



# The WORLD FAMOUS CHRONIC

BY PATRICK BLACKIE

It's green, natural, has a strong aroma, and it can be expensive. Know by a variety of names, including cheeba, marijana, ganja, pot, weed, dope, pokalolo, reefer, hemp, budda, herb, chronic, doobies, fat bat, amongst others, it is also known by a lot as a curse, a plague that is pushing people into a life of crime and depravity, and to others, a blessing that adds a pleasant spin on everyday life.

With millions of dollars spend on the war on marijuana in North America, the availability of pot should have declined over the last few decades, but that is not the case. The use of marijuana is steadily growing around the world, and the push to have the drug legalized for medicinal and even recreational use is growing rapidly. The number of recreational marijuana use of people between the ages of 16 and 59 has doubled since the beginning of the 80s, according to a story published on [Marijuanamagazine.com](http://Marijuanamagazine.com).

In the US, several states have loosened their stance on pot. Six states have recently allowed for the possession of marijuana to be legal for medicinal purposes, following the example of California's long-time relaxed stance on medicinal marijuana. The Seattle Police Department has even recently adapted a guideline for police procedure when encountering a marijuana grower, to ensure that someone growing for medicinal purposes, with proper qualifications, is not wrongfully apprehended.

Laws like this make it a lot simpler for people who use pot for medicinal purposes to do so without too much scrutiny from drug enforcement, but it also is allowing an illegal drug to be legal for certain people, obscuring the once clear governmental stance on pot.

And where did the pre-conceived notions of the effects of marijuana come from? Looking through the media and the governments presentation of marijuana through the last 100 years, the truth becomes apparent.

In the 1970s, tests of marijuana used on lab rats produced a fear that the use of marijuana blew holes in the brains of its users. The study, although inconclusive, was enough for put fear into the opposition for legalized pot. In 1968, a report on the effects of marijuana

