

# Soft Secrets®

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Special report:

## Highlife Trade Fair

And Cannabis Cup

**DIY**

Feeding Tubs

**Soaps are for dopes**

The Soft Secrets  
Health Warning!

Skunk Kush

**Dummies**



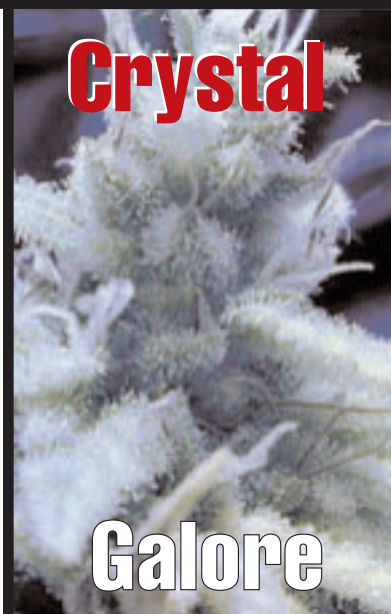
at work

**Highlife Cup**



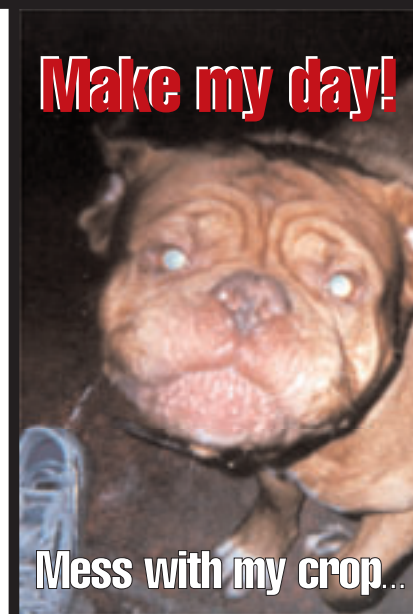
Full Report

**Crystal**



Galore

**Make my day!**



Mess with my crop...



FROM THE EDITOR

D-day

D-Day (or rather Class B-to-C-Day) has come and gone; crime rates have soared, our city centres are filled with crazed schizo-dopers (the alkie disappeared overnight), schools are eerily-deserted as once bright-eyed pupils stay home en masse, sluggishly rolling joints with trembling fingers, while outside the streets are filled with the mewling of babes abandoned in the streets by their newly stoned mothers. Only – surprise Daily Mail readers – none of these happened, did they? Back in reality, how has the lot of the harassed casual smoker changed? Maybe you won't get busted for smoking up with some mates in the local park. But you still might be. Maybe if some guests bring some blow to a party you're giving, you won't go down if the police raid your place. But you might, especially if you're a café called Purple Haze in Scotland.

Let's face it, nothing has really changed in the day-to-day, back-of-the-mind anxiety of anyone with a stash – or worse still, a few plants around their house. A glance at the latest crop of UK press cuttings will attest to the continued reality of "Granny Fined for Growing Pot"-type events around the country. Is a blurry gray area actually any better than the old black and white? It's contradictions that often cause more annoyance. The fact that you can now possess a few grams of dried cannabis, but not a few grams of wet cannabis still attached to its plant. The fact that the downgrade is for England and Wales, not Scotland, or that chief constables for individual counties have stated a wide range of attitudes, from 'business as usual (lenient or strict)' to 'we'll wait and see', depending on what part of the country you happen to be in.

So let's politely celebrate that the relaxation of penalties on cannabis as the first substantial change for 30 years, and that the debate about the whole 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act has been re-opened. But let's not ignore the mounting contradictions and hypocrisies in the State's attitudes to 'cognitive freedom' (the individual's choice of brain state as part of the right to think). Sir Michael Rawlins, chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which recommended the new cannabis grade in the 1980s, has said it is time to consider whether to go further. His members are investigating new ways of measuring the relative harmfulness of all illegal drugs, going beyond the opaque simplicity of A, B and C. Sir Michael said the council planned "a systematic trawl" through the rankings, the basis of which "nobody knows. The records do not explain why... The basis on which any of the things were classified is obscure from reading the minutes. They won't tell you." Don't anticipate Mr Blunkett opening things up any further. He has again ruled out any change of status for ecstasy because it killed "unpredictably". He said this the same week a report noted that electric blankets kill more people than E each year in the UK. The Green Party advocates harnessing cannabis's revenue-generating potential with a policy

of "regulated legalisation" - dope sold legally through a network of Amsterdam-style coffee shops, with a proportion of the proceeds ploughed back into local community projects. Now we're talking. The Home Office puts the value of the British cannabis market at 1.5 billion pounds a year. Most experts say this is a highly conservative estimate. The Independent Drug Monitoring Unit reckons closer to 5 billion gets smoked every year. On-the-spot warnings for possession of cannabis should be extended to small-scale home growing, said Professor Mike Hough of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, since the changes create a new anomaly whereby it is now be more serious to possess a growing cannabis plant than to have the same plant after it had been harvested. "Simply to achieve coherence and consistency in the law there are persuasive grounds for treating cultivation for personal use on a par with possession," he said, adding that Not only does home cultivation insulate smokers from criminal suppliers. Unlike 20 years ago when Middle Eastern/North African producers controlled the UK market, the proceeds of the cannabis trade are ploughed straight back into the British economy, said the IDMU. Domestic producers – yay for us! - now supply close to 60% of the cannabis consumed in Britain. With prices and profit margins for imported cannabis collapsing, the IDMU reckons "The low cost of home-grown might destabilise the criminalised cannabis market and eventually collapse it."

So David, Tony and you other Drug Warriors out there: be nice to the growers and we'll do the job you claim to be doing – fighting crime – for you. Listen to the Greens and we'll even throw in a few billion quid for better schools and local services.

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Page 3 Girl  
SUPER SKUNK

This plant is especially developed for Skunk lovers. Sensi Seeds have crossed their best Skunks back to their Afghani ancestors. Brush against this plant and the room immediately becomes filled with a powerful Skunk aroma. Despite the smell a very pleasant high with more body to it than the Skunk #1.

Flowering: 45-50 days

Height: 125-150 cm.

Yield: up to 125 gr.

Finishing date in greenhouse:  
mid-October. Yield in greenhouse: up to 500 gr.



Photo: Sensi Seed Bank



PoBox 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland E-mail: softsecrets@reef.net

# Dear Soft Secrets

**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
Just stumbled accross your mag while buying some mushrooms in Newcastle (England). Great paper with loads of usefull info, not to mention some of the beautiful females your readers section has to offer! Unfortunately I've harvested this years crop already or else you'd have some pictures with a copy in, but here's some Super-Skunk grown outside north London with nothing but the summer sun and a bit of fertiliser here and there. Lovely thick, sticky buds with delicious aroma. Potency a bit disapointing but there's always next year. Some quality seeds is maybe what I'm missing??  
**Cheers J**

Hey J.,  
looking fairly decent. Have some complimentary White Widow seeds!



**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
First of all, I'd like to say just how excellent your news paper is. Its better than the magazines that are expensive. Here is a picture of my second attempt at growing, my first attempt was stolen out of my garden, so this time I decided to grow indoors. And it's going great, I cant wait to harvest. When these plants are harvested, I am going to start growing straight away again. A free packet of seeds would help tremendously. Carry on the good work all of you who work on Soft Secrets.  
**Chris, England**



**Hi folks..**  
I picked up a copy of the GREAT Soft Secrets last time I was in my favourite grow shop. I was very surprised and enjoyed to find it in a French version too... Cool, thanks a lot! I'm called Sacha, I live in Neuchatel, Switzerland, I'm an outdoor growing junkie and have learned a lot of tricks with the reading of your superb magazine. I live in the countryside, in a small village at 900 meters altitude, this is the ideal situation to create my own small paradise... This year I started my grow at the 15th of May with various Indica & Sativa hybrid clones. As they had already grown a little root system in rockwool I transplanted the little rockwool in my prepared garden... At the time of writing, the plants have grown very well.  
**Cheers, Sacha**  
*Heidi & Peter couldn't have created a better paradise up there in the Swiss mountains... Let us know how our Holland's Hope seeds are doing up there, will ya? They're not used to mountainous areas, really.*

**Hi Soft Secrets,**  
Here is my G13 (a.k.a. Mr Nice, although maybe it should be miss Nice as she's an unfertilised female!!). It definately is a nice smoke though!  
**Happy Chap Martin**



**Easy soft secrets,**  
A top quality, sterling, absolutely fantastic read of a pro ganja newspaper... and your FREE!?! You just gotta love the S.S.! I wanted to share a few pics of my 2nd growing attempt, under a 250w HPS using FDM's 50/50 mix.13 days till harvest now and smellin very sweet, although, there is a severe K deficiency present (due to my stoner ignorance). Oh well, you lives and learns dontchya. Anywho, I hope it's enough to grace the pages of your readers pics, with a little help from Mrs BB of course.  
**All the best, BudahBwoy (from UK420.com), Yorkshire.**

Wow! Cool mag, cool plant, cool chick... We're gonna shower you with High Quality Seeds Black Label seeds, BudahBwoy! You MUST be a cool guy too.



**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
Thought you might like to see what we've been up to! 18 cuttings on Iron 18 under 3 x 600w HPS plus 1 x 400w HPS, vegged for 5 days, then turned to 12's 8 Unknown cuttings in 10 litre pots of rockwool, under 2 600w HPS, vegged for 3 weeks and turned to 12's. 8 weeks later they were finished, total yield just over 14 ounces of dried, cured, extremely frosty and dense nugs, fruity with a taste of hash.  
**A.R.C., Liverpool**  
*Well guys, Shankly just had breakfast, but his fine taste wouldn't allow for a pair of cheap tennis shoes... The message is clear though, lads. NOBODY fucks with your plants!*

## Attention Guerilla Growers!

Fancy a FREE packet of High Quality Seeds? Feeling up to growing Master Kush, Holland's Hope, White Widow, Oké 47, Bleu Berries, Sensi Star, Jack Herer or Neville's Haze? Yes? Then you send us a picture of your garden, and we'll send you the seeds. Should your garden pic contain a visible copy of Soft Secrets, we'll send you 2 packs, of 2 different sorts. If your garden should happen to feature your girlfriend or wife, topless, you even get 3 packs, this time of prime High Quality Seeds Black Label stock! (They don't have to show their faces.) Send all entries to Soft Secrets, PoBox 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland, or e-mail them to softsecrets@reef.net.  
**NOTE: only readers from outside Holland need apply! Naturally, all entries are handled with the utmost discretion. Names, letters and adresses will be destroyed as soon as seeds are sent.**



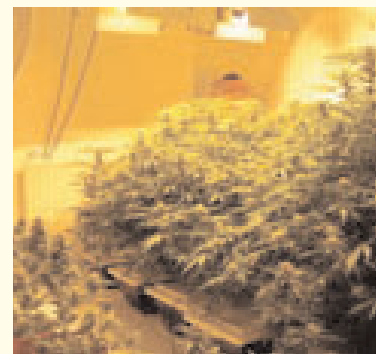




Dear Soft Secrets

Hope you enjoy these baby's, they are my first crop. The ones in the pots are the mothers of the hydroponics ones. They taste ok, the ones in the pots had nutrients only once and I also tried sugar once and then just gave them water and that was that, they tasted sooo good, very goood...! Hydroponics is so much easier, no more problems trying to control the pH, no waste, no soil to dispose of after, no mess, no need to flush etc. etc. etc. I think it's easy peasy.

Baby Bud



At first sight this looks like a well-run garden, keep it up. You might want to give your plants less growth though, as **once** the plants get to big lowerbranches they won't yield accordingly to vegetation time. Shorter plants will yield equally with less growth.

Hello,

I recently picked up a copy of Soft secrets while in Amsterdam and read that if I show you a picture of my plants with S.S. in you will send me some free seeds, so here you go. I don't know what seeds they are, but the buds are pretty big now and theres another week or so to go yet. This is only my second attempt at growing, but i'm sure it won't be the last.

Aki, South Wales.



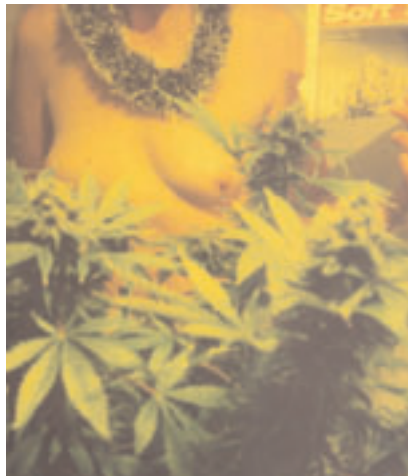
Well, we hope not, it seems like you grew a green thumb, matey!

Hi Soft Secrets,

Here are a few pics of my northerlights/powerplant that was grown in pot under a 400w sodium bulb in my warddrobe, its smoked nice but now i have a NFT set up with 4 White Russians and I have a 4 inch inline fan its the nuts, there 5 day in 2 budding send some pics soon.  
thanks DR



Not sure what we're reading here mate, but you must have done something right...



Hi Soft Secrets,

My partner as you can see just loves to talk to the ladies and keep them company, which is lovely for me to see them buds looking so firm and healthy.  
Love, Holly & Berry, England  
Cheers Holly & Berry!



Dear Soft Secrets,

Got a copy of your mag from my local grow shop (never seems to be open though). Been growing a few months with the help and advice of your paper and seem to be doing OK. I'd love to get my hands on some Jack Herer and Master Kush, so I hope the enclosed photos will do the job. Got to go and get back to my bubble sac whisking.  
PUFF, Essex  
Go back to do what...? Not sure if that's legal, mate, whatever it is. But your pics most certainly did do the job.  
High Quality Seeds Black Label seeds should be in your pots right now.



Dear Soft Secrets,

Here are some pictures of our guerilla harvest in the Home Counties, England, 2003. This is the second year running we have grown and have had pleasing results. The pictures show some of the 103 plants consisting of 22 varieties that were harvested in early October. Varieties included Mango, KC33, Early Girl, Purple Power, Leda Uno, Durban Poison etc. This year was more of a test year to see which strains enjoy the English summer. All were grown organically and despite a hard start all produced an amazing variety of quality smoke. till next year.  
The man with the plan

Hey man, you got a great plan which worked out fine!





PRODUCT FLASH

**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
This first e-mail contains my little baby at about five and a half weeks into flower. She was supposed to be a Super Skunk along with her other sisters delivered as clones, but she was a little different and was in flower an extra ten days. She was and still is an incredible smoke, I can't make any plans when I'm smoking her as she nails your arse to the chair.  
**Joseph**  
*Lovely Joseph, nice compact buds.*



**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
Here's a pic of my secret garden, 12 x White Rhino, grown under 1 x 600w HPS.  
**Mr. White**  
*All set, thanks. Mr. Pink.*

**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
Please find enclosed pictures of a TNR (KC Brains) grown with the aid of BioBizz products in my porch behind the tomato plants. She didn't produce massive amounts (about 3 oz. dried) but she was one hell of a smoke!  
**Adder, Lancaster**  
*We believe she was, Adder. Great pics!*



Just picked up a copy of your mag. Here is a photo of our second garden, with the latest issue of a rather excellent magazine. If possible, could we get Jack Herer and Sensi Star? We'll send a pic of how they turn out.  
**Jonathan, England**

**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
Here's a shot of my lovely ladies on a flood system, Master Kush & some White Widow netting about 5 ounces per week.  
**Andy, England**

*Jonathan, we can't see if you're using two lights (we're guessing so) but if you do, you need to maximize your growroom. Add more plants or pregrow your plants a lot bigger so they fill up the growroom better; using all the light. Waste not want not. If you want large plants and few, let them grow outside in the spring and summer and then bring them inside for bloom. It'll guarantee you a cheap and massive harvest!*

*Good idea to remove the lower branches Andy, as the plants have overgrown the grow room. They would only have yielded fluffy buds anyway. Next time, we advise you to flower the plants a bit sooner.*

**Dear Soft Secrets,**  
My plant has taken about 10 months to grow from a seed. Over 17 years of smoking I dread to think how much money I have spent on weed.  
**Yours sincerely, Nicky, North Yorkshire**

*Hey Nicky, it looks to us like the plant was probably grown out a little late in the season, right? Get an early start next season and grow a tree! Enjoy the smoke anyway...*



**Hello Soft Secrets,**  
I've just discovered your newspaper. Thought I was doing great until I seen it, so thought I'd take a picture and get some decent seeds. I couldn't get the missus to pose this time, but hopefully better luck next time.  
**Frodo, Dublin**  
*Aw come on, Frodo... Your missus could have been the FIRST Irish lady to pose for Soft Secrets UK!*

Found your mag in a coffee shop and became inspired, the results are the two Jack Herer's in the picture. I am a first time grower and would like to experiment with some different varieties. A packet of your lovely seeds would be much appreciated so i can get the next crop underway.  
**Easy, Plymouth**



*Great plant but skinny stem, Easy. By putting a ventilator early in vegetation on your plant, the stems will grow harder and bigger and so will be supporting bigger buds.*



**The Christmas harvest**  
The Christmas harvest was a particularly good one, so we thought we would show it off. My girl asks that we get White Widow, Oke 47 and Bleu Berries for her efforts. I reckon she deserves them. (She looks after the girls when I'm away.)  
**P, England**  
*Excellent buds P, grown to its fullest potential. You might want to keep a clone of that lady as she looks like a big yielder, lots of branches and lots of buds... Well done, mate!*



From a reader in Rotterdam



## Moving Light Increases Harvest



These new moveable lamps will make a much better harvest possible. Because the lamp moves back and forth on a cable, a natural process is created, just like the sun does outside. This effect cannot be recreated in any other way and that's why these moveable lamps are such a valuable boon to weed growers, who of course want to increase their yield. As we know, the leaves take care of the intake of energy. Every leaf has the vital function of light absorption, a process that is essential for the production of flower heads. With help from the IntelliDrive, the lamp moves

itself along the horizon of the plant, which ensures that light (energy) shines from every corner, according to intervals you program in yourself. The interval can be altered via the in-built Smartbox. Conventional lamps have a limited radius, which can be increased by using the IntelliDrive. The IntelliDrive gives out the available light optimally, which leads to more yield from less energy. The IntelliDrive has automatic robotic steering for an effective and uniform light scattering. This machine can also be easily expanded with more units, making a chain of different lamps that can be controlled as a single light-emitting unit. The superior quality of the system is supported by a two-year guarantee on all parts of it.

This new lamp system is available from good grow shops, including:  
Discount Hydroponics, Waldergrave.  
Esoteric Hydroponics, Guildford, Surrey.  
Greenfinger Hydroponics, Peckham, London

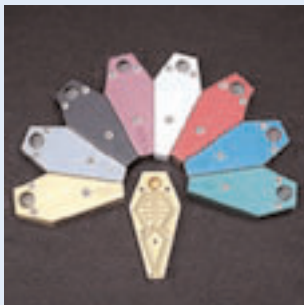
More info:[www.advancedhydro.com](http://www.advancedhydro.com)

## Zen Pipe

Zen Engineering's range of smart pipes are so well made you'll pass them on to your grandchildren! No half-measures here. You only need to look at them to know this - though holding and inhaling through them is even more persuasive! You can feel their years of experience - in CNC milling, turning, grinding, spark and wire eroding. But, most of all, is the look of them - fully thought through, clever design and development! Plus all their pipes *come with a range of accessories*.

Both the *Coffin Pipe* and the *Big Bud Pipe* are machined from solid 6082-Grade aluminium, and assembled with stainless steel cap screws that might withstand an earthquake. They come with Allen key, stainless steel groove cleaner, and even a spare gauze.

With the Coffin you get a wide choice of colours: red, silver, black, blue, green, purple, grey and gold, plus they throw in a free protective carrying pouch. Big Buds come in gold and silver, but for a quid extra you can get your name put on colour!



[www.zeneng.com](http://www.zeneng.com) or Tel: 00 +44 (0)1282 779123

## The Canna Coco Kit

is a hydroponic system using the NEW Organic Canna Coco growing medium and a unique automatic watering sensor called the Trof Blumat sensor. The Trof Blumat Sensor only waters the growing medium when it begins to dry out. Extremely simple to use, the Canna Coco Kit comes with 4 x 250mm pots and saucers, a 30-liter bag of Canna Coco medium, 4 Trof Blumat auto watering sensors with filter and hose, a 35-liter drum, 2 x one litre bottles of Canna Coco nutrients, and instructions.

Available at Beaver Hydroponic Store, Dartford, Kent Tel: +44 (0) 1322 273444.

## Auto-Pot System



The Auto-Pot range of hydroponic systems is ideal for those who enjoy gardening, but dislike the work. The main feature of the auto-pot system is the unique Smart Valve. The Smart Valve only waters the plant when it needs watering, and stops when a sufficient amount has been supplied. The only maintenance you need is to keep the nutrient tank topped up with nutrient solution - the Smart Valve does the rest. No Electricity, no pumps;

gravity does all the work. The Auto-pot range of systems consist of a 5 \* 5" Window Box kit, a 6 \* 6" pot kit, a 2 \* 10" Hydropak kit, and a 1 \* 12" pot kit. Each kit consists of a bottom tray, Smart Valve, inline filter, tubing, pots, growing medium, nutrients and instructions. The 2 \* 10" Hydropak comes packed in a 35-liter drum. Expanding the garden is made easy with an add-on kit. The other kit sizes come without the drum. Drums and other accessories are available separately. Check out the picture - these two tomatoes grown in a 2 \* 10" pot Hydropak, reach over 4 metres tall, as can be seen in the picture on the main page. This picture shows the lower 90 cm of the plants, which are only 3 months old.

Available at Beaver Hydroponic Store, Dartford, Kent Tel: +44 (0) 1322 273444.

## B'cuzz Blossom Builder Tabzz

B'cuzz Blossom Builder Tabzz are 100% sizzling flower multipliers that ensure an explosive flower development in the blooming phase. B'cuzz Blossom Builder Tabzz make sure that all the strength of the plant is directed towards the flowers at the end of the growth. The flowers become bigger, denser, they have a more intense smell and become heavier, which boosts your yield.

**Application:** Earth, Hydro and Coco

**Dosage:** 1 to 2 B'cuzz Blossom Builder Tabzz to 100 litres pouring water during the flower phase.

Plants with a short flowering period:	from the fourth week
Plants with a medium flowering period:	from the fifth week
Plants with a long flowering period:	from the sixth week

**Directions for use with 100 litters of nutrient water:**

1. Fill your nutrient reservoir with clean water at around 20 °Celsius
2. Adjust the EC-value to 1.2 with your base nutrients (A and B nutrients or 1-component)
3. Then add 1 or 2 B'cuzz Blossom Builder Tabzz
4. Subsequently, fix the pH-value between 5.5-5.8



**Warning:** Keep out of reach of children, not intended for internal use, avoid contact with the skin. Store frost-free in a cool, dark place. The manufacturer denies any liability for any resulting damage pursuant our general terms and conditions.

[www.atami.com](http://www.atami.com) or [info@atami.com](mailto:info@atami.com)

## Fluorescent Lighting

is a very efficient form of lighting, and is ideal for growing house plants or propagating cuttings and seedlings. For full growth of sun loving plants, High Intensity Discharge lighting is more suited. Fluorescent lighting fixtures come in NEW 1', 2' or 4' versions and are 1' wide with provisions for 2 tubes. For the best of growth we stock Cool White in 18 watt (2') & 36 watt (4'), Gro-lux in 18 watt (2') & 36 watt (4'). For propagation, a combination of Gro-lux and cool white tubes are ideal. For small propagation boxes, a small Propagation Light is available. It consists of a small reflector with a 20 watt PL compact fluorescent lamp.

Sweetleaf.co.uk, PO Box 5966, Leicester LE3 1ZS.  
Website [www.sweetleaf.co.uk/grow\\_light.php](http://www.sweetleaf.co.uk/grow_light.php)

UKCIA is a part of the wider Legalise Cannabis Campaign in the UK. The core team and the mailing list are a collection of activists - that is users of cannabis and sympathisers - who all share two things; an Internet connection and the goal to help repeal the cannabis laws. We know that the best weapon against the "War on Cannabis" is the truth. So UKCIA sets out to be a store of factual information, you can find information about all aspects of the cannabis plant, its uses and the way it's used here. UKCIA holds a wide range of research papers and government reports, we invite you to read it and to make your own mind up on the issue, free of political distortion. Cannabis legalisation is a major issue and isn't going to go away, not if we can help it anyway! Visit [www.ukcia.org](http://www.ukcia.org)

## BBC presenter apologises over cannabis gaffe

The presenter of a BBC radio gardening programme who unwittingly gave a caller advice on how to grow cannabis has apologised.

Frieda Morrison, co-presenter of Beechgrove Potting Shed on BBC Radio Scotland, said she thought the caller was discussing cabbages.

Frieda and fellow host Jim McColl spent more than three minutes explaining which compost to use and how to water the hallucinogenic herb.

When the caller referred to "Northern Lights" - very strong marijuana - the gardeners' thought he was referring to a variety of cabbage of the same name. Frieda apologised for the gaffe. In an interview with Good Morning Scotland, she joked: "You know we are a very happening programme and want to be at the cutting edge of any grass."

"Jim started off by saying how to use a propagator and you could argue that any gardening programme and book tells you how to grow cannabis. We thought the caller had said cabbages and if you look it up on the internet there is a variety called the Northern Lights.

"So this is where the confusion started and all the way through the interview we were talking about cabbages. Why anyone would want to grow cabbages in a propagator and take cuttings we're not sure yet. It is a very busy programme and we made a honest mistake."

But she added: "There is a very serious side to this and we have to stand up and be counted and say: 'Yes we thought the caller was talking about cabbages - Northern Lights'."

Source: *Ananova*

## Potty MEP says let them grow dope at home

DRUG laws are too tough enough says Chris Davies.

MACCLESFIELD MEP Chris Davies is calling for new laws to let everyone grow cannabis in their own homes.

The ever-controversial Euro MP, who is well known for his pro-cannabis stance, is asking the government to permit each householder to cultivate their own crop of the drug without fear of prosecution.

Mr Davies says he wants to deal a blow to the criminal narcotic trade by letting those who use cannabis recreationally escape the claws of local drug barons.

He claims that if everyone can grow their own dope, there will be no need for them to visit dealers and be drawn into more harmful substances.

He said: "Despite the reclassification of the drug, there is a real risk that cannabis users will have to buy the product from heroin dealers.

'For some this could be a slippery slope, because the criminals have a financial interest in encouraging their customers to try more harmful drugs.'

The Liberal Democrat MEP has a criminal conviction for possession of cannabis after leading a political protest against existing drugs policy in 2002, but claims he has never used any illegal drugs.

He led a huge throng of campaigners through Stockport Town Centre to protest

against the imprisonment of Colin Davies, who was jailed for opening the cannabis cafe the Dutch Experience.

He has now written to Home Secretary David Blunkett urging him to adopt the same approach as the Government in Belgium which has abandoned the prosecution of people growing a single cannabis plant for their personal use.

Mr Davies added: 'If I want I can grow a cannabis plant in my Brussels flat without fear of prosecution. But to do the same in Britain would put me at risk of serious penalties.'

'It's a crazy situation that just puts money in the hands of criminal drug dealers.'

Cheshire Police condoned the cultivation of cannabis plants, saying it would lead to arrest.

A spokesman said: 'Cheshire police would strongly disagree with the cultivation of cannabis. We would not condone cannabis cultivation in any form.'

'Cultivation is not affected by the reclassification of cannabis to a class C drug and possession is still a criminal offence. You will be arrested.

'Cheshire Police is committed to using its intelligence and resources to taking drug dealers off the streets, and to working with those who are affected by controlled drugs.'

Source: *Wilmslow Express, Cheshire*

## NL: Queen invited for coffee shop visit

AMSTERDAM -Groningen coffee shop De Vilegender Hollander has invited Queen Beatrix to visit the cannabis establishment to coincide with the Dutch monarch's trip to the northern city as part of Queen's Day celebrations on 30 April.

To justify his invitation, the owner of the coffee shop - where true to Dutch coffee shop custom members of the public can smoke and buy marijuana - said the Queen is "a modern woman of the world open to new experiences".

"I fear that like most Dutch people she does not have a good picture of our industry and the products that we sell," owner T. Buissink said. "We can explain to her how the weed works, what sort of people come here and how regulated the sale of cannabis is in the Netherlands."

He also said the coffee shop visit was an appropriate addition to the type of Queen's Day celebrations promised by Groningen Mayor Jacques Wallage, newspaper De Telegraaf reported.

"It is something different from clog dancing and (games of biting) the cake," the coffee shop owner said.

The Groningen coffee shop has not yet received a response to its official invitation to the Queen, but the Groningen Council has said it will take all suggestions into serious consideration.

The Queen visits a different Dutch city every year on the 30 April public holiday to celebrate the birthday of her mother, Princess Juliana, as crowds gather in every city, town and village for street markets and partying of all shapes and sizes.

The Groningen Queen's Day programme will be announced two weeks before 30 April.

Source: *Expatica.com*

## Highlife Hemp Fair in Barcelona!

After seven extremely successful Dutch editions, the renowned Highlife Hemp Fair is all set to go international.

The most recent Highlife fair was held in Utrecht between the 30th January and the 1st of February and the success was evident by the record number of visitors. No less than 14 000 international visitors knew how to find their way to this Highlife trade fair, where they were welcomed by more than 100 stall holders from a variety of countries.



Due to the slow but steady increase in cannabis related businesses springing up all over Western Europe, Highlife has now decided to make the Highlife Hemp Fair available in other parts of Europe too.

So we are proud to announce that the first international Highlife Hemp Fair will be launched in Barcelona on the 8th 9th and 10th of October at the Fira de Cornellà.

This location boasts 8000m2 and many international companies will be presenting to the Spanish public for the very first time. Aside from the business that will be happening, time and space have been reserved for seminars, political discussions and entertainment.

Besides being a trade fair, the Highlife Hemp Fair in Barcelona promises to be a total lifestyle fair that is guaranteed to catch the eye of the cannabis loving public. And to top things off in style, the famous Highlife Cup will be introduced in Spain, as the very first national weed cup ever!

Sounds good? Things will even get better when Highlife will descend on the UK as well in 2005. Stay tuned to Soft Secrets for all related news and info.

For more information you can call

**Discover Publishers (Holland) 00 31-(0) 73- 5498112**  
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## 51% want laws on dope relaxed

MORE than half the public want the sale and possession of cannabis decriminalised or even legalised, a poll revealed yesterday.

It found 28 per cent favour decriminalisation - making it a minor offence like parking on double yellow lines - while 23 per cent want full

legalisation.

Fifty-two per cent applauded the move to downgrade cannabis from a Class B to Class C drug. Only 43 per cent believe selling or possessing it should remain a crime. The survey found that 44 per cent think dope is "seriously addictive" while

75 per cent think the same about alcohol.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the 2,536 adults questioned by YouGov want to see any change to the laws on hard drugs.

Source: *The Mirror*



# Warning over cannabis cafes

The prime minister has been urged not to let drug dealers use the downgrading of cannabis as an opportunity to set up cannabis cafes.

The plea from Glasgow Cathcart MP Tom Harris followed arrests last week over alleged drugs offences at Scotland's first cannabis cafe in Edinburgh.

Mr Harris told Tony Blair in the Commons that cities like Glasgow needed "more jobs, not more drugs".

Cannabis has now been reclassified from a class B to a class C drug. That puts it in the same category as tranquillisers and steroids. The changes mean penalties for possession will be lessened but dealers could face up to 14 years in jail.

Mr Harris told the Commons: "A number of drug dealers are using the recent reclassification of cannabis as an opportunity to open up cannabis cafes in various parts of the country - I understand that one is also planned for Glasgow."

He asked Mr Blair: "Will you agree with me that what Glasgow needs is more jobs, not more drugs and will you commit the government to using all of its resources to make sure that these cannabis cafes do not proliferate?"

Mr Blair replied: "Yes, which is why we've taken action against such cafes and I think it's important that we continue to do so."

He added: "The possession of cannabis remains a criminal offence.

"The purpose of what we have done recently, however, is to make sure that the police can, where they need to do so, target their main resources and activity on dealing with hard drugs.

"But all of these things are important to deal with."

On Thursday, three people were charged with allegedly possessing cannabis at the Purple Haze Cafe in Edinburgh.

The cafe, a former greasy spoon, was opened as a private members' club.

Cafe owner Paul Stewart said that cannabis would not be on sale.

However, Mr Stewart said members would be able to use cannabis on the premises.

He said the cafe would be "tobacco free" but anyone wishing to take cannabis would be able to use a vapouriser machine, which eliminates 99% of the carcinogenic substances of the drug.

Mr Stewart said he wanted to highlight the discrepancy between the way that the reclassification of the drug was being implemented on different sides of the border.

Source: BBC Online

# Blunkett's softer line on cannabis 'not enough'

David Blunkett, the Home Secretary, should go further than this week's legal downgrading of cannabis and decriminalise or legalise the drug, according to a survey for The Telegraph.

More than 50 per cent of those questioned believed the sale and possession of cannabis - to be downgraded from a Class B drug to Class C on Thursday - should no longer be a criminal offence.

The YouGov survey found 28 per cent favoured decriminalising the drug, making it a minor offence, while 23 per cent wanted full legalisation.

Despite rising concern about links between cannabis and mental illness, only 43 per cent believed selling or possessing the drug should remain a criminal offence.

The survey of more than 2,500 people was one of the largest polls on public attitudes to drugs.

A majority of those questioned - 52 per cent - expressed approval of the Home Secretary's decision to reclassify cannabis.

The survey revealed, however, that 44 per cent of people regard cannabis as "seriously addictive". But almost a third said alcohol was a greater problem in society than drugs.

Prof John Henry of Imperial College, a leading drugs expert, said the survey appeared to betray a lack of awareness about the adverse health effects of cannabis and its role as a "gateway" drug.

"There would not be a drugs problem if people did not start on drugs, but the Government seems to be saying to young people 'Hey, it's OK to try this drug'," he said.

"This is a dangerous time to be relaxing the law. Cannabis is a relatively new drug, there are more users and it is getting stronger. But we don't have enough experience or data to know what the long-term effects are. There are heart and lung problems similar to those created by tobacco and there is a definite link with schizophrenia.

"At a time when tobacco smoking is being clamped down on, it seems contradictory to be lifting the lid off cannabis."

Addaction, the drug treatment charity, said the poll reflected "a shift in understanding" to supporting a proportionate response to different drugs.

Rosie Brocklehurst, a spokesman for Addaction, said she was worried about "confusing messages" coming from different police forces about enforcement of the new cannabis law.

"The majority of people seem to understand why cannabis should be reclassified," she said. "Many have had the experience of how damaging the postcode lottery in enforcement has been. Young peoples' lives are blighted for ever when they are forced into the criminal justice system and through it some are coerced into a harder drug culture."

Source: The Telegraph

# We need legalised pot shops

A CANDIDATE is hoping to be elected as a ward councillor after mounting a campaign to set up legalised cannabis cafes.

Widnes woman Emma O'Neill was the most effective candidate for the Legalise Cannabis Alliance party in the UK's 2001 local elections.

Now she is re-launching her bid to become a ward councillor.

But Emma, 27, is determined to get her campaign on a stronger footing this year by raising 1,500 pounds.

She needs a 500 pounds deposit to stand in the election and aims to spend the rest on printing flyers detailing her party's arguments for cannabis legalisation. She hopes to send her message out beyond her target ward to as many as 28,000 homes across the borough.

She is looking for at least 30 campaigners to help out and for venues to hold debates.

Emma, who scooped 7% of the Appleton Ward vote in 2001 for the officially registered Legalise Cannabis Alliance, compared with an average 1-2% for its other candidates, thinks her belief in cannabis legalisation will appeal to a wide cross-section of people.

She hopes to attract more votes this time as she will no longer campaign on a single issue - young people, education and transport will also figure highly on her agenda.

She said: 'I want to appeal to a wide cross-section of people in the community who want to change things.

'The Government's policy has seen the possession of Class C drugs changed into an arrestable offence.

Source: Widnes Weekly News

# Cannabis lollies' spark outrage

Police and trading standards officers are investigating the sale of sweets called "cannabis lollies".

The green lollies, labelled as containing hemp extract, have been sent for analysis after going on sale in shops in Leeds.

Trading standards chiefs were alerted by a mother who complained that the sweets may lead children into drug use.

Angela Nichol, of New Farnley, Leeds, feared the lollipops glamorised drug taking.

"I went into a local shop and saw them on the counter, I was stuck for words," she said.

"I mean, there's a big enough drug problem as it is. These lollies are selling for 30p when ordinary lollies are about 10p, the kids are going to think they're something special.

"It's like the forbidden fruit. There's all this in the news about cannabis being downgraded, a child might eat a lolly and think cannabis tastes like this and go on to bigger things."

The lollies, which come in a tub with a cannabis leaf motif on the front, are thought to have been made in Germany and sold to retailers in the Leeds area by a wholesaler in Bradford.

West Yorkshire's principal trading standards officer, Andrew Bibby, told BBC News Online: "We have sent one to the West Yorkshire public analyst to determine whether it contains any active ingredients.

"If it does then we will have legal powers to act to stop further sales.

"But even if it does not, we deplore any product that attracts children's interest in harmful drugs.

"However, there is nothing in current legislation which would prevent the sale of a harmless sugary lolly no matter how despicable its marketing image."

Tests on the lolly ingredients should be completed early next week, he said.

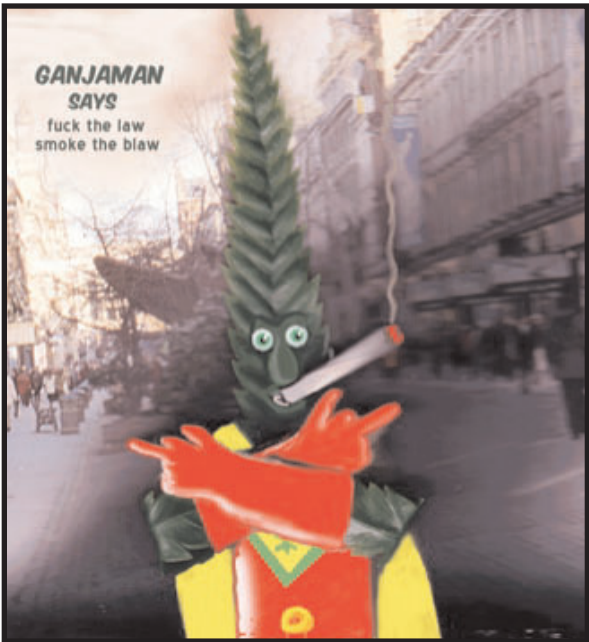
West Yorkshire Police said that although they had not received any complaints about the sweets, the local community policing team were looking into the matter.

Ailsa Mayers, who works for Community Neighbourhood Action in New Farnley, said: "There are drug problems as it is and you don't need, even if there is no cannabis in them, inciting people or encouraging young people to buy lollies that are named cannabis."

Naheem Bashir, owner of N&N Stores in Armley, which sells the cannabis lollies, said: "They contain a hemp extract and I am perfectly within my rights to sell them."

He said he had sold almost 500 of the sweets in the last week alone, but only allowed people aged over-18 to buy them.

Source: BBC Online





# Growing for Dummies Part 2

Readers who have already got their hands on the previous issue may already have read what I consider to be the essentials you need to begin growing cannabis. The first step towards setting to work growing is therefore getting your hands on these essentials. Take your time in looking around, compare prices at various shops on a range of products, composts, seeds, lamps, and suchlike, before slapping down your wad. Each in its own time, and make the right choice for yourself. A respectable grow shop will not try and shove endless potions and gizmos on you if it's your first growing experience, so make sure you advise them of your position. In this issue we will be looking a little deeper into general terms used in growing with some explanation of words and phrases from the growing world.

By Bart B.

## Growing and Blooming

The growth of a cannabis plant depends on the number of hours of light it gets each day. The more hours light, the stronger the plant will grow. The most-used light period in cannabis growing is 18 hours light per day and 6 hours night. This corresponds to the 21st June, the longest day of the year, and a sunny one at that. We kid the plant that it is the always the most lovely and longest day of the year.

But you can just as well give your plants 19 hours, 20 hours - right up to 24 hours light per day. With a 24-hour light period your lamps are burning continuously, of course. But if you give the plants less than 18 hours light you increase the chance that the plant will start to bloom. Some varieties bloom when given 15-16 hours light.

Whenever we talk about "putting the plant into bloom" we are referring to the practice of putting the lamps on a timer set for 12 hours light and 12 hours night. This is the optimal period for blooming. If you give her more hours dark, then the plant will come in to bloom more quickly, but the yield will be less, because you have convinced her that winter is just around the corner. This is sometimes worth doing at the end of your bloom period to tip the plants into a 'harvest-ready' state a little earlier.

Why just 12 hours? Because the plant needs light in order to develop its buds and make its THC. The more light, the more bud growth and THC production. The perfect boundary therefore is 12 hours, so that the plant can bloom well, while developing a good, THC-rich bud with a decent yield as it does so.

Now I can hear you thinking: 'then I'll just give the plant even more light!' But this will simply prolong the blooming period without adding anything to the size or potency of your crop. The length of the blooming period is dependent on the plant variety and can be anywhere between 5-16 weeks. The most common varieties though all bloom after 8-10 weeks.

## Difference between male and female cannabis plants and hermaphrodites

The female cannabis plant is very easy to

recognise from her production of little white hairs. The first white hairs are found in the 'armpits' of the plant, where two of them spring from one pistil. The pistil is the place on the plant where the leaf is attached to the main stem and from where a side branch sprouts.

The male plant, by contrast, makes no white hairs and is therefore easy to tell from the female plant. The male plant has little balls that always appear in groups that hang off the plant by a thread. When these balls pop open after a lengthy period of blooming, then banana-shaped pieces become visible. Out of these comes pollen that can fertilise your female plants.

At the very beginning of blooming, the male balls and the female pistils look similar because they are only a millimetre or so big, but by looking carefully you will be able to see that a male ball grows away from the main stem, hangs on a thread and multiplies itself to form several balls. A female pistil stays firmly close to the main stem until, at a particular moment once it is large enough, the two white hairs emerge. So if you see in one pistil two balls growing then the chance is already large that you are looking at a male specimen.

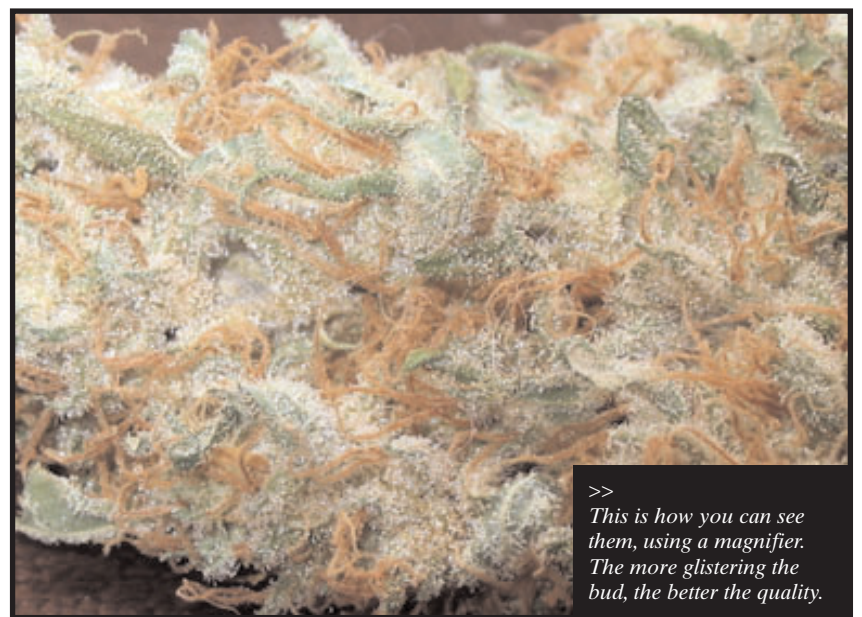
In this way you can determine at quite an early stage of blooming which are the males and remove them to leave more room and resources for the females to develop. Hermaphrodites are double-sexed plants, having both male and female characteristics. Within this sort we have various types. Some hermaphrodites are 90% male and 10% female, others are 90% female and 10% male, or 50% male-female. In the case of those that are 90% female hermaphrodites, we can still simply remove the male flowers and in this way still develop harvestable, unfertilised - and therefore seedless - buds. The pollen these hermaphrodites produce will for the most part produce female seeds.

## How are buds created and what are the smokeable parts of the plant?

In order to understand how a bud is produced on the plant, from flower to smokeable product, you really need to see it with your own eyes. A mere description of how a female plant manufactures a bud will make many people none the wiser. As you can see, the female plant produces many little white hairs that emerge from a



<<  
Here you can see clearly the THC crystals on a bud. Pressed THC crystals are the ingredient for hashish.



>>  
This is how you can see them, using a magnifier. The more glistering the bud, the better the quality.

tiny budlet, and the more advanced the blooming proceeds the more these buds will swell up and become bigger.

In many cases the buds will eventually grow into each other, making it look as if there is just one enormous bud. Eventually the buds will stop growing in size - at the end of the blooming process - and these white hairs will take on a colour. When this has happened for 80% of the plant's buds then it is time to harvest the plant.

The only bits of the cannabis plant that are smokeable are the buds. The cultivated buds are dried out in a dark, cool (15-20 degrees Celsius) space where they can quietly and slowly undergo the drying process, and at the same time the 'conversion' process that produces the substances that give a 'high'. There is little point in fast-drying your buds, since the real high you get from smoking cannabis needs some time to mature during the drying process. The leafage trimmed off from around the bud is smokeable, but does not taste as nice as the buds themselves. You're better off making hashish out of this, but there'll be more about this in future editions

## Difference between hash and weed

As you should know by now, weed is the dried buds of the female cannabis plant. Only the females can produce potent

weed. Hashish on the other hand is the collected crystals that are found on the buds, leaves and stem of the plant. Since a photo says more than a thousand difficult words, you can probably better see for yourself how many crystals there are to be found on a bud of cannabis. The transparent little balls you see under magnification are the crystals I mean, and you can find them on small stalks.

When the cannabis plant is ripe these crystals take on an amber-to-gold coloration. By drying out the buds and leaves of the plant the crystals easily come loose from the vegetation, especially once we stick this leafage in a pollinator. This is a square box with a drum inside it - like a washing machine, only with a round sieve. The drum turns round and the crystals are shaken loose as a result of the churning. They fall through the sieve whereupon we can scrape them together into one pile, which we call skuff, or unpressed hashish. We can press this hash powder into a lovely block, as you may have seen for sale.

Hashish is thus the collection of the THC crystals that are found on the cannabis plant and that are not visible to the naked eye. It is a pure concentration and therefore gives a more energetic, clearer high. If you roll a joint with a bud you will notice that your fingers become covered with a gold-coloured powder from breaking open the bud and crumbling it - this powder is the crystals I've been talking about.



### Indoor or outdoor growing?

There's a huge amount to be said on this topic and it should be stated that both have their qualities. Outdoors, you can squeeze three harvests in between spring and winter. Except that you are dependent on the weather gods, and so there are very few certainties to rely on when growing outdoors. A lot can go wrong, and after months of slog you can be left with a few measly buds to harvest. Most unwelcome.

The advantage of growing outdoors is that it costs you next to nothing. You just need a good patch of soil or a nice big pot in which to put a seed or clone, which will grow into a female tree that will give you several hundred grams of bud. Weather permitting...

A clone is a sliced-off piece of branch that has been stimulated to produce roots. Outdoor growing is a great way for the beginner to get to know the cannabis plant and her feeding wishes. The growing period outside begins in early April and goes on 'til mid-August, so if you screw up a plant you can simply germinate another one.

By starting with growing outdoors you will build up a wealth of knowledge that will serve you later if and when you start to grow indoors. The great outdoors is in short the ideal grow room for beginners, who will be enjoy the many surprises they will encounter as they help their plants to thrive. Especially if you plant your babies in solid earth, when you will have little else to except sit around on your lazy butt and wait for them to ripen for harvest

With indoor growing, **you** are Mother Nature herself and you must therefore take control of all aspects of growth, from ensuring air throughput and ventilation, air moisture levels, and so on.

Growing indoors is a little safer than growing outdoors, given that the plants are safely hidden away inside. Curious neighbours can easily spot your plants growing outdoors and cause some major hassle.

Indoors, you can get up to four, five or even six harvests per year, realised dependent on the length of the growing period of the particular variety you're growing. You are not confined by the seasons and can therefore choose yourself when you want to start a crop. You have complete freedom with indoor growing. You can grow any variety at any time.

On the other hand, you have to pay much more attention to your plants with indoor growing. It is a bit more work – though pleasant work of course. Also you need to make a starting investment in order to acquire all the essentials. You have to check your plantation every day and give feed water whenever the plants need it. If you choose to grow indoors you are also choosing to spend a portion of your free time on the activity. If you think you can just bung some plants in just like that and when you feel like it pop your head round the corner and take a quick shufti at them, you're going to quickly find that you're deluding yourself.

But since you can simply control most of

the climatic factors you can continuously be working towards a maximum yield of top quality weed. You can control the temperature by letting the air pumps operate at a certain level, the optimum air moisture content can be reached by installing an air humidifier, and a good air flow by putting one or more ventilators in your grow room.

Indoor as well as outdoor growing can deliver excellent quality weed in outstanding quantities. Depending on your own possibilities and desires you should make the choice that suits you best.

### pH and EC

The pH-value is the number that indicates the acidity of the soil. The pH-scale runs from 1 to 14. A solution with a pH between 1 and 7 is called 'acid', a pH of 7 is known as 'neutral', and between 7 and 14 we talk of 'alkali'. The lower the pH, the more acidic the solution is. When the pH is too high or too low the plants cannot take up some of their essential foodstuffs. That will lead to deficiency sicknesses. A good pH lies between 5.6 and 6.6. With a pH in this range, the cannabis plants can best extract nutrients from the growing medium.

The pH also influences the (bacterial) soil life, and an active soil life increases the fertility of the soil, which makes for healthier, stronger plants. By measuring the feed water with a pH meter we can acidify it down to the correct value. Most tap water has a pH of around 7.0, so we have to add a little pH-acid to it to lower the pH to, say, 6.3.

We either do this for the whole grow or not at all. Once you have begun to regulate the pH you must continue to do so. Even without a pH meter you can get excellent yields, but when you want to achieve that bit extra, the right pH will ensure a better growth and bloom. The pH is more important than the EC, so if you have to choose, plump for a pH meter first. The pH of soil lies around 6.3 because the bacterial life can fully develop, and be advised that the pH of coconut fibre is around 6.0.

EC is the measure of conductivity of a solution. The conductivity increases the more salts are present in a solution. Fertilisers are nothing more than salts. The more fertiliser you add to your water, the higher the EC it will read. EC is therefore a measure of the total concentration of fertilisers in the water that is given to the plant.

Through the entire growing process, the EC lies between 1.2 and 2.8. One begins with a low concentration of feedstuffs around 1.2 – and this is raised during the growing period to a maximum of 2.8. If you should venture into higher concentrations, then the chances of burning the roots from too high a dose is large. So just stick your EC meter in your water vat, add nutrients until the desired EC reading, and Bob's your uncle.

In the next edition we'll be looking at the pro's and cons of organic versus hydroponic growing, and making clones on demand. This is a little bit earlier than I

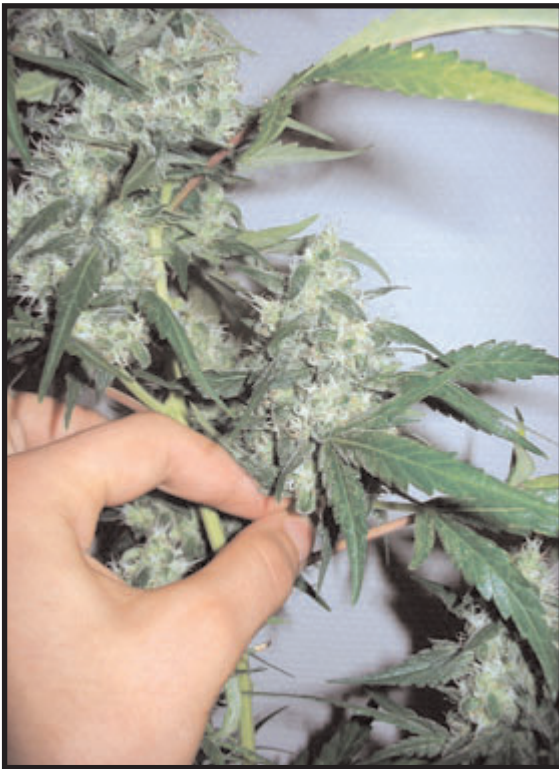
had planned, just to give you dummies a good chance to practice.

Any related questions? Contact me at [Barb@reef.net](mailto:Barb@reef.net)

And remember: there's no such thing as a stupid question!



<< Male plant



<< The white hairs of the female plant are turning brownish. Harvest time is around the corner!



^ Female flowers



<< Some mothers do have 'm': this plant's a Crystal Galore



^ The balls of the male plant are clearly visible.





## weckels world of wonders

Weckels is a photographer and grow scene reporter for a number of Dutch magazines. He has achieved a certain fame in the Netherlands for his coverage of (indoor and outdoor) weed production, specialising in the documentation of outdoor plantations. Here, Weckels will discuss the growing of marihuana indoors. Take advantage of it!

*Text & photography: Weckels, the grow-specialist from Atami*

# The Harvest

In this article we are going to be looking at the harvesting of marihuana plants, and in particular what we need to do in the last two weeks of growth by way of preparation, and any extra attention the plants might benefit from. That the weed harvest brings with it important points of attention is something that many growers will endorse. After all, it's not for nothing that we have been slaving away in the pursuit of the best possible care of our plants, and we want to see a good return on our investment! In this episode of the Wonderful World of Weckels, some tips for the finish.



*The buds are quivering with eagerness to be harvested. The THC-threads are for the most part brown in colour.*

Given that these days many different varieties of marihuana are grown on both sides of the North Sea, it's worth noting that these varieties will have their own characteristics and preferences during their blossoming phase. So one plant will, for example, tolerate a much higher dosage of PK13-14 than the other, and also the quantity of bloom stimulator required will vary from plant variety to plant variety.

As regards PK13-14, this feed water additive can bring a blossoming plant into ecstasy, provided we proceed with it very carefully. I always choose to introduce it as early as possible in order to let the plants get used to it, so that I can then gradually increase the dosage.

### Test plant

Especially with long-blooming varieties this works superbly and we can get the flower heads optimally acclimatised to the PK13-14. Always keep an eye on the plant's leaves, as they can tell you much

more than many growers think. The number of fingers on the leaves can also quickly tell you as a grower whether the plant has everything just how she wants it. Above all bear in mind that it is always better to give your plants too little nutrients and additives than too much. This is because an over-fertilisation often produces far more serious consequences than when a plant has too little.

There are some growers who consciously choose to set one plant apart from the others in a pot between them. This plant then serves as an experimental pioneer, charting the bounds of its variety on behalf of its sisters. In such a way we can try a lot of things out without risking losing our entire crop. Should something go wrong that the 'test plant' finds not especially to its liking, then in a worst case scenario we will only lose this, and the others can be left to continue blooming at their current (safe) dosage. This

method of growing works fine provided that the test plant is kept in good condition. If this is not possible then we run a large risk of reaching a wrong conclusion, because we are led to believe that the condition is the result of a shortage of nutrition and/or additives, and that's why the test plant looks in bad shape. This would of course be a shame.

### Dark hours

During the entire flowering period we have tried to keep the air moisture level as low as possible, in order to keep the chances of a fungal infection as low as we can and allow the blossoms to develop at their leisure. During the light periods, this is not a problem for most growers. It is during the hours of darkness that the risk is greatest. The air moisture content at these times can become dangerously high (above 70%) and has led many a grower to break out in a cold sweat. Besides raising the chances of fungal infection, these

conditions can also stress the plant terribly, given the huge swings that result between the air moisture levels of dark and light periods.

The best solution to this problem is to get yourself a professional air de-humidifier. These pieces of kit have transformed many a swampy grow space into a veritable paradise for the blossoming plants. Air moisture levels are brought under such precise control that there is barely a difference any more between light and dark periods of the cycle. The results are one relaxed grower and a well-protected (future) harvest.

***Marihuana gets a much finer taste when you give it the time to dry out gradually***

### Drying

Once the plants have developed their flower heads to the optimum and have grown nicely in size, we can begin our preparations for the harvest. First off, it is important that we look ahead to where we want to harvest, and where we want to dry the crop. There are growers who make a positive decision to do both in the same (grow) room. But when we choose to let the marihuana dry outside of the grow room, then we can get the latter prepared immediately for a new crop by putting new plants into pre-grow. Such quick turnaround growing practices can often automatically make more harvests per year possible, and are therefore well worth consideration.

The best solution is when we can let the weed buds dry out in the room next door to the growing space. In any case, I strongly recommend against hauling around and packaging freshly harvested flower heads. Besides the fact that this extra activity increases your chances of being busted, the flower heads are much too sensitive and even with quite minor disturbance can be severely damaged. Furthermore, trimming can go a lot more easily when we can set about the buds with the sheers directly they are removed from the plants. Removing a whole bunch of flower heads from the plants and then trimming them all together often does not work out so good, given that the leaves rapidly begin to dry out and crinkle up. This does not make the trimming any easier and therefore takes more time in the long run.



*Preparing for the harvest also means that in the last week we add no more liquid fertiliser and/or stimulators to the feed water*

### White threads

Once we have decided where we are going to let the flower heads dry out, the first thing we do is check that the sheers are good and sharp. If not, get them sharpened immediately. I personally have always been an advocate of each person who is trimming having more than one set of sheers. In this way they can get on with the job nicely and not have to stop every half-hour to get the sheers sharpened - they just switch to the other sheers.

Preparing for the harvest also means that in the last week we add no more liquid fertiliser and/or stimulators to the feed water. The plants are given only water as a way of cleansing the flower heads and thereby achieving a much better taste. In the last week we also need to keep a close eye on the white threads that cover the flower heads. As soon as these white resin glands (also known as THC-threads) begin to turn brown then they are almost ready to harvest. Once two thirds of the THC-threads are brown in colour then we can actually start harvesting. It will happen from time to time that the one plant is standing there bursting to be harvested while the other has but a few brown-coloured THC-

threads on its flower heads. This presents no problem – we just harvest the buds that are most ripe first.

### Moisture

Once we have removed a branch with buds on it from the plant, we take off the large leaves first. These need to be removed from the drying room as quickly as you can, since they contain a lot of moisture, and as they release this the air moisture level can raise to dangerous levels. Next we trim away with (sharp) scissors or sheers the sticking out leaves around the buds, so that we eventually get a lovely rounded flower bud. Once we have done this, we can snip the bud off the branch. In this way we end up in principle with loads of little rounded bud balls, which we place on a sieve (in a drying rack) to leave to dry.

### Taste

For the marihuana to fully dry out takes outdoor grown weed about eight to ten days. Indoor grown weed is usually dry within five or six days. Maybe this sounds a long time, but marihuana gets a much finer taste when you give it the time to dry out gradually. Far too frequently growers try to speed up the drying process by for example putting a heater on. This is really a mortal sin towards the weed, which will end up with a sharp taste.

During the drying process it is also important that the air is kept in motion, so that the moisture that is coming off the flower heads can be expelled outside. The air can best be kept in circulation by means of a ventilator. Do make sure though that the ventilator is not pointed straight at the flower buds. If you let this happen the buds will dry out too quickly on one side.



We dry the buds out on a special drying rack. The rack consists of a number of sieves hung one above the other, in which the buds dry out really well.

*The best solution is when we can let the weed buds dry out in the room next door to the growing space. In any case, I strongly recommend against hauling around and packaging freshly harvested flower heads*

### Sieves

We dry the buds out on a special drying rack. The rack consists of a number of sieves hung one above the other, in which the buds dry out really well. What also gives a drying rack a great advantage is that on one of the sieves we can also dry out the trim waste. I know

most growers just throw this away, but that is a great shame, given that you can make a really good hashish from it!

I'll finish by wishing all growers a good harvest, and I hope that I have managed to pass on some useful tips once again.

Stay tuned!

# Barrier free hemp guide



Absolutely indispensable within a border free Europe – the first International Highlife Guide is nothing less than an international 'who's who' within the European hemp industry. Nowhere else will you find a

guide so comprehensive and so complete that covers all companies doing business within the cannabis sector. From Amsterdam to Barcelona, Berlin to London, Zurich to Madrid, 'you name it'; this guide will provide you with thousands of addresses, in villages and cities, where professionals are actively working with cannabis products. This standard work contains 338 pages and is an absolute must for your bookshelf. And the best part? The International Highlife Guide is being distributed for free!

Developments within Europe are unfolding at a rapid pace. Borders between countries participating

in the European Community have become almost meaningless as business within Europe takes on a more international aspect. Developments within the cannabis trade have not been at a standstill either. Until the nineties of the previous century, there was a thriving hemp industry in the Netherlands, but that has seen changes recently too. Countries such as Spain, Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland suddenly list thousands of companies active in the cannabis sector. And with the progressive economic unification of Europe, this trend can only increase. The hemp industry has shown a consistent rise in growth over the past few years. To state it in 'green jargon', "We have not let the grass grow under us". Discover Publisher recognised the growing internationalisation of the cannabis sector and decided the time was ripe for a standardised work listing all European companies engaged in the cannabis trade.

After intensive preparation and thorough research whereby a huge mass of information was assembled, the publisher of Highlife, Soft Secrets and La Maria now presents the International Highlife Guide, condensed to fill 338 pages. Never before has there been a comparable guide that lists so much accurate information about the international hemp industry. And believe it or not - you can get your own copy, completely free of charge! The International Highlife Guide has been published in two parts and is simplicity itself to use. The first part contains information relating to the Dutch cannabis industry and is arranged alphabetically per city. The different companies have been divided into separate categories such as, coffeshops, wholesalers, growshops, Internet and media, smokers paraphernalia, smart shops and

seed companies. The Dutch section concludes with a chapter titled 'Other', which lists any other businesses or organisations.

The second part of the International Highlife Guide consists of an overview of cannabis related companies active in other countries. Separate chapters contain information about Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the UK. The addresses of the different cannabis companies have been alphabetically arranged and listed under the cities and villages of the various countries. There are two categories, one for retail shops and one for wholesalers.

As mentioned before, such a complete and expansive reference work listing so many hemp enterprises has never been published previously. This full colour guide is certainly indispensable to anyone who wants to stay abreast of business opportunities within Europe. With the International Highlife Guide, the growing European hemp industry now finally has the international business listing reference book it deserves. Make sure that you get yourself a copy. Ask for it at the place of business where you do your shopping and find your way about in cannabis-loving Europe.

**International Highlife Guide  
'Guide to the Hemp Industry'  
Discover Publisher Ltd.**

Freely available at the better grow/head/smart- and coffeshops throughout Europe.

Also available at various international hemp trade fairs.

For more information call: 0031-(0)73-5498112



# Bonecollector's hydroponic Bubblegum buds

"I've been growing cannabis so long that I no longer remember a time when I was not growing. I began with outdoor cultivation when I lived in the North-eastern part of the USA, so if I had to guess how many years I have been actively growing then I'd have to say it is around seven, all in all. There have been periods of non-growing during my career.

I spent four years of that time growing outdoors and I had harvests as small as 200 grams, up to as large as 50 kg. We were always told that indoor growing was simply not worth the effort, but when I moved house to the South-eastern part of the USA, I found good, seedless buds grown indoors were selling for \$350 for 50 grams. That's worth more than gold, so I dived onto the Internet and found a cannabis community that taught me how to really raise cannabis. I have been growing indoors ever since.

I started with it a long time ago just for the sheer pleasure of it. My grandfather had always had a huge garden and I could remember that he used to start raising his tomato plants in his cellar in March when it was still liable to freeze outside. I remember large cucumbers, maize, sweet peas and beans. It always used to amaze me the end results he managed to get to come out of the ground.

As the years went by and I became better and better at growing, the result was that I managed to accumulate a huge quantity of really lovely buds. Of course, the fact that buds were worth more than their weight in gold acted as a major stimulus.

Mind you, I also love what growing does to a group as a whole. If you take a look at the various web sites that there are about growing cannabis, then

do not need medicines any more. Growing has become a part of my life that I love. What more can I say?

## Varieties and mother plants

During my growing adventures I have come across many varieties of weed, including Bubblegum, Chronic, Skunk1, Exile, C99, Hog and Himalayan Indica. I work with all varieties I grow in order to find out which are most worth keeping in my garden, and to discover their various distinguishing features. So it takes a while for me to make my way from one variety over to another.

So far I reckon C99 is my favourite, with Exile pretty much on level-pegging with it – thanks to its growing power. You simply cannot destroy these plants whatever you do to them, and I recommend them to any beginner grower. It's also one of the plant varieties that make outstanding candidates for the 'SOG' or Sea Of Green growing strategy, where you grow one enormous bud with no side branches. It is also a real monster of a high - as is the C99, my favourite when it comes to taste, smell and high, though unfortunately it is rather elongated and takes up quite a bit of

fat plants. The second factor is yield. It's just not worth raising something that doesn't deliver at the end. Time is not great a factor for me since I use a continuous, rolling growing system. There's always something ready for harvest. Potency is another important factor that's for sure, but not one of my main priorities.

## Growing system, yield and nutrition

Once the ladies have been carefully relocated into the blossoming room, then I start them off with a nutrition solution of 1700 ppm (parts per million) with a pH of 6.2. They are watered for one hour each day, which ensures that all excess salts and nutrient residues are flushed from the rock wool slabs. After the first two weeks I flush the whole system with fresh water and raise the nutrients to 1950 ppm. I keep the pH at 6.2.

I check the room in which flowering is taking place daily, as well as monitor the pH and ppm and adjust them when necessary. The whole system is flushed once a week with fresh water, right up until the harvest. One week before the harvest itself, only fresh water is given

higher at one side so that the water can easily drain away by the force of gravity alone in the direction of the PVC piping. The tables are filled with rock wool slabs, each with three square holes cut into them in to which the plants will be placed. Female plants with a well-developed root system that have been raised in rock wool cubes are put into the pre-cut holes. At each spot where there is a plant is placed the nozzle of a dripper.

I hope that it is clear to everyone how I use my rock wool. The slabs should be soaked twice a day with a feed solution containing enough nutrient to replace the old nutrients with new. This ensures that salt accumulation is kept to an absolute minimum. I use a 600 gph Maxi jet pump that can be used underwater and is available from the fish section of most pet shops. This feeds my 24 plants via drippers that have been placed on the rock wool. I drill larger holes in to my drippers in order to get a better flow to the slabs during the feeding. The feed-enriched water all comes in from the top, flows through and exits back to the reservoir at the bottom.

I keep a clone room stocked with rooted clones at all times, and I give these a three week pre-growth from the moment they begin to send out roots. Every three weeks I take 24 well-rooted clones and place them under a 400 watt lamp, in large rock wool blocks. They spend about three weeks under these conditions, time enough to root themselves nicely into their rock wool blocks, whereupon they are moved to one of my three tables in my 9000 watt flowering room (each table is lit by 3000 watts).

I harvest one table every three weeks, and this takes about 12 hours for four

***I give nutrients from above and not along the bottom, though most rock wool growers use an ebb and flow system. By feeding them from above you can fully replace the old nutrients with the new on each feeding interval.***

the thing you will always notice is that the community stands as one man behind a single motivation. It doesn't matter what class or background you come from; all growers are treated equally thanks to their communal interest. It binds people together.

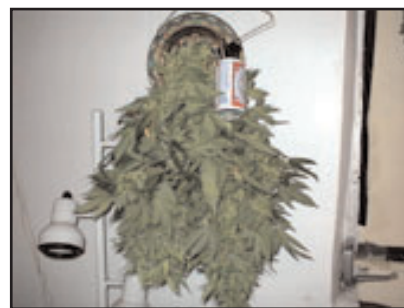
Growing weed has helped me to get my blood pressure down to the point that I

room.

When I am choosing my mother plants for using for cloning, I do so by looking at certain characteristics of the plants. For me, one of the most important factors is how well the plant grows. I don't like pronouncedly long plants because I like to use the SOG method, and in order to get a nice, even leaf coverage it is better to use short,

to the plants - absolutely no more nutritional additives.

I use an unconventional drip system of irrigation, based on wooden tables I built myself. About 2 m wide, 3 m long and 80 cm high, on one side they have a length of PVC tube as a drain so that the excess water can run off. These tables are not made level but slightly





of us to trim the whole table’s-worth, working non-stop. I keep this work in the family, given that friends are not to be wholly trusted with it. I harvest a good 80-120 grams per plant, so I’m getting 1.5-2 kg per table. Their 3000 watts comes from air-cooled hoods that make sure that the lights can be hung nearer the buds. I should add that I have invested heavily in odour reduction. I use two ozone machines, use odour-absorbing gels and ventilate well.

I have been busy now with hydroculture for four years; my first system was an old-fashioned one with upside-down bottles in PVC pipes. I’m now on my third system and have pretty quickly arrived at the perfect one for me. The reason I love my current system so much is that I can manage a large number of plants without a lot of hassle.

I have a total of 72 plants under 9000 watts, split into three groups, three tables each of 24 plants. That’s a lot of plants for a hydroponic system and it can turn into a lot of work if you’re not careful. But here’s how I manage mine: each table is an individual unit in its own right. There’s a time period difference of three weeks between each table, so I can harvest one every three weeks. I never spend more than 15 minutes in the flowering room in a day, so about two hours a week all told I can fit a triple head on my water source (a shower head) so that my water is split and goes equally to the three tables, and in this way a single pump delivers the water from the

reservoir to the outlet at the same time. This takes two hours and effectively gives all three tables fresh nutrient, while the stale feed water is removed. For a hydro system, this is so very easy to operate that I just adore it and that’s why I’ve stuck with it.



Tip

What do I do that is different from other hydroponic growers? The only thing I do that’s different is to assume that I can give a complete system flush in two hours a week, so all the old nutrients are replaced by new each week. Now you might argue that this is a waste, but the buds speak for themselves, and that’s the bottom line, right?

I give nutrients from above and not along the bottom, though most rock wool growers use an ebb and flow system. By feeding them from above you can fully replace the old nutrients with the new on each feeding interval. This gives the roots the oxygen they need. Flushing is also made easier too, by means of the shower head water delivery. I keep this flowing this until my ppm meter tells me that what the outlet is putting back in is the same ppm as is coming out of the reservoir.

Besides a few problems with timers that went kaput and a few overdose

problems, I have never had any real trouble with my system. Overdose problems can be resolved by flushing well and having a little patience. It will take between seven and ten days to get the plants back growing well after the system flush.

Now I’m forced to confess that timers have caused me more problems than I care to admit. The best advice I can give you is make sure that you use digital timers that have a reserve battery. This will ultimately prevent a whole lot of undesired problems.

Other quick tips include:

Don’t steal your energy but pay your bills on time.  
Take your clones and then leave them in peace; don’t be moving them around.  
Use good genetic material.  
Keep your plants short so they’ll be boosted by more and better buds.  
Show nobody your grow rooms.  
Don’t let yourself be downcast by any setbacks.

Finally:

The laws in my country are still strictly against growers. If I was busted, then I could expect no less than several years in jail. I believe there’s a War on Drugs, and I’m a warrior. I think if I was picked up today, I’d be a hero tomorrow. I should be held as a prisoner of war. They’ll still be making films about people like me when they finally legalise what we do.”

*I believe there’s a War on Drugs, and I’m a warrior. I think if I was picked up today, I’d be a hero tomorrow.*

COLUMN  
Joe Kane

Another Close Shave

Sometimes you just shouldn’t fucking tempt fate, you know? In the last column, I was banging on about how morons and idiots shouldn’t deal weed. About ten days after I wrote that, the shit hit the fan.

I’ve an acquaintance called Sheds, who lives in Edinburgh. He invites himself to Glasgow to visit yours truly. So he decides to go and score a few recreational dance drugs to bring with him (like we don’t have any in Glasgow). He goes to see his dealer and buys whatever shit it was he had to buy. As he’s about to leave the dealer’s place, there’s a knock at the door. Surprise! It’s the fucking drug squad.

So far, so shit for Sheds. Anyhow, in the mean time, I’m sitting around waiting for him to arrive. He’s late, but that’s not unusual. In the end, I get pissed off, but as it’s too late to even go out for a beer I go to bed.

Next thing I know it’s some ungodly fucking time and the phone’s going. It’s Sheds, and he’s at home in Edinburgh. He tells me what happened. Here’s the essence of the conversation:

“So did you get busted and charged, then?” I ask.

“Yeah, taken to the police station and charged”

“Tough shit, mate”

“Yeah, but it’s not just tough on me. You’d better dump anything you’ve got in the house. That’s what I phoned to tell you”

“I should? How come? I’ve got fuck all to do with it”

“Well, I gave them your name and address”

“You gave them fucking what?”

“I had to! They asked me where I was going and I said a mate’s house! Next thing is, they want your name and address. What could I do?”

“You could’ve said you were going home, you dickhead”

“Well, I didn’t give them your full name or anything. I just said I was staying with a friend of a friend and he was called Joe or something like that”

So this continued for a minute or two, then the guy hits me with a real fucking howler;

“Listen,” he says, “half of the stuff I was bringing over was for you, so I reckon it’s only fair that you pay for what would’ve been your half”

“What?”

“Yeah, and when I go to court, I think you should pay half of my fine”

Readers, I’m going to spare you the rest of the conversation. Just think about what you’d have said and you’ll get the picture. All I’ll say is that the guy is very lucky that I’m neither violent nor vindictive.

So anyway, the end result of all this bullshit was a general upheaval in my otherwise unremarkable life. I’ve had to move house in a hurry, and that’s a pain in the ass in itself. Fortunately I didn’t have anything much in the house, apart from some weed for personal use and the usual paraphernalia. The worst of it was that after all the paranoia and hassle, no coppers or anyone looking like a copper called round to my old place in the month since I did a runner. Better safe than sorry though, I reckon.

I wouldn’t have minded all this shit quite so much if it had been down to my own stupidity, you know? And that’s the real pisser; all this upset and severe paranoia because of a spineless arsehole. There’s another rule you should stick to, readers. Don’t sell weed or anything else dodgy to big-mouthed idiots. In fact, do yourself a favour and avoid idiots like your life and liberty depended on it.

Joe

Horribly\_stoned\_boy@hotmail.com



# SOAPS ARE FOR DOPES!

## THE SOFT SECRETS HEALTH WARNING! AND CURE: GROW YOUR OWN!

By by Fraser Clark, our roving Access All Levels reporter.

Although I refer to those ubiquitous 250 gram slabs known as "Soap Bars," I equally include the soft black gunk called "Squiggly", "Affy" or "Pakki Black."

### DO YOU SMOKE COFFEE WITH YOUR HASH?

In his book, *Hashish*, Robert Connell Clarke (no relation, nor does my name have an E - unless you're offering!) includes a section on Soap Bars, "a low-grade quality Moroccan hash, available only in Spain and the UK"

He maintains they're being made from "only a very small percentage of resin glands (pollen), and up to 90% non-resin cannabis plant material." Because this mixture is so powdery, he says, they're "bound together with bee's wax or pine resin." Next, because it's still too green, it's coloured with "instant coffee or henna to give it that sandy brown colour!" And finally, to make it appear more "resiny" (and to mask the taste) turpentine is added.

So put that so-called "joint" down and pay attention!

### LIKE THE MAN SAID, IT'S ALL IN THE MIX!

Under license from the Home Office, the UK Medicinal Cannabis Project is being conducted by GW Pharmaceuticals, a US company set up by entrepreneurial pot aficionados and 'experts' to supply government approved medical marijuana to various world governments. Word is it's a hot property!.

They too have been analysing the impurities in Soap Bars, whose reputation has long been little better than a 'noxious substance', tolerated because nothing else was available. I'll explain later why that's

not entirely accurate, but listen, *ARE YOU SITTING DOWN?* Their findings are bad news:

Even the *better* 250 gram soap bars contain less than 10 grams of pollen (resin glands) 200 grams of ground-up shake leaf "various noxious substances"

OTHER INGREDIENTS: glue, colouring agents, ground coffee, beeswax, boot polish, animal turds, henna (an old friend!), condensed milk and milk powder, *carcinogenic* solvents like Toluene and Benzene, and many other "possibly DEADLY chemicals"! It doesn't mention nettles but that's one of the classic, ancient 'fillers'.

Plus, of course, to boost the high, there can be: ketamine crystal, speed, crushed aspirin (this *can* fool you the first smoke!), barbiturates, tranquillisers and other pills.

The Cannabis Resin Impurities Survey Project (CRISP) is collecting 'soap' stories about unpleasant side-effects: interviewees speak of it being mixed with rubber, plastic, diesel, soil, molasses, ghee, and other vegetable matter.

They conclude that such "polluters" are turning a highly beneficial plant product into a health-destroyer, that Soap Bars should *never* be legalised, and they recommend "linking the gradually developing awareness of 'soap bar' quality with the recent increase in the home cultivation of cannabis plants."

WHICH IS WHERE THE SOFT SECRETS CURE COMES IN: *START GROWING YOUR OWN - FOR FUN, HEALTH AND PROFIT!*

Soap bar 'hash' costs £1,500 a kilo. £5 an eighth - that's *cheaper* than it's been since 1972! And it also means the dealers can be doubling their money!

### BUT NOT ALL SOAP BARS ARE DIRTY!

What Science has to offer is worth paying attention to. But there's another side to the story..

Visit a Moroccan farm and you'll see the genesis of the "soap bar." It literally used to mean (and still means in the Rif Mountains) "Second Shake" or "Third Shake". First shake sees the pot plants swirled gently through a fine gauze. Very little pure pollen is produced this way, say 15 grams per kilo, and it used to be set aside for the farmer himself, or to sell or offer to the local pasha. Nobody else could afford it

Then they start to hit the stuff softly with their hands or a stick so more pollen is knocked loose and the leaves start to break up. I have a theory that, because the Rif Mountains are so low, most of the pollen remains melted into the leaves and stems (in icy Afghan mountains the pollen crystals shake off easily). So this brownish green Second Mix contains a fair amount of pollen. Finally they smash the remains until masses of powdered grass leaves and even morsels of branch come through: Third Shake.

Now both those forms have been coming into Britain since at least the 1960s, and all variations between. AND THEY STILL ARE! Hence the range of prices that were and are still available. "Only 10% pollen" sounds terrible, but if the rest is grass, well, what's so wrong with that!

### HERE'S WHAT I THINK HAPPENED

When Rave exploded across Britain, hundreds of thousands of new smokers suddenly entered the hash market. They weren't like the dying but probably stable market of "hippy" puffers, supplied by 2nd/3rd shakes and dealers who 'believed' in their product.

These young thrill seekers wanted to explore shamanic highs knew little about the stuff

vastly outnumbered the old-tyme smokers and their local dealers

At this point many used car salesmen started supplying the ravers, nationwide, some definitely e-heads, but followed sharply by criminal gangs simply following the money,. The Dirty Soap Bar was born!

Nowadays, I reckon, 90% of British hash smokers get Soap Bars, more or less cut. The other 10% (confined to London and smaller scenes in the other big cities) continue to be supplied with yer old Second and Third shakes. Which are more expensive, naturally, because they're uncut since they left Morocco.

### SO HOW CAN YOU TELL A CLEAN SOAP FROM A DIRTY ONE?!

Even my long-term '60s dealer friends confess how professional the Soap Stars have become. Even *they* can't always rely on touch, smell and so on, nor even a first puff. The *only* sure way these days, they tell me, is to smoke it for a couple of days. This definitely works, if you're sensitive. One thing I've noticed - all by themselves, my fingers start crumbling in more!

But there's one other secret code breaker I'm going to pass on. With smell, if you just sniff it, what are you comparing to? Other inferior hashes? Instead, by making the following *direct* comparison, a difference can become instantly obvious!

Slightly heat a corner of the block, enough to release the odour but not great wafts of smoke. As you sniff with full attention, imagine it's a perfume you're going to apply to the favourite part of your favourite girlfriend. 2nd and even 3rd shakes will smell sweet, 'natural', pungent and really quite nice - for an evening. Soapbar, in this context, smells like, a condom, or a recently cleaned garage. Ughh.





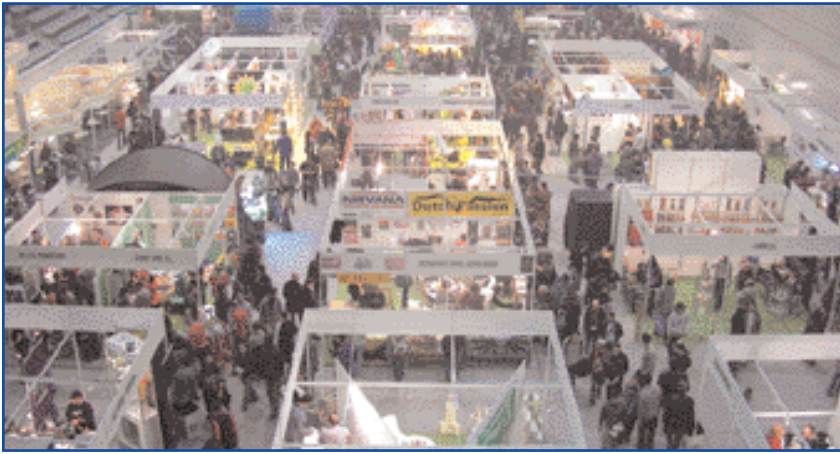


# SHIVA SHANTI





# Spannabis 2004, Barcelona



Spain is going Dutch at a very rapid pace, judging by the existence of several hundred grow shops and three national magazines devoted to cannabis in the country, and not least by the celebration in February of Spain's very first cannabis trade fair, Spannabis 2004. Soft Secrets was there of course to cover the historic event.

Around 3,000 visitors to well-known Palau San Jordi in Barcelona had the chance to make the acquaintance of 96 stand exhibitors from nine different countries, principally Spain (with 31 stands) and Holland (with 26), but also from the UK, Germany, France, Canada, Australia, USA, Switzerland and even India.

The visiting throng gave the fair a typically friendly Spanish atmosphere, helped by the presence of a majority of the Spanish companies working in the local hemp industry. Some of the best-known names in the cannabis world made the trip to the Catalan capital too, including Ed Rosenthal and Jorge Cervantes, recognised world-wide as undisputed authorities on marijuana and authors of several books on growing cannabis.

Visitors could check out a large catalogue of products, including some of the classics and the best of the new, from growing products to seed banks, media, paraphernalia, hemp products and non-profit associations. Experts were on hand to answer any questions regarding temperatures, pH, EC, the most reliable seeds for each growing technique, discounts, fairs, wholesalers, or bloom stimulators.

The Spanish edition of Soft Secrets, called La María, was one of the main sponsors of the fair, and with magazines in more and more European countries to date, Discover Publisher, which publishes Soft Secrets and Highlife a.o., is a glowing example of the multicultural world that is the cannabis industry of today.



*Soma stays totally relaxed between all the buzz*

## Barcelona is one of the main cultural and trade capitals of Europe

In addition to the trade fair there were seminars about the grow sector in Spain, the art of growing itself, genetics, law and medical marihuana use. There was a meeting of the 30 associations working in Spain for legalisation, harm reduction, agricultural use and so on, where they decided to support the Million Joints March on 8 May in Madrid. Last year's march attracted 10,000 people; this year the organisers expect this to double, partially because of the boom in this sector, but also as a reaction towards the fear of the hemp sector expressed by the conservative Government in Spain.

At the end of the day, when the commercial affairs, conferences and so on, had wound down for the night, the entertainment began, with DJs and live performances.

While most of the exhibitors were resting in their hotels after a long day, the general public didn't waste this new opportunity for fun, here in one of most atmospheric cultural capitals of Europe. By the way, Barcelona's eco-socialist government is investigating the medical use of the plant itself.

The most important news for companies at the fair was the announcement that on 8-10 October 2004, the world's biggest and most successful hemp trade fair - the well established Highlife Fair, held annually in



*An Ozzie grower lectures about the best ways to increase crop: by using his Adjust-A-Wings adjustable Pitch Parabolic Reflector.*



*As always there was a strong Dutch presence at the fair... But who would possibly object?*



*Spaniards learnt many new ways to smoke their crop*



*The lovely promo-babes of High Quality Seeds*

Utrecht - is coming to Barcelona, and the following year it will be coming to the UK too, introducing in both countries the famous Highlife Cup, which now goes international. For both countries this will be a first, and it's a good opportunity to test the national weed on quality, for only local head- and growshops and seed companies will be able to compete.

So when most people at the fair stopped to say goodbye, they were able to continue "and see you at Highlife in Barcelona". Now that's progress!

*With thanks to Rob from the Aardvark*



*Captains of Hemp Industry: (from left) Ed Rosenthal, Soft Secrets publisher Boy Ramsahai & Sensi Seeds' Ben Dronkers*



*The Spanish audience couldn't get enough of it, staring at buds through microscopes for hours on end.*



*The atmosphere was jolly and friendly*



*A touch of Amsterdam in Barcelona. Bongs, vaporizers and pipes were at the ready everywhere*



*Go ahead, kiss the frog and your crop will be tripled...*



*There's no bizz like BioBizz*



Weckels is a photographer and grow scene reporter for a number of Dutch magazines. He has achieved a certain fame in the Netherlands for his coverage of (indoor and outdoor) weed production, specialising in the documentation of outdoor plantations. Here, Weckels will discuss the growing of marihuana outdoors. Take advantage of it!

Text & photography: Weckels, the grow-specialist from Atami



weckels  
world of  
wonders

# The root system

**One of the most important factors in the successful growing of weed outdoors in the root system. A well-developed root system ensures a large, strong plant that is more resistant to disease and insect infestation. Because the plant has a large root system she can take up more nutrients and that benefits the quality and yield of the weed.**

In spring, around the middle of March, I let my seeds germinate. You can do this by placing the seeds between sheets of wet tissue paper (or a wet cloth will also work) in a plastic tray that is closed with a lid. The tray serves as a sort of hothouse, while also ensuring that no light gets to the seeds. This is very important, since otherwise the seeds will not germinate. Put the tray above a radiator, as the seeds will germinate more readily at a temperature of around 20 °C.

Most of the seeds will start to germinate between the third and fifth day. Seeds that have not sprouted after ten days I throw away. Even if these seeds end up germinating after the ten day cut-off, they would never have grown into strong marihuana plants. In effect, we are making a sort of 'intelligent' natural selection by throwing out the seeds that do not germinate within ten days.

Proceed by checking the seeds a couple of times a day. Once the husk of the seed begins to split we need to get it immediately into the soil (start with a flower pot). Make sure the flower pot is filled with un-enriched soil (soil with no added nutrients), and perhaps add a little root feed to this. You see, the seedling must first develop a small root system before it can take up feedstuffs. The plant will be given nutritional supplements at a later stage of its development, namely when it is re-potted into a cement tub. Press the seeds half-to-one centimetre into the soil (with no more than one seed per pot), fill in the hole with soil and make the surface of the soil moist – with the emphasis on moist. Do not give too much water or the seeds may rot.

The flower pot in which the seed will be growing must have a minimum height of 20 centimetres. This height is necessary to ensure that the seed can develop a long tap root (the main root), something that will ultimately determine the size of our plant. Small flower pots hinder the development of a long tap root and that will have a very negative influence on growth.

Place the flower pots with the seeds in them in front of a window (or other sunny spot) or under a grow lamp. A grow lamp can also be very handy when it steadfastly remains cloudy outdoors (the plant can still get enough light). In any case, always keep a track of the hours of light, or the hours during which you're burning the lamp. If we give the young seedlings more than 18 hours under the fluorescent light, then it will be particularly stressful for them to be stuck out in the fresh spring air, given that the number of daylight hours in spring is

not yet up to 18 hours.

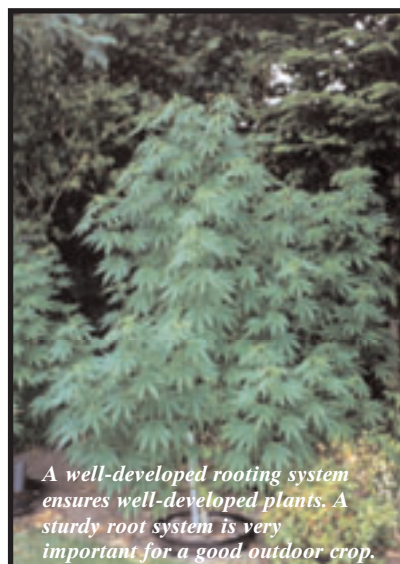
In short, we would be putting the seedlings under unnecessary stress were put to put them straight under 18 hours of artificial light (from the fluorescent lamps). Let them grow under a natural light, whereby the maximum numbers of hours' light would be around 16, maximum. Basically you should aim to set the number of light hours based as much as possible on the circumstances outside in this, the season in which we are going to launch our plants into the great outdoors

Once the seed has developed in to a young plant – after about four weeks – and the first roots are visible on the underside of the flower pot, then the plant can be re-potted into the cement tub. Make sure that you only re-pot female plants; any males plants you're best off throwing away unless you plan to use them later to pollinate the female plants.

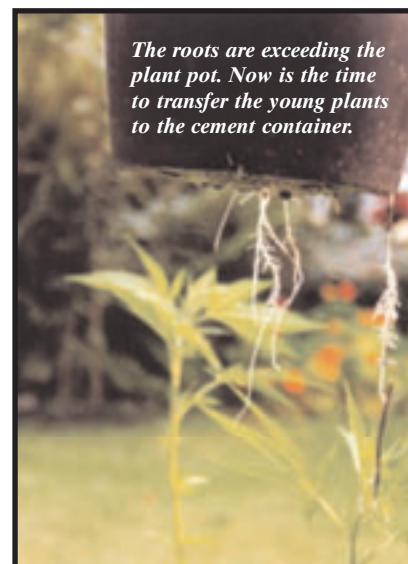
The re-potting of the plants proceeds as follows:

First give the plant a dash of water in its flower pot, let the roots take up the water and then tip the plant pot upside down. By softly tapping against the flower pot, the whole clod of earth including the roots will slide out of it. With your other hand carefully grip the earth and plant and hold this over the hole you have made in the soil in the cement tub into which the plant and its clod are to be placed. Now place the clod of earth carefully into the hole and lightly knead the roots. The clod of earth around will crumble, separating from the roots. This ensures that the roots will grow outwards and not just down.

If you prefer to plump for clones then at least you know for sure that you have female plants, and then it is recommended that you let the plant pre-grow for the first two weeks in a flower pot (also filled with un-enriched soil). The re-potting proceeds in the same way as previously described. In order to make sure of an optimum root system, I personally choose to grow in a cement tub. Growing in such tubs we can keep everything perfectly under control; we can let the plant take up just the right amount of nutrients and if necessary give it liquid nutrients from a watering can. By doing this, the root system develops much more compactly, because the roots concentrate themselves within the cement tub. I usually fill the tub with light-mix (available in ready to use bags), worm meal, wood ash (from an open hearth or stove), calcium (seaweed extract) and I also add some extra perlite, to make the ground looser and thereby as airy as possible.



A well-developed rooting system ensures well-developed plants. A sturdy root system is very important for a good outdoor crop.



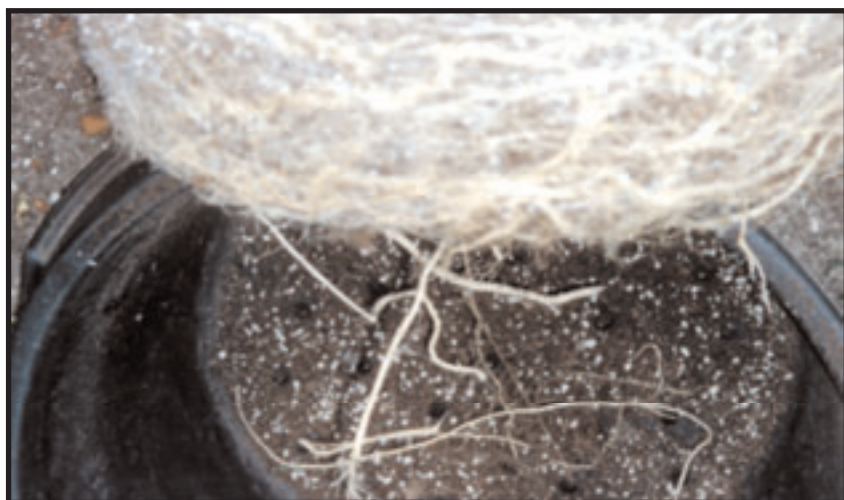
The roots are exceeding the plant pot. Now is the time to transfer the young plants to the cement container.

The more aerated the soil, the faster the root system can develop. Also, the water with its added nutrients can more quickly and easily soak into the earth. The chance of the roots being suffocated (from waterlogged soil) is eliminated and at the same time we prevent the ground from remaining boggy for too long, since the excess feed water drains away quicker when the soil is well-aerated. Once the cement tub is filled, I place three small flower pots in the soil around the stem of the plant, which prevents the roots of the plant from becoming exposed from the watering they receive. If after a period of time we remove one of the flower pots from the soil, we can see that there is a great clump of roots now in the hole where the flower pot once was. The hole looks as though it is completely filled with the white of the roots. The plant is therefore taking maximum advantage of our feed-enriched water, making sure it slurps it all up and none is lost. Because the cement tub has a black colour the sun warms it up from the outside. By this process the temperature of the soil is raised, and this promotes the flourishing of soil life enormously. The roots of the marihuana plant are crazy about lightly-

warmed soil. They grow quicker and take up foodstuffs more easily.

An advantage of growing in a cement tub is that we can easily move the plants around. For example, we can put them in the garage if a storm is on the way, which makes for a lot less work than trying later to 'repair' all the broken branches with tape. We can also stick the clones into solid earth, but that has the big disadvantage that the plants can grow in and out of each other. You can end up with a sort of 'rain forest effect' of plants and weeds all growing hopelessly intermingled with each other.

Making your way between the plants becomes almost impossible, with the result that the weeds soon become impossible to remove. If we do persist in forcing our way between the plants, then there is a risk that we will damage them unnecessarily. Or we might harm the roots by walking too hard on the soil around them and making the ground too compacted (without airy soil, the roots suffocate with the result that the plant dies). Should the plants in cement tubs start to grow into each other's space, we can simply move the tubs further apart so that we can continue to make optimal use of the sun's rays.



After the harvest you can see how well the roots developed. This clump comes out of the cement container, which the many roots have made white.



# A yield-boosting experiment



The 'early girls' with the side branches tied down

**A good quality and a high yield per plant are also possible growing outdoors. We do have to invest the necessary time and effort into it, but then we will get outstanding results back in return. That's why in this article I want outline an experiment, devised with the aim of getting an even bigger yield per (outdoor) plant, a crop furthermore of very high quality.**

## The Preparation

For this experiment you will need a plant with a firm, broad main stem and strong side branches. How you get create one of these was the subject of my last article on outdoor growing. I usually remove the two lower-most side branches, since then the wind can dry out the plant by blowing more easily from underneath and the air circulation is better all round. This reduces your chances of your plant getting a fungal infection. On the main stem of the plant you can see that there are still two, sometimes three side branches on the plant that are all located at the same spot. We call this spot the 'knot' of the plant. At every knot there are two or three side branches growing outwards and under each side branch of the main stem there is a single large leaf. Once the plant begins to grow, you're better off removing these leaves, a process known as "stripping" the plant. By doing so, all the nutritional sap that is sucked up through the main stem via the roots will only get distributed to the side branches, and not to those leaves as well. The plant will now better shepherd its resources towards the side branches – in

fact, you will probably notice that they soon become enormous because of all that extra nutritional sap devoted to them. The result is that instead of only growing upwards, the plant begins to grow in girth too. This benefits the plant and therefore the eventual yield because the fatter and bigger the main stem and the side branches become, the bigger the flower heads that our plant will eventually deliver. If we as growers were to solely concentrate on the uppermost 'head' bud, then maybe this would grow to become pretty big, but the chances of bud-rot and other fungal diseases would also increase. This is because the (too) large head bud works as a sort of sponge, and this fat bud holds rain water for too long after a shower, encouraging all sorts of yeasty buggers to thrive. In short it is far better to take care to make sure the side branches can develop lovely flower heads too. If we want the side branches to develop even further it is really important to cut the top off the plant after we have 'stripped' it. This procedure we call 'topping' the plant. You can do this by simply snipping off the top with sheers, but it is far better to snap the top off or to bend it over and then support it. Both

these techniques prevent the plant from leaking its precious nutritional juices. By snapping the top off, the uppermost section of the plant will die off, after which we can easily remove it. By bending over the top and then supporting it, we can for example, train it along a fence so that the top is essentially turned into another side branch. Do not begin too early with bending or snapping the top but wait until the plant has a height of about one-and-a-half to two meters. Two weeks before the plants begin to come into bloom I pinch off (once more) the lowest and least developed side branches. These will generally produce very little and by removing them the plant can devote all her attention to the remaining strong branches. This will lead to even bigger flower heads.

## Experiment

As an experiment I tensioned the remaining strong branches, pulling them gently down a little. I did this by sticking tent pegs in the ground around the plant. On the tent pegs is fixed a length of string with a piece of elastic attached in its middle. This (preferably thick) elastic ensures that the branches can not so quickly break, when for instance a gust of wind blows. The elastic works in effect like a sort of shock absorber. For string you can best use plastic-coated or string made of man-made



The buds on top of the side branches receive the sunlight from all sides and are starting to grow straight up.



A real beauty of a bud that has developed in the outdoor air. An inspiring picture for every outdoor grower.



Another of the beautiful buds from the top of the side branches.



BOOKS



" Reefer Madness..."  
and Other Tales from  
the American  
Underground

Eric Schlosser

As much as 10% of the American economy, and perhaps more, is comprised of illegal "underground" enterprises, according to author and *Atlantic Monthly* correspondent Eric Schlosser. And while this segment is never discussed in the newspaper business pages, Schlosser tackles it with the same in-depth analysis and compulsive readability that made his *Fast Food Nation* a best seller. *Reefer Madness* spotlights marijuana, migrant labor, and pornography, three of the most thriving black market industries, and analyzes the often-tenuous place each holds in society as a whole. While each of the three could be the subject of its own book, Schlosser keeps his scope narrow by concentrating on the lives of the participants in the underground economy, especially Mark Young, an Indiana man given a life sentence for participating in a marijuana sale, and Ohio porn magnate Reuben Sturman. At just 21 pages, the treatment of migrant laborers in the California strawberry fields is dealt with more briefly but is just as compelling thanks to the first-person narrative of Schlosser's investigation. In telling these stories, which are both personal and universal, Schlosser deftly explores the manner in which his subjects are treated (and punished) compared to others in more above-ground ventures. Along the way, he asks hard questions as to what that treatment says about America. Schlosser writing is passionately opinionated, but this is no mere opinion piece: his perspective is amply supported by extensive research and clearly reasoned interpretation of data. His direct and forceful writing style makes the impact greater still. After reading, readers are likely to be shocked, appalled, and flat-out bewildered by what's happening in the cracks and crevices of American business.

Penguin Books; ISBN: 0141010762



A close up of the stones. By piling a number of stones around the base of each peg, you are less likely to trample on them.

fibre, since natural string (such as hemp string) will break far too easily not being water-repellent, and it will rot. Then tie the other end of the string to one of the strong side branches of the plant. The least-developed branches are already removed after all. The string can not be too thin or it will cut into the branch, which will leave it damaged and/or the side branches will drop off. Around the tent pegs we pile some bricks on each other. These prevent us from accidentally stepping on the pegs and snapping off the plant's side branches. If by chance this does happen anyway, take the branch that has snapped or broken, support it with a stick and tape the it back in place with waterproof tape. The branch will repair itself. Should the branch look like it is still going to die, then remove it from the rest of the plant as soon as you can. Thanks to us holding the branches down with mild tension, the buds on the side branches grow upwards, since they grow towards the light. The buds will also receive much more sunlight because the sun's rays can penetrate to the lowest branches. This is all to the benefit of the quality and volume of the end product. At the same time, the branches being pulled downwards results in a better air circulation around the plant, so the wind and the sun have more opportunity to remove the dew between the branches. The chances of fungi such as mildew getting hold are substantially slimmer. Also the flower heads are less likely to hang down touching each other, which also reduces the chance of bud-rot. Should a mould or fungus get a toe-hold anyway, which happens fairly frequently when growing outdoors, then we can take measures against it when growing in the above way more easily and quickly. The affected buds are more

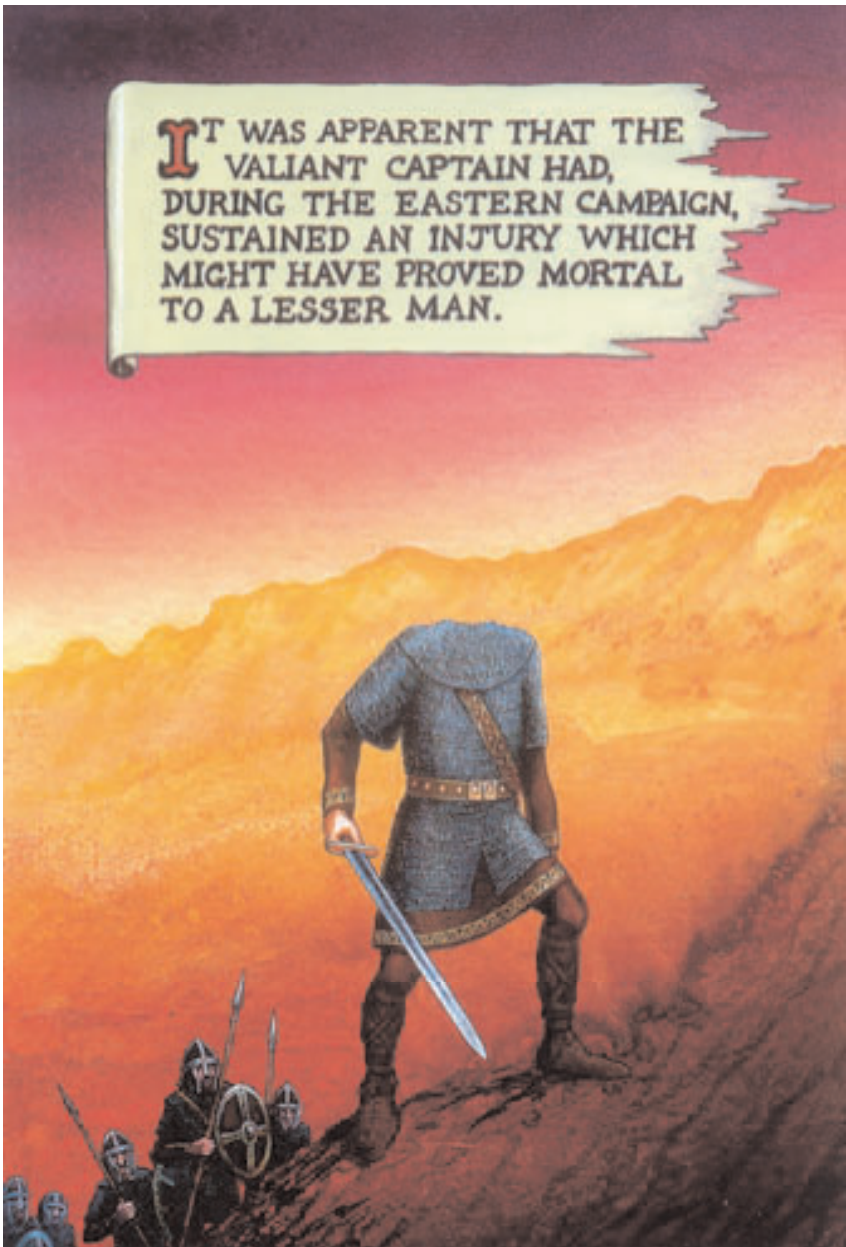
easily identified, since pretty much every flower head can be inspected individually and more light shines on the them. Any mouldy buds, even tiny ones, have to be removed immediately. If not then the fungus can rapidly spread and threaten the entire plant. The experiment would then have to be described as a complete failure.

Finally

If you choose to adopt the method of outdoor growing outlined above, then it will certainly contribute to a good result. Naturally there are endless other important factors involved, such as giving the correct nutrition, preventing insect infestations and the whims of the weather gods, but this experiment is certainly worth the trouble.



At the end of the experiment there were well-developed heads at the tips of each of the side branches. It was necessary to support the plant with strings





# And the Winner is...

## Highlife Hemp Fair 2004

By Kristie Szalanski

It's that time of year again. Or rather, a different time of year, but the same annual festival dedicated to the business of the cannabis/hemp industry. Regular patrons of the event were subjected to a slight schedule change this seventh year. Usually taking place in May, the Hennepeurs took place over the weekend of the 30th and 31st of January and the first of February. There were several well-considered motivations behind the move: first of all, Dutch weather has been more enjoyable over the past few early summers, and in places like Holland and the UK, few businesses can compete with a sunny day.

Secondly, due to either a relaxation of cannabis laws, access to the Internet, or just plain frustration over suppression, there are now a multitude of cannabis and hemp festivals occurring internationally than ever before. It's getting more difficult to schedule around the busy worldwide cannabis calendar, even for the Highlife fair, the largest hemp festival in the world. Now, sharing time with events such as the upcoming Spannabis (Spain) or the CannaTrade festival (Switzerland), the Highlife fair in Utrecht seems to have found a quiet niche. Possibly due to this foresight, attendance nearly doubled this year, up from around 8,000 last year to almost 14,000!

This record-breaking horde of people indulged in a huge international product display in the Jaarbeurs convention center in Utrecht. Last year's event was the first time Discover Publisher, the host of the festival, was able to converge at the site. Previously the Cup was held in a sports hall-type venue called de Vechtsebanen, also in Utrecht, and the relatively new partnership between the Highlife

Hennepeurs and the convention center has its advantages. The venue is a massive space compared to those used at the Cannabis Cup. More space means more vendors and displays from the Netherlands, the UK, Spain, North America, Germany, and others. The extra room also means more bars. And most of them are free! Less of a "pot culture" event and more of an extended business meeting (with dancing chicks), the nominal 15 Euro fee purchased loads of handouts: nutrients, herbal smart products, and of course, smoking paraphernalia.

Along with the freebies, ticket holders received an education in all the newest product ranges from grow shops, seed companies, glass blowers, and anything else imaginable that is cannabis-related. An emphasis on organics and health concerns was a prevalent theme, with many vaporizer demos, "smart" drugs on offer, new "bio" foods, and even a new-ish natural cigarette company. Manitou, a German offshoot of American Spirits, is proud to promote their clean smokes and roll-ups as an alternative to commercial brands, which are heavy with added chemicals. Manitou boasts 100% Virginian leaf tobacco with no added preservatives, flavors, moisturizers, or chemicals intended to make the tobacco burn faster.

And while the mostly non-cannabis smoking growers were smoking their new all natural cigarettes, they were also presented with newer, more natural nutrients designed to protect growers and smokers alike regarding health. Canna, for example, has on board a very organic-minded individual called Mauk, who was concerned by the lack of bio-approved ingredients in commercial "organic"



*The Sensi Seed Bank won the prestigious Highlife Cup (overall winner in all categories) for the second year in a row, with outdoor variety Early Skunk.*

products. As a partner at the company and with a background in herbal medicine and research, he became "committed to delivering a bio product that will not damage your health." Interested in producing safe bio nutrients with no residue that may be harmful to you or the environment, Canna has introduced Bio Flores and Bio Boost, and hopes to release the rest of the completely natural organic line by April of 2004. The benefits of the two new products and the goals of the first ever completely bio Canna line are impressive: Nutrient components are 100% SKAL approved and of 100% pure vegetable origin, and are easy to use indoors or out. Active hops and plant extracts join in to assist you in growing your own high-quality (and less-dangerous) "eco" weed.

Canna has combined current research with a long history of Dutch horticulture. They searched for new ingredients, practices

and techniques, then combined those with traditional Dutch agriculture. The company has developed an organic fermentation process that is the first to be approved by the European Biological Agriculture department. Beginning with the careful selection and isolation of the correct pro-active microbes, Canna's fermentation process makes it possible to attain the right combination of micro-organisms and ingredients. Alcohol is commonly used in fermentation; theirs is also free of animal proteins, thereby creating no harmful residues that may affect the process or the results, and osmotic value is increased by the micro-organisms. Due to the quality of the ingredients and new process, Canna claims a two to three year shelf life for their new releases. For retail or product info, email Canna B.V. at [info@canna.com](mailto:info@canna.com) or phone +31 16 245 67 14.

Atami rivaled the other nutrient stands, also generously handing out free plant foods and information, as well as thousands of B'cuzz Tabzz, a flower booster that suspiciously resembles a fizzy bath tablet. Perched atop their booth was yet another free bar, and one of the nicest places to sit and chill with a view of the convention. Resting revelers were regularly startled by scantily-clad energetic dancers who appeared from out of nowhere and for no apparent reason. To learn more about Atami's hydro, bio, or cocos product lines, or the B'cuzz root, veg, and bloom stimulators, check out [www.atami.com](http://www.atami.com) or call +31 73 522 32 56.

Of course, "Just because organic is better," champions of real organic growing BioBizz were also in attendance. Happily handing out bottles of Top Max,



*Like Picadilly Circus on a Saturday afternoon*



*Excuse me, is there a Skunk in the house...? Main sponsor I.G.S. iGrow-box, [www.igrow.nl](http://www.igrow.nl)*



the crew proudly introduced their new seed line to the public. [www.biobizz.com](http://www.biobizz.com) has all the details.

The Bio Ibo/Bio Power group, winners of the 2004 cups for (3rd) Santa Maria Hydro and (2nd) Bio Power 3, presented a welcoming combination of free info, free smiles, and free beer. Check out their hydro products that helped the Santa Maria in the "Growshop Hydro" competition, and try to get your hands on the Bio Power 3 Nederhasj. Congrats are in order again this year, as 2003's cup also earned them a 3rd place for "Growshop Nederhasj" with Bio Power Hasj. Their award-winning line can be accessed through [www.biopower.nu](http://www.biopower.nu), or by calling +31 18 465 44 89.

Plagron hosted a beautiful live display of their range of growth media, making it easy to learn about their grow mix, royalty mix, bat mix, light mix, or cocos. The choice is yours. [www.plagron.nl](http://www.plagron.nl) or +31 49 563 15 59)

Speaking of bats, your good friend at Guano Kalong ([www.guanokalong.nl](http://www.guanokalong.nl)) was on hand to supply the bio growers who shun anything that comes in a plastic bottle. This 100% natural bat dung fertilizer contains a "complete presence" of eight essential minerals and compounds, accelerates root structuring, strengthens both indoor and outdoor gardens easily, and is slowly released, so feeding is rarely necessary.

Not all who purchased tickets were growers, though. The recreational crowd showed up to add their, um, aesthetic observations. For those uninterested in Canadian Growshop Highfive's "Adjust-a-Wings," the Sirius smart product company was glad to supply everyone with selections from their impressive line of herbal goodies. In addition to their mushrooms, love stimulants, and brain boosters, the "Hyper Blaster" herbal ecstasy appeared to have quite a powerful effect on a seasoned partyer. Stay off the hard stuff kids; take the herbal approach!

As far as the Highlife Cup was concerned, Sensi Seeds cleaned up again, represented by Sensi Growshop, Sensi Seed Bank, Sensi Smile Coffeeshop, and White Label Seed Co. In all, the company walked



Vaporising his way, with De Verdamper



A Drum & Steel band brought it's own Dutch Brazilian babes to the floor



Ganja Man is alive & kicking!

away with 13 awards, including the prestigious "Highlife Cup 2004" for Early Skunk from Sensi Smile. This is an excellent performance for the strain, which is a great early bloomer outdoors. Albert, their resident grower, suggests starting your babies indoors in pots, then moving them outdoors in May (western hemisphere). Three weeks before you naturally receive 12 hours of daylight, artificially flower your ladies outside, and they should finish in about eight weeks. The strain is surprisingly old, dating back about 15-17 years. Good stable genetics ensure little frustration for the grower.

Smaller companies were successful as well, including a third award year for Hydroland Growshop ([www.hydro-land.nl](http://www.hydro-land.nl) or +31 24 388 62 29). Another lucky one this year, they earned a 1st place "Growshop Hydro" with Widow 2004, and a 2nd place for "Growshop Bio" with the same strain. Jasper explained that only Hydroland and the Sjamaan Cannabis Seeds (Arnhem) have the original White Widow genetics, a product of Ingemar, a breeder with almost 20 years' experience. The stability of the strain, he continues, "makes it very easy to go from hydro to soil," which, he notes, more growers seem to be doing. His advice? "Keep it biological. Don't use pesticides, because you can give someone cancer." De Sjamaan is a close friend to Hydroland, as Ananda the managing director will tell you.

His company has introduced a new line of

Ingemar's genetics. He points out that the new line won two awards on its first day! The company has been known in Holland, the UK, and even Asia as a smart product producer and distributor, supplying everything that headshops need. With the new seed catalogue introduced, Ananda hopes to increase his distribution. Anyone interested can please contact [www.sjamaan.com](http://www.sjamaan.com) or for wholesale, call +31 26 389 38 19 in Arnhem. When asked why growers should choose de Sjamaan Cannabis Seeds rather than anyone else's he is quick to respond. "Because the seeds we supply have won dozens of Highlife and High Times cups in the past ten years. They were very hard to get [before], and now they're easily available. 40-50% of all the cups have been won with one of these species." There you have it. Lots of award winners, so start your shopping lists.

The seventh annual Highlife Cup was a chance to shop, learn, unwind, and have a good time. Aside from the change of date, there was also a noticeable lack of live music. Past performers have included Cypress Hill, Beef, and the Postmen. It wasn't a bad move, as it was much easier to smoke and chat with the folks at Futurola ([www.futurola.nl](http://www.futurola.nl)) or browse the catalogue at High Quality Seeds ([www.highqualityseeds.nl](http://www.highqualityseeds.nl)).

For those under the legal smoking age of 18, and for a break from the work-related stands and tables, the festival also offered a virtual shooting gallery, arcade racing

games, free internet, tarot readings, and casino games. A "fashion show" somehow morphed into an impressive trio of breakdancers, and the Verdamper, Volcano, and Vaportech vaporizers all puffed away. If that wasn't enough entertainment, the Kama Sutra erotic fair was right next door!

If you're interested in sponsorship, booth information, or tickets for next year's Highlife Hemp Fair, contact Discover Publisher BV, Postbus 362, 5460 AJ Veghel, NL. Phone +31 73 549 81 12, Fax +31 73 547 97 32. Email [maryjane@highlife.nl](mailto:maryjane@highlife.nl).



Most attractive stand: Canna



Best Product:

- 1) G-sub (Joint Kit)
- 2) IGS (igrow box)
- 3) Kemi (grow case)

Seed Companies Haze Hydro

- 1 The Sensi Seed Bank / Jack Herer

Seed Companies Haze Bio (organic)

- 1 The Sensi Seed Bank / Mother's Finest

Highlife Cup 2004 :  
Sensi Smile /  
Early Skunk

<b>Growshops Hydroponic</b> 1 Hydroland / Widow 2004 2 Cristal Garden / NLX 3 Bio Ibo / Santa Maria
<b>Growshops Bio (organic)</b> 1 Het Hennep Huis / Santa Maria 2 Hydroland / Widow 2004 3 i-Grow / Silver Pearl
<b>Growshops Outdoor</b> 1 T.H.C./ Flipje Purple 2 Cristal Garden / White Widow 3 Sensi Growshop / Early Skunk
<b>Growshops Nederhasj</b> 1 Pollinator / Ice-o-lator 2 Bio Ibo / Bio Power 3 3 Cristal Garden / Nederhasj Haze
<b>Growshops Haze Hydroponic</b> 1 Sensi Growshop / Mother's Finest

<b>Growshops Haze Bio (organic)</b> 1 Exodus / Amnesia
<b>Coffeeshops Hydroponic</b> 1 t Bunkertje / Jack Herrer 2 Cremers / Citral 3 Sensi Smile / Sensi Skunk
<b>Coffeeshops Bio (organic)</b> 1 Sensi Smile / Big Bud 2 Vrolijke Gaper / Kristal 3 Catweazle / White Widow
<b>Coffeeshops Outdoor</b> 1 Sensi Smile / Early Skunk 2 Siberië / Purple Power 3 Vrolijke Gaper / NLX
<b>Coffeeshops Nederhasj</b> 1 Genesis / Isolator 2 De Vliegende Hollander / Tafelberg 3 Twins / Bossche Bollen

<b>Coffeeshops Haze Hydroponic</b> 1 Twins / Silver Haze
<b>Coffeeshops Haze Bio (organic)</b> 1 Sensi Smile / Hawaiian Indica
<b>Seed companies Hydro</b> 1 White label / Double Gum 2 The Sensi Seed Bank/Mr.NiceG13 x Hashplant 3 Paradise Seeds / Nebula
<b>Seed Companies Bio (organic)</b> 1 Paradise Seeds / X-Factor 2 The Sensi Seed Bank / Marley's World 3 White Label / Master Kush
<b>Seed Companies Outdoor</b> 1 The Sensi Seed Bank / Early Skunk 2 Magus Genetics / Biddy Early 3 Paradise Seed / Gorilla



# Growing for Quality



Buddha's Sister



Citral



New York City Diesel

In a day and age when so much value is put on money, growing a crop of cannabis without that thought has become a rarity. I am now working on a crop where money is not the goal. Medicinal quality is the prize that I seek.

You see I use cannabis for medicine. I have had cancer on my tongue since 1984 when I smoked tobacco. I have a prescription here in the Netherlands for 10 grams a day. I still like to grow my own though, that way I know it's organic to my specifications. I also know it's my medicinal genetics I am working with, not some commercial medical project.

I have another goal with this crop. I plan on entering two strains from it into the High Times Cannabis Cup. One will be an Indica and one a Sativa. I only grow organically, using 2-15-2 guano, neem oil for insect control, seaweed for foliar feeding, and citric acid for pH regulation. I don't like the taste most bottled foods give to cannabis. It's true much of it will give you a bigger yield, but for me it is all about taste and effect. I want to truly enjoy the joint I am smoking, right down to the last puff.

To really achieve medicinal quality there are a few key factors that I will go over. When growing cannabis enemy insects are everywhere and must be dealt with in some successful way. Most cannabis growers use pesticides. That is not how you

grow medicine, cash crops yes but not medicine. Neem oil is a safe, organic, effective product that does the same as pesticides, but without the negative side effects.

Don't overkill your plants with food. Just like humans, plants can only consume food to a certain degree. If you give your plants too much food it turns into poison, so go lightly on the food. My favorite additive is guano. Nothing makes cannabis taste and work better than guano. I have tried every known food out there, and have found nothing that is more organic or effective than guano. The one I like is Guano-Kalong 2-15-2 high phosphorous powdered guano. I make a tea with 100 grams in 2 liters of water. I then add half a liter of the tea to 10 liters of pH-ed water. This gives me all the bud I need.

When it comes to watering I like to pretend I am the plant, I stick my finger in the soil to see how moist it is and think to myself, is this wet enough, or is this too dry? Once you are used to working in a specific garden and know exactly how long it takes your soil to dry out, it is easy to figure out a schedule of watering so that you keep your plants in a happy medium, not drowning in water and not drying out either.

Knowing exactly when to harvest is truly an art. So many growers pick their plants too early, missing the best part. It takes patience to grow good medicine you can't push the river. I don't go by calendars, I always look to the plants.

There are certain instances when your plants can be stunted by things like over-watering, over-fertilizing, cold or hot temperatures, and insect damage that can throw your calendar date off. Always study your plants closely at the time of harvest to make sure they are truly ripe, because only then will you get the medicine.

Getting back to this beautiful garden I am working on. I have 4 different kinds growing together. New York City Diesel, Buddha's Sister, Lavender and Citral. The NYCD is my Sativa entry, I want to enter the Lavender as my Indica but only if its better than my Buddha's Sister. The Citral is for Nederhash. There is a category this year for hash made in Holland as well as foreign hash. I am going to enter some Citral Jelly hash that to me is the best medicine as far as cannabis goes. I have made a study of which plants make great hash because most do not. The ones that are my favorite are Rockbud and Citral and a Hindu kush called Perfect Plant. They have straight trichomes and are true "bubblers".

Yes this a crop for learning, and making my medicine, it is a crop for teaching and healing, it is a crop for sharing, but this is one crop that wasn't grown for money. Try it you'll like it.

Keep it GREEN and Loving

Peace Soma



Buddha's Sister



Citral Jelly Hash



Rockbud Jelly Hash



# Putting together your own feeding tub

*For those of you who do not yet have, or who plan to use a feeding tub in the future, in this article I will be showing you how simple and effective making (and using) one can be.*

By Bart B.

With the use of a feeding tub you can make up a huge amount of feed water in one go and adjust it to the pH and EC that is optimal for the medium you are using to grow on. If you have to choose between a pH meter and an EC meter, then you're best off buying the pH meter, since pH is far more important to get right. The EC only shows the strength of the nutrient solution you plan to give your plants, whereas the correct pH will ensure an optimal nutrient uptake by the plant. The ideal pH-value lies between 5.6 and 6.4. The EC only helps you give the correct dosage to give your plants, but by following the instructions on the nutrient bottle carefully, you will not end up not too far from the ideal EC.

If you do decide to regulate the pH, you have to keep it up for the whole growing cycle. If you don't, then the pH difference between the soil and your feed water may be too great, causing considerable shock to the plants. Do this often enough and your plants will start to display strange ailments.

Anyway, we were making a feeding tub, for use with growing a crop in earth.



1. The necessities: all you need to quickly and efficiently make a feeding tub is a well-calibrated pH-meter and EC-meter (the photo shows a combined pH-EC meter). Make sure you check the calibration every month. Calibration is done by dunking the meter in calibration fluid, a liquid with a known, fixed pH of, say, 7.0 and an EC value of 1.413. If the reading on your meter differs from either of these values then you need to adjust it by carefully turning the knob so that, for example your reading of 7.2 until it shows 7.0. Now your pH meter is calibrated (though with some meters you repeat the process on a standard liquid with a pH of 4.01). You do exactly the same for an EC meter. Be careful never to contaminate your calibration fluids. You will also need a measuring beaker, pH-growth and pH-bloom liquids and a

syringe with millimetre gradations (or a droplet syringe). And a tub, of cose.



A feeding tub can be large or small, but the size you use will depend on the number of plants you have to feed and the number of days you want between re-fills of the tub. Thus a feeding tub can contain enough food for your plants for 1-4 days. If your tub is too small you'll get fewer days between tubs. Also to bear in mind is whether you plan to expand your operation in the future and expect more plants than you have now. If so, it's an idea to buy a bigger tub now and avoid having to buy a new one. Once you've got your chosen tub, fill it with water.



If you're using an EC meter and check the water, you will see that it already has a reasonable value, even though you have not yet added any nutrients. This is because of pollution in the mains water. If this EC reading is too high then you have to use a higher EC than stated on the nutrient bottle. A good EC to start with is 1.2, but if your water already reads 1.0, then you had best start with an EC of 1.4. You'll have to do a bit of calculation based on the quality of your mains water.



Take a measuring beaker and follow the instructions that are on the bottle label. Fill the beaker with the right dose - 400 ml to 200 litres of water, for example. By using a measuring beaker we will get to more or less the correct EC - far closer than haphazardly sloshing your nutrients in to the tub. Any other supplements such as root stimulator are added now too. We want to reach a starting EC of between 1.2 - 1.3. While slowly pouring the nutrient into the water keep checking your EC value on the meter. Towards the end, wait a minute or so and stir the solution well so that it's nicely mixed at the right EC value. Every feeding tub needs a circulation pump or suchlike so that the EC value is the same throughout.



Wait a few minutes until the EC value has stabilised and stays stable. If the value is too low add more nutrients. If it is too high, add more water. That's why you should never fill your tub to the brim or you will have no leeway to add more. The EC is now 1.29 for a good start.



Now that the EC value has been set we can take a look at the pH of the tub. This one has reached a pH of 6.6, having started at

7.5. Adding the nutrients lowered the pH of the water, but not enough. To get the pH to the desired level we need to add pH-growth or pH-bloom, which are acidic and will therefore bring down the pH. Just as with the nutrient, this works best by



using a measuring beaker to add the pH-acid. The first time always involves a bit of guess work, so be careful when you do it. Give the acid time to mix well in before adding a bit more, until you are in the vicinity of your required reading. If you're only a couple of points off it, then now is when the millimetre syringe comes in handy for carefully adding it drop by drop. This care will prevent a load of hassle by giving too much pH-.



The pH is now acidified to a value of 5.8. This is an ideal value for making all nutrients available to the plants in great quantities. The more the pH rises or falls, the less available certain foodstuffs will be to the plant. Now it has to be said that when growing in soil, a pH value of 6.3 is also ideal. This is because at this pH, the soil life can really flourish and this too will be beneficial to the development, growth and blooming of the plants. You should check your pH and EC levels every day and adjust their levels when necessary!

Your feeding tub is now ready for use, but add a circulation pump and a warming element, because cannabis plants love lightly-warmed, nutrient-rich water. Installing an immersion pump will enable you to pump your feed water to any spot in your weed patch, which with your feeding tub can now be automatically kept well-fed and watered for several days in a row.

Here's wishing you all the success with your feeding tub!



# ALL CHATTED UP

## CHEWING AFRICA'S 2nd FAVOURITE DRUG By Fraser Clark Part 2

### 'Getting' It

Either you don't 'get' the chat high first time, or you do but you don't realise till you finally 'get' it!

The Chat 'god' (Little Brother as I call him) wraps himself in an ambiguity you must *study*. More than any other drug, its effect is defined by other people. Not *affected* like acid, say, but *defined*. It even makes you re-define what a *drug* is! Is it *addictive*? How come it's illegal in some countries and a spiritual institution in others? [see box]

Few early Europeans 'got' it either. "A disagreeable, insipid drug we did not relish" said Carets Niebuhr, 1761. William Makin described the flavour as "dry lettuces and radishes," but it's more like astringent young carrots which bend and snap in your fingers, and crunch like iceberg lettuce. Somebody obviously palmed him off with old stuff! Wyman Bury recorded this: "I have never met a European yet who liked it." Wrong! I think this drug could save the world!

Few Europeans travellers had time to 'worship' it properly. And cramming your cheek with loads of a green plant that buzzes your brain can feel very... primitive - like you're just a modern ape, *IS THAT ALL IT IS?*

"Bercha" (taking Kat together) is still a de rigor social lubricant among friends, family and colleagues. Most of the 15+ male population of Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia chew daily or weekly, and it's fighting a *winning* battle against the spreading Western alcohol ritual. Which has to be great news! Why be stupid when you can be bright, cooperative, cooled out and energised?!

"Chat speeds my brain up" explains my young, classically educated, Rasta-style grass dealer, Jonah Joseph, during our first 'bercha'. "I chew every few days, or every day for a week when I have a European girlfriend... It makes me happy. I can do anything better on it." "Anything?" "Sure," he laughs openly, paganly. "You can go very long time with chat by your side." Later I find out that, though the lust can be hot and dark, you can have trouble getting it up. That ambiguity again! "I always smoke dope with it. I prefer dope, but the two are very good together."

Addis Ababa Christians have no tradition with Chat. I got to get to Chat Central - Harar City! But first I want to visit the Great Reef Valley where evolution began, and Harar chat gets trucked daily all over Ethiopia anyway. Taxi and truck drivers are particularly big users.

### A Chance Chat, and The Perfect Day, by Lake Zwai

*After a playful wander round the nothing town of Zwai, I head for the lake where the Ark of the Covenant is supposedly hidden.*

*50 yards down the hot, dry track a minibus draws alongside, some greetings are exchanged, it stops, a guy swings out with the opening door; with a "Free?" I clamber in. The driver tells me they go to the lake most afternoons.*

*As I wander round the shore, I distribute among my accompanying crowd of kids the hologram stickers I bought in Portobello Road for 20p for just such a purpose. Gigantic buzzards strut like elegant, down-at-heel dowager duchesses, and white pelicans take impossible-looking flight (not swans as I had thought the night before.) Soon, African sun beating me tired and thirsty, I seek shade under a huge, spreading, ancient tree where a small crowd is milling around. The driver and his mates are there, they call out to me to "Come eat Chat with us!"*

*We chew together there the rest of the blessed day. Without moving again. The pungent, heavy, 'singing' air, the neanderthal birds, and talk of the hippopotami who come in to graze around sunset. Everybody's interested in everybody. Mesfin (the driver) has been a daily chatter for ten years. What did we talk about? Everything you'd talk about if you had no pressing problems, and felt talkative and warmly welcome among the company. Qat supplies all 3 conditions!*

*'Brotherhood' sounds dramatic when it's just this newly met amiable African who's both interested in my words and in answering my questions (the Ark, mushrooms, politics etc). And I'm happy to answer any questions they have - about Canada, Princess Diana, have the Israelis found King Solomon's gold yet? Beautiful. Timeless. Sharing the beach with pompously waddling pterodactyls, giant dinosaur carrion tutting at us bad temperedly, Ethiopian men paddling and kids swimming as they did before Christ or Mohamed, and dogs, goats, fishing boats, nettings, and teenagers playing football on the sand among the rank piles of rotting fish carcasses. Finally we're contemplating silently, reclined in the multiform roots of the Great Tree, the (million year old?) lake beyond the human, animal, bird and bug evolutionary continuum, seemingly talked-out. We'd reached the fabled state of "Mirkana", but I didn't hear about that till I reached Harar. Time passing; yet each moment is, if not infinite, then something close.*

*So why do I feel happy in my tummy as I record this back in my hotel? Turn it round: how could it NOT have been a 'perfect day'? An afternoon by beautiful Lake Zwai, teeming with fish, fowl and*

*hippopotami?! Such an event would genuinely content natural humans, no? And if a green leaf returns our natural heritage?... Kwat-less, it would have been "really nice." But maybe various trains of worry would have threaded their way through the day, subtly tainting my moods, and deflating the slow build-up to ... quiet joy? Chat removes all such.... backsliding?*

*I witnessed a cow leading a herd of goats on the way home!*

### Harar City, and The Quest for Mirkana!

The walled city of Harar is Islam's 4th holiest city - an exhausting, exhilarating, single track train ride to Dire Dowa, then a bus ride through rolling hillsides of quat trees standing ten feet tall, and coffee too, the same height but with darker shinier leaves. Chat cultivation is spreading (not receding), and for a simple reason: a field of coffee earns a tenth of a field of chat!

From the bus I spot a newish little skyscraper looming over what looks like the main market, and 20 minutes later I'm puffing a joint of Jonah's "Marley Bud" on a 4th floor balcony, gazing in rapture at the teeming, frothing, yelling market beneath, feeling like Sir Richard Burton, Harar's first European visitor, in 1855. "We honour Chat above all other plants because it is blessed by God and given to men through his favour." That's a description he recorded. Arthur Rimbaud also lived here.

"In the Moslems of Harar chat induces a strong religious exaltation they regard as a gift from heaven." Bishop of Harar. Here, traditionally, it was used in a religious context and it's *still* offered to the mosques, prayers are *still* held to be incomplete without it, and prayer sessions can last *all night*!

But talk about 3am Eternal! By 3pm, the city's deserted as countless chewing groups kick off, often with particular interests, music, social-political, literature, philosophy, football and certainly religion. This is the city's main social backbone, with people evolving from one group to another over their lives.

Doors and windows closed against the glare, mattresses are summoned, and a cushion for your left elbow as your right hand picks and packs, steady as a clock ticking, while the conversation imperceptibly gains pace, volume and warmth until, should a stranger walk in, he'd imagine an argument was taking place. But it's just people CARING! Suddenly, after almost yelling, everybody's face relaxes as 'conspiratorial' chuckles flood the room.

"Euphoria, exaltation, increased work energy, increased body heat, heightened sense of awareness, suppression of hunger, fatigue and sleep." International Symposium on Khat in Addis Ababa, 1984.

Chewing continues until you reach the fabled state of *Mirkhana*, when you stop. That's what happened at the lake! *Mirkhana* has no exact location in the English psyche. Burton's description of the Arab's state of grace is very close to their Chat experience:

*"The passive savouring of animal existence; dreamy tranquillity, airy castle-building... In the East man wants but rest and shade. By a bubbling stream, or in the shelter of a perfumed tree, he is perfectly happy. No wonder it's untranslatable into our mother tongue!"*

Naturally (or unnaturally) business and UN types deplore the hours of productive time "wasted" every day. But did Nature intend the African to slave away in such heat? Does "wasted" actually mean not labouring for the whiteman's system?!

*[from DOPINIONS, Fraser Clark's irreverent compendium of drugs and their models of reality.]*

### CHAT LEGALITY

The fresh plant is not controlled under domestic law in the UK or most European and African countries. It is illegal in the US, Canada, Switzerland, Scandinavia and most of the Middle East, excluding Yemen and Somalia - where it got banned a few years ago, civil wars broke out, and they legalised it again! The active ingredients, however, Cathine, Cathinine, and Cathidine, are controlled under the U.N. Convention on Psychotropic Substances.



My regular chatshop madame in Addis.



## SHOPREVIEW



## Hydrochronic UK, Torquay



Located on the charming English Riviera, **Hydrochronic UK** boasts 14 years' experience in hydroponic and soil systems. Their team comprises friendly, experienced staff, that give constructive advice (by email, telephone or in-store) on how to maximise results for amateur and professional growers. This includes a professional acoustic and vibration engineer on hand to give invaluable tips on all fluid dynamic, vibration and noise issues.

Their largest selling hydro and soil nutrient is House & Garden (Holland's leading nutrient manufacturer) and Hydrochronic is the only UK stockist of hard- and soft water varieties. The House & Garden's range includes Root Excelurator – the strongest root product available on the market and which gives explosive root growth. The recently launched Shooting Powder, a potassium compound in powdered form, works in the same way as Shooting Tabs - but to a greater extent. Shooting Powder produces aggressive results and has been very big in Holland since its launch. All of H&G's root, growth and bloom stimulators and additives are organic and are substrate/system generic. Complete grow schedules are provided for coco, hydro and soil. Specialised schedules can be constructed for any particular growing scenario.

For the organic grower, Hydrochronic stocks the full range of Biobizz, the leading organic Dutch nutrient.

This nutrient speaks for itself and is currently **Hydrochronic's** biggest organic seller and is proving to be very popular in the larger sizes. Biobizz grow schedules are available suitable for all growers. It is easy to use and delivers high yield and quality for both beginners and professionals.

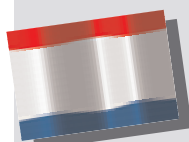
**CWI** is a separate wholesale company and is run by the same team. It is an official UK distributor of Holland's leading nutrient manufacturers – House & Garden and Biobizz. CWI is the sole stockist of House and Garden's hard and soft water hydro nutrients – made especially for CWI for distribution in the UK. The company also wholesales Ruck Ventilation from Germany, Eutech and lots more.

The company believes that offering quality products at competitive prices combined with correct advice is the best way to operate – **and has proved to be a winner with all customers.**

**Hydrochronic Ltd., Unit 2, 119-121 Teignmouth Road, Torquay, Devon**

**For all enquiries relating to Hydrochronic and CWI, contact Jon or Mike on +44 (0) 1803 323366 or email [jon@hydrochronic.co.uk](mailto:jon@hydrochronic.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.hydrochronic.co.uk](http://www.hydrochronic.co.uk)**



## Coffeeshop Xtreme, Amsterdam



Tucked into an unassuming side street on the edge of the historic Jordaan, Coffeeshop Xtreme presents its visitors with a calm alternative to the frenzied, tourist-infested shops of the Red Light District. Conveniently located a short walk from Dam square, Xtreme sits in the midst of an area that locals refer to as the "Nine Streets." Shopping-weary tourists will be glad to relax in this neighborhood, as it is filled with picturesque canal houses, lovely restaurants, and eclectic shops. The Rosengracht and Leidsegracht frame three short streets, each divided into three blocks. The local business owners strive to maintain a pleasant and welcoming neighborhood, and occasionally publish a folder of advertisements for those businesses involved. Xtreme also offers loads of newspapers, flyers, and magazines (including *Soft Secrets* and *Highlife*). As for coffeeshop fare, the usual selection of juices and hot drinks are on offer. The locals recommend the fresh mint tea. Of course, weed and hash are both available, as well as some lovely hash bonbons and space cakes. All are lovingly homemade for the Xtreme. The extensive smoke menu is very helpful for those tending to be overwhelmed by a large variety, as it includes such descriptions as origin, flavour, and effect. Add to that

the convenience of bags sold in five-euro increments, and your smoking experience at this shop will be very enjoyable indeed. The usual rules apply regarding no minors, no hard drugs, etc., and there is no alcohol allowed. Jennifer, an employee for around a year, notes that, "One of the nicest things about this shop is the variety of people we get in here. I'd say it's about fifty-fifty tourists and locals. We have two computers with free internet, and so a lot of the [expatriots] from other countries come in a lot to keep in touch with their families." Besides the email privileges, customers are also welcome to use the Volcano vaporiser, or just lounge around on the comfy bench seats and join in the conversation. This is another aspect that Jennifer believes draws repeat customers. "It's a small place, you know. But that's okay, because you can have three different groups of people all in here, and they can sit at different tables and still join the conversation." Xtreme, its staff, and the locals are so welcoming, in fact, that I forgot why I was there and became engaged in a lively debate about drug policies in foreign countries. Check them out, have a chat, and smoke one for me. (KS)

**Coffeeshop Xtreme, Huidenstraat 13A, Amsterdam**  
Open: **Monday-Thursday 10:00-0:00, Friday-Saturday 10:00-1:00, Sunday 12:00-0:00**

## Bust of the year 2003, Holland

photo: ANP



**When?**  
July 25 2003  
**Where?**  
Industrial area Julia, Eygelshoven, Holland  
**Number of plants:**  
16.000 and up  
**Details:**  
Five Polish employees were arrested on the spot. They had their own living quarters in the building which contained a solarium.





# I'll Take The High Road

Fraser Clark, Our Roving  
ACCESS ALL LEVELS Reporter.

## Something In Me Finally Snapped

As "our" Blair government tip-toed with aching caution towards a slightly less insane legal position on a single one of the ancient plant/chemical Allies with which Mankind was furnished as compasses and guiding lights through life on planet Earth...

And as all the bastard, twisted, daemonic bogeymen leaped out once again from under our warped xtian subconscious to whip up a One Final Scare Crusade, terrify the ignorance-maintained natives, prophesy the End of Civilisation (what civilisation?! I see warfare and brute force everywhere!) and Try One More Time to turn back the tide and close pandora's box (along with gay rights, sexual freedom, medical maryjane, human rights, and basically everything you really quite like!)...

And as the old ghosts stirred, and the phantom fears clanked their chains...

... something in me finally snapped.

I seemed to stand on a line between the

Past and the Future. All these Blue Meanies belonged in the Past, their cries' volume lessening with every year we moved into the next millennium. And ahead was a Future in which such types were cleaning ladies, in a temple, where the general populace explored the inner galaxies of the Soul.

"We shall reverse this dangerous policy when we come to power" lisped Something of the Night from the radio. Shit, I'd finished that wonderful piece of Afghani my American GI debating friend had laid on me! And I was back, trapped in the End Days of the Past again.

Fuck it, I heard myself raging, it's about time someone on the shamanic side stood up and fuckin' told these dangerously armoured ideologues exactly what drugs are about! Fuckin' yelled the truth in their faces, without, for once, all those mealy mouthed escape clauses like "recreational" and "leisure activity" and all the other weasel words forced upon us by the 'Adult's (read deadheads)...

And tell them, YES!, drugs are probably the ONLY power, definitely the only Hope, that can save this sociopathic species before it destroys

itself and planet, I mean what else has the remotest chance of transforming the gigantic numbers whose world views need to be turned 180 degrees in the shortest possible time we have left?!

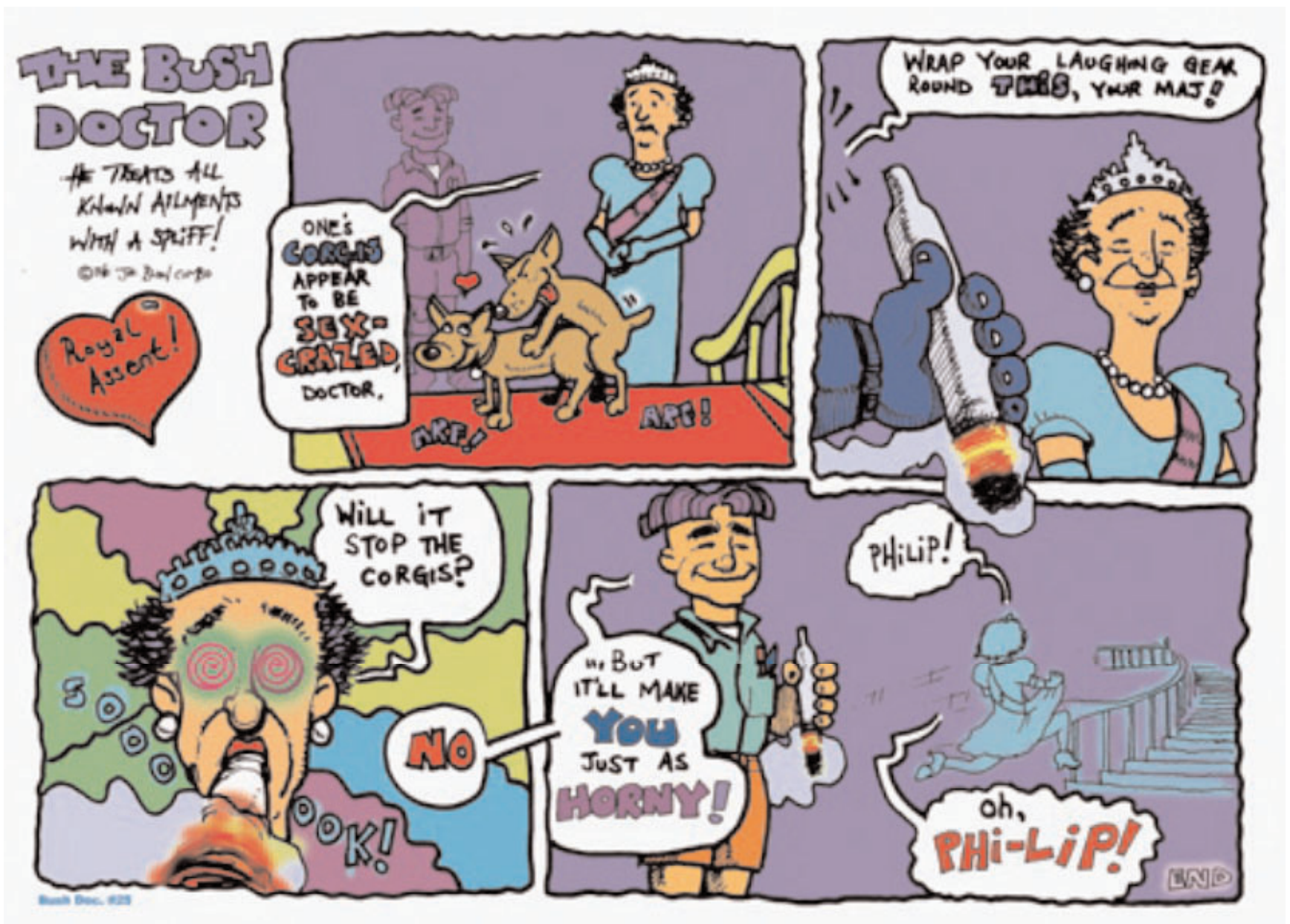
And tell them how the Natural Allies (and even their synthetic cousins) were part of the same Nature's plan that gave us storms, droughts and hardships, how they were sent as a Boon And a Blessing, how they gave us religion (before the Priests branded it, and then the heretics), and how the highest points of our lives, when we look back, will be our shamanic highs. Even straight people remember the dentist's laffing gas high!

For yes, despite 50 year barrages of hostile twisted logics, the most frequently used word for the effect of drugs is "High". And for a very good reason! Say what you like about the dangers, "High" is where these substances take you. So let's stop playing their dying game, which, viewed from "high", is a fuckin' disaster, with all the good parts emanating from our shamanic fraternity in the first place! – music, clubs, complementary therapies, alternative politics, self-help, Love, Peace...

"High," above the moronic, medieval monkey gibberish that people make of living. The petty complications, the tortuous competition of the Puritan Work dEathic, the endless striving towards something your wisdom knows you'll never reach, and which anyway changes you so utterly that you've no nature left with which to enjoy it when you get there.

Yes, high above the murderous military merchants, psycho super-rich, and vampire corporates who may rule the physical planet but remain a thousand times, nay an infinity, more lost and alienated than we denizens of the Future, a universe away from being simply glad to be alive. You don't believe me? I tell you every single "successful" social climber in this Repressed, Dying "Civilisation" has become so compromised and uptight that he NEVER, for even a single second in his entire life, experiences that feeling of being simply here, without desire. Not for a second in their entire lives I tell you! They live in a world of fear, Essence Guilt Karma for the unnatural behaviour that got them there.

Amen. Bless the 'Erb.





# WIN HQ seeds in our premo prize puzzle competition!



GREETINGS,  
WELCOME PUZZLE PICKERS!  
YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD POPE-DOID  
GAANJ-1 HERE, WITH A PAGE OF PALPITATING  
PUZZLES GUARANTEED TO BEND YOUR BRAINS  
AND BILT YOUR WINDS!  
...JUST HOW MANY  
JOINTS WILL IT TAKE YOU TO SOLVE 'EM ALL?

## WIN SETS OF H.Q. SEEDS!

Send your most complete entry to:  
**Soft Secrets Puzzle Competition**  
P.O. Box 17250, 1001 NJ, Amsterdam  
All answers published next issue.

## W.M.D. (Wordsearch of Mass Distraction)

Hidden in the diagram are the names of 11 agents of mass destruction, 10 countries that have them, and three countries that want them. The names can be written across, down or diagonally, backwards or forwards. When you've found them all, the remaining 29 unused letters will spell out a personal message from President Bush.

W.M.D.  
AGENT ORANGE  
A-BOMB  
BOTULISM  
MUSTARD GAS  
NEUTRON BOMB  
H-BOMB  
BLISTER GAS  
ANTHRAX  
SONIC CANNON  
PLAGUE SARIN

COUNTRIES WITH  
ISRAEL  
CHINA  
PAKISTAN  
U.K. U.S.A.  
RUSSIA  
FRANCE INDIA  
NORTH KOREA  
SOUTH AFRICA

COUNTRIES  
WITHOUT  
LIBYA IRAN IRAQ

L	S	O	N	I	C	C	A	N	N	O	N	K
I	I	N	N	I	S	R	A	E	L	E	S	S
B	S	D	E	Y	K	R	O	C	G	X	A	S
T	I	U	R	U	U	Q	S	N	W	A	G	A
A	E	M	E	S	T	A	A	A	E	R	D	G
N	U	E	S	A	T	R	A	R	S	H	R	R
A	G	I	S	I	O	I	O	F	O	T	A	E
T	A	O	C	T	L	K	O	N	A	N	T	T
S	L	D	N	H	H	U	I	B	B	A	S	S
I	P	E	A	T	I	R	T	Y	O	O	U	I
K	G	E	R	S	A	N	U	O	M	E	M	L
A	K	O	I	S	E	R	A	H	B	O	M	B
P	N	A	C	E	R	F	A	H	T	U	O	S

## HELP THE DEALER

Dealer Jonny Cool keeps his tally in his head. But he's zonked.

He knows he has three times as much Durban Poison as he has Northern Lights, and twice as much Northern Lights as he has Thai Sticks. If he has 9 ounces altogether (lucky bastard!), how much of each grass is he holding?

## TOKER'S DELIGHT STEPWORD

Changing only one letter at a time, to form a new word each time, turn PIPE into HASH in 6 moves. If you succeed, reward yourself with a doob. If you fail, listen to Frank Zappa for an hour, then try again.

PIPE

HASH

## Solutions to last issue...

### SMALL CHANGE

Did you change ACID into TRIP, altering only one letter at a time to form a new word with each step? If you did it in less than 4 steps, you were obviously in a state of heightened perception!

### SOLUTION:

ACID  
ARID  
GRID  
GRIP  
TRIP

### RIDDLE-ME-RIGID (Please)

My FIRST is in PECS, but not in SEX.  
My SECOND's in GREEN, but not in GRASS.  
My third is in ANUS, but never in ASS.  
My FOURTH is in HIGH, but not in LOW.  
My fifth is in SUCK but not in BLOW.  
My whole knows where it likes to go!  
**WHAT AM I?**

(SOLUTION: P-E-N-I-S)

## SPIRO T. MANIA - THE NAME GAME

Starting at the hand pointer, solve the clues and enter the names on the grid. The last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next answer. If you solve them all correctly, the diagonal will spell out the name of the most dangerous man in the world.

- One quarter of the Beatles (6,3)
- Greek god of Fate (7)
- Plays Alfie in "Eastenders" (5,7)
- The King of Rock 'n' Roll (decd) (5,7)
- Smarter than the average bear, Boobool (4,4)
- Football manager (3,8)
- An Oasis brother (4,9)
- This footballer don't take drugs, but misses drug tests (3,9)
- Father (3)
- Prince Andrew's ex-wife (7,2,4)
- Hope he found Nirvana! (4,6)
- Iritating children's & clubbers' TV show (11)
- NY 'tee named after double-barrelled weapon (7)
- Music that swept all else away? (3,4)

The most dangerous man in the world is:





Compilation - 'Mento Madness'  
(V2 Records)



Escape the winter blues with an uplifting hit of pure Jamaican sunshine in the form of this wicked CD compilation of mento music, the sound that could be heard on the streets of Kingston prior to the arrival of ska and reggae. The folk music of the day, mento is rhythmically very similar to the calypso of Trinidad yet completely original with its strong street sound and jazz sensibility brought by the Kingstonian musicians who played it.

As the predominant music of the early 1950's mento bands were serenading tourists on the quaysides at Montego Bay and Ocho Rios delivering topical commentaries on such matters as fashion and the latest scandals along with the usual risqué sexual innuendo's. The tracks included in this particular selection were all recorded at Stanley Mottas tiny one-track studio. The restoration from the original 78s and 10" LP vinyl has succeeded in maintaining the essential qualities of the music without impairing the vibrancy and energy of the rare original sources.

Squarepusher - 'Ultravisitor'  
(Warp Music)



Reminiscent of the mid to late eighties and the more experimental origins of computer generated music. Prior to the Acid and rave wave that took us into the 90's and beyond, bands such as Cabaret Voltaire, Mark Stewart and the Mafia and Bourbanese Qualk were experimenting with huge tape loops and backwards drums accompanied by industrial sounding guitars and big ambient synths. It stayed underground although it's influence still resonates across a diversity of contemporary music. This is a solo production, 'Square Pusher' being Tom Jenkins, who plays all the instruments and does all his own

production. It's an album, which is best listened to as a whole as the tracks bleed into each other in the same way as a film score.

It can't be described as dance music, but where he gets rhythmic he tends to lean towards Drum & Bass type patterns, although the rhythms don't dominate and the industrial/ techno feel does.

Youth in Dub - 'Orchestra Mystique'  
(Liquid Sound Design)



This hexotic album slips us into an enchanted fusion of Eastern percussion, sounds and vocals with dub style rhythms, effects and instruments such as melodica. Featuring artists and acts from the Liquid Sound Design label, the compilation includes some well chilled out grooves from United States of Dub with 'Tiger Moon' and the evocative 'Sahara Orchid Dub' with its slick jazz touch from Youth vs. Coldeut.

Compilation - 'Wider Horizons' (Liquid Sound Design)



This compilation was specially commissioned by the label manager and artist in his own right, Humphrey Bacchus, as a celebration of the fifth year anniversary of Liquid Sound Design. The production is consistently slick and includes a wicked re-working of 'Manakhana' by Youth himself. In turn, the Balearic posse, Vatos Locos, re-work 'Tiger Moon' by Youth and Vibrasphere

do a tech-dub version of his 'Kumba Mela Experiments'. Other excellent 'downbeat' contributors are Abakus, Blumencraft & Hallucinogen in Dub and Nada. Typically, a lot of it is wicked dance music, with particularly funky bass patterns, but there's a lightness throughout that makes it just as suitable for proper chill.

Blockhead - 'Music by Cavellight'  
(Ninja Tunes)



This clever composition opens with the anthemic 'Insomniac Olympics', brass fanfares and moody, slow hip-hop beats lead you into the funky bass and ambient keys of 'Carnivores Unite'. Even more anthemic and even epic, is track four, 'Sunday Séance'. Lovely, ambient Fender Rhodes-type keys create a nostalgic and evocative atmosphere, which opens out into another fanfare of brass and winds up with a docklands harmonica solo and a dramatic orchestral refrain. The whole album is downbeat and filmscore-like and shows off Blockhead's ability to arrange a diversity of different instruments in an almost orchestral style.

Sketch & Code -  
'Highly eMotif Compilation'  
(eMotif Recordings)



Nineteen tracks of positively up-lifting Drum and Bass stemming from 1995 going through to the more tech-steppin' present. Their sixth CD album is a compilation of tracks previously only

available on vinyl from Elizabeth Troy, Social Security, Elementz of Noise, Silver(Accidental Heroes), Filthy Dirty Rich and many more. Sketch & Code are raw in the mix here and MC Co Gee from the Ragga Twins posse is doing the spittin', so it's a fairly live thang and doesn't differ too much from what you would here if you were to catch them at one of their nights at 'Movement', 'World dance', 'Pure Science' or 'One Nation'.

Friendly - '10 things you need to know about friendly'  
(Fat! Records)

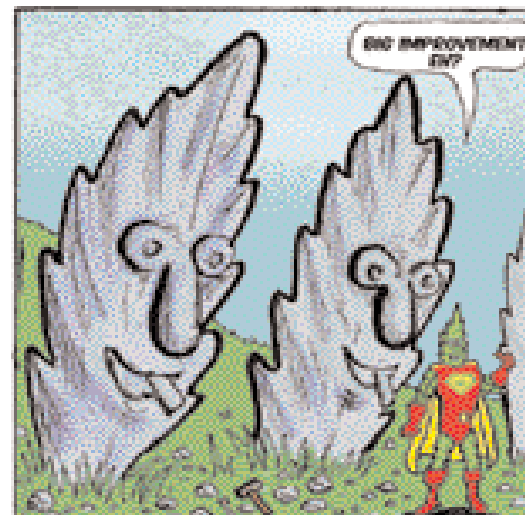


This funky and refreshing new breakbeats album, '10 things...' is a showcase of the production and remix talents of Australia's, Friendly. Featured along with a stomping LFO re-edit, 'Friendly Bootleg', is an even cheekier bootleg of SL2's 'On a Ragga Tip'. After leaking a few CDR copies, this stormed some of the biggest summer dancefloors with plays from Freq Nasty, Tayo and Rennie Pilgrem amongst others. Currently whipping up dance floors around the globe, Friendly looks set to make a long lasting impact on the scene with this release.

Compilation - 'Zen Rmx'  
(Ninjatune)



This brilliant audio-montage from Ninja wends its way through the labels history and back catalogue, extracting many fine key elements from its lifeblood. Arguably some of the best psychedelic groove around, this two album set includes pieces from all the Ninja main players such as Coldcut, DJ Food, Mr. Scruff, Hexstatic, Cinematic Orchestra, Funki Porcini and The Herbaliser amongst others. Displaying a spectrum of styles such as dub, jazz, drum n' bass and hip-hop, the album melts together into a lush and groovilicious psychedelia.





# Dr. John Dee *Happy Days*

By the time you read this, the laws regarding cannabis in the UK will have undergone something of a change. As of the 29th of January, the weed will be downgraded from a Class B to a Class C drug.

There has been the expected outcry from groups such as the British Medical Association, who have the idea that declassification will give people the idea that cannabis is completely safe. This is a fair point and needs to be addressed. There are plenty of highly intelligent and educated tokers currently out there who choose to delude themselves that cannabis is totally safe. What hope then for the less educated? What's needed can be summed up in a few words: non-judgemental and factual drug education.

Effectively, deregulation appears to mean that now the user will no longer be busted for smoking in the comfort of their own home. Nor will they be busted if stopped in the street while carrying a small amount (though how much actually constitutes "a small amount" appears to be shrouded in mystery).

Basically, there appear to be two criminal acts associated with cannabis use left, and these are dealing (carrying a revised upper limit of a 15 year prison sentence) and using cannabis in the vicinity of a school or around kids.

So tokers will be allowed to possess small amounts and use it in private, but the transaction where the dope is actually acquired will remain an offence technically punishable by a prison sentence. Clearly the answer here is for tokers to do a spot of indoor gardening: a few plants producing good quality grass for personal use only. What could be simpler?

Restrict the number of plants to four (or however many you feel you can explain away to the police as being for personal use). Stick to an absolutely no dealing rule. Keep on good terms with the neighbours and don't be the cause of "nuisance behaviour" (let's face it, the neighbours are the ones who are most likely to phone the police).

Thus, the toker will be able to enjoy a very cheap, good quality supply of their drug of choice within the limits of the law, but at the same time not bother anyone else. One possibly overlooked benefit of all this might be that the market for cheap and poor quality "soapbar" resin might collapse: the poor profits from soap weigh really badly against a 15 year prison sentence, I'd say.

On paper at least this looks like a pretty attractive option. Could it be that we're finally going to be treated like adults? Could it be that a modicum of common sense has finally prevailed?

As one door appears to open, another closes...

The big catch here is that the new legislation applies only to England and Wales. In their infinite wisdom politicians and police chiefs in Scotland have decided that the cannabis laws will remain as they currently are. Technically you still get busted even for sitting having a joint in your own living room.

Or not, as it's been suggested that in practice the police in Scotland will turn a blind eye to casual use. Or not, as it's been further suggested that the blind eye policy will only apply within the jurisdiction of particular police forces, and will depend on the humour of the officer involved. Whether or not the toker is busted or not comes down to what kind of day the police officer has had.

Clear as mud, isn't it? An opportunity to free up police time for more important matters (which they're always bitching about) wasted. And people appear to be more confused about things than ever.

It's not all going to be beer and skittles in England and Wales either, with the main opposition party already committed to moving cannabis back to Class B when (if) they manage to get back into power. Of course, this may mean something or it may mean nothing at all: it's a politician's promise, after all, and that means as much as a junkie's promise. Then again, one never can tell.



## Fast Food Nation: What the All-American Meal Is Doing to the World

Eric Schlosser

On any given day, one out of four Americans opts for a quick and cheap meal at a fast-food restaurant, without giving either its speed or its thriftiness a second thought. Fast food is so ubiquitous that it now seems as American, and harmless, as apple pie. But the industry's drive for

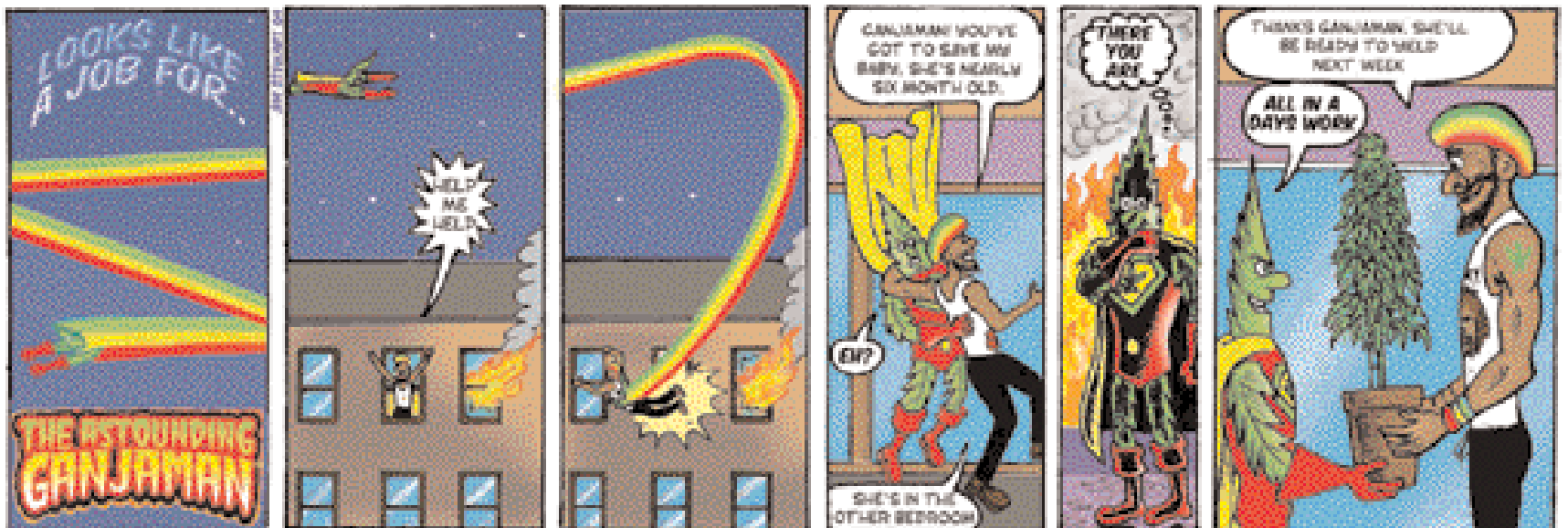
consolidation, homogenization, and speed has radically transformed America's diet, landscape, economy, and workforce, often in insidiously destructive ways. Eric Schlosser, an award-winning journalist, opens his ambitious and ultimately devastating exposé with an introduction to the iconoclasts and high school dropouts,

such as Harlan Sanders and the McDonald brothers, who first applied the principles of a factory assembly line to a commercial kitchen. Quickly, however, he moves behind the counter with the overworked and underpaid teenage workers, onto the factory farms where the potatoes and beef are grown, and into the slaughterhouses run by giant meatpacking corporations. Schlosser wants you to know why those French fries taste so good (with a visit to the world's largest flavor company) and "what really lurks between those sesame-seed buns." Eater beware: forget your concerns about cholesterol, there is--literally--feces in your meat. Schlosser's investigation reaches its frightening peak in the meatpacking plants as he reveals the almost complete lack of federal oversight of a seemingly lawless industry. His searing

portrayal of the industry is disturbingly similar to Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, written in 1906: nightmare working conditions, union busting, and unsanitary practices that introduce *E. coli* and other pathogens into restaurants, public schools, and homes. Almost as disturbing is his description of how the industry "both feeds and feeds off the young," insinuating itself into all aspects of children's lives, even the pages of their school books, while leaving them prone to obesity and disease. Fortunately, Schlosser offers some eminently practical remedies. "Eating in the United States should no longer be a form of high-risk behavior," he writes. Where to begin? Ask yourself, is the true cost of having it "your way" really worth it?

Penguin Books; ISBN: 0141006870

## BOOKS













# A trip with The Emperor – Jack Herer

What do you do if you are invited to accompany cannabis legend, Jack Herer on a day trip to the Hempflax hemp factory? Jack Herer, author of the book, *The Emperor* wears no clothes, in which he claims cannabis was outlawed as a result of a conspiracy by powerful American industrialists during the thirties of last century. The man whom Sensi Seeds honoured by naming their best cannabis strain after him. This strain has proved so popular that it is described as Jock Horror in catalogues by competing seed companies. Jack Herer – the underground hero universally lauded by the cannabis community throughout the world. Despite the fact that Herer is obviously still suffering side effects from a brain haemorrhage, that happened more than three years ago, how could one resist such an opportunity? So witness your Soft Secrets UK reporter as he joins a dozen or so Americans, as well as Dirk Rehahn (Editor-in-chief of the German *Hanfjournal*) outside the Amsterdam Arena. It is ten o' clock in the morning, and a bus is ready and waiting to whisk us off to the hemp fields of East Groningen.

By John Sennema

We eventually depart three quarters of an hour later. Well, it must just be those stoned Americans with their strange sleeping patterns... nonetheless the atmosphere is instantly cheerful, thanks also due to our host Alan Dronkers, son of the famous Sensi Seeds director and founder Ben. Drinks and lunch packets are distributed, followed soon after by photocopies of the first chapter of Herer's latest book, *The Most Holy*, which he is currently co-writing with James Arthur.

Fortunately we have been granted a lenient bus driver. Despite the official no-smoking policy of the bus company, we stoners are allowed free reign as long as we don't use the ashtrays. And preferably no tobacco on board. Jack is apparently allergic to tobacco smoke, his friend and companion, Ariel explains to us while she sneakily puffs on a menthol. Even before we have reached Amersfoort, Jack has found it necessary to stretch himself on the back seat. It is Cannabis Cup time after all, and he needs a bit of recovery time from all the joints and pipes pressed into his hands by his many fans, over the past few days.

Herer had not looked healthy to me, when I had seen him hauling himself into the bus earlier. The brain haemorrhage from three years previous obviously did a lot of damage. Herer looks like an old man, much older than his 64 years. For a long time, this cannabis legend was paralysed down his left side and consequently, he walks with a limp.

He was unable to speak for an entire year after the stroke although his brain kept up a constant stream of ideas. This experience must have been extremely frustrating for a man who had been invited to give literally hundreds of talks and readings at universities annually.

OK, so his weight had been tipping the scales toward the risky side and the stroke seems to have reduced his mass to healthier proportions, but is was really his workaholic behaviour that had eventually caught up with him. During our return journey, Herer himself says, "Sometimes I wouldn't see my bed for four days at a time."

## Fibre

But we haven't even got there yet. After hours of riding around back roads, we arrive in an area that is home, throughout the summer season, to fields of hemp plants the height of your head. This is Groningen's Oude Pekela, which was once the heart of cardboard industry and where Hempflax is now situated. An old factory was converted from cardboard production to hemp fibre production. This is the material realisation of Herer's dream. In 'The Emperor', he had written of the enormous potential of hemp as a provider of fuel, food and industrial fibres and had focussed attention on the environmental aspects.

Inspired by Herer's book, Ben Dronkers, who founded the Sensi Seed empire, saw the light and established Hempflax. Much of the money generated by his seed company and coffeeshops was invested directly into the new business that would also bring life back into this impoverished region. Herer's broad grin during the guided tour expressed more than mere words. You could almost hear him thinking, 'mission accomplished'.

## Holy?

The visit to the hemp factory has visibly perked Herer up. The attendant reporters had already given up hope of hearing something succinct from the big man but to our surprise, after a decidedly large and very pure joint, the author was willingly to share his mind with us on the return journey. A conventional question time type interview was not on the cards. Herer warns us, "Let me just talk, without comment otherwise I become confused and I forget what we were talking about." That this is not a light warning soon becomes evident.

Trying to follow his halting monologue is a poignant experience and his willpower is admirable yet at the same time, one can't help wondering about his mental grasp on things. Furiously searching for words, coughing like there is no hereafter from a hefty draw on his joint, Herer regularly loses the thread of his speech. His stream of thought is frequently interrupted by long silences wherein he is patently struggling with his hesitant brain. Struggling and jerking, Herer tells us



*Herer credits his healing process to his self-medication recipe that consists of lots of cannabis and a tiny dose of Fly agaric taken daily.*

how his condition has been improving in the years following the stroke. He credits his healing process to his self-medication recipe that consists of lots of cannabis and a tiny dose of Fly agaric taken daily. The Fly agaric also provides the connection to his new book, *The Most High*, in collaboration with James Arthur. This book bears no resemblance to *The Emperor* at all, as it explores a theory that all world religions are based on ritual use of psychedelic mushrooms such as Fly agaric, *Amanita Pantherina* and psilocybin. Scholar and author John Allegro has previously written about this theory.

Herer, "I have been busy with this book since even before I ever started on the Emperor. A vital part of the work is to decode the Bible. I had already managed to decipher quite a lot by the time I met James several months ago. The research we had each done independently had a lot of common ground. It becomes very apparent that all religions were formed as a consequence of ingesting magic mushrooms. Images of mushrooms can be found within the art of all the worlds' cultures. They are everywhere to be seen. Our book will be a revelation to many people. The mushroom is the key." Herer is impassioned and shares his own recipe for enlightenment with us. "*Amanita Pantherina* contains four times as much Muscarine as does the Fly Agaric, but it must be dried before consumption otherwise you will become deathly ill. If you take 32 grams of that, followed by seven grams

of psilocybin, then you enter the realm that people call God, Jesus or Buddha."

## The evidence

Herer takes us up to his hotel room later to view the evidence of his theory. There are a pile of art books on the bedside table portraying illustrations of Eastern and European art from the Middle ages. With rising astonishment we follow Jack's shaky finger as he traces mushroom images. Wherever a line waves in form or curve, he mumbles "*Amanita muscaria*" or "psilocybin" even when it is evidently a flower or a button on a garment. He even goes so far as to declare that the red cloak worn by a knight as a direct reference to the (indeed red) Fly agaric. There was only one illustration where it was possible to recognise the vague form of a mushroom and during this session Rehahn and I kept exchanging meaningful glances. "This does not add up" I see him thinking and although I'm prepared to go pretty far into Herer's theory, the maniacal compulsiveness with which he expands his theory, makes it come over as highly questionable.

Later at the bar we wonder whether we are just not smart enough to get it or whether our hero is losing his grip on reality. We conclude that it does not matter either way. He will always be remembered as the man who with *The Emperor* wears no clothes, opened the eyes of the world to the wonders of the cannabis plant. Neither a brain haemorrhage nor an overdose of magic mushrooms will ever be able to detract from that.







News &amp; Sport, West Country • 1998 • Monday 22 January 2001

# COURT: Police searched home Joint led to £5,000 haul of cannabis

POLICE searched the home of a man who they had caught smoking a 'joint' near Penzance's swimming pool - and found £5,000 worth of cannabis, a court heard.

James James Creighton, 30, of Carberry Road, admitted possessing cannabis, ecstasy and cannabis with intent to supply when he appeared before Eden magistrates.

Prosecutor, Peter Kelly said two police officers had spotted Creighton smoking near Penzance pool. When told he would be searched, Creighton produced two one-inch squares of cannabis resin.

At Creighton's home, police found a plastic bag containing 15 tablets of ecstasy, a computer printer and four tin blocks of cannabis hidden in the seat of a scooter, said Mr Kelly.

Creighton told the police he had bought the cannabis to sell with him at

by Staff Reporter.

the pool for £20 for his own use. Neither the ecstasy nor the cannabis blocks belonged to him, Creighton claimed.

In Milketon, Gwynn Walker said cannabis was the only drug Creighton used.

The ecstasy had been left at Creighton's home by a friend and he had not taken any.

Creighton had been asked to look after the cannabis blocks for someone and was going to return them when asked, and would probably have been given some cannabis for his own use, said Mr Walker.

Eden magistrates adjourned sentencing to February 13 and granted Creighton conditional bail.

He was warned all sentencing options were being considered, including custody.

Star (See-News) Thursday 22 January 2001

## BLUNKETT'S CHALLENGE TO TORY LEADER

■ HOME Secretary David Blunkett today challenged Tory leader Michael Howard to say if he had any doubts possible.

■ The talk came after Mr Howard said the Tories would reverse the Government's move to downgrade the classification of cannabis.

■ Mr Howard said the move to downgrade cannabis was "absurd and without logic".

■ The Government argued that youngsters will not be deterred from taking hard drugs if they are told cannabis is just as bad.



# Cannabis café owner gets off

Writer on Sunday  
Sunday 12 January 2001

A MURDER MANS slumped in a chair was charged of drugs charges has vowed to continue going the drug to his people.

But David Blair, from High, one of the most successful purveyors of the drug, is not going to stop after a murder charge. Blair told the court he had the drug for his medical needs.

Speaking after the hearing, Blair said he was not going to stop in his search to provide the drug to his people.

The 40-year-old said: "I am definitely not going to stop. I have never been to prison. This has made a huge difference to me."

Blair said he had been in the UK for 10 years and the defence of medical necessity.

"I have never used cannabis. I have always given it away free to people who need it to relieve pain and suffering."

Mr Blair had admitted that more than £100,000 of public money had been spent on the case, which involved £50 of cannabis.

He added: "I will carry on supplying cannabis free to people who need it. I will not be a public prosecutor for them."

"I really could not care my back on a man who asks for help. I will not let him die."

Blair said he had been in the UK for 10 years and the defence of medical necessity.

Mr Blair had been charged with a murder charge and had been charged with supplying cannabis.

But he was charged with supplying cannabis to people who need it to relieve pain and suffering.

He said the jury: "I couldn't judge her for knowing the law."

"I wanted to help her and make her an even more good person."

But Judge Egan Edwards warned Mr Blair that if he had not been charged and he continued to be charged.



CANNABIS: Jeff Ed (left)

He said: "You are not to take this as approval for what you are doing."

"I know you have a right to know, but if you do this, you are not to be a prosecutor again and you may not be acquitted next time."

"If you do this, you are running the risk of further prosecution."

The verdict came just ahead of the proposed downgrading of cannabis from Class B to Class C, in January 2001.

The new classification will mean prosecution officers will have to prove that the person is a serious and persistent offender.

He said: "People believe it is going to become decriminalized, but of course it won't."

"It is a real mistake. Police are not the person, confidence their cannabis and when they are not a serious and persistent offender."

"I don't think it should be made legal or not."

Onion: Evening Chronicle  
Monday 15 January 2001

## Cannabis haul

SEARCHED: A man, 30, was charged with cannabis possession after a haul of cannabis plants was found at his home. The haul was found at a house after police received information from the public. A 30-year-old man was arrested and questioned by police in connection with the incident.

Evening Chronicle & Post (West)  
Monday 15 January 2001

■ A 30-year-old man, who grew cannabis plants at his home, was charged with cannabis possession today.

Joseph Justin Hughes (30), Baldovan Terrace, had previously admitted that, on June 28, 2000, at a flat in City Road, he produced and used a production of cannabis.

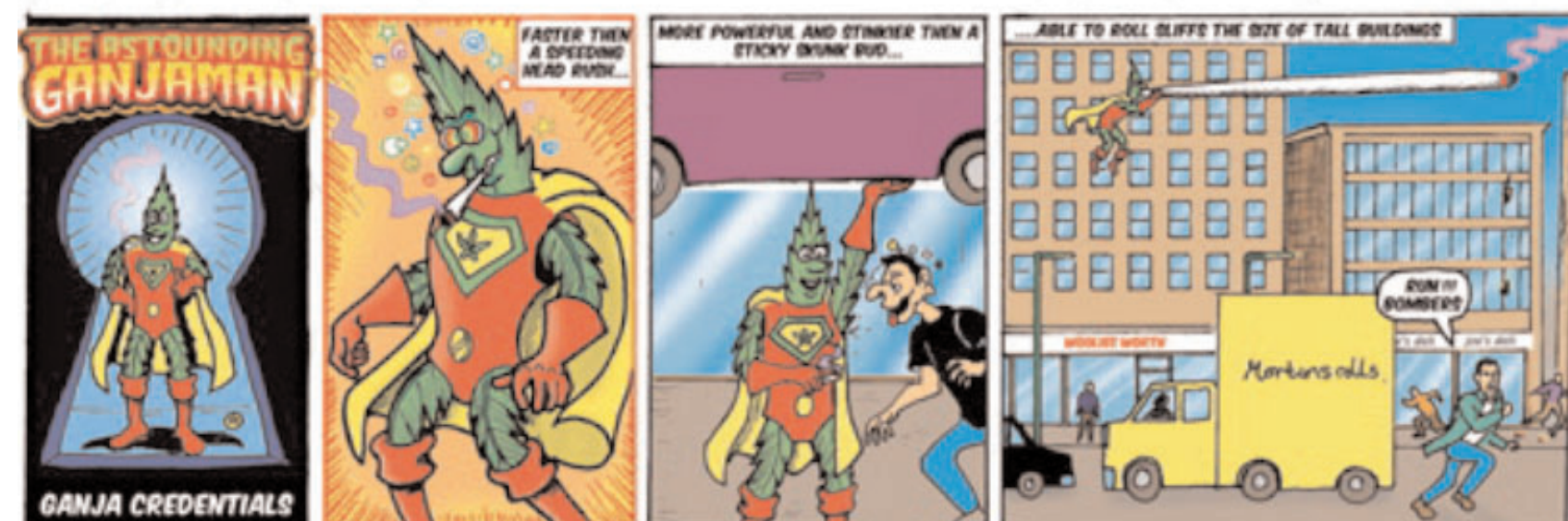
Liverpool Echo  
Saturday 17 January 2001

## news briefs

# Cannabis worth £100,000 seized

A HAUL of cannabis worth a value of about £100,000 was seized in a residential property in Seacombe, Liverpool, after police received a tip-off from neighbours.

Officers discovered 200 cannabis plants and equipment for cultivating the drug at the address. A 30-year-old man was arrested.





# Many cannabis users 'happy to smoke and drive'

The Guardian Tuesday 21 January 2004

John Gervais  
Social affairs editor

Most regular cannabis users admit to driving under the influence of the drug in spite of being aware that it impairs their performance, according to a study today from the Economic and Social Research Council.

It found 90% of cannabis-smoking drivers said they had taken a case involving one of the kind while feeling stoned. Of those who had, 70% believed it had a bad effect on their driving. Of people who took the drug between two and seven days a week, 67% said they felt it was acceptable to drive under the influence of cannabis.

The research, headed by Philip Terry of Birmingham University, said the potential economic and social cost of people performing risky activities while under the influence of cannabis was largely overlooked in the government's recent decision to downgrade the drug's classification.

The team interviewed 300 frequent users of cannabis and 50 casual users who took the drug no more than four days a month. They found a third of the frequent users were willing to drive even when they thought they were "very high".

Nearly 80% of those who had driven while using cannabis or soon afterwards said they would be deterred from doing so if it was a test-

ing were introduced. Although at least one in eight had been stopped by the police while under the influence of the drug, none was tested for cannabis intoxication or charged with driving under the influence.

The study found that in four weeks cannabis helped or at worst, with just over half of those reporting some degree of impairment. Users of the drug said its positive effects included aiding sleep, relieving pain, and assisting in relaxation, but its drawbacks were paranoia, drowsiness, and forgetfulness.

Dr Terry said: "Public effort by policymakers has been directed towards identifying potential health problems that might result from cannabis use. However, the individual consequences of cannabis use may be just as significant."

"Previous studies have failed to examine the extent to which chronic use of cannabis is likely to increase someone's risk of accident or injury, or to have potentially significant adverse effects on their financial or social wellbeing by affecting their job performance or personal relationships."

A Home Office spokeswoman said that it had not ignored the other effects of cannabis, and the downgrading of its classification did not mean the department was telling people to take the drug — it remained illegal.

Daily Mail  
Friday 21 January 2004

## COMMENT

### A drugs policy mired in muddle

CLASSIFICATION REBORN. Conundrums abound. Experts disagree. A youth culture remains is downgraded to a Class C drug. Still, the Howard's description of this unfolding muddle as "chaotic" seems the nearest to understatement.

Let's not pursue this right to a split. Predictably, millions are disappointed that it is not being recalled the status in the first place. The Home Office spends £100m telling us they still face arrest.

That message is underlined by Tony Blair at the same time, the Association of Chief Police Officers says there will be a presumption against arrest.

Moreover, Brian Jenkins — who provoked outrage with his "worryingly" approach to cannabis — has been promoted to one of Britain's most powerful police posts.

Arrest — or not? They get worse. Government advisers are no great practical obstacles to relaxing the law. But devastating evidence has since emerged showing the damage cannabis causes.

Disastrous. Formerer Robin Murray says the drug is now the main problem facing mental health services. Research in Sweden, Holland, New Zealand and America supports his warning.

So how did the Government end up in such a mess of confusion?

It certainly isn't because Home Secretary David Blunkett is soft on drugs. He is right to argue it is more important for police to concentrate on people of Class A substances such as heroin than on people who put the national debt.

The trouble is, his scheme arguably makes judging harder. Until recently, having Class C substances was a reasonable offence, so governing cannabis would have saved police time.

But then he changed the rules. Anyone with such drugs can now be arrested.

We are left with a dog's breakfast. Sometimes police will see their users of arrest. Sometimes not. Sometimes, suspects are not included in court. Sometimes not. And, inexpressible young people will continue to believe a Class C offence can do no harm.

This is a damaging indictment of Government incompetence in handling this deeply disturbing social problem.

Seamus Gervais (London)  
Wednesday 21 January 2004

### Law change sends out the wrong message

DOCTORS' leaders said today they were "extremely concerned" that the imminent downgrading of cannabis would make the public believe it was a "safe" drug to use.

The substance is due to be reclassified from a class B to a class C drug a week tomorrow, ranking it alongside bodybuilding steroids and pain-killers. But Dr Peter Maguire, deputy chairman of the British Medical Association's board of science, said he was worried how this would affect potential drug users. He said: "We are very worried about the negative health effects of smoking cannabis and want the Government to fund more research."

"Chronic cannabis smoking increases the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis and emphysema." When it is downgraded, possession of cannabis will no longer be an arrestable offence in most cases. Police will retain the power to arrest users in some situations — such as when it is used outside schools.

Home Secretary David Blunkett says the change is needed to enable police to spend more time tackling class A drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine. About 50,000 arrests a year are currently made and fined for possession of cannabis.

An advertising campaign warning of the health dangers of cannabis will begin tomorrow.



Northumbria Echo  
10th Edition / Northumbria  
Saturday 21 January 2004

## Cannabis raid

TWO youths under 18 and one woman were being questioned last night after police seized cannabis with a street value of £2,000 at a house in Collyer, west Cleveland.

The woman was arrested along with two males aged 17 and 18, for possession of a class B controlled drug with intent to supply.

Express & Star (Sunderland)  
Friday 19 January 2004

## Drug charge

A MAN has appeared in court charged with possessing £25,000 of cannabis.

Glenn Cranham, 37, of Cranston Avenue, Gosforth, appeared before Hester Magistrates' Court charged with being in possession of 20 kilograms of cannabis with the intent to supply.

The case was adjourned until January 22, pending further investigation.

Cranham was released on conditional bail.

### What is the law now?

Cannabis is a class B drug. You can be arrested for possession. The maximum sentence for possession is five years.

### When the law changes on 29 January will cannabis still be illegal?

Yes. It will still be a criminal offence to possess cannabis in any form.

### Can I be arrested?

Yes. But police have new guidelines that mean that most people who are stopped will have the drug confiscated until be given a warning. Officers should only arrest repeat offenders or those smoking in a public place.

## Q&A

From Simon's Weekly Tuesday 22 January 2004

### What happens if I have a joint in the street?

You could still be arrested — especially if you are near a school.

### What punishment could I receive?

Most people will escape with a warning — but it is still possible to be jailed for

possession of cannabis (maximum term two years). Police have been told to arrest under 18s they find in possession of cannabis.

### Will there be cannabis cafes?

No. If somebody tries to set up one they will be treated as a dealer — meaning they face a maximum sentence of 14 years.

### If I smoke cannabis because I suffer from multiple sclerosis will I be arrested?

It is unlikely as long as you do it in your own home. But cannabis is not legal for medical use — and the law is not going to be changed.

Northumbria Echo  
Friday 21 January 2004

## FILE

### Cannabis plants find

CANNABIS plants are alleged to have been found in a Tynesworth restaurant, owned by police. Officers went to the Odeum Restaurant in Tynesworth Street and executed a warrant after the release of drugs act.

Various things were found and police said three people arrested at the scene were helping with enquiries.

Express Evening  
Wednesday 21  
January 2004

## Police seize drugs in raid

ONE OF SEVERAL suspected cannabis plants in a street at a house in York.

Officers in a raid to search the house in York.

They allegedly found several plants which were confiscated from the house and are growing in special conditions to the aid of the house and to be controlled.

They also found several plants of Class B.

A 21-year-old man from York was arrested for possession of cannabis and has been released on police bail pending further investigation.

Sergeant Andy Smith, of the Northumbria Police, said: "We will not tolerate the production or dealing of cannabis. Our officers are working hard to bring this type of activity to an end."

While the cannabis is downgraded from a class B to a class C drug, possession is still an illegal activity and can be found in possession of it could still be arrested.

"Anyone convicted of possession of cannabis will receive a maximum of 14 years in prison."

## CANNABIS IS STILL ILLEGAL

The Police can arrest you

- If you are regularly smoking Cannabis
- If you repeatedly offend
- If Cannabis use has been linked to other criminal activity
- If you possess Cannabis and are under 18 years of age

**You will be arrested if you are aged 17 or under**

Campaign: the adverts are being targeted mainly at teenagers



TRIMMED FOR YOU

# SUN EXPOSES VAST DIFFERENCE IN DOCS' HANDLING OF DEPT DRUGS

# WHAT A HASH

By JOHNNY, 23 January 2004

DEP docs have been left baffled by the Government's changes to Britain's cannabis laws. The law can be a mess.

From next week cannabis will be reclassified from a Class B drug

to a Class C drug - making possession of pot for less serious.

It means police will usually not arrest people for having small amounts of cannabis, but will issue more formal cautions and warnings instead.

But the Government is launching a £1million advertising campaign warning that cannabis is still illegal.

And the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance advising officers that they CAN arrest those who smoke pot in public or those repeatedly found in possession of the drug.

Yesterday Sun reporters went on the street with fake joints posing as potted plants to see how the ordinary copper on the beat was dealing with the changes.

The results showed that our post policemen are really confused - with many others turning a blind eye or refusing to make an arrest. This is how our reporters were notified when they asked a cop: "Is it OK if I light my joint?"

## UK attitudes more laid-back

Accuracy News & Sun  
Monday 23 January 2004

A RAZE of confusion hangs over the use of cannabis. Later this month the UK Government will downgrade the status of the drug, classifying it Grade C alongside tranquilisers and steroids.

Its new status is intended to highlight the degree of harm that it may cause in comparison to such drugs as cocaine and heroin.

In other words, cannabis is bad, but not that bad. In the UK, it will be extremely unlikely that anyone using cannabis in private will be prosecuted, as the Government focuses on the fight against Class A drugs instead.

This is not the message that Board of Health president Peter Roffey wishes to portray, however, as Guernsey is to consider reclassification, too.

It will remain strictly illegal, he insists. Home Affairs Committee president Mike Torode is adamant that following the UK would be sending out the wrong message.

I don't believe there are medical grounds for reclassification.

No one has ever died as a direct and immediate consequence of the recreational or medicinal use of cannabis, but does anyone know really what the dangers are?

Obviously smoking any drug is unhealthy - whether it be cannabis or tobacco - but a recent national study has shown that the greatest pre-consumption abnormalities appear in those who smoke the two drugs together.

Cannabis side effects of cannabis are panic and paranoia and, in the same survey, 10 to 15% of users reported 'confused' feelings as a disadvantage while 27% complained of anxiety.

There is an increasing belief, too, among leading psychiatrists that there is a significant link between the use of cannabis and mental illness.

In 2003, one in four 15 to 24-year-olds in the UK smoked cannabis.

Deputy Roffey explained that it would be strange if Guernsey followed the UK on all other classification but not cannabis.

Yes in the interests of preventing an escalation in the use of this increasingly recreational drug, as it is in the UK, States members might see that anomaly as appropriate.

Has the Express 11 January  
Friday 13 January 2004

## NEWSFILE

### Cannabis raid

A CANNABIS grower was killed in a three-hour raid on a Wexmouth restaurant, linked to police.

Officers went to the Golden Restaurant, 15 Regent Street and executed a raid on the premises for the use of drugs act.

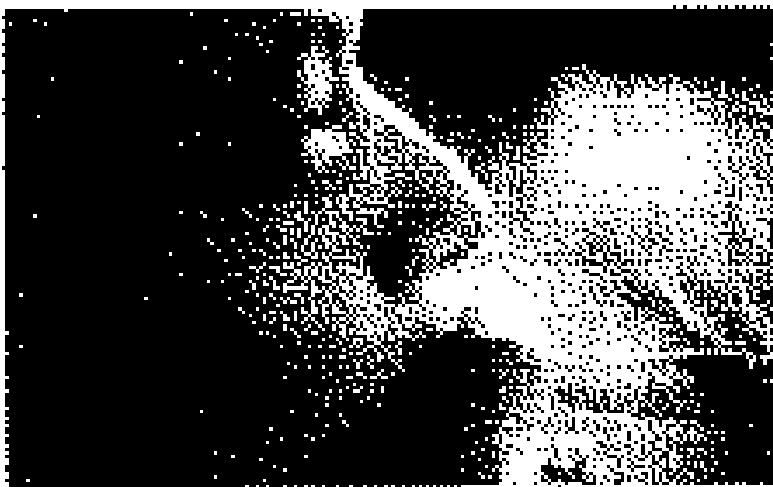
Various items were seized and taken away in a van and police said three people were helped with injuries.

Has the Express 11 January  
Friday 13 January 2004

**DEALER SENTENCED.** A 30-year-old Galway drug dealer was sentenced to five months in prison at Galway District Court this week for having €1,000 worth of cannabis resin in his possession for sale or supply to others.

Kevin Doolan, with an address at 82 Castlemark, Ballybane, Galway, pleaded guilty to the offence following a raid on his home on February 13 last year.

Defence solicitor Valeria Corcoran said her client was a drug addict and he had lost his job as a security officer following other convictions in June last year.



See next page





TRIMMED FOR YOU



## PC COOK GIVES US GRILLING

**MANCHESTER** David Pyatt was concerned with what after being caught with a bogus joint at the night station.

A British, Manchester Police officer asked PC Cook, who said that he pulled out the bogus joint, showed more.

David told the paper: "The way they treat me this is in contrast to what I would expect and I don't see why they should be treated like this."

and used a pocket to go through the slip and which contained the contents.

After being searched my self continued making sure then I told him what he wanted to do. The police did not let me go to the station. I was taken to the station.

## CARDIFF

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David told the paper: "The way they treat me this is in contrast to what I would expect and I don't see why they should be treated like this."

**Verdict: If there's a nubbie in that spiff and you light it, I can confiscate it... and I can arrest and charge you if I want to**



Got a light? ... Sun's John confronts cops

## BRISTOL

COPS said they would stop anyone spotted smoking dope in public and seize their joint.

But when they were a known drug user or a known dealer, they would be treated differently.

Reporter John Cook went into the city's Redwood shopping centre with a fake joint.

He approached PCs Simon White and Martin Thomas and asked them: "Can you give me a light?"

PC White, 36, replied: "If I saw you doing a light that joint in the street, it would be taken away for destruction and you would probably be taken to a station."

"If you were caught doing a similar thing again you would be liable to arrest."

But he said known users would be arrested and prosecuted without incident before their joints.

He added the changes give cops more discretion - and it's not down to individual officers.



Joint effort... Stewart and cops

**'I'll nick you' then he's off**

## BRIXTON

The area did have a soft-spoken approach but was now THREATENED in arrest - then BUILT.

One man, Stewart, was taken to the station and asked: "Can you give me a light?"

The cop asked: "Yes, well, arrest me if I see you doing a light that joint in the street, it would be taken away for destruction and you would probably be taken to a station."

But he said known users would be arrested and prosecuted without incident before their joints.

He added the changes give cops more discretion - and it's not down to individual officers.

**Verdict: Confused PC does a runner**



In the know... PCs and our man

**It depends on your previous**

## CAMDEN

COPS said they knew about the war on drugs confusion - after reading about it in the Sun.

Reporter Grant Stirling was told by PC Sidney that he would be arrested if he smoked his joint.

The officer said: "It is still illegal to smoke cannabis and I would arrest you, Sir."

"It will still be illegal when the laws do what they force."

Under the changes, people can be warned or arrested for smoking it, it depends on your previous."

He added: "I read the Sun so know all about it!"

**Verdict: Smokers will still be nicked**



Challenge... Sun's Chris with cops yesterday

## MANCHESTER

Two robbers were inside when he was when Sun man Chris, having been told a joint "spiff" - and asked: "Can I walk around the street smoking this?"

He challenged the officers - Sun man Chris - outside the city's Midland Hotel, saying: "Excuse me, but I heard on the news the law has changed regarding cannabis."

The bemused PC asked: "Is it for personal use? If you are suspected of having cannabis we will arrest you."

But when Chris challenged them outside the large before declaring: "We're not technically supposed to arrest you for possession - but we will have to take that."

Chris then lit the joint and the "spiff" was just a large hand-rolled joint. After a quick sniff, the relieved PC said: "As it's not real you can have it back."

**Verdict: Hand over that joint and be on your way**



Don't be naughty... what cops told Pyatt

## WINDSOR

3309 reporter David Pyatt showed a fake joint to a cop and asked what his reaction would be if our man lit it.

PC 3307 said: "I tried to be polite and you light it then I will take it off you, stamp it into the pavement and call you a naughty boy."

Pyatt: "You wouldn't arrest me then?"

PC 3307: "If I arrested you I'd be off the streets for the next six hours doing paperwork."

"There are warnings, warnings, warnings and warnings out there and I would rather be taking them back to the risk if you were doing that would be different."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police, which covers the rural town, said: "Cannabis remains an illegal drug but there will be a presumption against arrest in cases of possession."

**Verdict: Light up and I'll just stamp out your spiff**

## Blunkett decision defies all logic



Blunkett decision defies all logic

CONVINCING evidence backs up the Government's failure to change laws on Britain's growing drug crisis.

It seems a confusing message to youngsters that in some ways, drugs are acceptable.

David Blunkett's decision allows 18 to buy.

Many argue legality at 18 is the only effective way of controlling the problem.

Others believe outlawing all drugs and making it that with zero tolerance policing is the only solution.

The Home Secretary's decision may leave us with the worst of all worlds.

Police say they're unsure how to make the new law work.

The medical world is united: cannabis is a major health hazard.

That's to say nothing of the youngsters who can be forgiven for thinking dealing with drugs is OK.

Downgrading drugs to anything more dodgy than an antibiotic risks waving the white flag on drugs for ever.



# Cannabis was grown in shed

Continued from page 64  
Friday 18 January 2004

## Police seize cash and drugs after raid on house

By Ann Marie Houghton,  
Crime Reporter

THIS was the scene uncovered by police as they raided a house in Preston.

The cannabis factory was discovered during raids yesterday.

Police seized £25,000 in cash and drugs worth a potential £40,000 on the streets.

Officers found three blocks of cannabis resin, 20 mature cannabis plants under cultivation in a shed, 24 seedling cannabis plants and drugs paraphernalia at the address in Alcock Avenue, Fulwood, Preston.

Acting Detective Sergeant Sean O'Neill from the Mersey Drugs Unit



**CRACKDOWN** The Fulwood Avenue where the raid took place

at Preston said: "The plants were being grown in a shed under artificial light."

"The shed had been specifically designed to grow these cannabis plants and the person cultivating them clearly knew what they were doing."

### 'Targeting'

"I am pleased with the result of the search, it is always good to remove drugs from circulation."

"We are committed to identifying, targeting and arresting people who choose to supply drug substances to the community."

The raid was carried out by officers from the operations support unit at Preston Police Station, who were spe-

cially trained drugs to sniff out the drugs.

They arrested four local men who have been released on police bail.

Officers were today making an application to the magistrates court for permission to seize the cash whilst the owners are made aware of the charges.

Since last April there have been 40 arrests from Operation Nimrod and the total amount of cash and drugs seized is estimated at £367,275.

Anyone with information about contact with Simon [name redacted] or the Mersey Drugs Team on [phone number] or call anonymously by calling Crimestoppers

on 0800 555 1234 or email [annmarie.houghton@pcc.gov.uk](mailto:annmarie.houghton@pcc.gov.uk)

Mersey News Post  
Friday 18 January 2004

## Drug dealer may have proceeds confiscated

A DRUG dealer who made over £250,000 from his illegal trade has some of it confiscated by the Superior Magistrate of the Royal Court yesterday.

Stephen Barron (45) is currently serving a five-year sentence after he was sentenced in October by the Superior Magistrate. He admitted possessing and intending to supply £112,000 worth of cannabis, which was found hidden under his car bonnet in St. Owen.

Since his imprisonment, the Crown had requested that Barron forfeit £200,000 from dealing drugs, the court heard.

### Ownership

"Barron refused to give up all of his financial details, which include the ownership of a property in Spain," Crown Advocate Sally Sharpe said. She added that the Victorian's department had already seized goods to the value of £54,000 and asked for that to be confiscated. She also said that the Crown may wish to return to court to ask for further money, if they are able to get more details from the prisoner.

Barron's advocate, Catherine Fogarty, simply stood up and said: "The order is not opposed."

Deputy Bailiff Michael Birt, who was sitting with James Baillie, Vicki Budge, Le Dren and Alby, made the order and granted the Victorian the power to realise the assets of all properties that had been seized.

Mersey Independent, 18 January 2004

## Man jailed for drugs smuggling

A 35-YEAR-OLD South African who smuggled more than £40,000 worth of cannabis resin on a flight from Paris has been jailed for five years.

Gavin Irvine, from Johannesburg, pleaded guilty to having 19kg of cannabis resin at Dublin Airport on April 25, 2001.

He told jurors he had accepted £2,000 from traffickers in Johannesburg to bring the drugs to Dublin. He was experiencing difficulties and the opportunity to make money was too much temptation, he said.

Judge Hogan said he was exercising discretion not to impose the mandatory 10-year sentence due to the man's circumstances and his co-operation with police following his arrest.

Mersey News & Star, Tuesday 23 January 2004

# Cannabis importer gets two years

A PORTUGUESE man has been sentenced to two years in prison by the Royal Court for importing cannabis resin worth an estimated street value of up to £2,000.

Customs officers found the drugs in Marco Ribeiro Paulo Santos' car when he returned back to the island after visiting the UK with his girlfriend in October last year.

Santos, whose address was given as Room A, Staff Quarters, The Dockland Hotel, La Otago, Forest, reported 240 grams of the Class B drug with perfume before hiding it behind the UK-registered Renault's ashtray.

It was detected by a sniffer dog and Santos was arrested.

The 20-year-old was living

singlehandedly at the time of the offence but was unemployed.

In sentencing him, Deputy Bailiff Geoffrey Rowland said: "Your job as a chef had expired and you were thinking of moving to the UK. You went for an overnight stay there. You purchased the drugs there and it was evident that it was not a spur of the moment action."

He said that Santos had tried to import a substantial quantity of cannabis resin, which was estimated to have been enough to make 1,000 joints.

In April 2002, the Royal Court noted that there had been a considerable increase in the amount of cannabis in the island.

"Since then, there has been

no abatement," said Mr Rowland.

"The court notes that in terms of quantity, this is at the lower end of what we have had to deal with in recent times."

Advocate Sara Adalbert, representing Santos, told the Deputy Bailiff and the judge that her client had been a model prisoner since his arrest on 29 October.

"He has a very supportive girlfriend who has written to the court," she said.

Santos has been taking computer-literacy lessons while on remand, which he hoped would increase his chances of getting a job on his release, Advocate Adalbert said.

"I ask you to consider his relatively young age, the fact

he has never been removed since October and the fact that this is a relatively low amount of drugs," she said.

He realises he has let his family down, and in particular his girlfriend, and he has a grandmother who is in failing health and analogous to everyone in court and his family, but in particular his girlfriend.

In passing sentence, Deputy Bailiff Rowland said the judge had given full credit for Santos' guilty plea.

"You had no previous convictions and we give you age," he said. "You admit to being a user of cannabis resin but are not addicted."

"The two-year sentence will run from the time of Santos' arrest."



# Cannabis growing took over man's homes

has been using them to grow weed, Scotland's Sunday Mirror

## jail for ex-soldier

By Bob Edwards

A FORMER soldier converted two houses in a cannabis growing area, a judge heard yesterday.

After Campbell's house was over-whelmed with the cannabis plants, he rented another property to grow more - and it was all by personal use, a court was told, and when police raided both properties they seized

cannabis worth nearly £10,000.

Campbell, 40, formerly of Stanley Close, Back Row Millbank, 80a, near of Leith Road, Bury St Edmunds, was jailed for two-and-a-half years at Ipswich Crown Court.

He had admitted two charges of producing cannabis and one of simple possession of the drug.

Sentencing him, Recorder Peter Fenn said of the cannabis growing: "It was large scale. It was sophisticated. It was organised".

Defence barrister Charles Myatt said Campbell had no previous convictions - just a caution for possession of cannabis. He had spent 11 years in the Army and received an exemplary conduct award when he left.

Campbell had started using cannabis in the early 1980s. "He saw it as a means of reducing the stresses of life rather than being hooked," said Mr Myatt. He grew the cannabis for personal use over a period of about three weeks.

Although it was for his own consumption, it was accepted that there would be a surplus which would inevitably be sold to others.

But when he started he did not expect to have so much success. The plants "took over" the back garden where he lived at Back Row. He then rented a flat at Herringwell, close to the garden.

The court heard earlier from Steven Dyble, prosecuting, that police raided the rental property at Back Row on June 27 last year. They seized 20 cannabis plants, four boxes of cannabis leaf as well as cannabis powder, known as "skunk". High-tech equipment was used to grow the cannabis, said Mr Dyble.

He said police later raided another longable roomed by Campbell at Warren Hill Cottages, Herringwell, where they found a similar set-up.

# Three arrests at cannabis cafe

The Guardian Friday 30 January 2004

Kirsty Scott

Police arrested three people at Scotland's first cannabis cafe last night, on the day the drug was officially decriminalised.

The arrests followed a row of alleged heroin affairs and cannabis consignments at the Purple Place cafe in Edinburgh, amid confusion over the status of the cafe in different parts of the UK.

About 50 people had disappeared into the cafe to test the reaction of Scottish police, who have indicated they will continue to take a tough line on use and possession of cannabis despite its decriminalisation from a Class B to a Class C drug, and in contrast to many English towns.

A spokesman for Leith and Borders police said two men, aged 44 and 32, and a 35-year-old woman had been arrested and charged with possession of drugs. Two of them had been seen using drugs on the premises. It is understood that the woman, who was one of three arrested.

Earlier, Mr Stewart had said he intended to turn the grungy cafe into a private cannabis club at 4pm, each day. He said people were still confused over the legality of cannabis and funds were being decimated against.

It is the pot tax all over

again. The people of Scotland are getting treated as second-class citizens. All we are lacking for is equal treatment. It is an unfair and unjust law and we will be challenging it."

A spokesman quoted as saying: "For members who yesterday afternoon, these police officers stationed outside handed out letters stating that law."

"I feel that I should be able to go to a marijuana and smoke cannabis, not bother the streets," said Steven England, 24, an unemployed sales representative. "I expect to get arrested but I don't think I should have to be."

Steven Wilkinson of the Scottish Socialist party said they hoped the cafe would become the starting point for a series of cannabis tolerance zones. "Cannabis is less dangerous than alcohol," he said. "It is less dangerous than tobacco. Therefore, its legal status must reflect that."

The SSP leader, Tommy Sheridan, a two-time MP and councillor, backed up his friend's suggestion.

Leith and Borders said it would continue to arrest people for possession of cannabis in "hotspot" areas where dealers are operating.

Scotland has already indicated that the decriminalisation will have little impact outside the borders, where law and order and policing are involved.



# Hard drugs need some hard action

THE war to beat crime needs clear thinking as much as determination and courage.

Yet on the day new figures showed shocking rises in gun crime and violence, the Tories announced they thought it wrong to ease the law on cannabis.

The reason why there is so much violence today is almost entirely due to alcohol. Whatever its other effects, cannabis does not make anyone want to

fight.

And the reason gun crime continues to increase alarmingly is that dealers in hard drugs use weapons in their brutal turf wars.

Reclassifying cannabis as a Class C drug so that police time can be devoted to real crime is both a practical and sensible move.

Michael Howard's announcement that a 'Tory Government would make it a serious offence to possess cannabis is out-of-touch and stupid. Especially from someone who refuses to deny that he smoked it when he was young - as five million Britons still do.

But this Government's reclassification of cannabis is not a substitute for a real drugs policy. It creates confusion and demonstrates only a very limited willingness to deal with the drugs crisis.

Young people understand more than politicians do about drugs, especially in the context of the more widely used but legal ones - alcohol and tobacco.

They see it as hypocrisy for politicians who enjoy a drink to complain about drug-taking.

The truth is that all drugs can have unpleasant and sometimes dangerous side effects - and that includes cannabis.

There is so much confusion in the minds of politicians as there is in the public's understanding of the law.

The country needs hard laws and the political leadership to deal with drug and crime... and it isn't getting it.

David Charles, Daily Mirror's Political Editor  
Thursday 22, January 2004

# Pair in court facing cannabis charges

A 25-YEAR-OLD man charged with possession of herbal cannabis told an awaiting police officer: "Cannabis is God's choice, not mine". Edinburgh Magistrates' Court heard yesterday.

David Charles, 25, from Gate Lodge, Greenhill House, Aghnagrin Road, Maguirebridge, was charged with possession of, intent to supply, and cultivating herbal cannabis on January 11.

Also before the court was housewife Sarah Margaret Robinson, 36, of Aghnagrin Road, Maguirebridge, who also faced charges of possession, intent to supply, cultivation of a cannabis plant and with knowingly permitting the production of herbal cannabis in her home. All charges relate to arrests made on January 11.

When charged with possession, Mr Robinson said: "I don't agree to trying any controlled drugs or terrorists."

A police constable told the court he believed he could connect the defendants to the charges.

However, under questioning by solicitor Michael Eady, he confirmed that both parties had said that they had the drug for their own use and had denied supplying the drug.

It is understood the cannabis had an estimated street value of £2,000.

Both defendants were released on bail, and ordered to report to police in Edinburgh on Friday.

They were required to appear again at Edinburgh Magistrates' Court on March 10.

# Evening Standard

Thursday, 22 January 2004

## Cannabis confusion

MR DAVID BLUNKETT'S decision to downgrade the status of cannabis from a Class B to a Class C drug takes effect next week. But Michael Howard declares that a 'Tory Government will reverse that decision. It is hard to think his judgement is making this an issue on which to embarrass the Government. The original intent about Mr Blunkett's change was that it would mean that people caught in possession of small amounts of cannabis would not be arrested, whereas cannabis producers would be. But following police complaints, the Prime Minister has decided to leave as that cannabis possession is still an arrestable offence. Whether Mr Howard is in a position to reverse the dog's character of anti-drugs policy after the next election remains to be seen, but his presumption that there are only two possible policies on cannabis - the current position or legislation - shows the process could be very straightforward.



Daily Mail  
Friday 12 January 2004

# The disjointed law

THE Home Secretary explained why you were asked how he would react if he caught you with a smoking pipe in his back yard. Below, Edward Heathcote-Arnery attempts to explain the new rules...

YOU smoke a joint in a public park, near the children's playground...

**DO IT.** The new law includes a presumption that adults will not be arrested for possession, but there are exceptions. One is smoking in a public place, although whether a park would count is clearly as much of a mystery to Mr Blunkett as to the rest of us. But another exemption is in the vicinity of places where children congregate. Smoking beside the playground, therefore, would be an arrestable offence, with a maximum penalty of two years in jail (down from the current maximum of five).

YOU light up a joint at a dinner party, with a policeman (or dirty) sitting opposite you.

**SMOKING** prohibits you from doing this. The policeman could confiscate your joint and give you a formal warning, but he wouldn't be expected to arrest you. Most people expect the change in the law to discourage police from even wanting to intervene in all but the most outrageous circumstances. But suppose you didn't like your joint? You would have every right to hand you off to the cells.

YOU light up a joint on the steps of the Home Office and blow smoke in the face of the police officer who confronts you.

**SARLY**, a point with a maximum penalty of two years in prison. Not only are the steps of the Home Office a public place by any defini-

tion, but blowing smoke in the officer's face is another aggravating factor. All these special situations leading to immediate arrest were not part of Mr Blunkett's original plan, but were included after the police said they would be made a smoking stop.

YOU are smoking a joint in your garden, you are approached by a neighbour and agree to sell him some of your supply.

A **VERY** bad idea. Your garden is a private place, so although you are breaking the law by smoking cannabis, the police wouldn't usually arrest you for that (unless you did it every day - persistent smoking is another exception). But if you sell some to your neighbour, you commit the offence of supplying the drug and would be liable to a maximum of 14 years in prison (it was going to be 10, but Mr Blunkett got cold feet about that, 10, and increased the penalty).

YOU are a pupil at secondary school and light a joint in the playground during a break.

Presumably, your headmaster would call the police, who have to arrest anyone under 18 found taking the drug. The likelihood you'd just get a caution, the school would be a formal warning, and only when you were caught drawing the police officer for the third time would you be charged with possession.

If the headmaster was always smoking in the school yard, he wouldn't be charged the first time.

A **SUPPER** from multiple-seller, with the home representative your stash found a dealer in prison.

THE police would confiscate the cannabis, but you'd get a warning, and - in theory - 14 years in jail. The dealer who would take up to 14 years in jail.

But you wouldn't get special treatment because you're ill. The Government is still fiddling over making cannabis available on prescription for medical patients.

YOU go to Amsterdam for a weekend and bring a lump of cannabis back home.

If Customs found the cannabis in your baggage you could be charged with trafficking, which carries up to 14 years in jail. But if it wasn't found until you arrived home, the police would probably let you off with a warning - mere possession may be illegal, but, under Mr Blunkett's rules, not very illegal.

YOUR local community support police officer notices the cannabis plants growing in your back yard.

Production of cannabis - and that includes cultivation - is a serious offence carrying a maximum penalty of 14 years in jail. In practice, you'd probably be let off with a warning - and the weed would be confiscated, of course. But are you willing to risk the risk?

The People  
Sunday 25 January 2004

## Minister's kid 'caught with dope'

A LABOUR minister's son was caught with cannabis in his student digs, it was claimed last night.

He was thrown out of his university accommodation and missed by police but no charges were brought.

The incident happened at the beginning of last year's autumn term and his parents were told.

### Any

There was intense speculation in Westminster last night about the identity of the minister, said to be a close ally of Tony Blair.

The matter will embarrass the Government in the week it controversially reduces cannabis from Class B to Class C drug.

Police with no known arrest cases of small amounts of cannabis but will confiscate the drug.

A Whitehall spokesman said: "This is a personal issue. Unless it impinges on the minister's responsibilities this is a matter for him."

From Independent Online  
Thursday 25 January 2004

## Police find drugs worth €4m hidden in sauce tins

POLICE in the town smashed a highly sophisticated drugs smuggling operation.

Plain clothes drug squad officers swooped on a business premises at Annahilt between Dublin and Wick. They found more than 2,000 blocks of cannabis hidden in tins of tomato sauce which had been imported from Spain. One man was arrested.

The drugs have an estimated street value of about 15m (€4m).

A South Down criminal gang is believed to be behind the operation. Police do not suspect any paramilitary involvement.

From Belfast Telegraph  
Friday 16 January 2004

## NEWSFILE

### Drugs possession

A 20-YEAR-old man was found in possession of three grams of cannabis and a set of scales in Boston.

Police went to the High Street after reports of a man carrying suspiciously and arrested John Kingston, of Slade Street. Kingston, who pleaded guilty at Cambridge Magistrates' Court to possession of cannabis, said: "The fine was said to be worth a few pounds" and he was fined \$25 with 185 costs.

From Salisbury Herald  
Monday 19 January 2004

## 'I didn't know cigarette was a joint'

AN ignorant electrician who helped set up town's Christmas lights ended up in court after taking a drag of a passer-by's cannabis joint.

John Morris, 24, of Northern Avenue, Bournemouth, was holding the cannabis cigarette holding three elements of the class B drug when he was spotted by police in King Street in December 2002.

Morris, who admitted acting in possession of cannabis, said he had been away from home for two weeks putting up Christmas lights.

"I smoke cannabis," he told South Dorset Magistrates sitting in Dorset.

"This guy walked past and gave one to me."

"I told the police the joint wasn't mine but I was arrested too."

"I didn't know it was cannabis or not."

Morris was given a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay 100 costs.

A destruction order was issued for the drugs.



TRIMMED FOR YOU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader has no right to judge my honest husband

Police raid left my children terrified

And Gail And  
Friday 21 January 2004

I Am writing in reply to the letter headed "He put family at risk" (Mail, January 8) which accused Carl Wagner of endangering his family through cannabis use.

Reader G. C. suggested that the police's actions were justified because Mr Wagner "put cannabis before his family."

This might not be further from the truth. My husband always has and always will put his family first.

He is an honest man with strong principles and beliefs. whose only crime is to tell the truth about a therapeutic herb, instead of hiding away his

cannabis use like some kind of criminal as the law would make him.

Our children are brought up in a safe, loving, happy and stable environment. They are polite, intelligent and popular children. Anyone who has met them would vouch for that.

It is one thing to disagree with someone's opinion but to make assumptions about them as a person, or indeed a parent, just because they have the courage to voice that opinion is an entirely different thing altogether.

If G. C. wanted to anyone had been at our home on the day the riot police arrived and witnessed the terrified reaction of our little girl to seeing her father handcuffed and taken away you would have realised the harm this raid

has done to them.

If they suffer nightmares, it won't be because of my husband's outspoken views on cannabis but because of repressive laws and heavy-handed police.

And for what?

A plant that used to grow all over the country and was given medicinal use would have accepted as a common and effective medicine.

Anything people like Carl, who have done no harm, simply makes a mockery of the law.

Samantha Wagner  
Victoria Square,  
Ede Street, Hull.

For all Express coverage  
Friday 21 January 2004

Cannabis penalty

A 29-year-old Tynes man has been fined £90 for possessing cannabis.

Jason Darling, of Lower Collingwood, Tynes, was caught by police with the drug after they stopped his car for a speedcheck, a court heard.

"They found the cannabis in the boot of the car," Richard Aubrey, prosecuting, told South Down

Magistrates' Court.

The said the drug was worth about £10.

Darling, who admitted possessing the drug at Tynes on January 11, was also ordered to pay £34 in court costs.

William Parkhill, the magistrate, said Darling was a "recreational user" of cannabis and had conspired with the police.

Express & Echo News on  
Saturday 24 January 2004

Cannabis man's spree

A man who went on a crime spree in a Tynes town was an "example of how harmful cannabis was", a court heard.

Shawn, also known as Shawn Sweet, who is waiting to be sentenced for seven offences, was suffering mental health problems related to his extensive use of cannabis. Exeter Crown Court heard yesterday.

The defence counsel David Evans told the court: "We are aware of the decriminalisation of cannabis, but here we have an example of how harmful cannabis is."

"This is what has led to the offending. He has been using it for a long time on a regular basis, and this is another how great concerns for him."

Two of the offences were breaching a restraining order imposed to protect his mother, sister and brother, by stopping him going near the family home in Haywards Close, Exmouth, the court heard.

One of the breaches happened when he decided to

spend the night in the garden shed, after being kicked out of a house he had been staying at.

He admitted the breaches, and also admitted handling stolen goods, driving without insurance, killing a cat, re-entering a building after being asked to leave, and breaching a restraining order.

The judge was told in the defendant's car when it was searched by the police. The handling charges related to a stolen motorbike he was spotted riding around St Andrew's Estate in Colchester without a helmet. That subsequently led to the court of the next day.

Mr Evans told Sweet, 30, who was homeless, had spent eight weeks in custody "as a result of a family dispute".

He fell out with his brother and sister and was alleged to have hit his sister with a piece of wood. Mr Evans said: "If he is released, we cannot but be obliged to house him. He will be essentially on the street and on his own."

The case was adjourned for two weeks while Sweet is assessed by the probation service and efforts are made to find him a home.

Colofon

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A word from the publisher:

The UK government has embarked on a process of relative liberalisation towards the use of cannabis, and cannabis activists are engaged in broadening this engagement. Several local councils and police chiefs now actively support a Dutch-style coffeshop system as a way of separating soft and hard drugs, as it has proven to do in Holland. Whether they are finding their way to new coffeshops or growing for their personal supply, cannabis users are a menace to no one, and are causing no discernable social problem. Some politicians and commentators are calling for the outright legalisation of marijuana. Let's wait and see how the debate develops during a period of relative peace between all sides of the argument. In the meantime, the publisher hopes Soft Secrets will show the public a positive side to the normalisation of cannabis use, and is anxious to offer a forum to both pro- and anti-legalisation advocates. This assumes that the publisher does not necessarily agree with everything that appears in articles and advertisements. The publisher therefore distances himself explicitly from published statements or images that might give the impression that an endorsement is being made for the use or production of cannabis.

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