

See Cover #pg 22
C/R pg 22



MICHIGAN MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAGAZINE

ISSUE #18
MAY 2011

Can Medical Marijuana
Be Taxed?

The Strange Case
of Dr. Buck

Irv Rosenfeld-
An Interview

Hash Bash
Turns 40

Centerfold, Recipes,
Calendar of Events
and More!

\$4.99



Hash Bash. The name says it all, right? This event is internationally known as an expression of marijuana culture, politics and brotherhood hosted annually by one of the nation's leading schools of higher education. It has been the defining act of counter-culture celebrations since the very first Bash on April 1, 1972.

That hash bash was held in a brief moment where one marijuana law had lapsed and another was yet to take effect, creating a unique moment in time where there were no laws against medical marijuana on the books. After that first gathering the Human Rights Party won some seats on the Ann Arbor City Council and that city became famous for reduced marijuana possession penalties.

That was before 2008's vote on medical marijuana passed with 63% of the vote. Now the legal and the lawless mingle on the Diag in harmony. The world around them is less than harmonious, though.

Adam Brook, the festival's perennial sponsor and emcee, has battled legal issues in the past with the University of Michigan. Now he faces charges against him and a lawsuit filed by him. Brook's home was raided while he was not present and he faces charges stemming from that. His lawsuit against the city of Royal Oak challenges their city ordinance which prevents individual caregivers from performing certain activities in their homes. Although two lawsuits were filed, Brook is the only man still standing to oppose the city's restrictions on individual caregivers.

John Sinclair: "I'm a patient, and that's a first step toward dismantling the machinery of the war on drugs."

The political aspect of Hash Bash developed in the last decade of the century, and that fire has heated up as the event roars into the new millennium. The city of Ann Arbor, host of the Hash Bash, has experienced ups and downs as they try to write local law that respects the needs of patients while accommodating the wishes of the citizenry. Chuck Ream, Ann Arbor's longtime defender of cannabis rights, spoke at this year's Bash. "We are going to have major threats this year" to the medical marijuana law, he warned the assembled crowd on the campus. Ream named off a list of people he considered assets to the medical marijuana movement, then identified the major culprit in this year's battles to some: Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Ream and his fellow Ann Arborites have successfully beaten back several attempts to crafty ordinance law in the city that would put certain people at a disadvantage, similar to the situation in Royal Oak. Most recently the city attorney included language into the proposed ordinance that would have made it illegal for a caregiver to cultivate for any patient that did not live in the grower's residence. Ream and his supporters forced Council to reconsider the wisdom of these changes.

Changes taking place in Michigan go beyond the local ordinance level. Tim Beck, known as a former Executive Director of Michigan NORML and current member of MACC, used his time onstage to warn citizens of the efforts to thwart cannabis reform in Detroit and at legislative levels statewide. During the one hour Bash, many speakers echoed these cautionary words of government intervention to come.

Pointing out government's failures so far was a politico of national prominence. Gary Johnson was a Governor in New Mexico, and now desires to become President of the United States. Hash Bash is a nationally recognized event; Johnson knew where he had to go to send his message of freedom to the people of Michigan. And his message was well-received.



Wheelchairs were in front of the stage during Hash Bash speeches



Adam Brook (right) and Chuck Ream (bottom) address the crowd