

News, Announcements and Information from

WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML



your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

2009 National NORML Conference; Yes We Cannabis!

Washington, DC: NORML's 38th annual national conference, "Yes We Cannabis," took place on Thursday, **September 24**, Friday, **September 25** and Saturday, **September 26** – at the Grand Hyatt in downtown **San Francisco**. Many people joined NORML's staff and Board of Directors – and over 500 policy activists, medical patients, cultivators, doctors, politicians, and clinical investigators – as they congregated and celebrated in one of America's most 'cannabis friendly' cities.

Panels at this year's conference include:

- ***Palliative and Curative Relief Through an Effective Herbal Medicine***
- ***The Zeitgeist of Legalization: Why and How Did This Happen?***
- ***Putting the Mexican Cartels Out of Business***

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YES WE CANNABIS
The 38th Annual NORML Conference

„..rethink and decriminalize.“

Don't everybody want to be
NORML.org

The 38th Annual National Conference
September 24-26 in San Francisco
www.norml.org/conference

Pot Arrests For Year 2008 Second Highest Total Ever Reported; "Heads" Now Comprise One-Half Of All US Drug Arrests

Washington, DC: Police arrested **847,864 persons** for marijuana violations in 2008, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime report.

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Supposed Marijuana-Schizophrenia Link Not Strong, Mainstream Media Reports

Washington, DC: A two-month-old study that found that increased cannabis use by the public has not been followed by a proportional rise in diagnoses of schizophrenia or psychosis is finally receiving mainstream press coverage.

"A British study has cast doubt on the supposed link between cannabis use and schizophrenia," the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported this week in a wire story carried throughout England and North America.

NORML had previously reported on the study's findings, which initially appeared online on the website of the journal *Schizophrenia Research*, on July 2.

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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!**

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- **Pot, Parenting, and Legalization**
- **Cannabis and Athleticism**
- **Has Support for Legalization Reached a Tipping Point?**
- **Marijuana as a Local, State, and Federal Revenue Stream**

Detailed information regarding registration, accommodations, speakers, and after-hours parties is available online at: <http://www.norml.org/conference>.

It was a unique opportunity to mingle with hundreds of other like-minded reformers in one of the most marijuana friendly settings in the world. They joined travel host and best-selling author **Rick Steves**, two-time Superbowl champ **Mark Stepnoski**, the self-proclaimed 'Mayor of Oaksterdam' **Richard Lee**, professional mixed martial arts champion **Toby 'Tiger Heart' Grear**, California Assemblyman **Tom Ammiano**, former professional wrestling superstar **Rob Van Dam**, former Seattle Police Chief **Norm Stamper**, Oakland City Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan**, *High Times Magazine* Cultivation Editor **Danny Danko**, former ESPN producer **Sean Neumann**, and hundreds more at this year's NORML national conference.

NORML's 38th Annual Conference: Strung Through The Heart

- By George Rohrbacher, NORML Board of Directors, medical marijuana patient

NORML's 38th annual conference in San Francisco, convened September 24-26, was the best attended, ever. Held at the Grand Hyatt, downtown, under classic San Fran weather conditions: 78 degrees and sunny, with the fog creeping up over the hills and a river of fog laying atop the water, streaming in from the ocean through the Golden Gate, sailboats, freighters...the sun-drenched surrounding hill...all of which was to be seen from the hotel's restaurant on the 36th floor.

Medicating could be done, down at street level, on the plaza surrounding the hotel. NORML's annual conference was held downstairs in the



Travel author Rick Steves, publisher and comedian Ngaio Bealum and others on the 'Pot, Parenting and Prohibition' panel

grand ballroom and adjoining meeting spaces.

Well, my brothers and sisters in the movement to legalize marijuana, we kicked ass this during this amazing weekend!

The caliber of the presenters and breath of topics @ NORML 38.0 was just astonishing; everything from martial artists using cannabis just before the fight for calming and focus, to how current tax court decisions are shaping the trend toward a wider range of services delivered to patients at dispensaries, to a deep and satisfying look into the science of the exceptional safety profile and utility of cannabis as a medicine. And, if you couldn't have been there in San Francisco with us, now for the very first time in history, you can attend conference from anywhere in the world, free, on the Internet, simply by visiting NORML's 38th conference broadcast.

I arrived in San Francisco early enough the day before Conference started to do the NORML "walk through" with Grand Hyatt hotel staff. My morning had started at home at 4:00am doing chores before the two-hour drive to the airport, then my flight to SFO and transport to the Hyatt, only to find out that I was one of the 57 attendees who were being bumped to other hotel properties for one night, because a nasty overbooking computer-glitch. The cynical among us made muffled comments that this "glitch" might have something to do with the US Customs Service/Homeland Security

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<continued from previous page> Conference in progress at the hotel the day of NORML's arrival. The overbooking problem ruffled a few feathers, but we got over it quickly and everyone with a reservation at conference was booked onsite by the end of the first day. The Grand Hyatt staff was awesome in dealing with the mess. And after all, really, how can you be in a bad mood anyway, you're in San Francisco at a NORML Conference???

A tiny case in point: on day 1 of Conference, during our 4:20 afternoon break, as several hundred of us medicated on the plaza, San Francisco's Thursday Green-Transportation Bike Protest, with police escort, pedaled by, a significant number of their ranks biking buck-naked...

As I lay in bed that night, finally in my rightful hotel room, my head a-buzz with all the people I'd talked to and some of the world's finest cannabis, I pondered why NORML Conference was so much fun, and why I had gotten such a huge emotional lift from the day's events. Sure, I was seeing old friends, making new ones, the common struggle and all of that...but as I continued to think about it, I realized that while those were all important elements of it, but they did not account for the power of what I was feeling.

Then it struck me! Just three weekends before NORML's Conference, over the Labor Day weekend, my wife and I had held our daughter's wedding on our ranch, with 70 campers and 120 guests for a sit-down dinner under a tent set up next to our home. We had the first rain in 14 weeks and rainbows the day of the ceremony. The feelings I was getting from the first day of NORML's Conference was something very much akin to those same feelings that welled up inside that big tent during my daughter's wedding. Yes. NORML, too, was a meeting of family, self-chosen family, the very tip of an iceberg, a worldwide network of people who, with cannabis, are strung through the heart.

The more I thought about all the people I'd talked to that first day, our wheelchair warriors, our intellectual samurai, our organizers at ground zero...the more I realized that almost to

a person, they were at NORML's 38th annual conference because there was a truth that must be told, a wrong that must be righted, sick people who must be cared for, the defenseless defended...they were there in San Francisco primarily because their hearts demanded it, their internal compass of right-and-wrong would accept no less. And, after all the many years of losing our battles, after 20 million marijuana arrests, the tide has started to turn...

We are winning on many fronts now...but, it is not over, there is so much left to do, please help. Join the fight; please join NORML, if you haven't done so already. And, I hope to see you at the 39th annual conference, next year.

For more information on this year's conference, please call (202) 483-5500 or register online at: <http://www.norml.org/conference>.

OCDLA's 'All Things Cannabis' Conference

Portland, OR, USA: The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) is still accepting registrations from criminal defense attorneys to attend its inaugural "All Things Cannabis" legal seminar, taking place this Friday, September 11 and Saturday September 12 at the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center in downtown Portland. The two-day, CLE-accredited event is sponsored by the OCDLA and the NORML Foundation.

Presentations at this weekend's conference include:

- **Cannabis Pre- and Postnatal: The Science of Prenatal Exposure and the State's Involvement Postpartum;**
- **The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program: What It Is, How to Access Records and Issues Related to Medical Cannabis and Parenting;**

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- **Defending DUI Cannabis Cases: Law, Trial Tactics, Pharmacology, DRE, and Urine Toxicology;** and
- **Let Us Pray: Religious Use Defense to Cannabis Prosecutions.**

Speakers at the event include **Allen St. Pierre**, NORML Executive Director; **Ethan Nadelmann**, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance; **Sandee Burbank**, Executive Director of Mothers Against Misuse & Abuse; and **Allison Guttu** of the National Advocates for Pregnant Women. *Conference agenda and registration information are available online at: <http://ocdla.org/>*

<continued from POT-HEAD ARRESTS, page 1 > The total marks a three percent *decrease* in marijuana arrests from 2007, when law enforcement arrested a record 872,721 Americans for cannabis-related violations, but still remains the second highest tally of annual arrests ever reported.

Pot Arrests

Marijuana arrests now comprise one-half (49.8 percent) of all drug arrests reported in the United States.

Of those charged with marijuana violations, approximately **89 percent**, 754,224 Americans were charged with possession only. The remaining 93,640 individuals were charged with "sale/manufacture," a category that includes all cultivation offenses, even those where the marijuana was being grown for personal or medical use.

Marijuana arrests were highest in the Midwest and southern regions of the United States, and lowest in the west.

The 2008 marijuana arrest total is the second highest annual total ever reported.

Commenting on the 2008 figures, NORML Director Allen St. Pierre said: "Federal statistics released just last week indicate that larger percentages of Americans are using cannabis at the same time that police are arresting a near-record number of Americans for pot-related offenses.

YEAR	MARIJUANA ARRESTS
2008	847,864
2007	872,721
2006	829,625
2005	786,545
2004	771,608
2003	755,187
2002	697,082
2001	723,627
2000	734,498
1999	704,812
1998	682,885
1997	695,200
1996	641,642
1995	588,963
1994	499,122
1993	380,689
1992	342,314
1991	287,850
1990	326,850

Present enforcement policies are costing American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars, ruining the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans, and having no impact on marijuana availability or

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<continued from previous page> marijuana use in this country. It is time to end this failed policy and replace prohibition with a policy of marijuana regulation, taxation, and education." NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano added, "According to a just-released Rasmussen poll, a majority of American adults believe, correctly, that marijuana is less harmful than booze. The public has it right; the law has it wrong."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

<continued from **SCHIZOPHRENIA**, page 1 > Investigators at the Keele University Medical School in Britain compared trends in marijuana use and incidences of schizophrenia in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2005. Researchers reported that the "incidence and prevalence of schizophrenia and psychoses were either stable or declining" during this period, even the use of cannabis among the general population was rising.

"[T]he expected rise in diagnoses of schizophrenia and psychoses did not occur over a 10 year period," authors concluded. "This study does not therefore support the specific causal link between cannabis use and incidence of psychotic disorders. ... This concurs with other reports indicating that increases in population cannabis use have not been followed by increases in psychotic incidence."

In 2007, media sources around the world reported that consuming cannabis boosted one's risk of developing a psychotic illness later in life by "40 percent."

Last month, Canadian government officials publicly alleged that marijuana users have a "seven-fold increase" in risk of developing schizophrenia.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Assessing the impact of cannabis use trends in diagnosed schizophrenia in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2005," appears in Schizophrenia Research.

20th Annual Boston Freedom Rally Takes Place

Boston, MA: The Massachusetts chapter of NORML (MassCann) held its 20th annual Freedom Rally on Saturday, September 19, at the Boston Common in downtown Boston. The annual event is the largest marijuana law reform gathering on the east coast.

Speakers at this year's event included: NORML Founder **Keith Stroup**, *High Times* Associate Publisher **Rick Cusick**, Miss New Jersey 2006 **Georgine DiMaria**, mixed martial arts champion **Toby 'Tiger Heart' Grear**, New Jersey NORML President **Chris Goldstein**, NH Common Sense Executive Director **Matt Simon**, NORML Outreach Coordinator **Russ Belville**, and Student for Sensible Drug Policy Northeast Outreach Director **Stacia Cosner**, and many others. Musical artists include **DJ Slim**, **Graveyard BBQ**, and **Prospect Hill**, among others.

MassCann NORML will also be held an awards banquet in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Friday, September 18.

For more information on the 20th annual Boston Freedom Rally, please visit: <http://www.bostonfreedomrally.com>.

Marijuana Imagery In Anti-Pot Ads Encourages Teen Cannabis Use, Study Says

Philadelphia, PA: Anti-drug public service announcements that feature teens using marijuana are less likely to dissuade viewers from experimenting with pot than are advertisements absent such images, according to survey data to be published in the journal *Health Communication*.

Investigators at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania assessed the attitudes of over 600 adolescents, aged 12 to 18, after viewing 60 government funded anti-marijuana service announcements. Specifically, researchers evaluated whether the presence of marijuana-related imagery in the ads (e.g., the handling of marijuana cigarettes or the depiction of marijuana smoking behavior) were more likely or less likely to discourage viewers' use of cannabis.

Messages that depict teens associating with cannabis are "significantly less effective than others," the researchers found.

"This negative impact of marijuana scenes is not reversed in the presence of strong anti-marijuana arguments in the ads and is mainly present for the group of adolescents who are often targets of such anti-marijuana ads (i.e., high-risk adolescents)," authors determined. "For this segment of adolescents, including marijuana scenes in anti-marijuana (public service announcements) may not be a good strategy."

Since 1998, Congress has appropriated over \$2 billion to fund anti-drug advertisements as part of the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Independent reviews of the campaign have determined that the ads fail to discourage viewers from trying marijuana or other drugs.

In 2006, a study published in the journal

Addictive Behaviors reported that teenagers who were most often exposed to the ad campaign were also most likely to hold positive attitudes about marijuana and were most likely to express their intent to use it.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "The effect of marijuana scenes in anti-marijuana public service announcements on adolescents' evaluation and effectiveness," appears in Health Communication.

Netherlands: Dutch Lawmakers May Limit Coffee-Shop Access

The Hague, Netherlands: Dutch Ministers are contemplating legislation to impose restrictions on who may legally visit and purchase cannabis at licensed 'coffee-shops,' according to a memorandum leaked to several international media sources on Wednesday.

According to the memo, Dutch lawmakers may introduce legislation that would limit access to the shops to 'members-only' Dutch citizens. Such 'members-only' restrictions are scheduled to begin on a trial basis this fall in the border city of Maastricht.

A legislative committee recommended in July that Dutch 'coffee-shops' begin catering to 'locals only.'

Under Dutch law, licensed business establishments may sell up to 5 grams of cannabis to patrons age 18 years or older. Proposed amendments to the law may limit future sales to 3 grams.

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



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

Rasmussen Poll: Majority Of Americans Say Marijuana Is Safer Than Booze

Ashbury Park, NJ: Slightly more than half of American adults believe that alcohol is "more dangerous" than marijuana, according to a national telephone poll of 1,000 likely voters by the polling firm Rasmussen Reports.

Fifty-one percent of respondents, including a majority of women, rated the use of marijuana to be less dangerous than alcohol. Only 19 percent of those polled said that cannabis is the more dangerous of the two substances.

Twenty-five percent of respondents said that both substances are equally dangerous.

Commenting on the poll results NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, co-author of the book *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink*, said: "By almost any objectively measurable standard, cannabis is safer than booze – both to the individual consumer and to society as a whole. However, given our government's longstanding demonization of the cannabis plant and its users it is remarkable that anyone – much less over half of America – recognizes this fact. Ideally, these survey results will spark a

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



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long-overdue dialogue in this country asking why our laws target and prosecute those who choose to possess and consume the less dangerous of these two popular substances."

A previous survey conducted by Zogby in 2002 reported that most Americans believe that cannabis is less dangerous than either alcohol or tobacco.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org.

* THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY (W-V) NORML NEWS REPORT > * P.O. BOX 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 * PH: (541) 517-0957 * EMAIL: newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org * OR VISIT: www.WillametteValleyNORML.org