



State Medi-Pot Laws Not Associated With Increased Drug Use, Study Says

College Station, TX, USA: The enactment of state laws legalizing the medical use of cannabis is not associated with an increase in the drug's recreational use, according to statistical data published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

Investigators at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, analyzed cannabis use trends among two high-risk subgroups (arrestees and emergency room patients) in five cities and five metropolitan areas in states that have enacted medical cannabis laws. In the four states (California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington) analyzed, researchers reported, "[T]he introduction of medical cannabis laws was not associated with an increase in cannabis use."

Previous studies performed by the University of Michigan and others have also reported that liberalizing marijuana penalties is not associated with an increase in pot use.

Texas A&M investigators speculated that the passage of medical cannabis laws may "deglamorize" the drug's use and

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NORML Calls On Next Attorney General To End Medi-Pot Raids

Washington, DC, USA: America's next Attorney General should stop using federal justice powers and spending taxpayers' dollars to arrest and prosecute individuals who are in compliance with state medical marijuana laws, NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup said today.

Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who announced his resignation on Monday, oversaw a record number of raids and federal prosecutions against state-authorized medical marijuana patients and providers. In July, federal agents raided more than a dozen locally authorized cannabis dispensaries in California and moved forward with separate federal prosecutions against several additional medi-pot providers.

"The resignation of Attorney General Gonzales provides the Bush Administration with an opportunity to rethink and revise their misguided policy against medical marijuana patients and providers in California and other states that have legalized the

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Failed Pot Prohibition 'Celebrates' 70-Year Anniversary

Washington, DC, USA: The federal prohibition of marijuana was signed into law seventy years ago today, and stands as one of the government's greatest public policy failures.

On August 2, 1937, then-President Franklin Roosevelt signed the "Marihuana Tax Act" into law, which criminalized the possession and use of cannabis through prohibitive taxation. The legislation received less than one hour of debate by Congress, during which time government witnesses testified to the drug's allegedly "deadly" nature. Though the American Medical Association (AMA) lobbied against the bill's passage, both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the measure without taking a recorded vote.

In 1969, the Supreme Court struck down the 1937 law. However, in 1970, Congress included cannabis as a Schedule I substance under the US Controlled Substances Act – determining that marijuana possessed "a high potential for abuse" and "no currently accepted medical use in treatment."

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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 MEDI-POT, page 1 > "thereby [does] little to encourage [its] use among other" non-medical patients.

A previous study of state medi-pot policies by the US General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that the laws have not led to widespread abuses among the general public.

"Fears that allowing the physician-supervised use of medical cannabis will 'send a mixed message' to young people or lead to a significant spike in pot's personal use are unfounded," said NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano. "Such concerns, though popular among opponents of cannabis law reform, are based on rhetoric - not fact - and should not guide public policy."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Do medical cannabis laws encourage cannabis use?" appears in the May issue of the International Journal of Drug Policy.

Cannabinoids Associated With "More Restful Sleep," Study Says

Salisbury, United Kingdom: The use of both natural cannabinoids and cannabis extracts are associated with improved sleep in patients with various debilitating illnesses, according to a review of clinical trial data published in the journal *Chemistry & Biodiversity*.

"Cannabis ... has been utilized for [the] treatment of pain and sleep disorders since ancient times," authors wrote. "Modern clinical trials indicate that patients administered cannabis extracts report experiencing "more restful sleep, [an] increase [in] their daytime level of function, and [a] markedly improve[d] ... quality of life."

According to available data, of the 2,000 subjects that have been administered cannabis extracts in clinical trials, most "demonstrate marked improvement in subjective sleep parameters." Trial volunteers have not reported developing tolerance to the drug, even after using it for several years.

Currently, cannabis extracts are available by prescription in Canada under the trade name Sativex. Regulators in Great Britain and Spain have also granted limited regulatory approval for the drug. *For more information, please visit <http://www.gwpharm.com>. Full text of the study, "Cannabis, pain, and sleep: Lessons from therapeutic clinical trials of Sativex, a cannabis-based medicine," appears in the journal *Chemistry & Biodiversity*.*

Preemptive Use Of Cannabinoids Enhances Pain Relief, Study Says

Montreal, Quebec (QC), Canada: The daily administration of the synthetic cannabinoid agonist WIN 55,212-2 prior to surgery produces enhanced analgesic activity in an animal model of neuropathic (nerve) pain, according to preclinical data published in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*.

Investigators at the University of Montreal reported that the preemptive administration of WIN 55, 212-2 in the days leading up to surgery produced greater neuropathic pain relief than did the administration of the drug immediately prior to surgery. "[Although] WIN 55,212-2 decreased mechanical allodynia (skin pain) and thermal hyperalgesia in neuropathic animals, ... the group receiving pre-emptive WIN 55,212-2 had significantly greater anti-hyperalgesic and anti-allodynic effects compared with the group receiving [it] before the surgery," authors concluded.

Previous preclinical trial data of WIN 55, 212-2 indicates that the agonist can significantly reduce brain inflammation and improve memory in an animal model of Alzheimer's. Administration of the drug has also been associated with the inhibition of prostate cancer cells.

Clinical trial data published earlier this year by investigators at San Francisco General Hospital and the University of California's Pain Clinical Research Center reported that inhaling cannabis significantly reduced HIV-associated neuropathy compared to placebo.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Preemptive antinociceptive effects of a synthetic cannabinoid in a model of neuropathic pain," appears in the European Journal of Pharmacology.

Canada Approves Cannabis Spray For Cancer Pain

Ottawa, Ontario (ON), Canada: Canadian health officials granted regulatory approval this week to Sativex, an oral spray consisting of natural cannabis extracts, as an adjunctive analgesic treatment in adult patients with advanced cancer.

Sativex is already available in Canada by prescription for the treatment of pain associated with multiple sclerosis. Regulators in Great Britain and Spain have also granted limited regulatory approval for the drug.

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<continued from previous page> In clinical trials, patients with cancer who were unresponsive to opioids reported significantly improved pain relief after Sativex administration.

Produced by the British biotechnology firm, GW Pharmaceuticals, Sativex is a whole plant medicinal cannabis extract containing precise doses of the cannabinoids THC and cannabidiol (CBD), as well as naturally existing terpenoids and flavonoids.

Despite the drug's growing acceptance in Canada, the company recently withdrew its application for European regulatory approval after UK regulators demanded additional clinical data on the drug. *For more information, please visit: <http://www.gwpharm.com>.*

Cannabis Receptor System Offers Novel Target For Osteoporosis Treatment, Study Says

Jerusalem, Israel: The endocannabinoid system plays a significant role in skeletal remodeling (the process whereby old bone is removed and new bone is added) and is an ideal target for anti-osteoporotic drug development, according to a forthcoming review to be published in the journal *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*.

Investigators at the Bone Laboratory of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem report that the activation of the CB2 cannabinoid receptor reduces experimentally-induced bone loss and stimulates bone formation. "A therapy based on synthetic CB2 agonists is a promising novel target for anti-osteoporotic drug development," they conclude.

Investigators had previously reported that mice deficient in CB2 receptors exhibit markedly accelerated age-related bone loss (osteoporosis). Osteoporosis is a degenerative skeletal disease characterized by a deterioration of bone tissue.† Approximately 10 million Americans over age 50 suffer from osteoporosis and another 34 million are at risk for developing the disease.

*For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Regulation of Skeletal Remodeling by the Endocannabinoid System," will appear in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. Additional information on cannabis and osteoporosis is available in NORML's booklet, "Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis and Cannabinoids," available online at: http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7002.*

<continued from ATTORNEY GENERAL, page 1 > medical use of cannabis under state law," Stroup said.

He added: "Eighty percent of the American public now support the rights of patients to use marijuana as a medicine when a physician recommends it, and a total of 12 states have now adopted medical use laws. It is time for President Bush and his next attorney general to accept the will of the American public, and to stop harassing seriously ill patients who use medical marijuana and those who care for them."

Gonzales' resignation will become effective September 17. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement will serve as acting attorney general until a successor is confirmed.

In contrast to Gonzales, all of the candidates for the Democratic nomination for President have pledged, if elected, to cease federal actions against state-sanctioned medical marijuana dispensaries and cooperatives.

Nationally, total arrests for marijuana violations also rose dramatically under Gonzales' tenure – hitting a record high of 786,545 in 2005, the last year for which data is available.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, or Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.

Denver Voters To Decide On Pot 'Deprioritization' Ordinance

Denver, CO, USA: Denver voters will decide on a municipal measure this November that instructs city officials to deemphasize marijuana law enforcement.

Sponsored by Citizens for a Safer Denver, the ballot initiative directs the Denver Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to make activities related to the investigation, citation, and/or arrest of adult cannabis users their lowest law enforcement priority. It would also appoint an eleven-member "Marijuana Policy Review Panel" to monitor police activity as it pertains to cannabis law enforcement.

Seattle voters passed a similar law in 2003, which has led to a 75 percent reduction in citywide marijuana arrests. Several other cities – including Santa Cruz, California; Missoula, Montana; and Columbia, Missouri – have enacted similar initiatives in recent years.

Supporters of the Denver measure note that non-
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<continued from previous page> felony pot arrests in the city rose dramatically between 2005 and 2006 and are now at record levels.

In 2005, Denver voters approved an ordinance that sought to abolish civil and criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by citizens age 21 and older. However, local police disregarded the municipal ordinance – instead electing to enforce state cannabis laws which mandate a civil fine for minor marijuana possession offenses.

"Denver officials could have directed police and city attorneys to stop arresting and prosecuting adults, but instead they choose to fight the voters and needlessly enforce the state marijuana possession law," said SAFER Executive Director Mason Tvert, who is leading the campaign for this November's initiative.

*For more information, please visit:
<http://www.saferchoice.org>. Additional audio
commentary regarding the proposed initiative is
available on the August 23, 2007 broadcast of the
NORML Audio Stash at:
<http://www.normlaudiostash.com>.*

Feds Slash Funding For Controversial Student Drug Testing Programs

Washington, DC, USA: Federal funding to pay for the establishment of random student drug testing programs has fallen dramatically in recent years – from a high of \$7.2 million in 2005 to less than \$2 million for the 2007-2008 school year, according to figures released by the US Department of Education.

According to the agency, school districts in 15 counties in seven states will receive approximately \$1.6 million in federal funding to establish new programs for the 2007-2008 school year. Twenty-one states received federal funding in 2005 to develop new drug testing programs.

Of the \$1.6 million appropriated for the 2007-2008 school year, more than a third of the funding will go to schools in Texas.

According to federal guidelines, education funds may be provided to public schools to pay for the implementation of random drug testing programs for students who participate in competitive extra-curricular activities. Schools that adopt policies allowing for students to be randomly drug tested if they have their parents' written consent may also apply for federal grant funding.

Earlier this year, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) sponsored a series of nationwide "summits" encouraging middle-school and high-school administrators to enact federally sponsored random student drug testing programs. The 2007 summits marked the fourth consecutive year that the White House funded the symposiums.

"Year after year the federal government wastes taxpayers' dollars in their effort to persuade school administrators that they should adopt this failed policy, but each year there are fewer and fewer takers," NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said.

Armentano said that only federally approved evaluation assessing the impact of student drug testing on youth drug use determined, "Drug testing, as practiced in recent years in American secondary schools, does not prevent or inhibit student drug use."

Armentano added: "Random student drug testing is a humiliating, invasive, expensive practice that fails to achieve its stated goal of deterring student drug use. The Feds would do best to simply cease funding this failed policy altogether."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from PROHIBITION, page 1 > Under current federal law, possession of any amount of cannabis is punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

"Without question, the federal government's seven-decade long criminal prohibition of cannabis has been one of the most destructive and financially taxing public policies of all time," St. Pierre said. "More than 17 million Americans have been arrested on marijuana violations since 1970 alone, and today one in every eight inmates is serving time for pot. Even more disturbing, for seventy years the US government has been deliberately twisting science, thwarting free speech, withholding a legitimate medicine from seriously ill patients, and dramatically encroaching upon the public's civil liberties – all in the name of its futile war on cannabis and cannabis consumers."

According to federal government figures, nearly half of the population over aged 12 admits using marijuana. The government further reports that domestic marijuana production has increased ten-fold in the past 25 years from 1,000 metric tons (2.2 million pounds) to 10,000 metric tons (22 million pounds). <continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> "By every conceivable measurement, marijuana prohibition has been a catastrophic failure," St. Pierre said. "It's time to end this seven-decade experiment in futility and enact a legal system of cannabis regulation and taxation."

St. Pierre noted that the organization is 'celebrating' the 70 year anniversary of pot prohibition by launching a special outreach appeal to the group's 32,000 supporters on its myspace.com homepage (<http://www.myspace.com/natlnorml>), as well as broadcasting a special August 2nd "anniversary" edition of the NORML's podcast, the NORML Daily Audio Stash.

Since April 1, 2007, more than 1.2 million listeners have downloaded broadcasts of the Audio Stash, making NORML's podcast one of the most popular audiocasts available on the Internet. *For more information, please visit: <http://www.normlaudiostash.com> or <http://www.myspace.com/natlnorml>. Media inquiries should be directed to Allen St. Pierre, NORML National Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

NORML Responds To New Rash Of Pot And Mental Health Claims

Washington, DC, USA: The results of a recent British review reporting an association between pot use and mental illness neither implicates cannabis as a cause of psychotic behavior, nor suggests that cultures with abnormally high rates of cannabis consumption have experienced increased incidences of mental ailments, NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said today.

The widely reported meta-analysis, published Friday in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, cites a series of previous published studies that have observed a dose-dependent association between cannabis use and increased incidences of mental illness. However, authors of the study affirmed that this association "does not necessarily reflect a causal relation" between consuming cannabis and triggering psychotic behavior.

Armentano said that there are several explanations for the observed correlation. "Individuals suffering from mental illness such as schizophrenia tend to use all intoxicants – particularly alcohol and tobacco – at greater rates than the general population," he noted. "Not surprisingly, many of these individuals also use cannabis."

Armentano also noted that many of those patients who use cannabis report consuming the drug to self-medicate various symptoms of their illness, such as depression or mania. Lastly, Armentano emphasized

that investigators failed to report any evidence that trends in mental illness have paralleled rising trends in cannabis use around the globe. "Despite the enormous popularity of cannabis in the 1960s and 1970s in numerous Western cultures, rates of psychotic disorders haven't increased since then in any of these societies," he said.

Armentano concluded by stating that those concerned over pot's potential impact on health should support legally regulating cannabis rather than criminally prohibiting its use. "By legalizing and regulating marijuana, public officials would better be able to educate users to its potential risks, and they would also be able to more effectively enact safeguards restricting its use among potentially vulnerable populations, especially young people," he said. "Even if taken at face value, *The Lancet's* findings no more warrant the continued criminalization of pot than does the desire that pregnant women refrain from alcohol warrant the blanket prohibition of booze." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information is available in the NORML White Paper, "Cannabis, Mental Health, and Context," available online at: http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6798. Additional audio commentary on the Lancet report is available on the August 1, 2007 broadcast of the NORML Audio Stash at:*

<http://www.normlaudiostash.com>.

Latest Pot Smoking Warnings Call For Education, Not Prohibition, NORML Says-Respiratory risks may be mitigated by vaporization, regulation

Washington, DC, USA: Recent media reports alleging that the daily use of cannabis may impede certain lung functions should be seen as an opportunity to better educate marijuana consumers about ways to mitigate the health risks associated with smoking, NORML Senior Policy Analyst Paul Armentano said today.

The widely reported study, published online in the journal *Thorax*, found that the daily long-term smoking of cannabis cigarettes obstructed airflow to the lungs in a manner equivalent to smoking 2.5 to 5 tobacco cigarettes in succession. Investigators hypothesized that this result was because some marijuana smokers may consume greater quantities of both tar and carcinogenic hydrocarbons than do those who inhale filtered tobacco cigarettes. Heavy use of cannabis was also associated with wheezing, cough, and chest tightness, researchers found.

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<continued from previous page> However, investigators did not find a positive association between smoking cannabis and the development of emphysema (over-inflation of the air sacs in the lungs). Emphysema is the most common cause of death from respiratory disease in the United States.

Armentano said that cannabis consumers have long been aware that smoking marijuana cigarettes can irritate the lungs, but added that most of pot's potential health risks to the respiratory system may be eliminated by vaporization. "By heating marijuana to a temperature where active cannabis vapors form, but below the point of combustion, consumers significantly reduce their intake of gaseous combustion toxins, including carbon monoxide," he said.

Most recently, investigators at San Francisco General Hospital reported in the journal *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics* that the "vaporization of marijuana does not result in exposure to combustion gases, ... and is preferred by most subjects compared to marijuana cigarette." A previous clinical trial published in 2006 in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* reported that vaporization is "safe and effective" cannabinoid delivery system that "avoid[s] the respiratory disadvantages of smoking."

Armentano also affirmed that cannabis smoking is not positively associated with cancers of the lung, mouth, or upper aerodigestive tract (e.g., pharynx, larynx, or esophagus). In 2006, the results of the largest case-controlled study ever to investigate the respiratory effects of marijuana smoking reported that pot use was not associated with cancer, even among subjects who reported smoking more than 22,000 joints over their lifetime.

"While smoking cannabis may pose some minor respiratory risks to the user, these health risks are far less than those posed by tobacco smoking and may be significantly mitigated by engaging in vaporization as an alternative to smoking," Armentano concluded. "Unfortunately, cannabis prohibition greatly limits consumers access to such devices and impedes technological advancements in this area – subjecting users to respiratory risks that they would otherwise avoid." *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Additional information is available in the NORML White Paper, "Cannabis Smoke and Cancer: Assessing the Risk," available online at:*

http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=6891

Alcohol And Cocaine – But Not Cannabis – Linked To Violent Behavior, Study Says

Victoria, British Columbia (BC), Canada: Cannabis use is not independently associated with causing violence, according to the results of a multivariate analysis to be published in the journal *Addictive Behaviors*.

Investigators at the University of Victoria, Centre for Addictions Research assessed how frequently subjects in a substance abuse treatment facility reported using cocaine, alcohol, and/or cannabis in the hours immediately prior to committing a violent act. Researchers also evaluated subjects' personality for characteristics associated with violent behavior, such as risk-taking, impulsivity, and/or disrespect for the law.

Investigators concluded: "When analyses were conducted controlling for covariates, the frequency of alcohol and cocaine use was significantly related to violence, suggesting that pharmacological effects [of the drugs] may play a role in violence. Frequency of cannabis use, however, was not significantly related to violence when controlling for other factors."

The study's conclusions are similar to the findings of a pair of recent government reports refuting allegations that cannabis use triggers violent behavior. The first, published by the Canadian Senate in 2002, determined: "Cannabis use does not induce users to commit other forms of crime. Cannabis use does not increase aggressiveness or anti-social behavior."

The second review, published by the British Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, reported: "Cannabis differs from alcohol in one major respect. It does not seem to increase risk-taking behavior. This means that cannabis rarely contributes to violence either to others or to oneself, whereas alcohol use is a major factor in deliberate self-harm, domestic accidents and violence."

Most recently, a logistical regression analysis of approximately 900 trauma patients published in the *Journal of TRAUMA Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, determined that the use of cannabis is not independently associated with either violent or non-violent injuries requiring hospitalization. By contrast, alcohol and cocaine use are associated with violence-related injuries, the study found. *For*

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

<continued from previous page> more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Senior Policy Analyst, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Predicting violence among cocaine, cannabis, and alcohol treatment clients," will appear in the journal *Addictive Behaviors*. Additional audio commentary regarding this study is available on the August 15, 2007 broadcast of the NORML Audio Stash at: http://audio.norml.org/audio_stash/NORML_Daily_AudioStash_08_15_2007.mp3

World's Largest Annual Pot 'Protestival' Takes Its Place in History

Seattle, WA, USA: Event organizers are expecting nearly 150,000 attendees at this weekend's 16th annual Seattle Hempfest taking place this Saturday and Sunday at Myrtle Edwards Park in downtown Seattle. More than 70 speakers and 60 bands will participate on five stages during the two-day event, which is now recognized as the largest marijuana law reform gathering in the world.

Speakers at this year's event include NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, NORML Founder Keith Stroup, and PBS travel host and NORML Advisory Board Member Rick Steves, as well as NORML Board Members George Rohrbacher and Jeffrey Steinborn. Musical reggae artist Pato Banton will headline the festival.

The Seattle Hempfest is an all-volunteer effort and is free to attend. Donations are encouraged and attendees are urged to ride public transportation to the event.

For a complete schedule of this year's Seattle Hempfest speakers and events, please visit:

<http://www.hempfest.org>.

Warren Wilson College Named Top School For "Higher" Learning

New York, NY, USA: Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina is the nation's most marijuana-friendly campus, according to *The Princeton Review's* annual sourcebook, "The Best 366 Colleges," released this week. The report, which is based on candid survey results from 120,000 students nationwide, ranks hundreds of colleges in various categories such as academic achievement and quality of life.

Warren Wilson College topped Bard College (New York), the University of Vermont, the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Lewis & Clark College (Oregon) to emerge as this year's top school for "higher" learning. The US Air Force Academy ranked #1 on Princeton's "Top 20" list of least pot-friendly campuses.

Warren Wilson College was also ranked by *The Princeton Review* as one of the most politically active campuses in America.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500. *Princeton Review's* rankings are available online at:

<http://www.review.com/college/rankings.cfm>.

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month. And will be at Laughing Plant Café, 760 Blair, in Eugene ***
call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit:
<http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>