MARIJUANA’S MEMORY LANE

Your interview with Michael Sonnenreich about the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse and his role as executive director was a walk down memory lane for me [DPL, "Reflections of a Nixon Appointee," Summer 1997]. Mike, as always, tells it like he sees it. He never was much for being politically correct. Too bad you didn't ask him about his view, in 1997, of marijuana still being a Schedule I drug in the Controlled Substances Act. Since Mike wrote much of the CSA as deputy general counsel of the old Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, I think you'd find his opinion illuminating.

Tom Ungerleider, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry,
UCLA Medical Center;
Presidential Appointee,
National Commission on Marijuana
and Drug Abuse

HOROSKO’S MAGIC TOUCH

I really enjoyed reading Sher Horosko's "Making Magic Happen" [DPL, Summer 19971. The process she describes is the best solution I've heard to date to help solve the problem we have with drugs and the war on drugs, which seems to have a clandestine agenda when it comes to black America.

Ms. Horosko couldn't have said it better: "There is something very, very wrong going on here. Can you see?" All a person has to do is look at the government's own statistics to see that "there is something very, very wrong." Thank you Sher Horosko for your open heart. Society needs more people like you.

Everett Gholston Lompoc, California
TREASURE HUNT

I am writing to thank you for the attention you have placed on international drug policy. I am immured in federal prison serving a 17-year sentence for attempting to buy marijuana from the U.S. Customs Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration in a reverse sting operation in Tallahassee, Florida on July 16, 1991.

After reading an article in your Winter 1995 issue on Dr. John Marks' heroin maintenance clinic in Widnes, England r Tories to Junkies: Score Your Own"], I contacted the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad in London, England, which put me in contact with Dr. Marks. He wrote back to me immediately, but his letter was held at this Federal Correctional Institution for four to five weeks before I received it on December 10, 1996.

I was denied an International Treaty Transfer in September 1995, but I applied for another one in July 1997. I am certain that it is just a matter of time before the Americans cave in and transfer me to a British prison in order to complete my American drug sentence. I believe that your publication's concise reporting will prove to play a part in that treaty transfer by helping me locate Dr. Marks.

I find your work to be refreshing and on the forefront of this very important issue. I regret to admit that my introduction to your publication came via the trash can, where I found the Winter 1995 Drug Policy Letter. As they say, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

Peter Stuyvesant Fairton, New Jersey

Conference Praises
Here’s a sampling of the remarkable feedback we received on the New Orleans conference:

We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Drug Policy Foundation, Sher Horosko, and Whitney Taylor for the scholarships you provided us for the DPF conference in New Orleans. We gathered a wealth of information for our Planning Council and made lasting friendships with attendees. You have renewed and strengthened our resolve to continue to fight for drug policy reform as it relates to harm reduction interventions.

Ralph Mitchell & Mary Sheard
Newark (N.J.) EMA HIV Health
Services Planning Council

Congratulations on your excellent work in coordinating the very successful Drug Policy Reform Conference last month. I thought it had a genuine tone of humanism and it was a wonderful experience for me.
C. Daniel Sundquist
Executive Director, New Hampshire Harm Reduction Alliance

The DPF conference in New Orleans may have been a watershed — several quite disparate groups are finally beginning to realize that the best way to serve their individual cause is to unite with others who also find the policy intolerable.
Tom O'Connell, M.D.
DrugSense Board of Directors
San Mateo, CA

Whitney, you put together an Academy Award-winning conference. It was an eye-opening experience, and I came home richer in knowledge of the dynamics of drug addiction. The DPF is a class act.
Greg Keller
President, Wisconsin Chapter of the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates Inc.
I want to thank you for the wonderful time I and my family had at the DPF conference. The Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse table enabled us to get our information out to attendees and gave us a place to meet and network with others. You folks are hard-working, extremely sharp, and dedicated. I consider it a privilege to call you my friends. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. Receiving the Robert Randall Award is definitely a high point in my life.

Sandee Burbank
Director, Mothers Against Misuse and Abuse