


Special Collections and
University Archives

UMass Amherst Libraries 

Cannabis Reform Coalition Records

ca.1963-2013 (*Bulk: ca.1993-2011*)

2 boxes (2 linear feet)

Call no.: RG 045/80/C3



[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Overview](#)

[Series 1. Materials Concerning the CRC](#)

[Series 2. Subject Files](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Series 1. Materials Concerning the CRC](#)

[Series 2. Subject Files](#)

[Admin info](#)

[Download](#)

[xml version](#)

[print version \(pdf\)](#)



[Read collection overview](#)

The Cannabis Reform Coalition at UMass Amherst was founded in 1991 and is considered the oldest student-run organization devoted to ending the prohibition on cannabis both locally and nationally and advocating for its industrial, medicinal, and recreational use for moral, environmental, and economic reasons. The CRC is one of the more active student organizations on campus and among other events, it sponsors the annual Extravaganja in April, which has attracted as many as 10,000 participants.

The CRC collection contains an assortment of fliers, posters, ephemera, and photographs, documenting the organization's activities and activism, along with a small number of published and unpublished essays on the utility of hemp and cannabis products.

See similar SCUA collections:

Drug policy

UMass (1947-)

UMass students

Background on Cannabis Reform Coalition

Considered the oldest student-run organization dedicated to ending the prohibition on marijuana, the Cannabis Reform Coalition (CRC) at UMass Amherst was founded in 1991 and continues to be one of the most active student organizations on campus. Aaron Wilson, a freshman at UMass and at the beginning of a prolific but tragically short career as an activist and champion of personal freedom, founded the CRC on the model of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). When the CRC was originally proposed, Wilson and the CRC ran into resistance from the university administration due to the administration's discomfort using university funds to support efforts to legalize marijuana and that the group's constitution appeared to advocate illegal activity. Wilson and the CRC, after discussions with the Dean of Students Jo-Anne Vanin, were able to officially start the CRC and begin to work toward their goals.

These goals focus on educating students and the local community about the uses of marijuana, dispelling myths about its history and its effects on the human body, and advocating for its legalization on both state and national levels. The highest profile method of achieving these goals has been through the organization of public events. Starting with an all-day celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, the CRC went on to organize a wide variety of events, including movie nights, lecture series, and concerts, all bringing attention to the movement to legalize marijuana.

The most notable of the CRC's events is the annual Extravaganja, held on the Amherst town common in April. The first Extravaganja in 1992 attracted 500 participants and has swelled to as many as 5,000 each day of the event. Extravaganja has been a source of conflict between the CRC and the Town of Amherst, leading to pressure from the town to keep the event small, and to arrests of participants for marijuana possession. Terry Franklin, a co-founder of the CRC, has continued to advocate on behalf of the CRC and its Extravaganja in Amherst Town Meeting and directly with law enforcement officials.

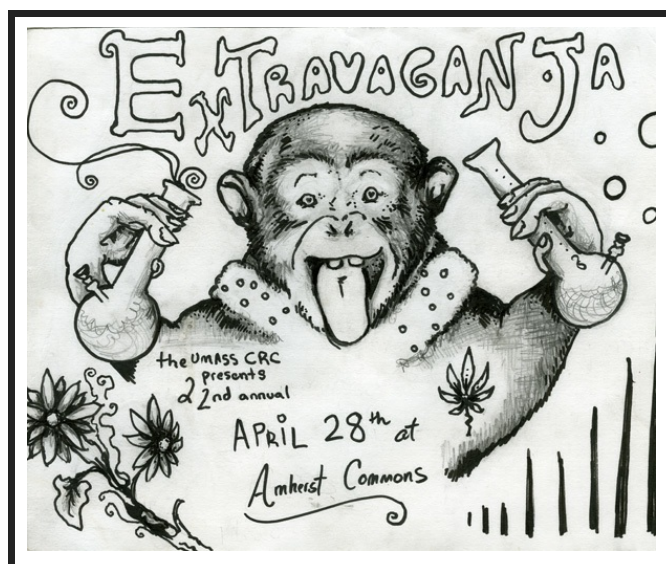
In addition to these events, the CRC has also been politically active on campus and in the town. In 1993, the CRC introduced a non-binding question on the Student Government Association ballot, which called for a complete legalization of use, sale, and cultivation of marijuana on campus, which passed with a 2-1 vote. The CRC also collected 3,000 signatures of registered voters on a petition to include a non-binding anti-prohibition resolution on the official town ballot in 2000, which passed by a vote of 1659 to 981.

The CRC has also been active in campus media, writing editorials on marijuana usage and legalization for the Daily Collegian and responding to printed misinformation about the drug. Smoke Signals, the newsletter of the CRC, began publication in 1991 and continues to the present in electronic form. The CRC also has an active presence on Twitter and Facebook.

The CRC continues to attract membership and has become increasingly relevant to students as the movement to legalize marijuana grabs a strong foothold. Membership dues, from the organization's founding to the present, are 10 dollars per year.

Scope of collection

The records of the Cannabis Reform Coalition document the history of the student organization since its inception in 1991. The collection includes Smoke Signals, the CRC newsletter, as well as newspaper clippings about the CRC, its activities, and political goals. There are also newspaper clippings about marijuana in general, which appeared in local and national newspapers, information about the "War on Drugs," including forfeiture cases, and a number of scholarly articles about marijuana. Also found are numerous photographs from the CRC's different events, publications about drug-use in the United States, two DVD



Poster for the annual Extravaganja festival

documentaries about marijuana, and three DVDs which feature interviews with CRC members.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Materials Concerning the CRC

1991-2012, undated

22 folders

The series includes materials directly related to the CRC, either produced by them or about them. It includes meeting notes, administrative materials, interviews, photographs, newsletters, t-shirt designs, posters and flyers, and local newspaper clippings written by the members of the CRC or reporting on their events and activities.

Series 2. Subject Files

1963-2013, undated

25 folders

Contains general information relating to marijuana use and marijuana history collected by the CRC. It includes newspaper clippings from local and national newspapers, scholarly publications, event posters, bills and petitions, published works, pamphlets, and booklets.

Inventory

Series 1. Materials Concerning the CRC

1991-2012, undated

22 folders

Calendar

2007

Box 2: 2

Extravaganja 2010

2009-2010

Box 1: 1

Extravaganja 2011 DVD Documentary

2011

Box 1: 2

Extravaganja Posters

1994-1999

Box 2: 3

Extravaganja Posters

2000-2005

Box 2: 4

Extravaganja Posters

2006-2012

Box 2: 5

Interviews

1992, 2005, 2007

Box 1: 3

Meeting minutes

undated

Box 2: 1

Newspaper Clippings

1991-2011

Box 1: 4

Out of Round VHS

1995

Box 1: 5

Photos and negatives

undated

Box 1: 6

Photos

undated

Box 1: 7
Photos
undated

Box 1: 8
Photos
undated

Box 1: 9
Photos
undated

Box 1: 10
Posters, Signs, Flyers
undated

Box 2: 6
Songbook
undated

Box 1: 11
Smoke Signals
1991-2012

Box 1: 12
Smoke Signals Auxillary Materials
1991-2012

Box 1: 13
Stencils
undated

Box 2: 7
T-Shirt Designs
undated

Box 1: 14
T-Shirt Designs
undated

Box 1: 15
Series 2. Subject Files
1963-2013, undated
25 folders
Bills and Petitions
1988-2011, undated

Box 1: 16
The Declaration of Independence
2002

Box 1: 17
Documentaries
2000,2011

Box 1: 18
Domestic Cannabis Eradication
1990

Box 1: 19
Freedom Rally Posters
1996-2000

Box 2: 8
Growing Up Drug Free
undated

Box 1: 20
Hofmann, Albert: LSD - My Problem Child
1993

Box 1: 21
Hoover Resolution
1993

Box 1: 22
National Drug Control Strategy

1996
Box 1: 23
National Household Survey on Drug Abuse
1991
Box 1: 24
National Institute on Drug Abuse
1990-1991
Box 1: 25
Newsletters
1990-2013, undated
Box 1: 26
Newspaper Clippings: Comics
2008
Box 1: 27
Newspaper Clippings: Local
1993-2011
Box 1: 28
Newspaper Clippings: Medical Marijuana
1992-1996, undated
Box 1: 29
Newspaper Clippings: National
1992-2010, undated
Box 1: 30
Salas, Floyd: Pot and Poetry
ca.ca. 2001
Box 1: 31
Scholarly Publications
1963-1991
Box 1: 32
Scholarly Publications
1992-1995
Box 1: 33
Sunderland Police
1993
Box 1: 34
Tax Cannabis Sign
2010
Box 2: 9
War on Drugs: Forfeiture Cases
1989-1993
Box 1: 35
War on Drugs: General
1989-2001, undated
Box 1: 36
War on Drugs: Role of Police
1993-1994
Box 1: 37
Worldwide Marijuana March Posters
2006-2009
Box 2: 10

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Transferred from the Cannabis Reform Coalition.

Processing Information

Processed by Marcin Marszalek, Mar. 2014.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Cannabis Reform Coalition Records (RG 045/80/C3). Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries.

Search terms**Subjects**

Cannabis Reform Coalition

Marijuana--Law and legislation.

Marijuana--Therapeutic use--Social aspects.

University of Massachusetts Amherst--Students.

Contributors

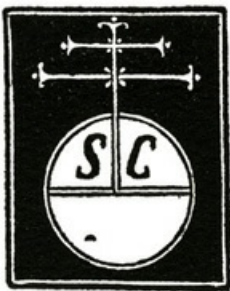
Cannabis Reform Coalition [main entry]

Link to similar SCUA collections

Drug policy

UMass (1947-)

UMass students



Special Collections & University Archives

University Libraries : UMass Amherst

154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275

Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)

