

CH 37:

Sunset

Marijuana leads to homosexuality,
breakdown of the immune system
& ultimately to AIDS.

- Dr. Carlton Turner,
the Gipper's first drug czar

(as widely quoted
but not quite truly)

Or as foreshadowed,
by our old friend Bayard Taylor,
that poet of Tennessee
& author of the first American gay novel:

*Better it were to sleep with the owl,
to house with the hornet,
Than to conflict with the satisfied
moral sense of the people.*

#PRAY
FOR
ORLANDO

SO AS RONALD REAGAN CAME TO POWER
FROM HIS CALIFORNIA ROOTS,
THE GAYS & QUEERS MIGRATED
TO THEIR SUPPOSED SAFE HAVENS
OF CASTRO & THE VILLAGE,
OR TO THE MAGIC GLENS OF THE RADICAL FEIRIES
SECLUDED IN THE BACKCOUNTRY,
TO SAFE HAVENS FOR YOUNG RUNAWAYS KICKED
OUT OF HOME, SCHOOL & CHURCH FOR THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY
- OR OTHER PRIVATE QUEER TWISTS.

A DECADE OF DARK HEAVY VIBRATIONS,
AN UNHEALTHY TIME TO BE RADICALLY
DIFFERENT IN AMERIKA.

AS WE JUST SAW, THE ADMINISTRATION STEPPED IN
WITH FOOT TO THE FLOOR, RUNNING THEIR PLAYBOOK
HARD & FAST. REAGAN'S PEOPLE ENACTED THE LARGEST
REORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL POWER SINCE FDR.
NIXON'S WEASELED POWER-GRAB POLITICS PALE NEXT TO THE
ANTI-RED ANTI-DRUG ANTI-SLACKERS AMERICAN MACHINE
PERHAPS PILOTED BY THE GIPPER.

THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET UNRAVELED SO EFFECTIVELY THAT
UNITED STATES CITIZENS STILL RANK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE
LIST FOR AN ASTONISHING ARRAY OF METRICS FOR MEASURING
THE GOOD LIFE.



THE PRISONS SWELLED SO DRAMATICALLY THAT THE PUTATIVE
LAND OF THE FREE SOARED ABOVE THE REST OF THE WORLD FOR
THE NUMBER OF HUMAN BEINGS INSIDE CAGES.
THIS FLOOD OF PRISONERS GAINED MUCH STRENGTH & FURY
FROM THE PROHIBITION OF NON-VIOLENT CRIMES
INVOLVING THE ALTERATION ONES OWN CONSCIOUSNESS,

OR AS WE SHALL SEE IN SAN FRANCISCO BURNING,
TO USE AN OLD MEDICINE FOR A NEW PLAGUE.

In Tony Kushner's
portentous play,
*'Angels in America:
A Gay Fantasia
on National Themes'*

he exposes the horror of
AIDS under Reagan,
a monumental meditation
on an epidemic boiling
with a nation unaware
- & then unconcerned -
about the brutal deaths visited
on "those people".

The virus that arose
traced Reagan's administration
with a fatal accuracy.

But from those hellish flames,
the medical marijuana movement
emerged from the crucible.

(our guiding light
for this chapter
& one of theater's
pinnacles)

Says the Angel
of Amerika,

*My wrath is as fearsome
as my countenance
is splendid.*

The Queers rose up &
demanded their right to life
in the Land of the Free,
another Lost Tribe valiant in
the wilds of Amerika.
For them the playwright
Tony Kushner had the
prophet Prior Walter preach
from his AZT visions,

*This disease will be the end of many of us,
but not nearly all,
& the dead will be commemorated
& will struggle on with the living,
& we are not going away.
We won't die secret deaths anymore.
The world only spins forward.
We will be citizens.
The time has come.*

But every force has its equal & opposite.
The growing power of the gay rights movement incited the closeted pushback against this next struggle session in long road towards civil rights in a nation of all men created equal.
But some men are more equal than others. Momentous men like the powerbroker Roy Cohn, the historical lawyer of McCarthy fame played by Al Pacino in the 'Angels' HBO miniseries, who - in a fictionalized account from the play - speaks for a spirit of the age when he finds out his HIV positive status from his trusted physician.

Roy Cohn lays down the law of clout on the reasons why to keep that closet door firmly closed:

Your problem, Henry, is that you are hung up on words... labels. "Gay", "homosexual", "lesbian"; you think they tell you who a person sleeps with, but they don't tell you that.

Like all labels, they refer to one thing & one thing only:

Where does a person so identified fit in the food chain?

Not ideology or sexual taste, but something much simpler — clout

Homosexuals are not men who sleep with other men.

Homosexuals are men who, in 15 years of trying, can't get a pissant anti-discrimination bill through City Council.

They are men who know nobody, and who nobody knows. Now, Henry, does that sound like me?

Roy Cohn had clout. A homophobic Queer & an antisemitic Jew, Cohn prosecuted the Rosenberg espionage trial & claimed personal responsibility for sending Julius & Ethel to the chair.

That success attracted Senator Joseph McCarthy to appoint Roy Cohn his Chief Counsel during the Second Red Scare.

Cohn & McCarthy fanned the flames of their red crusade with the Lavender Scare - claiming that Communists had forced several closeted high-ranking government officials into handing over secrets in exchange for safekeeping the damaging truth of their sexuality.

The Lavender Scare forced scores of gay men out of government jobs. According to Senator Alan K. Simpson, this homosexual witchhunt caused damage to far more people than the Red Scare itself.

To silence opposition, the duo of McCarthy & Cohn employed rumors of fairydom against any questions their methods.

Seeing the employment of homosexuals as a national security threat

- & then just little over a decade after liberating Camp Ravensbrück, the Nazi's solution for queers - President General Eisenhower issues an executive order banning homosexuals from federal service. However, Joseph McCarthy's downfall in his overzealous prosecution of that mission arose from the Army/McCarthy hearings where questions arose about Cohn's fierce pressure to protect his "special assistant" G. David Schine from the draft.



Continuing to his physician, Cohn says,

No. I have clout.

Lots.

*I pick up that phone,
dial 15 numbers*

*& guess who's on the other
end of the line?*

In under five minutes, Henry.

Henry: The President?

Henry: I'm impressed.

Better — his wife.

*I don't want you to be
impressed, Henry —
I want you to understand.
This is not sophistry
& this is not hypocrisy.
This is reality.*

*I have sex with men;
but, unlike nearly every other
man of which this is true,
I bring the guy I'm screwing to
Washington
& President Reagan smiles at
us and shakes his hand.*

Cohn abandoned McCarthy for private practice in NYC. By 1984, his clients ranged to John Gotti, the Yankees, Donald Trump & the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of NY.

He also beat a number of federal & state charges on perjury & witness tampering.

With Reagan's people in power, Cohn had his hands on the levers.

But in the semi-mythical play, after the diagnosis of HIV, Cohn tells everyone he's sick with liver cancer.

He holds that line all the way through to the hard end, even as the truth is evident by the tell-tale sarcomas of Kaposi, the 'wine-dark kisses of the angel of death'.

Despite using his clout to acquire a dragon's stash of the still experimental AZT - the first line of antiretrovirals to show any efficacy at slowing the virus -

Roy Cohn still dies alone, like so many of his time, fouling himself in a hospital bed with only Belize the crossdressing nurse to show him off into the night.

FOR THE TEENAGE FAERIES, YOUNG GAYS & DRIFTING QUEERS
OF THE 80'S, THEY FLOAT OUTCAST
- MANY PROPELLED ADRIFT WITH FEARFUL CONDEMNATION
BY THE PILLARS OF PARENTS, PASTOR & SCHOOL,
REJECTED ROUNDLY BY THE TRINITY OF MIDDLE AMERICAN
INSTITUTIONS MOST DEAR TO A YOUNG PERSON'S
SAFETY WEB OF SUPPORT.

FOR THE ONES WHO SUFFERED THE PERSONALLY OFFENDED
BIGOTRY OF MRS. GRUNDY'S AMERIKA,

FOR THE ONES WHO SURVIVED THE REDNECKS WITH LEAD
PIPES WAITING OUTSIDE THEIR BARS ON TOWN'S OUTSKIRTS,
FOR THE ONES WHO SURVIVED THE SIREN CALL OF SUICIDE
THAT STILL CLAIMS SO MANY YOUNG QUEERS,

FOR THE ONES WHO WANDERED THE HIGHWAYS & UNDERGROUNDS
WONDERING WHERE TO FIND THE OTHERS,
THESE SURVIVORS FOUND SOLACE & SOCIETY IN
URBAN BASTIONS LIKE SF'S CASTRO OR NYC'S CHELSEA.

BUT EVEN MORE THAN A DECADE AFTER THE STONEWALL
RIOTS OF '69 IGNITED THE MODERN GAY BATTLE FOR EQUAL
RIGHTS, LOCAL COPS STILL BUSTED HEADS AT GAY BARS
& THREATENED REPUTATIONS & EXPOSURES AT KNOWN
CRUISING SPOTS, VICIOUSLY FIGHTING TO KEEP
QUEER ILLEGAL.

MEANWHILE, THE AIR FORCE DRUMMED OUT WAR HERO
SEARGENT LEONARD MATLOVICH FOR REFUSING TO SIGN A
DOCUMENT PROMISING TO "NEVER PRACTICE HOMOSEXUALITY
AGAIN". AGAINST THESE TIDES, VIBRANT LGBTQ
COMMUNITIES GREW UP AGAINST THE PRESSURE,

SNUG HARBORS FROM WHERE TO WATCH THE MAD '80s

BEATING AGAINST THE WINDOW

& NURSING THE ACTIVISTS

TO FORCE IT BACK.

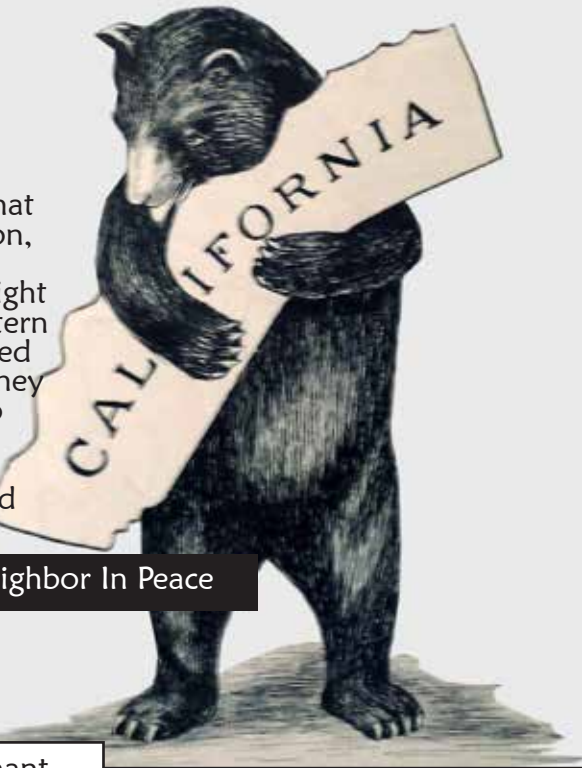
Across this continental history, the individualists always headed west. They sought the open spaces, away from the meddlesome crowd, propelled away from the east until finally halted by the Pacific Ocean, their waves dashing against a bay in a town named after Saint Francisco de Asís, the friend of all animals - even bears & wolves.

Those citizens of that
young upstart nation,

looking to flee the tight
strictures of civil eastern
society finally settled
here as far west as they
could possibly go

to share a liberal
if inequally applied
commandment:

Leave Thy Neighbor In Peace



And so Harvey Milk began to chant...

DON'T LET IT
HAPPEN
HERE
REGISTER

& led a Rainbow Coalition
into electing him the first
openly gay official in the
United States
(after an uncountable
number of secret ones).



Milk favored
cannabis
legalization -
as he did the
overthrow of
all laws that
robbed people
of dignity - but
it was his friend
Dennis Peron
who survived
to become the
elven face of
the medical
marijuana fight.

On his first tour of duty in Vietnam, Dennis Peron found the twinned trees bearing the forbidden fruit that forever flavored his outspoken activist life.

As Fred Gardner reports in a deft biographical article in O'Shaughnessy,

“stationed outside of Saigon when the Tet offensive began, [Peron's] unit was pinned down for a week. It was during this time ... he had his first experience as a gay man. Later, on leave in Thailand, he befriended some locals who took him to the mountains where, coming around a pass onto a broad plateau, marijuana grew as far as the eye could see.”



When I returned two months later, Saigon was flooded with refugees & two-thirds of the city had been burned. The sweet smell of marijuana was being laced with heroin from Hong Kong. It would soon hook thousands. Having come out of the closet, I sought other gay people & found them in the USO, which turned into a gay club, as the straight guys were busy buying tea for the B girls.

And so war came to define Dennis Peron - first the War in Vietnam, then the War on Drugs & finally the War on AIDS.

These trilogy of wars represent an unusual martial twist for a gentleman still described as a happy & mischevious Puck.

In Vietnam, he served honorably in all tours of duty.

In the War on Drugs, he didn't hesitate to take an early beachead in 1969 by stepping off his final plane ride home from carrying two Air Force duffel bags of Thai.

(Only later would he learn that he smuggled in the secret weapon for the War on AIDS.)

The San Francisco Police Department arrested him within the first year. Gardner says, “Dennis simply refused to accept that anybody —no cop, no district attorney, no judge— could tell him he didn't have a right to smoke marijuana.

“These macho cops just can't stand the idea that a skinny little faggot won't fold up & go away because they say so.”



Peron said he left a hippie & returned a hippie.
After his service, he got a big two bedroom flat & called it
the Big Top Commune.
Up to 15 of them would be living in the flat for its vibe of
shared dreams with free food, free love & easy trips.

*"And the right to smoke it
means the right to get it -
which means people have to
have the right to grow it & sell it."*

That same year of 1972, the activists flew their California Marijuana Initiative
- the first-ever marijuana decriminalization state initiative.

The ballot summary contained an almost breath-taking sanity,

Removes state penalties for personal use.

*Proposes a statute which would provide that no person eighteen years or older shall be
punished criminally or denied any right or privilege because of his
planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing,
otherwise preparing, transporting, possessing or using marijuana.*

*Does not repeal existing, or limit future, legislation prohibiting persons under the
influence of marijuana from engaging in conduct that endangers others.*

VOTE YES on 19

But, a year of disappointments as McGovern's run at the White House loses big, 
Nixon orders the secret Christmas bombing of Cambodia for the holidays
& California's Proposition 19 only garners 33% support.
But the loss of that law set the stage for San Francisco's Statement W.

In other legal news, the first bust of Peron's Big Top only took until 1974.
Once he got a marijuana supermarket setup in the living room,



This was in the days just before decriminalization, so I was facing pretty heavy time for the seven pounds of pot they got.

It was an expansive restaurant that seated 250 people. We built it out of recycled wood & the decor was California hippie. Our cupboard was pretty bare & we bought our first food order at Safeway with \$1500 in food stamps.

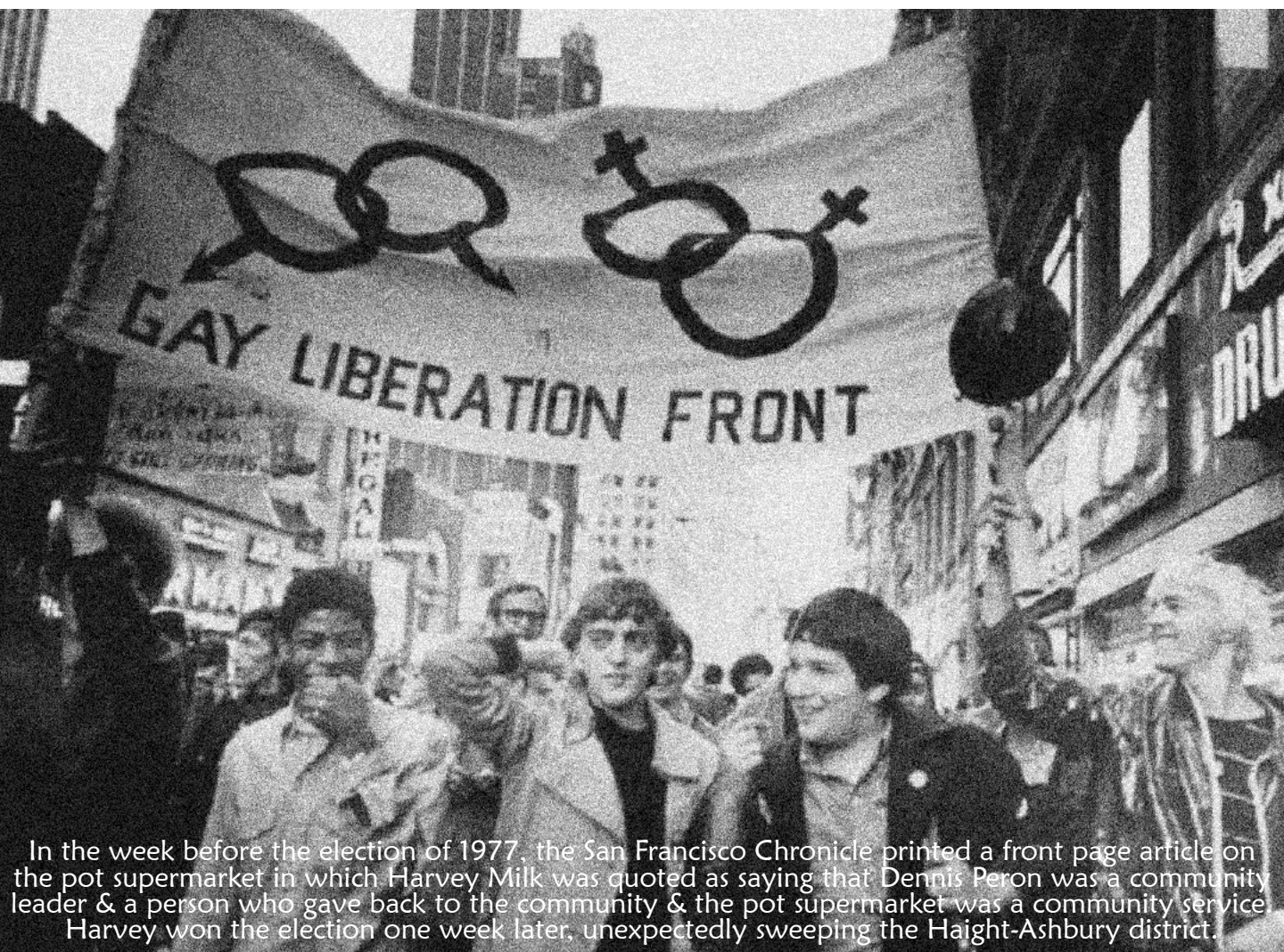
*Officer Mackavekias was the sole witness against me & was already showing his homophobia. We were to meet again. As a result of that bust, I was offered a deal - a six month work furlough program, which enabled me to work during the day, returning to jail at night. Though I was seemingly unemployable, my family members & I found an old storefront that hadn't been used for 20 years. We secured a lease & started building a restaurant to be called **the Island.***

It soon became a home for political change in San Francisco. It was a two-way feed, with the pot supermarket upstairs, supplying customers for the food downstairs. It was the only restaurant in the world where pot smoking was nearly mandatory.

I forced the customers to register to vote before I would sell them pot.



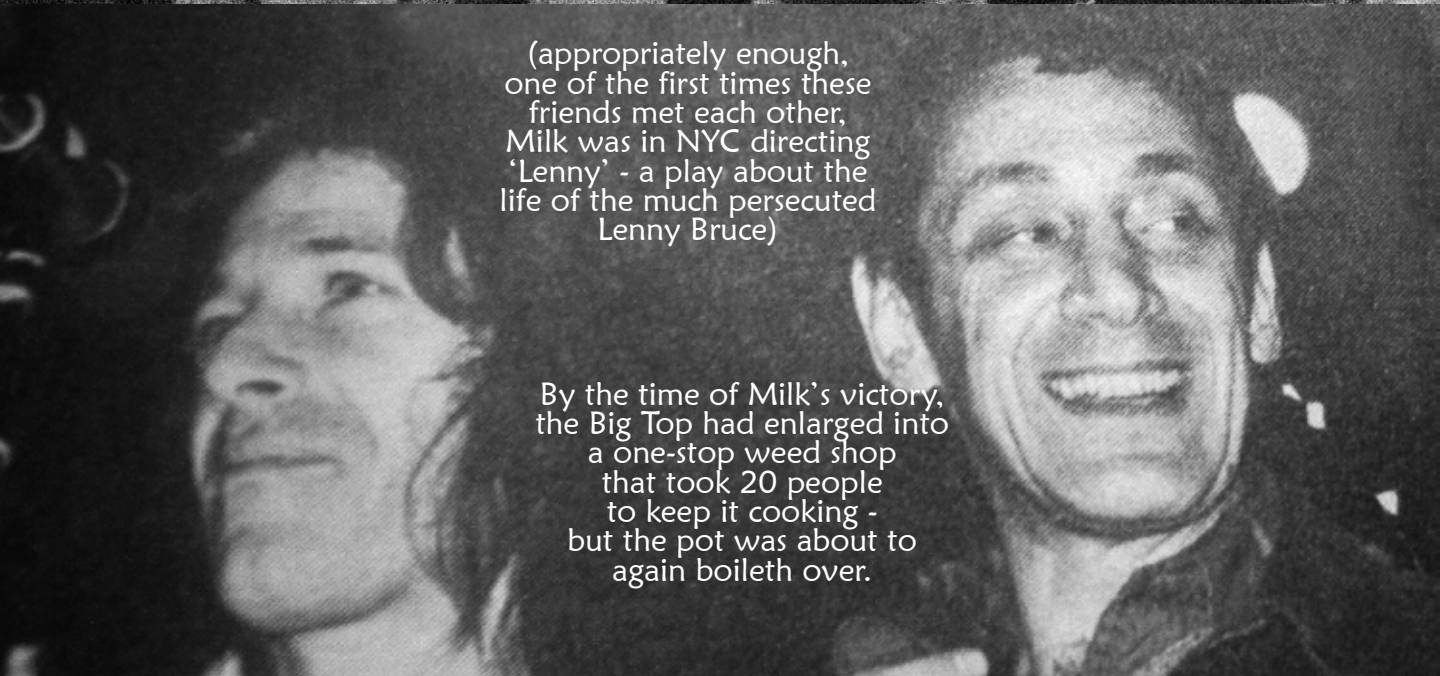
At rallies around the city, Peron helped to muster the power of the growing gay rights movement.



In the week before the election of 1977, the San Francisco Chronicle printed a front page article on the pot supermarket in which Harvey Milk was quoted as saying that Dennis Peron was a community leader & a person who gave back to the community & the pot supermarket was a community service. Harvey won the election one week later, unexpectedly sweeping the Haight-Ashbury district.

(appropriately enough, one of the first times these friends met each other, Milk was in NYC directing 'Lenny' - a play about the life of the much persecuted Lenny Bruce)

By the time of Milk's victory, the Big Top had enlarged into a one-stop weed shop that took 20 people to keep it cooking - but the pot was about to again boileth over.



As the stalwart Fred Gardner wrote of the raid of 1978:

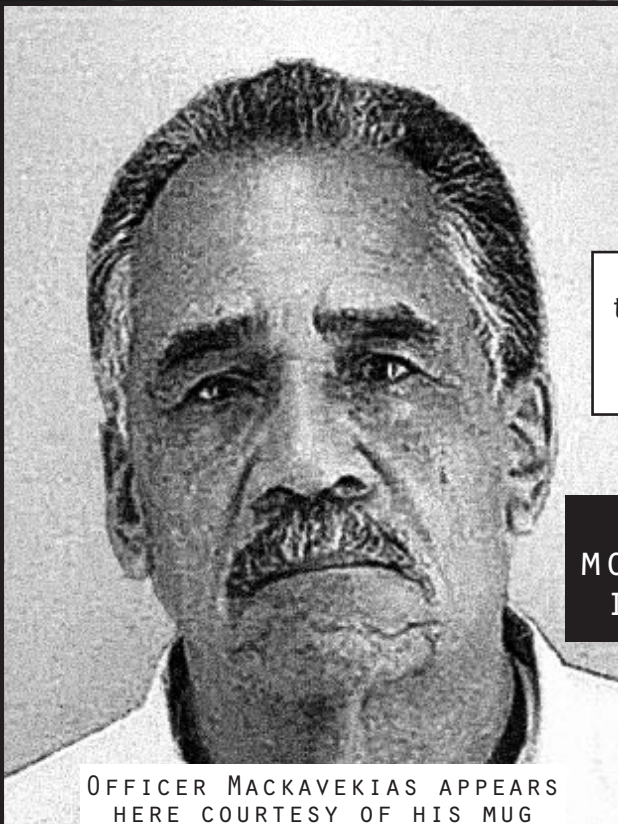
“Dennis was shot in the thigh by a cop named Paul Mackavekias. The raiders were dressed in plain clothes and looked like thugs. Dennis assumed he was being ripped off by a gang.

(Which he was. The SFPD Narcotics Squad even had their own colors —Hawaiian shirts.)

He stood at the top of the stairs with a half-empty four-gallon water bottle held aloft as if to defend himself when he took the bullet.

I interviewed him in the hospital and began to get to know him.”

“The ensuing trial took four months. (The court stenographer became a good friend of Dennis’s). The officers who testified at length, mainly Mackavekias and his partner Greg Corrales, the second man through the door, had to spend days listening to contemptuous jive from Dennis’s diverse crew.”



OFFICER MACKAVEKIAS APPEARS HERE COURTESY OF HIS MUG SHOT FROM LATER CHARGES OF BRIBERY - I SAY, I SAY, FIXIN' TAXI MEDALLIONS THAT IS...

“Mackavekias snapped. All his testimony was thrown out after he blurted, in the presence of witnesses, that he wished he'd killed Peron so there'd be...”

‘ONE LESS MOTHERFUCKING FAGGOT IN SAN FRANCISCO.’



An aerial photograph of a baseball field and stadium. The field is in the foreground, with players visible on the field. The stadium is a large, modern building with a distinctive architectural design, featuring a series of vertical slats or panels. The stadium is situated on a hillside, with a parking lot and some other buildings visible in the background. The surrounding area is hilly and appears to be a mix of natural vegetation and developed land.

Dennis received a lighter sentence as a result of this outburst but still wound up with seven months in San Bruno.

By the early '80s, he'd been busted over a dozen times. When free, he'd immediately return to selling cannabis out of his living room.

With that much heat, Peron always kept a retainer with flamboyant SF lawyer Tony Serra - with whom we will later sit - because the SFPD "regarded Dennis Peron as a walking, talking affront."

When Harvey Milk sat in on the trial of the raid where Peron got shot, the brutality of the officers & their behavior in the court shocked him. The Late Great Milk gave his blessing for his friend Dennis Peron to hit 'em with Initiative W, aka the Great 'SF Stop Prosecuting Marijuana Offenses.' In full, the ballot initiative's text read,



STATEMENT OF POLICY

MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE ELECTORS

WE, THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO, DEMAND THAT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, ALONG WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE, CEASE THE ARREST & PROSECUTION OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE CULTIVATION, TRANSFER, OR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA.

Initiative W dovetailed neatly into the traditional libertarian bent of these Californians. Of the 168,730 citizens of San Francisco who cast their ballot on that day in November of 1978, greater than 63% approved.

Mayor Moscone complied, instructing the police to ignore the possession of an ounce or less.

Dennis soon realized the incongruity.

It's the 'miracle ounce,' it's illegal to grow marijuana, it's illegal to possess a pound, it's illegal to sell or buy it. Where did all those people get their legal ounces? Every one of them must be a miracle!

"[Peron] was planning a rigorous legalization campaign at the state level," Gardner reports, "when the assassination of Milk & Moscone by a former policeman named Dan White took away his most potent allies & turned the local political landscape into a wasteland as the 1970s came to an end."

In the Cookbook, Dennis recalls,

They planted the seed of the reason for killing Milk and Moscone, saying that they were ruining San Francisco, along with me. That seed germinated on November 27 in a hail of bullets from a disgruntled, spoiled loser, Dan White, who had resigned as Supervisor the previous week, changed his mind, and decided he wanted his job back. Harvey had lobbied against him. When Mayor Moscone refused, Dan White shot him dead right in the Mayor's office. Then he walked down the hall to Harvey's office, and shot him five times in his body before shooting the final bullet through Harvey's brain.

Eerily, Harvey had made a recording prior to his death, in which he anticipated the possibility that he might be killed. He was receiving daily death threats at the time. In the tape he said, "Let the bullet that rips through my brain, rip through every closet door in America."

White's trial took on ominous overtones when the word "assassination" was never mentioned, and Dan White, protected by his police, gave a most tearful confession, which was enough to make a grown man cry. A carefully concocted confession. Because of the pressure he felt having recently opened his new restaurant, The Hot Potato, his defense was that he had eaten too many Twinkies, drunk



One of their final tender moments

too many cokes. He was high on sugar and had diminished capacity. He had killed the mayor and Harvey because of a bad diet. The jury, from which all gay and non-white people had been excluded, believed

... & SO ON, YOU KNOW HOW IT SO OFTEN ENDS
FOR THE CRUEL IN AMERICAN COURTS

When the Twinkie Defense infamously entered our jurisprudence & shielded Dan White from an obvious first degree murder charges & only found guilty of manslaughter -
a sentence that'd see the former San Francisco supervisor free in 4.5 years -

STOP ATTACKS
ON LESBIANS & GAYS

the citizens of SF rioted on that White Night,

torched 13 police cars

& later held candle lit vigils

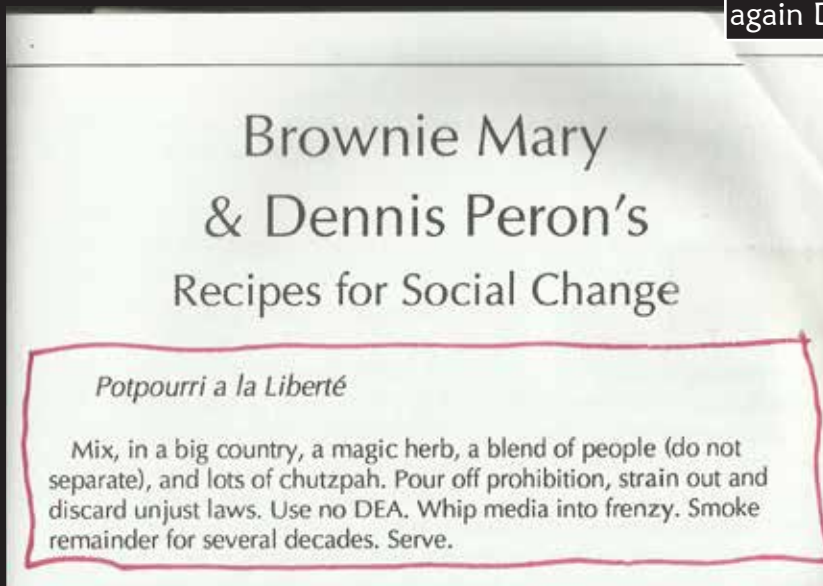
for their hero taken young.



Just the day before had been their annual Day of Grass which Harvey Milk had never missed. He always urged everyone in the city to plant marijuana. "They can't bust us all," he'd say.

Dennis continues in the Cookbook,
They replaced the police cars but they could never replace Harvey & George. With Harvey's death, the coalition he had built started breaking up - we lost district elections, the prudish Diane Feinstein was elected mayor, the gay-friendly Charles Gain was fired from his position as Chief of Police & things began to look pretty grim. Eventually Proposition W was forgotten & Ronald Reagan was elected president & the teflon '80s had begun. Nothing ever stuck in the brain pan.

"Then came the epidemic & again Dennis saw a lot of death."



BUT TO
 NEVER
 GIVE UP
 THE GOOD
 FIGHT,
 THEY
 GIFTED
 US THE
 RECIPE
 FOR THE
 FUTURE...

OR AS BELIZE
 DESCRIBES HEAVEN
 TO A DYING ROY COHN
 'RACE, TASTE &
 HISTORY FINALLY
 OVERCOME...'



SO IT BEGINS.

THE SAME MONTH RONALD REAGAN TOOK HIS 1981
INAUGURAL OATH TO FAITHFULLY PROTECT
& DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CHIEF JUSTICE
WARREN BURGER,



A YOUNG YOGA INSTRUCTOR NAMED NICK ROCK
PASSED AWAY & INTO HISTORY AS PATIENT #2 -
THE FIRST KNOWN AIDS FATALITY IN NEW YORK CITY.

ONLY TWO MONTHS EARLIER DID THE YOUNG GAY MAN
SUFFER A SEIZURE & LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
HIS DIAGNOSIS OF TOXOPLASMOSIS
- A PARASTIC DISEASE USUALLY FOUND IN CATS -
GAVE NO OBVIOUS CLUES TO THE BEGINNING
OF A BLOODY TRAIL OF TEARS.



AS NICK ROCK'S FRIEND TOM BIANCHI REMEMBERS,
"IN THOSE DAYS, THAT WAS THE MOST BIZARRE
KIND OF THING. YOUNG PEOPLE DID NOT DIE OF
UNEXPLAINED ILLNESSES."

SOON AN OUTBREAK OF THE RARE SKIN CANCER
- KAPOSÍ'S SARCOMA -
AMONG GAY MEN PUZZLED DOCTORS.

THEY SUSPECTED POPPERS & AMYL NITRATE
- DRUGS STILL POPULAR IN THE GAY SCENE -
AS A POTENTIAL CAUSE.



'THIS AGE IS THE THRENODY CHANT
OF A POET, A DARK-DEVISING POET
WHOSE ONLY THEME IS DEATH...'



Also as Reagan took the oath, Dr. Carlton Turner, the chemist who provided our epigraph, toiled away as head of the Marijuana Research Project - the federal research lab at the University of Mississippi - & source of the government's own homegrown, the only legal dispenser of cannabis for US clinical research trials.

Dr. Turner had not been wasting his pulpit at the MRP, lecturing on the dangers of marijuana, often with the statements of a scientist in a charming Southern drawl that might be factually correct if intellectually misleading.

His wholesome background certainly didn't do him harm with the White House.

As a bio in the Chicago Tribune in 1986 described him,

He is a research chemist almost by default... "I was 26 when I got my bachelor's degree," Turner says. "The dean at the Ole Miss medical school told me I was too old. So I got into chemistry."



He moved into a trailer near the Southern Miss campus, where he lived with two teenaged female cousins. "We used to divide up the rooms once a week to do the house work," recalls Elaine Dukes, who shared the trailer with Turner & her sister.



"He inspected everything. We called him Mr. Clean."

Turner shares, "After I got my Ph.D. I was hired as a research associate on the marijuana project at Ole Miss. It was the only one I could find," Turner says. "I was going to work there one year, learn about drugs, then go to law school and become a defense attorney."...

Instead, Turner caught a lucky break after the man heading the MRP got fired after giving a controversial interview to Rolling Stone.

"He told where all the marijuana was... It caused a security crisis."

Dr. Turner got offered the freshly vacant position & quickly had to clean up the ship. Two weeks into the gig, somebody harvested 20 acres of gov't grass from the patch near Wiggins, Mississippi.

The DEA gave him hell, hassling him for quite awhile over it.

But he eventually won them around.

Later, when he realized two lab assistants were smoking & selling out of the lab's backdoor, he fired them & cracked down with strict inventory controls.

The federal agents started to realize Dr. Turner was a straight shooter.



(and if by any starry chance, either of those 2 UMiss alums slinging federal ganja out the gov't grow ever sees these words, please reach out to me. I want to hear that story - & I'll travel anywhere for it. & while we're here fishing, if you happen to might be the good old boy who harvested 20 acres of bud from Uncle Sam under a Stone County Mississippi moon, please call me collect - day or night)

But Turner blossomed into a chemist with the nose of a data rat
& during his time at the MRP's helm, he made serious contributions to cannabinoid chemistry.

He assembled this annotated bibliography in 1974,

MARIHUANA

An Annotated Bibliography

Coy W. Waller
Jacqueline J. Johnson
Judy Buelke
Carlton E. Turner

(it set me back 30 bucks
but still well worth it
as a treasure trove
of the early cannabinoid hunt)

& by the time of its
publication, he'd already
produced 15 papers in
two years on cannabinoid
chemistry.

According to Ed Rosenthal,
Dr. Turner first documented the circadian rhythms
of cannabinoid content -
the THC potency lowest at dusk
& peaking just before the dawn.

A REVIEW OF THE NATURAL CONSTITUENTS

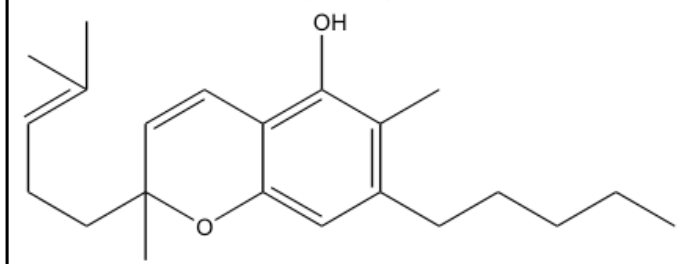
CARLTON E. TURNER*, MAHMOUD A. ELSOHLY* and EDWARD G. BOEREN

Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy,
University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677 USA

Cannabis preparations have been used by man for over 5000 years (1). Early use was associated with medical applications.

Turner still stands in that small group of scientists who've done any original work on CBC,

cannabichromene (CBC)



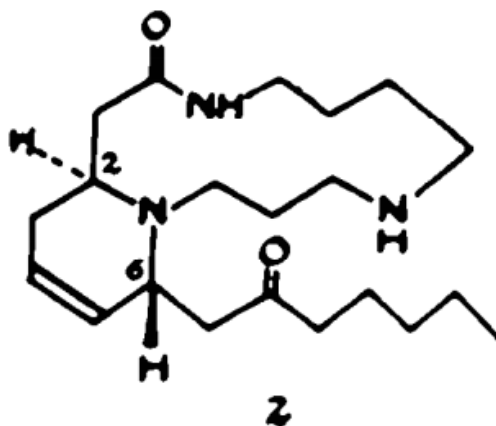
still less than a hundred papers total,

one more unpolished gem from of a cannabinoid left to be characterized. 🌿

marihuana, hashish, and other forms of *Cannabis* are now illegal. Thus, oil, sinsemilla, etc., comprise the of illicit drugs. Worldwide, approximately 300 million people have used some form of *Cannabis* (3).

Current scientific opinions about and reproducible scientific facts, but health issues of interest to all health the world never of the be even there easy to refer marihuana" (Δ^9 -THC) is taken as b This has fostered the impression t *Cannabis* are singular in composition "X" times as strong as marihuana, community that a document fully elucidating the current state of the knowledge of naturally occurring constituents in *Cannabis* be published. Although over 7000 scientific papers (4, 5) have been published on *Cannabis* and its constituents and

He isolated the second known alkaloid - anhydrocannabisativine - from the leaves and roots of a Mexican strain with the help of El-Sohly, the scientist who took over Turner's MRP post & continued running the lab to this day.



Turner's thorough review 'Constituents of Cannabis' is still often cited in the peer-reviewed literature as a touchstone on the basics of cannabinoid chemistry, an orderly summary of what we knew already of their slippery selves by the start of that era.

tinue to exist in the biological evaluation of the crude drugs obtained from *Cannabis*.

The present review is structured around all known natural constituents of *Cannabis sativa* L. Emphasis will be placed on those compounds actually isolated. Some constituents considered to be artifacts within the plant, such as cannabiol, will be discussed; and commonly occurring plant constituents never isolated from

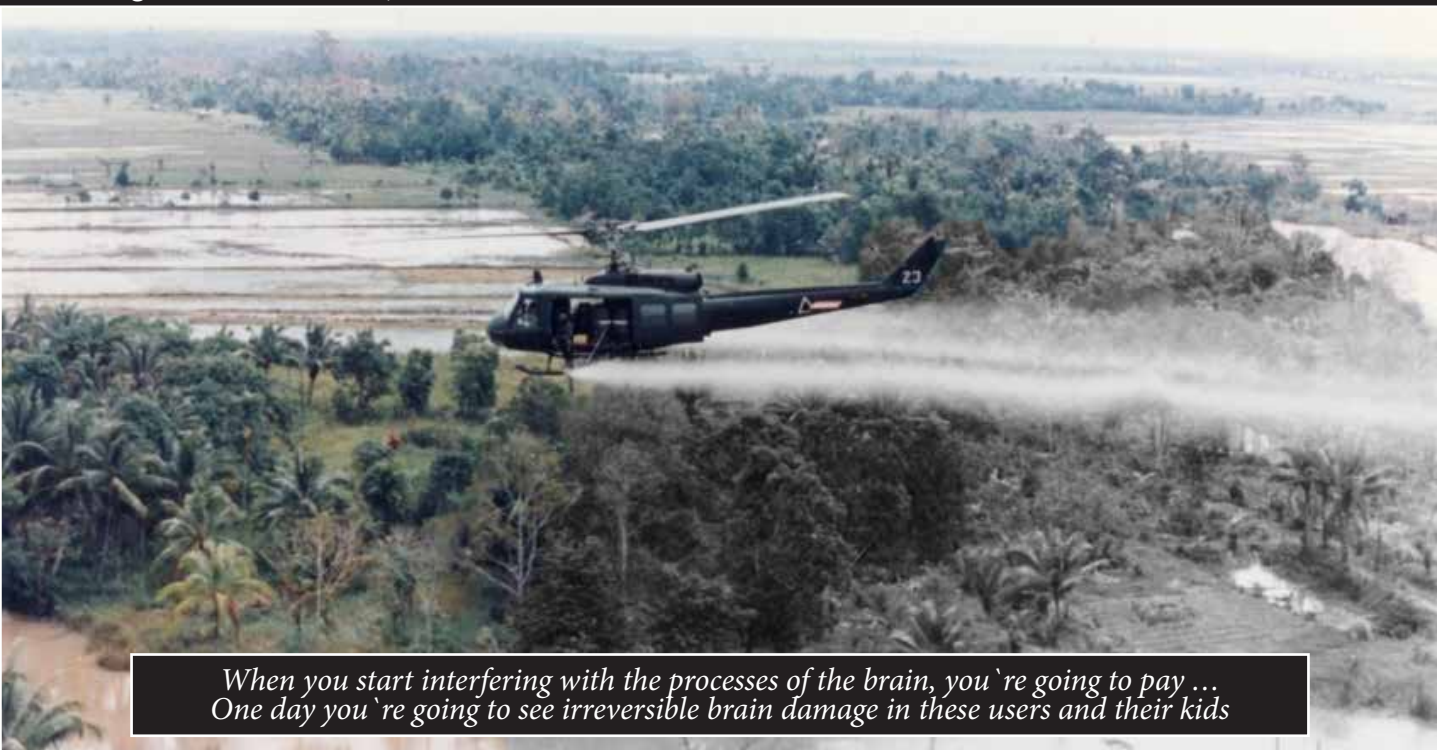
Dr. Turner's knowledge became a valuable asset to the federal drug agents. He utilized his chemotyping wizardry on seized shipments, assembling cannabinoid profiles that allowed him to start determining place of origin.

They started to call him Einstein.

He'd ride along with the agents on busts, picking up more street smarts about pot - & unfortunately, like cops everywhere, surely seeing the worst of what weed can be.

In 1975, he stated in academic journals that marijuana caused a short term memory loss that mimicked senility. On the clinical side, he was quoted about his early research saying,
What I was dealing with were case histories. People said true scientists don't get down to that. But I was seeing people with problems. So I didn't worry about what other scientists thought. I kept publishing my papers, and started analyzing marijuana. I decided that anything with more than 2 percent THC ... could, over time, cause mental problems. People said I was crazy.

According to Dr. Turner, any tactic was justified because...



*When you start interfering with the processes of the brain, you're going to pay ...
One day you're going to see irreversible brain damage in these users and their kids*

By the late 70's, he advocated for the aerial spraying of paraquat - an herbicide that's quick & unselective, causing death in all green plant cells on contact. He declared paraquat sprayings to be a public safety risk justified by the overwhelming damage caused by marijuana smoking*. The CDC protested the possibility of irreversible lung damage but were eventually overruled. Carlton Turner insisted most of the paraquat would burn up on combustion and that no toxicity has been proven nor deaths observed from smoking it. The risk of the natural herb mattered more than the risk of the neurotoxic herbicide.

His record at the MRP bode well for him moving up the federal ladder.

In his unparalleled book of drug war history 'Smoke & Mirrors',
the journalist Dan Baum shares an anecdote
about the day when Turner came back from lunch.
The chemist's secretary reported that someone named Mr. Parrot called.

Turner didn't recognize the name
& dismissed it from his mind.

But the next morning,
when he arrived before his secretary,
the phone rang so he picked it up.



*"This is H. Ross
Perot," a high,
twangy voice said.
"I hear you know
something about
marijuana."*

*"Little bit,"
Turner
twanged back,
"but nobody
knows more."*

Perot desired to clean
the drug dealers out of his Texas.

His own corporate lawyer wrote the
laws he wanted pushed through the State
Capitol made of pink granite
& topped by the Goddess of Liberty.



Perot knew they needed
to turn around public opinion.

He wanted Turner because marijuana was
the drug to concentrate on,
mostly because few people
in the Lone Star State had experienced
any other drug besides pot.

Perot's laws for Texas included mandatory life without parole for selling
pot to a minor, expanded police authority for wiretaps & searches, a
complex reporting system for pharmacists & other civil overreaches. The
legislators couldn't stomach the new laws & refused to touch them.

Turner pitched in by draft Keith Schuchard, the leading light housewife of the nascent parent's movement. Together on the limitless dime of billionaire Ross Perot, the three of them put on a traveling roadshow of prohibition. They spent months journeying Texas, displaying paraphernalia, sharing propaganda & preaching on the harms of pot.

After seeding the ground for another try, Perot pulled a master maneuver characteristic of his homespun wisdom. The day before the legislature opened in 1980, Perot, Turner & Schuchard invited all the wives of the lawmakers to their Prohibition Roadshow. They also organized busloads of parents to descend on the capital from around the state.

Perot told them all,



*"You're either for us
or against us."*

& so got his punitive
drug laws passed.

After a job well done, Perot told Turner that Ronald Reagan was fixing to run Jimmy Carter out of town & soon, Turner too would be headed to the White House.

When Perot's prediction came true & the Gipper began hunting for his first drug czar,
Turner looked promising.

He knew the chemistry, his business correspondence with High Times hadn't been made public yet & he proved that in the popular press, he well knew how to hold the party line.

He told Peggy Mann in the Saturday Evening Post:

*As a scientist, I have to be objective. I am not a crusader for or against any drug.
I am for evaluating any drug on its merit, which I base on all scientific publications about that drug.*

Out of the 3044+ scientific studies he apparently reviewed
for the above seen annotated bibliography, he stated to her that
*there is not a single paper on the crude drug marijuana which gives it a clean bill of health,
not a single paper to support it as an innocuous drug.*

A true statement on technical merits:
no drug is innocent

Webster defined innocuous as harmless, safe -
producing no ill effect.
He even restated that old physician's rule of thumb from Paracelus:
the only difference between poison & medicine? Dosage

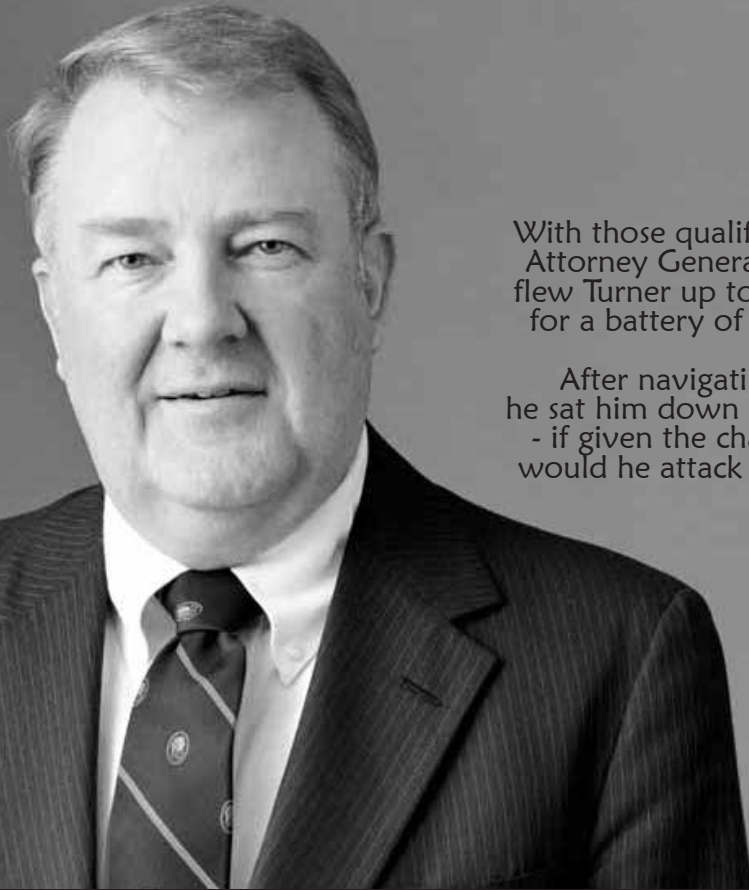
SOLA DOSIS FACIT VENENUM

Some things never change.

Every drug has it's dark side (especially dabs at daily high doses as we saw earlier and shall see further).
Raw reefer might be one of the most nontoxic drugs in our palette of psychoactives
but it's certainly not innocuous.

Carlton Turner tended to
state the truth, though
curved in the trickiest ways.

Thus, he was ideal for
government service.
A Stubb of chemical
contributions
& well honed talking
points just ripe for
misunderstanding by a press
perennially charged with
casual negligence
& willful self-deception.



With those qualifications, the
Attorney General Ed Meese
flew Turner up to the Capitol
for a battery of interviews.

After navigating those,
he sat him down to ask Turner
- if given the chance - how
would he attack drug abuse?

Carlton began by telling them he
wasn't the man for the job.
He's a clean cut chemist,
not a drug policy buff.

But since they had flown him all
the way to DC & asked his opinion,
Turner told the new AG that,

If they wanted to be serious, they must do 3 things:

- 1. Build up our enforcement efforts*
- 2. Make marijuana and cocaine a priority,
not just heroin*
- & 3. Establish an education & prevention program.*

Good answers to to Ed Meese
- whom Kushner had a Justice Department official glowingly
describe as a gentleman who "doesn't specialize in the
Fine Points of the Law. He's a a flatfoot, a cop."



Turner's views
- though he
didn't know
it at the time -
closely matched
those of the
President & his
Top Cop.

However, the incoming Attorney General of the United States of Amerika
laid out the only hitch in the chemist's appointment:
Turner's membership in the Democratic party

But as Baum shares, Turner soon explained that you can't hold a job
at a place like UMiss without being a Dixie Democrat.
He only joined them as a coverup. He'd been making
Republican campaign contributions for years
& could prove it with canceled checks.

With his true colors cleared up, Meese offered
Dr. Carlton Turner the post of
Senior Policy Adviser for Drug Policy

With his appointment, Baum describes their triumph as Turner
- with the help of the oft-hissed harpy Nancy Reagan -
managed to do on drugs what no one else had yet done: he closed the debate.

He laid it out to Meese in that first meeting: The Grand Strategy,

*Most of all, you got to clean up society.
You have to create a climate in which society will take a stand.*

*Get people involved who have a vested interest -
parents, insurance companies, the medical community.*

*Stop talking whether marijuana
is good or bad
for you:*

I'm here to tell you it's bad.

With the ignition of Nancy Reagan's verbal facility
& pearl clutching puritanism
added to Dr. Turner's huge sheafs of data drawn
from federal drug scientists
predominantly charged with looking for harm
& then assisted by the grandfatherly iron fist of
Ronald Wilson Reagan,

they managed to turn drugs from a swirling cloud
to a black & white blanket.

They kept it so
seductively simple,

Just say no.



In Turner's new position he hammered
home the New Wisdom:

THERE IS NO SUCH THING
AS MEDICAL CANNABIS USE

Meanwhile, the rising spectre of HIV
- ignored by the First Family on down -
soon showcased the grossness of this untruth.

trademarked
naturally



OR AS
PRIOR WALTER PREACES,
"I USUALLY SAY,
'FUCK THE TRUTH'

- BUT MOSTLY,
THE TRUTH FUCKS YOU."

DR. CARLTON TURNER BECAME THE RIGHT HAND MAN TO NANCY REAGAN'S GLOBE SPANNING DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN. UNDER HER DUTIFUL NURTURING, THE MYTH OF MARIJUANA AS A GATEWAY DRUG TO THE HARD STUFF FINALLY BLOSSOMED FROM AN OFT CITED TALKING POINT TO THE HOLY WRIT OF THE LAND.

MEANWHILE, SCHUCHARD OF THE PARENT'S MOVEMENT PUSHED THE 'FEMINIZATION' EFFECTS OF CANNABIS. AT HIGH SCHOOL ANTI-DRUG RALLIES IN THE GYMNASIUMS & AUDITORIUMS OF AMERIKA, SHE KNEW JUST THE TACTIC TO CHANGE THE MINDS OF THOSE SCRAWNY BOYS YEARNING TO BE MEN. AFTER LECTURING ABOUT THE TESTOSTERONE-REDUCING EFFECTS OF THC, ACCORDING TO BAUM SHE'D, "WHEN SHE VISITED CLASSROOMS SHE'D PICK OUT THE SCRAWNIEST BOY IN THE CLASS, THE ONE WITH THE LONG HAIR & THE SALLOW COMPLEXION & THE GRATEFUL DEAD STICKERS ON HIS NOTEBOOK. SHE'D MAKE HIM STAND AND TAKE HIS SHIRT OFF IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS. SEE WHAT POT CAN DO TO YOU? SHE'D SAY. THE KIDS WOULD GO VERY QUIET."

THE CHORUS FROM STATE, SCHOOL & SCIENCE FINALLY POUNDED THE STORY HOME, A SIMPLE & SIMPLISTIC MEME THAT WHILE AIMED AT CHILDREN, MANAGED TO METASTASIZE INTO A NATIONAL IDEAL. (LUCKILY, TIMOTHY LEARY KNEW HOW TO REWIRE A WORD VIRUS & POPULARIZED THE RETORT, 'JUST SAY KNOW')

BUT NANCY REAGAN CLOSED THE GAP WITH HER 3 MAGIC WORDS.

TOGETHER WITH HER CANNABINOID CHEMIST, THEY FIRMLY SHUT THE DOOR ON THE CARTER ERA FLIRTATIONS WITH A SOCIAL TOLERATION FOR MODERATE ADULT USE.

IN 1977, THE DEA ADMITTED THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA WAS WORTH CONSIDERING. BUT NOW JUST A FEW YEARS LATER, THEY CALL IT THE MOST URGENT DRUG PROBLEM FACING UNITED STATES.


AS NANCY DEFINED IT, "IF YOU ARE A CASUAL DRUG USER, YOU ARE AN ACCOMPLICE TO MURDER."

MEANWHILE, THE NANCY REAGAN DRUG ABUSE FUND HOOVERED UP MONEY. KING FAHD STUCK A MILLION IN WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERED A REQUEST FOR AWACS PLANES.

HER FUND TOOK \$5 MILLION TOTAL BY THE END OF REAGAN'S REIGN

& HER BIOGRAPHER KITTY KELLEY REPORTS THAT ONLY 10% GOT SPENT FUNDING DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS. THE REST TRANSFERRED TO THE NANCY REAGAN FOUNDATION & NEVER LEFT.



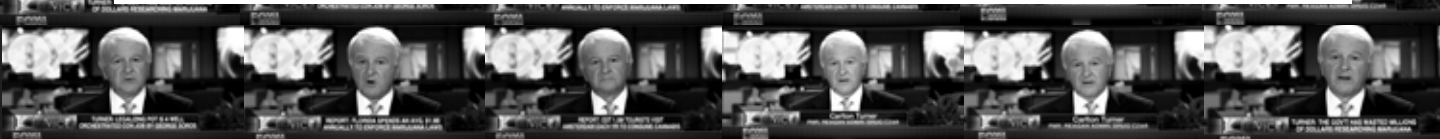


However, Turner early lost credibility with the research community after ignoring the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Their marijuana report of 1982 concluded with no convincing evidence of damage to nervous system or fertility by marijuana.

They even called for decriminalization of possession for personal use.

This was nothing new. Every decade saw their blue ribbon panel of researchers & academics issuing forth similar findings - all the way back to LaGuardia & even further yet, the fabled Indian Hemp Commission. His response to the NAS finding caused even some immediate colleagues to look at him askance.

He might still know as much about the chemistry of the cannabinoids as only a handful of other molecular jockeys on the planet but ignoring findings this strong proved to many he needed no helmet in this brain battering fight.



As Jack Herer called it, "Turner was, after all, Reagan's, Bush's, and the pharmaceutical companies' own hired gun, who saw his entire mission as not against heroin, PCP, or cocaine but to wipe out pot and jazz/rock music..."

Indeed, Eric Schlosser shares from a profile in *Government Executive* where Dr. Turner links marijuana use to the "the present young-adult generation's involvement in anti-military, anti-nuclear power, anti-big business & anti-authority demonstrations."

Of course, the doctor is correct again, though we perhaps disagree as to whether that's a sign or a symptom.

As stated in the excellent & academic study "Ronald Reagan and the 1980s: Perceptions, Policies, Legacies" edited by Hudson & Davies,

Turner's appointment represented a sea change in defining America's drug problem & the manner of response. During the early part of the Reagan administration, however, he was made only an "adviser" on drug abuse to the president. Political staff did not want to appoint Turner as director of the White House drug office because the required Senate confirmation would have stirred serious controversy in the Congress about his lack of qualifications for the job.

Although Turner was a botanical chemist who was well trained & well respected as a leading scientific authority on the chemical components of the cannabis plant, he was not trained in, nor had he conducted research into, the effects of these chemicals on the human (or even on animal) bodies.

He had no knowledge or background in the behavioral aspects of drug use, the treatment of drug abuse, law enforcement or foreign policy aspects.



WITH HIS MOVE FROM UMISS TO DC,
TURNER'S POSITION AS A PROPAGANDIST
WENT FROM A LEG IN PEROT'S TRAVELING SHOW
TO INSIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S EAR.

REAGAN THEN PLAYED HARDBALL POLITICS FOR
HIS DRUG CZAR. IN 1982, WHEN CONGRESS SENT
THEIR OMNIBUS CRIME BILL TO HIS DESK, THE
GIPPER VETOED IT BECAUSE IT WOULD REQUIRE
THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OVER HIS CHOICE OF
DRUG CZAR. EVEN WORSE, THEY WOULDN'T NEED
A SUBPOENA TO DRAG HIM UP THE HILL TO
ANSWER FOOL QUESTIONS.

REAGAN GOT HIS WAY

& SO TURNER'S COMING OUT PARTY COINCIDED
WITH THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

JUNE 24, 1982

- A DAY THAT SHOULD LIVE IN
INFAMY FOR GENERATIONS.

FROM THE ROSE GARDEN OF THE
WHITE HOUSE, RONALD REAGAN
DECLARED HIS WAR ON DRUGS
IN A SPEECH TURNER HELPED DRAFT.

THE SABER RATTLING LEFT IT CLEAR
THAT NO TACTIC WAS TO BE OFF THE
TABLE FOR COMBATING THE SCOURGE.
HE EVEN DRUMMED UP WORLD WAR 1'S
BATTLE OF VERDUN:

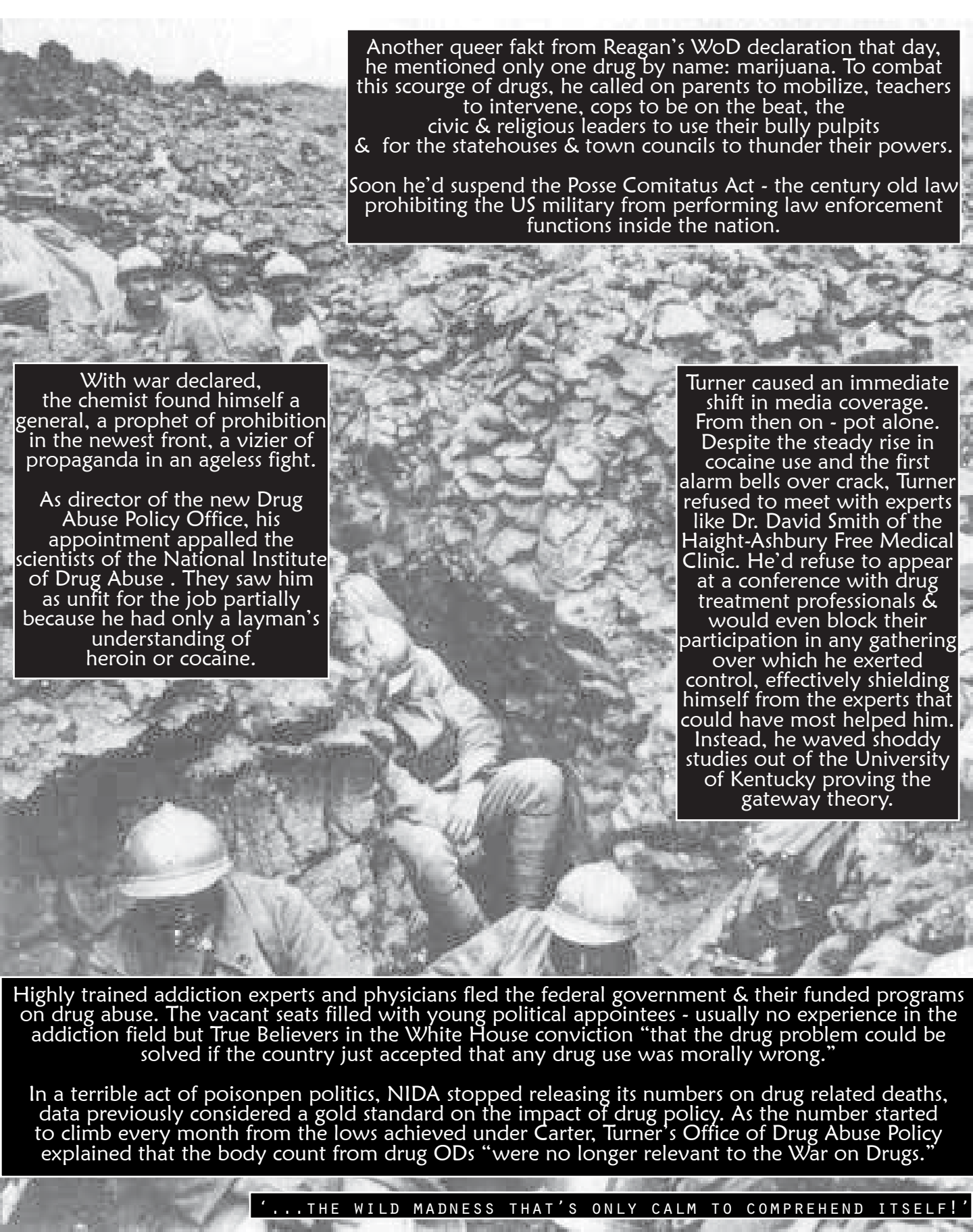
The president quoted one French soldier from that battle of 303 days,

There are no impossible situations.

There are only people who think they're impossible.

"WE'RE REJECTING THE HELPLESS ATTITUDE THAT DRUG USE
IS SO RAMPANT THAT WE'RE DEFENSELESS TO DO ANYTHING
ABOUT IT. WE'RE TAKING DOWN THE SURRENDER FLAG
THAT HAS FLOWN OVER SO MANY DRUG EFFORTS.
WE'RE RUNNING UP A BATTLE FLAG.
WE CAN FIGHT THE DRUG PROBLEM & WE CAN WIN.
& THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE INTEND TO DO.
& I, THEREFORE, AM NOW GOING TO SIGN THE ORDER."

As Baum dryly shares: "The reference to Verdun was odd: the battle [here pictured] is famous for
killing half a million men on each side while resolving exactly nothing"



Another queer fakt from Reagan's WoD declaration that day, he mentioned only one drug by name: marijuana. To combat this scourge of drugs, he called on parents to mobilize, teachers to intervene, cops to be on the beat, the civic & religious leaders to use their bully pulpits & for the statehouses & town councils to thunder their powers.

Soon he'd suspend the Posse Comitatus Act - the century old law prohibiting the US military from performing law enforcement functions inside the nation.

With war declared, the chemist found himself a general, a prophet of prohibition in the newest front, a vizier of propaganda in an ageless fight.

As director of the new Drug Abuse Policy Office, his appointment appalled the scientists of the National Institute of Drug Abuse. They saw him as unfit for the job partially because he had only a layman's understanding of heroin or cocaine.

Turner caused an immediate shift in media coverage. From then on - pot alone. Despite the steady rise in cocaine use and the first alarm bells over crack, Turner refused to meet with experts like Dr. David Smith of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. He'd refuse to appear at a conference with drug treatment professionals & would even block their participation in any gathering over which he exerted control, effectively shielding himself from the experts that could have most helped him. Instead, he waved shoddy studies out of the University of Kentucky proving the gateway theory.

Highly trained addiction experts and physicians fled the federal government & their funded programs on drug abuse. The vacant seats filled with young political appointees - usually no experience in the addiction field but True Believers in the White House conviction "that the drug problem could be solved if the country just accepted that any drug use was morally wrong."

In a terrible act of poisonpen politics, NIDA stopped releasing its numbers on drug related deaths, data previously considered a gold standard on the impact of drug policy. As the number started to climb every month from the lows achieved under Carter, Turner's Office of Drug Abuse Policy explained that the body count from drug ODs "were no longer relevant to the War on Drugs."

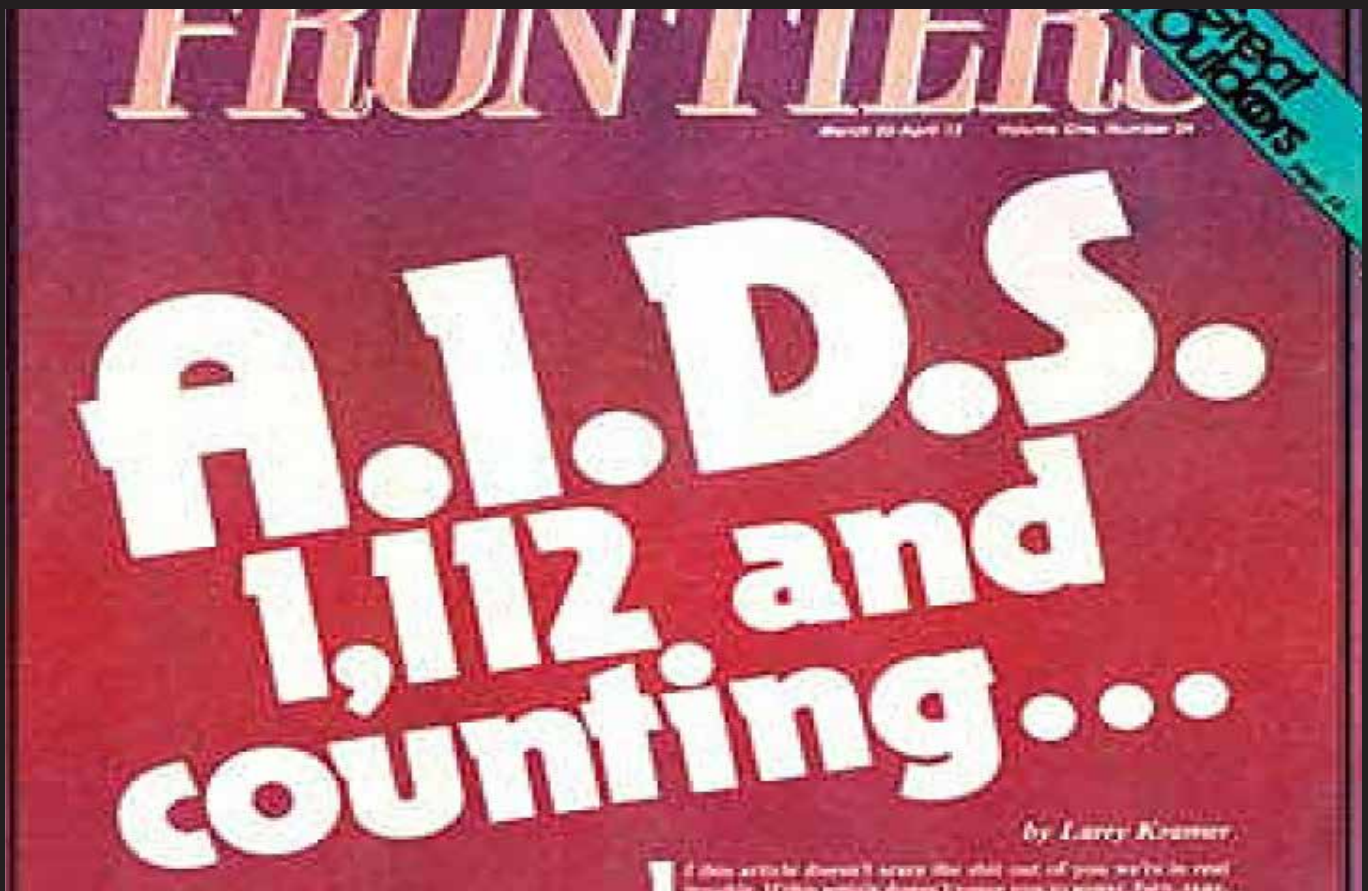
'...THE WILD MADNESS THAT'S ONLY CALM TO COMPREHEND ITSELF!'

By the end of the new president's first year, Good Morning America ran the first network television show to cover the disease but because of unrest in Lebanon, the nine minute segment got cut to 150 seconds. Frank Gifford began by saying, "This is a terrible problem. How come nobody's paying any attention to it?"

The CDC reported clusters of people dying from versions of pneumonia that usually only occur in severely restricted immune systems.

They proposed the name GRID: gay-related immune deficiency.

This soon changed to the more inclusive 'Acquired Immune System Deficiency' as it became clear that even babies could be infected via blood transfusions.

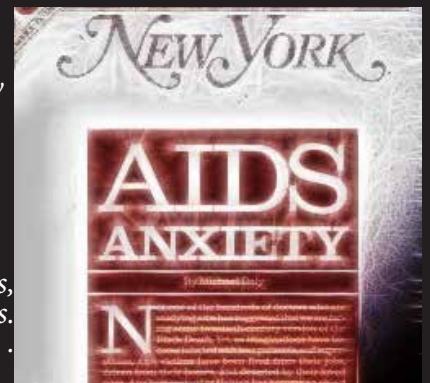


The epidemic worsened & in 1983 Larry Kramer led this infamous salvo with the fierce bellow,

If this article doesn't rouse you to anger, fury, rage & action, gay men may have no future on this earth.

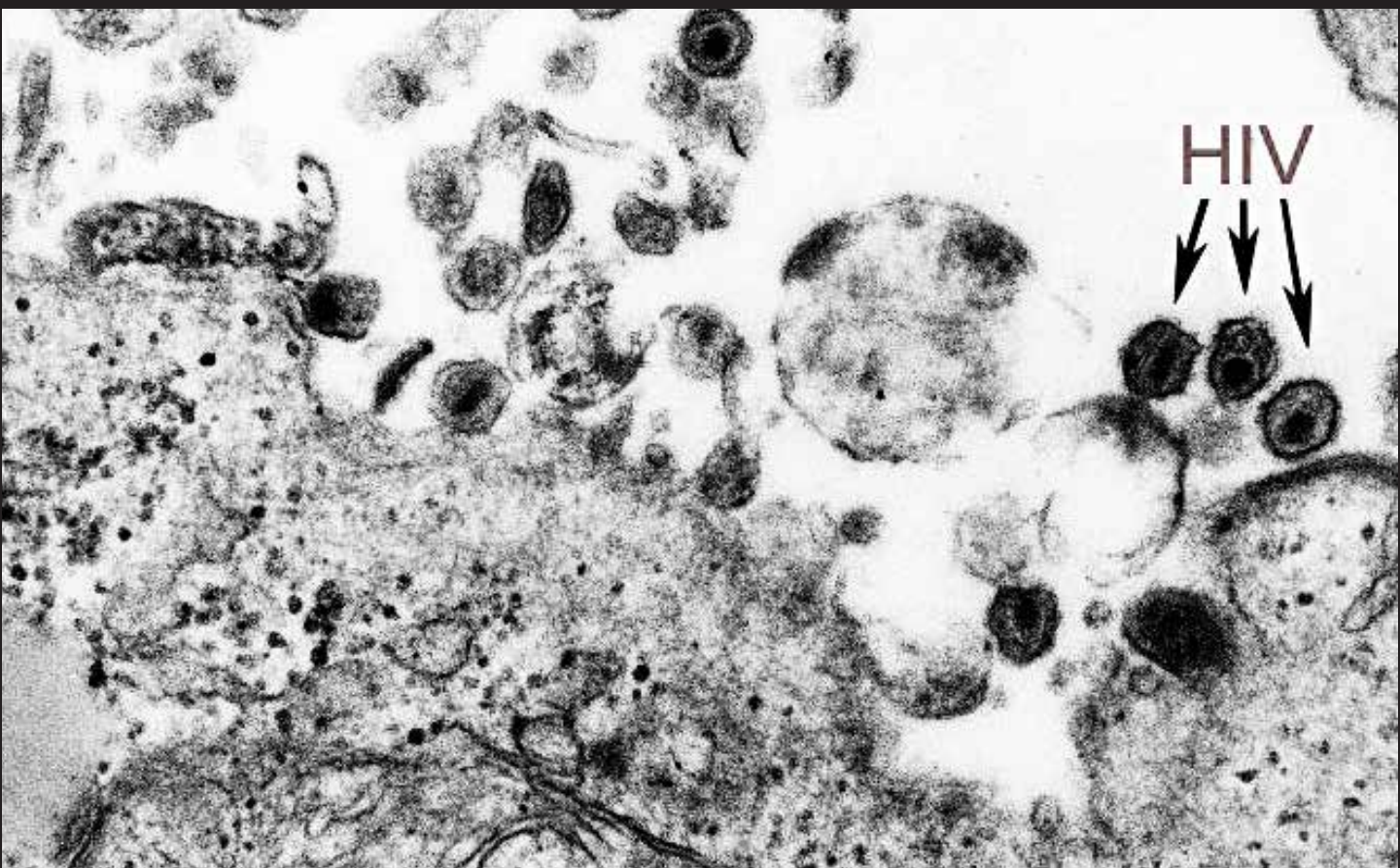
Front page coverage in the Rotten Apple reports,

*AIDS victims have been fired from their jobs, driven from their homes,
& deserted by their loved ones.
Any homosexual or Haitian has become an object of dread...*



1983, A MOMENTOUS YEAR THAT SAW NOT ONLY MY OWN HATCHING
BUT ALSO MANY MORE WIDELY HEARD BATTLES, PLOTS,
COUNTERATTACKS & SKIRMISHES
IN THE ONGOING WARS ALWAYS PLAGUING AMERIKA:

IN THE WAR AGAINST AIDS,
FRANÇOISE BARRÉ-SINOUSSE OF THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED A BEACHEAD
WHEN HUNTING THROUGH THE LYMPH OF A GAY AIDS PATIENT, DISCOVERING A
RETROVIRUS DESTROYING T-CELLS LIKE A BIBLICAL PLAGUE.



IN THE LONGDRAWN WAR ON POVERTY,
TWO DECADES AFTER LBJ MADE THE BIGGEST MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION SINCE FDR,
THE TALLY STOOD WITH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AT 12 MILLION SOULS,
THE HIGHEST NUMBER SINCE 1941.

IN THE SMOLDER OF THE ALWAYS WARM WAR ON COMMUNISM,
OVER 5,000 MARINES GO TO GRENADA TO SUPPRESS A BLOODY COUP
STAGED BY A MILITARY FORCE TRAINED IN CUBA.

OUT IN THE TWINKLE OF THE WAR IN SPACE,
REAGAN REACHES FAR PAST OUR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES & LAYS OUT HIS
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE, AKA THE STAR WARS MISSILE SHIELD -
A PIECE OF ENGINEERING STILL JUST OUTSIDE TECHNICAL GRASP 33 YEARS LATER.

IN THE WAR OF INFORMATION,
THE ARPANET FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLOSSOMS INTO THE THE INTERNET OF THE FREE WORLD
& THEN LATER, THE DARKWEB OF THE UNDERWORLD.

IN THE WAR ON BIOCHEMICAL IGNORANCE,
KARY MULLIS USES LSD FOR THAT LIGHT BULB 'AHA' MOMENT OF COMING UP WITH PCR -
THE POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION TECHNIQUE THAT TRANSFORMED THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD
BY ALLOWING THE RAPID & EASY DUPLICATION OF DNA.

IN THE FIRST HEART BEATS OF THE WAR ON TERROR,
THE BOMBING OF THE BEIRUIT EMBASSY KILLS 63 PEOPLE & MARK THE INCEPTION OF
MUSLIM MILITANT ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. MEANWHILE. WITHIN THE
FAITH BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST, 'THE TROUBLES' IN NORTHERN IRELAND
SAW A SCORCHED FLARE-UP IN THAT POLITCORELIGIOUS DISPUTE.

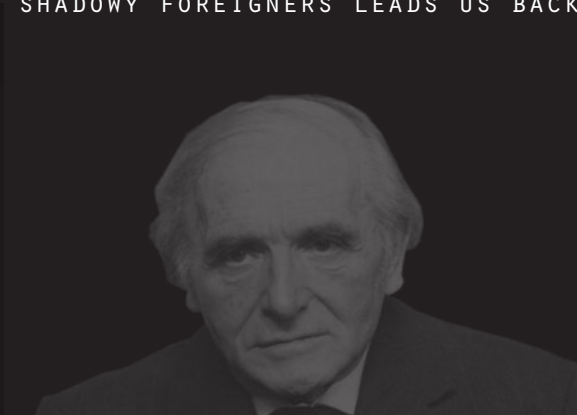
IN THE UNENDING WAR ON RACISM,
REAGAN SIGNS INTO LAW THAT THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY JANUARY WILL FOREVER BE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR DAY, THE ONLY FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING
AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN.

IN THE UNDECLARED WAR ON INTOLERANCE,
1983 SAW THE RELEASE OF "PRAYERS FOR BOBBY:
A MOTHER'S COMING TO TERMS WITH THE SUICIDE OF HER GAY SON",
A MEMOIR WRITTEN BY A HARDNOSED CHRISTIAN MOTHER AFTER THE OVERPOWERING
REALIZATION THAT SHE DROVE HER SON TO SUICIDE WITH HER INTOLERANCE
DESPITE THE FACT* THAT GOD SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM.
(*THIS VITAL TRUTH VERIFIED IN MY FATHER'S FORTHCOMING BOOK,
'GREAT SEX; CHRISTIAN STYLE'
- & HIM NO MEAN BIBLICAL SCHOLAR EITHER)

IN THE NEVER QUITE FINISHED WAR ON NAZIS,
THE US MUST ADMIT THAT IT RECRUITED KLAUS BARBIE
- THE NOTORIOUS SS OFFICER KNOWN AS THE BUTCHER OF LYON -
AS AN AGENT TO US ARMY INTELLIGENCE AFTER THE WAR.
WHEN THE FRENCH FOUND OUT & DEMANDED BARBIE'S EXTRADITION,
THE AMERICANS SNUCK THE GESTAPO CAPTAIN
AWAY ON THEIR WELL-OILED 'RAT LINES' TO SOUTH AMERICA
& THEN UTILIZED HIM AS A TOOL IN THE COLD WAR.

BARBIE ALLEGEDLY BRAGGED THAT HE CAME UP WITH THE STRATEGY FOR\MURDERING CHE
GUERVA & HE'S WIDELY SUSPECTED AS A HELPING HAND IN
TEJADA'S TAKEOVER OF BOLIVIA.

THIS 'COCAINE COUP' OF GENERALS FUNDED BY NARCOTRAFFICKERS
& AIDED BY SHADOWY FOREIGNERS LEADS US BACK TO THE NOW



'Cocaine Coup' In Bolivia Stymies U.S.

By HENRY S. BRADSHAW

WASHINGTON — The U.S. govern-

officials have arrested members in La Paz who were about their involvement. Reports in Washington and evidence of

they considered to be

AFTER A FAILED PUTSCH IN BOLIVIA THE YEAR BEFORE, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION ARRESTED TWO LEADING MEMBERS OF THE ROBERTO SUAREZ CARTEL - THE NARCOTRAFFICKING GROUP MOST BEHIND THE COUP.

BUT THE CIA INTERVENED, FORCING THE DEA TO DROP ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST ONE DEFENDANT & REDUCING BAIL FOR THE OTHER & THUS ALLOWING THEM TO ESCAPE TRIAL IN THE US & RETURN TO BOLIVIA TO BACK THE SUCCESSFUL COCAINE COUP.

"We suspected about the possible war to U.S. personnel in Bolivia" if a clear statement is made, one official said.

Garcia Mesa has denied that his name is involved in drug, but Bolivian

new Bolivian involved in drug to some extent plan- to be gone

program of... For the may have in Bolivia. revolution ground, past

...the... by some specialists on the region. What is wrong that poisoning the cocaine business was a factor. They said there were other elements in Garcia Mesa's power grab.

There included a desire to be the main



LUIS GARCIA MESA
"Great, vast and dramatic"

...the... the Socialist movement in

FROM THE UNDERCOVER DEA AGENT MIKE LEVINE WHO WROTE ALL ABOUT IT (INCLUDING HIS PERSONAL ARREST OF SAID CARTEL LEADERS), HE CALLED "JULY 17, 1980 ... THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, DRUG TRAFFICKERS ACTUALLY TOOK CONTROL OF A NATION."



THE DICTATORSHIP LASTED ONLY 13 MONTHS BUT MANAGED TO KILL & TORTURE OVER A 1,000 PEOPLE - INCLUDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE GIFTED OPPOSITION LEADER FROM THE SOCIALIST LEFT: MARCELO QUIROGA.

AT THE TIME, THE BOLIVIAN REGIME SOURCED VIRTUALLY 100% OF THE COCAINE ENTERING THE UNITED STATES. THE REGIME WAS SO OBVIOUSLY ODIUS WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING THAT EVEN REAGAN KEPT HIS DISTANCE.

BUT IT'S ALLEGED HIS CIA ACTIVELY ASSISTED IN THE COCAINE COUP. IT CERTAINLY MATCHES THEIR WELL-KNOWN STYLE OF NARCO-FUNDED DIRTY TACTICS ACROSS THE AMERICAS

- SUCH AS THE CONTRA SCANDAL JUST BEGINNING TO BOIL DESPITE THE BOLAND ACTS THAT SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED US FUNDING OF NIGAUAGUAN RIGHT-WING REBELS.

THUS FINALLY, IN THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY,
THE CIA MAINTAINED ITS HARDLINED HABIT OF KNOCKING DOWN POPULARLY
ELECTED GOVERNMENTS THAT LEAN TOO FAR LEFT FROM THEIR PREFERRED PATH.

SO AGAINST THESE MANY STRAINS OF THE WARS OF 1983,
PLAYS THE BATTLE HYMN OF
'TURNER, THE GROWERS AND THE CALIFORNIA QUEERS'
IN THIS REFRAIN FROM THIS ALMOST CENTURY OLD AMERICAN
WAR ON WEED

WHERE REAGAN UNLEASHES HIS
HOT-BREATHING DRAGON,



the Campaign Against
Marijuana Planting

OR FOR SHORT & UNSWEETENED:
CAMP





The Angel of Amerika sez:

I am the continental principality of America!

I am a bird of prey!

I will not be compelled!

& SO THE YEAR OF 1983 ENDS BUT NOT BEFORE
TENNESSE WILLIAMS PASSES ON & LEAVES US A LINE
THAT SPEAKS TO THIS QUEER NATION QUIVERING
IN THE KINGDOM OF FEAR:

"WHEN SO MANY ARE LONELY AS SEEM TO BE LONELY,
IT WOULD BE INEXCUSABLY SELFISH
TO BE LONELY ALONE."

Soon, the vast grows of northern California's 'Emerald Triangle' came to the attention of Carlton Turner.

As TV reports & newspaper articles showcased the seas of green in the mountains of Mendocino, Trinity & Humboldt County,



Turner responded by tasking the CA attorney general to action saying,

You're undermining our entire foreign policy. We can't pressure other countries to stop growing marijuana if we're allowing it in our own backyard.

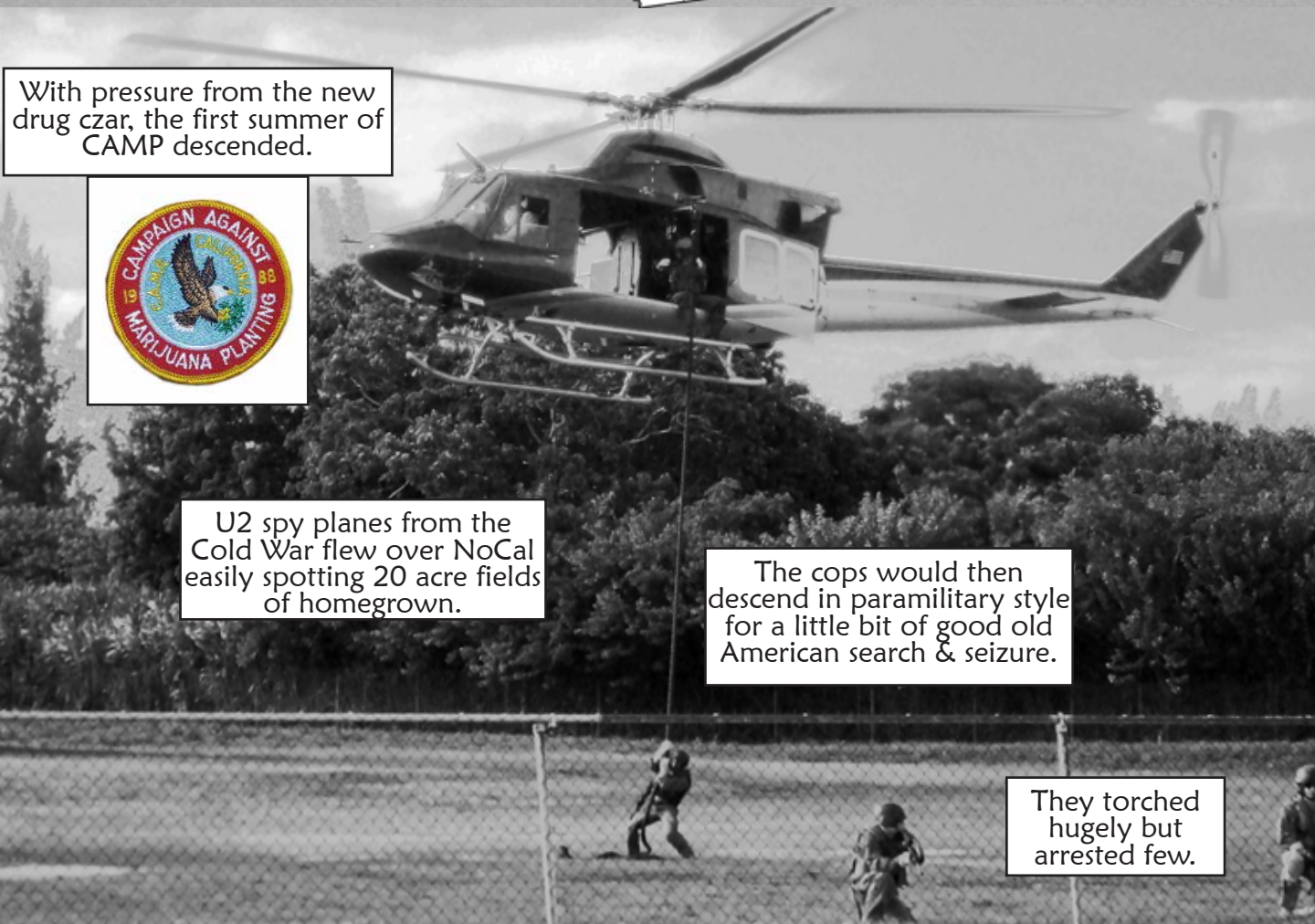
With pressure from the new drug czar, the first summer of CAMP descended.



U2 spy planes from the Cold War flew over NoCal easily spotting 20 acre fields of homegrown.

The cops would then descend in paramilitary style for a little bit of good old American search & seizure.

They torched hugely but arrested few.



But like an over harvested fish,
the catch got smaller every year.

As Dan Baum reports in 'Smoke & Mirrors',
"Now the helicopters were searching for smaller pot
fields... To find them, the choppers had to zoom in
low, so low they'd break windows and spook horses
and kick up dusts cloud so thick that cars would be
driven off the road. For a solid month, the clatter of
helicopters was never absent from Humboldt."

"CAMP roadblocks,
running 24 hours a day during harvest season,
"started hauling whole families out of cars
& holding them at gunpoint
while searching vehicles without warrants."

"CAMP troops - some of
them National Guard,
some troopers of the
California Highway Patrol
& other untrained
& quickly deputized
amateurs - went house to
house kicking in doors &
ransacking homes, again
without warrants..."

[bolstering] the raiding squads
with borrowed LA policemen
who... looked on two weeks
of raiding hippie shacks in
Humboldt as 'summer camp.'"



"Many were Vietnam veterans & watching them, ...
they looked on Humboldt's teepees & humble cottages
as the hooches of the Mekong Delta. They'd kick them
apart, wave guns at the terrified owners & storm off
in a cloud of dust & helicopter exhaust."



CAMP began the burning of bud just as the marijuana's medicinal value started to trickle out into the
AIDS community. Most likely, some recreational users soon noticed cannabis helped them ease the
symptoms of AIDS & the harsh medicines slowly being found to treat it.

Surely, the beleaguered & the sick initially found solace in the anxiolytic properties
of a good bellylaugh joint but then they started to notice other properties of the reefer
- acts of healing provided by no other medicine.

Dennis Peron learned the truth as the battle came home & forced a pause in his political crusades.

When his lover & partner Jonathan West began dying of AIDS, Peron cared for him.

Jonathan was taking many prescribed drugs & there were severe side effects, from nausea to loss of appetite. Marijuana was the only drug that eased his pain & restored his appetite & gave him some moments of dignity in that last year.

And of course, I had hundreds of friends with AIDS who relied on marijuana for the same reasons:

***Appetite,
Relief from Nausea,
Relief from Pain,
To Be Able To Sleep***

Most noticeably, cannabis helped combat the wasting syndrome of AIDS. Technically defined as cachexia - Greek for 'bad condition' - it describes a severe loss of fat & lean body mass that allows energy & life to simply melt away.

In distress, the cells start to devour their own proteins & start breaking down the fatty lipids. Vomiting & fatigue often accompany.

One's left weakened, prone to opportunistic infections.

The famous munchies of pot not only serve to increase appetite but also enhances the hedonic value of food, leading the brain to perceive everything tasting better.

In addition, the evidence for the antiemetic effects of cannabis for severe nausea goes all the way back to O'Shaughnessy himself.

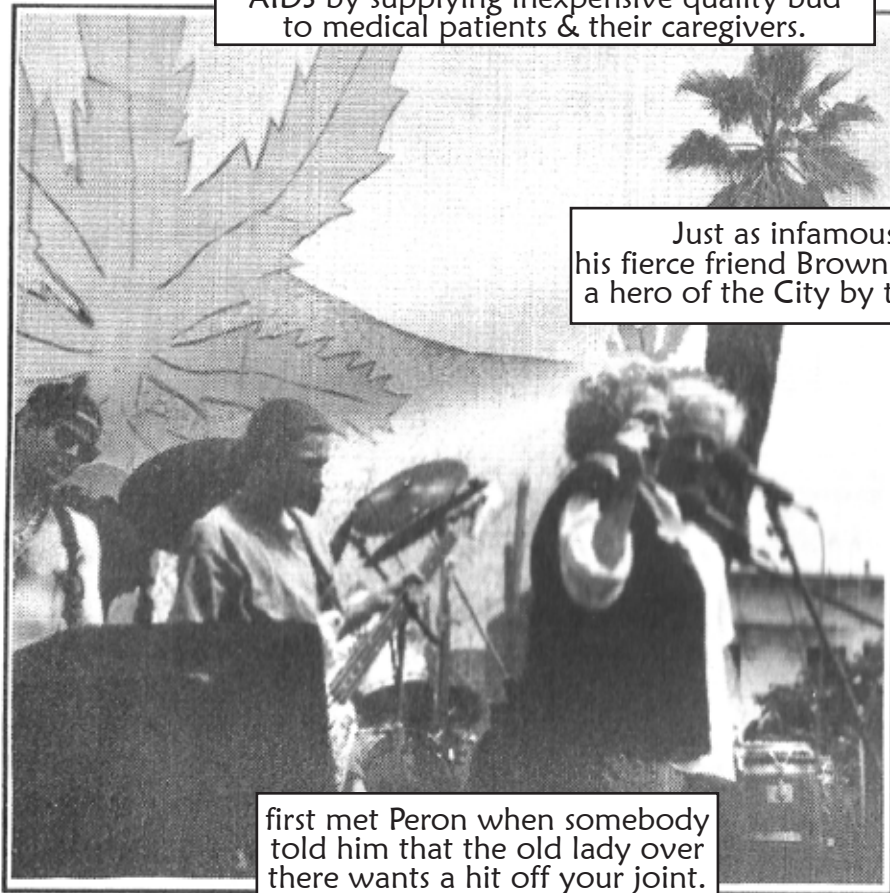
Critically, many also found relief for their blistering neuropathic pain - a condition commonly caused by the virus (& many other ills)

where the sensory nerves vastly overreact to painful stimuli. Even the touch of a light feather can feel like a brutal harpoonish stab.

It's easy forget now as liberal cannabis laws roll across the States, but in the second to last decade of the millinium, pot was viewed predominantly as a recreational intoxicant. Even these early hints of medical use for improved appetite & pain relief usually met chuckling derision, even in the face of confirmation by local physicians who possessed no reason to testify for marijuana's efficacy (& many more to keep their trap shut about it).

Remember that a generation previously, the hippies - now slouching into middle age - bodily disproved the shrill government propaganda of Reefer Madness. Many understood weed to be basically safe - or at least non-toxic. But few in the American population saw the plant as a worthy medicine. With little attention or research paid to its past place of pride in our pharmacopia, pot was only for parties.

So Peron pitched into his battle in the War on AIDS by supplying inexpensive quality bud to medical patients & their caregivers.



Just as infamous, his fierce friend Brownie Mary, a hero of the City by the Bay,

first met Peron when somebody told him that the old lady over there wants a hit off your joint.

She'd already well earned her activist stripes - by protesting the Vietnam War, by agitating for abortion rights when that was the least popular of topics & even as a young woman, fighting for the rights of labourers in scenes out of Steinbeck & Utah Phillips stories...

Dale Rogers who later worked with Brownie Mary, shared that when she started in SF as a waitress, her brassy good graces became quickly popular with the locals - but after the death of her daughter, she found a city of orphans & started making brownies for them. By the wheelbarrow load.

long for me to handle everyone all at once. The growers and dealers,

Peron said of her,

"She called them her kids. Many of them were dying alone and despised. Their families wouldn't even visit them. She baked them something that helped ease their pain & she also dispensed friendliness and resilience. A lot of those patients called her an angel of mercy."

I hope everyone who reads this book will try all the recipes and enjoy them with their friends and family. I hope the readers will encourage everyone else to buy the book, because it's for a good cause.

Using leaves & shake from the local dealers & growers, at her peak, Mary baked 15,000 brownies per month for her kids.
She told the San Jose Mercury News,

I make them for the worst of the patients, the ones on chemotherapy and the ones totally wasting away. I pick out the worst of the worst & turn them on.

marijuana. We need it now!

I'm seventy years old. I've had a great life. I just hope that one day before I die, we have legal marijuana.

HERE SHE IS WITH HER
DRUG PARAPHENALIA.

Mary

YOU CAN SEE WHY SHE
NEEDED TO BE STOPPED...

"I'm going to continue to work at Ward 86..., that's what I'm here to do."

THIS BAKER LADY'S A
GATEWAY DRUG HERSELF...



Brownie Mary Wins Ruling

She can claim giving marijuana to AIDS patients was medical necessity

By Ron Sonenshine
Chronicle Correspondent

Brownie Mary, the 60-year-old grandmother who whipped

was only trying to relieve the suffering of dozens of AIDS patients at San Francisco General Hospital.

"We may be able to make a

Rathbun appeared in court wearing red, white and blue "Free Brownie Mary" buttons. Her attorneys wore ties that appeared to bear hand-painted marijuana leaf patterns.



As Pete Brady reported in her obituary, "Brownie Mary was arrested again & again, but each time she made the police and prosecutors sorry they'd ever met her. She wore pot leaf jewelry & pro-legalization buttons to court & responded with a curse when a judge told her to take it off.

She refused to plea bargain, insisting instead that she be allowed to mount a medical necessity defense. Her defiance was almost always successful."

For the past three years, Rathbun has been honored by San Francisco General Hospital as a volunteer of the year. Last August, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared "Brownie Mary Day" because of her altruistic work with AIDS patients.

Outside the courtroom yesterday, an emotional Rathbun said that over the past few years she had delivered marijuana brownies to 75 or 80 patients in the AIDS ward at the hospital. She called

attorneys, Tony Serra and J. David Nick, who have said that Rathbun

About a dozen supporters o

'Brownie Mary' can use medicinal pot defense

When the press discovered this plucky grandmother, her message about the overwhelming & obvious efficacy of cannabis for easing the epidemic pains, Brownie Mary started changing the tide. Her last arrest inspired Rick Doblin of MAPS & Dr. Donald Abrams of UCSF to start their long federal slog towards a pioneering early study of cannabis for the weight loss of AIDS.

About a dozen of Rathbun's supporters came to court wearing "Free Brownie Mary" buttons.

By Tribune staff and news

Once after she got out on bail, Dale Rogers laughed, "She came in cussing like a logger.

"Those goddamn sonuvabitches. How dare they throw down a little old lady with guns? I showed them."

Then she went over to apply red lipstick in a shiny cabinet because - as her hair got whiter, her lipstick got redder."

misdemeanor carrying a possible one-year jail sentence and \$1,000 fine.

The knowledge of its medicinal power - initially spread through the patient's networks of SF - then trickled out to their friends, their doctors & finally their journalists. Here's a drug whose efficacy was apparent to all with eyes to see. Minds changed.

Owen also said that Rathbun had satisfied all of the legal criteria except one - naming the recipients of her brownies.

Nick contended the law did require that but said it will be taken care of by supplying affidavits either from the patients or from Rathbun.

At the time of her arrest in July she had been baking marijuana brownies for AIDS patients for nine years.

* those sonuvabitches


the first these substances were linked in the public mind since "India" 21

But the cries for relief never reached as far as the the White House despite the 25,000 souls lost in the first five years of the epidemic. As the CAMP raids repeated every August, the price of medicine grew dearer & dearer. The Reagan Years had set in & even the grass got dirty.

Standing at Nancy's elbow, Turner kept hammering in the mantra justifying his tools,
"PREVENTION IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN TREATMENT"

Destroying the marijuana supply chain was so vital to the war effort that in late 1983, Dr. Turner hit the national television circuit to justify the DEA's spraying of paraquat over domestic fields in the traditional hemp states of Georgia, Kentucky & Tennessee - those these tended to be worthless wild growing ditchweed anyway.



In Mexico, the actual source for smoke, the local farmers soon realized the trick. When they found themselves under clouds of this US supplied herbicide sprayed from the planes of their own federalis,

the farmers learned to harvest the paraquat-soaked marihuana immediately. Then it wouldn't have time to die and turn brown. The crop might not get as much time to mature but if they processed it now, it'd dry green & still salable to the Emerald River flowing up to insatiable El Norte, the hard hits of transpiration sucking up Mary Jane from south of the border.

On the paraquat issue, Herer reports that Turner stated,
it would teach a lesson to any kid who died from paraquat-poisoned pot...
that he doesn't even care if hundreds of kids die from smoking pot the federal government has deliberately sprayed with paraquat.

An especially callous statement considering that right around then, embarrassing revelations revealing his past history with paraquat came to light...

Phony Paraquat Kits

As told by Herer in "The Emperor Wears No Clothes"

DURING THE 1978 MEXICAN MARIJUANA PARAQUAT SCARE, AND WHILE STILL A PRIVATE CITIZEN WORKING FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI MARIJUANA FARM, THIS SAME CARLTON TURNER CALLED HIGH TIMES MAGAZINE TO ADVERTISE A PARAQUAT TESTER. UNKNOWN TO TURNER, HIGH TIMES WAS NOT ACCEPTING ADS FOR ANY PARAQUAT TESTERS BECAUSE ALL EVIDENCE SHOWED THE TESTERS DIDN'T WORK. DEAN LATIMER—THEN A HIGH TIMES ASSOCIATE EDITOR, STRUNG TURNER ALONG IN VIRTUALLY DAILY PHONE CONVERSATIONS FOR A MONTH, LISTENING TO TURNER TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY TURNER WAS GOING TO MAKE FROM SALES OF THE DEVICE.

HIGH TIMES WANTED TO SEE A SAMPLE. WHEN TURNER DELIVERED HIS PROTOTYPE VERSION OF THE PARAQUAT TEST KIT TO HIGH TIMES, IT WAS A TOTAL "RUBE GOLDBERG" TYPE RIP-OFF, "JUST LIKE THE DOZEN OR SO PHONY KITS OTHER COMPANIES TRIED TO BUY AD SPACE FOR AT THIS TIME," WROTE LATIMER IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN 1984.

TURNER APPARENTLY NEVER THOUGHT HIGH TIMES WAS ETHICAL ENOUGH TO CHECK THE CONTRAPTION OUT. HE ASSUMED THEY WOULD JUST TAKE THE AD MONEY AND RUN—PRINT THE AD AND MAKE TURNER RICH. HE DIDN'T CARE IF SOME KID DIED OR WAS BILKED OUT OF MONEY BELIEVING IN HIS BOGUS PARAQUAT TEST KIT.

AFTER THIS ATTEMPTED MAIL FRAUD, THIS MAN BECAME PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NATIONAL DRUG CZAR IN 1981, RECOMMENDED BY GEORGE BUSH AND NANCY REAGAN.

First Ladies Conference on Drug Abuse

At the United Nations

IN ANOTHER PUBLIC
STUMBLE, AT THE 1985
PRIDE CONFERENCE IN
ATLANTA, IN THE PRESENCE
OF NANCY REAGAN & 16
OTHER FIRST LADIES FROM
AROUND THE WORLD,
TURNER CALLED FOR
GIVING THE
DEATH PENALTY
TO DRUG DEALERS.

THE INTENSITY OF HIS STATEMENT CALLING FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
BLANCHED EVEN SOME ARDENT DRUG WARRIORS.

YOU MIGHT BELIEVE THIS TO BE TRUE,
THE THINKING WENT, BUT IT WASN'T POLITIC TO SAY IT OUT LOUD.
REAGAN'S DRUG DATA LONG GUN WAS FIRING ROUNDS OF TOO HIGH A CALIBER,
FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT TURNER WAS A LAB CHEMIST AT HEART WITH NO
HANDS FOR PLAYING THE DC GAME,
UNSUITED TO THE RIPTIDES OF WASHINGTON.



TURNER: LEGALIZING POT IS A WELL
ORCHESTRATED CON JOB BY GEORGE SOROS

FOX
BUSINESS

But Turner kept turning up the thermostat on the broiling legal heat in California. Baum reports that "when it started, CAMP had plenty of 20 acre marijuana fields to uproot. After those were gone, the agents went after the 10 acre plots. Then five, then two, then one & now it was pushing the noses of its helicopters against the people's windows to find single plants growing in window boxes."

"A CAMP helicopter chased a nine year old girl down a dirt road & pointed guns at her."

A local attorney began collecting the complaints:

"Another hovered so low over a woman taking an outdoor shower that she could see the pilot laughing."

"CAMP were searching without warrants not only the homes of suspected pot growers but also all the neighbors homes as well, ostensibly to 'protect themselves.' Once inside, the troops would empty the refrigerator, pilfer what they wanted & leave empty beer cans on sofas and counters."

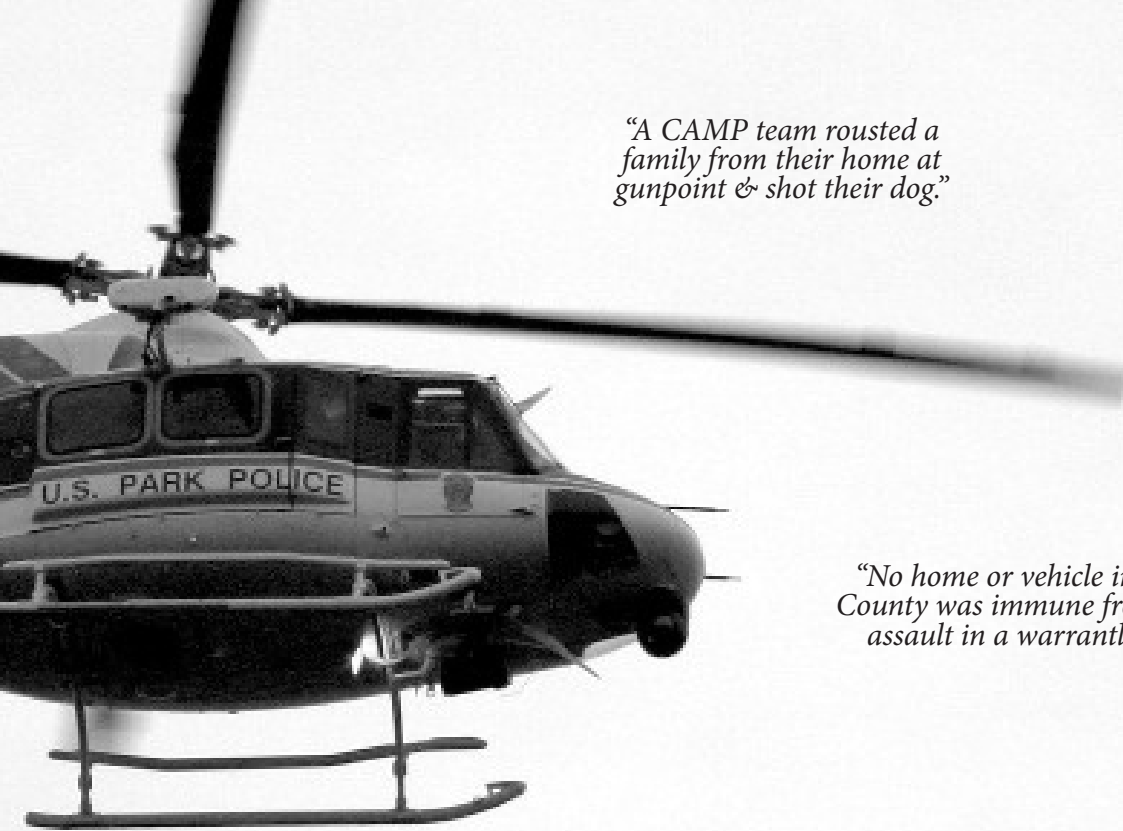
Said one ganja farmer pointing to the helicopter, "that is my price support system"

"The citizens of the county, who had first welcomed CAMP as a way to get rid of dangerous lawbreakers, now viewed the operation as an occupying army."

Thomas Pynchon in Vineland said North California had "rejoined, operationally speaking, the Third World"

Eric Sterling saw "a visceral hostility towards those people that can now be vented"





"A CAMP team roused a family from their home at gunpoint & shot their dog."

"No home or vehicle in Humboldt County was immune from helicopter assault in a warrantless search."



The locals finally banded together in defiance. Gathering documentation of their harm from the drug warriors, they brought a lawsuit with the help of NORML. They won big in federal court & on April 12, 1985, federal judge Robert Aguilar wrote a strong ruling against CAMP mandating that, for the next five years, the helicopters must stay outside a 500 foot bubble around any houses or citizens. The judge forbid CAMP's foot soldiers from entering any property besides remote fields without a search warrant.

Perhaps most irkingly, the officers had to be re-briefed on their powers & duties before all operations. As Baum describes, "It was as strong a restraint on Drug War operations as any judge had ever written. CAMP ignored it."

The Vietnam style raids continued as before" & the burnings continue to this day.

'SWERVE ME? YE CANNOT SWERVE ME, ELSE YE SWERVE YOURSELVES!'

On Aug 5, 1985, soon after his US Health Secretary promised an AIDS vaccine within two years,

& just after his close friend Rock Hudson became the first American celebrity to publicly announce his AIDS status,

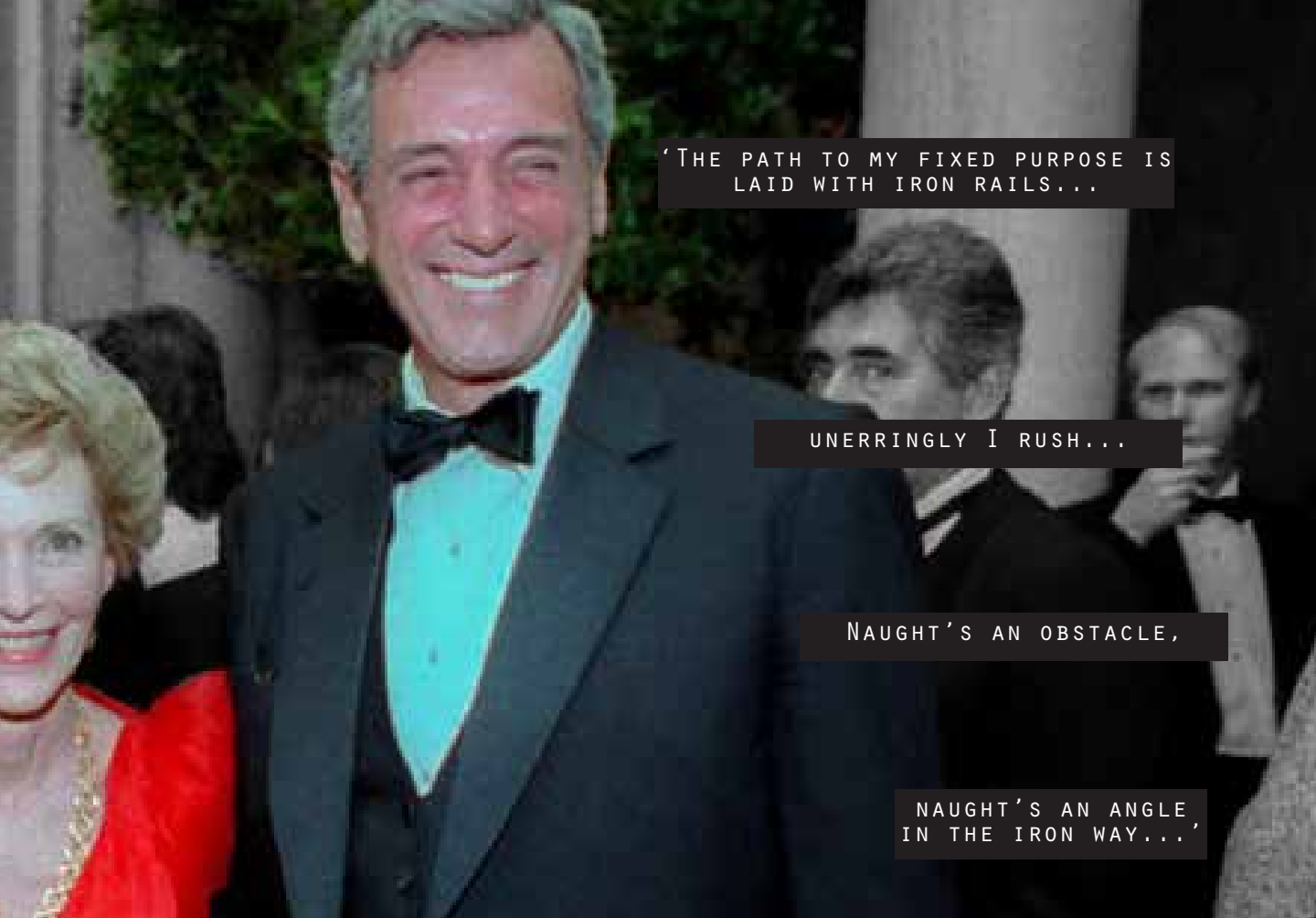
& despite the spreading awareness that cannabis obviously helps ease those living & dying with HIV/AIDS,

Ronald Reagan launched an offensive later dubbed D-DAY IN THE WAR ON MARIJUANA

& still the largest cannabis crackdown in the country's history:

OPERATION
DELTA-9

On that summer day - only 15 years before the third millenium - over 2,200 officers deployed in helicopters, planes & ATVs on search & destroy missions. They landed on grows in every one of the 50 states with SWAT style raids; sweeping 175 growers to prison, a quarter million cannabis plants into the incinerators...

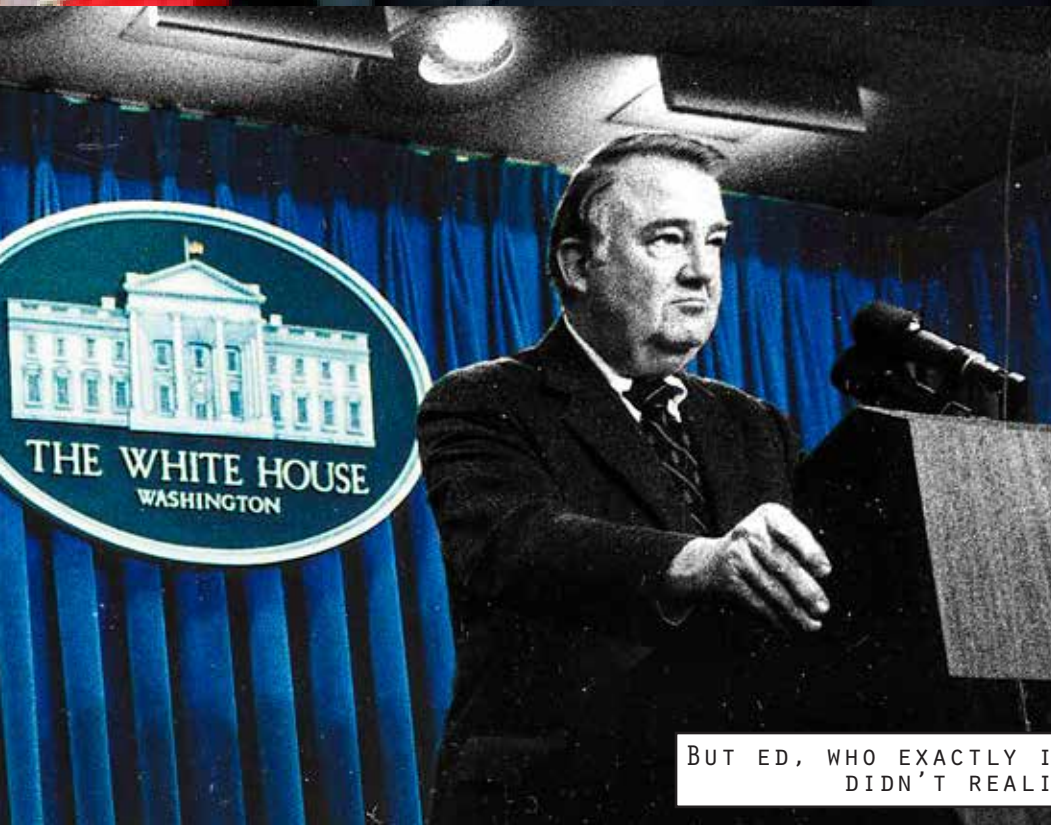


'THE PATH TO MY FIXED PURPOSE IS
LAID WITH IRON RAILS...

UNERRINGLY I RUSH...

NAUGHT'S AN OBSTACLE,

NAUGHT'S AN ANGLE
IN THE IRON WAY...'



& Ed Meese personally flying to Harrison, Arkansas to join a raid - but much to his disappointment, heavy rains prevented his torching of a grow in the Ozark National Forest. This Dresden-style strike on marijuana supply did not suffice for Amerika's Top Cop & Meese stated, *"There are still millions of pot smokers in this country unaware of the health hazards posed by marijuana & oblivious to the legal sanctions. Many users don't seem to realize they are breaking the law... If we are to eliminate the drug market, we need to go after users as well as dealers."*

BUT ED, WHO EXACTLY IN THE LAST 50 YEARS
DIDN'T REALIZE POT WAS ILLEGAL?

Now with the plants safely burnt, the paraquat flowing & the doctrine of the "gateway theory" established as Immutable Federal Truth, we must give Dr. Turner a fair hearing on his infamous Newsweek headline:

"REAGAN AIDE: POT CAN MAKE YOU GAY"

About her half-page story, even the award winning journalist Margaret Garrard Warner agrees that the headline went too far (though every newshound knows the annoyance of an editor going overboard when ordaining the headline).

In the actual article, she said of Turner,

He believes that pot smoking may lead to homosexuality; at the very least, he says, gays who use marijuana are risking damage to their immune system & vulnerability to AIDS.

Turner offers scant scientific backing for his claims... But he says that when he visits drug-treatment centers for patients under 18, he finds that roughly 40 percent of them have also engaged in homosexual activity. "It seems to be something that follows along from their marijuana use," says Turner ...

Dr. Turner responded in a Washington Post followup, 'The Great Drug Debate',
*"I have never said marijuana will make you homosexual...
I don't know why someone made a quantum jump on that."*

He even came off sounding magnanimous...
"Turner, who objected in particular to the story's headline, said he was surprised when he opened the magazine & saw the piece. I'm not angry at Newsweek, ... It happens & it happens."

with room for vindication...

Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Association Administrator Donald Ian Macdonald said, "One of the things I think Carlton is saying is that one of the things about marijuana and alcohol is that they do change sexual behavior in kids ... The question of homosexual behavior is interesting because indeed in treatment situations homosexual activity is a problem. Young people at that age, trying to establish sexual identities, they can become confused. As kids become involved in progressive drug use, thrill-seeking & experimentation is advanced."

(AGAIN, THE LAST'S UNDOUBTEDLEY TRUE - BUT IS THAT A BLACK EYE OR A FEATHER IN THE CAP?)

Finally, although it's commonly stated that Carlton Turner lost his drug czar slot because of the controversy stirred over his gay comments, in his defense, he denied this in the Tribune interview, citing corroborating passages from "The Reagan Diaries" where the President noted Turner resigned for reasons of family.

Turner maintains he had first asked them for a job with less hours & responsibilities but was turned down. Upon quitting the post, he declared Nancy Reagan, "was very upset with me for resigning, but I told her I'm very tired, I needed some rest, needed to spend more time with my children."

Luckily for him, his resignation went public the same week as the Iran Contra scandal exploded & what should've been front page news got buried in the furor.

We'll leave aside for now his coming fortune harvested from the booming urine testing industry because as Emperor Vespasian said to his son about his own Urine Tax almost two millennium ago:
pecunia non olet -
Money don't stink

Washington DC is a vicious environment for any human being - but especially for a chemist preferring precision to the dark waters of political power plays.

SO DR. TURNER, IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THESE WORDS, I WOULD SINCERELY BE APPRECIATIVE OF AN INTERVIEW. YOU CAN CORRECT MY FAKTS & GIVE YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY.

I MUST ADMIT, THOUGH, I'M MOST CURIOUS ABOUT THE CANNABINOID CHEMISTRY. I'VE EVEN GOT AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY I WAS HOPING YOU'D SIGN.

PLUS, I HAVE AT LEAST ONE INCENTIVE FOR YOU TO SEE ME. THEN WE CAN FINALLY GET SOME DECENT HEADSHOTS OF YOU INSTEAD OF REHASHING STILLS FROM THIS SAME OLD FOX INTERVIEW.

YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO SEE DR. TURNER
- BUT US SCIENTISTS MUST REMAIN SEEKERS THE WORLD ROUND.

ANYWAY, ONCE IT'S ALL SAID & DONE, I EXPECT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE GAY THING AFTER ALL.

IN HIS PRESIDENCY, RONALD REAGAN
QUITE LITERALLY MENTIONED UFOs
MORE TIMES THAN HIV.

HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE FORMER ON TWO
OCCASIONS & APPARENTLY OBSESSED OVER ALIEN
ATTACK TO HIS STAFF, EVEN MENTIONING IT TO
GORBACHEV AT A HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT.

BUT ON AIDS,
HE DID NOT EVEN MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT
UNTIL QUESTIONED DIRECTLY BY A REPORTER
AFTER ~25,000 SOULS HAD ALREADY BEEN LOST.

AGAINST THEIR OWN SURGEON GENERAL C. EVERETT
KOOP, REAGAN'S INNER CIRCLE ATTACKED HIM FOR HIS
PROMOTION OF CONDOMS & SEX EDUCATION .

THE CDC & NIH SIGNIFCANTLY UNDERFUNDED
THE RESEARCH & A HOMOPHOBIC INDIFFERENCE
SETTLED OVER THE FEDERAL REACTION
TO A BROILING EPIDEMIC AMONG "THOSE PEOPLE",
A CRIMINAL NEGLECT OF GENOCIDAL PROPORTIONS...

& SO
AMERIKA
WRESTLED
WITH
HERSELF...



AS THE
SEARING
CRUCIBLE
OF THE
AIDS
CRISIS
SPARKED
THE
MEDICAL
MARIJUANA
MOVEMENT
INTO
MOMENTUM.

Edmund Morris remembers
Reagan musing aloud whether
“the Lord brought down this plague
[because] illicit sex is against
the Ten Commandments.”

(though Morris,
the author of ‘Dutch’
cannot be claimed a strict biographer)

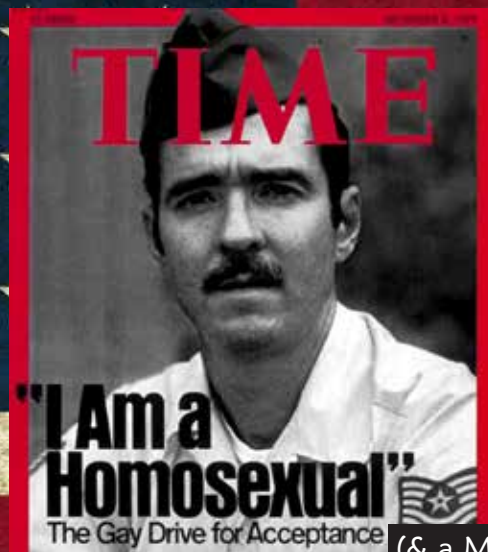


Near the very end of ‘Angels’, Roy Cohn lays it out to the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg
as she watches him lay dying racked with spasms,

“the worst thing about being sick in America, Ethel, is you are booted out of the parade. Americans have no use for the sick. Look at Reagan: He’s so healthy he’s hardly human, he’s a hundred if he’s a day, he takes a slug in his chest & two days later he’s out west riding ponies in his PJs.

I mean who does that? That’s America. It’s just no country for the infirm.”

<end scene>



(& a Mormon)



With only six months remaining in Ronald Reagan's second term of indifference, a famous war hero dies of AIDS complications.

Seargent Leonard Matlovich had become a cultural icon in 1975 when his face became the first openly queer human on the cover of any major US news magazine after he intentionally came out to the Air Force to force a test case.

Larry King remembers, "I shared many of the prejudices that are still prevalent today but used to be more commonplace then. I owe my liberation from whatever stereotypes I've managed to escape to a remarkable man named Sergeant Leonard Matlovich."

His decorated death highlighted the fact that with 90,000 of Matlovich's brethern now lost to HIV/AIDS, the piled bodies from this intemperate epidemic now doubled the size of the mountain from all those young American men dead in the entire 'police action' of Vietnam.

In a final reminder that the body is the garden of the soul, the last resting place of this war hero allowed him to leave an epitaph of powerfully hammered woe, true to his words from life,

"I believe that we must be the same activists in our deaths that we were in our lives."



Matlovich allowed his name only on the grave's border so that the tomb could stand tribute to all gay veterans his monument resting in his beloved Congressional Cemetery.

Washington, D.C. 1985. Walt Whitman & his companion from Peter Doyle.

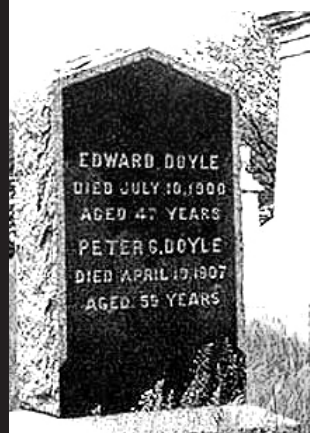


He turned down the grave in Arlington owed for his service to his nation & chose to lay here in the cemetery near his home where he used to walk often.

It delighted him, the thought of forever laying near the great male love of Walt Whitman,

Peter Doyle

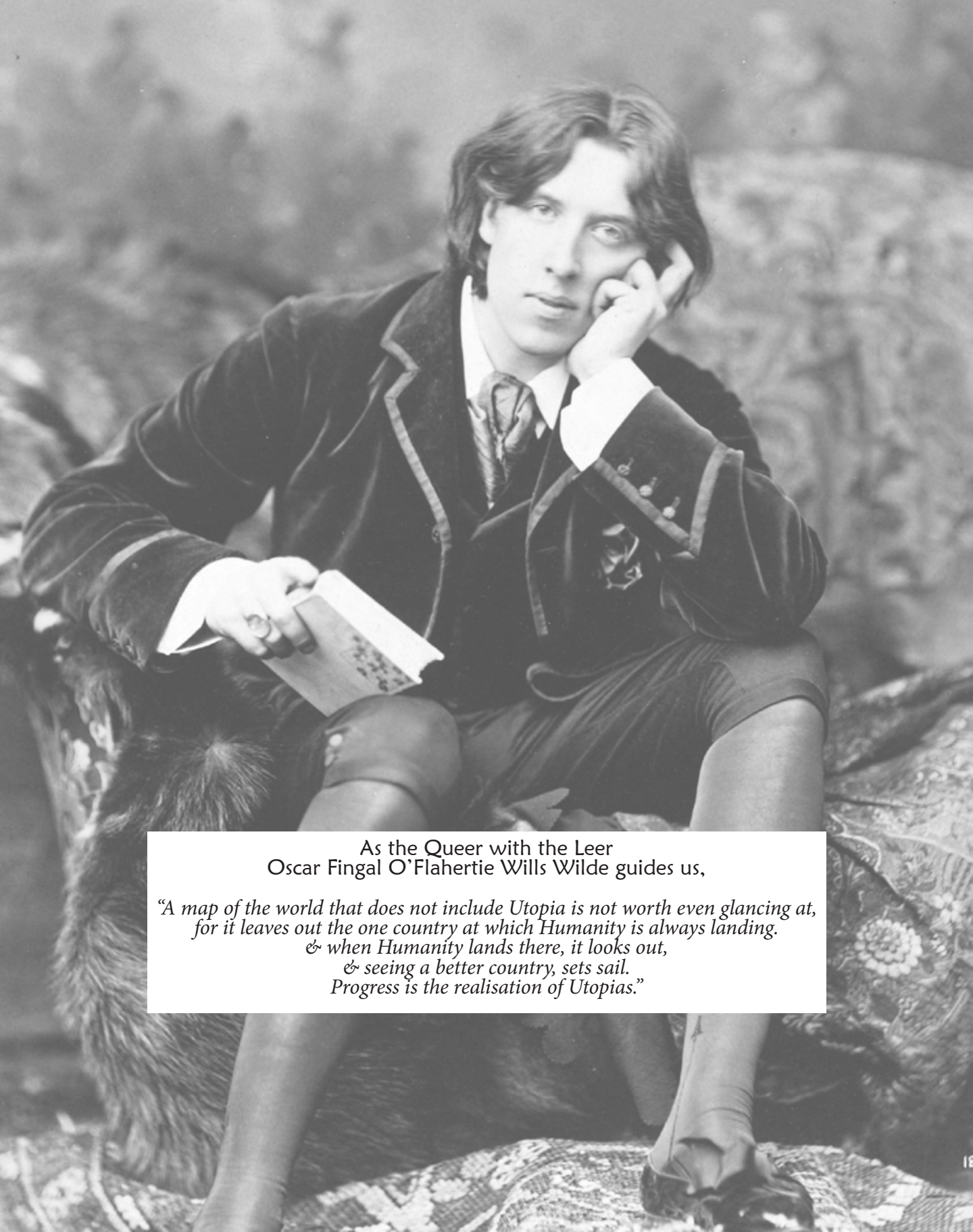
- himself a veteran of the Civil War.



& just for Matlovich's last laugh, his grave now rests in the same row as that 'loathsome & self-loathing' J. Edgar Hoover as well as the FBI chief's 'best friend' Clyde Tolson - both of whom, despite going to sex parties with Roy Cohn in the 50's according to one biography, maintained a vicious pogrom against homosexuals...

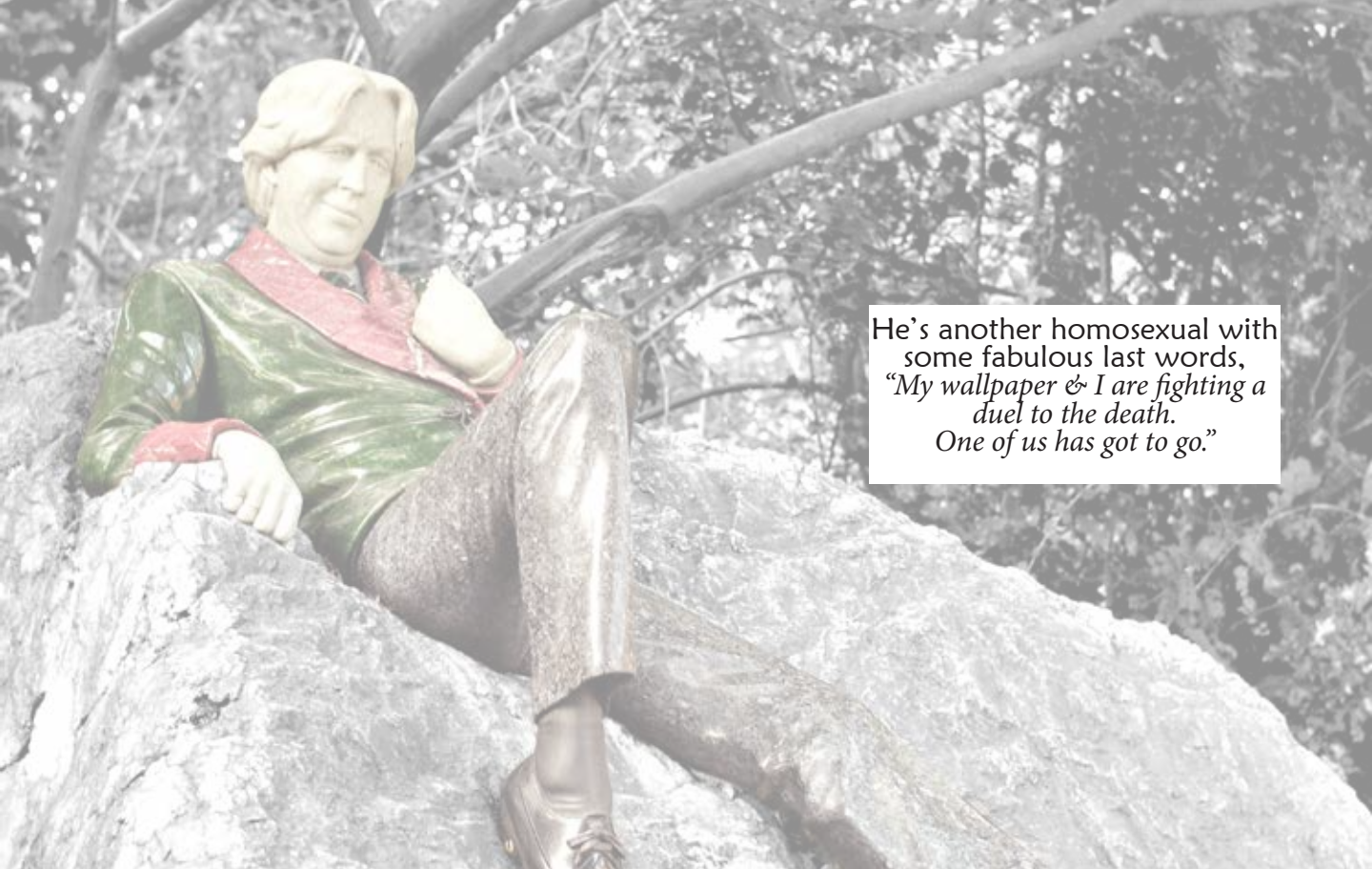
& now must forever bear the impudent indignity of gay soldiers getting happily married on top of them.





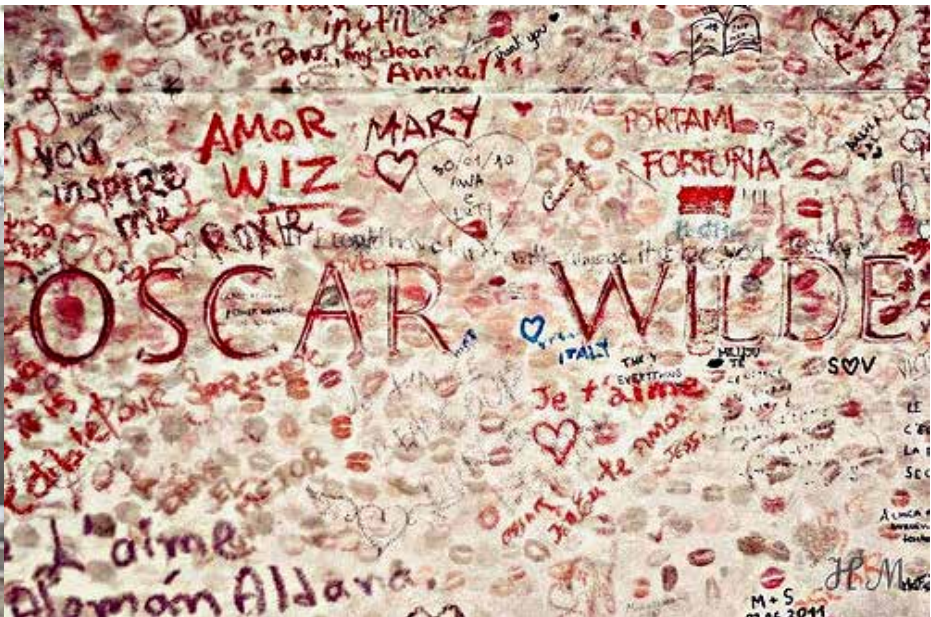
As the Queer with the Leer
Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde guides us,

*"A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at,
for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing.
& when Humanity lands there, it looks out,
& seeing a better country, sets sail.
Progress is the realisation of Utopias."*



He's another homosexual with
some fabulous last words,
*"My wallpaper & I are fighting a
duel to the death.
One of us has got to go."*

& another epitaph upon a
consequential tomb:



& ALIEN TEARS WILL FILL FOR HIM
PITY'S LONG-BROKEN URN,
FOR HIS MOURNERS WILL BE OUTCAST MEN,
& OUTCASTS ALWAYS MOURN.

SO DR. TURNER, I DO HOPE THE HOPE THAT ALL IT MIGHT TAKE IS ONE HIT OF HASHISH...



AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT...

...TO FINALLY HELP...

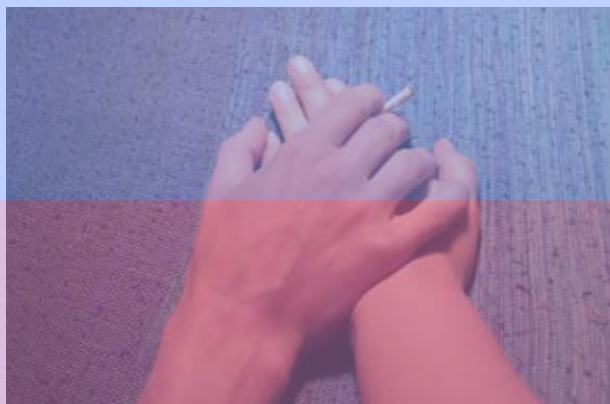


...A YOUNG QUEER...



...TO SCREW THEMSELVES
UP WITH ENOUGH SMOKED
COURAGE...

...TO FINALLY NUDGE THEMSELF OVER
A LINE IN THE SAND TO FREEDOM.



As the nurse Belize says to Louis, a man wracked with
guilt for abandoning his lover
Prior Walter dying of AIDS,

I hate America Louis.

*I hate this country. It's just big ideas, & stories &
people dying & people like you.*

*The white cracker who wrote the national anthem
knew what he was doing. He set the word 'free' to
a note so high nobody can reach it.*

*That was deliberate.
Nothing on Earth sounds less like freedom to me.*

*You come to room 1013 over at the hospital,
I'll show you America.
Terminal, crazy and mean.*

*I live in America, Louis, that's hard enough,
I don't have to love it.
You do that.*

Everybody's got to love something.

OR AS THE HOMELESS ORACLE OF AMERIKA FORESEES,
“IN THE NEW CENTURY, I THINK WE WILL ALL BE INSANE.”