

distributed magazine in America, featured a front page story about marijuana on June 12. On July 31, Parade announced that a telephone call-in poll of its readers found that 89% supported the medical use of marijuana, and 75% supported legalizing marijuana. When someone smirks that medical marijuana is just a front for a well-financed pro-drug culture lobby, they are trying to dodge the issue of medical marijuana. Though some of the main people and organizations supporting the medical use of marijuana do support marijuana's legalization, the medical use of marijuana is a separate issue to be judged on its own merits.

When people insist that marijuana smoke is harmful, they deserve to hear some facts about harm reduction. When they dismiss the plant and say there's a "pot pill" (Marinol), the truth about the comparative benefits of smoked marijuana vs. oral THC needs to be explained. It is up to each and every one of us to arm ourselves with honest information and let our voices be heard.

Local organizers

Organizers for media events, benefit concerts, rallies, and teach-ins who haven't yet started planning with a local group are urged to contact either Cannabis Action Network (CAN) at 2560 Bancroft Way #46, Berkeley, CA 94704, phone: (510) 486-8083, or NORML/ECMC at 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 1010, Washington, DC 20036, phone: (202) 483-5500.

If you want to get directly involved in this issue, being a local organizer would be an excellent way to do so. A starter package for local organizers is available for \$25 from Cannabis Action Network. It contains information about how to organize a local event, background information about the issue, a video, and a copy of MARIJUANA: THE FORBIDDEN MEDICINE by Dr. Lester Grinspoon. A different, text only, *Medical Marijuana Background Packet* is available from ECMC/NORML for \$15. These materials are rich in resources for people who want to be successful advocates.

Get ready to put aside other agendas for the day, to concentrate on the medical applications of marijuana! This will be an opportunity to come together to educate people about this plant, and find common ground with those who might not support legalization but who can understand the importance of marijuana as a medicine. ■

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new cannabis journal

Journal of the International Hemp Association
Vol. 1, No. 1, Summer, 1994

THE INTERNATIONAL HEMP ASSOCIATION is a non-profit organization established in 1992 to promote the beneficial uses of hemp products worldwide. The IHA wants to encourage and facilitate the accumulation and exchange of information on Cannabis. In accordance with these goals, the IHA sponsors projects in several countries and publishes a Journal for its members. The IHA is supported by membership and by donations from foundations, corporations and individuals. Although many IHA members may feel that in light of the great economic potential of Cannabis the current legal restrictions hampering Cannabis research and hemp cultivation should be reconsidered, the IHA does not endorse a political stance on Cannabis legalization, nor will it serve as a forum for the Cannabis legalization debate. The IHA has three types of membership: Student (US \$25/yr), Individual (US \$50/yr) and Sustaining (US \$100 or more/year). Please send International Postal Money Order or an American Express or Thomas Cook Money Order. IHA, Postbus 75007, 1070 AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel.fax +31 20 6188758, e-mail Hemp.net@f701.n280.z2.fidonet.org Articles in the first issue include an interview with Dr. R. Mechoulam, a description of the IHA's Cannabis seed preservation project in St. Petersburg, stories about the economics of hemp paper in several countries, medical marijuana, a study of the effect of marijuana on driving, and more. This premier issue is printed on hemp paper. ■

volunteers needed for mdma research

RESEARCHERS AT THE HARBOR-UCLA RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INSTITUTE in Torrance, California, are currently recruiting volunteers to participate in an FDA-approved study on the effects of MDMA in humans. Volunteers will receive brain scans as well as other tests designed to examine the physiological and psychological effects as well as safety aspects of MDMA use. Volunteers must have prior experience with MDMA. If you would like to participate, please call 310/222-1663 for more information. ■

**On May 18, 1994
Dr. Charles Grob
administered
the first legal
dose of MDMA
in almost nine
years.**