

# The Entheogen Law Reporter

ISSUE No. 17

ISSN 1074-8040

WINTER 1997/1998

## Author Chastises Entertainment Industry and DEA for Pro-Drug "Blacklisting" — *Then Raided by DEA!*

On December 1, 1997, author Peter McWilliams purchased a two-page "advertisement" in Daily Variety magazine, calling to task those in the entertainment and advertising industry for blacking out the truth about illegal drugs. In his piece (as you'll read) Mr. McWilliams brazenly attacked DEA head Thomas Constantine for his cruel stance on medical marijuana and for his bizarre reaction to the Murphy Brown medical marijuana episode.

On December 18, 1997, McWilliams was working at home when a "hard pounding on the door accompanied by shouts of 'Police! Open Up!'" broke the silence, broke my reverie, and nearly broke down the door. I opened the door, in my bathrobe, and was immediately handcuffed. I was taken outside my house while the Drug Enforcement Administration agents ran through my house, guns drawn, commando-style . . ."

At the time of the raid, McWilliams was at work on a new book *A Question of Compassion—An AIDS Cancer Patient Explores Medical Marijuana*, agents seized his computer and all backup files of his manuscript. (Mr. McWilliams has suffered from AIDS and cancer since the Spring of 1996, and makes no bones about the fact that he uses medical marijuana as is his right under California's *Compassionate Use Act*.)

McWilliams was not arrested, "just" harassed. In a press release issued after the raid, McWilliams vowed to continue speaking and writing his mind despite the DEA's suppressive tactics. Three cheers for McWilliams!

To stay abreast of this matter, visit Peter McWilliams' website at <http://www.mcwilliams.com/index1.htm>.

This is the full text of his courageous ad in Daily Variety that prompted the DEA's intimidating reaction.

### WOULD YOU FIGHT A HOLLYWOOD BLACKLIST IF THERE WERE ONE TODAY?

(BE CAREFUL. THIS IS A TRICK QUESTION.)

— BY PETER McWILLIAMS

Just about everyone in Hollywood who hears about the Hollywood Blacklist of old declares, "If I had been there, I would have..." and then proclaims one bold and daring act of creative freedom-fighting after another. Some, especially those who were not there, have contempt for anyone who cooperated with the Blacklist in any way. But I'll bet that even those who recently blackballed Elia Kazan from industry recognition because of his participation in the old Blacklist have knuckled under to the current Blacklist time and time again.

Yes, there is a Blacklist—a code of censorship imposed by Washington—that nearly everyone in Hollywood religiously adheres to. It is more insidious than the anticommunist Blacklist of half a century ago because no one discusses it. No one has to—everyone self-censors. The Blacklist is so ubiquitous that most people are not even aware of it any more. It just is.

It is Hollywood's most revered sacred cow. What is on this Blacklist? The D-word. Drugs. Specifically, any mention of illicit drugs as enjoyable, productive, illuminating, or healing. These are precisely the experiences most people who take drugs have—that's why people continue to take them. And

yet, for more than a decade, Hollywood has willingly, almost enthusiastically, censored this simple fact of life, just as it censored other facts of life in generations past, generations we now laugh at for their foolish knuckling under to Puritanism.

Favorable drug experiences, while abounding in real life, have been painfully absent in American cinema and television for the past ten years. A swath of reality has been removed from today's entertainment that will seem to future generations as absurd as David O. Selznick's being fined \$5,000 for not removing "damn" from *Gone With The Wind* or Lucy not being allowed to say "pregnant" as she explains Little Ricky to Ricky.

The Anti-Drug Blacklist has struck most cruelly at comedy. If a nation can't laugh about something, it can't think clearly about it. Oh, the millions of fabulous jokes crushed by comedy writers' "No Drug Humor" filter. If a "drug joke" makes it past the comedy writer's filter, the production company has lots of filters happy to do their patriotic bit. "This is very funny, but you know we can't use it."

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## Blacklist Raid

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Discussion closed.

On October 13, 1997, the President (of the United States) complained that Hollywood promoted "warped images of a dream world where drugs are cool." The president (of the Motion Picture Association of America) responded, "I cannot answer the President, because I really don't know what he's referring to. I can't think of any picture in the last several years that glorified drugs."

Thank you, Mr. Valenti, for acknowledging the effectiveness of the Blacklist.

President Clinton's accusation was a shot fired over the bow of Hollywood's collective creative freedom. I come from thirty years in book publishing. Despite our many faults, such as the arrogance to write didactic pontifications such as this one, we in publishing are hypervigilant about censorship. You'll note there was no anticommunist Publishers Blacklist in the 1950s. Books critical of the Cold War and even books praising communism were printed.

Today, books such as *Smoke and Mirrors* by Dan Baum, *Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine* by Lester Grinspoon, M.D., and *Marijuana Myths, Marijuana Facts* by Lynn Zimmer, Ph.D., and John Morgan, M.D., tell the truth, factually and scientifically, about drugs and the Drug War. Name one movie or TV show that does the same.

If President Clinton had made precisely the same criticism of these books or of the publishing industry he made of Hollywood,

there would have been a howl of outrage. We, as writers and publishers, would have firmly asserted yet again our right—yes, right—to publish anything we saw fit.

Why didn't Hollywood's leaders speak out against this obvious act of creative oppression by the most powerful human being on earth?

"Mr. President, we follow our creative instincts in Hollywood, and we will portray

*... just censoring out the positive truth about drugs is no longer enough.*

*You must now take an actively dishonest stance.*

drugs as we find them, not as you tell us to find them." Why didn't one person say, "Hollywood, sir, is a censorship-free zone."

Instead, Mr. Valenti almost contritely explained that the Anti-Drug Blacklist is firmly in place, Mr. President, and we've been good little children here in Hollywood.

Television producers hurriedly lined up to declare that they, too, were being good little boys and girls. They pointed to ABC's pathetic month-long "March Against Drugs" as proof. It was sad to see a major network and almost every creative person and newsgatherer in it collapse under the weight of Drug War political pressure.

"March Against Truth" was more like it.

This dark deal was made between James Burke, who runs the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and his brother, Daniel Burke, while the latter's Capital Cities still owned ABC. Disney, when it took over ABC, gave

in to the Burke brothers' threat that if the "March Against Drugs" didn't take place, Disney would be branded "soft on drugs." Disney, which took such a courageous stand on *Ellen*, failed to do so this past March.

That's how powerful the Blacklist is.

But President Clinton's words did not stop at keeping the current Anti-Drug Blacklist in place. He went on to say in his October 13, 1997, radio address to the nation that Hollywood must do more. It should, of course, not "glorify drugs, but more importantly tell our children the truth. Show them that drug use is really a death sentence," and the *only* acceptable message is: "drugs are wrong; drugs are illegal; drugs can kill you." (Please note the word "use" and not "abuse.")

In other words, just censoring out the positive truth about drugs is no longer enough. You must now take an actively dishonest stance. Dishonest? Does any intelligent person in Hollywood believe the "truth" about marijuana, for example, is that using it "is really a death sentence"?

And yet Hollywood remained silent this past October—even more silent than it was in October 1947. Anyone who has been tracking the War on Drugs knows that this capitulation by Hollywood was an invitation to even more and harsher censorship.

Of course, it came.

After a drug-free decade in Hollywood, cancer patient Murphy Brown smokes medical marijuana and, horror of horrors, it actually relieves her chemotherapy-induced nausea.

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## Traps & Trajectories of Entheogen Law:

RICHARD GLEN BOIRE INTERROGATED

**O**n November 23, 1997, I was interviewed by Mason Dixon, an artist, writer, robot designer, and user of outlawed entheogens. The "interrogation," as he preferred to call it, was for use in a mixed-media piece of Dixon's "exploring the contours of mental freedom in the matrix of the law as consensus enforcer."

MD: Recently you stated in *TELR* that the demise of RFRA no longer made it possible to do *TELR* the same way, and, I think it was in the very next issue of Jim DeKorne's *Entheogen Review* that he stated that the *Entheogen Review* would be ending, and

then the *Psychedelic Resource List* folded. Some people are saying that you, DeKorne, and Jon Hanna [editor of the PRL] were paid a visit by some government agents and intimidated into ending your newsletters.

RGB: Yeah, I read a letter to that effect in the last issue of *ER*. DeKorne replied that his own inner work has moved in a different direction than entheogens and he'd like to explore that new orientation. He's also mentioned that the financial burden of producing *ER* was a big consideration. I can understand both of his motivations. *TELR* is a lot of work for no money—it just breaks even—and I routinely get completely fed

up with "legal thinking," both reading it and doing it. Writing about something you're not excited about is worse than working as an accountant or insurance agent.

MD: I know. At best, doing something you don't believe in is pimping your life to the highest bidder.

RGB: Yeah, it shows a certain lack of self-respect, I think. Anyway, I understand DeKorne's reasons for moving on. I also think that his gift or contribution to this field is underestimated. In addition to the information shared in each issue of *ER*, his

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## Blacklist Raid

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With this minuscule breach of the Blacklist, Thomas Constantine, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, is checking to see "if any laws were broken." Mr. Constantine, who has no medical training whatsoever, proclaimed: "Marijuana is not medicine!"

Didn't the voters of California decide to let doctors determine whether marijuana is or is not medicine? And, as a recent cancer, chemotherapy, and radiation survivor who uses medicinal marijuana to keep down the anti-AIDS drugs that are keeping me alive, I can personally attest to medical marijuana's anti-nausea effect. Anecdotal evidence, yes, but it's all the evidence I need.

Please keep in mind, Murphy Brown didn't even come out as a pot smoker the way, say, Ellen came out as a lesbian. Murphy is smoking marijuana to save her life, not because she's an adult in a free country making an informed choice (heaven forbid).

For the transgression of saving her life with a little pot, the DEA is poking around Murphy's creators' lives looking for revenge.

Should you be concerned by the quibblings of Mr. Constantine, a former police chief who now heads a mostly covert billion-dollar-a-year federal agency with 200 "Special Agents" already in Los Angeles and 3,576 other "Special Agents" around the globe who would just love a special undercover assignment in the entertainment industry? (And, my friends, DEA Special Agents

can be even more troublesome than CAA Special Agents.)

The DEA has launched a criminal investigation into a prime-time sitcom and a major television network over the creative content of that series.

Criminal investigation! (That's what "we're going to see if any laws were broken" means in DEA-speak.) If you don't know the War on Drugs has declared total war on your individual and collective creative expression,

*If you don't know the War on Drugs has declared total war on your individual and collective creative expression, I am here to tell you: The War on Drugs has declared total war on your individual and collective creative expression.*

I am here to tell you: The War on Drugs has declared total war on your individual and collective creative expression. (Remember the last self-righteous, heavily armed Constantine who declared war on the unbelievers?)

The DEA's guns have been pointed at Hollywood for years and Hollywood has tremblingly succumbed. "Appeasement, yes, that will keep them at bay." It didn't work, of course. It never does. The criminal investigations have begun. The DEA's guns are now firing—at your colleagues.

Fire back with your creativity. Prove again that art conquers intolerance; that beauty can tame the beast. This Drug War is a beast that's out of control. The government spends \$50 billion a year waging a cruel war on its own citizens, mostly minorities. Every

48 seconds in the United States a life is ruined by a marijuana arrest—2.9 million since Clinton, a pot smoker, took office.

Even Washington acknowledges that Hollywood controls the mind of the world. Hollywood has for too long let the government's dark, distorted, destructive, and painfully inaccurate view of drugs permeate that mind. The world puts its faith in Hollywood's dreams because—in theory, at

least—the entertainment industry is controlled by creative people, not policemen, not religious right moralists, not politicians.

If you think the entertainment industry will be exempt from a DEA witch-hunt that could make McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee seem like an ACLU picnic, think again. I'm not going to name any names, but I'm sure you could list more than a few in the industry who would be more than happy to go to Washington and turn in "drug-sympathizers." If you don't want Senator Helms asking you under oath on Court TV, "Are you now or have you ever been soft on drugs?" get busy.

Note the relentless arrogance of the DEA. Here Mr. Constantine testifies before Congress in early December 1996, just after the passage of Propositions 215 and 200:

"The California and Arizona initiatives do nothing to change federal drug enforcement policy. The DEA will continue to target major drug traffickers, including major marijuana growers and distributors. We also can take both administrative and criminal actions against doctors who violate the

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## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

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newsletter was a tangible expression of several hundred nodes in what Ott estimates to be about one million entheogen users world wide. Entheogen use is today's living mystery "religion." It's easy for some people to feel very isolated in their entheogen studies, practice, experiments, or whatever you want to call them. Each issue of *ER* provided tangible proof that the religion is alive and quite vibrant.

But, I certainly wasn't visited by anyone I recognized as a government agent. And of course, *TEL*R is not ending [Note: After this interview I learned that *ER* will be continuing under new editorship from San Francisco (564 Mission Street, Box 808-sm, San Francisco, CA 94105-2918). Jon Hanna, is evidently going to write a column along with Will Beifuss [author of *The*

*Psychedelic Sourcebook*] in the post-DeKorne *ER*, in a telephone call Hanna confirmed he was not pressured out of publishing the PRL.]

I said that *TEL*R would change following the RFRA decision because my own faith in "the law" as it deals with entheogens is currently at an all-time low. I don't think that entheogens are going to be legalized or de-controlled in the foreseeable future. I think that we're several technological advancements away from a time when entheogens will be recognized for what they are or can be. And, the impetus for change will not come via the legal system, it will be through the much larger system called culture. The legal system, in all but the most aberrant of situations, reacts to culture. The very nature of law is conservative. In fact,

that's the point of law, or one of them—to create a trustable set of fixed rules. Culture changes, and then law changes; it's not the other way around. In other words, winning a legal case is never going to be the cynosure to getting entheogens legalized so long as the "public" isn't already convinced of their potential merit, or at least not afraid of them. A winning legal case on the current culturescape will simply be met by strict legislation overturning the rule established in the case.

It's true that the US Supreme Court has the power to construe the Free Exercise Clause as protecting entheogen-centered religion, but the Court has spoken on this issue and the message was "even members of the NAC don't have a Constitutional

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## Blacklist Raid

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terms of their DEA drug registrations...those doctors who prescribe or recommend Schedule I substances [which includes marijuana] are violating federal law. The licenses of over 900 physicians have either been surrendered or revoked in the last two years for fraudulent prescription practices."

Only an order from a courageous federal judge in San Francisco keeps the DEA from attacking California physicians. There is no such order protecting us patients, so a man who had cancer nine times before he was ten years old, Todd McCormick, was arrested by the DEA for growing marijuana in his Bel Air home—the fabled Medical Marijuana Mansion. After a three-month intensive investigation involving at least four DEA Special Agents and weeks with a federal Grand Jury, McCormick was charged not with selling, not with buying, but only with growing—cultivating—which is specifically permitted under Proposition 215 (now The Compassionate Use Act of 1996).

For this, McCormick faces life imprisonment (a ten-year mandatory minimum) and a \$4 million fine.

A California law, enacted by the voters of California, is being trampled on by the DEA. That's how powerful the DEA is—it can violate the will of the people of California, and not even California Attorney General Dan ("Am I Governor Yet?") Lungren, dares do his sworn duty to defend the laws of California against all comers.

Arresting a multiple-cancer patient is

how low the DEA will sink. It won't let McCormick use medical marijuana while awaiting trial. The DEA randomly urine tests him twice a week. It also won't let him leave the country where he could find relief in a civilized place such as Holland.

When Todd McCormick was three, as a result of cancer treatment, his top five vertebrae were fused together. When he was nine, radiation treatment froze the growth of one hip—he has one normal adult hip and one the size of a child. "I don't sleep through the night because every time I move my neck the pain wakes me up," he recently wrote me. "Then I am tired all day long, and my appetite is decreased, and then I ponder a bit too much about the possibilities of reoccurring cancer and life imprisonment. Not fun."

The DEA is torturing this unfortunate young man to make a cruel point—and to test its limits.

This brutality, the DEA now knows, is clearly within its limits. How much outrage have you heard about McCormick? Not much, I'll bet. Seeing this, the DEA now feels powerful enough to test its tendrils on the entertainment industry. And it is.

What can one do but to paraphrase Oscar Wilde? "The way America treats her sick people, she doesn't deserve to have any."

McCormick and his point of view are worth at least a TV movie, don't you think? And a donation to his defense fund would be most appreciated, I'm sure. (Todd McCormick Defense Fund c/o David M. Michael Client Trust Account, Bank of America, Pier 5 North The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94111, 415-986-5591.)

President Clinton's October remarks were made while launching a plan, in ca-

hoots with Partnership for a Drug-Free America, to spend \$350 million this season on prime-time ads. The money comes from the federal government (that is, we're paying for it), alcohol, cigarette, and pharmaceutical companies, and their advertising agencies.

These ads are not designed to spread the balanced truth about drugs, oh no. According to the PDFA: "The Partnership's mission is to reduce demand for illegal drugs by changing public attitudes about drugs—to 'denormalize' drug use, by making use less glamorous and less acceptable." Nothing about truth. And note the word "illegal." How convenient that this campaign is being paid for, in part, by the marketers of legal drugs.

The Empire is expecting no backlash of truth from Hollywood during this campaign, and President Clinton's accusations were specifically designed to stifle any murmurings from Hollywood before they began. The PDFA boasts: "The Partnership has access to the entire advertising industry. This means it has a nearly limitless supply of the best creative ideas in the country."

Come on, Hollywood, are you going to take that lying down?

Take a look at Hollywood's output during America's last failed War on Drugs, the war against alcohol, Prohibition, 1920-1933. Movies had speakeasies and hip flasks galore. Gloria Swanson, in one Cecil B. DeMille picture after another, practically bathed in the bubbly. Joan Crawford drank and flapped her way all over the place.

The screen's comics made the most of Prohibition. Chaplin rose to fame in music halls playing a drunk, a skill he would revise

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## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

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right to use peyote!" That was the 1990 Smith case. [The NAC is now protected by a 1994 Amendment to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and by a handful of state statutory and common law protections -- but not under the federal Constitution.]

MD: So you don't see the legal arena as the center of what Jonathan Ott calls The Entheogenic Reformation?"

RGB: Definitely not. It may be where change ultimately shows itself—and where we'd like to see it—but it's not gonna be the moving force for the change. I think that the demise of the Fugitive Slave Law of the mid-nineteenth century is a possible model for how the anti-drug laws could become undermined. The Fugitive Slave Law lost so

much public support that it eventually became unenforceable, and was repealed. [The Fugitive Slave Law was a federal law that made it a crime to rescue, aid, or harbor a runaway slave.] It targeted the so-called "underground railroad" a secret transportation network that aided runaway slaves in making it to freedom. When the Fugitive Slave Law was first enacted, some brave people spoke out against it and even called for its wholesale violation. Ralph Waldo Emerson, for example, called for everyone to break the law at the earliest opportunity, saying that nobody with any self-respect could obey such a clearly unjust law.

By the late 1850s, enough people were against the Slave Law that the tactics used by the so-called underground railroad shifted to above ground. It was not uncommon for arrested runaway slaves to be res-

cued in the middle of their trial, by armed citizens who would storm into court, grab the captured slave and rush him or her out of court and then out of the country—all in broad daylight. The law simply became unenforceable because it lacked public support.

To a person whose entheogen has been outlawed and who has been made a criminal for being true to their minds and spirits, the Law can certainly appear to be *the enemy*. But, I see the anti-entheogen laws as simply the *weapons* of the enemy. In a fight, you don't center your entire strategy at mangling the enemy's *weapon*—you want to kill the enemy, or make it your friend. If you disarm an enemy but leave it standing, it'll just grab the next available weapon. The anti-entheogen laws are the weapons of people

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## Blacklist Raid

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many times on screen. In one scene, Charlie's wife leaves him. He turns away from the camera and appears to be sobbing deeply. Turning back, we find he is shaking himself a martini.

One of Keaton's best-remembered routines—filmed twice during Prohibition—has Buster, very drunk, trying to undress a female companion who is even drunker. Keaton also explored the injustices of Prohibition. In one film, the bad guy plants a bottle of bootleg hooch on Buster and then informs a policeman. The policeman, then as now, was not bothered by the niceties of the Fourth Amendment when it came to drugs. One illegal search later, the chase was on. Even MGM, Louis B. Mayer's bastion of "family values," released while Prohibition was still the law of the land a Buster Keaton-Jimmy Durante comedy, *Speak Easily*.

And, of course, there was W.C. Fields.

Hollywood had one hell of a time during the last Prohibition chiding the bigots.

The only difference between alcohol Prohibition and the current drug prohibition is that alcohol Prohibition was legal. When bluenoses made alcohol illegal, at least they did it right—they amended the Constitution. When the rest of us re-legalized alcohol, we amended the Constitution again. Without an amendment, the current Drug War is uncon-

stitutional. Period. (Please see my book *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*. It's at bookstores, or free at [www.McWilliams.com](http://www.McWilliams.com).)

The *Murphy Brown* episode was entitled "Waiting to Inhale." I don't know about you, but I've been waiting years to see any number of sitcom characters inhale. We've seen them all drunk. That's a sitcom staple.

*If you don't exercise your freedom of expression about drugs now, you may never be able to again.*

Lucy's interaction with the alcohol-laden Vitameatavegimin is a classic.

What fun it would be to see our favorite sitcom characters high. Most shows could get a whole episode out of it. Some, like *Seinfeld*, could get a whole season. Imagine *Frasier* and *Niles* getting the munchies for *Beluga*, or discovering how the *Third Rock* aliens react to pot's earthly pleasures. (Maybe space creatures don't need to inhale.)

In drama, have any character light up and announce, as more than 19 million otherwise-law-abiding Americans have, "I'm going to smoke pot from now on; I like it better than beer," and watch the fireworks.

The fundamental hypocrisy—obvious to any ten-year-old—is that tobacco and alcohol are legal while pot, no more harmful than those, is not. This hypocrisy is destroying millions of American families, and yet it

has seldom, if ever, been honestly explored in the dramatic form.

Logic, science, reason, and the Constitution are on the side of an adult's free choice to use marijuana as a recreational drug, and yet the federal government decreed in the 1995 Omnibus Crime Bill that if you possess enough marijuana, even for medical purposes, the government (*our* government) can put you to death.

Where is Hollywood's answer to this injustice, to the ten million marijuana arrests since 1972? Where is the *Gentleman's Agreement* or *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Platoon* dramatizing the insane cruelty of the War on Drugs?

And what about the children? DARE to tell them the truth—the whole truth—about drugs. If you tell kids the truth about drugs, most will listen when you also tell them, "Wait until you're an adult to decide." No one favors recreational drug use for children.

If you don't exercise your freedom of expression about drugs now, you may never be able to again. In fact, it's probably already too late. Find out. Throw in a joke or a positive fact about marijuana just to see if there is a Blacklist.

If you find that there is one, imagine it's 1947.

—P.S. I represent no group or organization, just me. I paid for this ad personally. Why? Well, to quote a great movie, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!"

## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

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who are, for one reason or another—or irrationally—afraid of their own minds or what's inside them.

Myron Stolaroff, who spoke earlier [*at the MIND STATES conference*] said that, in his opinion, one of the keys that distinguishes people who have good or rewarding relationships with entheogens from those who don't is often self-honesty. The same with each individual entheogenic experience. If you are being dishonest with yourself about something, and you take a sufficient amount of an entheogen, you will quite likely be forced to deal with that self-dynamic and this can produce a very very uncomfortable experience. So, it makes sense to me that in the macrocosm of western society, a collective or perhaps consensus dishonesty not only exists, but stands in the way of an acceptance of entheogens. Kinda "as below so above." The result is the outlawing of anything as illuminating as entheogens for

fear that their use would reveal this horrid and systemic dishonesty. We'd rather lie to ourselves than face this nastiness, not only as individuals, but collectively.

MD: So, it sounds like you think any favorable legal change is a long ways off, since we seem to be living in an age in which dishonesty is greater than ever. Is that what you think, . . . that legalization of entheogens is decades, or perhaps centuries away?

RGB: Well, I don't know if western culture is anymore dishonest now than at any other time. And, the act of trying to predict when legalization will occur tires me. It's certainly not going to happen in the immediate future, which is really all that is even slightly predictable, until you get to extremes of time, when predictability again returns. But in that huge span between tomorrow and the "ends of time," the accuracy

of prediction falls so low that it strikes me as a crap shoot. And I still believe that change with regard to entheogens, like any large cultural change, will happen suddenly, not gradually. The metaphor of a kaleidoscope snapping from one pattern to another, seems to me to be the best model; and again underscores how prediction is a fool's game.

I think that people who use outlawed entheogens, make better use of their time trying to avoid the law rather than change it. Hakim Bey has written [*see Millenium*] that because of the ever-increasing-monolithic structure of the status quo, practitioners of "psychedelic religion" are *ipso facto* placed on the pole of opposition. I agree, and we're placed there whether we like it or not, and even if in every other way we might be supporters of the status quo. Someone who uses an outlawed entheogen, even if in every other way he or she is an impressive and "up-standing" citizen, is branded as an en-

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# The Secret Chief

## BOOK REVIEW

From its discovery in 1938/43 until the mid-1960s, ingesting LSD was as legal as drinking a cup of coffee. During that period, word of this phenomenal drug spread from coast to coast. Impressed by the potentials of the drug in psychotherapy, psychologists and other scientists began studying the drug and its possible uses.

When LSD was declared illegal, many users turned to underground chemists for supply and, hence, were able to continue

tory hoops, were afraid that continuing their research underground would jeopardize their careers. The knowledge deficit created by outlawing research on and professional use of LSD and other entheogens, including MDMA in 1986, will never be quantifiable.

As Myron Stolaroff's new book, *The Secret Chief*, documents, not all psychologist and scientists threw in the towel. The most courageous and pure of integrity, refused to yield their scientific and psychological studies to governmental edict. Dubbed the "Secret Chief" by Terence McKenna, and referred to as "Adam Fisher" in the Shulgins' *PIHKAL*, a licensed Ph.D. psychologist who is still only known by the pseudonym "Jacob," continued using entheogens in his therapy sessions despite the high risks of doing so. *The Secret Chief*, is the transcript of

talks between Myron Stolaroff and Jacob, recorded in 1981. The conversation covers many topics including: how Jacob screened clients, security issues, preparing for the session, selecting substances, boosters, group sessions, and the changes and transformations Jacob witnessed in people.

Throughout the years of his underground practice, Jacob reported that he'd often get scared and paranoid of arrest and that he regularly asked himself if continuing his practice was worth the risk. (Jacob's principle security technique was to get his client to promise that "they will not reveal to anybody elsewhere where and with whom they had [their session] without prior clearance from me, ever.") When these concerns would grow largest, however, he'd think about the often miraculous changes he'd witnessed in clients and conclude that the constant risk he faced was indeed justified.

Jacob died in 1988. He was 76. Best estimates are that he shared his entheogen-assisted psychotherapy technique with over 100 fellow therapists, family counselors, and social workers of one sort or another, and personally guided some 3000 clients. In Stolaroff's estimate, Jacob "was responsible probably more than any other individual alive for introducing individual clients and therapists to the benefits and procedures of effectively using mind-altering substances in personal growth."

This book is compelling reading. All profits from sales of *The Secret Chief* go to fund psychedelic psychotherapy research, via the Multi-disciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). Hardcover \$22.95, plus \$3.00 shipping; Softcover \$10.95, plus \$3.00 shipping from MAPS, 2121 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 220-TEL. Charlotte, NC 28205 USA.

*... it often happens that in retrospect, history places higher value on those individuals who violated questionable laws of their time because of foresight and high moral principles than those who had issued them for wrong reasons.*

— STANSILAV GROF, M.D. from the "Prologue" to *The Secret Chief*

their use, albeit always with some doubt about the quality of their drug, and always in fear of imprisonment. The scientific studies, however, ground to an immediate halt, as scientists not only lost their pharmaceutical supply of the drug but, short of jumping through an almost impossible set of regula-

## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

(Continued from page 175)

emy of the status quo, not to be trusted and somehow corrupt. You can see this even within the nucleus of a family. I know several adults who don't tell their parents that they use entheogens because, despite the fact that their parents love and respect them, that piece of knowledge would overshadow everything else and injure their relationship. I've even met some people who have kept their entheogen use a secret from their spouses. This is to say nothing of facing years in prison if a government agent should happen to learn your "dirty little secret." In the eyes of society, the visionary plants and substances that are of such intense interest to the people who attend a conference like MIND STATES are not *entheogens*, but rather *pathogens* believed to immorally infect and corrupt those who come in contact with

them. Somehow, the prohibitionists have cloaked their position as "moral" and our as immoral—a view which is completely ridiculous, but nonetheless entrenched.

So, in this climate, it is a wise course of action to keep the use of entheogens a secret from the state and its agents. Returning to the analogy of the Fugitive Slave Laws, I think we're still in the period of an *underground* railroad.

Wasson called the Mazatec use of sacred mushrooms a "precious secret." It was the Mazatec themselves who kept the secret because of religious persecution. If entheogen use is the heart of your religion, it makes sense to protect it just like the human heart is well protected inside the body, shielded by ribs and layers of muscle. This is even more true with some a rampant virus loose that targeted the heart. Right now the

use of most outlawed entheogens is under attack by a menacing legal virus which, if caught, can result in imprisonment for years of your life.

MD: If you're so pessimistic about the current legal situation, and you think that rational argument will not, in the current climate, change the law or its interpretation, what's the point of continuing TELR?

RGB: Good question, sometimes I think there is no point. Originally, I tried in TELR to present solid arguments that might be useful in the event of arrest. But, it has become increasingly clear to me—so clear that I can no longer deny it—that in the current anti-drug socialscape even a meritorious argument supported by evidence is

(Continued on page 177)

## Illinois GHB Bust

*This is the edited text of a press release sent out by the Illinois Attorney General on Monday, December 8, 1997. The most interesting legal aspects are highlighted.*

Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan, flanked by an Illinois State Police-led law enforcement task force, announced Monday an eight-count indictment of three men for possession, sale and trafficking of GHB, one of the so-called "date rape" drugs.

**GHB was classified a dangerous and illegal drug by the state on Aug. 15.**

The drug is insidious because it endangers the life of the user and is used as a tool by sexual predators, Ryan said at a news conference in DeKalb, home of Northern Illinois University. Colleges and universities across the country, including Illinois, have reported use of date rape drugs. In August, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno launched a nationwide campaign to educate college students about the increasing use and danger of these substances.

"This drug is used as a weapon against women," Ryan said. "We will not tolerate its existence in Illinois."

The indictments allege that one of the defendants arranged for the drugs to be sent to Illinois from California via a delivery service. The drugs passed through a sorting center in Rockford before arriving at a house in Sycamore, authorities believe. They were distributed in the DeKalb area and perhaps in metropolitan Chicago, according to police.

Included in the eight-count indictment

are the following defendants and charges:

- William Bryant, 24, 123 E. Lincoln, Sycamore. He is charged with Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance and Criminal Drug Conspiracy, all Class X felonies, and Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 1 felony.

- Todd Miller, 21, 941 S. Fifth St., DeKalb. He is charged with Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Drug Conspiracy, both Class X felonies, and Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 1 felony.

- Richard Seldal, 30, 833 W. Taylor, Apt. #604, DeKalb. He is charged with Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, Controlled Substance Trafficking and Criminal Drug Conspiracy, all Class X felonies, and Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 1 felony.

Class X felonies are punishable by between six and 30 years in prison, with Controlled Substance Trafficking punishable by between 12 and 60 years. Class 1 felonies are punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The investigation began in October after a member of the DeKalb-based North Central Narcotics Task Force purchased a bottle of GHB from defendant Miller. The task force is a multi-agency unit headed by the Illinois State Police and consisting of officers from the DeKalb, Sycamore and Northern Illinois University Police Departments and the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department. Later, the U.S. DEA joined the investigation when it was de-

termined the drugs were being sent from California.

"Drug enforcement task forces have proved their effectiveness time and again by getting dealers of crack, marijuana and heroin off the streets," said Illinois State Police Director Terrance W. Gainer. "Now those who deal in GHB know they'll be pursued and prosecuted just as intensely as other drug dealers."

The indictments allege that Seldal arranged for the drugs to be sent from California to Bryant's residence in Sycamore. From there, Seldal removed some of the drugs from Bryant's residence for the purpose of resale, and Bryant was selling some of the remaining drugs, the charges state. During the course of the investigation, task force officers seized multiple bottles of GHB after obtaining a search warrant.

Under Illinois law, GHB is treated like cocaine and other "schedule 1" controlled substances.

Last October, President Bill Clinton signed into law a bill that adds a minimum 20 years to a rape sentence if GHB or other drugs are used on the victim.

Ryan praised the work of the task force and State's Attorney Johnson. "This is an example of law enforcement officers working cooperatively and swiftly," the Attorney General said. "If these allegations are proven, the task force has halted the sale and distribution in northern Illinois of a very dangerous drug."

The public is reminded that criminal defendants are innocent unless the government is able to prove its charges in court beyond a reasonable doubt.

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## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

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*(Continued from page 176)*

more likely to lose than win in court. It is naive to think that the best argument wins in court or—at least in court—that "the truth shall overcome." The fact is that if you are arrested for using an outlawed entheogen the chances of "winning" your case on some kind of entheogen-specific issue is just about nil. So, while I will still present such arguments in *TELR* as I spot or develop them, and critique the holdings of poorly reasoned cases, I see that service as largely academic and/or merely documenting injustice. I don't think it's really gonna help anyone. Perhaps I'm overly pessimistic, but this is how I assess the situation at the moment.

That being the case, the focus of *TELR* has shifted to provide more of an informa-

tion conduit between the world of the underground mystery church that is entheogen users today, and the front-line of the oppressing group's primary strategy for eradicating that church. I guess the point of *TELR* now is to provide relevant legal information and inspiration by acting as a sort of legal scout—posted high on a hill and issuing dispatches on the enemy's position back to the camp.

MD: I read somewhere that you believe that the most effective law is art. What did you mean by that?

RGB: Hmm, I probably meant that in order to facilitate the universe in unfolding in its least corrupted way, the values associated with art and its impact on people and cul-

ture, as opposed to "law" are what you need to instill in people, template, or propagate. If you want to change the anti-entheogen laws, you are much better off becoming a celebrity and then coming out in favor of entheogens or integrating them into your art, than going to law school.

Imagine if a popular network television series did a pro-entheogen episode, or a character played by Uma Thurmann or Sharon Stone was realistically depicted using MDMA. And, pro-entheogen people in the advertising and marketing industry could do a huge amount of good by forming a countergroup to The Partnership for a Drug Free America—using their art and talents to promote an *accurate* image of entheogens. This is all the more required—

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# Pharmacophilia or The Natural Paradises

## BOOK REVIEW

Christmas came early for me this year, when the day before that rather unsettling holiday I received in the mail Jonathan Ott's new book *Pharmacophilia or The Natural Paradises*. This is a barn-burner of a book, sure to become an instant classic. As is clear from the title of the book, Ott sets out to—and succeeds at—demolishing the deeply-entrenched myth that using drugs is unnatural.

As the title conveys, *The Natural Paradises* is in many ways enantiomorphic to the nineteenth century poet Baudelaire's *Artificial Paradises*. Ott applauds Baudelaire as a poet, but derides his pharmacological knowledge. But, then Ott reverses this equation in his book. While Ott's pharmacological and pharmacognostic points are impeccable, his poetry, at least to this reader, is bulky and contrived—nay, artificial! While the "Phytomphalos" preface struck me as both inspired (indeed appropriately in collaboration with *E. coca*) and well-written, Ott peppers the main of his book with overdone (and I mean way overdone) alliterative stutters, that often end in an exclamation point more evocative of one who is left out of breath or expired, rather than inspired. Take for example where after describing Paracelsus as the father of scientific medicine (and indeed the inventor of lau-

danum, the opium preparation to which Baudelaire became addicted) Ott clumsily calls Paracelsus: "a heroic heresiarch who dared to challenge hidebound hewing to a hagiarchy of healing!" Now, being one who is a fan of well-done alliteration, and wanting nothing more than to enjoy Ott's words, I even read Ott's alliterated phrases out loud, but was left equally unimpressed, nay depressed. Take, for example, when asserting that the definitional line drawn between "food" and "drug" is blurry. Ott urges: "...

their respective rewards and pleasures are one and the same; emanate, ebullient, from every epicurean ego; ecstatic efflux of Eros' efflorescent essence; are sybaritic cerebral siblings; that vibrant and vital, voluptuary vinculum

between dreamy desire, destiny and deed; rugged requisite reaching for ravenous realization; robust, rubicund." If this is music to the ears, it is far too punctuated and monotonous for my tastes. Tinnitus is not music.

*If you have never been very "high," you may not know the difference between natural pleasure and learned reward, and you will not know what the unconditioned state is. That positive feeling you get from doing well, going right, attaining some goal is game reward, not pleasure. Most of the things we like are artificial, learned rewards—the artificial, man-made bell that made Pavlov's dog salivate. Do you call that pleasure? Do you really want the cultivated, trained reward rather than the natural kick?*

— DR. TIMOTHY LEARY

Be that as it may, I must admit that I derived an odd sort of pleasure from seeing Ott unfold his writing wings. (Perhaps as Ott suggests in one of his notes, his use of  
*(Continued on page 182)*

## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 177)*

right now—with the government allocating almost 200 million dollars to a new slew of anti-drug ads.

These industries—not law—it seems to me, are currently behind the steering wheel of culture. Law is not only conservative as I mentioned before, but it's also very pessimistic. It's entirely premised on corrupted humans or unexpected failure of one kind or another. Plus, it assumes that every player is untruthful. It's no model for any sort of utopian society. Just the opposite, its truly designed on a below-the-lowest-common-denominator principle. I don't think that it is well-equipped to deal with something like entheogens. Art, on the other hand, is either designed to evoke or represent optimism, or it's meant to shock and/or disturb the observer into breaking unhealthy thought patterns. Art, like entheogens, aims to change consciousness. And, I, of course, include in "art" things like Situationist spectacles, hip hop music, Goa trance, Web design, and life bravely lived, as well as all the traditional or

conventional forms of art. These all seem to be much more promising vehicles for recreating culture into a sustainable and healthy system which might support legal change. In other words, although the problem is the anti-entheogen laws, the necessary first step in the solution is to change culture with culture.

MD: That seems to have been true with respect to ending alcohol prohibition. Society at large was okay with alcohol drinking, so prohibition ended.

RGB Yeah, but we aren't even close to that sort of situation with outlawed entheogens. For one thing, and many people seem to forget this, or perhaps don't know it, while the parallels between today's drug prohibition and yesterday's alcohol prohibition are many, the analogy is inaccurate in at least one major respect. *During federal alcohol prohibition, it always remained legal for people to drink alcohol in their private residences.* What was outlawed under the Eigh-

teenth Amendment and even under the Volstead Act was the manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors. Historians pretty much agree that had the Eighteenth Amendment sought to outlaw the private use of alcohol it never would have passed. Prohibition was really aimed at "saloons" that evidently were rather riotous.

It would actually be a big advance to handle entheogens under the alcohol prohibition model. Let people possess and use entheogens in their private homes, but continue prohibiting their commercial sale and their use in public places.

Also, under the Volstead Act it remained legal to drink sacramental wine in public churches and synagogues, whereas even religious use of entheogens is a crime today. Religious leaders during alcohol prohibition were granted permits to oversee the manufacture and distribution of sacramental wine.

Anyway, Prohibition was abolished after thirteen years when the 21st Amendment

*(Continued on page 179)*



## Information Suppression

While it is a crime to grow, manufacture, or possess a long list of entheogens, it's not supposed to be a crime to speak, write, sing, or otherwise share information about them. Nevertheless, as the DEA's recent visit to Peter McWilliam's home demonstrates, there are powerful forces interested in suppressing accurate information about entheogens that doesn't fall into the government's lock-step campaign to cast them as evil.

Consider the following. In July the DEA whipped up its own administrative subpoena and served it on Ronin Publishing Company. Ronin publishes numerous books on marijuana and other entheogens including my book *Marijuana Law*. The subpoena (see facsimile copy in *Figure 1*), ordered Ronin to turn over "[t]he names and addresses of any and all residents of the State of Arizona who have purchased or otherwise obtained copies of the book *Marijuana Hydroponics: High Tech Water Culture* by Daniel Storm." A similar subpoena was served on Aqua Culture, Inc. (a gardening store in Tempe, Arizona, that sells hydroponic equipment), demanding the names of customers who purchased Daniel Storm's book, grow lights, fans, and certain fertilizers. In May, the DEA sent one of their subpoenas to General Hydroponics, Inc. in Sebastopol, California, demanding the mailing addresses of all Arizona residents who purchased equipment from the store since January 1996.

These subpoenas are horrifying for what

they say about how out of control the DEA is at present. The subpoenas blatantly infringement on the First Amendment, because they obviously equate the reading of certain books with criminal activity, or po-

tential criminal activity. The very purpose of the First Amendment was to protect unpopular speech and expression. Yet, the DEA seeks to make an end-run around the First Amendment by threatening to investigate people based on the books they order! *If this occurred on any subject other than drugs, the public would be up in arms and the government agency trying this would be placed under investigation!* But, because the media has become a "partner" in the vilification of drug users, few rise in protest.

After insisting that the companies comply with the subpoenas (all refused) the DEA finally backed down on January 2, 1998, after an Assistant US Attorney conceded that the subpoenas were "unduly burdensome."

Consider also that at a press conference held by California Attorney General Dan Lungren on October 14, 1997, he displayed 16 marijuana trading cards sold at convenience stores. The cards are made by a company called In-Line of San Francisco, and show pictures of *Cannabis* and marijuana-related items. At this press conference Lungren actually said that if it wasn't for the First Amendment he would be prosecuting the company! For what crime he, of course, did not say. (At the same conference, Lungren announced that California's 15th annual Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) seized 132,485 plants this year—40 percent more than last year and the biggest haul of the decade. Trying to justify the enormous expense of this futile effort to extinct *Cannabis* (an effort that cost taxpayers \$571,000), Lungren said the plants had a

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/ DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION	
SUBPENA	
IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF	
GF7EN-97-4044	
TO:	RONIN PUBLISHING Co. ATTN: CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS
AT:	P.O. Box 1035 BERKELEY, CA 94702
GREETING: BY SERVICE OF THIS SUBPENA YOU, AS SPECIAL AGENT, AL REILLY WAS AUTHORIZED TO SERVE IT, YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED AND REQUESTED TO APPEAR BEFORE SPECIAL AGENT AL REILLY AN AGENT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TO GIVE TESTIMONY AND TO BRING AND PRODUCE FOR EXAMINATION THE FOLLOWING BOOK, RECORDS AND PAPERS AT THE TIME AND PLACE HEREIN SET FORTH:	
PURSUANT TO AN OFFICIAL FELONY INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOUR COMPANY FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY AND ALL RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA WHO HAVE PURCHASED OR OTHERWISE OBTAINED COPIES OF THE BOOK MARIJUANA HYDROPONICS: HIGH-TECH WATER CULTURE BY DANIEL STORM.	
YOU ARE REQUIRED NOT TO DISCLOSE THE EXISTENCE OF THIS SUBPENA TO YOUR CUSTOMERS. ANY SUCH DISCLOSURE COULD IMPEDER THIS INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED, AND THEREBY INTERFERE WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW. FOR YOUR CONVICTION, YOU MAY, PRIOR TO THE APPEARANCE DATE, TURN THE SUBPENAED DOCUMENTS OVER TO AN AGENT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION.	
PLACE AND TIME FOR APPEARANCE: AT DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, 3010 N. 2ND ST., SUITE 301, PHOENIX, AZ 85012 TEL: (602) 664-5600 ON THE UPON COMPLETION DAY OF FAX: (602) 664-5942, 19__ AT ____ O'CLOCK ____ M.	
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBPENA WILL RENDER YOU LIABLE TO PROCEEDINGS IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENFORCE OBEDIENCE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBPENA, AND TO PUNISH DEFAULT OR DISOBEDIENCE.	
ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SEC. 506 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1970, PUBLIC LAW NO. 91-513 (21 U.S.C. 786)	
ORIGINAL	
SIGNATURE: GUSTAVE FANGLER	
ISSUED THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY 1997 TITLE: ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	

Figure 1. DEA's subpoena to Ronin Publishing.

## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

(Continued from page 178)

repealed the 18th Amendment—which is still the only constitutional amendment to ever be repealed. It was repealed in the midst of the depression, so economic concerns played a part along with a turning-tide of popular sentiment that came to see Prohibition as both an absolute failure and excessively oppressive.

MD: I guess there is also a parallel between the "underground railroad" and today's underground users, growers and manufacturers of outlawed entheogens.

RGB: Yes. Anyone with any knowledge of history—well, to the extent that history can be known—understands that freedom has its own way of slipping between the fingers of control. When the Church clamped down on entheogen users during the Inquisition, the practice simply went underground—but continued. It's no different today under the government clamp down. All the statistics seem to show that despite an all-out War on Some Drugs, including many entheogens, people still use them. Really, the only effect of outlawing entheogens has been, except in a few cases, to bring a screeching halt to

scientifically studying them. There are now only a handful of authorized research programs involving entheogens. It's this weird inversion where the anti-entheogen laws have really only been effective at stopping "official" research into their potentials, and done very little to stop unauthorized use. Of course, they've also run up prices and made it just about impossible to know the quality of a laboratory-made entheogen.

I think that a person's mind can be imprisoned or enslaved just as much as a person's body. In fact, this is a trans-

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## Suppression of Information (cont'd)

(Continued from page 179)

street value of \$529 million. Not surprisingly, Lungren's statement that the raids cost just shy of \$600,000 is a gross understatement because it only accounts for the *law enforcement costs*, but does not include the tremendous costs of prosecuting the arrestees and ultimately confining those who are convicted.

Finally, consider that the recently held MIND STATES conference ("current perspectives on visionary plants and drugs") held at the International House in Berkeley on November 22 and 23, 1997, was pressured by an anti-drug group from Iceland! A man by the name of Kristjan H. Kristjansson, stating he was a member of the "Alcohol Prevention Council elected by the Icelandic

Parliament" and referring to his principal job "as detective inspector in the drug intelligence unit of the Icelandic Police" contacted the venue for the event expressing displeasure over the conference topic (see *Figure 2*).

Although the conference was scheduled to take place in a building located off campus, and was not in any way associated with the University or endorsed by it, no lesser figure than the President of the University of California voiced his concern to the International House which subsequently feared a protest and a swarm of illegal drug use if the event was allowed to go on as scheduled.

While subsequent discussions with the International House convinced them that freedom of speech was a good thing and

shouldn't take second place to amorphous threats from distant busybodies (see *Figure 3*), the International House informed the event's organizers that it would be "request[ing] a police presence" at the event, and wanted the event organizers to pay half the cost—an amount that would have bankrupted them! The event organizers refused to hand-over such "payola" and went forward with the event.

As expected by the organizers, the event went absolutely smoothly, without any protest and without a single incident of illegal drug use noticed. Conversation with the police officers purchased by the International House confirmed that not one incident occurred.

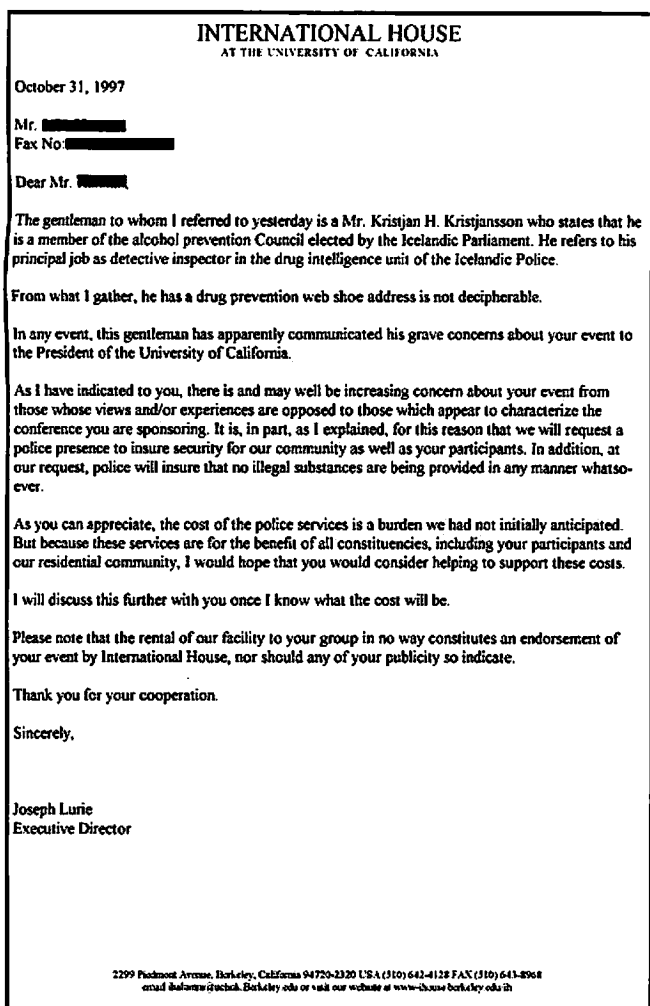


Figure 2. Letter from International House to MIND STATES organizers.

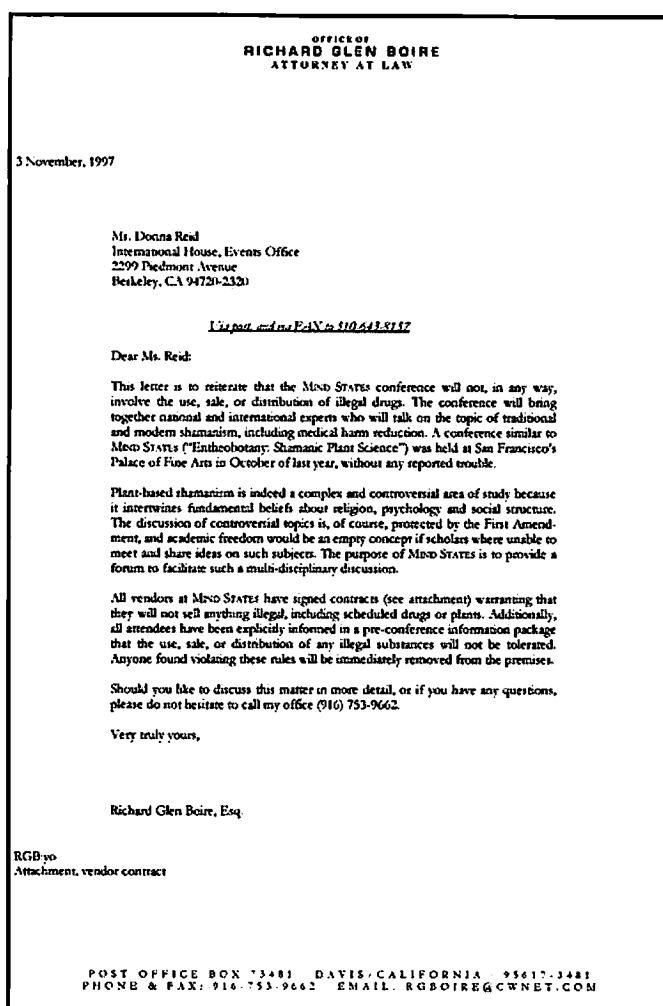


Figure 3. Response from MIND STATES attorney.

## Traps and Trajectories (cont'd)

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religion maxim. In my personal opinion (not as a lawyer), people should break the anti-entheogen laws because abiding by them is to yield autonomy over their own mind, their own consciousness, to the government. I really don't understand how we in the U.S. can be said to enjoy *any* freedom if we don't have the most fundamental freedom of controlling our own minds and internal states. Freedom of mind is the essential foundation of every other freedom.

MD: *Ska Pastora* is an ally of mine. Do you think it will be outlawed soon?

RGB: It's clear that what gives birth to newly scheduled substances today is publicity. A substance that can remain off the mediascape is not "seen" as threatening. If it's not on TV or in the papers it doesn't exist in the minds of those people charged with controlling emerging drugs. What gets substances scheduled is media depicting them as widely used and becoming more available. A substance can exist and be used underground for years and years, but if it becomes the object of a news report and becomes the latest in a string of so-called "dangerous drugs," it will score a politician's points to call for its scheduling. In other words, it's not that a substance exists that triggers its scheduling, nor is it that people in fact are using it—even large numbers of people, it's when this fact becomes *known* that the wheels of the anti-drug laws start to spin. So, in my opinion media attention on *any* currently legal entheogen is *always* bad. So again, secrecy is dictated. I think that if a currently legal entheogen suddenly becomes the subject of media attention, the best counterstrategy is not to

marshal medical and scientific data showing that the substance is relatively safe or perhaps beneficial for some people, but rather a response that minimizes the popularity (or perceived popularity) of the drug. *Ska Pastora* is, so far, untouched by the media.

MD: What are your thoughts on the Internet, both in terms of entheogens and entheogen law specifically, and just as a modern phenomenon?

RGB: I'm logged onto the Internet during all working hours and have threatened my friends and some of my clients that come the first of the year the only way to contact me will be via the net. I hate the telephone, and much prefer e-mail.

For the entheogen interested, I think the Internet is an almost unimaginably cool tool. Anyone with access can obtain information about many visionary plants and substances in the privacy of their own home. I still think, however, that the first place to check for specific information about any given entheogenic substance is *PIHKAL* or *TIHKAL*, and with respect to visionary plants *Pharmacotheon*. Unlike the Net, the signal-to-noise ratio of these books is very very high—the information can be relied on. The Net is great for such things as "trip reports," and cultivation tips. It's certainly the place to go for information on the latest techniques for mushroom cultivation. I don't know where you could get better information about dextromethorphan (DXM) than William White's DXM FAQ [<http://www.frognet.net/dxm/contents.html>]. The Net is also great for getting philosophical takes on the entheogen-elicited mindspace. On Terence McKenna's page alone [<http://www.levity.com/eschaton/tm.html>] an inter-

ested person could read for months, and the Lycaeum [<http://www.lycaeum.org/>] has thousands of pages of info.

MD: Are any of your writings on the Net?

RGB: Yeah. It's flattering, people have uploaded stuff from *TELR* and *Marijuana Law*, as well as some other essays of mine. I guess you could find them by searching my name in something like Yahoo—at least if they've attributed them to me. Also, I wrote about 30 reports for *COPSWATCH: THE MEDIA PARASITE*, some of which are archived on that website [<http://www.bevcom.org/copswatch.htm>]. I'm working with *SPECTRAL MINDUSTRIES* right now to get a centralized site going for my essays and other writings [<http://home.cwnet.com/specmind>]. Ideally I'd like to publish every issue of *TELR* to the *SPECTRAL MINDUSTRIES* web site. Putting the information onto the web would get it to many more people and I'm all for that, but I'm worried that if I do so, the paid circulation would drop and I'd no longer be able to afford writing it. *TELR* takes a huge amount of my time and just barely pays for itself as it is.

MD: How come so few other lawyers are writing on this topic?

RGB: Probably for several reasons. For one, entheogen law is no way to make a living. It's hard to "spend" your time and effort writing on a legal topic that relatively few people care about, and which most law journals will reject. Especially when the same effort and time could result in a publishable article on a legal topic that could bring their firm big-buck corporate clients. In fact, in

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### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Since time immemorial humans have used entheogenic substances as powerful tools for achieving spiritual insight and understanding. In the twentieth century, however, many of these most powerful of religious and epistemological tools were declared illegal in the United States, and their users decreed criminals. *The shaman has been outlawed*. It is the purpose of *The Entheogen Law Reporter (TELR)* to provide the latest information and commentary on the intersection of entheogenic substances and the law.

### HOW TO CONTACT TELR

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### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

*TELR* is published seasonally (i.e., four times per year) by *SPECTRAL MINDUSTRIES*. A one-year subscription for individuals is \$25 domestically and \$35 internationally. Law library subscription rate is \$45 per year domestically and \$55 internationally.

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## Traps & Trajectories (cont'd)

(Continued from page 181)

most law firms, a lawyer who wanted to write a legal article on entheogens would likely be pressured against doing so for fear that the article might offend a client. When I wrote *Marijuana Law* I was working for a law firm and at least one partner was very displeased that I did not use a pseudonym. But, entheogen law is what I am committed to—with respect to law. Fortunately shortly after the first edition of *Marijuana Law* came out I escaped the oppressive world of law firms.

MD: Do you know if the DEA monitors the Internet?

RGB: Yeah, they do. An acquaintance of mine attended a DEA seminar on GHB and told me that they made several references to monitoring newsgroups. I also know that the DEA is very concerned about the Net being used to facilitate the distribution of drugs, including entheogens. And just last month, a sixteen-year-old girl in Irvine was in the news after being arrested on suspicion of manufacturing methcathinone. Her arrest got press because she allegedly told investigators that she got the recipe off the Net [see *Associated Press*, "Internet Drugs" *Wed*, 22 October 1997].

MD: I noticed that you just came out with a new book *Sacred Mushrooms and the Law* are you working on anything else?

RGB: Yeah. A new edition of *Sacred Mushrooms and the Law* just came out, with

a foreword by Terence McKenna. Now, I'm in the thick of writing a book that is tentatively titled *Sacramental Crimes: The American justice system and the religious defense to drug crimes*. I'm hoping to finish it up by mid-'98 if time and finances permit. Also, I've got several media-hacking projects under development—mainly brainstorming with others at SPECTRAL MINDUSTRIES.

*This entire interrogation is available on audio tape for \$12.00 (postage included) from SPECTRAL MINDUSTRIES [Box 73401, Davis, CA 95617-3401]. Thanks to Yolanda Oi for transcribing it.*

## Pharmacophilia (cont'd)

(Continued from page 178)

alliteration worked its wonder outside my apprehension, as I do admit chuckling and feeling an enjoyable lightness each time Ott launched into one of his bulky barrages.)

But, these criticisms are just an aside. The book is, overall, very well written—jam-packed with interesting facts composing a cogent argument.

Using the nineteenth century poet and writer Baudelaire as his straw man, Ott begins his argument by taking issue with Baudelaire's belief, as documented most inconspicuously in *Artificial Paradises* that the use of drugs such as hashish and opium is an *artificial* means to "individualization." I say that Ott uses Baudelaire as a straw man, because Baudelaire (as Ott acknowledges) never systematically explained *why* he considered drug-induced inebriation to

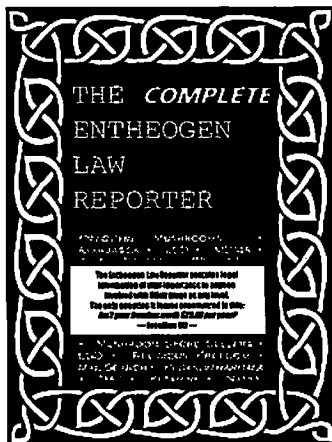
be artificial. Rather, as was common in the nineteenth century, Baudelaire simply took it as self-evident that drug use was unnatural or artificial. Ott, of course, demolishes this presumption with a solid argument leading the reader to the inescapable conclusion that nothing could be more natural than ingesting drugs. An inspiring conclusion.

While Baudelaire viewed inebriation as artificial and inherently immoral, Ott's stops short of taking an overt moral position on the issue. At first, I thought that Ott might have been implicitly saying that natural was *ipso facto* "good." (But, as someone once said, "Dog feces is natural, but I wouldn't want to spread it on my toast." And while fire is natural it would not be "good" if it burned down my house.) But, while Baudelaire criticizes so-called artificial paradises, and Ott takes issue with *the label*, Ott never does argue that inebriation *per se*—even assuming it is natural rather than artificial—is a good thing.

Rather, Ott's argument, if I understand it correctly, is much more sophisticated, though nonetheless, political and with powerful moral undertones. In his chapter "Idiosyncrasy and Pharmacophilia," Ott explains how individualized and varied are our "pharmacogenetics" and, hence, how individualized and varied are our reactions to various drugs. In effect, Ott takes the libertarian position that each person should be permitted to judge for him or herself the value, if any, of drug-elicited inebriation. The political implication is that the government has no business criminalizing human *nature*, and that doing so is immoral. I wholeheartedly agree.

All along the way Ott treats us to one fascinating factoid and pharmacognostical insight after another. This is Ott at his best. In the chapter "Psychopharmacological Engineering," Ott calls on neuroscientists to "engineer euphoria, optimize the pharmacology of pleasure; yea create better and safer inebriants." Embracing what he terms "pharmacohedonology," Ott calls for the creation of "more specific and euphoric, longer-lasting, less toxic, hyperhedonic tonics!" In this chapter, Ott seems to take it for granted that "pleasure" (clearly a natural phenomenon) is "good," perhaps hoping that the reader will conclude that if a drug produces pleasure *it* is therefore good. An assumption which, if granted, brings Ott's argument fully counter to Baudelaire's thesis that drugs are artificial and their use morally degenerative.

This is *must* reading. Hardcover \$36.00, plus \$3.00 shipping; Softcover \$18.00, plus \$3.00 shipping. Jonathan Ott Books, Post Office Box 1251-TEL, Occidental, CA 95465.



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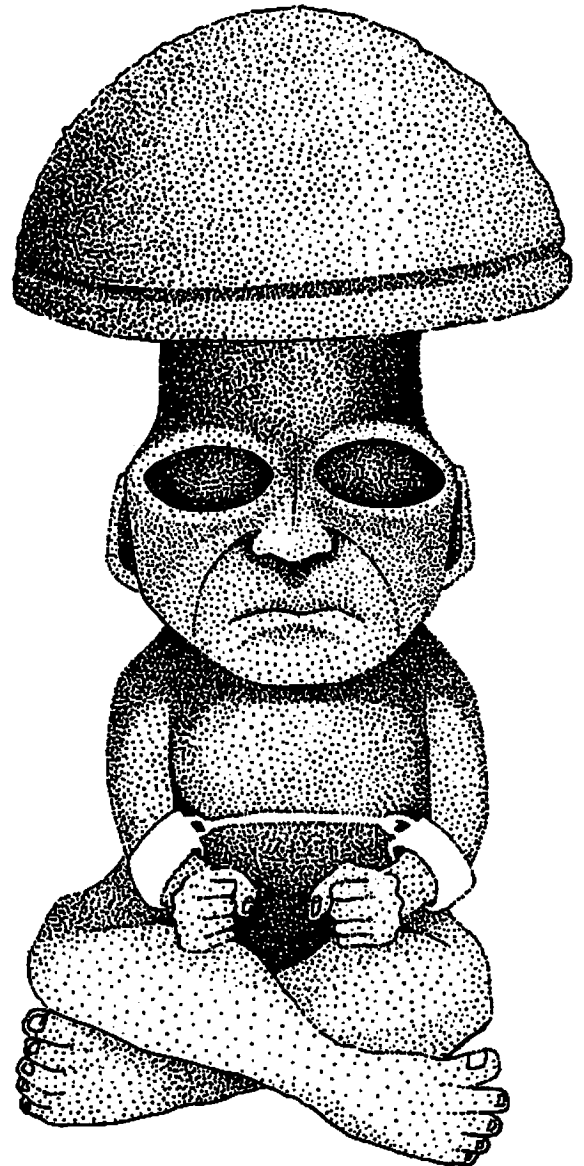
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