

# **UPDATE: Pentagon Shooter Pot Scandal Grows**

By Cliff Kincaid

Left-wing California politicians have been talking about legalizing and taxing marijuana to save the state from bankruptcy. But thanks to the state's most notorious pothead, Pentagon shooter John Patrick Bedell, that vision may go up in smoke. Bedell's easy and disastrous access to "medical marijuana" in California is quickly becoming a scandal that threatens the well-funded movement to increase access to the weed by legalizing it statewide.

Before Bedell brought discredit on the "medical marijuana" movement, John Podesta, head of the Center for American Progress (CAP), had actually suggested on ABC News that the legalization of marijuana on a national basis could be a way to pay for Obama's health care plan. This is ironic since the Bedell case shows that marijuana addiction, combined with mental health problems, represents a deadly threat to life and limb.

Podesta, of course, is considered to be doing the bidding of billionaire George Soros, the hedge fund operator who funds CAP and has funneled millions of dollars into the drug legalization movement.

After California passed Proposition 215 legalizing medical marijuana in 1996, media celebrities such as Bill Maher, dubbed one of the top ten "celebstoners" by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), began to vigorously promote the weed.

"The only thing bad about marijuana is it makes you eat cookie dough," he joked.

NORML reports, "Maher made pot a big part of his late-night TV talk shows - first on *Politically Incorrect* and now on HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*. Also a stand-up comic, he's given speeches at NORML and MPP [Marijuana Policy Project] conferences (he's on their boards) and hosted a NORML benefit concert in Los Angeles in 2004. *Real Time* received a 2006 Stony Award for Best Cable-News Series."

Maher is a comedian, but Bedell's parents are not laughing about their son's psychotic pot problem, which took his life when he opened fire on guards at the Pentagon and was fatally wounded as a result.

Bedell had a doctor's approval to get "medical marijuana" in 2006 and was reported by his father to have a "medicinal marijuana card" when he was declared missing in January of this year. He was then pulled over on February 1 by the Washoe County (Nevada) Sheriff's Office for erratic driving and a failure to signal when turning, and then busted for unlawful possession of marijuana and driving under the influence of drugs. Bedell told the police he hadn't smoked dope for weeks but wrecked of the weed when ordered out of his car. He had 2.6 ounces of the drug and a pink marijuana pipe.

California, where Bedell lived and posted bizarre Internet commentaries about the virtues of dope, has been called "pot paradise" by High Times, a magazine that glorifies the drug culture. The magazine claims that the "Golden State" is home to 250,000 residents with "proper state documentation" to obtain "cannabis medicine."

If even a small number of them turn out to be ticking time-bombs like John Patrick Bedell, there will be a lot of bloodshed and devastated families in America.

Even before it was revealed that Bedell had shot two Pentagon guards and was a marijuana addict and psychotic, questions were being raised about how doctors in California were approving access to the drug. The state medical board has investigated a number of doctors for being overly lax in issuing recommendations for the weed.

Now, California anti-drug activists, already concerned that their state is literally going to pot, are demanding to know how and why Bedell got the drug. It turns out he got one "medical marijuana" card, in the form of a "physician's statement," from Dr. Roger Stephen Ellis, in 2006. Ellis, known as the "potdoc," was the subject of an official inquiry in 2002 into how he was granting access to the drug. The inquiry was closed, on the condition that he would come into compliance with the state statute regarding the care and treatment of people seeking dope. Assurances that he would come into compliance were made on his behalf by his legal counsel.

Bedell told the doctor that he wanted the dope for "chronic insomnia," when insomnia can itself be a symptom of marijuana withdrawal.

Charles Lane of the Washington Post writes that, "By the time of his appointment with Ellis, Bedell was already exhibiting troubling signs of mental illness, according to recent published interviews with his family and friends. He was also using marijuana excessively. Bedell's loved ones' anguish at his death may be compounded now by the knowledge that, at one important moment in his troubled life, a doctor gave him help obtaining more marijuana -- as opposed to real help."

With a marijuana card, dopers can go to various California "dispensaries" to get their fixes for real and imaginary problems, including those of a mental nature. In Oakland,

classes are held out in the open (for a fee) on how to grow high-quality marijuana and meet the demand.

Lane is one of the few, perhaps the only, major media reporter willing to publicly take on the notion that smoking crude marijuana somehow has beneficial "medical properties."

Lane says that "the legalization of physician-recommended pot in California is a prescription for disaster because it authorizes the 'treatment' of a wide range of real maladies with a spurious 'medicine' -- marijuana -- that might be ineffective or actually harmful."

Predictably, pot advocates are accusing Lane of "reefer madness." They pooh-pooh the notion that marijuana is linked to health problems of any sort.

However, British journalist Nicky Taylor decided to experiment with the drug by smoking it on a daily basis and found that the new dope is far stronger and more dangerous than she had realized. She reported a frightening experience of panic and paranoia. "At one point during her investigation, scientific tests proved that, thanks to the drug, she had developed a level of psychosis well above that seen in individuals with schizophrenia," a British paper reported.

Some of her experiences in Amsterdam, where marijuana is legal, were captured on video. "This is really disturbing. It's worse than being blind drunk," she says in the video. "I'm scared. I seem to have worked myself into a bit of a panic attack and I don't know why."

Later, she said, "I have to say that was the worst day ever, ever, ever of my whole life. Inside I was absolutely petrified. At one point I was even too scared to get out of the chair. It was like a massive, massive panic attack. I got this stupid feeling that it sort of unlocked some sort of paranoia in my head and forever I am going to be paranoid."

In this context, it makes complete sense that John Patrick Bedell believed that the government was out to take his rights away, including his right to smoke pot. His marijuana use obviously fueled his paranoia and made him susceptible to accepting other bizarre conspiracy theories, such as the 9/11 "inside job" nonsense.



Health & Safety Code 11362.5

# PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT

This certifies that John Patrick Bedell is a patient under my medical care and supervision for the treatment of Chronic Insomnia

I have discussed the medical benefits and risks of cannabis use with the patient as a treatment for these medical conditions. (Select one below)

I recommend medical cannabis use for my patient.  I do not object to medical cannabis use for my patient.

If my patient chooses to use cannabis therapeutically, I will continue to monitor his/her medical condition and to provide advice on his/her progress.

This letter is for use by my patient and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH). I understand that I may be contacted by the SFPDH to verify the information in this letter. My patient authorizes me to discuss his/her medical condition and the contents of this letter with the SFPDH for verification purposes only.

I understand that the SFPDH will return this form to my patient and that the SFPDH will not retain any copies of this form.

Patient: [Signature]  
Signature

Physician: [Signature]  
Signature

(Roger)  
Name (print)

(CA): G-40749  
CA license No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

San Francisco, CA 94108  
City/Zip Code

Optional: [Signature]  
N.P./P.A. Signature

[Signature]  
N.P./P.A. Name (print)

Date of Statement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time Period Covered  
 1 month  2 months  6 months  Other \_\_\_\_\_

ISSUED  
DEC 26 2006  
R. STEPHEN ELLIS, M.D.