Legal pot: Don't count on it yet

By Molly Kaale

Penalties for possession of marijuana should be "minimal or nonexistent," according to economist and economist

The commision's executive director Michael Sondernreich, who just happens to be the former deputy chief counsel of the 

Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, stated that he could write the report without the hearings. Our Canadian neighbors are not solenminded. A resolution passed by the Senate in 1970, an official commission recommended removal of penalties for simple possession. Nothing came of it. In late August, 1971, the "Committee on Youth" of the Secretary of State recommended legalization and government controlled marketing as well as legalization at age 18. Scattered progress

Back at home, some small, miscellaneous progress can be noted. Last summer, a staff report of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence recommended legalization at 18. The congressionally mandated National Commission on Reform of Federal Criminal Laws, after a 3-year study, recommended treating possession as a minor infraction. Newsweek did a cover story on grass last summer and strongly implied that a change was needed. This February, the Philadelphia County grand jury recommended treating marijuana like alcohol: controlled and taxed. The judge to whom the report was submitted remained unconvinced.

Some organizations have endorsed legal grass; the Massachusetts chapter of A.C.L.U., Physicians for Social Responsibility, Americans for Democratic Action, Citizens Concerned about�, and the Greater Boston Chapter of the Medical Committee for Human Rights. Even some publications have endorsed it, from the New Republic to the Christian Century. The ridicules it all amounts to very little. A start only.

Glass in Mass.

More than a start has been made in Massachusetts. The Boston Globe last year assigned a team of five reporters to write a five-part series. The first five articles included a staff writer and columnist, on top of the national scene.

They are interested, contact a UROP coordinator immediately, or call Amy Metcalfe, x6044. 

Movement to discuss UROP opportunities with off-campus organizations -- hospitals, colleges, etc. -- is being considered.

The National Science Foundation has extended the Undergraduate Research Participation Program (URP). This program provides for research relationships with direct experience in the sciences in the form of a paid positions during the current independent study. The deadline for applications is December 15. If you are interested, contact a UROP coordinator immediately, or call Amy Metcalfe, x6044.