



Remembering Dr. Tod

Tod Hiro Mikuriya, MD, one of the world's foremost authorities on the therapeutic use of cannabis, has passed away after a multi-year battle with cancer. He was 73-years-old.

Dr. Tod (September 20, 1933 – May 20, 2007) was a psychiatrist and an advocate for the legalization of the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Born in Pennsylvania, he was the director of non-classified marijuana research for the National Institute of Mental Health Center for Narcotics and Drug Abuse Studies. His 1972 self-published book, *Marijuana Medical Papers 1839-1972* became a landmark in the modern movement for the legalization of Medical marijuana. Collected from the reference section at the National Library of Medicine it was saved from complete oblivion. Much to the irritation of cannabis prohibitionists, this medical intelligence has been restored for possible alternative medical applications.

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State Legislatures Move Forward With Medi-Pot Proposals

Legislative chambers in Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Vermont approved medical cannabis legislation this week.

In Vermont, the House approved Senate Bill 7, which expands the list of qualifying conditions that may be legally treated with cannabis under state law. The bill

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Marijuana Intoxication Does Not Adversely Impact Decision Making, Study Says

New York, NY, USA:

Experienced marijuana users perform tasks as accurately after having smoked cannabis as they do sober, according to clinical trial data published in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*.

Investigators at New York State's Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University assessed the impact of acute cannabis intoxication on the decision-making abilities of 36 subjects, as assessed by the Iowa Gambling Task performance test. Volunteers completed the Gambling Task once sober and three times after smoking cannabis or placebo.

Though cannabis intoxication increased the time required for subjects to complete their tasks, volunteers' accuracy was not adversely impacted by pot.

"[A]dvantageous card selection and money earned on the task were not disrupted by marijuana," authors concluded. "These data are consistent with previous findings that indicated that speed

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from DR. TOD, page 1 > Dr. Mikuriya spent more than four decades investigating the medical utility of pot, beginning with an appointment as the Director for Marijuana Research for the National Institute of Mental Health in 1967. In 1972, he published *Marijuana: Medical Papers 1839 - 1972*, a collection of essays documenting the historical use of medicinal cannabis in Western culture. He later became an outspoken advocate for marijuana law reform, and played a key role in persuading the California legislature to decriminalize pot possession in 1975.

Mikuriya gained prominence among modern marijuana activists by speaking in favor of the medical use of pot for a wide variety of psychosomatic indications, such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and alcoholism. Dr. Mikuriya was a co-author of California's Proposition 215 initiative, and is credited with drafting the language that authorizes physicians to recommend cannabis for "any other illness for which marijuana provides relief," a clause which remains unique to California's medical marijuana law.

After Proposition 215's passage in 1996, Dr. Mikuriya became one of the most prolific recommenders of medicinal cannabis - a stance that made him a frequent target of both the California Medical Board and the federal government. In the decade since the law's enactment, Dr. Mikuriya recommended marijuana to an estimated 9,000 patients. In 2006, Mikuriya was a recipient of NORML's "Lester Grinspoon Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Marijuana Law Reform" in recognition of his life's work in support of the legalization of medicinal cannabis.

"Tod was a true pioneer of cannabis medicine," said California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer. "At a time when its medical use had been abandoned, he rediscovered the forgotten medical literature on cannabis and agitated to restore it to the pharmacopoeia. Tod later campaigned to make this a reality by helping to draft Prop. 215, and after its passage, he went on to found the modern practice of cannabis medicine."

W-V-NORML expresses its sincere condolences to the friends and family of Tod Mikuriya. For more on Dr. Tod, visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tod_H._Mikuriya

A NORML AudioStash tribute to Tod Mikuriya's work and legacy may be downloaded at: http://audio.norml.org/audio_stash/NORML_Daily_AudioStash_05_23_2007.mp3.

<continued from MEDI-POT PROPOSALS, page 1 > must now go to conference committee before being sent to the Governor's desk. In Minnesota, the Senate gave preliminary approval to Senate File 345, which would allow state-authorized patients, under a physician's supervision, to possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis. The proposal also allows for private nonprofit dispensaries to register with the state to grow and dispense medicinal cannabis for registered patients. The House is expected to vote on a companion bill, House File 655, next week.

In Rhode Island, lawmakers in the House voted 49-12 this week to repeal the sunset clause to the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act. Under the law, which is set to expire later this year without action from the legislature, authorized patients may possess and grow cannabis for therapeutic purposes. More than 260 patients and 270 caregivers are currently licensed to possess cannabis under the state program. The Rhode Island Senate is expected to vote on the measure later this week. *For more information on these or other state legislative efforts, please visit NORML's "Take Action Center" online at: <http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/?style=D>.*

<continued from DECISION MAKING, page 1 > of performance on tests of executive function, but not accuracy, is disrupted in experienced marijuana users during marijuana intoxication." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Acute effects of smoked marijuana on decision making, as assessed by a modified gambling task, in experienced marijuana users," appears in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*.*

Cannabinoids Enhance Analgesic Activity Of Opiates In Inflammatory Pain, Study Says

Richmond, VA, USA: THC, when administered in combination with morphine, acts synergistically to reduce symptoms of chronic pain, according to preclinical data to be published in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*.

Investigators at Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Pharmacology assessed the antinociceptive interaction between cannabinoids and morphine in an animal model of arthritis. The administration of THC enhanced morphine's anti-inflammatory activity on chronic pain, researchers concluded.

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<continued from previous page> Preclinical data published last year in the journal *Anesthesia & Analgesia* reported that the co-administration of cannabinoids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) also act synergistically to alleviate pain and reduce inflammation.

Clinical trial data published in the February 2007 edition of the journal *Neurology* reported that inhaled cannabis significantly reduces HIV-associated neuropathy, a painful nerve condition that often goes untreated with standard pain medications.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Synergy between Delta(9)-tetrahydrocannabinol and morphine in the arthritic rat," will appear in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*.

Legislators Amend Washington State Medi-Pot Law

Olympia, WA, USA: Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire signed Senate Bill 6032 into law last week, amending the state's nearly nine-year-old medical cannabis measure. Fifty-nine percent of state voters initially approved the law in 1998, which enacts statewide legal protections for patients who use cannabis under the supervision of their physician.

The amended law, which takes effect on July 22, 2007, mandates the state Department of Health to "adopt rules defining the quantity of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be a sixty-day supply for qualifying patients." The Department is instructed to report its findings to the legislature by July 1, 2008.

Currently, patients may legally possess or cultivate up to a sixty-day supply of marijuana for therapeutic purposes. Lawmakers have never clarified how much cannabis legally constitutes a "sixty-day" supply, instead leaving the issue to be interpreted subjectively by local law enforcement.

As amended, patients who possess larger quantities of cannabis than those approved by the Department will continue to receive legal protection under the law if they present evidence indicating that they require such amounts to adequately treat their qualifying medical condition.

Senate Bill 6032 also affirms changes previously recommended by the state's Medical Quality Assurance Commission to expand the state's list of qualifying conditions to include Crohn's disease,

hepatitis c, and any "diseases, including anorexia, which results in nausea, vomiting, wasting, appetite loss, cramping, seizures, muscle spasms, and/or spasticity, when these symptoms are unrelieved by standard treatments or medications."

The new law also limits the ability of police to seize medicinal cannabis that is "determined ... [to be] possessed lawfully [by an authorized patients] under the ... law."

Though SB 6032 was approved overwhelmingly by the legislature, Washington's medical marijuana patient community was strongly divided over the proposal - with many patient groups actively opposing the bill. Full text of Washington's amended medical cannabis law is available online at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/6032-S.PL.pdf>.

Past Pot Use May Be Detected In Sweat For Up To Four Weeks, Study Says

Baltimore, MD, USA: The primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, THC, may be detectable at low levels in the sweat of daily cannabis users for up to four weeks after they cease using the drug, according to clinical trial data published in the journal *Forensic Science International*.

Investigators at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) assessed the sensitivity of sweat patch technology in 11 daily cannabis users. All of the subjects tested positive for THC during their first week of abstinence, three tested positive for two weeks, and one subject continued to test positive for four weeks after ceasing his use of cannabis.

By contrast, subjects administered daily doses of oral THC did not have a positive sweat patch result.

Sweat patches consist of an absorbed cellulose pad that is applied to the skin with an adhesive and is generally worn by subjects for up to one week. The technology is primarily used in drug treatment and criminal justice settings.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Excretion of Delta(9)-tetrahydrocannabinol in sweat," appears in the May issue of the journal *Forensic Science International*.

Combined Use Of Cigarettes And Pot Associated With COPD, Study Says

San Francisco, CA, USA: Individuals who regularly smoke cigarettes and marijuana experience a greater likelihood of developing symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) than do individuals who smoke cigarettes only, according to clinical data presented this week at the 2007 International Conference of the American Thoracic Society.

Investigators at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, reported that the combined use of tobacco and marijuana was associated with an increased risk of COPD among individuals age 40 and older. Researchers found that cigarette-only smokers were two-and-a-half times more likely than nonsmokers to develop COPD, while those subjects who reported smoking both substances were three-and-a-half times more likely.

Investigators did not report whether individuals who consumed only cannabis were at a higher risk for developing COPD compared to nonusers.

A recent meta-analysis published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* reports that although chronic cannabis smoking is associated with an elevated risk of respiratory complications – including an increase in cough, sputum production, and wheezing – it is not associated with a decline in pulmonary function.

Authors of the Canadian study did not suggest whether vaporizing cannabis would reduce its adverse interaction with tobacco smoke.

Last month, investigators at San Francisco General Hospital reported that use of the Volcano vaporizing device significantly reduces cannabis consumers' intake of gaseous combustion toxins, including carbon monoxide. A separate study conducted by investigators at the University of Albany reports that marijuana consumers who vaporize pot are less likely to suffer from respiratory symptoms than are those who do not vaporize, after controlling for subjects' age, sex, and cigarette use.

Vaporization heats cannabis to a temperature where active cannabinoid vapors form (typically around 180-190 degrees Celsius), but below the point of combustion where noxious smoke and associated toxins (i.e., carcinogenic hydrocarbons) are produced (above 230 degrees Celsius). *Abstracts of the study, "The impact of cigarette and marijuana smoking in a chronic obstructive lung disease study*

in Vancouver, Canada," are available online at: <http://www.thoracic.org/>. Additional information on the impact of cannabis smoking on the lungs is available in the NORML white paper, "Cannabis Smoke and Cancer: Assessing the Risk," available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6891. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org.

Canada: Red Tape Thwarts Patients' Access To Legal Medi-Pot Supply, Study Says

Ottawa, Ontario: Most Canadian patients who use cannabis therapeutically are not registered under the federal medical marijuana access program and continue to acquire their medicine from the black market, according to survey data published in the April issue of the journal *AIDS Care*.

Investigators at the Canadian AIDS Society and British Columbia's Centre for Addictions Research surveyed 197 volunteers living with HIV/AIDS. Among the respondents surveyed, 61 percent said that they used marijuana therapeutically, but only 36 percent said that they had applied for legal access to use cannabis under Canada's *Marihuana Medical Access Regulations* (MMAR). Enacted in 2001, the MMAR grants qualified patients a federal exemption to possess and use medicinal marijuana. Registered patients also have the option to purchase government grown pot.

Among those respondents who had not registered with the government, most said that they found Health Canada's regulations to be overly "onerous, complicated, or intimidating." Many also said that they had consistently heard negative feedback about the program and the quality of the government's medical cannabis. Of those patients surveyed, only two percent said they had purchased government grown medi-pot.

On average, HIV/AIDS patients consumed about 66 grams of marijuana per month (2.2 grams per day), the survey reported. Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed said that their physician supported their marijuana therapy, and 92 percent reported that they had spoken with their doctor about their marijuana use.

Most patients surveyed (62 percent) said that they acquired medical cannabis from "a friend or someone they know," while 36 percent said they purchased cannabis from private cannabis

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<continued from previous page> dispensaries. Authors of the study recommended the Canadian government begin formally licensing dispensaries because they provide patients with "a safe supply of cannabis ... and offer therapeutic knowledge and [other] social support needs that other supply sources do not."

Commenting on this recommendation, Philippe Lucas, founder of the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (www.thevics.com), said: "Our current federal program is failing to protect critically and chronically ill Canadians. ... [T]he lack of official government and legal support for ... community-based dispensaries means that those who use medical cannabis to treat serious health conditions face unnecessary risk and stigma for making fundamental choices in regards to their healthcare."

A 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey reported that approximately four percent of Canadians aged 15 and older self identify as medicinal cannabis patients. However, fewer than 1,400 Canadians are registered to legally use medical marijuana under the MMAR.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Barrier to access to medical cannabis for Canadians living with HIV/AIDS," appears in the April issue of AIDS Care.

Hawaii State's 13,000 Teachers To Be Subjected To Random Drug Testing

Honolulu, HI, USA: Hawaii public school teachers have ratified new contract provisions that include random drug testing for the islands' 13,000 teachers. Members of the Hawaii State Teachers Association's Board of Director's had previously approved the provisions – which state government officials added to the contracts following the recent arrests of a handful of school officials on drug-related charges.

It's been estimated that the new random testing program will cost Hawaii's taxpayers close to \$100,000 annually.

Approximately 61 percent of teachers who participated in last week's vote approved the drug testing measure. The new two-year contracts will also give teachers a pay raise. Officials from the Hawaii Governor's office strongly pushed for the drug testing provisions, stating that any new contract offered by the state would have to include a clause for testing teachers.

Protocols for the drug-testing program have yet to be developed, and still need to be negotiated by the teachers union and the state Department of Education.

In 1989, the US Supreme Court determined that randomly drug testing certain federal and/or state employees does not violate the US Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches.

However, in 1998, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that public school teachers, teacher's aids, and clerical workers cannot be drug tested absent individualized suspicion (*United Teachers of New Orleans v. Orleans Parish School Board*), though more recent rulings have upheld such testing policies. Hawaii's policy will likely face a similar legal challenge. *For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.*

Pot Use Doesn't Exacerbate Symptoms Of Schizophrenia

London, United Kingdom: Marijuana use is not associated with heightened symptoms of schizophrenia, according to data to be published in the journal *Schizophrenia Research*.

Investigators at London's Institute of Psychiatry assessed whether the prior use of cannabis in patients with schizophrenia was associated with appreciable changes in schizophrenic symptoms compared with patients who had no history of marijuana use. Researchers performed logistic regression analysis on 757 volunteers with cases of first onset schizophrenia. Of these, 182 (24 percent) had reportedly used cannabis in the year prior to diagnosis, while 552 (73 percent) had not. (The remaining three percent had no data available.)

Investigators reported no statistically significant "differences in symptomatology between schizophrenic patients who were or were not cannabis users" after controlling for patients' age, sex, and ethnicity.

Researchers also failed to find "any evidence that cannabis users with schizophrenia were more likely to have a family member with the disorder."

These findings "argue against a distinct schizophrenic-like psychosis caused by cannabis," authors concluded.

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Although investigators did not assess whether cannabis consumers had greater odds of contracting schizophrenia compared to those who did not have a history of smoking pot, prior reviews have downplayed such an association. Most recently, Britain's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) concluded in 2006, "For individuals, the current evidence suggests, at worst, that using cannabis increases lifetime risk of developing schizophrenia by one percent."

A separate 2006 report by Britain's Beckley Foundation speculated that cannabis may "precipitate schizophrenia in people who are already vulnerable" to the disease, but it also acknowledged that the "increased rates of cannabis use in the last thirty years have not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the rate of psychosis in the population."

NORML Advisory Board Member Mitch Earleywine, author of the book *Understanding Marijuana: A New Look at the Scientific Evidence* (Oxford University Press), said: "Schizophrenia is a rare and heterogenous disorder that requires both biological and environmental contributors. I hope this latest work helps to counter the idea that there exists a distinct psychotic disorder related to cannabis as well as other equally simplistic, and often inaccurate, notions regarding the use of cannabis and mental illness."

A study co-authored by Earleywine and published in the journal *Psychiatry Research* in 2005 reported that cannabis use typically follows rather than precedes behavior suggestive of schizophrenia. "These findings do not support a causal link between cannabis use and schizotypal traits," the study concluded.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "A comparison of symptoms and family history in schizophrenia with and without prior cannabis use: Implications for the concept of cannabis psychosis," will appear in the journal *Schizophrenia Research*. A discussion of this study may be downloaded from the May 2, 2007 edition of the NORML Daily AudioStash at: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>. Additional information may be found in the NORML paper, "Cannabis, Mental Health and Context," available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6798.

Cannabis Use May "Improve" Brain Function In Schizophrenics, Study Says

Berlin, Germany: Cannabis use is associated with improved cognition in schizophrenic patients, according to clinical trial data to be published in the journal *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry*.

Investigators at the University of Berlin assessed the impact of cannabis on cognitive functions in schizophrenic patients who reported prior use of pot versus patients who reported no history of substance abuse. Researchers reported that cannabis use was not associated with any decline in cognition, and that those subjects who reported using marijuana prior to their first psychotic episode showed improved cognitive performance on certain tests compared to non-users.

"[T]o our surprise, cannabis abusing schizophrenic patients ... achieved results either similar to those [achieved] by the non-using cannabis schizophrenic patients or, at times, performed even better than them," investigators concluded. "[R]ather than deteriorating neuropsychological performance, cannabis [use] prior to [a patient's] first psychotic episode improved cognition in some tests."

According to the study's authors, cognitive dysfunctions are present in more than 80 percent of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia.

A separate 2005 study by investigators at Manchester Metropolitan University in Britain previously reported that schizophrenic patients who consumed cannabis prior to disease onset possessed greater cognitive skills after ten years than did non-users.

Neurocognitive studies performed on healthy volunteers generally report that the use of marijuana, even long-term, is not associated with any significant or long-lasting declines in cognitive function.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Cannabis induces different cognitive changes in schizophrenic patients and in healthy controls," will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry*.



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Join NORML In Los Angeles For Their 2007 National Conference -- Sign Up Today To Take Advantage Of NORML's Limited Discounted Rates

Washington, DC, USA: NORML welcomes you to join them in Los Angeles Friday, October 12, and Saturday, October 13, for the 2007 national NORML Conference. This year's two-day 'extravaganja' will take place at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join them as they focus on the latest marijuana policy developments at the state and federal levels, celebrate our victories over the past year, and hear from the world's leading activists and cannabis law reform organizations.

Network with the nation's top advocates, mingle with celebrities and members of *High Times Magazine*, as well as NORML's staff and board of directors, and enjoy a variety of unique after-hours events. Register early and take advantage of special discounted pricing on both the conference and hotel accommodations.

Online registration for NORML's 36th annual national conference is available now at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7250.

NORML's Daily Audio Stash Celebrates One-Year Anniversary - Web's Most Pot-Friendly Podcast Serves Over 2.2 Million Downloads In First Year

Washington, DC, USA: Audiences have downloaded episodes of NORML's podcast, the [Daily Audio Stash](#), more than 2.2 million times since the program's premiere one-year ago, making it the most popular 'pot-centric' podcast available on the Web and ranking it as one of [the Internet's most listened to audio programs](#).

Since its initial broadcast on Monday, June 5, 2006, NORML's *Daily Audio Stash* has consistently ranked among the top 15 'most subscribed' podcasts in the 'government and organizations' category of Apple

Computer's iTunes Music Store. The show typically receives more downloads than podcasts produced by the White House and the Pentagon, as well as by federal politicians such as US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"The success of NORML's *Daily Audio Stash* has greatly exceeded expectations and its popularity has grown significantly in recent months," said NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre – who noted that more than 250,000 listeners downloaded the *Audio Stash* in April, and that the program's one-hour April 20th broadcast has been downloaded more than 20,000 times. "The popularity of NORML's *Audio Stash* shows that there are millions of Americans who desire fact-based, educational information about marijuana and marijuana law reform, and that this population is increasingly turning to NORML and away from the federal government and the mass media in order to obtain it."

"The popularity of NORML's podcast is proof positive that millions of Americans are interested in reforming this country's failed policy of marijuana prohibition," said *Audio Stash* producer Chris Goldstein. "In addition, the *Daily Audio Stash* provides a forum for politicians, celebrities, physicians, scientists, and citizen activists to participate in uninhibited conversations about marijuana and legal reform."

Each edition of the *Audio Stash* features news, commentary, and exclusive interviews with some of the biggest names in politics, music, and cannabis culture. Recent guests on the *Audio Stash* include US Congressman and Presidential candidate Ron Paul (R-TX), noted poet and political activist John Sinclair, recording artists Fishbone and the Kottonmouth Kings, PBS travel-host and author Rick Steves, comedians Tommy Chong and Rob Cantrell (*Last Comic Standing*), political columnist and commentator Clarence Page, and pot cultivation expert Ed Rosenthal. More than 250 original 30-minute episodes of the NORML *Daily Audio Stash* are now available for download at: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com>.

