



SHARON LEMBUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Coops!** Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was seriously torqued Monday after learning that a parks and rec vehicle was used as a stage to promote legalization of marijuana in Ann Arbor. "I'm apologizing to the whole 1.1 million (county residents) right now," he said.

## Stage rental rules tightened after 'Hash Bash' incident

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAV  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County's parks and recreation department was an unwitting participant in the Ann Arbor "Hash Bash" last weekend, and county Executive L. Brooks Patterson was up in arms.

The department's "Show Mobile," a sort of stage on wheels, was rented for \$200 by a fellow who used it as a venue for political speeches at the "Hash Bash," an annual rally supporting the legalization of the herb marijuana.

Patterson was "not a happy camper" after getting phone calls Monday morning from folks who'd seen the county Show Mobile, with its prominent Oakland County logo, in television news coverage of the rally, county spokesman Bob Dustman said.

Patterson called an impromptu press conference Monday to "apologize to the taxpayers for what I consider to be the abuse of that Show Mobile" and promise that it won't happen again.

Looking straight into two television cameras set up in his off-

ice, Patterson, the county's former prosecutor, said, "I'm absolutely furious that our emblem was used in association with a rally to legalize drugs. I'm apologizing to the whole 1.1 million (county residents) right now."

Until now the parks and recreation department hasn't asked potential Show Mobile renters what purpose they intend for the equipment. So when Tim Zapawa walked in with earnest money in-quiring as to the Show Mobile's

See STAGE, 7A

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