

## TAKE A STAND FOR SENSIBLE DRUG LAWS!

September 20, 2006

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### Marijuana Arrests at All Time High

**Washington, DC**, Police arrested someone for a marijuana-law violation every 40 seconds last year.

An estimated **786,545** people were arrested for marijuana violations in 2005, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual [Uniform Crime Report](#). The total is the highest ever recorded by the FBI.

The total number of marijuana arrests in the U.S. for 2005 **far exceeded the total number of arrests in the U.S. for all violent crimes combined**, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Law enforcement officers made more arrests for drug law violations than for any other type of crime.

Of those charged, approximately **88 percent some 696,074 Americans were charged with marijuana possession only**. The remaining were charged with "sale/manufacture or marijuana," a category that includes cultivation--even those where the marijuana was being grown for personal or medical use.

**In the Midwest region, 47.5% of all drug arrests in 2005 were for marijuana possession only.**

The federal government estimates the cost of marijuana enforcement at \$10 to \$12 billion dollars annually. To see the number of persons arrested by year, go to our website.

Read what the [Drug Enforcement Agency](#), says about why marijuana need to remain illegal in their publication, "What Americans Need to Know about Marijuana."

Decide for yourself whether all the tax dollars spent on marijuana law enforcement are worth exposing children to the black market in illegal drugs. Is keeping marijuana illegal working when 14.6 million people are frequent users, 18 million have been arrested since it became illegal, and kids say it's easier to obtain than alcohol or tobacco? Would a system of taxation and regulation be more effective at keeping it out of our schools?

### 35th Anniversary of Miller Raids on Lawrence

**Lawrence, KS**, Thirty-five years ago (September 24, 1971) Kansas Attorney General Vern Miller met with **80 law enforcement officers** in Broken Arrow Park at 4am and plotted his second drug raid on students in the Oread neighborhood. Seventeen persons were arrested that morning including James Rexroad III, son of Reno County Judge James Rexroad. The judge was quoted in the University Daily Kansan as saying "he's 22 years old and on his own."

KU students protested the raids on campus the next week. Here's a [picture](#) of the Attorney General talking to a Highway Patrolman at the protest.

The charges ranged from possession of marijuana and/or LSD to sale of marijuana and/or amphetamines or LSD. Most were arrested for possession of marijuana.

Miller said he did not get the quantity of drugs they expected to confiscate. They did find the **marijuana "press"** which had been featured in a recent **CBS 60 minutes'** episode which portrayed the marijuana harvesting and hippie culture around Lawrence. Read more on the Honk for Hemp [website](#).

### Congressional Committee Recommends Slashing ONDCP Salaries

**Washington, DC**, The Associated Press [reported](#) this week that the Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended halving salaries and expenses at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. According the article, the committee's explanation is that the reductions **are designed to "more closely reflect actual performance"** of the office charged with drug policy control.

The director of the office, John Walters, earns \$183,500. There are 111 full-time employees at the agency which costs taxpayers \$26 million. The committee recommended cutting salaries to \$11.5 million.

A spokesman for Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., who chairs the subcommittee with oversight over the drug office, Rob Ostrander, said "Unfortunately, this has been a long-term problem. The agency has a record of being unresponsive to committee staff. We hope that changes, because at the end of the day we need to ensure taxpayers' money is being spent wisely."

### Country Legend Willie Nelson Cited for Drug Possession

**Acadiana, LA**, Trooper Willie Williams, spokesman for Louisiana state police, said authorities seized a pound-and-a half of marijuana and two-tenths of a pound of

hallucinogenic mushroom mushrooms from Nelson's tour bus after it was stopped just east of Breaux Bridge on Interstate 10. See the [picture](#).

Nelson, 73, a country music hall of fame and strong advocate for the legalization of marijuana, appears to have been heading back to his home in Texas.

Normally, the amount of drugs would solicit felony charges and an arrest, but Trooper Williams said Nelson and four others on the bus all were cited with simple possession charges because each claimed the drugs were for personal use.

"I can understand that this man is a legend, per se, in country music, but this is a small amount of drugs," Williams said. "This is pretty much a daily thing for the guys that do this kind of thing."

Also cited on the bus were Tony Sizemore, 59, of St. Cloud, Fla.; Bobbie Nelson, 75, of Briarcliff, Texas; Gates Moore, 54, of Austin, Texas; and David Anderson, 50, of Dallas.

### **Screening of the Film *Busted: Citizen's Guide to Police Encounters***

See the film, "[Busted: The Citizen's Guide to Surviving Police Encounters](#)," narrated by Ira Glasser, retired ACLU Director, this Saturday, September 23rd at 1pm at the Drug Policy Forum offices, 941 Kentucky.

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**DPFKS's challenge is to educate and promote debate in Kansas about public health and cost-effective alternatives to criminalizing drug addiction and adults who use drugs responsibly.**

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