



SKUNK DOES THE GROTTO

words & pics: Hans

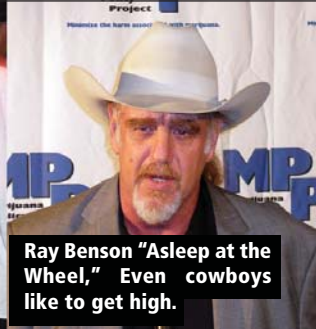
John Popper (Blues Traveler) mingling with the guests.



Irv Rosenfeld has the right, why don't we?



A virtual kaleidoscope of individuals.



Ray Benson "Asleep at the Wheel," Even cowboys like to get high.

As I slowly strolled through the arched entrance to the infamous Playboy grotto, I could not help but have the feeling I had arrived. I realized I was actually fulfilling a dream that a large number of American males have had at one time or another. The ultimate party at the Playboy Mansion.

The party was hosted by The Marijuana Policy Project; a non-profit organization headed by marijuana realist Rob Campia. The purpose of the MPP is to positively affect the laws governing marijuana in the United States.

The entrance to the grotto opened into a spacious, multi-leveled flagstone deck surrounded by a luxurious, lagoon-shaped pool. A small stone mountain, planted with exotic vegetation and small trees, rises from the edge of the pool. From the top of the grotto, a wide waterfall cascades down both sides of the mountain, into the pool. The effect is stunning. The grotto also has, within the mountain, really cool private saunas, hot tubs, Jacuzzis, etc. Man, it doesn't get any better than this.

The atmosphere was festive. Laughter, mingled with spirited conversation, created a lively ambiance, which was evident the entire evening. The backyard had a few strategically placed bars, which kept busy dispersing free, name brand drinks, for those wishing to partake in their favorite legal drug...booze. The melodious sounds of John Popper's harmonica split the air as partygoers happily danced and swayed, to the sounds of Blues Traveler. John is a lively, up front, tell-it-like-it-is kind of guy. When speaking to the public he commented, "I think it's an excellent policy (MPP) and I'm happy to be a part of The Project. We get behind anything that makes sense. I think criminalizing anything that is more of a health issue is kind of silly."

I spoke with John for a moment. When I asked him his opinion concerning marijuana and he said, "They need to fuckin' legalize it. It's fuckin' bullshit man.... I'll smoke it when I want." I couldn't have said it better myself, John.

Smoking, for the most part, was not allowed at the party. However, occasionally the smell of marijuana floating by would entice someone else to find a secret spot to indulge. I located a few like-minded partygoers secreted in an out of the way spot by the aviary. There were two gorgeous LA ladies that indicated they'd be generous enough to share some really killer local bud with me—if I'd put their pictures in this article. Being of the highest journalistic integrity, I of course refused...ok...geeze. I'm only human; I might have had a blunt or two.

As I intermingled with the crowd, I noticed many of the celebrity guests doing the same. They were friendly, open and willing to speak with anyone brave enough to engage them in conversation. Celebrity guests such as Ray Benson (*Asleep at the*

Cialini (1995 Playmate of Year)—even John Popper was just one of the guys, having a good time.

I spoke with Ray Benson. A tall, burley, soft spoken, mild mannered, "Asleep at the Wheel" cowboy with an easy smile. I liked Ray immediately, because as he spoke about legalizing marijuana, it was obvious he was speaking matter of factually, from his heart. He told me he had come to the party to "show his support and to enjoy the party." He said, "I don't believe marijuana should be illegal. It should be legalized just like alcohol. The laws against it are wrong, they need to be changed". To the crowd, he brought a message from Willie Nelson: "I wish I could do more and a lot of people say the same thing in the business. A lot of the guys, like Willie Nelson, wanted to be here tonight but he's busy and he just couldn't, but he said to tell everybody about his support of The Policy that we're trying to pursue. Also, to tell the feds to get off our butts because the states have made it clear what they want to do on this issue and the feds need to butt out."

The night was alive with the electric mood of the partygoers. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres passed around by smiling attendants, were hungrily scooped up and devoured. Dancing beauties balanced on small wooden rafts in the pool, as they enthusiastically danced and swayed to the music, while simultaneously twirling flaming batons. Scantly clad, voluptuous ladies took turns posing for pictures with smiling eyes, bare thighs and lots of boobs. Colorfully dressed and beaded hippies from the 60's lent an air of an enlightened past generation, as they laughed their way through the evening revealing to me, "...the mushrooms were really great."

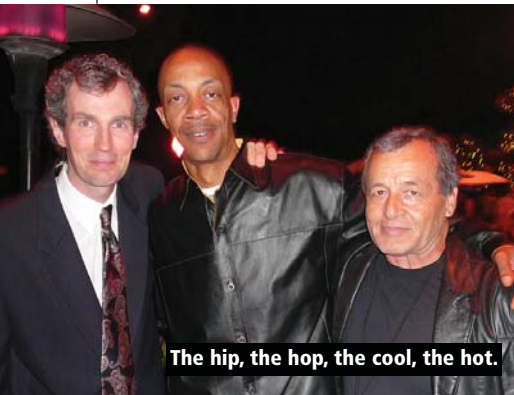
The hip, the hop, the cool, the hot; all were there, a virtual kaleidoscope of unique individuals. There were cowboys, gangsters, ladies and gentlemen, even cops against prohibition. All raising their voices together, making a simple, but meaningful statement that is: "We believe in the legalization of marijuana." People willing to put their money where their mouth is, to stand out in open view and say, "Legalize it."



Wheel), Joe Rogan (*Fear Factor*), D.J. Pooh (Rapper-Director), Adam Corolla, Kat Von D (*Miami Ink*, *LA Ink*), Christopher Knight (Peter on *Brady Bunch*), Adrienne Curry, Jamie Gold (2006 WSOP Champion), Julia



Bill Maher was on hand to receive the Public Face of Reform Award which was presented to him by the MPP. In response he said. "I thank you very much, you bunch of nappy-headed ho's. I support this cause theoretically. As a matter of civil discourse it is



The hip, the hop, the cool, the hot.



Miami/L.A. Ink's Kat Von D.

wrong that some people do one drug and are safe in their homes and other people do another drug and have to spend time in jail. So that's what we're here to fight for - against the fundamental injustice...I'm high, what can I say?"

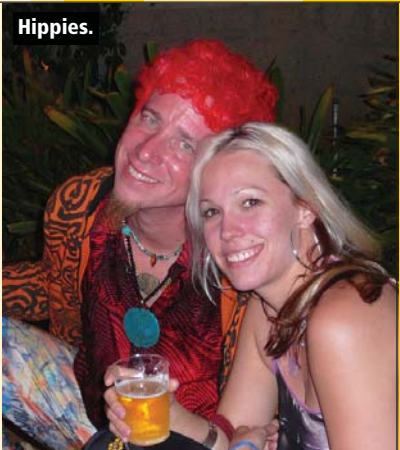
The evenings other musical entertainment was presented by D.J. Pooh. Throughout the night he was busy spinning the sounds, as honorary DJ for the party. I noticed he would take time out whenever someone wanted an autograph, or simply wished to speak with him or tell him how cool they thought he was. I was impressed with Pooh because whenever a fan wanted his attention, he stopped what he was doing and gave them his complete interest and concentration. He spoke quietly and slowly with sincerity. Most impressively, I noticed he treated everyone like an equal. When I ask him why he was at the party, he simply replied. "To make a point and share the love."

Additional entertainment included auctions with a signed guitar by Blues Traveler John Popper, paintings from well-known artists like Dali, Renoir and Miro. One of the featured auction items consisted of an empty tin can belonging to one of the few Federal marijuana recipients, Irv Rosenfeld. Medical marijuana patient Irv gets his buzz directly from the federal government. The bud comes in the form of pre-rolled cigarettes, placed in a four-inch shallow tin about as round as a pie, holding each month's supply. Man, you can't beat that—ready rolls from the Feds, delivered directly to your doorstep...wow! The auction started off slowly, with a few hundred being offered as top bid. The bid rapidly advanced to a thousand, then thousands. The hammer settled on the final bid of \$5,000 (or the equivalent to, say, a pound of really good skunk.)

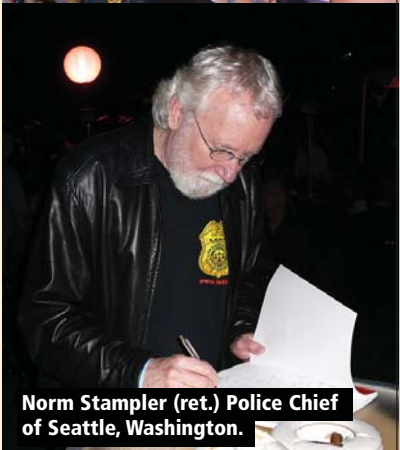
Like a Cinderella story, the clock, all too soon, sounded the midnight hour. My blunt turned into a roach and the party was over. As I walked away into the LA night, I pondered a reoccurring theme that I had noticed at the party. A lot of people I spoke with were talking about the next US presidential election in November of 2008. People are excited about the possibility that decriminalization is becoming a major issue with the major contenders for the next US presidential nomination.

People at the party told me they believed decriminalization in the US would mean decriminalization throughout the world. They say it's not only possible... it is probable. All it will take is for everyone throughout the world that believes in decriminalization, especially those in the US, to stand up and make their voices heard. Voters in the US will soon have the opportunity to make an earth altering reality come true. I, for one, will consider the world a much better place when marijuana becomes legal.

This is Hans—party hardy and remember: don't just smoke skunk, read it too!



Hippies.



Norm Stamper (ret.) Police Chief of Seattle, Washington.



West coast party girls.



Medical patient getting his meds.

"A beautiful woman is one I notice; a charming woman is one who notices me." John Erskine