

# White House rebuffs Harvard drug lobby

by Joyce Fredman and EIR Staff

In an Oct. 20 speech at Framingham High School in Framingham, Massachusetts, President Clinton alluded to two recent studies showing the alarming increase of overall drug use among young people, as well as the dangers of marijuana in particular. Clinton told the students: "Every single scientific study that has been done in the last several years shows alarming increases in the toxicity and the danger of using marijuana, especially to young women, and what might happen to their childbearing capacity in the future.

"All illegal drugs are dangerous. We have to drive down usage again. It has got to be not a good thing to do, not a cool thing to do. It is a stupid thing to do, as well as an illegal thing to do, and I want you to help bring it back down."

The studies Clinton cited were elaborated the same day at a joint press conference given by Dr. Lee Brown, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Thomas Gleaton, president of PRIDE (Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education), an Atlanta organization which just completed a survey of 270,000 students.

The PRIDE study concluded: "All types of violent and threatening behaviors shared a common denominator: alcohol and drug use.

"Two-thirds of high school students who carried guns to school smoked marijuana, three times the rate of those who did not carry a gun, and nearly one-third used cocaine, 14.5 times the rate for those who did not carry a gun."

The report added, "Marijuana use by junior high black males (mostly ages 11 to 14) nearly doubled from 1992-93 to 1993-94 (from 7.7% annual use to 13.3%). Use by senior high black males (mostly ages 14 to 18) soared from 19% to 29.1%. For the first time ever, black males in all grades smoked marijuana in greater percentages than their white counterparts. . . . Compared with two years ago, prevalence of marijuana use among all black junior high students (males and females) more than tripled (from 3.2% in 1991-92 to 10.1% in 1993-94); and in senior high it more than doubled (from 9.4% in 1991-92 to 22.4% in 1993-94)."

## Alarming rise in marijuana use

At the news conference, Dr. Brown said that the Marijuana Situation Assessment released by the Office of National

Drug Control Policy reinforced what many officials already knew intuitively. Brown's office found "alarming indicators that marijuana is increasing in popularity, particularly among teenagers." Even worse, "the marijuana is at least 10 times more potent than it was 10 years ago."

To quote from the introduction of the Marijuana Situation Assessment report:

"The possibility that marijuana use is on the rise is worrisome. Since marijuana is by far the most widely used illicit drug, small percentage increases in use mean that large numbers of Americans have crossed the line from not breaking the drug laws to breaking them. And although marijuana is not as addictive or toxic as cocaine, its use, especially when heavy, can lead to problems of cognitive, personal, and social functioning. Perhaps the more profound worry about increased marijuana consumption is what it might portend for the use of more dangerous drugs.

"One possibility is that marijuana use is a barometer of public attitudes about illicit drug use. If more people are smoking marijuana, it could reflect increased acceptance of illicit drug use in general. . . . In terms of supply, domestic marijuana production, which seems to account for half or more of U.S. consumption on a potency-adjusted basis, is the chief concern. When valued at retail prices, domestic production is probably worth \$6 to \$7 billion a year."

The administration's statements in October confirmed the emphatic, but underpublicized, rejection by the White House of pressures from the drug decriminalization lobby to run up a white flag to mind-altering drugs simply because the Bush "war on drugs" was run in a way guaranteed to lose.

## Decrim: 'It's not going to happen'

The decriminalization lobby was out in force last May 21, when Harvard Law School hosted its second forum on Crime, Drugs, Health, and Prohibition. The conference publicity said that the earlier forum, in 1992, "featured 16 workshops highlighting the futility of drug prohibition. This conference will include a constructive dialogue from both points of view on the question: Would a public health approach, similar to [that of] European nations, be more effective than the existing criminal justice model?"

The roster of speakers, however, pointed to anything but a debate with "both points of view" presented. It included the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition; the national director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), Richard Cowan; Kevin Zeese, the vice president of the Drug Policy Foundation; Ethan Nadelmann of Princeton University, and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), all well-known voices in the decriminalization lobby. Steven B. Duke from Yale Law School, author of *America's Longest War: Rethinking Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs*, was a major draw.

But the presidential "drug czar," Dr. Lee Brown, decided to take part in the forum because, as he said in a letter, "it

provides an excellent opportunity to clearly state this administration's stance on legalization: "Our number one goal is to reduce the number of drug users in America. Legalization is a formula for self-destruction and this administration is unequivocally opposed to any 'reform' that is certain to increase drug use."

In his keynote speech to the Harvard gathering, Brown refuted some common, albeit "bizarre," "assertions by so-called drug experts about what the drug situation is."

For example, "there is no massive support for legalization. A 1990 Gallup poll showed that 80% of the public thought that legalizing drugs was a bad idea. . . ."

"Reflecting the views of the American public, there is no meaningful support within Congress for the legalization of illicit drugs.

"And in fact, policy-level officials who are directly responsible for the drug issue—beginning with the President—oppose legalization. I do, too. . . ."

"Another . . . myth is that there are excellent foreign models to show that decriminalization works: The Netherlands and the U.K. are two."

However, he said, "one need only read the international press to realize the degree to which the Dutch have visited upon themselves misery from drug abuse by enacting drug laws that go unenforced, and policies that encourage 'responsible' use rather than discourage any use at all. The Dutch are pleased to say they have remained mostly unscathed by drug use by their own citizens. They cannot say the same of the many thousands of foreign visitors who arrive to buy drugs, steal or panhandle to keep using them, and then ask the Dutch to treat them for addiction.

"And one need only recall the disastrous experience of Great Britain with the controlled distribution of heroin. In the years between 1959 and 1968—according to the 1981 *British Medical Journal*—the number of heroin addicts in the U.K. doubled every 16 months. The experiment was, of course, terminated. But addiction rates in the U.K. have not subsided.

"At the same time, no one mentions Italy, which permits heroin and other drugs to be used legally, and where the number of heroin addicts—some 350,000, by official estimates—and the level of HIV prevalence—an estimated 70%—are higher than those in any other country in western Europe. I ask myself at times why those who advocate drug policy reform are so quiet about the Italian model. . . ."

"To the overwhelming number of Americans, to the Clinton administration, to the American Congress, to American policymakers of this as well as prior administrations, to Americans involved with drug programs across the country, to Americans in drug-blighted communities across the country, legalization is exactly such a solution—neat, plausible, and wrong.

"Speaking for these Americans and for this administration, I can tell you that *it's just not going to happen.*"

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## Book Reviews

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# Robert Evans's story: coverup for satanism

by Michelle Steinberg

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### **The Kid Stays in the Picture**

by Robert Evans

Hyperion, New York, 1994

412 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

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Pathetic and illiterate, the autobiography of Robert Evans, the legendary corporate executive who saved Paramount Pictures from bankruptcy, liquidation, and oblivion, is a book written in an obscure gangland-style code, in which an embittered man is venting his spleen without being able to do what he really wants—bring down the mighty mobsters who threw him to the wolves.

The "thrilling" beginning is the triumphant party celebrating the New York premier of the Paramount film "The Godfather." The time is 1972, and Evans, the producer, is hosting his alleged two best friends, Henry A. Kissinger, then secretary of state, and the notorious mobster attorney Sidney Korshak, whom he describes repeatedly as his "mentor," his "godfather," his "*consigliere* for over 20 years," at a gala party at New York's St. Regis Hotel. When Evans, in a fit of egomania, tries to "put it all together" and have Kissinger and Korshak join him, basking in all his glory, at the same table, Korshak grabs his arm in a powerful, threatening grip and growls, "Don't ever bring me and Kissinger together in public. Ever! Now go back to your table . . . schmuck."

### **An anecdote with promise**

An anecdote with promise. What does godfather Korshak have to hide? Do Korshak and Kissinger get together privately on a regular basis? But Evans never delivers.

For someone who was busted on cocaine, who hocked his multimillion-dollar mansion to pay off mob backers in a film deal gone bad, who was nearly indicted in the cocaine-satanic murder of New York impresario Roy Radin, and whose comeback to Paramount resulted in the allegation that he threatened to kill leading lady Sharon Stone (as he had