Marijuana reform: A house divided

by michael martisactwish

The Michigan Legislature's marijuana dilemma will not go away.

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Last week's vote was 52-49, three

votes short of the necessary 55-vote

majority.

Area representatives voting to

reduce the pot penalties were James

majority.

Area representatives voting to reduce the pot penalties were James Defebaugh (R-Birmingham), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham) and Rocca (D-Sterling Heights), who represents a portion of Troy.

Area representatives voting against the bill were John Bennett (D-Red-ford), Jack Kirksey (R-Livonia), Rob-

ert Law (R-Lavonia), William (Schit) (R-Farmington), William (Schit) (D-Garden City) and Richard Keith (D-Garden City) and Richard Keith (D-Garden City) and Richard Keith (D-Garden City) and Richard Fessler (R-Union Lake).

Not voting were: Reps. Thomas Brown (D-Westland) and Roy Smith (D-Ypsilanti), who represents Fyronouth a-7d Canton Townships.

It was the second time this session that the house rejected the reduced penalities.

"The marijuana bill has a lot more by the same offenses. The Michigan Senate approved its own bill in March.

As BEFORE, the proposed new penalities were the subject of heated chost and impassioned pleas. The bill would allow a young person who has committed a mistake to produce the case of the practice by a simble persentage of the production. If that's the case, we should be more realistic bound the penalities, called that case we should be more realistic penalities would lead to better enforcement of the pol laws.

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As BEFORE, the proposed new penalities were the subject of heated better enforcement of the production. If that's the case, we should be more realistic bound to a form of the pollation. The marijuana bill has a lot more follows some prospensity and there are some pretty good things in the bill. "Defebusph said.

He reemphasized that the bill would allow a young person who has committed a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person who have committed a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person who have committed a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person who have committed a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person who have commented a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person who have committed a mistake to produce the bill would allow a young person of the best produced by the bill's supporters.

"If you pass his bill loday, you are against the produce the pr

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Payment for food stamps nears end

Michigan food stamp recipients will no longer be required to pay part of the face value of stamps they receive after Jan. I.

Households which do not pay for food stamps now will not be affected by this action, which was announced by the state department of social services.

This major program change was mandated by enactment of the Food Stamp stamp and to livro, and was published are cently as new food stamp regulations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Other changes will be announced batter, when plans for implementation are completed.

Under the new system (assuming that eligibility circumstances, such as net income and family size, remain the same), the household will simply receive \$100 worth of food stamps beginning in January without having to pay any money.

Should the household's circumstances change, the number of tonus stamps issued will either increase or decrease, as the situation warrants.

MDSS officials pointed out that elimination of the money payment will result in a decrease in the amount recipients will actually receive.

The amount of food stamps to be issued in January may not meet all of a household's monthly food costs, offi-

cials said. Therefore, money no longer required to buy food stamps may be necessary to buy what extra food they may need.

University counts gifts

The Oakland University Board of Trustees accepted \$481,140 in gifts and grants last month.

The sum includes two awards totaling \$22,200 from the Michigan Council for the Arts and two grants from the State of Michigan worth \$25,600.

The council grants are for \$140,000 for a Meadow Brook Theatre Arts Outheach Program in which a Meadow Brook production tours the state, and for \$87,000 to support both the Meadow Brook Theatre and Music Pestival.

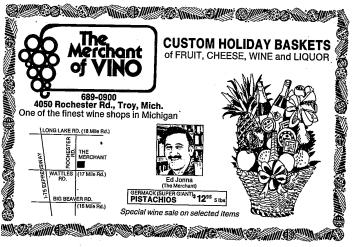














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