



CANNABIS NEWS



No copyright. Please copy and distribute

Promoted, published and printed by

LCA, PO Box 2883, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 9EE
<http://www.lca-uk.org> lca@lca-uk.org

June 2007

GET ILL OR GET OUT!

Heartless Milecastle Housing Association are taking “Cannabis Gran” to court to be told to stop self-medicating with cannabis or face eviction from her long-time home in Humshaugh, Northumberland.



68-year-old Patricia Tabram was convicted of cultivation of cannabis in her home after a Carlisle Crown Court Jury was told to ignore all medical evidence. This was the second conviction for Mrs Tabram who claims to use about 0.1 grams daily (about 50 pence worth on the illegal market) to alleviate many unpleasant symptoms.

After her conviction, Milecastle Housing were advised by the police to go to court. There followed a series of letters to the Housing association boss, Bill Tebay, asking for clemency and consideration of Pat’s medical condition and age. Whilst nobody would argue that they have a clause in their contracts with tenants threatening eviction if crimes are carried out on the premises, few would accept that those clauses or in fact the Misuse of Drugs Act itself was meant to be used against pensioners using cannabis for medical relief. The Police and Heartless Tebay apparently disagree.

Here is the emotionless and unsympathetic response: they are basically telling Grannie Pat to stop using cannabis and get ill, or get out!

Thank you for your recent email concerning Mrs Patricia Tabram. I would like to make the following points regarding the use of drugs on our premises.

Milecastle Housing Ltd - as a registered social landlord - does not make criminal or civil law but it has a duty to take action when the law or conditions of tenancy have been breached.

I realise that views on the use of cannabis are diverse but the fact remains that its use is illegal and we are bound to act when we are aware of illegal practices in our homes.

We cannot make judgements on the level of the offence. However the non prescribed and uncontrolled use of any illegal drugs can be dangerous and failure to deal with this problem in any of our premises would send an irresponsible and inconsistent message to our tenants and other customers.

I can assure that, where similar situations occur, we would apply these principles to any of our tenants found to be in breach of their agreements.

We have made it very clear to Mrs Tabram that we do not wish to see her lose her home and continue to give her every opportunity to prevent this. Even if a court order is granted, eviction will be avoided if Mrs Tabram observes the conditions of her tenancy - the choice is hers.

We always try to find solutions to housing problems and difficulties but we are also prepared to take firm action whenever we feel it appropriate. Unless and until the law on cannabis in England changes, this is how we must continue to operate.

This response reflects our current position on the situation and I do not intend to enter into any further correspondence on the subject.

Bill Tebay, Managing Director

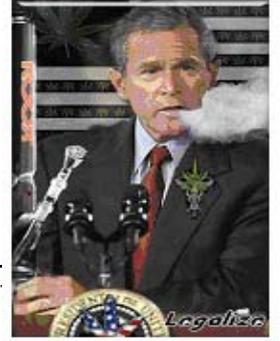
Mr Tebay says: “the choice is hers.”

We ask “WHAT CHOICE—the choice of get ill or get out?”

Please write an email to Mr Tebay through: Carol.West@milecastlehousing.co.uk



Cannabis news from around the world



Finland: Hemp making comeback

"It looks sparse now, but in the autumn there was such a jungle here that you couldn't get through", says farmer Ari Niemi.

Stalks of hemp about two metres high fill Niemi's field. The stems, which are nearly one centimetre thick, break easily. The dried plants are ready for harvesting.

A century ago the sight would have been a very ordinary one, as the fast-growing hemp was a very common agricultural plant in Finland. Nowadays the plant is familiar mainly from pictures of police operations, because the plant is the raw material for the drug cannabis.

Niemi's plants have a different purpose. The fibre hemp that he grows almost completely lacks the psychoactive component.

The fibre hemp is used as a source of energy. The crop in Valkeala is part of an experimental programme by Kotka Energy, where the company is cultivating hemp as a power source.

Kotka Energy has planted more than 30 hectares of hemp in different parts of the Kymenlaakso area. The results of the experiment, which began last year, are promising.

"Depending somewhat on where it is grown, it would seem to be an even better-yielding alternative", says Vesa Pirttilä of Kotka Energy.

The plant can be burned along with peat or wood chips. The energy from one hectare of hemp is enough to meet the energy needs of a single detached house for one year.

The biomass yield from hemp is up to twice that of reed canarygrass. Hemp is also better suited for burning in a power plant. However, it is not easy to draw far-reaching conclusions on the basis of one year's results, because last summer was exceptionally dry. Also, hemp has its disadvantages as well.

"Let's hope that the amount of rain in the summer is normal, so that we can see which way to develop energy from agriculture", Vesa Pirttilä says.

Helsingin Sanomat
First published in print 10.05.2007

Europe unites against cannabis in Istanbul

Damaris Kremida, Turkish Daily News, 14 May 2007

In an effort to fight against drugs European leaders meet in Turkey, one of Europe's major drug traffic hubs, to advocate a cannabis free world

The current international debate on cannabis zoomed in on Turkey, when last week European mayors and municipal leaders combating drug abuse gathered in Istanbul to lobby the U.S. government to continue its fight against the legalization of cannabis and discuss the challenges that drugs pose to their cities.

Turkey, straddling Asia and Europe, is a drug trafficking hub due to its strategic location on the 'Balkan Route' on which drugs are transported from Afghanistan to Europe, but also on the 'Synthetics Route' bringing synthetic drugs, such as amphetamines and ecstasy, produced in Europe to Saudi Arabia.

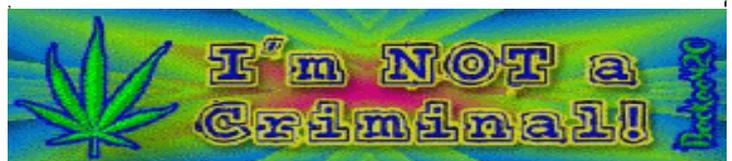
Last year the Turkish Police confiscated 23,884 kilograms of cannabis. The amount of hashish seized in Turkey between 2004 and 2006 increased by 63 percent.

When asked if the harmonization of laws with the European Union had improved the drug forecast for Turkey Hallberg said: "The EU has a long way to go in the fight against drugs. You cannot say there is an EU policy against drugs," explaining that this was due to the varied laws in different countries.

The United States drug czar John Walters said at the ECAD conference held last week that the international drug problem has gone from enormous growth to containment, thanks to international cooperation, more of which is needed. He underlined, however, that although there was broad consensus against the dangers of cocaine, synthetic drugs, and heroin, "one area we have not had consensus is cannabis."

Walters accused the Soros Foundation of undermining the policies of anti-drug organizations by funding a worldwide campaign to legalize cannabis claiming it is not worth fighting against.

The conference was organized by ECAD representing mayors and other local officials in 250 municipalities located in 27 countries. It is leading organization in Europe promoting a drug free continent. Istanbul Municipality joined ECAD in 2005



UK MEDIA IN GRIP OF REEFER MADNESS!

It's my 40th birthday this year and exactly 2 months after I was born The Times ran a front page advertisement entitled "The law against marijuana is immoral in principle and unworkable in practice". This advertisement, sponsored by "SOMA", a company then being formed to "examine without prejudice the scientific, medical, legal, moral and philosophical aspects of heightened mental awareness, with special reference to the effects of pleasure-giving drugs", gave an argument for legalisation along with medical opinion and petition to the Home Office for a five point programme of cannabis reform. SOMA was reportedly funded by the likes of the Beatles and others who signed this petition. The names include many prominent figures of the day, such as David Bailey, David Dimbleby, Jonathan Miller, MPs, Doctors and all four Beatles.

I don't know what happened to SOMA, but I know that forty years on we've got headlines like;

"Cannabis granny threatened with eviction" – The Telegraph 21/03/07.

"Scientists warn of cannabis "timebomb"" – The Times 24/03/07

"Skunk killed my beloved son" – Telegraph 26/03/07

"Were we out of our minds? No, but then came skunk" – Indy on Sunday 18/03/07

"Skunk-addicted schizophrenic fulfils sick fantasy by killing a black woman" – The Telegraph 03/04/07

and on and on and on.....

Is this a sign of prohibitionists on the ropes? Clutching at straws to try and convince people that they are right? We think so.

SO PLEASE WRITE A LETTER!

As the media is obsessed with cannabis, it's a good time to write a letter to the press; why not try your local press? In my experience letters pages are often undersubscribed and you will see the same names writing again and again. If there is a cannabis related story in your local paper, write a letter about the injustice and the hypocrisy of UK drug law. Let's make use of this cannabis obsession to get our points across.

There are lots of ideas on the LCA forums at www.lca-uk.org/lcaforum. See "Published letters and articles" where you'll find a "pointers" thread for tips on how to construct your letter along with loads of examples from which you can take whatever you like and re-use. If you have the facility, you can "cut and paste" any of the text (or just copy it out) and use it in your own letters.

You'll enjoy seeing your views in print and I know from my own experience that you will get people talking and help to change the public's view of this much maligned and much beloved plant.

LCA MERCHANDISE

To help with fund-raising and awareness, we have a number of items for sale;

Books including;

LCA Manifesto: Cannabis Legalise and Utilise £5

Howard Marks: An Autobiography £5

Badges 50p each (5 for £2)

Legalise Cannabis Alliance

No Victim No Crime

Stickers 10p each (12 for £1)

Legalise Cannabis Alliance

No Victim No Crime

Cannabis Leaf Pendants £3.

LCA Keyrings 50p. Various styles including;

No Victim No Crime

Probably the best plant in the world

Fuel Paper Fibre Food Medicine: Educate Yourself

Grandma Pat

Order via the forum at www.lca-uk.org/lcaforum or send a cheque or postal order payable to LCA to LCA, PO Box 2883, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 9EE. Please include at least 50p to cover post & packing.

WHY NOT BUY YOUR ROLLING PAPERS & TIPS FROM THE LCA?

If you can't afford (or don't want) any merchandise why not at least buy your smoking gear from us? No more looking over your shoulder at the local newsagent when you ask for king size papers!

See the website for our great £10 package deals.

LCA Mobile Phone Recycling Scheme 2007

We want your old business and personal mobile phones

Did you know there are over 100 million mobile phone's lying redundant around the UK offices and homes in draws, desks and cupboards?

99% of all old mobile phones can be reused or be refurbished to be reused

DO NOT THROW AWAY

Every phone carries a financial reward that could help The Legalise Cannabis Alliance.

The LCA has NO paid staff - relying on donations and fund-raising methods like recycling to pay for the campaigning for legalisation and utilisation of.

Please place your phones in a jiffy bag and send to:

FREEPOST, ShP Solutions Lancaster LA1 1NN.

Make sure you place your details inside the envelope STATING CLEARLY that the phones are supporting "**The Legalise Cannabis Alliance**".

AMSTERDAM PUSH

The LCA have designed some pre-printed postcards addressed to the Prime Minister which we'd love to send out to anyone going on a holiday to Holland.

The card has a lovely botanical cannabis picture on the front and a message to No 10 on the reverse.

All you need to do is sign it, stick a stamp on and post it.

Once we get enough response we will go ahead and print the postcards.

Please let us know if you, or any of your friends, are off to Holland and would like to send one of the postcards.

Contact us at the usual address or via the forum.

LCA @ THE UK HEMP AND HYDRO EXPO 5th-7th May 2007.

We were lucky again this year to have a stand donated by Phil and the Wacky Team at the Hemp & Hydro Expo at Telford—a big thank you.

We had four main aims for the weekend:

1. To sign up as many new members as possible at a special rate of £10.
 2. To get everyone who visits the stand (and is eligible) to sign our petition "Challenging the Criminal Justice System".
 3. To sell merchandise and collect donations to help fund printing, distribution and campaign costs.
- To share information and give away leaflets about cannabis (hemp), it's uses, the law and why we need to change it.

New Members.

We employed two lovely young ladies in LCA logo'd-up outfits to mingle with the crowds and invite people to join us. Including the 6 people who signed-up at the stand, 33 new people signed-up .

The Petition.

We got 249 valid new names on "The Challenge" petition. Total now stands at **2754**.

Fund Raising.

People were generous with donations of small change in our collecting tins. Many thanks to the other stall holders who kindly had our collection tin on their stands, particularly the guys at THC4MS and Highlife Hookahs.

Information Sharing.

I guess this is where we were most successful. Information should be free and many, many people took advantage of the array of leaflets we were giving away.

Overall it was a successful and very enjoyable weekend. Lots of lessons were learned about how to set things up and who to get involved. Financially we just about broke even, once we've covered all costs including paying the girls, the outfits, cost of sales and cost of printing and distribution. Obviously we would have liked to do better financially, but at least we didn't lose money.

One thing I noticed over the three days was that, even at times when there weren't many people around, there was always a huddle of people at the LCA stand..

