

My father Richard Lake, going by his nickname Dick Lake in the following document, got this signed by the editor as you will notice on the cover. His article as 1972 Solano coordinator for the California Marijuana Initiative is below from the part of the September 1973 issue of The Marijuana Review, Vol.1, NO.9.

I am including this on my WhyHope.com website as evidence of the culture I grew up around and how it influenced me. My dad continued to be active in the support of legalizing marijuana until his death. He last worked assisting Mapinc.org with their articles for drug policy and assisting with efforts to have such articles in local newspapers.

It is easy to admit I am jealous that marijuana has so much support but my own issues with handicaps and discrimination, being called mentally ill, has resulted in almost no interest. My own father is recorded suggesting I should give up and let myself be called worthless while he put considerable effort into helping his friends who wanted medical marijuana or were in legal trouble for it.

- by Michael John Lake - WhyHope.com

the marijuana review

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For Richard Lake
with great memories!

Love -

Michael R. Alschich

Michael Alschich 7-10-08

MARIJUANA INITIATIVE ANALYSIS
special issue

...tion initiative on the ballot. (Continued on next page.)

THE MARIJUANA REVIEW Number 9 – September, 1973

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STEVE TRIMBLE AND AL KARGER—
MONTEREY & CHICO COORDINATORS.

CHICO CMI

by Al Karger

Proposition 19, as distinct from the signature gathering phase, began in Chico during August of '72. That's when I began fundraising at the "Drop Inn" club with tee-shirt sales. Until June, Terry White and Gary Cabrella had done a good job gathering signatures to make sure that Butte County added its bit to getting CMI on the ballot.

At the "Drop Inn" club, the grass roots supporters pitched in buying tee-shirts, pins, posters, and donating hard earned money. From there fundraising went to the Chico State College campus. There was a table set up at least 3 times a week and often 5, in the lobby of the Bell Memorial Union, well trafficked by most students on campus. This was probably the most significant factor in Chico in finally getting 48% yes votes. Student volunteers and I had that table set up about 6 hours each day registering people to vote, giving out literature, selling tee-shirts and bumperstickers, and talking to people.

The Chico CMI office was the entering room of a two-bedroom apartment—the outside of the building was plastered with a collage of different CMI and yes 19! posters. It functioned on a small scale the same way most CMI offices did. People coming in, volunteering time, getting information, donating money, rapping politics, arranging speaking engagements, whatever. A local peace officer was given a guided tour in response to some citizen's complaint. Store owners were a great help displaying posters and collecting donations. One afternoon about \$20 was collected by a zealous volunteer during happy hour in one of the local pubs.

Leo Paoli and I were interviewed by the editors of three of the local newspapers. Shortly afterward, the main Chico paper editorialized No on Prop. 19. Three weeks later through the aid of Eugene Ringel, city councilman, I was given

an opportunity to speak before the city council. It was to be five minutes of me promoting Prop. 19 and five minutes of a medical doctor giving some divergent views. Before we spoke the council voted on whether or not state propositions, particularly this one, should be given time, since the council was devoted to local matters. Councilman Ringel reminded the council and mayor that in the previous year, the city of Chico had spent \$1500 purchasing marijuana. There was not much elaboration on the \$1500, it was presumed to be for familiarizing police officers with marijuana. They voted 5 to 2 to hear Proposition 19. This staged the event that gave 19 its best local newspaper coverage. An enraged councilman stood up and proclaimed he was leaving if the council was going to listen to this marijuana pitch. The mayor asked him if he was returning and he replied "in ten minutes." He never returned. Some ran amuck over marijuana. The council meeting was being aired live on the local radio station and the next day the prominent local paper ran a third page story giving a run down of various facts supporting Prop. 19. The whole report, pro and con, was a positive support of 19, and read by more voters than their previous back page editorial.

Tee-shirts, pins, posters, and donations were the big fund raisers for the Chico Marijuana Initiative, and made it possible for us to do as well as we did. Besides campus sales, we sold at three local rock concerts. Some musicians like Country Joe McDonald gave us sales plugs during the concerts.

Leo Paoli and Lee Hudson were great helpers. Lee came to Chico a couple of times and we sped around town "red-hotting" people and discussing tactics and use of funds. That's how things went in Chico.

SOLANO COUNTY CMI

by Dick Lake



DICK LAKE AND JANET STASKIVIGE, SOLANO COUNTY COORDINATORS '72

SOLANO COUNTY CMI

Solano County, at the north end of San Francisco Bay, is an area supported by the military (Marine Island Naval Shipyard and Travis AFB) and agriculture. It is not large, but about middle in size of voter population among California counties. The majority would have voted for Humphrey but instead chose Nixon.

The county turned out to be a hotbed of support for the California Marijuana Initiative, obtaining a high percent of signatures for the number of registered voters, and conducting a heavy campaign with hundreds of grass roots workers—more than any county candidate by far. The effort was sparked by rage at the lack of reason, humanity, and common sense in the current marijuana laws.

For Janet Staskivige it started with the passing of a single joint at a quiet gathering of friends. Janet is a typical middle American housewife, law-abiding and normally politically inactive. But a friendly narc was there that night, playing the secret police role out of stories about Stalin's NKVD. It resulted in a typical Vallejo, California raid: the housewife torn from her home at 2:00 AM in front of the eyes of her sleepy seven year old little girl.

When it finally got to court, the evidence didn't exist. They tried to charge her with a "sales" rap, but could only produce half a lid. Janet was put on probation and given a fine for being in the presence of "killer weed." But it resulted in much more than that little tale, which is familiar to thousands of families in California. There is now one child with an undying hatred and fear of police. And there was a mother who was ready to fight to abolish the pot laws.

In the first days of petition circulation, Janet Staskivige collected about 1000 signatures by going to Solano College daily. Her

(Solano County, continued next page . . .)

(SOLANO, continued from preceding page) energy inspired others to help. When I heard of the initiative, I was a guard at San Quentin who every day saw the suffering caused by the pot laws, on the faces of prisoners, some of whom were serving long sentences for even minor infractions of the marijuana statutes. I was given Janet's name as Solano County Coordinator— which was news to her. With help from her friends, and many who were involved with the initiative became close friends, she accepted the role. In San Francisco, they called her the "Solano Flash."

We really worked hard in Solano. The CMI booth at a shopping center on Drug Awareness Day allowed us to build a highly successful publicity campaign; we got rock bands and experts like Leo Paoli and Dr. Joel Fort; the press and public took note. One editor called the day Pro-Pot, when in reality there were 18 other booths, all against.

For Janet an occasion to remember was when, at a town meeting debate on CMI, the police sergeant who led the raid on her home was thoroughly cut down by Dr. Tod Mikuriya and Leo Paoli. We almost felt sorry for the officer, taking so obviously an indefensible position against CMI experts.

More important for the future is what we learned in Solano County. **Volunteers, people who will do the actual work that needs to be done, are any campaign's most valuable asset. PEOPLE come before Funds, for example— because it takes people to ask for funds. Each and every volunteer must be treated with respect and consideration!**

Volunteers plug into an issue when they get interested, if they find a way to join that is easy and comfortable for them. So first you must make the issue known through publicity, press releases, letters to the editor, all possible speaking occasions, tables on campus and so forth. Then you must give people ways to volunteer. We ran lots of newsletters, leaflets carried in many shops, mailed, or given to petition signers; we announced meetings, projects, pushed the office address and phone hard. Finally we tried to take people as they came. We accepted their energy trips, respected their ideas: many came just looking to help and needing direction, but often self-starters had their own ideas. You can't reject their ideas even if they should be of low priority. Let volunteers come to appreciate the high priority projects by contact, by your own energy example. Usually they will come to understand your priorities as you understand theirs.

Thus we came to see volunteer support as crucial. We saw some counties leave potential volunteers with a cold, almost unwanted feeling. Never forget they don't have to help— nothing requires it of them. You must cover for them, guide them, make them part of your circle of friends, your team— or there just won't be a team. The Solano County team started GRASS ROOTS GAZETTE for statewide CMI with just this in mind. With good grassroots volunteer support, with plenty of hard work, marijuana could be decriminalized in 1974.



SANTA CRUZ CMI by Tom Plante

Santa Cruz was one of the first counties to start working on the CMI campaign. In January '72 a group of us ran a "Don't Bogart the News" flyer out to the people and volunteers gathered to circulate the petition. Gary Hunt became coordinator, faculty member T. Mike Walker and others helped at Cabrillo College, and we started making our own educational and publicity drive as soon as the petitions were printed, getting cooperation from the interested local papers, especially SUNDAZE. Gary, Rachael Yniguez, and I started a group at Cabrillo called "Friends of Cannabis" which functioned as the campus organizing center, working in cooperation with the student government which endorsed CMI wholeheartedly.

The Santa Cruz D.A., Peter Chang, was carrying Death Penalty petitions at his office, so in late April Gary and I took a stack of CMI petitions there and insisted that he carry it. He said he was opposed to CMI but at first agreed to keep our petitions available; then he instead discontinued the death penalty petitions, even though he was the county coordinator for the death penalty initiative. He came under criticism from several officials for promoting the death penalty initiative during office hours.

On May 1, we filed 6110 signatures, and under the auspices of "Friends of Cannabis" held CMI's first Statewide Conference that month so coordinators from everywhere in California would have a chance to meet. We ran an active June 6 Mobilization, with petition centers at local natural foods stores, record shops, the student center, etc. and on June 19 filed several thousand more signers.

FRIENDS

OF

CANNABIS

Rachael Yniguez

and

Tom Plante

SANTA CRUZ



Rachael Yniguez, Tim Ryan, and I kept "Friends of Cannabis" going and worked as voter registrars for the county. We succeeded in registering nearly 800 people for the November election. The summer months were not especially busy as far as campaigning went, although we distributed T-shirts and did our voter registrar trips.

However, when school resumed in September we once again put student government resources to work for us. The student council gave us \$50 after endorsing Proposition 19 almost unanimously. This action was followed by an endorsement of Prop 19 by the Cabrillo College Faculty Senate. The faculty endorsement would probably not have been possible without the help of T. Mike Walker and George Miljenich, a Counselor and Faculty Senator who for years was a Democratic Ward Captain in Berkeley. During the week we actively campaigned at Cabrillo, while on the weekends Rachael, Joe Goodale and myself leafletted and sold T-shirts on the Pacific Garden Mall in Santa Cruz.

The Santa Cruz Sentinel came out against 19 in October, and when I wrote a letter to the editor they printed it, but gave it the very misleading headline, "Opposes Prop. 19."

Our work in Santa Cruz proved fruitful, considering we got more than 46% of the city vote. We were unable to do as well in other areas, especially Watsonville which is predominantly agricultural and Spanish-speaking, but we still managed to get nearly 40% yes 19 county-wide. Santa Cruz is a strange county, where with hardly any work we got 96% of the votes in the 3 UCSC precincts and in total were able to carry 30 out of the 166 precincts with a minimum of organization and money. I am hopeful that Santa Cruz will carry in 1974 due to the growing community interest and the experience that Rachael, Joe, Tim, Sheila DeLany and others will be able to put to good use.

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