

## Advocate

Shannon Hammond is the secretary for the new Reno chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws)—a nationwide marijuana advocacy group. Learn more by attending the group's monthly meetings on the first Sunday of the month, following the Budtender Fight Club event (1-5 p.m.) at the West 2nd Events Center, 600 W. Second St.

### I thought there was a NORML chapter in Reno, or used to be?

There used to be, from what I understand.

The most recent posts on the website I found dated to 2002, but, I suppose, that was before the state of Nevada managed to get legalization in order.

Right.

So, what's the purpose of having a NORML chapter in Northern Nevada when we have dispensaries and easy access to marijuana?

There's a long way to go yet before we can put it all on the table. The DUI laws treat marijuana just like it's alcohol. Nevada was one of the first states, the first state, to make it illegal for employers to discriminate against and test you for THC in your system. If you do the pre-employment drug screening and you have THC, in January, they shouldn't be able to discriminate on that anymore.



But it is still true that—even if you've not used recently—that if you have low levels of THC in your system and get into a car accident, you're likely to get a DUI.

Two nanograms per milliliter of blood.

And that was just thrown out. The legislature didn't even know how to measure it. ... You could wake up and have that in your system.

And especially if you're a regular pot consumer. There are also a lot of national issues, like legislation to allow banks to service state-legal cannabis industries. Will you lobby on behalf of these things?

Yes. One of the big things we're doing right now is tabling events, where we go everywhere with letters. And one letter—I don't have it with me—is about the Safe Banking Act ... Congress has to vote on it,

and then, of course, the president. ... It's to make it so they don't have to launder their money anymore. ... We're making sure that any registered voter signs all of these so we can give them to our state representatives to represent all of these bills. The Safe Banking Act was one of them. This one gives veterans the right to smoke weed. You know, if you have post traumatic stress disorder? And federal workers are not allowed to smoke.

### Let's see. It's the Veterans Medical Marijuana Safe Harbor Act?

Yeah. If you're a federal worker or a vet, you're not allowed. You'll lose your benefits right away. ... They'll hand out opioids and prescription drugs all day long, but you're not allowed to smoke weed or take CBDs, and you know CBDs are a huge, huge push now. And this one is to take it off the controlled substance list as a tier-one drug.

Does it make any sense to you that marijuana is a Schedule I drug alongside potentially equally innocuous drugs like LSD or Psilocybin, whereas opioids are a lower schedule?

It's just ridiculous that we even have to talk about this. It's prohibition 100 years later. And if our government didn't learn anything from that, they've realized they couldn't control it. So, you legalize it, and you tax it. The federal government is losing out on all of this tax money right now. And Trump, being a business owner, you'd think he'd be on the game. □

## NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

## Down the road

Yes, of course, she was an admirable profile in courage when she defied the Order to Stonewall from the State Department concerning her scheduled appearance with the House Intelligence Committee. But Marie Yovanovitch had an appointment with Her 15 Minutes, and she was damn well gonna keep it. She certainly wasn't going to be dissuaded by some mob boss-esque decree issued by pompous Pompeo. And she was obviously not there to blow happy smoke up the toxic ass of President Liarliarpantsonfire.

Many speculated that her testimony could conceivably threaten her continued employment at the State Department, and, considering her lengthy career there, one can easily imagine that she would prefer to hang on to whatever financial benefits she's accrued in her decades at State. I'm sure they've got some solid retirement plans going on.

But there really isn't any need to worry about her getting canned as a result of her daring to buck Trump (and it'll be fun if she kicks off a wave of testimony from others). I'm guessing she'd be unemployed for about—what? Five minutes, right? This woman is covered. There are many who will have her back, and have it real quick-like. Her courage was heroic. She'll be aptly rewarded for it, if need be.

Were you a *Breaking Bad* fan? Did you hear about *El Camino*, the new Netflix flick that we all knew would be made eventually, the movie that would show us what the heck happened to Jesse after he drove off from the Nazi Meth Ranch in Scary Todd's *El Camino*, raving and screaming down the highway? It was a finale that just begged for its own story, and that story, finally, is here. I won't spoil it for you,

outside of saying ... see it. Watch it with someone you love. Someone who loves *Breaking Bad*. It's freaking awesome—a total triumph for Vince Gilligan and his team.

It's time to say something nice about our Regional Transportation Commission, which did a *great* job on two recent projects—The Southeast Connector and the rebuilt intersection of Pyramid and McCarran in Sparks. Both of these works improved the transportation quality of life here in The Meadows. The Connector is just awesome, and I really shouldn't mention it any more because I wanna keep it all to myself. And the intersection of Pyramid and McCarran actually kind of pisses me off on a regular basis, because I'm not stopped there long enough to do any quality texting. Drives me batshit. But both are excellent pieces of work, without a doubt. □



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## CIGARETTES VALUE BRANDS

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