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Don't Pot Growers Have a Right to Self-Defense?

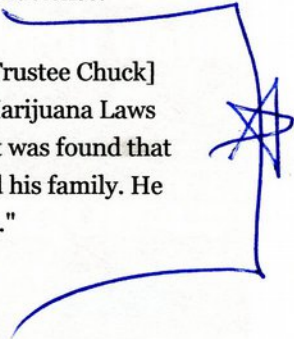
Jacob Sullum | December 21, 2007, 3:53pm

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In another case at the **intersection** of drug prohibition and armed self-defense, Gershom L. Avery of Lima Township, Michigan, faces **charges** of assault and using a gun in the commission of a felony after shooting a burglar. The fact that the burglar was trying to steal the marijuana Avery was growing seems to be clouding what should be a clear case of self-defense:

"This is not some wacko shooting off a gun," said [Scio Township Trustee Chuck] Ream, a member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). "This is a homeowner, a worker, and a citizen. Even if it was found that he was growing a green plant, he doesn't give up his right to defend his family. He wasn't protecting his plants. He was protecting his wife and his life."



[Thanks to Allen St. Pierre for the link.]

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Comments to "Don't Pot Growers Have a Right to Self-Defense?":

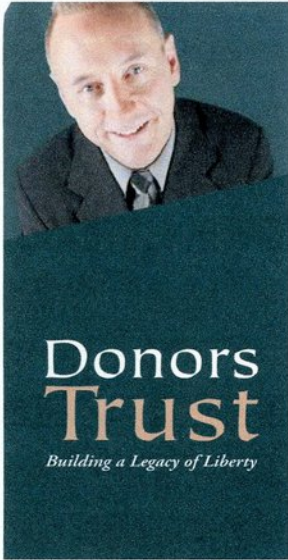
Lima Indiana pot grower | December 21, 2007, 4:06pm | #

Oh shit, I'm going to be next.

ChicagoTom | December 21, 2007, 4:22pm | #

"This is a homeowner, a worker, and a citizen. Even if it was found that he was growing a green plant, he doesn't give up his right to defend his family. He wasn't protecting his plants. He was protecting his wife and his life."

Oh NORML, what kind of message will that send to our children? We can't have them believe that people who engage in criminal behavior have any rights to self-defense.

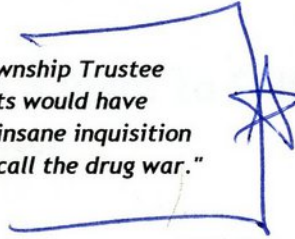


If he wasn't engaging in criminal behavior he wouldn't have put himself and his family at risk. He deserves whatever bad things happen to him, and so does his family for harboring and tolerating a criminal who is destroying society with the evil-herb </Juanita>

killa cam | December 21, 2007, 4:23pm | #

Dude, what's up with Lima? Town seems to have an unusually high quotient of Awesome. Case in point: check out this quote from *an elected official*

One of Avery's supporters, Scio Township Trustee Chuck Ream, said none of the events would have happened if not for the country's "insane inquisition against our own citizens which we call the drug war."



J sub D | December 21, 2007, 4:31pm | #

"insane inquisition against our own citizens which we call the drug war."

I'm gonna use that.

John-David | December 21, 2007, 4:39pm | #

killa,

Somehow I'm figuring that Lima Township and Scio Township are not sharing the same land.

John-David | December 21, 2007, 4:41pm | #

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/cities_twps_villages/lg_locn

Joe | December 21, 2007, 4:44pm | #

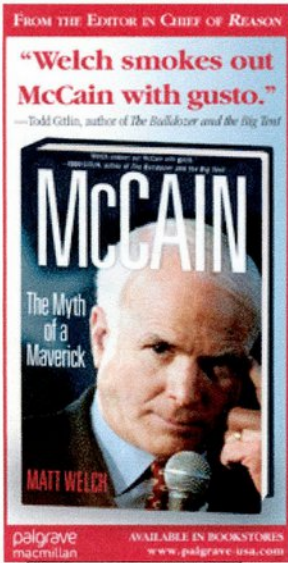
Er, after reading the article, it looks like the high bond was first set because the homeowner was charged with shooting a fleeing intruder in the back, and the bond was lowered when it appeared he may have shot the person still advancing into the home.

Aresen | December 21, 2007, 4:50pm | #

Don't Pot Growers Have a Right to Self-Defense?

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Does anyone, other than a police officer, nowadays?



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