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'Cannabis Alchemy'

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Anti-Barrington Activist Publishes Drug Guides

By Carolyn Jones
 Staff Writer

One of the Barrington Hall neighbors suing the University Students' Cooperative Association for "permitting drug sales" at Barrington is the publisher of a series of books on growing marijuana.

Sebastian Orfali, who filed a \$375,000 lawsuit against USCA last Thursday, is the Project Editor and only employee of And/Or Press, which publishes such books as "Marijuana Potency," "Marijuana Grower's Guide," and "Marijuana Botany: The Propagation and Breeding of Distinctive Cannabis."

Orfali's suit, which he filed last Thursday with another Barrington neighbor, Beverly Potter, charges USCA with "intentionally" distributing LSD-laced wine at a Sept. 25 "wine dinner" party at Barrington, and with permitting LSD, cocaine, heroin and other illegal drug sales at the coop.

"Isn't that the 'pot' calling the kettle black?"

—Commentator
 KCBS Radio

Following the hospitalization of four people who allegedly took LSD at the "wine dinner," the City Council established the Barrington Task Force to investigate allegations of drug use at Barrington since the Sept. 25 party.

Orfali, who publishes out of his home at 2310 Haste St., next-door to the 170-member South Side Co-op, said yesterday that his occupation does not conflict with the nature of his lawsuit.

"The books we publish are not, in any way, encouraging the use of marijuana, or in any way involved in illegal activity," Orfali said.

And/Or Press offers a "Drug Education Books by Phone" 24-hour telephone number, through which a customer can purchase books such as "Psychedelic Chemistry," "The Stash Book: How to Hide Your Valuables," and "Sinsemilla Technique: Sophisticated Methods Revealed."

Orfali, who headed And/Or Press since he founded it over 15 years ago, said that through his line of work, he has become "very knowledgeable about drugs."

"That's one of the reasons I'm concerned about what's going on in Barrington," he said yesterday. "I've seen the harm that can be done." And/Or publishing, which Orfali said earned \$1.5 million annually "in its heyday,"

Barrington foe publishes how to grow pot books

also offers video and audio cassettes, including "Marijuana Moonshine Video," "Mary Jane's How To Video," and the cassette "Marijuana Grower's Guide."

Barrington President Susan Miles yesterday called Orfali's suit "hypocritical."

"He has a hell of a lot of nerve to attack us on something he condones," she said.

But Orfali's attorney, Don Driscoll, said that Orfali's occupation is irrelevant to the suit.

"There's a difference between publishing a book and disturbing your neighbor," Driscoll said yesterday. "I don't think this will affect the case at all."

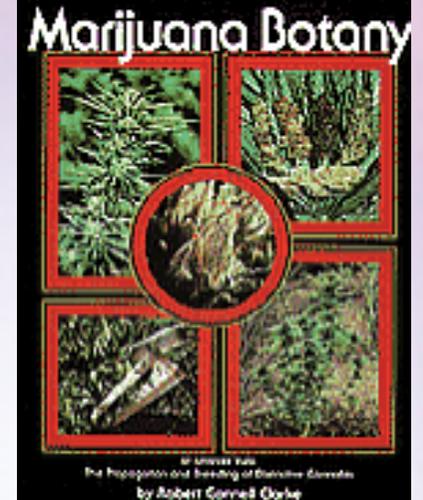
And/Or Press, which Orfali founded in 1973, has published more than 70 books, including a variety of holistic health books as well as the extensive range of marijuana growing guides.

The "Marijuana Grower's Guide," written by Mel Frank and Ed Rosenthal, is described by *The New York Times* as "extremely clear and interesting" and has sold more than 1 million copies since its release in 1978.

"Some of the books are controversial, but in a way, it's in the tradition of Berkeley's Free Speech Movement," Driscoll said.

Berkeley City Council member Shirley Dean, one of four council members serving on the Barrington Task Force, said she was "taken aback" at the news of Orfali's profession.

"I think it's very ironic," Dean laughed. "Sounds like he's done some extensive research." Nevertheless* Dean predicted, Or-



Book published by neighbor.

fali's suit would "rise and fall on its own merits."

Council member Fred Weekes, who also serves on the task force, defended Orfali. Weekes is considered by many to be the most conservative member of the council.

"Publishing is a perfectly legitimate occupation, isn't it?" he said. "It's amusing, but I don't think it has any bearing on the case." Barrington house manager Michelle Todus described Orfali's occupation as "pretty funny."

"I think most Barringtonians will get a kick out of it," Todus said.

USCA Board of Directors President Elaine McCormick refused to comment on Orfali or the lawsuit because the co-op association has not yet received the suit.

In addition to guides to marijuana cultivation, Orfali has published several books that discourage drug use, including "Marijuana Alert" and "The Marijuana Question: Arguments Against Pot Use," and the "Cocaine Consumer Handbook."