

JUL 1 1 1998

The Haight Street Flyer

Vol. 1, No. 1: "The artistic voice of Haight-Ashbury"

-Literature and Poetry for only \$1.00-

start change

Is marijuana appropriate for medical use?

"YES"

PAUL ARMENTANO, *Publications Director*, National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Abridged from "Making the Case for Medicinal Marijuana," *NORML REPORTS*, October 1996

The best established medical use of smoked marijuana is as an anti-nauseant for cancer chemotherapy. During the 1980's, smoked marijuana was shown to be an effective anti-emetic in six state-sponsored clinical studies. Currently, many oncologists are recommending marijuana to their patients despite its prohibition.

There exists evidence—both scientific and anecdotal—that marijuana is a valuable aid in reducing pain and suffering for patients with a variety of other serious ailments, and that it is less toxic and costly than the conventional medicines for which it may be substituted. For example, marijuana alleviates the nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite caused by AIDS wasting syndrome and by treatment with AZT and other drugs, without accelerating the rate at which HIV-positive individuals develop clinical AIDS or other illnesses.

It is generally accepted—by the National Academy of Sciences and others—that marijuana reduces intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients suffering from glaucoma, the leading cause of blindness in the United States. There also exists historical evidence that marijuana is effective in treating a variety of spastic conditions such as multiple sclerosis, paraplegia, epilepsy, and quadriplegia.

Is marijuana appropriate for medical use?

"NO"

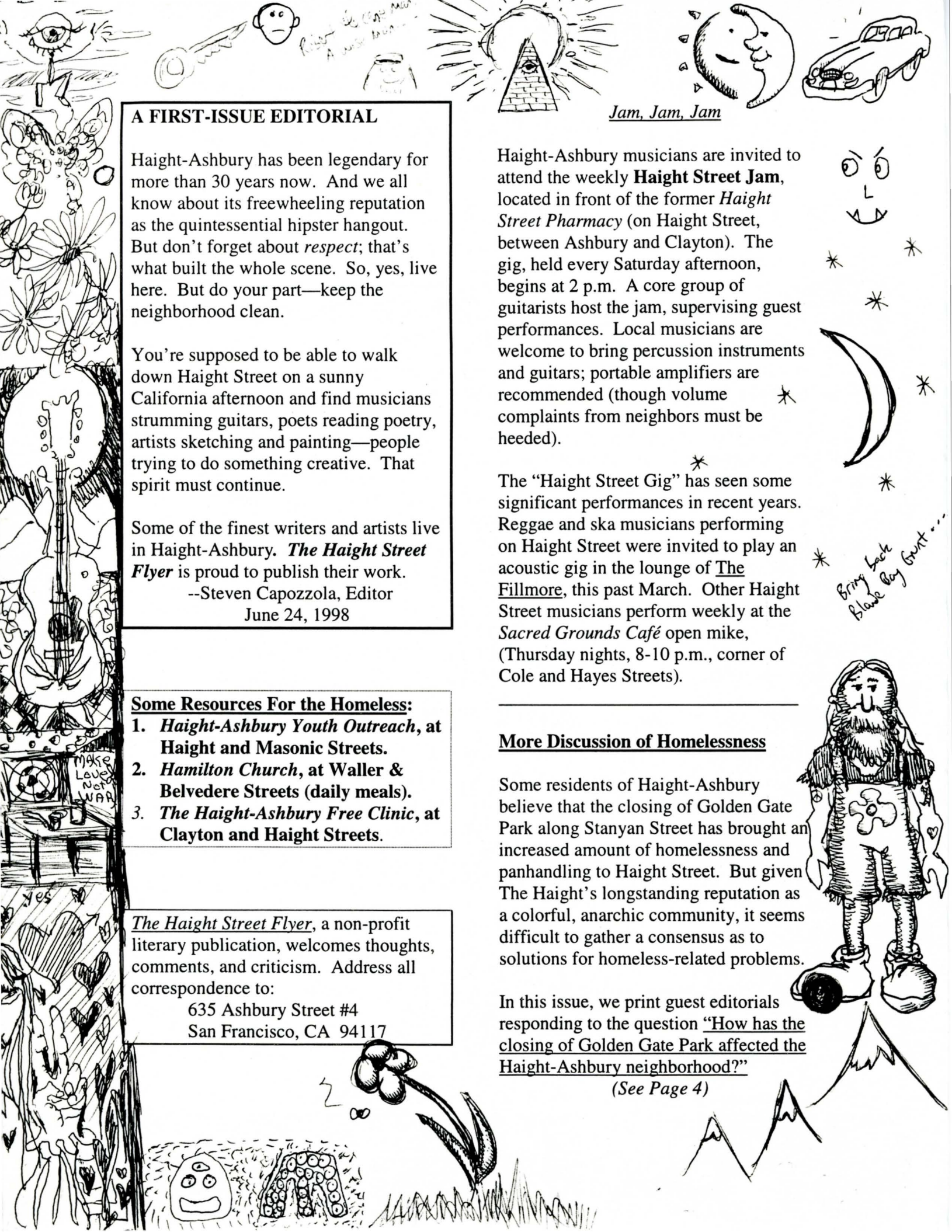
DAN QUAYLE, Vice President of the United States, 1989-1993, Abridged from "Liberal Drug Measures are Unsafe Medicine," *The Arizona Republic*, Nov. 29, 1996

Several years ago, when then Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders suggested that we consider legalizing drugs, she was widely (and properly) criticized. While most of the country continued to talk about the importance of fighting drugs, proponents of drug legalization were busy developing a strategy to accomplish their goal. Their first step: legalizing marijuana for medical use.

On Nov. 5, when voters in California approved Proposition 215 and those in Arizona gave their nod to Proposition 200, supporters of drug legalization won two important battles. On the surface, these initiatives seem to make sense. They were presented to voters as an act of compassion for those suffering from diseases such as cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, and multiple sclerosis. Pretty straightforward, right? A simple act of compassion? Well, not exactly.

California's Proposition 215, which passed 55 percent to 45 percent and is now state law, legalized the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. But the measure was so poorly written (perhaps intentionally) that it is riddled with loopholes and essentially legalized the use of marijuana in California.

There is no scientific evidence that marijuana or any other Schedule I drug is safe or effective.



A FIRST-ISSUE EDITORIAL

Haight-Ashbury has been legendary for more than 30 years now. And we all know about its freewheeling reputation as the quintessential hipster hangout. But don't forget about *respect*; that's what built the whole scene. So, yes, live here. But do your part—keep the neighborhood clean.

You're supposed to be able to walk down Haight Street on a sunny California afternoon and find musicians strumming guitars, poets reading poetry, artists sketching and painting—people trying to do something creative. That spirit must continue.

Some of the finest writers and artists live in Haight-Ashbury. *The Haight Street Flyer* is proud to publish their work.

--Steven Capozzola, Editor
June 24, 1998

Some Resources For the Homeless:

1. *Haight-Ashbury Youth Outreach*, at Haight and Masonic Streets.
2. *Hamilton Church*, at Waller & Belvedere Streets (daily meals).
3. *The Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic*, at Clayton and Haight Streets.

The Haight Street Flyer, a non-profit literary publication, welcomes thoughts, comments, and criticism. Address all correspondence to:

635 Ashbury Street #4
San Francisco, CA 94117

Jam, Jam, Jam

Haight-Ashbury musicians are invited to attend the weekly **Haight Street Jam**, located in front of the former *Haight Street Pharmacy* (on Haight Street, between Ashbury and Clayton). The gig, held every Saturday afternoon, begins at 2 p.m. A core group of guitarists host the jam, supervising guest performances. Local musicians are welcome to bring percussion instruments and guitars; portable amplifiers are recommended (though volume complaints from neighbors must be heeded).

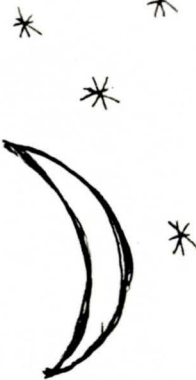
The "Haight Street Gig" has seen some significant performances in recent years. Reggae and ska musicians performing on Haight Street were invited to play an acoustic gig in the lounge of The Fillmore, this past March. Other Haight Street musicians perform weekly at the *Sacred Grounds Café* open mike, (Thursday nights, 8-10 p.m., corner of Cole and Hayes Streets).

More Discussion of Homelessness

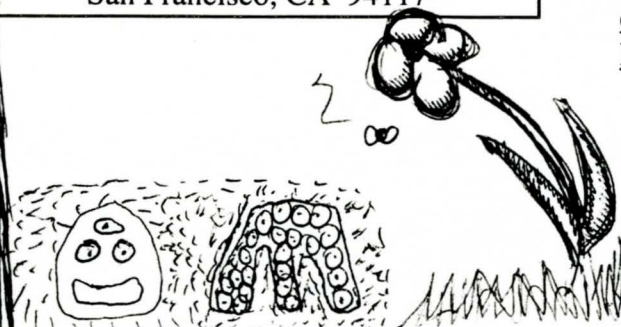
Some residents of Haight-Ashbury believe that the closing of Golden Gate Park along Stanyan Street has brought an increased amount of homelessness and panhandling to Haight Street. But given The Haight's longstanding reputation as a colorful, anarchic community, it seems difficult to gather a consensus as to solutions for homeless-related problems.

In this issue, we print guest editorials responding to the question "How has the closing of Golden Gate Park affected the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood?"

(See Page 4)



Bring back
Blawie Bay Gunt...





Don't Drink and Vote

It takes an asshole
to wanna be in charge.
If everyone wanted to be President,
no one would vote.
The world's full of assholes—
unfortunately not enough.
Confusing? Don't drink and vote.
Stay out of the mess. Beat a wall,
not a cop. Blow your brains out.
Don't drink and vote. Satisfied? Don't.

--Farmboy

LEGALIZE IT.

more awkward than movies,
we try to act professional and
lock fingers. Tiny, weak, brittle
they trigger associations and
turn her into a special effect.
I close my eyes to breathe.
Open my eyes and see the
thirty two-year-old housewife,
short blond hair, probably dyed,
tucked behind the ears. The body
sags from the first child.
I look at the face,
a hint of a wrinkle, something off.
The mind works quick
an adjustment is made back to
a tight face and body motionless
from experience. A forty-year-old
beauty queen drying her nails.
I grab the fingers in anger. I feel
tiny, weak, brittle fingers.
The effect stops.

--Jed Shahar



Saturday Night

The shine on that black denim
as she plays with her pussycat,
on all fours—I could be right under her,
on the floor—but the drink
(my favorite excuse)
has me sitting upright—well,
slouched, but raised enough to keep
from spilling beer down my shirt.
Now she's on the laptop—
I remain slouched.
She's in law school and typing away.
I'm still slouched and drinking away.
It's Saturday night—the volume's low,
the heat is bearable, the drink is cold.
This is night 5, maybe 6. Whatever
night it is, this is my climax.

--Farmboy

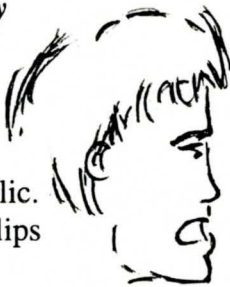
AN EDITOR'S NOTE:

This space is reserved for Daniel Kegel, age 20, who has lived on Haight Street for more than two years. Daniel's prose should have appeared here, but before he could submit his finished work, he was arrested for allegedly selling an eighth of an ounce of marijuana to an undercover police officer. Hopefully Daniel's writing will appear in a future issue of The Haight Street Flyer.

Attention: Haight-Ashbury Writers, Artists, and anyone who believes in the enduring legacy of The Haight.....
Send your poems, prose, drawings, art, whatever... to: The Haight Street Flyer
635 Ashbury Street #4
San Francisco, CA 94117
** All submissions remain the copyright of the original writer/artist.

Fingers

The face made it pedophilic.
Soft, red, and tight. The lips
duplicate mine.
Nothing else jumped at me
but the hands.
The sixth or seventh time in bed
they trigger something.
With her on top,



Revitalize the Haight

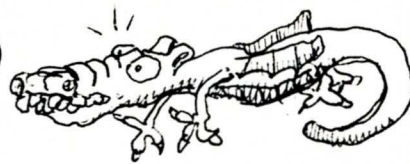


RAINIER ALE - \$2.10
out the door.



we Miss You, Jeffro
Haight Street High Ave...





"How has the closing of Golden Gate Park affected the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood?"

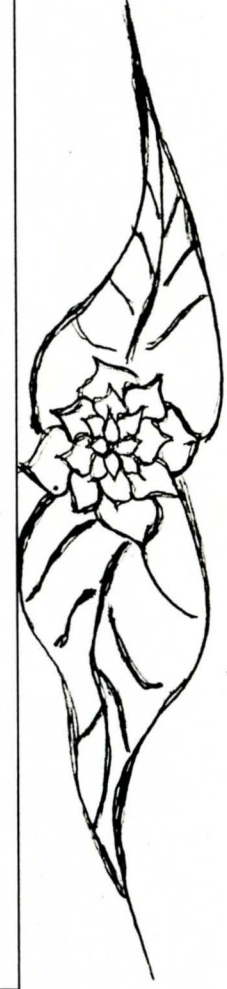
1. "The closing of Golden Gate Park forced a lot of kids to take up residence on Haight Street. Homelessness is a complicated issue, yes. But the problem with this recent wave of kids moving from the park and onto the sidewalks of Haight-Ashbury is that some of them are making a mess—paper plates, cups, shoes, human feces, dog feces, human vomit, dog vomit—all over the area. Some are also treating residents and merchants in a very confrontational manner, arguing, being verbally abusive. I do not think we can continue to coexist in such a forced, tense manner. I believe that the Mayor should reopen the park. Let's all respect each other and work together to make The Haight shine again."
--Jim Siegel, merchant, Distractions

2. "You can't erase people. What The Haight is experiencing is part of the same shell game that we, as a city, have lived through during three administrations and dozens of sweeps. Last year, some members of the Haight neighborhood invoked a huge outcry that led to sweeps of the park, and the east end of Golden Gate Park was closed early for the bond renovations currently being done. Instead of closing a section of the area, as was originally planned, the anti-homeless fervor meant that the entire area was closed.

"So what was the result? People have been forced out of the park and into the neighborhoods. We have a less than 1% vacancy rate in our housing rental market, a shortage of treatment programs, and a huge discrepancy between the rich and poor. People have to go somewhere, and when you close public access to our public lands, like G.G. Park, people move onto the streets. It happened in 1993 with Matrix I, it happened in 1995 with Matrix II, and it happened again in 1997 with Mayor Brown's "Not Matrix."

"Members of The Haight can learn from these years of experience. Instead of fueling the revolving door from park to neighborhoods to parks and back, you can support productive solutions. You can hold the City accountable for creating long-term solutions to poverty and homelessness, and you can support short-term progressive responses that deal with people's immediate needs, like creating access to showers, services, and drop-in centers.

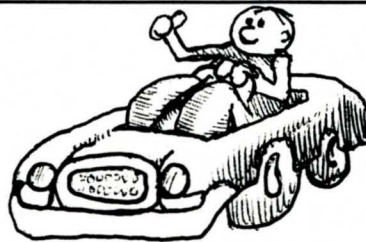
"Homelessness and poverty is unfortunately a reality in our City and we need to deal with it. Merchants, along with others who benefit from the economic successes of the City, should take more responsibility for the poverty that results from the same economic system. We can not just wish homelessness and homeless people away, we must all act responsibly and humanely—homeless and housed alike—to attack the root causes of homelessness and poverty."
--The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco



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a stamp

TO:



The Haight Street Flyer is a non-profit literary publication

