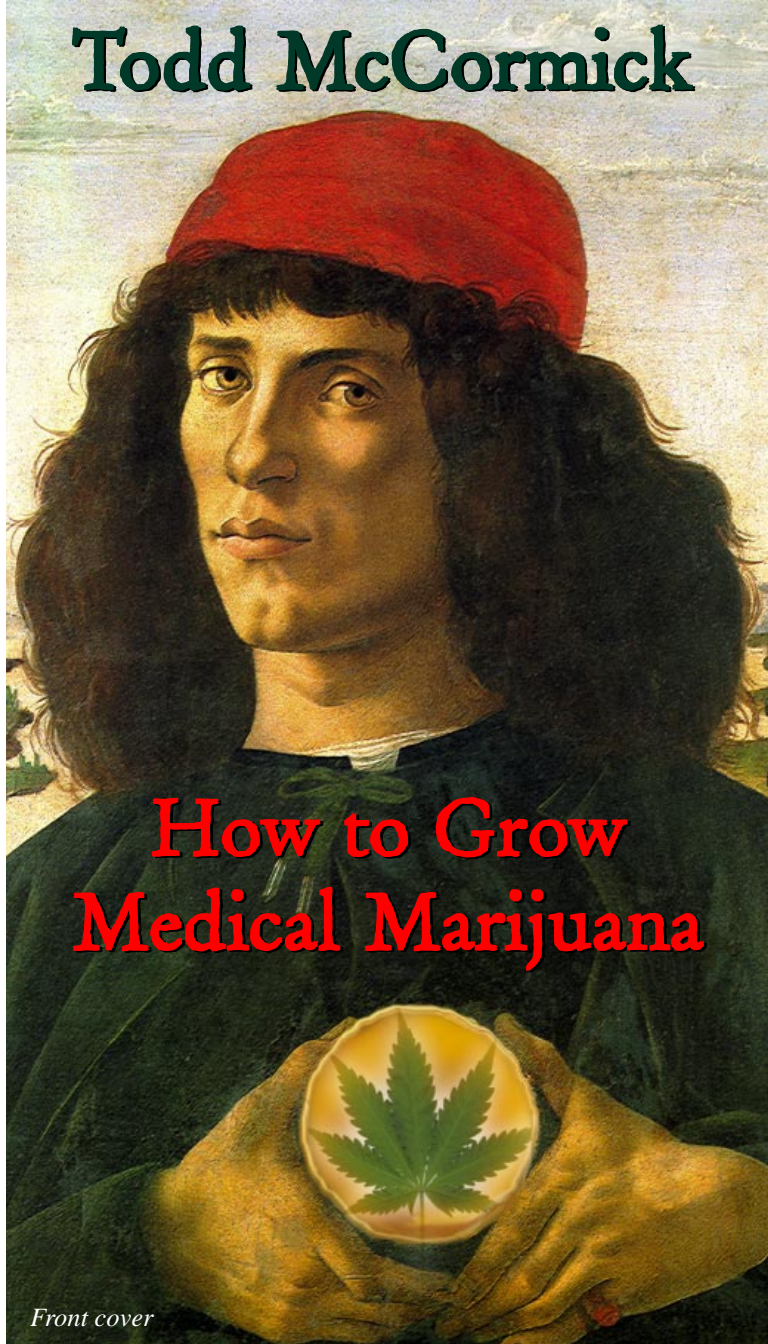


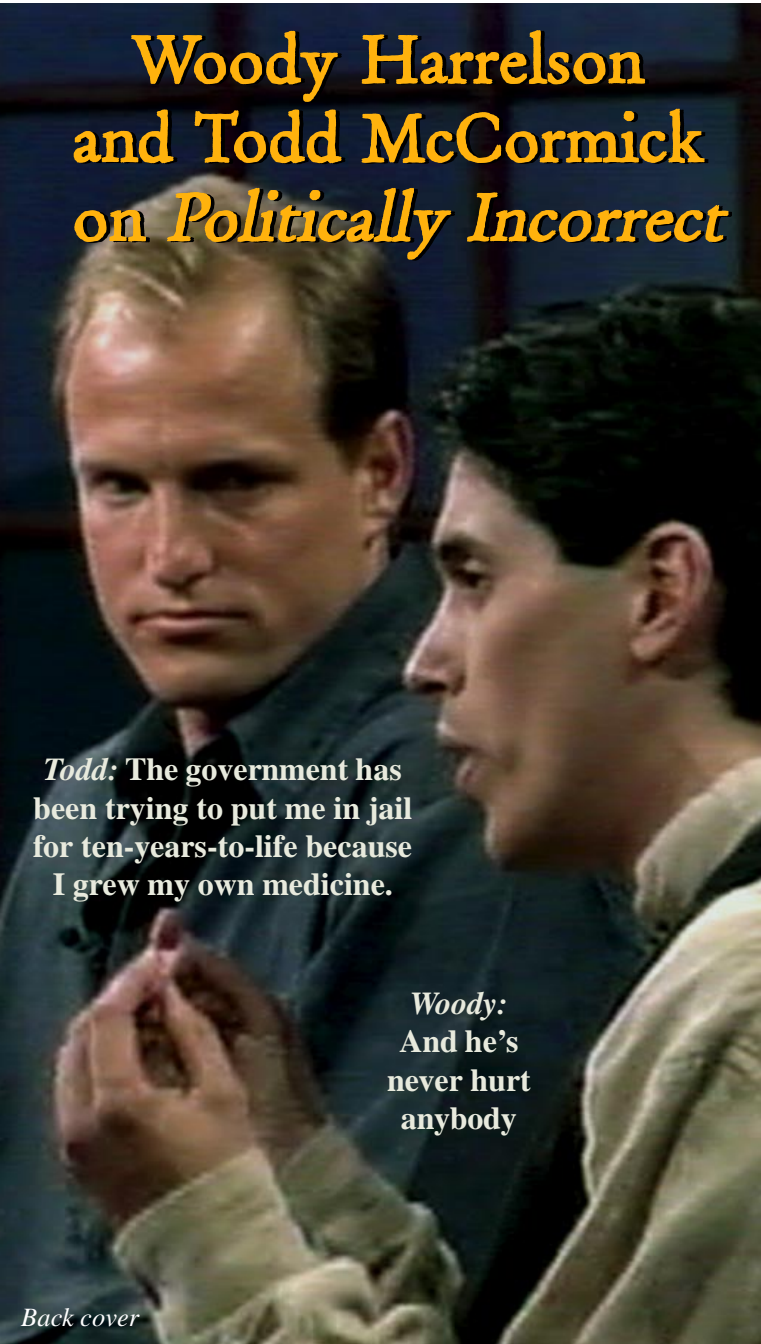
Todd McCormick

How to Grow Medical Marijuana

Front cover



Woody Harrelson and Todd McCormick on *Politically Incorrect*



Todd: The government has
been trying to put me in jail
for ten-years-to-life because
I grew my own medicine.

Woody:
And he's
never hurt
anybody

**Todd McCormick
may spend
the rest of his life in prison
for researching this book**

On July 29, 1997, Todd McCormick was arrested by the DEA for growing (“manufacturing”) medical marijuana in his own home, in California, after the passage of Proposition 215 that specifically permitted medical marijuana “cultivation.”

McCormick faces a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence (possibly life) and a \$4,000,000 fine.

*All you need to know
are a few basics.*

*First, there are
male and female plants.
The substance that gives
marijuana its famous
psychoactive kick
is concentrated in the
flowers or buds of the females.
So when they're old enough
to tell them apart,
kill the males.*

*Two, give your plants
plenty of light
and not too much water.*

P_{PETER} **J**_{JENNINGS}
*ABCs News Special
“Pot of Gold”
1997, rebroadcast 1998*

(The last time we checked, Peter Jennings had
not been arrested by the DEA for his research.)

*The greatest service
which can be rendered
any country
is to add
a useful plant
to its culture.*

THOMAS **J**EFFERSON

How to Grow Medical Marijuana

by Todd McCormick

Design, editing, and Introduction by Peter McWilliams

© 1998 by Medical Marijuana Press
8159 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90046

*Make the most of the hempseed,
sow it everywhere.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON

This book is dedicated to:

*The Sun and Mother Nature for conspiracy to cultivate
medical marijuana.*

All the world's innocent criminals .

*Those being sought after and prosecuted while utiliz-
ing and cultivating this planet's most valuable natural
resource.*

*Someday understanding will come about, laws will
change and Mother Nature's most precious gift and its
users will be released from tyranny.*

*To forbid
or even seriously restrict
the use of so holy
and gracious a herb
would cause widespread
suffering and annoyance,
and to large bands of
worshipped ascetics,
deep-seated anger.*

*It would rob the people
of a solace in discomfort,
of a cure in sickness,
of a guardian whose
precious protection
saves them from the attacks
of evil influences...*

*Like his Hindu brother,
the Musalman fakir
reveres Bhang
as the lengthener of life,
the freer from the bonds of self.*

*Bhang brings union
with the Divine Spirit.*

*“We drank Bhang and
the mystery I am
grew plain.
So grand a result,
so tiny a sin.”*

J.M. CAMPBELL

*Note on the Religion of Hemp
British Indian Hemp Drugs
Commission Report
1839-1894*

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*It is unnatural
to make a plant illegal.*



INTRODUCTION

Who Is Todd McCormick?

“Todd McCormick had cancer nine times before he was ten.” That’s the journalistic shorthand for what happened to Todd McCormick.

The longhand truth is far worse.

Starting at the age of two, McCormick had a series of tumors known as Histiocytosis X. Now science knows this to be a benign tumor of childhood that usually goes away on its own. When Todd McCormick was two, unfortunately, medical science treated Histiocytosis X as a malignant cancer requiring aggressive treatment. This included chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery—all of which were inflicted on young Todd nine times between the ages of two and ten.

Research on the therapeutic use of marijuana should be treated with the same high standards for scientific research required of any other drug with a high potential for abuse. The existing FDA-NIH-DEA process ensures that decisions regarding Investigational New Drug applications are based on their scientific merits. Any departure from this established process is a breach of the public trust that all Americans rely upon to safeguard the quality of our world class medical system.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL
DRUG CONTROL POLICY

*(McCaffrey's Lair.)
Statement on Marijuana
for Medical Purposes,
six days after Todd's arrest,
August 4, 1997*

Thanks to improper medical treatment—not cancer—Todd has the top five vertebra of his spine surgically fused together and has one hip frozen by radiation the size of an eight-year-old boy. A specialist who had studied the adult Todd's X-rays but had never met Todd was shocked to find that Todd was not permanently confined to a wheelchair.

For over a decade the medical profession, through a mistake—an honest mistake, a government-approved mistake, but a mistake nonetheless—made Todd unnecessarily and permanently disabled. In addition, the treatment more than likely has shortened his life.

Now the government that sanctioned Todd's mutilation as "FDA-approved proper medical procedure" want to put him in jail for the rest of his life for attempting to treat his pain brought on by governmental incompetence. And, adding insult to injury, the government tells us it is doing this to "protect the children."

Where was the government when Todd was two and in need of some protection?

As you can see, the whole story is a little long for the lead in most newspapers, so it became shortened to, "Todd McCormick had cancer nine times before he was ten."

Todd and I met at the end of 1996 while I was researching a book on medical marijuana. AIDS and cancer in March 1996, and the nausea brought on by the treatment of same, convinced



Unusually in the plant kingdom, medical marijuana has both male (top) and female (bottom) plants.

me of marijuana's medicinal effectiveness. If I lived, I told myself, I would not rest until medical marijuana was available to every sick person in America who needed it. I lived, but I'm a long way from my goal. But back to late 1996.

What a treasure trove of information is Todd McCormick! Self-medicating with Todd is a university education in *Cannabis sativa*. Not only was he clearly an expert grower, he was also working on determining which strains of marijuana worked best for individual medical conditions.

Todd explained that medical marijuana is one of the most advanced and versatile plants in the entire Plant Kingdom. Marijuana has a male plant and a female plant—very rare in botany. Most plants have both sexes in the same plant.

Because there are two sexes, medical marijuana can be bred, the offspring taking on the characteristics of both mama and papa. In more than 5,000 years of human medical use, this breeding has led to an almost uncountable (more than 30,000, at least) variations in the medical marijuana plant.

Todd's goal was and is to identify which strains (variations) best treat which illnesses.

For example, some medical marijuana is known for deep bodily relaxation. These strains are good for people with muscle spasms, chronic bodily tension, and pain. Other medical marijuana, however, produces the purely mental responses of alertness, clarity, and creativity. These strains might be best for nausea, depression, and pain.

Yes, pain relief appears on both lists, as pain relief is one of the many medical benefits of marijuana that appear in just about every strain, except for certain hemp strains in which all medicinal value has been bred out.

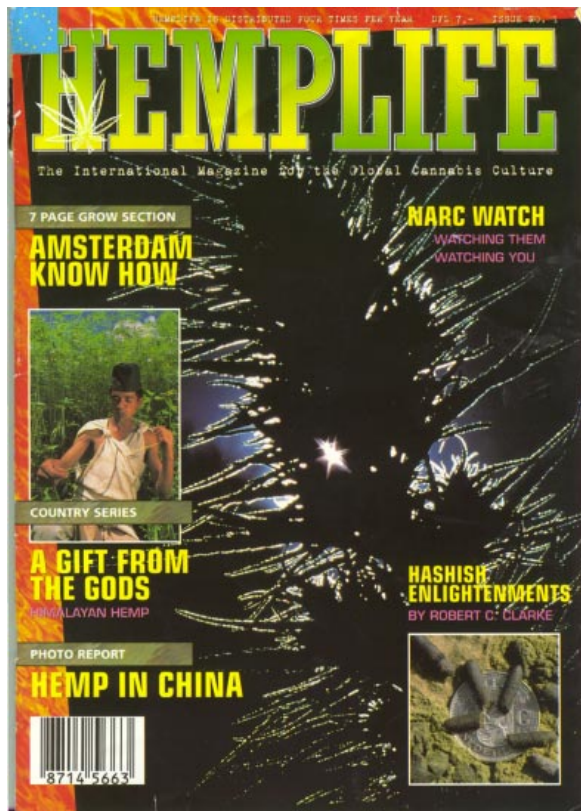
Medical marijuana has the unique ability to filter out pain—either emotional or physical—but allow pleasure and the sense of touch to come through. This was scientifically confirmed in October 1997 by a report from the Society for Neuroscience.

(Please see the *Medical Marijuana Magazine Online*, www.marijuanamagazine.com for more details on this report and other medical uses of marijuana.)

Todd had edited a magazine called *HempLife* in Holland. He had hoped to start a United States edition, but I persuaded him to write a book first.

I gave Todd an advance and he used it to rent the ugliest house in Bel Air, dubbed by the press Medical Marijuana Mansion, but known to Todd's friends as Liberty Castle. It was built to resemble a castle; a castle made of stucco. Nuveau mediaeval, I called it. It had as much charm as Janet Reno.

There, awash with Reno Rococo, Todd set up his research facility. He gathered dozens of strains of marijuana. The house became an ad hoc university of medical marijuana—cultivation being but one of many subjects discussed. Everyday all day there were new sick people or caregivers for sick people and Todd would enthusiastically



This is the magazine Todd edited, and yet the federal government refuses to acknowledge him as a writer. The image on the cover is the shadow of a medical marijuana with a near-solar eclipse behind.



Todd in one of several completely unnecessary body casts he would wear throughout his childhood. Photographs by Ann McCormick.

answer all questions. Todd credits marijuana with his life, so he is highly sympathetic to those in medical need.

Todd's mother started giving him medical marijuana for the nausea of chemotherapy and radiation when Todd was nine. Todd feels he never would have survived that bout with chemotherapy—his eighth—without medical marijuana. Kids on his ward were dying of malnutrition and dehydration brought on by nausea, yet Todd retained a healthy appetite and—as importantly, he thinks—a healthy attitude.

His mother couldn't tell the other mothers in the 'cancer ward—if word got out she was giving a nine-year-old marijuana they would have taken Todd from her, as well as her other two children, one of whom has Down's syndrome.

On July 29, 1997—after an exhaustive five-day investigation and using a California search warrant obtained by intentionally concealing from a judge that Todd was an outspoken medical marijuana patient and, therefore, legal under Proposition 215—the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Narcotics Bureau raided Todd's home.

Fifty agents, armed and in flack jackets, stormed the house as though they were capturing San Juan Hill—or, more accurately, the compound in Waco, Texas.

They found no money, no evidence of drug sales, just Todd's research material—every plant carefully botanically labeled with white identifi-



My style of gardening.

cation tags the government claimed were used to indicate the intended buyer of the plant.

Completely ignoring Todd's plea to just seize the plants but not destroy them, DEA & company hacked to death genetic strains that may not exist anywhere else in the world. Todd had one plant that had been continuously alive since 1976.

Gone, all gone.

Todd was then charged with "manufacturing a controlled substance" and faces life in federal prison—mandatory-minimum ten-year sentence—and a \$4 million fine. "They want to put my son in jail for gardening!" Todd's mother said on hearing the news.

Bail was set at an outrageous \$500,000. (Murder suspects are released on \$50,000 bonds all the time). Todd's friend, Woody Harrelson, rode to the rescue just like a movie hero and put up the money to bail Todd out. Way to go, Woody.

A year later, Todd has not gone to trial. The government, it seems, is not happy with a simple "manufacturing" count. The Federal Grand Jury refused to indite Todd on "distribution" or even "possession with intent to distribute." Rebuffed (something the government is not accustomed to before Federal Grand Juries, who have been referred to by many legal experts as "rubber stamps"), the government has spent the past year looking for a juicier "conspiracy" count.

If you and I are in a room alone and I say to you, "Let's grow medical marijuana and sell it,"



On the way out, the DEA wished me a nice day. Hurricane Janet's wake, as reported by ABC News on John Stossel's Sex, Drugs & Consenting Adults. (Online at www.marijuanamagazine.com)

and you say, "Sure," in that moment, without making a single move to do anything about our decision, both of us are guilty of conspiracy. "Conspiracy to manufacture a controlled substance," "conspiracy to possess a controlled substance," "conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance," and so on. Under current law, for our simple conversation, we could spend the rest of our lives in jail.

Because of my book advance, which Todd used to finance his project, the DEA and the IRS have been trying for more than a year to prove that I am the lead conspirator, a drug kingpin, the head of the Medical Marijuana Mafia, commander-in-chief of the Medical Marijuana Malitia, and mastermind behind the Medicin  Cartel. If found guilty of conspiracy, I'd be confined to a federal prison for life which, considering my AIDS and the medical treatment available in federal prison, would not be a long one.

On December 17, 1997, nine DEA/IRS agents came into my home, handcuffed me, and spent three hours going through every piece of paper in my house. They clearly weren't looking for drugs. They took away my computer containing two years worth of unpublished work, including several books on medical marijuana and a book critical of the DEA. (This has since turned into three books critical of the DEA.)

Meanwhile, in exchange for "information" and testimony, one of the largest marijuana growers in Southern California—who shall remain

PROPOSITION 215 COMPASSIONATE USE ACT OF 1996

Section 1. Section 11362.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

11362.5. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Compassionate Use Act of 1996.

(b) (1) The people of the State of California hereby find and declare that the purposes of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 are as follows:

(A) To ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician who has determined that the person's health would benefit from the use of marijuana in the treatment of cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine, or any other illness for which marijuana provides relief.

(B) To ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not subject to criminal prosecution or sanction.

(C) To encourage the federal and state governments to implement a plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients in medical need of marijuana.

(2) Nothing in this act shall be construed to supersede legislation prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that endangers others, nor to condone the diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no physician in this state shall be punished, or denied any right or privilege, for having recommended marijuana to a patient for medical purposes.

(d) Section 11357, relating to the possession of marijuana, and Section 11358, relating to the cultivation of marijuana, shall not apply to a patient, or to a patient's primary caregiver, who possesses or cultivates marijuana for the personal medical purposes of the patient upon the written or oral recommendation or approval of a physician.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "primary caregiver" means the individual designated by the person exempted under this act who has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that person.

Sec. 2. If any provision of this measure or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the measure which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this measure are severable.

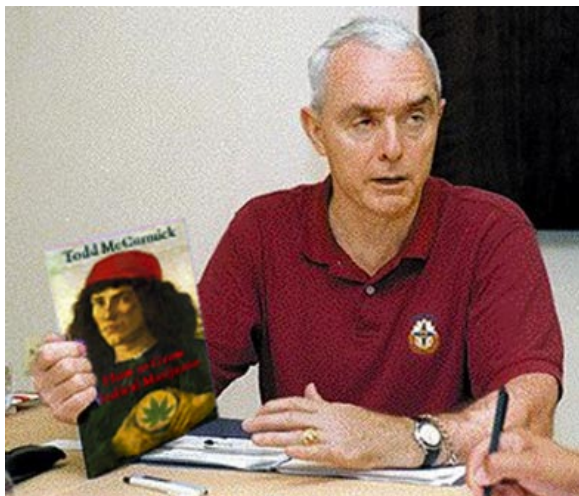
nameless, for now—continues to operate with the full knowledge of both the federal government and the California Attorney General, Dan Lungren. (Lungren, who also appointed himself state Drug Czar, has not stopped going after medical marijuana growers and distributors considerably smaller than this informant's.)

People ask, looking back on the endless attacks on California medical marijuana patients that have occurred since Todd's arrest, "Why did any of you do what you did? Were you all crazy?"

The answer is, yes, we were (and continue to be) crazy but, no, we were not insane. There were several practical reasons in March 1997, when Todd set up his research facility, to think medical marijuana patients growing their own medicine in California was perfectly legal.

First, there was Proposition 215, now the California Compassionate Use Act of 1996, passed by an overwhelming majority in November 1996. More Californians voted for Proposition 215 than voted for Bill Clinton in the same election. The Proposition permitted medical marijuana patients and their caregivers to "cultivate" medical marijuana.

Second, it was the duty of California's Attorney General, Dan Lungren, to challenge Proposition 215 in court if he felt it legally improper. Lungren did not do this. Indeed, California's Attorney General said it was all right to break federal law and grow "1 to 2 plants". (You can grow one plant, you can grow two plants, but how on Earth



"I don't believe in banning books, except for books I don't like, or books that make fun of me. I...uh...what was I talking about? I had...um...a little too much to drink last night. You know...uh...how it is. The...um...old 'second bottle syndrome.' What was I saying?"

can you possibly grow "1 to 2 plants"? Besides, even if AG Lungren didn't like medical marijuana, the Constitution of California said "It shall be the duty of the Attorney General to see that the laws of the State are uniformly and adequately enforced." That, and other admonitions of the California Constitution, we thought, would keep the AG in line. That is, we were foolish enough to believe Dan Lungren would follow the Constitution of the State of California.

Third, our national Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, had pulled back from his initial assault on California's medical marijuana users after a federal court in San Francisco told him in early 1997 to leave physicians alone. McCaffrey, having taken a beating in both the court and the press over medical marijuana, commissioned in February 1997 a \$1 million study from the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (NAS/IOM) and distanced himself completely from, as he called it, "the medical marijuana issue." When asked a question about medical marijuana, he would turn it aside with, "It is in the hands of science, and scientists will decide." (We'll see what he has to say in December 1998 when the NAS/IOM report is published.)

Fourth, the press discussed the medical use, sale, and cultivation of marijuana as a commonplace event. *The New York Times Magazine* featured a cover story on how well law enforcement and medical marijuana suppliers were getting along—cooperating, even—to honor the will of



Hemp harvest, from an old photograph.



Drug War harvest, from an old photograph.

the people of California in getting medicine to the sick. The press portrayed an easy truce, growing into trust, between patients, caregivers, and law enforcement. Although arrests for marijuana continued unabated (one every 48 seconds in the United States), arrests for medical marijuana in California were, it seemed, a thing of the past.

Since Todd's July 1997 arrest, of course, New York *Times* headlines are more likely to read, *Four California Mayors Ask Clinton to Stop Marijuana Club Suit*, (March 22, 1998) about the civil—not criminal—lawsuits filed by the federal government against six California compassion clubs; or this headline from May 26, 1998, *Defiant Marijuana Club Closed in Sheriff's Raid*, about California Attorney General Lungren's Holy Crusade to personally destroying the San Francisco Buyer's Club. (He succeeded, over the strong objections of San Francisco's chief health officer, District Attorney, and Mayor.)

Finally, there had not been a single medical marijuana arrest in California—on the federal or state level—for eight months following the November 1996 passage of Proposition 215. Todd's arrest in July 1997 was the first federal medical marijuana arrest since 215.

I was emboldened to put in a garden myself. I felt like Florence Nightingale and George Washington Carver combined. I had 300 plants. As you shall learn in detail in this book, each plant produces 7 to 10 grams of medical marijuana, or three plants to the ounce. As I used medical marijuana



This tray hold 98 “cuttings” or “clones.” Each of these 98 cuttings the DEA considers a fully grown marijuana plant—and so does federal law.



Here’s Todd, watering his plants. The visible portion of the top two rows in this picture contain almost 600 plants. Can you see why Todd having 4,000 plants is not as dramatic as the DEA likes to make it sound? (Both of these photographs will return later in the book with more grow-orientated captions.)

at the rate of two ounces per week, the 100 ounces from my garden would last me a year.

It’s hard to imagine now, but for one brief shining moment, we were in Camelot.

It was brief, all right. The Liberty Castle lasted less than four months. It could have been a beacon of healing, comfort, and learning. Instead, a year later, it stands empty. The owner can neither sell it nor lease it. No one, it seems, has a use for the place but Todd.

Todd’s life is his work, his work being the education about and propagation of an herb he personally knows to ease suffering and save lives.

Todd is a good person on an important mission. Todd has a compassionate heart. He also has a body broken by government incompetence—the same government that wants to put him in prison for treating the pain that the government inflicted on him in the first place; the same government that has prevented him from using his medicine of choice for a year now, and so he suffers daily.

And Todd is but one example of what the War on Drugs hath wrought.

In going through material about Todd to write this Introduction, I came across the transcript for *Politically Incorrect* the night Todd appeared as a guest. The host and creator of the show, the marvelous Bill Maher, dedicated the entire show to one topic, medical marijuana.

I thought there was no better way to introduce Todd than to print the verbatim transcript of

the show.

The other guests were Woody Harrelson, coming on the show to backup his buddy, Todd; Dr. Drew Pinsky, most often seen on MTV telling callers masturbation is okay as long as they wear a condom; and the leader of a band called Dixie Chicks, Natalie Maines.

I am certain Ms. Maines is a fine musician and composer, and to name her band Dixie Chicks shows that she's just as gritty as heck, but Ms. Maines, unfortunately, is a perfect example of what the DARE program produces—young people with “facts” about drugs that are entirely wrong.

Dr. Pinsky's character you will discover for yourself. In the beginning, you'll see, he keeps returning to the fact that Histiocytosis X is not a cancer, therefore Todd is not really a cancer patient. Dr. Pinsky keeps pressing this point as though he were revealing “the goods” about Todd.

Todd, as you shall see, handles himself very well during this medical Inquisition. In fact, Todd's passion, clarity, and wisdom got him invited to be on Dr. Pinsky's radio show, where for two hours Todd was treated by Dr. Pinsky with considerable respect—some might say admiration.

Todd's ability to work such medical miracles is why Todd is so hated by the government.

Todd tells the truth about medical marijuana; the government tells only lies. Todd can communicate about medical marijuana; the government is as eloquent as Barry McCaffrey. Todd knows



Planting Potatoes



“You’re working in the prison garden because you grew your own medicine? You’re shittin’ me?”

how to grow medical marijuana; the government knows, too, but it ain’t writin’ any books about it.

Todd has.

I am happy to risk life in prison for the honor of saying, “I was Todd McCormick’s first publisher.”

—Peter McWilliams

July 21, 1998

P.S. Two days after completing this Introduction, I was arrested by the federal government as the kingpin in a conspiracy, with Todd, to grow and sell marijuana. I spent one month in federal custody while my mother and brother put up their houses to raise the \$250,000 bail. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, the way America treats her sick people, she doesn’t deserve to have any.

The informants were revealed by the federal government in its papers as Scott Imler and two of his employees, both named Jeff, at the Los Angeles Cannabis Club, now the Los Angeles Cannabis Resource Center. In exchange for government immunity, they testified against Todd and myself. Their operation is still open, the only cannabis club in California that has been completely free of government intervention.



“As always, satirized for your protection.”

***Transcript of
Politically Incorrect
May 15, 1998***

Bill: Hi, I'm Bill Maher, and tonight we're going to dedicate the program to California's Proposition 215, which says that Californians can use marijuana for pain. It's only a coincidence that it was enacted the same year as the Fleetwood Mac reunion.

[Laughter]

California says it's the law. The Federal Government says it isn't. So they split the difference, it's legal, but if you do it, you're going to jail.

[Laughter]

Well, tonight my guests are an addiction specialist, a marijuana activist, a country and western singer and a movie star. Me? I'm just here to make sure it's all fair, and partial, and as always, satirized for your protection.

[Cheers and applause]

Bill: Let us meet our panel on our special show. He's an actual medical physician and the host of MTV'S *Loveline*, Dr. Drew Pinsky. One of the country's most controversial medical marijuana activists, Todd McCormick. Her band is Dixie Chicks, her CD is *Wide Open Spaces*, Natalie Maines. And finally, this guy's an activist for a lot of causes. He dabbles in acting. Woody Harrelson came by.

[Cheers and applause]

Well, as you probably know, tonight, it's pretty much a one-topic show because we have one of the, as I said in the introduction, a leading medical marijuana activist here, that is Todd McCormick. And medical marijuana has been a hot-button issue, not only in this state, but all across this country. It was passed here in something called Proposition 215. I believe it was the November '96 election where the people of this state said, by a pretty sound majority, that they believe that if you are suffering from cancer, is usually what they use it for, and marijuana helps, you can have this drug available to you. Well, Todd has been testing this and has pretty much landed his ass in jail for doing it.

[Laughter]

And I know you guys [indicating Dr. Pinsky and Natalie] are against this, so I just want to start this discussion and say, this poor guy has had cancer since—how old were you?



“One of the country's most controversial medical marijuana activists, Todd McCormick.”



Todd: “Medical marijuana gave me a regained appetite. It gave me a better mental clarity. It made me feel better. It improved the way I felt about life.”

Todd: Since I was two. Ten times.

Bill: Since you were two?

Todd: Since I was two.

Bill: And at some point, your mother gave you a joint, and you said it relieved all the pain?

Todd: It was amazing. Actually, I was nine years old. I had cancer in soft tissue between my left lung and my heart. I was given six months to live. As a last-ditch effort, my mother gave me some marijuana. She'd read in *Good Housekeeping* and thought it might help.

Bill: In *Good Housekeeping*?

Todd: Of all things. Yeah, yeah.

Bill: Are you serious?

Todd: In the doctor's column, yeah.

Bill: In the doctor's column of *Good Housekeeping*.”

Todd: Yeah, I think it was February of '78, actually.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The Family Doctor column in the February 1978 issue of *Good Housekeeping* reads: “As research proceeds, scientists are finding that the major active ingredient in marijuana—tetrahydrocannabinol or THC—may be highly valuable in treating such conditions as glaucoma, asthma or even terminal cancer.” }

Todd: And the doctor said to my mom, “He has nothing to lose.” Medical marijuana gave me a regained appetite. It gave me a better mental clarity. It made me feel better. It improved the way I

felt about life.

Dr. Pinsky: Did you have a firm diagnosis then?

Todd: Yeah. Yes, I've had cancer...

Dr. Pinsky: Because Histiocytosis X, which is what I understand you have, is a pretty benign condition.

Todd: It was coming on like machine gun fire, actually.

Dr. Pinsky: And so really, it's not really so much, for you, been the cancer.

Todd: It helped me with the treatment.

Dr. Pinsky: Right. It's not really a cancer—that isn't really technically a cancer, even. It's sort of a benign, it's a relatively benign tumor of childhood.

Woody: Yeah, but when doctor's give him six months to live...

Dr. Pinsky: Well, that's why I'm so surprised, because it is usually a self-limited disease. It goes away on its own.

Todd: Right. Up until '85, they treated Histiocytosis X as a cancer. I've had radiational therapy, chemotherapy, surgery...

Dr. Pinsky: Yeah, so you had it in the liver, you had it extra—in other organs other than the...

Todd: In the spine, the skull, the hips, I was in a wheelchair.

Dr. Pinsky: But it's been the pain, isn't it,



"It's not really a cancer—that isn't really technically a cancer, even. It's sort of a benign, it's a relatively benign tumor of childhood."

that's really been the issue?

Todd: Since I was twelve, I used it for pain relief. Yeah. The top five vertebrae of my spine are fused together and one hip stopped growing when I was eight, all due to medical treatment for what they thought, at the time, was cancer.

Bill: I think the issue is if something is helping a guy who's sick, where does the government get the balls *[bleeped on the air]* to say, "You can't have it"?

[Cheers and applause]

Todd: Well, it's interesting. You know, even during alcohol prohibition, Bill, the medical use of alcohol was never prohibited. You could always walk into a pharmacy and pick up medicinal alcohol. It seemed like...

Dr. Pinsky: But don't kid yourself. The government's involved in the patient/physician relationship all over the place. I mean, the insurance companies are involved in it. The government's involved in it. The legal system is involved in it.

Bill: So?

Dr. Pinsky: I don't think it's a good thing. I'm with you.

Natalie: I'm back at the beginning. Did you say you have mental clarity because of pot?

Todd: Absolutely. Well, when you're stressed out and you're going through all these types of medical treatments, you can really feel down.



"If something is helping a guy who's sick, where does the government get the balls to say, 'You can't have it'?"

[Natalie laughs at Todd's comment]

Dr. Pinsky: But here, I think we have to be very, very careful of what we're talking about.

[Natalie is still laughing at Todd]

Bill: Wait a second. Why is that a joke to you?

Natalie: Because I don't believe that. You know, I went to high school with people who smoked pot four and five times a day, and they were sitting on their butts. They didn't have mental clarity. And, you know, is it one of those things where, "I drive better under the influence of pot"?

Bill: We're not talking about driving now.

Natalie: So you don't drive?

Bill: I mean, maybe that's you and your friends. I mean, Woody, I know, has better mental clarity under it.

[Laughter]

Woody: *[with great mental clarity]* There's no question about that, Bill. Thank you.

[Laughter and applause]

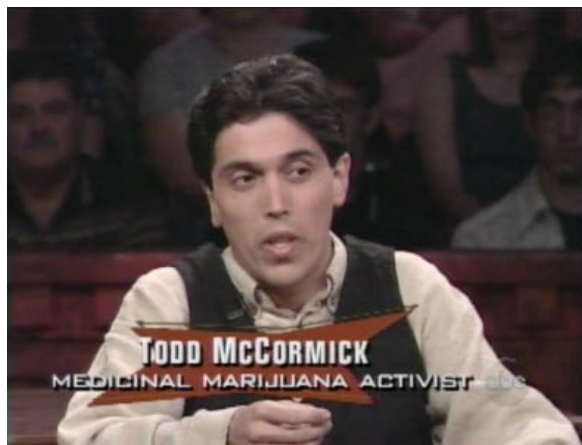
Bill: I mean, I think the issue is, if he's in pain and the populous decides that they think it's okay for medical patients to have it, then where does the government get off saying, "You can't have it"?

[Applause]

Natalie: I agree with that, except that I was talking to Dr. Drew [Pinsky] backstage, and he was saying that it's not proven. There's no medical cases that it's proven.



Woody: "There's no question about that, Bill. Thank you."



Todd: "The Society for Neuroscience—this was just front-page news in the L.A. Times—said that over 97 million people would benefit from the chemicals derived from or similar to the ones found in marijuana."

Dr. Pinsky: "But we don't know. That's the problem. We need the research. We really need the research."

[ED NOTE: The report from the Society for Neuroscience Dr. Pinsky obviously has not read was released in October 1997. Summing up the research work of four major universities, it began, "New research shows that substances similar to or derived from marijuana, known as cannabinoids, could benefit more than 97 million Americans who experience some form of pain each year." The complete text of the Society for Neuroscience report is at www.marijuanamagazine.com/toc/articles/manalgesic.htm.]

Dr. Pinsky: And really, that's the real crux issue, is that there's difficulty getting the research done. And that's really where there's been a serious problem.

Todd: But it's been the government that's prohibited the research.

Dr. Pinsky: I think everyone's pretty much in agreement that the research needs to be done. The problem I have with marijuana...

Todd: Yeah, but, I mean, there is a lot of research.

Dr. Pinsky: He's not dying of cancer. It's not like we're going to give him something to prolong—in fact, it may be the wrong drug for him because it's chronic pain that he has.

Todd: The Society for Neuroscience—this was just front-page news in the L.A. *Times*—said that over 97 million people would benefit from the chemicals derived from or similar to the ones found in marijuana. Potentially, 97 million Americans...

Dr. Pinsky: But we don't know. That's the problem. We need the research. We really need the research.

Bill: But until the research is done, people are suffering. And...

Dr. Pinsky: I got to tell you something. Because I have tons of clinical experience with this stuff.

Bill: But he has tons of actual experience.

[Cheers and applause]



“Cannabis, on the other hand, hasn’t taken a life in its 5,000-year history.”

Dr. Pinsky: But, in fact, though, Todd—and please, Todd, I don’t mean to disparage your condition, but your real condition now is chronic pain?

Todd: Right.

Dr. Pinsky: And one of the axioms of chronic pain is getting off all substances before the—and utilizing other than medicinal approaches to the treatment of chronic pain, because activation of the reward system....

Bill: You’ve got to be kidding. This whole country is dedicated to taking a pill for everything

[Applause]

Dr. Pinsky: JAMA [*Journal of the American Medical Association*] just published an article this week about adverse drug side effects being the fifth —between fourth and sixth—leading cause of death for people in hospitals.

Todd: It was just all over the news that prescription drugs kill over 100,000 people a year, also. Cannabis, on the other hand, hasn’t taken a life in its 5,000-year history.

[Applause]

Dr. Pinsky: That is my point. I’ve gotta tell you. If you hear—it has, unfortunately, and please, bear with me. ’Cause I run an addiction program, and I have to deal with marijuana addiction every day. And the fact is that the incidence of suicidality of the first six months of marijuana abstinence is substantial. And people don’t know that.

Bill: I don’t think it’s the marijuana, it’s the fact that they miss it so much.



Woody: “Should we round up everybody who goes to Dunkin’ Donuts and throw ‘em in jail?”

Dr. Pinsky: They do. Absolutely. It's a very serious reality. And in fact, people who get into marijuana addiction years down the line already get depressed. They get irritable. And usually, they switch to speed...

Natalie: Which is why, until the drug—until there is enough research, it is an illegal drug.

Bill: Enough research.

Natalie: But that research has to be out there. What about years ago when people didn't think cigarettes did anything to you? Now we found out you die of it and people die of it. I agree with that.

Woody: Coffee is a legal drug.

Natalie: And it shouldn't be.

Woody: And sugar's a legal drug. And they're all damn bad for you. Should we round up everybody who goes to Dunkin' Donuts and throw 'em in jail?

[Cheers and applause]

Natalie: We should, as far as cigarettes.

Bill: I have to take a commercial. We'll come back to Dunkin' Donuts.

[Applause]

Bill: All right, we were talking about medical marijuana and marijuana in general. And some people watch this and say “Oh, they're talking about drugs, and that's what they care about.” To me, it's fundamentally an American issue, about what we want in this country, and what this country means. Do you have the freedom to do what

you want as long as it doesn't hurt somebody else? That, to me, is what America is about.

[Applause]

That, to me, should be a conservative stand-point. But it is not. Now, you had mentioned, you said marijuana addiction. You talked about a clinic that you were involved in.

Dr. Pinsky: Yes. Yes.

Bill: I've never heard those terms together.

Dr. Pinsky: You know what? I thought that somebody would bring that up. So I just pulled out the first two quarterly *Journals of Addiction Disease*. And in here, a physician—one of them has a physician paper on how to handle marijuana addiction, and what the American Society of Addiction Medicine's position is on marijuana.

Bill: Well, what is addiction, doc?

Dr. Pinsky: Addiction is the progressive use in a biologically prone individual in the face of consequences. If somebody keeps using even when they need to stop and want to stop.

Bill: So, food can be an addiction?

Dr. Pinsky: Well, it depends on...

Bill: I bet food kills more people than pot.

[Applause]

Woody: Amen, brother!

[Applause]

Dr. Pinsky: But stay with the—I'm not defending—because I'm quasi-anti-prohibition. I



“Amen, brother!”

think prohibition basically fuels the crime syndicate and doesn't do much for people that use drugs, except it doesn't help addicts contain their behavior, and it allows for abuse of substances for adolescents.

Bill: But why is it—some things are not addictive, I assume, we could say.

Dr. Pinsky: I am anti-misinformation on this drug. Unfortunately, I hear the audience snicker when I talk about my experience with this drug in dealing with people who become addicted and looking at the biological concept.

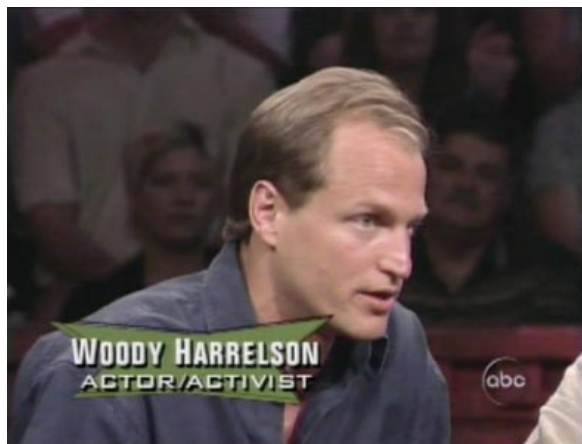
Woody: I don't think the issue is whether or not people become addicted because I think it's obvious people become addicted. You know, there's a lot of potheads in the world. But the issue is whether or not we should be throwing them in jail if there's such a thing as a victimless crime. And we spend \$50 billion a year on victimless crimes in this country.

[Applause]

Now, the question is, should we be throwing these people in jail? Should we be—you know, I don't quote George Bush much...

[Laughter]

...but he said something I like. He said, “If we've learned anything in the last quarter century, it is that we cannot federalize virtue.” And that, to me, is what's going on here. The United States government is trying to tell us what's right and what's wrong when no one's being hurt by it. If



“We spend \$50 billion a year on victimless crimes in this country.”

you're not hurting the person or property of a nonconsenting other...

Bill: But he is being hurt by not being allowed to have even Marinol, which is the prescription version of it.

Todd: Right. Yeah, I just spent 11 days in jail because the judge decided that I shouldn't be allowed to use prescription Marinol.

[ED NOTE: McCormick was, in fact, held eleven days without a hearing, illegal under federal law.]

Dr. Pinsky: Does Marinol work for you?

Todd: Actually, it does. You know, what happens when I have chronic pain is I can't sleep at night. I wake up chronically fatigued. I lose my appetite. It works well.

Bill: *[to Natalie]* And it has nothing to do with who you got baked with in high school.

[Laughter]

Natalie: Yeah, but the point to that was that it doesn't not do anything to you. And it does affect other people. Your senses get altered, you get behind the wheel of a car, just like you do alcohol, and you put the lives of other people in danger.

Bill: Yeah. But alcohol is not outlawed. You can't outlaw things just because people might screw up with them.

Natalie: No. But now that something is illegal, you can't say you can do it just because alcohol is legal. So let's bring a lot of other things legal that hurt other people because we already have



"Yeah, but the point to that was that it doesn't not do anything to you."

one.

Bill: Using Democracy doesn't hurt other people. It helps people.

Woody: Is this a free country? Do you really think it's a free country?

Natalie: Yes. And my mother had cancer, and I have to honestly say that if that helped her and it was legal, then that would be okay. But my worry is...

Todd: Did she try it?

Natalie: No.

Todd: Why?

Natalie: She didn't have to because her cancer didn't get that far.

Todd: It didn't get that far.

Natalie: Right.

Todd: But now the people who have had cancer get that far, the people with AIDS, the people with glaucoma, how about them? The government supplies one of my dearest friends [*Elvy Mussika*] with 300 marijuana cigarettes for the past ten years because she has glaucoma.

Natalie: But what about when you...

Todd: It's the only thing that's helped her see. Should she go blind because it's illegal?

Natalie: How about this? How about, since you have to smoke it around seven times a day, like all the other addictive drugs in the hospital, why don't you go to the hospital, smoke it seven



"How about this?"

times a day in a room with a doctor so that you don't go get it at a drug store and pass it off to all your friends?

Todd: Do you know how ridiculous that just sounded?

[Laughter, cheers, and applause]

And that's like saying, "Go to the hospital because you've got to take your Prozac."

Natalie: Yeah, 'cause I don't want kids getting that, too.

Bill: Yeah, Prozac.

Todd: When I was 9, I never shared medical marijuana with my friends.

Bill: Kids take Prozac.

Todd: I did very well in school. It didn't affect my friends. It affected me.

Bill: Your experience is that you saw...

Natalie: You were sick. Not all kids are sick.

Todd: And they weren't, and I saw a difference.

Bill: *[to Natalie]* But why should everybody suffer because the people you went to high school with used it to eat Cheetos and watch cartoons?

[Applause]

Natalie: It's not the people I went to high school with, it's kids...

Bill: Not everybody uses it that way.

Natalie: But people do, so let's make it more



Todd: "Do you know how ridiculous that just sounded?"



Do you know how ridiculous that just sounded? (reaction)

available to them.

Bill: But people do? People also drive badly, should we outlaw cars?

[Laughter]

Dr. Pinsky: Let me turn this a little bit and say that I have yet to have a request for marijuana prescription from somebody who is not a marijuana addict. I have yet to experience that because...

Todd: Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Bill: This term [*marijuana addict*] I do not understand.

Todd: This term is ridiculous.

Dr. Pinsky: Because, well, let me explain. Hold on. Hold on. Because people who have this predisposition have much more of a euphoric effect from the drug. And I have made cases that we ought to find out what that euphoragen is and take that out, and see if people still want to use this drug for medicinal purposes.

Woody: Why throw people in jail because they're feeling euphoria?

Dr. Pinsky: But—right. But wait a minute, this is the question—wait a minute, this is the question...

Bill: Hey, let's take the good taste out of chocolate ice cream, doc, while we're at it.

[Laughter]

Bill: All right. This is your record, Dixie Chicks, great record. And I assume it's all done



Woody: "Why throw people in jail because they're feeling euphoria?"

sober.

Natalie: Except for the last song.

Bill: Except for the last song. What happened there?

Natalie: A little wine.

Bill: A little wine?

Natalie: No pot, though.

Bill: Well, why is wine any different? I mean, creativity is enhanced by certain things that nature, God, put on the Earth. There's any number of bands who would testify that they were not, as you say, induced to just zone out when they smoked pot, but they actually had their creativity enhanced. You don't think that that's possible?

Natalie: No.

Bill: Really, then you're just...

Natalie: You just listen to the dobro part on that last song, and it's really out of tune.

Bill: You don't think anybody ever had a different experience than the one you characterize with marijuana?

Natalie: Yes. But what about every experience I bring up, it's specifically his. Or do you have cancer? Have I missed the bulletin?

Woody: I don't have cancer, but I think I have a right to smoke pot, as much of a right as someone has to take Prozac and as much of a right as someone has to smoke cigarettes.

[Cheers and applause]



Woody: "I don't have cancer, but I think I have a right to smoke pot, as much of a right as someone has to take Prozac and as much of a right as someone has to smoke cigarettes."



Woody: “To quote Thomas Jefferson, ‘I think the government that governs best governs least.’”

Dr. Pinsky: All right. Here's the deal, though. Really, what we're talking about is, none of us really disagree that if somebody with a terminal condition or even a chronic condition that would be improved by marijuana should categorically not be allowed to use it. But I think the question we're kind of zeroing in on here is, does prohibition work, and do we want a government that utilizes prohibition in our society?

Todd: Well, when we had alcohol prohibition, we saw crime increase, we saw gangs...

Dr. Pinsky: If you look at the facts, if you look....

Woody: To quote Thomas Jefferson, “I think the government that governs best governs least.”

[Applause]

Todd: And then—and then, you know, what kind of resources are being wasted on this drug war right now? I was lookin' at statistics last night. There's over \$17 billion this year cast away. That doesn't include the IRS drug budget, the DEA's drug budget, the FBI's drug budget, which is close to \$21 billion.

[ED NOTE: Plus another \$19 billion spent by state and local antidrug authorities, for a total of \$40 billion.]

Dr. Pinsky: Oh, I agree with you. But here's my concern is that if we, say, start to legalize various abusive substances and the government gets funds from that, I would be in favor of it if they would use those funds to help treat and educate

people about drugs and addiction. The problem is, what do you think would happen to those monies? They would very quickly be siphoned off into God knows what.

Todd: Well, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Wait a minute.

Bill: So the better answer is to send crop-dusting planes to Colombia?

Todd: Yeah, right.

Dr. Pinsky: But the better answer is to contain this. And I think that's what our society is trying to do, is try to help...

Todd: But you're not containing it by having a drug war. We are feeding the fire, to say the very least. I mean, a person, a family has to pull teeth, sweat bullets, to be able to save up enough money to put their kids through college. And it's so hard to procure a loan and save \$14,000 a year just to get money to go to school. But, if you're put in a desperate situation because you have no education, there's \$16,000-to-\$33,000 already put aside to incarcerate you. You know, what are we doing for the children with this drug war?

[Applause]

Natalie: But the point is that it's against the law. You get put in jail because you're breaking the law.

Bill: But the law is made by the people, and the people of this state and many others said they don't think it's a just law. They have a sense of what this country is about, which is freedom to do



Todd: "But you're not containing it by having a drug war."



Todd: *"The government has been trying to put me in jail for ten years to life because I grew my own medicine."*

Woody: *"And he's never hurt anybody."*

whatever you want to do if it doesn't hurt somebody else.

Woody: Halleluja, brother.

[Applause]

Dr. Pinsky: I have to counter with an Abraham Lincoln quote, which is "The majority cannot decide what the majority cannot decide." Meaning that sometimes...

Bill: Why should...

Woody: I got another Abraham Lincoln quote -- "I've noticed folks with very few vices have very few virtues."

Natalie: Hey, I've got a Clinton quote: "I did not inhale."

Todd: And now he's a President, but he tried it. Should we imprison him for trying it? And that's what this really should be all about. We are sending people to jail. The government has been trying to put me in jail for ten years to life because I grew my own medicine.

Woody: And he's never hurt anybody.

Todd: No. Nonviolent...

Dr. Pinsky: But I read what you were growing. That wasn't all for you, was it?

Todd: Yeah, actually, it's research. I mean, now that the laws have changed, anyone with half a mind is going to want to experiment with a plant that has as much genetic diversity as dogs. I mean, if I was allowed to grow dogs, I wouldn't grow Chihuahuas to pull a dog sled. And this is the situ-



Todd: "If I would use it from when I woke up to when I go to sleep, I would not be in a foggy state. I would be able to think clearly. You would never be able to tell if I was smoking or not smoking. And my pain would decrease. I would sleep normally, eat normally."

ation we're in. I want to breed the plants that make the best medicine.

[Applause]

Bill: Now, how can you say this man is not thinking clearly?

[Laughter]

Could a man make an analogy like that if he wasn't thinking clearly?

[Applause]

Dr. Pinsky: You're not using it continuously, are you? You're using it intermittently.

Todd: When I used marijuana medicinally, I found actually it was quite the reverse. If I used it spontaneously, like a little here and there, I would get high, come down, I'd still be in pain. If I would use it from when I woke up to when I go to sleep, I would not be in a foggy state. I would be able to think clearly. You would never be able to tell if I was smoking or not smoking. And my pain would decrease. I would sleep normally, eat normally.

Dr. Pinsky: Do you use intermittently? That's a no...?

Todd: No. No. I use it all the time. But right now, I'm under severe drug testing because the government is acting as a doctor. Even though I have no less than five recommendations from some of the top American physicians on the subject, the government is saying, "We know best." And that's not Democracy. That's more of a mirror of fascism than it is anything that this country...

[Applause]

Bill: They can't deliver the mail, and they're telling him how to run his health regimen?

[Applause]

It just seems wrong. Okay. We have to take a commercial. We'll come back.

[Applause]

Bill: Okay. Last time we talked to you, you wanted to say something about Proposition 215.

Dr. Pinsky: I was really offended by 215. As you know, what I am mostly against is misinformation. And 215, to me, seemed like a sham. It was some sort of Trojan horse, concocted to try to get people—using the sympathies of people about individuals with chronic illness, to try to cram this thing into legality.

[ED NOTE: The conservative California legislature passed legislation in 1994 and 1995 providing medical marijuana for patients. It was vetoed twice by Republican Governor Pete Wilson at the urging of his Attorney General, Dan Lungren. The Proposition 215 initiative in 1996 was tried only after all other political avenues had failed.]

Todd: No, I started a compassion club in San Diego because I've seen people going blind, dying of AIDS in front of me, and nobody's helping them. And the drugs that you can prescribe don't work. These people shouldn't suffer waiting for you to change your minds and laws.

Dr. Pinsky: Marijuana doesn't work that well. That's misinformation, too. It's a weak drug. It's



“They can't deliver the mail, and they're telling him how to run his health regimen?”

not a very potent drug for these sorts of things. For you...

Todd: It doesn't stimulate appetite?

Dr. Pinsky: It stimulates appetite, but a lot of things—Megace stimulates appetite. That's what's indicated now for AIDS wasting, as a matter of fact.

[ED NOTE: Megace is synthetic progesterone, a female sex hormone. According to the manufacturer, the side effects of Megace include nausea, indigestion, fluid retention, vaginal bleeding, muscle cramps, skin rashes, breast changes, breast milk reduction, mood changes, tiredness, headaches, nervousness, sleeplessness, drowsiness, dizziness, and low moods.]

Woody: The question is, should the government have a hand in victimless crimes?

Dr. Pinsky: We're back to that again.

Woody: Should we be thrown in jail because we're not wearing a seatbelt?

Dr. Pinsky: This is the issue that we sort of stall out on.

FADE OUT



Woody: "The question is, should the government have a hand in victimless crimes?"

I thank you as well for the seeds,
as for the pamphlets which you have had
the goodness to send me. The artificial
preparation of *Hemp*, from Silesia, is really
a curiosity — and I shall think my
self much favored in the continuance
of your correspondence when I have more
leisure than at present (just at the winding
up of a long laborious & interesting session
of Congress) I may write you more ful-
ly than it is in my power to do at present
relatively to the subjects you have touched upon.

This Letter & another which I have
taken the liberty of putting under cover to the
Earl of Buchan, is directed to the particular
care of the American Minister in London. I
wish them safe to hand, & that you would do
me the justice to be assured of the esteem with
which

I am, Sir, &c.
Geo. Washington

"I thank you as well for the Seeds as for the Pamphlets
which you had the goodness to send me. The artificial
preparation of Hemp, from Silesia, is really a curios-
ity; and I shall think myself much favored in the con-
tinuance of your correspondence [sic]." May 26, 1794

—President George Washington.

CHAPTER ONE

Medical Marijuana: A Brief History

To its ongoing shame, the United States government still denies that medical marijuana has any benefit whatsoever.

But the truth is getting out there. Not since prohibition began in 1937 has there been such a large body of knowledge. Millions now know that medical marijuana provides safe, effective relief for a wide array of ailments, from chronic pain and migraines to glaucoma, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and the debilitating effects of chemotherapy and AIDS.

*And I think that's what
Nature grows them herbs for.
They was put on earth
for man to use.
The animals have
an instinct for 'em.
That's why cats go for catnip.
The women used to
take that hamp [hemp]
and steam the leaves and
make kind of a plaster out of it.
It was supposed to be good for
takin' out inflammations,
and it was, too.*

ORAL HISTORY
FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Circa 1930

Marijuana is not physically addicting, nor does it kill like alcohol and cigarettes. While more than 100,000 people a year die from legal prescription drugs, not a single person in recorded history has ever died from medical marijuana.

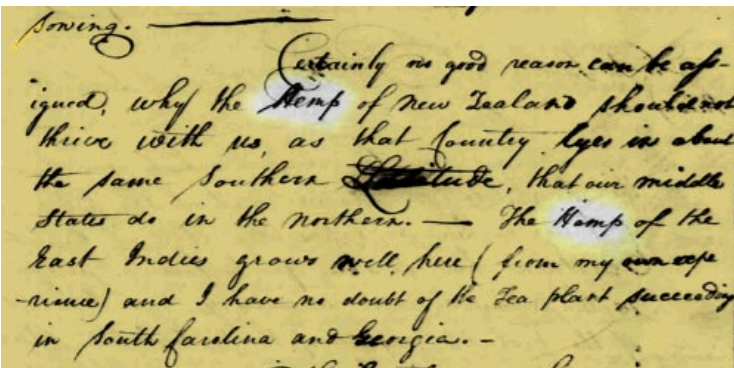
When the safety record of marijuana is compared to other legal substances, medical marijuana prohibition makes no sense at all.

Annual drug and alcohol deaths in the United States:

Tobacco	450,000
Alcohol	100,000
Prescriptions.....	100,000
Aspirin.....	1,000
Marijuana.....	0

Yet the politicians refuse to budge and the Drug Czar, retired General Barry McCaffrey, thinks he knows better than your doctor what's good for you.

Among the many myths McCaffrey and his cronies spread is that medical marijuana is an unproven drug that hasn't undergone rigorous scientific scrutiny. To the contrary, the federal government has spent



“Certainly no good reason can be assigned why the Hemp of New Zealand should not thrive with us, as that country lyes [sic] in about the same Southern latitude that our middle States do in the Northern. — The Hemp of the East Indies grows well here (from my own experience) and I have no doubt of the Tea plant succeeding in So. Carolina and Georgia.”

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

TO JOHN SINCLAIR,

December 10, 1796

200 years before the passage of 215

ED NOTE: John Sinclair, of course, is also the name of one of the foremost marijuana freedom fighters of the 1960s and 1970s. He spent several years in prison on marijuana charges. He currently lives in New Orleans and has a twice-weekly jazz radio show on WWOZ, online at www.wwoz.org.

\$70 million on scientific research in the last quarter-century without proving that medical marijuana is a dangerous drug.

In truth, this plant you are about to grow has been a valued natural medicine for thousands of years, prescribed by the greatest medical minds of their day.

Relics discovered in ancient pyramids indicate that Egyptian physicians prescribed medical marijuana for childbirth. The first recorded evidence of medical marijuana use appeared over 4,700 years ago in the pharmacopoeia of Shen Nung, one of the fathers of Chinese medicine. In Persia 2,700 years ago, the prophet Zoroaster wrote a sacred text listing 10,000 medicinal plants, with medical marijuana at the top

Until the U.S. government made marijuana its official name in 1937 (sometimes spelled “marihuana”), the plant had been known for eons as cannabis or hemp. Its country of origin is not positively known, but is generally believed to be the mountainous districts in the extreme north of India.

The most versatile plant on the planet

*Long ago when these ancient Grecian
Temples were new,
hemp was already old
in the service of mankind.
For thousands of years,
even then,
this plant had been
grown for cordage and cloth
in China and
elsewhere in the East.
For centuries prior to about 1850,
all the ships that sailed
the western seas
were rigged with
hempen rope and sails.*

*Opening Narration of the
U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1942 film*

“HEMP FOR VICTORY”

(we'll get to that later), it spread westward through the Mid-East and Europe and southward through the Sub-Continent.

The similarity of its name in various languages confirms its universal use.

In the Sanskrit it is called *goni, sana, or shanapu*; Persia, *canna*; Arabic, *kannehor kinnub*; Greek, *kannabis*; Latin, *cannabis*; Italian, *canapa*; French, *chanvre or chanbre*; Danish, *kamp or kennep*; Lettish and Lithuanian, *kannapes*; Slavic, *konopi*; Scandinavian, *hampr*; Swedish, *hampa*; German, *hanf*; Anglo-Saxon, *haenep*; and English, *hemp*.

Even though the Roman Catholic Church banned medical marijuana during the Dark Ages because users acted irreverently toward authority (a side effect I happen to enjoy), medical marijuana was rediscovered by scientists during the Enlightenment and became a mainstay of European medicine by the 1800s. In the mid-1800s, the father of French psychopharmacology, Dr. Jean-Jacques Moreau de Tours, got remarkable results prescribing medical marijuana for insanity and depression.

what my last requested. - Now far, in addition to the several matters mentioned in that letter would there be propriety do you think is suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Cotton and Hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of them? The advantages which would result to this Country from the encouragement of these articles for home manufacture, I have no doubt of; but how far bounties

“How far, in addition to the several matters mentioned in that letter, would there be propriety do you conceive in suggesting the policy of encouraging the growth of Cotton and Hemp in such parts of the United States as are adapted to the culture of these articles? The advantages which would result to this Country from the encouragement of these articles for home manufacturer, I have no doubt of...”

LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON
TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
ALEXANDER HAMILTON,
October 14, 1791

By the turn of the century, England was on the cutting edge of Western medicine. Sir William Osler, then the world’s most renowned doctor, hailed medical marijuana as the best remedy for migraines. Sir Russell Reynolds gave medical marijuana to Queen Victoria for PMS and other ailments. Writing about medical marijuana in the first edition of the British medical journal *The Lancet*, Reynolds said it’s “one of the most valuable medicines we possess.” Ironically, Queen Elizabeth would get locked away in the Tower of London today for seeking relief with medical marijuana.

With George Washington and Thomas Jefferson urging patriotic Americans to grow hemp, the plant provided colonists with one of their most important resources for clothing, rope, canvas, and food (the seeds contain all the essential proteins, see Chapter Three).

And don’t think it was all for industrial use. The colonists were well aware of marijuana’s medicinal qualities. A popular pamphlet published in 1766 called *Abstract from a Treatise on Hemp* included



Photo of 19th Century medicine bottle from “The Great Book of Hemp” by Rowan Robinson.

these “medical properties.” (Alas, even among the medicinal praise, it unjustly condemns the intoxicating effects of marijuana.)

Taken in an emulsion, it is good against a cough and the jaundice, and also against the gonorrhoea; its oil is recommended as an ingredient in pomatums for the small-pox; and it is laxative. Taken inwardly, or outwardly applied, it has not the dangerous qualities that are ascribed to the whole plant with its leaves; the powder of it mixt with drink, will make those who use it drunk, dull, and stupid; We are told that the Arabians make a sort of wine of it, which intoxicates...

The grain and leaves being squeezed, while they are green, and applied, by way of cataplasm, to painful tumors, are reckoned to have a great power of relaxing and stupifying...the powder of its leaves, taken in drink, is reckoned good for dysenteries...

It is very good against the gout, and other humours that fall upon the nervous, muscular, and tendinous parts. It abates inflammations, dissolves tumors and hard swellings upon the joints. Beat and pounded in a mortar, with butter, when it is still fresh, it is applied to burns, which relieves greatly when it is often renewed.

In the 1800s, medical marijuana became this country’s No. 1 analgesic and made up half of all medicine sold, with no

*The scientific case for
medical [marijuana] use
keeps growing stronger.
Far more dangerous
psychoactive drugs,
like morphine,
are successfully allowed
in medical use.*

*Somehow marijuana has become
a symbolic or political hard line
to be maintained by antidrug believers
regardless of human cost.
The costs will mount
until the public can organize itself
to insist that those who urgently need
this medicine
can obtain and use it legally.*

AIDS TREATMENT NEWS
January 23, 1998

incidents of abuse reported.

The first extensive study of medical marijuana in the U.S. was completed in 1860 by the Ohio Medical Society. Physicians reported success in treating stomach pain and gastric distress, psychosis, chronic cough, gonorrhea and neuralgia.

At the turn of the century, the drug began to fall into disuse. Cannabis was difficult to store and its extracts were variable in their effect. As new synthetic drugs were developed in the early 1900s, cannabis was less widely used but still available by prescription and in some over-the-counter preparations.

The modern Dark Ages began in 1937 when the federal government banned medical marijuana for reasons that remain obscure to this day. All knowledge of the plant was dropped into a black hole and replaced with lies. Medical marijuana was stricken from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, in which it had held an honored place for more than 100 years. All research was banned except that which was designed to prove *Reefer Madness* was right. And if they couldn't find something bad, they made it up, all

*Present evidence indicates that
[cannabinoids] are remarkably safe
drugs, with a side-effects profile superior
to many drugs used for the same
indications.*

*... [The British Medical Association
will urge the government to]
consider changing the
Misuse of Drugs Act
to allow the prescription of cannabinoids
to patients with certain conditions
causing distress that are not adequately
controlled by existing treatments...*

*[W]hile research is underway,
the police, the courts, and
other prosecuting authorities
should be made aware of
the medicinal reasons for
the unlawful use of cannabis
by those suffering from certain
medical conditions for whom
other drugs have proved ineffective.*

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Therapeutic Uses of Cannabis
November 1997

the while suppressing favorable studies and reports. In the last six decades, there was a window of only 10 years in which the federal government allowed legitimate, unbiased scientific studies to take place. From 1966-76, hundreds of studies revealed the therapeutic potential hidden within the plant's hundreds of compounds.

Researchers began getting positive results using medical marijuana in the treatment of glaucoma, anorexia, asthma, nausea, Parkinson's Disease, and spastic muscle disorders. An article in a 1971 medical magazine reported that medical marijuana "is probably the most potent anti-epileptic known to medicine today."

Abruptly, the government banned all research on medical marijuana, reportedly at the urging of the pharmaceutical industry, which rightly feared a homegrown plant that would compete with their highly profitable synthetic drugs.

People are finally rising up against the government's repression of medical marijuana. All over the world, popular movements are underway to allow the sick and dying to use and grow their own.

*In the town where I was born
Lived a man who sailed to sea
And he told us of his life
In the land of submarines.
So we sailed up to the sun
Till we found the sea of green
And we lived beneath the waves
In our yellow submarine*

THE BEATLES

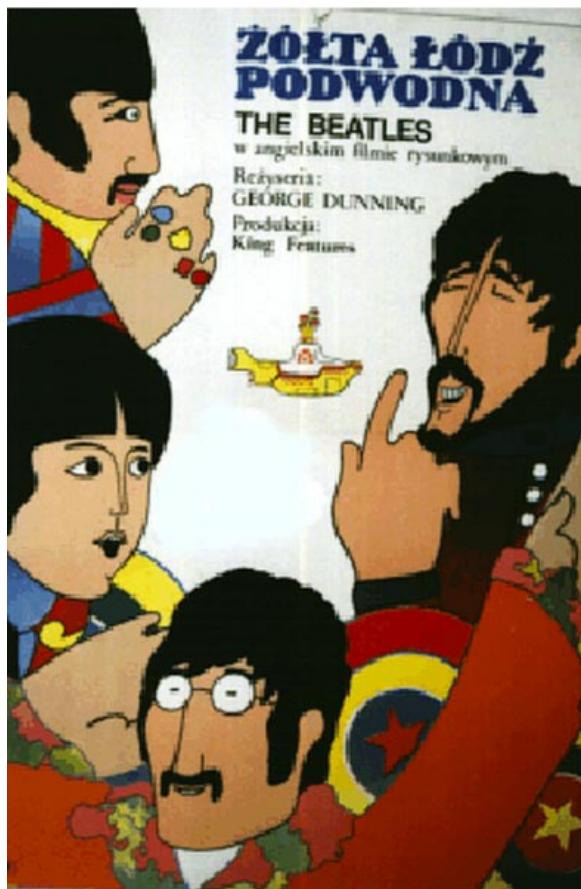
ED NOTE: For those too young to remember, rolling papers in the 1960s were often yellow, and a hand-rolled joint vaguely resembled a submarine—especially after smoking one. “Yellow submarine” became a popular term for a joint. On May 16, 1966, Bob Dylan released “Rainy Day Women #12 and #35” which included the now-famous refrain: “But I would not feel so all alone, everybody must get stoned.” The old folks thought it was a song about repression (“They’ll stone ya when you’re tryin’ to go home. Then they’ll stone ya when you’re there all alone.”), but us youngsters knew getting stoned meant smoking pot. On May 26, 1966, the Beatles ran to Abbey Road studios and recorded their answer to Dylan and their homage to marijuana. When “Yellow Submarine” was released in August 1966, everyone under 30 knew precisely what the fab four were singing about; everyone over 30 didn’t have a clue—but they thought the song had a nice beat and wasn’t too “noisy.” When the Sea of Green technique was developed in the 1980s, a line from “Yellow Submarine” was used to name it. So the song was named after a joint and the Sea of Green was taken from that song.

CHAPTER TWO

The Sea of Green

Imagine a room filled with Popsicle-size clusters of medical marijuana flowers gently waving in a fan-generated breeze. It’s the Sea of Green, and it’s the method you’ll be using to grow your plants for a continuous harvest.

The Sea of Green came about in the mid-1980s, supposedly originating in Holland as a commercial growing technique to bring decorative flowers to market



Poster for the film Yellow Submarine in Polish

*And our friends are all on board
Many more of them live next door
And the band begins to play*

quickly and easily. Some enterprising cultivator thought to apply the process to marijuana and before long, indoor gardens flourished.

Although I'll be using terms like cloning, mothering and flowering in explaining the Sea of Green in this chapter, don't worry about understanding how they work. At this point, just focus on what happens during the Sea of Green process so the coming chapters make more sense.

It's a simple concept, really.

The actual undulating green sea is the end product of a three-step process. The first step is mothering. A Mother Plant is the source for clones and the keeper of the family genes. She lives by herself under 18-to-24 hours of light per day and can live as long as her root space will allow her to flourish, perhaps years and years. The second step is cloning, taking cuttings from mother, rooting them in another room and then quickly growing them into short bushes. The final step is forcing the clones to flower in a room filled with other flowering clones in various stages of budding.

You'll be harvesting a crop every



*As we live a life of ease
Everyone of us has all we need
Sky of blue and sea of green
In our yellow submarine.*

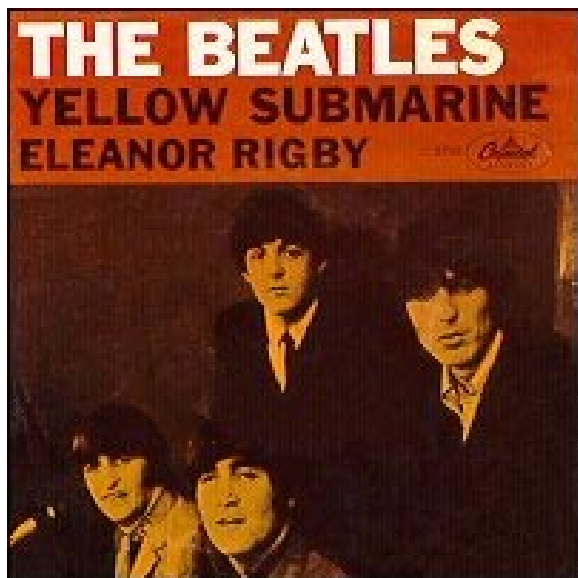
*We all live in a yellow submarine,
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine
We all live in a yellow submarine,
Yellow submarine, yellow submarine*

month and continually resupplying the Flower Room with clones from Mother to keep the Sea of Green in perpetual motion.

Any female marijuana plant can become a mother. How a plant is chosen to be the mother plant is usually decided by her individual character. Some people look for quick-finishing time in flowering and large buds at harvest, others judge a plant's quality by the way they feel after they smoke. I personally look for a plant to exhibit strong growth, good resin production, resistance to bugs and mold as well as a yield and potency consistent with that particular strain.

A clone is a genetic duplicate of a plant taken by cutting off the main stem or one of the branches of a plant and rooting the cutting with rooting hormone. As a duplicate of its mother, the clone will grow and flower in a predictable way, an advantage to you.

The flower room is where the plants bloom and the medicine develops like magic. A Sea of Green is an inspirational sight.



Yellow Submarine {McCartney/Lennon} (2:41)

- **Recorded:** May 26, 1966 at Abbey Road, London, England
with special effects overdubbed June 1, 1966
- **Instrumentation:**
John Lennon - acoustic guitar, background vocal, blowing bubbles through a straw
Paul McCartney - acoustic guitar, background vocal
George Harrison - tambourine, background vocal, swirling water in a bucket
Ringo Starr - lead vocal, drums
Mal Evans, Neil Aspinall, George Martin, Alf, Geoff Emerick, Patti Harrison and studio staff - chorus on fade-out
session musicians—brass band
- *Released as a single in the United States*
August 5, 1966

Where to start?

If you're ready to grow, you have two choices. One is to start from clones, the other is to start from seeds. Starting out with clones (also called cuttings) puts you several months ahead of the game.

Some people sell clones (\$5-to-\$50 each), while others distribute clones for free. Once a mother plant gets going, she produces lots of offspring, often more than the owner can flower. These owners sometimes spread the extra clones around, Johnny Appleseed style, to medical marijuana patients in need.

If you can obtain one or two clones, these can become your mothers. If you can obtain a larger number of clones, you can start flowering most of them and turn a few into mothers.

In this way you don't have to worry about males (all will be females, as a clone from a female plant is, of course, always a female), your medicine will be uniform in strength and potency (clones replicate themselves exactly), and you will have saved several months in the process.

The people who supply you with

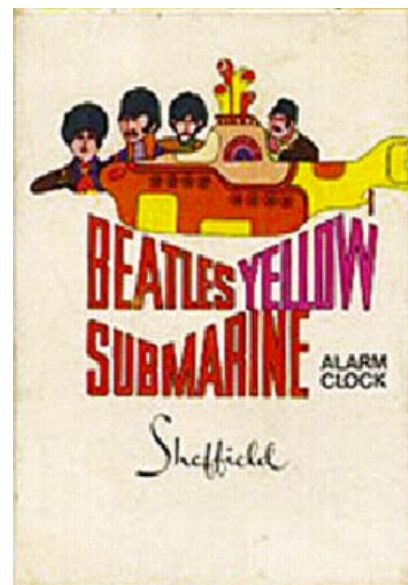
medical marijuana are the best people to ask when looking for clones. When asking about clones, always say you're enquiring for a friend. Never telegraph to anyone you plan to grow yourself. If you later give some clones away, say they were a gift from another.

If you get your clones from an unknown source, study Chapter Six on sexing so you can spot the males should someone sell you unsexed seedlings and not clones.

If clones are not available, it's seed time!



"It's an ever-loving' SUB-in!" Yes, a Yellow Submarine comic book, circa 1969.



There's lots more,
including...

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