

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Support your local head shop.

Image from public domain. One of the enjoyable parts of my law practice is going on the road and getting a chance to meet people and to have experiences beyond my doorstep. Long drives to outlying courts and to inmates preparing for trial often are soothed by beautiful mountains for hiking and waterways ready for a canoe or kayak adventure, while leaving the roadway as a distant memory. Post-court time -- at least when the outcome is a good one -- gives me a chance to explore some interesting small towns and cities before heading back to the office and my other clients' cases. A stop for a banana once led to a conversation with two neighborhood men sitting out front, drawing my attention to the first double rainbow I ever have seen. My travels also bring me in touch with head shops and head shop items, including a gas station selling pipes of the type favored for marijuana smoking. Head shops tend to be fascinating places, with many beautiful sights for the eyes, including the design and craftsmanship of many pipes made of glass, wood, and metal. Some have themes. One shop, since closed (possibly after police pressure, which would have been unfortunate), celebrated marijuana legalization. Another, just a few blocks from the county courthouse, celebrates reggae culture, and, in addition to pipes, is filled with reggae and Rastafarian-themed t-shirts, books, magazines, music, buttons, posters, magazines giving the lowdown on upcoming music festivals and concerts, candles, incense, and the list goes on. Another shop has a Grateful Dead theme, including beautiful homemade tie-dyes, mainly focused on children and babies, thus passing on this great art form to the next generation. Then there are the killjoys, those who are stuck in a Reefer Madness timewarp and information warp, passing, supporting, and trying to enforce laws not only focused on suppressing marijuana (nobody can eliminate such an easily-grown and beneficial weed), but on criminalizing not just pipes and rolling papers (which can be used interchangeably to smoke tobacco) but, in some jurisdictions, even to make it criminal to possess ziplock baggies with the intent to package controlled drugs in them. I salute the head shop owners who stand up to these killjoys and in favor of their customers by providing an atmosphere of joy, music, art, and culture in their shops as they simultaneously earn a living. I encourage like-minded people to support their local and non-local head shops by patronizing them often. Even non-smokers like myself have plenty of music, t-shirts, books and other interesting items available to buy. What a wonderful way to light a candle rather than cursing the darkness. Jon Katz. ADDENDUM: Click here for my articles supporting the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use.

Posted by Jon Katz in Drugs at 01:00

This blog is right on time. There's been 16 "harvest fests" in new york state recently of which I've attended a few...Lots of opportunity to tell about the great underdog blog, and its amazing how many "festies" don't know the first thing about smokers rights...I try to light a candle.

"Dawn is breaking everywhere,light a candle curse the glare,draw the curtains, I don't care, cuz, its all right' -- grateful dead tune
Anonymous on Oct 30 2007, 11:30

Hi, John- Thanks for this and all of your comments, and for spreading the word about our blog.

Curiously, when I was in high school, marijuana smoking was so commonplace that some people seemed uncomfortable when I was unwilling to share pot with them (my concerns went beyond the extent to which I was willing to break the law to smoke pot, to concerns about purity of the product (during high school, I think most of the stuff was imported) and any violence used by the importers and distributors to get the product to market.

My view then was, and remains, for people to do their own thing. However, some people get very uncomfortable smoking pot or drinking alcohol when in the company of sober people who simply believe in letting people do their own thing.

Anonymous on Nov 9 2007, 06:10