

Friday, March 9, 2007

### **Lessons from Amsterdam**

Once upon a time, marijuana was legal in the United States. In Amsterdam, where marijuana for personal use generally is not prosecuted, we find further support that marijuana is no more harmful than liquor, and probably less harmful (marijuana is to mellow as liquor is to violent). It is time to let people in the United States light up without fear or paranoia of being busted. Jon Katz. ADDENDUM: Although the following book might benefit from more analytical rigor, I think everyone on all sides of the marijuana legalization/criminalization issue will benefit from reading Jack Herer's *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, not to be mistaken with the children's book. As Jack wrote in signing my copy of his book sixteen years ago: "Jon- Start at page one, and teach it to the world. Love, Jack". For beneficial material supporting rescheduling marijuana for medicinal use, see the writings of Tod Mikuriya, M.D. [here](#) and Lester Grinspoon, M.D. [here](#), and my medical marijuana defense article [here](#). For my marijuana blog entries, see [here](#) and [here](#).

Posted by Jon Katz in Drugs at 01:00