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Posted at 9:20 AM ET, 01/ 5/2011

## Montel Williams's medical marijuana

By [Jennifer LaRue Huget](#)

Former talk-show host and current [medical-marijuana advocate](#) Montel Williams [reportedly has been fined](#) for possession of a pipe of the sort commonly used to smoke pot. Williams, 54, was diagnosed in 1999 with [multiple sclerosis](#). The pipe was discovered Tuesday at a routine security checkpoint at the General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee. Williams reportedly paid his \$484 fine and went on his way.



Montel Williams (AP)

[Fifteen states and the District of Columbia](#) have laws that permit the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The conditions for which such use is allowed typically include MS.

Neither [New York state](#) -- where Williams lives -- nor [Wisconsin has such a law](#) on the books.

Williams has undergone [experimental therapy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison](#); [this video](#) tells more about that. And here's the latest on the [state of MS research](#) from the National MS Society.

As regular readers of The Checkup know, [I have MS](#). I haven't hit the stage (yet) at which I'd consider using marijuana to ease symptoms. But, really, folks, what was the point of Montel's being fined? (Mind you, Williams's offense was packing a pipe; nobody claimed he had any pot on him.)

Your thoughts?

**On the Celebritology blog:** [Montel Williams busted with drug paraphernalia](#)

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- July 20, 2010: [Medical marijuana now legal in DC](#)
- July 25, 2010: [Colorado official works to regulate, legitimize medical marijuana industry](#)
- Dec. 29, 2010: [Nevada's Wild West spirit snubs legal marijuana](#)

By Jennifer LaRue Huget | January 5, 2011; 9:20 AM ET

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### Comments

How and why would it be illegal to pack a pipe -- containing NO illegal substance or residue -- in one's luggage.

I would definitely appeal this fine. Plenty of folk are legitimate pipe collectors.

Posted by: [ntlekt](#) | January 5, 2011 10:02 AM | [Report abuse](#)

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The whole point of Montel's fine was to remind us all of how dirt-poor and un-safe most of us have become thanks to prohibition.

Have you ever watched the Drug War Clock as it ticks away all our hard earned tax dollars? <http://www.drugsense.org/wodclock.htm>

Or the US Debt Clock <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

Alcohol prohibition in the US run from 1919 to 1933 - Now google 'The Great Wall Street Crash' and see when that happened!

During alcohol prohibition, all profits went to enrich thugs and criminals. Young men died every day on inner-city streets while battling over turf. A fortune was wasted on enforcement that could have gone on treatment. On top of the budget-busting prosecution and incarceration costs, billions in taxes were lost. Finally the economy collapsed. Sound familiar?

<http://1929crash.com/>

If you have liberty then expect prosperity, but there's most definitely no chance of prosperity without liberty.

If you support prohibition then you're either a black market profiteer, a terrorist, a corrupt politician, a sadomoralist, a wing-nut socialist, fake-conservative or a prohibitionist excrementalist.

If you support prohibition then you've helped trigger the worst crime wave in history, raising gang warfare to a level not seen since the days of alcohol bootlegging.

If you support prohibition you've a helped create a black market with massive incentives to hook both adults and children alike.

If you support prohibition you've helped to make these dangerous substances available in schools and prisons.

If you support prohibition you've helped put previously unknown and contaminated drugs on the streets.

If you support prohibition you've helped to escalate Murder, Theft, Muggings and Burglaries.

If you support prohibition you've helped to divert scarce law-enforcement resources away from protecting your fellow citizens from the ever escalating violence against their person or property.

If you support prohibition you've helped to prevent the sick and dying from obtaining safe and effective medication.

If you support prohibition you've helped remove many important civil liberties from those citizens you falsely claim to represent.

If you support prohibition you've helped create the prison-for-profit synergy with drug lords.

If you support prohibition you've helped escalate the number of people on welfare who can't find employment due to their felony status.

If you support prohibition you're responsible for the horrific racial disparities which have breed generations of incarcerated and disenfranchised Afro Americans.

If you support prohibition you've helped evolve local gangs into transnational enterprises with intricate power structures that reach into every corner of society, controlling vast swaths of territory with significant social and military resources at their disposal.

Posted by: malcolmkyle | January 5, 2011 10:19 AM | [Report abuse](#)

Well this is very funny. Montel has spent his last few years touring the United States in his big orange bus on behalf of the 'Partnership for Prescription Assistance' (really, a PR front for big pharma, trying to head-off reform of Medicare Part D).

Posted by: bikes-everywhere | January 5, 2011 11:34 AM | [Report abuse](#)

I'm surprised some DA didn't see fit to charge him with possession of marijuana since unless that was a brand new pipe one can bet is had resin clinging to the insides. Many have gone to prison on the very same evidence. It is over-charging of citizens like this that has lowered Americans respect and trust for Law Enforcement. Did you know that During the Bush presidency that over 8 Million Americans were arrested for simple possession of marijuana and that Obama is ontrack to beat that record.

Despite the phoney memo AG Holder put out about not harrassing Medical Marijuana outlets the arrest continue unabated. Holder either has no control of his minions or was just blowing smoke up the bases behinds.

Posted by: SmileySam | January 5, 2011 11:51 AM | [Report abuse](#)

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Posted by: SmileySam | January 5, 2011 11:52 AM | [Report abuse](#)

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It wasn't the state that fined him, it was the TSA. No doubt under the auspices of of 'artfully concealed contraband'. Yet another reason to scrap the TSA completely- they have turned the checkpoints into dragnets for anything their collective little hearts desire such as drugs, cash, & phony IDs. I am not condoning any of that, however, all of it is way outside the scope of intent when the TSA was created. Heck, there was a situation a few months ago when screeners not only detained, but then called the husband of a female pax to alert him to the fact that she was carrying checks; they wanted to make sure he knew about it & she wasn't cleaning out their bank account. How any of this even remotely considered a potential 'threat' to aviation?

Posted by: txrus | January 5, 2011 12:58 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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So will the payday loan company Montel has been shilling for invoke the morality clause in his endorsement contract because they think potheads are too immoral to shill payday loans?

ntlekt, not everyone charged with a crime is actually guilty, and some people just pay the fine without arguing because it's cheaper and less stressful. If it would cost you \$5000 to defend against a petty misdemeanor it is rational for most people to just pay the \$500 fine and move on with your life. I think that's much less valid for people who have cast themselves as advocates against immoral and unjust laws but that's probably the line of reasoning that had him bending over and saying "thank you sir may I have another?"

But where was it reported that it was an unused pipe?

Nevertheless I'm very disappointed in Mr. Williams, both for shilling for a rip off loan company and for not taking a stand on the paraphernalia charge. If he's so broke that he has to shill for rip off hucksters why does he have \$500 for expedience in a criminal charge?

Posted by: bpayne2 | January 5, 2011 2:33 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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@ malcolmkyle - I agree 100% with your post. It's clear to any thinking person that the whole problem with marijuana is with the prohibition of it. This will seem crazy but I think some of our leaders have started equating marijuana use with terrorism! Totally crazy but I don't think this statement is very far from the truth. The TSA should be replaced with an organization that is actually capable of stopping dangerous threats. The DEA should just go away - period. If someone has a drug problem, then they should get medical help - not a prison sentence and a felony on their record.

Posted by: Don46 | January 5, 2011 3:50 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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When enough voters learn the truth about marijuana and marijuana prohibition it will be legal nationwide.

All of the so called problems attributed to marijuana are actually problems directly and completely caused by marijuana PROHIBITION!

Want your freedom back? Legalize marijuana! That will take away Uncle "Sham's" most common excuse to trash the Constitution and pretend like the Government is protecting you from yourself!

Why is the most useful plant known, a plant that has never killed anyone, illegal? It's illegal because corporations that buy politicians fear competition from superior, safer and more environmentally friendly hemp products and because the Government loves to oppress jail and steal from the people! Alcohol, tobacco, petroleum, cotton, timber, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, just to name a few all see marijuana as unwanted competition.

The laws prohibiting marijuana are NOT a result of any harm from marijuana. They are the result of lies, greed and racism. Read the well documented proof of that and a lot more marijuana TRUTH in these two articles: "MARIJUANA AND HEMP THE UNTOLD STORY, Thomas J. Bouril" and "WHY IS MARIJUANA ILLEGAL, Pete Guither", click the links to those articles on this webpage: Internet Explorer web browser: <http://jknow.angelfire.com/home>  
All Other Browsers: <http://jknow.angelfire.com/index.html>

Posted by: towcw | January 5, 2011 3:58 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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Since my original diagnosis with MS in 2004, I have taken minimal FDA drugs for treatment and use marijuana daily as the alternative to the FDA junk the government wants to shorten my life with.

I am 44, have ADULT children, work full-time, still walk, talk and vote.

Those with MS who are sitting on the fence over social stigma's, should try it

before you judge those with MS who know what relief is.

Posted by: RevRayGreen | January 7, 2011 11:24 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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[http://www.desmoinesamplified.com/show\\_date.asp?showid=116&id=1473](http://www.desmoinesamplified.com/show_date.asp?showid=116&id=1473)

New Years Day Show #19 1/1/2011-kicking off 2011, Rev Ray Green introduces the Iowa Clemency Project, that will lobby to free non-violent offenders from prison in Iowa and push for marijuana possession in Iowa to be decriminalized.

LIVE 1/8/11 6-7pm central

Posted by: RevRayGreen | January 7, 2011 11:54 PM | [Report abuse](#)

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Legalizing is not the answer. I've seen what drugs do to people, including "just marijuana". Forget it. Crack down harder on the criminals who sell it and use it.

If you want to legalize marijuana, why not just legalize everything? For example, if it was legal for murder, the population would go down, hence employment would go up and unemployment would go down. Traffic would ease up, and you wouldn't have to stand in line for anything for too long.

Is that stupid? Sure, but so is legalizing marijuana!

Posted by: osweetilredhead | January 9, 2011 11:31 AM | [Report abuse](#)

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