

# Bed, bud and breakfast

## Marijuana-friendly hotel celebrates two years

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SANTA CRUZ — When the nation's only bed, bud and breakfast opened here two years ago, it created quite a stir.

The marijuana-friendly hotel was front-page news in the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, High Times, People Magazine, and CNN also picked up the story.

Why, even Jay Leno cracked that, instead of mints, guests would find a

### Advocates back in court

Medical-marijuana advocates asked a judge to allow an Oakland club to sell pot to the sick. **PAGE A7**

complimentary joint on every pillow. When someone knocked on the door, quipped Leno, the "whoosh" of the inn's toilets flushing could be heard for miles.

While the media frenzy has for the most part dried up, business at the Compassion Flower Inn has begun to bud, and Saturday will mark its two-year anniversary.

The fact that the celebration falls on 4/20 is no coincidence. The date is an annual counterculture holiday known as the stoner New Year's, widely believed to have originated at San Rafael High School in 1971 by a red-eyed group of teen-agers who would meet

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Newlyweds Tommy and Amber Martines share a honeymoon kiss over breakfast Wednesday at Compassion Flower Inn.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

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## Bud

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daily at 4:20 p.m. to fire up a fattie.

"The bed, bud and breakfast has caught the attention of several million people," said Andrea Tischler, who co-owns the handsome 1865 Gothic Revival Victorian inn with her partner Maria Mallek. "I think this is going to be our best year yet. We might even break even or make a little."

Indeed, the one-of-a-kind establishment, which caters to medical-marijuana users and open-minded vacationers, has drawn guests from around the world, due largely to Internet advertising.

Though the guest register typically includes a 50-50 mix of heterosexuals and homosexuals, many of those who stay here suffer from AIDS and cancer, or are simply curiosity-seeking travelers.

Occasionally, Tischler says, an unsuspecting tourist will make a reservation to stay in one of the classy joint's five themed rooms.

"We had an FBI agent stay here once," laughs Tischler, recalling a casual breakfast conversation with the man, in town for a triathlon. "We put him in the 'Hemp Room.'"

After the agent checked out, Tischler discovered he had left some clothes behind.

"I took them to him in San Francisco, and he said, 'This is the first time a pothead has brought my clothes to me,'" Tischler said, pausing. "I'm not exactly a pothead."

Like the FBI agent, local police, too, have taken a very mellow position on the Laurel Street hemp hotel, where guests with a physician's prescription can smoke pot on the "toker's deck," where it is strictly BYOP.

The chill attitude reflects that of Santa Cruz voters, who overwhelmingly supported Proposition 215, which passed in 1996. The California law allows patients under a doctor's care to be treated with marijuana.

"To my knowledge, we have had no calls, no complaints, and no issues (with the inn)," Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Jeff Locke said. "I would



Maria Mallek and Andrea Tischler own the Compassion Flower Inn.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

say that 50 percent of the serious calls we get for service are alcohol-related. Alcohol is by far more costly to the community for enforcement than marijuana would be. Unless we get a complaint, (the inn) will not get priority treat-

ment."

For more information, visit [www.compassionflowerinn.com](http://www.compassionflowerinn.com). Contact Marina Malikoff at [jcopeland@santa-cruz.com](mailto:jcopeland@santa-cruz.com).