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Harrelson (con't from page 1)

actor hurled his parting shot regarding Burrell's sleeping habits, suggesting he lacked conscience. Harrelson is no stranger to controversy. He and others were arrested in November 1996 after causing a massive traffic jam by scaling the Golden Gate Bridge to demand that the government protect the 60,000-acre Headwaters redwood grove. Harrelson also has posted a \$500,000 bond for a cancer patient facing criminal pot charges and he is an outspoken advocate for industrial uses of hemp. He came to federal court Thursday already angry at Burrell's handling of the case. In a recent letter to The Bee, Harrelson said the judge had shown "blatant disregard for the precepts of our forefathers."

"Apparently in Judge Burrell's courtroom, he is not content for lady justice to be blind; she must also be deaf, dumb, bound, gagged, raped and dismembered," he wrote. The courtroom drama was reminiscent of some maverick roles taken on by the 37-year-old Harrelson, who parlayed his Emmy-winning success on "Cheers" into major movie stardom.

He recently enjoyed critical acclaim for his portrayal of Big Boy, an untamed and doomed New Mexico cowboy home from World War II, in "Hi-Lo Country."

Earlier Thursday, Smith testified that smoking marijuana has successfully curbed his abuse of alcohol. He did not make a secret of growing it for himself and others after passage of Proposition 215, he said. Smith, 52, said he served as an infantryman in Vietnam and is a "political activist" who worked in the campaign for the pro-marijuana initiative. Harrelson testified that he met Smith when both were involved in the 1996 Headwaters protest.

The following year, Smith planted an 87-plant marijuana garden on land in Denny that he leased from a friend, Martin Lederer.

In September 1997 the government seized the plants and, two months later, Smith and Lederer were charged in a federal grand jury indictment.

The case has been marked by open friction between Burrell and defense counsel. The judge found that California's 3-year-old measure does not constitute a viable defense in a court governed by federal law, which does not make an exception for using marijuana under a doctor's care.

After Burrell ruled that Smith's prescription for the drug and its medicinal value generally were not to be presented, Lederer pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession and is awaiting sentencing.

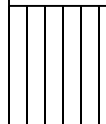
Smith's attorneys moved last week to disqualify Burrell, saying the judge took the case out of the jury's hands by stripping Smith of his defense.

Burrell has addressed the defense "with such an extreme degree of anger and disdain that it would be impossible for the jury" not to be influenced and prejudiced, the attorneys claimed.

The judge denied their motion and trial commenced Tuesday. Harrelson was the final witness.

B.E. Smith was found guilty and sentenced to 27 months in federal prison.

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