

Soft Secrets ____ 3

FROM THE EDITOR

"We don't trust you"

When I first heard that UK secondary headteachers are being urged to introduce random drug testing, I thought: "Great idea!" - picturing some Dickensian-looking geezer in a gown grabbing a kid by the ear in the corridor and bellowing: "You boy! What is the active ingredient of Psylicybin semillanceata? Come on, come on! Well done - two house points to Huffanpuff!"

I couldn't help thinking, however, it would perhaps be better to have un-random drug exams, with Oxford & Cambridge certificates at the end of the fifth year, if we were finally really looking at some incredible U-turn, a new Just Say Know campaign. Then I read on to realise that in fact, this was not the beginning of a New Enlightenment policy of treating children responsibly and arming them with proper, unbiased facts with which to combine with their own experiences and make their own judgements in life. Oh no, it's the same-old same-old. Copy a gimmicky idea from the US based on shaky assumptions and political whim rather than sound research, slap it onto a radically different British society, featherbed a few more private contractors in the process. I believe the next step goes: 'waste loads of money to the detriment of existing programs that actually work before quietly dropped said dumb-ass scheme as quietly as possible.' Thoughtful investigations reveal that random drug testing does not deter drug use, and that it alienates students.

I don't yet have adolescent children, but if I did I think I would have a major problem with having them stand in front of a teacher while they piss. Besides the (apparently not to everyone) obvious invasiveness, embarrassment inflicted and sheer, well creepiness of the suggestion, isn't it just saying 'we don't trust you, your parents are not to be trusted, your teachers are government stooges'?

Is this what we should be saying to kids?

Martin Barnes, the chief executive of the drug information charity DrugScope, said the plans would do nothing to reduce drug abuse among pupils at a time when the government was withdrawing funding earmarked for drug workers in schools. "These measures risk driving drug use further underground, an increase in truancies

and exclusions, and a breakdown in trust between pupils and schools," he said. He said extensive consultation on the new guidance had revealed strong opposition. If the Blairies could look a little more closely at the American experience to date with random drugs testing in schools they'll find a wealth of reasons not to go ahead with this addle-pated scheme:

Testing had the unanticipated effect of keeping students from participating in afterschool, extracurricular programs - the very same activities that would fill their time during the peak teenage drug-using hours of 3-6 PM. Millions of dollars proposed

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for random drug testing could be used more wisely, having a real rather than symbolic impact on high school drug abuse.

School administrators in Dublin, Ohio, for example, calculated that their \$35,000 per year drug testing program was not cost-efficient. Of 1,473 students tested, at \$24 each, 11 tested positive, for a total cost of \$3,200 per "positive" student. They cancelled the program, and with the savings were able to hire a fulltime counsellor and provide prevention programs for all 3,581 students. Random drug testing may provide a false sense of security among school officials and parents who believe the program will let them know which students are having trouble. It will punish experimental adolescent behaviour while failing to discover who are the kids with problems, which will be compounded by a further reluctance to come forward for help themselves.

Indeed, it's relationships built on trust, with parents, teachers and other caring adults, that accounts for the well being of teenagers. Drug testing actually has the effect of undermining parental influence, forcing adults to say, in essence, "I don't trust you," to their teenagers.

Young adults need to know we expect them to learn how to take responsibility for their health. They need proper drug education, counselling, and support. If they don't learn make wise decisions about alcohol and other drugs in high school, how will they enter the post-high school world as responsible adults? Random drug testing may seem a panacea, but it is fraught with social, emotional and financial problems.

Page 3 Girl

Sensi Star ®

This is one of the strongest Indica's that you will ever encounter. Sensi Star produces powerful, compact buds, crowned with legendary amounts of resin. The dense, strong and characteristic aroma speaks for itself. She is one of worlds finest cannabis strains, and has successfully become the new standard in growing. Introduced in 1995 by Paradise Seeds, this strain's stability was improved in 1997 to deliver a strong plant with big fan leaves and nice thick buds.

- * Winner 1st prize Highlife Cannabis Cup 1999 (Bio category)
- * Winner 1st prize High Times Cannabis Cup 1999 (Indica category)
- * Winner 2nd prize High Times Cannabis Cup 2000 (Indica category
- * Plant of the Year 2003, High Times magazine
- * Winner 1st prize Highlife Cannnabis Cup 2004 (Bio category)

Flowering time: 56-63 days (indoors)
Yield per m2: 350 - 400 grams
Yield per plant (outdoors): 300 - 400 grams
Harvest time (outdoors): Beginning of October

Growing tips: Sensi Star doesn't like high levels of nutrients.

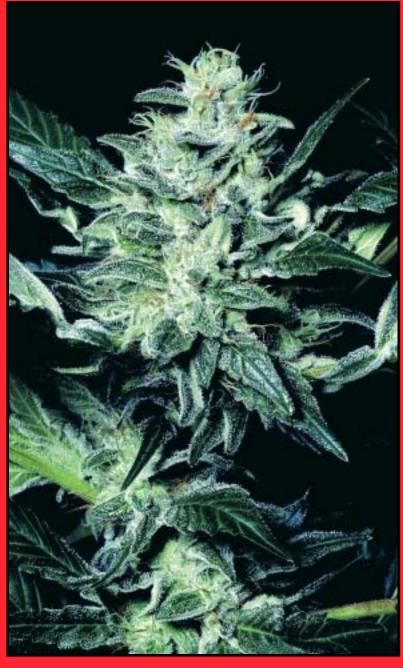


Photo © www.paradise-seeds.com

PoBox 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland E-mail: softsecrets@ganjamail.com

Dear Soft Secrets





Hi Soft Secrets,

Here's a pic of my second grow which is a Big Bud. I grew her under a 400w Son T Plus. I would like to say your paper is a great read.

Kev, Devon

Beautiful Sativa buds, Kev, long and with little leaves. That lady will be a pleasure to manicure!

Dear Soft Secrets,

I hereby enclose a picture of our bitch.

Fleur, Leeds (photo left)

Good idea to let the scarecrow tend to the plants, Fleur... Does he have any other qualifications..?



Congrats on the paper, very good reading. This is Super Skunk at about 50 days. We believe this is worthy of AK's and Jacks. Chris & Steve, Kent

Lads, you should add more plants to your grow room or pick another strain, because this strain isn't very branchy and you're wasting space really that could be filled by buds. Sounds intelligent?



Hi Soft Secrets

As you can see some decent buds,(KALI & PR 1) a few days before the ladys get the big chop, tried the old (D.M's) superbud for the first time. I found it ok but not that 'super' (although your mag definetly is, great read!) Using an NFT system under 2 600w HPS. Still can't break my 2ounce duck per plant, any usefull tips on quality yielding plants that would work well with superbud?

Bill & Ben, West Yorkshire

It looks like you guys already pre-harvested the upper branches; that's a good way to increase bud size in the lower branches. Excellent growing, lads! We hope that's mylar hanging on the walls, because aluminium doesn't reflect well, really.



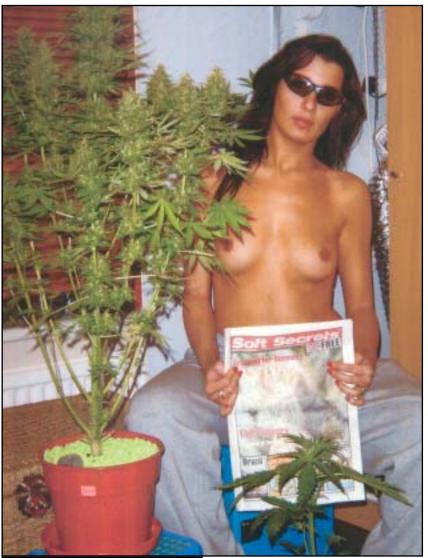
Hope you like me buds, its flow at five weeks.

Nicely topped plants, Paul. The pots however are a bit too big, with smaller pots you'll yield an equal crop but you'll save on soil. Lovely babe, by the way!

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@ganjamail.com.

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,

At last I can grab a copy of the mag at the usual grow-shop. I find the mag very valuable but also very addictive, and this time I feared I'd miss the copy, since the first delivery ran out in no-time. The great leafy one is a Master Kush and my very first attempt at growing seriously. The only regret in doing it so passionately is: I should have started much, much earlier. Thank you for existing.

Pier, London

Well Pier, thank you for sending this marvellous pic of the two stunning beautys. For a first-time attempt this is a very good result! We love your babes, they're both wicked!



Dear all at Soft Secrets,

We really enjoyed the read, keep it up. Here's some photos which were taken 2 hours before harvest. We got a great 21oz when dry. That'll keep us busy for a while!

Jimmy, Kent

Every closet grower's wet dream, this is. But no white plastic or mylar, Jimmy? With that they would have become monsters...



My bird and my buds, the only things worth living for. These lovely ladies are Sensi Star at 6 weeks. 35 Plants under 3 600w sodiums in NFT gave me 55oz. Enough smoke! No name, England

Brilliant buds, brilliant babe!



Dear Soft Secrets,

Thought I'd send a pic of my beautiful girl surrounded by my gorgeous ladies! Keep up the good work, a great paper so full of passion! Regards & love, Oz, London

Hold on Oz, your wife is beautiful but your plants are gorgeous? How did the wife take this news? On a more serious note: stop giving nutrients the last weeks of flowering so your buds will be even better. Right now there's still too much nitrogen in those plants; they're too green so soon before the chop!



Dear Soft Secrets

Find attached a piccy of my girls! This is my fourth crop in our secret cupboard garden, all of the seeds have come from mates, so we are never sure of what we are smoking, so it'll be great to know which weed is what? I use a 400w lamp and grow in soil and so far have had no complaints. Thank you for such a useful newspaper, we refer to it constantly and have become like a library for our like minded mates.

P. Manchester

Nicely packed garden P., looks like a slight calcium deficiency is coming up, or is it just the lighting? Say hello to the bird, she made us drool like the retards we really



Hi Soft Secrets,

This is my third crop which I'm quite pleased with. The buds are covered in THC with a strong smell to them. I've always started from cuttings. Wicked paper by the way! G. Fingers, England

Wicked Ladies, Sticky Fingers, but are those buds hanging out to dry in the grow room? That's a definite no-no, pal! Dry the buds in a dark ventilated room with a temperature between 15-25 C., and the taste will be so much better. And remember: light destroys THC in dried buds!



First of all, what a marvelous job you are doing with this magazine! I have the last six issues under my bed for handy reading. This is my third crop and the picture is of 4 Critical Mass ten minutes before the slaughter. Also pictured is my very sexy girlfriend, which as a bribe to have her picture taken she has got her eye on the biggest buds for herself. Carry on the good work!

Dan from Dorset

What a sight to behold, Dan! Perfect end of flowering, the plants have totally sucked all the nutrients out of the leaves. Happy tokin' folks!



Dear Soft Secrets,

Great paper by the way. Just took some photo's of my georgeous bird and our bush. I've been growing one year now with good results with various types of bush, NL5xHaze, White Widow, Chronic. They all got us well stoned

Stu, Falkirk

Wicked buds, wicked babe Stu. Who said Scotland was a depressing place?



Never heard of Soft Secrets until my sister-in-law brought it back from the Dam. Excellent paper and even better, it's now available in my local grow shop! Attached is a picture of my first Power Plant scrog (screen of green). Keep up the good work, it's needed in the UK. Rob, Middlesex

When one has few plants, scrogging is the way to go. By topping the plant (cutting off the head shoot), it will grow more branches and grow wider instead of upwards. You can top your plants as much as you want! This little garden is a perfect scrog grow with a very high yield with just two plants. Well done, Rob!



Dear Soft Secrets, Here's a High Quality Black Label White Widow with a week to go, and she smells fantastic! Pasty, East Sussex

See this, readers? You too can get such a fine specimen of Black Label White Widow in your pots. You know the drill! Congrats Pasty, for raising our seeds with such care and to such high standards. Well done!

Dear Soft Secrets.

Here are some photo's of my prized females. They may be small, but they are firm and perfectly formed. She is size 8, shaved, pierced and... ooops, sorry! Wrong magazine! Here are some photos of my prized females. They may be small but they are firm and perfectly formed. I keep them small by nipping out and netting. By using low side lighting I still get a reasonable yield from the small plants. I crop around 20oz from 6 plants grown in pots of rockwool cubes, with a low pressure dripping system. I have been growing for 3 years now and there is still a lot to learn. Your paper helps. Thank you.

Cheers Dave, England

Dave, this is not the wrong magazine at all... Say hello to the lovely chick, will ya, we appreciate her effort. Some prime seeds are on their way to your dungeon. Please note that if you would put some white foil or mylar on the walls of your dungeon, you'd reflect a lot of light, increasing the size of those upper buds...



Hello Soft Secrets,

I got my first copy of Soft Secrets sent to me, what a fine read, loads more helpful than the glossy mags & yours is free! I'm a female grower & so got the hubby to pose seeing as I do all the work! Hopefully I'll start a trend as I know

of at least three other women growers, there must be more out there. My room is so small I couldn't get the hubby behind the light so I've included some other pics after harvest. The plant is a Northern Lights which I had in a NFT set-up under a 250 HPS, I also grew some Ruderalis Indica but that came down before the pics were taken. I've just invested in a digital pH & ec meter to use on the next crop.

Jo, Ipswhich

Jo, we hate to break it to you, but a nude male specimen in Soft Secrets is a definite no-no. It's like swearing in church really, isn't it? So we'll just stick with this fine bud-shot, ey? We'll send you the Full Monty of seeds anyway, we're cool.



Hey dudes at Soft Secrets,

We love your paper and we got the urge to share our large ones with you! I hope you enjoy the Big-Big and *other*, not to mention the beautiful Dave. We are at the end of a cycle, and you can see we have another lot ready, hehe. Thanks for giving us so many ideas for us to try, like pollinators, mmmm. We can't wait to get our hands on those quality seeds! Carl Greenbrow & sexy Dave, Yorkshire.

Great shot! We can see you stopped giving nutrients as the leaves are getting pale green and yellow. Great way to insure a good taste! And we sure as hell would like to taste her too...



Our little garden in London. This strain is called Christmas Tree. They are grown under a 400w sodium in an NFT tray on organic feed. We hope to get at least an ounce dried per plant. Ian, London

Ian keeps the humidity low to avoid mould. A hygrometer is an excellent tool to measure this and it is a cheap tool as well. A must in every garden!

Dear editor,

I saw your pictures and was totally amazed. This is my plants outside my house, last September. This year I'll try your seeds on the Adriatic coast. Best wishes from Sibenik, Croatia! Vlade, Sibenik

You're a lucky bastard, Vlade... Never underestimate the power of the sun, it's a huge 2000w light!



High there,

I've been getting your paper ever since my first copy of last years edition nr. 4, which I picked up in Amsterdam. Here's a picture of my first crop, Haze19 X Skunk. Can not wait to do the second crop, more equipment and food are on way. As I never used no food on these they had a 75w Sodium light on them from seed untill 12th week, the 400w on after. Risc. Lancaster



Risc, we're afraid your collection of Soft Secrets is far more impressive than your buds. Growing without any nutrients can only be done outside mate, and still that is not advisable. So you better upgrade your grow operation!



Hey there,

I'd thought I'd send some pics of my ladies all White Russian. Day 53 and the trichomes are starting to ripen. Alls good inda house! Keep up the quality read and soon we shall all grow quality weed. The bushdokta

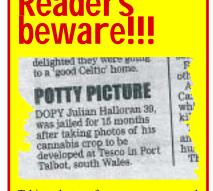
Well, that's the idea anyway Bushdokta..



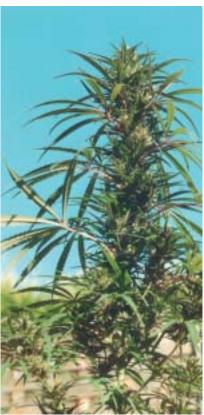
Dear Soft Secrets.

Here's a piccy of my crop, a day before the chop. Jack Herer/Pot of Gold, doesn't look bad for a first try? Smoked lovely, we've been out of it for weeks (got 12oz. off 4 plants). Couldn't fit mag or me in, we're short on space cos it's a purpose built box that closes up, to hide it from nosey parents etc. We also used instructions in your mag to make water hash, well worth it, what a killer!!! Linzi, Liverpool

"Nosey parents"?! How old are you, Linzi? Shouldn't you be playing with your Barbie dolls instead of fucking around with killer Water Hash?



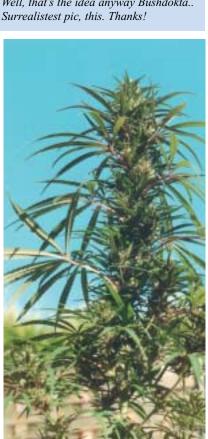
Taking photos of your grow room and having those developed in regular photo shops can be dangerous, as you can see from this news clipping. We sure hope this poor bastard didn't take these photographs for us. Be warned: taking photos of your grow room CAN be a security risk to you. If you're not sure, DON'T DO IT, it's not worth the risk. Better stick to Polaroids, or much better: digital photography!



Hi Guys,

Yes the sun does shine long enough to flower outdoors in England, albeit forced. This La Nina is looking very well, at half way stage (note the cloudless sky). Picked up a copy of SS UK some weeks ago, top read guys! Neil, Yorkshire

Ah, that long hot summer of 2003....



Dear Softies,

On t' sixth day He made heaven on Earth.

On t' seventh he smooked it.

It's not grim up north you know. Big, big up to the most fantastic 17-year-old bush beauty ever. Very splendid. Thank you. Yours most sincerely,

Smith, Smith, Smith & Western, Lancashire

Whoops, your plants are overgrowing your little closet! Perfect bud size, perfect plants. If every Brit grew like you guys, we'd wrap up our dirty little paper and look for new territories...



Dear Soft Secrets,

Great paper guys, very impressed. Please find enclosed pics of my White Russians with about 1 week to go. Totally organic and used Bio Bizz. Expecting about 20 Oz. Would appreciate some good indoor variety seeds.

G13 & Mrs. Nice

Jim, North Devon

Great idea to hang nets to support the branches of those heavy buds,





A job well done, very informative, very complete and very cheap also. I write you from Spain, I'm here since 2001, cos my father is Spanish so here I am. I knew about 'La Maria' (your Spanish sister) but I don't know so much Spanish as to read it, so when I saw you guys at the Spannabis I got really happy. I'm growing pot seriously since 1997, I've tried a lot of varieties from 7 to 12 per year (indoors and outdoors). From High Quality seeds I've tried: Northern Lights, Bob's best, S.Thai x Skunk, Afghani Hindu Kush, and Early Girl, from other companies; White Widow, El Nino, White Shark, Pot of Gold, Sensi Star, Nebula, Blueberry, Durban, Ruderalis, Blue Velvet, Skunk 1, Mazar, Master Kush, Holland's Hope. How can I get Soft Secrets UK in Spain? I can't find it. Javi, Blanes (Spain)

Javi, Soft Secrets UK should be available in some Spanish grow shops, mainly concentrated near the coastal towns and cities there. In the near future we will finally be offering subscriptions, so look out for that.



Holland's Biggest Ever Bust!

When: March 10th 2004

Where: Industrial area, Swifterband (Flevoland)

Number of plants: 100.000 and up

Details: The marihuana growing operation was discovered by police while they were searching another, unrelated plantation in the same industrial area. On-the-spot measurements by the local power company had hinted that more operations were likely to be found. Even so, the bust, the biggest ever in Holland, came as a big surprise to police. The hangar where the bust took place was over 2000 m2 in size and contained a garage and various grow areas. Two people, trimmers, were arrested. The grow operation had been active for at least two years, and it was estimated that every six weeks there was a harvest worth 2.5 million Euros. It took police 5 days to dismantle the whole set up.





Growin Hydroponic Furniture, London

Check this out - getgrowin.co.uk, the new Growin Furniture website launched with the opening of their new showroom... So if your a Londoner you're lucky enough to have them on your doorstep. Shoreditch, with its organic cafes, legendary 24hr beigal bars and urban vibe has been the breeding ground for the UK's pioneering furniture designers for decades. Well, 'Hydroponic Furniture' has arrived. In the shadow of London's Geffrye Furniture Museum is Growin Furniture. Enough to wet your grannies appetite to hydroponics with fascination and expectation the range includes open hydroherb water features, glass grow cabinets for exotics and closed grow cabinets for completely controlled gardening.

The Headcase and Cyclone freestanding grow cabinets are entertainingly presented in a contemporary style for modern living, made to order to your choice of wood finish with up to 500W of light power per chamber. The Headcase is a single chamber system, ideal for growing from seed or bought stock. The Cyclone is the bigger baby bearing mother, multi chambered for a sustainable hydro experience. The 'getgrowin' packages as standard feature a big odour extraction system and 10

site hydro system and includes all the quality trimmings you need for good times. If you're after a really smooth experience you can have your cabinet delivered

and installed with user consultation. Whilst solid sealed lockable doors are standard, if you want others to enjoy your prize exotic collection you can order glass doors!

Where Growin step in a league of their own is with bespoke indoor grow systems. From furniture industry origins, Growin can produce a cabinet to a given breif or budget. Check out the HydroWall, a floor to ceiling grow system with multiple independently controlled split level grow chambers, ideal for establishing different species and staged growth cycles. Certainly for the dedicated herbalist, every HydroWall is custom made and fitted on site, so you can forget about delivery in 48 hours.

2004 has seen Growin's range grow bigger still. At the new showroom in Bethnal Green are the Growin Buddy (UK's lowest priced closed grow cabinet) and the Envirolab, offering an option in a metal cabinet - no assembly and light weight, ideal if its going to be more frequently. For mail order delivery there are also UPVC quick lock chambers, available in 4 sizes from 2-12 cubic metres

For more info check www.getgrowin.co.uk or telephone (+44)0709 202 4883

Brochure enquiries tel. (+44)020 7033 9541.



PRODUCT FLASH

By Chris Marchand

The Catching Sac from Next Level





Following the success of their 2sac and 5sac BubbleSacs, Next Level release the Catching Sac; an add-on bag for either system designed to give you an extra grade of THC

crystals. The Catching Sac is an extra hash sac rather than filter sac (that is; it collects THC crystals rather than plant material and contaminants) and has the finest screen of any BubbleSac. By having such a fine mesh the Catching Sac really comes into it's own is when making hash from plant material with smaller resin glands. This makes it a must for anyone growing more sativa-dominated plants although it will also get the best from early and outdoor crops. It can even make quality hash from mouldy spoilt crops. Rather than having to throw away (or even worse smoke) any bits of mould-infected bud you can throw them in the bucket and catch the gland knowing that you won't be smoking harmful mould spores The hash from the Catching Sac can either be pressed on it's own for an extra second or third grade (depending on whether you have a 5sac or 2sac) or can be blended with other resin glands. As anyone who has used a five-stage hash bag system will know, you often find a small amount of hash collected on the second and third filter bags. Whilst you may not want to lower the quality of your best THC crystals with this lower grade hash, by mixing these extra resin glands with the hash from the Catching Sac you make use of every bit of resin your plant has produced, and it's still high grade!

For info: www.bubblesac.co.uk

Available at Discount Hydroponics, Hastings - Somerset Hydroponics, Yeovil - Tangy Gifts, Bristol - Planet Bong, Leamington Spa - Grow Systems, Norwich/Cambridge/Peterborough/ Ipswich



Triple F from Hydrotops

Triple F stands for Fully Formed Flowers and that's exactly what HydroTops promise you'll get if you use this product. Unlike other conventional floral stimulants this product is based on introducing live micro-bacteria into your nutrient tank. These tiny life-forms need to be woken up before they are introduced to your tank which is why Triple F comes in two parts: micro organisms in dried suspension and liquid catalyst to get them activated. The catalyst gives initial food source for the organisms as well as getting "the symbiotic relationship developed between the micro organisms and the plant root system". This is not a new concept for Hydrotops, their Bactivator product works on the sample principles of adding beneficial bacterial to your reservoirs and root systems. Where Bactivator increases the plants resistance to disease, Triple F encourages it to increase it's intake of water and nutrient and thereby giving a huge increase to yield. Triple F should be used in the flowering stage when the plants are feeding heavily before trailing off (between days 14 and 42 of the average fruiting cycle) for optimum results. Used properly Hydrotops claim to have

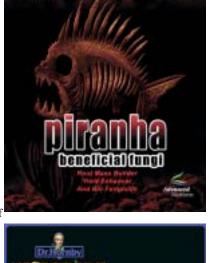
observed up to 50% increases during extensive trials. In fact the only problem with Triple F is that the plant drinks up that much more water that it needs (even more) regular attention, which isn't much of a problem when you think of the extra weight she is putting on.

Triple F should be available from all good Grow-Shops. For more info go to www.hydrotops.com

Piranha arrives in Europe

Advanced Nutrients products are finally available in Europe and the UK and two of the most awaited products are Dr. Hornby's Piranha and Voodoo Juice.

Dr. Hornby's Piranha Beneficial Fungi is the perfect companion product to Dr. Hornby's Voodoo Juice. Voodoo Juice colonizes the root zone with beneficial bacteria, while Piranha colonizes the root zone with 24 beneficial fungi. These fungi are 8 species of trichodermia and 16 species endo and ecto mycorrhizal. Trichodermia are very aggressive colonizers that enhance root mass, and provide excellent control from root rot, pythium and pytophethoria. The mycorrhizal fungi excrete powerful chemicals that dissolve mineral nutrients, absorb water, retard soil pathogens, and glue soil particles together into porous structure. Mycorrhizal can expand the surface area of the root mass by 700%. Both plant and fungus benefit from the symbiotic relationship. Research has documented improved plant nutrient and water uptake





and resistance to a wide range of soil diseases and environmental extremes. Plants flower more abundantly and require less intensive care. The mycorrhizal network is the original world wide web.

(No Piranhas were harmed in the making of this product.)

Available from from all good Grow-Shops
For more info E-mail info@advancednutrients.nl or visit www.advancednutrients.nl



The Honey Bee from Buzznn.com

"Hash oil is the fruit of more than a century's search for the active ingredient of marijuana", so wrote Richard Ashley in High Times magazine in 1976. With these new Honey Bee Extractors from Buzznn.com you too can sample that fruit. It was the distinguished English chemist, Peter Squire, who made the first recorded oil extract of cannabis way back in the early 1840's, unknowingly starting a long

tradition of homemade cannabis products in the UK. The Honey Bee arrives in the UK to join this tradition and the best part is...it's so easy! All you need do is fill the tube with ground up dry plant material (leaf and/or bud), place a paper filter in the cap and then push two cans worth of refillable lighter gas through the hole in the other end over a glass bowl or mirror and hey presto; out comes the oil! All you need do now is let the butane naturally evaporate and all you are left with is pure "honey" oil. Other than the fact that you are using highly flammable gas (smoking and naked flames anywhere near when extracting is an obvious no-no), this is much safer and easier than other oil extraction methods that require a lab worth of equipment and a lot of diligent patience. In fact, the only problem you get with oil is how to smoke it. Some like to smear it onto a paper and roll a joint, others smoke blobs on a bed of ash to stop the oil running through the gauze. One method you may like to try is making some "jelly hash". This is a mixture of around 15% oil and 85% un-pressed resin gland (either dry shake or water hash), which gives you an extra potent squishy hash. However you choose to smoke it, the Honey Bee gives everyone a cheap and easy way of extending his or her repertoire of ganja products, a definite must for any serious hash maker!

For info: www.buzznn.com

The Honey Bee should be available from all good grow-shops





PRODUCT FLASH

Adjust-A-Wing Reflectors





Are these the best reflectors in the world? Their Australian inventor certainly thinks so and he has reason to be proud. The Adjust-A-Wing design principles are logic and simplicity and as such they use the minimum of

materials and moving parts. This means there is less to go wrong and fewer places for heat to get trapped.

The wings are themselves made of the reflective material and therefore do not need a housing. With a construction method something like an archer stringing a bow, the reflectors stay remarkably rigid and strong with no solid ends and so allow heat to dissipate from the bulb freely. By adjusting the wings the light can either be focused downwards for a smaller area of more intense light, or it can be stretched out over a wider area and brought closer to the plants, either way the Adjust-A-Wing never looses it's perfect parabolic shape, unlike some other reflectors that never go back to their original shape if they've been stretched.

These reflectors come in two incarnations; The Steel Defender made from white colorbond steel for the grower on a budget or there is the crème de la crème, The Silver Avenger. This is the first reflector to be made from a new generation of glass coated flexible aluminium materials and boasts an incredible 95% reflectivity and 25 vear guarantee against corrosion. As a nice extra touch both reflectors come with a vertically adjustable lamp holder so that it can accommodate a variety of lamp shapes, sizes and wattages as well as fine focusing the light. Simple, logical and very effective; your plants couldn't choose a better reflector.

For more info: www.hydroponic-shop.com

Diahydro

Soft Secrets has found an amazing new high silica growing medium. In tests this product consistently gave huge increases in plant growth. What is it? Diahydro is fossilised fresh water algae, millions of vears old laid down as sedimentary rock. which is then mined and comes to you in its pure form, being 80%-90% silica and 100% organic.

How is Diahydro used? On its own as a replacement for soil, clay pebbles, coco fibre etc. or as a mixture with those products. What are Diahydro's properties? Physically it's in pieces 5mm-15mm, is extremely porous and has a very large surface area, with high capillary action, allowing up to 150% it's own weight in nutrient solution to be stored and released Grown with clay pebbles to the plants roots on demand. Diahydro is



Grown with Diahydro



inert, reusable, and will not degrade or rot even under extreme conditions. Diahydro is pH stable (between 6-7) and chemically inert. It has a high Cation/Anion(CEC) exchange of 42 compared to vermiculite 20 clay pebbles 20 perlite 0, allowing plant roots far easier access to the nutrients. Diahydro also has the unique property of killing insects and parasites by puncturing their exoskeletons; it also appears to have an anti-bacterial effect helping to keep the root zone disease free, while it also helps prevent the dreaded Budrot. Silica content: One way silica is used by plants is as a basic cell wall building block adding mechanical strength and stability giving improved light interception and so increased photosynthesis. The bottom line is that all the above properties of Diahydro mean you as a grower have far healthier plants with increased weight bulk and vield!

Available from all good grow shops.

G-Subs Rolling Boards

We've all been there; away from the comforts of home and it's time to wrap one up. Normally you'd scrabble around for a magazine, CD case or other flat surface to build your spliff on.





Well, no more because the G-Subs is here. Taking the prestigious Best Product prize at this year's Highlife Cup in Utrecht, these natty little travs come in three sizes, six colours and three finishes so you're bound to find one that suits. All models have curled edges and a "V" shaped trough for the operation as well as a place for storing



whatever you're smoking that can also be used as an ashtray.

a pack of papers and a compartment for

The idea may be a simple one but you need only to look at the rise in popularity of grinders to see how much smokers like their tools of convenience and the G-Sub is just such a tool. You need never watch your half built spliff blowing away in the wind again, and it keeps the place tidy too.

The G-Subs have already caused a stir with car modification enthusiasts getting rave reviews in Max Power and Revs magazines (no doubt for their contribution to In Car Entertainment, for keeping interiors spotless and for that extra bit of cool they give in Drive-Thru car parks across the land – especially if it matches the bodywork...nice.) You may not realise that you need one of these trays yet but have one for a while and it'll become another piece of indispensable paraphernalia. We would like to stress that G-Sub are keen to point out that these are for Tobacco Use Only. Soft Secrets, on the other hand, recommend rolling a fat one!

Info: www.gsubs.co.uk or Tel: +44 0 161 612 5918









Safe growing on credit with i-Grow

i-Grow is the company who have contributed a new term to the Dutch language and that is 'mortgage cabinet'. This innovative company was well rewarded at the Highlife Hemp Fair. Not only did this business from Brabant take second prize for best product, with their i-Growbox they also did well with their product, Silver Pearl, grown within the cabinet itself. But the best news from i-Grow was stashed in a panel in one of

the grow boxes manufactured by the company, namely a fire safety system that meets all the requirements of the strict TNO standards. Just another ingenious idea from this brilliant business based in Best in the Netherlands. We quote from the brochure, "In order to suffocate a fire should it start, the cabinets have been fitted with an aerosol extinguishing system. The Aerosol fire extinguisher does not try to smother fire by removing oxygen or through cooling, but uses a molecular chemical reaction to end a fire without affecting oxygen levels. This aerosol is composed of potassium mixed with small quantities of gas particles. Not only water and carbon dioxide are formed during a fire, but unstable radicals also appear. The Aerosol fire extinguisher works by releasing potassium particles that connect to the unstable radicals transforming them into more stable elements. In this way the fire is safely and swiftly extinguished."

Aside from having made a technological revolution in the market for cultivation cabinets, i-Grow has also created a breakthrough on financial ground. They are the first to offer a credit arrangement especially for people with a smaller purse so that they too will be able to afford to acquire an i-Grow system. For a down payment on the Junior or Senior model, the cabinet will be all yours after paying off a certain amount for a period of twelve months. Interest rates are charged at 1.42% monthly and the best part is that, should the cops come calling before then, they cannot impound your cabinet, as it is still legally the property of i-Grow! Now you simply no longer have any reason to delay starting your own crop. Say I grow with i-Grow!

Info: Inventive Grow Systems Tel: +31 (0)499 496090 Fax: +31 (0)499 496091 www.igrow.nl or E-mail info@igrow.nl

Growing for Dummies Part 3

This time around you're finally going to learn what the differences organic and hydroponically grown cannabis are, plus I'll be giving you some insight into the art of clone making.

By Bart B.

Organic or hydro?

'Bio' or organic growing is growing in soil using only natural fertilisers. Everyone knows that organically-grown produce is of high quality, but it is also healthier too. By using as much high quality organic fertilisers and soil mixes as possible you get the most pure end-product possible. Everything that you feed the plant finds its way by one route or another into the buds

By growing organically the taste of the buds is influenced - as well as the effect, which is just that little bit extra. It is also the simplest and cheapest way of growing.

Soil works as a buffer with which your mistakes in feeding are more easily forgiven. You really have to try your best to mess things up to go wrong growing in earth. Even beginners can achieve top harvests growing in nature's intended medium.

Coconut fibre (or 'coco') is an outstanding medium that is very userfriendly. You do need to use more nutrients because coco is nutrient-poor. With a good organic soil mix all you need to add during two weeks of growing and eight months blossoming is a bit of water. This is because this sort of soil is chock-a-block with food. This makes it even easier for the beginner-level grower - to the point that he does not even have to add extra nutrients and so does not run the risk of over-fertilising. In very favourable cases, the buds blossom so well that it is well worth giving them bloom feed so that the buds can become even bigger and harder.

Hydro or hydroponic growing is growing in a water medium with nutrients added to it, or with an automatic irrigation system. Thanks to the greater quantities of oxygen that are brought to the roots as a result, the plant grows at a very fast rate. *Much quicker than in soil.*

But you do have to invest more in your kit if you want to grow hydroponically: special pipes, connectors and suchlike need to be bought. Also you have to fully control the pH and EC yourself, so there is less room for mistakes than there is growing in soil. You can rapidly fix things that have gone wrong with your plants, but things can go wrong quickly enough to lose them all too.

An experienced hydro grower can achieve huge harvests. An automatic irrigation system ensures that at pre-set times the plants receive feed water and everything is pumped through the system. Plants love regularity and given

it via an automatic irrigation system, they will reward you with a high yield. Such a system can also be used when growing in soil. A perfect combination of bio and hydro is also possible.

Thanks to the greater chances of success growing in soil, I advise you to start there. Once you've got some experience under your belt, by all means give hydro a whirl. There are currently so many systems on the market that you should take an efficient medium such as soil to start with and then maybe at the same time try out, on a small scale, other systems. Anyone who runs into problems during a crop can always fall back on growing in soil. I knew a hydro grower who after several power outages decided to go back to growing in soil so as to be less dependent on electrical apparatus. Think before you start!

Clones or seeds?

Clones are genetically-identical copies of the plant from which the clone was taken. Because it is important when growing cannabis that you only have females in your garden, it is mostly female clones that are made. The clone will possess all the attributes of the plant from which it was taken - which is commonly called the 'mother' plant. A mother plant is a female plant that is kept in its 'growth' stage and from which clones are taken in order to stock your garden with identical copies of a known, good quality plant. Being identical, the clones should all be ready to harvest at the same time, grow and bloom just as strongly as each other and have very similar growing patterns and quality of

A frequently asked question is whether one should start out with clones or seeds. Both have their advantages and disadvantages. Growing from seed takes a bit longer than if you grow with clones. The seeds must be germinated, which takes from a few days to a week, and some seeds will fail to germinate or only sprout once they have been planted. Thanks to this there is a chance that you will lose significant numbers of plants over the course of a growing career unless you master the art of seed germination well.

After this we have to let the seedlings grow for up to two weeks, but mostly plants from seeds are given up to a month or even more of 'pre-growing'. This long growing period makes for a significantly more expensive electricity bill because the growing stage needs more energy than the blooming period. In the blooming period we can let the lamps burn for a good part of their 12-hours a

day during the hours of night, which is a much cheaper source of power than the peak daytime rate.

Seed plants are young plants compared to clones, since if you take a clone from a six month old plant then the clone is still six months old, and a seed plant of six weeks old remains six weeks old. It is important to note here that a cannabis plant is only fully developed and able to give her maximum yield once she has

This means you have more certainty with clones because you know in advance what you can expect. What's more, clones only need a few days to a couple of weeks' growth, so the growing period can be reduced by a considerable amount, which in turn allows you to fit in more harvests a year or simply get on more quickly with the blooming and harvest.

The most important thing of all is that

The advantage of growing from seeds is that you have a fantastic range on offer from which to choose – thousands of varieties of cannabis in fact.

reached six months in age.

The advantage of growing from seeds is that you have a fantastic range on offer from which to choose – thousands of varieties of cannabis in fact. So you are not limited to using the same clones time and again or the same varieties. Seeds can be stored for a long time while clones require quite a bit of effort just to be kept alive. In fact, clones need to be kept in growth under a grow lamp.

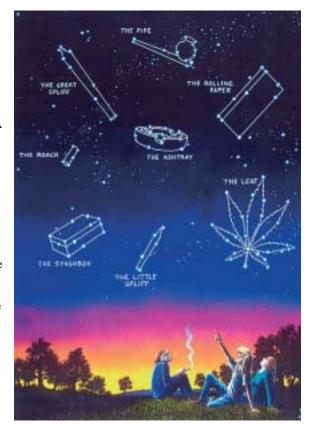
Every seed is different and so each plant that is grown from seed is too, with the result that you get a range of plants if you grow from seed, even if they are of the same variety. Thus one will grow more strongly, or produce bigger buds, bloom for longer or stay short and compact. The result is you get a garden full of various quality plants. One plant might deliver really tasty buds while the other produces a huge amount of THC but does not taste as good when smoked. If you plump for diversity, then seeds are outstanding, but if you

crave uniformity in your growing, then clones will be more to your liking.

It's important that you don't go cloning just any old plant too. First you've got to find a good mother plant candidate. A plant with the special combination of characteristics you personally want to see, such as taste, potency, growth pattern or blooming period. The best plant in your garden, in other words. The great advantage of clones is the uniformity with which they grow. The plants will reach about the same height, which in turn ensures that they can all make the best use of the light from the lamps you're using. Also, they will produce buds with the same taste and high.

you only get females! With seed plants you will have to identify and remove all males during the growth phase. With a bit of bad luck you can end up losing a significant number of plants in this way. This lost space could easily have been filled with productive females, and that's why when push comes to shove I give preference to clones as the best starting point.

Seed plants on the other hand do make the best mother plants, thanks to the greater range of variation among the plants giving you a better chance of coming up with at least one that matches your wishes. So you can perhaps best start off with growing as many seed plants as you can and then choosing the best from among them to proceed to bloom with. From these plants you can then choose a mother from which to clone a whole garden's worth of plants. The clone from a seed plant will also generate a bigger yield until she is six months old and reaches her limit.





How buds are produced, from start to finish (Variety: NIx)







After a few weeks of heavy flowering, the plants are calming down and conserving their energy for producing the buds. White hairs can be seen everywhere.







Around the fourth week the THC production gradually starts and crystals start forming on the leaves and buds. The buds are beginning to swell, forming independent small groups and the white hairs are evident in large numbers.







In the 5th – 7th week of flowering the buds start growing into clusters. The heads are gradually taking shape and are becoming fatter and thicker. Within the next few weeks, they can double in size and then double again, gaining a lot of weight as they grow.







The many individual buds have grown together to form heads and will spend the final two weeks of flowering gaining in weight and substance. The THC production is in full flow and the heads are covered in resin. The white hairs have transformed into a splendid head.



The final result of two months of flowering a top quality head covered in a thick layer of THC!





Irrigation without frustration

The month of May is upon us and for pretty much every outdoor grower the crop is now in full swing. This whole month will see a good deal of progress thanks to the number of hours sunlight and the accompanying temperature. Meanwhile indoors, we will be ensuring that the climate remains within welcome limits...

Since the watering of marihuana plants in the right way and amounts creates for most beginner growers a huge number of questions, I will be paying attention to this important topic in this issue. That the issue of watering can create problems even for experienced growers is also a fact. Especially when we vary our tried and trusted way of growing with a new variety and/or a different growing substrate, our selfassurance has a tendency to slide away into doubt, which can lead us in turn to create less than ideal living conditions for our plants. In short, the watering of marihuana plant often looks easier than it really is.

Professional watering

Because going around giving water by hand (watering) to indoor plants one by one is best avoided (and furthermore, nigh on impossible anyway once the plants are shooting up in size), in this article we will only be discussing the watering of plants with the aid of professional irrigation systems.

One of the most used irrigation systems is the one which uses special drippers to provide the plants with their feed water. This system works fine, so long as we rinse the whole thing through regularly with enzymes in order to prevent a build up of salt residues. These drip feeders ensure a meticulous portioning out of the feed water to the plants, and virtually never wash away the soil from around the

Climate conditions

Before we launch into our primer on plant irrigation, it is important to spare a few moments to contemplate what factors influence the total number of times a day we give plants water, and the total quantity of water they will require per day. Among other factors, the thickness and aeration of the substrate are of great importance. The stage of life the plants are in also plays a large role, and with it the whole living conditions we have created in



The blue drippers are clearly visible, and these provide the plants with the correct quantity of feed water, provided that the grower makes sure that the irrigation system is correctly programmed.

grow lamps. All in all then, there's a considerable number of factors that, even though they are not closely connected with each other, will eventually co-determine our method of irrigation.

If, for example, when growing in soil we look at the thickness of the substrate, then it might happen that a thin layer of soil holds more feed water in it than an earth mix that may well be twice as thick, but also much airier so that the thicker layer of soil can actually carry a lot more feed water without the plant being negatively affected. Another example is two growing spaces the same size in which

Among other factors, the thickness and aeration of the substrate are of great importance

our growing space. By 'living conditions' I mean the temperature in the grow room and in the substrate, the moisture content of the air, and the quantity of light we provide via the

the plants are all growing on the same substrate, but in one space the air moisture level is higher than in the other. The plants raised in the high air moisture space will, with the help of their leaves, take a substantial amount of water out of the atmosphere, in contrast to the plants raised in the very 'dry' room.

Differences

It will be obvious to most growers that in the above example, the differences will also result in considerable differences in the amount of feed water given the plants in their respective grow spaces. That the temperature has an influence on water usage has to do with the fact that it is this that ultimately determines the evaporation (or, strictly speaking, transpiration) through the leaves. In brief: when the temperature rises, then the rate of evaporation goes up too and as growers, this is something we need to be in control of. Anyway, I always maintain that in a case like this we are best off keeping the temperature constant rather than continuing to endlessly increase the feed water given. It has long been known that marihuana plants thrive best when kept By: Weckels, the grow specialist from Atami

at a temperature between 24 and 28 °Celsius, and that's why this is part of the art of growing.

'Bugging' the plant

To return once more to the life stage of the plant, we can determine three distinct phases: the beginning phase (in which the plant is still a clone), the growing phase and the blooming phase. In the beginning phase it is important that we give as little water to the clone as possible, in order to force her to go looking for it and thus develop a proper root system. In effect we are 'bugging' or irritating the plant (clone) a little bit.

Because this is a rather critical stage, we create the absolute optimal living conditions and in doing so keep an eye on the young clone continually. In the first place we hang our lamps as high as possible to keep evaporation to a minimum. When giving water (in the beginning we do not go giving all kinds of nutrient directly), the quantity is partly dependent on whether we are using an air humidifier or not. I often still give the clones water when they are starting off by hand, because then I can do everything really carefully. It is important in this case that we check the clones several times a day. If this is not possible then there is no alternative but to immediately begin automatic irrigation in the beginning phase.

The growing phase is the phase in which the plant, now well rooted, must be seen to expand in size and development. Here it is of great importance that the plant has access to (more than) sufficient feed water so that it can develop optimally. We programme the irrigation system in such a way that only a tiny dribble of surplus feed water flows from the substrate. In this way the plant gets (more than) enough feed water and we prevent soil being washed away and wasting feed water. The number of times we irrigate the plants is dependent on the depth and aeration of the substrate (in our case a layer of soil). When for example we grow on a thin layer of well-aerated soil, it is very important that during a day we give the plants feed water in little-butoften amounts. In this way we keep the roots sufficiently moist (so that they don't die), the plants get the right amount of feed water and the roots of the plant can easily take up as much oxygen as they need, since the thin layer of soil dries out again quickly. This is where growing on just a thin layer of light, airy soil has a great advantage: we can hardly give the plants too much feed water, since the excess runs off so quickly. Problems of a waterlogged undersoil tend to happen now, in the critical phase in which clones are still developing their roots, or because we are growing on a



You should always make sure that one dripper's worth of feed water is dribbled into a measuring beaker so as to know exactly how much feed water our plants are getting in reality.

substantially thick layer of substrate or a layer that is totally un-aerated and thereby has difficulty letting the excess water stream away

growers we must avoid at all costs ballsing up our crop a couple of weeks before harvest thanks to us having given the plants too little or even too much feed water.

We create the absolute optimal living conditions and in doing so keep an eye on the young clone continually

Just to give you some idea of the number of times to irrigate each day, during the growing phase (when growing on a thin, airy layer of soil) I irrigate about 19 times a day, each time for between 5 and 14 seconds. For the grower it is often just a case of giving it a whirl (carefully!) and discovering what gives you the best results.

During the blooming phase the plants need to have access to as much feed water as they want, given that they are using this to enable the flower heads to develop and it is therefore an important yield-determining factor. Moreover, as In any case, to give us a clearer idea of precisely how much feed water we are giving our plants at any given stage of their life, it is advisable to let one of the drippers dribble its entire contents into a measuring beaker. In this way we can calculate just how much water each of our plants is getting and we can build up a good knowledge of growing the right variety under the right conditions, with the right amount of feed water. It will cost you a bit more work, but it will deliver tangibly better results – and harvest! - in the end.

Till next time!



When we want to grow on a thin layer of soil, boxes or crates are ideal to use. Then we really can irrigate the plants often and only for short periods.

COLUMN

Straight Life

Well, since the upheavals recounted for your amusement in the last column, a few things have happened. Despite having been named to the old bill nearly three months ago, nothing has happened. I've taken some obvious precautions like knocking the commercial ventures on the head for the moment. And I've moved house, which is always a hassle, but unfortunately was totally fucking necessary. On the bright side, moving has meant that I can start from scratch again: only giving my new phone number to particular people and giving the address to absolutely nobody (paranoid, Moi?).

I've also decided to stop fucking around with all the retail shit, and take a leaf out of my own book. So no more punting 3.5 gram deals to students, pikeys and doleys. Fuck that. The funny thing is that I knew when I first went down that road that I was lining up a load of fucking grief for myself, and how right I was. Anyhow, from here on in I'm strictly wholesale only, and I got to tell you readers, I'm much happier now I've made the decision.

One of the biggest things is that I've had to do something I never, *ever* thought would happen to me. Readers, I can hardly bring myself to say the words. Yes, I've had to get a job. It's not that I need the money or anything, far fucking from it. What I *do* need is a legit source of income to keep the snoopers off my back.

Unfortunately, I'm not exactly brimming with either the qualifications or the enthusiasm required for most jobs these days. In fact, the only jobs I ever had were casual numbers working in the kitchens of cafes and restaurants. After a couple of knockbacks (company directorships, etc) I kinda fell back into that niche. Despite all my attempts to be legit about all this, the first two jobs I went for said they'd pay me off the books! With the third one, I got what I was looking for: £5.00 an hour and paying tax and insurance.

So here I am back in the labour force, and it's reminded me really fucking quickly why I never wanted to do it in the first place. For one thing, it really cuts into your social life. Dealing may have a few risks attached, but at least you always have time to fuck about, watch television, play tunes and just chill. Another thing is that no matter how many hours you put in, there's always some fucker calls in sick and you've got to cover their shift.

Then of course, there's the shit wages and the fact that the proprietor treats you like something they've stood on in the street.

But I think the worst of it is that I have to really try not to talk about dope! Kitchen workers don't seem to have changed one fucking bit in nearly 10 years! I suppose it's the fact that it's such a fucking shit job that means *everyone* is into something. More-or-less everyone smokes dope, but unfortunately they smoke really fucking shit, gangster dope. And it's a tricky call, cos while I don't want to pollute my lungs with it, you got to be seen as friendly at the same time, otherwise a

shitty job becomes unbearable.

So now I find myself smoking horrible dope and drinking cheap booze with my new found "friends" at work. Talk about hoisted by your own petard, eh? I'm *really* going to try to last at this, but sitting on my arse watching the money roll in is just too easy to really be bothered with all this work shit. I just wish the fucking government would sort it out, legalise the fucking stuff and let me pay tax on it. Yeah, dream on...

Later, JK

horribly_stoned_boy@hotmail.com

Feminised White Widow

From seed to harvest, part I By Aja (from the USA)

Due to a delay in receiving the seeds, my schedule kind of screwed up a bit and I started these White Widows a while back. Let me tell you, these White Widow are great plants! I am doing a few new things this time around.

I used a MH light for the vegetative stage and I am using my own tap water with GH MicroGrow for Hard Water. I will see how well this works compared to the distilled water I had been using. I also switched to a 400w HPS for flowering. I am now at about 65w per sq. foot (929cm2) as opposed to the 100 I was experiencing with the 600w. I am very impressed so far and the heat saving is substantial. I will compare the results and see if there was any advantage to the 600 in my particular situation. I pinched the grow tip of all the seedlings and am anxious to see how this affects the yield.

Germination

It seems to me that many new growers



Germination

suffer from initial problems during this phase. It really is very easy, just treat them as living organisms and supply them with their needs. To be a successful grower you must be a bit of a nurturer, but at the same time you need to use common sense and avoid tinkering with your plants except when necessary.

Warmth and moisture are the two main conditions that signal a seed to begin developing. A temperature of around 75 F (24 C) will work nicely. Heated propagation mats are available for around twenty bucks but some household appliances will work just as well. I use my monitor or laptop.

For germination I use Rapid Rooter cubes and love them. After soaking the cubes for a few hours in pH-adjusted water (6.0), I simply place a seed in, pointedend down and cap the hole with excess cube material. After misting the entire tray, I cover the whole tray with plastic cling wrap and cover it with a towel. Periodically, blow into the tray to give it an air exchange and mist if the cubes become dry to the touch. DO NOT bother your plants until you see seed shells coming from the cubes! Trust me, if you maintain proper temperature/moisture and the seeds are viable, they will sprout within a week using this method.

Do not feed your plants until they are at least 2 weeks old, as the seed embryo contains adequate nourishment for the young seedling for the first few weeks.

Week two

It took me three crops to learn this. All the seeds sprouted and broke ground in



week 2

the first week. I went out of town for a day and all but one of the babies had fallen completely over when I returned. The toothpick solution works great for me. Make sure that the twist-tie or string is not too tight.

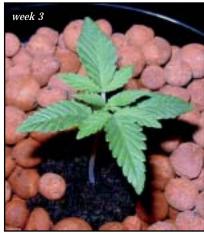
After a week I removed the splints and the plants supported themselves without assistance. Initially these girls have very soft and flexible stalks, stems and leaves, so keep a fan on them early and watch for stretching. Keep a fluorescent light close by to prevent unnecessary stretch and you will be fine.

Week Three: Nursery Transplant

At the end of week two, my seedlings have all grown root systems that completely encircle the cubes. One of the tricks to achieving this rapid development involves water deprivation. I no longer mist my seedlings daily; instead I keep



Week 3, nursery



Do not feed your plants until they are at least 2 weeks old, as the seed embryo contains adequate nourishment for the young seedling for the first few weeks





the lower third of the cube moist. By forcing the seedlings to seek out water, rather than delivering it to the leaves, the roots grow faster and move more vigorously toward the bottoms of the cubes

Be careful to monitor the outer sides of the cube for emerging roots. These must be kept moist or they will perish quickly. I use a similar technique with clones. A hydro crop, like a soil crop, requires transplanting to a larger environment for root development as the plants mature. There are a number of thoughts and techniques on the subject. My personal preference is to reduce stress anytime that I can during the early stages.

Plants become stressed from two external irritants: Sudden changes in environment or otherwise poor conditions and improper/unbalanced nutrients.

To combat environmental change stress, I prefer to transplant early. The plants are able to recover much quicker at this stage. The first step is to prepare the





GROW REPORT



medium. I soak the Hydroton Grow Rocks in a tub full of pH adjusted and nutrient rich solution. I use distilled water at this stage, as it is easier to lower the pH and initial fluctuations and to monitor how much the plants are consuming. To determine the amount I need, I use one of the net pots and fill it four times. I put one inch(2.5cm) of Hydroton at the bottom of the pot and carefully place the plant/cube in the center. Next I add pellets to the top of the cube. Make sure you are happy with the plants' orientation, as adjustments will be harmful after root development takes place.

Each pot is placed in my Rubbermaid SWC nursery. Two air stones supply bubbles to the solution; the water level should be around 1/2 an inch (1.27cm) from the pot bottoms. Bubbles should be able to splash the underside of the net pots. The temperature should be at room temperature. It is a good idea to prepare the nutrient solution the night before to allow it to acclimatize. I provide 1 - 45 watts of fluorescent light for each plant. These are very effective and the clamps allow me to adjust the lights to the needs of the growing plants. Because they are Compactflouro's, they run a bit hotter so care must be taken to avoid burning leaves/ household items.

As you can see, only four plants are developed enough for the bubbler at this point. I always grow one extra plant





because of this. There always seems to be a runt. This plant will be put to service as a mother or maybe become a subject in some freaky grow experiment. After the cubes are in the bubbler, I pour nutrient solution over the Hydroton only. Once again, I am forcing the rapid development of roots by encouraging the plant to expend energy on water exploration rather than vertical growth. Using this method you will experience rapid root development that allows your plant to experience the benefits of a hydro environment faster. Nutrient strength is around 500 PPM. I will watch for nutrient burn and adjust as necessary. My pH is still at 6.0 and will stay there until the move to buckets.

Seedlings: Weeks 3-4

I usually see a major growth spurt in the 3rd and 4th week; these girls really are growing strong. I have been fairly aggressive with the nutrients and thus far have only had a slight amount of lower leaf burn; this was on only one plant,



however. At 900 PPM I feel like they love it. After an hour or so of watching the droopy plants I decided to capitalize on their shocked state by moving them into the buckets. Might as well get it all out, eh..?

Two of the plants had very long root systems that tangled with the others. I very carefully removed these tangles and moved the girls to the buckets one at a time. I made an extra effort to match the water temperatures and PPM - pH of both solutions (nursery/buckets). Plants react to change poorly at times, so I try to avoid hitting them with too many surprises at once. Note how quickly the roots have developed on these little monsters.

It is easy to get complacent and let your plants go too far in the pre-bucket stage. On the other hand, it is important to make sure your plants are strong enough to survive the rigors of DWC before committing them to this environment. Keeping the water quality the same for both environments will allow your plants to acclimatize in their new homes much easier

The first round of buckets will feature distilled water and my veg mixture. I will switch to tap water and substitute GH Micro for Hard water Micro after the next water change, which will also be when I switch to a 0/8/16 mixture for 12/12. I have replaced the 600w HPS with a 40w MH. It will be interesting to note any performance issues as a result. With the exception of some early seedling stretch, this has been my smoothest crop yet. I'm a little worried about one of the plants being male, but it is still a bit early. After the plants have overcome the shock of the buckets and the light issues, I will

be pinching grow shoots to double my colas. My grow room works best with Sativa's, so hopefully I can prune in such a way as to optimize my space without tying down.

Vegetative Period

After two weeks of 400w MH, I have seen an amazing increase in growth. The fan leaves on these plants are massive. I had to prune every few days just to keep the plant open to light. Compared to the HPS, there is definitely thicker growth which makes sense, I was just unprepared for the **huge** difference. I am glad that I purchased a switchable ballast, I think the added grow rate was well worth it. As I said, these girls are growing very fast.

I decided to pinch the branches on this crop. What this means is that I roll the branches between my fingertips lightly crushing the interior lining of the branch. Afterwards, the branch will heal, effectively doubling, (in theory), its capacity to deliver nutrients in that area. While the branches are flaccid, you can position them or tie them while they heal. Another name for this is: Super Cropping. I pinched the growth shoots by simply grasping the shoot between my thumb and finger and pushing it back between the secondary shoots that are on either side. I did this on all of the shoots that were of size. The advantage here as opposed to topping or FIM, is that the plant continues growing rather than expending energy on repairing/regrowing the damaged stem. I usually only do this on the main growth shoots, but on this crop I want to encourage lateral growth as much as possible to avoid tying branches, which is a pain in the a**. If I do it right, I should get a very even canopy with maximum light coverage. There will be an initial slowdown due to shock, but if the environment is good the plants will recover very quickly.

Can you spot the not?

I started having doubts about this plant a few weeks ago, so I isolated it in the bathroom just to be sure. Sure enough, it has balls. Price you pay sometimes for using feminized seeds. Separate any suspicious plants immediately. I let this one grow a little more so the 'parts' would be easier for you to see.

Flowering: Week Three

I skipped ahead a little. Now that I am down to three plants, I have been training my girls to fill the gap left behind. I'm hoping that the extra space will bode well for the remaining girls. My tap water comes out at 400 PPM, with a pH of 7.5. I decided to try GH FloraMicro for Hardwater this crop to see if there is any advantage to using distilled water in my situation. The first thing I noticed is that the stuff looks really gross. Lots of slimy and stringy globs as you pour it out. I measured out the amounts and mixed it in. It is harder to mix initially, but overall no real difference in viscosity or procedure. I am still using 0/8/16 as my flowering ratio. One thing I noticed is that it takes a lot more pH Down to lower the pH. Roughly twice as much. After allowing the nutrients to settle overnight, I checked the readings and everything

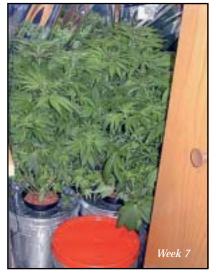


seemed good to go. So far the pH has been rock solid (once I got it down there) and I will keep an eve on it. The plants seem indifferent to the change in water. thus far. All of the plants have numerous budding sites showing and I am encouraged by the sheer speed at which the plants are developing. They have seemed to average an inch or more of vertical growth per day during this last week. All three remaining plants are similar in type and fairly uniform in size and development. Compared to previous crops, these plants seem to reflect the description much more closely. I hope I planned the start of the flowering period correctly or I may end up with some very tall plants.

Week 4 - 5 Flowering

Well, the girly-girls are doing nicely. I have noticed two phenotypes thus far. The big difference seems to be the shape of the leaves and the formation of the buds. The more Sativa type has very long narrow leaves and a bushy bud. The more Indica type has fat, broad leaves and tight reddish-tinted bud sites. All of the plants are about the same height, although they differ by about a week in bud development. I have noticed significant stretch so far and I will not be surprised if these finish around twice as tall as they were in late vegetation.

I waited one month to do a water change, as these girls do better with lighter nutrients. I have this crop going at week 4 without a complete water change. I am going to go the duration if possible. I truly believe that it is feasible to go a





Plants become stressed
from two external
irritants: Sudden
changes in environment
or otherwise poor
conditions and
improper/unbalanced
nutrients



complete Flowering period without doing a single water change, provided you monitor your nutrients and make adjustments where necessary.

The Hard water formula seems to be working well. Here are some numbers I recorded while mixing my nutrients the last time. Note that the formula is 0/8/16 and I mixed up 20 gallons (75.7 l.).

Starting PPM of tap water: 400 Initial pH of tap water: 7.2

After adding Micro: 730 PPM After adding Bloom: 1260 PPM After adding 25 ml Epsom salts: 1370

Total PPM - starting measurement: 970 pH after adding nutrients: 6.4

I had to add 30 ml of pH to take the mixture down to 5.5. I think that the nutrients are just right at this point. I will continue to monitor the health, but I am convinced that these girls thrive on less nutrients overall.

Week 6 Flowering

Past the halfway point and all is well. I burned the plants a bit with my aggressive nutrient regimen (Dumb Ass!), so I backed them off to about 700 PPM and the slight damage seems to be in check. I don't flip-out when I toast the outside edges a little, but I certainly don't want it to spread any further. I really love these WW's so far. They are very responsive and quickly adjust their leaves to the light. At times the fan leaves will point almost straight up to catch the HPS rays as it warms up. Nutrient burn appeared during a weekend that I was out of town, but I was able to stop it easily,

as I stated earlier.

Overall, these plants have been trouble-free up to this point, (except for the lone sexual deviant, that I blame more on me than the strain). The smell at this point, is surprisingly, worse than the Blueberry at this stage. Simply put, these ladies smell pretty good. Hard to describe, a little like Skunk, but sweeter. I think they smell lovely, personally, but I am certainly not eager to share it with the rest of the neighborhood. Odor control is a must. I hope it doesn't get any stinkier or I might need to implement more serious measures.

I believe that these girls require much less nutrients than the Blueberry's, but the jury is still out. I will monitor the EC to make sure I am giving them what they need for the next few weeks and raise it if necessary. There is a difference in bud maturity with all three plants. The most developed appears to be on track for a 10 week harvest, but the other two are lagging behind a little.

Stretch has been consistent and not really mind-blowing at this point. I expect

lagging behind a little.

Stretch has been consistent and not really mind-blowing at this point. I expect another push in the next week before they settle down. Bud sites are plentiful and it looks like the buds are going to be pretty dense. Crystals are already coating the fan leaves on the plant that is furthest along, I hope this occurs on all of them. Still have no idea what kind of yield I will get, but looks promising thus far. If the smoke is as good as I think it will be, I might keep this strain around for a



Week Seven Flowering

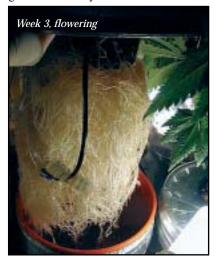
Business as usual. I am not blown away by the speed at which these girls are progressing, but for a 10 week flowering strain they seem to be on track (?) The buds are really frosting up and I love the way the leaves are shaped, can't wait to get some more weight on these skinny little things. My nutrients are down to 600 PPM and the pH has been very solid. I think I am going to wait to do a final water change until I do my flush in week 9 or 10. It seems to be a waste of time and nutrients to change every 2 weeks, as I have noticed absolutely no difference in plant health between the two methods thus far. The plants are all about 36"(91cm) tall presently, and are filling my 2'(60cm) x 3'(90cm) space nicely. I haven't had to tie any down yet, but I may do so in the future to open up the inner areas of the canopy to the light. I have my light about 13" (33cm) from the tops currently and the temps are still only 75F (24C). Got to love that 400w lamp. Hope it doesn't cost me too much bud

One of the tricks to achieving rapid development involves water deprivation

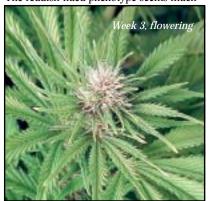
weight, so far it doesn't seem be any less effective than the 600 (in my 6 sq ft. - 0.56m2- situation), and without all of the heat

Week Eight Flowering

In the final weeks now, at least I hope we are. Everything seems to be going smoothly with the reduced nutrients. These girls are not nearly as motivated to fill out



as much as the other strains I have grown previously. The buds seem very thick and dense. I will wait to pass judgment on the 400 versus 600 question, until harvest time. The two phenotypes are pretty distinct at this point, not sure which is the best though, they both look pretty sexy. The reddish-hued phenotype seems much



further along than the others and will finish up a bit sooner. I think the yield will be a bit higher for this plant as well. The other type is smaller, but has more even coloring and more numerous buds. I checked the trichomes and they are about 80% clear on phenotype #1 and 90% clear on phenotype

#2.

I want this to be my daytime herb, so I'm leaning toward the conservative side of cloudiness on this grow. I'm trying to get more of a *head* high with less of the stupefaction thing. My nutrients are around 400 PPM as I head into a straight water flush on Monday. I am going to use distilled water for the last two weeks. mostly because I still have a bunch left from the last crop. Starting to get a few vellow fan leaves here and there, but overall, the plants are still bright green. I am starting to see more white powder on the leaves (not mold, thank god..), but nothing to match the legendary WW tales I have heard on this. We will still have to see if I get that White carpeting effect on these gals, I sure hope so.

Harvest: Part 1

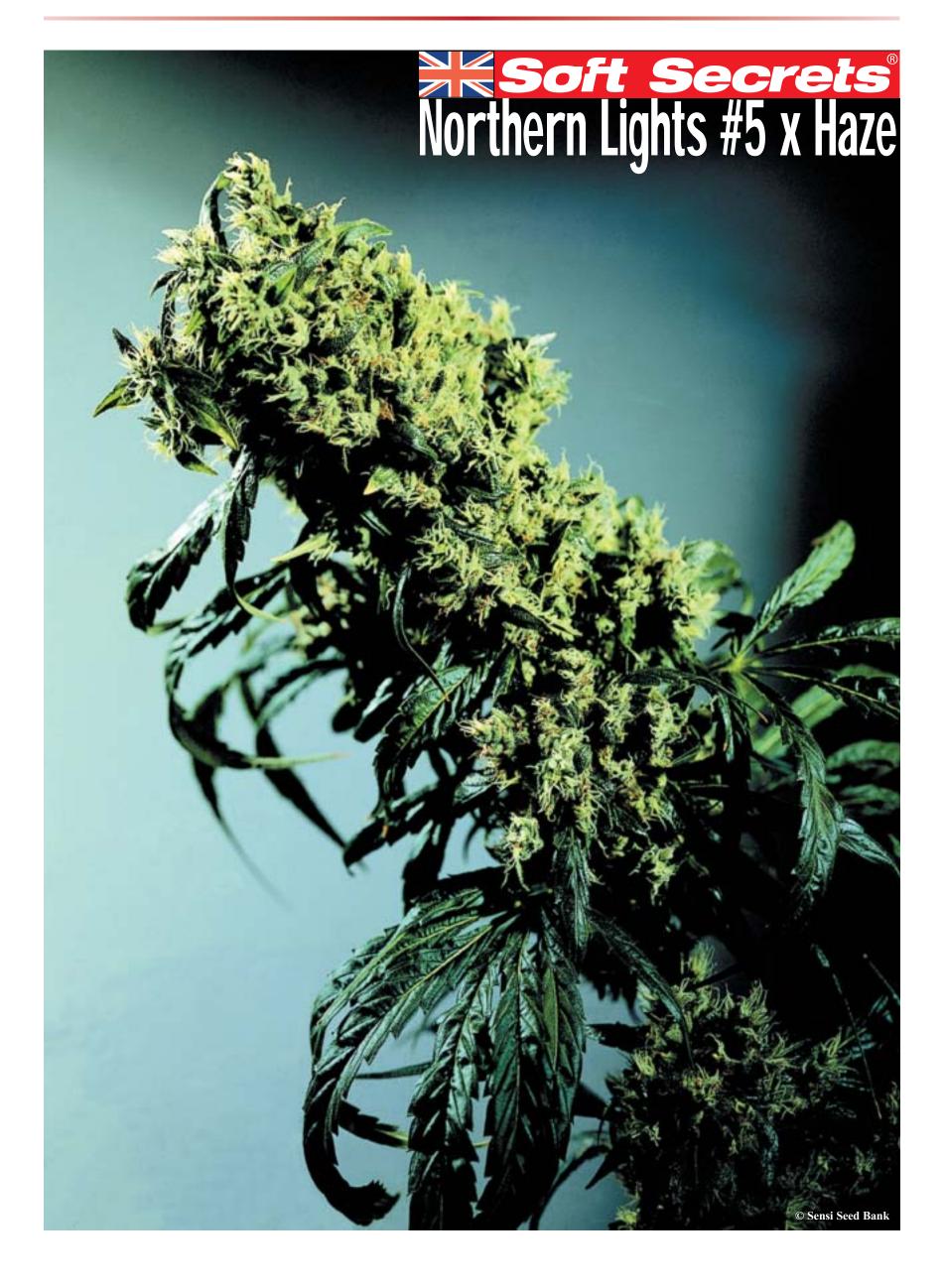
Well after a little over ten weeks, I gave up waiting for the fabled 'white carpet' and chopped my biggest girl after 48 hours of blackness. Don't get me wrong, this girl is very sticky, just no powdered donut look. Weight and density seem pretty good, although there is quite a bit of leaf material. Trimming is a great time for me so I don't mind. I have the buds hanging and all of the plants are finishing and drying. Gorgeous plant! The colors are really bright and vivid. The buds are very thick and heavy. Should get 3 - 3.5 oz (85gr-100gr) if I lose 80% to water. Very slick and trouble-free crop. I hope it smokes as good as it looks.

Harvest: Part 2

Well, I finally cut the other two-thirds of my crop down last weekend. Overall I am pretty impressed with this strain. The plants pictured are the second phenotype and are not as red or thick as phenotype #1, perhaps. Lots and lots of leaves on these plants. These girls will take over your whole house if you don't watch out. I still haven't tried any of the bud yet. I managed to prolong the drying time by raising the humidity initially when I first started, and later putting the plants into paper grocery bags to finish, prior to jar curing. The buds are still a little too 'green' to smoke. Total yield from 3 plants was 10.50 oz (297gr).

In the next issue: Final Grow/Smoke Report







Making Clones

By: Weckels, the grow specialist from Atami

In a previous article (about male and female plants) I touched upon a method I frequently use with which we could determine whether it was a male or a female we were dealing with at an early stage of a plant's growth. With this method it was important to make clones of the plants that had earlier been grown from seed, in order to subsequently bring these clones into bloom and thereby determine what sex their mother plant was. Because I've found that when I'm successfully making clones all and sundry want to watch, I will be turning all my attention in this article to this subject.



A well-developed clone often comes from a lovely, full mother plant.

When it happens that you manage to allow a really good mother plant to develop from previously germinated seeds, she can be a guarantee of clones at least as good. That's why it is not a bad idea to take a clone (from the quality mother plant) or even the mother plant herself indoors, before the plant (later in the year) begins to start making her blossoming hormones. This is because by now you already know a huge amount about this mother plant, such as for example the quality of the weed she produces, and that perhaps she blooms a little early (well worth knowing if you're growing outdoors).

In any case, it is certainly worth the trouble to keep her alive until the following year so that you will be sure of a supply of good clones once again. Certainly when growing marihuana outdoors it can speed up our search for a suitable variety, one that meets all our requirements. If you do not have access to a nicely equipped indoor space, then you can also keep your mother plant alive perfectly well under a grow lamp in a shed. Just take good care that the temperature is not allowed to fall too low and that there is adequate ventilation.

Guerrilla-farming

A great advantage of making your own clones from your own mother plant is that you can raise a garden of more or less identical plants. The genetically-identical babies all grow at the same tempo and are nearly always ready to harvest at the same time. That can be ideal, for example when you plant a lovely field of plants together

in a windy spot. Plants protect each other from gusts of wind. Because they are all more or less the same size, the outermost plants act as a wind shield.

You most obviously come across advantages like this when you get involved in guerrilla-farming. This approach to growing involves setting up a nice little plantation in, for example, the middle of a maize field. When growing with a system like this it is really important that the plants are all (almost) the same size so that they do not stand out from the maize too quickly. Otherwise, the chances of them being spotted by crop spraying planes that operate on a large scale in the spring and summer is high, and once discovered the chances of your crop remaining in the ground nil. What's more, you also need to be pretty sure that all your plants are going to be ready for harvest at the same time. There is nothing you can imagine more serious than that the farmer comes along and reaps his corn while your marihuana plants are still not ripe. If this ever happens to you, I can guarantee you will find that your frustration level is so high that you will contemplate ending your outdoor growing activities for good.

In order to prevent such dramas happening, making your own clones can be of great help. Since you already know when your mother plant will reach its blooming stage, you can use this knowledge to calculate when your clones will need harvesting. I must stress here that clones will generally



A beautiful, fully formed mother plant can supply a huge supply of new (cloned) successors

quality clones many outdoor growers will soon land find themselves struggling with a crisis of one sort or another, such as your plants finally blooming in November (this has happened once to me).

Before we actually start with the cloning, the plants will need to have developed to a certain stage. If you plough straight in taking clones off a less than fully-developed plant you will run the risk of cutting off vital side branches of the plant. The mother plant will then never develop as well as she might have done before, and so you have lost some of her potential and

Since you already know when your mother plant will reach its blooming stage, you can use this knowledge to calculate when your clones will need harvesting

bloom one or two weeks later than the mother plant from which they came. Why exactly, what principles determine it, I'm not exactly sure. It's just something I have noticed by experience and observation.

In general you can also bank on plants raised from seeds will always bloom earlier than if they had come into the world as clones. Another advantage to growing plants close to each other is when the colder autumn days arrive, the plants help keep each other warm, since a lot of air gets trapped among the leaves of the closely packed plants. When raising clones we know what dosages of fertilisers to best give them, since we have a fully grown example in advance – the mother plant - to base our observations on.

A well-developed mother plant

If you've got hold of a couple of clones for growing outdoors from a friend, first check them for spint and any other pests. You would not be the first grower who with the help of someone else's clones brought pests and or diseases into your indoor growing space.

You should pay good attention to the appearance of the clones: that they have nice green leaves, and preferably all of the same height and size. Starting with good clones is half the work, and without good

sold yourself short. What's more, with a decently developed mother plant you can get a better estimate of the strength of the variety, since you can pay attention to factors such as the height of the plant, the thickness of the stem, the development of the side branches and the density of the leaf coverage.

Given that plants use their leaves for the uptake of energy, which they use to grow and later to create their flower heads, you are best off using the most compact mother plant to take your clones from. The advantage of such a well-developed plant is that just one of them is usually sufficient to make a whole garden full of (the same) clones. A nicely developed mother plant produces far more good clones than an under-developed example of the same weed variety. Also, a strong mother plant will recover from the shock of being cloned, or from her point of view, robbed of her developing side shoots.

The lowest branches

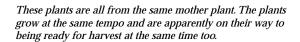
Once we have chosen a pretty mother plant, it is generally the lower-most branches that are the best candidates for removal and clone creation. The young shoots on these lowest branches would in all likelihood never have produced any spectacularly wonderful buds in any case, since they would receive almost no light. They are perfect therefore for making



A nice, tight leaf coverage ensures a maximum uptake of light energy, as well as keeping the plant sufficiently warm later in the year by trapping air between the leaves and side branches.

OUTDOOR







The cloned plants (right in photo) are from the large mother on the left.



These young clones were cloned too late, the number of hours of light has dramatically fallen and so they have come into bloom.

clones from. Also, it is often the case that the shoots on the lowest side branches are the best at rooting. Apparently this has something to do with certain hormones in the plant. As you may know, there are many types of plant which develop roots on their lower-most branches whenever these side branches remain lying on the ground for a period of time. This is not the case with marihuana plants, but it appears that the important hormones do nonetheless exist in the side branches of the plant and therefore we can best use the lowest shoots on the side branches from which to take our clones.

When we want to take clones from a plant we cannot do this at any old time of the year. The plant starts to manufacture the bloom hormones around the end of Julybeginning of August and so the mother plants at this time of the year are no longer suitable for taking clones from. That is why I advise that clones are taken from a mother plant only up until mid-July at the latest, in order not to be troubled by bloom hormones. But bear in mind that when you wait until mid-July to make your clones, these will only have five to six weeks (depending on whether the mother plant is an early or a late bloomer) in which to fully develop. The number of hours of light will begin once more to fall away from this point on and therefore the young clones will stop growing and start blooming. The young branches that best qualify as clone material have a length of between 5 and 10 cms, and must have well-developed leaves. Young shoots that have been nibbled by snails and/or other insects and/or have yellowing leaves, are not suitable for making clones out of.

Razor blade

We slice the young shoots off with a very sharp knife (an old-fashioned razor blade is perfect). Here it must be said that one should always slice the shoots at a slant. This will give the future clone a larger surface area through which to take up water. Outdoor plants, and that includes the young shoots on the lower-most side branches, have a much tougher and thicker bark than plants that have only lived indoors. This is mostly because the outdoor plants have had to protect themselves against much wider ranges of temperature (between night and day). This is why some experienced indoor growers who have been making their own clones for years have no problems indoors, but encounter problems when they come to make clones of outdoor varieties

But here too we can give nature a helping hand. We do this by removing a thin layer of fibre (bark) from the young clone. These are the same fibres used to make clothing, and since they are so strong, it can be hard for the clone powder to make its way through this fibrous layer and begin to stimulate root growth. With the aid of a razor or razor blade we can strip away a section of fibres about 2 cms from the lower part of the angled surface created by the original cut that removed it from the mother. Where the fibres have been removed you will clearly see a white strip underneath.

When you have cut the bottom end of shoot at an angle to remove it from the mother and stripped away a section of young, fibrous bark, then you can stick the clone in soil, block of stone wool or in pure water to develop roots. When we choose to let this happen in soil or stone wool, then first you have to dip the angled cut surface into water and then dab only the sides of the angled cut surface in cloning powder. You must take care that no cloning powder ends up on the cut surface of the shoot. If this happens then there is a good chance that the stream of sap through the shoot gets blocked, whereby the shoot will no longer receive moisture, will dry out and eventually die.

Stone wool blocks

Once we have applied the cloning powder in the correct way to the cutting, we make a small hollow in the soil or prick holes (with a twig or a toothpick) in the stone wool blocks and place the clone-to-be carefully in the hole. Do make sure that the cloning powder on the end of the cutting stays in place, otherwise you'll have to re-do the application. Once the cutting is firmly in the

soil or stone

particularly when growing e

This clone already has a well developed root system. The clone developed those roots in water only, although a good quality of oxygen was supplied by an air pump.

wool block, press carefully on the soil or the stone wool. Then we make the soil good and wet with water or in the case or the stone wool blocks, we place these in trays of water so that they become fully soaked.

The advantage of stone wool block is that it can provide the cuttings very quickly and easily with all the water they need, after which they soon dry out, thereby allowing the tiny rootlets to acquire all the oxygen they need. With soil you are confronted with the problem of water-logging, especially in the early growth stage of the clone. It can be a problem in that you give the clone water because the top soil is dry, while underneath that dry layer in the flowerpot is a soggy morass. That is why you should always use small flowerpots when you want to root clones. As soon as you see the first roots appear at the bottom of the pot, then you can re-pot the clone.

The biggest advantages of stone wool blocks compared with soil are firstly that you can get a large number of clones up and growing in a relatively small space, and secondly that you can see immediately which clones are putting out roots and which ones are not. It does happen, particularly when growing clones in soil,

that no roots become visible on the bottom of the flower pot. All you can do is wait and hope that they do eventually appear. But it does sometimes happen that eventually you pluck the cutting (it cannot yet be classed as a clone) out of the soil only to find that it has not developed any roots. All this time the cutting has clung on to life because we have been regularly spraying it with water to make sure the air around it had a nice, high moisture content. The cutting has repeatedly taken up moisture (the sprayed water) with her leaves and has managed to stay alive using only this source of water. Such occurrences are less likely using stone wool blocks.

Once the clone has been set in its medium and stays upright, we have to make good and sure that none of its leaves are touching the ground (whether soil or stone wool), since this can lead to severe strain on the young clone. In fact, we are better off just removing the lowest leaves, or snipping the ends off them so that some of the leaf is left behind but not enough to risk it touching the soil. Trimming off the ends of the leaves or cutting them more or less in half (crossways) helps the clone avoid excessive transpiration, which could lead to it drying out too fast. Make sure in



We get the young shoots with which we make clones from the under-most side branches. These root by far and away the best



When you take the young clone outside for the first time, it is sometimes better to protect her from the hardest gusts of wind. We can do this by supporting her with a stick.



any case that there are at least two goodlooking leaves left over so that the plant is able to take up enough light.

Root growth

Marihuana plants generally are not so good at rooting, but when you take care to give the sliced off young shoots a good supply of oxygen in the soil in which they stand, they will develop rootlets within a week or two, at which point it will be fair to call out cutting a clone. Oxygen plays a very important role in the successful development of the root system and as a result it deserves a little extra attention. We need to make sure that if we plant the clones in soil to root, that this soil is good and airy and stays that way - and what's more, free of fertiliser.

Young roots must never come in to direct contact with fertiliser, because they are just too small and under-developed for it. Fertilisers often have a much too high a concentration of nitrogen for as yet undeveloped roots, and that is a hindrance to their proper development. As well as adequate levels of oxygen, clones prefer to root in lightly warmed soil (or lightly warmed stone wool blocks). There are special warming plates for sale that you can place under a germination tray. But if you find these plates too expensive for just a few clones, you can also place the stone wool blocks in their box or the clones in their pots above a radiator.

What also aids the rooting of the clones is placing them in a space where the air

moisture can be kept high. For this, special germination boxes are ideal since you can easily keep the moisture inside them, so that the air moisture content in turn remains high. What's more they have a small vent on top that can be opened to make sure the air moisture does not get too high. With too high air moisture you run the risk of a mould infection devastating your delicate clones. Instead of buying a germinating tray you could also use a bucket or a flower box with the top sealed with see-through plastic. Make sure to prick a few holes in the plastic to make sure that the inside does not become overly moist too quickly.

Even when you use no germination tray or bucket, you can still make sure that the air moisture levels around your clones remains high by giving them a regular spray with water from an ordinary plant spray. In this way the clones also take up water through their leaves which helps them to avoid drying out. It is often even better to supply your clones with water sprayed on their leaves than to just keep giving it to them in the soil in which they stand. By adding more and more water to the pots, the chances of soil turning into mud and thereby cutting off the oxygen supply to the still developing roots is greater. This of course means curtains for your whole clone generation.

Aquarium pump

While we're on the subject of oxygen, there's another, less well known method of allowing young cuttings to take root, and that's by placing their stems (only) in a growing tray or bucket of water. To guarantee the right levels of oxygen we submerge an aquarium pump in the tray or bucket. Such a pump, that normally provides oxygen for fish, can be used very successfully to allow the development of clone roots. Consider well whether you really do need an air pump, as the cuttings/young shoots can be killed if not.

You will also need to check the underside of the cuttings now and again for scar tissue, the new layer of tissue that the young cutting develops for itself as a way of healing its wound. For all its good intentions, the cutting has no way of knowing that this will cut off its water supply, so remove it. The advantage in sticking your cuttings in plain water is that you can put a whole load of them in one bucket or tray. If you were to place the same number in individual flower pots to root, you would need much more space. By having them all in one place like this you can check for scar tissue formation much more easily - something that is not possible in soil or stone wool blocks.

I have one more tip for preventing your clones from drying out (in soil or stone wool): never place the clones in direct sunlight as this will in a very short period of time lead to them drying out irreparably. Once the clones have developed a decent root system (even if they are still in their damp stone wool blocks), a good stiff dose of sun is advantageous (it gives the young shoots a nice burst of energy). While the young clones still have not fully

developed their roots it is much better to

leave them at first in a shady spot. For example, they do well under some bushes or overhanging trees. Here the clones will not only benefit from a reduced light quantity, they will also have very little trouble with wind and rain, while here a perfect, moist air also circulates. You do need to watch out for snails as these are also the ideal conditions for these voracious little buggers. They just adore young leaves - your clones' young leaves and they will do a lot of damage. Since they normally come out at night you can generally leave your clones safely during the day under the bushes or wherever, but remove them before nightfall.

Grow lamps

If you don't have enough space or you have no garden or balcony with a shady spot, then you can also let the roots develop just fine under one or more grow lamps. Grow lamps are well suited to having clones develop roots under them since they give off sufficient light and do not warm up the clones too much, so they don't dry out too quickly. By using grow lamps you can extend the period of light they receive compared to natural sunlight, and thereby advance the whole development process somewhat.

Once you've got making your own clones sorted out, you will find that successful outdoor growing gets a whole lot easier, since with clones you will be able to grow the varieties of weed that are especially well-suited to outdoor growing.

Good luck, and till next time!



These plants are all from the same mother plant. The plants grow at the same tempo and are apparently on their way to being ready for harvest at the same time too.



If we have allowed the clones to take root in stone wool blocks, we can best place them in a tray. In this way they do not get damaged so easily when they are moved.



Once the clones have fully developed root systems, place them in a well lit place so that they can take up enough energy to prepare them for being placed outside for further growing.



High Quality Seeds photo competition

You know how growers love to talk about their own harvests in such loving superlatives? And why not? Their affection for their plants lingers long after they have left the grow room. But the illegal status of growing means that it can be hard for the proud agriculturist to share his pride with the outside world. High Quality Seeds wants to do something about this - by throwing a great photo competition! Let them see just how lovely a growth and bloom you can get out of your green ladies. Grab a camera, release the inner photographer in you and let a thousand flash bulbs pop! High Quality Seeds is offering you the chance to show us a creative interpretation of the heavenly plant, and will reward the very best with a

weekend in Amsterdam. Who can turn their noses up at a couple of days wandering the Mecca for all green fingered tokers? And High Quality Seeds is not sending you on your own - the winner will get two return tickets to the Big Tulip, a night in a hotel, two tickets to the world-famous Hemp Museum, and a packet of Jack Herrer High Quality Seeds Black Label to prolong the memory of your visit. Amsterdam is still a unique experience, with its lively terraces, many museums and colourful coffee shops. By night, you can savour the atmosphere of the canals before being received at a comfortable hotel where you can relax from head to toe and drift away in a state of total pleasure. But wait, we're getting ahead of ourselves! First get hold of a camera and start yo' funky flashin'. Snap that masterpiece today and get your hands on those tickets to a two-day getaway to the Magic City.

Just send off your snap, together with two empty High Quality Seeds packs, to: **High Quality Seeds**

Postbus 362 5460 AJ Veghel The Netherlands

A jury of experienced growers will judge the pictures we receive - preferably printed on photo paper. If you have to send in a digital pic, make sure it's a high quality one (minimum 500 Kb), on a diskette, in jpg format

High Quality Seeds would like to wish you all a super harvest of beautiful weed - and a crop of equally stunning photos! For more details see their ad elsewehere in this paper.

MEDICINAL MARIHUANA Soft Secrets

Smokers, Unite!

By Kristie Szalanski

Ever wondered how you could help medical patients and victims of anticannabis legislation? No? Well you should have. In this first installment of a two-part series, Soft Secrets UK highlights two green groups who strive to aid their community's medical patients, while getting ordinary people just like you involved in changing things for the better.

In this, the year 2004, our world is undergoing many changes regarding the War on Drugs. Spain, for example, seems to be adopting a tolerant approach similar to that of the Netherlands with regards to growing for personal consumption, while America continues to spend billions on preventing folks from simply smoking a joint at home. The United Kingdom has recently de-classified Cannabis from a Class B to a Class C Drug, meaning a more lenient approach to those who are classified as users, not producers or distributors. But where do the medical patients fit into the equation? The States and the UK still tend to prosecute people who are growing their own medicine, and in fact American people are being incarcerated daily for lengthy sentences regarding cultivation of a few plants or first-time, non-violent drug offences. Imagine attempting to serve twenty years in jail while suffering from cancer or debilitating arthritis. In such a thriving underground industry, whether you are a recreational or medical user, or growing for profit, there are ways that you can involve yourself in the aid and protection of medical cannabis patients.

If you are a resident of the UK and you're sick and tired of, well, anything that you want to change, there is a group of people who want you to check them out. They're called the Legalise Cannabis Alliance UK (www.lca-uk.org), and are a "single-issue party" whose priorities lie with the legalisation and safe use of cannabis in the UK. They are also striving towards having all "cannabis only" convictions erased. Their organisation can be used as a platform with which to address local issues such as education and unemployment and the group are hoping to gain a candidate to represent each town in the 2005 General Election. Find out more about LCA-UK in the next issue of Soft Secrets.

Another crew worthy of mention and regard is their friends at THC4MS.

Formed by several Multiple Sclerosis sufferers, who met as guests on "The Kilroy Show," this self-help source is a medical cannabis co-op that provides FREE weed chocolate bars to MS patients. Originally founded in 1993, THC4MS distributes a product called "Canna-Biz," renamed from "Canna-Choc" last year. The new moniker is a tribute to Biz Ivol, an Orkney resident with MS. Biz was helping to supply a fellow MS sufferer who wished to medicate with cannabis while avoiding the harmful effects of smoking. At that time THC4MS was busy making and giving away emergency "space" products to a small group of recipients. An example of an emergency requirement would be if a regular supply were suddenly unavailable. Due to the effectiveness of medical cannabis in treating spasticity caused by MS, a dry spell in the green department could cause a serious problem. This is one of the main driving forces behind those who actively support the distribution if what some view as an illicit drug; others, a source of a return to normalcy.

THC4MS began as a "first-source" for MS patients who sought a safe alternative to either smoking or prescription drugs, and who had no access to cannabis. Two questions were constantly presented: Where do I get it? and How do I use it? Support in fielding these questions as well as the delicate task of distribution is found in likeminded groups such as: Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics (ACT) founded by Clare Hodges, the Medical Marijuana Cooperative (MMCO) run by Colin Davies, and the Free Medical Marijuana Foundation (FMMF) in Glastonbury. More recently, the Herb Connection (Chris Baldwin) and Tony's Holistic Centre (Kingscross London) have joined the networking in order to direct patients towards the quickest route to relief. A major accomplishment of this web is that MS sufferers are now more easily able to access the centre from which they'll benefit



A bud and a half in every bar!



Choc wrapped



Blending the herb

the most. Those interested in being supplied with Canna-Biz bars must first present proof of the MS diagnosis, then a weekly supply of medicine will be sent upon request. Unfortunately, those fighting the good fight are not without enemies.

Biz Ivol was herself targeted by the Northern Constabulary in 2001. Apparently newspaper articles detailing her compassionate efforts prompted a local PC to take action against her. THC4MS reacted after their friend's downfall by increasing production of medical chocolates so that the patients would not suffer. The re-naming of the chocolate bars was done in order to soften the blow of being denied a legal victory. The case against Biz, MS patient and aid to others in similar conditions, was dropped when it was decided that she wasn't fit to stand trial. Biz had pleaded "not guilty" to the charges against her and never got a chance to speak up for herself for helping ill patients. Soon the media became interested in THC4MS, especially as the demotion of cannabis was impending. An increase of publicity at the national level resulted in more and more MS sufferers seeking relief. During the ensuing demand hike, the product packaging was revamped and THC4MS found themselves just barely able to handle their new popularity. This is where you, the home smoker/grower, can really help. Many people choose to liberate themselves from the financial and social impacts (for example, approaching a street dealer) of using cannabis for recreation or medicine. After the harvest it is likely that you may be left with a surplus of product or clipping materials. If you can't be bothered to make hash from it, why not do something really nice for someone else? PLEASE donate it to THC4MS. They provide growers with an alternative to re-entering the illicit drug trade by removing the tempting surplus, and help to improve the quality of life for others in the community. 'Generous benefactors" are even invited to check out the production run in person!



Final grinding



Choc in moulds

Monetary donations, of course, are extremely helpful as well, as they aid in production costs such as ingredients and packaging materials. You can contact their message board at www.uk420.com, or email help@thc4ms.org. THC4MS has already helped over 1,200 Multiple Sclerosis sufferers, and with a bit of generosity from you, they can help even more. Put down that joint (just for now, relax!) and get involved!













CannaTrade 2004, Bern

After the success of this event last year, it was apparent that the CannaTrade Fair in Switzerland was in need of expansion. For the fourth annual event, held in March of this year, an even bigger premises was found in one of the largest halls of the modern Bern Expo centre. Here 14.000 visitors from all over Europe managed to fill the more than 7000m2 available. Soft Secrets UK was there too.



Amy – the pretty Rasta-babe from Germany prices her Volcano vaporisei



IKON International from Risley Cheshire brought some strange bed fellows to the floor

The decision by the organisers of the CannaTrade Fair, to seek larger premises for this years event proved to be a wise one. Above all expectations, a record number of 14.000 people visited this years fair. Any initial intimidation felt by the stall holders in that great empty space with it's wide passages between the various stands soon vanished as it became apparent that the space was just right. It was pleasantly busy with no one having to stand in long queues or have to wait ages to catch a stall holders attention (except at the food stalls, of course). What was really pleasantly noticeable was the shining cleanliness of

the Bern Expo Centre itself where the budget for hygiene must be generous. The toilets alone were kept in a sparkling state all day and despite all the huffing and puffing from all the smokers, there was not a single butt end to be found on the ground.

With Switzerland forming such a central location in Europe, it almost guaranteed a high percentage of international visitors. The Swiss did make up the large majority, but the Italians, French and Germans also sent large contingents to Bern. Soft Secrets spoke to people from all over the world and we often came across grow shop entrepreneurs from countries were you would least expect them, such as; Norway, Slovakia, Brazil, Russia and Turkey. These visitors were particularly interesting to the largely international businesses participating in this trade fair. Many of these companies had come from countries like England, Spain, America (Hawaii) Brazil, Canada and India.

CannaTrade differs from other cannabis trade fairs in that it makes allowance for a huge representation by those businesses involved in the industrial hemp sector. To show their strength, a large section of the display floor space was taken up with industrial hemp plants that can grow in excess of two meters each. Apart from the congenial atmosphere this created, it also provided a text book perfect example of bringing the cannabis plant to the people,



Nutriculture from the UK brought a whole range of growing supplies with them to the fair



Patrick of Paradise Seeds did good business



"Hey girl, may I lick your lolly? I'll let you suck my pipe in return.."



The Legalise! foundation from Amsterdam were there to promote their annual street rave.

Check them out at www.legalize.net



The atmosphere was pleasantly relaxed...



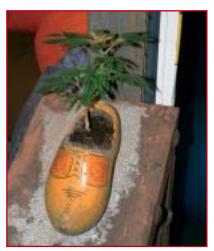
Ozzie, selling Australian Koala Seeds

quite literally! Wish we could do that in the Netherlands were it is strictly forbidden during the Highlife Hemp Fair, to show an example of the hemp plant, in any manner whatsoever!

Jorge Cervantes was present during the fair and delivered a number of really interesting readings during which he managed to slip in a few great growing tips and advice to the growing mass of interested farmers. Cervantes illustrated his readings with a digital slide show that contained footage of grow rooms taken from all over the world. To the hilarity of one and all, a comparison was shown of professionally installed grow rooms in comparison with dangerous death traps in which open electrical cables could be seen right next to over full feeding tubs. If his readings made anything clear, it is that many indoor cultivators are really not very good at planning their grow space and that hardly any of them plan it in advance.



Celebrating the wicked Celebration Pipes from Hawaii



Dutch Glory in modest form

Cervantes has promised to do a new grow series exclusively for Soft Secrets, so be sure not to miss them!

All in, the fourth CannaTrade fair was their best so far and CannaTrade is fast becoming one of the most prestigious hemp trade fairs in the world. The many international visitors and participating companies combined with that legendary Swiss precision will ensure that CannaTrade is all set to become the international hemp fair which both consumers and companies will no longer be able to do without. And the organisers deserve the rewards!

Swiss cultivators could participate in the Swiss Weed Cup. Because anything to do with cannabis cultivation or use is still a highly sensitive political issue in Switzerland, the prize-winning companies and private growers preferred to remain anonymous. Here is the list of the six prize-winning strains:

- Strawberry (Erdbeer)
 Durban Poison
- 3) **Prohib**ée
- 4) Nechabou Mix
- 5) Amanda Gold
- 6) Walliser Queen



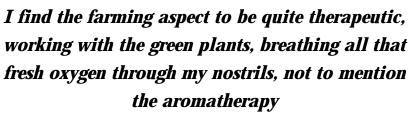
Soma's Medicinal Review

Since September 2003 the Netherlands has made medicinal cannabis legal in the pharmacies. Being a medical user myself I got my prescription ready and went down to the local Apotheek. When I gave my prescription to the woman behind the counter I was told I had to come back in two days. I thought to myself; what kind of medical system makes you wait two days to get the medicine you need? In all my life I have never had to do this with medicine I was receiving to get well. I wanted to know why medical cannabis users are treated this way. With a cold shoulder I was told to wait and come

I immediately went to my favorite coffeeshop the Dampkring. I ordered some Bio- Haze, not only did it cost less than the Government weed, the person behind the counter was warm and friendly, and best of all I didn't have to wait for my medicine, I received it when I needed it. After smoking a big spliff, I was feeling calm and relaxed, and in the medical sense. medicated. I thought to myself if I had to rely on the Government I would still feel sick. I felt very grateful for the coffeeshops right at that moment. Especially a coffeeshop that sold organic cannabis like the Dampkring does. I left taking some medicine home with me.

I find the farming aspect to be quite therapeutic, working with the green plants, breathing all that fresh oxygen through my nostrils, not to mention the aroma therapy. I think of cannabis not just as medicine, but also as a Sacred Plant. It is the sacrament for my worship of God. It helps me to feel the Divine nature of Life. I wear clothes made out of it, have paper made from it, and put the very high in Omega 3's hemp seed oil in my smoothies. Considering the 50,000 useful products that can be made from hemp, even if I didn't need it for medicine, I would look at it as the most beneficial plant on Mother Earth.

I went back to the pharmacy two days later to finally receive my medicine. In a very cold way I was given the sealed cannabis, and would have to wait until I got home to judge the quality and smell the aroma. I asked for the more potent of the two choices available. I was given two 5-gram containers of cannabis called Bedrocan. I brought it home aware of the fact that I was carrying 10 grams of cannabis (5 grams above the limit). I felt quite legal in doing this because I had my prescription from my doctor. When I opened it up I saw that it was Sativa genetics. I would say the grade I would give the aroma was a B. The manicuring grade was B+ and the taste a B. The effect had a grade of B. All in



Being a breeder of cannabis and a medical user, I like to grow my own. I grow it 100% organically. I use no pesticides, no chemicals. I grow it with my heart. I grow it to self-medicate myself. During the period that I have to work on the crop I am growing, I smoke the medicine from my last crop.

all B grade cannabis. The medicine I had gotten at coffeeshop the Dampkring was grade A. It was a Euro cheaper a gram at the coffeeshop. I was also able to buy some Nederhash, (hash made by Dutch growers) at the Dampkring and it was the most medicinal substance I smoked.



Cannabis Flos Bedrocan



Buddha's Sister Haze from coffeeshop de Dampkring

Next I went home and smoked my own cannabis, cannabis that I had worked on with my own hands. Since growing my own cannabis gave me much more than two choices, I chose strains that I knew made me feel the best. I took small amounts of 4 of my favorite types of marijuana and blended them together in what I like to call a Soma



Medicinal cannabis Bedrocan from the Dutch government

Salad. Knowing exactly what conditions my medicine was grown in made me feel more confident about smoking it, especially in these days of Mad Cow Disease. It was wonderful, smoking my own medicine, simply the best of the three choices available to me.

The only drawback is that growing your own medicine in Holland is illegal, and it is truly absurd. What could be so wrong with a medical cannabis user growing their own medicine?

Medical cannabis users have rights, not to wait for their medicine, but to have high quality medicine when they need it. As I considered all of my options I came to the conclusion that risky or not, I still have to grow my own.

Keep it GREEN and Loving

Soma



Amnesia Haze bud









High on 'hapha'

The rich cannabis culture in the Ukraine By: Bart B

During a trip to the Ukraine, I met many warm hearted and hospitable people despite the hardship that is daily life there. And although the favourite drink, vodka, flows freely, it seems that there is also a flourishing cannabis culture present. This pleasure is carefully hidden as the government comes down heavily against the use of cannabis. Our Bart B. visited the local smokers and growers of the Ukraine, and tested the local weed. A Soft Secrets exclusive!

Kiev, the capital city of the Ukraine, is about 3 hours flying distance from the UK. The city has a population of 1 827 900 citizens. The Ukraine is situated between East and West and is made up largely of wide steppes. The landscape does vary, with the Carpathian Mountains in the West, a huge swamp, the Pripet, in the middle and then, of course, there is the Crimean Mountain range situated on the Crimean peninsula.

The Ukraine is a budding democracy, which only managed to throw off the communist yoke of the powerful USSR, just over a decade ago (August 1991). When the former Soviet Union fell apart in that year, the Ukrainians were quick to obtain their independence. A consequence of this action meant that many pensioners lost their rights to the pensions they had managed to scrape together under the communist regime. Nowadays, these older people try to survive by selling anything and everything possible, on the open markets. That can mean being up and about in the cold all day (sometimes at 12C below freezing) in the hope of earning a few Hryvnia. This national coinage comes to about ten pence for one Hryvnia.

Poverty

After passport control and having cleared customs, I am standing in the arrival hall of the airport. It only takes a millisecond before I am besieged by taxi-drivers on all sides, offering to take me wherever I would like to go.

It quickly becomes apparent at what level of poverty most of the inhabitants here live under. There is no middle class. You are either rich or you are very poor. Best thing about being a relatively rich Western European here is that it is easy to arrange almost anything for a few bucks. Bribery and corruption are the norm of the day. It is estimated that between 30-

50% of Ukrainians make their livings in the shadow economy. Most problems can be solved for a couple of hundred Hryvnia, approximately fifty pounds. For most people in the Ukraine, that is equivalent to a month's income. But a little bit of money goes a long way and you can choose out of hundreds of different kinds of vodka and champagnes costing as little as a pound! Foodstuffs and suchlike is also low in cost. For the tobacco smokers, it's a paradise where cigarettes only cost fifty cents per pack.

I am fetched from the airport and we ride into Kiev about an hour later. The mercury has been firmly on zero degrees since I have been here. And yet the conditions are

just tidy people or one risks being beaten up for littering, I couldn't tell you. After a couple of stops, I meet Dimitri and the members of a local hiphop band who openly support and promote the use of cannabis. For us in the Netherlands, it would be normal, but in the Ukraine it is a daring act. And so after the concert, one of the hiphoppers was heard to say, "And now we can light up!"

Rich cannabis culture

A tacit suppression governs in the Ukraine and public penalties are the price to pay for voicing ideas other than those found acceptable by the State. Despite the rich heritage of cannabis usage in Ukrainian culture, it is strictly forbidden to make use of it in public. It must needs be kept behind closed doors. Using weed is just as punishable by law as the sale or possession thereof. Beware – the laws are unrealistic and far too severe. You can go to jail for having a few grams. And yet, cannabis is still one of the most popular recreational

Despite the rich heritage of cannabis usage in
Ukrainian culture, it is strictly forbidden to make
use of it in public.

much more pleasant here than in the rainy UK or even Belgium. Despite the cold, to which you can adapt quickly enough, the sky is crystal clear most days, with a softly glowing sunshine. A stark contrast with the endless greyness of the skies above the low lands during winter. But then, it started snowing and the mercury dropped to 12 degrees below and the whole landscape was covered in a white blanket. Just when I had an appointment to sample some of the local herbs with a Ukrainian Belgian by name of Dimitri. His parents live in Belgium. whilst he returned to his fatherland to study and get to know the culture. I am taking the metro to our meeting place. The most noticeable thing about the metro is how clean it is in there. No scraps of paper or fag ends anywhere to be seen. By the way, there is a complete ban on smoking but whether the Ukrainians are

mostly in the south of the country in areas like Kirovograd, Alexandriya, Dzjankoy, the Crimea and the countryside surrounding Kiev. Countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan also export their product to the Ukraine.

Cannabis has been cultivated in the Ukraine for centuries already. It is even mentioned in the folklore. It is usually grown outdoors, on an enormous scale in the fertile black earth on farms, in remote areas and in forests. At harvest, the whole plant is turned upside down and left to dry. The heads are either consumed by the farmers themselves or exported. It is mainly the small leaf material that gets ground up and sold locally. A few people are busy with indoor growing systems, mostly around Kiev. Indoor dope costs a fortune here and is

therefore not so popular. There is also no tradition here of giving every different strain its own name. If there is a name it usually indicates the area in which it was grown.

The smallest quantity of cannabis available is a matchbox full and is called a *pol-paketa*. That costs between 20-30 Hryvnia (about 3-4 pounds). Another measure in use is the *stakan* (approx. 1 glass) which in turn is worth 20-30 *pol-paketa*'s (between 30-40grams) and that costs between 150 – 500 Hryvnia (20-45 pounds).

I can just see your eyebrows curling into a frown when I say that Ukrainian weed is none other than finely ground up leaf material from around the heads. Not finely ground tops – no! What we in the Netherlands regard as waste is smoked there as the local weed. It is possible to buy the heads too but the cost is far too excessive for the average Ukrainian. The heads are for export and the locals get to smoke the leftovers. After having had a hearty hit of this I had to agree that it wasn't bad after all. A sweet taste in the mouth and a gentle high left me fantasising what the tops must have been like – juicy, sun ripened and biologically cultivated during raging hot summers!

Quality varies enormously across the Ukraine and so it is measured in hapha's. A 'hapha' is a toke, so if you feel stoned after three 'hapha's', then the weed is of average quality. And if it only takes two tokes to feel high, then you know it's good weed. If your budget can cover the expense of some real heads, you can visit the local farmer, where after a few friendly glasses, you get to take a whole dried plant away with you. What it boils down to is that in order to smoke any quality in Ukraine, you do need a lot of money. Let us rejoice in the high standards of quality found on the Dutch dope markets! Beside this low grade weed, it is possible to obtain homemade hash known as 'matanska' or 'kakasnka' and if you are really seeking, you might even find a bit of 'tablizla'. You can also get weed that has been worked over with acetone. Known as 'himka' it is extremely hallucinogenic and dangerous dope. The people there will sometimes soak weed in milk and then strain it and drink it down, plus of course, cookies and all sorts of other baked products prepared with cannabis.

The product

After meeting the hiphoppers, it was time to go and fetch our stash. To get around in the Ukraine one simply has to stand at the side of the road and put out your thumb, whereupon a taxi or car driver is very likely to stop. In this way, they can earn a little extra money and you can get to where you are going. When a car stops, you mention your destination and how much you are prepared to pay and if the driver does not agree with the price, then you simply take the next one. After a number of cars had stopped in this fashion, we settled into one of them and were on



The capital city of Kiev is full of large apartment blocks and tiny shops

The finely ground leaf material is sucked up into the cigarette, whereupon the joint is ready to smoke

COUNTRY SERIES







A sucked joint - ready and waiting for a light

Hefty puffing is needed to get a high off of this stuff

Mmmmmm, not bad, the heads must have been excellent

our way, all within five minutes. Hitchhikers will never have problems getting around in the Ukraine.

We arrive and walk towards one of the many flats on the housing estate. Houses are rare and only found in the really rich areas. An elevator speedily brings us to the correct floor and soon a supplier of local herbs joins us. First he produces a 'pol-paketa', but soon comes back with a 'stakan' in order to refill our 'polpaketa'. So now we have the ground up stuff and are ready for that joint! The way of doing this is clever and efficient. Take an old cigarette from the dinosaur days when they were somewhat thicker. had a filter and were made of very thin paper. Empty any tobacco out then iust put the filter in your mouth and suck it up! Within a few seconds the former cigarette is now a perfect joint, ready to be lit up and smoked. We repeat this process three times before we are ready for the fire.

Much huffing and puffing ensues. We are still standing in the corridor of the apartment block.

Cannabis is known variously by the names of, 'trava', 'dubas', 'ganj', konoplja' or 'dishi'. Names for hash include, 'shit', 'gouno', 'kakasnka', 'matasnka', or 'hashish'. The heads are known as 'shishiki' and the leaf matter as 'listya'. Cannabis can be obtained all over the country although finding it can sometimes be problematic, especially during the summer months of May through August, before the seasons crop has been harvested. Cultivation takes place on a major scale outdoors, so that by the end of the year and the approach of the growing season, the cannabis supply has become quite scarce. In the autumn, after harvest, an abundance floods the markets. There are apparently enormous weed plantations on the Crimean Peninsula that are carefully controlled by the big drug barons, although a lot of weed is still produced by small time farmers.

Besides weed, all kinds of recreational drugs can be obtained, such as XTC for 10-25 dollars a tab, cocaine goes for about 70 – 150 dollars per gram, LSD costs 15 – 30 dollars a strip and

ketamine, which is available from pharmacies, costs about 4 dollars. After enjoying our joints it was time to head on to the disco. A new discotheque had been opened recently and seeing as how the local hiphopper was allowed in for free, we went along to take a look. Ukrainian females are a sight for sore eyes, very feminine, especially their way of dressing....mmmm.

Growing techniques are well known in the Ukraine, thanks largely to American magazine High Times (Soft Secrets does not have a Russian editon yet). It seems though; the real problem is a shortage of fresh genetics in the form of seeds and cuttings. I did promise to supply some strong quality seeds.

The average Ukrainian tends to share his harvest with friends, without necessarily expecting money for it. 'My stash is your stash' seems to be the rule amongst friends. At least this summer, some strong Dutch strains will be growing in the immediate surroundings of Kiev.

Nowadays, every time I light up a joint I am glad to be able to enjoy good old home-grown. Equality for all? I think everyone should have the right to relax and enjoy top quality cannabis!



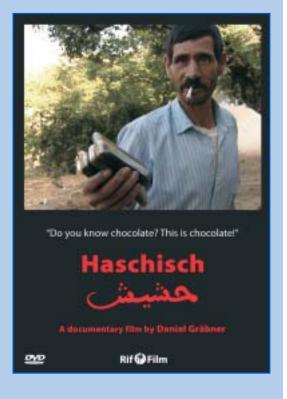
"High" from the Ukraine!

DOCUMENTARIES

A documentary by Daniel Grabner Haschisch

Future hash makers take notice: this film will show you exactly what it's like to be involved with one of the world's oldest cash crops, and not necessarily how to make it. A step away from the other two publicized (Spanish and English) hash-making documentaries in Morocco, "Haschisch" depicts the monotony and hardship of every day life for the kif producers in the Ketama region of Morocco. In no way is the drug trade glorified in this film; in fact, many of the people who are interviewed share their feelings of suppression and isolation. 80 minutes long, and with commentary in French, Arabic, and English, the DVD boasts subtitles in German, English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Dutch. There is no real soundtrack, and the ensuing moments of silence are appropriate. While waiting for the subtitles to resume underneath the dialogue, viewers will be drawn into the lush landscape and almost hypnotizing rhythm of the workers' tasks, which they all seem to hate. The film is by no means a step-by-step video on how to make hash; instead, we take an inside look at an inhospitable area made more unforgiving by hard labour, violence, and illiteracy. The benefits of working year round instead of producing one or two seasonal crops are discussed, as 100 kilos of good weed will only produce 900 - 1,100g of good quality hash. An imbalance between the amount of labour required and the profit gleaned causes many to bicker incessantly, and to feel even more imprisoned by the traditional employment. One man tells of carrying around ice cream for the children. Sometimes they give him money or trade kif for it (if they have either). At the end of the day the man sells off the kif to help support his family. Another explains that it's better to involve yourself in big business instead of small time or personal dealings, because when they're caught, the large-scale hashmakers have enough money to pay off the cops. Those who aren't so lucky rot in prison for much smaller offenses. As is to be expected, many of the people of Morocco wish to leave the illicit trade, especially as the younger ones loathe the hard work. Unfortunately, most are stranded due to illiteracy, family legacy, or gender. Those who wish to attempt escape are often caught up in immigration scandals when they are intercepted during deals in the Netherlands or Spain. Stories of dangerous small boat missions and forged papers seem to conflict with the peaceful environment in which the industry flourishes, and a dark undercurrent of depression

and hopelessness pervades the personal interviews One has to wonder at the fashion in which the video was produced, as all the people in it are shown full view. After a similar project from Spanish filmmakers led to a raid a few years back, it seems a bit strange that no attempt was made to protect their identities on this new venture. Over all, the impression from a viewer's perspective is that the equipment was slightly more professional than the filmmakers themselves, although the end result is a visually entrancing and emotionally depressing depiction of Moroccan families carrying on tradition. Hash makers who get greedy and translate their monetary wealth into houses in the



city and fancy cars usually draw attention to themselves and get caught. For the others, they know their only choice is to further enchain themselves by remaining in the mountains and continuing traditional employment. The bottom line is that these folks are merely trying to raise and educate their kids, as well as put food on the table, in a place where survival often means a struggle within yourself, and not with your environment.

This DVD (also available in VHS format) is available from the better headshops, or can be ordered directly from www.haschisch-film.de

Kristie Szalanski

SHOPREVIEW

Total Control, Bristol





Total control is a hydroponic retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer based in Bristol . The company was started four years ago by Phil Carpenter in his own home making HID light systems and control equipment. The demand for their hand built products was high from the start and Phil soon took on a small workshop with a retail sales room above it stocking a range of hydro equipment. Phil has nearly 10 years experience in the hydro business. Two and a half years ago the hydro shop moved to much larger premises in Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol. It currently has about 1300 product lines – everything you can think of from lights, nutrients, grow tanks/systems, all sorts of electronic gizmos, substrates, propagation equipment, pest controls, ventilation equipment. No seeds or head stuff is on sale - the shop is very discreet.

The shop is staffed by experienced people who are very friendly and knowledgeable. There is a private room for consultations and advice is always free. Live predators can be ordered on a Friday for delivery the following Wednesday for those that don't want to use chemicals to control pests. Water analysis and custom-made nutrients are available.. As there was much more space, and because its one of Phil's passions (his old nickname was Fish) there is an aquatic shop on the high street that you can walk through to get to the hydro store — lots of customers now keep fish too. The Aquatic shop specialises in rare and unusual tropical fish and is very well known locally. The manufacturing continued at the old place but is now taking up both floors, and not just supplying Phil's shop but wholesaling to other shops. The range of hand built lighting and control gear is called Genesis, and has built an excellent reputation for practicality, safety, and good engineering. Lots of innovative products — such as an air-cooled parabolic reflector, and the Lumenator range of propagation lights.

Last year the manufacturing moved to a much larger premises. An industrial unit, from where Total Control Wholesale is now run – supplying a complete range of products to grow shops all over the UK. A dedicated wholesale representative is available to visit shops and help new shops set up with all kinds of advice – from range to shop layout to just about anything else. All advice is free. -JM

Private car park at the side of the building. Shop is open Mon – Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat 9.30 am – 5.30pm. Total Control Retail , 267 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AX Tel: +44 (0) 117 961 2233 Tel (wholesale): +44 (0) 117 961 4477

Coffeeshop Rusland, Amsterdam

A Touch of Moscow Mystique

Upon entering Rusland Coffeeshop, visitors will be immediately impressed by the relaxed atmosphere. Just around the corner from Amsterdam's historic Red Light District, Rusland provides a welcome relief from suspicious tourist trap coffeeshops. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the shop sits in an area that used to house merchants, etc. from the nearby harbour. Amidst a neighbourhood of ethnic diversity, Ruslandstraat was (according to legend) named after a large, wealthy Russian family who lived on the street. A mere five minute walk from Dam Square, affordable shops and cozy cafes abound, and the Radisson Hotel is just across the street from Rusland. Some shops lure in customers with neon lights or promises of live DJs; this one is a welcome respite from the more commercial side of the cannabis industry. The music is tasteful in volume and selection, from Moloko to Reggae to Al Green, and for a modestly sized shop (a compliment in Amsterdam) there is ample seating. The shop is split between three levels and includes a glass gallery, four seating areas, the alcoholfree bar, dealer's bar, and even free internet. The motif is absorbing, done in reds, purples, and gold, with stylishly dim yet adequate lighting. Once inside amongst all the satisfied smokers, it's difficult to ascertain the time of day in the outside world. The smoke menu posts a decent variety including nice outdoor Thai and Kabouter Wiet, with the "Russian" strains predictably popular, such as White Russian and AK-47. For the hash smoker in your life try the Super Polm, a local favorite, or perhaps some black Manali. Seeds from THSeeds, High Quality, and Nirvana are also available. The usual hot and cold beverages are offered, along with shakes and 40





different types of tea! Rolling accessories and munchies are sold, plus you can look at your weed under the microscope before packing it into their Volcano vaporizer. Friendly staff, great menu, and a comfy interior make this coffeeshop a definite stop on your holiday agenda. Esther, an employee of two and a half years, loves working at Rusland. According to her, the shop sets itself apart from the myriad of others in the city, but why? "Because of the atmosphere. That's really the most important thing about this place... in all the time I've worked here there's never even been one fight. It's just a really relaxed place, and we want everyone to come by." - KS

Rusland Coffeeshop, Rusland 16, Amsterdam Holland, Phone: +31 (0)20-627 9468 Open daily 10:00 AM — Midnight, Weekends until 1:00 AM

Hy Supply Wholesalers, Elst





The roots go deep at Hy Supply Wholesalers in Elst. The business started in Arnhem some twelve years ago with the

grow shop Hydrohobby that rapidly expanded to a wholesalers in too small a premises. Three years ago they found a new location on an industrial terrain and so they decided to commit to the wholesale trade under the name of Hy Supply.

Their concept is simple and perhaps that is why it is so successful. Through years of experience in the world of cultivation, they know to select the best products. Add to that a thorough know-how and outstanding service and you will see why Hy Supply Wholesalers is considered as an extremely professional suppliers of cultivation materials. You will find all sorts of exclusive products there, such as Industrial lamps, the real "strijkzakken" (genuine heat sealed, smell free packaging), anti detection and reflection material, Truncheon EC metres, flanges with a broad rim, etc.

There is a broad variety available in the range of food supplements. All seven top renowned brands are available such as Canna, Hesi, B'Cuzz, Ecolizer, Bio Nova, House&Garden and Plagron. For the most part, the products fall into the A category of quality products although some B range articles are also available. For example you can choose between CAN and Wilco filters or the various extractors like Torin. Truly remarkable are the custom made extraction units, put together with the proven Hy Supply standard of quality. Their policy is to continually seek out innovative products. A famous example is the drying racks that are currently to be found in all the small corners of the Netherlands. The new oscillating ventilation fan is very worthwhile and can be attached to either ceiling or wall and so is perfect for every grow place. In the meantime Hy Supply has outgrown its present warehouse and that is with thanks to all the clients who have kept the orders coming in. There are several delivery vans constantly riding throughout Europe in order to provide supplies to the growing trade. Deliveries are guaranteed within three days inside Europe. Orders can be places via the website, a password is required for shop owners in order to see the price list. Many cannabis companies have benefited from the expertise and support available from Hy Supply and wish them every further success

Hy Supply, Industrieweg Oost 8b, 6662 NE Elst, Holland - Tel: +31 (0)481 452290, Fax: +31 (0)481 452910

Website: www.hysupply.nl E-mail info@hysupply.nl Open Mon. – Fri: 9:00 – 17:00

I'll Take The High Road

Fraser Clark, Our Roving
ACCESS ALL LEVELS Reporter.

'Vine of the Soul, Medicine Men, Their Plants And Rituals in the Colombian Amazonia'



Every home on the planet should have a copy of this classic work on Shamanism, re-published this year by Synergetic Press.

The False God and the False World

1500 years of christian death propaganda dangerously depleted the Psychic Life of Modern Man. 50 years of Corporate Marketing (Mammon) downsized what was left of his Individuality to such omnifit portions that his Spirit Life today is barely recognisable as "Life" at all.

The Gnostics taught that the local Jehovah of the Jews, whom the Roman-Christians promulgated globally as 'The Creator of Mankind', is a false god, "The God Of The Blind." Born of Sophia, Goddess of (mere) Knowledge, he rebelled against the Real God and created his own false world to rule over.

Most of mankind swallowed it - or had it forced down their throats by the Christian-Romans. "Ignorance of the True Creator brought about anguish, which grew solid like a fog till no one was able to see. And so the Error became powerful; worked on its own matter foolishly, and set about preparing the substitute for truth."

The Gospel of Truth.

This "substitute," reinforced by an amazing technological 'Knowledge' into a planet-wide Virtual Reality Bubble, is now deleting the final traces of the Real God's Real World and its inhabitants. No religion ever managed to install its hypnotic, reality/agenda setting pulpit in the *living* rooms of its adherents as television does.

Modern Man sold his Birthright for Security. But the 'false god' of Total Security must = Utter Boredom, no?

"We', of the alternative shamanic culture, are the answer bubbling up from within the Beast itself, of course, but that's another story!

With Makuna Indians on the Rio Apaporis. 1912.



My own personal fave fotos are the shamans' faces. You know that moment on any psychedelic when you're right out there on reality's outermost edge, and you look around for someone who might have been there and understand? Well, these are the faces you'd most like to see! Check out this Yukuna medicine man's face!

The Real God's Real World

"If human consciousness is the most wonderful thing on earth, the attempt to fathom the depths of the psychophysiological action of drugs makes the wonder seem greater still, for, with their help, man can transfer the emotions of everyday life, and his intellect, to unknown regions."

'Vine of the Soul' conjures up another WORLD! Perhaps the Real God's Real World where Inner Life is the Reality - and the deepgreen rainforest jungle backdrop, teeming richly with... dangers and delights.

For here's an entire people who *LIVE*THEIR ENTIRE LIVES IN DIMENSIONS
WHICH WE MODERNS DO NOT EVEN

Apprentice shamans doing 'home' work with DMT snuff and stuff.

RECOGNISE AS EXISTENT! "Our story

control of virtually all aspects of life by the

focuses on the shaman, whose exalted

place in the community depends on his

use of these plants in well-established,

or ceremonial beliefs and practices."

To the millions of souls who lived and the few hundred thousand who are still living in this Amazonian Model, our physical 3-dimensional Reality plane is/was merely... what, a lower level Stage where Huger Dimensions invisible to mere mortal eyes intersect, and on which we strut our stuff for a nanosec?

(When someone breaks his leg in a fall, Modern Man accepts an explanation like: he tripped on a rock. Ancient Man, today's intact Amazonian Indian, delves DEEPER - why this particular man, on this particular rock, at this particular time? Dismissing this area as 'Magic,' we Moderns content ourselves with another Cappuccino.)

Could such an 'out-of-touch' culture have been successful? *Certainly*. Adapted to the Environment? *Unquestionably*. For 25,000 years (and probably half a million) this culture of teeming subcultures *endured*. It evolved, devolved, reached peaks of (external) civilisation - Mayans, Aztecs etc - but, unarguably, it *endured*. *Our* global 'culture,' by comparison, is a flash in the pan, an experiment many of its most aware inhabitants consider has failed *already*.

The Real God's Angels and Allies

Harvard ethnobotanist Richard Evans Schultes spent 14 uninterrupted years living with these tribal people. Together with an outstanding plant chemist, he produced this extraordinary record, which contains the most significant photographs of a shamanic culture's power plants and places ever taken, *plus* detailed descriptions of their uses and bioactive chemistries

The Ancestors arrived in a canoe

dragged by an anaconda and carrying a Man, a Woman, and three plants – ayahuasca, coca and tapioca, a basic food.

As I can personally attest, Ayahuasca is a "Medicine" which heals on every level from physical to spiritual. "Seen as one continuous vine stretching back to the beginning of time, it's an umbilical cord linking human beings to the Living Ancestors." Perhaps the single most fascinating thing about Ayahuasca is that it grows in "charming double helices." DNA?! An umbilical cord uniting all life?!

Coca is an integral part of the Indian's lifestyle, and is raised domestically by each family or village.

Just a few of the other "allies" covered are Virola snuff (tryptamines) used for medicine, magic and prophesy, Bruigmansia (Datura Candide), Methysticodendrum (for seeing the future), Desfontania and Spinosa (for dreaming), and Souroubea and Marcgraviaceae which are sleep/dream inducers.

Other fascinating topics include Masks, Pan Pipes (played by boys during shamanic sessions), Leg Rattles, Drums, Water Falls, and Poison Darts!

My own personal fave fotos, however, are the shamans' faces. You know that moment on any psychedelic when you're right out there on reality's outermost edge where maybe nobody's ever explored, and you look around for someone who might have been there and understand? Well, these are the faces you'd most like to see. Check out the Yukuna medicine man's face on page 67!

"Simply a masterpiece, Vine of the Soul deserves to be read by everyone interested in rainforests, indigenous peoples, shamanism, hallucinogens, ethnomedicine and conservation." Mark Plotkin, President The Amazon Conservation Team.

And I would add: All Modern Men.

'VINE OF THE SOUL, Medicine Men, Their Plants And Rituals in the Colombian Amazonia' by Schultes and Raffauf, republished by Synergetic Press. Paperback 290 pages. www.synergeticpress.com



Young boys play pan pipes all night during shamanic sessions. The music provides the travellers with a continuous thread which can lead them 'home' when required.

IN HQ seeds in our premo prize puzzle competition !



YOUR FIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD DOPE-DROID AANJ-1 HERE, WITH A PAGE OF PALPITATING PUZZLES GUARANTEED TO BEND YOUR BRAINS AND MELT YOUR MINDS!

JUST HOW MANY JOINTS WILL IT TAKE YOU TO SOLVE 'EM ALL?

WIN SETS OF H.Q. SEEDS!

Send in your complete full page entry to: Soft Secrets Puzzle Competition P.O. Box 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam All answers published next issue.

CELEBS WORD-SEARCH

Hidden in the diagram are the names of 24 insects, and 6 celebrities so famous they need only use their first name. The names can be written horizontally or vertically, backwards or forwards, even diagonally. Can you find them all?

CELEBS:	М	0	S	Q	U	I	Т	0	0	0	F	Α	Т
LULU ANT DEC CILLA	Α	E	C	A	D	D	I	S	F	L	Y	E	s
JUDY GOD	Y	D	H	D	\mathbf{E}	C	P	H	Y	\mathbf{L}	K	L	Y
INSECTS:	F	E	D	E	P	I	T	N	E	С	U	L	В
BLUEBOTTLE	L	P	T	0	D	L	S	Н	Α	G	F	L	L
WASP CADDIS FLY	Y	I	F	E	G	L	L	J	L	N	I	L	U
SPIDER BEE DRAGONFLY	M	L	R	R	Α	Α	R	A	0	A	Т	D	Е
GREENFLY MAYFLY	Y	L	\mathbf{F}	N	E	E	R	G	N	0	I	Α	В
GRUB EARWIG LACEWING	D	I	Т	W	Н	W	Α	S	P	Н	R	U	0
MILLIPEDE DUNG BEETLE	U	M	N	T	0	R	C	0	P	W	R	0	T
BLOWFLY SLUG LEATHERJACKET	J	J	A	J	D	L	L	A	I	G	В	В	Т
CENTIPEDE CLEG	E	E	L	Т	E	E	В	G	N	U	D	E	L
APHID MOSQUITO	L	G	L	G	N	I	W	Е	С	Α	L	L	Е

HOW STONED R U? QUIZ

- 1. Your front door suddenly crashes open and men with clubs burst in. Your first thought is:
 - a) Shit! The Drug Squad! b) Shit! Rival dealers! c) Shit! My nice door!
- 2. You are about to masturbate when a beautiful naked babe (or handsome hunk) appears in your room. You think:

 a) She's after my stash!

 - b) Thankyouthankyouldobelieve!
 - c) I hope she's got some chocolate!
 - d) Nothing is real.
- 3. You suddenly realise you have fallen over a cliff. As you plunge to your doom 300 feet below, you think:

 - a) I'm going to die!
 b) You'll believe a man can fly.
 c) Now, how did that happen..?

 - d) Aw, shit!

- 4. Your dealer pulls a gun on you, and demands you pay him £1,000. How do
 - a) Great! I owe him two thousand!
 - b) I'm going to die! c) Is it loaded?

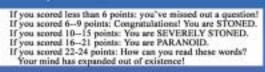
 - d) I'll just eatch the bullet.
- You come home early and find your girlfriend shagging the postman. You
 - a) No wonder 2nd delivery's
 - always late!
 - b) Well, I didn't really love her.

 - c) Well, I didn't really love him.
 d) So they're not my used condom's
 in the drawer!
- Your cat craps in your stash box. You:

 - a) Throw your shoe at him? b) Think "That's quite an artful turd, actually."
 - c) Wonder what you did to deserve this?
 - d) Wonder "What stash box?

b) 3 c) 2 d) 4 3 b) 1 c) 2 d) 4 3 b) 4 c) 2 d) 1 2 b) 3 c) 1 d) 4 4 b) 1 c) 2 d) 3 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

Scores your answers (\$ as follows:



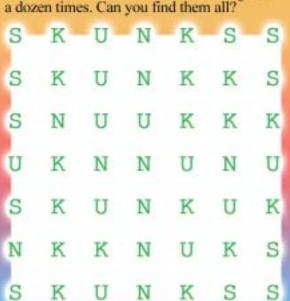
All Change!

Altering only one letter at a time, to form a new word each time, can you change DOPE into JAIL in six easy moves?

DOPE

JAIL

The word SKUNK is hidden in the diagram



Solutions to last issue...

STEPWORD SOLUTION:

PIPE POPE COPE CAPE ASE ASH HASH

THE NAME GAME SOLUTION:

1. GEORGE HARRISON 2. NEMESIS
3. SHANE RITCHIE 4. ELVIS PRESLEY
5. YOGI BEAR 6. RON ATKINSON
7. NOEL GALLAGHER 8. RIO
FERDINAND 9. DAD 10. DUCHESS OF
YORK 11. KURT COBAIN
12. TELETUBBIES 13. SHOTGUN
14. NEW WAVE
Most dangerous pages: GEORGE W. DUGH.

Most dangerous name: GEORGE W BUSH

HELP THE DEALER SOLUTION:

1 ounce Thai Sticks 2 ounces Northern Lightz 6 ounces Durban Poison

Compilation



Another splendid selection in the 'Back To Mine' series, this time from electronic experimentalists Death In Vegas, of some favourite and most influential tunes. This truly eclectic mix works very well as a whole and further benefits from an extreme depth of contrast in the choice of tunes such as 'My Sweet Lord' by Nina Simone to the brilliant 'Decades' from Joy Division. The album opens with 'Cloak and Dagger', a wicked number from the Upsetters and soars to some serious psychedelic heights with the unmistakably groovy organ sound of Bo Diddley. Some fine lesser-known tracks, such as 'Back To Nature' by Fad Gadget are also included.

Fragile State

'Voices from The Dust Bowl'

(bug music)



This is an excellent accompaniment to any stoned session. Very light and airy. Mellow, introspective and meditative. The warm, ambient and optimistic string backing compliments perfectly the soaring, crescendo-ing guitar solos and jazzy Hammond organ solos. Excellent and accomplished instrumentation. All the tracks, save one, are written by Neil Cowley, who is also responsible for the orchestration, guitar work, mixing and production on most tracks. He's in partnership with Ben Mynott in the production, who has co-written 'Overcurrent' and I presume, is responsible for the more computergenerated aspect of the music. Matt Coldrick does the guitar work on 'Four Four ', 'King For A Day and 'Cleo '.

Evan Jenkins plays drums on '600 Bliss' and Richard Sadler and Neil Cowley himself do all the mixing. Very chilled and refreshingly up

HOT WAX By Kaz Peet A STONED SELECTION

lifting. Reminiscent in places of 70's outfits, such as Brand-X and Chic Korian. Computer-generated production and traditional instrumentation work harmoniously on this latest Bug Music production. Neil Cowley is obviously a very talented and chilled out individual.

Deekline and Wizard

'Breaks, Beats and Blondes'

(Botchit and Scarper)



This fresh and cutting edge sounding collection of thirteen top tunes is the debut album from one of the hottest production duo's on London's Urban Dance Scene. Strongly unique, its diverse flavours are drawn from a spectrum of dance styles that we all know and love, including 80's B-Boy Electro, Acid House, UK Garage, Miami Bass, Hip Hop, Ragga and Break Beat.

Outstanding, for this listener, is '4x4x4', a tune from the vaults recently reempowered into a bad dance tune with sampled vocals from US House legend Michael Watford and pure soul power of the additional vocals of David Elliot, son of Dionne Warwick.

Two Lone Swordsmen
'The Double Gone Chapel'
(Warp Records)



A new album from Andy Weatherall and Keith Tenniswood as the Two Lone Swordsmen Mr. Weatherall draws on his dub. rockabilly and Rock 'n' Roll roots reverting to simple and effective dance beats. The drums on the majority of the tracks are provided by a number of non-celebrity guest drummers playing an old drum kit left in the studio basement by Jah Wobble's band, apart from a few tracks that have an ancient sounding drum machine that could have been built in 1973. The guitars and bass are provided by Keith Tenniswood who has previously worked with the likes of Red Snapper and David Holmes and are reminiscent of Cabaret Voltaire and Public Image Limited. The vocals are provided by Mr. Weatherall himself and he is joined by Nina Walsh on the Penultimate track -'Taste of Our Flames'. The album takes its name from a Sunday night slot that Mr. Weatherall used to do at a friend's Pubs in east end London.

Dark, but very enjoyable.

Toots and The Maytals

'True Love' (V2 Music)



Here the legendary Toots and The Maytals collaborate with an all star guest list to create highly enjoyable new workings of some of their classic tunes. Describing the project, Toots Hibbert, one of the true architects of reggae, says..."music is an endless thing, and it can modify and become huge. All these different artists, we are friends. I feel their spirit, they feel mine."

The all star guests range from Jeff Beck on the awesome '54-46 Was My Number', Keith Richard's on 'Careless Ethiopians', to Terry Hall, The Skatalites and U-Roy reworking 'Never Grow Old' and Bootsy Collins, 'Funky Kingston'.

Buffalo Daughter



This Japanese trio has been quiet for the best part of two years now, but what a worthy re-introduction! This excellent five track album starts with a pacey psychedelic dance track, 'Cyclic', with echoing rock and roll guitar loops, very reminiscent of Here and Now or Steve Hilllage guitar work, but with House beats rather than rock and roll beats. It mutates into an acid beat with 'Pshychic A-Go-Go' and becomes funky psychedelic mayhem by the third track, 'Chihuahua Punk. The penultimate guitar based track 'S.O.I.D.' is a more melodic if slightly grungy love song with plaintive vocals from Yumiko and MooOg and it leads us into a twenty-minute psychedelic romp with 303 bass line and more echoing guitar lead work from suGar. Excellent to chill to, but also great dance beats for the more trance-orientated audience.

Compilation
'MC Chilled' (Beechwood)



This double CD pack is an exceptionally fine quality chillout album in the broadest and deepest sense of the word and is about as far away from that sad place of musical wallpaper as it is possible to get. The release features pieces from many of the heavyweights from the world of chill including a remix by Irresistible Force of 'Illusion', a 6TH Sense tune, '10 tons of Dope' by the brilliant Sly and Robbie Vs Dubble Standart (feat. Dillinger), 'Forever More' from Moloko and 'In The Trees' by Faze Action. There's even a previously unreleased track from Mr. Roy Ayers, 'Brand New Feeling'. With the constantly alive vibe and changing of mood, the CD, whilst maintaining a beautiful and sultry mellowness is exciting, enthralling and full of wonder.



Forget You Had a Daughter:

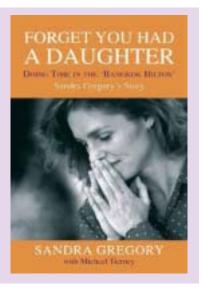
Doing Time in the 'Bangkok Hilton' - Sandra Gregory's Story

Having lived a successful life in Bangkok that included friends, two teaching jobs, and her own apartment, Sandra Gregory recounts how her life took a terrible turn in 1993 and how she experienced a journey from prison to renewal. While recuperating from dysentery and dengue fever, Gregory ran out of money. With mounting medical bills to pay, she met a heroin addict who offered her \$1,000 to smuggle his personal supply of heroin to Japan. It was just enough to pay her medical bills and buy a ticket home, but Gregory was arrested at Bangkok airport before she even boarded the plane. Detailing the four and a half years she spent in the notorious Lard Yao prison, dubbed the "Bangkok Hilton," Gregory describes

scenes of horrific brutality and suffering before being transferred to a British jail to serve the rest of her 22-year sentence. She tells of her daily fight for survival, of many women who died with no medical care or loved ones around them, and of her acceptance of her guilt and ultimate redemption.

Sandra Gregory was released from jail in 2000, following a pardon from the king of Thailand. She now tours schools to warn children of the dangers of drug smuggling.

Publisher: Vision Paperbacks; ISBN: 1904132278



Dr. John Dee Guilty Pleasures

'Guilt' has been one of the unspoken/invisible buzzwords in the UK for hundreds of years. We're made to feel guilty about everything which falls outside the narrow spectrum of activities or habits not endorsed by the moral majority.

In the past, it's very much been a case of "I don't do it, so why should you want to?" and this dictum, while never quite so explicitly and boldly stated in the statutes, has been used as the *raison d'etre* for the need to control those individuals (or groups) identified as having tastes which transcend the prosaic.

However, while tastes and conventions are subject to change, the law is behind the times, but its unchanging and monolithic nature has a knock-on effect of sustaining the sense of guilt, even where no crime is being committed.

Recreational drug taking, for example, is one of those pleasures enjoyed by many, *many* people in the UK, but

openly acknowledged by very few mainly for fear of attracting the unwelcome attentions of the law, but also because of the tacit disapproval of "straight" society.

The "harder" or more associated with risk one's drug of choice is, the heavier the legal penalties and/or the harsher the disapproval, and so users are less inclined to discuss it outside of their immediate circle of like-minded friends.

There are parallels here with other forms of entertainment generally regarded as "marginal", but also enjoyed by many more than would ever own up to it. Off the top of my head, there's film. In particular, I'm thinking of pornography

Porn is probably watched by more people in the UK now than ever before largely because of the introduction of region free or multi-region DVD players. Out go horrible, nth generation bootleg videocassettes of Debbie Does Dallas or whatever, acquired from a "friend-of-a-friend" in a pub, in come

pristine, uncut films on shiny discs with freeze frame, zoom capability and (ahem) "extras", straight from the manufacturer. Certainly there appears to be a huge demand for it, judging by the number of websites promising all and every type of fleshly delight one could want, captured on a DVD and ready to be "enjoyed" in the privacy of one's own home.

At this point, our friends in Holland will probably be wondering what all the fuss is about. After all, they've got a legitimate sex industry and have been "allowed" to watch warts and all hardcore for many years. But for a lot of Brits, this is *new*, and one supposes it must be exciting.

It's exactly the same with cannabis, for example. Brits can't get enough of the stuff, and yet it's against the law. Great quality weed and the sex industry: if we're honest, these are the two big reasons so many Brits go to Amsterdam. They can kick back and enjoy it and *not be judged*.

Of course there's a downside to all of this. If recreational drug use in Britain is a clandestine activity fraught with the threat of stigmatisation and public humiliation if caught, being a viewer of pornography carries the same risks.

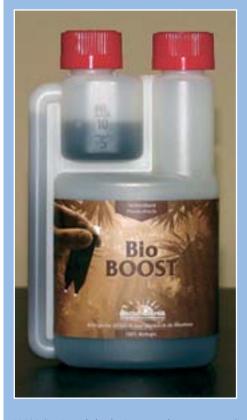
In the UK, double standards are never far from any contentious issue, and this is no exception. Police, judges and other officials publicly condemn porn the same way as they condemn drugs. This of course doesn't stop any of them from indulging themselves. Earlier, I wrote that the dictum of the British puritan was "I don't do it, so why should you want to?" On reflection, this is wrong, and it should read "I do it, but I don't want you to".

We say, "If it's good enough for some, it's good enough for everybody."

Any comments about this piece can be sent to me at:

dimethyltryptamine777@hotmail.com

No. #1 European recognized biological Plant Nutrient



100% SKAL Biologic Approved Nutrient components
100% Pure Vegetable Origin
Easy to use and tailor made for the needs of Cannabis
For indoor and outdoor use
Grow your own "EKO" weed with
BioCanna



Canna proudly presents the newly developed biological products Bio-CANNA. BioCANNA products are 100% natural; they comply with the regulations for biological agriculture. This means, accredited by law, guaranteed BIOLOGICAL, without for instance harmful metals and other

residues.

BioCANNA products are tailor made for Cannabis. The nutrients are readily available and absorbable for the different stages of the plants development to produce the perfect yield. Due to the intensive growing methods used for cultivating Cannabis it was previously impossible to grow 100% biological with liquid nutrients

The reason for this is that natural nutrients exist in long organic molecule- chains that become slowly and uncontrollable available to the plant. Canna Research Laboratories succeeded, using the latest techniques, to convert these long organic molecule-chains into directly absorbable energy rich biological nutrients.

Bio Vega and Bio Flores are the first biological nutrients that not only comply with EU guideline 2091/92, but they

can also carry the strict SKAL certification. Finally Canna makes it possible to truly grow biological!

Bio BOOST is a strong biological based booster. Unique in its kind as Bio BOOST is compiled out of pure biologically ingredients. Bio BOOST intensifies the bloom and raises the fruit sugar level in the plant, which improves yield and flavor. Bio BOOST leaves no harmful residues

BIOCANNA

Bio CANNA seriously meets up with the growers needs, health of the end consumer or patient. Bio Canna demands, apart from the strict government laws, a strict rules to the production process, ingredients' origin, compilation and constant quality and the fact that it has to be user-friendly Bio Canna products enrich soil life, create a strong natural balance. This way they supply the plant with a healty growing soil

BIOCANNA naturally biological

BioCANNA liquid nutrients are produced biological using fermented plant residues. They are rich in directly absorbable nutrients, proteins, fruit acids and vitamins. No animal proteins can enter the food chain of the plant. The big advantage of the production process CANNA uses is that it creates low fruit acids, that increase natural defence, improve metabolism and stimulate the elimination of harmful matters in the plants cells'.

Also these acids improve absorption of trace elements and a stable pH with different water qualities.

Info:

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UNDERWORLD

A commentary concerning trade in cannabis in the light of semi-organised crime in the Netherlands and the UK. The purpose is to sketch a realistic view of the people in the illegal circuit, who make sure there is always hash and weed on the market. From the big boys to the small fry: Soft Secrets' special reporter, Charlie Stone tries to uncover all the facets within this underworld.

By Charlie Stone



Bert, who is now 31, left his small hometown at the age of 18 to join his father who was living in Sweden. Initially Bert ran a tattoo parlour in Stockholm, but after a bad accident he was forced to focus on other ways to earn an income. Bert became involved in the hash industry and imported stuff from the Netherlands in order to supply the demand on the Swedish market. That is until he was turned in by his partner and had to spend ten years inside. He has just got back to the Netherlands, having spent the previous seven years in a Swedish penitentiary. Bert shares his experiences exclusively with Soft Secrets UK.

By Charlie Stone

Bert, how did you come to be involved in the world of hash trading?

"I have been involved with it in one small way or another since I started smoking it at 12 years old. When I was living in Sweden and still had the tattoo shop, people wanting to know how to arrange getting some hash regularly approached me. And then an acquaintance from the Netherlands phoned with an offer of a load of hash on credit. I had just had my accident, so I was certainly interested. I had fallen out of a window at a party and broken my neck! Fortunately the damage was not permanent but I was in bad physical shape and I could no longer sit all day doing tattoos. This offer came through just when I had to stop working.'

What is the smoking culture like in Sweden?

"It is completely underground. A dope smoker in Sweden in categorised the same as a smack user. Hash and marijuana are classified in the same schedule as heroin and cocaine. However, I did manage to move 50-100 kilos of hash per month in Sweden and I wasn't the only market supplier. From that you can assume that there must be a considerable number of hash smokers in Stockholm."

Did you sell directly to the consumers or did you use middlemen?

"Only middlemen. I stuck in trading in hash only, because weed is just not to be found in Sweden. In all the years I lived in Sweden I was only once ever offered weed and that was when I was in prison!" Why is weed so difficult to come by?

Underworld Part 7 **Doing Time in Sweden**

"It is just too expensive. Nobody dares to grow their own, that would be far too dangerous and the penalties are severe. You will immediately be regarded as a dangerous criminal. And because of its volume, weed is not attractive to smuggle. The Swedes would just love some Skunk, but it is virtually impossible to acquire. I read a story in the Swedish newspapers proclaiming Skunk to be the new hard drug from Holland. According to the report, the THC content was so high that it formed more of a threat than heroin. So from that you can get an idea of the tendencies in drugs-related reporting in Sweden."

ten years. I haven't met any Dutch people incarcerated there who served less time than that "

How large was that first shipment on credit?

"It was 50 kilos of Moroccan. And that was certainly worth a lot of money. You could get between 25 and 35 thousand Krone for a kilo, which works out at about 4,000 Euros. That load was coincidentally the only load I personally fetched. Something had gone amiss during transportation and that meant I had to fetch the van myself. Problem was, I did not

Nobody dares to grow their own, that would be far too dangerous and the penalties are severe. You will immediately be regarded as a dangerous criminal.

Do all Swedes feel this way?

"Those who do smoke are more relaxed but they do retain a fear of hash psychosis. According to the Swedish authorities, this is something you will develop sooner or later as a hash smoker. Personally I haven't noticed mine but people there are convinced. A homeless person in Sweden who would like a roof over their head for a change just has to report themselves to the police as being in the grips of a hash psychosis and they will immediately be booked into a clinic. Hash and weed are generally regarded very negatively by the Swedish community with such clichés doing the rounds as: 'If you are lucky you'll only become crazy and if you are unlucky you will end up dead."

Are hash smokers treated more harshly than alcoholics?

"Yes, definitely much more. Sweden is overcrowded with alcoholics but that is accepted within the society. For example, at my trial the public prosecutor had worked out precisely how many car radios had to have been stolen in order to pay for the amount of hash I had smuggled in. That is the kind of attitude you have to deal with."

Do the Dutch have a bad reputation in Sweden as a result of their tolerance policies?

"For sure! As a Dutch person being caught in possession of drugs you can expect a more severe treatment at your trial. You are likely to automatically be given eight-tohave a driver's licence. But because I had already pre-sold 20 kilos, I was obliged to go get it from Denmark myself. I was hyper nervous throughout, but I arrived in Malmo in Sweden without incident. The worst thing that happened was getting caught in a heavy snowstorm on the road to Stockholm. Because I had all that hash with me, I just kept going. Only later I saw that the tires on the van were bald. That I survived that journey can only be described as a miracle. It was also the first and last time I ever played courier myself.

Normally the stuff would be left by a courier in a prearranged hotel. He would leave the car in the parking lot and my guys would pick it up the next day. In that way the different couriers never got to meet each other either. One guy made the horrendous mistake of checking into the hotel under his own name. When I was arrested, he had also been brought in and so the police had a lead to the hotel. And guess what they did? They counted up the number of times he had stayed at the hotel and multiplied that in order to come to a

in the Netherlands last?

"That was good for three years. I would travel to Denmark or the Netherlands once a month to pay everyone."

Weren't you afraid of being in the spotlight?

"Well, if you get involved in such ventures, then you must know that you do have a good chance of being caught. If you are not prepared to take the punishment should things go wrong, then you had better not start at all. I was very aware when I first began to deal that the likelihood that I would get caught was very high. I had calculated that at a max I would get six years and so it didn't seem so bad and the risk was worth taking. I appointed a Swedish friend of mine to take over should anything happen to me. Unfortunately, he was arrested at the same time as me. They had absolutely no evidence against him but in Sweden they have the right to hold you on suspicion for months if they choose. I myself was in prearrest for 18 months. The friend who was arrested with me could not keep his mouth shut and started telling them everything about what we had been involved with."

What had happened to you?

"It all started because of money - a large sum (40,000 Euros) that I had loaned to someone who was unable to pay it back. I did not make it a problem because I could use his name for various things - I bought a night-club and a boat and put both in his name. Later it turned out that this guy was apparently terrified of me and so had gone to the police and tipped them off about my drug activities and in this way he had hoped to be rid of me. The police started to follow me and tapped my phone. They had realised we were doing something with cars but as yet there were no drugs in sight and therefore no evidence. Sometime later I received a call letting me know the next shipment was on its way and so I contacted my usual courier. Unfortunately he had recently been stopped for speeding

I was getting caught in a heavy snowstorm on the road to Stockholm. Because I had all that hash with me, I just kept going. Only later I saw that the tires on the van were bald. That I survived that journey can only be described as a miracle

total quantity of transported hash. He had stayed there 16 times so take that at 50kilos a time and they're looking at 800kilos, or so they said!"

How long did your connection

and his van had been full of stuff, which fortunately had not been discovered but the experience had left him unnerved and so he refused to do it. Now I was worried because I had a van waiting in a parking lot loaded with 50 kilos of hash and there

A dope smoker in Sweden in categorised the same as junkies. Hash and marijuana are classified with the same schedule as heroin and cocaine.

was no way I would fetch it myself. But that was a huge mistake! I phoned somebody else who owed me a lot of money and told him to fetch the van. The police recorded that conversation and used it to prove to the Swedish Justice later, that I was the ringleader.

The new driver had fetched the keys from me and the police noted that too. Then he went to fetch the van. As soon as he had started it up and was preparing to drive off, the police stopped him. I was still ignorant of these events and had planned to spend the afternoon on my boat with my then very pregnant Swedish wife. I still have not managed to do that as the police came to get me just as we started off. They blocked us off and after some shouting, many cop cars and even more cop guns, I was dragged from my car and arrested."

Was your wife aware of your activities?

"She had her suspicions but she never had anything to do with it. After I was arrested she wanted to have nothing to do with me and she never came to see me in prison."

What did they charge you with?

"The only thing I was told that evening is that I was under suspicion of large-scale drug dealing. I thought it wiser not to share anything and so did nothing to assist in the investigation. During all those months in pre-arrest I had about five brief hearings. I said very little then too because it seemed anything I said was already too much. At one stage a detective from the Netherlands arrived and wanted to talk to me about my Dutch connections. They were not sure where the stuff had originated from, as it could have been the Netherlands, Germany or Belgium. He asked me if I thought it fair that I should go down for ten years whilst my supplier was left untouched. I told the cop he left me cold and really meant it too."

From the way I understand it they had very little actual evidence against you?

"It doesn't take much in Sweden! Only in Sweden can a person be detained for something they might have done. Hard evidence is not a necessity any more. Anyway, they had 48 kilos from the van, and in their eyes I was guilty."

Why did your accomplices make such damning statements against you?

"You receive a substantial shortening of your term if you co-operate fully with the authorities. The driver from that night had confessed his part immediately and then embroidered by stating I had threatened him with a pistol. The police were very happy to hear that as it meant they could

show me in the light of master criminal. Another Swedish guy confessed to having helped me once to unload a car of 30 kilos and that amount was duly added on to the first 50 from the van. And then there were a few more confessions like that. The prosecutor simply added everything together without actual evidence and then they counted another five kilos per ride extra just to be sure they hadn't missed anything – just like that."

What were the court proceedings like?

"That was no joke. As a Dutchman, I was already guilty. One of the couriers who had to appear brought along his invalid father in a wheelchair. During the trial the old man got so emotionally involved that he fell from his wheelchair. It created a huge fuss in court; people crying and shouting and all fingers pointing at me. I was the cause of all the trouble. That did not exactly help my case. The parents of the other courier gave their son a shining testimonial about what a fine lad he had been until he had met me. I mean – the guy was 24!"

The whole organisation was wrapped up as a consequence?

"Yes, totally. It caused a furore throughout Sweden, so I was in a bad situation. Something I will never forgive myself is allowing the wrong sort of people to work for me. I am ashamed of my character assessment skills and not only because of the trouble it caused me, but also for the trouble it caused for the others."

How long did your trial last?

"The first law suit lasted 30 days while the appeal took only five days."

What was your lawyer's strategy?

"He told me to just shut up and not say a word throughout the entire trial. He said it was my only chance."

Did it occur to you that had you been arrested in the Netherlands under the same conditions and given the same facts that you probably would have received a much lighter sentence?

"I probably would not have been tried at all. The Swedish Justice only had circumstantial evidence and so I was convicted on the basis of vague accusations and no real hard evidence. The only thing they really had was the 48 kilos from the van and the fact that I am Dutch. I received a more severe sentence than my Swedish colleague did (the one who

should have taken over from me), who only got three years. At the trial I was sentenced to nine years for 600 kilos and at the appeal I received ten years for 143 kilos."

Did you arrange the appeal yourself?

"No, the public prosecutor insisted on it. He was pushing for 14 years."

What is the maximum sentence for such a crime?

"Officially you should be released after serving half your time but that does not happen if the crime is drugs-related and especially not if the guilty one is Dutch. All my requests to be able to sit out my sentence in a Dutch prison were refused because I had not co-operated during the investigation. Plus you can acquire additional time as penalties whilst serving your term. If you are caught using drugs inside you can gain an extra five days just like that"

do with me and so I have never seen my child. The Swedish Justice system ensured that I lost all my custody rights and so I cannot do anything about it now."

What do you think of the penalty you paid now that you've been through it?

"On one hand is was very heavy because I had only been in the Slammer for three months when I received a letter from my ex-wife's lawyer. Divorce and loss of all and any custody rights. Then I had a heavy comedown. Soon after that my father died and because he lived in Sweden I was allowed to go to the church service but not to the wake or the funeral. Plus when I attended the church service it was in handcuffs and ankle chains accompanied by heavily armed cops. Police cars were parked thickly outside plus they even had dogs. Unreal, especially when you consider at that time I had already been incarcerated for three years. That sort of shit was the heaviest to bear.

If you are not prepared to take the punishment should things go wrong, then you had better not start at all. I was very aware when I first began to deal that the likelihood that I would get caught was very high.

Did you receive any assistance from the Dutch ambassador in Sweden?

"Yes, but hardly any. They probably had contact with me about five times in all those years I was inside. The stock reply to any request you made them was to state that there was nothing I could do about it or that there was nothing they could do. Even once I had been released and had been relieved of everything I had once owned, their help still remained minimal. All I was left with was a pair of jeans and three T-shirts. My house, my boat, my cars – all gone. My wife would have nothing to

Something else that weighs heavily with me is the level of hypocrisy in Sweden. When I was finally released I was immediately deported. I was escorted to the airport under the supervision of two armed cops and while we were standing around waiting, one proudly starts informing me about the party he had attended the week before and how he had purchased 80 litres of illegal homebrew from an acquaintance. Homebrew there is poison - anywhere between 30-80% proof. Personally, I find one bottle of that stuff more deadly than 100 kilos of hash. So I said that to that cop. He looked at me completely perplexed, shrugged and said, "But it's alcohol everybody drinks alcohol!"

Attention grow-, smart- and headshopkeepers of Britain!

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Soft Secrets - essential reading for Britain's independent tokers, growers and cannabusinesses!

DIY

Outdoor cultivation Battle Outdoor Cultivation B

Winter: Between outdoor crops there are always those winter months which can be used to search out a suitable piece of ground and make a start on working over and emiching the soil. By using biological fertilisers that take a bit of time to work into the earth, the soil will be at an optimum when the growing season starts some months later. This gives the earth time to gain a rich basis as a start for your plants. For those of you who prefer to use pots, this is a good time to get down to the local garden centre and gain a few of those extra large pots at reduced prices!



February – March:

An early start is worth its weight in gold. Those of you wishing to produce gigantic plants can already start with germinating the seeds. This gives you a choice of the best seedlings as well as the time to make some cuttings so that you will be able to

put more than one identical plant into your garden later on. For this you will need a TL- lamp but a sodium light is even better for this phase of early growth. Cuttings can be taken early in the season so that they will have plenty of time to get big and strong, which ultimately leads to a better yield. This is the time for decision making, checking out seeds and strains and deciding which ones you are going to use for your outdoor crop. Getting informed about outdoor growing techniques and the different kinds of cannabis strains that are available is vital.



April:

This marks the start of the season for most outdoor farmers and a crucial phase for those who have not germinated their seeds yet. There are various ways to do that ranging from damp kitchen paper, rockwool cubes or simply stuck into a pot of soil. Personally I prefer rockwool cubes as the seedlings root much quicker in these,

compared with other methods, and you do get a good percentage of germinated seedlings. The seeds need to be kept damp but not wet otherwise their roots will not develop properly, due to the amount of moisture present. Roots love the darkness and the inside of a rockwool cube is pitch black. These cubes are handy when it comes to planting the seedlings too. I place a single seed into each rockwool cube and then I soak them in water to which I have added root stimulator. Then I place the rockwool cubes inside an enclosed dome so that the humidity can build up. Place the whole in a cupboard where you can keep the temperature at 25 degrees. It can still get quite cold in April and cold inhibits germination. After a couple of days the seedlings are 3cm high.



May:

The seedlings and cuttings have all gained a reasonable size and have sprouted into young ladies. Everything's gay in the month of May and its time these fine females came out the closet for a fresh taste of the wide outdoors. The average temperature during May lies between 20-25 degrees in the

daytime and drops to an average 16-20 degrees at night and that is good for the plants. The sun really starts to get warm in May and with luck might even bring a heatwave. The ladies start to flourish rapidly in the abundant sunlight.



June – July: The sun is at a max and

The sun is at a max and it should be really hot weather. The plants are growing at a rapid pace and are beginning to resemble trees. The most important aspect of this period is to ensure that the plants get extra nitrogen to nourish those rich green leaves. Isn't it incredible that the puny seedling of a few centimetres in now towering at almost two

metres?! Good food and lots of water is all they need. Don't let them dry out. If you miss a day of watering, they whole crop can be doomed to failure, especially if it is one of those really hot days. Stay active - lazy farmers stand to loose all.



August:

The moment we've been waiting for has arrived and the plants are starting to blossom. Time to change from growth fertilisers to flowering fertilisers. The plants need lots of phosphorus and potassium at this time and less nitrogen. It is necessary to keep supplying nourishment under

these extremely hot temperatures. Rinsing through with lots of water is always a good idea, especially as the salts build up from all the fertilisers that have been added to the soil over the months. By using lots of water you can flush the pots through. Leaf food is also necessary in this time. Keep an eye open for any possible leaf rot and remove them immediately to prevent any mould forming. The end is in sight.



End September – end October:

The long awaited moment after months of sweating is here and it's time to start the harvest!
Enormous solid heads, glinting with crystals and covering the plant from top to bottom, slowly ripening! The best time for a harvest is

not while the sun still shines. Let the plants enjoy the sun for as long as possible and until the hairs have coloured at least by 80%. If it looks like there is going to be a rainy spell for a few days, then harvest immediately or move your plant pots inside. Also – never harvest the day following a rainstorm because the heads have soaked up the excessive moisture. And now all you have to do is spend some hours trimming off the leaves, before you leave the heads alone for two weeks while they cure. And then its time to crush, roll, light up and enjoy!

Every year - again and again!

Liverpool Echo Friday 2, April 2004

By TONY BARRETT

ECHO Reporter

ONE of Merseyside's biggest cannabis factories has been found in Anfield.

Police were tipped off about a row of shops at the junction of Townsend Lane and Waltham Road. Below the shops, they found a sophisticated drugs factory primed for production and seized thousands of pounds worth of drug-making equipment.

of pounds worth of drug-making equipment.

The caumabis factory is the second major drugs find in Liverpool in a fortnight. Last week, 350 cannabis plants were found in Garston and a local man, 29, was arrested and bailed pending further inquiries.

Although no cannabis plants were discovered in Anfield, detectives believe they have disrupted a major drugs operation in its infancy.

It is thought the factory was ready for action, producing thousands of pounds worth of cannabis destined for north Liverpool.

Inspector Mark Harrison said



INNOCENT FACADE: A cannabis factory ready for production was found under these shops in Anfield Pictures: JASON ROBERTS

building the den.

As well as a converted outbuilding ready to produce cannabis, officers found a cellar split in two, complete with sprinkler and extractor systems to cultivate the plants.

A 36-year-old man from Prescot was arrested at the scene and later released on police bail.

tonybarrett@liverpoolecho.co.uk

Daily Post (Wales) Saturday 3, April 2004

Arthritic man grew cannabis for pain relief

AN arthritis sufferer was handed a community sentence yesterday after being caught growing more than 200 cannabis plants.

Mark Halliday, who has suffered from the painful condition since birth, decided to grow the plants for pain relief.

Mold Crown Court was told the 37-year-old did not want to get involved in the murky world of drug dealers and instead invested in his own sophisticated growing system to have a plentiful supply.

Police raided his home in Connah's Quay High Street and seized 224 cannabis plants of various sizes, together with his hydroponic growing system.

A charge of possessing the plants with intent to supply was dropped by the prosecution when it was accepted the drugs were for his own use.

The court heard he tried prescribed medication but because of the side effects, had turned to cannabis.

He admitted cultivating the plans for his own personal use and was given a 12-month community rehabilitation order.

ludge Roger Dutton said he was not going to give Halliday a lecture because he knew what he had done was illegal.

"It is not lawful to grow cannabis for what-ever reason," the judge said. "It may well be that you feel it provides you with some pain relief.

Later, Halliday called for cannabis to be legalised. He told how he was born with arthritis and at times had to walk with a stick.

Pot in shed man escapes prison

Guernsey Press & Star Friday 2, April 2004

A MAN who grew nine <u>cannabis</u> plants in his shed has narrowly avoided jail.

Paul Queripel, 21, of 9, Millbrook Estate, St Peter Port, was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, suspended for two years, and was placed under a nine-month supervision. under a nine-month supervision order and fined £400 after admitting the offence.

the offence.

Inspector Mike Brown told the Magistrate's Court that at the start of November 2003, Queripel had obtained some cannabis seeds and set up a fairly-sophisticated hydroponic system in his shed.

A total of 25.1g of cannabis was seized, with an estimated street value of between £175 and £225.

Advocate Mark Torode said that although there were nine plants, it was not a major operation and the

was not a major operation and the cannabis was for Queripel's own use.

There was no suggestion that the drugs were for any other purpose and Queripel had cooperated fully with the authorities, he said.

His client had experienced a difficult period in the lead-up to the offence and had no drug-related

convictions. 'This offence would not have happened if he had not been a victim himself,' submitted counsel.

He was remorseful and sorry for the shame he had brought on his family and did not use the drug any

'His life has made a considerable change for the better,' he said.

Queripel had a good job and the full support of his family, the court

'His father is in court to support him 100%

Queripel had really moved on and wanted to prove to those around him that he could rebuild his life.

Counsel submitted that there were

Counsel submitted that there were exceptional circumstances in this case and difficult personal reasons leading up to the offence.

Magistrate Russell Finch told the defendant that if this operation had been other than on a small-scale, he would have had no option but to have locked him up

You are walking today, but you won't walk again for a similar offence,' he warned.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph Saturday 3, April 2004

Cultivated cannabis

A CANNABIS grower, who cultivated the plant in the garage at his Scunthorpe home, was fined £100 by North Lincolnshire magistrates.

magistrates.

The illegal plants were found when officers visited Neil Crawshaw's home in Meadow Road at about 8.30am on March 28, following a report of 'a domestic incident'.

"While there they become

"While there, they became aware the defendant was growing cannabis plants in his detached garage," prosecutor Dennis Aisthorpe said.

Four plants were found being grown, using a hydroponics system. And, he said, cannabis leaves were found inside his home.

"He said he had bought the seeds from a shop in the town," said Mr Aisthorpe.

Mike Whiting, for Crawshaw, told the bench: "The plants were for his own use — it was a very small-scale cultivation."

He said his client decided to grow plants as he had suffered an industrial injury to his back, and used the drug for pain relief.

crawshaw (26) admitted a charge of cannabis cultivation and, as well as the fine, was told to pay £43 costs. Magistrates ordered the confiscation of the growing system and light.

Plymouth Evening Herald Friday 9, April 2004

Cannabis charge

A WOMAN has been charged with possession with intent to supply cannabis resin with a street value of more than £30,000 in Callington.

The drugs were seized at a property in Callington on Wednesday April 7 after police raided a house in Werrington Drive.

A 35-year-old woman was arrested at the scene and she was charged yesterday after being questioned at Charles Cross police station.

She will appear at Truro Magistrates Court tomorrow morning.

Sgt John Frazer, of Callington police, said: "This is the latest in a series of pro-active efforts. In recent months a number of warrants and plain clothes operations have been carried out aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour and to disrupt the possession and supply of controlled drugs in our area."

Bristol Evening Post (Final) Wednesday 21, April 2004

Offender gets 18 months after cannabis stash found

AN EASTON man, who admitted possessing cannabis for supplying to friends, has been jailed for 18

Arfan Yasin had been released on licence while serving a six-year sentence for a drug-related offence when he was found with more than
500g of the illegal drug. The
23-year-old, of Colwyn Road,
admitted possession with intent to

supply. The court heard that police searched Yasin's home last
December and found a quantity of
cannabis stashed in his bedroom.
When arrested for possession with

intent to supply, Yasin said: "That's all mine."

The court heard Yasin had bought the drug and intended to share it

Yasin, the court heard, had several

previous convictions, including dishonesty, driving while

disqualified, and robbery. Defending, Claire Marlow said: "He was one of a group of friends using cannabis and he collected money, bought the drug and distributed it amongst his friends.

Yasin was ordered to pay £200 prosecution costs.

Edinburgh Evening News Saturday 3, April 2004

annabis cafe owner denies letting customers smoke

THE owner of Scotland's first cannabis cafe has pleaded not guilty to allowing customers to smoke the drug on his premises.

Paul Stewart, who runs the Purple Haze Cafe in Leith, was arrested on January 29 - the first night of his "private members' club" and the same day cannabis was downgraded to a class Cdrug. The cafe was raided and Stewart

was arrested along with two other people, who were arrested for possession of cannabis after allegedly using the drug inside. The Crown Office decided not to press charges against them. Stewart, 37, who lives in Leith, said

he received e-mails of support from across the world when he opened the cannabis cafe in the former greasy spoon cafe. A not guilty plea was entered on Stewart's behalf yesterday at Edinburgh Sheriff Court and the case was adjourned for trial on July 28.

If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to three months or fined a maximum of £2500.

He said: "Obviously I don't want to

say too much. They'll just have to prove I knew people were smoking cannabis. People were told not to use cannabis when they came in. The good thing about Scotland is the 'not proven' verdict so obviously I'll be trying for that."

Stewart's lawyer Aamer Anwar said: "It is bizaire on the day that something is being reclassified that Lothian and Borders Police didn't have better things to do. A time will come when individuals like Mr Stewart will not be brought before the court.'



PLEA: Stewart

The Times Friday 16, April 2004

Cannabis bricks

Cannabis weighing a total of 7.2 tonnes, and with a street value of £35 million, was seized by Customs officers in raids on two freight containers in Seaforth Docks, Liverpool. Seven people were detained for questioning, Merseyside Police said, including a woman aged 25 from Staffordshire. The drug was stacked in brick-sized slabs.

Greenock Telegraph Thursday 8, April 2004

Had cannabis

aughin (32), Bellcroft, Gilburn Road, was fined £175 at the sheriff court for possession of cannabis and obstructing police by throwing away a package of the drug at the village's Smithy Brae on 29 October.

The Independent Friday 16, April 2004

IN BRIEF

Cannabis worth £35m found at docks

CANNABIS VALUED at an estimated £35m was seized from two containers at Seaforth docks in Liverpool. Seven people, from Liverpool, Walsall and Staffordshire, were arrested in the Customs and Excise operation. Police said yesterday that the containers were full of brick-sized slabs of the drug.

News of the World Sunday 11, April 2004



GOING POTTY: Charles angry over Buck House bust

THE Prince of Wales was left fuming at a Buckingham Palace party when royal police staged a drugs bust-and nicked a caterer as a suspect pot pusher.

Charles' special banquet on Monday night for Royal Navy top brass was thrown into chaos as cops seized a

contractor's van in a rou-tine security check.

Officers say they found a
"substantial" stash of cannabis and scales on board.

An aide told us: "It was

too much for personal use and the police believe it was meant for dealing."

Meanwhile there was panic in the kitchen. The aide added: "Not only did they have to find another expert capable of serving royalty but they lost all the food and equipment

he had with him.

"And as every vehicle was being searched the

BY CLIVE GOODMAN

ROYAL EDITOR

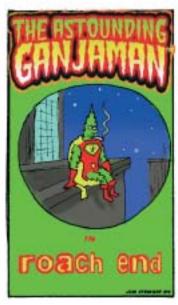
queues to get in got longer

and longer.
"The VIP list included "The VIP list included 250 admirals and seven former First Sea Lords. These are people not used to waiting-and they're not

shy about telling you!

"It was so embarrassing-the Prince isn't happy!"

On Friday a 21-year-old man appeared at London's Horseferry Road court charged with possession of cannabis.













TRIMMED FOR YOU

Yorkshire Post (South/Sheffield) Thursday 22, April 2004

WORLD IN BRIEF

Briton in court on drug charges

A British backpacker held in India on drug smuggling charges has appeared in court at the start of her trial, the Foreign Office said.

Daisy Angus, 23, was arrested at Bombay Airport on November 21, 2002, with 22lb of cannabis in her suitcase.

The fitness instructor from Bournemouth, Dorset, later confessed to her father that she knew she was carrying the drugs.

She is held at Byculla Prison, in Bombay, and has appeared at a city court for the start of her trial.

Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Tuesday 20, April 2004

Prison death inquiry starts

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into the death of a North Staffordshire prisoner found hanged in his cell.

Michael Minshall, aged 44, of Rockside, Mow Cop, had been charged in connection with a £35 million cannabis haul at Liverpool Docks, but was found hanging from bed sheets in his cell at Walton Prison, Liverpool, an Priday night

on Friday night.

An investigation is to be started by the Prisons and Probation Office for England and Wales who investigate deaths in custody.

A cooleanus said: "We are conducting an

spokesman said: "We are conducting an

A spokesman said: "We are conducting an independent investigation into the circumstances. It is not possible to say how long this will take because it depends on the circumstances of the case. We will be looking at what happened and will be considering factors such as the health of the person. "We will also be looking to see whether there are changes needed in order to help prevent future deaths happening again."

Officers will examine prison policy and practice, and aim to provide answers to questions posed by bereaved relatives.

Mr Minshall was arrested last Wednesday after cannabis resin was seized by Customs and Excise officers at Liverpool docks. The discovery was one of the biggest drugs hauls ever seized in Liverpool. He faced charges of importing the drug and being concerned with its supply. He was pronounced dead after fellow prisoners found him in his cell. His relatives have declined to comment and will await the investigation results.

Two other North Staffordshire men were charged over the haul. Gary Scarlett, aged 26, of Burlidge Road, Chell, and Scott Minshall, aged 23, of Blandford Close, Stoke-on-Trent, were remanded on drug charges.

Bristol Evening Post (Final) Wednesday 21, April 2004

Court is told of cannabis factory

MEN from the Bristol area were involved in setting up a cannabis plant factory on a Weish farm.
Carmarthen Crown Court has been told.

Bristol man Carlton DeSouza had given David Farm, Capel Iwan,
Newcastle Emlyn, £40,000 to set up cannabis production at his farm.

At yesterday's hearing the three men admitted taking part in the production of a substantial quantity of cannabis.
Andrew Monaghan, aged 37, of Naish Hill, Clapton-in-Gordano, Stephen Rees, 26, of Niblett's Hill, St George, and DeSouza, 43, of Blethwyn Close, Henbury, all admitted one count of being involved in the production of cannabis by another.

DeSouza had pleaded guilty at an earlier date on the basis he had lent the money to Forrester to buy equipment to allow cannabis to be grown.

Rees also pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing and Monaghan admitted the offence at yesterday's hearing.

All three men had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing and Monaghan admitted the offence at yesterday's hearing.

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All three men had yesterday were laid on file.

Prosecutor Jim Davis said the farm was "a cannabis factory producing a substantial quantity."

Sentencing was adjourned until May 20 when all three men, Forrester and a fifth man will be sentenced.

The three defendants were granted conditional bail.

Express & Star (City Final - Wolverhampton) Wednesday 21, April 2004

Supply of drug charge denied

Three men who had between them nearly 300 grammes of cannabis vegetation were planning to supply the drug, it was alleged at Stafford Crown Court.

supply the drug, it was alleged at Stafford Crown Court.

Deni Matthews, prosecuting, said detectives found 72 grammes of cannabis when they visited Neil Painter's flat in Cheslyn Hay.

While police were there, Asa Wilkinson and John Gill arrived in a car and officers found a bag containing 219 grammes of the drug in the footwell, plus a set of scales.

Painter, 25, of Liberty Close, Wilkinson, 27, of Chester Road, Brownhills, and Gill, 29, of Rookery Lane, Aldridge, all deny possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Mr Matthews said some of the cannabis was split into smaller packages.

"It was in Painter's possession and was going to be supplied to others," he said. He added that Gill did not dispute he had cannabis in his possession but did dispute that he was going to supply it. He had told police it was for personal use.

Mr Matthews said Wilkinson told officers he was not aware the cannabis was in the car.

"The crown say by reason of the quantity and the presence of scales, the drug was to be used for supply," he said.

The hearing continues.

said.

The hearing continues.

Daily Echo (Bournemouth) Tuesday 20, April 2004

Cannabis in rucksack 'for personal use

A WOMAN found with a bag of cannabis has denied supplying drugs

Police became suspicious of car passenger Katy Stanzel, 21, after noticing a strong smell of cannabis when they stopped the car in Dale Valley Road, Poole, on December 31 last year.

They found a rucksack which contained cannabis resin and herbal cannabis, Bournemouth Crown Court heard, along with £310 and a Filofax containing "entries" which it is alleged were "drug transactions'

Stanzel of Heights Road, Poole, denied intending to sell the cannabis, telling police it was for her personal use. She said she had drawn £100 out of the bank and the rest was "Christmas money" from her family

The entries in the Filofax represented a Christmas present list and a list of people who owed her money, the court heard.

Three bags of herbal cannabis, eight small bags of cannabis resin and a further £125 were found at Stanzel's home, along with self-sealing bags, Clingfilm and a set of scales. Stanzel told police she bagged the cannabis for "her own convenience".

The trial continues.

Southern Daily Echo (Southampton) Saturday 17, April 2004

Man tells court he grew cannabis to relieve pain

A MAN caught with enough cannabis to make 8,000 joints has told a court he was growing the drug for his own personal

Mark Dyke, 37, was arrested after 97 cannabis plants, compressed blocks of the class B drug and growing equipment were found during a search of his home in Lawrence Grove, Woolston, Southampton, in August last year.

He admitted producing the drug but denies possession

with intent to supply.

Dyke, a bricklayer, told
Southampton Crown Court that he was growing the drug to help him cope with sciatica as it gave better pain relief than the

gave better pain relief than the tablets he had been taking.

Despite the large quantity of plants found in his garden shed, Dyke claimed he was growing it only for the flowering heads – the most powerful part of the plant – and was planning on destroying the rest, including the stalks and

the leaf, not selling it on to oth-

slabs compressed ranabis leaf, he claimed, were from an earlier crop he had harvested a year ago, and were of very poor quality. He said he kept this for use only when he was unable to buy, or make anything attractors and het to ell on

thing stronger, and not to sell on.
The jury heard how no significant sums of cash or "deals" lists were found at Dyke's home.

Proceeding













Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Monday 5, April 2004

POLICE have seized more than 20 <u>cannabis</u> plants from a garage converted to cultivate the

Officers made the discovery at a detached house in Talke Pits last night after magistrates issued a warrant to search the property under the Misuse of Drugs Act They found a hi-tech hydroponics up — a method of growing hts in water — which police

believe was part of a commercial

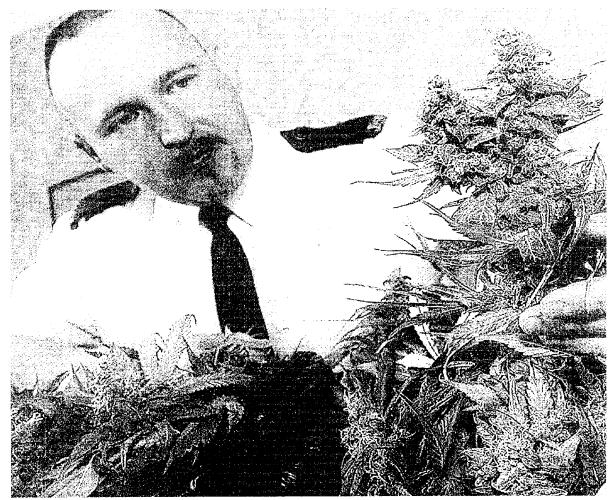
operation.
PC Dave Woodward, of Kidsgrove police, said: "A domestic garage had been converted to be used as a hydroponics set up to cultivate and grow a large quantity of cannabis. "Because of the quantities involved it appears to be a commercial set up.
"I've personally never come

across an operation of this size. A considerable amount has been spent to actually set up all the equipment and grow this quantity, It's not just a couple of plant pots, it's a proper kit with pumps and tubes and a lot of effort has gone into it."

Mr Woodward said the seizure was part of a crackdown ennuisance and disorder in the area and should send out a strong

message to residents. He said: "This comes on the back of a clampdown on the use of recreational drugs which has links to nuisance and disorcer. A warrant to search the house A warrant to search the house was issued by North Staffordshire Magistrates yesterday morning. A 40-year-old man was arrested in connection with the seizure and has been released on bail.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Woodward on or Crimestoppers on



PC Dave Woodward with some of the cannabis plants found at the house in Talke Pits

East Anglian Daily Times (East edition) Saturday 17, April 2004

<u>Cannabis</u> offence

More than 80 cannabis plants were found growing in an outbuilding at the home of a Rendlesham man.

Self-employed aircraft engineer Benjamin Abley, 31, of Dairy Cottages, was jailed for four months at Ipswich Crown Court yesterday after pleading guilty to production of cannabis plants.

Ian Francis, prosecuting, said police had searched the outhuilding and found 83 cannabis plants growing. They were estimated to contain 460g of cannabis, with a street value of between £1,000 and £2,000.

Joanne Ely, mitigating, said Abley had grown the cannabis for his own use to relieve back pain caused by a spinal problem.

Judge John Devaux said although cannabis was now a class C drug, this offence was still too serious for anything but a custodial sentence.

RUG ADDICT COPS ESCAPE COL They'll get counselling Daily Star Tuesday 13, April 2004

by PHILIP WHITESIDE

POLICE officers who admit being drug addicts will escape prosecution and get counselling.

One force is already offering an amnesty to addicted officers to help them break the habit.

A leaked report for London's Metropolitan Police says cocaine and heroin use in the ranks is on the rise.

It's authors blame Britain's growing drug culture.

At least 60 officers in London are said to have a cocaine problem – a few even deal in class A drugs.

Others are regularly taking ecstasy heroin and <u>campabis</u>.

But the Met believes they should be helped rather than kicked out for breaking the law. The report says: "A greater percentage of our staff will have grown

up exposed to the drug culture. It is statistically probable that more of our staff will have used controlled or illegal substances.

"The Metropolitan Police Service will offer help to those who may have a drink or drugs problem."

Critics say the report shows the police are going soft on drugs—but other forces take a harder line.

Pc Anne McGrath quit Greater Manchester Police in disgrace after she was caught snorting cocaine during at a party.

Traces were found on her warrant card which she used to cut up the powder. She and colleague Pc Paul Thompson admitted possession and were fined £500 each last August.

But insiders at the Metropolitan Police say it has a "duty of care" to

The Journal (Newcastle / Tyne) Thursday 8, April 2004

Ferry drug pair jailed

TWO drug couriers were caught red-handed smuggling thousands of pounds worth of cannabis into the North-East from the continent, a court heard.

Kieran Robb and Keith MacLood were intercepted by customs officers at the North Shields terminal as they returned from Holland on the same North Sea ferry. Cannabis weighing 7.48 kilos

with a street value of £19,000 was found hidden in a spare tyre in Robb's hired car.

Officers also recovered 7.2 kilos of cannabis worth £18,884 on the street concealed in a tyre in another vehicle driven by MacLeod.

Although the men had travelled on the same boat they had never met and neither was aware the other was smuggling drugs, Newcastle Crown Court was told.

Student Robb, 24, of Clover Avenue, Arbroath, Scotland, and MacLeod, 41, self employed in promotion work, of Haveson Road, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, were each jailed for a year yesterday after admitting the illegal importation of cannabis in November last year.

Mark Styles, defending, said Robb became involved after being approached by people behind the enterprise while visiting friends in Holland.

"He was foolishly a naively taken in by them," he said.

Eric Elliott, defending, said MacLeod had been preyed on by others aware of his debt problems at the time.

employees with problems



SHAMED: Pc Anne McGrath

TRIMMED FOR YOU

Home-grown cannabis factory... with pot plants even in the loo

By LAURA HOLLAND Crime reporter

TWO men were today being quizzed by police after a cannabis factory was discovered in a raid on a house.

More than 30 cannabis plants and growing equipment were found in the squalid home in Grimston Road, Basildon including some being grown in the toilet.

It is believed the class C drug was being manufactured in the house before being distributed and sold on the street.

The plants were seized along with a high-performance Mercedes sports car, reported stolen 15 months ago, which was found in a side garage of the property.

Three knives and an extendable police baton were in the vehicle, police said.

The RSPCA was called after an emaciated lizard was found collapsed on all fours in a tank in the house's kitchen.

The starving animal, about a foot long, had a bone sticking through its skin on one of its back

legs and was not moving. Two men one aged 18 and one aged 45, were arrested

on suspicion of cultivating cannabis and intent to supply it.

It is thought animal welfare officers may bring charges for animal cruelty.

PC Sean Daly, one of six plain-clothes officers from Basildon police's tactical team who took part in the swoop, said: "Police attended an address after receiving intelligence.
"We found a large quanti-

of cannabis from a hydroponic set-up. Two adult males have been arrested."

About 30 large cannabis plants had been found in a top-floor rear bedroom, which had been insulated and fitted with strong lighting, a thermometer and

fans, PC Daly said.

The mother plant, used for cuttings to grow others, was sitting in its own smaller insulated room under an array of lamps.

Baby plants were found in the loft and on top of the toilet in an upstairs bathroom. Leaves were found drying in the loft.

The knives seized were two butterfly knives and a lock knife.

 Cannabis was downgraded from class B to class C in January but is still illegal. Those who supply, deal, produce or traffic in it face up to 14 years' imprisonment – up from five years.

Maximum penalties for possessing cannabis were reduced from five years to two years.

> Evening Echo (Basildon) Thursday 8, April 2004

Express & Star (City Final - Wolverhampton) Wednesday 7, April 2004

Year in jail for soccer hopeful

An promising goalkeeper who, under pressure from a prison inmate, tried to smuggle a package containing cannabis into the Staffordshire jail where he worked has been jailed for 12 months.

Stafford Crown Court heard that Paul Fryer was caught by a police sniffer dog as he walked along a corridor at Featherstone Prison, near Wolverhampton.

Fryer, an engineer, admitted to the officer that he had a package hidden in his shoe and it was found to contain 23.6 grammes of cannabis.

Fryer, aged 22, of Stevenson Drive, Perton, Wolverhampton, had been sent by the mid Staffordshire Magistrates for sentence at crown court after admitting possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

He was told by Mr Recorder Stuart Rafferty yesterday that the offence struck at the very heart of the prison system.

"You were working there surrounded by prison officers and had you just once said you were being harassed by this man they would have stopped it."

Mr Jason Aris, for Fryer, said his client hoped for a career in football as a goal-keeper and had been scouted by many clubs.

He added that while working at the prison Fryer had come under pressure from a manipulative inmate.

Evening Echo (Basildon) Friday 16, April 2004

Cannabis youth fined by court

A TEENAGER was fined £30 after police A TEENAGER was fined £30 after police caught him in possession of six grams of cannabis. Rhys Willett, 18, pleaded guilty at Basildon Magistrates Court. He was also told to pay £30 costs towards the case. Willett, of Kelly Road, Pitsea, was arrested following a police raid on a suspected cannabis factory in a house in Grimston Road.

The youth admitted he smoked five joints a day but had previous good character. Magistrates told Willett that they hoped his appearance in court would act as a warning to him to change his habits.











Cannabis seized after fire

East Anglian Daily Times (East edition) Tuesday 6, April 2004

A MAN has been arrested and released on police bail following the discovery of more than 200 cannabis plants at an address in Suffolk.

The 46-year-old man from Mickfield, near Stowmarket, was arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis. He has been released on police bail until Wednesday, May 5.

Police were called to a

garage blaze at White House Farm, Debenham Road, Mickfield, at 1.50am on Sunday by Suffolk Fire Service. While fighting the blaze, officers stumbled on the plants. Police are not treating the fire as suspicious.

A spokesman for Suffolk police said: "Police were called by the fire services and seized more than 200

cannabis plants from the address. A 46-year-old man from Mickfield has been arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis and has been released on police bail until May 5."

No figure has yet been placed on the cost of damage to the building, although the roof was destroyed and the structure's walls and doors blackened.

Sunday Mirror Sunday 18, April 2004

Briton held in

A BRITON was last night being questioned by police who seized two tons of <u>cannabis</u> worth £5.4million on the Costa del Sol.

Brit Anthony Ian Melville, 32, and Gary Lyons, 32, from Ireland, were among five men held in Operation Harp raids carried out by the elite Spanish drugs and organised crime unit in Malaga.

unit in Malaga.

Three Lithuanian men were also arrested in the swoop.

Detectives said they found cocaine wrapped into 320 packages, ready to be smuggled into Britain.

Police also confiscated a lorry, two cars and a transit van along with equipment used to package the drug.

Woman sent to iail for breach of work order

East Anglian Daily Times (North Suffolk) Wednesday 7, April 2004

A SUFFOLK woman who produced forged sick notes to probation officers after she missed two community punishment sessions has been sent to prison.

Deborah Oakley, 45, of Normandy Road, Lowestoft, had been made the subject of a 160hour community punishment order for possessing cannabis with intent to supply when she appeared before Ipswich Crown Court last year.

A further 24 hours was added to the order after she missed a session of unpaid work early on in the order.

Oakley had missed two further sessions and in January gave her probation officer two letters purporting to come from a practice nurse at her doctor's surgery.

A check with the surgery by the officer revealed that Oakley hadn't had appointments at the surgery on the days in question and the nurse who appeared to have signed the letters was not known at the surgery.

Christine Hayes, prosecuting, said that 149 hours of the community punishment order were outstanding.

Nick Jack, for Oakley, said his client had pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply on the basis that it was supplied only to four friends and the money she had made had been used to get drugs for herself.

He said she had been a cannabis user for 15 years but had been introduced to harder drugs by a boyfriend and had become addicted to crack cocaine.

Last December, she had been at the peak of her addiction and was spending most of her time in bed.

He said the letters to the probation officer had been written by her partner although she had known about them.

Mr Jack said that Oakley had been drug-free for five to six weeks now

Judge John Devaux revoked community punishment order and jailed Oakley for three months.

South Wales Argus (Newport) Wednesday 7, April 2004

Mum jailed for taking cannabis into prison

A MOTHER of two has been jailed for three months at Cardiff crown court for attempting to smuggle drugs into Cardiff prison.
Samantha Price, 27, was

spotted acting suspicious-ly on closed-circuit televi-sion, and when staff opened her left hand they

found 6.89 grams of cannabis resin.

Mathew Cobb, prosecut-ing, said Price, of Penkin Hill, Newport, admitted

possessing the drug with intent to supply.

Judge John Griffith Williams told her: "It gives the court no all the court no pleasure to separate a mother from her children.

"But taking drugs into prison must be punished with custody."

Andrew Jones, defending, said she was a responsible, caring parent and family woman and was herself free of drugs.

Small <u>cannabis</u> lump hidden in man's sock

Guernsey Press & Star Friday 16, April 2004

A TEENAGER arrested in connection with an unrelated matter was found in possession of 3g of cannabis resin.

Calvin Goddard, 17, of Calais Farm Cottage, Rue de Calais, St Martin's, admitted the offence in the Magistrate's Court.

The court heard that the small lump of the class B drug was found in Goddard's left sock when

he was being searched at the police station on 3 April.

Advocate Martyn Baudains told

the court that it was a simple case

of possession.

He added that no charges had been brought on the matter for which he was arrested.

Goddard was fined £300 and a destruction order was made for the drug.

News roundup

The Guardian Friday 16, April 2004

Seven held over £35m drugs haul

Seven people were being held in custody in connection with the seizure of £35m of cannabis, one of the largest dockside hauls in Customs and Excise history.

The 7.2 tonnes of cannabis resin was discovered packed like bricks into two freight containers at Seaforth Dock, Liverpool, on Wednesday afternoon, as part of routine operations.

A 22-year-old from Liverpool, a 25-year-old from Walsall and three other men from Staffordshire, were arrested. A man and a women in their 20s, also from Staffordshire, were also detained by Merseyside police early yesterday morning.

Police say the shipment of resin was bound for a venue in Merseyside where it would have been broken up and distributed throughout the rest of the country.

A spokesman for Customs and Excise said that the haul was "up there with the largest found in dockside containers in Britain". Shiv Malik

Daily Telegraph Saturday 10, April 2004

Pensioners ran <u>cannabis</u> farm

French police have discovered an underground cannabis farm in the Loire valley run by pensioners who produced a ton of the illegal drug annually.

The plantation, hidden in the Indre area and equipped with a complex irrigation system and solar projectors, was tended by a man of 74 and his 67-year-old partner. They said they were led to believe the plants, which they had cultivated for the past three years, were used to make essential oils for which they received more than £60,000 a year. Nine people have been arrested.

Henry Samuel, Paris

Three charged as swoop nets £35m of drugs

by Matt Laddin

THREE men were last night charged after cannabis worth an estimated £35million was seized during dock raids on two freight containers.

The men will appear before St Helens magistrates today charged with drugs offences following the discourse following the discovery at Seaforth Docks in Liverpool Wednesday.
Michael Minshall, 45, Scott

Michael Minshall, 45, Scott Minshall, 23 and Gary Scarlett, 26, all from Stoke, were arrested following the joint operation by Customs and Excise and Merseyside Police.

A spokeswoman for Merseyside Police confirmed that a 22-year-old man from Merseyside, a 25-year-old man from Walsall and a man and woman, both 25 and from Staffordshire, who were also arrested, had all since been released had all since been released without charge.

Michael Minshall, of Rock-

Michael Minshall, of Rock-side Mowcop, Scott Minshall, of Blanford Close, and Gary Scarlett, of Burlidge Road, have all been charged with importing cannabis and being concerned with the supply of

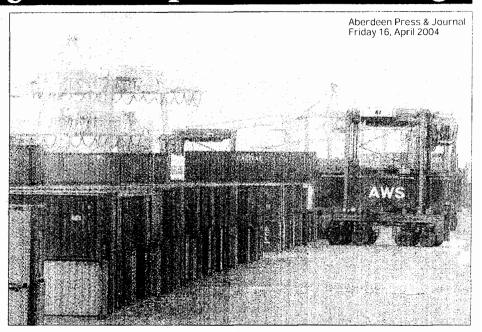
cannabis.

A spokeswoman for Mersey-side Police described the haul as "absolutely massive", saying the two containers were full of

brick-sized slabs of the drug. Altogether, 7.2tonnes of cannabis were discovered in the two containers.

A spokesman for Customs and Excise said the haul was "up there with the largest found in dockside containers in Britain".

He added: "This is going to hit a lot of people in the criminal world hard – from the people selling the cannabis on the streets to the people who



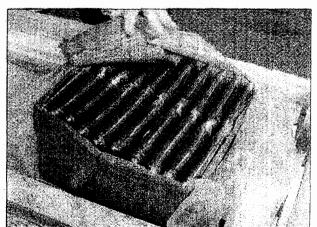
Freight containers at Seaforth Docks, Liverpool, where cannable worth £35million was seized

shipped it over. This outcome is the result of good intelligence – not just knowing what is coming in, but also knowing how to identify and target the right contain-

Customs head of detection in the north-west of England, Jeremy Lee, said: "In accor-dance with the Government's drug strategy, Customs focuses its efforts on the drugs that cause the most harm, paticularly heroin and cocaine.

"That said, it is important that we seize whatever drugs come into the country."

Customs and Excise carried out the joint operation with Merseyside Police's middle market drugs unit.



A few of the blocks of cannabis that were seized vesterday

Evening Courier (Halifax) Saturday 17, April 2004

Six held in £1,200 cannabis stash

SIX men were arrested in connection with a £1,200 stash of cannabis.

The men, who are all in their early 20s, were arrested by officers from the Target Team, which tackles priority crime in Calderdale.

Inspector David Sheard said officers found the drugs in a car in Gibbet Street, Highroad Well, Halifax.

He said the team hoped to reduce other crime by cracking down on

drugs.
"If there are no drugs people won't steal to fund their drug habit.

"These arrests were the result of information from the community and we would encourage anyone who can help us to come forward.

The men have been released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Ânyone with information should phone Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or West Yorkshire Police on 0845 6060606.

Lincolnshire Echo Thursday 15, April 2004

Man took cannabis 'for medicinal reasons'

AN occasional drug user told a court he took cannabis for medicinal reasons.

Lincoln magistrates heard that Christopher Marshall was in a nightclub when he was recognised by a door supervisor who remembered taking an Ecstasy tablet from

him previously.

Jim Clare, prosecuting, said Marshall produced a quantity of white powder which the defendant said was part of an Ecstasy tablet.

"A partially smoked rolled up cigarette containing cannabis resin was also found,"

Marshall (21), of no fixed address, admitted possession of a class A and a class C drug on February 22.

Simon Rowe, in mitigation, said Marshall had a skin complaint brought on by stress and found cannabis calmed him down.

Mr Rowe said the Ecstasy was for recreational use but Marshall had no intention of ever using it again.

The magistrates conditionally discharged Marshall for 12 months and ordered him to pay £118 costs.

Inmate found dead at Scotland's female prison

The Scotsman Monday 19, April 2004

JOHN INNES

A FATAL accident inquiry is to be held after the death of a prisoner at Scotland's only women's

prison.

Penelope Gore, 42, was found dead at Cornton Vale Prison, near Stirling. She was almost half way through a 30-month drugs sentence.

She was caught with £55,000 worth of Kashmir Brown cannabis imported from India hidden in two wooden cabinets. It was her first offence.

Gore, of Dell Road, Inverness, had been working as a courier to

had been working as a courier to deliver 111 bars of cannabis, weighing 11kg, to a dealer she knew in the Highlands. She

picked up the boxes in Inverness in April 2002, but police were on her trail after the boxes were intercepted at Heathrow. She was arrested after officers followed her round the Highlands. When she was sentenced in June last year, her defence counsel stressed that she was only a "bit-part" player in the deal.

The Scottish Prison Service confirmed yesterday that a fatal

confirmed yesterday that a fatal accident inquiry would be held "in due course", but would release no further details of the circumstances that led to Gore's

death.

Gore, who lived alone before she was sent to prison, had one son. He was not available for comment last night.



Dropped photos expose posh schoolkids' pot party

Thursday 22, April 2004

Exclusive By Maureen Culley

reporters@dailyrecord.co.uk

PUPILS at one of the poshest schools in Scotland have been caught on camera smoking cannabis.

The photos of a group of boys from George Watson's College in Edinburgh were found blowing around in the wind at a popular teenagers' hangout.

Some of the pupils were under 16 and snapped in their school uniforms.

Copies of the pictures were sent to school bosses, who have begun an investigation. Kids caught with drugs in the past have been forced to leave the £7000-a-year private school.

A George Watson's spokes-woman confirmed: "We have identified the boys as pupils. Those photographed in uniform are under 16, which is our main concern.

"Now that this information has

Evening Leader (Chester) Friday 16, April 2004

Sentence adjourned

SENTENCING of a man who admitted possession of cannabis and handling stolen goods in Chester, on January 10, has been

January 10, has been adjourned.
James Jago was unable to attend court because he was in custody relating to another matter.
Jago, of Wellington
Avenue, Liverpool, will learn his fate before Chester and Ellesmere Port magistrates on May 6 on May 6.

been brought to our attention, our first responsibility is to investigate thoroughly.

"The principal is dealing with the matter. It would be inappropriate to comment further until we have completed our inquiries."

As well as apparently smoking cannabis, the boys are shown grinning and proudly displaying a large stash of beer.

Another snap shows a youngster lying on the ground, apparently drunk. And one boy looks physically sick

atter drawing on a joint.

The photos were discovered by a woman out walking at an old quarry in Blackford, Edinburgh.

The area is a popular meeting place for teenagers.

George Watson's was founded in the 18th century by the Bank of Scotland's first-ever accountant.

Famous old boys include coliticians David Steel and Malcolm Rifkind and rugby stars Gavin and Scott Hastings.

It is Scotland's biggest private

SCHOOL WITH ALVUING 4400 DUDIES. Parents pay up to £7104 a year to send their kids there.

In September 1998, three sixthyear pupils caught handling cannabis were forced to leave George Watson's. Their parents removed them to avoid them being expelled.

And in 2000, two youngsters in third year at the school were disciplined after being found with the drug.

Police said they had not received a complaint from the school over the photos.





PARTY: The youngsters with their beer. Right, one lies on the ground apparently drunk

Evening Echo (Basildon) Monday 19, April 2004

lesson on growing drugs

COMPUTER Nicholas Scott used the internet to take instructions on how to grow cannabis.

And when police raided Scott's home in Hart Road, Thundersley, they discovered a small cannabisgrowing operation in his garage and greenhouse.

He pleaded guilty at

Basildon Crown Court to producing 127 cannabis plants in December last

Scott, 32, told police the drug was for personal use. He smoked about five or six joints a day.

He said the habit started about two years ago after learning how to do it from the internet.

His barrister, Hasscacher, said Scott was professional nursery gardener.

He has no previous convictions.

He went on: "The defendant has a dark secret of smoking cannabis in the evening.

"And that's what brought him before the court today. He knows it was a bad habit and this has been a salutary lesson to him.

"He does not smoke cannabis any more."

Scott was ordered to work 200 hours' community service and must pay £200 court costs.

THE GREASY GREEN BARON GETS HIGH IN THE SKY!





















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WATCH OUT LADS! - IT'S A BEASTLY HUN TRICK!

















TRIMMED FOR YOU

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle/City) Friday 16, April 2004

Trucker duped on drug load - lawyer

JAILED lorry driver John Vasey is an innocent fall guy for ruthless drug barons, a Newcastle lawyer claimed today. Clive McKeag has been recruited to tight for the freedom of Vasey, who is beside held in France being held in France. But he said he feared his client will still be found guilty of drug smuggling because of European

Mr McKeag spoke exclusively to the Chronicle after Vasey's family was told he would tamily was told he would stand trial in May, 14 months after his arrest. Vasey, 43, of Lambton Village, Washington, has protested his innocence ever since his arrest on March 1 last year after cannabis worth £2.5m was found in sealed containers of cargo he had collected in Barcelona. As well as his family and friends, he has been



lawyer Clive McKeag

backed by fellow lorry drivers who say he had no idea what was hidden Mr McKeag, who was taken on by the family to help a French advocate

representing Vasey, said: "I've read all the documents and statements relating to the case and firmly believe he was duped and was the fall-guy in the operation. It was by

driving the lorry because the original driver called in to say his mother was ill and Mr Vasey had to take his place. 'He was told he was consignment of ceramics. The consignment was on shrink-wrapped pallets tied with special tape put on by machine. He wouldn't have been able to check to see what was in it because if he tampered with it by opening it, the consignment would not have been accepted at its destination. "Because of a recent European law, the driver has sole responsibility for the contents of the consignment. Even if the judges accept Mr Vasey's version their hands will be tied by the DEFENDING -

Daily Post (Liverpool) Saturday 17, April 2004

<u>Cannabis</u> accused remanded

THREE men were remanded in custody yesterday after cannabis allegedly worth an estimated £35m was seized during dock raids on two freight containers.

The men appeared at South Sefton **Magistrates Court** charged with drug offences following the find at Liverpool's Seaforth Docks.

Michael Minshall, 45, of Rockside Mowcop; Scott Minshall, 23, of Blanford Close; and Gary Scarlett, 26, of Burlidge Road, all Stoke, were arrested following the raid by **Customs and Excise** and Merseyside Police.

All were charged with importing cannabis and being concerned with the supply of cannabis and were remanded until April 22.

The Guardian Tuesday 20, April 2004

News roundup

Drugs

Postmortem on cell death man

A postmortem has been conducted on a prisoner found hanged in his cell only hours after he appeared in court in connection with one of Britain's biggest drug hauls.

Michael Minshall, 45, who was on remand in Liverpool jail, was arrested in a joint operation by Merseyside police and Customs and Excise along with others last Wednesday, after 7.2 tonnes of cannabis resin was discovered at Seaforth dock in Liverpool.

Two other men, Scott Minshall, 23, and Gary Scarlett, 26, were subsequently charged along with Michael Minshall with the import and supply of cannabis. The three appeared before magistrates last Friday and were remanded in custody.

Police said the cannabis, with a street value of £35m, was destined for a venue in Merseyside. Shiv Malik

Guernsey Press & Star Saturday 17, April 2004

Did not realise island's stance on <u>cannabis</u>

HERBAL cannabis caused Richard Walker to

miss his boat and cost him £300.
Walker, 36, of 7, Charlestown Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, had come to the island by ferry to deliver some materials to a site. He was stopped in his Ford Transit van by Customs officers at the White Rock on 5 April and said he had nothing to declare

But the officers found a small tin in his glove box which contained 0.4g of herbal cannabis. Walker said he bought it for personal use for a couple of pounds from a friend in the pub.

In the Magistrate's Court, Advocate Martyn Baudains said that Walker had not realised that the Guernsey authorities took the mat-ter so seriously. He had spend a night in custody and missed his boat home. He had co-operated and made a full confession.

Walker, who admitted possessing the Class B drug and had no relevant previous convictions, was fined £300. Destruction of the cannabis was ordered.

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 coffeeshop 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 coffeeshops 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 marihuana. 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-The UK government has embarked on a normalisation of cannabis use, and is anxious to offer a forum to both pro- and antilegalisation 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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