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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **JUST SAY ‘NO’ TO POLICE SEARCHES**

### ***Movie Teaches Students to Protect Constitutional Rights***

**Northampton, MA** – Smith College students will view the movie *BUSTED: The Citizen’s Guide to Surviving Police Encounters* on Wednesday. The 45-minute film, narrated by retired ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser, teaches citizens how to protect their constitutional rights during police encounters. Defense attorney Thomas Lesser will be available to answer legal questions after the screening.

**WHO:** students, Attorney Thomas Lesser, and the Smith Public Safety Department.

**WHAT:** Screening of *BUSTED: The Citizen’s Guide to Surviving Police Encounters*

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 27 @ 7:30 P.M.

**WHERE:** Graham Hall; Hillyer Art Building; Smith Campus

In 1998, Congress amended the Higher Education Act (HEA) to include a provision that denies federal financial aid to students with drug convictions. Since then, more than 150,000 students have lost their aid. It is impossible to tell how many of these students would still be in school if they had known how to assert their rights during police encounters.

“Most students have no idea that the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives them the right to just say ‘no’ to a police search,” said Alex Fischer, vice-president of Smith’s SSDP chapter. “As long as bad policies like the HEA Drug Provision are on the books, we will work to teach students how to protect their rights during police encounters. If showing *BUSTED* helps prevent Smith students from being arrested and losing their financial aid, the whole community benefits.”

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, an organization with more than 100 college and high school chapters nationwide, is committed to providing education on harms caused by the War on Drugs, working to involve youth in the political process, and promoting an open, honest, and rational discussion of alternative solutions to our nation's drug problems.

**Interviews available. For more information, contact Louise Barrett of Smith SSDP at (413) 530-2669 or Tom Angell of SSDP’s national office at (202) 557-4979.**

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