achieved through attrition. He said that the company plans to expand its timberlands, which could mean added jobs.

The issue of pension security has bedeviled the company and its employees. Last year, the trustee of Pacific Lumber's annuity plan, First Executive Life Insurance, went into bankruptcy protection. Payments to more than 500 of the company's retirees were temporarily halted. The U.S. Department of Labor filed suit against Maxxam, demanding that it cover any shortfall, and the company agreed.

Hurwitz also has been criticized for using excess money in the company's old pension plan to partly finance his buyout of Pacific Lumber.

Hurwitz has had rocky times elsewhere as well. He formerly served as chairman of United Financial Group, whose United Savings Association of Texas unit collapsed four years ago.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which oversees the savings-and-loan industry, has said that it is considering filing a \$500 million-plus lawsuit against United Financial and its former officers, alleging that they are liable for breach of fiduciary duty.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Arthur Del Biaggio of Pacific Lumber pushed logs along the water toward a mill to be processed / BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Reggae: The Next Generation / Jamaican rock enters the mainstream, influencing everything from fashion to surfboards; [FINAL Edition]

TORRI MINTON, CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 5, 1993. pg. E.3

Abstract (Summary)

Many traditional reggae enthusiasts complain there is not enough political consciousness -- as in the music of [Lucky Dube], [Bob Marley] and Burning Spear (Burning Spear recently sold out at Slim's) -- in the new rap-like reggae, which is called dancehall and often boasts of sex, guns and girls.

Rap is influencing reggae. Reggae is influencing rap. That's the key to reggae's immense American popularity, many say. Jamaicans have been "toasting" -- DJs talking over instrumental versions of reggae hits -- in Jamaica since the 1960s. Some define dancehall as the rap-sounding Jamaican reggae. Others define it more broadly, as the danceable music played in Jamaican dancehalls.

PHOTO (4); (1-4) South African reggae star Lucky Dube is the biggest-selling musician in that country. Southern California's Jamaican Style started making reggae-inspired clothing and now sells everything from dive watches to surfboards. Jamaican singer Burning Spear sold out his local club appearance., (4) At the 10th annual Reggae on the River last weekend in Humboldt County, 10,000 people, including 3-year-old Talia McCarthy of Sacramento, came to listen to three days of music. Despite minimal publicity, the event sold out two months in advance. / BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE/THE CHRONICLE

Full Text (1511 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 5, 1993

They came in big yellow school buses and vans and car caravans. They hitchhiked, they walked, they camped out and they sweated in the 106-degree heat last weekend. Like pop music festival fans since the days of Woodstock, they danced in the dust and swam in the river, and some of them got high and some of them went topless.

But the talk wasn't of Vietnam, Berkeley and Abbie Hoffman. It was of Bosnia and South Africa and Rodney King. It wasn't of Free Love. It was of One Love -- an end to racism.

They came from everywhere, 10,000 of them -- from Paris and Cameroon and Japan and New Jersey -- to the Eel River in Humboldt County. There were firefighters and surfers, construction workers and Deadheads, writers and administrative analysts. And they didn't come for rock 'n' roll, they came for reggae.

The 10th annual Reggae on the River, with barely any publicity, at \$60 a pop for three days, was sold out two months in advance. What started as a money-losing fund-raiser for the Mateel Community Center has grown into one of the biggest outdoor reggae fests in the country.

Reggae is big. Really big. Globally big.

"It's the strongest influence worldwide right now in pop music," says Doug Wendt, a San Francisco "world music" director who plays reggae and shows videos in a multimedia extravaganza at places like the city's Kennel Club on Saturday nights. "It's influencing rap. It's in rock. It's a huge influence in Latin music."

It has gone to Algeria, Brazil, China, India and Russia, among other places. It has even reached to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Wendt says, where Indian legend has it that a waterfall plays Bob Marley music 24 hours a day.

It has infiltrated the mainstream like never before -- coming out in loudspeakers from shopping malls on Long Island to the basement picnic section of the Emporium in downtown San Francisco.

"We created this music that is now known as reggae and it has penetrated the whole planet," said veteran reggae star Jimmy Cliff, backstage at the festival, who has been around so long he introduced a young Bob Marley to his producer.

Reggae, Cliff said, "is more popular here in the United States than it has ever been. . . . It's going to take us into the 21st century as the music of the people."

Reggae is finding its way into American mainstream culture -- from network television and major record labels to department store clothing and surfboards.

REGGAE AS COMMODITY

Announcing "reggae's triumphant arrival," Billboard magazine last month started two reggae album charts.

In the same issue, Bob Marley and the Wailers' "Legend" album tops the pop chart of older releases, over the Beatles and the Grateful Dead. "Legend" sold about 16,000 albums a week in the three weeks ending August 1, far more than second-place Eric Clapton's 11,000 a week in the same period for "Time Pieces."

"It could become a staple, like jazz," says Maxine Stowe, who two years ago became Columbia Records' first artist and repertoire manager for reggae music. Last year, Columbia signed its first two reggae artists.

The reggae albums, she says, are starting out selling 200,000 to 250,000 on initial releases -- not bad, when you consider that 30,000 to 40,000 is considered pretty good for a new rock group.

"Most all the major labels now have gone to Jamaica and signed up a whole heap of new artists," says Roger Steffens of Los Angeles, founding editor of the Beat, a reggae, African, Caribbean and world music magazine.

REGGAE AS FASHION

A company called Jamaican Style started making reggae-inspired clothing in 1988. Last year, the Southern California company brought in more than \$4.5 million in sales. It hopes to top \$7 million this year, selling everything from dive watches to surfboards to caps sporting pot leaves in Rastafarian red (blood of the people), green (the land), gold (mineral richness) and black (color of the people). Ironically, the models in the latest catalog are mostly blond.

The fashions appeal to surfers.

"We've found there is a big crossover market," says Scott Rickett, 30, national sales manager. "The surfers, involved in the ocean and the spiritual end of it, are really into it." Jamaican Style board meetings are actually surfing sessions every morning at 6:30.

Many reggae musicians are Rastafarian, wearing dreadlocks because of Old Testament admonitions against "making baldness upon their head." ~~The colors and the lion are the official symbols of Ethiopia, which Rastafarians embrace as the motherland.~~ The religion also uses marijuana as a sacrament.

The air at Reggae on the River -- where women in bikinis and cowboy boots, African headwraps and flowing skirts mixed with families in T-shirts -- was sometimes sweet with the smell of ganja.

"I really like Bob Marley," says a New Jersey 20-year-old who hitchhiked to the festival from Arcata, passing a pot pipe, "because it's like smoking herb. You can relax to it."

The festival was peppered with black, brown, white, red and blond dreadlocks. But not all Rastas wear dreadlocks, and not all reggae lovers smoke pot.

South African reggae star Lucky Dube, for example -- the biggest-selling musician in that country's history, possibly the biggest-selling African artist in Africa -- has shoulder-length dreadlocks and says he does not smoke pot.

Dube has sold millions of albums around the world. His third reggae album, "Slave," sold more than 500,000 in South Africa alone, even though his first reggae album was banned. He sings of growing up in the ghetto, of broken families and breaking racial barriers, of false freedoms, alluding to racism in the United States as well as South Africa.

Many traditional reggae enthusiasts complain there is not enough political consciousness -- as in the music of Dube, Bob Marley and Burning Spear (Burning Spear recently sold out at Slim's) -- in the new rap-like reggae, which is called dancehall and often boasts of sex, guns and girls.

Jamaican rap has turned 180 degrees away from "conscious reggae" -- the traditional politically, religiously, morally inspired music, says Steffens of the Beat magazine.

"It's filled with homophobia, misogyny and sexual braggadocio. A lot of the older fans and the musicians eschew the new trend because it's not Rastafarian-based," says Steffens. "They resent it being called reggae."

Rap is influencing reggae. Reggae is influencing rap. That's the key to reggae's immense American popularity, many say. Jamaicans have been "toasting" -- DJs talking over instrumental versions of reggae hits -- in Jamaica since the 1960s. Some define dancehall as the rap-sounding Jamaican reggae. Others define it more broadly, as the danceable music played in Jamaican dancehalls.

Whatever the definition, it's hot, hot, hot.

"In 1993 the popularity of reggae has increased 100 percent over the previous year," says Simrete, who calls herself simply Simrete. She sells reggae dancehall at a Los Angeles record store, Simrete's Music, and on a New York record label, Tan-Yah.

The label has outgrown itself since it started in 1991. The storage room of the three-room New York office that once seemed too big is now stacked floor to ceiling with reggae dancehall records.

"We don't have any space left," says Simrete. "We're being outgrown at the seams."

Dancehall king Shabba Ranks is credited with breaking down the walls to the American market. Ranks' Grammy Award-winning album, X-Tra Naked, is ranked No. 2 on the July Billboard reggae chart.

"He opened a whole heap of doors that Bob Marley was never able to open," says Papa Pilgrim of Salt Lake City, a disc jockey, writer and founder of the reggae-promoting group Reggae Ambassadors Worldwide.

REGGAE CLUBS IN THE BAY AREA

The number of Bay Area clubs playing reggae has grown from about three in 1985 to at least 42, says Barbara Barham of San Francisco, editor and publisher of the Reggae Calendar International.

The calendar, featuring reggae news and reviews, is read as far away as Tonga. "It's important to African people, and for other brown people who have to live with oppression -- the music speaks to that," Barham says.

You can also find the calendar locally in clubs, stores and flea markets, wherever reggae plays.

Here are a few of those clubs:

- Caribee, 1408 Webster, Oakland. (510) 835-4006.
- Caribbean Gardens, 1306 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. (415) 347-9007.
- The Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero, San Francisco. (415) 931-1914.
- Slim's, 333 11th Street, San Francisco. (415) 621-3330.

Reggae nights can fluctuate. Call ahead.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (4); Caption: (1-4) South African reggae star Lucky Dube (left) is the biggest-selling musician in that country. Southern California's Jamaican Style started making reggae-inspired clothing and now sells everything from dive watches to surfboards. Jamaican singer Burning Spear sold out his local club appearance., (4) At the 10th annual Reggae on the River last weekend in Humboldt County, 10,000 people, including 3-year-old Talia McCarthy of Sacramento, came to listen to three days of music. Despite minimal publicity, the event sold out two months in advance. / BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Torture-Killing of Drifter Shocks Trinity County / Prosecutors say slaying was vigilante justice; [FINAL Edition]

Susan Sward, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 9, 1992. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

[Summar] did not grow up in Trinity County, but he had lived for years about 50 miles to the west in the coastal town of Arcata. About two years ago, in a crash pad near the Humboldt State University campus in Arcata, Summar met a man named Bernard (Bird) MacCarlie, then 29.

On the day of the murder, according to [Dan Kartchner]'s pre-trial testimony, Summar was confronted on a road near the campground by MacCarlie. Kartchner quoted Summar as asking MacCarlie: "What are you going to do, take me out in the woods and kill me?" and Kartchner said MacCarlie responded: "Yea, something like that."

In all the legal wrangling, however, no one is contending that Summar did not die a tortured death. What was done to Summar is coldly, clinically detailed in court documents filed by prosecutors: One of Summar's ears was cut off. One of his eyes was gouged out. He was struck repeatedly in the genitals, and several of his bones were broken.

Full Text (2161 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 9, 1992

Chronicle correspondent Rebecca Lloyd contributed to this report.

When they found Gary (Hop) Summar's crumpled body up on the mountain, sheriff's deputies first thought that animals had been picking at it.

A closer look revealed a more terrible truth: Summar had been stabbed more than 70 times before his short, bent body was dumped in a shallow grave, where a woodcutter found it four days later.

In the months that followed the body's discovery, eight people -- five men and three women -- were charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit the Oct. 2, 1991, slaying, which local newspapers described as a vigilante-type killing.

Prosecutors say Summar, a 37-year-old wanderer with deformed legs and a limp, was killed in a horrifyingly vicious way by people who believed that he had molested the 5-year-old daughter of one of the defendants.

"They did all they could to demean his body before he died," said special prosecutor Robert Maloney. "The victim apparently died while defendants were in the process of administering punishment. That was fortuitous for him as it shortened his suffering."

Defense attorneys for the "Hawkins Bar 8" -- so named after the mountain town where Summar lived in a trailer park by the Trinity River -- argue that prosecutors do not really know who killed Summar and are trying to pressure people to talk by charging so many.

"I think they believe there were a lot of people there drinking and instigating and encouraging," said Joanna Correll, one of the defense attorneys. "I don't think they know who did what where and decided to charge as many as they can and see what shakes down."

Now the defendants are sitting through a string of pre-trial hearings in a red-walled, 19th-century courthouse, where many of the lawyers wear cowboy boots and the county's Gold Rush past is not entirely remote.

For Trinity County -- a sparsely populated slice of mountain paradise located between Eureka and Redding -- the case is the first death penalty trial anyone can remember. The trial is also by far the most expensive ever conducted in the county -- \$500,000 so far, and climbing.

FRUSTRATION ABOUT TRIAL

The defendants make up one-quarter of the jail's population. When there are pre-trial hearings, Superior Court Judge John Letton must respond to motions from 10 defense attorneys.

In a county with a depressed logging industry, an unemployment rate close to 13 percent and welfare rolls that include more than one-seventh of the population, the crime's court costs alone are cause for anger. The state has agreed to pick up the tab for the trial, but that does not mollify everyone. Instead of due process, some people simply would like to see the defendants strung up.

"It's not like the city up here," said one logger at a Weaverville bar. "They're used to it down there. We're not. Nothing like that has ever happened up here before."

Years ago, he said, some folks "would pick up some hippies and give them a bad time on a back road, maybe cut their hair to scare them away, but they never put anyone in a grave."

In the postcard-pretty town of Weaverville, where the pace of life is slow and the mountain air is crisp, many residents condemn the killing, saying the defendants took the law into their own hands.

There is a place for eye-for-an-eye justice, said one artist who knew Summar. But he added that Summar was innocent and "too giving. Then he got tried, convicted and stabbed by vigilantes. Anyone remotely involved in this should hang."

MAKING FRIENDS IN ARCATA

Summar did not grow up in Trinity County, but he had lived for years about 50 miles to the west in the coastal town of Arcata. About two years ago, in a crash pad near the Humboldt State University campus in Arcata, Summar met a man named Bernard (Bird) MacCarlie, then 29.

MacCarlie had spent 10 years in the California prison system for an armed robbery conviction in Los Angeles County and an additional six months in Humboldt County Jail for an assault. Acquaintances said MacCarlie -- with an intimidating, dominant manner formed by years in prison -- was a heavy drinker and a drug user who became angry when he used drugs.

Summar, whose limp and colostomy bag were due to birth defects, had various friends he stayed with off and on. In the months before his death, he shared a trailer in Hawkins Bar with MacCarlie and MacCarlie's girlfriend, Barbara Adcock, who lived there with her three small children.

Their two-bedroom trailer was set on a hill above a U.S. Forest Service campground where Summar, MacCarlie, Adcock and others spent often hours partying and drinking under a thick canopy of walnut trees. The grove was a few hundred yards from the gurgling, green-blue Trinity River.

BEGINNING OF FRICTION

Adcock had lived in the area for years and had her own hard times. She scrounged the dump for aluminum cans to turn in for money, and she brought back canned food that others tossed in the dump. "I think her whole life was filled up with drinking and being on the wrong side of things," one former neighbor recalled.

In the period just before Summar was killed, one of his friends, Robert Jones, who was camping down by the river, said it was "pretty obvious" that Adcock wanted Summar out of the trailer. "She wanted the trailer for her, Bird (MacCarlie) and the kids," said Jones, who will be one of the main witnesses for the prosecution in the upcoming trial.

Some weeks before he died, Summar hitchhiked to Arcata and saw a friend, Lisa Kennedy. In the past, Summar talked glowingly about Hawkins Bar, the sunshine and the parties. This time it was not going so well. "He said, 'I'm having problems up there. I've got to clear some stuff up, and then I'm coming back down,'" Kennedy said. "He was like really depressed about it. I could tell."

ALLEGED SODOMY

Several days before the slaying, Adcock reported to sheriff's deputies that Summar had sodomized her 5-year-old daughter, according to pre-trial testimony by Sergeant Dan Kartchner, the main sheriff's investigator on the case.

Kartchner and Adcock's lawyer, Steve Carlton, differ about what happened. Kartchner says a subsequent investigation failed to turn u evidence corroborating Adcock's accusation. But Carlton, a former Shasta County district attorney, says Adcock took her daughter to a local clinic and "was advised there was evidence she was in fact molested."

Whichever version is accurate, animosity toward Summar clearly increased among the people who hung out down by the river. Jones said Summar kept coming around to try to convince people he had not molested Adcock's daughter.

Twice before the day of the murder, Jones said, Summar was beaten up. "You have to understand Hop," Jones said. "That was his home, and he didn't want to leave it. He wanted to convince people he was innocent, and if he had to take a few ass-whippings to do it, he would."

'WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?'

On the day of the murder, according to Kartchner's pre-trial testimony, Summar was confronted on a road near the campground by MacCarlie. Kartchner quoted Summar as asking MacCarlie: "What are you going to do, take me out in the woods and kill me?" and Kartchner said MacCarlie responded: "Yea, something like that."

Later, Jones said another man in the campground told him he had seen Summar in the back of a red truck being driven out of the campground, and Jones said the man told him that Summar "looked dead to him or he wasn't far from being dead. His face looked all messed up."

To recount what happened next, the prosecution will rely in part on one of Adcock's own children, a 10-year-old boy who prosecutors say witnessed Summar's murder on a remote logging road about five miles from the campground where he was abducted.

The boy, who is under the care of county foster care officials, has identified MacCarlie and three of the other male defendants as those doing the actual killing, prosecutors say. They add that the other four people charged in the case -- Adcock, two women and a man -- participated in the conspiracy to carry out the slaying.

For their part, defense attorneys make it clear that they will attack the boy's testimony, pointing out that he has given sharply varying versions of events.

BRUTAL TORTURE

In all the legal wrangling, however, no one is contending that Summar did not die a tortured death. What was done to Summar is coldly, clinically detailed in court documents filed by prosecutors: One of Summar's ears was cut off. One of his eyes was gouged out. He was struck repeatedly in the genitals, and several of his bones were broken.

When his body was found, his pockets were empty and had been turned inside out. Just the day before the murder, Summar had gone to the bank and withdrawn several hundred dollars in disability check money.

The issue in the courtroom will be who killed Summar, and the focus will be on the defendants.

NOMADIC EXISTENCE

"These are homeless, nomadic people at their own choosing," said one source close to the defense team, who declined to be named. They are not an organized gang, he added, but instead a group that partied, drank and did drugs together down along the river.

"They had a common bond of not conforming to what society finds acceptable," the source said. "Being societal misfits, they didn't know how to deal with this (molestation accusation) so it's the old macho thing. It matters they thought he was (a molester). Things built up. They got drunk and loaded. This was a heinous murder. What led to that is what's the question."

After an autopsy, Summar's body was cremated and his ashes were sent back to his mother in the Midwest. The mother told the coroner she heard from Summar once in a while but had not seen her son in 17 years. She added that he was "a good Christian boy."

Summar's friends say his killing is hard to reconcile with the man they knew -- an inoffensive, gentle soul who made others happy. He loved his gin and tonics, beer and marijuana and spent a lot of time in bars. There he would borrow small sums and pay back what he owed quickly. Describing his habits, friends flatly rejected the idea that Summar was a child molester.

"There wasn't a darned thing pretty about Hop, but his spirit just shined right through," said Donna Hammers, a bartender at Toby and Jacks bar in Arcata -- the Humboldt County town north of Eureka where Summar lived on the street and in crash pads in recent years.

"He didn't have money, he didn't have looks, he didn't have jack shit. But he had such a positive attitude. We really loved Hoppy. He was a sweetie," Hammers said.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS PAST

None of Summar's friends could say exactly where he grew up. But they remembered bits and pieces about him. Because of his birth defects, he underwent many operations as a child. He said he never walked until he was 5 and then one day he got up to totter toward his father.

One Arcata friend, Wandering Willie Dieckmann, a 42-year-old street person, said Summar used to say that his mother let him do all the sorts of things other children got to do.

Though he had dozens of friends, Summar never seemed to have a close girlfriend. "It was almost as if he walled himself off" from those relationships, one friend said. Another added: "He used to talk about having girlfriends back in Tucson and Phoenix, but we never saw them. He could have made it up. We didn't care. We just took Hop the way he was." The woman added that Summar "couldn't sexually perform, so he just avoided those kinds of relationships."

Now -- as autumn takes hold of the mountains around Arcata -- Summar's friends go up to Redwood Park on the edge of the Humboldt State campus. There they have planted a spindly red alder in his memory. The tree is nestled up against some redwoods, looking a bit forlorn.

At these gatherings, Summar's friends drink beer. They recall the candlelight vigil they held in the plaza in downtown Arcata after he died. About a hundred people came.

"Hop always said, 'If I ever die, put a peach seed on my ass and bury me deep,'" said Logan Glascoe, a Eureka paralegal who knew Summar for several years. "He wanted to become a tree in his next life. He loved to be in nature, celebrating life."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2), MAP; Caption: (1) Barbara Adcock, one of eight defendants in the murder trial / BY PHIL NELSON/FOR THE CHRONICLE, (2) Gary (Hop) Summar before he was slain Oct. 2, 1991

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San Francisco Chronicle

Problems Mount At Office of U.S. Attorney / Lackluster leaders blamed as inefficiency rises, caseloads fall; [FINAL Edition]

Reynolds Holding, Chronicle Legal Affairs Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 6, 1993. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Drug prosecutions are a legacy of Joseph Russoniello, the high-profile U.S. attorney from 1982 to 1990. Russoniello's office brought -- and won -- several major criminal trials. But according to one former assistant who served under him, he "wrapped his arms and legs around" the Reagan administration's drug war.

While private lawyers have represented thousands of aggrieved investors in hundreds of lawsuits against Silicon Valley companies, the U.S. attorney's office has brought almost no prosecutions. That surprises some lawyers familiar with the volatile high-tech business.

PHOTO (2); (1-2) Former U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello is widely blamed for helping get the Northern California office 'hooked' on drug cases. [Michael Yamaguchi] (above), a tax specialist, is the fourth U.S. attorney in three years / (1) PHOTO BY VINCE MAGGIORA/THE CHRONICLE, (2) PHOTO BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

Full Text (1967 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 6, 1993

After years of haphazard leadership, the U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco has become one of the most lackluster and inefficient of the nation's big-city federal prosecutors.

In a two-month investigation, The Chronicle found that the number of cases handled by the office has dropped steadily since 1985 and that the time spent on each case has grown. Simple drug prosecutions have come to dominate the office's caseload. Major cases have foundered on investigatory glitches.

The San Francisco office -- the federal government's law firm in the 15 coastal counties from San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border -- could be among the most powerful law offices in the country. But in court statistics and in more than three dozen interviews with lawyers and judges, a troubling pattern has emerged.

The office is preoccupied with small-time crime, and it often lacks the ambition and the clout to root out difficult cases of white-collar crime, political corruption and pollution.

"This office is penny-wise and pound-foolish," said Marcus Topel, a San Francisco lawyer who deals frequently with federal prosecutors across the country.

"It concentrates too much on insignificant cases that are politically attractive while letting extremely serious environmental and financial cases languish or die," Topel said. "Districts such as Los Angeles -- even smaller districts such as Sacramento and Seattle -- are more aggressive and energetic in prosecuting complex criminal matters."

Critics inside and outside the office blame the drift on a string of U.S. attorneys who have been mostly mediocre and often assigned only temporarily to the job. Also, they say, complacency among the legal staff has sapped the office of energy.

TRENDS OF THE PAST DECADE

The fourth U.S. attorney in three years, 43-year-old Michael Yamaguchi, starts his first full week on the job today with a mandate to shake things up. But he faces a formidable task in reversing the trends of the past decade:

-- The office has become hooked on drug cases at the expense of other prosecutions. "When large offices were developing major sophisticated litigation -- difficult cases like corruption, fraud, dumping of products from abroad -- it was all drugs here," said one former assistant U.S. attorney.

-- The office has virtually ignored environmental and political corruption cases. Until recently, prosecutors filed no criminal environmental cases and only six civil cases. The highlight of the political corruption caseload has been the prosecution of a federal official for swindling the government out of frequent-flier miles.

-- White-collar crime prosecutions have been few and far between. A congressional report released Oct. 19, 1988, rapped the office for prosecuting only one major bank fraud case in the mid-1980s -- the height of the savings and loan crisis -- while 60 awaited grand jury action. Almost none was ever prosecuted.

In an interview, former U.S. Attorney John Mendez, who was replaced by Yamaguchi when the Clinton administration took over, defended the staff.

"It's wrong to play the same old theme that this is a tired office," he said. "There are some major cases under investigation, and major cases take time."

DRUG CASE BIAS

But the caseload has been skewed toward drugs for more than a decade. And critics say that bias has hurt overall performance.

According to U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, pressure on the office to bring cases that "have a certain political flavor to them" -- drugs, sexual harassment, child abuse -- has led to "markedly inferior . . . prosecutorial work" in those cases.

Drug prosecutions are a legacy of Joseph Russoniello, the high-profile U.S. attorney from 1982 to 1990. Russoniello's office brought -- and won -- several major criminal trials. But according to one former assistant who served under him, he "wrapped his arms and legs around" the Reagan administration's drug war.

The emphasis on drugs, particularly marijuana cases from Humboldt County, helped swell office statistics through 1985. But in part because of sloppy investigations by local law enforcement officials, drug cases dried up. Nothing took their place.

The district's criminal filings fell from 1,076 in 1985 to 615 last year, a 43 percent drop. Nationally, the number of criminal cases filed grew almost 25 percent during the same period.

The median time for disposing of a criminal case in the district ballooned from 2.9 months in 1985 to 6.3 months in 1991. The national median rose from 3.0 to 4.8 months.

One possible explanation for the trend is that the office is handling more difficult cases that take more time.

"That's bull - - -," said a former assistant U.S. attorney. "This is an underachieving office."

Even in drug prosecutions, the office has suffered setbacks. For example, the government's main witness in a 1990 case stunned the court by testifying that Chinese police had tortured him into cooperating. The case, which charged Chinese citizens with smuggling heroin in goldfish bellies, ended in a mistrial.

Questions were immediately raised about why the U.S. attorney's office had used the witness -- and whether the lead prosecutor had ignored evidence of the torture.

The prosecutor's explanations for his behavior were called "embarrassing" and "waffling" by U.S. District Judge William Orrick. The judge suggested that Mendez look into whether the prosecutor had obstructed justice.

Sloppy investigations have burned the office in other drug cases as well.

In 1990, U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel felt that a federal witness in a drug trial was clearly lying, and she blasted the prosecutors.

"The jurors are laughing at him, and I am totally offended as well," Patel said in court.

In 1991, Patel erupted at prosecutors again for showing "utter disregard for the government's ethical obligations" by using a drug lawyer as an informant against his client.

CASES IT DOESN'T PROSECUTE

But the office draws the most criticism for cases it does not prosecute, such as white-collar crimes -- bank fraud, securities fraud and other financial finagling that can cost victims and taxpayers millions of dollars.

In its 1988 report on bank fraud, the House Government Operations Committee was incensed about the office's failure to heed the FBI's recommendation to prosecute former officers and directors of American Savings & Loan Association. The largest ever to fail, the Stockton-based thrift was sold in 1988 to Texas billionaire Robert M. Bass for about \$350 million in a deal that also called for almost \$1.7 billion in taxpayer assistance.

On the heels of the report -- days before the statute of limitations would have expired -- federal prosecutors in San Francisco filed bank-fraud charges in an unrelated savings and loan case.

They charged former San Franciscan J. William Oldenburg with illegally using \$26.5 million in deposits from State Savings, a Salt Lake City thrift he once owned, to buy 363 acres of land in Contra Costa County. The thrift eventually went bankrupt.

The case generated a lot of heat between Russoniello and the equally flamboyant former Mayor Joseph Alioto, who represented Oldenburg. But two trials and two hung juries later, it was dropped.

Russoniello says now that there was "a serious misperception by the congressional staffers of how serious the (savings and loan) problem was in the Northern District. . . . The proof of the pudding is how many cases have been brought since. There have been no more significant prosecutions."

But according to San Francisco lawyer William Goodman, who defended several savings and loan cases in the Bay Area, the U.S. attorney's office "didn't pursue a number that they could have, and the statute of limitations ran out on some.

"Given the number of S&L failures within the immediate area," Goodman said, "I thought there would have been more (cases)."

COMMON CASES ELSEWHERE

Critics say the office has also shied away from cases against companies accused of withholding critical information from investors -- cases that have become a staple in Manhattan and other districts with large business communities.

While private lawyers have represented thousands of aggrieved investors in hundreds of lawsuits against Silicon Valley companies, the U.S. attorney's office has brought almost no prosecutions. That surprises some lawyers familiar with the volatile high-tech business.

"At least one out of 50 of those civil cases" should be worth a criminal indictment, said a former assistant U.S. attorney who practices in San Francisco. "Wherever there's money, there's corruption. And we're in an area that is incredibly wealthy."

Mendez, assistants in the office and the committee that recommended Yamaguchi all acknowledge the need to do more white-collar crime cases. That is an important reason why Yamaguchi, an accountant who specialized in taxes in graduate school, was picked for the job.

Political corruption cases are also rare in the Northern California district. Nationally, 604 officials faced federal corruption charges in 1992 alone. Locally, however, the U.S. attorney has handled only one reported case in recent years.

That was the touted prosecution of Sheridan Lloyd Weinstein, former assistant surgeon general in charge of the Public Health Service's Western Region. Weinstein admitted to concocting fake travel vouchers and vacationing with frequent flier awards earned from business trips.

(Another highly publicized prosecution, the corruption trial of U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar of San Jose, was handled by a team from the Justice Department's public integrity section in Washington because local prosecutors had cases pending before Aguilar.)

WHY PERFORMANCE IS DULL

There is remarkable consensus about what lies behind so many lackluster performances.

Topping the list is that the office has too many "lifers." Of the 86 lawyers in San Francisco office, 51 have been there longer than the five-year stay typical of assistant U.S. attorneys in New York and other big cities.

"There are too many prosecutors that have made this their career," Mendez conceded. "They tend to get very comfortable on the job, and they lose energy."

Some critics also blame a breakdown in supervision. For example, an assistant U.S. attorney in the civil division was fined \$1,900 in February for filing frivolous motions in an auto accident case against the Navy. The sanction was later lifted against her but not against the office.

Others believe that the office has been hurt by the lack of a strong, established leader. In the past 24 years, there have been five U.S. attorneys. Many say that only one -- Russoniello -- was strong enough to set priorities for the office and resist demands by the law enforcement agencies and the Justice Department in Washington.

The lack of clout also apparently has left the office understaffed. In the 1980s, the number of attorneys per million people in a district rose an average of 57 percent for all districts in the country, according to Justice Department figures. In the Northern District of California, the number rose only 13 percent. Although the district ranks fifth in population, the office ranks 14th in size.

And the staffing problem is about to get worse. The Justice Department has ordered the office to cut 16 people.

"What's so ironic is that, person for person, this office is as professional and highly skilled as any office I've seen," said Topel. "There is a core of lawyers over there who are very good. They're just aiming howitzers at mice."

BC: CHART: PERFORMANCE OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The S.F. office filed the fewest environmental cases in the state...

Environmental cases filed by U.S. attorney's offices in California.

[Table]

Criminal Civil
cases cases

('82-'90) ('81-'90)

[Table]

Northern District 0 6
Southern District 21 6
Central District 3 79
Eastern District 5 36

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and U.S. Justice Department CHRONICLE GRAPHIC EC:

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1-2) Former U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello (left) is widely blamed for helping get the Northern California office 'hooked' on drug cases. Michael Yamaguchi (above), a tax specialist, is the fourth U.S. attorney in three years / (1) PHOTO BY VINCE MAGGIORA/THE CHRONICLE, (2) PHOTO BY BRANT WARD/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

The Wages of Sin; [FINAL Edition]

Anderson. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 3, 1993. pg. A.29

Abstract (Summary)

John Cleaves, 21, cook, Eureka: Definitely marijuana. Every week I smoke at least five joints of good ol' Humboldt County, home-grown weed. I like it; it makes me feel like doing things; everything seems more interesting. Marijuana ought to be legal; it's a lot better than alcohol. .

Full Text (275 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Dec 3, 1993

Asked in S.F.: What vice would you like to hang on to?

John Cleaves, 21, cook, Eureka: Definitely marijuana. Every week I smoke at least five joints of good ol' Humboldt County, home-grown weed. I like it; it makes me feel like doing things; everything seems more interesting. Marijuana ought to be legal; it's a lot better than alcohol. .

Zenaida Metina, 26, student, Pacifica:

Vice? Oh, well, I love shopping for accessories. Every payday, I buy as many bracelets, necklaces and rings as I can. For me and anyone who is on a budget, accessories are important because they make an outfit. So buying them can't be that bad. . Penny Brueggemann, 35, executive secretary, Milpitas:

It's cigarets. I keep on smoking so I won't put the tobacco pickers in South Carolina out of business -- ha! I have a nicotine patch at home, but I've filed it away with 60 bucks worth of nicotine gum. . Edward Bothe, 55, hairdresser, San Francisco:

It has to be self-importance. I used to hide my true self behind fashionable, well-cut clothes as a way of feeling good about myself. But I've been in a recovery program for 14 years -- Al-Anon -- and I had to let go of that vice, although I miss it. . Richard Wallace, 40, file clerk, San Francisco:

Smoking, of course. There's a lot of pressure all around to quit, and someday I might want to, but that's not on the top of my list of things to do. I know I'd feel better health-wise, but I've smoked for more than 20 years, and it's hard to give up.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (6)

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Anderson

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San Francisco Chronicle

California's Forgotten Park / Twenty-five years after Redwood National Park was founded, the visitors still haven't arrived, and nearby North Coast communities have fallen on hard times; [SUNDAY Edition]

Edwin Kiester Jr.. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 30, 1994. pg. 5.Z.1

Abstract (Summary)

Loggers and former loggers, businessmen selling to loggers, and local officials of Humboldt and Del Norte counties on California's northern coast insist that establishing the park with 78,000 acres of prime timberland triggered a downward economic spiral that stole good-paying jobs, savaged the timber industry and sentenced the area to chronic hard times and heartbreak: "We are fast becoming the Appalachia of the West," one ex-logger maintains. Environmentalists and champions who fought for the park maintain that the jobs would have been lost within a few years anyway, whereas the park saved magnificent and irreplaceable trees for generations to come. "The redwoods," says Lucille Vinyard, the Sierra Club's energetic North Coast representative, "are the pride of the nation."

One criticism is undisputed: Redwood National Park is almost invisible to visitors. Highway signs welcome you to "Redwood National and State Parks," but, says [John Dewitt], "Redwood National Park is like a ring without the setting." The real "gems" -- "the finest redwoods that ever existed," Dewitt calls them -- are in Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Redwoods and Jedediah Smith Redwoods state parks. Technically the 27,000 acres of old-growth redwoods in these parks are authorized by Congress to be within the national park's 106,000-acre boundaries. But the state parks are separately managed, and their independence is jealously guarded.

Environmentalists and commercial fishermen say the two problems are interrelated: Fish can't get upstream to spawn because the streams are clogged with logging debris, so their numbers are dwindling. The two counties have been further victimized by the go-go business atmosphere of the 1980s. All three of the major companies in the park expansion -- Simpson Timber, Arcata Redwood (now part of Simpson) and Louisiana-Pacific -- have gone through mergers, buyouts and privatizations that have resulted in consolidation and closing of mills. Louisiana-Pacific alone closed nine mills in five years (although officials say the closings were partly caused by logging restrictions).

Full Text (4130 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 30, 1994

Edwin Kiester Jr. is a Bay Area free-lance writer. Reprinted from Smithsonian. (C) 1993 Edwin Kiester Jr.

The trees are house-tall now, reaching toward the 350-foot heights they might eventually attain. On once cutover slopes below the Tall Trees Overlook in California's Redwood National Park, the young redwoods now march downhill, to the bend in Redwood Creek where the world's tallest trees rise out of the mist. Green stripes of grasses and hardwoods mark where old logging roads have been bulldozed and the hill graded back to its natural contours. In the rushing waters below, salmon and steelhead trout can again head upstream to spawn.

Art Eck, deputy superintendent of the park, looks about approvingly. The overlook's display of before-and-after photographs contrasts the scene with the hillside as it looked a few years ago: an ugly battlefield of stumps, slashed and chewed-up earth crisscrossed by the gashes of roads and skid trails. Now, thanks to the restoration effort, the forest is returning to its past appearance, before the saws and axes came. "The land is healing," Eck says proudly. "But of course, some scars still show."

Yes, the scars of Redwood National Park do show, and not only on the greening hillsides above Redwood Creek. Twenty-five years after the establishment of the nation's first billion-dollar national park, 15 years after an expansion more than doubled its size, the trees are coming back, but the painful wounds left by a bitter battle over the park formation remain raw in the lives of the people.

Loggers and former loggers, businessmen selling to loggers, and local officials of Humboldt and Del Norte counties on California's northern coast insist that establishing the park with 78,000 acres of prime timberland triggered a downward economic spiral that stole good-paying jobs, savaged the timber industry and sentenced the area to chronic hard times and heartbreak: "We are fast becoming the Appalachia of the West," one ex-logger maintains. Environmentalists and champions who fought for the park maintain that the jobs would have been lost within a few years anyway, whereas the park saved magnificent and irreplaceable trees for generations to come. "The redwoods," says Lucille Vinyard, the Sierra Club's energetic North Coast representative, "are the pride of the nation."

John Dewitt of the Save-the-Redwoods League, which has spent \$75 million in 75 years to preserve ancient trees, is uncharacteristically emphatic about who is at fault in the argument. "Thousands of people are now being laid off in the computer industry in the Western United States because they just happened to have the misfortune of working on defense projects. Timber workers have had a habit of acting as crybabies for the last 100 years, anytime anything interfered with the simple task of cutting down trees. They lost jobs, but the taxpayers compensated them handsomely for it. People are tired of listening to their complaints."

To which Chris Rowney, resource manager for the timber company Louisiana-Pacific, replies, "The park cost 2,500 jobs. I know, the defense industry is laying off 70,000 workers. But for those 2,500 up here, and their families, the jobs were just as important as they are for defense workers. Losing them was just as painful."

At a time when much of the country is suffering lost jobs and recession, and the spotted owl showdown has brought timbering in the Pacific Northwest almost to a standstill, it is difficult to picture how much a park dedication in 1968 may have contributed to a moribund local economy in 1994. At first glance, California's beautiful and lonely North Coast, with its thick forests, rich pastureland, hidden valleys and spectacular surf-pounded beaches, scarcely looks like a hardship case. Yet both the economic statistics and the mood in Humboldt and Del Norte counties are grim.

In Del Norte County, between 14 and 16 percent of the 9,600-person work force was unemployed in 1992. At \$22,917, Del Norte's average household income stood 56th among 58 California counties. In adjoining Humboldt County, the fastest-growing source of local income comes from transfer payments, such as welfare and Social Security. Inflation-adjusted household income in 1991 was lower than five years before, and 25 percent lower than the California average.

Federal, state and local government payrolls -- highlighted by the new Pelican Bay maximum-security prison in Del Norte County and Humboldt State University in Humboldt -- have replaced forest products as the major employer. Del Norte, which once resounded to the whine of 52 sawmills, is down to its last mill, the Miller Redwood Company, which last fall reduced operations to a single shift and now employs fewer than 125 people. During the 1992-93 rainy season, one of two remaining pulp mills in Humboldt County shut down, throwing another 262 people out of work.

Drive along U.S. Highway 101 through the once thriving community of Orick in Humboldt County and you see economic distress at its absolute worst. Set in a lush valley and surrounded by parklands, the little logging town was pictured by park proponents as a potential tourist mecca, sure to profit from hordes of visitors who would flock to the nearby park.

"They said we were going to have so many people up here in 10 years that this little town wouldn't be able to handle them,"

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San Francisco Chronicle

FUND CRISIS FOR CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN / Paramilitary Drug War Winds Down; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin, *Chronicle North Bay Bureau*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 14, 1994. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

"We had two homicides in Mendocino gardens last year," said Sergeant Ron Caudillo, leader of the County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team (COMMET). "It definitely increases the violence in our area. As to its effect on people, I think it's like all drugs, including alcohol -- harmful. I do think there has to be a three-pronged approach to drug problems, including marijuana -- education, enforcement and recovery programs."

Few involved in suppressing marijuana cultivation will venture to guess the percentage of the annual crop that is confiscated in the Emerald Triangle. Federal DEA estimates put seizures at about 20 percent of the area's total production.

PHOTO; A Mendocino County sheriff's deputy seized these marijuana plants in the Emerald Triangle / MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT. PHOTO

Full Text (1517 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 14, 1994

Failing to win the hearts and minds of the local populace, the United States is demobilizing a sophisticated armed force charged with suppressing rebel activities in a remote, mountainous part of the globe.

No time warp here -- this is California 1994, not Vietnam 1972.

For the last decade, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting -- known by its acronym, CAMP -- has worked to rid pot from the rugged mountainsides of Northern California, with most of the efforts directed at the so-called Emerald Triangle of Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties.

Despite tactical successes, however, CAMP has yet to achieve its goal -- the neutralization of California's wildlands as a base for marijuana cultivation.

And all indications are that 1994 will be a banner year for marijuana growers and consumers alike.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see a glut on the market this year," said Sergeant Stephen P. Cobine of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department Marijuana Enforcement Team, a strike force that conducts its operations in concert with CAMP. "And that will be reflected in lower prices."

Integral to the shifting situation is the increasing sophistication of growers, who have become ever more adept at screening their crops from detection.

More crucially for CAMP, the political winds that prevailed at its inception have changed. Cocaine interdiction has pushed marijuana off center stage, and the Clinton administration increasingly is putting its drug money into education and prevention rather than simple seizure. Though CAMP is not being killed outright, it is strapped for funds.

CAMP's declining influence is likely to spur major changes in the North Coast's political and cultural climate. With reduced surveillance and eradication, more growers should be able to harvest their crops successfully. And with

more pot on the market, the price for prime buds should drop. Increased violence between growers and the "rip-off artists" who steal their crops can be expected.

RESIDENTS DELIGHTED

Yet many area residents are delighted at the prospect of the CAMPers folding their tents. The raids and incessant helicopter surveillance angered growers and noncultivators alike.

In terms of the simple seizure of marijuana plants, CAMP and the local law enforcement agencies it supports have succeeded extravagantly. Supplies are scarce, and "retail" prices are high. Prime female flowers -- which are sold under such guerrilla brand names as "Humboldt Skunk" and "Stupor Farms Buds" -- now sell for \$5,000 to \$6,000 a pound.

"We destroyed 96,000 plants in 1993, up 175 percent from the year before," said Cobine.

A state task force buttressed by heavy federal and local participation, CAMP has relied on paramilitary tactics to accomplish its ends. Typically, camouflage-clad, heavily armed agents swoop down on marijuana plantations with helicopters or pounce from the underbrush after extensive surveillance.

To residents of the rugged countryside targeted by the eradicators, the issue is more a question of civil liberties than of the harm to the public caused by growing marijuana.

"The trouble is that CAMP operates on an '80s Supreme Court ruling that determined open fields do not have constitutional protection," said Richard Petersen, a Ukiah attorney and authority on drug law.

'TRAUMATIC'

"The ruling defined 'curtilage' -- the area where privacy applied -- as a zone immediately around a homeowner's house and outbuildings," said Petersen. "So agents can examine property with helicopters as often as they want, as long as they bypass the immediate area of curtilage. I can't stress strongly enough how traumatic this has been for property owners up here."

Marijuana advocates also applaud CAMP's decline, seeing it as an expression of common sense and public will.

"CAMP is losing its money because elected officials are heeding the public's cries about overzealous eradicators," said Allen St. Pierre, president of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

St. Pierre also questions the efficacy of marijuana eradication programs in reducing pot availability.

"With the exception of Northern California and Hawaii -- which have almost mythic reputations for quality -- prices are dropping steadily," said St. Pierre.

"Most top-grade buds now retail for about \$1,500 a pound. According to the DEA, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois are all ahead of California in marijuana production -- but marijuana is still California's No. 1 agricultural crop in terms of value.

CAMP was the butt of considerable resentment during a recent talk show on KMUD, a Garberville FM radio station.

Though the town's residents loathe Garberville's reputation as the capital of the Emerald Triangle, plenty of marijuana nevertheless is grown in the surrounding countryside.

"We just wish there was more attention paid to some of the other things happening here," grouched Paul (P. B.) Bassis, who, with partner Al (Owl) Ceraulo, hosts a weekly session devoted to the news of the moment called Thank Jah It's Friday.

CAMP TALK

Still, there was plenty of listener input when the subjects of cultivation and CAMP's troubles were broached.

"I'm 18 years old," one caller said in a shaky voice, "and I was always scared growing up. All I remember are endless days of helicopters. You live in this beautiful place, and you grow up feeling like you can play all day long in the woods. Then it turns into a horror scene. People I know had their doors broken down and were beaten. Others had their land confiscated for six plants."

Fred In The Hills, a regular caller who serves as the weatherman and movie reviewer for the show, weighed in with his opinions.

"Well, as you two boys know, I'm for pot and against cops," drawled Fred, who sounded like a cross between Gary Cooper and Grandpa Walton.

"Their war has driven the cost of marijuana way beyond the reach of the common man," said Fred. "Personally, I believe it's every person's obligation to grow some pot. I'm outraged at the arrogance of the police, at their terrorizing of families and little children."

Though eradication agents acknowledge that marijuana is not as dangerous as cocaine, they are adamant in their position that the plant's cultivation and consumption are unhealthy for both the community and the individual, and that the herb leads to more dangerous drugs.

DRUG USE SURVEY

Lending some credence to their view is a recent University of Michigan study that found drug use among youths is increasing.

The survey of 51,000 students concluded that the use of marijuana, LSD, inhalants and stimulants increased among the nation's youth during the past two years. More teenagers said they smoke marijuana than researchers have found in any year since the late 1970s.

"I do think it (marijuana) is a gateway to harder drugs, but I dislike it even more for the element of corruption it's brought to our county," said Cobine, the Humboldt County sergeant.

His Mendocino counterparts agreed.

"We had two homicides in Mendocino gardens last year," said Sergeant Ron Caudillo, leader of the County of Mendocino Marijuana Eradication Team (COMMET). "It definitely increases the violence in our area. As to its effect on people, I think it's like all drugs, including alcohol -- harmful. I do think there has to be a three-pronged approach to drug problems, including marijuana -- education, enforcement and recovery programs."

Few involved in suppressing marijuana cultivation will venture to guess the percentage of the annual crop that is confiscated in the Emerald Triangle. Federal DEA estimates put seizures at about 20 percent of the area's total production.

CASH CROP

"We hear stories every year -- 'Oh, you missed old Joe Dokes, he brought off a big crop,'" said Cobine. "So we have no idea. But considering how lucrative the trade is, it's no surprise the activity level is so high. An ambitious grower can make \$200,000, tax-free."

Nonetheless, the financing for marijuana eradication efforts has eroded steadily.

"We've gone from a funding high of \$2.9 million in 1988 to \$805,000 in 1993," said Dale Ferranto, the head supervisor of CAMP.

Even without budget cuts, new technologies in marijuana cultivation assure that eradication efforts will remain a Sisyphean task.

"If you have indoor grow lights and some basic knowledge, you can grow marijuana superior to Hawaiian or Northern Californian product," said St. Pierre.

In the '80s, he said, varieties were developed that were "quicker to mature and harder to spot from the air than earlier varieties, and now the rest of the country has those strains as well."

Ferranto said it is unlikely his agency will get helicopter support from the National Guard in 1994, which will severely compromise CAMP's ability to conduct effective aerial surveillance.

"Even last year, we spotted a lot of groves from the air that we didn't have time to eradicate," said Ferranto. "At this point, we're about as financially drained as we can get and still provide the services that are expected."

The budget crunch is especially severe at the county level, where local suppression efforts have been drastically curtailed.

"In 1992, we had four people attached to this detail," said Caudillo. "Now we're down to one deputy and me."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: A Mendocino County sheriff's deputy seized these marijuana plants in the Emerald Triangle / MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT. PHOTO

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San Francisco Chronicle

Businessman Pleads Guilty To Growing Pot; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 15, 1994. pg. A.18

Abstract (Summary)

Charles Studebaker pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco to two felony charges resulting from his arrest and the seizure of a huge greenhouse filled with marijuana in the Humboldt County town of Redway a year ago.

Studebaker lives in Mendocino County, where he owns the Randall Sand and Gravel Co.

Full Text (201 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 15, 1994

A North Coast businessman has admitted growing more than 4,800 marijuana plants and agreed to a prison term and a \$750,000 forfeiture, federal officials said yesterday.

The case is part of a new campaign by federal drug agents and local sheriffs against Northern California pot growers, officials said.

Charles Studebaker pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco to two felony charges resulting from his arrest and the seizure of a huge greenhouse filled with marijuana in the Humboldt County town of Redway a year ago.

"With the lumber and fishing industries dwindling, people have turned to marijuana. There's a lot of money in it. And it's become more violent," Assistant U.S. Attorney Eduardo Roy said. "We're focusing on the largest growers."

A few months ago, a Marin County physician was charged with growing large amounts of marijuana for commercial use.

Studebaker lives in Mendocino County, where he owns the Randall Sand and Gravel Co.

As part of the plea bargain, he has agreed to an eight-year prison sentence and to the forfeiture of nine parcels of land in Humboldt County, plus cash and thousands of dollars in gold dust. He will be able to keep his gravel business.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Firebrand Hallinan Has a Family Legacy of Controversy; [FINAL Edition]

Rob Haeseler. *San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 18, 1995. pg. A.11

Abstract (Summary)

The prosecutor who is poised to try the 60-year-old San Francisco attorney on racketeering charges says Hallinan brought his troubles on himself, but supporters of the lawyer say jealousy and trophy hunting motivated the government to go after him.

L. Anthony White, the assistant U.S. attorney who is spearheading the prosecution of Hallinan in Reno, offered a justice-is-blind response to questions about the case. "No one gets treated differently just because their name ends in `Esquire,'" he said.

"We don't routinely indict or arrest lawyers, but when we do, it's very important that they be treated like any other citizen," White said of Hallinan's arrest at gunpoint in his Marin County home in August 1993. "(He) got the same treatment that anybody else in his circumstances would have gotten."

Full Text (1037 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 18, 1995

Whatever else anyone may say about Patrick Hallinan, his personal style and family history place him squarely in the spotlight.

The prosecutor who is poised to try the 60-year-old San Francisco attorney on racketeering charges says Hallinan brought his troubles on himself, but supporters of the lawyer say jealousy and trophy hunting motivated the government to go after him.

"The most attractive decoration on a prosecutor's mantelpiece is the mounted head of a defense attorney," said Barry Portman, the federal public defender in San Francisco.

L. Anthony White, the assistant U.S. attorney who is spearheading the prosecution of Hallinan in Reno, offered a justice-is-blind response to questions about the case. "No one gets treated differently just because their name ends in `Esquire,'" he said.

"We don't routinely indict or arrest lawyers, but when we do, it's very important that they be treated like any other citizen," White said of Hallinan's arrest at gunpoint in his Marin County home in August 1993. "(He) got the same treatment that anybody else in his circumstances would have gotten."

Iconoclastic and outspoken, Hallinan has drawn attention to himself for years.

"I personally feel that Patrick was a marked man," said veteran San Francisco trial lawyer Roger Pierucci, who has known the Hallinans for 30 years. "The family hangs themselves out there with the work they do."

The legacy of conflict goes back to Hallinan's grandfather, after whom he was named. That Pat Hallinan, a member of the Dublin-based terrorist group called the Invincibles, fled from Ireland to San Francisco in 1882 after the murder of a rent agent.

Patrick's father, Vincent Hallinan, who died in 1992 at the age of 95, was one of the nation's most famous trial lawyers. A champion of the left and of labor, he represented Harry Bridges when the leader of the longshoremen's union was accused of perjury in 1950.

Vincent Hallinan's courtroom battles with the government were epic. He was repeatedly cited for contempt and suspended from practice for three years. In 1952, he ran for president on the Independent Progressive Party ticket.

Patrick's brother, Terence, serves on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Also a lawyer, he defended Juan Corona at the mass murderer's second trial.

Like their father, Patrick and Terence relished conflict and were quick to resolve arguments with their fists. All six of the Hallinan boys were taught to box so they could settle the score with kids who called them godless Communists -- chips off the old block.

Hallinan was a student at the University of California at Berkeley in 1954 when his father went to McNeil Island prison for 18 months for failing to report cash payments from clients. The government's pending case against Hallinan involves allegations that he was paid large sums of cash by marijuana smugglers -- he is not charged with any tax offenses.

The Hallinan boys learned early that the government does not always make sense. In the late 1950s, while Patrick was preparing to go to law school, he was notified that his draft eligibility would be questioned if he did not "refute" his "association" with his subversive parents. "Butch can't refute the association," his mother, Vivian, said at the time.

As a student at Hastings College of the Law in 1961, Hallinan led a demonstration against U.S. policy on Cuba. Something of a firebrand, he told the crowd that there was no dictatorship in Cuba and that Fidel Castro would never allow the Soviet Union to build missile bases only 90 miles from the U.S. mainland.

In 1966, as a newly minted lawyer, he served a month in jail for his role in the Auto Row sit-ins in San Francisco, one of the city's first civil rights demonstrations.

At this point in his life, a more esoteric side of his personality -- one that removed him from the spotlight -- almost derailed his career in law. An abiding interest in the past, fostered by the discovery of a cache of stone-age knives when he was 11, prompted him to enroll at UC Berkeley as a graduate student in archeology.

For his doctoral topic, he studied life in the Humboldt Sink of northwestern Nevada several thousand years ago when a semisedentary people lived along the lakeshores and marshes. It was classic archeology, dating the periods of habitation from arrowheads, spearheads and dart points found in the area. But the winds of time had eroded the site and looters had scoured it.

"By the time he got there, the ground was gone and all the artifacts picked over and taken away," said Stephanie Livingston, an archeologist with the University of Nevada to whom Hallinan eventually gave his field notes. "He was already a practicing lawyer . . . and he had a choice of doing that or find a new project and roll the dice again."

Hallinan stuck with the law, rising to the ranks of the nation's best criminal defense practitioners. His more prominent clients have included U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar and former state Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig.

Some of Hallinan's friends believe that the government fixed its sights on him during his defense of Aguilar, who was convicted in 1990 of disclosing wiretap information to an ex-gangster related to him by marriage and of obstructing a grand jury by lying to FBI agents. Both convictions were recently overturned.

Last April, agents of the Bureau of Land Management searched Hallinan's home and seized artifacts they said may have been obtained illegally. His lawyers say it is all part of a crusade by the government to ruin him.

"Before this started, I was getting ready to go back to Berkeley to take my Ph.D.," Hallinan said. "What do you think this does to that?"

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Hallinan shortly before he defended state schools chief Bill Honig / BY STEVE CASTILLO/THE CHRONICLE 1992, (2) Hallinan, whose father was famous S.F. trial lawyer Vincent Hallinan, defended IRA fugitive William Quinn in a highly publicized case in the early 1980s / BY GARY FONG/THE CHRONICLE 1983, (3) Hastings College student Patrick Hallinan in 1961 (center) joined other students in speaking out against U.S. policy toward Cuba / BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

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San Francisco Chronicle

Smugglers Set Sail For Thai Pot Fields; [FINAL Edition]

Rob Haeseler, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 18, 1995. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

San Francisco lawyer Patrick Hallinan, who represented [Ciro] Mancuso from 1974 to 1990, stands accused of coaching the smugglers to mislead authorities and showing them how to launder their profits. Based largely on the word of Mancuso and other convicted felons, Hallinan is scheduled to go to trial in Reno on January 26 on federal racketeering charges. If convicted, the 60-year-old attorney--who flatly denies the accusations--could go to prison for life.

Although investigators first began to suspect Mancuso in 1977, it took them 12 plodding years to build a case against him and his closest associates. Meanwhile, the conspirators blithely imported more than \$200 million worth of Thai marijuana. ----- A trial Asian run was launched in 1976, when the magnetic Mancuso was barely 28 and operating a home building business in Tahoe Pines. The smugglers shipped a travel trailer with false panels on a freighter to Thailand, ostensibly for a sightseeing junket. It came back packed with 1,200 pounds of high-grade marijuana worth \$1.8 million. Broken down, the load wholesaled for \$1,500 a pound -- four times more valuable than Mexican pot.

Mancuso later told investigators that he gave Hallinan a bundle of cash for the fugitive's welfare. "Mancuso was not aware of the exact method that Hallinan used to get the money to (him), but (Mancuso) believed that it was done through (the cabinetmaker's) attorney, another friend of Hallinan's," said customs agent Richard Pierce.

Full Text (2363 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 18, 1995

(Second of Three Parts) The exchange-student program, often hailed as one of life's most rewarding experiences, became the chairlift to prosperity for a group of skiing buddies.

By the mid-1970s, a friendship with a Thai exchange student allowed Ciro Mancuso, who had ventured into the Mexican marijuana trade with his classmates at Tahoe Paradise College, to shift hemispheres and smuggle the potent Southeast Asian weed that American soldiers had discovered in Vietnam.

As their activities continued and grew in scale, however, what once had been deemed only a social nuisance became unacceptable -- and the machinations of Mancuso and his confederates sparked one of the longest running drug prosecutions in the United States. Now in its 18th year, it has entered a new dimension, becoming what criminal defense attorneys everywhere say is their worst nightmare: having their ex-clients turn on them.

San Francisco lawyer Patrick Hallinan, who represented Mancuso from 1974 to 1990, stands accused of coaching the smugglers to mislead authorities and showing them how to launder their profits. Based largely on the word of Mancuso and other convicted felons, Hallinan is scheduled to go to trial in Reno on January 26 on federal racketeering charges. If convicted, the 60-year-old attorney--who flatly denies the accusations--could go to prison for life.

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barely 28 and operating a home building business in Tahoe Pines. The smugglers shipped a travel trailer with false panels on a freighter to Thailand, ostensibly for a sightseeing junket. It came back packed with 1,200 pounds of high-grade marijuana worth \$1.8 million. Broken down, the load wholesaled for \$1,500 a pound -- four times more valuable than Mexican pot.

Such ventures, however, involved heavy risks: drug-sniffing dogs prowled ports of entry and customs inspectors stalked the wharves. The smugglers decided that an oceangoing sailboat offered the best chance for success in the future.

Their first voyage under sail almost ended in their undoing. Mancuso later told investigators that Hallinan stepped in and rescued them.

Mancuso and his best friend and fellow skier Brian Degen put up the money for the Drifter, a 40-foot ketch that they bought in Newport Beach for \$93,000 and shipped on a steamer to Singapore, according to the authorities.

To head up the smuggling operation, they recruited Marcus Zybach, a Swiss engraver-turned-yachtsman who ran a small charter boat service in the Caribbean.

Zybach pulled off the caper with a cabinetmaker and a carpenter as his crew. On June 2, 1977, after a rigorous 7,500-mile voyage from Thailand that lasted 90 days, the Drifter slipped through the Golden Gate. At Port Sonoma, near the mouth of the Petaluma river, inflatable boats rendezvoused with the yacht and ferried the 2,200-pound cargo ashore under the watchful eye of Jeff Welch, one of the original members of the Tahoe Paradise ski team, who then stashed the contraband in Healdsburg.

Within days, word spread through Marin County that choice Thai weed could be found on any street corner in Fairfax.

The Drifter might have sailed on, its voyage unnoted, if Mancuso had not ordered the cabinetmaker to sail the vessel across the bay and put it in drydock. As the ketch neared shore, it was intercepted by the Richmond police boat. Under the planking, a boarding party found 28 pounds of pot, someone's personal stash.

In smuggling operations that are done by the book, subordinates are shielded from higher-ups so they cannot betray them. This was not the case with the Drifter. The cabinetmaker knew the principals: They had hired him to build compartments in some of their smuggling vehicles.

To make matters worse, Mancuso lived so openly that drug agents had only to turn to the Tahoe phone book to find his address. When word reached the ringleader that the sailboat had been seized and the cabinetmaker arrested, he made a quick trip to San Francisco to confer with Hallinan.

They quickly learned that the cabinetmaker had talked a blue streak to his captors, implicating Mancuso, Degen, Welch, Zybach and others. Freed on \$50,000 bail, he vigorously pursued his \$100,000 fee for the voyage, and soon found himself in Hallinan's presence.

"He was very angry," the cabinetmaker testified at Hallinan's pretrial hearing in Reno last summer. "He said, 'You told them everything. You don't deserve anything.'"

Shaken, the cabinetmaker fled, finding refuge in a rural commune in Oregon.

The federal grand jury in San Francisco indicted him on charges carrying a 20-year prison term, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Mancuso later told investigators that he gave Hallinan a bundle of cash for the fugitive's welfare. "Mancuso was not aware of the exact method that Hallinan used to get the money to (him), but (Mancuso) believed that it was done through (the cabinetmaker's) attorney, another friend of Hallinan's," said customs agent Richard Pierce.

"Mancuso was very satisfied with the way that Patrick Hallinan had . . . insulated the organization from prosecution," Pierce said. "As a result, Mancuso continued to maintain a close relationship with (him) as the years progressed."

The government cites this as one of several instances in which Hallinan allegedly obstructed justice by crossing the line between representation and participation.

Although the 28-pound stash found aboard the Drifter and the arrest of the cabinetmaker gave the government its first inkling that Mancuso was up to no good, the outcome was anticlimactic.

"I was never questioned," Mancuso said.

For the talkative cabinetmaker, the Drifter affair ended on an uplifting note. In exile in Oregon, he found God and surrendered. His conversion so impressed the court that he was treated with leniency and never made to inform on his fellow smugglers. His punishment for helping smuggle \$3.3 million worth of marijuana: three years' probation and 500 hours of community service.

"He was so grateful," said his attorney, "he was in tears."

It might have comforted the smugglers to know in those early days that they were not yet considered a menace to society.

"We were looking at heroin coming in from The Triangle," said Daniel J. Addario, who was then the chief federal narcotic agent in San Francisco. "What the heck, 28 pounds is a normal party in Marin." ----- The Drifter trip set the pattern for all future voyages. Over time, the Tahoe ski crowd linked with other smugglers, expanding the scale of operations. The boats were bigger and much more expensive, the loads were heavier, the hazards higher and the profits potentially greater. In all, 16 voyages are known to have been made between 1977 and 1989.

Planning for each smuggling season began a year in advance: Front money for the suppliers in Thailand was carried by couriers to Hong Kong, new vessels were purchased and outfitted, stash houses were bought or rented and unloading crews were organized.

The boat captains frequently transferred their cargo off the California coast to smaller vessels that ran it up the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta, where was trucked to a stash house in Vacaville, broken down, weighed, packaged and distributed. The smugglers often used the parking lot of the popular Nut Tree restaurant on Interstate 80 as a transfer point for shipments going to Nevada.

Once cash was collected from lower-level dealers, trusted subordinates turned it over to Mancuso and other principals at such places as Golden Gate Park or the Cliff House. Millions of dollars routinely changed hands this way.

"They love those dead presidents, especially Ben Franklin. It's such a rush," said San Diego attorney Phil DeMassa, who defended one of the suspected smugglers. ----- As time passed, seemingly unrelated events aroused new suspicions about the smugglers -- including an incident at San Francisco International Airport. Once again, Mancuso said he turned to Hallinan.

Sunthorn Kraitamchitkul, a Thai car dealer, was arrested late in the summer of 1981 for failing to declare more than \$801,000 in U.S. currency as he prepared to board a flight to Bangkok. In his suitcase, agents said they also found the business cards of Ciro Mancuso, his wife Andrea, Brian Degen, and documents relating to the Mancusos' shell corporation in the Cayman Islands.

"Ciro knew the heat was on," said the source.

The builder worried that the contents of Sunthorn's suitcase would prompt a tax probe, which it did.

Mancuso said he gave Hallinan a cash retainer of \$100,000 and asked for help in foreclosing on properties that his shell corporation owned in Nevada.

The smuggler said he also appealed to Hallinan for help in laundering drug cash.

As the tension mounted, Mancuso closed his Cayman Island account and set up a more anonymous corporation in Panama with a bank account in Switzerland, which he drew on to invest in Tahoe and Hawaiian real estate.

To ease himself further into the background, Mancuso also needed a third party to write letters and sign documents. Both attorney and client now accuse each other of inventing the fictional "Deborah DeLong," whose signature appears on notarized records in the case.

It is perhaps only a coincidence that Hallinan, pursuing a lifelong interest in archeology, was active around that time in excavating a mammoth in a remote desert area near property owned by a family named DeLong.

In any event, Mancuso's worries were premature. The tax probe fizzled. ----- By 1986, things were going so well that it was hard to think anything could ever go wrong again. Flush with the success of three loads that year worth \$34 million, the smugglers attempted two more in 1987. Mancuso later confessed that he had a stake in both.

This time, the landing site was Frankport Beach on the Oregon coast near the California border. During Prohibition, the rocky inlet had been called Smuggler's Cove.

The first load, weighing 15,400 pounds and worth nearly \$17 million, arrived without incident on May 17.

The second load arrived on June 21 aboard the California Sun, a 51-foot shrimp boat from Eureka. As darkness fell and a waxing moon rose over the coast, a resident on a hillside above the cove noticed a vessel operating close to shore without running lights. He picked up the phone and dialed 911.

Authorities struck from land, sea and air. Trying to escape, the California Sun went on the rocks, losing 19,800 pounds of Thai marijuana valued at \$21.8 million.

The count from that debacle alone now stands at 32 convicted and one pending. Sentences have ranged from probation, for bit players, to many years for middlemen and higher-ups.

But Mancuso was not among them.

"Mancuso told me many times that his money could buy him out of any trouble," Degen said. (Tomorrow: Collapse and betrayal) -----

THE MANCUSO OPERATION

1986: A Year In Review

1986 was the smuggler's most successful year. As he told investigators that he participated in three loads, which had an estimated value exceeding \$34 million. He reported taxable income that year of \$1,860. The Internal Revenue Service has said that was \$600,000 short.

The first load arrived aboard the Mamamouchi, a 55-foot two-masted yawl, which had been loaded with 6,600 pounds of marijuana off the Thai coast in February after the conspirators put up \$400,000 in front money, authorities said. The landing site was the Hollister Ranch at Gaviota near Santa Barbara. Valued at more than \$7.9 million, the cargo arrived off the coast on May 2 and was trucked to a stash house in Vacaville for processing.

Immediately after the payoff for the Mamamouchi, the 65-foot Japy Hermes, a famous French racing Ketch transferred 11,000 pounds of marijuana to small boats that took it up the delta to McDonald Island on May 17. The \$13.2 million cargo was whisked away to a new stash house that had been rented in the town of Pilot Hill in El Dorado County.

The final 1986 load, weighing 7,700 pounds, arrived at McDonald Island on June 20. Part of it was diverted to Nevada from the parking lot of the Nut Tree in Vacaville. -----

CHART:SMUGGLING ACROSS THE PACIFIC BC: After several years of smuggling pot into California from Mexico in the secret compartments of travel trailers, Ciro Mancuso and his associates tapped the lucrative Thai marijuana market and moved their loads by sailboat or motor vessel across a 7,500-mile expanse of ocean. Each trip took a year of planning. Profits were calculated at four times cost. Investigators say Patrick Hallinan helped Mancuso launder his profits and coached the conspirators to obstruct justice by lying to a grand jury. Multiplying Marijuana

Between 1977 and 1989, Ciro Mancuso and his confederates had a financial interest in at least 16 shipments of marijuana smuggled by boat.

[Table]

Cargo Year	Weight	Wholesale Value	Destination
1977	2,200	\$3,300,000	SF Bay.
1977	2,200	3,300,000	SF Bay.
1979	6,600	9,240,000	Sutter Island, Delta.
1980	7,260	9,801,000	Walnut Grove, Delta.
1981	7,840	10,098,000	Gaviota
1984	11,000	14,850,000	McDonald Island, Delta.
1985	7,700	10,010,000	McDonald Island, Delta.
1986	6,600	7,920,000	Gaviota.
1986	11,000	13,200,000	McDonald Island, Delta.
1986	7,700	8,470,000	McDonald Island.
1987	15,400	16,940,000	Frankport Bch, Ore.
1987	19,800	21,780,000	Frankport Bch, Ore.(a)
1988	6,600	7,920,000	Seized in Australia.
1988	6,600	7,920,000	Jettisoned(b)
1988	33,000	39,600,000	Shelter Cove,

Humboldt County.(c) 1989 17,600 19,360,000 Cordova, Alaska ----- (a) - Transferred to another ship, which ran aground on beach. Load seized. (b) - Jettisoned on approach to California coast after learning that a companion smuggling vessel, had been seized in Australia. (c) - Seized by U.S. Coast Guard when vessel found unattended at Shelter Cove in Humboldt County. Source: U.S. District Court records, Reno EC:

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3), CHART, GRAPHIC , MAP; Caption: (1) The 55-foot Mamamouchi brought in the first 1986 load of Thai marijuana / BY VINCE MAGGIORA/THE CHRONICLE, (2) This road led to the smugglers' remote stash house near Vacaville / BY VINCE MAGGIORA/THE CHRONICLE, (3) The California Sun ran aground on the Oregon coast in June 1987 after being pursued by drug enforcement authorities / BY ASSOCIATED PRESS GRAPHIC / BY CRAIG STOUT/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

After Two Decades, Drug Agents Close In; [FINAL Edition]

Rob Haeseler, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 19, 1995. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

The brains of the outfit, Squaw Valley developer Ciro Mancuso, went even further. After pleading guilty to charges carrying a minimum 10-year prison term, he did what every criminal defense attorney dreads. Gambling for a reduced sentence, Mancuso dangled an enticing prize in front of the government -- Patrick Hallinan, his lawyer of 16 years.

"I think this guy Mancuso just coughed Patrick up," said fellow trial lawyer Roger Pierucci. "It's an aberrant thing. Mancuso knew the box he was in and what to do to get out of it."

On March 3, 1989, according to a federal affidavit, Michael McCreary, the Half Moon Bay surf shop owner who had taken a fall for Mancuso in 1974 and had played a prominent role in distributing the group's 1986 loads, met with Hallinan in the attorney's office at 345 Franklin Street in San Francisco. He clutched a subpoena to testify in Reno four days later.

Full Text (3253 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 19, 1995

For 20 years, a band of marijuana smugglers stayed a step ahead of the law, despite a series of mishaps that provided mounting evidence of their misdeeds.

If the conspirators had one failing, it was their lack of appreciation for the single-mindedness of their pursuers. Subsidized by tax dollars and bolstered by increasingly tough drug statutes, government prosecutors eventually built a head of steam and rolled over the smugglers like a juggernaut -- then kept on going in their quest for suspects.

Several factors weighed in the government's favor. Since the carefree counterculture days of the 1960s, from which the conspiracy evolved, public attitudes about drugs shifted and hardened, and nations joined forces against trafficking. But the change that would collapse the conspiracy came from severe new sentencing laws enacted in the last decade. Seeking leniency, the smugglers began betraying each other.

The brains of the outfit, Squaw Valley developer Ciro Mancuso, went even further. After pleading guilty to charges carrying a minimum 10-year prison term, he did what every criminal defense attorney dreads. Gambling for a reduced sentence, Mancuso dangled an enticing prize in front of the government -- Patrick Hallinan, his lawyer of 16 years.

"I think this guy Mancuso just coughed Patrick up," said fellow trial lawyer Roger Pierucci. "It's an aberrant thing. Mancuso knew the box he was in and what to do to get out of it."

It was an explosive finale to one of the longest running drug prosecutions in the United States.

Three grand juries had heard testimony against Mancuso and his confederates by the late 1980s, but none had handed up an indictment. "I suspect . . . they didn't have reliable evidence to prosecute the higher-ups," said San Francisco defense attorney Doron Weinberg, who represented one of the smugglers.

It was not until President Reagan created 13 elite units, called the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, and assigned them to strategic areas around the country as part of his war on drugs that the pace was accelerated.

The task force based in Reno took on the job of closing the net on Mancuso. This time, investigators had a powerful new weapon: the United States and Britain had forged an agreement ending the secrecy of offshore banks, whose records had been off-limits to U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Once the prosecutors got the documents, they were able to follow a paper trail leading from Mancuso's shell corporation in the Cayman Islands to shadowy Panamanian corporations with numbered Swiss bank accounts.

The team tallied Mancuso's deposits to his bank in Zurich: 1984, \$1,442,925.61; 1985, \$70,480.64; 1986, \$786,374.85; 1987, 353,507.50; and 1988, \$660,080. When interest of \$592,307 was added, the total approached \$4 million. The developer's income tax filings made no mention of this remarkable bounty.

Another break came in late 1988, when the Coast Guard seized the 65-foot racing ketch Japy Hermes at Shelter Cove in Humboldt County. Abandoned in haste at dockside, the ghostly vessel contained 33,000 pounds of Thai marijuana. Investigators traced the records of a pay phone on the pier and found that calls had been made to the Lake Tahoe area, providing a vital link in the chain of evidence.

"Ciro was a victim of time," said Dorothy Nash Holmes, the former federal prosecutor who brought the charges against the conspirators. "The government got the experience, the knowledge and the skill to catch up with him."

Swiss authorities, acting in concert with American drug agents, froze Mancuso's bank account. In Reno, a new grand jury was impaneled, witnesses were subpoenaed and evidence presented. A pride of legal lions in Armani suits paraded before the bar.

"I knew this was going to be big when we got all the big, high-priced dope lawyers from San Francisco," said Holmes. "They thought we were just a bunch of cowboys up here."

And behind the scenes, authorities say, Patrick Hallinan moved into action again on behalf of Mancuso and his cohorts.

On March 3, 1989, according to a federal affidavit, Michael McCreary, the Half Moon Bay surf shop owner who had taken a fall for Mancuso in 1974 and had played a prominent role in distributing the group's 1986 loads, met with Hallinan in the attorney's office at 345 Franklin Street in San Francisco. He clutched a subpoena to testify in Reno four days later.

"Hallinan instructed McCreary to deny and lie about any criminal activity (that) occurred after 1974," to give vague answers to questions, to diminish the value and quantities of marijuana discussed and "to disavow acquaintances with as many people as possible," said customs agent Richard A. Pierce.

McCreary told investigators that Hallinan gave him a mannerly means of rationalizing his deception. "If they show you a photograph of somebody that you were with somewhere (or) sometime, and you recognize that person but you were never formally introduced, you don't really know that person, do you?" he quoted the attorney as saying.

Hallinan's lawyers say he did nothing illegal.

Even as the investigation reached a head, the relentless smugglers were moving another load of Thai marijuana. In May 1989, a 17,600-pound cargo with a wholesale value of \$19.4 million was landed at Cordova, Alaska. As an investor, Mancuso had a small stake in the operation.

Meanwhile, the grand jury barraged the developer with subpoenas for his records.

Cut off from his money in Zurich, Mancuso drew on all his cash reserves to keep up with his legal bills. During 1989, he said he paid Hallinan \$359,000 to represent him and fronted another \$97,000 for other lawyers to represent his co-conspirators.

As the likelihood of indictment loomed, the smugglers hastily liquidated assets that could be seized under stringent new property-forfeiture laws. Healdsburg resident Jeffrey Welch, one of Mancuso's oldest associates from college ski-team days and a key figure in the conspiracy, sold his share in a Sonoma winery, the pride of his life. Others transferred assets to parents, children and friends.

Brian Degen, who was once Mancuso's best friend and who is alleged to have been an active smuggler until the mid-1980s, moved his family to Switzerland, well ahead of the posse -- although, it would turn out, not beyond its reach.

One day, Mancuso walked into prosecutor Holmes' office in the Reno federal building and dropped a stack of subpoenaed documents on her desk.

"He just wanted to take a look," she said. "He was an arrogant s.o.b. . . . and he really thought he was home free. I wanted to smack him right in the face."

But she had a grudging respect for her adversary. "He was one of the most intelligent men I've ever seen," she said. "He could be running General Motors if he had put his brains to work on something legitimate." The ax fell in the predawn hours of Oct. 25, 1989, a week after the Loma Prieta earthquake. More than 100 agents carrying search warrants and a 125-page indictment that read like a high-seas thriller fanned out across four states.

Mancuso was taking a shower in his \$2 million Squaw Valley aerie when the law barged in. "Agents . . . proceeded to ask me to show them around the house and show them if I had any hiding places or safes or anything like that," he said.

Designed and built by Mancuso on Squaw Summit, the copper-and-glass house sprawled over 10,000 square feet, enclosing a swimming pool and offering a sweeping view of the valley.

Two agents drove him to Sacramento and deposited him in jail, leaving a copy of the indictment in his cell. It provided "some reading material while I sat in an otherwise unstimulating environment," he said.

Mancuso's arrest took the resort community by surprise. Some of the principals in the conspiracy were well-known, almost all were family men and most had never been arrested before. Mancuso is said to have given generously to the school his children attended.

The government proudly announced that it had crushed a ring that had smuggled a veritable mountain of marijuana from Thailand to the West Coast.

"We hope this sends a message that once we get a major drug organization identified, we're going to pursue them and we're going to put them in jail and keep them there," said Jim Bramble, an agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

That characterization raised some eyebrows.

"`Organization,' huh?" said Reno defense attorney Fred Atcheson, who represented one of the suspects. "They are chairlift tokers that had good transportation facilities. These are guys that didn't piss away their brain cells. None of them are dangerous. The beauty of it is, when the government manages to put away all these people, they'll make a vacancy for real organized crime to step in." Initially, Mancuso stood his ground, refusing to seek leniency. "First and foremost," he wrote Hallinan after stewing in jail for five months, "I will not even consider `turning' or in any way whatsoever cooperating with the government against any of my friends or acquaintances. So that possibility can be completely eliminated from any negotiations."

But the government was far from satisfied. Prosecutors needed Mancuso's testimony to convict others whose cases were weaker.

"What the government did to Ciro was inexcusable," Atcheson said. "He was willing to do his time. Then they indicted (his wife) Andrea and said, `Your children are never going to see their parents.' "

Hallinan is credited with solving this problem. Because Mancuso was at the top of the heap, he had no one above him to give up. His only salvation lay in betraying his old friend Degen and a handful of other suspected smugglers. Hallinan reportedly negotiated a plea agreement assuring Mancuso's cooperation. In exchange, the government dropped charges against Andrea Mancuso and allowed the couple to keep more than \$1 million cash in Swiss and Austrian bank accounts and property in Squaw Valley worth up to \$3 million.

Never one to remain idle, even when in jail, Mancuso sent word to a fellow conspirator to deliver some of his profits from the 1989 Alaska load. Andrea later told investigators that she met the smuggler at Coyote Point Regional Park in San Mateo where he handed her \$63,000 in cash.

As plea negotiations progressed late into the spring of 1990, Hallinan fell off a ladder in his home while hanging one of his archeological treasures. He underwent surgery for a fractured heel and then contracted pneumonia. During his long recuperation, he assigned the Mancuso case to one of his junior associates, Katherine Alfieri.

The pairing of the two would profoundly affect the lives of both Mancuso and Hallinan.

Sept. 27, 1990, was set as the date for the developer to plead guilty in federal court to operating a continuing criminal enterprise and evading taxes. Minutes before the fateful hearing, Hallinan met with his client in a cheerless holding cell in Reno and demanded more money, according to the government.

"Mancuso was extremely offended," said customs agent Pierce. "Hallinan seemed to demonstrate no compassion or concern over Mancuso's situation of entering a guilty plea to a crime that could potentially (send him to prison for) the rest of his life."

The developer struck back by firing Hallinan and hiring Alfieri, who quit the Hallinan firm and set up her own practice.

"Kate is a disloyal, miserable bitch," Hallinan said later in a phone conversation surreptitiously taped by the government. "She comes in to me and she says, this is literally true, she says . . . 'I'm leaving, and I'm taking Ciro with me.' "

"And I said, 'You can't do that, Kate.' "

"And she says, 'I'm doing it, and I'll tell you what. I will keep Ciro quiet about you. I won't testify against you.' "

"I said, 'Bullshit, Kate, you've got nothing to testify about.' "

Alfieri did not return calls from The Chronicle seeking her side of the story. When the day arrived for Mancuso to be sentenced for his 20-year crime spree, nothing happened. By now he had come full circle and was testifying against alleged co-conspirators. Taking a cue from their leader, other suspects began to cooperate. Defendants jockeyed to cut the best deal, and for Mancuso, and his new lawyer Alfieri, that involved Hallinan.

"In our wildest dreams, we never thought that the idea of a certain person confessing so as to have a little preferential treatment would turn into mass wholesaling of testimony," said Degen. Under pressure from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Swiss authorities seized his property there and imprisoned him in the alpine city of Sion. Released in October after being held for almost two years, he now faces charges in the Swiss courts similar to those for which he and Mancuso were indicted in Reno six years ago.

Fifteen months after Mancuso was arrested, his cell door swung open -- the payoff for informing on his friends and on Hallinan.

The developer returned to his old haunts, unnerving a few people who thought they had seen the last of him. How long he will remain at liberty is uncertain. Degen, writing from prison, said Mancuso has bragged that he does "not expect to serve any more (time) due to his so-called arrangement with the DEA."

"He just leads a normal, everyday life like any other snitch up in Squaw Valley," said a resident of the resort community.

But Mancuso is nothing if not full of surprises. From his father's fertile cherry orchard in the Central Valley and from under his in-laws' home, he unearthed \$2 million in cash that he had buried before his arrest. He testified at a pretrial hearing for Hallinan in Reno last summer that he used part of the money to pay a \$1.2-million income tax bill stemming from his drug profits.

"At the time (of the plea negotiations), nobody really knew about those assets," he said.

He also pitched in to help the government solidify its case against Hallinan. Attempting to goad the attorney into self-incrimination, agents had Mancuso phone him, as a tape recorder ran.

"I made millions of dollars in the drug business, and the only one that has any of the money left is you," Mancuso said, and then launched into a tirade.

"I'll guarantee you that I'll cause you to go through the same kind of shit that I've come through," he said, barely pausing to catch his breath, "and I don't care what I have to say, and I'm gonna get up there, and I'm gonna tell the truth, and I've been protecting you, and if you can't see that for yourself by now . . . then you're gonna have some big trouble and you're gonna be sorry, Patrick."

"You're -- you're -- that's just blackmail, Ciro," Hallinan said.

Later, the lawyer confided in a friend, "These guys want to see if they can get me, and they can't get me because I haven't done anything."

Hallinan was arrested at his home in Marin County on Aug. 4, 1993. Free on bail, he has spent most of the last 18 months preparing for his trial.

Incredibly, the 60-year-old attorney will be the first defendant in the vast conspiracy case ever to face a jury. As many as 70 others have been convicted, all by pleading guilty to the weight of evidence.

The prosecution has lined up several witnesses against the lawyer, most of them former clients, who have systematically betrayed one another in hopes of getting a break. Although a few conspirators have been given stiff prison terms, some, like Mancuso, are out walking around. Behind them, the pipeline is full of other unsentenced defendants who now have a stake in the outcome of Hallinan's trial, which is scheduled to begin January 26. After pleading guilty to the charges, they must cooperate fully with the prosecution and testify convincingly if they are to get any leniency.

"With the jail terms these guys faced, they'd have sold out their own mothers if necessary," Degen said. "They knew from the beginning that they faced life. And now look at the results. None are in prison and some will never be tried. Nice deal, huh?" -----

MANCUSO'S SCHEME

Money Laundering

Ciro Mancuso told government investigators that Patrick Hallinan hatched a scheme to help him launder drug money. Authorities say the lawyer engineered the sale of a hacienda Mancuso owned in Guadalajara, Mexico, after inflating the value from \$60,000 to \$280,000, on the assumption that the U.S. government would not know the difference.

Mancuso said he enlisted his old marijuana supplier in Mexico to become the buyer, and a confederate flew the cash from Nevada to Guadalajara, where it was deposited in a Mexican bank after the deal closed.

Concerned that the Internal Revenue Service would freeze Mancuso's bank accounts, Hallinan proposed depositing the laundered funds in his own account, according to government documents, and the payment was wired from the Mexican bank to the lawyer's account in San Francisco.

Over the next year, Hallinan doled out the money to Mancuso, agents said. The smuggler reported the sale of the property to the IRS and paid the capital gains tax. ----- WHERE THE SMUGGLERS ARE TODAY

This snapshot of the Tahoe crowd that formed the nucleus of the smuggling ring appeared in The Chronicle on Tuesday. From the left, this is what has happened to them: Brad Stockman invested his marijuana proceeds in real estate, opened a brokerage account with Dean Witter and cultivated an interest in Western American art. In December 1990, he was sentenced to federal prison for four years after pleading guilty to conspiracy, tax evasion and money smuggling. Considered a minor player by the government, he is one of the few in the inner circle who has served his time and come out a free man. Jim Vallier served 16 months, preferring to take his punishment rather than betray his friends. That wasn't good enough for the government, which later indicted him on charges of obstructing justice and criminal contempt because he wouldn't testify before the grand jury. Faced with going back to prison, he began to cooperate. Jeff Welch, whose job was to manage the stash houses, has been free on bail since his arrest in 1989. He has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with the government as he awaits sentencing. Ciro Mancuso pleaded guilty in 1990 to operating a continuing criminal enterprise and evading taxes, offenses that carry a minimum prison term of 10 years. Sentencing has been postponed pending the outcome of the Hallinan case. He served 15 months in the Washoe County Jail before he was released to work for the government in an "operational capacity" -- gathering evidence for other prosecutions. Brian Degen took his family to Switzerland before he was indicted in 1989. Swiss authorities imprisoned him in the Alpine city of Sion for nearly two years while investigating allegations that he violated their laws. Released last October, he is now managing a restaurant. Degen still faces racketeering charges in the United States. Not pictured: Marcus Zybach, the skipper of the Drifter, is said to have grossed \$1 million annually for several years, either as a boat captain or investor. Today, he is serving a 10-year sentence at the federal prison in Florence, Colo., stripped of as much of his wealth as the government could find.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: Ciro Mancuso was taking a shower in his \$2 million Squaw Valley home when authorities barged in on Oct. 25, 1989 / SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

SACRAMENTO IN REVIEW; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 21, 1995. pg. A.15

Abstract (Summary)

THE GOVERNOR -- BILLS SIGNED Addresses -- Restricts access to the addresses of people arrested for crimes and their victims to those who can show scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purpose; SB1059; Peace, D-El Cajon. Bicycles -- Further defines a bicycle to include motorized bicycles equipped with a motor that has the power output of less than 1,000 watts and is capable of propelling the bicycle only to speeds of less than 20 miles per hour; AB5101; Bordonaro, R-San Luis Obispo.

Credit Cards -- Requires all state agencies to accept credit cards for payments; AB1374; Speier, D-Burlingame.

Domestic Violence -- Authorizes Municipal Court judges to issue temporary restraining orders in domestic violence cases when relief cannot quickly be obtained from a Superior Court judge; AB935; Speier, D-Burlingame.

Full Text (767 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 21, 1995

Compiled from Associated Press reports and material from the governor's office.

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Highlights of recent legislative action at the Capitol.

THE GOVERNOR -- BILLS SIGNED Addresses -- Restricts access to the addresses of people arrested for crimes and their victims to those who can show scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purpose; SB1059; Peace, D-El Cajon. Bicycles -- Further defines a bicycle to include motorized bicycles equipped with a motor that has the power output of less than 1,000 watts and is capable of propelling the bicycle only to speeds of less than 20 miles per hour; AB5101; Bordonaro, R-San Luis Obispo.

Credit Cards -- Requires all state agencies to accept credit cards for payments; AB1374; Speier, D-Burlingame.

Crime -- Makes a person convicted of an aggravated white-collar crime subject to two to five additional years in prison plus restitution costs in addition to the current penalty; SB950; Killea, I-San Diego.

Domestic Violence -- Authorizes Municipal Court judges to issue temporary restraining orders in domestic violence cases when relief cannot quickly be obtained from a Superior Court judge; AB935; Speier, D-Burlingame.

Domestic Violence -- Requires specified peace officers to complete an updated course on domestic violence every two years; SB132; Watson, D-Los Angeles.

Drunk Driving -- Prevents people charged with second-degree murder in drunken driving cases from using their intoxication as a defense; SB121; Thompson, D-St. Helena.

Earthquake Insurance -- Offers a "bare bones" earthquake insurance policy to provide coverage of a primary dwelling only, not including structures such as swimming pools, with content coverage limited to \$5,000 or 10 percent of loss; AB1366; Knowles, R-Placerville.

Gender -- Makes it illegal for businesses to charge different prices for services based solely on the customer's gender; AB1100; Speier, D-Burlingame.

HIV -- Requires health care providers to offer an HIV test and counseling to pregnant patients; SB889; Leslie, R-Carnelian Bay.

Jurors -- Requires that the records of personal identifying information of jurors be sealed at the conclusion of a criminal jury trial; SB508; Campbell, R-Stanford.

Oil -- Makes public utility pipeline corporations liable for damages caused by crude oil leaking from specified pipelines; AB1868; Katz.

Prostitution -- Makes it a misdemeanor to loiter in a public place with the intent to commit drug offenses or prostitution; AB1035; Katz.

Schools -- Requires the expulsion of students who possess guns, brandish knives or sell drugs at school; SB966; Johnston, D-Stockton.

Schools -- Requires students expelled for possession of a gun to be out for at least one year; AB49; Hawkins, R-Bellflower.

Schools -- Makes it illegal to use school district or community college district funds, supplies or equipment to support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate; SB82; Kopp, I-San Francisco.

Smog Check -- Authorizes a one-time, 12-month economic hardship extension for vehicles that do not meet emission control standards; AB63; Katz, D-Panorama City.

Social Workers -- Removes civil immunity for social workers who commit perjury, fabricate evidence, fail to disclose evidence or obtain testimony by duress, if any of these acts are committed with malice; AB1355; Knowles, R-Cameron Park.

Straw -- Establishes safety guidelines for the use of baled straw in construction; AB1314; Sher, D-Palo Alto.

Television -- Prohibits common interest homeowners associations from placing unreasonable restrictions on the installation of small satellite dishes; AB104; Hauser, D-Arcata.

Testing -- Creates a new statewide student assessment test; AB265; Alpert, D-Coronado.

Vote -- Allows a voter who has moved within a county but has not re-registered to vote at the new polling place with proof of residency; AB1713; McPherson, R-Santa Cruz.

Water -- Requires local planners to consider water availability when looking at proposed developments; SB901; Costa, D-Fresno.

-- BILLS VETOED Campaigns -- Would have required advertisements for statewide ballot measures to disclose the major contributors, or the top two major contributors when there are multiple contributors; SB198; Kopp, I-San Francisco.

Contraceptives -- Would have required health care service plans that provide outpatient prescription drug benefits to include coverage for FDA-approved prescription contraceptive methods; AB1101; Speier, D-Burlingame.

Hastings -- Would have added a student representative to the 11-member board of directors of the Hastings College of Law; SB1062; Marks, D-San Francisco.

Marijuana -- Would have allowed AIDS, cancer, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis patients, with doctor approval, to grow and possess marijuana; AB1529; Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara.

Prisons -- Would have required prison officials to transport inmates released from the Security Housing Unit at Pelican Bay State Prison to the prison nearest their county of parole; AB133; Hauser, D-Arcata.

Violence -- Would have eliminated the fee that local law enforcement agencies can charge for service of civil domestic violence restraining orders; SB187; Hayden, D-Santa Monica.

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San Francisco Chronicle

North Coast Resumes Its Habitual Harvest / Marijuana increasingly vital to economy; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 7, 1996. pg. A.13

Abstract (Summary)

Here in the "Emerald Triangle," maple leaves aren't the only thing that turns color in the fall. So do the region's thousands of marijuana plants, their resin-laden buds changing from vibrant green to multiple hues of crimson, gold and violet -- to people here, the colors of money.

Despite more than 10 years of effort, narcotics agents have been unable to substantially reduce the amount of highly aromatic, high-quality "skunk weed" -- as it is popularly known -- that comes out of the rugged mountains of Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties.

But most of the money was restored at the eleventh hour, said California Bureau of Narcotics agent Walt Kaiser, the operations commander for CAMP. Growers' dreams of a peaceful and profitable harvest came to an abrupt end as helicopters and heavily armed agents were once again dispatched throughout the North Coast.

Full Text (1169 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 7, 1996

It's autumn on the North Coast. Every night, Canada geese fly high overhead on their southward migration, honking mournfully. And every day, the skies buzz with unmarked helicopters, searching for contraband.

Here in the "Emerald Triangle," maple leaves aren't the only thing that turns color in the fall. So do the region's thousands of marijuana plants, their resin-laden buds changing from vibrant green to multiple hues of crimson, gold and violet -- to people here, the colors of money.

Despite more than 10 years of effort, narcotics agents have been unable to substantially reduce the amount of highly aromatic, high-quality "skunk weed" -- as it is popularly known -- that comes out of the rugged mountains of Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties.

By the estimate of most locals, ~~pot is the essential cornerstone of the area's economy~~ With the collapse of the timber industry, jobs have never been scarcer, North Coast residents say. Without cannabis, people would lose their homes.

So growers were heartened last year by reports that the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP), a federal and state law enforcement coalition, would lose 30 percent of its funding for the 1996 season.

Plantings apparently increased in anticipation of a harvest untroubled by helicopter sorties and camouflaged narcotics agents skulking through the woods.

But most of the money was restored at the eleventh hour, said California Bureau of Narcotics agent Walt Kaiser, the operations commander for CAMP. Growers' dreams of a peaceful and profitable harvest came to an abrupt end as helicopters and heavily armed agents were once again dispatched throughout the North Coast.

"It's been an extremely busy year for us," said Kaiser. "More marijuana than ever appears to be planted. So far we've confiscated 82,000 plants and have made 60 arrests. That compares with last year's figure for this time of 74,000 plants and 60 arrests."

Kaiser said he has no idea how much of the North Coast's marijuana crop CAMP confiscates, but knowledgeable locals say the figure is probably between 10 percent and 20 percent.

"The scene has changed completely," said one grower who goes by the pseudonym of Armand. "In the '80s, you had people growing hundreds or even thousands of plants. Many of them were 'CAMPed' on. But small growers -- people cultivating just a few plants -- are never CAMPed on. And growers have learned to plant back in the trees instead of the meadows to camouflage their crops."

INCREASING ACCEPTABILITY

Armand said marijuana is now a cottage industry that has permeated the community.

"It's not just hippies anymore," he said. "It's grannies, loggers, Reaganites -- everybody grows a little pot. It's a way to pay the mortgage, to buy clothes for your kids."

Bonnie Blackberry, a Garberville resident who tracks CAMP activities, agreed with Armand that pot cultivation has crossed all social lines in the county.

"Ranchers and loggers are growing it now -- people who wouldn't have thought about it a few years ago," said Blackberry. "People can't find work, and they're growing pot to stay off the streets."

The years of CAMP pressure have not only changed the size and configuration of outdoor plantations -- they've also driven much of the cultivation indoors. Using highly sophisticated lighting arrangements, some growers are able to harvest up to three crops a year from indoor "farms."

"Indoor growing has mushroomed, due mainly to pressure on outdoor cultivators," said Armand.

Armand said that widespread indoor cultivation has stabilized the wholesale price of high-grade California weed to between \$4,000 and \$4,500 a pound and made it available year-round.

"A few years ago, you could only get California pot for a few weeks following the harvest," said Armand. "Now you can buy it every month of the year."

CAMP operations must be approved annually through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CAMP and each county's Board of Supervisors.

SHIFTING POLITICS

But the fact that CAMP has done little to curtail pot availability has piqued some local authorities. Until a couple of years ago, county approval was strictly a rubber-stamp process. No longer.

John Pinches, a Mendocino County supervisor and a fifth generation Laytonville rancher, has voted against approving the memorandum for each of the last two years -- the only supervisor on the four-person board to do so.

"All CAMP does is prop up the price for marijuana," said Pinches. "The illegality of pot is the problem, not the fact that some people smoke it. If tomatoes were \$5,000 a pound, you'd have criminal problems associated with them as well."

Pinches also said he is outraged that taxpayer dollars are spent on marijuana eradication efforts while local programs go begging.

"My (town's) high school gymnasium is condemned," he said. "The kids have no place to play -- but we have taxpayer money to fund helicopter flyovers at \$1,000 an hour."

Pinches said he thinks 1996 will be the last year for CAMP in Mendocino County.

"My fellow supervisors have educated themselves sufficiently on this, and I believe they'll vote with me next time," he said.

That will be none too soon for many Emerald Triangle residents, who feel unfairly persecuted by CAMP agents.

"We've had more than 30 substantive complaints this year about CAMP activities," said Ed Denson of the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project in Redway, a group that keeps track of marijuana eradication efforts in southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties.

Denson said the complaints range from simple carping about helicopter noise to pending lawsuits against narcotics agents for allegedly terrorizing local citizens.

CAMP OPPOSITION GROWS

Hannah Nelson, an attorney with the Pacific Justice Center, said she will file two suits on behalf of clients whose civil rights were allegedly violated by narcotics agents this year.

"One woman learned that CAMP was staging operations from her land," said Nelson. "When she went there with her two sons to ask them to leave, some agents approached her with drawn weapons. She took photos of them pointing guns at her and her children. When she asked them to go, they refused, saying they were the government and could do what they want."

Though local police and deputies acknowledge that opposition to marijuana eradication efforts is becoming more pronounced, they vow they will continue to pursue cultivators -- at least for a while.

"(Humboldt County) just got a three-year federal grant to fight cultivation, so I think we'll be doing it for at least that long," said Humboldt County Sheriff's Deputy Leonard Lund, who works with both CAMP and the department's local marijuana eradication team.

"That's assuming the grant isn't suddenly cut, of course," Lund added. "Funding is getting more and more questionable."

Lund said deputies have a decent rapport with local marijuana advocates and CAMP monitors, despite the frictions that exist.

"We have (our) differences, but that's to be expected," he said. "I think eradication opponents are becoming more vocal, but I don't think there's been a major shift in public opinion. Most people around here support what we do."

[Illustration]

MAP; Caption: CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

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San Francisco Chronicle

Prop. 215 Attacked in U.S. Senate / Stricter enforcement of federal pot laws urged; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext)**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 3, 1996. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

A counterattack against California's controversial "medical marijuana" law began on Capitol Hill yesterday, with lawmakers calling for stepped-up enforcement of federal drug statutes to blunt the impact of the ballot measure.

A U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the law opened on the eve of a meeting today in Sacramento of state Department of Justice agents, county district attorneys, county sheriffs and municipal police to devise strategies for prosecuting marijuana growers.

At the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Washington yesterday, lawmakers vowed to watch the impact of California's medical marijuana initiative -- as well as a similar ballot measure passed in Arizona -- calling them a first step in a well-orchestrated, well-funded plan to legalize drugs in America.

Full Text (726 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Dec 3, 1996

Chronicle wire services contributed to this report.

A counterattack against California's controversial "medical marijuana" law began on Capitol Hill yesterday, with lawmakers calling for stepped-up enforcement of federal drug statutes to blunt the impact of the ballot measure.

A U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the law opened on the eve of a meeting today in Sacramento of state Department of Justice agents, county district attorneys, county sheriffs and municipal police to devise strategies for prosecuting marijuana growers.

"Candidly, we don't know what our options are right now," said Steve Telliano, a spokesman for Attorney General Dan Lungren, who called the meeting. "The law is so open-ended and vague, there are so few specifics, that police and prosecutors are genuinely confused. Anything appears to be possible, but we won't have an idea of where we stand until (the conclusion of the summit)."

At the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Washington yesterday, lawmakers vowed to watch the impact of California's medical marijuana initiative -- as well as a similar ballot measure passed in Arizona -- calling them a first step in a well-orchestrated, well-funded plan to legalize drugs in America.

"We can't let this go without a response," Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, declared.

Senator Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., charged that Arizona voters had been hoodwinked into supporting his state's measure by deceptive advertising, and he asked the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to accelerate anti-drug efforts there.

"I believe most of them (voters) were deceived and deliberately so by the sponsors of this proposition," Kyl said. "(The ballot measure) begins a road to destruction of people's lives in this country."

In California, law-enforcement officials meeting today will try to develop strategies that specifically address Proposition 215's vague cultivation clauses.

The initiative states that the seriously ill or their primary caregivers may cultivate marijuana for the patient's personal use. But the term "primary caregiver" is not defined, nor is the amount of pot specified that may be legally grown.

"Everyone is up in the air about this," said Ed Denson, director of the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project, a Humboldt County organization that keeps tabs on police actions against local marijuana growers. "There's so much about the initiative that nobody understands. How many plants can patients grow? Who or what is a caregiver? Can you hire somebody to grow for you? Can there be communal gardens? Nobody has the faintest idea."

Denson said it would be extremely difficult for law enforcement agents to determine the difference between legal and illegal marijuana plots under Proposition 215's language.

RAIDING THE GARDENS

"I assume that they'll continue to raid very large gardens that they see from the air, ones that obviously exceed reasonable limits of the 'personal use' provisions," said Denson. "But what happens when they come across small gardens? Especially ones that have signs on them identifying them as medical marijuana?"

Even Proposition 215's advocates have found themselves in two philosophical camps about marijuana cultivation.

Dennis Peron, the co-writer of Proposition 215 and director of a San Francisco marijuana buyer's club that was raided by state agents August 4, said the passage of the initiative would generally "loosen the bonds" for pot cultivators.

"You're going to see more pot and cheaper pot around," said Peron. "I suspect more people will grow it, for either medical (or recreational) use. What the passage (of 215) shows is that the people of California want a change in legal priorities -- they're saying armed robbery and drive-by shootings deserve more attention than somebody smoking a joint."

But Bill Zimmerman, campaign manager for California for Medical Rights, the lead promotional organization for Proposition 215, strongly disagrees.

NARROW INTERPRETATION

"The voters who approved Proposition 215 were not voting to liberalize laws on the recreational use of marijuana," said Zimmerman. "They were voting to ensure that legitimate medical patients with legitimate recommendations from legitimate physicians would have access to medical marijuana. We think the proposition should be interpreted narrowly to benefit patients and only patients."

Zimmerman warned that an unregulated boom in pot cultivation could harm the medical marijuana movement.

"The people could take away in 1998 what they gave in 1996," said Zimmerman. "If Proposition 215 is ultimately perceived as leading to a substantial increase in recreational marijuana smoking and cultivation, we could very easily see the passage of an initiative that overturns the decriminalization of medical marijuana."

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San Francisco Chronicle

POT MARKET STEADY IN HAIGHT / Prop. 215 passage has little impact on the street; FINAL Edition

Glen Martin, Chronicle Staff Writer. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 9, 1996. pg. A.13

Full Text (914 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Dec 9, 1996

The passage of Proposition 215 has had little effect on the marijuana trade in San Francisco's Haight district, long the heartland of the Bay Area's counterculture. You can still buy it - but it's still expensive, and you'll still get busted if the cops catch you dealing or purchasing it.

If anything, the resinous psychotropic weed is pricier than it was a month ago, when the controversial "medical marijuana" initiative passed.

Proposition 215 made it legal for anyone suffering from a serious illness to use pot with a physician's recommendation. But most of the dope smoking done in the Haight is of the recreational kind, which remains illegal.

Opponents of 215 feared that the measure's passage would make marijuana as easy to get as cigarettes, but Haight Street realities say otherwise. For whatever reason, pot appears to be scarce -- so it's costlier than ever. According to one dealer, prime Humboldt County "skunk weed" is now selling for \$7,000 a pound. The only law that therefore counts here is the law of supply and demand.

"The price of bud has really gone up recently," grouched a self-described "American hippie" who goes by the handle of Fast Ed. "I'm on welfare, and I can't afford it now."

Ed said that the measure's passage has done little to reduce police pressure on the Haight's weed enthusiasts.

"It's still the same old story," he said. "Every day (the police) are busting people for \$20 bags. It's ridiculous. I mean, this is the Haight -- pot smoking is a tradition here."

Some Haight denizens who should benefit from Proposition 215 complained that the measure's passage has done nothing to improve pot availability or pricing.

"I'm HIV-positive, I have a written physician's recommendation, and I'm a card-carrying member of the Cannabis Buyer's Club," a San Francisco outlet that distributed marijuana to ill people before it was raided on August 4, said William Holic, a Haight resident who wore tattered overalls and an impressive assortment of talismans around his neck.

"It's legal now, but where is it?" asked Holic. "I can't find any legal outlets that will sell it to me. It was easier when it was illegal. Now everyone is so concerned about making sure their paperwork is in order that the only place you can get it is on the street -- and the supply is extremely tight."

A clean-cut Marin resident lurking at the corner of Haight and Ashbury said he came to the district two or three times a week to buy a bag of bud for his insomnia.

"It's here, but it's way expensive," he said. "I really need it. If I don't smoke a little before I go to bed, I can't sleep. Sominex gives me a hangover. I wish there was some place to go where I could just pick it up legally and get the hell out. I don't like all these hippies -- I'm a Republican from Georgia."

After making a few discreet inquiries, the Georgia Republican finally connected. He purchased a tiny plastic bag containing about 1.5 grams of marijuana.

"I didn't get a very good deal," he said with a sigh as he poked the crumbly dried leaves with a forefinger. "I paid \$22 instead of \$20, and I was hoping for a big old crusty bud. I got shake (loose leaves and flowers) instead -- it's good shake, though. I'm gonna go back to Mill Valley and fire up a pipe and watch the `Simpsons.'

"My wife doesn't like it when I smoke because she says it makes me stop worrying about money," he said. "But I say, `Honey, I make \$300 a day, here's the money, I'll worry more about it tomorrow.' The fact is, I gotta relax a little when I get home."

While the sentiment on the street overwhelmingly favors Proposition 215 despite its apparent lack of current impact, not everyone welcomes the idea of decriminalized marijuana, medical or otherwise.

"We loved it when they busted that buyer's club," said one street dealer. "It sent everybody up here to us, and it drove prices up. We're making good money."

He looked on approvingly as two beat cops roused Fast Ed and some of his friends for drinking in public.

"That's the only thing that'll stir those drunks up and keep them moving," he said. "It's bad for business when they get rowdy."

At Haight Street's signature retail businesses -- the head shops -- Proposition 215 has likewise left few traces.

"We sell a lot of pipes, but no more than before," said Ken Meade, the manager of Distractions, which purveys a variety of psychedelic gewgaws. "Everybody who was smoking it before 215 is smoking it now."

Meade said the police haven't appreciably changed their tactics during the last month.

"Let's face it, most of the pot smoking on this street is recreational, not medical -- and the police have to enforce the drug laws."

And though his store grosses substantial revenues from the sale of pot paraphernalia, Meade sees some profound benefits to rigorous police patrols.

"There used to be a lot more crack dealers around here than there are now," he said. "Basically, the cops on this street are cool."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) This marijuana bought in the Haight cost more than before Prop. 215's approval, (2) Fast Ed (center) complained that the passage of the medical marijuana initiative hasn't stopped the police from busting users / PHOTOS BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE/THE CHRONICLE

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Club Head Aims At CAMP / Peron wants state to end eradication program; FINAL Edition

Glen Martin, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 3, 1997. pg. A.11

Abstract (Summary)

Still crowing over the passage of the medical-marijuana initiative that he co-wrote, San Francisco Cannabis Cultivator's Club Director Dennis Peron has set his sights on a new target: the state-financed Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

Peron is beginning a lobbying campaign to convince state legislators to kill CAMP, claiming that the program is a waste of taxpayers' money and runs counter to the sentiments of California voters, who passed Proposition 215 in November. The initiative decriminalized the use of marijuana by people who are ill.

"We canvassed our supporters about what could be done to ensure the availability of cheap and pure marijuana to the patients who need it, and the response was overwhelming -- stop the helicopter flyovers and seizures of marijuana in the production areas," said Peron.

Full Text (598 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Feb 3, 1997

Still crowing over the passage of the medical-marijuana initiative that he co-wrote, San Francisco Cannabis Cultivator's Club Director Dennis Peron has set his sights on a new target: the state-financed Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

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"We canvassed our supporters about what could be done to ensure the availability of cheap and pure marijuana to the patients who need it, and the response was overwhelming -- stop the helicopter flyovers and seizures of marijuana in the production areas," said Peron.

But CAMP officials say the program, which annually oversees the destruction of thousands of pot plants in California's rural areas, will continue.

"We anticipate it will be business as usual," said Walt Kaiser, CAMP's operations commander.

"Proposition 215 is an affirmative defense -- but people will have to prove in court that cultivated marijuana was intended for a medical use," said Kaiser. "It doesn't mean we will stop eradicating marijuana, most of which is consumed recreationally."

Peron said a cessation of CAMP raids would drive the cost of high-grade marijuana down from \$500 an ounce to \$100 an ounce.

"Frankly, it would put us out of business if the availability of marijuana increased to that degree," said Peron, who runs the recently reopened Market Street outlet that sells marijuana to people who have physicians' recommendations. "That would be fine by us, though. We aren't here to make money."

Growers, chary of Proposition 215's fuzzy language, are unlikely to plant massive crops this year, say marijuana mavens.

"It's still up in the air if 215 will reduce enforcement," said Ed Denson, director of the Civil Liberties Enforcement Project in Humboldt County, which monitors CAMP activities. "So far, no one has a clue -- so I doubt you'll see boom times up here. CAMP historically focuses on Humboldt County, so if they end up with any money at all, they could still cause problems in this area."

Peron said he will enlist the aid of state Assemblywoman Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, and state Senator John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, in his bid to scotch CAMP.

California's 1997 state budget for marijuana eradication is \$2.6 million, according to Migden, chairwoman of the Assembly's appropriations committee. About \$300,000 of that money is earmarked for CAMP. The rest will be distributed as grants to individual counties to discourage the use of marijuana.

Last year, CAMP's budget was \$480,000. Funds have steadily diminished for the program since 1989.

Migden said CAMP will probably continue to operate, but in a diminished state.

"Much of the money used for CAMP comes from federal funds, and federal funds can't simply be redirected by the state," said Migden. "Certainly, less attention is being paid (to marijuana eradication) -- some of us in the Legislature have enlightened views about marijuana's legitimate uses, and we share Mr. Peron's concerns about the state's interpretation of Proposition 215."

Peron said he would like to see all state pot-eradication money redirected to drug treatment and methamphetamine suppression.

"Methamphetamine is a horrible drug -- it's the real killer," said Peron.

But California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement chief George Doane said the state already has an ambitious methamphetamine suppression program.

"Last year, we had 87 agents who did nothing but work on meth," said Doane. "We had a \$9 million budget, and we broke up 799 labs."

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San Francisco Chronicle

200 Pot Growers Agree to Supply Cannabis Club / State, county officials pledge to prosecute under drug laws; [FINAL Edition]

Dan Levy, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 4, 1997. pg. A.21

Abstract (Summary)

In a new effort to test the legal limits of last year's successful medical marijuana initiative, about 200 pot growers in California have signed a deal to supply San Francisco's Cannabis Cultivators Club with thousands of pounds of high-quality dope.

San Francisco club officials said the agreements, reached over the past two months between the group and independent pot growers in Mendocino, Humboldt and other northern counties, will provide its 4,000 members with marijuana that is cheaper than what they currently use to help relieve pain.

"It's business as usual," said Humboldt County Sheriff's Sergeant Steve Knight. "We've been instructed from our district attorney that a contract with the San Francisco cannabis club is not going to prevent us from taking the marijuana and arresting the person for cultivation or possession for sale."

Full Text (574 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Apr 4, 1997

In a new effort to test the legal limits of last year's successful medical marijuana initiative, about 200 pot growers in California have signed a deal to supply San Francisco's Cannabis Cultivators Club with thousands of pounds of high-quality dope.

San Francisco club officials said the agreements, reached over the past two months between the group and independent pot growers in Mendocino, Humboldt and other northern counties, will provide its 4,000 members with marijuana that is cheaper than what they currently use to help relieve pain.

State and local law enforcement authorities immediately announced that cannabis club "contracts" will not shield pot growers from prosecution under drug laws.

Mendocino County Sheriff Jim Tuso yesterday released details of a huge marijuana seizure in Boonville last month. The total take of 108,918 plants was the largest pot bust in county history.

"It's business as usual," said Humboldt County Sheriff's Sergeant Steve Knight. "We've been instructed from our district attorney that a contract with the San Francisco cannabis club is not going to prevent us from taking the marijuana and arresting the person for cultivation or possession for sale."

With the statewide passage of Proposition 215 in November, marijuana use for medical purposes was decriminalized. The measure also allowed cannabis to be grown by the "primary caregiver," who may then give the marijuana to sick people and still be exempt from prosecution.

The language of the cannabis club contracts "assign" caregiver rights to pot growers, who are restricted to a 49-plant yield. The club is planning to reimburse the growers for production costs.

Yesterday, the club said demand for medical marijuana is skyrocketing. Another 4,000 patients -- with maladies ranging from cancer and AIDS to "anxiety" and "stomach aches" -- are expected to join the club within the next two months, said legislative advocate John Entwistle.

Entwistle downplayed the harsh reaction from law enforcement officials in Mendocino and Humboldt.

"To the extent that some grower decides to use this contract as a shield to peddle marijuana irresponsibly, I say 'hang 'em,'" Entwistle said. "But I think the sheriff might benefit from coming to the club to see our members. He'd be moved by the humanity of their situation and the enormity of their need."

Legal experts said the contracts are treading in a gray area of the law.

"Having such contracts is clearly pushing the envelope," said Allen St. Pierre, deputy director of Washington, D.C.'s National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws. "I think the people of California voted to give doctors the authority to recommend cannabis to sick or dying persons."

Dave Fratello, spokesman for Americans for Medical Rights in Santa Monica, the group that sponsored Proposition 215, said the move was simply a way to publicly address how the marijuana is to be supplied to patients and cannabis clubs.

"This looks like an effort to bring the supply above ground, and we applaud that" Fratello said. "For people who have a problem with these contracts, we advise them to lean on the federal government to reschedule marijuana."

Pot is currently classified along with heroin and LSD as a Schedule I drug, regarded as having no medical use. Fratello's group advocates moving it to Schedule II, with drugs such as cocaine and morphine, that do have a medical use.

State Attorney General Dan Lungren, who achieved widespread attention when his agents busted the San Francisco club last year, was not available for comment.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Harrelson Stretches to Make a Point / Actor apologizes for Golden Gate tie-up; [FINAL Edition]

RUTHE STEIN, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 30, 1997. pg. E.1

Abstract (Summary)

Maybe it was because Woody Harrelson was in a peaceful mood after leading a 1 1/2-hour yoga class in Noe Valley Saturday morning. Or maybe it was that he had been stuck in traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge the night before and realized it's no fun even with the view.

Whatever his reason, Harrelson decided to apologize for the first time for the massive traffic jam he caused last year when he and other demonstrators climbed a Golden Gate Bridge cable with a banner protesting logging in Northern California.

Certainly not anybody who showed up early Saturday at the Frankel Bros. Hemp Outfitters on 24th Street in San Francisco to take a yoga class from Harrelson, a certified instructor. His being there was related to another of his causes. Through his attempts to legalize hemp -- which comes from the same plant as marijuana but contains only a fraction of the psychoactive ingredient that gives marijuana users a high -- Harrelson got to know Dave Frankel.

Full Text (1297 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 30, 1997

Maybe it was because Woody Harrelson was in a peaceful mood after leading a 1 1/2-hour yoga class in Noe Valley Saturday morning. Or maybe it was that he had been stuck in traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge the night before and realized it's no fun even with the view.

Whatever his reason, Harrelson decided to apologize for the first time for the massive traffic jam he caused last year when he and other demonstrators climbed a Golden Gate Bridge cable with a banner protesting logging in Northern California.

"I apologize in the sense that I feel I didn't really think (the protest) through or think what the ramifications would be," the actor said Saturday.

"We were doing what we thought was right, but unfortunately some people got caught in the middle."

Harrelson, who had blamed the Highway Patrol for the traffic mess, said he recently decided he was being "kind of hypocritical. I had no desire to take responsibility for the traffic, but when I heard about the couple (Susan Zitron and Don Woods) who met because of it and are getting married, I wanted to take responsibility for that."

If he had the protest to do over, Harrelson said he would have responded immediately to the Highway Patrol's threat to start closing lanes. "I should have gotten on the radio and talked them out of it."

Harrelson, 35, as Emmy-award winner for his role as the lovable bartender in "Cheers" and an Os car nominee for "The People vs. Larry Flynt," wants it known that he still likes coming to the Bay Area though he's aware that "I alienated some people here and probably some people still harbor a grudge."

Certainly not anybody who showed up early Saturday at the Frankel Bros. Hemp Outfitters on 24th Street in San Francisco to take a yoga class from Harrelson, a certified instructor. His being there was related to another of his

causes. Through his attempts to legalize hemp -- which comes from the same plant as marijuana but contains only a fraction of the psychoactive ingredient that gives marijuana users a high -- Harrelson got to know Dave Frankel.

"Dave is my lawyer. I get in so much trouble all the time, it seems like I have a whole wealth of lawyers, but as far as hemp goes, Dave's the one," said Harrelson, who was charged earlier this year with growing hemp in Kentucky.

When Frankel and his brother Bob wanted to open a store specializing in clothes made of hemp (because it's illegal to grow it here, all the fabric must be imported), Harrelson gave them money and said he would come to the grand opening over the weekend and also chatted with people in the neighborhood. "Woody has never failed to keep a promise to us," said Dave Frankel. "He's really a good person."

Arriving 45 minutes late, Harrelson, dressed in sweats and a T-shirt emblazoned with an upside down cow (which had something to do with a protest against milk), he disarmed everyone in the class by saying, "I have no excuse -- I'm just an a-- ." He immediately got the 15 yoga students, chosen through a lottery at the store and a KFOG radio promotion, taking deep breaths and long stretches.

When a woman came in after all the exercise mats had been taken, he gave her his and worked out on the hard floor.

Harrelson demonstrated some contorted positions, including squatting down with his feet facing out, but he wasn't a tough taskmaster. "Hey, if it's too much for you, don't sweat it," he said at one point.

He walked around the room to make sure everyone had their fingers locked properly behind their backs. "Get your hands up higher," he told one woman, adjusting her long ponytail to get it out of the way.

After putting them through what he called "my hardest stretch," he had them exhale with a big sigh. "One of the meanings of compassion is shared pain, so let's all share our pain," Harrelson said.

The session ended with everyone in a big circle chanting "Om," after which Harrelson signed their exercise mats.

"The class was much more intense than I'm used to," said Karin Conn, who has been studying yoga for years. "It was a joy to take it with Woody and hear all his silly interjections."

Sipping a vegan smoothie, Harrelson said one of the appeals of yoga is to get him to relax. "I've got miles to go."

His activism is a major cause of stress. "I'd much prefer to hang out in Costa Rica on a beach with my family," said Harrelson, who has a 1-year-old and a 4-year-old daughter with girlfriend Laura Louie.

But he genuinely believes in the causes he supports and hopes that his celebrity status will call attention to them. "I don't consider being a celebrity is good only to get into restaurants," he said.

However, Harrelson doesn't want to be at the center of controversy, "Far be it from me to actually shut my mouth. But I do realize that after a while people finally get tired of hearing from you. I may be approaching that point or I may already have exceeded it."

As far as he knows, his causes haven't hurt him in Hollywood "but it's not like someone tells you that's why you're not hired." He is getting more movie roles than he ever expected to. This fall, he'll be seen playing a journalist assigned to Bosnia in "Welcome to Sarajevo." He just finished "Palmetto, a film noir with Elisabeth Shue and is off to Australia to be in "A Thin Red Line," the first movie Terrence Malick has made since "Days of Heaven" almost 20 years ago.

"Now there's a guy who's really relaxed. That's why he couldn't stay in Hollywood," Harrelson said. -----
----- WOODY JUST KEEPS GETTIN' INTO MISCHIEF

Woody Harrelson is turning into the Peck's Bad Boy of Hollywood. The actor can't seem to stay out of trouble. Here are some of his delinquencies, big and small:

-- February 1991: Harrelson loses his place as a Mardi Gras grand marshal after being spotted supporting a California rally against the Persian Gulf War. -- September 1993: Filming "The Cowboy Way" in New Mexico, Harrelson is supposed to run out of a house wearing only cowboy boots and a cowboy hat covering his privates. On the third take, he intentionally drops his hat.

-- December 1993: A 60-foot billboard goes up over Times Square to promote "The Cowboy Way." It shows the well-endowed Harrelson in just a cowboy hat and skintight Calvin Klein briefs -- a parody of the Marky Mark Calvin ads.

-- June 1996: Harrelson is charged with illegally growing hemp on a plot he owns in Kentucky. He maintains that he planted the seeds to challenge the state's anti-marijuana law for not distinguishing between drug-grade marijuana and the low-THC variety of the plant.

-- November 1996: Harrelson is arrested for climbing a Golden Gate Bridge cable with a banner protesting the logging of redwoods in Humboldt County. The protest ties up traffic on the bridge for hours.

-- March 1997: When Larry Flynt can't get a ticket to the Oscar ceremony, Harrelson, who plays him in "The People vs. Larry Flynt," takes the controversial publisher as his guest -- though many in Hollywood would just as soon not see Flynt there.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Woody Harrelson's famous Golden Gate Bridge climb / 1996 FILE PHOTO, (2) Woody Harrelson led a yoga class at a Noe Valley hemp clothing store / BY SAM DEANER/THE CHRONICLE, (3) Woody Harrelson, a certified yoga instructor, helped out his lawyer, Dave Frankel, by giving a class at Frankel's store / BY SAM DEANER/THE CHRONICLE

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Subjects: Actors, Demonstrations & protests, Personal profiles, FOREST PRODUCTS, BIOGRAPHY, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

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San Francisco Chronicle

Rainbow Gathering Returns / A bemused Oregon watches flower children blossom at '60s lovefest; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 4, 1997. pg. A.3

Abstract (Summary)

One look at this year's Rainbow Gathering and even the crustiest skeptic will agree that the '60s didn't die in 1970.

It's all here: the tie-dyed clothes, the reek of patchouli and pot, the body paint, the mud wallows, the shouts of "peace" and "love," the mongrel dogs with bandannas around their necks, the blissed-out smiles, the drug ODs, the dysentery and the macrobiotic grub.

This is the annual gathering of the Rainbow Family -- a loose-knit confederation of aging relics from the '60s, young neo-hippies and unorthodox religious adherents ranging from the Hare Krishnas to tree-worshipping pagans. The event runs until July 10.

Full Text (1272 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jul 4, 1997

One look at this year's Rainbow Gathering and even the crustiest skeptic will agree that the '60s didn't die in 1970.

It's all here: the tie-dyed clothes, the reek of patchouli and pot, the body paint, the mud wallows, the shouts of "peace" and "love," the mongrel dogs with bandannas around their necks, the blissed-out smiles, the drug ODs, the dysentery and the macrobiotic grub.

No wonder it looks like so much fun.

A city of tepees, backpacking tents and log lean-tos is rising here on this sub-alpine meadow in the middle of the Ochoco National Forest. It is expected to reach a peak population of 20,000 citizens in the next couple of days.

This is the annual gathering of the Rainbow Family -- a loose-knit confederation of aging relics from the '60s, young neo-hippies and unorthodox religious adherents ranging from the Hare Krishnas to tree-worshipping pagans. The event runs until July 10.

SPECIAL POIGNANCY

The gathering is invested with special poignancy for participants, falling on the 30th anniversary of San Francisco's Summer of Love -- generally regarded as the period when the counterculture really took off.

The first Rainbow Gathering was held in 1972 in Colorado. Since then, the family has staged celebrations each year in national forests.

For the past several years, gathering sites have been in the South or East. That has kept West Coast members from attending in force.

"For some reason, western brothers and sisters don't like to travel east, but eastern brothers and sisters love going west," said one participant as he tested various rhythms on a drum.

The Rainbow Family is ecumenical in its approach. Criteria for membership are minimal.

"All that's required is a belly button," said one Rainbow "brother."

HORROR OF `BABYLON'

It also helps, of course, if you esteem marijuana and psilocybin mushrooms and express a horror of "Babylon" -- the outside world of 40-hour workweeks, strip malls and food products derived from animals.

News of the events is disseminated by word-of-mouth -- and in the past couple of years, on the Internet.

"Just think of this as a finishing school for hippies," said Tim Freebird, a Rainbow veteran from Arkansas who serves as a liaison between the family and outsiders.

Freebird, a tall, raw-boned man with a craggy face and bristling beard, said that Babylon persists in its efforts to derail Rainbow gatherings.

"The Forest Service has been trying to stop us for years, though there's not much they can do when 10,000 people decide to show up someplace," he said. "And we've been hassled pretty bad by the cops at times, particularly in New Mexico and Florida."

About 35 miles away in Prineville, locals seem more bemused than frightened by the hordes of Rainbow members trooping through town on their way to the gathering.

"Other than being dirty and stinky, I guess they're not too bad," drawled Ron Loyd, manager of the Prineville Pizza Hut.

"We had a few problems," said Loyd. "Nine of them came in here and tried to feed everybody off two all-you-can eat salad bar dinners. And some other guys were bathing in my rest-room sink. I had to put a stop to that."

Oregon State Police and Forest Service special agents are monitoring the event.

"It's been pretty quiet for us," said state police captain Dennis Dougherty. "Nothing in the way of major incidents."

REMOTE SITE

Pulling off a successful gathering is hardly a cinch. Everything from food to tepees has to be hauled to this remote site, which is only partly accessible by road.

Many of the younger hangers-on who come to scarf free food, smoke free dope and sit naked in the sun strumming their guitars are nonplussed when they find themselves drafted for hard labor such as splitting firewood and digging slit latrines.

"They find out pretty quick that participating in the crucial work of the gathering is what it's all about," said Thumper, the prime mover behind Morningstar, one of the many kitchens set up around the site.

The kitchens are the focal points of the gathering. They churn out an impressive quantity of vegetarian pizzas, beans, soup, fried rice and fruit cobblers, all cooked on stoves built on the spot with dirt, rocks, 55-gallon drums and other found materials. The food isn't exactly superabundant -- mealtimes are fairly fixed, and a lot of people wander around looking hollow-eyed and hungry. Still, everybody gets fed.

"This is what I was born to do," said Thumper, as he supervised a crew sawing firewood with a formidably sharp crosscut whipsaw. "Ten years ago, I was a civil engineer with a suit and tie and a live-in girlfriend. I was dying of boredom. So one day I quit it all and never looked back. I have my bus, my friends and about \$5,000 a year from some investments. That's all I need."

Covered head to toe with a thin layer of meadow loam, Thumper freely admitted that life as a Rainbow road warrior can be tough.

"Let's face it, sometimes it sucks," he said. "I like a shower every day. Right now, that's not possible. But I'm an engineer. I'll have something rigged up that will give me a hot shower before the gathering ends."

TENT CITY STRATIFICATION

While Rainbow members are extremely cordial to each other, they still stratify when it comes to pitching tents. Hard-core street alcoholics have their own camp, as do gays, Hare Krishnas and various regional clans. Teenagers cluster in the appropriately named Barbarian Camp.

The most meticulously maintained camp is Kid's Village, where families with young children camp. The kids kitchen serves the best and most plenteous food, and the hygienic standards are of the highest order. A wide meadow is reserved for the use by youngsters, where they romp under the watchful eyes of monitors.

Of course, conflict occurs in even the most loving of families. One woman took umbrage when her friend's dog defecated in her "power circle" -- a consecrated spot believed by some to harness the beneficent energy of Mother Earth.

"Bunny," she carped to her friend, who was wandering nearby looking at the wildflowers, "My circle is desecrated. You've got to clean it up."

Bunny, focusing resolutely on the blooms, seemed disinclined to undertake such a task. Grumbling, the woman marched off to find a place for a new power circle.

HIGH POINT

The high point of the gathering occurs at noon today, when members will hold hands in a huge circle around the site's central meadow and chant `Om.' Family members believe such rituals help heal the pollution-ravaged earth.

After that comes more dancing and drum-beating -- and cleanup. Family members pride themselves on leaving their sites in immaculate condition.

"The ovens will be torn down, the meadows will be reseeded -- you won't find a single cigarette butt lying around," said Freebird.

Everyone will then return with varying degrees of reluctance to their old lives.

"Dude, the only thing I miss about Babylon is the movies," said one kid to his friend as they smoked a fat joint. "I'm going to watch a lot of 'em when I get back down there."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3), MAP; Caption: PHOTO: (1) SING-ALONG: Eric Lockwood, a Hare Krishna from Arcata in Humboldt County, belted out tunes with fellow hippies, (2) FLOWER CHILD: A young girl played in the meadow at the Kid's Village camp, (3) WAITING FOR GRUB: Mason, a 4-year-old who attended the annual Rainbow Gathering in Oregon's Ochoco National Forest, checked out the pizza bagels baked in Joe Radabaugh's solar oven / PHOTOS BY SUSIE MING HWA CHU/THE CHRONICLE, MAP: CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

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San Francisco Chronicle

CANYON / The hidden community provides a peaceful oasis; [FINAL Edition]

Chris Lavin, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 5, 1997. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

[Elena] Tyrrell would know if anybody did. She grew up in Canyon with her six sisters, and as acting postmaster of the Canyon Post Office, she sees just about everyone, just about every day. There are no labeled roads, so those who want mail rent a box at the post office. Fees start at \$1 a month.

Of the dozens of communities sprinkled throughout the East Bay, Canyon is likely the most hidden. Bicyclists whizzing through on curving Pinehurst Road can see only a couple of the community's 100 or so houses, and the post office and elementary school are the only public buildings. Since Canyon's general store burned down in 1969, you can't buy so much as a can of soda, although you can buy stamps. The Bugs Bunny 32-centers have proved quite popular.

Canyon is three miles from Oakland's Skyline Boulevard, and two from Moraga. Even so, a drive through the unincorporated Contra Costa County community feels like a trip through a village in Humboldt or Mendocino counties. Towering redwoods prevent the sun from heating up the trails and rooftops, and the cool air smells of moss. San Leandro Creek bounces noisily along Pinehurst and through the school playground, making rain boots mandatory attire for the school's 78 students. They share a propensity to rush into the creek in search of agates, especially after a rainstorm.

Full Text (1436 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 5, 1997

In a story in last week's Friday section about the community of Canyon, the amount of the most recent real estate transaction was incorrect. The house sold for \$160,000. (09/12/97, P. 2 (CONTRA COSTA FRIDAY))

It happens mysteriously, by night. With the single, solid punch of a staple gun, another Polar Bear Journal goes up on the Canyon community bulletin board outside the post office, beneath a giant redwood tree, to flutter in the wind.

No one seems to know why it's called the Polar Bear Journal (although it is white). No one understands its purpose. (April's issue explored singer Pat Boone's faux tattoos, while July's offered a one-page encapsulation of the Bible.) And most important, no one seems to know who writes it.

"That is something," said Elena Tyrrell, who runs Canyon's post office, "that a lot of people would like to know."

Tyrrell would know if anybody did. She grew up in Canyon with her six sisters, and as acting postmaster of the Canyon Post Office, she sees just about everyone, just about every day. There are no labeled roads, so those who want mail rent a box at the post office. Fees start at \$1 a month.

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Inside the post office, burnished wood signs mark the two mail slots, for "Local" and "Out of Town." A good four or five letters drop through the local slot each day, Tyrrell said.

"Mainly payments to the local mechanic, or the local house cleaner," she said. "Everybody here knows everybody else."

Such familiarity and isolation have conspired to form a loyal cadre, a place where the polar bear journalist can live alongside say, a staunch agnostic. Those who pay dues to the National Rifle Association live beside members of the Sierra Club, and occasionally everybody sits down and shares a pot of coffee.

"When you're shaking a man's hand, he can't hit you with it," George Menge, 79, is fond of saying.

Until recently, for instance, Menge simply hauled out a gun and shot the feral cats that dared to come around his house, a cabin with many additions that the original 1913 structure has disappeared. Then Corene Martin, who has lived in Canyon for 15 years, enticed him to stop.

"I just said, 'George, please don't do that. Let me trap the cats and take them in to be fixed.' And he said, 'All right, Corene, I guess I'm getting softer in my old age, anyway,'" said Martin, a Sierra Club newsletter peeking out of her bicycle basket. And that was that.

"This is a safe place," Martin said. She watched her two young children tear away from the school's swing set and run toward the creek. "I like to hike, especially at night. And the only thing you have to worry about is running into a skunk."

Crime is virtually unheard of in Canyon, unless you're a deer. Eviscerated deer carcasses -- the work of a mountain lion or two -- are sometimes found on hiking trails.

Using a computer, John Snell, a senior analyst with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, called up a screen showing all the calls to the department regarding Canyon since the first of the year. "We have five or six calls here," Snell said. "The worst thing that's happened in Canyon this year was . . . a car got broken into. And even that looks like it was done by some kids passing through.

"It looks like the calls here are all having to do with kids parking in that pullout in front of the school," Snell said. While communities like Canyon are sometimes rumored to be havens for marijuana farmers, it's mostly just talk, he said.

Just about the worst thing anyone can think of to happen in Canyon ever was the disclosure that David Barnard, known as "Devil Man" because he wore flowing capes and pulled his hair up into spikes to resemble horns, had been sexually abusing his daughter for years. A jury found him guilty of 114 criminal charges in 1993.

Yet most of the crime committed in Canyon is solved across backyard fences. For instance, there was the time years ago when Menge's wristwatch disappeared from the pocket of a coat hanging inside his house.

"But I got that back. Turned out to be a neighbor boy. We don't have serious problems," Menge said, reaching out and knocking on the wooden windowsill he made himself.

Many outsiders familiar with Canyon want to get in. The school, which is kindergarten through eighth grade, has a waiting list, although every Canyon child is guaranteed a spot until he or she must choose which of three Contra Costa County high schools to attend. And houses just don't come up for sale in Canyon.

"There's a waiting list," Tyrrell said. "When someone wants to sell, there are neighbors and family and friends who want to buy."

Real estate records show that most of the sales in the past decade have been between families. The most recent home sold to an outsider went for \$180,000, but "it needs a lot of work," Tyrrell said.

Those who live in Canyon attribute their lack of urban depravity to a sense of us-against-the-world, with adversaries held at bay by a united front. Together, town members have faced down East Bay Municipal Water District officials

who griped about possible septic leakage in the watershed ("hogwash," says Menge). And when Mother Nature finally pushed a couple of junk cars out of the way with last year's floods, it turned out that it had been the cars holding up the road in the first place.

"We pull together," said Virginia Menge, who moved to Canyon in 1942, then eloped with George on New Year's Eve in 1950. "We always have. Everyone in town came out and fixed the road."

Ask a Canyon resident what the community's problems are, and an answer -- any answer -- usually requires protracted thought.

"Fire danger," Virginia Menge said.

"Sometimes the main intersection here gets black ice in the winter," Tyrrell said. "Mainly it causes fender benders, cuts and scrapes." And some people think the bicyclists who ride along Pinehurst are traffic hazards, she said.

Martin worries about the baby foxes, who find playing in the middle of the road to be particularly appealing.

And any visitor can see the signs of restless teenagers in the graffiti along the retaining wall that keeps Pinehurst from falling into San Leandro Creek. In Canyon, though, the graffiti isn't written with spray paint, but with a stone. Initials are scraped into the moss so that cement shows through.

"Yeah, things around here don't change too much," Tyrrell said. Although if she ever is promoted to be the permanent postmaster, she would like to open a philatelic window for the local stamp collectors. After all, there's never a line. -----

From Moraga, take Moraga Road south. It will turn into Canyon Road. From Orinda, follow Moraga Way east to Canyon Road, and turn right.

From Oakland, follow Shepherd Canyon Road east to Skyline Boulevard. Cross Skyline to dip down into Contra Costa County on Pinehurst Road.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (4), MAP; Caption: (1-2) George and Virginia Menge met in Canyon in the 1940s and eloped in 1950. They raised seven girls there; including Elena Tyrrell, at right, who sorts mail in Canyon's lonely post office, (3-4) A cyclist pedals along a two-lane road in the unincorporated Contra Costa community of Canyon. Below, 6-year-old Canyon resident Chester Martin enjoys a ride on the swings / Photos by Michael Macor / The Chronicle

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Case Transferred to S.F. / Judge moves it from Oakland - prosecutor angry; [FINAL / EAST BAY Edition]

Glen Martin, Chronicle Staff Writer. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 17, 1997. pg. A.20

Abstract (Summary)

Saying the state attorney general appeared to be looking for a better place to prosecute San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club founder Dennis Peron, an Alameda County Superior Court judge transferred a marijuana case from Oakland to San Francisco yesterday.

In a ruling that thrilled Peron and five other defendants and angered Attorney General Dan Lungren, Judge Dean Beaupre said his decision was based on "an appearance of improper forum-shopping" by Lungren's office.

The case grew out of a bust of Peron's club by state agents in August 1996. In a surprise move, Lungren decided to prosecute the case in Oakland instead of San Francisco, with some observers saying he felt San Francisco jurors would be too lenient toward Peron.

Full Text (495 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 17, 1997

Saying the state attorney general appeared to be looking for a better place to prosecute San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club founder Dennis Peron, an Alameda County Superior Court judge transferred a marijuana case from Oakland to San Francisco yesterday.

In a ruling that thrilled Peron and five other defendants and angered Attorney General Dan Lungren, Judge Dean Beaupre said his decision was based on "an appearance of improper forum-shopping" by Lungren's office.

The case grew out of a bust of Peron's club by state agents in August 1996. In a surprise move, Lungren decided to prosecute the case in Oakland instead of San Francisco, with some observers saying he felt San Francisco jurors would be too lenient toward Peron.

However, Deputy Attorney General Rob Stutzman said prosecutors had not shopped the case to a favorable venue, and ultimately expected a conviction in San Francisco's Superior Court system.

"We obviously disagree with the judge," Stutzman said. "Alameda was the most appropriate jurisdiction because this is a multiple-county case. We'll be seeking relief from an appellate court, and we will file a writ (to move the case back to Oakland) within 15 days. But even if it stays in San Francisco, we believe the facts will prove a criminal enterprise and that the jury will come to that conclusion."

The defendants were indicted by an Alameda County grand jury in October 1996 for felony charges of possession of marijuana for sale, transporting large quantities of marijuana and conspiracy.

Beaupre's decision is expected to favor Peron, the co-author of Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative that voters approved last year. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan supports Proposition 215 and has expressed unhappiness over Lungren's zealous prosecution of Peron.

"We're ecstatic," said Peron from his San Francisco headquarters, where he dispenses marijuana to club members who have physicians' recommendations. "We feel completely vindicated. I think all this political interference will have to come to an end now."

Lungren's office will continue prosecuting the case, but Hallinan said he is delighted the case is now in San Francisco.

"I have to say that it looked bad to me from the start," Hallinan said. "That's especially so in light of Proposition 215's passage. It appears that (the activities the defendants are charged with) are protected under 215. I would be surprised if there is a successful prosecution."

Peron -- who has announced that he will run against Lungren for governor in the 1998 Republican primary -- said the ruling has freed him to expand medical marijuana operations across the state.

"The important thing now is to bring down the price," he said. "We will contract with farmers for the large-scale outdoor cultivation of marijuana in Mendocino, Humboldt and Sonoma Counties, as well as in the Tehachapis in the south state. We will also help any medical user defend himself in court, whether it's for one joint or 100 pounds."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Dennis Peron founded the S.F. Cannabis Cultivators Club

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San Francisco Chronicle

Salt Peanuts And Pepper Spray; [FINAL Edition]

JON CARROLL. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 3, 1997. pg. E.10

Abstract (Summary)

My feelings on the matter were formed relatively early. They were based on the following premise: Pepper spray is not a gun. Anything that enables police officers to disable suspected malefactors without using their big pistols is a good thing.

Big pistols kill people. I know, people kill people, but big pistols really help a lot. Using pepper spray against peaceful demonstrators, as happened in Humboldt County, is not wonderful. But using pepper spray against a knife-wielding miscreant in a convenience store is a fine idea. Alas, knife-wielding miscreants outnumber environmental demonstrators in our society.

With pepper spray, the penalty usually consists of pain and some difficulty breathing. On balance, this is better than a skull fracture or a punctured organ. Naturally, I recommend that all police officers try unconditional love before resorting to pepper spray.

Full Text (686 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 3, 1997

He's been going in and out of style, but he's guaranteed to raise a smile: [jrc\(atsign\)sfgate.com](mailto:jrc(atsign)sfgate.com).

I HAVE BEEN following with limited curiosity the controversy over pepper spray, a powerful deterrent to criminal behavior -- or, indeed, any behavior at all -- that has been linked to the deaths of 33 Californians.

My feelings on the matter were formed relatively early. They were based on the following premise: Pepper spray is not a gun. Anything that enables police officers to disable suspected malefactors without using their big pistols is a good thing.

Big pistols kill people. I know, people kill people, but big pistols really help a lot. Using pepper spray against peaceful demonstrators, as happened in Humboldt County, is not wonderful. But using pepper spray against a knife-wielding miscreant in a convenience store is a fine idea. Alas, knife-wielding miscreants outnumber environmental demonstrators in our society.

Most cops are splendid humans who do very dangerous jobs. Most people who need to be sprayed by cops are a danger to others in the community. Resisting arrest indicates poor risk management skills and carries with it certain burdens. Most people understand this, which is why most people don't resist arrest.

With pepper spray, the penalty usually consists of pain and some difficulty breathing. On balance, this is better than a skull fracture or a punctured organ. Naturally, I recommend that all police officers try unconditional love before resorting to pepper spray.

"Stop or I'll love you," they might call out. When love fails -- and sometimes, Velma, love is not enough -- it's time for the stinging chemicals. This is modern police work.

BELOVED READER James Caroompas has his own ideas about pepper spray. He suggests LSD-25 in liquid suspension; call it Sergeant Pepper spray.

The details are a little fuzzy, but hey, why not kick back and wait for the details to come into focus? Maybe the LSD could be mixed with a little tranquilizer that effectively immobilizes the alleged perpetrator while the LSD takes effect.

After 45 minutes or so, the perpetrator might very well have achieved a state of altered consciousness. He might have forgotten what he was so excited about in the first place. He might have forgotten about the crime he intended to commit; indeed, he might have decided that "guilt" and "innocence" are constructs of an outmoded paradigm.

The police could leave him in peace to consider the paradox of a shrinking globe in an expanding universe. He might call out, "Stop or I'll love you," and then there could be a big group hug down at the police station. A possible downside would be intransigent demands for the music of Pink Floyd.

WHY HAS NO ONE considered incapacitating amounts of marijuana as a prison management tool? I know that it is possible to get drugs in "the joint," as I like to call it in my hardened way, but what if they were standard issue?

Take the strongest pot you can find, roll it into big doobies, and offer it every hour on the hour. I think your unrest quotient would go way down. Of course, then prison rebels would notice that the pot was just an attempt by the Man to control the legitimate impulses of the people.

So the word would go out among the cons -- "Why do you think they call it dope?" Prisoners would refuse to smoke their government reefer, and pretty soon you'd get a clean and sober prison population.

Then they could all get day passes and do outreach work among record company executives. "Hey, man, there's a better way. You don't have to get loaded all the time and make really derivative hip-hop bogus C&W crapola with videos that exploit women. You know? Because you could rob banks. Really."

And then it would be time to roll out the Sergeant Pepper spray again. Call me crazy; millions have. -----
----- He's been going in and out of style, but he's guaranteed to raise a smile: jrc(atsign)
sfgate.com. ----- What would you do if I pulled out my spray, would you walk out on me?

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San Francisco Chronicle

State Won't Probe Pepper-Spray Case / Lungren declines a 2nd review; [FINAL Edition]

Greg Lucas, *Chronicle Sacramento Bureau*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 7, 1997. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Dodging a political hot potato, Attorney General Dan Lungren said yesterday he will not launch a state investigation into Humboldt County sheriff's deputies swabbing the eyes of anti-logging protesters with pepper spray.

Lungren, a GOP candidate for governor, was asked Monday by the state senator representing the area to determine whether the use of pepper spray by the deputies was proper.

Through a spokesman, Lungren said no state inquiry was needed because the FBI is already interviewing Humboldt County authorities to see if the protesters' civil rights were violated.

Full Text (757 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 7, 1997

Dodging a political hot potato, Attorney General Dan Lungren said yesterday he will not launch a state investigation into Humboldt County sheriff's deputies swabbing the eyes of anti-logging protesters with pepper spray.

Lungren, a GOP candidate for governor, was asked Monday by the state senator representing the area to determine whether the use of pepper spray by the deputies was proper.

Through a spokesman, Lungren said no state inquiry was needed because the FBI is already interviewing Humboldt County authorities to see if the protesters' civil rights were violated.

"We don't duplicate investigations, and the federal government has announced an investigation, so there is no need for this office to get involved," said Rob Stutzman, Lungren's press secretary.

Politically, it could be a problem for the conservative law-and-order Lungren to throw himself into the middle of a high-profile case pitting environmentalists against law enforcement officials.

But critics said yesterday that Lungren's decision was nothing more than an attempt at political cover.

"The attorney general can investigate Corcoran prison. He can go into San Francisco and raid that pot club, but when you see little girls say, 'Please don't do it, please don't do it,' and then the cops do it, he can't be bothered," said state Senator John Burton, D-San Francisco.

"The attorney general likes to pick and choose when he thinks laws are being broken. Last time I checked, his job is to investigate all instances of malfeasance," Burton added.

Last year Lungren twice launched state probes in high-profile cases already under investigation or previously investigated by the federal government. Allegations of inmate abuse at Corcoran State Prison and marijuana sales at the Cannabis Buyers Club in San Francisco.

Neither of those cases had the political downside for Lungren of getting involved in the inquiry into the propriety of the Humboldt protesters being swabbed in the eyes with pepper spray -- a product Lungren stumped hard to legalize in California.

The immobile demonstrators were swabbed by law enforcement officers -- a strong base of political support for Lungren -- in the office of a Republican congressman who called for their swift removal.

Opening an investigation would raise questions about Lungren advocacy of unfettered use of pepper spray as well as challenge the reputation of the congressman, Representative Frank Riggs, R-Windsor.

In the Corcoran case, the Wilson administration was under increased criticism for not getting to the bottom of allegations of prisoner abuse.

Lungren announced a state investigation into accusations that guards were staging "gladiator fights between inmates" last November -- three years after a U.S. Department of Justice probe was begun.

In doing so, his department became the fourth entity investigating the case, joining federal agents, the Kings County Grand Jury and the state Department of Corrections.

Stutzman said yesterday the state was examining different allegations involving Corcoran State Prison than those being reviewed by federal authorities.

The Cannabis Buyers Club case gave Lungren a chance to polish his tough-on-crime reputation by stamping out sales of illegal drugs and reinforce his opposition to Proposition 215, which makes it easier for persons to buy marijuana for medicinal purposes.

The proposition was approved by voters last November.

Lungren got involved after federal authorities conducted an extensive probe of marijuana sales at the club but declined to prosecute the case.

Then Lungren opened his own probe, gathered much the same evidence and finally raided the club in August 1996.

Lungren was asked Monday in a letter from state Senator Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, to investigate whether the Humboldt County sheriff's deputies' use of pepper spray on the demonstrators was appropriate.

"I am also requesting your assistance in reviewing current state guidelines for the use of pepper spray as well as the need for a uniform curriculum to better train local law enforcement in responding to nonviolent acts of civil disobedience," Thompson wrote.

Stutzman said the "proper use of pepper spray is determined by local departments."

Adding to the politically charged pepper spray controversy, Thompson is running for Congress against Windsor, whose office was occupied by the protesters.

Riggs was quoted as describing the protesters as "reckless, wanton lawbreakers" who were anything but peaceful.

The snippets of videotape of the officers rubbing the pepper spray into the eyes of the protesters shows the protesters immobile, their arms fastened to each other with metal sleeves.

Stutzman said Lungren had no position on whether the officers acted properly.

"(Lungren) has not thoroughly reviewed the circumstances of the protest," Stutzman said.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Attorney General Dan Lungren often takes a strong law-and-order stance

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San Francisco Chronicle

Oakland's Hidden Pot Club / But a discerning nose can pinpoint location; [FINAL / EAST BAY Edition]

CHIP JOHNSON. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 3, 1998. pg. A.11

Abstract (Summary)

Chip Johnson's column appears in The Chronicle on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. He can be reached at (510) 433-5988, by e-mail at johnsonch atsign sfgate.com, or by writing The Chronicle at 483 Ninth St., Suite 100, Oakland 94607.

The absence of signage marking the building as the home of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative is by design. Still, to some the location is no secret. Federal agents, local police and the city officials who endorse the club know where it is. Citizens are informed on a need-to-know basis.

Oakland resident Keith Davis, 41, went to a San Francisco pot club until he discovered that Oakland had one of its own.

Full Text (758 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Feb 3, 1998

Chip Johnson's column appears in The Chronicle on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. He can be reached at (510) 433-5988, by e-mail at johnsonch atsign sfgate.com, or by writing The Chronicle at 483 Ninth St., Suite 100, Oakland 94607.

Under the watchful eye of a security guard, a few people gathered one day last week outside an Oakland office front that blends in with its surroundings on Broadway.

The absence of signage marking the building as the home of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative is by design. Still, to some the location is no secret. Federal agents, local police and the city officials who endorse the club know where it is. Citizens are informed on a need-to-know basis.

Just because California voters made medical marijuana the law two years ago, and the group enjoys the full backing of Oakland City Council, doesn't mean you have to flaunt it.

The organization is so low-key that some residents who need such treatments don't know it exists.

Oakland resident Keith Davis, 41, went to a San Francisco pot club until he discovered that Oakland had one of its own.

"It took a while to find this place, and I had to go through a friend in the health care field," said Davis, a registered nurse who is HIV positive.

It is a far cry from the rebellious, in-your-face tactics of Dennis Peron, the vocal and brash director of one of San Francisco's two pot clubs.

The Oakland cooperative's low-profile approach reflects both the East Bay's less flamboyant style and the character of Jeff Jones, the marijuana dispensary's executive director.

The organization boasts more than 1,000 card-carrying members. Another 500 have applied since it opened in July 1996 -- four months before state voters approved Proposition 215 and medical use of marijuana -- but they failed to provide adequate personal or medical documentation needed to become a member.

In spite of the club's best efforts, some people, including federal drug agents, have beaten the security measures. A federal case against all six Bay Area clubs is scheduled to start March 24 in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Jones said that in one case, the Oakland club was taken in by an agent posing as a primary caregiver in dire need of a one-day supply for a patient too ill to come in. The club gave in and sold him a small amount.

Jones argued that a pharmacist would do the same thing. That may be true, if you were a regular customer. Otherwise, it sounds unlikely.

Still, the straight dope is that federal drug agents don't give a hoot about Proposition 215, and are eager to see the pot clubs closed.

In spite of the generic look, the skunky smell of potent pot in the Oakland cooperative's third-floor offices is a dead giveaway.

Down the hall from the elevator sits another security guard. He requires identification, in this case a membership card, before granting permission to enter the next room, because that's where the smell is coming from.

Glass cases in the members-only room are filled with various strains of cannabis, papers, pipes -- everything needed to light up and get your impulse engines to kick in.

Maui Wowie, Humboldt Green, Mexican, hash oil and Canna-Med, concentrated pot in pill form, are all inside. The atmosphere is casual and remarkably quiet. One member sits on an old couch and rolls a joint on a small table in front of him. Six feet to his left, marijuana plants flourish under a horticultural high-intensity light. Jones urges self-sufficiency, learn to grow, just in case the law is repealed one day.

Unlike Peron's Cannabis Cultivators' Club, where members are encouraged to light up at their leisure, the cooperative's office lease prohibits it, Jones said.

"I wouldn't put it past one of our members to smoke in the streets" outside the building, Jones said.

Jones' approach is mild compared to Peron, who has been criticized by colleagues for bringing the wrath of law enforcement down on all the Bay Area pot clubs.

Nonetheless, Peron is Jones' guru, a founder father of the movement. The gangly 23-year-old met Peron four days after arriving here from South Dakota in 1994.

"I would never step away from Dennis and the work he's done in the past," Jones said. "If it wasn't for Dennis, there would be no 215."

In at least one instance, Peron's sometimes outlandish and verbose style has proved to be a benefit.

"I had no idea it was available until Peron got busted," Davis said.

Indexing (document details)

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San Francisco Chronicle

Car Dealer Accused of Laundering Cash; [FINAL Edition]

Bill Wallace, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 27, 1998. pg. A.21

Abstract (Summary)

Fortuna Ford, a car dealership on California's North Coast, is under federal investigation for allegedly laundering money for Humboldt County marijuana dealers, according to federal court documents.

Last month, agents from the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division served a search warrant on the dealership, which is in the tiny North Coast lumber town of Fortuna.

No criminal charges have been filed, but documents contained in the search warrant application make it clear the agents were looking for evidence that the company's customers had purchased automobiles with large sums of cash, which the dealership then deposited in smaller amounts to avoid federal reporting requirements.

Full Text (393 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 27, 1998

Fortuna Ford, a car dealership on California's North Coast, is under federal investigation for allegedly laundering money for Humboldt County marijuana dealers, according to federal court documents.

Last month, agents from the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division served a search warrant on the dealership, which is in the tiny North Coast lumber town of Fortuna.

The investigators seized a wide variety of sales records and other business documents from the dealership, including credit applications, bank statements and canceled checks.

No criminal charges have been filed, but documents contained in the search warrant application make it clear the agents were looking for evidence that the company's customers had purchased automobiles with large sums of cash, which the dealership then deposited in smaller amounts to avoid federal reporting requirements.

"I am informed . . . that now located at the premises are fruits, evidence and instrumentalities of criminal offenses against the United States," IRS Special Agent Michael Hagstrom said in an affidavit.

Edward Tanferani, president of Fortuna Ford, did not return calls about the investigation.

According to court records, the IRS apparently became suspicious when a compliance officer visited the dealership in March 1996 to make sure the company knew about federal regulations requiring that a special form be filed each time a cash transaction involving more than \$10,000 takes place.

The compliance officer noted several transactions reflected in company records that showed a customer had initially paid a large amount of cash, but the transaction was later voided and receipts were filed showing a number of smaller cash payments.

For example, a Humboldt County man purchased a car with a cash value of \$14,000 in March 1994. A receipt filed at the time of the sale that showed a \$14,000 cash down payment was later voided, and two counter receipts with different dates were written out to the man, showing a \$6,400 payment on March 29 and a \$7,600 payment the next day.

Hagstrom's affidavit notes that Humboldt County narcotics officials identified the man who purchased the car as a marijuana grower in southern Humboldt County.

Some of the paperwork examined by the compliance officer had been handled by a woman who was no longer working for Fortuna Ford. When the IRS contacted her about the strange paperwork, she said she had been told to structure the payments that way deliberately by Tanferani.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Automobile dealers, Money laundering, Investigations, Search & seizure, Drug trafficking
Locations: Northern California
People: Tanferani, Edward
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Author(s): Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer
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San Francisco Chronicle

Legal Hassles Extinguishing Pot Clubs / Prop. 215's weak wording doesn't sway cops, agents; [FINAL Edition]

Maria Alicia Gaura, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 23, 1998. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Less than 18 months after medical marijuana use was legalized in California by Proposition 215, the network of marijuana clubs, co-ops and dispensaries that arose to deliver pot to patients is collapsing.

This week in San Francisco, Dennis Peron's Cannabis Cultivators Club was closed by order of a Superior Court judge, only to reopen a day later -- under a new name -- with the blessing of local officials. Political support for medical marijuana has been less evident in San Jose, where dispensary owner Peter Baez was recently raided by local police and charged with nine felony counts of selling pot.

Proposition 215, a voter initiative approved in November 1996, allows sick people to grow and use marijuana if a doctor recommends it. It also allows caretakers of sick people to obtain or grow marijuana for them. But 215 did not legalize the sale of marijuana, nor did it make it legal to transport marijuana from one place to another.

Full Text (1806 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Apr 23, 1998

Less than 18 months after medical marijuana use was legalized in California by Proposition 215, the network of marijuana clubs, co-ops and dispensaries that arose to deliver pot to patients is collapsing.

Of 18 medical marijuana providers operating openly seven months ago, six are out of business and five are facing closure due to criminal or civil lawsuits. The remaining seven groups are still open and not facing legal trouble, but there is constant worry that the next knock on the door could be federal drug agents.

"In general, things statewide are a mess," said Scott Imler, director of the Los Angeles Cannabis Buyers' Club in West Hollywood. "We're the only club still standing here in Southern California. Of course we're worried. It's all kind of folding in on itself, one layer after another."

Even in the Bay Area, where liberal local governments have allowed some clubs wide latitude and political support, legal challenges from the state and federal government have the potential to force the whole movement back underground.

This week in San Francisco, Dennis Peron's Cannabis Cultivators Club was closed by order of a Superior Court judge, only to reopen a day later -- under a new name -- with the blessing of local officials. Political support for medical marijuana has been less evident in San Jose, where dispensary owner Peter Baez was recently raided by local police and charged with nine felony counts of selling pot.

In Southern California, the options for sick people who use marijuana have never been plentiful. Local law enforcement and city officials in many areas have adamantly opposed organized efforts to distribute pot.

The mood at Imler's club has become increasingly nervous as clubs in Santa Ana, San Diego and Thousand Oaks have been closed, their organizers facing jail time or civil fines.

CIVIL LAWSUIT FILED

In Northern California, where the clubs have been most numerous, six groups have been named in a civil lawsuit by the federal government, and two -- San Jose's and one in Monterey County -- have been hit with criminal charges by local authorities.

"I worry about it every day, the possibility of being dragged out of my bed by narcotics agents," said Jeff Jones, executive director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, one of the groups named in the federal lawsuit. "I'm like a sitting duck in a pond. But I'm going to sit here to the end. We have to get the medicine out to the patients."

The recent spate of prosecutions has taken many medical marijuana advocates by surprise. Just seven months ago, marijuana providers held an upbeat summit in Santa Cruz to create standards and goals for the dispensaries.

"The high mark of the community-based club movement was probably in October," when dozens of activists gathered for a weekend retreat, Imler said. "But three days after the conference ended, the busts started, and it's been one after another after another.

"There's not going to be much of a conference this year," he said.

Imler and many other club volunteers across the state believe the backlash against medical marijuana has been encouraged by state Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Dan Lungren, who has challenged the legality of the clubs with a lawsuit against the San Francisco club, the state's largest.

FEDERAL OPPOSITION

Federal drug enforcement officials are also fighting Proposition 215, arguing in court that marijuana use for any purpose is a violation of federal law.

Law enforcement officials say the crackdown is the result of a poorly drafted law and of pot sellers who don't understand what the law allows.

But the blame for the chaos may also rest with California's lawmakers, who have shoved the controversy into the court system by refusing to straighten out an incomplete and contradictory -- albeit popular -- law.

Proposition 215, a voter initiative approved in November 1996, allows sick people to grow and use marijuana if a doctor recommends it. It also allows caretakers of sick people to obtain or grow marijuana for them. But 215 did not legalize the sale of marijuana, nor did it make it legal to transport marijuana from one place to another.

Medical marijuana supporters point out that growing the plants is not an option for many sick people, especially the thousands of AIDS patients living in apartments in cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles. And the prohibition against transportation would prevent almost anyone without a secure, sunny garden from obtaining pot.

The authors of 215 foresaw the need for legislative tinkering when they added a clause "encouraging" the state and federal government "to implement a plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients in medical need of marijuana."

That "encouragement" has not yet resulted in legislative action. The only legislator who has consistently worked to turn 215 into a workable law is State Senator John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, a longtime medical marijuana advocate -- and his efforts have so far been rebuffed by fellow lawmakers.

"It's true, the Legislature hasn't done anything, and as far as I can detect there is no interest other than on the part of me and a couple of others," Vasconcellos said. "It's disgraceful."

FIRST CLUBS FORMED

In the euphoria that followed the passage of Proposition 215, many small pot clubs and co-ops sprang up, most of them founded by people with compelling personal stories. Many had used marijuana surreptitiously for years, while others had nursed loved ones through painful illnesses.

Some clubs that had operated for years underground came gratefully into the open.

But without clear guidelines, every group created its own rules and bylaws. In some cases, the limits of Proposition 215 were ignored for practical purposes. In others the law was creatively interpreted.

But in many -- probably most -- California counties, law enforcement officials have frowned on a liberal application of the law.

In conservative Orange County, Deputy District Attorney Carl Armbrust repeatedly charged Martin Chavez, the founder of a Santa Ana pot co-op, for criminal sales of marijuana.

"You are not allowed to sell marijuana under Proposition 215," Armbrust said. "So now they say the law isn't well written, and they think they should be able to sell and transport it. But we can't twist the law. And we sure didn't write it."

In Sacramento County, groups attempting to open a medical marijuana club have been told that public pot distribution will be promptly prosecuted. And county supervisors, nettled by an incident where an AIDS patient lit up and smoked pot in public, have passed a law making the public smoking of medical marijuana subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

Anyone else smoking pot in public faces a \$100 fine.

"It is clear that any kind of dispensary is outside the scope of Proposition 215," said Dale Kitching, supervisor of the major narcotics unit for the Sacramento District Attorney's office.

"Those political officials who allow sales and clubs have gone way beyond any reasonable interpretation of the law. (Sick people) who smoke their marijuana quietly and covertly are acting in everybody's best interests."

NO ORGANIZED LOBBY

Some attempts were made to organize the clubs politically, but most club operators were too busy dealing with their businesses and medical conditions to consider hiring a lobbyist. So when the arrests began, there was little organized opposition.

"We were unprepared for the backlash," Jones said. "We didn't have support or funding, and the prosecutions are killing us. We're going broke."

According to Vasconcellos' chief of staff, Rand Martin, the clubs were easy to divide and conquer.

"They were very easy to pick off because all of them are basically breaking the law," Martin said. "They may be doing the angels' work, but in the black and white of California statute, they're out of line."

"What Lungren and local law enforcement are missing in this is the big picture," Martin said. "When the people of California approved 215, they said that sick people should have access to medical marijuana, and you should find a way to make it work."

Despite the growing apprehension and dwindling numbers of clubs, medical marijuana is far from dead. With marijuana freely available on the black market, underground distribution groups operate even in areas where law enforcement officials stridently oppose it.

Co-operative groups that grow and share their own marijuana -- without money changing hands -- are thriving in Arcata and Santa Cruz. Several other groups that still rely on the black market are trying to grow their own.

The groups also hope that courts now mulling the contradictions of Proposition 215 may produce rulings allowing some buyers' clubs to operate. And Vasconcellos has introduced legislation creating a task force to study the distribution of medical marijuana, and plans to convene a summit on the issue on late May.

"We need to put together a smart and sensible plan," Vasconcellos said. "We're doing what we can to crack this problem, and I think we're making some inroads."

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLUBS, CO-OPS AND DISPENSARIES IN CALIFORNIA

.

STILL IN OPERATION, NO CHARGES PENDING

.
-- Humboldt Cannabis Center, Arcata, Humboldt County

150 active members

.

-- Compassionate Use Co-Op, Rackerby, (in Sierra foothills)

45 active members

.

-- C.H.A.M.P. (Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems), San Francisco

500 active members

.

-- Medical Cannabis Delivery Service, San Francisco

400-500 active members

.

-- Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, Santa Cruz

150 members

.

-- MedEx Delivery Service, Santa Cruz

9 members

.

-- Los Angeles Cannabis Buyers' Club, West Hollywood

460 members

STILL OPEN, BUT THREATENED BY LEGAL PROBLEMS

.

-- San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club, S.F.

9,000 members

One of six clubs facing a civil lawsuit filed by the federal government, also facing as criminal charges filed by the state Attorney General

.

-- Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, Oakland

1,000 members

Facing federal charges

.

-- Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana, Fairfax

300 members

Facing federal charges

.

-- Ukiah Cannabis Buyers' Club, Ukiah

250 members

Facing federal charges, and criminal charges in Lake County for illegal cultivation

.

-- Santa Clara County Medical Cannabis Center, San Jose

270 members

Facing criminal charges from Santa Clara County for illegal sales

RECENTLY CLOSED

.

-- Flower Therapy, San Francisco

Named in federal lawsuit

.

-- Santa Cruz Cannabis Buyers' Club, Santa Cruz

Named in federal lawsuit

.

-- Medical Marijuana Care Center, Monterey

Closed after raid by local law enforcement

.

-- Orange County Patient/Doctor/Nurse Support Group, Santa Ana

Closed after repeated arrests by local law enforcement

.

-- San Diego Cannabis Caregivers' Club, San Diego

Closed after charged by local law enforcement, internal problems

.

-- Ventura County Medical Cannabis Center, Thousand Oaks

Closed after civil charges filed by local law enforcement

[Illustration]

PHOTO, GRAPHIC; Caption: CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Marijuana, Clubs, Civil actions, Drug legalization, Shutdowns

Locations: California

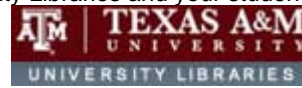
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San Francisco Chronicle

Summit on Medical Marijuana Finds Efforts Disjointed; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: May 27, 1998. pg. A.16

Abstract (Summary)

Police, prosecutors and lawmakers from all over California conferred with advocates of medical marijuana at the state capitol yesterday to thrash out strategies, and rapidly came to a glum conclusion -- without the cooperation of the federal government, therapeutic pot is stone cold dead in California.

The summit was called by state Senator John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara, after a recent order by federal appellate court Judge Charles Breyer that prohibited San Francisco Cannabis Cultivator's Club owner Dennis Peron from selling medical marijuana at his Market Street outlet. Breyer issued the order in response to a suit brought by the federal government.

Breyer concluded that the methods Peron used to distribute marijuana violated federal law. The ruling sent a chill through the numerous medical marijuana clubs that had been operating in the state under Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative passed in 1996.

Full Text (743 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 27, 1998

Police, prosecutors and lawmakers from all over California conferred with advocates of medical marijuana at the state capitol yesterday to thrash out strategies, and rapidly came to a glum conclusion -- without the cooperation of the federal government, therapeutic pot is stone cold dead in California.

And that was the catch -- the federal officials who could make the difference snubbed the conference.

The summit was called by state Senator John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara, after a recent order by federal appellate court Judge Charles Breyer that prohibited San Francisco Cannabis Cultivator's Club owner Dennis Peron from selling medical marijuana at his Market Street outlet. Breyer issued the order in response to a suit brought by the federal government.

Meanwhile, San Francisco sheriff's deputies closed the latest incarnation of the club -- called the Cannabis Healing Center -- Monday. Peron's Cannabis Cultivator's Club had been closed by a court order last month, but the dispensary reopened almost immediately as the healing center under the management of Hazel Rodgers, a friend of Peron's.

Breyer concluded that the methods Peron used to distribute marijuana violated federal law. The ruling sent a chill through the numerous medical marijuana clubs that had been operating in the state under Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative passed in 1996.

Vasconcellos opened the summit by declaring that the federal government was "the crux" of the medical marijuana issue in California and said he had sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to stop federal action against marijuana dispensaries.

Although marijuana may now be cultivated, possessed and used by ill Californians under Proposition 215, under federal law it remains a "Schedule One" drug -- a designation reserved for heroin and LSD. Schedule One drugs are illegal in all circumstances, unlike Schedule Two drugs, such as morphine and amphetamines, which can be prescribed by a physician.

Bill Zimmerman, the director of Americans for Medical Rights, said the summit was long overdue. "This problem is not going to go away," he said. "None of us want to continue spinning our wheels (on a situation) that leads to court cases, arrests and (club) closures. We need to solve the problem for the benefit of patients here and across the country."

Many of the participants concluded that a necessary first step would be to persuade the federal government to reclassify marijuana from Schedule One to Schedule Two.

Alice Mead, the general counsel for the California Medical Association, said the organization has recently decided to support the rescheduling of marijuana from Schedule One to Schedule Two. A Schedule Two designation would allow physicians to directly prescribe marijuana to patients, obviating the private dispensaries.

Participants also acknowledged that the federal government is unlikely to undertake such a move in the near future. Some advised resistance by state and county governments to federal actions.

Dan Abrahamson, the director for the pro-medical marijuana Lindesmith Center, said the U.S. drug code grants state and local officials immunity from prosecution when enforcing state and local drug laws.

"They can't make local authorities enforce federal law," he said. "When it comes to local distribution, local communities must be able to address local conditions."

Most of the participants seemed friendly toward medical marijuana -- but not all.

"If (the problems associated with marijuana clubs) are characteristic of this movement, I want no part of it," said state Senator Quentin Kopp, independent-San Francisco. "I prefer clinics, hospitals or drugstores as a means of distribution."

Some local police agencies opposed the clubs.

Testifying by speakerphone, Arcata police Lieutenant Randy Mendoza said his city has avoided problems with the implementation of Proposition 215 because the Police Department issues medical marijuana cards to patients, not privately owned clubs.

"We check up on the physician's recommendations, and we issue the cards," he said. "If someone produces the card during a (drug) stop it is a very brief encounter. Otherwise, we enforce all drug violations."

At the end of the summit, Vasconcellos announced that the Senate Appropriations Committee had just passed a bill that would create a panel of experts to consider all distribution alternatives raised in the meeting. The panel would ultimately present their findings to the federal government, Vasconcellos said.

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano said last night that the city's public health department should begin emergency distribution of medical marijuana following the closure of the pot club. Ammiano's proposal may be reviewed later this week, when city officials meet to further discuss the medical marijuana dispute.

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San Francisco Chronicle

S.F. Trying to Devise Way To Dispense Medicinal Pot; [FINAL Edition]

Edward Epstein, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: May 29, 1998. pg. A.19

Abstract (Summary)

San Francisco officials admitted yesterday that they face an uphill struggle in trying to find a way to distribute medical marijuana to thousands of patients within the city.

"It won't be an easy task. But it's necessary," District Attorney Terence Hallinan said after a meeting in Mayor Willie Brown's office.

Hallinan and Brown said that everyone at the meeting -- a cast that also included City Attorney Louise Renne, Sheriff Michael Hennessey, Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz and Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno - agreed that a way must be found to get marijuana to those who need it.

Full Text (534 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 29, 1998

San Francisco officials admitted yesterday that they face an uphill struggle in trying to find a way to distribute medical marijuana to thousands of patients within the city.

"It won't be an easy task. But it's necessary," District Attorney Terence Hallinan said after a meeting in Mayor Willie Brown's office.

Hallinan and Brown said that everyone at the meeting -- a cast that also included City Attorney Louise Renne, Sheriff Michael Hennessey, Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz and Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno -- agreed that a way must be found to get marijuana to those who need it.

A series of federal and state court decisions finally led this week to the closure of the Cannabis Healing Center on Market Street. That club was by far the largest operation in the state that was trying to distribute marijuana under voter-approved Proposition 215.

Leno estimated that 10,000 people have been left without pot because of the shutdown.

"The agreement was that the city attorney and the district attorney will try to craft an appropriate ordinance to allow for the greatest security in any court test," Brown said.

Neither Brown nor Hallinan would speculate about what form the eventual plan might take. But both said they want to move quickly to make medicinal marijuana more widely available. And they said there was some wiggle room in U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer's ruling against pot clubs to offer hope that a solution could be found.

Although medical marijuana is legal in the state, it is still against federal law to possess, use or distribute it. Neither Brown nor Hallinan would say how the city would get marijuana to give out.

"We'll have to figure out a way," said Hallinan. He said it might be possible the city could grow its own marijuana, but only if no other sources were available.

The officials also said that whatever plan the city puts in place will include strict controls over who gets marijuana. The shuttered club was assailed for not policing distribution adequately.

Ammiano said urgent action is needed. "We'd be remiss if we didn't do something," he said.

On Tuesday, he introduced a measure at the Board of Supervisors calling for the Department of Public Health to begin distributing marijuana. Ammiano said that idea is still among those under consideration, along with at least two others.

One is based on the experience of Arcata in Humboldt County. That college town has a contract with a private firm to give out marijuana.

West Hollywood does it through an independent nonprofit organization with no ties to the city.

San Francisco already operates its needle-exchange programs largely through nonprofit organizations.

Ammiano said another model, one being set up in San Mateo County, is too time-consuming. That county is applying to the federal Food and Drug Administration for permission to conduct a three-year study of the medicinal efficacy of marijuana on seriously ill people.

It could be months before San Mateo gets permission to begin the program. San Francisco wants to move much more quickly.

Ammiano and Leno are expected to introduce a resolution at Monday's supervisors meeting instructing Hallinan and Renne to come up with a plan speedily.

Indexing (document details)

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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot Club's Peron -- Such a Dope / His fantasy was to ride his cause to governorship; [FINAL Edition]

KEN GARCIA. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: May 30, 1998. pg. A.15

Abstract (Summary)

So Dennis Peron no longer gets to play ringmaster in his smoke- filled circus tent. At least now he'll be able to concentrate on his next job -- after he wins the Republican nomination for governor Tuesday.

You've got to give Peron credit. Most people might back down when the president, the Justice Department, the state attorney general and almost every cop and court within 500 miles starts telling you to pack your baggies.

The end came quietly this week, as sheriff's deputies conducted a holiday morning raid at Peron's aromatic headquarters on Market Street. Well, relatively quietly, anyway: Peron was running around screaming about the injustice of it all. He promised to reinvent the club. He said it would ascend like a phoenix, appropriately enough, out of the ashtray.

Full Text (827 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 30, 1998

You can reach Ken Garcia at (415) 777-7152, fax him at (415) 896-1107, or send him an e-mail note at garciak@sfgate.com.

So Dennis Peron no longer gets to play ringmaster in his smoke- filled circus tent. At least now he'll be able to concentrate on his next job -- after he wins the Republican nomination for governor Tuesday.

You've got to give Peron credit. Most people might back down when the president, the Justice Department, the state attorney general and almost every cop and court within 500 miles starts telling you to pack your baggies.

But Peron just puffed and he puffed until the whole house blew down.

The end came quietly this week, as sheriff's deputies conducted a holiday morning raid at Peron's aromatic headquarters on Market Street. Well, relatively quietly, anyway: Peron was running around screaming about the injustice of it all. He promised to reinvent the club. He said it would ascend like a phoenix, appropriately enough, out of the ashtray.

Don't bet on it. Peron deserves credit for raising the public consciousness about the need for medicinal marijuana, and for being a relentless advocate for decriminalization of a personal vice. But along the way he fell in love with the spotlight and has burned almost every bridge he's crossed, making it tougher for every other legitimate pot club to carry on its business.

Peron had to work hard at it, because he had the backing of his own city's district attorney, the sheriff and a number of other elected officials. But his refusal to clean up his act after repeated run-ins with the law leaves him today as just another run-of-the-mill pot-smoking GOP candidate -- and approximately 9,000 people with medical problems in San Francisco looking for a place to score.

He flaunted his own club's borderline legality, refusing to file for a business license or to pay taxes, suggesting that his operation was based on a doctrine of civil disobedience. And he paid little heed to the claims that people without medical prescriptions were lining up outside his shop to get their hands on some Maui Wowie or Humboldt Green -- emerging ever happier.

In this case, it's appropriate to ask what he was smoking. Because anybody who ever went by his club could have told you that young skateboarders and the city's frenetic gutter punks did not exactly meet the description laid out under the law of people with dire medical conditions.

"There were drug deals on the streets, kids crowding the sidewalk, congregations of homeless people. . . . It was a zoo," said one nearby business owner. "After we began complaining, they'd clean it up for a day and then it would revert to business as usual. We all support the premise of the club, but it was never run properly -- or legally."

That never seemed to matter much to Peron -- at least until the state and federal authorities began closing in. But it certainly mattered to other pot clubs around the Bay Area that began feeling the heat because Peron saw himself as a martyr unaffected by the law.

When a judge ordered the San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club shut down, he said fine, we'll just give it another name. When he became the target of most of the court orders, he said no problem, I'll just pick a 79-year-old pot-smoker as the new director. And when police and judicial authorities began scrutinizing other pot club operations because of his legal problems, he played the part of defenseless victim.

Peron's GOP gubernatorial rival, Attorney General Dan Lungren, certainly deserves his share of the blame. Lungren blithely ignored the will of the voters by cracking down on pot clubs -- singling out Peron -- and then preened before the assembled media. And one can only hope the Justice Department has more important matters to tangle with than trying to exert its heavy-handed will on issues best left to state and local authorities.

But Peron's bullheadedness did not serve him well at a time he should have been trying to fulfill his self-sworn duty to make marijuana available to thousands of people with HIV, glaucoma and other serious medical problems. And why would anyone lock horns with the state and federal judiciary? This falls under the category: Why do you think they call it dope?

So now the city is faced with coming up with a way to distribute pot to those people -- a scary thought in itself. District Attorney Terence Hallinan said it might be possible for the city to begin growing its own pot, which would no doubt give national newspapers like the Wall Street Journal another reason to brush up their annual "only in Sin City" stories.

Peron clearly did the right thing for a majority of Californians who support the cultivation and distribution of medicinal marijuana. He just took the wrong path along the way. Maybe he'll get back on track in Sacramento.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Raids, State elections, Marijuana, Search & seizure, Candidates

Locations: California

People: Peron, Dennis

Author(s): KEN GARCIA

Document types: Commentary

Dateline: SAN FRANCISCO

Column Name: KEN GARCIA

Section: NEWS

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San Francisco Chronicle

Couple Charged With Operating Pot Farm; [FINAL Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 6, 1998. pg. A.19

Abstract (Summary)

A North Coast couple was indicted by a federal grand jury this week for operating a 200-acre marijuana plantation in rural Humboldt County.

Full Text (132 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 6, 1998

A North Coast couple was indicted by a federal grand jury this week for operating a 200-acre marijuana plantation in rural Humboldt County.

Andrea Chevalier and Robert Whitney, residents of Miranda, were indicted by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration on Thursday on charges of conspiracy, manufacturing marijuana and possession of drugs for distribution.

If convicted, they could each be sentenced to life in prison and fined \$4 million.

According to the indictment, federal agents were investigating allegations last month that the two were growing marijuana, and when authorities paid a visit they found an indoor marijuana cultivation facility and 2,200 marijuana plants.

Chevalier was released after her mother posted a \$400,000 beach house in Rhode Island as her bond, but it was not known yesterday whether Whitney remained in custody.

Indexing (document details)

Dateline: MIRANDA

Section: NEWS

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 6, 1998. pg. A.19

Source type: Newspaper

ISSN: 19328672

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San Francisco Chronicle

Diary Exposes Details for Ng Trial / Alleged partner's entries reveal stalking, murder plans; [FINAL Edition]

Bill Wallace, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 28, 1998. pg. A.13

Abstract (Summary)

Leonard Lake, who allegedly helped plot and execute the 12 murders for which Charles Ng is standing trial, kept a diary in which the mundane details of his life were recorded alongside his plan to turn women into sexual slaves.

The journal was mentioned during opening statements when Ng's trial began Monday. Ng's defense team has said it plans to use the document to prove Ng was a bystander in the serial murders, while Lake, who committed suicide shortly after his arrest in June 1985, did the killings.

Prosecutors have indicated they may introduce portions of the journal to demonstrate Ng's involvement in at least one of the slayings. Ng's trial was recessed yesterday because a juror was sick.

Full Text (787 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 28, 1998

Leonard Lake, who allegedly helped plot and execute the 12 murders for which Charles Ng is standing trial, kept a diary in which the mundane details of his life were recorded alongside his plan to turn women into sexual slaves.

The journal was mentioned during opening statements when Ng's trial began Monday. Ng's defense team has said it plans to use the document to prove Ng was a bystander in the serial murders, while Lake, who committed suicide shortly after his arrest in June 1985, did the killings.

Prosecutors have indicated they may introduce portions of the journal to demonstrate Ng's involvement in at least one of the slayings. Ng's trial was recessed yesterday because a juror was sick.

The diary -- more than a hundred pages of typed and hand-written entries made in 1983 and 1984 -- provides a portrait of an obsessive individual who did not consider himself subject to society's legal or moral strictures.

"I am a dangerous person," Lake wrote. "Society would be worried if they knew that I existed and what I was up to."

In a series of entries, he recalls how he and Ng stalked and murdered Paul Cosner, a San Francisco auto broker who is one of the 12 people Ng is charged with killing.

Throughout the document, Lake demonstrates his obsession with the sexual subjugation of women. Yet the journal is also remarkable for its near-lack of emotional content.

Lake's descriptions of how he selected and stalked potential sexual slaves, built a bondage cell to imprison them and planned and committed murder is just as flat as when he recounts doing his laundry, shopping or watching television reruns.

"This book is really more of a log," he wrote in early 1983. "With few exceptions, the reader will not find any great thoughts or deep studies within (it). . . . The depth of my sins are not recorded."

In some entries, Lake discusses his "ops" -- criminal operations such as stealing marijuana from rural pot plantations, selling the drug to raise money for his sexual slavery scheme and targeting "betas," Lake's code word for potential homicide victims.

Some sections concern Lake's "Miranda Project," a sexual slavery scheme inspired by John Fowles' thriller "The Collector." The female protagonist of Fowles' book is a woman named Miranda who is kidnapped and held as a bondage slave by a sexual psychopath.

On Feb. 19, 1983, Lake wrote: " `The Collector,' ah, `The Collector.' Has it really been 20 years I have carried this fantasy?"

In an entry early in 1984, Lake describes his work in constructing a bondage cell at his rural hideaway near Wilseyville in Calaveras County.

"1983 was the year of Miranda," he wrote. "Started (and abandoned) in Humboldt County and restarted here. M is a serious underground construction meant to: 1) Provide a physical setting for my sexual fantasies. 2) Provide physical security for myself and my possessions. 3) Provide limited protection from nuclear fallout."

He concludes the passage by writing that how the chamber will work as a bondage cell "is unknown until the facility is operational and something happens."

In some of the most chilling entries, Lake appears to dispassionately describe how he and Ng picked Cosner as the target of a Nov. 2, 1984, abduction and murder.

Cosner's body has never been found, but investigators believe he was abducted, possibly from his Marina District home, and shot to death. Lake was driving Cosner's Honda at the time of his arrest in South San Francisco, and some of the missing man's personal effects - - including bank and credit cards -- were found in Wilseyville.

"25 Oct.," Lake wrote. "Slow day. Went to SF . . . Considering new operation. Loot, ID, vehicles, beta (murder victim). Unfortunately, will need Charlie."

After checking on an ad Cosner had run offering a 1980 Honda Prelude, Lake wrote: "31 Oct. Nothing day. Spent day making calls and checking out potential ops. New Beta. Honda Prelude with owner that could pass for me.

"1 Nov. Nothing day. Called Beta and arranged to pay him \$500 tomorrow night. To meet Charlie tomorrow noon and make plans.

"2 Nov. Met Charlie. Performed op. Met resistance for first time, Unsuccessful in obtaining credit card or bank codes. Drove to country for completion. Canceled Charlie's running debt to me."

Two entries after his description of the "Beta op" on the owner of the Honda Prelude, Lake's diary reverts to his daily activities, as if the incident had never occurred.

"4 Nov.," he wrote. "Spent whole day cleaning house and putting my stuff away. Laundry, shopping, basic coming home stuff. (It is) good to be home."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) Leonard Lake, (2) Charles Ng

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Serial murders, Diaries, Torture, Evidence, Trials, Sex crimes
Locations: Orange County California, Calaveras County California
People: Lake, Leonard, Ng, Charles
Author(s): Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer
Document types: News
Dateline: *Santa Ana, Orange County*
Section: *NEWS*
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 28, 1998. pg. A.13
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San Francisco Chronicle

Tow Truck Operator Investigated in Pot Haul; [FINAL / EAST BAY Edition]

Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 30, 1999. pg. A.16

Abstract (Summary)

The owner of a Redwood Empire tow truck service is under investigation for allegedly growing marijuana, according to federal court documents filed this week.

Claude Buhler, proprietor of Cloud's Towing Service in Garberville, was the alleged operator of a marijuana plantation situated in a rural structure near Piercy in Humboldt County.

Full Text (193 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Apr 30, 1999

The owner of a Redwood Empire tow truck service is under investigation for allegedly growing marijuana, according to federal court documents filed this week.

Claude Buhler, proprietor of Cloud's Towing Service in Garberville, was the alleged operator of a marijuana plantation situated in a rural structure near Piercy in Humboldt County.

Agents who searched the structure last week say they found more than 2,000 marijuana plants and nearly 900 seedlings.

No charges have been lodged against Buhler, but an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court by Special Agent Mark Nelson of the Drug Enforcement Administration says that the tow-company operator is suspected of operating a propagation center for marijuana.

Buhler could not be reached for comment yesterday.

According to a separate affidavit by DEA Special Agent Jon Pickette, federal agents were tipped to Buhler's alleged pot operation by an anonymous letter they received in March.

The letter alleged that "Cloud" Buhler was running an indoor marijuana plantation and was also involved in the sale of illegal assault rifles, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin in Mendocino and Humboldt counties.

When the DEA searched the structure near Piercy on April 21, they found 2,498 marijuana plants.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 30, 1999. pg. A.16
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San Francisco Chronicle

Alarm in Oakland Alerts Cop to 2,000 Pot Plants; [FINAL Edition]

Henry K. Lee, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 1, 1999. pg. A.20

Abstract (Summary)

A predawn burglar alarm led police not to a thief but to the discovery of 2,000 marijuana plants in an area of Oakland that is better known for car sales and repairs than for illegal hydroponics.

Oakland police Officer Carl Martin Jr. stumbled on the sophisticated marijuana greenhouse at 2:50 a.m. when he heard an alarm coming from the small warehouse in the city's Auto Row commercial district.

A search of the two-story building at 439 23rd St. yielded growing equipment and 300 to 500 pounds of marijuana - one of the largest seizures of the pungent herb in Oakland.

Full Text (460 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Sep 1, 1999

A predawn burglar alarm led police not to a thief but to the discovery of 2,000 marijuana plants in an area of Oakland that is better known for car sales and repairs than for illegal hydroponics.

Oakland police Officer Carl Martin Jr. stumbled on the sophisticated marijuana greenhouse at 2:50 a.m. when he heard an alarm coming from the small warehouse in the city's ~~Auto Row commercial~~ district.

A search of the two-story building at 439 23rd St. yielded growing equipment and 300 to 500 pounds of marijuana -- one of the largest seizures of the pungent herb in Oakland.

Authorities placed the potential value of the marijuana, which included nearly 2,000 plants ranging in size from 3 inches to 4 feet and packages of dried marijuana, at up to \$2 million.

"It is a pretty sizable recovery," said Oakland Vice and Narcotics Lt. Rick Hart.

Deric Haase, a contractor who helped renovate the warehouse in 1996, agreed. "For that area at that location, I would never think of something like that," he said. "That sounds like Humboldt size."

Police were trying to locate the man who may have lived in the building to tend to the plants, which were grown both hydroponically, or without soil, and in pots.

"I suspected something, because he'd go inside, shut the door, and we would never see him again," said Jeff Friedman, owner of a BMW service shop next door. "It doesn't surprise me, because the dude was weird."

Unlike most burglar alarms, the warehouse alarm was not rigged to the Oakland police dispatch center, most likely to avoid law-enforcement scrutiny.

But Martin heard the alarm while on routine patrol and called for backup after he found the building's sliding garage door and a second-story window open.

Martin and Officer Matt Hornung searched the building for a possible burglar. Although no one was found, officers were hit with the strong odor of marijuana. Inside, police found the plants, along with heat lamps, and irrigation and ventilation systems.

Meanwhile, a man and woman were arrested on unrelated charges in the North Bay yesterday after Healdsburg police and a Sonoma County narcotics task force served a search warrant at a home on Alta Vista Drive. Police found more than 50 marijuana plants, four pounds of dried marijuana worth \$20,000, and an unspecified amount of cash, said Healdsburg police Sgt. Gary Plass.

Mary Elizabeth Black, 52, who lives at the home, and her boyfriend, George Steven Williams, 59, were booked at the Sonoma County Jail on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Oakland police Officers Ben Martin, left, Bruce White, right, and Ed Berentes loaded some of the 2,000 pot plants into garbage bags. / Michael Macor/The Chronicle

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Marijuana, Greenhouses, Alarms, Investigations, Police, Search & seizure
Locations: Oakland California
Author(s): Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer
Document types: News
Dateline: OAKLAND
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 1, 1999. pg. A.20
Source type: Newspaper
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San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO BOARDWATCH; [FINAL Edition]

Edward Epstein. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 9, 1999. pg. A.18

Abstract (Summary)

-- An ordinance calling for voters to decide next March on an \$87.4 million bond issue for the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Supervisor Tom Ammiano amended the action to require the academy to study how to improve nonauto transportation to the park.

-- A \$10,000 reward to an anonymous person whose information helped convict Edward Kennedy in the February 1996 stabbing murder of Sergio Crockett, a 15-year-old whose body was found in the Richmond District.

Full Text (244 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 9, 1999

SAN FRANCISCO BOARDWATCH

At its weekly meeting yesterday, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

APPROVED

-- An ordinance calling for voters to decide next March on an \$87.4 million bond issue for the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Supervisor Tom Ammiano amended the action to require the academy to study how to improve nonauto transportation to the park.

-- A \$10,000 reward to an anonymous person whose information helped convict Edward Kennedy in the February 1996 stabbing murder of Sergio Crockett, a 15-year-old whose body was found in the Richmond District.

-- A resolution urging the Recreation and Park Department to work with the city of Pacifica to establish a skating park in unused parts of Sharp Park.

INTRODUCED

-- Supervisor Mark Leno proposed creating a citywide identification card for people who use medicinal marijuana. Such a system is in place in Oakland, in Mendocino County and in Arcata (Humboldt County).

The cards would be issued by the Department of Public Health, based on recommendations from doctors.

-- Supervisor Leslie Katz called on the city to consider creating a public-private venture capital fund to help small startup firms.

-- In the aftermath of two recent escapes by inmates, Supervisor Mabel Teng called on the Youth Guidance Center to change its policy on not notifying neighbors when escapes take place.

-- With the number of asthma cases rising, Supervisor Alicia Becerril proposed creating a government task force on dealing with the disease.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Edward Epstein

Dateline: *San Francisco*
Column Name: *SAN FRANCISCO BOARDWATCH*
Section: *NEWS*
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 9, 1999. pg. A.18
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San Francisco Chronicle

S.F. Board to Vote Today on Plan For Pot-User IDs / Supervisor urges cards for patients; [FINAL Edition]

Yumi Wilson, *Chronicle Staff Writer*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 24, 2000. pg. A.11

Abstract (Summary)

In the latest effort to legitimize the use of medicinal marijuana, San Francisco supervisors are expected to approve legislation today that would allow city health officials to issue identification cards to qualified users and their caregivers.

Under the proposal by Supervisor Mark Leno, the Department of Public Health or a nonprofit group would issue photo identification cards to anyone who qualifies under Proposition 215, the 1996 state medical marijuana initiative, which allows ill Californians to consume and cultivate pot with the permission of their doctors.

From the day the measure passed, some California law enforcement agencies and politicians have criticized Proposition 215 as ambiguous and a violation of federal law. State Attorney General Bill Lockyer supports a bill making its way through the Legislature that would identify legitimate users while making it easier for police to crack down on frauds.

Full Text (849 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 24, 2000

In the latest effort to legitimize the use of medicinal marijuana, San Francisco supervisors are expected to approve legislation today that would allow city health officials to issue identification cards to qualified users and their caregivers.

Under the proposal by Supervisor Mark Leno, the Department of Public Health or a nonprofit group would issue photo identification cards to anyone who qualifies under Proposition 215, the 1996 state medical marijuana initiative, which allows ill Californians to consume and cultivate pot with the permission of their doctors.

From the day the measure passed, some California law enforcement agencies and politicians have criticized Proposition 215 as ambiguous and a violation of federal law. State Attorney General Bill Lockyer supports a bill making its way through the Legislature that would identify legitimate users while making it easier for police to crack down on frauds.

Under that bill, there would be a registry of patients whose doctors recommend medicinal marijuana, said Nathan Barankin, spokesman for Lockyer.

Leno believes that his proposal will essentially do the same thing but on the local level.

"Many groups came to me expressing a desire to be able to recommend, provide and use cannabis without fear of harassment or persecution," Leno said. "The police also asked for a way to distinguish legitimate users from illicit ones."

The cards would be good for two years. Recipients would have to pay what Leno described as a modest fee. To protect confidentiality, the person's name and address would not be on the card. Instead, each card would contain a "unique serial number" corresponding to the person's California driver's license, state ID card or passport.

If Leno's measure is approved by the Board of Supervisors, San Francisco would become one of the few cities in California that offer identification cards to marijuana users.

"This pre-identifies people who have an affirmative defense, meaning they don't deserve to be prosecuted by the police under the state health and safety code," said Mendocino County Sheriff Tony Craver.

Mendocino County's program was one of the models for Leno's proposal, along with a similar plan in the Humboldt County town of Arcata. Already, the measure has received the support of two groups that dispense medicinal marijuana: the Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems center and the San Francisco Patients Resource Center.

"The legislation is going to help patients be more protected and enable Proposition 215 to work without further harassments to patients," said Jeff Jones of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative. "Even now, San Francisco patients are being visited by police and having their plants ripped up because police do not recognize their doctors' note."

The measure has also obtained the support of District Attorney Terence Hallinan and the Department of Public Health.

But not everyone is convinced that an identification program for medicinal pot users will help in the enforcement of Proposition 215.

San Francisco police spokesman Sherman Ackerson questioned how an ID card would stop abuse.

"The department supports the notion of people needing marijuana for medical reasons," Ackerson said. "But Police Chief Fred Lau hasn't really been invited or asked to sit down and work out these details, and it's his view that we need to sit down with city officials and work out the details of this because there are . . . abuses that can happen with this thing."

For example, Ackerson said, "What if a 15-year-old has this card? Is this for personal consumption, or will we have dealers with these cards?"

As drafted, the identification card program does not deal with questions about age or how much marijuana a person could have in his or her possession.

But Leno's proposal does call for a fine of as much as \$250 and three months in jail for anyone falsifying, forging or altering a document to support his or her request for an ID card.

Leno's bill will help both patients and police, said Wayne Justmann of the San Francisco Patients Resource Center.

"If I have this card in hand, and I am stopped and have cannabis, the card should let the police know I should be allowed to go on my way," Justmann said.

But Michael Bellefountaine, a member of ACT UP San Francisco, is not convinced that police would let cardholders go on their way as Justmann suggests.

"ACT UP is worried that this card program will herald a new era of pot arrests," Bellefountaine wrote in the December issue of Magnus, a gay magazine. "Differentiating between legitimate and illegitimate users is the real purpose of this card, not the safe procurement of the product for people who need it."

Bellefountaine, whose group distributed medical cannabis, also questioned why the city needs to charge a fee.

"It doesn't seem right that a person who can afford the card could smoke pot outside the Opera House, but a homeless person who couldn't afford the card would be harassed for smoking on the street," he wrote.

A fee is part of the proposal, but Leno's supporters say the Department of Public Health could offer free or discounted cards to those who cannot afford them.

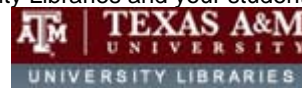
Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Drug legalization, Initiatives, Marijuana, Identification documents, Patients
Locations: San Francisco California
People: Leno, Mark
Author(s): Yumi Wilson, Chronicle Staff Writer
Document types: News

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San Francisco Chronicle

Law and Disorder / Californians voted to make medical marijuana legal in 1996. But political paralysis over enforcement has some communities taking matters into their own hands.; [SUNDAY Edition]

Laura Hamburg. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 26, 2000. pg. 1

Abstract (Summary)

But not in Mendocino County. Not in the town of Arcata in Humboldt County. And not in San Francisco, where Mayor Willie Brown is due to launch a program that will allow patients like Vier to use marijuana without fear of arrest.

But the concept of relieving simple human suffering hasn't penetrated the ivory towers above the Beltway. There, policy-setters continue to assault medical marijuana under the leadership of a president who claims he didn't inhale -- and neither should any one else. His "drug czar," Gen. Barry McCaffrey, recently called medical marijuana "a crock." Senators Dianne Feinstein and Orrin Hatch are pushing for a law that would make it a crime to discuss on the Internet how to distribute or produce drugs. That means swapping tips on growing medical marijuana would be just as illegal as a Web site that details how to whip up a vat of crank.

But as lawmakers struggle with the devils in the details, people in less progressive parts of the state are being persecuted for using medical marijuana. In Sonoma, Placer, Marin and Orange counties, medical marijuana patients are being arrested. Some have been re-arrested after being acquitted. In Shasta County, Sheriff Jim Pope may face contempt-of-court charges for turning over medical marijuana to federal agents, even though he was ordered by a judge to return it to a patient.

Full Text (2324 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 26, 2000

Laura Hamburg is a free-lance writer who lives in Ukiah.

Before she died of cancer last Christmas Eve, Nemo Vier's mother had shrunk to 65 pounds.

Each week, Vier would scoop his mom's frail body into his arms and drive her to Mendocino County's cannabis club. There, she'd smoke marijuana to relieve her chronic pain and nausea.

In other California counties, Lucia Yvonne Vier, a 48-year-old cosmetologist who died holding her Bible and rosary beads, could have gone to jail for smoking marijuana to ease her pain.

But not in Mendocino County. Not in the town of Arcata in Humboldt County. And not in San Francisco, where Mayor Willie Brown is due to launch a program that will allow patients like Vier to use marijuana without fear of arrest.

All three places are scrappy pockets of resistance in a country where medical marijuana use is a federal crime and in a state that refuses to implement Proposition 215, the medical marijuana law passed by 56 percent of the voters in 1996.

Bolstered by the trickle-up will of the people and a handful of maverick officials, these communities are serving as role models in a budding counterinsurgency against the federal government's war on medical marijuana.

"Hell, if Janet Reno herself wants to come in here and arrest me for giving the people what they already voted for, I say fine," said Mendocino Sheriff Tony Craver, who worked with District Attorney Norm Vroman last year to launch the state's first countywide medical marijuana program.

"If you're sick, you should not have to worry about arrest or being hassled by the cops or having your property seized just for doing something that is legally protected," said Craver, who spent 28 of his 60 years as a street cop.

But the concept of relieving simple human suffering hasn't penetrated the ivory towers above the Beltway. There, policy-setters continue to assault medical marijuana under the leadership of a president who claims he didn't inhale -- and neither should any one else. His "drug czar," Gen. Barry McCaffrey, recently called medical marijuana "a crock." Senators Dianne Feinstein and Orrin Hatch are pushing for a law that would make it a crime to discuss on the Internet how to distribute or produce drugs. That means swapping tips on growing medical marijuana would be just as illegal as a Web site that details how to whip up a vat of crank.

In Ukiah two years ago, federal agents masquerading as ill patients with prescriptions for medical marijuana conned their way into the Ukiah Cannabis Club and shut it down, along with half a dozen other California clubs. This left seriously ill patients no choice but to pay high street prices for their medicine -- if they could find it.

It's these types of government actions and attitudes that are creating a grass-roots backlash.

"It's reefer madness turned around -- the government doing all these crazy things to the people," said Marvin Lehrman, who runs the Ukiah Cannabis Club with his wife Millie, a clinical pharmacist. The Lehrmans risk arrest for continuing to keep the club doors open in defiance of the federal injunction.

"I am disgusted by our government and these politicians. What if it was their mother who was dying? What if their child was sick?" said Vier, 28, a radio announcer whose mother died of cancer. Vier is committed to spreading his mother's gospel that marijuana should be available to the sick.

Vier has a tattoo of his late mother stenciled on into his back, rightright next to a smiling Jesus Christ adorned with wings and the words, "In Loving Memory." It's her 1967 Analy High School graduation portrait, complete with a Ronette-type beehive hairdo.

"I love it how these people in Mendocino don't back down. That's why my mother felt so welcome here," he said of the Ukiah Cannabis Club.

Medical marijuana proponents like Vier and the Lehrmans are battling on more than one front. In addition to active attempts by the federal government to clamp down on medical marijuana, they are up against political infighting that has paralyzed attempts to make Proposition 215 a reality in the state.

State Sen. John Vasconcellos' move to develop a state identification program bogged and died in the last legislative session. It may be revived this session, but in the meantime, politicians in Sacramento are sitting on their hands, afraid to enforce the law.

"Everyone knows what the initiative sought to accomplish -- sick people who have a recommendation form from a physician should be given their medicine," said Nathan Barankin, spokesman for state Attorney General Bill Lockyer. "Now from there it gets really, really murky. How do you define a caregiver? What is the appropriate quantity? What about distribution? How do you tell the good guys from the bad guys?" he said. "The initiative didn't answer any of those questions as it was written, which makes it difficult to enforce the law."

But as lawmakers struggle with the devils in the details, people in less progressive parts of the state are being persecuted for using medical marijuana. In Sonoma, Placer, Marin and Orange counties, medical marijuana patients are being arrested. Some have been re-arrested after being acquitted. In Shasta County, Sheriff Jim Pope may face contempt-of-court charges for turning over medical marijuana to federal agents, even though he was ordered by a judge to return it to a patient.

Despite both federal and state restrictions, counties like Mendocino continue to offer a haven for patients like Chris Sorenson, a 39-year-old former firefighter with glaucoma who uses marijuana to relieve the pressure building behind his eyes. "If it wasn't for the marijuana I'd be blind," Sorenson said. "Doctors told me 10 years ago I'd be blind in five years. I just want to hold on to my sight as long as possible so I can see my newborn baby grow up."

Mendocino also makes it safe for Jamie Ryan, 23, who has a rare neurological disease called cerebellar ataxia. Because she cannot use her hands, which are curled in rippling fits of muscle spasms, Ryan leans forward from her wheelchair and smokes marijuana from a battery-operated pipe. Marijuana eases her spasticity and stimulates her appetite, said her mother, Sharon Short, who buys marijuana in Ukiah to make Jamie rice crispy treats at home. "I can't believe handguns are legal, but I am made to feel like a criminal for helping my daughter," said Short.

For Laurie Sylstra, 48, of Ukiah, Mendocino's program offers blessed respite from the 17 pills she used to take daily after surgery for a brain aneurysm left her partially paralyzed.

After her surgery and a three-month hospital stay, Sylstra was left with two metal clips in her brain, slurred speech, wobbly mobility and searing headaches. For years she gulped handfuls of pills -- legally prescribed narcotics such as Vicodin and Demerol. She took Valium for anxiety; Phenobarbital to prevent seizures; Flexeril, a muscle relaxer; Decadron, to decrease intercranial pressure; and so on. Her prescriptions cost \$712 a month.

As a card-carrying member the Mendocino program, marijuana costs her half as much. The herb has stopped her headaches, prevents her spasms and has helped wean her off of the prescribed narcotics. Marijuana is the now the only medicine she uses.

Those who suffer physical ailments aren't the only ones baffled by efforts to outlaw medical marijuana. "If I gave you a hundred Percocets or Valium a week, no one would bat an eye," said Dr. Marvin Trotter, Mendocino County's public health officer. "But if you have cancer and you want to smoke a joint to ease your nausea, it's considered a bad thing. As a physician, I just don't get it."

Other local officials don't get it either. In the Humboldt County town of Arcata, Police Chief Mel Brown personally screens each medical marijuana patient to make sure their doctor's prescription is legitimate. Once cleared, Brown snaps the patient's picture with a digital camera and hands them a laminated ID card, which protects them from arrest by his officers.

"It was 1997, a year after the voters passed Proposition 215, and we realized we better quit bitching about how the state wasn't doing anything to implement the law," Brown said. "Somebody had to do something, so we stepped up the plate."

Brown said that at first he "took a lot of heat" from his fellow officers. "My peers said, 'Good God, Mel's really slipped a cog.'"

But the Arcata program has won over its toughest critics, especially since it lowered the city's police overtime bill.

Other counties are now following Mendocino County's lead. Ventura County officials are meeting with Mendocino's district attorney and sheriff to get the low-down on their program, and Tehama County is also considering a medical marijuana plan. In San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown last month signed into law a medical program largely based on those in Mendocino county and Arcata. The San Francisco program was spearheaded by Supervisor Mark Leno in response to lobbying from local medical marijuana advocates, but he had personal reasons for supporting it as well. Doug Jackson, Leno's partner of 10 years, died of AIDS. "There were times in his battle with AIDS where marijuana would have been very helpful," Leno said.

Those who paved the way for medical marijuana program report smooth sailing, thanks to cooperation from patients, doctors and law enforcement officials.

Now that Arcata police know who is legal and who isn't, Brown said, they don't waste time and county money going to court to testify against medical marijuana patients.

"It's made our lives easier. Now there's not a person in this town who doesn't know the rules," Brown said. "If any fool wants to abuse the program, we'll arrest them. It's as simple as that."

HOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAMS WORK

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Free countywide identification program started last year. So far, 225 residents have received ID cards.

The way it works:

-- Patients go to the county's public health department with a written or verbal prescription for medical marijuana from a local physician.

-- The public health officer verifies the legitimacy of the prescription by contacting the physician. Information on the patient's medical condition and the name of the physician is then destroyed before the patient's and a designated caregiver's name is forwarded to the county sheriff's office.

-- The patient and caregiver are issued a laminated photo identification with name, photo, date of birth, a serial number, expiration date (usually good for one year) and signature.

-- Patients or caregivers are allowed up to six flowering marijuana plants or 12 immature plants -- enough to produce up to two pounds of dried marijuana.

-- Patients, caregivers and physicians must be residents of Mendocino County. (Exceptions are made for cancer, AIDs and lupus patients who may be treated by out-of-county medical experts.)

ARCATA

Free citywide identification program started in 1997. City doesn't keep track of the number of cards issued.

The way it works:

-- Patients go to the police chief's office with a written or verbal prescription for medical marijuana from a California physician.

-- The police chief verifies the legitimacy of the prescription by contacting the physician. No information on the patient, the patient's caregiver or the physician is kept on file.

-- The patient is issued a photo identification with name, photo, an expiration date based on the physician's recommendation, a serial number and signature. Caregivers do not get a card. Patients and caregivers keep track of their own written agreement confirming name of caregiver.

-- Patients and/or caregivers are allowed up to eight ounces of dried marijuana or 10 flowering plants.

-- Patient must be an Arcata resident. Recommending physicians can be from anywhere, as long as they are licensed doctors in good standing.

SAN FRANCISCO

Countywide identification program is due to launch within next several months. Details are currently being hammered out by the county health department. The county is likely to charge a per-card fee of \$20 to \$25.

The way it is expected to work:

-- Patients and the patient's primary caregiver will go to the public health department with a written or verbal prescription for medical marijuana from a local physician.

-- The public health officer will verify the legitimacy of the prescription by contacting the physician. Information on the patient's medical condition and the name of the physician will then be destroyed before the patient's and caregivers' serial numbers are forwarded to the district attorney.

-- The patient and up to four or five designated caregivers will be issued photo identification cards with just a serial number. Cards will not contain patients' or caregivers' names. Cards will expire after two years.

-- There will be no limit on the amount of marijuana, either dried or flowering, allowed for patients or their caregivers. Those rules will be made and enforced by the district attorney.

-- Patients, caregivers and physicians must be residents of San Francisco County.

Source: Dr. Hermina Palacio, special health adviser for the San Francisco County and City Department of Public Health; Mendocino County Sheriff Tony Craver, District Attorney Norm Vroman and public health officer Dr. Marvin Trotter; Arcata Police Chief Mel Brown.

HAVE YOUR SAY

-- Respond to this week's Topic at sunday or join the discussion at sfgate.com/vent/sunday. For other ways to reach us, see page 10.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (5); Caption: (1-2) Former firefighter Chris Sorenson, top, smokes marijuana at the Ukiah Cannabis Club to relieve symptoms of glaucoma. Above, a marijuana seedling is prepared for planting., (3-4) Sharon Short, left, helps her daughter Jamie into the car. Medical marijuana eases symptoms of Jamie neurological disease. It also provided relief for Lucia Vieras she was dying of cancer, says her son Nemo, bottom left, who has her portrait tattooed on his shoulder., (5) Chris Sorenson, who suffers from glaucoma, prepares his marijuana patch for spring planting. / Photos by Eric Luse/The Chronicle

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San Francisco Chronicle

S.F. Ready to Issue ID Cards For Medicinal Pot Users; [FINAL Edition]

Edward Epstein, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: May 12, 2000. pg. D.4

Abstract (Summary)

San Francisco plans to issue its first identification cards for medicinal marijuana users within a month, officials said yesterday.

By issuing the cards through the Department of Public Health, the city will join Oakland, Mendocino County and Arcata in Humboldt County in issuing the voluntary cards that would allow people to legally use and possess pot.

The fact that it has taken San Francisco almost four years to devise a program following California voters' 1996 passage of Proposition 215, the medicinal marijuana initiative, shows how difficult and complex the issue is. The proposition was designed to allow ill people to consume or grow pot with their doctors' permission.

Full Text (388 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 12, 2000

San Francisco plans to issue its first identification cards for medicinal marijuana users within a month, officials said yesterday.

By issuing the cards through the Department of Public Health, the city will join Oakland, Mendocino County and Arcata in Humboldt County in issuing the voluntary cards that would allow people to legally use and possess pot.

The fact that it has taken San Francisco almost four years to devise a program following California voters' 1996 passage of Proposition 215, the medicinal marijuana initiative, shows how difficult and complex the issue is. The proposition was designed to allow ill people to consume or grow pot with their doctors' permission.

With the card, people can go to any of the many pot distribution clubs in the city to get their supply. Currently, each club registers its own members. All the cards will cost \$25.

The federal government insists that pot is still illegal, and medical pot users told a City Hall hearing called by Supervisor Mark Leno that San Francisco police are still arresting them.

The supervisors passed Leno's proposal in January authorizing the city to issue the cards, but it has taken long negotiations involving the Health Department, pot activists, Leno and city lawyers to work out the details.

People 18 and older can get the cards, good for as long as two years, by presenting valid identification, proof of city residence and a valid doctor's statement containing a diagnosis. Young people 17 and under would have to follow similar rules, but would need to be accompanied by their parents or guardians when applying.

Leno conceded that the cards might not keep some police officers from making arrests.

"I continue to hear that there is still harassment by law enforcement," he said. "That has to end."

Leno said Police Chief Fred Lau has assured him that he wants his officers to stop citing medicinal pot users, "But we know that always doesn't translate into action on the street."

Michael Foley said that about a week ago he was arrested for cultivating medicinal pot, even though he showed police his pot club ID card and a doctor's recommendation.

"The officer saw my card," Foley said. "He said it didn't matter. I couldn't cultivate pot. He said, 'The way we get around this is to take you to federal court.' "

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San Francisco Chronicle

The Graveyard On the Hill; [FINAL Edition]

JON CARROLL. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 29, 2000. pg. E.12

Abstract (Summary)

SO I WENT up to Ferndale this weekend to help the Repertory Theater there raise a little money. Ferndale is about 12 miles south of Eureka; in terms of climate, it's sort of like Baja Oregon.

Susan Diehl McCarthy was born in Ferndale. She's lived in only one other place, Naples, where she taught music in an orphanage and was caught in an earthquake. Her mother still lives in Ferndale, in a neat house right on the main drag.

When she's up in Eureka being a professional loan officer, she's called "Susan" or "Mrs. McCarthy"; in downtown Ferndale she's still "Susie," and she can't make it a block without stopping to talk to someone. She is a modern woman in many ways, but she is also a small- town girl.

Full Text (671 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Mar 29, 2000

Don't get up, gentlemen, I'm just passing through jrc@sfgate.com.

SO I WENT up to Ferndale this weekend to help the Repertory Theater there raise a little money. Ferndale is about 12 miles south of Eureka; in terms of climate, it's sort of like Baja Oregon.

My plane arrived at 11, and the B&B where I was staying did not start accepting check-ins until 3 -- yet another charming eccentricity that makes B&Bs your least convenient choice in accommodations -- so a wonderfully pleasant woman named Susan Diehl McCarthy showed me around.

We ate at Wildberries in Arcata, a landmark grocery store with live accordion music and free samples of soy milk -- God, I love Northern California -- and we toured the famous marsh where sewage is treated using natural biological filters and the wild lilac grows. We saw the restored Victorians of downtown Eureka.

We talked about timber and fishing and dairy ranching and marijuana, the economic basics of life up there, and we talked about earthquakes and floods, which is what Californians always talk about. Then we came to Ferndale.

Susan Diehl McCarthy was born in Ferndale. She's lived in only one other place, Naples, where she taught music in an orphanage and was caught in an earthquake. Her mother still lives in Ferndale, in a neat house right on the main drag.

When she's up in Eureka being a professional loan officer, she's called "Susan" or "Mrs. McCarthy"; in downtown Ferndale she's still "Susie," and she can't make it a block without stopping to talk to someone. She is a modern woman in many ways, but she is also a small- town girl.

FERNDALE IS SET in a cul-de-sac at the edge of the rich bottomland at the mouth of the Eel River. On the hill to the east is the old graveyard. A footpath winds up the hill,, the view of the ocean from the top is spectacular.

Susan and I started up the hill. Pretty soon she began reading the names off the headstones. "Old Ferndale family," she would say, or "Their son still lives in town," or "They used to hold hands in church; they were married 50 years."

She stopped at stone marked "Jeanette Ford."

"She was my sixth-grade teacher. She visited me in Italy. She showed me what to do if you get bits of cork in your wine bottle."

"Which is . . ."

"Strain it through your pantyhose."

We wandered some more. Susan talked. I was reminded of "Our Town" or "Spoon River Anthology," one of those plays where the dead sit in straight-backed chairs (never any Barcaloungers for the deceased) and tell their stories. For Susan, the graveyard was filled with many voices; she was letting me hear a few of them.

We came to a stone marked 1964-1986. "That was tragic," she said, and walked on. She was not going to let me hear every whisper on the windy hillside.

We came to her father's stone. William Diehl had been the Lutheran minister in town. He had come to Ferndale not intending to stay long. Now he was part of the erosion-control program.

Susan stood looking down. "I think we guessed wrong on his stone," she said, her fingers tracing the dates. "It's wearing too much." She pointed to four small, smooth rocks placed right next to the "L" in "Diehl."

"That's his granddaughter, my brother's youngest," she said. "She brings him rocks she thinks he'll like. No one ever told her to do it. She just walks up and leaves the stones. It's just a . . ." She stops.

"Connection?" I suggest.

"I'm not sure. When you grow up in a small town, everyone's still . . . around. There's no privacy, and it can drive you nuts, but there's also . . ."

"Smooth stones," I said.

She rearranged them a little and brushed the dirt off her father's name. "Smooth stones," she said.

Day of the living dead: a serene and hopeful ghost story.

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San Francisco Chronicle

High-Grade Gathering / Way up in Humboldt, Reggae on the River celebrates the music and the ganga; [FINAL Edition]

Joel Selvin, *Chronicle Pop Music Editor*. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 8, 2000. pg. D.1

Abstract (Summary)

For the past 17 years, everything has shut down on the first weekend in August for Reggae on the River, a three-day music festival that brings the best-known reggae performers from around the world to a beautiful natural amphitheater in the heart of California marijuana country.

During the past 25 years, reggae music has grown from provincial Jamaican soul to a worldwide movement. At Reggae on the River, Natural Vibrations mixed reggae with Hawaiian music. African reggae was sprinkled throughout the program. Gondwana from Chile sang its skillful reggae in Spanish. Rocker-T from Brooklyn traded high-fives with stagesiders, opening his Sunday morning show by rapping straight out of the Bible.

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Below: Mani Marley, son of the legendary [Bob Marley], was part of a lineup that included musicians from all over the world., (2) Reggae icon [Jimmy Cliff] performed at the annual Reggae on the River festival Saturday night in Humboldt County., (3) Thousands of campers and day-trippers lined Humboldt County's Eel River during Reggae on the River, braving 100-degree heat to attend the music festival. / Photos by Timothy Batt/The Chronicle

Full Text (937 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Aug 8, 2000

E-mail Joel Selvin at selvin@sfgate.com.

Rastas in bright red, green and yellow knit caps eating breakfast at the Eel River Cafe, watched over by two giant mounted steelheads and photos of 4-H Club winners, don't attract special attention in this sleepy town. Everybody knows this is reggae weekend.

For the past 17 years, everything has shut down on the first weekend in August for Reggae on the River, a three-day music festival that brings the best-known reggae performers from around the world to a beautiful natural amphitheater in the heart of California marijuana country.

A capacity crowd of 10,000 camped over the weekend on the 11-acre site next to the Eel River, 10 miles south of town on Highway 101, and attended concerts by top acts such as Jimmy Cliff and Bunny Wailer from Jamaica and Femi Kuti from Nigeria.

During the past 25 years, reggae music has grown from provincial Jamaican soul to a worldwide movement. At Reggae on the River, Natural Vibrations mixed reggae with Hawaiian music. African reggae was sprinkled throughout the program. Gondwana from Chile sang its skillful reggae in Spanish. Rocker-T from Brooklyn traded high-fives with stagesiders, opening his Sunday morning show by rapping straight out of the Bible.

Even Cyril Neville, one of New Orleans' Neville Brothers, signed up, proclaiming his Uptown All-Stars "the world's only second-line reggae band."

Under the starry sky and crescent moon Friday, Femi Kuti -- son of the late, legendary dissident musician Fela Kuti - let his galloping, rhythmically rich Afropop waft into the nighttime breeze to bring the first evening to a rewarding close.

The Reggae on the River experience has become a rite of passage for Northern California teens. The fellows from Tubesteak Jones, a whacking good ska-flavored band from Willits playing on the bill Friday, were jubilant about having made the transition from audience to performer. One member was especially glad, he said, because he was appearing courtesy of a three-day pass out of county jail from a cooperative judge.

But this is more than just another concert. It's a gift from Jah Rastafari, the great reggae god, to this small but thriving enclave of aging hippies and their families living amid the peace and grandeur of the giant redwoods.

Around these parts, they call the festival the cash cow. Nothing outside of the annual marijuana crop has brought such prosperity to this area. With tickets priced at \$90, box-office proceeds alone rack up almost \$1 million before the first T-shirt is sold. Over the years, Reggae on the River has flushed about \$60 million through this remote community.

"I've always said this was a blessing," said Carol Bruno, the mother of five who started the festival with \$20,000. It was a project to rebuild the fire-damaged Mateel Community Center in nearby Redway. Fewer than 1,200 people showed up. No drinking water could be found on the site.

Now the shows have routinely sold out months in advance. The festival is well organized, with more than 2,000 volunteers. However, the producers still have to contend with the vagaries of the reggae world. Toots and the Maytals, scheduled to close the Saturday show, canceled at the last minute, citing "exhaustion."

Last weekend, festival traffic was rerouted along the highway. A tent city bloomed along the riverside in the early Friday hours called the "Crunch," after miles of cars waiting outside the parking lot finally gained entrance at 6 in the morning.

With 100-degree heat bearing down, several hundred campers splashed around in the bend of the river, clothing definitely optional. In the bowl where the stage was built, two parachutes provided welcome shade, and fans filled the hillside above with their own canopies. Booths selling food, clothes and crafts surrounded the amphitheater.

All 20 food booths are run by local nonprofit groups. The pizza bread concession alone earned Skyfish School, an alternative elementary school in Briceland, a tidy \$20,000. "I call that a helluva bake sale," said Skyfish's Peter Ryce, who moved here from Berkeley almost 30 years ago.

Marijuana was everywhere. People smoke it, sell it, wear it in garlands around their necks. Musicians celebrated ganja from the stage in song and deed. Even the 20-foot-tall carnival puppets had their own king-sized joint to smoke.

"Welcome to Humboldt County," said one of the concert's masters of ceremonies, "land of high grade."

Julia Butterfly Hill, who speaks for the trees and is greatly beloved in these woods, addressed the crowd Saturday night and held a press conference backstage Sunday afternoon joined by Joan Baez, who sang and danced onstage earlier in the day with Senegalese troupe Kouyate Djeli Diabate.

Hill credited her visit to the 1997 Reggae on the River, where she worked as a volunteer, with giving her the idea to live in a tree about 40 miles north of the festival site.

"There is nothing like this anywhere in the world," said a bleary-eyed Bunny Wailer backstage. The sole surviving member of the Wailers, the Jamaican vocal group he founded with Bob Marley and Peter Tosh when they were teens in Kingston, brought this year's festival to a close Sunday night with a magisterial Rastafarian worship service.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Below: Mani Marley, son of the legendary Bob Marley, was part of a lineup that included musicians from all over the world., (2) Reggae icon Jimmy Cliff performed at the annual Reggae on the River festival Saturday night in Humboldt County., (3) Thousands of campers and day-trippers lined Humboldt County's Eel River during Reggae on the River, braving 100-degree heat to attend the music festival. / Photos by Timothy Batt/The Chronicle

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San Francisco Chronicle

Mendocino Votes on Growth Industry / Though largely symbolic, Measure G would 'legalize' small marijuana farms; [FINAL Edition]

Jim Doyle, Chronicle Staff Writer. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 30, 2000. pg. A.5

Abstract (Summary)

Measure G seeks to forbid local sheriff's deputies from arresting anyone with 25 or fewer "adult flowering female marijuana plants or the equivalent in dried marijuana." Once the potent buds are cut and dried, 25 such plants can fetch \$100,000 for a mom-and-pop marijuana growing operation.

[Michael Delbar] pointed out that Richard Allen Davis said he was high on marijuana when he murdered 13-year-old Polly Klaas. The supervisor also cited studies indicating that marijuana use adversely affects learning and can be a gateway to other drugs.

Marianne, a clerk at a Willits gym, agreed. "I don't think it should be legal, except for medicinal use," said the woman, who withheld her last name. "I've seen so much harm in town from all kinds of drugs, not just marijuana. I guess I'm turning into a prude. I don't want marijuana, alcohol or tobacco."

Full Text (1114 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Oct 30, 2000

E-mail Jim Doyle at jdoyle@sfchronicle.com.

Fall is harvest time in Mendocino County, with the cash-flush marijuana crop breathing new life into the depressed local economy. And this particular fall, this pot smoker's haven is poised to become the first jurisdiction in the nation to attempt to "legalize" the leafy plant.

Voters in this rural North Coast county, driven by the free spirits in their midst, are likely to approve an initiative on Nov. 7 that declares that growing pot for recreational use should be decriminalized -- although, if passed, Measure G will be pre-empted by state and federal law. But the initiative has inflamed the passions of residents.

"I'm not part of that culture at all, but personally I think it's absurd that marijuana is not legal," said Aria Walker, who manages a Willits gift shop. "It's a benign substance. I think it's just as much a basic right as a having a drink or a cigarette. We should be able to pick our poison."

Since the 1960s, marijuana has been woven into Mendocino County's social fabric. Cannabis has won broad acceptance along the North Coast, where some free spirits revere it as a drug of choice, while the less liberal simply tolerate it.

Ministers, educators and others still rail about the illegal weed, but there is plenty of sympathy here -- not only for pot users, but also for pot growers in the Emerald Triangle, which includes Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties.

Measure G seeks to forbid local sheriff's deputies from arresting anyone with 25 or fewer "adult flowering female marijuana plants or the equivalent in dried marijuana." Once the potent buds are cut and dried, 25 such plants can fetch \$100,000 for a mom-and-pop marijuana growing operation.

The Green Party-sponsored ballot measure also seeks to compel the local sheriff and district attorney to make enforcement of marijuana laws their lowest priority.

Mendocino County, one of the poorest counties in the state, has suffered from high unemployment with the closing of sawmills in recent decades. And the yearly marijuana crop is worth tens of millions of dollars.

"It's worth more than gold," said Bridget Barefield, a shop owner in the roadside hamlet of Laytonville. "If they taxed marijuana, the county wouldn't be as poor."

On the black market, the high-quality sensimilla bud sells for \$3,600 to \$4,000 a pound -- bringing a higher yield than any legal crop.

But commercial pot production is hard work -- a risky, nerve-racking ordeal for growers who are paid once a year at harvest time.

Growers often plant their pot gardens in federal and state wilderness areas or on someone else's ranchland -- making sure to shield their plants from aerial surveillance. Some growers begin their seedlings in barns and warehouses, then tend -- and guard -- their mature crops in remote, mountainous areas. They disguise their illicit profits on the books of legitimate businesses.

"It's a practical, everyday thing for a lot of families here," said Allen Schrage, who sells recreational vehicles in Willits. "There isn't much money in this area. A lot of people lost their jobs in the logging industry. They've got to put food on the table."

Schrage dismissed the potential hazards of pot smoking.

"Eighty percent of the people in this town probably smoke pot," he said. "You never see a pothead go hurt somebody. They're mellow. . . . The most they're going to hurt is the refrigerator."

Michael Delbar, a Mendocino County supervisor, vehemently disagrees. "They claim it's an innocent drug, that no one gets hurt. But it's not an innocent drug," he said.

Delbar pointed out that Richard Allen Davis said he was high on marijuana when he murdered 13-year-old Polly Klaas. The supervisor also cited studies indicating that marijuana use adversely affects learning and can be a gateway to other drugs.

He worries that passage of Measure G would stigmatize the county, which is trying to promote economic growth and create local jobs by enticing businesses to move here. "We have a lot more to offer -- other than marijuana," he said.

Marianne, a clerk at a Willits gym, agreed. "I don't think it should be legal, except for medicinal use," said the woman, who withheld her last name. "I've seen so much harm in town from all kinds of drugs, not just marijuana. I guess I'm turning into a prude. I don't want marijuana, alcohol or tobacco."

David Patterson, who sells arts and crafts in Laytonville, said he supports Measure G because pot "is and should be a very low priority. They should spend their narcotics money on the nasty stuff like heroin and crank (methamphetamine)."

Still, he doubts that Measure G will change the status quo.

"I don't think the growers here will support it because it would probably lower their prices," he said with a wry chuckle. "Already, the cops don't do much about it, unless you're selling it from your house. I've never heard of anyone going to prison here."

Two deputies are assigned to the county's marijuana task force, a team that is clearly overwhelmed by its mission to destroy major pot patches. "They don't have time to go after mom-and-pop gardens," said Sheriff Tony Craver. "As a matter of necessity, we focus on large commercial growers."

The county has led the state in the last two years for the number of marijuana plants eradicated. Aided by state drug officers, the task force has raided 269 pot patches and seized 81,888 plants. That's 30,000 pounds, with a street value of some \$5 million -- but only a fraction of the total harvest.

Nineteen suspected growers have been arrested this year, and 22 firearms have been seized. Deputies said they buried the pot plants in a landfill at an undisclosed location.

Craver is critical of the nation's war on drugs, as is District Attorney Norman Vroman, but both men give Measure G a thumbs-down.

"The amount of time we have to spend on marijuana is disproportionate to the problem it is," Vroman said -- but, he added, Measure G will sow confusion. The ballot measure, he said, is "constitutionally defective and unenforceable."

"The people of Mendocino County are being asked to vote on something that is nothing more than symbolic," said Craver. "The greatest impact that we'll experience from Measure G is the misperception that the public will have that it will be legal for them to grow marijuana. It won't be. State law will prevail."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Law enforcement officer John Bailey toted marijuana plants seized in a 1998 raid in Ukiah. A measure on the Nov. 7 ballot in Mendocino County would make small growing operations legal. / George Nikitin/Associated Press

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San Francisco Chronicle

O Mendocino, How Green Is Your Ballot?; [FINAL Edition]

Debra J. Saunders. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 17, 2000. pg. A.31

Abstract (Summary)

While state and federal laws against marijuana still stand, Measure G denies local funding for the arrest or prosecution of people who own up to 25 marijuana plants. The Big G also mandates police protection for those who grow marijuana for personal use.

While Ukiah finds itself in the "Emerald Triangle" -- Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties, which produce an annual pot crop estimated to value near \$1 billion -- locals have reason to bristle at the area's image as weed heaven. This is not a one-lifestyle community; 42 percent of voters opposed Measure G.

Sheriff Tony Craver helped implement a program to allow the cultivation of plants under Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana statewide in 1996. Craver, who has said he doesn't have time to make arrests for "mom-and-pop gardens," nonetheless opposed Measure G.

Full Text (611 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Nov 17, 2000

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at @cf,el dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

IN PALM BEACH, Florida voters may be spitting mad, but in Ukiah, voters are more, well, harmonious. On Nov. 7, the good people of Mendocino County passed a measure that decriminalized the cultivation and use of marijuana "for personal, medical or recreational purposes."

While state and federal laws against marijuana still stand, Measure G denies local funding for the arrest or prosecution of people who own up to 25 marijuana plants. The Big G also mandates police protection for those who grow marijuana for personal use.

Eh hem, I ask Dan Hamburg, a former Democratic congressman and G champion: 25 plants for personal use?

The answer: Not everyone has a green thumb. On the Mendocino coast, plants don't grow as heartily as they do inland. He admits that one could reap a pound from one plant, then adds sheepishly, "I didn't write it." The local Green Party did.

While Ukiah finds itself in the "Emerald Triangle" -- Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties, which produce an annual pot crop estimated to value near \$1 billion -- locals have reason to bristle at the area's image as weed heaven. This is not a one-lifestyle community; 42 percent of voters opposed Measure G.

A motherly office worker tells me she voted against G because "there was no age limit." Chris Schallert, who owns the North Street Cafe, opposed the measure because marijuana will remain illegal. "If the law says you can't, you can't," he noted.

Still, there was no official opposition to the measure, no one submitted an argument against G for the voters guide.

Sheriff Tony Craver helped implement a program to allow the cultivation of plants under Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana statewide in 1996. Craver, who has said he doesn't have time to make arrests for "mom-and-pop gardens," nonetheless opposed Measure G.

Craver was out of town when I was in, but last month he told The Chronicle, "The greatest impact that we'll experience from Measure G is the misperception that the public will have that it will be legal for them to grow marijuana."

It might as well be legal for Hamburg. A gray haired, pony-tailed grandfather, he lives on a hill amid 46 gorgeous acres of woodlands in a rustic home with no oven, but a gurgling fountain in the courtyard. It is a far cry from the high-powered life he led during his one term in Congress that started in 1993. He was a media darling, largely because of his Robert Redford good looks.

High on his agenda today is his mother, who has breast cancer. She had lost some 30 pounds, tried synthetic pill-form marijuana, but it didn't work. She has gained weight since her daughter-in-law started making her Rice Krispie treats with marijuana and cooking with "green butter."

Both Hamburg and his mom have picture IDs, issued by the county after a medical check, that show that they can possess medical marijuana. The family's six plants even appeared on CNN.

Then, someone stole the family stash. Hamburg wanted the local constabulary to investigate; didn't happen. But a claims adjuster for Hamburg's homeowner's insurance policy did. A State Farm spokesman confirmed that the company will pay on medical marijuana theft claims "if it has been approved for medical use."

But don't expect the company to pay street value.

Does this mean that Hamburg, like George W. Bush, has become a convert to local control? "I think local control should apply when no one outside a geographical area can be damaged," Hamburg answered. Translation: For pot yes, but not environmental issues.

Sort of like Dubya, but the other way around.

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San Francisco Chronicle

State pot farms on move / Mexican cartels plant in southern Sierra, cops say; [EDITION: PM =]

Larry D. Hatfield. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 4, 2001. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Not only is the illicit marijuana industry a major crime problem - - authorities say the Mexican cartels are using profits from their illegal methamphetamine operations to finance expanding pot farms in California and elsewhere - - officials say it poses serious threats to the wilderness ecology and to people using California's and the nation's backcountry.

[Jerry Moore] said there are huge problems with wilderness marijuana plantations in Tulare and Tehama counties, that the sophisticated growing operations have spread into the Angeles, Los Padres and San Bernardino national forests.

A 60,000-plant operation was busted in Sequoia National Forest last year and Moore said several 5,000 to 7,000-plant gardens have already been found in Cleveland National Forest, primarily in San Diego and Orange counties, this year.

Full Text (1097 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 4, 2001

E-mail Larry D. Hatfield at: lhatfield@sfchronicle.com

Increasingly controlled by a handful of Mexican drug cartels, California's billion-dollar wilderness marijuana industry has shifted from the Emerald Triangle in the north to the southern Sierra Nevada, according to federal and state law enforcement officials.

And following a record year last year, officials are gearing up for another bumper crop both in production and seizures this year. The highly valued California-grown pot is literally as valuable as gold, selling today for about the same price as the metal, at around \$4,200 a pound.

Not only is the illicit marijuana industry a major crime problem - - authorities say the Mexican cartels are using profits from their illegal methamphetamine operations to finance expanding pot farms in California and elsewhere -- officials say it poses serious threats to the wilderness ecology and to people using California's and the nation's backcountry.

"This is a really serious problem," said Jerry Moore, regional law enforcement director for the U.S. Forest Service. "And it's a problem that has spread all over the state."

He said the most serious change in the shadow industry is the inroads made by Mexican drug organizations.

"We think we have at least two organizations working here in California, maybe more," Moore said.

Intelligence sources have information that the cartels have divided up territories, with some operating in California and on mostly federal lands elsewhere, including in the Appalachians in the East.

"There's still a number of people growing marijuana for commercial use who have been involved for more than 20 years, mainly in the north, but these organized groups have pretty much taken over," Moore said.

That means bigger operations and bigger problems for law enforcement.

"The days of a hippie growing a few plants in the woods is pretty much over," said Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes. "What's taken over is large, organized cartels, many originating in Mexico, that grow up to 10,000 or more (plants) in a plantation."

Authorities said the center of the industry has spread from its old base in Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties -- the so-called Emerald Triangle -- into the Sierra foothills and mountains from Calaveras to Kern County.

Indeed, more than half of the 345,207 marijuana plants seized last year by California's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) were in the Central Valley and Sierra foothills.

Kern County, which includes remote wilderness areas in the Sequoia National Forest, has become a favorite of pot farmers -- it led CAMP seizures with 59,015 plants.

Nearly half of California's 59 counties had pot gardens raided by local and state authorities last year and federal authorities said there were raids in all of the state's 18 national forests. The national forests cover 20 million acres, one-fifth of California.

Moore said there are huge problems with wilderness marijuana plantations in Tulare and Tehama counties, that the sophisticated growing operations have spread into the Angeles, Los Padres and San Bernardino national forests.

"Those areas are not traditionally big garden areas," Moore said.

A 60,000-plant operation was busted in Sequoia National Forest last year and Moore said several 5,000 to 7,000-plant gardens have already been found in Cleveland National Forest, primarily in San Diego and Orange counties, this year.

The exact size of California's marijuana crop is impossible to determine, but judging from last year's record seizures, it ranks up there with tourism and agriculture as one of the state's major industries.

Comprehensive figures are difficult to determine because of inter-agency overlap but last year, the attorney general's CAMP program claimed its 345,207 marijuana plants seized were 43 percent more than the previous record, set in 1999. The retail value of the plants - 203,964 from public lands and 141,243 from private lands -- was estimated at \$1.3 billion.

The Forest Service said 440,000 plants were seized on national forest lands. In fact, that figure may have been 100,000 plants or so higher because of eradication efforts by sheriff's departments or the state, Moore said.

CAMP seized 59,015 plants in Kern County but Kern and other counties seized even more in local raids. Tulare County Sheriff's Lt. Greg Wright, for instance, said his agency alone eradicated 60,000 plants with an estimated value of \$180 million.

The wilderness pot farms are labor-intensive operations, requiring growers to pack in all their equipment, to maintain caretakers and guards at the site during the growing season and to walk in bigger crews for the planting and harvesting.

They leave more than footprints.

"One of the worst things about the plantations is the environmental degradation the growers wreak on the national forests," the Forest Service's Mathes said.

The plots are generally planted on steep slopes above wilderness rivers, some of them designated wild and scenic.

"They cut away the native vegetation and put in a lot of fertilizer," Mathes said. "They use excessive amounts of herbicides, pesticides and rodenticides to keep away competing vegetation and to kill animals that feed on the plants, like wood rats. Wood rats happen to be the favorite food of the Northern and California spotted owls, species that already are in trouble.

"All these poisons end up getting washed into the rivers the following winter. They're also not very good housekeepers. These sites are strewn with trash and human waste."

The growers also drain nearby creeks for their elaborate drip watering systems. "They pretty much suck a little creek dry to water their plantation," Mathes said.

"These people don't have any respect for the environment," added Moore. "They don't really care that their poisons get into the watershed or affect some of these natural ecosystems."

Moreover, authorities noted, the forest pot farms pose a danger to the public using the woods.

"It's an incredibly valuable crop," Mathes said, "and these people are generally armed. That poses some risk to forest visitors, like you and me. Fortunately, they generally plant in out-of-the-way places."

Moore urged hikers, hunters and fishermen going into remote and sparsely populated wilderness areas to check with local rangers and other authorities about possible marijuana operations.

If one encounters a grower or a garden in the wild, he said, "get out of there as fast as you can and report it to your local forest office."

Coping with the well-financed, profitable and mobile cartel operations is increasingly difficult for budget-strained law enforcement agencies. "We're always kind of behind the eight ball," Moore said.

He said anti-pot activities have had to be funded out of his regular law enforcement budget "which has been woefully inadequate to mount a real effective drug enforcement effort."

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

A bumper year for pot / Mexican cartels shifting plantations to southern Sierra; [FINAL Edition]

Larry D. Hatfield. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 9, 2001. pg. A.3

Abstract (Summary)

Not only is the illicit marijuana industry a major crime problem - - authorities say the Mexican cartels are using profits from their illegal methamphetamine operations to finance expanding pot farms in California and elsewhere - - officials say it poses serious threats to the wilderness ecology and to people using California's and the nation's backcountry.

[Jerry Moore] said there are huge problems with wilderness marijuana plantations in Tulare and Tehama counties, that the sophisticated growing operations have spread into the Angeles, Los Padres and San Bernardino national forests.

PHOTO (2); (1) San Bernardino National Forest, where firefighters use pitchforks while burning big piles of marijuana plants, is gaining in popularity as a wilderness location for the illegal pot farms operated by sophisticated Mexican cartels. / Associated Press August 1999, (2) The highly valued California-grown pot sells for about the same price as gold, or around \$4,200 a pound. / Carlos Avila Gonzalez/ The Chronicle/September 1999

Full Text (886 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jun 9, 2001

E-mail Larry D. Hatfield at lhatfield@sfchronicle.com.

Increasingly controlled by a handful of Mexican drug cartels, California's billion-dollar wilderness marijuana industry has shifted from the Emerald Triangle in the north to the southern Sierra Nevada, according to federal and state law enforcement officials.

And after a record year last year, officials are gearing up for another bumper crop both in production and seizures this year. The highly valued California-grown pot is literally as valuable as gold, selling today for about the same price as the metal, at around \$4,200 a pound.

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He said the most serious change in the shadow industry is the inroads made by Mexican drug organizations.

"We think we have at least two organizations working here in California, maybe more," Moore said.

Intelligence sources have information that the cartels have divided up territories, with some operating in California and on mostly federal lands elsewhere, including in the Appalachians in the East.

"There's still a number of people growing marijuana for commercial use who have been involved for more than 20 years, mainly in the north, but these organized groups have pretty much taken over," Moore said.

That means bigger operations and bigger problems for law enforcement.

"The days of a hippie growing a few plants in the woods are pretty much over," said Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes. "What's taken over are large, organized cartels, many originating in Mexico, that grow up to 10,000 or more (plants) in a plantation."

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[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) San Bernardino National Forest, where firefighters use pitchforks while burning big piles of marijuana plants, is gaining in popularity as a wilderness location for the illegal pot farms operated by sophisticated Mexican cartels. / Associated Press August 1999, (2) The highly valued California-grown pot sells for about the same price as gold, or around \$4,200 a pound. / Carlos Avila Gonzalez/ The Chronicle/September 1999

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Bay Area summer pot haul a record; [FINAL Edition]

Ryan Kim. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 19, 2001. pg. A.19

Abstract (Summary)

Authorities said the plants were no longer mostly found in the rural counties of Northern California. This year, 23 percent were found in the Central Valley. Twenty-two percent were seized in Northern California, including 54,504 plants in Tehama County south of Redding, the most of any county. Another 16 percent were found in the "Emerald Triangle" counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, which used to be the largest producing area in California.

Full Text (256 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Dec 19, 2001

Authorities seized a record amount of marijuana plants this summer from the Bay Area, which accounted for almost one-third of the state-wide haul, said the state Department of Justice.

The 2001 California Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, a program involving 70 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, discovered 101,000 of its 313,776 plants in the Bay Area.

The Bay Area's total represented a 357 percent increase over last year, when 28,261 plants were seized in the nine-county region. This year, Santa Clara County led the way in the Bay Area with 47,574; San Mateo County had 30,409; Sonoma County had 15,662; and Napa County finished with 8,002 plants.

Authorities said the plants were no longer mostly found in the rural counties of Northern California. This year, 23 percent were found in the Central Valley. Twenty-two percent were seized in Northern California, including 54,504 plants in Tehama County south of Redding, the most of any county. Another 16 percent were found in the "Emerald Triangle" counties of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, which used to be the largest producing area in California.

"Now, the growers find they can plant anywhere there is cover and it's desolate enough," said Mike Van Winkle, spokesman for the Department of Justice.

The program, which ran from late July to early October, included 149 raids in 23 counties and yielded 20 arrests. About 70 percent of the farms had ties to Mexican drug cartels, officials said. Overall, the plants seized had an estimated value of \$1.25 billion.

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Atherton suspect apparent suicide / Attempted molestation case closed; [FINAL Edition]

Matthew B. Stannard. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 4, 2002. pg. A.24

Abstract (Summary)

The search subsided after Nov. 6, when a car vanished from the neighborhood where [Marcus Anthony Zraggen] had been spotted most often. The car was later found in South Lake Tahoe. Police there reported encountering a man matching Zraggen's description on Nov. 11, allegedly groping teenage girls and wrestling free of an officer who tried to arrest him.

Sightings fell off in that community after a report of a stolen van. South Lake Tahoe police said they had not connected Zraggen and the van, but they are now looking for the vehicle in the Humboldt County town of Trinidad, where a prowler matching Zraggen's description had been reported and where his body was found Dec. 28.

The gun Zraggen used was not from the trailer and is so old it may be impossible to trace, [Charlie Jones] said. Police found a small amount of marijuana in the trailer -- no drugs have been detected in Zraggen's body -- and a suicide note, scribbled in pen on a piece of paper towel.

Full Text (582 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company Jan 4, 2002

E-mail Matthew B. Stannard at mstannard@sfchronicle.com.

A man suspected of attempting to molest an Atherton child -- prompting a week-long manhunt that rattled the wealthy mid-Peninsula community -- met a violent end sometime around Christmas Day in Humboldt County, where police say he pointed a revolver at his heart and killed himself.

Marcus Anthony Zraggen's apparent suicide was reported yesterday by Atherton police, who had been searching for the former high school champion runner since Oct. 30, when a woman reported finding him nearly naked in her 12-year-old daughter's bedroom, holding a knife and some rope.

"The Atherton Police Department is relieved to hear Mr. Zraggen is no longer a threat to our community . . . or any community," said Atherton Police Lt. Glenn Nielsen.

For a week after the incident, Zraggen eluded police by allegedly hopping among Atherton's multimillion-dollar estates left empty by vacationing homeowners.

The search subsided after Nov. 6, when a car vanished from the neighborhood where Zraggen had been spotted most often. The car was later found in South Lake Tahoe. Police there reported encountering a man matching Zraggen's description on Nov. 11, allegedly groping teenage girls and wrestling free of an officer who tried to arrest him.

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Humboldt County Deputy Coroner Charlie Jones said Zraggen had been dead several days when he was found and identified by fingerprint comparison.

It appears that Zraggen broke into a 35-foot trailer and lived in it in the days before he took his life, Jones said. His body was found by the trailer's owner.

The gun Zraggen used was not from the trailer and is so old it may be impossible to trace, Jones said. Police found a small amount of marijuana in the trailer -- no drugs have been detected in Zraggen's body -- and a suicide note, scribbled in pen on a piece of paper towel.

"I feel for various reasons to do this thing," Jones quoted the note as reading. "The lord calls on me. My love goes out to all."

Jones said the note apologized to the trailer's owners, but did not mention the Atherton case, Zraggen's name or his family members' names.

"My brother was very troubled," said Zraggen's sister, Tiffany. She has said her brother had a history of mental problems. "I think he didn't want to cause anyone any pain any more, and God helped him to do what he had to do."

Zraggen was a top student at Gold Beach High School in Oregon. He won the state's championship cross country race in 1988, and a four-year athletic scholarship to Columbia University, according to Brad Flanary, his former track coach.

But Eric Nourse, who became a close friend of Zraggen's in high school after the two were suspended for fighting, said the gifted athlete he had known was long gone, replaced by a stranger.

"He just became creepy," Nourse said. "He would look at me, and he would laugh and he would have the look of the devil in his eyes."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Marcus Zraggen shot himself in a Humboldt County trailer he had broken into, according to police.

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Fighting back for her life / Convicted of murder, battered woman prays for parole; [FINAL Edition]

Elizabeth Fernandez. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 9, 2002. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

The full extent of [Maria Suarez]'s role in the death of Anselmo Covarrubias -- bludgeoned with a table leg -- is debated: Police took confessions from two renters who were living on the property who said Suarez wanted Covarrubias dead. Prosecutors and the dead man's daughter say Suarez stood to financially gain from and actively plotted the killing.

"I feel sorry . . . for the cards that life has dealt Maria," says Sgt. Stanley White, a now-retired homicide detective with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who arrested Suarez for the killing. "She was sold to a flaccid old man . . . used as a sex slave. She's done more time than I think she would have gotten in this day and age. Twenty years is plenty."

A former wife of Covarrubias, who was living with him at the time Suarez moved in, confirmed to a parole board investigator that she knew her husband and Suarez "were having sex within days of her arrival . . . but did not say anything to her husband because she did not want to 'bother him.' "

Full Text (2351 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Jun 9, 2002

E-mail Elizabeth Fernandez at efernandez@sfchronicle.com.

She was 16, he was 68.

Bought her for \$200.

Raped her.

Beat her.

Menaced her with black arts wizardry.

For five years.

Maria Suarez, now 42, says that's what led to her imprisonment. For half her life, she's been incarcerated, convicted of first-degree murder, of conspiring to kill the man who had taken her as a naive, superstitious teen and made her a virtual captive to his physical assaults and feigned supernatural powers.

The homicide detective who put her behind bars says Suarez should be freed.

Her former attorney, Regis Possino, who during Suarez's trial was on probation and later disbarred, says Suarez suffered a miscarriage of justice of his own making.

"If the facts of what happened to Maria came to light today, her abuser would have been put away instead of her," says Kenneth Theisen, an advocate with the California Coalition for Battered Women in Prison. "Slavery was outlawed a long time ago."

Suarez is among the scores of women in the legal system who were convicted of murdering their tormentors before the state began allowing battered-woman syndrome as a defense in 1992.

Under a law signed by Gov. Gray Davis, the state Board of Prison Terms has begun scrutinizing these cases. And two weeks ago, after a lengthy investigation, the board concluded that Suarez posed little danger to the public and was suitable for parole.

But the governor, who reviews such cases, was elected on a strong anti-crime platform and has been reluctant to green-light parole for murderers.

In cases involving battered women, Davis has reversed board- granted parole six out of eight times. He has until June 20 to decide on the Suarez case.

The full extent of Suarez's role in the death of Anselmo Covarrubias -- bludgeoned with a table leg -- is debated: Police took confessions from two renters who were living on the property who said Suarez wanted Covarrubias dead. Prosecutors and the dead man's daughter say Suarez stood to financially gain from and actively plotted the killing.

"This is a person that orchestrated the killing of another human being," says David Dahle of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

But Suarez and others say her involvement was limited to cleaning and hiding the murder weapon -- actions driven by the shock of discovering the killing as it was under way, and the numbness that accompanies battered-woman syndrome.

And the two co-defendants who implicated Suarez in the killing now say that she wasn't involved.

The parole board's expert consultant found that Suarez "suffered an extreme level" of battered-woman syndrome. Her psychiatric evaluator says Suarez would not have found herself in prison "had she not been taken into slavery, both physically and psychologically."

Supporters believe that given the extraordinary circumstances behind Suarez's involvement with a serial predator of teenage girls, given the abuse she suffered from the purported witch doctor, given her youth, gullibility and lengthy span behind bars, parole is deserved.

"I feel sorry . . . for the cards that life has dealt Maria," says Sgt. Stanley White, a now-retired homicide detective with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who arrested Suarez for the killing. "She was sold to a flaccid old man . . . used as a sex slave. She's done more time than I think she would have gotten in this day and age. Twenty years is plenty."

Two decades behind bars have afforded Suarez an education and vocational skills in graphic arts and electrical work.

"I've tried to make the best of this place," she says.

Her most recent psychiatric evaluation, noting a newfound maturity and confidence, concludes that Suarez is not "an inherently violent person."

She's incarcerated at the California Institution for Women south of Chino.

Wearing a white nylon exercise jacket and pants, her thick black tresses tied in a braid -- she grows her hair to donate it to make hairpieces for children with cancer -- Suarez says she wishes she could wind back the clock on much of her life. She berates herself for failing to alert authorities to her abuse, for failing to interfere in the killing.

"I feel responsible in a way because I could have been more aware," she says. "I wish that man hadn't ended up like that. No one has the right to take nobody's life."

LIMITED EDUCATION

Suarez grew up in a "very primitive part of Mexico where superstition is still widely believed," says one of her psychiatric evaluations.

At 16, when she moved with her parents to Southern California in 1976, she had had six years of formal education.

Not long after her arrival, a neighbor woman approached Suarez about working as a house cleaner. Details are sketchy, but the woman, Suarez says, was paid \$200 to act as an intermediary, a claim that detective White found plausible: "Everyone knew this lecher bought young women. It wasn't corroborated, but it sounded right."

The woman took Suarez to a two-bedroom, one-bath bungalow in Azusa, a suburb in the northeast part of the county where Covarrubias had lived since 1950. A native of Mexico who moved north in 1945, he worked as a laborer for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He retired when he was 62.

"He was no good -- a charlatan, a shark, a liar, a cheat," says White, the retired homicide detective. "Every couple of years he would go south of the border and get a new girl. He'd take the old one down when she hit 20 and he'd get a new girl."

Belen Lucero, the eldest child of Covarrubias, says she did not question or know much about her father's unconventional lifestyle, though she regularly visited him. She depicts him as a caring, hard-working father who raised her and her two younger brothers after their mother died.

"Who am I to say? It was my dad," says Lucero. "We didn't live under the same roof, I don't know what happened . . . To me he was kind. I don't know what he was like to another woman."

On the third day that Suarez was living with Covarrubias, she says, he raped her.

A former wife of Covarrubias, who was living with him at the time Suarez moved in, confirmed to a parole board investigator that she knew her husband and Suarez "were having sex within days of her arrival . . . but did not say anything to her husband because she did not want to 'bother him.' "

Her virginity stolen, Suarez believed "she would be no longer wanted by any man . . . that she was worthless," says a psychiatric evaluation.

She was also convinced that Covarrubias held otherworldly powers. He portrayed himself in his largely Latino neighborhood as a brujo, a type of witch doctor.

According to parole board documents, Covarrubias was feared by residents "as a result of his practice of the occult . . . (he) used witchcraft and his purported satanic powers as a means to manipulate and finagle money from mainly illiterate, uneducated Mexican women, as well as to intimidate and dominate those around him."

Suarez believed Covarrubias could read her mind and possessed her soul because he took clippings of her hair and nails.

"He had Maria conned," says retired detective White. "He told her she could never leave, otherwise she would die."

So would her family, she believed, if she fled the house or reported the abuse. Though she held a job outside the house, and once took a trip to Mexico, she dutifully returned to Covarrubias because she says he threatened to burn her sister's house and kill her family.

He "terrorized (Suarez) into staying with him by manipulating and brainwashing her into believing . . . (he) derived his powers from the devil and would use these powers to kill her and her family if she did not submit to his wishes," say prison board reports.

Lucero, the daughter, recalls Suarez as the "live-in girlfriend" who drove her father's new, blue and white Cadillac.

"Maria did not seem unhappy to me," she says.

But to Suarez, life with Covarrubias was an endless onslaught of physical and emotional pain.

"I was raped by him many, many times," she says. "He told me I was his slave, that he had paid money for me and I had to do what he wanted. I believed he had powers. I feel so stupid."

Once when she refused to have sex with Covarrubias, she says, he forced her to dig a large hole in the yard.

"He told me he was going to kill me and put me there," she says. "I kept digging and digging and crying. I said, 'If you kill me, someone will find me here, my bones aren't going anywhere.' He told me I was stupid, he had a liquid that would dissolve my bones."

THE MURDER

Renting a converted garage in the back of the house were a young couple, Felipa Flores Soto and Pedro (Rene) Martinez Soto.

Before dawn on Aug. 27, 1981, Suarez says, she found Rene Soto clubbing Covarrubias in the backyard.

"I said, 'Oh, my God.' I remember hearing two more hits," she says. "I didn't want to see. I remember turning my head."

She told investigators she did nothing to stop Soto.

After Covarrubias was dead, Suarez says, she washed "the stick," as Soto directed, and hid it under the house.

Homicide detective White, who arrested Suarez and the Sotos after eliciting confessions from the three, was convinced that Suarez helped solicit the killing.

"The two women . . . literally talked the guy into beating the old man to death," White says. ". . . Maria was probably the main instigator in the murder, she had the most to gain."

Last year, though, the Sotos made statements intended to clear Suarez of involvement in the murder of Covarrubias.

Felipa Soto told a parole board investigator that she thought that a translation error had caused police to mistakenly believe she had implicated Suarez in the killing.

Rene Soto told a parole board investigator that Covarrubias had "constantly" harassed him and his wife and "he acted alone."

"He killed the victim because he knew if he didn't do something, the victim, sooner or later, would do something to him," according to parole board records.

Authorities believed Suarez was culpable in part because she held title to the house, which eventually sold for \$40,000. She says Covarrubias put it in her name two years earlier when "he got divorced from his wife. He treated me like a puppet. Never in my mind did I think it was mine. He put it in my name because he didn't want his wife to take it."

Regis Possino, her former lawyer, doubts Suarez had the capacity at that time to understand what holding title to the house meant. He thinks she "merely went along" with the killing.

"She didn't do anything to blow a whistle or specifically say, 'Leave me out of it,' " says Possino. "Maybe in her heart of hearts she was thinking this was her way out. If that's her biggest crime, then it's one of bad judgment."

The Suarez case was Possino's first felony trial. At the time, he was preoccupied by his own legal troubles.

Possino had offered to sell 350 pounds of marijuana to undercover police officers. Convicted in 1978, he was placed on probation for five years; he was disbarred in 1984.

Possino failed to disclose this to Suarez. He says he failed her on other counts -- he relied on the advice of another disbarred attorney who specialized in immigration law; he did not even present an expert psychiatric witness.

"I've been haunted by this case for 20 years," says Possino, who now works in investment banking. Last year, he wrote to the Board of Prison Terms pleading for Suarez's parole.

"I believe that a travesty of justice occurred; however, it was a travesty of my own creation," he wrote. ". . . In the beginning she was the victim of Mr. Covarrubias. In the end, she became the victim of her own lawyer, whose representation fell far short of any of the legal or ethical requirements for such a case."

CONVICTED

A jury convicted Suarez of first-degree murder. Convicted of the same crime was Rene Soto, now 44 and serving 25 years to life. Felipa Flores Soto, now 43, was convicted of soliciting murder and being an accessory to a felony. She served nearly three years.

The dynamics involved in battered-woman syndrome, the years of insidious emotional and physical abuse, affected Suarez's state of mind at the time of the killing, say her supporters.

"Had Maria not been so intimidated, she might have prevented the homicide or reacted much differently," says Michael Brennan, a clinical professor at the University of Southern California Law School and supervising attorney for the Post-Conviction Justice Project, which trains law students to represent inmates.

Batterers typically force their victims down a curve toward mindless obedience, "toward acceptance of them as God," says Lee Bowker, consultant with the parole board.

"At the bottom of the curve, she has no free, independent thought, and therefore no culpability," says Bowker, professor emeritus of sociology at Humboldt State University. "She is incapable of forming the intent to commit a crime."

Suarez's battered-woman defense riles prosecutor Dahle of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office: "She is saying, 'I didn't do it, but if I did, it was because I was battered.' She wants her cake and to eat it, too."

Technically, Dahle is correct -- Suarez is "trying to do it both ways," says Theisen, the battered women's advocate.

"She was a battered woman, but she also didn't do it. Yet in order to be considered for parole, you have to show remorse for the crime, even if you never committed it in the first place."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Maria Suarez (in white) talks with Daisy Carreon and Michela Woodbridge from UCLA School of Public Health about her life. / Liz Hafalia/The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Rocking out of Jerry's shadow / Parking-lot tribe happily reconvenes; [FINAL Edition]

Jesse Hamlin. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 7, 2002. pg. D.1

Abstract (Summary)

If the Other Ones continue, "I will go back on tour again," said [Greg Peddicord], a 41-year-old former carpenter from Guerneville who was selling tie-dyed T-shirts Thursday in the park behind Kaiser Center, where, in the early '80s, a few thousand Deadheads literally camped out before shows. After [Jerry Garcia] died, he said, "we went into deep mourning. People went on to other things -- school, jobs, families. I became a Grand Canyon tour guide," said Peddicord, who has long brown hair, a silver-streaked goatee and a scorpion tattoo on his forearm set off by the word "Grateful."

Unlike a lot of people in the park, where the aroma of grilled chicken mingled with the scent of marijuana, Peddicord had a ticket to the show. Some held up fingers to signify how many tickets they needed; others held up cardboard signs asking for "a miracle," meaning a ticket to the sold-out show. A 17-year-old woman who calls herself Feyd Rainstar was confident her miracle would arrive.

PHOTO (2); (1) Chelivy, Brittany and [Therese Jenkins] sell T-shirts and treats for money to see the Other Ones in Oakland., (2) Chris Duffy of Long Island, N.Y., walks around outside the Other Ones' concert with his lucky sign, which had helped him get into the past four concerts on this tour. / Photos by Gina Gayle / The Chronicle

Full Text (934 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Dec 7, 2002

E-mail Jesse Hamlin at jhamlin@sfchronicle.com.

Albert Gillham calls himself a Deadhead dinosaur. From the 1970s until Jerry Garcia's death in 1995, he was part of the counterculture carnival that followed the Grateful Dead from city to city, setting up shop and partying in arena parking lots across America.

Thursday afternoon, he was frying up fruit wraps in a wok outside Oakland's Henry J. Kaiser Center, where a few hundred lively Dead freaks -- tie-dye vendors, guitar strummers, glass pipe peddlers and music-mad hatters -- convened before the performance by the Other Ones, the band featuring the Dead's four surviving principal members, touring together for first time since '95.

"The family got together again," said Gillham, 61, resplendent in a tie-dyed Austin Powers shirt and a maroon beret, standing in front of the weathered blue '72 Toyota that has kept him trucking for many moons.

An artist who drove down from Ashland, Ore., Gillham caught the two concerts the Other Ones gave at the Alpine Valley festival in Wisconsin in July and was bowled over by the music. "It's basically the Grateful Dead," he said. His touring days are probably over, but "there are a lot of new members. The caravan crowd will be smaller, but the scene will keep on. It's a strong family vibe. That's what I like."

At its peak, the traveling tribe numbered between 2,000 and 3,000 people, said Dennis McNally, author of "A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead," and the band's longtime publicist. The majority of Deadheads, he says, have always been students, professionals and others with regular jobs, for instance, Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy.

The colorful mob that created the parking-lot scene dispersed after the Dead disbanded, says Greg Peddicord, who traveled the Dead circuit on and off for 17 years, but the excitement over the Other Ones is stirring up the scene again.

If the Other Ones continue, "I will go back on tour again," said Peddicord, a 41-year-old former carpenter from Guerneville who was selling tie-dyed T-shirts Thursday in the park behind Kaiser Center, where, in the early '80s, a few thousand Deadheads literally camped out before shows. After Garcia died, he said, "we went into deep mourning. People went on to other things -- school, jobs, families. I became a Grand Canyon tour guide," said Peddicord, who has long brown hair, a silver-streaked goatee and a scorpion tattoo on his forearm set off by the word "Grateful."

"The spirit of what the Dead are about, peace and love, is something that never ends." The caravan contingent "is just smaller. It's going to grow again."

Unlike a lot of people in the park, where the aroma of grilled chicken mingled with the scent of marijuana, Peddicord had a ticket to the show. Some held up fingers to signify how many tickets they needed; others held up cardboard signs asking for "a miracle," meaning a ticket to the sold-out show. A 17-year-old woman who calls herself Feyd Rainstar was confident her miracle would arrive.

"We take care of each other," said Rainstar, who joined the tour in Cleveland, where she made friends who drove her to the next city. She traveled from Indianapolis to Chicago in a U-Haul trailer with nine people and five dogs.

"It was a new experience," said Rainstar, who makes patchwork skirts to sell. (She was wearing patchwork pants, a tie-dyed halter and seashells in her blond dreads.) Although she never saw the Dead, "I love the music, the vibe, the energy."

So does Jimmy Knapp, an amiable cat with long brown hair who runs the Sageman Trading Co., which sells Indonesian-made djembe drums and shell belts. He got his start in the parking lot at Dead shows, where he and his wife, Kristina, had sold quesadillas. They used to do it just to earn enough bread to see the show and get to the next one. Now they sell drums and didgeridoos on the Internet, have bought land in Humboldt County and are building a house for themselves and their two young kids.

"The parking lot spawned a lot of small businesses that have become lucrative," said Knapp, 42, who drove up with his family and the baby sitter from their Laguna Beach home, rented a 30-foot RV and parked it Wednesday afternoon right along the park, the first of many Deadhead vehicles -- vans, trucks, an old city bus -- to arrive.

The Knapps saw the Wisconsin shows and had tickets for Thursday's concert. But they don't plan to tour as they once did.

"I've got two kids and a business," said Knapp, who likes the honesty of the Dead scene. "I can't be so nomadic anymore."

Warren and Therese Jenkins drove down from Wolf Creek, Ore., with their three children to sell T-shirts and try to get tickets. They wanted the kids to have the magic Dead experience. But 10-year-old Brittany, who was selling "kid-friendly" Rice Krispies treats -- no surprise ingredients -- said she wasn't too interested. "It's old music. I'd rather go to the hotel and listen to my music -- rap."

No such luck. Papa Jenkins sold and traded enough shirts to score tickets for the whole family.

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2); Caption: (1) Chelivy, Brittany and Therese Jenkins sell T-shirts and treats for money to see the Other Ones in Oakland., (2) Chris Duffy of Long Island, N.Y., walks around outside the Other Ones' concert with his lucky sign, which had helped him get into the past four concerts on this tour. / Photos by Gina Gayle / The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

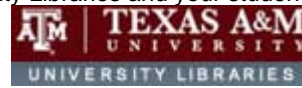
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San Francisco Chronicle

Ex-Sonoma D.A. back in courtroom / He'll be prosecutor in Solano County; [FINAL Edition]

Pamela J. Podger. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 26, 2002. pg. A.25

Abstract (Summary)

Sonoma County District Attorney "Jackie" Michael Mullins, voted out of office in March, says he'll return to courtroom trials next month as a senior prosecutor in Solano County.

Mullins' departure ends a 30-year career as a Sonoma County prosecutor, during which he oversaw the high-profile cases against Richard Allen Davis for kidnapping and murdering Polly Klaas in 1995 and against Robert Scully, who murdered former sheriff's Deputy Frank Trejo, 58, also in 1995.

In the March race, Mullins was hobbled by accusations that he had mishandled some medical marijuana cases and had botched the prosecution of Dr. Louis Pelfini, a Petaluma physician accused of murdering his wife. Mullins dismissed the Pelfini case last year after videotapes showed the prosecution's key witness, the county pathologist, had been coached about his testimony by a speech therapist hired by the sheriff's office. Mullins accepted responsibility for the mishandled case.

Full Text (514 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Dec 26, 2002

E-mail Pamela J. Podger at ppodger@sfchronicle.com.

Sonoma County District Attorney "Jackie" Michael Mullins, voted out of office in March, says he'll return to courtroom trials next month as a senior prosecutor in Solano County.

In his first comments on his future since his defeat, the 60-year-old Mullins said he would join a new trial team in either Fairfield or Vallejo on Jan. 6, and would be paid about \$95,000 a year.

He said he had been approached this summer by Solano County District Attorney David Paulson. Mullins said he had told his new boss that he was itching for criminal trial work -- narcotics, fraud, child abuse or other issues.

"Get me back in the courtroom, out of politics, and I'll be happy," said Mullins, who lost a fierce re-election fight in March to prosecutor Stephan Passalacqua. "I'm delighted to do trial work. That is why I got into the business in the first place -- I love litigation."

He is the second former district attorney to join the Solano County team, following the hiring earlier this month of Humboldt County District Attorney Terry Farmer, also as a senior prosecutor. Farmer starts his new job next month.

Mullins' departure ends a 30-year career as a Sonoma County prosecutor, during which he oversaw the high-profile cases against Richard Allen Davis for kidnapping and murdering Polly Klaas in 1995 and against Robert Scully, who murdered former sheriff's Deputy Frank Trejo, 58, also in 1995.

Mullins said he was also proud of handling the county's first death penalty case in 1981, when Joe Edward Johnson beat a teacher to death with barbells.

Mullins said his office had formed a high-tech crime task force and had improved the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases.

In the March race, Mullins was hobbled by accusations that he had mishandled some medical marijuana cases and had botched the prosecution of Dr. Louis Pelfini, a Petaluma physician accused of murdering his wife. Mullins dismissed the Pelfini case last year after videotapes showed the prosecution's key witness, the county pathologist, had been coached about his testimony by a speech therapist hired by the sheriff's office. Mullins accepted responsibility for the mishandled case.

"We had to dismiss Pelfini -- it was my decision, and it had to be done," Mullins said.

Mullins was first elected in 1994 and was re-elected without opposition in 1998. He intends to continue living in the Sonoma County town of Kenwood, he said. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four grown children.

He turns over the district attorney's office, with its \$11 million budget and staff of 105, to Passalacqua on Jan. 7.

During the campaign, Mullins said Passalacqua lacked the needed experience -- which created a rift in the district attorney's office.

Passalacqua, who was hired in 1989, said the transition had gone "as smooth as possible," given that he ousted his boss and then had to work with him for the next nine months.

Mullins "has been very professional, and he has been very helpful on some difficult issues," Passalacqua said.

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Town up for bid / EBay lists burg in redwoods -- needs work, includes cemetery; [FINAL Edition]

Pamela J. Podger. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 27, 2002. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Elizabeth Lapple's family, owners of Bridgeville since 1977, has tried to sell the town several times, only to get it back after foreclosures. Lapple said she's sold other items on EBay, so why not find a real estate investor online?

"The people in Bridgeville are real nice, but it is just a mountain town. There wasn't anything for the kids," said Brandi Vitgenos, 29, who moved to the Humboldt County village of Scotia this year after seven years in Bridgeville. "We called our place there Little Siberia because in the wintertime the sun didn't hit our backyard at all, and it would stay frozen."

PHOTO (2), MAP; (1) Bridgeville's cemetery contains a plot for [Josiah Drinkwater], believed to be the last white man slain by Indians in Humboldt County., (2) [Ross Condemi], who rents a home in Bridgeville, says he enjoys the solitude the town offers. His home would be included in the sale., (3) Above: The 82 acres offered for sale in Bridgeville include 10 houses, four cabins and river frontage., (4) Left: Joey Church and his children, Alex and Brandi, live in the rustic Humboldt County town. / Photos by Frederic Larson/The Chronicle

Full Text (1261 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Dec 27, 2002

E-mail Pamela J. Podger at ppodger@sfchronicle.com.

This speck on the map of Northern California, a shady burg on a two-lane road with endless natural beauty and not much else, has become the subject of a real-estate bidding war -- in cyberspace.

More than 225 bids have been offered on EBay in an attempt to grab this town in the hills 260 miles north of San Francisco, graced by towering trees and the Van Duzen River. The owner has put everything that can be sold up for sale on the Internet.

The listing touts Bridgeville as ripe for a private retreat "basking in the glory of the redwoods," an economic powerhouse or a tax shelter. As the real estate agents like to say, it's got potential. It's also got about 20 people, a handful of tumbledown buildings and several faulty septic systems.

Elizabeth Lapple's family, owners of Bridgeville since 1977, has tried to sell the town several times, only to get it back after foreclosures. Lapple said she's sold other items on EBay, so why not find a real estate investor online?

"On EBay, the exposure is higher and better, attracting people from all over the world," she said.

The lead prospect -- who has bid \$1.65 million by private proxy -- has elbowed out competitors with just hours to go before the auction ends today at 9:56 a.m. The reserve price of \$775,000 has been met, much to the envy of some San Franciscans who can barely afford a city fixer-upper at that price.

Lapple turned to EBay on Nov. 27 in hopes of stirring new interest after more conventional methods didn't attract deep-pocket investors for the little town, founded 131 years ago.

CEMETERY INCLUDED

The nine town parcels for sale feature 82 acres with 10 houses, four cabins, one mile or so of river frontage, a historic cemetery, one backhoe and tractor with ample spare parts. There are several Quonset huts, a building leased to the U.S. Postal Service and a 24,000-gallon water tank. Rental income ranges from \$450 to \$550 per month.

Exempt from the sale are an elementary school, a Pacific Bell office, the county road department's yard and two bridges, including a 1925 span listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Artists, loggers and pot growers live in peaceful coexistence out in this spot on Highway 36. Nearby, the rushing river -- designated by the state as scenic and wild -- has steelhead trout and salmon. Locals envision a bed-and-breakfast along the banks of the river, and a restored cafe and general store.

Gone are Bridgeville's logging glory days, but locals say marijuana cultivation thrives, and ranchers as well as musicians share the region's rugged beauty. Bridgeville boasts enviable fishing, boating and recreational sports. And it isn't totally isolated -- phone service came to town about four years ago.

"Ideally, this could be an artists' colony or retirement village or a small resort," said resident Dave Vegliano, 53. "About 25 of us were together for a Christmas brunch, and the sale was all the buzz. People are excited about it -- change is coming."

Joe Lewiz is helping the family sell the town. The Lapples went the EBay route after a Wall Street Journal ad brought just a few nibbles and there was no response from a listing in Soldier of Fortune.

"What the heck, let's try EBay, what have we got to lose?" Lewiz said the sellers figured. "It'll get us some publicity."

Others have another view. Travis Fuller, 17, who was helping clean up the community center Thursday, said the unorthodox sales approach "is weird -- everything is going EBay."

MINGLING WITH NATURE

Ross Condemi, 44, who rents one of the pastel-colored homes, said he revels in the town's quiet.

"Bridgeville is out of the way," he said. "There are eagle's nests and spawning salmon within walking distance. There is even a bear that comes into town to forage for plums."

Several of the homes could use some TLC, and the county has condemned the septic systems of the cabins and one house. "Many of the structures included with the town could be described as fixer-uppers, so be prepared to do a lot of work to get the town into sparkling condition," the EBay listing warns.

Kevin Metcalfe, a supervisor for Humboldt County's environmental health unit, urges prospective buyers to take a good, hard look.

"That area has some significant challenges, with high ground water and clay soils," he said. "If someone wanted to reactivate the cafe and store, we would need to look at water and sewage and structural conditions."

Others have left Bridgeville for larger Fortuna and Eureka in Humboldt County, where schools and other social activities offer more for their kids.

"The people in Bridgeville are real nice, but it is just a mountain town. There wasn't anything for the kids," said Brandi Vitgenos, 29, who moved to the Humboldt County village of Scotia this year after seven years in Bridgeville. "We called our place there Little Siberia because in the wintertime the sun didn't hit our backyard at all, and it would stay frozen."

COLORFUL PAST

Bridgeville has a storied history, according to a compilation by the Lapple family. It was founded by a trapper named Slaughter Robinson, who ferried pioneers over the Van Duzen. In the 1900s, a 24-room hotel and large stable were used for stage coaches and pack trains.

A saloon, cafe and general store are long gone, with nary a place these days for visitors to sit down for coffee and a slice of pie. In the white-picket-fenced cemetery is a plot for Josiah Drinkwater, who legend has it was the last white man slain by Indians in the county.

In 1909, Henry Cox purchased the town and it remained in his family until the Lapple family bought it.

Elizabeth Lapple said her mother sold the town in 1977 to the Pentecostal Faith Challengers. About 100 of the religious folk moved into the town, removed all tobacco and liquor from the stores, and shut down the bar. The town's finances headed downhill, and in 1979, Don Houston of San Jose and his Vision for Missions stepped in.

His relations with the Pentecostal leaders soon soured, however, and Lapple's family once again had a fight to get back the town from the throes of foreclosure. They paid the \$50,000 in back taxes owed by the religious groups.

"The place was in bad shape -- Houston sold everything out of the town, right down to the propane tanks, anything to survive," Lapple said. "It's a real nice town. Basically, it needs about \$200,000 to \$250,000 put in all at once to fix all of the houses and bring back the cafe and store.

"Bridgeville has so much potential, the way the property market is going," Lapple said. "You could have a town worth \$3 million or more. A whole entire town is for sale -- where do you find that?"

[Illustration]

PHOTO (2), MAP; Caption: (1) Bridgeville's cemetery contains a plot for Josiah Drinkwater, believed to be the last white man slain by Indians in Humboldt County., (2) Ross Conde, who rents a home in Bridgeville, says he enjoys the solitude the town offers. His home would be included in the sale., (3) Above: The 82 acres offered for sale in Bridgeville include 10 houses, four cabins and river frontage., (4) Left: Joey Church and his children, Alex and Brandi, live in the rustic Humboldt County town. / Photos by Frederic Larson/The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

U.S. raids firms selling items used by pot smokers / Ashcroft blames Internet for paraphernalia; [FINAL Edition]

Demian Bulwa. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 25, 2003. pg. A.4

Abstract (Summary)

Saying high times are over for those who sell pipes and bongs favored by pot smokers, federal agents raided more than 100 homes and businesses throughout the nation Monday, including a glass-pipe company owned by actor-comedian Tommy Chong of Cheech and Chong fame.

Chong, who made his name in shades of green with partner Cheech Marin and last year stayed in character by playing a hippie pothead on "That '70s Show," was shocked by raids on his business and his home, said his publicist Brandie Knight.

On the Peninsula, agents arrested Waleed A. Zahrieh, 37, of Los Gatos, and Nessar David Zahriya, 39, of San Mateo. The pair allegedly sold illegal drug paraphernalia through businesses called Wicked Corp. and Sands of Time.

Full Text (818 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Feb 25, 2003

E-mail Demian Bulwa at dbulwa@sfchronicle.com.

Saying high times are over for those who sell pipes and bongs favored by pot smokers, federal agents raided more than 100 homes and businesses throughout the nation Monday, including a glass-pipe company owned by actor-comedian Tommy Chong of Cheech and Chong fame.

The raids stemmed from the indictments of 50 people, including six in Northern California, who face federal charges of trafficking in illegal drug paraphernalia.

Chong -- a man whose name is virtually synonymous with recreational marijuana use -- was not among those indicted, and he was not arrested during Monday's raids.

But the 64-year-old actor's Chong Glass company in Los Angeles was cleared of merchandise. A separate search of Chong's Pacific Palisades home uncovered a small amount of marijuana, according to a federal law-enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Authorities called the people who were indicted some of the nation's most popular distributors -- through storefronts, web sites and wholesale outlets -- of the often elaborate, artistic contraptions marketed in head shops as ostensibly "for tobacco use."

Federal grand juries in western Pennsylvania and Des Moines, Iowa, returned most of the indictments as part of "Operation Pipe Dreams," which included the Northern California suspects, and "Operation Headhunter," which targeted head shops in southern Iowa. Drug Enforcement Administration offices in several states were part of the investigation.

'BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY'

"With the advent of the Internet, the illegal drug paraphernalia industry has exploded," said Attorney General John Ashcroft in a statement. "Quite simply, the . . . industry has invaded the homes of families across the country without their knowledge. This illegal billion-dollar industry will no longer be ignored by law enforcement."

Family members of some of the Northern California suspects said they were angered by a 6 a.m. sweep Monday in which agents raided homes, handcuffed suspects and others, froze bank accounts and seized merchandise from shops and warehouses.

"Why after seven years in business does this happen? Why not just approach us?" said Fern Thomas, 29, a bookkeeper for 101 North Glass Inc. in Arcata, Humboldt County, which sells blown-glass pipes and other products to resellers.

Thomas's fiance, Jason Vrbas, was arrested along with co-owners Ryan Teurfs and Gabriel Watson. All three men are 29. Late Monday, the suspects were still in custody.

CLASHES ALONG HAIGHT STREET

Authorities have clashed with head shops -- best known in the Bay Area along San Francisco's Haight Street and Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue -- for decades over the sale of such items as hookahs, hand pipes and water bongs.

The debate, according to Steven Wishnia, a senior editor at High Times magazine in New York City, centers around "this weird semantic and semiotic definition applied to a piece of glass with a bowl at one end."

People who defend the sale of such pipes, he said, generally acknowledge they are meant for marijuana users. But many believe it's not a proprietor's business to predict the way a product will be used.

Chong, who made his name in shades of green with partner Cheech Marin and last year stayed in character by playing a hippie pothead on "That '70s Show," was shocked by raids on his business and his home, said his publicist Brandie Knight.

"It's awful," she said. "They're talking about war and everything else, and I can't believe they can't spend their time better. Chong Glass is artwork" -- it was the subject of a Hollywood art exhibit in November -- "and we've been very careful about saying it's for tobacco use only, and you must be 18 years or older (to buy it).

"We've done everything the right way, and the government is saying there is no right way." Asked if Chong currently smokes marijuana, Knight said, "No comment."

PENINSULA ARRESTS

On the Peninsula, agents arrested Waleed A. Zahrieh, 37, of Los Gatos, and Nessar David Zahriya, 39, of San Mateo. The pair allegedly sold illegal drug paraphernalia through businesses called Wicked Corp. and Sands of Time.

Reached Monday, Zahrieh's wife, who declined to give her name, said only that her husband sold items for tobacco use.

In Forestville, Sonoma County, agents arrested John Matthew Patrick, 38, who owns California Colorchangers, Inc. Its Web site, www.colorchangingglass.com, features an array of pipes and bongs. Its cover page states, "I agree to use the products offered herein for legal purposes only."

On Monday, authorities refused to go into detail about their investigations except to say they involved undercover work. They said businesses could no longer protect themselves by posting signs or Internet warnings indicating their products were for tobacco use only.

The suspects, if convicted, face a maximum of three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, for each count in the indictments.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Attorney General John Ashcroft announces the raids during a news conference at the Justice Dept. in Washington. / Rebecca Roth/ Associated Press

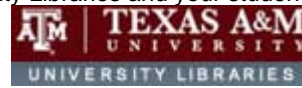
Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

D.A. hits timber firm with fraud charges / Humboldt County sues Pacific Lumber; [FINAL Edition]

Glen Martin. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 26, 2003. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

The suit, filed in Humboldt County Superior Court in Eureka on Monday, claims Pacific Lumber used unfair business practices to deceive state and federal agencies by submitting false landslide data so it could log about 100,000 trees on unstable slopes.

Pacific Lumber, headquartered in Scotia, owns approximately 200,000 acres of forestland, mostly redwoods, in northwestern California. Three years ago, the company completed a deal with federal and state governments over preservation of the Headwaters Forest, a stand of old-growth redwoods in Humboldt County.

[Tim Stoen] said his office is seeking a \$2,500 civil penalty for every tree cut under Pacific Lumber's 10-year harvest plan for the disputed parcels, which encompass about 100,000 trees. Up to 30,000 trees have been cut, Stoen said. That means the firm could be liable for as much as \$75 million in penalties.

Full Text (754 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Feb 26, 2003

E-mail Glen Martin at glenmartin@sfchronicle.com

The Humboldt County district attorney is suing Pacific Lumber Co., charging that the big timber firm lied to government agencies about its logging plans after completion of the historic Headwaters Forest agreement in 1999.

The suit alleges that the company filed fraudulent data to support its Environmental Impact Report, resulting in "major landslides causing destruction to ancient redwoods, serious harm to Humboldt Bay, and serious harm to streams, bridges, roads, homes and property rights of the people of Humboldt County."

The office of District Attorney Paul Gallegos filed six counts of fraud and deceptive concealment charges in the civil suit against Pacific Lumber, claiming the company misrepresented data supporting its EIR, it was required to file in 1999.

The suit, filed in Humboldt County Superior Court in Eureka on Monday, claims Pacific Lumber used unfair business practices to deceive state and federal agencies by submitting false landslide data so it could log about 100,000 trees on unstable slopes.

The company also suppressed "corrective" data that would have required a review of the final EIR, the suit claims.

The suit has far-reaching implications. If successful, it would vindicate long-standing claims by environmentalists that the scope of the company's harvest is devastating North Coast watersheds and streams. It would also form the basis for a new series of lawsuits that could force the company to change its logging plans.

Pacific Lumber President and CEO Robert E. Manne called the lawsuit "disappointing and distressing."

"There is no factual or legal basis for these allegations," Manne said. "There is no substance to the complaints."

The district attorney's office, Manne added, "has obviously been misled and misinformed as to what actually transpired in the development of (the firm's logging plans). The result is that the complaint contains many inaccuracies and misrepresentations."

200,000 ACRES OF TREES

Pacific Lumber, headquartered in Scotia, owns approximately 200,000 acres of forestland, mostly redwoods, in northwestern California. Three years ago, the company completed a deal with federal and state governments over preservation of the Headwaters Forest, a stand of old-growth redwoods in Humboldt County.

For some, the lawsuit was a big surprise.

Ken Miller, a Humboldt County physician and a director of the Humboldt Watershed Council, a local environmental group, said the DA's move was totally unexpected.

"(Gallegos) came into office saying he wanted to ease up on prosecution of medical marijuana and concentrate on methamphetamine, things like that," said Miller, whose group long has opposed Pacific Lumber's logging plans. "I don't really recall a strong environmental platform, though."

Miller said the district attorney's suit "is about the biggest thing to hit this issue. It's bigger than Redwood Summer (the mass protests against redwood logging in the 1990s). It's big because it's a fraud action, not an environmental suit. It puts integrity back into local government. People have been really disheartened up here by the lack of courage on the part of regulators and politicians. This D.A.'s office is a true inspiration."

But Tim Stoen, the assistant district attorney who is leading the litigation, said it was not his intention to start a crusade when he filed the suit.

"I faced an existential choice when the Jordan Creek matter (a watershed that is part of Pacific Lumber's logging plans) came across my desk," Stoen said. "I could (pursue) it or not -- and when I looked into it, it seemed like it was a matter that should go before a judge."

Stoen said his office is seeking a \$2,500 civil penalty for every tree cut under Pacific Lumber's 10-year harvest plan for the disputed parcels, which encompass about 100,000 trees. Up to 30,000 trees have been cut, Stoen said. That means the firm could be liable for as much as \$75 million in penalties.

As far as his suit serving as the basis for future litigation, Stoen said, "That was not my intention. If that happens, it's collateral. I have a lot of respect for Pacific Lumber and their attorneys."

'LIES AND DECEIT'

Nevertheless, said Cynthia Elkins, the program director for the Environmental Protection Information Center in Garberville, Mendocino County, the suit has implications beyond its immediate goal.

EPIC has also filed a lawsuit against Pacific Lumber's logging plans, though its litigation is based on environmental, rather than fair-business, statutes.

"If the county's suit is successful, it will show that the whole Headwaters deal was approved on lies and deceit," Elkins said. "That would mean that all the (environmental concessions) approved under the deal were illegal."

Credit: Chronicle Environment Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Arcata the defiant / Town ordinance penalizes officials who cooperate with Patriot Act, but law may not stand up in court; [FINAL Edition]

Kevin Fagan. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 13, 2003. pg. A.17

Abstract (Summary)

So far, there seem to be no opportunities to use Arcata's soon- to-be-enacted law, because no federal or state agents have ever tried to use the Patriot Act in Arcata. But that's not for a lack of wanting. City leaders are actually itching for a fight.

If City Manager [Dan Hauser] or anyone else is hoping to stare down some agent holding a Patriot Act subpoena, he shouldn't hold his breath, cautioned LaRae Quy, spokeswoman for the San Francisco FBI office, whose jurisdiction includes Arcata. She said there are no plans to go dashing the 279 miles up to Arcata anytime soon. And even if there were, she doubted there would be trouble.

PHOTO (3); (1) Arcata Councilman [David Meserve] helped draft and later introduced an ordinance defying the federal Patriot Act., (2) [Brian Willson], a member of Veterans For Peace, helped draft the ordinance., (3) [Michael Machi] voted against Arcata's law but finds the Patriot Act "very troubling." / Photos by Kim Komenich/The Chronicle

Full Text (1111 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Apr 13, 2003

E-mail Kevin Fagan at kfagan@sfchronicle.com.

Arcata, that tiny North Coast bastion of the robustly liberal, has quietly made itself the first city in the nation to outlaw voluntary compliance with the USA Patriot Act.

Town leaders know their new law outlawing the bigger law is probably illegal. And they don't know anyone local who's had troubles because of the Patriot Act.

But the very existence of the sweeping federal policy -- passed by Congress swiftly after Sept. 11, 2001, to expand powers to search, conduct surveillance and throw people in jail during terrorism probes -- so rubbed them the wrong way that they felt they had to make a stand.

So about a week ago, the Arcata City Council approved an ordinance telling its management workers they cannot "officially assist or voluntarily cooperate" with any investigators trying to carry out what the city considers provisions of the Patriot Act that violate the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

Which, city leaders said, is pretty much all of the act except the heading on the governmental letterhead.

"We already had a resolution condemning the Patriot Act, and that was all well and good, but we needed something with some bite in it," said David Meserve, the councilman who introduced the ordinance. "A resolution makes a recommendation, but this now actually takes on the force of law.

"Call it a pre-emptive attack. Only not a violent one."

The fine for breaking the new law is \$57. The ordinance officially kicks in May 2. It applies only to the top nine managers of the city, telling them they have to refer any Patriot Act request to the City Council.

Brian Willson, the national peace protester who lost his legs trying to block a Concord munitions train in 1987, lives in Arcata and helped draft the law.

"I think a lot of people are freaking out," he said. "You can see the developing police state, and we have to start opposing it."

LIBERAL BASTION

Arcata has about 16,000 residents, about 5,000 of whom are students at Humboldt State University. Its biggest claims are the university, an annual race to determine the best or weirdest human-powered sculpture, and its liberal resolutions or legal actions to oppose seemingly everything from the war in Iraq to global warming.

So even though few outside the city limits have so far noticed the new law, it is right in line with the city's tendency for "never a dull moment," said City Attorney Nancy Diamond.

The law also seems to be right in line with most townfolk.

"I don't blame them (the council) for saying 'no,'" Susan Mattson said as she rang up customers at her Garden Gate gift shop overlooking the rustic little town square. "I don't know anyone in town who likes the Patriot Act."

She said she's never seen any FBI agents probing around Arcata. "But they're certainly welcome -- if they want to buy something," she said with a chuckle.

The vote on April 2 for the law in Arcata was 4 to 1, but even the lone "no" voter said his quibble was more with the tactic than the concept.

"I find the act very troubling and very scary in many areas, but this is not the right venue to challenge it," said Councilman Michael Machi. "You take it through the court system."

CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INPUT

Several council meetings leading up to the vote drew dozens of public speakers, and city officials recalled a stray few who thought the Arcata measure wasn't a good idea. Machi said he still feels "disappointed" the whole issue wasn't discussed more before passage.

"Just remember that this is the only city in the whole United States that has done this, so I am not in the minority," he said.

Resolutions condemning the Patriot Act already have passed in 83 cities from San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley to Baltimore and Detroit, and Mill Valley joined the list just Monday. But no city had gone all the way to an ordinance, said Nancy Talanian, co-director of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee of Florence, Mass.

Talanian, whose organization has been urging cities to pass anti-Patriot Act resolutions since 2001, was "delighted" that Arcata pushed the envelope.

Among the main objections to the act are that it gives investigators greater authority to jail suspects, plant wiretaps, sift through e-mails and scrutinize what library books people check out.

So far, there seem to be no opportunities to use Arcata's soon-to-be-enacted law, because no federal or state agents have ever tried to use the Patriot Act in Arcata. But that's not for a lack of wanting. City leaders are actually itching for a fight.

"We're not going to go looking for it, but we'd welcome it," said City Manager Dan Hauser. "Maybe then this act could actually be tested in court."

LAW PROBABLY ILLEGAL

He admitted that the law is "probably illegal, if you accept the Patriot Act as legal" -- and that viewpoint was shared by veteran San Francisco trial attorney John Keker, who compared Arcata's ordinance to local medical marijuana laws, which have been squashed in federal court challenges.

"I applaud Arcata, but the law is completely illegal," Keker said. "We used to have something called the U.S. Constitution, and supposedly we still do -- and the Constitution says the federal law is supreme in the land. So it's a nonstarter."

If City Manager Hauser or anyone else is hoping to stare down some agent holding a Patriot Act subpoena, he shouldn't hold his breath, cautioned LaRae Quy, spokeswoman for the San Francisco FBI office, whose jurisdiction includes Arcata. She said there are no plans to go dashing the 279 miles up to Arcata anytime soon. And even if there were, she doubted there would be trouble.

"I really don't understand what the concerns are with the act," Quy said. "What it did was primarily streamline existing laws on the books. I know some people feel their privacy rights are being violated, but I think there's some hysteria out there . . . some misunderstanding.

"We still have to show probable cause for any actions we take," she said. "It's not just an agent descending and saying, 'Hey, I want to go in and see what this person is doing.' "

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Arcata Councilman David Meserve helped draft and later introduced an ordinance defying the federal Patriot Act., (2) Brian Willson, a member of Veterans For Peace, helped draft the ordinance., (3) Michael Machi voted against Arcata's law but finds the Patriot Act "very troubling." / Photos by Kim Komenich/The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

Take a roll up 101 to find respite from recall madness; [FINAL Edition]

John King. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 18, 2003. pg. E.1

Abstract (Summary)

There's nothing fragile about the scenery along 101. Sometimes hills roll and sometimes they spike. Sometimes trees close in tight along the road, or a chasm opens up with a river at the bottom. Instead of the postcard majesties of Yosemite and Tahoe, this is nonchalant seduction.

The best example is Garberville, a city of 12,000 that seems equally divided between hippie exiles and their offspring, and the old guard that traces its roots back generations. At House of Burgess, a '50s-era diner that looks retro because it never changed, a handwritten note on the door requests "No Patchouli oil please."

Then it's into Del Norte County, where hippified Humboldt gives way to the tourist kitsch that I remember vividly from my youth. By now, 101 is nothing but redwood-smothered curves and a genial dotting of roadside attractions. Bungalow motels! Chainsaw sculptures! Mystery spots and drive-thru trees!

Full Text (780 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Sep 18, 2003

E-mail John King at jking@sfchronicle.com.

Here's the most heartening lesson taught by a recent drive far north on Highway 101: The land remains.

The recall madness leaves no mark; the air's not thick with economic gloom. Oak trees and redwoods aren't arranged along set political lines.

What you see instead is a tough burlap landscape, weathered shades of brown and green, stretching mile after mile after mile. This is California's enduring lure -- a natural wonder you can live in and relate to -- and it never looked so good.

We all understand why, given the political mess that lingers like the worst Indian summer smog. It's not just the bad joke of the recall; the strain of continual growth poses a set of challenges that the government seems both unwilling and unable to confront. Instead it's all posturing and spin, and the very notion of California seems fragile.

But there's nothing fragile about the scenery along 101. Sometimes hills roll and sometimes they spike. Sometimes trees close in tight along the road, or a chasm opens up with a river at the bottom. Instead of the postcard majesties of Yosemite and Tahoe, this is nonchalant seduction.

We've left scars, of course, too many. Long after the Bay Area's tall cities and oozing 'burbs recede in the rear view mirror, there's the occasional jolt of brute human force. Catch the eye-popping scene near Willits where half a mountain is missing, the south-facing slope still being chewed into gravel.

The quarried gash is harsh and bright amid the soft contours around it. But the car keeps rolling, and so much of the landscape is intact.

Other intrusions aren't as physically jarring, but in some ways they're even more painful.

These are the cultural ones that reflect how people today still want to strike it rich. And they're gambling -- in some cases literally -- on outsiders and self-indulgence.

So it is in Hopland, for instance, that an old high school is converted into a pretentious wine tasting room with demonstration gardens, while a billboard points the way to an Indian casino a few miles away. One place offers a veneer of class; the other the lure of quick riches. Both smack of desperation.

The mark left by humans is more reassuring farther north, in the towns where people relish the limits that the land imposes.

The best example is Garberville, a city of 12,000 that seems equally divided between hippie exiles and their offspring, and the old guard that traces its roots back generations. At House of Burgess, a '50s-era diner that looks retro because it never changed, a handwritten note on the door requests "No Patchouli oil please."

Rising above the main drag is the neon pancake flipper of the Eel River Cafe -- and a marijuana leaf in the middle of the Hemp Connection's vertical marquee.

I don't want to be too Pollyannish, since anyone who follows the news knows about the friction that comes when environmental activists move in alongside the loggers of the Redwood Empire. But on the warm summer afternoon I paused for groceries and ice cream, a live-and-let-live atmosphere hung nicely in the air.

What feels good about a place like this is that it demonstrates another great thing about California -- the acceptance of change.

For all the tension that comes from different cultures sharing the same turf, you sense that they also share a common bond. They're drawn to the setting and to the scale of the community. And the old-timers are smart enough to know that when artisans or utopians arrive, they bring creativity and fresh ideas as well as a penchant for tie-dye.

When you reach the ocean, California again throws a twist.

Bay Area residents think of the coast as bluff drama, but here it's a smooth array of rivers and inlets that blend with the Pacific's endless blue. I particularly enjoyed a long straight corridor of redwoods that abruptly stopped. Straight ahead: Big Lagoon, a casual and utterly appropriate name.

Then it's into Del Norte County, where hippified Humboldt gives way to the tourist kitsch that I remember vividly from my youth. By now, 101 is nothing but redwood-smothered curves and a genial dotting of roadside attractions. Bungalow motels! Chainsaw sculptures! Mystery spots and drive-thru trees!

Maybe that's why the drive up 101 is so liberating. It restores the sense of proportion too easily lost in the shrillness of the daily news.

Yes, the political state of California is in disarray. But the physical landscape has survived gold rushes, earthquakes, drought and dot-com IPOs. It is a remarkable resilient thing. And it will weather our man-made storm.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects:	Nature, Roads & highways
Locations:	Northern California
Author(s):	John King
Document types:	Commentary
Column Name:	<i>PLACE</i>
Section:	<i>DAILY DATEBOOK</i>
Publication title:	San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 18, 2003. pg. E.1
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Text Word Count	780
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San Francisco Chronicle

Hemp industry revived with victory over DEA / Bush push to expand drug wars shot down by Ninth Circuit ruling; [FINAL Edition]

Bob Egelko, Kathleen Seligman. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 7, 2004. pg. A.4

Abstract (Summary)

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allowed sales of hemp foods to resume in March 2002, five months after the Drug Enforcement Administration announced an abrupt nationwide ban. On Friday, the court said the DEA had no authority to reclassify hemp as a dangerous drug without first showing that it has a "high potential for abuse."

The DEA hasn't tried to prove hemp is dangerous but instead argued that consumption of hemp seeds and oil can be outlawed because they contain traces of THC, the active substance in marijuana.

Hemp can no longer be grown legally in the United States, but is imported legally, largely from Canada. The DEA's October 2001 ban did not apply to nonfood products like clothing and paper. However, [David Bronner] said the ban cut off the supply of hemp oil that his company used in its soaps.

Full Text (574 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Feb 7, 2004

E-mail the writers at begeko@sfchronicle.com and kseligman@sfchronicle.com.

The Bush administration's attempt to expand the nation's drug wars to foods and oils containing hemp was shot down Friday by a federal appeals court, which said hemp doesn't get people high and hasn't been outlawed by Congress.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allowed sales of hemp foods to resume in March 2002, five months after the Drug Enforcement Administration announced an abrupt nationwide ban. On Friday, the court said the DEA had no authority to reclassify hemp as a dangerous drug without first showing that it has a "high potential for abuse."

The DEA hasn't tried to prove hemp is dangerous but instead argued that consumption of hemp seeds and oil can be outlawed because they contain traces of THC, the active substance in marijuana.

But the court said that under federal law "nonpsychoactive hemp is explicitly excluded from the definition of marijuana."

DEA spokesman Bill Grant declined comment on the ruling, which could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. For now, it's a relief for the hemp food industry, which saw stores pull its products off shelves in 2001 and is struggling to regain lost ground.

"The market is going to blow wide open," said David Bronner, president of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps in Escondido (San Diego County) and chairman of the Hemp Industry Association's food and oils committee. His company makes a snack bar that Bronner hopes will now find its way into mainstream stores.

Lenda Hand, owner of Humboldt Hemp Foods, said her sales dropped dramatically in the past few years. Her company still sells roasted hemp bean coffee but has stopped marketing organic blue tortilla chips and cake mixes containing hemp seeds because of a decline in sales.

"Stores dropped their accounts," she said. "People were afraid to carry (the products). And then my enthusiasm waned. It was very depressing. Now I'll gear up again."

Hemp foods, sold mainly in natural food and health food stores, include granola, waffles, energy and snack bars, chips and oil supplements.

As an industrial product, hemp can be traced back to colonial times in America and was grown by George Washington to make rope. The plant was a valuable agricultural crop until the anti-drug fervor of the 1930s, which resulted in the 1937 federal law banning marijuana.

Hemp can no longer be grown legally in the United States, but is imported legally, largely from Canada. The DEA's October 2001 ban did not apply to nonfood products like clothing and paper. However, Bronner said the ban cut off the supply of hemp oil that his company used in its soaps.

In defending its rules before the court, the DEA argued that it was authorized to ban consumption of any product containing THC. But the court said federal law prohibits only synthetic THC and natural marijuana.

To reclassify hemp as a dangerous drug, the court said, the DEA must make findings, supported by evidence, that it has a high potential for abuse and cannot be used safely under medical supervision.

The DEA won't even try to meet that standard, predicted Bronner, the Escondido businessman.

"What's the abuse potential of hemp seeds and oil? None," he said. "It's like eating a poppy seed bagel."

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Hemp ointments are sold at a Hayward dispensary. A federal appeals court blocked the DEA from banning hemp foodstuffs. / Marcio Jose Sanchez / Associated Press

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writers

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Food, Oils & fats, Hemp, Drug policy
People: Bush, George W
Author(s): Bob Egelko, Kathleen Seligman
Document types: News
Section: NEWS
Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 7, 2004. pg. A.4
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San Francisco Chronicle

Mendocino sows seeds of dissent; [FINAL Edition]

Ken Garcia. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 8, 2004. pg. B.7

Abstract (Summary)

So-called "Franken-food" producers like the Monsanto, DuPont and Dow companies have spawned a real monster -- a growing movement in agricultural communities to ban genetically altered crops, the corporations' DNA-modified bread and butter.

The grass is definitely not greener for the synthetic-life- producing biotech giants who have been battling skirmishes on fronts from Oregon to France. Organic food producers -- one of the fastest- growing and most lucrative segments of U.S. agriculture -- have stepped up their efforts to market their products as better, healthier alternatives to gene-altered plants and animals. Recent findings by independent scientists regarding contamination of conventional crops by mysteriously wandering DNA-manipulated pollen have heightened fears among farmers about future crop damage.

The study, "Gone to Seed," concluded that more than two-thirds of 36 conventional canola, soy and corn seeds contained traces of DNA from genetically enhanced crops. The report warned that if the United States can't do a better job of safeguarding its food supply, it would be nearly impossible to guarantee any portion of it would be free of genetically-altered elements.

Full Text (721 words)

Copyright San Francisco Chronicle, a division of Hearst Communications Inc. Mar 8, 2004

E-mail Ken Garcia at kgarcia@sfchronicle.com.

THE BIOTECH corporations producing genetically engineered plants have spent years trying to create seeds that are immune to a variety of pests and insecticides. But they can't find a formula to stop the rise in contamination of their public image and tactics.

So-called "Franken-food" producers like the Monsanto, DuPont and Dow companies have spawned a real monster -- a growing movement in agricultural communities to ban genetically altered crops, the corporations' DNA-modified bread and butter.

Nowhere in the country is this more evident than in Northern California, where rural Mendocino County last week became the nation's first region to ban genetically modified organisms from being raised within its borders. It was of such a serious concern to the multibillion-dollar biotech industry that it spent nearly \$700,000 trying to defeat the measure, nearly \$60 for every man, woman and child in the county.

The upshot? It looks as if a number of neighboring counties are prepared to follow suit -- officials in Humboldt, Sonoma and Marin counties are said to be contemplating similar ordinances and several states are considering even more strict initiatives. Indeed, the movement to ban genetically modified plants and foods is sweeping the country almost faster than same-sex marriage.

"This is the first time people have taken on these corporate giants and won," said Laura Hamburg, a spokeswoman for Mendocino County's Measure H campaign, which won with nearly 57 percent of the vote. "It's a sign of hope and inspiration for grassroots movements around the country."

The grass is definitely not greener for the synthetic-life- producing biotech giants who have been battling skirmishes on fronts from Oregon to France. Organic food producers -- one of the fastest- growing and most lucrative

segments of U.S. agriculture -- have stepped up their efforts to market their products as better, healthier alternatives to gene-altered plants and animals. Recent findings by independent scientists regarding contamination of conventional crops by mysteriously wandering DNA-manipulated pollen have heightened fears among farmers about future crop damage.

A few weeks ago, the Union of Concerned Scientists, a respected health and environmental group, released a 70-page report that found that a surprising amount of the U.S. supply of regular crop seeds had been contaminated with strands of genetically-altered DNA.

The study, "Gone to Seed," concluded that more than two-thirds of 36 conventional canola, soy and corn seeds contained traces of DNA from genetically enhanced crops. The report warned that if the United States can't do a better job of safeguarding its food supply, it would be nearly impossible to guarantee any portion of it would be free of genetically-altered elements.

Such a finding for an already leery public is the worst possible news for the likes of Monsanto, which is facing fever-pitched opposition to DNA-altered products in European and Asian trade markets. Couple that with the fact that wine-growing regions such as Mendocino see organic products as a way to market themselves competitively to foreign buyers and you understand why the biochemical giants are spending millions trying to stomp out similar political uprisings.

The Mendocino County fight was sown with seeds of desperation from the start. Rather than deal with science and safety questions, the opponents of the genetic plant ban focused on phantom issues such as increased taxes. The slick mailers and radio ads delivered during the stretch run of the campaign also intimated that farmers would suffer an invasion of privacy from agricultural inspectors -- a pretty clever ploy in a county where marijuana is the No. 1 cash crop.

Yet it's clear that attempting to stave off similar campaigns in the future is going to take more than just endless pockets of money. In California, where organic farming is booming, producing grapes and other crops that have been certified "uncontaminated" will certainly be a major marketing pitch for foreign countries that are nearly rabid about genetically modified organisms.

With major wine producers stretching from Southern California to Washington state, it's only a matter of time before the debate over engineered seeds begins to take root.

The biotech agricultural companies are in a position similar to where the tobacco industry was a decade ago, fighting wave after wave of legal, safety and health challenges from individuals, cities and states. The backlash won't be easily contained -- it's already blowing in the wind.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Corporate image, Genetically altered foods

Locations: Mendocino County California

Companies: Dow Chemical Co(**Ticker:**DOW, **NAICS:** 325199, 325188, 325211, **Duns:**00-138-1581) , E I DuPont De Nemours & Co(**Ticker:**DD, **NAICS:** 324110, 211111, 424720, 325181, **Duns:**00-131-5704) , Monsanto Co(**Ticker:**MTC, **NAICS:** 325188, 325199, **Duns:**00-626-6803)

Author(s): Ken Garcia

Document types: Commentary

Column Name: KEN GARCIA

Section: EDITORIAL

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San Francisco Chronicle

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY / Medical pot limit raised; [FINAL Edition]

Maria Alicia Gaura. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 7, 2004. pg. B.4

Abstract (Summary)

The county Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to set the 3-pound limit at the urging of medical marijuana advocates, who argued that the sickest patients frequently use upwards of an ounce of marijuana per week to ease their symptoms. The board also voted to allow medical users to grow a home garden plot of the herb measuring 100 square feet.

"Three pounds sounds like a lot, but it's just a few marijuana cigarettes per day, when you break it down," said Valerie Corral, one of the founders of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a Santa Cruz marijuana-growing collective.

The bill, SB420, set a statewide possession limit of 8 ounces of medical marijuana for patients with a doctor's recommendation, but encouraged individual communities to set higher limits if they saw fit. The legislation also allows medical users to possess six mature marijuana plants or 12 immature plants for personal use.

Full Text (632 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Oct 7, 2004

E-mail Maria Alicia Gaura at mgaura@sfchronicle.com.

Santa Cruz County medical marijuana users may now legally possess as much as 3 pounds of pot -- at least as far as the local authorities are concerned.

The county Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to set the 3-pound limit at the urging of medical marijuana advocates, who argued that the sickest patients frequently use upwards of an ounce of marijuana per week to ease their symptoms. The board also voted to allow medical users to grow a home garden plot of the herb measuring 100 square feet.

Marijuana is an annual crop, so the 3-pound limit will allow users to obtain a single supply that can last them an entire year.

"Three pounds sounds like a lot, but it's just a few marijuana cigarettes per day, when you break it down," said Valerie Corral, one of the founders of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a Santa Cruz marijuana-growing collective.

Corral uses marijuana several times daily to suppress seizures caused by injuries she suffered in a car accident.

"About 15 percent of our patients use in excess of 5 pounds per year," Corral said. "They suffer from everything from chronic pain to cancer and AIDS, chemotherapy and wasting."

While the new county ordinance will protect marijuana users from prosecution by local law enforcement, it won't do much to dissuade federal agents. The federal government does not recognize California's rules allowing medical marijuana use, which voters enacted in 1996 by passing Proposition 215.

"The federal government still insists that there is no such thing as medicinal marijuana," said Glenn Backes, director of the Sacramento office of the Drug Policy Alliance, a national advocacy group organized to reform drug laws.

"Unfortunately, these state and local guidelines still leave patients vulnerable to attack from the feds," Backes said.

Last October, outgoing Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill by state Sen. John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose, that attempted to standardize the jumble of local medical marijuana legislation passed after Prop. 215 took effect.

The bill, SB420, set a statewide possession limit of 8 ounces of medical marijuana for patients with a doctor's recommendation, but encouraged individual communities to set higher limits if they saw fit. The legislation also allows medical users to possess six mature marijuana plants or 12 immature plants for personal use.

(The bill number was an inside joke referring to 4:20 p.m. -- the time that many recreational users like to take a smoke break and some refer to as "Miller time for stoners.")

Santa Cruz County is among a growing number of communities that have adopted higher limits, according to NORML, the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Humboldt and Sonoma counties have limits similar to Santa Cruz's. Calaveras County allows possession of six plants and 2 pounds of dried marijuana. Yuba County allows five plants and 1.5 pounds, and the city of Berkeley allows 10 plants and 2.5 pounds.

Santa Cruz attorney Ben Rice, who represents the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, says that the new limits are a positive step, but that more refinements to the law are needed.

"It is kind of a bare-bones ordinance," Rice said. "One question that remains is, what should law enforcement do when it comes across what is alleged to be a medical marijuana garden?"

"Historically they cut down the plants and resolve the issue later -- and in the meantime the medicine is lost," Rice said. "I've had a couple of pounds of (seized marijuana) returned that was nothing more than green mush."

He cited a city of Santa Cruz guideline that directs police to take a sample of the suspect marijuana as well as photographs, but to leave the plants standing until the district attorney decides whether to file charges.

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: County ordinances, Marijuana, Medical treatment

Locations: Santa Cruz County California

Companies: Board of Supervisors-Santa Cruz County CA (**NAICS:** 921120)

Author(s): Maria Alicia Gaura

Document types: News

Section: BAY AREA

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 7, 2004. pg. B.4

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San Francisco Chronicle

EMERYVILLE / Medical marijuana patient sues over plants; [FINAL Edition]

Henry K. Lee. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Dec 10, 2004. pg. B.5

Abstract (Summary)

In November 2003, the manager of [James Blair]'s apartment complex smelled a pungent odor coming from his unit while showing a nearby unit to a renter, court records show. The manager said he earned a degree in forestry from Humboldt State University and recognized the smell to be marijuana, documents say.

Blair said he uses "a couple of grams" of marijuana each day to alleviate symptoms from a neck injury incurred in a 1994 diving accident in Belize.

Blair's attorney, Joseph Elford of Americans for Safe Access, a national advocacy group based in Berkeley, said his client is among many medical marijuana users who have to fight to reclaim their plants. "If the police would just leave these people alone, the marijuana wouldn't be used for reasons the police are concerned about," Elford said.

Full Text (608 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Dec 10, 2004

E-mail Henry K. Lee at hlee@sfchronicle.com.

A medicinal marijuana user busted for growing pot sued the city of Emeryville on Thursday, saying police refused to return his seized plants -- and later told him that thieves stole much of his property from a secured storage site.

James Blair, 45, of Emeryville, said he found it ironic that the same plants that had been taken away from him a year ago could have fallen into the wrong hands.

"What they've done, effectively, is taken a controlled substance and made it available in an uncontrolled way to some members of the public," Blair said. "Their role is to keep drugs out of the hands of people who aren't supposed to have them."

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County Superior Court in Oakland, asks for a court injunction that would prohibit Emeryville police from "continuing to violate the statutory and constitutional rights of qualified medical marijuana patients" under state law.

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 215, which allows the use of marijuana for medical purposes with a doctor's recommendation.

The suit names the city of Emeryville, the police department and Sgt. LaJuan Collier, who led the investigation. Collier declined comment on the suit Thursday, as did City Attorney Michael Biddle and Police Chief Ken James.

But James confirmed that thieves broke into the city's Public Works storage building on Horton Street in January or February, cutting off locks from cages and making off with \$35,000 in evidence from a number of cases, including some of Blair's property.

Also stolen were chain saws, pressure washers, generators and other equipment, the chief said. Investigators had suspected it was an inside job because the thieves had the access codes for the site. No arrests have been made.

In November 2003, the manager of Blair's apartment complex smelled a pungent odor coming from his unit while showing a nearby unit to a renter, court records show. The manager said he earned a degree in forestry from Humboldt State University and recognized the smell to be marijuana, documents say.

The manager entered the unit and found a locked room designed to grow marijuana. Police served a search warrant on Dec. 9, 2003, seizing 30 full-grown plants and equipment that included grow lamps, pH meters, air filters, timers and pumps, records show.

One officer "tore a copy of the physician's recommendation from the wall of the grow room, crumpled it into a ball and threw it on the floor," the suit said.

Blair said he uses "a couple of grams" of marijuana each day to alleviate symptoms from a neck injury incurred in a 1994 diving accident in Belize.

He was charged with cultivation and possession of marijuana for sale, but the charges were dropped in February because of insufficient evidence and "in the interest of justice" after his attorney and physician told prosecutors that he was a medical marijuana patient, records show.

After a judge issued a court order in April for the return of his property, Blair presented it to police but was rebuffed, the lawsuit said. He received a letter in June notifying him of the break-in.

In September, Blair received "a fraction" of the seized plants. "The plants had deteriorated, with the buds cut from them and were unusable," the suit said.

Blair's attorney, Joseph Elford of Americans for Safe Access, a national advocacy group based in Berkeley, said his client is among many medical marijuana users who have to fight to reclaim their plants. "If the police would just leave these people alone, the marijuana wouldn't be used for reasons the police are concerned about," Elford said.

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Theft, Litigation, State laws, Marijuana

Locations: Emeryville California

People: Blair, James

Companies: Police Department-Emeryville CA (NAICS: 922120)

Author(s): Henry K. Lee

Document types: News

Section: BAY AREA

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San Francisco Chronicle

POP QUIZ: TOMMY CHONG; [FINAL Edition]

Aidin Vaziri. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 6, 2005. pg. 50

Abstract (Summary)

When [TOMMY CHONG], 66, got sentenced to nine months in jail last year it wasn't just for conspiring to sell bongos on the Internet, he says, but because he had made millions playing a career pot smoker, most famously in Cheech & Chong films and on "That '70s Show." Oh, and probably because he said the only weapons of mass destruction George Bush found were his bongos. After a successful New York run, Chong was to bring his three-man act, the Marijuana-Logues, to the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre for a pair of shows this week, but they've been postponed until October -- when he'll be off probation..

Full Text (658 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Mar 6, 2005

E-mail Aidin Vaziri at avaziri@sfchronicle.com.

When Tommy Chong, 66, got sentenced to nine months in jail last year it wasn't just for conspiring to sell bongos on the Internet, he says, but because he had made millions playing a career pot smoker, most famously in Cheech & Chong films and on "That '70s Show." Oh, and probably because he said the only weapons of mass destruction George Bush found were his bongos. After a successful New York run, Chong was to bring his three-man act, the Marijuana-Logues, to the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre for a pair of shows this week, but they've been postponed until October -- when he'll be off probation..

Q: Let me get this straight. They sent you to jail for selling bongos online?

A: No, no, no. The thing is, I never really committed a crime. The only crime I committed was going against the Bush government and their policies. This was their payback.

Q: Every corner store in San Francisco sells bongos.

A: Sure, but that's San Francisco. Actually, in a way, I'm taking the rap for places like San Francisco and Humboldt County and other liberal, live-and-let-live places.

Q: Thanks for all that.

A: Sure.

Q: So what was jail like?

A: Jail was actually quite nice. It was a Martha Stewart-type jail. In fact, we even wore the same outfit.

Q: Khakis? Nice.

A: Yeah, I thought I was going to get house arrest and I was actually looking forward to that because I've got a nice house in Los Angeles. But I think they got wind that I was looking forward to house arrest and so they said, "Oh, we'll give this guy jail time. He needs to learn a lesson."

Q: Did you make lots of good prison buddies?

A: Yeah, tons of friends. Interesting people, too. I was in there with Reagan's speechwriter. It was incredible. I wanted to know if Reagan was a real jerk and the guy said, "No, it was all political. He smoked his share. He was a cool guy. But it was all done to get the votes."

Q: How about the guards?

A: I had friends from cops and guards and inmates, everybody. Everybody wanted to spend some time with me. Luckily I was in there long enough I got to spend time with everybody.

Q: It obviously didn't change you that much since you're now doing the Marijuana-Logues.

A: Yeah, I wasn't born again or anything like that.

Q: Do you think they're going to put you back in jail after the show?

A: It's a play, so I'm protected under the umbrella of legitimate art.

Q: Are you high right now?

A: I haven't smoked for two years.

Q: What? How are you even Chong? How do you function?

A: I study tango. I can dance salsa. So my fun now is putting on nice clothes and having beautiful women come up and ask me to dance.

Q: But, be honest, that can't be as good as hitting some Colombian Green out of a six-foot pipe, right?

A: For my age, it's even better. You don't have that lost weekend feeling, like, "I was supposed to get a lot of stuff done, man, but all I managed to do was lose some CDs."

Q: What are you going to do now that you can't sell glassware on the Internet?

A: I'm going to get back to what I should be doing. Cheech and I are doing a movie. As soon as I get off probation, my wife and I are going back on tour to do our comedy. I've got an un-reality television program in the works. So everything really, really worked out fine. Fate has a way of making everything right.

[Illustration]

PHOTO; Caption: Tommy Chong recently served nine months in "a Martha Stewart-type jail," he says, even wearing khakis like hers. / Damian Dovarganes / Associated Press 2004

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Actors, Imprisonment, Theater -- Marijuana-Logues, The

People: Chong, Tommy

Author(s): Aidin Vaziri

Document types: Interview

Column Name: *POP QUIZ*

Section: *SUNDAY DATEBOOK*

Publication title: San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 6, 2005. pg. 50

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San Francisco Chronicle

CALIFORNIA / CHP won't confiscate medical marijuana / Lockyer reiterates that Prop. 215 permits usage; [FINAL Edition]

Patrick Hoge. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 30, 2005. pg. B.1

Abstract (Summary)

In addition to the medical marijuana advocacy group's lawsuit, [Joe Whiteford] said the CHP was prompted to change its policy when [Bill Lockyer] sent a memo to state law enforcement agencies reiterating that state law sanctions medical marijuana use. State voters passed Proposition 215 in 1996 legalizing cannabis use for medical purposes.

Hermes said his group had sued the CHP on behalf of six people because surveys showed the agency was the most frequent violator of the law and because it had a specific policy requiring seizure of medical marijuana. More than 25 percent of the 457 cases of medical marijuana seizures in the 12 months ending in July involved the CHP, he said.

One plaintiff, Mary Jane Winters, a 54-year-old registered nurse who lives in Humboldt County, on Monday recalled being pulled over for speeding last Thanksgiving and having her two ounces of marijuana seized by a CHP officer. The marijuana charge was dismissed, but Winters never got her drugs back.

Full Text (678 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Aug 30, 2005

E-mail Patrick Hoge at phoge@sfchronicle.com.

To the delight of medical marijuana supporters, the California Highway Patrol has agreed to stop taking cannabis from motorists in routine traffic stops who have a doctor's recommendation.

The latest move in the legal battle over medical marijuana in the state came in response to a lawsuit by an advocacy group and statements by Attorney General Bill Lockyer affirming that medical marijuana use is sanctioned by California law despite a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

"This is a huge victory for the medical marijuana movement," Kris Hermes, the legal campaign director of Americans for Safe Access, said at a news conference Monday. The Oakland group sued the CHP in February over its policy requiring officers to seize marijuana regardless of whether motorists presented a physician's note or an identification card from a local health agency.

An Aug. 22 memo from CHP headquarters ordered officers not to cite motorists or seize their drugs if they carry up to eight ounces of marijuana, or six mature or 12 immature plants, as long as they possess a valid state or local government medical marijuana patient or primary caregiver identification card or a signed recommendation from a physician.

"Those people will not have their marijuana seized," CHP Lt. Joe Whiteford said Monday.

Some counties have higher possession limits than the state, and in those jurisdictions the higher limits would apply, Whiteford said, but people from those places cannot carry more than eight ounces when traveling in other areas or they will be cited, and their marijuana will be taken.

In addition to the medical marijuana advocacy group's lawsuit, Whiteford said the CHP was prompted to change its policy when Lockyer sent a memo to state law enforcement agencies reiterating that state law sanctions medical marijuana use. State voters passed Proposition 215 in 1996 legalizing cannabis use for medical purposes.

Lockyer's statement followed the June 6 U.S. Supreme Court decision that permitted federal prosecution of marijuana users despite state laws permitting medical use.

Hermes said his group had sued the CHP on behalf of six people because surveys showed the agency was the most frequent violator of the law and because it had a specific policy requiring seizure of medical marijuana. More than 25 percent of the 457 cases of medical marijuana seizures in the 12 months ending in July involved the CHP, he said.

One plaintiff, Mary Jane Winters, a 54-year-old registered nurse who lives in Humboldt County, on Monday recalled being pulled over for speeding last Thanksgiving and having her two ounces of marijuana seized by a CHP officer. The marijuana charge was dismissed, but Winters never got her drugs back.

Winters uses marijuana to alleviate anxiety and lower back pain caused by three discs she ruptured while lifting a patient, she said.

"It really is wonderful medication," she said, adding that in her profession she had seen other sick people benefit from marijuana.

Also present at the news conference was Tony Bowles, 28, who was pulled over in San Francisco on May 5, 2004, for not having a front license plate. The CHP officer took 3 grams of marijuana that Bowles was carrying for his mother, even though she had a recommendation, and Bowles had identification showing he was her primary caregiver.

"It's about time that the CHP recognized the will of California voters," said Bowles, referring to Prop. 215. Bowles is a student and part-time medical marijuana dispensary doorman.

The change in CHP policy does not end the lawsuit against the agency, which is seeking a court order upholding the state law, said Joe Elford, chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access. A settlement of the case is possible, he said.

Elford said he hoped the CHP's reversal would lead other law enforcement agencies throughout the state also to leave legitimate medical marijuana patients alone.

"Americans for Safe Access will be watching, and if we need to, we will call upon the courts to address the situation," Elford said, adding that "the Los Angeles Police Department is on our radar."

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

Indexing (document details)

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San Francisco Chronicle

THE NORTH COAST: A KAYAK ADVENTURE / LUXURY OF ROUGHING IT / Inn caters gourmet lunch on sands of Mendocino to give paddlers taste of Bay Area escape; [FINAL Edition]

Paul McHugh. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 4, 2005. pg. A.2

Abstract (Summary)

[Jed Ayers], 31, slimmer and sandy-haired, had musicians and teachers for parents. He grew up on an apple farm near Sheppard's commune. At age 10, he toted apples and handpicked berries to sell to [Alan Kantor] at a restaurant near Albion, a town south of Mendocino. Sheppard worked there as a dishwasher. The kids became friends.

"The Mac" was a boisterous center of Mendocino life until [Susan Carrell Norris] sold it in 1985. Ayers and Sheppard scooped it up for \$2.35 million in 2003. Sheppard's construction skills and Ayer's marketing savvy have brought it back to eminence.

[Paul McHugh] (center) and [John Weed] enjoy a surprise lunch in Mendocino on Friday catered by the MacCallum House Inn and Restaurant and served by chef Alan Kantor and co-owner [Noah Sheppard]. / [Michael Maloney] / The Chronicle, MAP: The Chronicle

Full Text (1194 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Oct 4, 2005

E-mail Paul McHugh at Northcoast@sfchronicle.com.

Dark and early at 6 a.m., John Weed and I rolled from our sleeping bags in the waterfront shack of the rowing club that had given us refuge. We peered up the Noyo Harbor channel to discern our fate.

Piles of foam off wintry seas crashed on the bar.

However, a rising tide softened the swell. Departing fishing boats revealed a northward exit. At 9 a.m., Noyo rowers Dusty Dillon and Stan Halvorsen escorted us out aboard their club's classic Whitehall.

Bo Barnes had left our trip for 12 days to drive to the bay and deal with the sudden success of his long-term project: the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (it would link camps and launch points for paddlers, rowers and sailors around the bay).

We're now paddling from town to town. People following our trip online and in The Chronicle shower us with hospitality. A welcome we got in Mendocino upped the ante.

I lived in "Mendo" from 1976 to 1983. I loved seeing all the familiar landscapes. Yet, we had to stay well offshore. Those 9-foot swells played Wagnerian kettledrums on the bluffs and rocks.

We rounded the picturesque Mendocino Headlands to behold a white-tablecloth meal set up on Point Beach. Standing by to serve it were the two young owners of the MacCallum House Inn and Restaurant, Jed Ayers and Noah Sheppard, and chef Alan Kantor.

I had met Ayers and Sheppard on an earlier visit, so I'd phoned the "Mac House," saying we planned to land. I would run up the beach trail to score some box lunches. Well, they scotched that modest scheme.

I sat down with Weed and Chronicle photographer Michael Maloney to tuck into broiled oysters, radicchio salad and duck confit.

"You guys are awesome," Sheppard enthused. "We've followed your stories. We want to do something nice for you."

Sheppard, Ayers and Kantor own a fresh chapter in local history. They are shaping the region's tourism and visitation boom instead of being overwhelmed by it.

Once, this broad mesa above Big River was decorated with Victorian chalets for timber executives and shacks for serfs. Sawmills steamed away on the flats below.

Now, 150 years and many preservation battles later, Mendocino is a movie-set-ready "quaint coastal village." It regularly serves as a major weekend getaway for the Bay Area -- even for visitors from the East Coast and Europe.

Sculptor and potter Bill Zacha breezed up here in 1958 to found the Art Center. In the 1960s, hippies followed the artists; in the 1970s, back-to-the-landers arrived, a counter-cultural second wave.

As I scoured my old digs for new stories during research for this expedition, I happened on the tale of Ayers, Sheppard and Kantor.

For local lads to make good as business professionals is significant. Many succumb to the easy money of growing marijuana in the "Emerald Triangle" of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Others fall prey to the scourge of methamphetamine production and use.

Sheppard, 32, vibrant and dark-haired, came from an international romance. His mom, a Briton named Tinley Kent, met his dad, American traveler Gary Sheppard, in Bangalore, India, where Noah was born. But he spent his second birthday at a commune called Table Mountain near Mendocino, and grew up there.

Ayers, 31, slimmer and sandy-haired, had musicians and teachers for parents. He grew up on an apple farm near Sheppard's commune. At age 10, he toted apples and handpicked berries to sell to Kantor at a restaurant near Albion, a town south of Mendocino. Sheppard worked there as a dishwasher. The kids became friends.

Mendocino in the 1970s and 1980s was not an easy place to grow up. Substance abuse was rife. Glassy-eyed kids were a common sight, shambling down Mendocino's narrow streets, or sprawled on sidewalks and benches.

How did Ayers and Sheppard escape? Both Kent and Kantor told me earlier that these boys focused on hard work.

They played sports such as track and football at Mendocino High School -- Ayers lettered in three sports, Sheppard in two. Ayers paid for a business degree at Sonoma State by running his own auto- detailing business at a fancy inn, earned a master's in business administration at San Francisco State, then plunged into the Bay Area's high-tech boom of the 1990s.

Meanwhile, Sheppard learned construction and built his first house at age 20. Soon, he was buying distressed structures, fixing them up for sale.

Each generation forges its own rituals. For Mendocino youth, it was Thanksgiving dinner with their families, then going to Dick's Place, a classic old bar, for time with friends.

Sheppard and Ayers hooked up again in 2000. They plotted to join forces on a project: the Mac House was on the block.

This three-story Victorian was built in 1882 by a timber baron as a wedding gift for his daughter. After her death, the mansion sat idle until 1974, when Susan Carrell Norris and her husband made it one of California's first bed-and-breakfast inns.

"The Mac" was a boisterous center of Mendocino life until Norris sold it in 1985. Ayers and Sheppard scooped it up for \$2.35 million in 2003. Sheppard's construction skills and Ayer's marketing savvy have brought it back to eminence.

As I chomped away on lunch, I asked them how it was going. Mac House occupancy 10 years ago had dipped below 37 percent.

"We've raised it up to 76 or 80 percent this month," Sheppard said. "Five percent above last year. We've just had two articles on us in the Wine Spectator. It's great."

They concede they've bumped -- sometimes with great force -- into the town's preservationist ethic. Locals have objected to sights and sounds of wedding event tents on the Mac's lawn. Others complained when the duo sought to buy and transfer Art Center rights to artist housing units, so they could use a hillside property for more visitor lodging.

There have long been worries about the town's housing shifting to vacation rentals of all types, crowding out residents.

"Actually, we did a study. Now it's going the other way," Ayers said. "More people are buying up vacation rentals and moving in.

"But the economic future of this town lies in serving visitors. We've created 85 jobs. We bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into this community each month," he said. "We're a rare breed -- young locals who have learned how to make our own living right here."

Then Weed and I stroked back into heavy fog, strong wind and high waves, navigating toward Albion. -----

The series

Chronicle outdoors writer Paul McHugh is kayaking 400 miles down the North Coast of California, from the Oregon border to San Francisco Bay, reporting on its rugged beauty and on the people who make their lives there.

-- His adventure also can be followed at sfgate.com/northcoast.

[Illustration]

PHOTO, MAP; Caption: Paul McHugh (center) and John Weed enjoy a surprise lunch in Mendocino on Friday catered by the MacCallum House Inn and Restaurant and served by chef Alan Kantor and co-owner Noah Sheppard. / Michael Maloney / The Chronicle, MAP: The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Outdoors Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

National parks' pot farms blamed on cartels / Mexican drug lords find it easier to grow in state than import; [FINAL Edition]

Zachary Coile. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 18, 2005. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Last year, National Park Service officers seized about 60,000 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of \$240 million, from parks in California. About 44,000 pot plants were removed from Sequoia National Park near California's Central Valley. Another 10,000 plants were seized in Yosemite National Park.

The increasing use of national parks and other public lands for illegal pot farming is part of a major shift in the marijuana trade. Ten years ago, almost all of the state's pot was grown in the "Emerald Triangle," an area encompassing Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties in Northern California, law enforcement officials said.

The illicit pot farms can also cause environmental damage. Growers often cut trees, dig ditches, create crude dams on streams, and haul in plastic hoses and other equipment to irrigate the plants. Fertilizers and other chemicals used by growers pollute watersheds and kill native species. Last year, the Park Service spent \$50,000 to clean up tons of litter, debris and human waste at pot farms that were discovered or abandoned.

Full Text (851 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Nov 18, 2005

E-mail Zachary Coile at zcoile@sfchronicle.com.

Hikers in national parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon are encountering a danger more hazardous than bears: illegal marijuana farms run by Mexican drug cartels and protected by booby traps and guards carrying AK-47s.

National Park Service officials testified in Congress on Thursday that illegal drug production in national parks, forests and other federal lands had grown into a multibillion-dollar business in recent years -- mostly concentrated in California.

"These activities threaten our employees, visitors and our mission of protecting some of the nation's most prized natural and cultural resources," Karen Taylor-Goodrich, the National Park Service's associate director for visitor and resource protection, told the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks.

Last year, National Park Service officers seized about 60,000 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of \$240 million, from parks in California. About 44,000 pot plants were removed from Sequoia National Park near California's Central Valley. Another 10,000 plants were seized in Yosemite National Park.

The Park Service also has found pot farms and other drug trafficking activities in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in Shasta County as well as two Bay Area parks: the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore.

The increasing use of national parks and other public lands for illegal pot farming is part of a major shift in the marijuana trade. Ten years ago, almost all of the state's pot was grown in the "Emerald Triangle," an area encompassing Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties in Northern California, law enforcement officials said.

But Mexican drug cartels now are seizing on the state's mild climate and vast stretches of remote lands to set up pot farms across California. Tightened security on the U.S.-Mexico border has also convinced many drug gangs it is easier to grow marijuana in the state than to smuggle it into the country.

Park service officials said the drug cartels took extreme measures to protect their plants, which can be worth \$4,000 each. Growers have been known to set up booby traps with shotguns. Guards armed with knives and military-style weapons have chased away hikers at gunpoint. In 2002, a visitor to Sequoia was briefly detained by a drug grower, who threatened to harm him if he told authorities the pot farm's secret location.

During a raid of an illegal pot farm in Santa Clara County in June, a California Fish and Game officer was wounded and a suspect shot and killed.

"In prior years, guards used to flee from Park Service law enforcement but now stand their ground with leveled guns using intimidation tactics," Laura Whitehouse, the Central Valley program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, told the committee.

The illicit pot farms can also cause environmental damage. Growers often cut trees, dig ditches, create crude dams on streams, and haul in plastic hoses and other equipment to irrigate the plants. Fertilizers and other chemicals used by growers pollute watersheds and kill native species. Last year, the Park Service spent \$50,000 to clean up tons of litter, debris and human waste at pot farms that were discovered or abandoned.

Congress approved a slight increase in funding for Park Service law enforcement for next year, \$3.6 million, \$746,000 of it for drug eradication efforts in California parks. But federal and state officials say they still lack the money and personnel to patrol vast areas in and around the state's parks.

"It's a \$2 billion or a \$4 billion problem, and we're throwing \$1 million at it," said Supervisor Allen Ishida of Tulare County, whose deputies seized 157,000 pot plants on public and private lands and made 28 arrests this year.

Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., the chairman of the national parks subcommittee, said it would be tough to find more money in the federal budget as Congress deals with rising deficits and is considering cutting many programs. He urged the Park Service to put more officers on drug eradication instead of "writing parking tickets."

Donald Coelho, the Park Service's chief of law enforcement, agreed that more money was not the only solution. He said a coordinated strategy by state, federal and local law enforcement officials ultimately could put a dent in the Mexican cartels' operations.

"Sometimes it takes time to work your way through an organization," Coelho said.

State narcotics officers and the Drug Enforcement Administration seized a record 1.1 million pot plants on public and private lands in California this year, up from 621,000 plants last year, through an aggressive campaign called CAMP, or Campaign Against Marijuana Planting. The street value of those drugs is estimated at \$4.5 billion.

But state and federal officials said drug growers were adapting quickly -- for example, planting smaller pot farms that are tougher to spot from surveillance planes and helicopters. Some growers have responded to drug raids in Sequoia and other parks by moving their farms to nearby Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands.

Without a more comprehensive plan, "we are just shifting the problem from one jurisdiction to another," Ishida said.

Credit: Chronicle Washington Bureau

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San Francisco Chronicle

VENTURING OFF THE GRID / Innovative families save money, gain power with solar, propane, other energy sources; [FINAL Edition]

Daniel King. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 21, 2006. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Over the past few months, the off-grid movement has burst into pop-culture awareness: Several online groups have formed with tips on refrigeration, lighting and rainwater distillation; there's a series of new off-grid design books; and the U.S. Department of Energy hosted in October its second design competition for off-grid architects.

Lobbying from solar advocates will help the United States retake the lead, [Jay Peltz] said. Such lobbying intensified in 1980 with the first off-grid house on a college campus, constructed at Humboldt State University when students formed the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology. Today CCAT -- the campus' largest organization -- is renowned for its quirky alternative-energy projects, such as pedal-powered exercise-bike laptops, blenders and VCRs.

PHOTO (3); (1) [Linda Parkinson] looks at solar panels that need cleaning at her off-the-power-grid home in Arcata (Humboldt County)., (2) Jay Peltz and [Lauris Phillips] of Redway (Humboldt County) use a combination of solar and micro-hydroelectric systems to generate electricity in their home., (3) Noelle Melchizedek and Zachary Mermel are co-directors of Humboldt State's Campus Center for Appropriate Technologies. / Photos by Victor J. Blue / Special to The Chronicle

Full Text (1377 words)

Copyright Hearst Communications Inc., Hearst Newspapers Division Feb 21, 2006

E-mail Daniel King at dking@sfchronicle.com.

Just past noon on a hazy, raw Sunday a few weeks ago, Linda Parkinson did what few homeowners in this storm-battered region could: She turned on the television.

While most Humboldt County residents were reeling from power outages left by devastating rains, Parkinson had electricity to spare. She cooked a feast for a dozen people, took hot showers and threw video-game parties for her 15-year-old son's classmates.

For 24 years, Parkinson, 49, has lived completely off the electric grid, drawing energy exclusively from solar, propane and other renewable on-site power sources.

She isn't alone. Some 180,000 American homeowners live off-grid, according to Richard Perez, publisher of Home Power magazine. Approximately a quarter live in California, and each year the national number grows 33 percent, according to the publisher's database of known off-gridders and estimates of those unreported.

"California is the hotbed of off-grid systems," he said.

Parkinson maintains that the movement is no longer a hippie fad; it's increasingly mainstream and propelled by Americans' desire to eliminate electric bills, keep homes juiced during blackouts, minimize U.S. dependence on fossil fuel and, for activists, send a gesture of defiance to the power companies.

"It's about self-sufficiency," she said, relaxing on the couch in her secluded home. "Living off the grid doesn't mean being disconnected. If anything, I've had an advantage. The power goes out a lot around here," and she still manages to crank household appliances.

In the wireless era, Parkinson said, technology both frees us up and plugs us in, and the off-grid choice is not a retreat from technology but an application of it.

Over the past few months, the off-grid movement has burst into pop-culture awareness: Several online groups have formed with tips on refrigeration, lighting and rainwater distillation; there's a series of new off-grid design books; and the U.S. Department of Energy hosted in October its second design competition for off-grid architects.

The strongest sign yet of the movement's liftoff is a reality-TV series, due out this fall on the Discovery Channel. Production for "Off the Grid" -- its tentative name -- is to start in May.

"We'd rather call it an 'informational documentary' than a reality-TV series," insisted producer Katie Sole, who is preparing to recruit American families. "These families are city dwellers who've always had dreams of escaping the rat race."

Participants will build log cabins, hunt, fish and grow crops. While the movement's impact is crystallizing for cultural consumption, its lobbying powers in government are just forming.

A recent study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, a lobbying organization based in Washington, D.C., found that an increase in America's alternative-energy investment, after 15 years, would create almost 150,000 jobs, increase wages nearly \$7 billion, reduce carbon-dioxide emissions roughly 30 percent and save close to \$30 billion in electric and gas bills.

The technology that frees a homeowner from PG&E bills includes rooftop panels that absorb sunlight and convert it to electricity, which is then stored in batteries; spinning wind turbines that generate electricity; and gravity-based plumbing that sends creek water and rainwater through pipes funneled into an irrigation pond.

A typical off-grid setup, with solar and wind systems, costs thousands of dollars. An upscale system in a house of 2,000 square feet, for instance, costs more than \$23,000 to purchase and install.

That's how much Lauris Phillips, 48, and Jay Peltz, 46, paid to power their house in Redway, just outside Garberville.

"It can be expensive, but the equipment pays for itself after several years," said Peltz, standing under a canopy of solar panels in a patch of sunlight. Peltz is an acclaimed solar-panel consultant who recently set up a biological-research center in Ecuador.

Technology aside, Peltz said, the movement owes itself, in part, to texts like Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," the classic 1854 study of self-sufficient living. "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately," Thoreau wrote. The same is true of many off-gridders, but while self-reliance is its own reward, Peltz emphasized, the biggest appeal is cost: After several years, you save more than you've spent.

"I've saved \$200 a month for the last 20 years," Parkinson said. "That's my kids' education right there that I would have given to PG&E."

Passive solar buildings have been in use since the 1940s, when World War II quickened an energy crunch that led Americans to seek out alternative power sources. In 1954, Bell Laboratories invented solar panels to strengthen phone signals, but the technology didn't reach homes until the '70s.

Although the United States is the birthplace of the off-grid movement, Japan is the top producer of solar technology, and Germany also invests more heavily, which Peltz believes will reduce those countries' trade deficits, produce jobs and lessen their reliance on oil imports.

Lobbying from solar advocates will help the United States retake the lead, Peltz said. Such lobbying intensified in 1980 with the first off-grid house on a college campus, constructed at Humboldt State University when students formed the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology. Today CCAT -- the campus' largest organization -- is renowned for its quirky alternative-energy projects, such as pedal-powered exercise-bike laptops, blenders and VCRs.

The center, which has an annual budget of \$34,000 that doubles every five years, installed solar panels in 1984. Controversy struck in 2000 when the students chose to plug back into the grid to earn rebates from PG&E, contribute energy to the power company and ease the grid's overall load.

"It makes the whole thing cheaper," said Richard Engle, a Humboldt State research engineer. "CCAT could stubbornly stay off the grid and tout renewable energy as 'sticking it to the man,' but we -- those supporting the move -- felt it sent a more powerful message" to supply additional energy to the grid.

With the recent passage of a campuswide initiative, students now pay \$10 per semester to get the entire college off the grid by 2043.

A major reason for the off-grid trend's growth in Humboldt is real estate. Acres of scenic land are beyond the grid's reach, and off-grid technology allows for settling just about anywhere.

There's also the cash crop industry. "Honestly, the marijuana industry is a big factor," said Jim Zoellick, another Humboldt State engineer. "Back in the '80s, there were people living in the hills growing pot, and they didn't want the grid coming out because they didn't want PG&E running their meters. The marijuana industry was a tremendous market."

Still another reason is fear.

After the paralyzing blackouts that struck California in 1996 and 2001 and the Y2K hysteria about technological collapse come midnight on Dec. 31, 1999, more urbanites moved off the grid.

Another oft-cited factor is the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the fallout from which has inspired people to rethink the invincibility of cities.

Now, members of a Yahoo chat-group called Off-Grid Living and Homesteading trade dozens of e-mails daily. One post last month, by newcomer Willow Polson, said she is "seriously looking at getting our 20-acre homestead off the grid" and becoming "as self-sufficient as possible. (We believe strongly that because of peak oil and other factors, a depression is coming very soon.)"

Polson, 39, grew up in San Francisco and lives near Yosemite with two sheep, three chickens, four cats and two dogs.

Speaking with The Chronicle shortly after her initial post, she added, "I don't want to sound like some survivalist nutcase, but moving out here, in the middle of nowhere, we have to be ready for whatever can happen."

"It's still so new," said Lori Ryker, author of the new design book "Off the Grid." "The movement didn't take off as well in the '70s. That's because it takes a while for a paradigm shift to occur in the way people think."

[Illustration]

PHOTO (3); Caption: (1) Linda Parkinson looks at solar panels that need cleaning at her off-the-power-grid home in Arcata (Humboldt County)., (2) Jay Peltz and Lauris Phillips of Redway (Humboldt County) use a combination of solar and micro-hydroelectric systems to generate electricity in their home., (3) Noelle Melchizedek (left) and Zachary Mermel are co-directors of Humboldt State's Campus Center for Appropriate Technologies. / Photos by Victor J. Blue / Special to The Chronicle

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

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San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO / 10-year prison term for marijuana grower; [FINAL Edition]

Bob Egelko. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jan 16, 2007. pg. B.3

Abstract (Summary)

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel in San Francisco gave him the minimum term required by federal law for a manager in a growing operation involving more than 1,000 marijuana plants.

Full Text (125 words)

(c) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2007

A Humboldt County marijuana grower has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison, prosecutors say.

Timothy Dellas, 51, of Manila, west of Arcata, who was convicted by a jury in May of growing and possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute it, was sentenced Friday.

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel in San Francisco gave him the minimum term required by federal law for a manager in a growing operation involving more than 1,000 marijuana plants. Agents found more than 5,000 plants and an indoor growing system in buildings at a home in a rural area of southern Humboldt County where Dellas was arrested, prosecutors said.

One document found in Dellas' truck estimated receipts from marijuana sales at more than \$1 million, authorities said.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Following the flowers; [FINAL Edition]

Lynette Evans. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Mar 3, 2007. pg. F.1

Abstract (Summary)

This is not your mother's flower garden. But neither is it the cut-flower version of Jessica Mitford's hard-hitting book about the funeral industry, "The American Way of Death." [Amy Stewart] is not a muckraker; she does not go through the Dumpsters in search of discarded chemical containers at Sun Valley Floral Farms near her home in Arcata (Humboldt County) -- which, at 4 million square feet in production at four locations, is the country's largest cut-flower grower -- or sleuth out inhuman labor conditions on flower farms in Ecuador. Pesticide dangers, pollution and poor labor conditions aren't news; what's being done about them in a fast-growing industry is, and Stewart takes a clear-eyed look at the issues, explaining in even tones both traditional practices and attempts to clean up the industry (certification programs that will bring flower-growing practices closer to those required for organic vegetables, and fair-trade labor standards that will guarantee proper working and living conditions for flower workers worldwide).

There are no bad guys here, even as Stewart digs up the sad history of Leslie Woodriff, the hybridizer of the 'Stargazer' lily, whose love of breeding lilies so eclipsed his business sense that he realized no profit from that most ebullient and fragrant focal point of supermarket bouquets. She may feel for Woodriff, but she doesn't fault Ted Kirsch, who bought Woodriff's lilies and held the U.S. patent on 'Stargazer' but profited little, having failed, by not applying for growers' rights in Holland, to prevent Dutch flower growers from capitalizing on the flower.

Full Text (960 words)

(c) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2007

E-mail Lynette Evans at levans@sfchronicle.com.

Amy Stewart knows flowers. More important, perhaps, she loves flowers, even after doing extensive research behind the scenes in the cut-flower industry, the topic of her new book, "Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful in the Business of Flowers" (Algonquin).

This isn't Stewart's first book -- "From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden" came out in 2001, prompting me to invite her to write for Home&Garden, and in 2005 she wrote the acclaimed "The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms." (Stewart wrote about organically grown flowers on Feb. 7, and her story on garden flowers for cutting will appear on Wednesday.)

Stewart has been a garden columnist since 1995, but as the subtitle implies, "Flower Confidential" is not a gardening book. Although she devotes pages to the breeding of 'Stargazer' lilies and the growing of gerbera daisies, you won't find out how to grow a lily or daisy here. As Michael Pollan did with the tulip, apple, potato and marijuana in "The Botany of Desire," Stewart picks a flower and follows it to tell the story of how the blooms we buy (10 million a day; 1.5 billion roses alone a year in the United States) are bred, grown, processed, distributed and sold.

This is not your mother's flower garden. But neither is it the cut-flower version of Jessica Mitford's hard-hitting book about the funeral industry, "The American Way of Death." Stewart is not a muckraker; she does not go through the Dumpsters in search of discarded chemical containers at Sun Valley Floral Farms near her home in Arcata (Humboldt County) -- which, at 4 million square feet in production at four locations, is the country's largest cut-flower grower -- or sleuth out inhuman labor conditions on flower farms in Ecuador. Pesticide dangers, pollution and poor labor conditions aren't news; what's being done about them in a fast-growing industry is, and Stewart takes a clear-eyed look at the issues, explaining in even tones both traditional practices and attempts to clean up the

industry (certification programs that will bring flower-growing practices closer to those required for organic vegetables, and fair-trade labor standards that will guarantee proper working and living conditions for flower workers worldwide).

There are no bad guys here, even as Stewart digs up the sad history of Leslie Woodriff, the hybridizer of the 'Stargazer' lily, whose love of breeding lilies so eclipsed his business sense that he realized no profit from that most ebullient and fragrant focal point of supermarket bouquets. She may feel for Woodriff, but she doesn't fault Ted Kirsch, who bought Woodriff's lilies and held the U.S. patent on 'Stargazer' but profited little, having failed, by not applying for growers' rights in Holland, to prevent Dutch flower growers from capitalizing on the flower.

At least Woodriff loved flowers. Most of those Stewart meets as she treks from Arcata to Holland to Ecuador to Miami and back to Holland, Santa Cruz and New York City view flowers as commodities. They breed their blooms for color and shape, sure, but as much for disease resistance, durability, compactness and ease of handling. (Thornless roses? Not to keep you from pricking your fingers but to save costs to the growers.)

Forget fragrance. A flower uses up too much energy putting out fragrance, and who needs it anyway, Stewart is told. Fragrance is to entice pollinators, and flower growers don't want their flowers pollinated, after which they will fade. The flower industry wants a flower that can keep its leaves and petals perfect during rough handling, long plane and truck rides, and several days between being severed from a growing plant and soaking in a vase of water in your living room, where it must keep its cool for days longer.

And Stewart loves flowers, even as she slogs through the mud to view Don Garibaldi's violet fields in Pescadero; sweats in Terra Nigra's greenhouse in Holland, where roses are bred to be grown in California and Kenya; and rides a bus over winding mountain roads to learn how the U.S. flower market has changed the Ecuadoran economy and its flower workers' way of life.

She loves flowers, as she endures the secondhand smoke of her escort through Miami International Airport's cargo division, where 88 percent of imported cut flowers start their journey to florist shops and supermarkets, and heads out before dawn and before the coffee shops are open to the Dutch flower auction at Aalsmeer, where 19 million flowers are sold each day, at a pace so fast she can't jot down a price before the next batch rolls through.

She continues to love flowers as she breathes in the "horrible" smell of the fungicide into which masked workers are dipping perfect roses before they are shipped from Ecuador, and mourns for their less-perfect kin being tossed into buckets to be composted. She marvels at the billions of stems that find their way through the world's cut-flower markets every year but wonders what's wrong with Americans, whose 10 million cut flowers purchased every day amount to only 14 stems per year per person. "That's just over one flower a month," she writes. "How can anybody get by on one flower a month?"

Certainly Stewart can't. And, though "Flower Confidential" is an industrial tour rather than a stroll in a garden, it's an exegesis rather than an expose. The reader will learn not to bury her nose in a supermarket bouquet (the fungicide, remember?), but won't lose her enthusiasm for a vase of lovely blooms. Stewart is an acute observer and intelligent writer, and "Flower Confidential" is a compelling read, even for those who think the best garden books are usually written by English memoirists.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Rocking steady amid the discord

Joel Selvin. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 4, 2007. pg. E.1

Abstract (Summary)

Not only has it helped support nearly two dozen local organizations - from preschools to hospices - but the concert's \$200,000 yearly net revenue built and handsomely funded the Mateel Community Center, a large hall in nearby Redway used for dances, concerts, cooking classes for teens and a soup kitchen.

Full Text (1678 words)

(c) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2007

Note: E-mail Joel Selvin at jselvin@sfchronicle.com.

The big reggae festival, always the biggest party of the year in sleepy Southern Humboldt, kicked off Friday. But in fact, nothing has divided this community as deeply in years.

For 23 years, the greatest names in Jamaican music have performed at Reggae on the River, a sprawling music festival under the giant redwoods. A one-gas-station town named Piercy on Highway 101 has become the reggae capital of the United States.

Along the way, the region has grown to depend on the festival. Not only has it helped support nearly two dozen local organizations - from preschools to hospices - but the concert's \$200,000 yearly net revenue built and handsomely funded the Mateel Community Center, a large hall in nearby Redway used for dances, concerts, cooking classes for teens and a soup kitchen.

When the Mateel's board of directors fired founding Reggae on the River producer Carol Bruno in December, a conflict that had been building behind the scenes for two years spilled over into public, and, ever since, everybody in marijuana country has been taking sides. This weekend, some are hanging out at the new Reggae Rising festival, but others are sitting it out.

"I know husbands and wives that won't talk about this, brothers and sisters that won't," said Doug Green, a former business partner with Bruno in Reggae on the River, now openly critical of her.

There are bumper stickers around town that read "Don't Steal My Reggae," regional newspapers have written dozens of articles, and blogs are bursting.

The community radio station, KMUD, voted in a fractious meeting not to staff the station's fundraising booth this year. The Sprowell Creek Volunteer Fire Department also opted out, and a protest "flotilla" is being organized to drift down the Eel River through the festival grounds.

Sparsely populated southern Humboldt County is like a small town on big acreage. Everybody knows everybody. With thousands of people working every year on Reggae, as the event is known as, the \$3 million festival has become ingrained not just in the community's culture and economics but also in the lives of the people.

"For kids who grew up around here, it's like Christmas - this is a really big deal," said Paul "PB" Bassis, another former partner of Bruno. Unlike Green, Bassis remains supportive of Bruno.

At the center of the community discord is the Mateel Community Center, whose history is deeply entwined with the festival. The old community center, the Fireman's Hall in Garberville, burned down in 1983. The next year, Carol

Bruno, Doug Green and other locals came together to produce the first Reggae on the River festival at French's Camp, a large site along Highway 101.

The 150-acre property was owned by Jack Arthur, a crusty retired Army major and weapons inspector, who always ran the camp's beer concessions. The first Reggae was headlined by the Meditations from Jamaica, performing before 1,500 people.

Ten years later, the annual event had grown into a rite of passage for North Coast stoner teens and aging hippies alike. Every year on the first weekend of August, 10,000 campers descend en masse to the site, transforming themselves into an impromptu community, and pack tents onto every imaginable spot on the rocky river shore.

"We literally have people sharing tent pegs," said Bassis.

The Mateel Center, an imposing timbered building tucked under trees, stands on a promontory just above the main drag of Redway, a small, remote town 20 miles north of the festival site. The word "Mateel" was coined by a local poet who combined the names of the two rivers bordering the region, the Mattole and the Eel.

In 2005, festival costs rose unexpectedly and that meant huge cuts for the Mateel Center - \$100,000, or about 50 percent. The next year, the festival changed locations, and an even bigger rise in costs left the community center with practically nothing. The Mateel ran through its substantial cash reserve and was forced to borrow money.

"We're devastated," said board chair Bruce Champie, a bearded Vietnam vet with a long, gray ponytail. "We've laid our staff off and we're working on low-power mode."

The center is still open. The San Francisco Mime Troupe presented its Iraq war polemic there last weekend. Nigerian bandleader Femi Kuti, who has played Reggae in the past, appeared the weekend before at the Mateel. In the adjacent office, the walls covered by framed posters of Reggae's past, board member Elena Worley, who ran the backstage kitchen for workers the week before the show for eight years, started to cry talking about this weekend.

"The one thing I'm missing the most is the music and my crew - the people I only get to see that time of year," she said, wiping tears from her face, but unable to stop crying.

The center's complicated relationship with the festival goes way back. Until 1994, Bruno also worked as the Mateel's director, but left that year to form People Productions and concentrate on the festival. The Mateel then hired her new company to produce the concert, with an understanding that profits would fund the center.

In December 2004, the board hired as executive director Taunya Stapp, former marketing manager of the Arcata Food Co-op in Northern Humboldt.

Around the same time, Bruno and People Productions were having problems renegotiating a long-term lease with the Arthur family. Jack Arthur died of lung cancer in 1994, after which his widow, Pat Arthur, continued the relationship smoothly for many years. But after protracted negotiations to renew the contract in 2005, she decided to allow the festival on her land for just one more year.

Tom Dimmick, whose family owns a large tract immediately south of the Arthur property, agreed to rent the festival his land. He also asked Bruno's ex-partner, Paul Bassis, to represent him in negotiations with People Productions.

In mid-July, under an ancient oak tree on the meadow where the festival is taking place this weekend, Dimmick and Bruno both signed long-term agreements with the Mateel on the hood of Bassis' truck, naming People Productions as producer and Dimmick as the festival's landlord. It remained to bring the Arthurs back in the fold, because even if the concert was moved, the Arthurs' land was still needed for parking and camping. A family friend intervened on behalf of Dimmick, and Pat Arthur agreed to lease the land to Dimmick - not People Productions.

"She wanted a new relationship with someone," said Dimmick, a strawberry blond fellow with an easy smile and eyebrows that are almost orange. "I've known the family all my life and I'm not going anywhere."

After the \$100,000 revenue loss in 2005 and the bigger hit the center took the next year from the festival, Stapp went public. A letter to Mateel members referred to a "long-standing contentious relationship" with People Productions and "disturbing implications" about the audit the Mateel was conducting on the festival books.

Emotions boiled over at the Mateel's annual membership meeting in November. Stapp gave a self-described "wonkish" PowerPoint presentation about the center's financial problems. The standing-room-only crowd harangued one another for more than three hours, a spectacle uploaded to YouTube by board vice president Garth Epling, owner of a Garberville computer store.

At the meeting, Bruno revealed that she had offered to pull out of the contract with Mateel. The board didn't wait, firing her on Dec. 29 rather than extending the contract into the new year.

But Dimmick was not going to let somebody else produce the concert on his land. He announced that he no longer considered his agreement with the Mateel binding, and proceeded with Bruno's People Productions.

The Mateel, for its part, hired Boots Hughston of 2B1 Productions of San Francisco to run Reggae and put tickets on sale for Reggae on the River at the Dimmick Ranch. About the same time, People Productions announced Reggae Rising - same dates, same place.

In February, the Mateel sued People Productions and Dimmick, but failed to get an injunction. Next, the center went to the county planning commission to try to wrest control of the festival away from People Productions, but lost. After that, the Mateel finally threw in the towel: The 2007 Reggae on the River would be canceled.

All efforts by Bruno and others to reach a compromise with the Mateel failed. People Productions offered to pay the Mateel \$2.4 million to use the Reggae on the River name for 10 years, but the center turned it down. Bruno, 60, is a warm person who touches people when she talks. Under an unforgiving sun this week on the Dimmick Ranch, she led the 80 coordinators who will be supervising the 2,200 volunteers this weekend down to the meadow where the show would be held.

"I've always said this festival is a miracle," she said earlier. "We're out here in the middle of nowhere, and when you're in the middle of nowhere, you have a different set of problems.

"It's a special gift. I've always felt that it's lots bigger than just one person."

Although the show is taking place this weekend - with three sons of Bob Marley appearing - the community has not yet healed. Tom Dimmick's daughter brought home a letter from her kindergarten teacher. It wasn't about the little girl misbehaving in class, it was about the reggae festival wars.

"I figure it's about 50-50," he said. "I have to put up with dirty looks in the supermarket once in a while. But it will all work out."

To hear a podcast featuring artists performing at Reggae Rising, go to sfgate.com/podcasts.

Credit: Chronicle Senior Pop Music Critic

[Illustration]

; Caption: [1-2] Reggae Rising producer Carol Bruno addresses the crew before the festival. Below, the Reggae Rising crew is gathered for a group shot taken by photographer Kim Sallaway. [3] Tom Dimmick's ranch is the site for Reggae Rising. [4] Every August, 10,000 campers join in the riverside party. [5] Taunya Stapp made public a community center's problems. (Photos by Mark McKenna / Special to The Chronicle)

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San Francisco Chronicle

State legislators look at legalizing hemp cultivation

Haley Davies. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Aug 20, 2007. pg. D.1

Abstract (Summary)

Last year, a similar bill reached the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, but he vetoed it, saying he was "very concerned that this bill would give legitimate growers a false sense of security and a belief that production of 'industrial hemp' is somehow a legal activity under federal law."

Full Text (730 words)

(c) San Francisco Chronicle 2007

Note: E-mail Haley Davies at hdavies@sfchronicle.com.

State legislators are expected to consider a measure this week that would allow hemp to be grown in California, rekindling the debate over whether such a move would increase cultivation of illegal marijuana and conflict with federal laws regulating the drug.

A committee of the state Senate is scheduled today to review legislation to permit California farmers to grow industrial hemp. The bill - AB684 - would establish a five-year pilot program in several California counties and define "industrial hemp" as separate from "marijuana" under the state's Health and Safety Code.

Last year, a similar bill reached the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, but he vetoed it, saying he was "very concerned that this bill would give legitimate growers a false sense of security and a belief that production of 'industrial hemp' is somehow a legal activity under federal law."

The new bill was co-authored by Assemblymen Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, and Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine (Orange County), the same lawmakers who pushed last year's hemp legislation.

"It's such an incredible crop," said Leno, referring to the versatility of hemp.

Hemp seed oil is used in soaps, lotions, shampoos and deodorant, as well as in such foods as hemp milk, snack bars, shakes and candy. The oil also can be converted into fully biodegradable plastics. Hemp fibers are used to make clothing and paper.

Similar to the marijuana consumed for recreational or medicinal use, hemp is a form of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. But unlike marijuana, hemp has less than 1 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol - or THC, the plant's primary psychoactive ingredient - making it ineffective for use as a drug.

"You would die of smoke inhalation before you're going to get high on this stuff," said John LaBoyteaux, a certified organic farmer from Humboldt County who testified before the Legislature in support of an industrial hemp proposal last year.

The current bill would require that industrial hemp contain no more than three-tenths of 1 percent of THC. For the state, farmers would have to: attain a growers' permit; report the progress of the crop's growth; test and keep copies of the test report proving the crops' THC content; and use a GPS tracking system to monitor their crop's movement through the state.

Restrictions on growing hemp in the United States are partly a result of federal laws that classify all cannabis plants as illegal because of a "high potential for abuse."

"Cultivation of industrial hemp is unambiguously illegal under federal law," said John Lovell, a lobbyist for the California Narcotic Officers' Association who has repeatedly testified against hemp bills.

Hemp farming is legal in more than 30 countries in Asia, Europe and North America. Great Britain lifted its ban in 1993, followed by Germany in 1996 and Canada in 1998. China is one of the largest exporters of hemp fiber, while Canada accounts for the majority of hemp seed and seed oil exports. According to a Congressional report, the United States is the only industrialized nation where hemp is not an established crop.

According to Vote Hemp, a hemp advocacy group, 28 U.S. states have introduced hemp research or farming legislation since 1995, and 15 have passed such measures. In addition to California, hemp bills are pending in Hawaii, Minnesota, Oregon, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

Charles Meyers, a third-generation farmer in Kings County near Bakersfield, said he has grown cotton on his family's land for nearly 40 years but would like to grow hemp as he prepares to pass the business on to his two sons.

"I don't know what the big deal is," he said of opposition to the California legislation.

Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on the current version of the hemp law, which would limit cultivation to four of the state's 58 counties - Kings, Imperial, Mendocino and Yolo.

Groups representing law enforcement officers oppose the measure, concerned that marijuana growers would be able to hide their illegal crop inside legal hemp fields. Lovell said law enforcement techniques such as aerial surveillance would be unable to distinguish the crops.

Jeff Jones, director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and a hemp retailer, said, "None of these hemp farmers are going to risk their permits to do something that's illegal."

Credit: Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

; Caption: [1] Assemblyman Mark Leno, co-author of AB684, says hemp is "such an incredible crop."

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San Francisco Chronicle

Role visitors can play to help protect forests

Jane Kay. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Feb 29, 2008. pg. W.12

Abstract (Summary)

High in the Sierra Nevada, sport-fishing groups like Caltrout are working to protect California's state fish, the native golden trout, which is threatened by nonnative species such as the brown and rainbow trout. Another species that lives in ancient forests - the Pacific fisher, a chocolate-brown, furry marten-like mammal that has been eradicated from most of California - is being considered for protection under endangered species laws because of pressure by environmental groups and scientists.

Full Text (1306 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

Hundreds of species of wild animals and plants living in lush woods are barely surviving as logging, development and global warming take their toll on the nation's forests.

During the past few decades, a number of outdoor enthusiasts, landowners and litigious environmentalists have led an effort to save declining forest species in the West.

Now, scientists say, people who visit forests should also play a part in preserving the fragile resource and the creatures that live there.

At Redwood National and State Parks in Humboldt County, one of the last havens of the marbled murrelet, there's a sign: "Feed a jay, kill a murrelet."

The elusive seabird, with its "kir kir" call, nests 100 feet up in the boughs of ancient trees and flies a dozen miles to the ocean to catch fish to bring back to its young. The murrelet's coloration matches the rusty redwoods during the nesting season and then changes to blend in with the ocean bluffs during the rest of the year. There are only about 3,000 left in California.

Logging can remove trees in which the birds build their nests, and removing trees also opens the canopy of dense branches to an onslaught of predator jays, ravens and crows that eat the murrelets' eggs and young. Food left behind by human visitors also attracts these predators to the North Coast's Redwood National and State Parks, and Big Basin Redwoods State Park in Santa Cruz County.

"As the habitat has shrunk for the murrelets, the remaining areas tend to be surrounded by human uses," said Gary Falxa, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist in Arcata (Humboldt County).

"People should resist the temptation to leave out food or intentionally feed the animals. By encouraging jays, you threaten eggs and nestlings," Falxa said.

This is a lesson for all forest visitors, government officials say, whether the species are the murrelet, golden trout, mountain yellow-legged frog, Sierra bighorn sheep or Pacific fisher. The rules are easy: Don't feed, approach or handle the animals, pick flowers or bring in nonnative species.

Starting in the 1980s, lawsuits to protect the northern spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest and California began the eventual halt to logging of 2,000-year-old redwoods and other ancient conifers.

Environmental groups have used the federal Endangered Species Act to win protections for hundreds of species. After a century of heavy logging, government regulators are now required to scrutinize logging plans to make sure they don't remove the big stands of trees that are needed for murrelets, owls, goshawks and other imperiled forest species. Even coho salmon benefit from the trees' shade that keeps streams cool.

High in the Sierra Nevada, sport-fishing groups like Caltrout are working to protect California's state fish, the native golden trout, which is threatened by nonnative species such as the brown and rainbow trout. Those species were purposefully introduced for anglers on the south fork of the Kern River.

Fishermen who ride pack horses to the Sierra's alpine lakes should also not expect the lakes to be stocked with trout, which compete with the golden trout and also eat the eggs of the mountain yellow-legged frog. The frog is already at risk due to fungus, pesticides that float up to the mountains and possibly from warming temperatures, biologists say.

Ranchers, at the behest of federal agencies, are working to keep cattle away from river banks. Bank destruction dirties and widens the river, ultimately warming shallower waters.

A small plant that grows only on the shoreline of Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada, the Tahoe yellow cress, is a pet project of the locals, including the Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association. Signs warn people not to rake the beaches or drag up boats, all to protect the little flower.

Another species that lives in ancient forests - the Pacific fisher, a chocolate-brown, furry marten-like mammal that has been eradicated from most of California - is being considered for protection under endangered species laws because of pressure by environmental groups and scientists. They have brought this little-seen forest animal into the light of public attention.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed that the fisher needs the protection but has not moved to put the animal on the Endangered Species List, arguing that such an effort would require money the agency doesn't have. The agency also argues that it has a backlog of work on other species. Those decisions are being challenged in federal court.

People can help the fisher by purchasing green wood, timber that has not been cut from big stands of conifers and oaks that are important to forest wildlife. They can also make sure that their pets are vaccinated because dogs carry parvo and the distemper that wiped out the black-footed ferret. Also, residents near forests should cover water tanks and garbage containers that can entrap the fishers.

Currently, Sierra Pacific Industries, the state's largest private forest owner, has proposed reintroducing fishers on parts of its lands. Some environmental groups support it; others say that the mere capture of the fisher is detrimental to its survival and that the company's logged-over land is unsuitable for the animal.

Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, supports the reintroduction efforts, adding that it must accompany improvement of habitat.

In his group's 19-year history, it has filed about 400 lawsuits and won listing for 353 species, often with the collaboration of other groups. That's nearly a third of all of the species on the act's list. The group claims that because of its efforts, 70 million acres of land - most of it in the Western United States - have been deemed critical for the recovery of the species.

Suckling has seen a rise in recycled wood and paper since the ban on logging the oldest of the trees.

He also notes a change in the attitudes of the government foresters.

"Some in the Forest Service viewed their jobs as turning trees into money. Many have retired, and been replaced by a new generation that is a lot better educated. You can't come out of forestry school now without a pretty good knowledge of ecology."

KEEP THE FORESTS WILD

When you're there ...

- Don't approach or handle animals or plants.
- Take photographs or watch with binoculars from afar.
- Don't feed native or exotic species.

- Cover water tanks and garbage containers.
- Make sure your pets are vaccinated to prevent the spread of diseases that can harm native forest species.
- Don't bring in nonnative plants or animals.

When you're at home ...

- Buy wood that doesn't come from old forests important to wildlife.
- Don't use pesticides that drift to forests or run into streams.
- Support measures that protect forest habitat from urban and agricultural development.
- Teach children to respect the forest.
- Get involved in government decisions to balance wildlife with the need for recreational hunting and fishing.

DID YOU KNOW?

The cultivation of marijuana is a major threat to the health of California forests.

Gangs embed workers deep inside the forests to manage the illegal crops. But the operations cause damage as nearby streams are diverted to irrigate the plants. Heavy amounts of pesticides and fertilizers are also used to grow the plants, killing native plants and animals.

The growing areas are often guarded by booby traps and armed employees charged with keeping out intruders, such as would-be thieves or authorities.

Officials say the best way to prevent damage caused by marijuana cultivators is to not buy their products.

jkay@sfchronicle.com

[Illustration]

Caption: The endangered marbled murrelet is threatened by logging. - Esther Burkett / Associated Press; The endangered marbled murrelet is threatened by logging. - Esther Burkett / Associated Press
The Pacific fisher is being considered for protection under endangered species laws. - Cale Myers / Hoopa Tribal Forest

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San Francisco Chronicle

Battling Upstream; The tribes on the Klamath know that as the river goes, so go the salmon

Glen Martin. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 13, 2008. pg. P.10

Abstract (Summary)

On the walls are photos - of family and tribal members, but also of fish: big salmon arrayed on a plank, skewered salmon staked around a fire, a close-up of a lamprey in shallow water, a huge sturgeon hanging from a tree limb.

Full Text (3688 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

The Klamath River surges just below Merk Oliver's house. Right now, the water is slightly turbid, clouded and green - perfect for steelhead fishing. The Klamath is the second largest river in California, following the Sacramento, and its watershed encompasses a landscape that seems removed from the rest of the state by time as well as distance. Freeways, the digital economy, the entertainment industry, industrial agriculture - up here they seem like ill-recalled dreams.

But what happens on this river affects Lower California greatly. It determines whether commercial fishermen and recreational anglers can take salmon - and whether there'll be fresh wild salmon in markets and restaurants in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Ultimately, it figures into the availability of water for the state's homes and farms.

Oliver's home is several hundred yards from the river's mouth, and from his property you can hear the muffled reports of big combers breaking on the beach. A group of Yurok Indian youths are in the yard, grilling Pacific lampreys - anadromous, eel-like fish with circular mouths filled with sharp radula. Lampreys are highly esteemed by the Yurok, and are gaffed in the winter during low tides, when they skitter across flooded sandbars from the sea to the river. The close proximity to the big surf makes eel snagging a dangerous business, and fatalities from sleeper waves occur with some regularity.

Inside the small, clapboard house, Oliver, a tribal elder, is eating strips of smoked salmon. Oliver is thin but not frail, an exceptionally handsome man with long iron-colored hair and dark eyes glimmering with humor. He is 78, and has lived in this home for 55 years. A wood stove provides radiant heat. On the walls are photos - of family and tribal members, but also of fish: big salmon arrayed on a plank, skewered salmon staked around a fire, a close-up of a lamprey in shallow water, a huge sturgeon hanging from a tree limb. The room smells pleasantly of smoke and fish.

A few Yuroks are seated and standing around Oliver, who is ensconced in a comfortable chair near the stove. As he nibbles on the fish - symmetrical, long strips of blood orange chinook, translucent as stained glass - he uses a jack knife to carve a lamprey hook handle from yew wood.

Lamprey hooks are the essential tool for eel fishing. The requisite technique is to chase an eel as it lunges across the sandbar, snag it with the hook, then flip it high up on the beach with a flip of the arm and wrist. Oliver's eel hooks are held in particularly high regard, a set of finished hooks hang on a wire above Oliver's chair, the golden yew wood handles glossy. They are carved with uncanny accuracy to represent a lamprey head, right down to the radula in the mouth and staring, inquisitive eyes. The lamprey is an intelligent fish, say the Yurok; when you run after them with the hook, you can see the alarm in their faces. Somehow, Oliver has captured that sentience in his carving.

The talk is discursive, humorous and mildly chaffing. Oliver asks one of the young men if he is still seeing a Tlingit woman. Tlingits are a southeastern Alaska tribe, accomplished fishers and marine mammal hunters who have long... enjoyed must be the operative verb... a reputation for pride and aggressiveness.

No, the young man says, a half-smile on his lips. She went back north. Oliver nods his head sagely, intent on his carving.

"That was a tough woman," he says after a time. He looks around the room, fixes on a visitor sitting nearby on a stool. "That woman could've whipped three of you," he says. "She was fierce. Ate too much seal meat." There are gentle laughs, and heads nod in agreement.

This is a conversation that has been going on for a long time - eight to ten thousand years, give or take a millennium. That's how long the Yurok, California's largest tribe, have occupied this reach of the Klamath River.

The three main tribes inhabiting the Lower Klamath - the Yurok, Hupa and Karuk - all have maintained strong cultural identities, but the Yurok are perhaps most closely identified with the river. This is because of the location of the ancestral Yurok lands: From the Klamath's mouth and surrounding littoral territories to more than 50 miles upstream. All the Klamath tribes depended on the fish runs, but the river and its coastal nexus assumed particular significance for the Yurok.

The Yurok had access to the migrating fish as soon as they left the sea, when they were at their fattest and brightest. Along with the river - and its salmon, steelhead, lampreys and candlefish - they also had the open ocean to exploit. Their food sources included Dungeness crabs, seaweed, mussels, abalone and periwinkles from the intertidal zone. They carved - still carve - elegant boats from redwood logs, and were redoubtable mariners, hunting marine birds, seals and sea lions and fishing for ling cod and rockfish in the rough inter-coastal waters. They had first rights to the dentalium and abalone shells that were the primary medium of exchange for the Klamath River tribes.

The river was their source of food and wealth, and it was their highway, their means of establishing commerce with other tribes. They were a water people, and still are. The photos on Oliver's walls are religious icons - graphic representations of all that is sacred to the tribe: the fish. Fishing nets and implements. Boats. The River. Because in any conversation with a Yurok, it always comes back to the river. To a very significant degree, the river is the reservation: Tribal holdings extend 1 mile inland along each bank from the mouth of the Klamath more than 40 miles upstream. Most of the land is exceedingly steep, of little utility for anything except conservative and limited forestry. What the tribe has always had, and still has to a significant degree, is the Klamath.

"The river gave us everything we needed to thrive," said Troy Fletcher, a tribal member and resource policy analyst. "It gave us food, wealth, beauty. This was paradise, and we knew it."

But like most rivers in North America, the Klamath has suffered. Agricultural water diversions have depleted the river's once mighty flows; four moderately sized hydroelectric dams along the Klamath's main stem - plus a huge dam on its major tributary, the Trinity - have greatly reduced the spawning grounds for anadromous fish. Too, the main stem Klamath dams warm the river's water, encouraging destructive parasites and blooms of toxic blue-green algae. Increasingly, it is clear the Klamath can have the dams or it can have fish, but not both. For years, the Yurok have been at the vanguard in a battle to remove the dams. Allied with them are the other Klamath tribes, commercial fishermen and sport anglers. Opposing them are the dams' operators - which have shifted over the years, as the facilities have changed ownership - and farmers in the Upper Klamath Basin, who divert the river's water for potatoes, grain, alfalfa, horseradish and other crops.

The Klamath always has been a major front in California's water wars, one that has waxed especially hot throughout the Bush administration. In 2001, increased downriver flows by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to sustain salmon were resisted by Basin farmers, who seized irrigation canal head gates in protest. Water availability already was a flashpoint issue on the Klamath because much of the Trinity's flow is diverted south for the state's cities and agricultural lands. The Upper Basin skirmishes heightened the sense among the tribes and their allies that the entire system was being drained, with no regard for the fisheries and the people who depended on them.

In 2002, the Bush administration sided with the farmers and slashed the releases to the river, delivering the water up to the irrigation districts. A massive fish kill on the Klamath followed; the salmon never really recovered from the blow. The incident scarred the collective sensibility of the Yuroks, and it is a subject that still engenders deep anger on the reservation.

The situation on the Klamath has far-reaching consequences - all the way down to Monterey. The scarcity of Klamath fish has resulted in multiple truncated commercial salmon seasons for California and Oregon, because the Klamath fish mingle with the nominally more plentiful Sacramento River salmon in the open ocean. As the Klamath

goes, then, so go the fortunes of the West Coast's commercial fishing fleet - and the Bay Area availability of fresh wild local salmon.

[Some fisheries biologists say it's already too late for salmon in the Lower 48 states. Development, logging, water diversions and dams, they claim, have compromised the spawning streams to an irreparable degree. Oceans warming due to climate change - and perhaps overfishing - are just additional nails in the coffin.

As of this writing, the Pacific Fishery Management Council - the regulatory body that governs West Coast marine fisheries - is poised to proscribe all salmon fishing for the 2008 season. The reason: An unexpected collapse in Sacramento River salmon stocks, which up to now have been relatively robust. If the ban is enacted as expected, it will be the first complete salmon closure for the California coast since commercial fishing began more than 150 years ago.

But many fisheries experts maintain Pacific salmon and steelhead can be revived in the continental United States. Further, they say, salmonid restoration will have ancillary benefits.

Bill Kier is a Humboldt County consulting biologist who has designed computer programs to track fishery restoration efforts on the Klamath; they are so accurate they have been applied by scientists across the country. Kier acknowledges that the data on southern range Pacific salmon is a mixed bag.

"But I still believe they have a very real fighting chance," he said. "The fact is that caring for salmon results in stabilized watersheds, better water quality, more wildlife - and in general terms, a cleaner environment. If you manage water and land for salmon, it doesn't matter if you're talking about the Klamath or the creek that flows through Mill Valley - life will be better not just for the salmon, but for the people who live in those watersheds, whether they're Native Americans, farmers or suburbanites."

Dams are not the only thing winnowing the Klamath's salmon. A couple of years ago, fluctuating ocean conditions off western North America reduced the production of plankton, the basic building block for all marine food webs. Pacific salmon typically run in two-to-four year cycles, so many biologists think the plankton paucity had a deep and negative effect on the fish populations that are now returning - or rather, not returning - to the rivers.

Oliver, who has been watching the fish runs all his long life, is convinced pollution also is a major factor in the decline.

"Everywhere in the world, people are using these harmful chemicals to do everything, right down to cleaning their toilets and dishes," he said. "The timber companies are spraying their lands with herbicides, and it runs into our rivers. The farmers are using too many pesticides. The whole system is poisoned, and the fish can't take it."

But for the Klamath, most biologists agree, the biggest problem is the dams. The battle over their disposition has raged in the courts, Congress and the media for two decades. Last year, the Yuroks and their allies caravanned to Omaha in an attempt to meet with Warren Buffett; his firm, Berkshire Hathaway, had recently purchased PacificCorp Power, the company that owns the Klamath hydroelectric dams. Buffett declined to meet with tribal leaders to discuss possible dam removal, claiming he never interfered in the management of subsidiary companies.

He may have been unnerved by a similar trip the Yuroks, Hupas and Karuks took to Scotland in 2004 to engage representatives of Scottish Power, the company that owned PacificCorp at the time. The Scots, who consider themselves a tribal and salmon-loving people, hailed the Indians as kindred souls and heroes, and reviled Scottish Power. Chagrined, Scottish Power executives promised to negotiate a solution with the Klamath tribes. Instead, they sold PacificCorp to Berkshire Hathaway.

After getting stonewalled by Buffett, a certain level of depression settled in along the river. But it now appears that serious negotiations about dam removal and increased flows were not wholly undermined by Buffett's rebuff. Indeed, talks have continued - both with Upper Basin irrigators and PacificCorp. The negotiations, Fletcher said, are at a sensitive stage, and he won't discuss details. But other stakeholders who weighed in on the Klamath for this article indicated a deal is very close. Not everyone is completely thrilled by the prospect. Both commercial fishermen and the Hupa tribe - who live just upriver from the Yurok - have expressed concerns that the settlement now under consideration may not guarantee sufficient flows for the Klamath.

"That worries us," said Zeke Grader, the executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "On the other hand, we're not going to actively oppose a settlement. We have to have good cops and bad cops on this thing, and the Yuroks are the good cops. We understand that."

Fletcher did say any settlement must be predicated on the removal of the main stem's four dams and adequate downstream flows for the fish. He also noted the tribe never really felt like its fight was with the farmers.

"After (the) 2002 (fish kill), we reached out to them," Fletcher said. "They share a lot of our values. They're rural people, people who are tied to the land, who are spiritual and hard-working. And like us, they face an unstable future. When we started talking to them, we realized, hey - we have a lot in common with these guys."

But there is still PacificCorp. The farmers aside, Fletcher acknowledges it is naive to think any corporation would sign an agreement that results in a significant financial loss simply because other parties consider it the right thing to do.

"We understand this has to make sense for PacificCorp," he said.

Fletcher is built like a logger: big shoulders and arms, and a torso like a keg. Arriving at tribal headquarters near the Klamath's mouth for a recent interview, he walks into the building with his hands blackened from grease and soot. He had just driven over a snowy mountain road from the hamlet of Weitchpec, about 40 miles upriver. En route, he had come across a car engulfed by fire, and had stopped to help its owner put it out. That kind of instinctive willingness to aid a neighbor in trouble is embedded in most rural cultures, but in Yurok society it extends to the landscape itself.

"We believe we were given an obligation by the creator to restore and protect our land and our fisheries," Fletcher said. "It's spelled out in the preamble to the tribal constitution. For us, this goes back to the beginning of time. The challenge right now is extreme. But the obligation has always been there, and it will never change."

As part of meeting that obligation, the tribe imposes fisheries closures and season quotas on its members, even though the Yuroks have the sovereign right to catch as many fish as they want. Not all members are happy with the strictures, though they comply.

One tribal member who feels the regulations should loosen up a little is Tommy Wilson. Orphaned at 13, Wilson went to Atlanta to live with a married sister.

"That big city," he said. "I couldn't hack it. After a couple of months, I came back here, lived on my own, and did what I had to do to stay alive."

That included selling salmon, sturgeon, black bear parts and home-grown marijuana to a friendly man who later turned out to be an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent. In court, Wilson argued that his sovereign rights allowed him to make a living from tribal lands through any reasonable means.

"I said that we should be able to thrive, not just survive," he said. "That means when I catch a fish or kill a bear, or plant a seed and harvest the plant, I should be able to do with it what I want. We were once a wealthy people - and it was this river that made us rich. I didn't feel the federal government had the right to force bare subsistence on us."

The judge agreed, and threw the case out of court. But despite his entrepreneurial views - by no means unusual among the Yurok - Wilson obeys the tribal fishery regulations without rancor. That, of course, is integral to being a Yurok tribe member in good standing.

"Individually, we don't define ourselves first and foremost by our professions," said Maria Tripp, the tribal chairwoman. "To us, the most important thing is to be Yurok. Work is what you do - Yurok is what you are."

Courtesy among tribal members and hospitality to visitors is written into the Yurok constitution. There isn't any emotive breast-beating or preaching, but everyone is expected to strive for right thinking and right acting. You see this manifest, especially, when it comes to boat building.

The Yuroks have been carving redwood log boats for thousands of years; the craft are exquisite artifacts by any measure, and sacred to the tribe. All the boats are carved by hand without jigs or other mechanical aids, and a long apprenticeship is required before an artisan is allowed to create one without direct supervision. More than a steady hand is demanded of the carver: A clear mind and quiet heart also are requisite.

"No one is allowed to approach a boat if he is angry or upset," said Fletcher. "We believe the boats are living things - we carve them with hearts, lungs and noses. They can be affected by bad thoughts and feelings."

On a large, grassy lot in front of tribal headquarters, tribal member Dave Eric Severns has been carving a boat every day, up to 12 hours a day, since Thanksgiving.

"It's not something you just - do," Severns said, slowly peeling away long strips of straight-grained wood with a gouge. He moves slowly and talks softly, seemingly out of deference to the boat. "You live it. I work on this boat all

day, way into the night. And when I go to bed, I still see it in my thoughts. It stays with me in my dreams, and then I wake up early in the morning and come back out here."

This is the first boat Severns has carved on his own, after working for six years under his mentor, George Wilson. It's about 20 feet long. The log it is carved from was more than 5 feet in diameter, and weighed about 1,600 pounds. When the boat is finished, Severns said, four men will be able to lift it and move it with ease.

"This is a river boat," Severns said, moving his hand along the smooth, brick-red gunwales. "The ocean boats were up to 60 feet long and 12 feet wide. Eighty years ago, Yuroks used the ocean boats to deliver milk from Klamath dairies up to Crescent City (about 20 miles). They were incredibly seaworthy craft."

There is a knob in the bow section of the boat that is meant to represent its heart; a small black stone rests on it. The stone, says, Severns, is a lock that keeps the boat secure.

"Boats had primary owners, but anyone could use one if they needed it - unless there was a rock on the heart," Severns said. "Someone from the tribe comes by here and sees the rock on this boat's heart, they know it isn't supposed to be moved."

Up at Oliver's house, the lampreys have finished cooking on the charcoal grill. Nearby, a couple of young men check conditions in a large smokehouse. It is full of lampreys; they hang like golden stalactites from racks near the rafters. One of the Yuroks cuts off a slab of grilled eel, rolls it in a slice of white bread and hands it to a visitor. The meat is dense, rich, oily and incredibly sweet. Oliver walks among the youths, evaluating the cooking techniques, sampling eel, essaying humorous comments. Sometimes he simply looks at the river for extended periods of time.

Tripp says Oliver and other elders are the tribe's bedrock assets, keeping the people anchored to their place in the world.

"When my friends and I were going to college (at nearby College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University), Merk was always coming around to feed us with traditional foods," she said. "He was out of time - connected to the old, old ways. He kept us grounded, made us understand who we are and where we came from."

SEE MORE PHOTOS of the Yurkok tribe and Klamath region at sfgate.com/magazine

"The river gave us everything we needed to thrive. It gave us food, wealth, beauty. This was paradise, and we knew it."

"The river gave us everything we needed to thrive. It gave us food, wealth, beauty. This was paradise, and we knew it." - Troy Fletcher, a tribal member and resource policy analyst, Troy Fletcher, a tribal member and resource policy analyst

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San Francisco Chronicle

Community is stunned after popular waitress found slain

Carrie Sturrock. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Jul 27, 2008. pg. B.3

Abstract (Summary)

A week later in Oregon, a grandfather, his grandson and a foreign exchange student from France were geo-caching - using a GPS device to hunt for a "treasure" someone else hid, - in the woods under the Thomas Creek Bridge when they found Dickson's body, Steven said.

Full Text (687 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

Michelle Dickson wanted to do more than just make ends meet, so when she took her lunch breaks at the Ship Ashore Resort restaurant where she waitressed, she studied her community college textbooks. She talked about becoming a lawyer. She grew up in the Del Norte County town of Crescent City where a third of the population lives below the poverty level - almost three times the national average.

"She was determined to be somebody," said her boyfriend, Matthew Salisbury.

Her murder has shocked this small community and garnered some national attention as authorities searched for and ultimately found her body last week.

She disappeared July 15 after reportedly meeting a friend, Josiah Miller, at the picnic area of a local beach to sell him 3 ounces of marijuana, according to Bill Steven, a commander with the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department. A week later, hikers discovered her fully clothed body across the border in Oregon under one of the state's tallest bridges. It was four days after her 24th birthday.

The police have arrested Miller, 27, on suspicion of homicide after finding traces of blood in his pickup truck. Investigators say they don't know how Dickson was killed and are awaiting results from an autopsy by the Oregon state medical examiner. Del Norte County has very few homicides - "a homicide every year or every other year," according to Steven - so Dickson's death has stunned members of the community, many of whom had known the vivacious young woman all her life. More than 200 people showed up for a recent candlelight vigil near the beach where her burning car was found.

Salisbury said he has lost 7 pounds and still can't eat. Dickson was his first real girlfriend, he said, the first one he really loved. They met more than six months ago at the Ship Ashore, where he is a cook. She would sometimes tease that she was smarter than him.

"She was, too," he said. "I'm never going to find a girl like her again."

Miller, who lived in Arcata, was in their circle of friends and the couple had socialized with him on July 4, said Salisbury. The morning after Dickson's disappearance, Miller was spotted scrubbing out his small pickup that he didn't usually keep clean, and he was cutting out sections of the seat, Steven said. When confronted, Miller told authorities he had bought marijuana from Dickson the night before.

Dickson, said Salisbury, "wasn't no big-time drug dealer" and simply used the money to supplement her two waitressing jobs. She had high car insurance bills and a big car payment, and she liked to go out to dinner at local restaurants. Until recently, Del Norte County had allowed people with a doctor's recommendation to grow medicinal marijuana in amounts that exceeded state guidelines and that has led to "so much excess that hits the streets," Steven said.

Authorities found Dickson's car burning at the beach where she had reportedly met Miller. But they were stumped as to her whereabouts. A week later in Oregon, a grandfather, his grandson and a foreign exchange student from France were geo-caching - using a GPS device to hunt for a "treasure" someone else hid, - in the woods under the Thomas Creek Bridge when they found Dickson's body, Steven said.

That's when the police arrested Miller. He is scheduled to be arraigned Monday in Del Norte County Superior Court.

Co-workers at the Ship Ashore have found it hard to concentrate. Steve Swinden, who coaches a mentally disabled dishwasher at the restaurant, said Dickson was "wise beyond her years."

"She spoke her mind," he said. "She was true and she was honest."

Salisbury said he still can't believe she's gone, and that he recently had his brother punch him in the face to blunt the emotional pain.

"I wake up every morning. I wake up like, yep, it's true."

E-mail Carrie Sturrock at csturrock@sfchronicle.com.

Credit: Carrie Sturrock Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

Caption: Michelle Dickson, here with her boyfriend Matthew Salisbury, was found dead after meeting a friend to sell marijuana. - Matthew Salisbury / Special to The Chronicle

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San Francisco Chronicle

BURNING ISSUE IN POT COUNTRY; Mendocino County measure is a grassroots bid to repeal the most liberal rules in the U.S. for growing weed - opponents say initiative is heavy-handed

Kevin Fagan. San Francisco Chronicle. San Francisco, Calif.: May 31, 2008. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

The homegrown weed in most of those yards and rooms is medicine to be used by those who grow it, Hamburg said, or sold to the 400 medicinal marijuana clinics in San Francisco, Berkeley and the rest of the state. Measure B backers date the genesis of their troubles to 2000, when 58 percent of the county's voters passed Measure G, which allowed anyone to grow as many as 25 marijuana plants for personal use - far exceeding the state guideline of six plants per person for medicinal use only.

Full Text (1871 words)

(C) San Francisco Chronicle 2008

Marijuana is so ubiquitous here that everyone, from schoolteachers to kids, can tell you when a sinsemilla bud is ripe. From late summer to fall, the county reeks with the skunk-like stench of ready-to-harvest weed. The annual \$1.5 billion pot crop constitutes two-thirds of Mendocino County's entire economy.

"You tell people from other parts of the country that folks grow pot all over town, and they think this is just a freak show here," said Ross Liberty, who owns a welding shop in Ukiah. "They're not far off."

Earlier this year, Liberty and others who used to be benign about the issue decided enough was enough. They put Measure B on Tuesday's ballot to repeal the nation's most liberal rules for growing pot, which for eight years have allowed anyone to grow up to 25 plants for personal use. If Measure B is approved by a majority vote, the per-person limit will revert to the statewide limit of six plants.

But then there's the other side.

Opponents of Measure B call it a meat-ax approach to an emotionally volatile issue and say that going after the weed in Mendocino's backyards and spare rooms is wrongheaded at best, cruel at worst. What is really needed, they argue, is a better effort to eradicate large-scale plantations that are hidden in the heavily forested mountains and guarded by thugs toting assault rifles.

The forces against Measure B are led by an ex-congressman's daughter who was busted and later cleared for growing a medical pot garden.

"We need to harness this gigantic industry, not try to kill it," said Laura Hamburg, whose arrest last fall so infuriated her that she decided to head up the anti-B push. "There's this caricature about this county that we're all hippies sitting around smoking joints, but that's the last thing from reality. Medical users truly need this plant."

The homegrown weed in most of those yards and rooms is medicine to be used by those who grow it, Hamburg said, or sold to the 400 medicinal marijuana clinics in San Francisco, Berkeley and the rest of the state. These grow-farms are not the problem, she insisted - flashy out-of-towners are.

Problems with small farms

But that's a key assertion with which Measure B advocates vehemently disagree. And to illustrate how bad they think neighborhood pot farms have become, they point to a 2004 incident in Ukiah.

That's when a would-be robber leaped the fence of Larry Puterbaugh's backyard and shot and wounded his neighbor, Memo Parker. The man was trying to steal from Parker's pot farm, police said. Puterbaugh had already complained for years about the stench from the hundreds of pot plants over his back fence - but even after the shooting, police did nothing about it. Parker had doctor-signed cards authorizing medicinal growth on the farm.

Parker later pleaded no contest to cultivating too many plants in a separate case. But in 2004, all Puterbaugh could do was fume.

"That's when I began thinking we have to do something," Puterbaugh said. "Why should we be scared in our own neighborhoods, in a quiet town like this?"

Measure B backers date the genesis of their troubles to 2000, when 58 percent of the county's voters passed Measure G, which allowed anyone to grow as many as 25 marijuana plants for personal use - far exceeding the state guideline of six plants per person for medicinal use only.

The "personal use" reference, in practice, has meant growing for medical use - but the kicker for critics was that each lot of 25 plants required only a doctor-signed permission card saying the grower would use the pot or that the grower was cultivating it for another patient. Some houses began displaying as many as 12 cards, leading to complaints that the new rule was allowing people to grow commercially for cash, not medicine.

"It's like we kicked the door open and said to the rest of the nation, 'Come on in and grow pot!' " said Mike Sweeney, an environmental activist who is helping direct the Measure B campaign. "Now, what we want to do is slam that door shut. We want people around the country to know that Mendocino has changed its ways."

One who answered Mendocino's siren call is Ukiah Setiva Morrison. After hearing in North Carolina about the area's legendary pot leniency, he changed his name from Ronald Matthews and, in 2005, moved to Ukiah to run a short-lived church called the Hemp Plus Ministry.

"I really believe that cannabis isn't bad for you - stupidity is bad," he said, standing in his garden of 11 outdoor plants in Redwood Valley. Now he is running for county supervisor.

Measure B's proponents and opponents agree on one thing: the necessity for a prohibition on large pot-farming operations, some of which sport as many as 500 plants, no matter where they are.

But as for crimping everything back to a six-plant limit? A popular local T-shirt speaks for Measure B opponents. "Let It Grow," it reads below a jaunty pot-leaf drawing.

Hamburg points to her own 39 plants - which were ripped out by police last fall - as an example. They were used as medicine for an intestinal condition as well as for her cancer-survivor mother and two others, and she had doctor-signed growing cards to justify the garden - which the search warrant didn't note, an omission that led a judge to throw out the case in March. It was a typical-size "grow" for the county.

However, Hamburg's political profile was anything but typical, and she thinks that's why she was targeted. Hamburg's father, former Democratic Rep. Dan Hamburg, helped lead the 2000 campaign that liberalized the county's pot laws, and she spearheaded the 2004 drive that passed the nation's first local ban on growing genetically altered food. Hamburg also worked as a reporter at The Chronicle in 1997 and 1998.

"I wasn't going to be 'the pot girl,' leading this campaign, but that all changed when 11 deputies tore out my plants and locked me out of my own house," she said. "Now I just want to make sure that never happens to anyone else."

Push to legalize pot

Hamburg and other Measure B opponents say that instead of limiting pot, Mendocino should be a beacon for the decades-old movement to legalize the \$3,000-a-pound weed. The county's liberal guidelines are just that - guidelines tacitly respected by federal officials who still operate elsewhere under U.S. law banning pot of any quantity. But if it were legalized instead of demonized, Hamburg's group maintains, the economically struggling county could tax that \$1.5 billion crop and become hugely prosperous.

"This whole fight is like Prohibition," said artist Catherine Magruder, a cancer survivor who says smoking pot erased the pain of chemotherapy. "You can't squish marijuana out of existence, it's too late. So why not figure out, together, how to make it work for all of us? And why not start that movement right here in Mendocino?"

Not surprisingly, considering how firmly pot culture is laced through this county, even Measure B proponents - who include virtually every elected or law enforcement official - say they support medicinal marijuana. The Board of Supervisors and many of those pushing for the rollback supported the lenient rules when they passed in 2000.

But now they say Hamburg and her backers - mainly patients, small-time growers, doctors, the San Francisco office of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law (NORML) and a former county prosecutor - are deluded.

"What really got to me was when I tried to hire some teenagers for my shop, and they laughed at me," said Liberty. "They said they make so much money harvesting pot for growers that they don't need my \$8-an-hour jobs.

"Look, they can make \$30 an hour, and I see them driving \$50,000 tricked-up trucks all over town," he said. "I can't compete with that. Nobody can. How in the world can we attract new business when the workforce just wants to grow or harvest pot?"

There's more at stake here than just local regulations.

"This is the only battle going on in the entire country about marijuana cultivation, and anyone who cares about this issue in the United States is watching it very closely," said Dale Gieringer, California director of NORML.

'Emerald Triangle'

Marijuana has been a significant presence in this county since the 1970s. Though grapes are the big legal crop here, Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties are fabled as the "Emerald Triangle," considered by many to be the premier pot-growing region in the nation.

But at the same time, the area has an outdoorsy charm that draws not just environmental progressives, but also families hunting the kind of solitude that can be found only in a Rhode-Island-size county with 88,000 residents and four small incorporated communities. With the collapse of the local timber industry, poverty here is slightly worse than the state average, but the restored Victorians and tidy ranch houses in most towns and on county roads reflect recovery more than despair.

The only immediate sign to outsiders that there's more going on here than simple rural living is the preponderance of shops selling pot-growing equipment and the occasional sign extolling the virtues of the herb. One of the first sights greeting drivers rolling into Ukiah is the Adopt-A-Highway sign proudly proclaiming cleanups by the "Medical Marijuana Patients Union."

"We definitely go our own way," said longtime resident Randy Bream, leaning against the till at his Mendocino Hobbies shop in Ukiah. "Look, I call myself a conservative, and I don't care who grows pot as long as they don't push it on me or my kids.

"What matters for me is that there are friendly people here. On Memorial Day, the city puts flags up and down the main street. All this fighting over pot? I wish they'd just hurry up and decide whether it's legal so we can stop talking about it."

Inside

Uphill battle: Authorities are able to seize only 20 percent of the county's marijuana crop. A8

On ballot

For more information on Measure B:

Text of Measure B: www.yesonbcoalition.org/fullmeasureb.php

Opponents: www.nomeasureb.org

Proponents: www.yesonbcoalition.org/index.php

"How in the world can we attract new business when the workforce just wants to grow or harvest pot?"

"How in the world can we attract new business when the workforce just wants to grow or harvest pot?" - Ross Liberty, Ukiah business owner who helped put Measure B on the ballot (above), is a

E-mail Kevin Fagan at kfagan@sfchronicle.com.

Credit: Kevin Fagan Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

Caption: Marijuana grower Ukiah Setiva Morrison, a candidate for Mendocino County supervisor, shows the crop he has planted behind his home in Ukiah. - Photos by Kim Komenich / The Chronicle; Marijuana grower Ukiah Setiva Morrison, a candidate for Mendocino County supervisor, shows the crop he has planted behind his home in Ukiah. - Photos by Kim Komenich / The Chronicle "How in the world can we attract new business when the workforce just wants to grow or harvest pot?" Ross Liberty (above) is a Ukiah business owner who helped put Measure B on the ballot - Photos by Kim Komenich / The Chronicle

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Subjects: Law enforcement, Farms, Marijuana, Referendums
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San Francisco Chronicle

Worth seeing

Mick LaSalle. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 10, 2008. pg. E.6

Abstract (Summary)

The story of a med student who finds himself stranded up in Humboldt with marijuana growers, the film combines a modern sensibility with an intelligent understanding of film history, with illuminating references to classics such as "Five Easy Pieces."

Full Text (309 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

Here are our critic's choices of movies to see this weekend:

A Tribute to Harriet Andersson: Harriet Andersson, one of the greatest actresses in the history of motion pictures, is the subject of a tribute tonight at the Rafael Film Center. Earthy and abandoned, and yet full of psychological nuance and detail, she was an inspiration to Ingmar Bergman, who directed her in performances that, decades later, can still take the top of your head off. Tonight the festival will screen "Through a Glass, Darkly," in which Andersson plays a vivacious but mentally ill woman with a deep yearning for God. The scenes in which she goes into a room and communes with her visions are astonishing in their emotional nakedness. After the film, Andersson will take questions from the audience. At 7 tonight at the Rafael Film Center, San Rafael.

Blindness: Not exactly a crowd-pleaser, this is a deeply disturbing film about the civic collapse that ensues when a large portion of the population is suddenly struck blind. Mark Ruffalo plays one of the afflicted, and Julianne Moore is outstanding as the one sighted person living in an increasingly violent and nightmarish blind quarantine. At Bay Area theaters.

Humboldt County: Even besides the local angle, this first feature, from co-directors Danny Jacobs and Darren Grodsky, is a promising and rewarding little movie, a mix of comedy and drama that doesn't rely on easy laughs, takes its characters seriously and provides a glimpse into a way of life. The story of a med student who finds himself stranded up in Humboldt with marijuana growers, the film combines a modern sensibility with an intelligent understanding of film history, with illuminating references to classics such as "Five Easy Pieces." And the performances by Chris Messina, Peter Bogdanovich and especially Frances Conroy are first rate. Starting Monday at the Rafael Film Center.

Indexing (document details)

Companies: Rafael Film Center (NAICS: 512131)
Author(s): Mick LaSalle
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San Francisco Chronicle

Worth seeing

Anonymous. **San Francisco Chronicle.** San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 3, 2008. pg. E.13

Abstract (Summary)

The story of a medical student who finds himself stranded up in Humboldt with marijuana growers, the film combines a modern sensibility with an intelligent understanding of film history, with illuminating references to classics such as "Five Easy Pieces."

Full Text (196 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

Here are our critic's choices of movies to see this weekend:

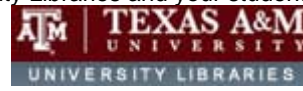
Humboldt County: Even besides the local angle, this first feature from co-directors Danny Jacobs and Darren Grodsky is a promising and rewarding little movie, a mix of comedy and drama that doesn't rely on easy laughs, takes its characters seriously and provides a glimpse into a way of life. The story of a medical student who finds himself stranded up in Humboldt with marijuana growers, the film combines a modern sensibility with an intelligent understanding of film history, with illuminating references to classics such as "Five Easy Pieces." And the performances, by Chris Messina, Peter Bogdanovich and especially Frances Conroy are first rate. At Bay Area theaters.

Rosemary's Baby: The Castro's demonic-possession double feature begins with this always enjoyable, always unsettling 1968 Roman Polanski film, about a woman who begins to correctly intuit that the baby she is carrying is actually the spawn of Satan. Starring Mia Farrow, Ruth Gordon and a rather funny John Cassavetes, the film will be shown in a brand-new print and will be followed, on the same bill, with Ken Russell's "The Devils." At 7 tonight at the Castro Theatre.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Motion pictures -- -Multiple review
Author(s): Anonymous
Document types: Film Review-Comparative
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Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com.lib-ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/pqdweb?did=1566362291&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=2945&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

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San Francisco Chronicle

S.F. man's body found, 110 miles from torched car

Henry K Lee. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 23, 2008. pg. B.2

Abstract (Summary)

Investigators have searched his home in San Francisco and are interviewing friends and relatives to get a sense of his "habits and patterns," said Humboldt County sheriff's Cpl.

Full Text (390 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

A San Francisco man whose body was discovered in Humboldt County three days after his burned-out car was found had been shot, authorities said Monday.

No arrests have been made in the slaying of Reetpaul Singh Rana, 34. Investigators have searched his home in San Francisco and are interviewing friends and relatives to get a sense of his "habits and patterns," said Humboldt County sheriff's Cpl. Brenda Godsey.

Rana's 1996 Saab was found by sheriff's deputies Sept. 10 along the north side of Big Lagoon, near Patricks Point State Park north of Eureka in Humboldt County. It had been destroyed by fire, Godsey said.

Three days later, passers-by found his body in woods along Dyerville Loop Road north of Alderpoint Road in the unincorporated town of Alderpoint, about 110 miles south, Godsey said.

His dog, Rosa, was found running in the area and has been taken to the county animal shelter.

Authorities have not established a motive in the slaying but are leaning toward the possibility that it was marijuana-related, Godsey said without elaborating.

"We're in the very preliminary stages of the investigation," she said.

Sheriff's investigators are also obtaining warrants to search Rana's Internet, bank and credit-card accounts, Godsey said.

Rana graduated with a degree in psychology in 1996 from Reed College in Oregon and earned a master's degree in journalism from New York University several years later. On a Web page that listed his personal profile, he described himself as a multilingual "visionary writer and artist."

His mother, who didn't want her name used, said Rana enjoyed painting, playing the drums and cooking. The family has lived in New York, Orange County and in the East Bay, she said.

Rana "was very bright and very gifted" but suffered from depression and bipolar disorder, she said. He used medical marijuana to ease his symptoms, she said.

The family doesn't know why he was in Humboldt County, she said.

"We don't know what happened, why (he went) there and who hurt him," she said.

Anyone with information is asked to call Humboldt County sheriff's Detective Cheryl Franco at (707) 268-3644 or Sgt. Wayne Hanson at (707) 268-3639.

E-mail Henry K. Lee at hlee@sfchronicle.com.

Credit: Henry K Lee Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

Caption: Reetpaul Singh Rana, 34, was found dead in the woods and had been shot. His car was found earlier.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Investigations, Human remains
Author(s): Henry K Lee
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San Francisco Chronicle

'Humboldt County'

Walter Addiego. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 26, 2008. pg. E.7

Abstract (Summary)

Scraggly-haired Jack (Brad Dourif), a former UCLA physics professor; his Earth-mother wife, Rosie (Frances Conroy); and their son Max (Chris Messina), who's spent too much time dodging Drug Enforcement Administration officers.

Full Text (299 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2008

RATING: (ALERT VIEWER) Comedy-drama. Written and directed by Darren Grodsky and Danny Jacobs. With Jeremy Strong, Fairuza Balk, Peter Bogdanovich, Brad Dourif and Frances Conroy. (Rated R. 96 minutes. At the Lumiere in San Francisco and the Shattuck Cinemas in Berkeley.)

The makers of this comedy-drama set in Northern California's off-the-grid pot-growing paradise have said they are trying to revive the spirit of the '70s American film renaissance that gave us the likes of "Five Easy Pieces" and "The Graduate." "Humboldt County" has an impressive cast and captures some of that era's fuzzy rebelliousness and humanism, but taken on its own the picture is finally thin stuff.

Peter (Jeremy Strong), a troubled UCLA medical student with a cold fish of a dad (Peter Bogdanovich), beds a wild-child ~~nightclub singer~~ (Fairuza Balk) named Bogart, and is more or less kidnapped by her and driven up north to her family's marijuana farm.

Humboldt County - the "Lost Coast" - is where the hippies of the late '60s made their last stand, and straitlaced Peter is startled by Bogart's dope-loving kin: Scraggly-haired Jack (Brad Dourif), a former UCLA physics professor; his Earth-mother wife, Rosie (Frances Conroy); and their son Max (Chris Messina), who's spent too much time dodging Drug Enforcement Administration officers. Also on hand is Max's free-spirited daughter, Charity (Madison Davenport).

Peter goes through some changes, as the hippies used to say, and Max plots a big score in hopes of buying Charity a more normal life.

"Humboldt County" pokes a bit of deserved fun at the potheads (Dourif and Conroy are right on the money), but also admires the way these eccentric characters are walking the walk. The main problem is Peter: He seems like a one-dimensional sourpuss whose mellowing-out is all too predictable.

-- Advisory: Drug content and language.

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Motion pictures -- Humboldt County
People: Bogdanovich, Peter, Dourif, Brad
Author(s): Walter Addiego
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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot arrests increase - higher for blacks in California

Bob Egelko. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Nov 6, 2009. pg. C.4

Abstract (Summary)

[...] despite the rise in arrests and in the seizure of marijuana plants, use of pot in California has increased slightly, said the report, part of a nationwide study released Thursday by a Virginia researcher.

Full Text (489 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2009

Marijuana arrests in California are increasing faster than the nationwide rate, and African Americans are being booked for pot-related crimes much more often than whites, a new report says.

But despite the rise in arrests and in the seizure of marijuana plants, use of pot in California has increased slightly, said the report, part of a nationwide study released Thursday by a Virginia researcher.

In both California and the United States as a whole, "we keep arresting more and more people, but it's not having a deterrent effect," said Jon Gettman, an adjunct assistant professor of criminal justice at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.

Nationally, Gettman said, marijuana arrests have doubled since 1991, but marijuana use is unchanged.

Gettman is a former director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He said he favors the legalization of marijuana.

Gettman's report came a day after state officials announced that the state-federal Campaign Against Marijuana Planting had seized a record 4.4 million pot plants in California this year, up from 2.9 million in 2008.

Gettman's study is based on state and FBI arrest records and other government data from 2003 through 2007. It said California officers arrested 61,375 people on marijuana charges in 2003 and 74,024 in 2007, an average increase of more than 5 percent per year. Eighty percent of the arrests in 2007 were for marijuana possession, the report said.

Nationwide, the annual increase during the same period was just under 4 percent, the report said, although California's marijuana arrest rate, compared to its population, remained among the nation's lowest.

The report also found a large racial discrepancy in arrests.



African Americans were about 20 percent more likely than whites to use marijuana in 2007, but the arrest rate for blacks on marijuana charges was nearly 270 percent of whites' arrest rate, the report said.

Gettman said he found similar disparities nationwide and in most major cities, including San Francisco.

"I don't believe it's racially motivated," he said. Among the possible contributing factors, he said, are "more intensive patrolling" by police in minority neighborhoods, and the presence of marijuana when people are arrested for other crimes.

Overall, the report said, marijuana use increased in California by 0.73 percent a year in the four-year period, while nationwide use declined by 0.21 percent a year.

By geographic zone, the state's northernmost counties, which include the prime marijuana-growing areas of Humboldt and Mendocino counties, ranked 12th out of 350 regions in the nation in pot use by their residents. A region consisting of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties ranked 15th.

Read the report

The report on marijuana use and arrests can be found at links.sfgate.com/ZIOW.

E-mail Bob Egelko at begelko@sfchronicle.com.

Credit: Bob Egelko Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

Caption: In October, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California Lawrence G. Brown pointed out on a map Central Valley homes used as pot nurseries. - Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: African Americans, Marijuana
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San Francisco Chronicle

Pot smoking legal at unconventional trade show

Justin Berton. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Apr 19, 2010. pg. C.1

Abstract (Summary)

The International Cannabis and Hemp Expo, the first trade show in the United States to allow on-site pot smoking, attracted an estimated 15,000 enthusiasts to Daly City over the weekend. "Radical" Russ Belville, the outreach coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said that if California's initiative passed, he expected home-growers to enter the market and drive prices down.

Full Text (655 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2010

People have been toking up in the Cow Palace parking lot for more than 50 years.

This was the first time it was legal.

The International Cannabis and Hemp Expo, the first trade show in the United States to allow on-site pot smoking, attracted an estimated 15,000 enthusiasts to Daly City over the weekend. They talked bud, sold products ranging from a \$500 water bong to a \$19,500 mobile grow house, and discussed how efforts to legalize marijuana would impact their livelihoods.

"We're exercising our rights as patients to peacefully gather," said Bob Katzman, chief operating officer of the expo, as he stood near the designated puffing area. "We're here to talk about changing some of the existing laws, but we're not here to break the law."

Katzman said it took organizers four years to negotiate a permit with a venue that would allow marijuana consumption. It wasn't possible, he said, until a "massive change in the political climate."

That climate is set to be tested in November, when an initiative that would legalize marijuana is to be decided by California voters. Now, marijuana is available only to those with a medicinal use card.

Such cards were easy to attain at the exposition.

For \$99 - cash only - attendees such as Shawna Spencer of San Jose received a temporary "recommendation" from doctors that allowed her to smoke at the event. Spencer, who said she suffers from bipolar disorder, said she had waited for more than an hour.

"It's worth the wait because I need it," Spencer said.

Dr. Daniel Susott said he expected to sign off on 1,600 people by the end of the weekend. He said a portion of the fees would go to charity.

"We're making history today," he said as his visitors complained of chronic pain, depression and insomnia, among other ailments. "We're operating within the guidelines of Prop. 215 and helping people get the medical marijuana they need."

If marijuana becomes legal, Susott expects that his patients will self-prescribe.

"People will start growing their own medicine in their homes," he said. "And the big pharma companies aren't going to like it."

For those concerned with the conspicuous equipment needed to grow plants inside the home, Tim Ellis of Orange County had the solution: An 18-foot trailer that can yield up to 6 pounds of pot every two months. The Grow n' Mobile starts at \$19,500.

Ellis, a father of two, said he had the family grower in mind - a person who desires to cultivate outside the house, but in a secure location.

Showing off every detail of his invention, Ellis said he rigged the trailer's hitch so thieves would need a blowtorch to hook the trailer to their own truck. Fumes are routed through a charcoal filter. And the roof has an infrared shield to thwart weed-hunting helicopters.

"Can't steal it, can't smell it, can't find it," Ellis said, offering his sales pitch. "Built by a grower for a grower. Grow mobile!"

The event hosted a panel discussion Saturday on how legalization would impact large California growers. A contingent from Humboldt County argued against the ballot initiative, complaining it could devastate a key local industry.

"Radical" Russ Belville, the outreach coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said that if California's initiative passed, he expected home-growers to enter the market and drive prices down.

But he was unsympathetic to the group from Humboldt County.

"To that end, I would say, 'Tough,' " Belville said. "We should have to put people in prison so you can continue to make a living?"

"We're exercising our rights as patients to peacefully gather. We're ... not here to break the law."

"We're exercising our rights as patients to peacefully gather. We're ... not here to break the law." - Bob Katzman, International Cannabis and Hemp Expo, Bob Katzman, International Cannabis and Hemp Expo

Credit: Justin Berton Chronicle Staff Writer

Indexing (document details)

Subjects: Drug legalization, Marijuana, Trade shows

Author(s): Justin Berton

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San Francisco Chronicle

Unlikely evangelist for legal marijuana

Kevin Fagan. *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jun 13, 2010. pg. A.1

Abstract (Summary)

Even cops trained to assess people are surprised - especially once they learn that this quiet guy is the champion for one of the most revolutionary social-change movements of our time, the legitimizing of marijuana. The resulting spinal injury left him paralyzed from the waist down - and suddenly the young man who flew ultralight planes and loved motorcycles and playing basketball was grounded.

Full Text (1798 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2010

At first glance, Richard Lee looks nothing like a man who regularly smokes dope and spent his youth working with rock 'n' rap gods from Aerosmith to LL Cool J. Or who gunned his Harley up and down Texas highways as a young man, and has a will as stubborn as iron.

He looks like, well, a quiet business yuppie. In a wheelchair. With tidy slacks and button-down shirt, short-cropped hair and a shy smile.

Even cops trained to assess people are surprised - especially once they learn that this quiet guy is the champion for one of the most revolutionary social-change movements of our time, the legitimizing of marijuana.

Lee's latest effort is the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act on the Nov. 2 ballot, which would make California the first state to legalize recreational marijuana use. Its passage would notch the 47-year-old Oakland man a spot in the annals of pot.

Such notice wouldn't be all that new for him. From hemp activism in Texas to building a cannabis university empire in Oakland, Lee has been a pioneer in the marijuana movement for 20 years - something that neither he nor his conservative Republican parents could have foreseen.

It all began with a catastrophic accident in 1990 that broke his back.

From rock to activism

Lee was 27 and working as a lighting technician for Aerosmith when he slipped on a catwalk in New Jersey while setting up for a concert. The resulting spinal injury left him paralyzed from the waist down - and suddenly the young man who flew ultralight planes and loved motorcycles and playing basketball was grounded. At least as far as his legs were concerned.

Medicinal pot - which was illegal then - was the only thing, he said, that dampened back spasms as he sat in his wheelchair. When he was carjacked in Houston a year into his disabled life and waited nearly an hour for uninterested cops to show up, he found his cause.

He figured police were probably off wasting their time making marijuana busts instead of chasing the people who had stolen his car.

"I felt like, here was this wonderful medicine of cannabis that had helped me so much, and why were the cops going after people using and selling it instead of the psychos and sociopaths who are out there robbing people?" Lee said. "I thought I should do something about it."

He soon opened a hemp clothing store in Houston and became a nationally known spokesman for the weed - for both clothing and smoking use - at trade shows and community gatherings.

Other than rock 'n' roll lighting, the only hint of a career he'd had before then had been studying advertising and public relations at the University of Houston, where he dropped out in 1984.

He'd spent his youth in Texas in a house with four brothers mostly having a good time, "not really thinking about the future." Traveling the nation setting up the light racks for top acts of all kinds - he also worked with Dwight Yoakum - had seemed like enough of an avocation.

No more. Pot is now his life's work. He is so serious about its positive qualities that he rarely even calls it pot, weed or dope anymore. It's cannabis or marijuana, terms that connote the legitimacy with which he regards the plant.

Libertarian leanings

"My parents are Republicans, and actually, I'm kind of a conservative," said Lee, who is unmarried and childless. "You might call me a bit of a Libertarian. I think government is very wasteful, and for a lot of things, the free market can do better. So I guess you could say in some ways this was an unusual path for me.

"But it fits."

"When Richard told me that marijuana helped him, I did not want to hear that," Lee's 80-year-old mother, Ann Lee, said by telephone from her home in Houston. "We had always thought marijuana was the weed of the devil, and I did not want to hear anything about Richard having anything to do with it."

But after seeing that smoking helped their son's pain and eased the depression that followed his accident, Ann and her husband, Bob, 85, became reluctantly accepting. Ann was a schoolteacher and Bob ran a library for accountants and attorneys. This drug thing, they said, was not in their personal frame of reference.

"When you have a young son sitting in his wheelchair telling you that marijuana, of all things, has helped him so much with his pain, you can't dismiss it," Ann Lee said. "We realized it wasn't just because he wanted to get high. We had to gulp hard, pray hard, believe in our son and then do a heck of a lot of reading and research."

Mom to campaign

Twenty years later, the couple still get ribbed by their Republican friends for supporting their son's enterprise, but they say they hear more words of support, even in church. This summer and fall, Ann Lee intends to fly to California to help campaign for Richard's measure.

"The older I get, and the more I look back and think how I grew up in Louisiana with Jim Crow, and didn't really understand it as a white person," she said, "the more I realize that we should be talking against an unjust drug war against marijuana just the way we did against Jim Crow."

As for the career path her son has chosen - "I would never have thought he'd choose this, but then Richard has always marched to his own drumbeat and had real integrity," Lee said. "I knew he wouldn't do anything ordinary as a career.

"I just didn't know it would be this. He's worked hard and I'm proud of him."

Richard Lee already had a reputation as a leader in the national movement to legalize hemp when he showed up in Oakland in 1998 to work in the medicinal cannabis business created by California's passage, two years before, of Proposition 215.

Starting out an employee for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative, he soon opened a couple of his own dispensaries, including the SR-71 - named from his love of aviation, after the Blackbird reconnaissance airplane. The plane's manufacturer, Lockheed, was not amused, so he eventually gave it the name it has today, Coffeeshop Blue Sky.

Oaksterdam University, which teaches how to run a business or personal grow operation in the decriminalized medicinal marijuana trade, followed in 2007 in Oakland as the nation's first marijuana college.

The district where the school sits, just north of the downtown core, got its name after Prop. 215 inspired a flurry of pot dispensaries there and local fans melded the names of Oakland with weed-tolerant Amsterdam. Lee appropriated the moniker for his campus and is now so associated with the district that High Times magazine last year dubbed him "the mayor of Oaksterdam."

Today, with a T-shirt and paraphernalia shop, grow operation and other businesses, Lee's empire pulls in \$5 million a year. (Lee says his take from that is about \$50,000 annually.) The \$1.5 million in annual fees and local and state taxes that Oaksterdam University and Lee's other outfits collectively pay has made him a power player in area politics.

50-50 odds

It surprised nobody when he became the first person in many years to generate a ballot initiative to legalize pot. Polls place the measure's chances at about even for November

If the measure passes, marijuana will still be illegal under federal law. Don't expect Lee to shy away from a fight with Washington.

"The most notable characteristic of Richard is his persistence," said Steve D'Angelo, whose Harborside Health Center cannabis dispensary in Oakland is the biggest in the United States. "I've known him since 1994, when we were both foremost advocates for hemp, and he is focused like a laser on whatever his goal is.

"If he wasn't working for medicinal cannabis, he'd be an advocate for some other form of social justice."

Lee may be the unthreatening face for his cause, said El Cerrito police Capt. Mike Regan, but he's not convincing the majority of those in law enforcement.

Some officers and judges have come out in favor of the November initiative, but more - including the California Police Chiefs Association - are opposing it.

Making it worse?

"Richard looks like John Q. Citizen, and he's actually a really nice guy," said Regan, who speaks all over the state against marijuana use. "But I believe medical marijuana in California has grown wildly out of control, and I think the initiative would make it much worse.

"This is not a harmless drug."

He said Lee took him on a tour of Oaksterdam once, and he found the business impressive. But strictly medicinal use is one thing, Regan said - and rampant use, which he believes is what the measure would encourage, is another.

"I don't agree with him, but he listens to your viewpoint and gives you his viewpoint," the captain said. "Years ago, the only people I saw promoting this kind of business were dope dealers, and they looked like Cheech and Chong. Then you meet someone like Richard Lee, and you realize that today they are businessmen.

"But let's not kid ourselves," he said. "You're talking about some serious dollars being earned there. And when a cop who's been in this business a long time takes a look at the marijuana business that's grown up all over this state, it looks like a criminal enterprise from long ago. You've got lots of cash, tons of unaccounted marijuana hanging around, and a product that is illegal."

'Education challenge'

Lee has heard the criticism before, and he's sure he will hear it more when the campaign starts heating up over the summer. He has even taken heat from some growers in Mendocino and Humboldt counties who say his advocacy of indoor growing undercuts the purity of their outdoor, supposedly more organic, operations.

Lee shrugs at the flak. An "education challenge," he calls it.

"Support goes up for what we are doing the more people learn about it, and realize marijuana is not terrible, and that it is safer than alcohol and healthier than prison," Lee said.

"I'm sure I'll have a few more gray hairs by November," he said, cracking his shy smile. "But I do think we'll get our point across enough to win."

E-mail Kevin Fagan at kfagan@sfchronicle.com.

Credit: Kevin Fagan Chronicle Staff Writer

[Illustration]

Caption: Richard Lee founded Oaksterdam University, which offers instruction in growing and selling medical marijuana. - Lacy Atkins / The Chronicle; Richard Lee is passionate about his support of medical marijuana and says it's time to legalize the drug. - Lacy Atkins / The Chronicle

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San Francisco Chronicle

No on Prop. 19

Anonymous. **San Francisco Chronicle.** San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 16, 2010. pg. A.15

Abstract (Summary)

The experience of Proposition 215, the 1996 initiative that legalized the use of medical marijuana, illustrates the danger of voting for a concept instead of the language of a ballot measure. Fresno County Supervisors this week voted to ban outdoor medical marijuana gardens after four reports of gunfire - including a fatal shooting by a homeowner who claimed an intruder was out to steal his pot.

Full Text (575 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2010

Even Californians who support the legalization of marijuana should be extremely wary of Proposition 19. This is a seriously flawed initiative with contradictions and complications that would invite legal chaos and, more than likely, fail to deliver its promised economic benefits.

We agree with the architects of Prop. 19 that the "war on drugs" - especially as it applies to marijuana - has been an abject failure. Laws against personal possession are widely ignored, they are enforced unevenly and they divert law enforcement and the courts from more pressing priorities. The result is a flourishing underground economy that allows marijuana to escape taxation and regulation while bestowing profits on criminal enterprises.

If this were simply a referendum on the status quo, and the ability of a 21-or-older Californian to possess an ounce or less for personal use, it might be an easy "yes" vote. It is not. It is a law that goes too far in endowing rights for the cultivation, possession and use of marijuana.

Among the specific problems:

Workplace: A nondiscrimination clause would prevent employers from firing or disciplining workers who used marijuana unless an employer could prove that job performance was impaired. Pre-employment testing would be banned. Conflicts with federal law abound. For example, the feds require operators of planes, trains, trucks and buses to be removed from their jobs if they test positive for any narcotic.

Tax and regulation: The measure establishes no state controls over distribution and product standards; it does nothing to help cure the state's budget deficit. A seriously gridlocked Legislature, which kept its distance from the medical marijuana mess, would have to decide whether to take on such issues. In the meantime, Prop. 19 allows the 58 counties and hundreds of cities to come up with their own taxation and regulatory schemes. In this critical element of legalization, Prop. 19 is more akin to the chaotic approach taken with medical marijuana than to the heavily taxed-and-regulated treatment of alcohol.

Cultivation: Property owners throughout the state would have a right to establish a 5-by-5-foot plot of cannabis plants for personal consumption - a right that could not be usurped by local ordinance. Anyone familiar with the stench and potential height of marijuana plants might pause at the thought of their proliferation in the neighborhood.

Transit: The proposition does not affect current laws against driving while impaired by cannabis, but it does allow passengers to smoke in a moving vehicle, proponents acknowledge. This is another element of 219 that that defies common sense.

The experience of Proposition 215, the 1996 initiative that legalized the use of medical marijuana, illustrates the danger of voting for a concept instead of the language of a ballot measure. The loosely drawn Prop. 215 continues

to be a nightmare for many communities. Los Angeles is trying to shut down hundreds of dispensaries. Even the laid-back coastal towns of Santa Cruz and Arcata found themselves putting moratoriums on new dispensaries.

Fresno County Supervisors this week voted to ban outdoor medical marijuana gardens after four reports of gunfire - including a fatal shooting by a homeowner who claimed an intruder was out to steal his pot.

If Prop. 19 were to pass, such outdoor gardens would not be limited to ostensible medical-marijuana patients. They could show up in any backyard, in any town - and local governments would be powerless to stop them.

Don't vote the slogan or the concept. Inspect the details. No on 19.

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San Francisco Chronicle

End Prohibition - yes on Proposition 19

Debra J Saunders. **San Francisco Chronicle**. San Francisco, Calif.: Sep 19, 2010. pg. E.9

Abstract (Summary)

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger inhaled on camera - and the most he'll say now is that it is "time for a debate" on Proposition 19, the November ballot measure that would legalize marijuana under state (but not federal) law. [...] his opposition to Prop. 19.

Full Text (847 words)

(C) *San Francisco Chronicle* 2010

"In almost every respect imaginable, Prohibition was a failure," former New York Times public editor Daniel Okrent concluded at the close of his new book, "Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition." "It encouraged criminality and institutionalized hypocrisy. It deprived the government of revenue, stripped the gears of the political system, and proposed profound limitations on individual rights."

America's laws against marijuana have had similar effect. About 40 percent of Americans have tried the weed. In March, the Partnership for a Drug Free America reported that 38 percent of ninth- through 12th-graders studied in 2009 reported consuming marijuana in the past month.

The last three presidents opposed legalizing marijuana, even though President Obama says he smoked marijuana, George W. Bush hinted that he did and Bill Clinton said he did not inhale. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger inhaled on camera - and the most he'll say now is that it is "time for a debate" on Proposition 19, the November ballot measure that would legalize marijuana under state (but not federal) law.

In 2005, Harvard economist Jeffrey A. Miron looked at the cost of marijuana prohibition. He estimated that legalizing and taxing marijuana would yield \$6.2 billion in annual tax revenue nationally - assuming that governments levied taxes comparable to alcohol and tobacco taxes. In addition, the federal government would save \$2.4 billion, while state and local governments would save \$5.3 billion on enforcement.

Miron has argued that usage rates would not necessarily rise if marijuana is legal. I think usage will go up; even proponents admit that Prop. 19's passage probably would lower the cost. There is no way to sugarcoat the possibility that, despite bill language that legalizes possession only for adults 21 years old or older, some teens may find it easier to get pot. And that is not a good thing.

On the other hand, it's not as if prohibition has put a dent in teen usage. The same survey that found that found 38 percent of high school students had used marijuana found that 39 percent consumed alcohol in the past month.

Okrent believes that legalizing and regulating marijuana could make it harder for young teens to get. ~~The repeal of Prohibition - with closing hours, age limits and government's ability to shutter violators - "made it harder, not easier, to get a drink."~~

Pleasant Hill Police Chief Pete Dunbar told The Chronicle Editorial Board that the violence associated with the marijuana trade makes it "the most dangerous drug" of all. Hence his opposition to Prop. 19.

But the group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition includes a growing number of former cops and prosecutors who support Prop. 19 because they want to starve criminal enterprises.

Stephen Downing, a former Los Angeles Police Department deputy chief, likened drug gangs to a starfish - cut off one limb, and they grow another. "If you take away 60 percent of the cartels' traffic, it will have a real impact on their profits," Downing told me.

"California's No. 1 cash crop is marijuana," he added. California growers, under regulation and paying taxes, could squeeze Mexican cartels out of the trade.

Downing told me he sees it as his "patriotic duty" to fight for Prop. 19.

Dunbar called the measure "too loosey-goosey." Prop. 19 leaves it to local governments to decide if they want to regulate and tax the production and sale of marijuana - and that means different laws for different locales.

But as attorney James Wheaton, who wrote the measure, explained, "Oakland is going to have completely different issues than Humboldt County." Communities that want to ban the sale of marijuana will be free to do so.

When I was younger, I knew kids who started using drugs and never reached their full potential.

Today, I have a lot of successful friends who used marijuana when they were younger, are glad they never were arrested, but say they will vote against Prop. 19 because they don't want to send the wrong message. In part, I think, they want the government to do their parenting for them. But it's wrong to criminalize behavior - possession of up to an ounce of (nonmedical) marijuana remains a misdemeanor in California - to send a message. You criminalize behavior that threatens public safety. While marijuana use can threaten public safety, in every way, laws against marijuana enrich criminal cartels.

What is the benefit? To decrease the chance of kids using drugs - by what, 1 percent? - the public for years has backed laws that fuel criminal practices.

Two years before repeal of Prohibition, smart people were convinced that Prohibition would never be overturned. Its author proclaimed that there was as much chance of repealing the 18th Amendment as there was for a hummingbird to fly to Mars "with the Washington Monument tied to its tail."

Okrent told me he didn't know he was for Prop. 19 until he started promoting his book. "People are going to consume this stuff," he told me.

It's just that simple. That's why the law doesn't work.

T0 comment, e-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com.

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San Francisco Chronicle

Man Accused of Running Indoor Pot Plantation; [FOUR STAR Edition]

San Francisco Chronicle (pre-1997 Fulltext). San Francisco, Calif.: May 23, 1986. pg. 2

Abstract (Summary)

Eric Rauhauser, 31, of Redway in Humboldt County was charged with growing 600 marijuana plants near Island Mountain, a remote area of Mendocino County. The indoor plantation was raided in September by members of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

Full Text (119 words)

Copyright Chronicle Publishing Company May 23, 1986

Ukiah, Mendocino County

A federal grand jury has indicted a man for allegedly growing hundreds of marijuana plants in a high-tech indoor garden.

Eric Rauhauser, 31, of Redway in Humboldt County was charged with growing 600 marijuana plants near Island Mountain, a remote area of Mendocino County. The indoor plantation was raided in September by members of the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting.

Peter Robinson, a federal prosecutor, said a suit will be filed to confiscate the property where the plants were discovered.

The grand jury also indicted Kenneth Hontz, 39, and his wife, Shelley, 29, both of Laytonville, for growing 457 pot plants, and Jeffrey Bearden, 32, and Gloria Anaya, 20, both of Willits, for 306 plants.

Our Correspondent

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San Francisco Chronicle

Wet spring affects pot crop

Martin, Glen. **San Francisco Chronicle.** San Francisco, Calif.: Oct 5, 1995. pg. A15

Abstract (Summary)

As harvest time arrives in Oct 1995 in the so-called "Emerald Triangle" counties Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity, it is clear that ~~this will~~ be an unusually lean year for marijuana crops in the California region. Last winter's heavy rains delayed planting, resulting in a smaller harvest and higher prices.

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