

# Citizens urged to do something about drug problem

To the Editor:

The following is a copy of a letter I sent this month to the governor, legislature and supreme court justices. I urge the citizens of our community and state to do something about the drug problems that are pandemic at this point. Don't wait until it's your family that the statistics are reflecting:

The current legislation which allows for the private possession, consumption and cultivation of marijuana by adults must be changed. The main basis for it, the Ravin decision of 1975, which cited a lack of conclusive evidence regarding marijuana's harmful effects is no longer valid in the light of more recent studies.

"Based on scientific evidence published to date, the Public Health Service has concluded that marijuana has a broad range of psychological and biological effects, many of which are dangerous and harmful to health. Marijuana use is a major public problem in the United States....

The Public Health Service review of the health consequences of marijuana supports the major conclusion of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine:

'What little we know for certain about the effects of marijuana on human health---and all that we suspect---justifies serious national concern.' " C. Everett Koop, M.D. - Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service - 08/12/82

These are not the words of an

uninformed "fanatic", but a conclusion of one of the most respected doctors in our country.

I read in the January issue of High Times magazine that the Ravin case was set up by attorneys Robin Wagstaff and Irwin Ravin to deliberately change the laws. In its decision the Court said the following:

"Privacy in the home is a fundamental right, under both federal and Alaska constitutions. We do not mean by this that a person may do anything at anytime as long as the activity takes place within a person's home. There are two important limitations on this facet of the right to privacy. First, we agree with the Supreme Court of the United States, which has strictly limited the Stanley guarantee to possession for purely private, noncommercial use in the home. And secondly, we think this right must yield when it interferes in a serious manner with the health, rights and privileges of others or with the public welfare. No one has an absolute right to do things in the privacy of his own home which will affect himself or others adversely. Indeed, one aspect of a private matter is that it is private, that is, that it does not adversely affect persons beyond the actor, and hence is none of their business. When a matter does affect the public, directly or indirectly, it loses its wholly private character, and can be made to yield when an appropriate public need is demonstrated.

Thus, we conclude that citizens

of the State of Alaska have a basic right to privacy in their homes under Alaska's constitution. This right to privacy would encompass the possession and ingestion of substance such as marijuana in purely personal, noncommercial context in the home unless the state can meet its substantial burden and show that proscription of possession of marijuana in the home is supportable by an achievement of a legitimate state interest."

At the time this case was heard the general media-supported opinion of marijuana was that it was relatively harmless. A number of books had been written to support this view and although there were conflicting findings by some prominent researchers, they were almost entirely ignored.

I believe that enough evidence exists today to warrant new legislation. I commend the members of the legislature who have the guts to do something. I urge you to listen to the facts and take action to support of the legislation being introduced that will once again put marijuana in the class of dangerous drugs to which it belongs.

I stand ready to do what I can to support you in this issue and would appreciate hearing from you as to your position whether it be pro or con. I would hope that we could share our views on this and work together for the future of this great land.

Sincerely Yours,  
Bob Konet  
Ward Cove, AK

## Barrow needs T.V. repairman

To the Editor:

Someone will make a good business running a T.V. repair service in Barrow, Alaska. At this time Barrow with a great population doesn't have a repair man for televisions.

I have 3 - 25" screen television's all have been broken down or tube burned out, just sitting at home for several years. Nobody knows how to repair T.V.'s up here.

from a concerned citizen in Barrow