

A Mixed Message?

Can States Protect Kids From Recreational Marijuana?

By Rob Hotakainen
© 2013, McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When the U.S. Justice Department promised not to prosecute illegal marijuana sales planned to begin in Washington state and Colorado next year, its top lawyers demanded that the states reciprocate with a pledge to keep the drug away from minors.

And officials in those pioneering pot states — where recreational use of marijuana was approved by voters in November — say they're ready to comply.

But to legalization opponents, such promises are a pipe dream, destined to fail. They say it's more likely the U.S. will unleash a new industry that will try hard to attract young users and turn them into "addicts."

"Kids are going to be bombarded with this — they're already getting the message that it's acceptable," said Kevin Sabet, a legalization opponent and director of the University of Florida Drug Policy Institute, who served as an adviser on drug issues to President Barack Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

With polls showing support for legalizing marijuana on the rise, questions about how it would affect children remain.

The debate has intensified as momentum for legalization builds and as research shows increased marijuana use among youngsters. More teens are now smoking pot than tobacco, believing that it is safer.

Legalization backers say they're just as eager to protect kids as opponents. And they say the public has no reason to worry if the drug is sold openly in stores instead of on the streets.

"Forcing marijuana sales into the underground market is the worst possible policy when it comes to protecting our young people," said Mason Tvert, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project, a pro-legalization group. "It is odd that those who wish to keep marijuana out of the hands of kids are fighting to keep it as uncontrolled as possible."

Sabet is hoping that history will repeat itself and that the tide will turn against legalization, as it did in the late 1970s when baby boomers began questioning how the drug would affect kids.

"It's really important to talk about the outcome for children," he said. "This is not just about the 45-year-old otherwise responsible adult smoking weed once a week in their basement."

Teens already are more likely to smoke pot than tobacco, according to a study released in December by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan.

Death Toll From Church Bombs Rises To 81

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistan police official says the death toll from a church bombing has risen to 81 as angry Christians protested the deadliest attack ever in Pakistan against members of their faith.

Police official Noor Khan says the death toll from Sunday's bombing in the northwestern city of Peshawar rose overnight to 81, after three more of the wounded died.

A pair of suicide bombers blew themselves up amid hundreds of worshippers.

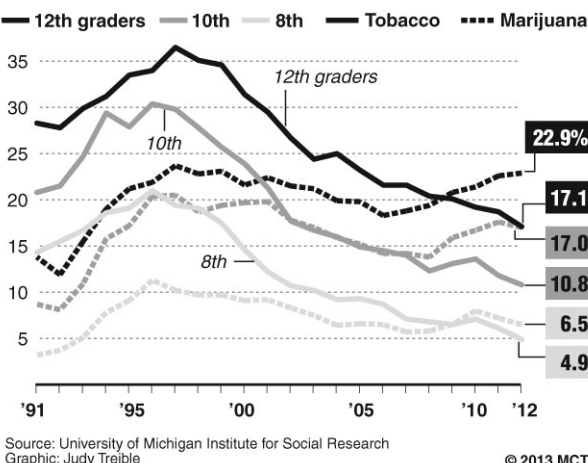
A wing of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing and said they would continue to target non-Muslims until the U.S. stops drone attacks in the remote tribal region.

Angry Christians blocked roads around the country Monday to protest the bombings.

Christians are a minority in Pakistan and have often been attacked by militants.

Teens, tobacco and pot

In recent years, teens are now more likely to smoke pot than tobacco. The percent of teenagers in three grade levels who say they've used tobacco or marijuana in the past month:



In 2012, 23 percent of high school seniors reported using marijuana in the past month, while 17 percent of the seniors said they had smoked tobacco. As recently as 2008, high school seniors were more likely to smoke cigarettes than marijuana.

The study reported similar findings in past-month use for students in younger grades. Seventeen percent of the 10th-graders had used marijuana, compared with 11 percent who had smoked cigarettes. Among eighth-graders, 6.5 percent had smoked pot, compared with 5 percent who had smoked tobacco.

"We are increasingly concerned that regular or daily use of marijuana is robbing many young people of their potential to achieve and excel in school or other aspects of life," Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said when the study was released.

As officials in Washington state and Colorado prepare to open the nation's first retail pot shops, many acknowledge the tricky task awaiting them. But they appear determined both to allow adults to smoke pot for fun while trying to convince kids that it's not a good idea.



Out On The Town

BRANSON EXTRAORDINAIRE
3 DAYS • NOV. 1, 2, 3, 2013
Dbl Occ **\$499** ONLY Per person double occupancy from
FREMONT, LINCOLN, NORFOLK & OMAHA Single Occupancy \$559
TOUR INCLUDES: •Daniel O'Donnell Show •The Miracle of Christmas •Presley's Country Jubilee •Doug Gabriel Show •Motor Coach •2 Nights •4 Meals
COUPON Branson Extraordinaire Nov. 1-3, 2013
\$50 Discount **NOW ONLY \$449**
With Single Occ only \$509
For complete brochure, call: **1-800-806-7944**
MOOSTASH JOE TOURS www.mjtours.com

Need A Great Place to Host Your Holiday Party, Birthday Reunion, Anniversary etc.?

You don't need to be an Elks member to rent this beautiful facility!

The Elks Call today for more information
665-3333
504 W. 27th, Yankton



Check Out Our Daily Noon Lunches
Watch For Our New Menus

September 27
Mike & Jay
September 28
Big Red Rawkit Riot

Angeles. "There is no need to tolerate anything more than that."

In written testimony to the committee, Kleiman said that cracking down on marketing "would do more to prevent increased drug abuse and increased use by minors than any single other step the federal government could take."

Sabet predicted that attracting more young users will be necessary for the economic survival of the industry.

"This is about making sure that kids are hooked early, because that's the only way that addictive industries make money," he said. "They don't make money off casual users, and in order to get addicts, you have to start people young."

Sabet took special aim at Colorado, saying the state already has "de facto legalization for kids" with its medical marijuana system. He criticized the state's dispensaries for engaging in mass advertising and for selling such items as "medical marijuana lollipops" and "pot tarts." And he noted that studies already have found increased emergency room admissions for teens in Colorado who reported using someone else's medical marijuana.

"When availability goes up, the kids' access to it is going to go up, too," Sabet said. "And I think we're fool-

ish to think there's not going to be a black market."

Sabet has emerged as one of the nation's top legalization opponents after teaming up earlier this year with Patrick Kennedy, a former Democratic congressman from Rhode Island, to create a group called Project SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana). The group wants the Justice Department to block the states of Washington and Colorado from proceeding, with Kennedy warning that a failure to do so will lead to more drugged-driving accidents and school dropouts.

"These people have too much free time and they need to get a job," said Steve Horowitz, who runs a medical marijuana dispensary in Denver but is hoping to make the switch to a full recreational operation.

His line of marijuana "edibles" includes "Mountain High suckers" that sell for \$6 each. But Horowitz said all of his goods are aimed at adults. And he said no dispensary owner would risk his investment by selling to minors.

"If there's no black market, then the only place you can buy it is in a store that spends \$600,000 to be open," he said. "You think anybody's going to break the law and sell to somebody under 21?"

Fall Has Arrived

Fall Specials & Atmosphere
Tis the Season To Plan Your Christmas Party!
Book Before Oct. 31st & Receive a 10% Discount!

The Argo
Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30
1-402-388-2400
www.theargohotel.com
email: argo@gpcom.net CROFTON, NE



YHS Choirs Presents...
Evening With The Stars

"NOW & THEN"

Monday, September 30
7:00pm
YHS Theatre

Admission: \$5 Adults
Children 5 & under FREE
Tickets may be purchased from YHS Choir members until Wednesday, Sept. 25, and at the door.
Activity tickets and teacher passes will not be honored.

52nd Annual Meeting of the
Yankton County Historical Society...
2013 Historic Revelry Rockin' The 50's
October 6, 2013
at **The Center** 900 Whiting Dr., Yankton
In the spirit of the afternoon, we are encouraging members to participate in the theme - come dressed in your favorite 1950's look.
2:00 to 3:00pm Social Hour
Enjoy a Teen Canteen Meal and 1950's Prices at our Beer & Wine Bar
3:00 to 3:15pm YCHS Business Meeting
3:15 to 3:45 Live Auction
3:45 to 4:00pm Silent Auction Final Bids & Closing
4:00 to 5:00pm Social Hour
Enjoy your desserts and the music of the Java Tones from 4-4:45pm
Tickets \$35 for non-members.
Reservations are still being accepted. Call 665-3898.

win **BIG** this saturday! **\$11,699** msrp
PLAY TO EARN POINTS TO WIN
HONDA BIGred multi utility vehicle
earn entries: **AUG. 1 - SEP. 28** drawing: **SEP. 28: 10PM**
PURCHASED AT **Big Seasons** PESHAWAR, PA

MARTY STUART SAT. OCT. 5TH
8PM • \$25 — 21 AND OVER —
CALL 1-402-857-3860 TO PURCHASE TICKETS!
PRESENT TICKET STUB AFTER THE SHOW FOR **\$5 FREE PLAY**
Join us for **Bingo every Sunday & Thursday**

Ohiya CASINO • RESORT 7 MILES EAST OF NIOBRARA, NE
402.857.3860 • OHIYACASINO.COM

VFW Post 791 209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wednesday & Sunday
5-7pm Cooks Choice
Thursday
5-7pm - Domestic Beers **\$1.50**
5-7pm - Hamburger/BBQ Ribs **\$5.00**
Friday
Karaoke with Papa Ray 8:30pm-12:30am
Apple Glazed Pork Chop Serving 5:30-8:00
Saturday Entertainment
No Band
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00
Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30
Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

Celebrate Oktoberfest with ESSEN, TRINKEN UND GEMÜTLICHKEIT
[Eating, drinking, and a warm, wonderful time]
and **BIER!** [BEER!]
ENJOY OUR **OKTOBERFEST FEATURE MENU**
Available for a limited time only
Minervas
1607 E Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD
605.664.2244 • minervas.net