



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED AFTER CONVICTION IN AMTRAK DELIVERY OF ECSTASY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy across the country. The investigation that led to the defendant's arrest was launched when Kansas City police officers searched an Amtrak train in Kansas City.

Ilan Bronfman, 26, of California, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to six years and six months federal prison without parole. **Bronfman**, who is a citizen of Israel, is also subject to deportation following his prison term.

On Dec. 10, 2002, **Bronfman** was convicted by a federal jury of conspiring with others to distribute ecstasy.

Graves explained that officers in the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department's drug interdiction squad interviewed a passenger aboard the Amtrak train at the station at 2200 Main, Kansas City on April 30, 2002. Based on that interview, the officers utilized Brooke, a Labrador retriever K-9, to conduct a canine sniff of an American Tourister bag belonging to the passenger. After receiving a search warrant based on the K-9's alert, Graves said, officers discovered ecstasy tablets hidden in two Pepperidge Farm Chocolate Chunk Big Cookie bags.

According to Graves, the passenger told police interviewers that he was traveling from Los Angeles, California, to Baltimore, Maryland, to deliver 6,000 ecstasy tablets for **Bronfman**. On a previous trip, the courier said, he delivered 3,000 ecstasy tablets. He agreed to make the delivery, under law enforcement control, and after delivering the drugs returned to Los Angeles. He then participated in the delivery of the money for the ecstasy, Graves said, while monitored by law enforcement officials. He then notified **Bronfman** that he had received the money, and he made arrangements for **Bronfman** to pick up the money and to pay him.

Bronfman was arrested, Graves said, when he arrived to pick up the money.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department; the Baltimore County, Maryland Police Department and the Los Angeles County, California Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow