



Schizophrenia

It is a rare but nonetheless painful duty to have to admit that anti-cannabis campaigners might occasionally be right, but on one issue it seems they are bang on the money. Namely, that cannabis causes schizophrenia. I'm not referring to much-reported allegations of mental problems among long-term users, but to cannabis legislators. The wild personality swings of the last 18 months as Labour fudges its drugs laws, then re-fudges them, can only be described as schizophrenic.

The government, which downgraded the drug in its 2005 drugs act, still seems to prefer tough rhetoric. As a Guardian leader pointed out: "It still has not learned that a war on drugs is a war on the nation's children." And you'd have to be mentally disturbed to wage a war on children, right?

It emerged in June that tokers caught with as few as 5 grams of cannabis - less than 1/5th of an ounce, or enough for about 10-20 joints - could be prosecuted as dealers under new regulations drawn up by the Home Office to be shoe-horned into parliament under last year's drugs act. The plan to slash the limit for personal use would mean that anyone found with more could face a prison sentence of up to 14 years.

The plan for a 5-gram cannabis threshold marks a sharp reversal from David Blunkett's decision 18 months ago to ensure that cannabis possession was normally to be dealt with by confiscation and an informal warning.

The proposed thresholds are so low that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), which discussed the issue in May, is believed to have warned the Home Office that they would cause policing problems. The committee suggested the cannabis threshold should be set at 28 grams, or 1oz.

This compares with Charles Clarke's first proposals six months ago of 4ozs or 133g of resin, and 500g of grass. These were widely ridiculed, as they would have allowed a dealer to carry 14 oz of weed, worth more than £1,800, and a year's supply for even heavy users - while still claiming the drug was for personal use.

The ACMD includes some of the world's leading drug specialists, and is reputed to have an good record of sane advice. In its 30-year history, no home secretary has ignored an ACMD proposal. Hopefully, then, the latest corrections will be accepted and the new home secretary can concentrate on some other failing area of responsibility in his empire.

The current system is a ridiculous game of chance, under which, although the risks of being caught are marginal, for the few who are the consequences can be ruinous. About 3.6 million people, mostly young, use the drug at some point in a year, but only 45,000 in the last statistics (2004) were caught for possession and 2,200 for dealing.

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Then in July The Observer reported that according to a radical Home Office report proposing a shake-up in how people caught taking them are treated and punished, the whole illegal drug classification should be scrapped. A review ordered by Charles Clarke before he quit as Home Secretary, proposes dropping the 35-year-old Class A, B or C system.

Instead it proposes ranking drugs along a 'spectrum of harm' ranging from those which almost never kill their users and cause minimal social impact, to substances that cause fatal overdoses and fuel crime by addicts. This would open the door to lighter penalties for drugs which experts argue do not justify the most serious Class A status, such as magic mushrooms and ecstasy.

The findings have now been passed to Clarke's successor, John Reid, who will feel he's been placed in an awkward position. He is expected to try to quietly drop if not kill the issue rather than face accusations of being "soft on drugs". However, the issue is unlikely to go away. The government's own advisory body on drugs is backing an overhaul, and even some senior Tories are privately supporting a rethink of drug classification. A report due later this year from the Commons science and technology select committee is also expected to attack a system many scientists regard as illogical and dictated by historical quirks rather than clinical evidence.

Meanwhile, those teenagers being waged war on - and even their parents, it seems - are just getting on with taking what they perceive as the safest route to intoxication, irrespective of the government's flip-flopping pronouncements. An Edinburgh study reveals that by the age of 16 one-third of teenagers had taken some form of drug and for 79% of these it was cannabis alone. "Anecdotally, among middle-class people parents may be more tolerant of cannabis than alcohol for children because there seems to be greater risks involved in alcohol both short- and long-term."

Page 3 Girl

Bubble Gum

Bubble Gum is a medium tall, usually not too branchy (sometimes stretchy) plant, producing compact, crystal covered buds. Originally the Bubble Gum was developed by growers in Indiana, USA. From there the genetics moved to New England and eventually to Holland. It took many generations to finally produce this stable Bubble Gum, with the characteristic, sweet smell (truly resembling a typical bubble gum taste) and euphoric high; the original trademarks of this famous strain. It's the only inbred strain (no F1 hybrid) in the Serious Seeds menu.

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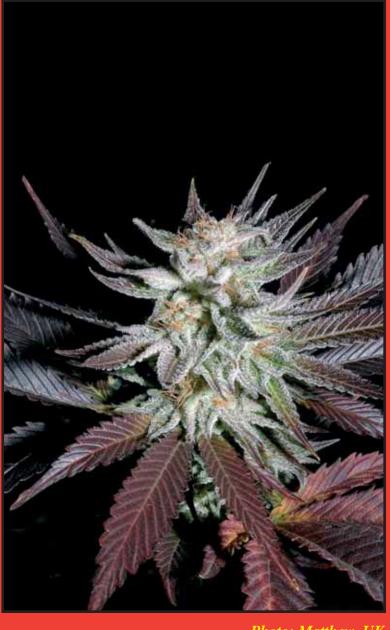


Photo: Matthew, UK Original breeder: Serious Seeds





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Dear Soft Secrets



My first grow of Sweet Tooth on coco, 8 weeks in veg and 6 in flower, hand fed on Canna nutes, now ready for the chop. Miss B., Preston

Excellent job, Miss B.!



This is my Black Label White Widow grown in a water farm under a 250w HPS. I used 1 part nutrients from General Hydroponics Europe. I also used shooting powder that made a big difference. **P, Navan, Ireland**

Healthy looking gal, mate, but if you'd have used a 600w lamp, your harvest could have been doubled!





Nick

Nice looking white variety mate, but she could have bloomed a little bit longer.

Dawn

These buds look kind of meagre... It seems like your grow room was too hot. When this happens, buds often look airy at the end of the bloom period.



Here are a few of my ladies after 8 weeks of flowering. Have went for some Snow White this time... Giving off a really nice aroma, looking forward to the harvest. Loving your work Soft Secrets, keep up the good work. The Cowboy, Scotland

You keep it up too, cowboy!



Here's a little Northern Thai lady I'm growing on soil/perlite, feeding Canna Veg/Bloom, she's at 40 days 12/12 (if you let her she'll flower for ever it seems) I normally like to have my wicked way with her at around 60 days. She sits right on the edge of the room as my AK48's have prime position. I bought the seeds home after several months in Thailand searching for my dream sativa. I always have 1 or 2 going (seed or clone) in the background and every while a batch gets prime position. Its a super smooth smoke with no limits to how high you can go. Its not an ideal indoor plant, (no matter how much light you give her she wants to stretch up big time) and the yield is only ever average but the smoke is always class! When you put her in a green house as I did 2 summers ago she grows like any Thai would until she starts flowering, this lady started flowering Sept. 16th and with a lot of effort and care I didn't crop her until Dec 14th, and she gave me 11oz dry for my troubles and she showed no signs of finishing. Great paper guys, Be Cool!

Mr Pink, South coast

Well your wife gives this Thai lady a Russian treatment. We could have a bit of that too, to be fair.

Attention Guerilla Growers!

Fancy a FREE packet of High Quality Seeds? Then send us a picture of your garden, including a visible copy of SSUK, and we'll send you the seeds. BUT: should your garden happen to feature your topless girlfriend or wife, you even get a pack of Black Label stock, the label of the champions!

NEW! Ganjaman's pick of the month will receive 3 packs of choice of prime Black Label stock!

Send all entries to our PoBox or e-mail them to SSUK@softsecrets.nl

NOTE: All entries are handled with the utmost discretion. We don't publish out of focus pics, and we don't like photos of plants in veg stage. It's fat buds & hot tits (or ass!) we want to see!



Here is a Dutch Passion feminised White Widow after 6 weeks of flowering, using DWC bubbler with Advanced Hydroponics 123 nutes and 400W sodium. Don't know how long the other Widow has been flowering for but will sample both soon! Archie

This lady still has a long way to go, and already she's in such an excellent shape! Well done, mate!

H, Manchester Tidy looking grow room! And a very inviting environment as well..

Chris

Your lamp hangs way too high for these poor ladies... And couldn't the missus at least unzip her pants an iennie wiennie little bit..? You're dealing with some real aesthetes here!





Come on, you little girl... Don't be shy! It's only the hard core of British, Irish and Dutch growers who will see your perky litlle tits.. Nothing to be ashamed of, luv!



Looks like a Santa Maria to us this... In Holland this strain is becoming more popular by the day, good to see our SSUK readers take heed and follow



Chris of Newcastle

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Afghan #1 Dutch



John & Tree, Leeds

At first sight this is a tremendous plant with heavy buds. At second sight it still is, only we don't like the way these buds are hanging down. Come on, get of your chair and support these buds with bamboo poles. Let them stick upwards again so they can still get more light and produce even more THC. And what is it excactly the missus is doing behind that bush?

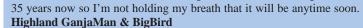




Hello Soft Secrets from 59° North

My lady and I would like to show you what we managed to grow over the winter. The seeds were HQS Original Haze x Skunk that we were given by SSUK last year, and as promised my lady has got them out for the boys. She thinks that this must be worth getting her

hands on some Blueberries or Sensi Star for her efforts (believe me it took a great deal of effort). The plant was allowed to flower over the winter after keeping us going most of last year with clones. She was grown in BioBizz All-Mix under a 400HPS and fed BioBizz Bloom and Top Max. When dried and cured she was a top smoke. Keep up the good work because your informative paper helps us all and maybe some day we will be free to grow and smoke although I've been waiting



Naw, definitely do NOT hold your breath mate.



Anthony

Why the fuck some guys have ALL the luck?! Beautiful blonde babes holding excellent buds... Surely you're indulging in nasty trio-sex all day.

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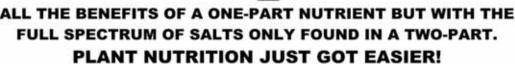
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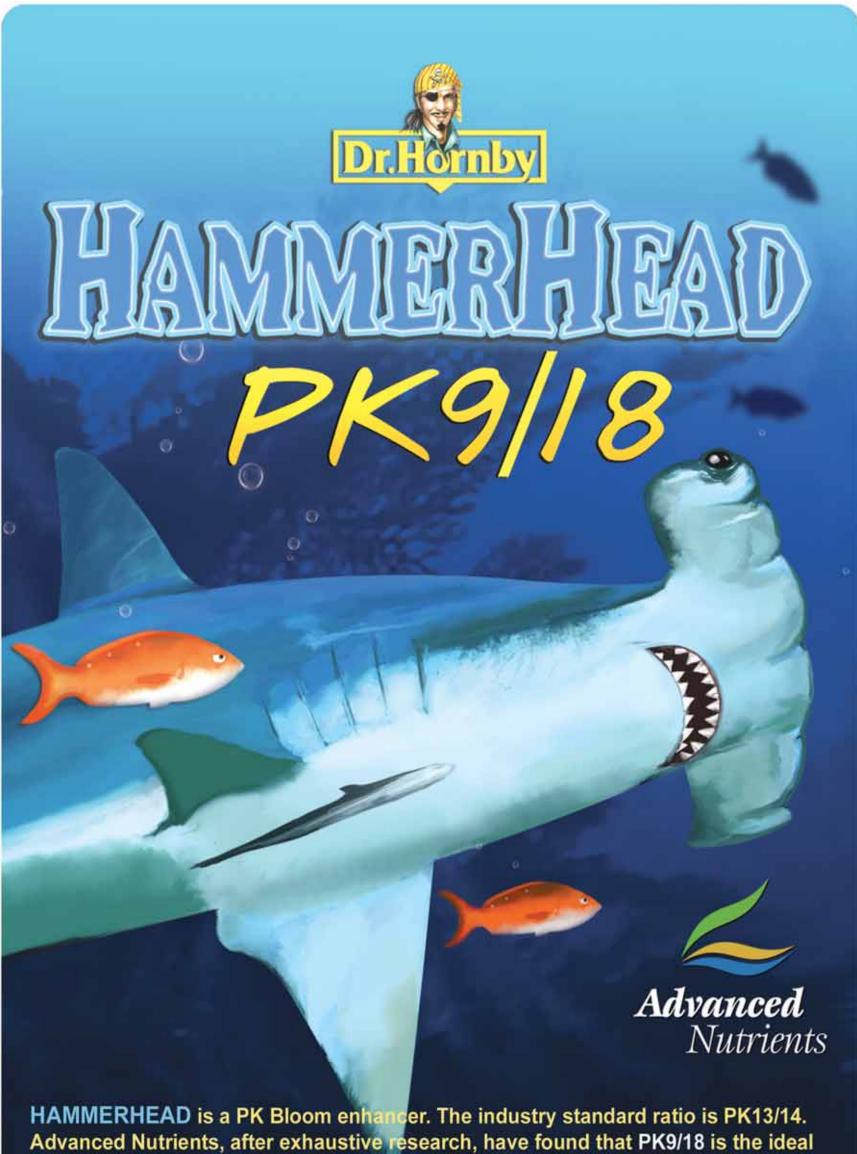


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Lawless, Midlands

This plant has some nice flowerheads. Next time you better remove the small foliage at the bottom of the stem. This will never develop big buds anyway so your plant is better off putting all her energy in the main buds.



Dave

Looks like a possible Blueberry. Blueberry is not a plant for beginners (she's very sensitive to what's fed to her), but she does produce lovely purplish buds. She tatstes nice as well of course...



Here's a picture of OLE 47 week to go, thank you kindly for seed you sent to me very nice, plus me wife hope she makes centre page and look forward to seeds if pick photo. Thanks for such a fantastic paper. Yours truly lean and happy **Graham, Kent**

Centre page..? We've not yet introduced that one mate....



Heres a pic of two White Widow grown under a 400w HPS in soil, in a wardrobe. Lovely smell but fuck it's hard to sleep at night with the heat. **John, Dublin**

Well judging from your gung-ho pose you're not sleeping that much at all: you're pulling guard duty in your grow room every day and night, isn't it?



Hi all

Here are some pictures of my first grow. It's Isis by Duch Passion, done organic with Biobizz and flowered under 2 x 200w envirolights. This baby produced just short of 4 oz nice.

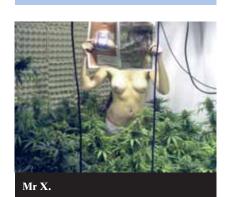
Mia, Ireland

For a first grow that's an amzing result, mate.



Hi to all at Soft Secrets (my bible).

Thanks for helping all us pot heads, I mean medicinal users. Here is a couple of pics from my second grow (unknown variety), potted in Levington compost, vermiculite and a little Hydrotops Biologic under a 600w lamp. Turned out ok but still room for improvement. Currently growing two WW which look great, will send pics of them soon. Thanks again guys, please keep up your excellent work. **K.M.**



Matt



Dear SSUK

Hope you like this picture of my very tasty AK47 and me new girl who can't keep her top on. Next crop I'll get her naked for the picture I swear, untill then I'm on Amsterdam Bubblegum next. Wish me luck, love Soft Secrets

Chris, London

Well Chris, good luck

From our international readers

















































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BIOCANNA is the only organic brand that has certified products for both the growth and bloom phases. On its introduction in 2003 BIOCANNA was the first certified growing line for the organic cultivation of cannabis. To date, BIOCANNA is still the only product that makes it possible during the growth phase as well as the bloom phase to raise fully organic cannabis. Organically produced cannabis better suits the lifestyle beliefs of a large number of users. For instance, for growing medicinal cannabis BIOCANNA is a real result, because its use is a guarantee that the end product is sure to be healthy. Canna has recently released a new formula BioBOOST as well as Bio RHIZOTONIC.



BioBOOST is a yield-raising input for organic production. It creates the right conditions for strong and healthy fruition for the plant. BioBOOST is not a nutrient, but a naturally fermented plant extract with bloom-stimulating and taste-improving qualities. Until quite recently this product was only available in a very concentrated form. At the request of many enthusiastic users and after comprehensive research the formula has been tweaked. BioBOOST possesses the same active properties, but now in a formula that more closely matches the wishes of many growers. BioBOOST raises the metabolism in the blossoming plant and contains a very effective combination of amino acids, vitamins and enzymes. The bio-active ingredients give a boost to the plant metabolism just at the time when they need it – when

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Bio RHIZOTONIC is a 100% natural and organically certified root stimulator (OMRI). Bio RHIZOTONIC contains several vitamins, including vitamin B1 and B2. These promote the development of (hair) roots, root tips and boost the resistance of the plant. A powerful root system ensures that the plant can take up more nutrients and grow faster. Bio RHIZOTONIC has a visibly vitalising effect on plants. Applying Bio RHIZOTONIC enables the plants to more quickly take root in the subsoil. That's why this product is among other things an ideal substance for stressed plants, such as cannabis clones during their replanting. At the same time Bio RHIZOTONIC reinvigorates and strengthens plants that are unhealthy or of poor appearance.

Info: www.biocanna.com



Q Big: mutli-layer growing without worries

Spectrum Reflex has been blazing a trail for some time now with its promising lighting system based on a Philips fluorescent tube, which has been regularly used in the horticulture industry. More

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Info: Spectrum Reflex
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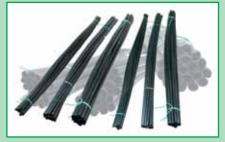
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easier to take away in the bus or by tram. All-Mix is at once also a bit easier and cheaper to send to customers of online shops, as part of a starters kit or as an individual product. And why make things difficult when they can be easy; use the 20 litre bag straight away as a 20 litre pot, or use it as a grow tub for four small plants by laying it flat. Besides the new format, All-Mix is just like the other soil mixes from BioBizz, the first and only organically certified mix in the industry. All in all, more than enough arguments therefore to get straight to work with the handy BioBizz All-Mix bags, a well established product in a smart new suit.

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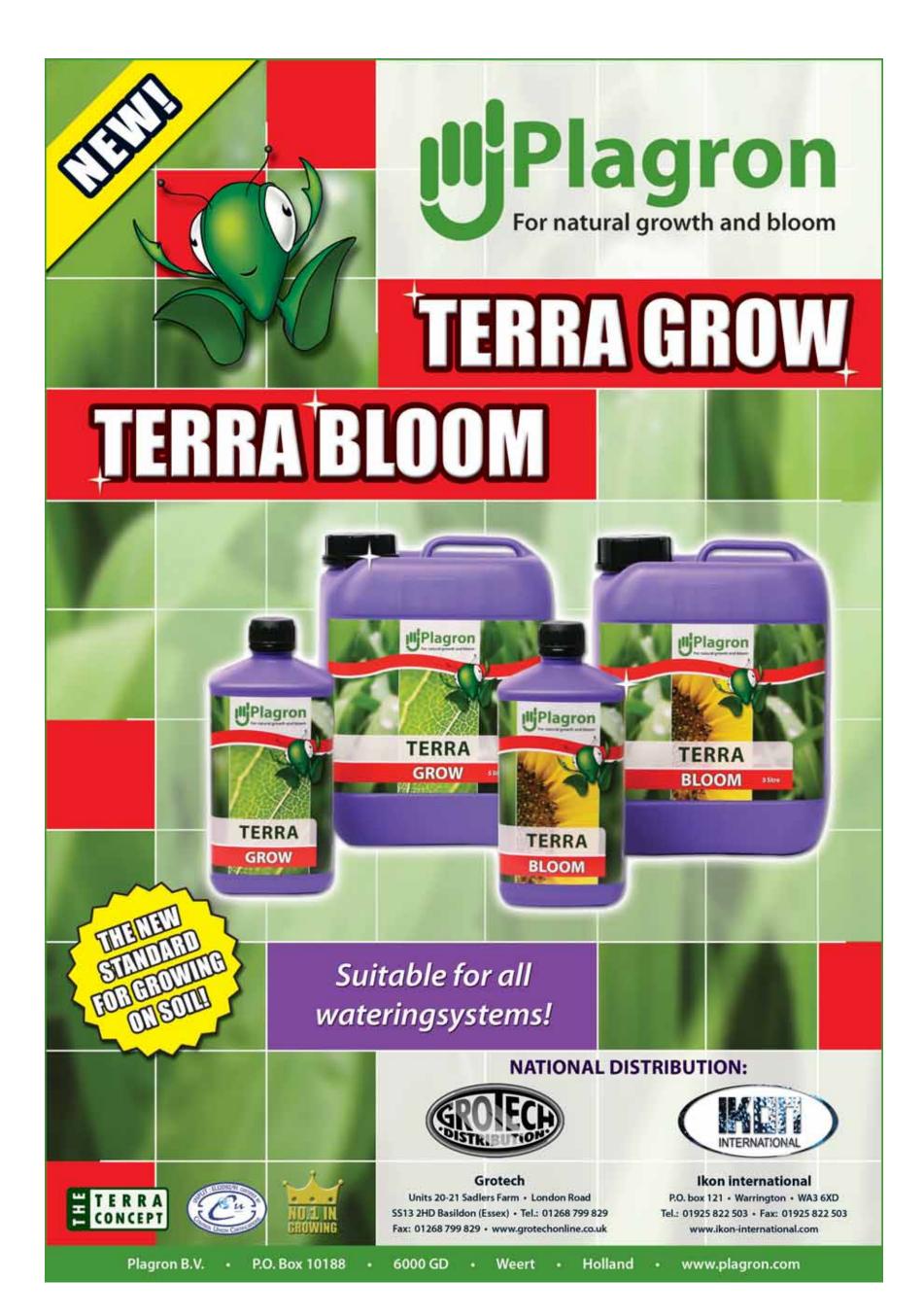
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The SMS Alarm offers you the possibility to quickly and simply secure your object. The apparatus has a Plug & Play system, and is real easy to program. You can operate it remotely, but of course the alarm can also be switched on and off manually. What is important with this alarm is that there are no extra costs, for example for an emergency room. The alarm report is sent directly to the programmable

phone number. Up to four phone numbers can be programmed to be contacted in the event of an alarm being triggered. The SMS Alarm comes delivered with a motion detector, a magnetic contact a power adaptor. Further more, it comes with a mounting bracket. There is also 9 Volt block battery connected as well, that keeps the system operational should the power be cut for any reason, in the event of which it will also send an alarm to your mobile phone. There are two sockets for attaching sensors to, and these sockets can also be shared by using a splitter. In third socket a **sleutelschakelaar** can be attached. The SMS Alarm is equipped with a single emitter, via which an alarm siren/flashing light can be sent. The connection current is 9 - 32 Volt DC, the energy use (mA) is 60 mA. The apparatus is not hard to conceal: its dimensions (LxBxD in millimetres!) are 130 x 110 x 61. The SMS Alarm can withstand temperatures from -20 to +70 °C.

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the plant closes itself off (via its stomata) above a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius. With cooled CO2 therefore, yields of between 30 and 70 percent higher can be expected. The CO2 generator is delivered complete with CO2 sensor, gas pipe, water pipe and is fitted with the following safety features: water flow security, sensors to prevent over heating of air and water, and a ventilator safety device.

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with 1, 3 or 6 membranes, with or without halogen lighting, and with or without remote control. This remote control is equipped with an in-built light sensor and a timer with various programmed settings. If you wish, of course, they can be attached to a hygrostat for an even more precise control of the humidity. Enough options then to be able to create the humidity you desire in almost any imaginable circumstance.

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Meduse and sniper:



If we are not mistaken (correct us if we are wrong) Medusa was a mythical Greek historical figure who had snakes instead of hair on her head. We think she inspired the makers of the medusa water Pipe.

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Incense Burner Drake

Fantasy Fiction: The dragon incense burner is so UGLY that it is beautiful. When you will burn him, the smoke is coming out of his nose.

Data for Highlife 2007 hemp fairs just released



Next year, as is customary, we will be organizing once again two Highlife hemp fairs. The Spanish Highlife Beurs, also well known as La Feria Highlife, will in 2007 once again take place in Barcelona. As for exactly what will be happening at it, you will be able to read in future issues. But for the time being, we're delighted to be able to give you the hard facts: namely, when it takes place. La Feria Highlife in Barcelona runs over the 19th, 20th and 21st of January, 2007.

A month later it is time for a huge party in Amsterdam's RAI congress centre, because on the 23 rd, 24th and 25th of February, 2007 we're organising the tenth annual Highlife Hemp fair in the weed capital of the world. Naturally we will be aiming to really push the boat out for this jubilee edition; together with you, our loyal readers, we hope to make it an extra special spectacle. Watch this space in future editions for further information. In any case, you can bank on there being live performances from a number of well-known bands. We are already deep in negotiation with various appealing acts, which promise to really be something to behold. We will keep you informed. You can also take a look at www.highlife.nl for the latest devellopments.







La Feria Highlife Barcelona 19th, 20th and 21st of January 2007

Highlife Beurs Amsterdam 23th, 24th and 25th of February 2007





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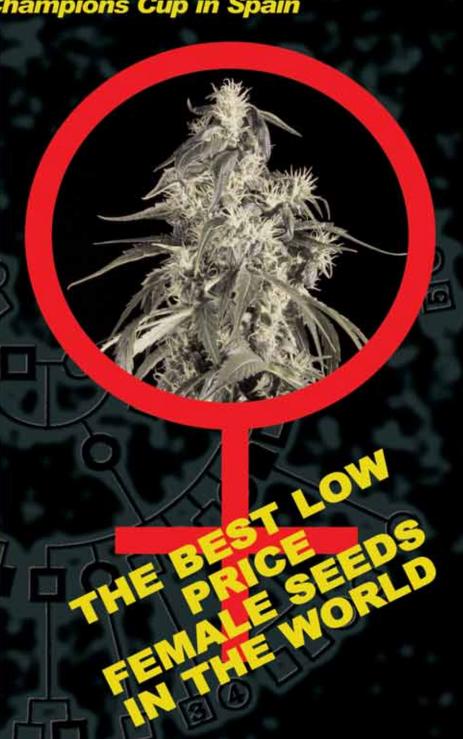




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STRAINS	AWARDS			
The Doctor	N. A.			
Big Bang	3rd HTCC 2000			
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A.M.S.	N. A.			
Himalaya Gold	N. A.			
Great White Shark	1st HTCC 1997 1st HIGHLIFE 2005			
White Widow	1st HTCC 1995			
Arjan's Haze #3	N. A/			
White Rhino	1st HTCC 1996 3rd SPAIN 2005			
El-Niño	1st HTCC 1998			
Arjan's Ultra Haze #1	N. A.			
Arjan's Ultra Haze #2	2nd HTCC 2005 3rd SPAIN 2005 3rd HIGHLIFE 2006			
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Arjan's Haze #2	N. A.			
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By Weckels

Part 1: coco-soil mixes Grow cupboard confidential!

In the next few articles I will be describing a few experiments I will be carrying out in pair of self-built growing cupboards. Among other things we will be looking at which medium gets good results and what environmental circumstances we as growers can best create. We will also be discussing the best varieties of marihuana to use, each with their own characteristics, pros and cons.

In each article we will only be dealing with one of the two cupboard set-ups at a time, so that the big picture remains clear and you can appreciate the overview. Are you curious as to the differences between the grow cupboards? Then save this issue until the next one!



Here we can see the simply-equipped grow cupboard. Two plants are growing on a substrate consisting of soil mixes and added fertilizers, while the other two are growing on a mix of various forms of coco, and added fertilizers.



Here we can see all the small plants standing in a row. There is no irrigation system in this bare bones grow cupboard and so we are just going to water them by hand.

So let's get started immediately and take a look at the first grow cupboard. This grow cupboard is fitted out with a 600 cubic metre air extractor, four 400 watt lamps (so in total 1600 watts) and a couple of further pieces of kit such as an air moisture content meter and a thermometer. But there is a further piece of equipment that this grow cupboard is lacking, namely a professional irrigation system. This is a conscious decision, and so for us there is nothing we can do but to give water to the plants by hand, from a watering can. We never fill this watering can directly with cold water, as this could have disastrous consequences for the plants. We need to ensure that the water that comes out of the tap is allowed to reach a good temperature. Marihuana plants are most happy with a water temperature of 21°C and so this is what we fill the watering can with. We are in fact best off filling the watering can first with lukewarm water, then measuring the temperature and adjusting accordingly by adding more cold or warm water. Only then do we reach the ideal water temperature (21°C).

Root system

But to return for a bit to the different substrates, we are growing the plant in four (flower) pots (each one 11 litres in size) which we will fill with two with a pre-fertilized earth mix (medium mix), the other two pots are filled with a mix of coco, consisting of coco grit, coco fibre and coco chips. In order to make this substrate a bit more attractive to the plants, we further enrich this mixture with worm castings (10% of the total, in this case 1.1 litres) and organic fertilizers (5% of the total, in this case 0.6 litres). Because the coco mixture has variations in its structure, we have created an ideal soil. The rougher pieces of coco make sure that the mixture is and stays sufficiently well aerated (and thus actually takes over the function of the perlite), thanks to which there will be more than sufficient oxygen getting to the roots. The oxygen has a very beneficial effect on the (fast) development of a healthy and strong root system, as well as the

We never fill the watering can directly with cold water, as this could have disastrous consequences for the plants.

We do not add any liquid nutrients and suchlike to the water, because we have already richly provided the soil we are going to grow in with fertilizers and all the necessary minerals. But we will be coming back to this when we take a closer look at the composition of substrates.

Mixes

In contrast to the other grow cupboard (which we will be looking at in the next issue) this one is less professional and not as luxuriously equipped. The advantage is that this grow cupboard is really cheap, because we have scrimped a bit on some equipment. It's a fair bet that it will strike some of you that this rather rudimentary grow cupboard also has a number of disadvantages; who will be giving the plants water if the grower wants to take a weekend break somewhere, for instance? For this problem a solution has been arranged: the plants are to be grown on a soil mix plus coco, into which we have deliberately mixed very little perlite. By doing this we create a number of different mixes that hold their moisture longer, thanks to which the plants will be able to handle a day without being watered (especially if we give them an extra dash of water the day before). Should we at some stage decide we need to take a whole week away, then some other solution will need to be found.

speed with which this root system can develop which is dramatically accelerated by the beneficial (airy) circumstances, thanks to which the plants will also grow faster.

The rougher chunks of coco also promote good water drainage, especially when we make sure that the lowest layer in the (flower) pot is provided with them (the rough remains of coco actually fulfil the function of hydro granules). The finer particles of coco (including the fibres and the grit), by contrast, act as a sort of sponge and therefore keep hold of their water for longer, thanks to which the plants are always supplied with sufficient water (provided that we supply the coco regularly – once every two days – with water).

Snow white buds

As I have previously pointed out, we are growing the plants on two totally different substrates, and this was done on purpose for the experiment, so that we can observe the differences throughout the whole growth and bloom process closely. In order for the experiment to run as fairly as possible, we have of course chosen clones from the same mother. If we didn't do that, then there would always be a number of

COLUMN

Junior League

Joe Kane

I'm back in sunny Spain, and the plan is to recuperate and just mind my own business. I'm here for my health and the "dry air" is good for the lungs or something. Whatever, it's a break away from all the wheeling, dealing, ducking, diving and general fucking about that's occupying everyone back in Bonnie Scotland. This is a break, rest, convalescence and no hassle.

That's the plan at any rate, and it's working pretty fucking well until two mornings into my holiday, I'm sitting sipping a cold one outside a bar when out of the blue: "Joe fucking Kane! No fucking way!"

Now straight off I'm thinking about adopting a pidgin English accent and pretending to be Spanish. Not quite quick enough and next thing is I've got two fucking wide-boys from Glasgow sitting (uninvited) at my table. Fucking great.

I'm smiling while inside my head I'm screaming and saying "Gary boy, how's it going?" Gary I know kind of casually, and as far as I hear he's okay, but the guy he's with, Spider, is a different matter. My good friend Little Jim refers to this Spider guy as "that tattooed cunt" and I bow to Jim's judgment on such matters. Spider is so-called because of the tattoo on the back of his head. He's got a lot of them all over. He's the kinda person who thinks that a lot of tattoos will make him seem an interesting person rather than the deeply unpleasant one he actually is. Space prevents me from elaborating so you'll have to take my word that this Spider is not a good egg. And he's fucking stupid with it.

So they're over "on business" and a few cervezas soon get the tongues loosened and the story flowing. I should tell you readers that I really don't want to be hearing any of this shit, but there's no stopping Gary boy once he's started. Spider's sitting eyeballing the women and getting more pissed.

differences (each mother plant of course brings her own specific descendents forth, as regards size and thickness of the leaf cover, colour, branching, and so on). As our plants I've decided to go for the K2, a lovely growing variety that produces snow white buds, which

The rougher chunks of coco also promote good water drainage

have brought many a grower to the heights of ecstasy! Smokers too have a lot of positive opinions of this tasty weed. The buds positively bulge with crystals and furthermore, the smell and taste are just superb! The high too is really something to write home about!

Leaves

On the downside, this variety does produce an enormous amount of leaf cover, a phenomenon that sometimes prompts us as growers to wonder if that is all they are going to produce; are we going to harvesting nothing but leaves, or will we eventually get to see some flower heads emerging? Because K2 plants sometimes can indeed produce so many leaves that their production of flowers is impeded (the buds can sometimes receive so little light through the 'green forest' of leaves around them), we give them a helping hand to prevent this. We do this by regularly removing leaves that may be destined to obstruct our buds. When doing this I go first for the poorly growing and/or miss-shaped leaves. It is also an idea to remove the leaves that are receiving little or no light, since they're a waste of energy and space. The leaves that we remove must under no account be just left lying around in the grow space,

since they can become a source of pests and can even become infected with mould and other diseases. The bigger leaves are best off being chucked on the compost heap, since the plant does store a lot of important nutrients in its good looking (!) leaves. Once the leaves have been well and truly mixed in with the soil of your compost heap with a shovel, they will very soon start to decompose. Once they have decomposed then we are left with a richly fertile soil that we can use as a base for future successful adventures in our grow cupboard!

K2 yield

Despite the excessive production of leaves, in terms of yield K2 is not a massive producer compared with the real commercial varieties. This is something that growers in this game mainly for the grams should take account of. But those growers out there who are primarily in it for the quality of the smoke, to them I can heartily recommend K2! The advantages I mentioned earlier, such as the superb aroma and taste and the outstanding high that comes with it more than make up for the somewhat reduced yields!

The leaves that we remove must under no account be just left lying around in the grow space

In the next article we will be taking a look in the other grow cupboard. This one will be a bit more professionally equipped and has considerably more space in it.

It turns out that they were on holiday but the plan had changed and now they were taking some LSD back to Blighty as this was something nobody had seen for years so it's deffo a money-making opportunity.

Spider had met a couple of "East Europeans" who were involved in an acid lab somewhere. At this point yours truly says "If I can just stop you there, you mentioned East Europeans so this is going to involve guns and all sorts of unpleasantness and I'll thank you to not tell me another word about it".

Gary boy understands and says no more other than to ask me if I want in on the deal. I thank him for the kind offer but decline on the grounds that my business interests only extend to the weed. Spider looks at me and snorts "Nah, he's strictly fucking small time, Gary boy: junior league". I can't be arsed saying anything so I let it pass.

Some days later I run into Gary boy. The master plan went totally tits up. It seems that Spider got the acid sorted and everything's absolutely fucking cool. Back to Scotland, sell the shit on and Bob's your Uncle. To celebrate, the genius goes out, gets pissed and gets another tattoo. He also gets his first piercing...

Maybe you'll see what's coming, readers. He's at the airport with sheets of acid stuck up his arse and more just rolled up and secreted around his genitals. He walks through the metal detectors and they immediately start wailing cos of the new bit of metal in Spider's dick. He gets stopped, he gets searched, he gets busted. Oh dear.

Gary boy's taking his lot back separately but has to find Spider a lawyer before he goes. "I'll see him later, do you have any message for him?" he says. "Yeah, tell him I may be 'junior league' but at least I'm not in jail".

Har-de-har-har.

joe

horribly_stoned_boy@hotmail.com



Take note of the (clearly visible) differences between the substrates. The plants are being raised in pots with an 11 litre volume.



We have plumped for the K2 variety. This lovely weed will eventually give us snow white buds that have been known to reduce many a hardened grower to tears of joy!

Spice

Mr Nice Seeds

By Mr Haze

Environment: 1,200 watts Method: seed to standard Biobizz all-mix Medium: Biobizz range **Grow time:** 21 days Flower time: 65-77 days Plant structure: varied Indica/Sativa

Bud structure: varied Indica/Sativa

Scent: fruit-spice strong relaxed vibe Yield: 30-50g per plant



Spice is Nice. From a packet x5 seeds developed into x3 females and 2males. Each female looked different but healthy. Each grew with medium vigour in veg mode, much quicker in flower. As a hybrid there is lots of variety in plant and flower structure, exhibiting both ends of the Hawaiian indica and sativa spectrum. One female was put to seed (the largest one), the others were left to flower. One plant was topped to produce an LST type plant with 8 large branches with buds all the way down it. The un-seeded plants developed into nice medium dense indica types ready at 65days, the taller seeded plant took longer, around 77days. The effect is a mix between body and mind. The sativa

type smokes like old-school weed. The indica type is more floral with a fruity taste. The offspring from the seeded plant (crossed with skunk) retained the same old-school quality. The yield was average. The flowers took 7-10 days to dry and improved when cured. Spice has since been grown again.

Yumbolt

Nutrients:

Sagarmatha Seeds

By Mr. Muddle/ Photo by Bertrand & Magali

Environment: 400 watts hps clone in SOG Method: **Rockwool into Atami** Medium:

Kilo-mix soil

Dr Hornby Iguana Juice bloom

Grow time: 7 days (approx.)

Flower time: 70 days Plant structure: short and squat Bud structure: twisted corn/wheat

Scent: dead rotten meat/veg Effect: very pleasant

Yield: 14g

After 1 week in bloom it was fed a little Iguana Juice every other feeding. The Yumbolt stood out over the other two plants (one had been removed) after 2-3 weeks in bloom. The leaves got bigger and wider but all in all the plant stayed short and squat. The flowers looked like compact sativa buds but overhead the plant looked like an indica. A strong 'dead' smell started during the 4th week as the buds swelled with resin. This rotten meat/veg smell took over the whole room about 30mins before the lights came on until 30mins after lights out. (Big joints were the only thing that could disguise this smell!)

At week 4-5 no more Iguana Juice was added, only plain cold water (about _ a day). The clone grew to only about 40-50cm. The main stem was slim but the branch buds were all good. The leaves were very healthy and dark green, pointing upwards, with grey undersides. It was hard to strip the leaf of ferts during the last couple of weeks because it was a small plant. During the last 7-10 days the plant got nothing but light.

The buds twisted into little long buds (like ears of corn/wheat) and were gunmetal grey. The bottom hairs were dead. The top hairs still white and fresh. By 70days the plant was cut, but could have gone longer if left. The smell went the moment the flowers were cut (1 hour after light on). This was strange. The big leaf were cut, the buds placed upside down in an open cupboard for 10days to dry. When dry the buds are full of resin so we weren't heavy-handed! The harvest was small, about 14g. Yumbolt tastes like pinewood. The high is uplifting, not down, but still quite strong. Good for smoking with friends in Summer.

A Yumbolt cutting came from a friend of a friend (thanks). Having already smoked the buds it made sense to grow a clone. The clone already had good roots and some branches. It was rooted into a rockwool cube. The clone/cube

was quickly put into a large square plastic tub of Atami kilo-mix soil (to make it organic) and placed into veg for about a week. After this it was put into bloom with three other plants - Sea Of Green method, all at different stages.

Armageddon 47

Homegrown Fantaseeds

By Mr. Muddle

Environment: 400 watts hos Method: **SOG** clones

Medium: B'cuzz coco fibre and

Atami soil

Nutrients: House & Garden 1part

component Aarde

Grow time: 7 - 21days Flower time: 50-60 days Plant structure: bushy/small Bud structure: spiky flowers mild hash Scent: Effect: swift stone Yield: 14g

The Armageddon47 seed was bought direct from HGF. The packet was soon sown out to find some mothers



Clones were taken and then sexed (this took many weeks). When sexed another plant was rooted from a

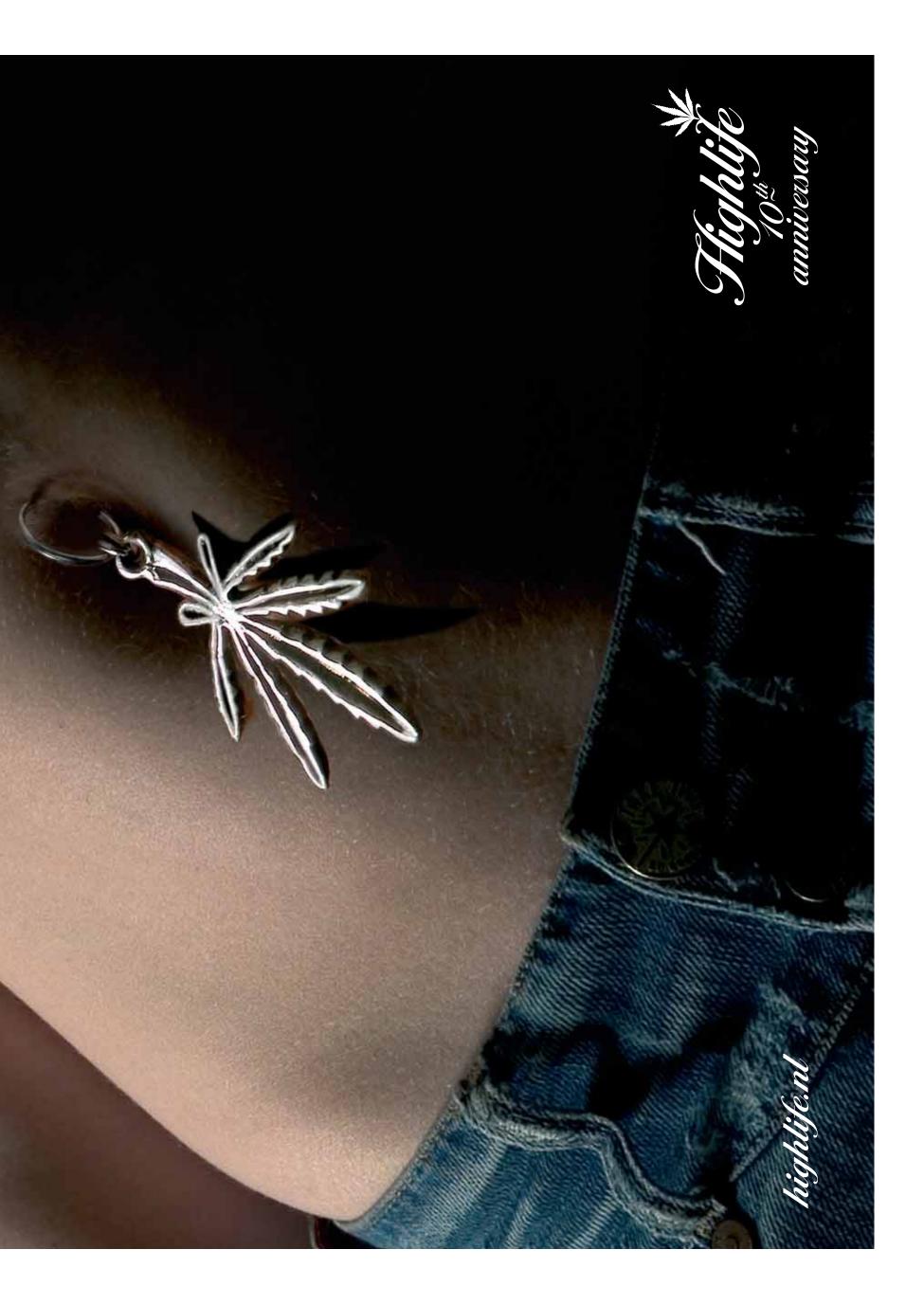
random mother to test. This clone was rooted in rockwool and placed into Atami kilo-mix soil. Then the test clone was again cloned and both plants were placed into veg.

The clone of the clone was rooted and placed into B'cuzz coco fibre and put directly into the bloom room. This clone was fed 1part component (the feed level increasing every couple of days). It grew slowly at first. As the buds started to form at 3-4weeks the older leafs turned yellow, help was soon sort and extra nitrogen was added. By this time the clone in soil was getting bigger and was ready to be placed into the

At 50 days the clone in coco was harvested. It yielded a single bud that was very small. The branches were close together, with not much smell and many white hairs still visible. The clone in soil stretched more in bloom to form x8 branches each with an oblong flower at the top. The plant structure would have been tall and bushy if the first clone hadn't been removed. The buds on the 2nd plant looked like delicate flowers with thick spiky leaf and a nice covering of resin. Overall both plants had a mild fresh skunky smell, not too overpowering at all.

At 60days the clone in soil was harvested. When dry the buds tasted a lot like Indian hashish and were divided with friends. The effect of Armageddon47 is swift and long lasting, sometimes it really is a "one hit wonder". The joints are good to smoke. It turned out certain mothers yielded more than others,,, but the test-clone in soil tasted much more like hashish than those grown later in coco/hydro. Clones put onto SCROG, on average yielded much more per plant.

SLEDUIDATY



BACKGROUND Soft Secrets

Plant Immune Systems

By Steve Davis

The world of plants and humans is a place of attack and defend, especially on the microbial level, where tiny organisms are trying to use larger organisms as hosts and food.

Human bodies defend themselves with two types of response when attacked by pathogens. One response begins as soon as the body perceives a threat, such as a wound that could introduce pathogens into the body. This is called the innate immune system response.

After the innate immune system responds, usually by trying to prevent pathogens from entering the blood stream to spread throughout the body, a more complex "adaptive immune system" takes over. The adaptive immune system does more than just isolate pathogens- it creates a total-body, coordinated response involving antibodies and other tactics.

Plants also have an immune system that responds to harmful pathogens and insect predators. Some of the pathogens that plant immune systems counter are species of fungi. Marijuana plants are susceptible to at least 100 species of fungi, including the dreaded botrytis cinerea, otherwise known as gray mold, which can destroy an entire grow room's ripe buds in 72 hours or less. Marijuana clones and seedlings are especially vulnerable to pythium fungi that attack seeds before they sprout, emergent seedlings, established seedlings, and clones.

Another fungi species that plagues cannabis is powdery mildew, which produces a white dust-like substance that suffocates plant leaves while sucking nutrients out of the leaves. Marijuana plants can be attacked by viruses, the most virulent of which is hemp streak virus, and they are also susceptible to attacks by harmful bacteria.

When a marijuana plant is attacked by fungi, virus or bacteria, its innate immune system engages the attackers. This system's forward guard is a "sentry" that senses invasive organisms inside and outside the plant. A receptor on the cell membrane can detect the "legs" used for movement by pathogenic bacteria. Inside the cell after pathogens are detected, chemical reactions carry signals that alert the cell to danger. The cell then initiates a series of responses, some of which notify other cells that the plant is under attack. Other responses, such as releasing substances that alter pH or producing nitrous oxide and proteins, seek to destroy the pathogen, but may also destroy the cell itself; scientists call this "programmed cell death."

The plant's immune system guards against pathogenic invaders that colonize the surface of stems and leaves, and it also fights parasitic insects. It is a highly-evolved system, but it depends on its evolved ability to recognize threats and the organisms that threaten cannabis are constantly evolving new forms, some of which plant immune sentries are unable to detect.

If a pathogen is able to colonize inside or outside a plant without being detected by the plant's sentry systems, it's likely that the invader will be able to take over the plant, which will eventually destroy it.

The use of chemical poisons, monocropping, sea of green and other industrial agriculture techniques furthers the rapid evolution and spread of pathogens and insects, and presents a major challenge to cannabis growers. This same principal was at work in the case of avian flu. which was created when factory farming put hundreds of thousands of chickens together in Thailand in one small area where viruses could jump from bird to bird, mutating to resist antibiotics as they were transmitted between each chicken. If factory farming of meat and poultry did not exist, problems such as avian flu and mad cow disease could not have developed and spread as they have.

Plant immune systems work with other plant systems to resist external threats, such as pathogens, insects, drought, heat, and environmental toxins. As with humans, a plant that is otherwise extremely healthy and facing no other negative stresses in its environment will often be able to rise to defeat an acute challenge from a solo pathogen. However, if marijuana plants are being grown in less than optimum conditions, their immune systems and overall vigor are already weakened, making it easier for pathogenic attacks to succeed.

Conditions that weaken a plant's ability to defend itself include improper temperature and humidity, inferior nutrition, inadequate lighting, incorrect light cycles, lack of sanitation, biologically-inactive root zone, polluted water or air, plant crowding, and other factors. The more of these factors that exist, the more stress the plant is experiencing, and the less able it is to fight off pathogens and insects.

When a plant is attacked, it channels precious energy and resources to defeat the invader. Programmed cell death and other immune responses can temporarily force the plant to divert energy away from growth, maturation, flowering, and resin production. This diversion can result in slow growth, delayed maturation, smaller harvests, and less potent marijuana.

Slow growth and delayed maturation are often signs that plants are being attacked by pathogens, and can be useful signals for pathogen detection even when more obvious symptoms of pathogenic activity, such as the visual evidence of mold or mildew, are as yet absent.

If you are a conscientious, professional and diligent marijuana grower, you will have designed your garden environment to minimize the risk of pathogenic infection. This includes a thorough cleansing of the grow space prior to installation of sterilized components. It includes use of extreme filtration that will remove pathogens from air and water. It includes use of sterilized equipment, root media, irrigation tubing and other components.

Even with these precautions, and especially in situations such as outdoor growing where total environmental control is impossible, intelligent growers have begun to utilize a formula that acts as a sort of vaccination for plants.

When a vaccine is administered to humans, it contains a tiny dose of pathogen that stimulates the human immune system to prepare a pre-emptive immune response that gives the body an advantage if the pathogen attacks the body en masse.

When a vaccine is administered to plants, it does not contain tiny doses of fungi, but it does contain components that stimulate plant immune systems. When plant immune systems are stimulated in this subtle, pre-emptive manner, they can respond more quickly to create internal or external responses that ward off pathogens and insect pests.

Indeed, some veteran marijuana growers believe that "stressing" a plant creates an immune system response that produces more resin, which is often believed to be produced as a means of repelling or immobilizing insects. In the 1960's and 70's, for example, Latin American growers of classic varieties such as Colombian Gold and Panama Red would pound small nails into the stalks of their plants, hang rocks from their branches, underwater them, or shake them violently, all in hopes of inducing a stress response that would make plants produce more potent resin.

Marijuana horticultural product companies tend to approach pathogens and insects by offering modified and supposedly less-toxic versions of pesticides and fungicides containing natural products instead of chemicals. The safety of some of these products when used in floral phase is uncertain, and the efficacy of such products is doubtful.

Seeking an alternative to the ill-advised use of external chemical sprays or devices such as sulfur burners, scientists at a Canadian company called Advanced Nutrients discovered how to create a vaccination for plants. Their goal was to create "induced systemic resistance" to disease, pests, and other threats. The product they created, called Scorpion Juice, uses several key components to stimulate a pre-emptive immune response in marijuana.

During the design phase of Scorpion Juice, their scientists noted the similarities between plant responses to attacks and human responses. When a human is invaded by viruses, harmful bacteria or other pathogens, the body reacts with fever, swelling, redness, inflammation and other responses. When pathogens or insects attacks plants, plants respond using some of the same methods, such as lesions on leaves, loss of leaves, and the release of cell to cell chemical signalers that place the entire plant on alert against the invaders.

During their research, the scientists found the vital role that a naturally-occurring form of aspirin plays in plant immune system function. Drug store aspirin is actually a chemical analog of this natural form of aspirin. The chemical analog was created by the Bayer Corporation in 1859, based on a natural material found in willow bark and other plants, known as "salicylic acid." Bayer's aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid.

Salicylic acid is found in many plants and trees, and is believed to be a first line of defense against pathogens and other invaders. Plants release a large amount of salicylic acid when they are attacked by pathogens; this corresponds to subsequent releases of other plant proteins that also appear to promote plant survival.

Studies show that plants treated with salicylic acid became extraordinarily resistant to powdery mildew, which is one of the most persistent plant diseases that affect marijuana.

One Cornell University study found a protein and gene pair (salicylic acidbinding protein 2- SABP2- and its gene) that facilitates inner-plant communication that is believed responsible for increased plant immune system response. The Cornell researchers said that using immune system enhancement rather than pesticides, herbicides and other protective measures was a safer way of helping ag crops battle threats.

In studies involving tobacco mosaic virus, which has been known to attack a variety of plant crops including cannabis, scientists found that SABP2 triggered release of salicylic acid, which then created a "hypersensitive resistance response" that included programmed cell death at the site of the attack as plant cells sacrificed themselves for the overall survival of the plant. The cell death isolated the attacking organism so that it could not spread throughout the plant.

Using natural formulas on roots and leaves to create induced systemic resistance is a delicate art. It is the same when using vaccines to inoculate humans against disease. Some humans will develop symptoms of a disease after they have been given a vaccination for the disease. Their bodies were unable to handle the small amounts of pathogenic material that the vaccination infused into them.

Similarly, growers using products such as Scorpion Juice should closely monitor their plants to ensure that the proper amount of immune stimulation is taking place. Too much stimulation can slow growth and divert energy from floral production. The proper amount of immune stimulation, combined with nutritional support such as silica, vitamin, and enzyme augmentation, gives marijuana plants an enhanced immune response that gives them a much better chance of surviving pathogenic attack and also increases metabolism and vigor, which results in higher yield and potency.

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NEWS FROM THE UKCIA

Barbados: Leniency regarding cannabis causing conflict

The fact that cannabis offences are treated with more lenience than those related to other narcotic drugs is leading to the public's confusion with regards to this drug.

According to the 2006 World Drug Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime inconsistent messages about the abuse of cannabis is leading to confusion within the global community.

"On the one hand cannabis is controlled with the same degree of severity as heroin and cocaine under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. Virtually every country in the world is a party to that Convention. On the other hand, however, cannabis offences are treated far more leniently that those related to other narcotic drugs in many countries. A conflicting message is thus sent to the population and it is no wonder that public opinion becomes confused", the report said.

It outlined that cannabis had been allowed to fall into a "grey area", stating that while it was technically illegal but widely de-prioritised, it has grown in popularity outpacing others while at the same time enriching those persons willing to break the law.

"A global blind-spot has developed around cannabis", it tressed, adding that the plant had been transformed to something more potent than it had been in the past. According to the report, the world had to come to terms with cannabis, the world's most popular illicit drug with an estimated four per cent of the global adult population using it every year; more than all other illegal drugs combined.

It further said that with regards to the mechanics of the market, this drug was the least understood as in contrast to drug crops like coca and opium poppy very little was known about the extent of cannabis cultivation around the world.

It noted that only a few governments could give a confident estimate of the scale of cultivation in their own countries pointing to the difficulties in ascertaining the information, including the fact that the drug can grow almost anywhere, both outdoors and indoors.

Political attitudes reflect popular perceptions that cannabis was different from other controlled substances, the report continued while outlining that cannabis production was on the rise.

Date: 20/07/2006 // Source: Barbados Advocate

Britain Goes After Medical Marijuana Suppliers

In two separate trials, one beginning this week and one beginning next week, British authorities are prosecuting medical marijuana providers under the country's drug laws, the Guardian reported. The continued prosecution of medical marijuana providers comes despite the government's downgrading of marijuana from a Class B drug to the less serious Class C in 2004.

Four members of Therapeutic Help from Cannabis for Multiple Sclerosis (THCforMS() faced charges of conspiracy to distribute marijuana this week in crown court in Carlisle. THCforMS supplies free cannabis exclusively to MS sufferers and says on its web site it has handed out 33,000 cannabis chocolate bars to patients.

Next week, Bud Buddies founder Jeffrey Ditchfield goes on trial in Mold crown court on nine counts of cultivation and distribution of cannabis. Bud Buddies offers a number of marijuana preparations for anyone with a proven medical need and requires documentation of that need from a physician.

Under current British marijuana law, all of the defendants mentioned face up to 14 years in prison.

Meanwhile, life has become more difficult for as many as 30% of British MS sufferers who use the herb to alleviate the pain and spasms associated with the disease. One of those patients, who asked not to be identified, said she had applied to use the marijuana tincture Sativex on a trial basis, but was turned down. The preparation is currently undergoing a three-year trial. "I find it inconceivable that the crown sees these prosecutions as in the public interest when there is still no legal way for the people who are helped by cannabis to obtain and use it," she said.

The British Medical Association said in a 1997 report: "While research is under way the police, the courts and prosecuting authorities should be aware of the medicinal reasons for the unlawful use of cannabis by those suffering from certain medical conditions for whom other drugs have proved ineffective."

Even if the crown prosecutors don't get it, some trial courts do -- or at least they did. Up until last year, medical marijuana patients and providers successfully raised the "necessity" defense, which allows illegal acts to prevent a greater harm. But an appeals court ruling last year held that the "necessity" defense did apply to the use of marijuana to relieve chronic pain.

Date: 21/07/2006 // Source: Drug War Chronicles

Moroccan province destroys 1000 hectares of cannabis

Close to 1 000 hectares of cannabis grown land were destroyed in the region of the central-north town of Taounate, Morocco, part of the banned plant eradication campaign conducted by local authorities in June, a press release of the Taounate province said.

The campaign was carried out in non irrigated lands of the Taounate and Rhafsaî districts, located close to the provinces of Al Hoceinma and Chefchaouen, by troops, rural police (Gendarmerie) and other law enforcement agents and relevant departments.

The fight of cannabis growing is made in the prospect of making of the Taounate province a region free of the banned plant. Eight farmers were arrested during the June campaign for growing the plant, the press release adding some 770 others are wanted for the same offence.

Taounate province authorities also made efforts to find alternatives to the plant in raising awareness of the dangers of the banned substance and in incepting socio-economic substitution projects.

The authorities handed over some 600 000 saplings of carob, olive, almond, pomegranate, fig and plum trees to replace cannabis.

The province is planning another campaign in early August and is to focus on irrigated land of the Oued Aoudour, Tafrant and Rhafsaî regions. It carried out other eradication campaigns in 2004 and 2005 that helped cut down the surface grown by 43%.

More than 2 940 hectares of cannabis were destroyed during the past season, including 2 590 ha in Rafsai region and 352 ha in Taounate region. The province benefits from the Millennium Challenge Account support for tree planting, animal husbandry and irrigation.

Date: 21/07/2006 // Source: African News Dimension

Malaysia: 10 years and caning for having drugs

MUAR: A former Politeknik Ungku Omar student was sentenced to 10 years' jail and ordered to be given 10 strokes of the rotan for possessing 960g of cannabis three years ago. Mohd Rakif Saidi, 23, who was brought to the High Court here and charged under the Dangerous Drug Act, pleaded guilty before Justice Datuk Jeffrey Tan yesterday.

He was arrested by a police team along Jalan Parit Othman, Parit Sulong, on May 15, 2003. Mohd Rakif, who was riding a motorcycle along the village road, had tried to speed away when he saw a police team from the narcotics branch but was stopped.

Police found two packs of cannabis wrapped in newspaper in the motorcycle basket and detained him.

After Mohd Rakif pleaded guilty, counsel Daud Asmoni asked the court for a lenient sentence, saying his client, who was 19 years old then, was a first offender.

However, deputy public prosecutor Haslinda Abu Bakar pressed for a deterrent sentence, saying the crime committed involved a dangerous drug.

She said Mohd Rakif was very lucky that the prosecution decided to drop a moreserious charge of drug trafficking as he was arrested while transporting the drug.

Date: 21/07/2006 // Source: Malaysia Star

Cannabis Seeds A state of happiness —

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- Aurora Indica
- B-52
- Big Bud
- Blue Mystic**
- Bubblelicious**
- Cal. Orange Bud
- Chrystal**
- Citral
- Four Way
- Haze
- Haze 19 x Skunk
- Hindu Kush
- !ce**
- Indoor Mix
- Jock Horror
- K2
- Papaya**
- Master Kush

Maroc x afgaan

- Misty**
- Nirvana Special**
- Northern Light
- NL x Big Bud
- NL x Haze
- NL x Shiva
- PPP**
- Shiva
- Silver Pearl
- Skunk #1
- Skunk Red Hair
- Skunk Special
- Snow White**
- Super Skunk
- Top 44
- White Rhino**
- White Widow**
- ** = "White Strains"

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- Early Bud
- Early Girl
- Early Misty
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- Mixed Sativa
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St Albans Hydroponics, St Albans

St Albans Hydroponics has been up and running for the past 18months. Since opening, the friendly owners (Ian and Kristian) have constantly endeavored to provide their customers with a full range of hydroponic and biological systems, plus an extensive range of feed programs and accessories to match. Popular nutrient lines at present include Growth-Tec., House & Garden, Advanced Nutrients, and Canadian Express, which are all selling really well.

The three-floored industrial unit is situated in an old WW2 bomb-making factory. These days the unit has a more peaceful image, yet is still very impressive. With a basement area dedicated to indoor horticulture, an outside garden focusing on outdoor methods and a comprehensive display of the latest nutrients, grow equipment and books, customers can really get a hands-on feel for the latest ideas, innovations and techniques.

The guys are always keen to keep up to date with consumer-demand. The switchback from coco drip-feed systems to NFT, for example, has been just one area that Ian and Kristian like to keep a close eye on. Acoustic Fans and ADS have been selling well lately. Making the correct adjustments to stocks, to ensure that the right item is always on the shelf is, as ever, a top priority at St. Albans Hydroponics.

Discounts are also to be found in store (on certain products), so customers are kept happy, in mind, and in pocket.

The shop now features and displays a brand-new vertical system (this houses upto 160 plants in a substrate of coco-fiber and bat guano with added perlite to aid aeration). The vertical system is competitively priced and Ian suggests that it is "head-and-shoulders above the rest". Why not drop by the shop and have a look for yourself or give Ian and Kristian a call on the number below for further details.

The website is still under development (like all good websites), but what with the anywhere in the UK delivery service and the same initial aim of supplying locals with everything they need to get growing, who could complain. Next time your 30 mins drive/train from London (or anyplace around St Albans) check out St Albans Hydroponics, it offers a polite and friendly service that maintains to stay two steps ahead of the game.

St Albans Hydroponics,

Unit 5, London Road ind park, 222 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL 1 2NN Tel: +44 (0) 1727 837400

www.stalbanshydroponics.co.uk

Open: 10.00am - 6.00pm Mon -Thurs: 10:00am - 5.30pm Fri; 10.00am -4pm Sat.

Persy Growbox, Hove





Chaz Antoni the owner of Persy Growbox Ltd has been helping growers set up their indoor gardens for over 12 years. When he and his lovely wife Karen, found a small warehouse to let in a secluded mews, with easy parking in central Brighton (well Hove actually) it gave them the opportunity to develop some ideas they were working on.

First the warehouse was used as a workshop to perfect the Persy Growbox; an affordable cabinet enabling hobby growers to enjoy the sweet taste of their' own

produce. Then the idea grew and Persy Growbox became suppliers of hydroponics equipment for all growers (hobby and commercial), they brought in more stock with names like Maxigrow, Nutriculture, Envirolite, Hydrogarden and many more.

Chaz points out that "...it is important to respect the fact that all growers have their own ways and methods, and that as suppliers of grow equipment we must be more than interested to understand and learn. So as well as giving advice to beginners we listen to other growers and are open to ideas and suggestions on stock items that we might not have".

The shop is open for visitors Monday to Friday from 11am till 5 pm. If you can't make it at those times, just give the Persy growbox Ltd a call and they will open-up the workshop especially for you. They also take mail orders over the phone or via email.

Persy growbox Ltd, Ground Floor Workshop, 4 Kings Mews, Third Ave, Brighton, BN3 2PA Tel: +44 (0) 1273 777335

Email: info@persygrowbox.co.uk www.persygrowbox.co.uk

Prosecutors take a tough line on cannabis supplied to relieve

Prosecutors are taking a firm line on the supply of cannabis for pain relief to people with chronically painful conditions such as multiple sclerosis, despite the downgrading of the drug from class B to class C.

Two crown court trials, one starting this week and one next week, will accuse four individuals of supplying illegal drugs through the organisations Bud Buddies and THCforMS (Therapeutic Help from Cannabis for Multiple Sclerosis).

THCforMS says on its website that it has supplied 33,000 bars of cannabis chocolate to bona fide MS sufferers over the last five years. Mark Gibson, Lezley Gibson and Marcus Davies of THCforMS face a charge of conspiracy to supply cannabis in a trial that begins next Wednesday at Carlisle crown court.

Bud Buddies offered a number of cannabis preparations including cannabis cream for topical application to anyone with a proven medical need.

Its founder, Jeffrey Ditchfield, faces nine charges of cultivation and supply of cannabis, including a charge of supplying a cannabis plant received by John Reid, now home secretary, in November 2005. His trial starts on July 24 at Mold crown court. All four face maximum sentences of 14 years in prison.

Estimates suggest that between 10% and 30% of MS sufferers in Europe use cannabis to alleviate the pain and distressing symptoms of the disease.

Many say it alleviates their symptoms where ordinary prescription drugs have failed. Few medicines are effective for treating MS, which affects around 85,000 people in the LIK

MS patients say the prosecutions, if successful, will close down this route to help, while the government drags its heels on licensing a cannabis-based drug.

Sativex, a cannabis-derived medicine which can be sprayed under the tongue, has been available in Canada since 2001. In March 2003, GW Pharmaceuticals submitted a product licence application for Sativex to the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

But despite evidence in small-scale clinical trials that the cannabis derivative THC relieves pain, no licence has been forthcoming. A three-year trial to test whether cannabis derivatives slow the progress of MS as well as alleviating symptoms is just getting under way.

The Home Office announced last November that the drug could be imported and prescribed by doctors on a "named patient" basis while still unlicensed but few patients who have asked for it have been able to get it, according to a survey by Disability Now.

A cannabis-using MS sufferer who asked not to be named said her request to be prescribed Sativex had been turned down. "I find it inconceivable that the CPS sees these prosecutions as in the public interest when there is still no legal way for the people who are helped by cannabis to obtain and use it," she added.

The British Medical Association said in a 1997 report: "While research is under way the police, the courts and prosecuting authorities should be aware of the medicinal reasons for the unlawful use of cannabis by those suffering from certain medical conditions for whom other drugs have proved ineffective."

But the Crown Prosecution Service has continued to prosecute both users and suppliers of cannabis for medicinal purposes. Some have been convicted. But others were found not guilty after successfully raising the defence of "necessity", which allows an illegal act to avert a greater harm - in their cases, severe pain.

Those acquitted included a man with spinal injuries who set up a medical marijuana cooperative, and a doctor who supplied her daughter, whose illness was not specified.

But the appeal court closed off the defence of necessity last year, ruling in six test cases that it did not apply to the use of cannabis to relieve chronic pain.

Date: 17/07/2006 // Source: The Guardian



Barney's By Jules Marshall

The best of both worlds

Barney's is something of an Amsterdam institution; it's been here for ever and offers the unique sales proposition of combining a full English breakfast washed down with start-the-day spliff rolled from a choice of connoisseur-level hashes and award-winning weeds. This breakfast-bump start combination is delivered in attractive, clean surroundings by professional, knowledgeable and long-standing staff. Reasons enough then for Soft Secrets to make its owner Derry the first in our new series of interviews with coffee shop entrepreneurs.

Sitting halfway along what these days is one of Amsterdam's funkiest shopping streets, Barney's Breakfast Bar and its sister brasserie next door attract one of the most cosmopolitan mixtures of customer in the city. Sure, there are cafes where you can spliff up, and there are coffees shops that will serve you basic food (usually a plastic toasted sandwich, or some kind of cake) but there's nowhere else with a full kitchen and a full herbal menu.

Pop in to the light, grotto-chic cafe any day and there's a good chance you'll catch the blur of Derry, the hands-on owner, as he goes about his troubleshooting, progress-checking, problemsolving way in a whirl of energy. Eventually, after a few false alarms, we manage to actually meet and talk. So to start with, just how did this quietspoken Irish expat end up running one of Amsterdam's top coffee shops?

Derry: "I left Ireland when I was 18 - so in '77 or '78? - and I came here. I was back in Ireland for a while between the ages of 21-22. Then I left for good. I was living and working in India from '86 to '92, full time. And as I'd loved it when I lived here, I kept on coming back for maybe three months a year, to escape the monsoon, etc.

Then Barney's came up for sale in 1992 and I bought it. It had been my favourite place when I came back; I knew the owner and he was ill and looking to sell, so I stepped in.

In India he had been living in Melana. "which sort of explains what I was doing there: growing and rubbing hashish, making Charas.'

Was this reflected in your product range like when you started out?

"There was very little Dutch weed as we know it back then. It was mostly imported from Thailand or Columbia. It was really shit quality and getting worse at the time, and suddenly Dutch weed came into its own.

To begin with we had a menu with about 3-4 different weeds, and 8-10 really top quality hashes. We were basically a hash connoisseur club at the beginning," says Derry. His India contacts were obviously pretty useful then. Other contacts came into play to make Barney's the jewel of a coffee

shop it is today as well, including a total redecoration (with first rate murals that ease off on the common psychedelic theme, hand-made and decorated tables) by local artist Martin Potkieser, a friend of Derry's. "When I took over, it was a real 'greasy spoon'; it was run down and needed a lot of

Developing the weed menu

When Barney's entered the Cannabis Cup for the first time in 1997 they came second. "That was with Sunburst, a Californian Orange Bud x Haze cross - very nice, very unusual. We've lost it since..." he says only a little wistfully. "But from that moment on we started to really develop our weed menu. We started working more and more on our marihuana and our gardens.'

Over the years, many prizes have been won for both hash and weed, and this year for the first time Derry entered our very own Highlife Cup. "We won the Cannabis Cup with our Ice-o-lator hash,

"To be honest, I was always a bit weird when I was growing up," says Derry, straight-faced. "I was always going to go to India. I knew I'd go somewhere exotic from an early age – maybe 14 or 15. Plus marihuana was always around in my family too - I had a couple of uncles a bit older than me who were in to it. It was always something going on. So Barneys was a natural progression for me."

Back then, Amsterdam was still seeing out the last days of its Wild West period of the Green Economy, he points out. "Coffee shops back in '92 were pretty dodgy places. There was a lot of kilos and cocaine and heroin around - it was common, not just in a few coffee shops," says Derry. "My idea was to take over a coffee shop and be exclusively into good marihuana and good food. So here was a perfect combination. I was determined to do everything tax-wise and legal-wise the city could want us to do, to try and conform to their way of doing it, because in the long term I felt it was the only way to last.'

They gave out about 1800 licenses all over Holland, and now there are less than 500 left. In Amsterdam, there were 700 and there are less than 230

we also won best import hashish and the Cannabis Cup itself for marihuana this year and the year before. We also won Highlife Cup this year with Hindu Kush. We're working on this year's entry. It takes a year and a half, two vears to produce what you want for a Cup entrant. So we're always working 2-3 years ahead."

The prize winners are excusive to Barney's outlets, but they also have their own farm and seed company - Barney's Farm. "They're available through the shop, or we have a website being built and they're also available all over the UK through Basil Bush. They're guaranteed, very well made; we take no short cuts with out seeds but really spend time making sure the product is top quality, which means sometimes we are out of stock."

Taking on a family interest

So was owning and running his own coffee shop a case of just grasping an opportunity that came knocking, or had it always been a sort of ambition to do

It was a smart thing to do as well as the right thing to do, because in 1995 the Dutch government put tough new restrictions into place, and these were being very strictly enforced by '96.

One strike and you're out

I wondered if the city appreciates this, that he'd been a bit more above board with Barney's. "Yes, they do, though it's not something they will tell me, he says. "At the end of the day, I can make one mistake and be closed down just like that. What they appreciate and don't appreciate is not going to help if the shit hits the fan."

"To the people running the show, the Town Hall, coffee shop owners are still just drug dealers, nothing more nothing less. No matter how honest you try to be or how good you are, they look at you as 'criminal drug dealers'; it's the basic common denominator of everybody. At Barney's we do it legally and as well as we can because I like to sleep at night and know that when I wake up the next day I'm still going to have a shop to run.'

It's a knife edge for any businessman to balance on, he agrees, and a tough environment in which to build for the future with any confidence. And as things are it'll stay like that too, reckons Derry. "If you're running a good show, you generally don't attract the dodgy end of the market, but we sometimes get 80-90 people in our two premises at one time and you can never be totally sure something isn't going

Haarlemmerstraat is quite a prestigious street to be on, I point out. "Now it is. In 1992 this street was very dangerous; one of the dodgiest streets in Amsterdam. The city took it upon themselves to clean the place up in a seven year plan for the whole area. And they did it; they did a really fucking nice job. They needed the cooperation of the shops and residents in the area, and they really helped out. It's quite a club here in the Haarlemmerstraat, the shop owners stick together and it doesn't matter what business you're in and what you do if you're doing something for the street, and that's interesting."

Keeping the tax man happy

Part of the whole professionalism thing is the computerised weighing and charging system. It has to be when you're shifting such big quantities, he says. "Staff change (although "for the last few years we've finally got a good stable team together; I'm happy with them and they're happy with me"); and when you have a big volume you need control; it's as simple as that. Also for the tax office; this system is proven and checked by them; once you put a figure it, you can't take it out. So what they see is an honest representation of what's going on in the shop. It helps me too if I want to know something I don't have to chase after my staff I just check my computer and everything's

Is this the way coffee shops are going? Are the days of the guy chopping a hunk off of block with a big knife is coming to an end? "Yeah, for sure," says Derry. "In 1996 the government decided to give licenses to coffee shops, and they just said: 'OK, who wants a license?' You can imagine it was not the average local bank assistant that wanted one: it was all sorts of people. I think since that moment the government has been at war with the people it gave licenses to.

"They gave out about 1800 licenses all over Holland, and now there are less than 500 left. In Amsterdam, there were 700 and there are less than 230 now. The whole onus of town hall is to bring that down to between 80 and 120 coffee shops over the next few years. The system of attrition was the strict appliance of the new rules and (sometimes very) regular check-ups by the police. If just one customer is found to be under 18, for example, or in possession of single E or gram of owze-yer-farver, the shop is simply dichtgetimmerd - literally, 'nailed shut'. No appeal, no reopening. Another one bites the dust.

Giving off the right image

"Basically, if you want to survive you are going have to be accountable, not just for computerised tills but how you behave, what kind of clients you have, what kind of image you give the neighbourhood," says Derry. "So you don't want people shouting in the street and endless scooters driving up. Just do a normal trade.

"In the next 3-5 years I reckon half the Amsterdam coffee shops are going to be closed. I could be one of them. I could be closed next week, but accountability will come into it."

It's always struck me as unfair that the wheat is not able to be sorted from the chaff via advertising in this trade. It has always been illegal for coffee shops and their products to be advertised, but there used to be loopholes. Does being a food outlet as well as a coffee shop allows Barney's to advertise?

"No, no. If you sell dope, you're a coffee shop so you can forget about advertising and so on. We can't advertise any link to our coffee shop from any of our businesses. The (recently tightened) law now is that your coffee shop cannot exist in any form outside a coffee shop, so on a website - not even a number in a telephone book any more. They had been pretty lenient on advertising, so everybody's been doing a certain amount of it, but now it's shut down," he says. "Only a few weeks ago we were finally given direction. We've been waiting for three years for a letter the Mayor." But he agrees that the famous Barney's does as compensation get good word of mouth, "and that's always the most important form of advertising." Except now people have no way of finding you because there's nowhere they can find your address!

Part of the family

As an Irishman succeeding in the secretive, insider world of the first and for a long time only country to have a tolerated green economy, I have to ask, one expat to another: what's it been like dealing with the Dutch? They're very proud of their indigenous industry. then this foreigner comes in and starts winning prizes...

"To a certain extent, I'm part of the family of coffee shop owners, you know?" he says. "There's that underlying respect from my colleagues in the trade. There are also certain difficulties because I'm a foreigner. There always are, no matter what trade you're in. When you settle in first and you make some noise you always make some ripples.'

And does he follow the scene in Ireland and the UK? Maybe with an eye to international expansion if/when the climate changes?

"I don't really follow what's going on in Ireland much, but I keep and eve on the UK, but it's a bit boring because they keep fluctuating from one situation to another." First they downgrade it, then they talk about jail together and just buy the fucking crop and turn it into medical drugs, problem finished. I think eventually sense will prevail.'

So when that golden day comes, would he like to open a Barney's in the UK. "Yes! It would be really beautiful to do that. It would be an overnight success. Everyone would love it. I have long wanted to, and I have done some research before, and if I ever get the chance I will. It will be the first thing

In the meantime, back here in Amsterdam, in an ideal world what laws would he change? Make growing legal, perhaps?

"Lawmakers do need to take things step by step. Taking drastic action one way

luxurious lounge: airco, heating, really nice couches, a chill out zone. Luxury? Tax returns? Product R&D rewarded in public displays by one's industry peers? Sounds like a proper business; a far cry from the dealer on his council estate, and a situation we in the UK can only dream of. But if things change, then it's experienced entrepreneurial cannabis lovers like Derry who we have to hope are allowed to start the bar out good and high and professionalize our own green economy.

Barney's Coffee Shop, Haarlemmerstraat 102, 1013 EW Amsterdam. Tel: +31 (0) 20 625 9761. Open: 7.00 am - 1.00 am (Barnev's Brasserie next door open 9.00 – 5.00 pm)

Luxury? Tax returns? Product R&D rewarded in public displays by one's industry peers? Sounds like a proper business; a far cry from the dealer on his council estate, and a situation we in the UK can only dream of.

for possession or more than 10 joints worth you mean? "Yes. Politicians and civil servants are afraid of making decisions is what it comes down to it. In future years, I think and hope that things will be different, not just in the UK but throughout Europe. There's a growing consensus that the war against drugs is not working; it's just putting money into criminals pockets, it's criminalising people who are unfortunate or who are fucked up. There are many drug addicts who, if heroin was not around, they'd be alcoholics or something else. There are people who are by nature selfdestructive. Trying to blame the drug is

When good sense prevails

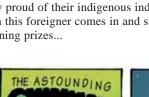
\Governments need to stop and realise that they're throwing billions and billions of pounds at the situation and all they're doing is making things worse, he says. "They're not even upholding a status quo but actually helping fan the flames of criminality. It's obvious. Look for example at Afghan poppies: if the UK and Dutch and other governments decided to come

or the other is not going to help. For sure they need to allow people like me - big coffee shops - to grow at least a certain proportion of their marihuana. Because we are all pointed towards organised crime when we come to buy our stock, We can't help that because the law demands that we do so. But again, all this is doing is fanning the flames. We're just putting money into the hands of organised crime. There's no accountability of where the money is going. I think governments—especially in Holland- have got to see sense soon and allow us to grow some of our stock, to decriminalise that kind of action. Then things will be accountable."

Greasy spoon to swanky lounge

But for now, fingers crossed and the town hall willing, things are looking very rosy for the Barney's, well, 'empire' would not be too big a word, what with Barney's Lounge opening in July, just off the city's nightlife epicentre of Rembrantplein. Or rather, re-opening after a trial in December followed by major renovation in May-June. "It'll be exciting," assures its enthusiastic owner. "A seriously

Always make sure that the air coming into your grow space from outside is pumped or sucked in as close to the floor of the grow space as possible. Then, once you position the nozzle of the hose that sucks the air out again is as high as possible, then you can be sure to have an optimal air circulation! It so happens that the fresh air is often quite a bit colder than the air that is already in the grow space. This simple trick allows the air to be refreshed from the bottom upwards, while the warmer, old air rises where it can be expelled (via the vacuum pump).















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By Weckels, the grow specialist from Atami

Outdoor growing – indoor blooming (part 3) Preparation and transport

In the previous article we were able to see how the plants had begun to develop into ever more compact bushes. Thanks to the fact that we had provided the plants with a richly fertilized soil base and had allowed the plants to do their (pre) growth in a nice sunny spot, our bushes had reached an ideal size and shape. The leaf cover has developed optimally too; each leaf numbers at least five fingers and the bushes have a strong stem with well-developed side branching. All these points combine to ensure that the plants, once they are indoors and under artificial light, will not disappoint us. Quite the contrary in fact; thanks to their having the ideal environment indoors, we can count on some top results and/or be sure to harvest some fantastic looking flower heads that will be dripping with a thick crystal covering.

Before things get that far however, we are now at the stage where we need to make the preparations for the plants to make their big move indoors. In this article I will try to explain what the most important points to be aware of, as well as what we should and should not do.

Of course as growers, we can also decide to just give the plants two months of pre-growth outdoors, and then let them continue to grow nice and hard indoors. Should these two months turn out weather-wise to have plenty of sun, then by the end of these two months the plants will end up just as large as their precursors that had been given a month before that to grow in addition, if that first month had not been especially good weather. In order to minimise the risks associated with the outdoor weather conditions, I generally opt for allowing the seeds to germinate from the beginning of April. Should the weather turn against us (lots of rain and heavy clouds), then the plants will still be the end of July sufficiently well developed to be brought indoors. If the weather turned out to be good (lots of sun and an average temperature between 22 and 27 °C) then the plants could even be ready for the move by the end of June. Do bear in mind that should the plants not be ready to move indoors until August, we will only be able to put the plants into a 12 hour light cycle. The bloom hormones in the plants will by the beginning of August will already be cranking out at full speed and it will not do the plants any good at all if this process is interrupted by putting them into an 18 hour light cycle. The plants will only become unnecessarily stressed, which will be to the detriment of the eventual harvest. Furthermore the plants will use up an unnecessarily large amount of their stored energy to cope with this stress.

Before we can actually bring the plants inside it is very important that we do a number of things to prepare them for the

move. Because the plants, which we have allowed to do their pre-growth outdoors, are going to bloom indoors, it is of course quite likely that they are going to be seen being moved to the indoor space. Now some growers will have raised the plants a short distance from where they are to be taken indoors. For the grower who has not managed to set up his grow space around the corner, there is no other choice but to transport the plants to the where the indoor space has been set up. Given that the plants will by now have reached a considerable size, then moving them in an ordinary car is actually not possible. We could perhaps try by lying the plants on their sides, but this method is anything but pleasant for the plants. Furthermore the moving car, with all its movement to and fro, can do some considerable damage to the plants and/or leave a powerful hemp aroma hanging about the car interior. As well as this not being something you really want, you are also increasing your chances of being busted quite a bit. Especially when you remember that things can seem better than they really are, because as time passes you will tend to grow accustomed to the smell of the hemp, but others who have not been so exposed will find the smell far stronger. So try to make sure that for the whole duration of the move you need to open the windows or doors of your car or hired transportation as little as possible (and preferably not at all). In short, make sure that the car's gas tank is well filled so that at least you don't need to visit a service station, and so on.

The drawback with transporting the plants by car is that for a start it is very unlikely that you will be able to move all the plants in one trip. Also, it is pretty noticeable and somewhat suspicious to be seen with 'something big' wrapped up in black plastic lying in your car. Passersby or other road users will, curious as they are, do everything they can to try to discover what it is exactly what's going on with the bags. And a pair of prying eyes is definitely the last thing you want to deal with as a marihuana grower.

So it is transportation of the plants in a large delivery van that gets the nod as our preferred method, given that with it we can move all the plants in a single trip (provided we do not have too many). Also, now the plants are standing in a separate space, namely the freight compartment, thanks to which the hemp aroma does not spread throughout the delivery van. On top of this the delivery van has the advantage that the plants can be stood up during transport, as long as when we are hiring the delivery van we take account of the size of the cargo compartment. Because standing plants are kept in their natural position, the chances of damage is reduced considerably. As a final point, transportation of goods (in our case, plants) in a delivery van is



A few days before we actually bring the plants into the indoor grow space, it is of huge importance that we treat the for a few days in a row with an organic pest control. In this way we can prevent an indoor insect plague from breaking out.



Here once more the beautifully developed mother plants next to each other. On their last day we give them no more water, which will make the plants a bit easier to carry.



All budding shoots have reached more or less the same height. This will greatly



Here we see the plants from above. You can clearly see how well they have developed. They have become lovely, compact bushes.

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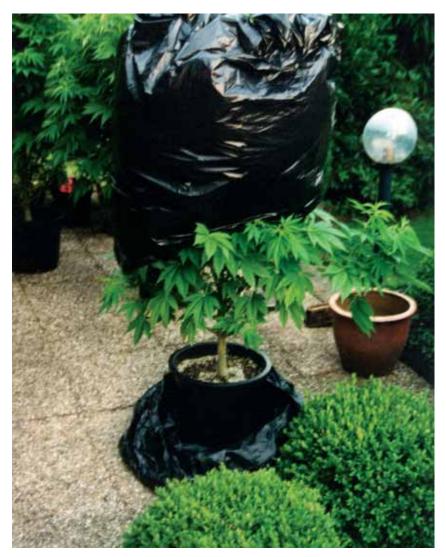
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We take the plants in one by one. First we open a large black container bag and stand the flower pot in it. Next we carefully pull another black bag over the top of the plant and pull it down over it.

absolutely not suspicious and anyone seeing it is unlikely to give it a second glance. Of course, it is still important that we show a certain level of discretion while we are working, so for example try and avoid hauling wrapped up plants around I the middle of the night – just do it during the day during normal working hours.

As regards the preparation to make before renting the delivery van (if possible it would be best to be able to loan one, which is cheaper, but sadly not all of us are in a position to do so), it is important that we get one with as large a cargo compartment as we can. In this way we can make sure we have all the plants, given their dimensions, in the van at once (provided we have not got too many). If we look at a delivery van with a big enough capacity then we are probably going to talking about an extended sprinter. This is actually the largest delivery van that you are allowed to drive with a normal driver's license. These vans are extremely popular and for that reason nearly always hired out at most van hire companies. It is quite usual that there is even a waiting list for them, so bear this in mind and prebook your delivery van in advance. Also remember that when you rent a delivery van there is usually a quite large deposit to be paid, and some kind of ID will be needed to be shown. Again, make sure that all this is sorted out in advance. And for the younger chauffeurs among us, most van hire firms require that you have had your (car) license for at least two. If you do not fall into this category then you are going to have to arrange

for someone else to do the driving for you – a mate, an older brother, whatever.

Spraying with an organic pest controller

A week before we wrap them up prior to transporting them, we spray the marihuana plants with an organic pesticide. Besides helping create better living conditions for the plants, should there be any unwelcome hitch-hiking insects and/or larvae that make it into your indoor space, with its artificial light and warmth, they too are going to find it an ideal climate for their own growth. To prevent a massive plague of insects and/or other nibbling nasties (including caterpillars and so on), it is therefore very important that we remove all insects and larvae from our plants before we move them. Even if the plants look pretty clean while they are outside and appear pest free, I still recommend you treat the plants as a precaution. Often thing are hidden from the naked eye, when somewhere on the plant there are little eggs and/or small larvae. Indoor growers know how in just a few days a fine looking plant can change into a ragged apology for a bush covered with pests. It is only a small task to give the plants a good soaking while they are outdoors and you will save a whole load of grief and effort by doing so.

Because inhaling pesticide - even organic pesticide - should be avoided as much as possible, any spraying that takes place should be done in the outdoors, where the risk of breathing it in is much smaller. As an organic pesticide I usually use the



This is how the plant will look once it has been properly wrapped. It does take a bit of effort, but the plant is nice and safely secured.



As the evening progresses, the number of wrapped up plants increases.

product Spruzit. I have had very good results with this and even professional market gardeners use it so I hear. Actually, it is a sort of wonder spay that works against anything that attacks or likes to munch on plants. It works quickly and s effective against sucking as well and biting insects, such as aphids, white fly, caterpillars, spint and beetles. It is available both in concentrated drop bottles (also called a drip doser) as well as in watered down form. It is usually packaged in bottles. I mostly use concentrated bottles with a dripper. A single millilitre (20 drops) is enough for one litre of water.

For the actual spraying of the plants I just use a regular plant spray, with a canister holding one litre of water, to which I therefore add 20 drops of Spruzit. Stick closely to the proper dosage because spraying it more concentrated will probably harm your plants. On tip of this it is also a good idea spray your plants a few days in a row than to do them in one huge go with a large quantity of spray. Giving them too much spray also has no point, because all that will happen is that the excess spray will simply wash away. Before you begin spraying, give the water ands the drops of Spruzit in the sprayer a good shake - we want them to be well and truly mixed before we go sloshing it over our plants. Once the water and the Spruzit are nicely mixed together, go ahead and spray your plants. It is very important that we make sure that this organic spray mix totally covers every square inch of each plant.

A mistake that many growers make is that they only bother to spray the top side

of the leaves. The insects will survive this attack by simply crawling off to the underside of the leaf. Often insect lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves so that they are well protected from the rain and sun. So we need to take account of this and make sure that the underside of the leaves gets special attention from our spraying. If we also make sure the stem and side branches get a good spraying too, then there's a good chance that any insects and/or larvae present on our plants will be wiped out safely. The plants will take up the Spruzit via their leaves, thanks to which the insects and/or larvae will find these leaves anything but edible. In order to give the plants the chance to take up the substance via their leaves and at the same time prevent burning (by the sun), we spray the plants only if it is not raining (otherwise it would simply be washed straight off) and in the evening. This is by far the best time to do it, because the plants now have barely any trouble from the wind (in the evenings the wind has mostly dies down), thanks to which the plant will be more easily able to absorb the liquid via her leaves. Also, the chances of burning by the sun's rays in the evening are nil. That is not the case during the day, when the water can have the same effect as a magnifying glass; droplets focus the sun's rays which can then form burned patches on the leaves - which is the last thing we're looking for as growers. In addition to helping combat and/or prevent insect infestations, Spruzit also has the great benefit of disguising the hemp aroma to some extent, because the substance smells quite strongly of aniseed. In short, the smell of the Spruzit compensates for the hemp aroma and that is something to be welcomed during transport of the plants (the smell will hang around for a couple of days).

Wrapping

Once we have treated our plants for several evenings in a row with Spruzit, then the chances are very high that we will have (to a sufficiently large extent) cleared our plants of pests. Assuming we have been able to sort out a delivery van and have set everything up in the indoor space and/or tailored everything for the arrival of the outdoor plants (lamps hung at the right height, enough space created, and so on), e can make the final preparations for the wrapping of the plants. Because it is pretty hard to come by cardboard boxes with sufficiently large dimensions that we can fit our plants in one, our best bet is to just wrap them in large plastic sacks. The idea of course is that casual observers will not be able to peak through this plastic and see its contents which is why we go for large plastic bags that are black. Rubbish bags are often not big enough. Far better to go for the really big container bags. These are usually available from the larger garden centres and thanks to their massive size are ideal for the use we have for

In order to make sure the plants have light for as long as possible, and so create as little stress for them as we can, we wrap the plants only just as it is starting to get dark. All-in-all, it is not such a big job and it more important to make sure to do as little damage as possible, so do it carefully rather than quickly. In order to minimise



Once the plants have been wrapped, we can haul them over to the delivery van. In the cargo hold we place the plant in a cement tub. Thee bricks are laid in the cement tub around the flower pot, and these act as ballast.



All the plants are now stood in the cement tubs and the bricks have been arranged. The plants can no longer shift around and so they can be safely transported.



In this photo you can clearly see how with the aid of ropes the plants are held together. The cement tubs have also been secured. In the cardboard box there is some of the liquid nutrients that will be mixed with water on arrival and given to the plants.



L' elongated sprinter (camionnette) a la hauteur adéquate. Les camionnettes plus basses sont parfois trop petites pour transporter des grandes plantes de façon sécurisée.

any damage, we do not give the plants any water for their last day. The branches and various and various stalks of the plant will be doing this become quite a bit tougher, because the plant will not have been able to take up any water, and thanks to this it will less easily snap or break. Broken branches are mostly something that happens to plants that have just had a big uptake of water. Thanks to the sap stream (the veins through the stem and side branches of the plant) contain considerably more water and when they are subject to force, such as from the wind or from our rough handling, the chances of them being damaged and/or snapped are substantially increased. The majority of branches on plants break or snap during storms, when it has rained a lot. This makes the plants much more vulnerable. In short, as long as we do not give the plants any water for the last day, the chances of them being damage in their move are reduced.

Another side benefit of cutting out the water for us as growers is that we reduce the chances of giving ourselves a hernia, because the pot with dry soil in it is quite a bit lighter than if we had drenched it with feed water. The technique allows the plants to suck up and lose by transpiration the remains of the moisture from down in the base of the flower pot, which again will make the pot quite a bit lighter. A welldeveloped root system can take up and hold an enormous quantity of water to the extent that a well-watered plant in its pot can easily weigh double the weight of a plant that has not been given water for its last day.

But making the flower pots lighter does have a drawback in that the plants will more easily tip over and so again run the risk of being damaged. To reduce this happening during transport as much as possible, we can put each (relatively small) pot with a plant in it into a larger cement tub and then lay bricks around the pot. In this way we make sure that there is no movement between the outer side of the flower pot and the inside of the cement tub.

By doing this the plants, thanks to the weight of the bricks, are now well anchored and are not likely to slide around and/or tip over. The cement tub full of stones holds the plant in balance (it acts a bit like the keel under a boat). But just before we go sticking the plant into the cement tub, it is important that we have first put the cement tub in the delivery van. So we put the flower pot with the plant in it into the delivery van, put this into the cement tub and only then start laying bricks in the cement tub around the flower pot. If we don't do it all in this order then we just end up with pots too heavy to lift into the van thanks to the weight of the bricks.

The order that we do all the steps in is important. When we arrive at the plants' destination, the first thing we need to do is take the bricks out of the cement tubs, so that once again we only have to lift the flower pot with the plant in it. This method works superbly; in fact I have never had a plant that did not survive its move in good condition.

Before we finally put the plants in to their cement tubs (one plant per tub), we first wrap them in their black container bags. Every grower can well appreciate, I'm sure, that the last thing they want is to arrive at their indoor grow space and have to lug uncovered marihuana plants about. Since we are going to lugging and securing one plant at a time, and taking into account the size of the plants, they should be individually wrapped. Take your time over this; rushing it will only create more problems for yourself, such as broken branches and whatnot.

As for the actual wrapping, there are a number of possibilities. I usually opt to tie the sticking out ranches back with string to the stem so that they do not protrude to much.

The main goal is to make the plant as compact as possible, before we start putting the black plastic container bags around them.

Once we have all the sticking out branches neatly bound, first unfold the large black bag and put the flower pot into it. Then we carefully take a second black container bag and pull it down over the plant. Once the top-most bag has been drawn down fully over the plant, we take hold of the bottom bag (partly under the pot) and pull that carefully upwards over the plant.

At the point where the ends of the two container bags come together, we stick them together with strong gaffer tape. The plant is now nicely wrapped up. It is a good idea to do the plant wrapping close to the delivery van, so that we do not have to haul them vary far. Once



once they have safely arrived, we give the plants a good., big does of feed water (water with liquid nutrient mixed in to it). This is something the ladies have earned!



It looks as though only a few small branches have been lost during the whole transportation process. The yellow leaves of these are clearly visible. Remove them as soon as possible, to minimise the risk of a mould or pest infestation.

they've been hauled over to the van, just lift them up into the cargo section. Only here do we do the trick with the cement tubs and the bricks I mentioned earlier.

Once the plants are all packed up, and we have got them into the cargo hold and the flower pots are nicely anchored in their cement tubs with stones or bricks, we shove the cement tubs (in each cement tub a flower pot, with a marihuana plant in each) up against each other. Now it is just a question of tying the tubs down securely with rope so that they do now slide against each other during the trip. This is really important, otherwise there is a good chance there will not be much left of our plants by the time we arrive, if the bushes are hurled against each other.

In the cargo hold there are usually special attachment points, to which we can tie the ropes securely. Make sure that the rope is carefully placed around the outside of the black bags so that the plants do not slide into each other. Use a thicker rope so that it does not cut into the bags during the ride.

Now, finally, everything is ready for the transport to begin!

Once the transport is done and the plants have arrived safely at their destination, make sure you give them a good dose of feed water, so that they can refresh themselves after all that jerking and hauling around.

In the next article we will be taking a look at how things are looking for the White Shark plants now that they are in their carefully set up indoor grow space.



The plants are so large that with the steeply sloping roof it looks as if it will be quite hard to set the lamps at a reasonable height above them.



After the White Shark plants have been given their necessary feed water, they will recover rapidly. They find these new indoor circumstances just to their liking.

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Dr. Lester Grinspoon (December 1996)

Lester Grinspoon M.D. is a Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is the author of Marijuana Reconsidered and Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine. www.marijuana-uses.com and www.rxmarijuana.com





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The Sensi Seed Bank

What the farmer don't know, he won't grow By Bart B

Variety is the spice of life!

In order to get yourself a super harvest you have got to start with top genetics, and since the origin of a clone can be pretty obscure, we are more or less forced to go back to the root of all plants. After all, it all begins with that single seed. Whether you're a weed lover who grows simply to secure his own supply or a commercial grower, remember: variety is the spice of life!. Since many clone producers do not take the trouble to be selective in their work or to bring new varieties to their fellow growers, you should not feel obliged to just sit around passively waiting for something new to turn up, but rather you should consider setting to work yourself. In principle there is nothing to be held against the good old varieties, but as time goes by you can easily end up getting a bit tired of the same old faces. It can get to the point where you think there are only a very few varieties of cannabis in existence, while in fact there are hundreds of them, and it is about time that the range on offer to the growing public was expanded. In any case, in this article you can enjoy hearing about some varieties that are very much worth the effort of introducing to your weed garden.

Because every seed is unique and therefore every plant grown from a seed will be different, we are going to have to be selective. One variety is more uniform than another, from which one can assume that there will be fewer big differences between the individual seed plants. This is why it is recommended that you take a clone from every seed plant you raise before it comes in to bloom. You might just find yourself so flabbergasted at the exceptional qualities of a particular plant that you immediately want to grow it again and again. By giving the clones you take clear labels, so that can be sure of knowing from which plant they came, you can retrospectively use them as a mother

The best period in which to set to work with seeds is when Spring arrives. The reason for this is that that from then until about mid-August there is a long, natural growing period outdoors, thanks to which we can have the clones of our super plants raised for free and use them as mother plants. We can now quietly raise our clones, secure in the knowledge that when our garden is empty after the harvest, you have a load of top quality clones from your selected plant that you can let bloom. Growing from seed is hugely educational, pleasurable and full of surprises. You learn to spot the mutual differences between the many plants much better. Oh, and don't forget to share your good fortune with a fellow grower when you do eventually come across that special plant...!

New York City Diesel -Soma Seeds



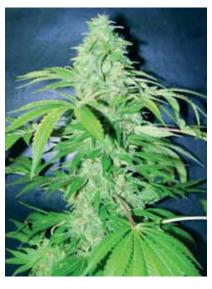
NYC Diesel is a variety that is dominated by sativa and was created from cross between Mexican sativa and Afghani. The Diesel possesses an enormous growing power and develops thanks to this at a very rapid pace during the growth period, during which she also gives off a very pleasant odour. After germination you can reckon on a high number of female plants; the majority of its growers get around 80% female plants. Diesel blooms for a period of 10-11 weeks. because all good things need some time to mature. The buds that Diesel produces are enormous and it is advisable that you provide some sort of support to the branches so that they do not break under their weight. Diesel gives off a special, not exactly pleasant and very strong odour during its bloom. On the other hand the quality of the end product is first class – just one of the strong points of this variety. Dried Diesel smells divine and the taste when it is being smoked is really unique. The buds are fully laden with crystals and look fantastic. The high is intense, strong and Diesel has become one of the great favourites of many smokers. It is also a source for making outstanding hash out of.





The Hog - T.H. Seeds

For lovers of indica varieties with a marvellous yield and from which you can get heavily stoned, the Hog is strongly recommended. The legendary Hogsbreath is a phenotype (the sum of the outwardly expressed characteristics of a plant) derived from Hog which originated in Tennessee, USA. It is a Hindukush x Afghani cross and was the winner of the High Times Cannabis Cup for best indica in 2002. Hog has an enormous yield and is extremely well suited to commercial growers who want to combine a large



Bubblegum - T.H. Seeds

Bubblegum is a predominantly indica variety and one of the sweeter, fruitier types of weed. Bubblegum has American roots and was brought once upon a time to Amsterdam. Bubblegum is a very uniform variety, which means that there is little variation among the individual plants. All plants will therefore to a large extent reach very similar sizes and give similar yields. Bubblegum grows in a 'Christmas tree' shape; short and with sturdy stems, and it produces rock hard buds - even when it has had restricted light. So even the lower-situated side branches develop strong, hard buds. Also regarding yield she's no slouch, and makes enormous, elongated buds. And she shines like a pearl with her rich covering of crystal white. You can count on lots of flowers and little leafage with this lady. Bubblegum is well known for her specific odour that smells of white chewing gum, and this odour changes towards the end of her bloom, becoming even sweeter. Bubblegum's potency is fairly high and as a variety she definitely has great commercial potential. So if you're sold on the idea of a marvellous weed with a unique, sweet taste then you cannot go far wrong with Bubblegum.

You might just find yourself so flabbergasted at the exceptional qualities of a particular plant that you immediately want to grow it again and again.

number of plants with as short a growth period as possible. The bloom period lies between 55-60 days. Furthermore. The Hog is one of the best-yielding indicas on the market, plus we have not yet mentioned the potency of this variety. This surpasses that of many other varieties, is ideal for ending off the day with, and rather less suitable for starting the day with. A heavily narcotic high. Its only major drawback is that there is still quite a bit of variation between individual plants. Since every seed that you plant is unique, you will be faced with a wide variety of plants; the one being somewhat more leaning to the indica whilst the other shows more sativa traits. It is important that you select the Hogsbreath phenotype that really is a beauty, and it will be well worth the effort in seeking her out. The other phenotypes are less worth it in comparison. In any case, this is a top variety that absolutely deserves a place in anyone's grow space.

Mothers Finest - Sensi Seeds

Mothers Finest is an indica-sativa cross and won the High Times Cannabis Cup for best sativa in 2002. It is a cross



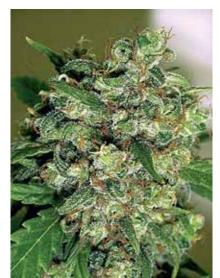
between Haze, Jack Herer and a secret variety that is a relative of Juicy Fruit. Mothers Finest is one of the best Haze hybrids on today's cannabis market. When compared, Mothers Finest surpasses many other super varieties such as Super Silverhaze thanks to her fantastic, super-divine sativa high that manages to just keep taking you higher and higher. With the creation of Mothers Finest it was the idea to get a cross that combined the Haze high and taste with at the same time a shorter bloom period, a mission that can definitely be called a success. When you raise some Mothers Finest you will come across three different phenotypes. The Indica pheno that needs a bloom time of 50 days, the Jack Herer pheno that takes around 56-65 days to bloom, and the Haze pheno that demands a whopping 70 days. So the bloom time lies between 50-70 days. which is certainly not bad for a Haze hybrid. So your best bet is to find a mother plant that is ready for harvest at around the Day 60 time period; with that, Mothers Finest is a firm recommendation for all Haze-lovers who will be rewarded for their choice with a shorter bloom time. Equally in the realms of taste, potency, yield and appearance of the dried buds, this is a variety that score highly. As a commercial grower you are on a sure-fire hit with this baby.



Bogglegum - Bog Seeds

Bogglegum is an indica-sativa cross that leans strongly to the indica side. A powerful bloomer that needs around 50-55 days to yield up her tasty Grape Bubblegum buds. This variety is strongly

recommended for beginners since it is almost indestructible and needs very little intervention in order to grow and bloom successfully. The odour she gives off is fruity but causes very little stench nuisance and does not give off any overwhelming smell during bloom. And in terms of yield, Bogglegum is certainly no slacker, and as you might expect from an indica, produces loads of hard, crystal-packed buds. Bogglegum is pretty damn potent; in fact it's one to keep your eye on if you're trying a lung or two full for the first time. It has a real creeper stone; the first couple of tokes you don't really notice anything, and then it hits you...The stonedness just keeps getting stronger and stronger...



Warlock - Magus Genetics

Warlock is a primarily indica variety that finishes blooming in 55-60 days and is especially loved for the pleasant aroma the plants give off both in bloom and when dried. Warlock also has some sativa characteristics, such as stem elongation during bloom, the active high and production of many buds with little leafage. Warlock grows with many branches and internodes, and the side branches are strong, thanks to which Warlock can carry nice heavy buds. The taste of Warlock is very fruity (think mango-apricot-peach).

Manatuska Tundra (aka M. Thunder) – Sagarmatha Seeds

Manatuska Tundra gets her name from a legendary cannabis from the Manatuska





Valley, located somewhere in the vastness of Alaska, and is an indica variety. The Manatuska is a real all-round variety that scores well on all the characteristics you look for in a good cannabis. During her growth phase she gives off a skunky aroma, while during her bloom this switches in to a more flowery-fruity smell. The Manatuska grows like no other, and continues to grow once she is put in to bloom, so she's definitely one for growers who have a good headroom at their disposal.

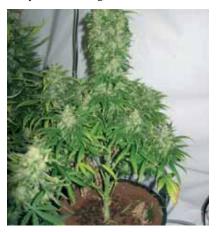


AK-47 - Serious Seeds

AK-47 is a top variety that has already won many cannabis cup prizes. She is mostly sativa, but then with a short bloom time of between 55-70 days, depending on exactly which phenotype you have in your garden. The indica pheno blooms fully in 55-60 days, while the sativa pheno takes 67-70 days. AK-47 is a medium-sized plant that grows with strong branching with very powerful side branches. It is recommendable to prune the very longest branches. Despite her sativa influence she still has the shape of an indica, but then

Growing from seed is hugely educational, pleasurable and full of surprises. You learn to spot the mutual differences between the many plants much better.

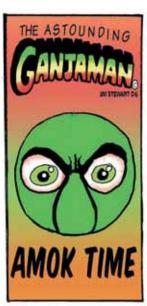
with thin sativa leaves. The buds of the AK-47 produce one of the loveliest smells you will ever experience, and they smell just as strongly on the plant as when they are dried. AK-47 is, proportion-wise, very uniform, thanks to which all plants raised will have roughly the same properties, so with no enormous differences either. AK-47 is a potent weed that comes on hard and can be quite strong for inexperienced smokers. It is extremely fruity in taste. Just a few tokes are enough to bring about a pleasant, social high, but keep puffing away and you will very quickly disappear into your own thoughts...



Grapefruit - Female Seeds

Fans of female plants can get straight down to business with Grapefruit. Grapefruit is made up of sativa genetics for around 90% and is a cross of 75% C99 and 25% from a strong, fruity sativa. C99 is a top plant that this brings a lot of promise to this cross. The taste and effect of Grapefruit really have to be experienced, and it offers a great alternative to the hardy perennial varieties. And of course it should also be mentioned that exceptional yields can be had from Grapefruit and despite her strong sativa influence she blooms in just eight weeks.

Photos by Soma Seeds, DJS & Nas, BBQ, Bog, Kryponite, Feng Shui a.o.









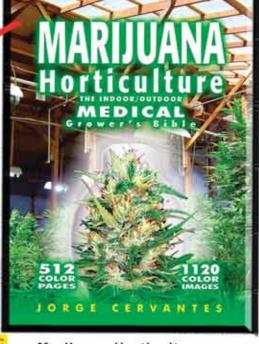
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the press. G







The classic "Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor Grower's Bible" has a new name, and is now a complete Grower's Guide in one massive volume. "MARIJUANA HORTICULTURE: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible" covers all aspects of growing cannabis. With 1120 color photos and drawings, countless charts & graphs, and a detailed glossary and index the Fifth Edition (2006) has all the latest information. The Bible was completely rewritten, professionally edited, and all-new sections on greenhouses and outdoor growing have been added. Sections on seeds, seedlings, vegetative growth, cloning, flowering, breeding and hash-making have been amplified substantially. Printed on high-quality coated glossy paper for archival durability in ultra-high resolution full-color throughout the entire book, it weighs 950 grams.





Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible by Jorge Cervantes 6 x 8.25-inch (150 x 210mm)



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Flowering, Seeds, Breeding, Hash Making, Hydroponics, Outdoor Growing, Lighting, Ventilation and more!

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Question marks surrounding processed weed

Processed weed? At first hearing it's a laughable concept, because how could you possibly dilute a natural product such as weed in order to make its weight higher? After all, you'd know immediately if someone shoved a bunch of cabbage leaves among your buds, wouldn't you? But the ingenuity of the profit-seekers knows no bounds; for some time now rumours have been doing the rounds in cannabisland about a processed weed that even the highly knowledgeable cannot tell with the naked eye that it has been jiggered around with. There is – understandably - some

Spot the differences: an unprocessed bud from the samples we received...

As long as there has been trade in commodities, products have been cut and adulterated. The scarcer the product, the sooner somewhere in the distribution chain someone is tempted to bump up their profit margin by diluting said product with a neutral substance. This form of consumer deceit is really not the exclusive domain of 'criminals', because even in the supermarket you can find countless examples of (sometimes legal) fraud, for example with water and cheap 'chicken pieces' - protein-sprayed chicken meat that in many supermarkets are sold with complete legality but misleadingly as 'chicken product'. Mmm, tasty.

Honesty

If honesty in the legal world can no longer be relied on, then in the underworld of course there is absolutely nothing to hold them back. Naturally, one illegal substance lends itself better to being cut than another. What also counts is that selling adulterated dope in certain circles is really not a good idea. Hard drugs in particular are well known to be cut on a large scale with strange substances. With caffeine, manitol, inositol, fructose, dextrose, vitamin E and these days even atropine-cut coke and speed are more the rule than the exception. Hashish too was and still is regularly adulterated, both in the land of production as well as by dealers in the country it is distributed. The list of substances that have been used for this is long: as well as the addition of low-value leaf material from the hemp plant itself, they include animal fats, soap, henna, shoe polish, paraffin, sand and camel shit. Although it is perfectly possible that the latter is no more than an anecdote from the rich dopefolklore. Opium has also over the years been one of the usual suspects, especially regarding hash coming out of India and Nepal – even though opium here is more expensive than hash and so it would actually be a bonus for the consumer, you might say. Nederhash has also been found cut with foreign substances. Herman, the

grow shop owner who tipped us off about the adulterated weed says: "A customer came in one time with marvellous, beautiful Nederpolm. At first we thought 'oh, what a wonderful colour', until we stuck it under a microscope. Then it was clear that were ground fibres from an ordinary pair of stone-washed khaki jeans mixed throughout it."

Blind as bats

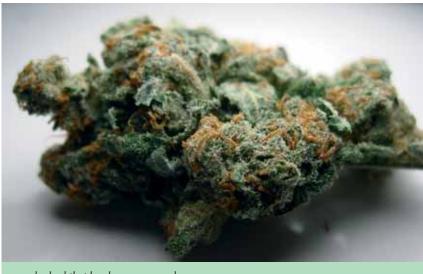
Hashish is a perfect candidate for having weird substances mixed with it thanks to its easily-kneaded texture. With weed, this is a bit harder. In spite of this, there have always been smart Alecs who have dreamed up ways of boosting the weight (and therefore profit margin) of weed. For years now within the cannabis trade, it has been known that weed is not always the purely natural product that we think it is. And this is not a reference to the pesticide residues or other chemical crap that is regularly used in the nation's commercial green fields. "Dude, that is as old as the road to Rome", says coffee shop owner Erwin from the Randstad laconically when I ask him if he's ever had any contact with processed weed. "I have often been offered weed with starch on it. but vou'd have to be totally blind not to see that immediately." If that is true, any savvy businessman would pick out such an adulteration immediately. And it looks unlikely that a lot of weed treated in this way has been turning up in coffee shops, since according to those in the know it was mainly weed destined for export.

Export

And that is still the order of the day, or so it seemed according to an article in the September issue of the German hemp newspaper Hanfjournal, in which readers were warned about a certain shipment of weed that came out of the Netherlands. In the article it was stated that: "At the moment in Holland, it is established practice for huge quantities of worthless

concern about this, because if the stories are true, then people are being swindled, and even more seriously, smokers are facing unquantifiable health risks. Through our contacts, Soft Secrets got hold of two samples of weed, one of which according to the person who supplied us had been doctored, and the other had not. To the naked eye the two samples looked identical, but with a magnifying glass there were certain differences that could be made out.

By Jan Sennema



... and a bud that has been processed.

weed to be sold abroad for ready cash. It concerns low-value and already pollinated weed that has then been processed in some way. The odour is very weak and 'green'. When it is smoked at first you do not notice anything unusual, and the ash too looks normal, but the stuff has virtually no effect. If you inspect it more closely you see within a few minutes a crazy mass of powder that looks absolutely nothing like cannabis glands. We suspect that it may be talcum powder. Thanks to this, at first sight it looks like a super weed; logical then that it is a bit more expensive. A pure swindle. In the first place this weed is pollinated and so has already brought in money. Secondly you gain some weight, and thirdly in this way you can also flog the most worthless weed."

Fraudsters

Over the years fraudsters have tried in many ways to ratchet up even further the already not-to-be-sniffed-at profits made on Dutch weed. A random selection of some of the substances that have been used to add more weight to the scales: iron filings (extra weight), starch, flour and baking powder, especially popular since the rise of the 'white' varieties (add weight and a tasty-looking white frosting), cola, sugar water and even cement. This last substance was spread over the plants with a ventilator in order to pop a few more grams on them before harvest. A real cannabis veteran told me how way back when, the inside of the stalk of the cannabis plant, which consists of white pulp, was dried out and in ground form strewn over the buds. In that case at least the additive was still a cannabis product. The nicest and cleanest way of bumping up profit margins is without doubt the trick that was apparently used regularly a few years back. The supplier hid a couple of the old five guilder coins in the middle of a kilo bag, and because these coins weighed around 20 grams apiece, this was weight he did not have to make up with weed. What was so psychologically compelling

about the trick was that the swindled finder naturally for no moment felt like he'd been had, but on the contrary that he was a lucky so-and-so. So hey, if you can swindle someone and make them feel like that, you're almost an artist. And for the consumer there was of course no specks of crap in the air.

Flim-flam

This sort of fraud, with a dose of good will, can still almost be described as a kind of innocent flim-flam that fits in with ageold Dutch trading traditions. But with the adulterated weed that is now being offered at various places in the Netherlands, there is possibly something more serious going on. Among prominent cannabis pioneers, Herman is not exactly unknown. He's been running a wholesaling business as a spin off from his grow shop for a good 15 years. One of his many contacts knows people who are active in processing weed, and he managed to put two samples Herman's way. Of these one was, according to the contact, and the other was not treated with an unknown substance. Herman: "In all the time that I have been involved in this business I have often come across weed that had been meddled with," says Herman, "but if I tapped this bud then white powder fell out from it. What's worrying about this scam is that it is not possible with the naked eye to spot it. Only with a strong magnifying glass are the small differences visible; the stuff used can then be seen again as little flakes. I think. According to someone I know, it might be wallpaper paste, but it could just as well be some kind of polymer or other that has been tinkered with.

In itself, wallpaper paste is not an illogical conclusion, because the stuff, that primarily consists of cellulose (which is present in wood), binds with moisture and dries out transparent. Sadly, it is hard to pin down with analysis because the cannabis plant also contains cellulose.

Scarcity

According to Herman the appearance of this new generation of adulterated weed is a direct consequence of the scarcity on the market that has existed ever since the increasingly hard crackdown against growers in the 'Golden Triangle' of Limburg (southern province of NL - ed.). "We are well used to a certain level, but in recent times it has become considerably more than a trickle. We even hear stories of buyers walking around with magnets in order to check that there are no iron filings in the weed. If you sprinkle these over wet weed then you will not be able to notice them once it has dried out." The alarm bell started ringing when suddenly all over the Netherlands wet weed was being bought up on a large scale. "It began in the South and is spreading out like an oil spill over the rest of the whole Netherlands," says Herman. "For ten kilos of wet weed they are paying the price that you would normally pay for two kilos of dried, or 20% of the wet weight. Then the weed is already dried and had its leaves removed. I reckon they are making the weed even wetter and then rolling some kind of powder or other through it. Then it is dried out in a day or two (normally commercial weed is dried for about a week - ed.), thanks to which the little leaves contract very quickly. According to the guy who gave me the samples, the weed weighs about 10-25% more after it has been processed.'

Enormous amounts

With wholesale prices hovering around the three euro per gram mark, it is clear that we are talking about enormous amounts. The appearance and smell of the processed product are no different to that of unprocessed weed, thanks to which it is extremely hard for buyers to tell the difference between a kosher and a potentially dangerous product. "If I can not or barely see that it has been processed, then neither can 99% of the shop owners tell the difference," says Herman, "so I know for sure that it is being sold in the Netherlands on a huge scale in shops. Let's assume that 70% of weed at the moment is being sold wet,' he continues. "Of that, maybe 80% is being sent abroad, but the rest is landing up in coffee shops." Herman is seriously worried about the phenomenon, for a start because the health of innocent dope smokers is being toyed with, but above all because the government is always ready to pounce on any argument for even more repression. If there really is something going on, then 'the demon weed has done it again' and those who are against cannabis will have yet another argument to justify an even tougher approach, he argues.



Buds aus Holland probably cut with talcum powder.

Variants

Comparable reports coming out of the provinces of Brabant, Utrecht, Limburg, Gelderland and Zeeland largely reinforce the thrust of Herman's story, and there are now newer (and grimmer) variants coming to light, for example in the province of Zeeland. In a South-Holland grow shop I heard the story of a shop owner who had been told of a 'very reliable acquaintance'. He had got a couple of kilos of 'lovely white weed' to split up. When he stuck one of his arms in the bag, it came back out with burn blisters on it. According to this informant it was caused by a pigment for powder coating, a heavy chemical substance. But whoever I spoke to about processed weed, almost all of them would only do so on the condition that they could be quoted anonymously, and that speaks volumes in itself. Arne, who runs a grow shop in Limburg, was a short while ago thanks to a customer also confronted with adulterated weed. Having listened to his story it looks likely that there is also another processing method being used. "A friend came over with two small samples and asked me which one I found the best looking. Apparently, I picked out the one that had been processed! You just cannot see anything wrong, and the smell too is exactly the same as the non-processed one. At first I completely could not believe that there was anything dodgy, but the person who brought it to me was absolutely trustworthy. Only once you looked at it under a microscope could you see that there were weird rectangular blocks on it." Arne too has an extensive knowledge of weed, but unlike Herman. who in principle will not smoke anything he does not trust, Arne wanted to know the truth for himself and rolled a joint with the suspected sample. "One drag was already enough. It tasted chemical, sharp. I had heard that the stuff with which the weed had been adulterated was a chemical product from DSM (large Dutch chemical company – ed.) that is sold in kilo bags. The stuff was sprinkled all over wet weed which was then freeze dried."

White coats

But enough of all these vague suspicions. We want some hard facts. Analyses, graphics, men in white coats. So it's off to CannaResearch. When we turned up at CannaResearch with our samples, the world famous lab was more than happy to research what substance had been used. Not so strange, because the investigation actually fits seamlessly with the research into pesticide residues in weed that CannaResearch has long been busy with. But I was warned directly that it would not be an easy task to sort without any clues through the tens of thousands of chemical



Shocking: what shows up after a minute's pollination...

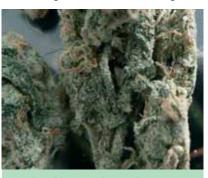
agents that exist at random to discover the identity of a single unknown substance. That would take years. But that something was done to the suspicious sample, was fairly quickly found out by the smart boffins at CannaResearch. More reliable sources had also reported examples of processed weed to CannaResearch, thanks to which something that had once seemed to be just the latest urban myth was becoming more and more likely to have some truth to it.

"There is something up"

"The research into the sample is far from over," said Ron from CannaResearch. "But from what we have learned so far, it seems that we have established that there is something up. Because it is impractical to go looking for particular contaminants out of the blue, we have developed a test with which in any case you can exclude the presence of certain substances, in this instance primarily heavy metals. From this test it was established that there was no indication of metals in these samples, but with this we have only ruled out 1% of all chemical agents, and so this result in no way says that there is no risk to the consumer. We are going to conduct some other tests to see if the THC concentration varies significantly between the two samples, so that we can determine what percentage of the weight consists of additives. What we have also determined is that the product was dried out very quickly. The THC levels are barely influenced by this, but certain flavourings and psychoactive substances, such as terpenes, were broken down, thanks to which the taste and smell were clearly reduced. A real professional smoker will be prompted to ask "what the fuh-?", but a young German kid will probably not notice anything amiss, and just think "whoah - I've got nice and stoned from it." For some time now, CannaResearch has had the facilities to do a chemical analysis of possible pesticides in cannabis products. A groundbreaking service with which coffee shops can cultivate their sense of self-regulation and responsibility. Without a doubt coffee shops will soon be banging on the door of CannaResearch hoping for a test for as yet unknown weed adulterants.

Critical

In anticipation of the results from the CannaResearch investigation, the question remains whether the processed weed represents a hazard to the consumer. And although there are enough suspicions, and in any case two informants testifying to the fact that processed weed is making its way in to certain shops, it is still absolutely unclear on how big a scale this is happening and whether the processed weed is remaining in circulation after being



Weed visibly cut with an unknown powder.

discovered. A couple of thousand eurosworth of dope is a lot to flush down the loo purely because there are some vague reports of weed being messed about with, and this is not the reaction we can expect from everyone. And to add to all that vagueness there also comes the possibility that we are not talking about one but perhaps many methods of cutting weed. Even so, most coffee shop owners that I have spoken to believe that the phenomenon of processed weed will work itself out, even if only because it is pretty noticeable when the much-used kilo bags suddenly start having the same weight but with smaller volumes of weed in them. According to others, this is a rubbish argument, since weed is far from always delivered in such a package.

Microscope

In spite of the invisibility of the threat from processed weed, coffee shop bosses are not forced to just sit around and take it. One rule of thumb to help prevent buying suspect weed is to insist that the weed is delivered in the well-known kilo bags. Another is to build up and maintain their own network of growers and thereby build up a relationship of trust, which can save a lot of uncertainty, just as can maintaining a critical attitude towards new suppliers. And finally there is the tip to invest in a microscope, which under the circumstances is no longer an unnecessary luxury.

Kite mark

'Whistle blower' Herman thinks that it is high time that coffee shops take responsibility themselves and take some structural steps - which in the same effort another hot potato, pesticides, would be tackled. "I think that coffee shop owners have to make sure that the weed that is handed over the counter has had some sort of 'kite mark' establishing that it has been tested for poisonous substances. Think of the way that in Germany wine is checked. Every wine grower has to have a sample of each wine he produces tested at a laboratory. It costs them a couple of euros, and they get back a test report. By using spot checks it can be checked whether the wine does indeed come from that party. It is not hard to imagine that an institution such as the Trimbos (Dutch drugs research unit – ed.) develops such a test. But that something has to happen is clear, because if we let this slumber then sooner rather than later we're going to once again see total hysteria in the government.'

With thanks to CannaResearch and Hanfiournal

Names of people mentioned or quoted in this article have been changed to protect their privacy.



Dutch gold: 40 kilos of Nederweed sits waiting for its journey to begin...



Have you already booked a table?

... in the smoking area?



It is more than just a fair for people from the trade; everyone is welcome!

GROW WITH JORGE CERVANTES



Gray Mold (Botrytis), a.k.a. Bud Mold





Identify:

Gray mold is the most common fungus that attacks indoor plants, and flourishes in moist temperate climates common to many grow rooms. Botrytis damage is compounded by humid (above 50 percent) climates. It starts within the bud and is difficult to see at the onset – grayish-whitish to bluish-green in color - Botrytis appears hair-like and similar to laundry lint in moist climates. As the disease progresses, the foliage turns somewhat slimy. Damage can also appear as dark, brownish spots on buds in less humid environments. Dry to the touch, Botrytis affected area often crumbles if rubbed. Gray mold attacks countless other crops, and airborne spores are present virtually everywhere. While most commonly found attacking dense and swelling flower buds, it also attacks stems, leaves, seeds and causes damping-off and decomposes dry, stored bud. It is also transmitted via seeds.

Damage:

Watch for single leaves on the buds that mysteriously dry out. They could be the telltale signs of a Botrytis attack inside the bud. Constant observation, especially during the last two weeks before harvest, is necessary to keep this disease out of the garden. Flower buds are quickly reduced to slime in cool, humid conditions or un-smokable powder in warm, dry rooms. Botrytis can destroy an entire crop in 7-10 days if left unchecked. Stem damage Botrytis starts on stems and not buds - is less common indoors. First, stems turn vellow and cankerous growths develop. The damage causes growth above the wound to wilt and can cause stems to fold over. Transported by air, contaminated hands, and tools, gray mold spreads very quickly indoors,



This bud is covered with Botrytis. It was removed from the garden and destroyed.



Evaporated sulfur in a grow room or greenhouse stops Botrytis from contaminating plants.

infecting an entire grow room in less than a week when conditions are right.

Control

Minimize Botrytis attack incidence with low humidity (50 percent or less), ample air circulation, and ventilation. Grow varieties that do not produce heavy, tightly packed buds that provide a perfect place for this fungus to flourish. Cool (below 21 degrees C.), moist climates with humidity above 50 percent are perfect for rampant gray mold growth. Remove dead leaf stems, petioles, from stalks when removing damaged leaves to avoid Botrytis outbreaks, which often harbors on dead-rotting foliage. Increase ventilation and keep humidity below 60 percent, and keep the grow room clean! Use fresh, sterile growing medium for each crop.

Cultural and physical:

As soon as Botrytis symptoms appear, use alcohol-sterilized pruners to remove Botrytis infected buds at least one inch below the infected area. Some growers amputate 2-4 inches below damage to ensure removal. Do not let the bud or anything that touchs it contaminate other buds and foliage. Remove from the garden and destroy. Wash your hands and tools after removing. Increase temperature to 26 C. degrees and lower humidity to below 50 percent. Excessive nitrogen and phosphorus levels make foliage tender, so Botrytis can get a foothold. Make sure pH is around 6 to facilitate calcium uptake. Low light levels also encourage weak growth and gray mold attack. Avoid heavy crowding of plants and keep the light levels bright. Botrytis needs UV light to complete its life cycle; without UV light it cannot live. Some varieties seldom fall victim to gray mold. Many crosses are more resistant to gray mold than pure indica varieties. Harvest when resin glands are still translucent. Once glands turn amber, threat of gray mold increases substantially.

Biological

Spray plants with *Gliocladium roseum* and *Trichoderma* species. Prevent damping-off with a soil application of *Gliocladium* and *Trichoderma* species. *Hemp Diseases and Pests* suggests to experiment with the yeasts *Pichia guilliermondii* and *Candida oleophila* or the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae*.

Sprays:

Bordeaux mixture keeps early stages of *Botrytis* in check as long as it is present on the foliage. Preventative spraying is advised if in a high-risk area, but spraying buds near harvesttime is not advised. Seeds are protected from *Botrytis* with a coating of Captan. Check with your local nursery for product recommendations.

Damping-off

Identify:

This fungal condition, sometimes called *Pythium wilt*, is often found in soil and growing mediums. It prevents newly sprouted seeds from emerging, attacks seedlings causing them to rot at the soil line, yellows foliage and rots older plants at soil line, and occasionally attacks rooting cuttings at the soil

line. It is caused by different fungal species, including Botrytis, Pythium, and Fusarium. Once initiated, damping-off is fatal. At the onset of damping-off, the stem looses girth at the soil line, weakens, then grows dark, and finally fluid circulation is cut, killing the seedling or cutting.

Control:

Damping-off is caused by a combination of the following:

- 1) Fungi is already present in an unsterile rooting medium
- Overwatering and maintaining a soggy growing medium
- 3) Excessive humidity.



Damping-off attacked this stem at the soil line, rotting the buried end of the stem.



A small, white spot and the beginning of rot at the soil line are the first visual signs of damping-off.



Lack of oxygen caused by overwatering impairs root development along the stem and helps cause damping-off.

The disease can be avoided by controlling soil moisture. Overwatering is the biggest cause of damping-off and the key to prevention. Careful daily scrutiny of soil will ensure the proper amount of moisture is available to seeds or cuttings. Start seeds and root cuttings in a fast draining, sterile, coarse sand, rockwool, OasisTM or JiffyTM cubes, which are difficult to overwater. Do not place a humidity tent over sprouted seedlings - a tent can lead to excessive humidity and dampingoff. Cuttings are less susceptible to damping-off and love a humidity tent to promote rooting. Keep germination temperatures between 21-29 C. degrees. Damping-off is inhibited by bright light; grow seedlings under the HID rather than fluorescent bulbs. Keep fertilization to a minimum during the first couple of weeks of growth. Germinate seeds between clean, fresh paper towels and move seeds to soil once sprouted. Do not plant seeds too deep, cover with soil the depth of the seed. Use fresh, sterile growing medium and clean pots to guard against harmful fungus in the soil.

Biological:

Apply Polygangron® (Pythium oligandrum) granules to soil and seed. Bak Pak®, Intercept® are applied to the soil and Deny® or Dagger® - forms of the bacterium Burkholderia cepacia are put on the seeds. Epic®, Kodiac®, Quantum 4000®, Rhizo-Plus®, System 3®, and Seranade® also suppress many causes of damping-off. Chemical: Dust the seeds with Captan®. Avoid benomyl fungicide soil drench

because it kills beneficial organisms.

Downy Mildew

Identify:

Sometimes called false mildew, downy mildew affects vegetative and flowering plants. Young, succulent foliage is a favorite starting place. Powdery mildew develops in temperatures below 25 degrees C.

It appears as whitish-yellow spots on top of leaves creating pale patches. Grayish mycelium spawn is on leaf undersides, opposite the pale patches. Downy mildew can spread very quickly. causing a lack of vigor and slow growth: leaves vellow, die back, and drop. The disease is in the plant system and grows

outward. It is often fatal, spreads quickly, and can wipeout a crop. Avoid promoting this disease by not crowding plants. Keep temperatures above 26 degrees C and the humidity below 50 percent.

Control:

Cleanliness! Use sterile growing medium. Remove and destroy affected plants not just foliage.

Biological:

Apply Serenade®. Bordeaux mixture is also somewhat effective.

Powdery Mildew

Identify:

First indication of infection is small spots, on the top of leaves. At this point the disease has been inside the plant a week or more. Spots progress to a fine, pale gray-white powdery coating on growing shoots, leaves, and stems. Powdery mildew is not always limited to the upper surface of foliage. Growth slows, leaves yellow, and plants die as the disease advances. Occasionally fatal indoors, this disease is at its worst when roots dry out and foliage is moist. Plants are infected for weeks before they show the first symptoms.

Control:

Cleanliness! Prevent this mildew by avoiding cool, damp, humid, dim grow rooms and fluctuating temperatures and humidity. Low light levels and stale air mitigate this disease. Increase air circulation-ventilation and make sure light intensity is high. Space containers far enough apart so air freely flows in between plants. Allow foliage to dry before turning off lights. Remove and destroy foliage more than 50 percent infected. Avoid excess nitrogen. Copper and sulfur-lime sprays are a good prophylactic.

Biological Control:

Apply Serenade® ($Bacillus\ subtilis$) or spray with a saturation mix of baking soda and water.

Sprays:

Bordeaux mixture may keep this mold in check. A saturation of baking soda spray dries to a fine powder on the leaf: the baking soda changes the surface pH of the leaf to 7, and powdery mildew cannot grow.

For growing outdoors, the Durban variety is perhaps one of the most successful you can choose. This variety, originally from South Africa, also does very well in the European climate. Although this lady does need a little longer to complete her bloom, so you will need a bit of luck with the autumn weather, she is a great-looking weed with a terrific high!

What many growers do not know is that the Santa Maria strain was originally a proper outdoor variety, and that is why it often looks like she has the luxuriance and power to grow like a weed. There are even growers who swear that Santa Maria is one of the fastest growing marihuana varieties ever developed!

This is an excerpt from Marijuana Horticulture: the Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible by Jorge Cervantes, 512 pages 1120 full color photos and drawings, ISBN1-878823-23-X. The book is available in English and ıill be available in Spanish, erman and Italian in the fall of 2006. For More information see:



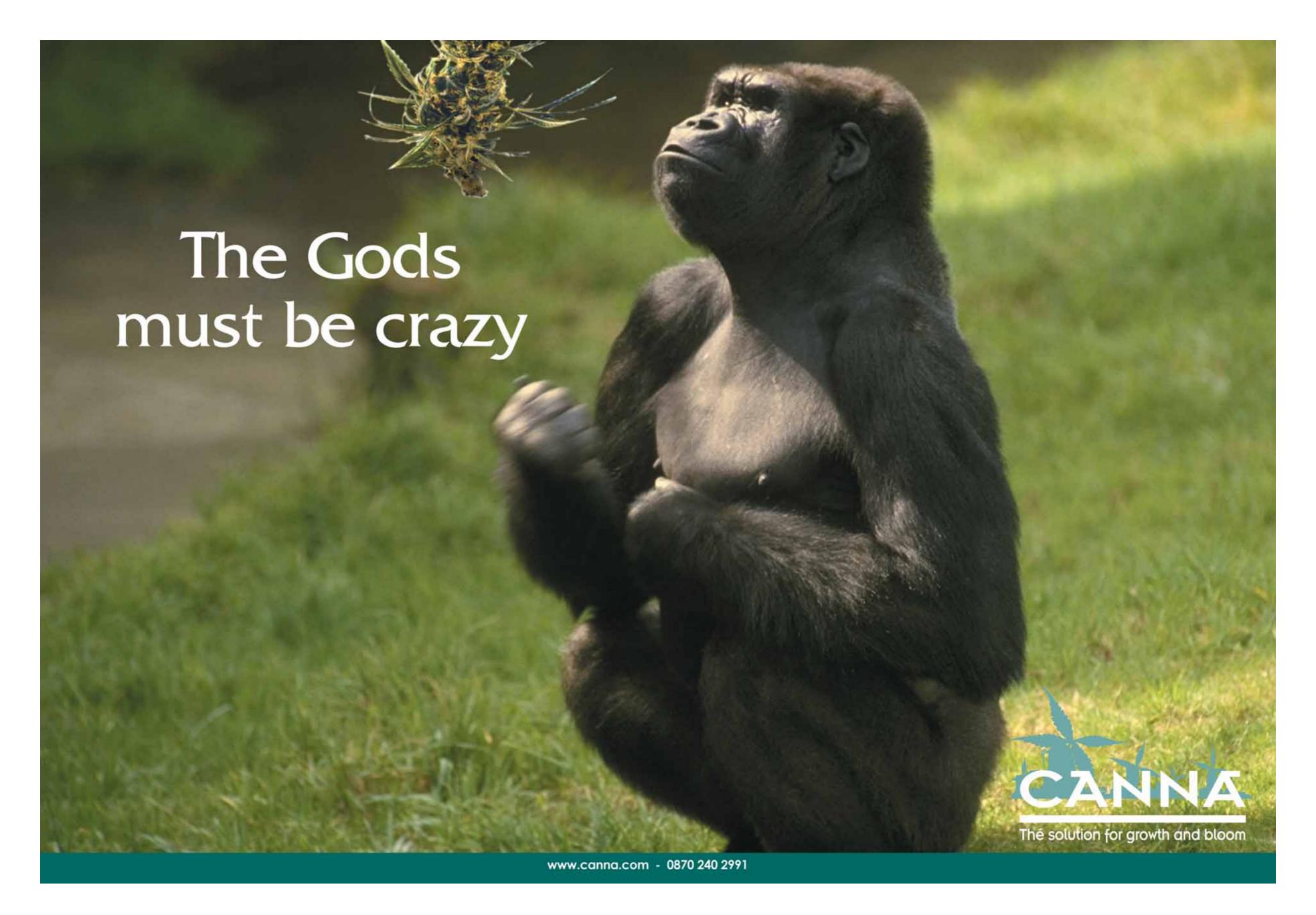


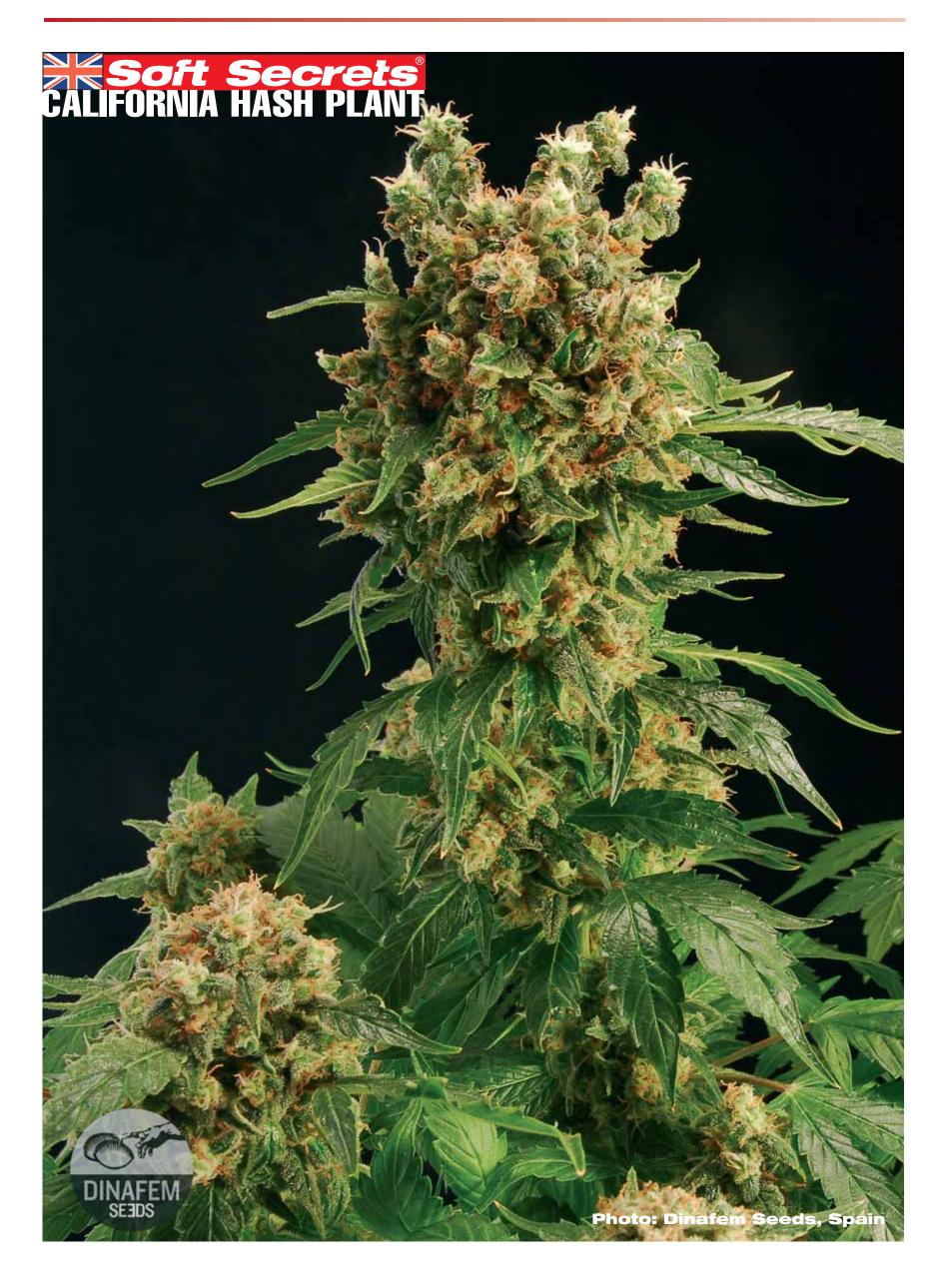














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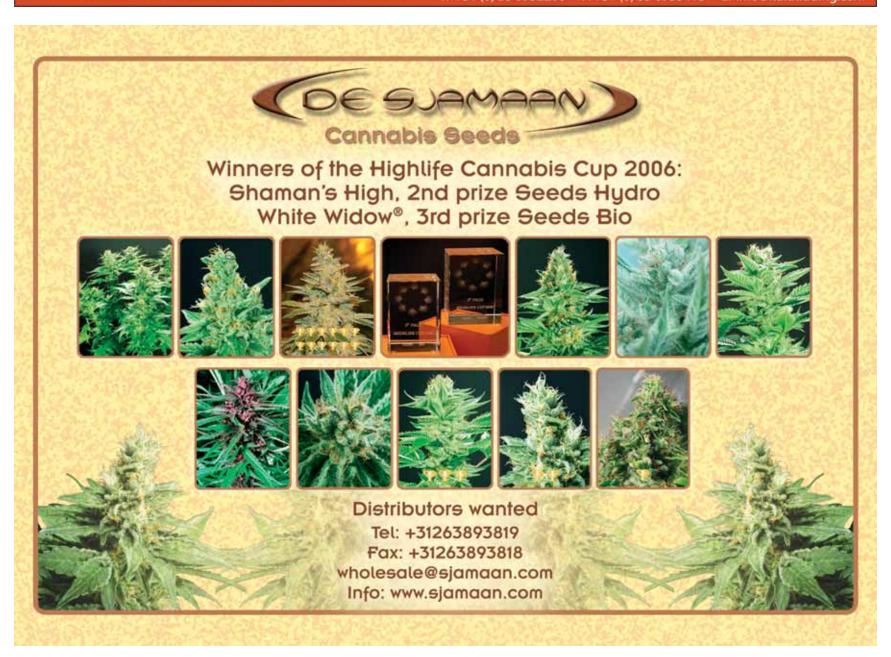
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NEWS FROM THE UKCIA

UK: Depressed pupils turning to drugs

MORE than 70 per cent of depressed and demotivated schoolchildren in Ipswich are using cannabis, new figures revealed today.

The revelation comes on the same day that it was revealed that cannabis crime has soared in the UK since laws on the drug were downgraded.

Nationally drugs offences recorded by police have risen by 23 per cent to 178,500 in one year, mainly due to an explosion in official warnings for carrying cannabis - up from 88,000 to 120,000.

Before the drug was downgraded in 2004, those who were given official warnings would have faced arrest and possibly jail.

In Ipswich, the scale of the problem was discovered in a survey of those excluded from school, attending pupil referral units or being helped by youth workers.

In excess of 130 children were questioned over a six-month period about the use of cannabis.

Following the findings Ipswich has now organised its first-ever Health Jam event to in a bid to deter teenagers from using the drug.

The event, which is to be held on the Cornhill from 10am to 2pm next Wednesday, will strive to get the hard hitting message about its dangers across in light-hearted way.

A spokesman for Ipswich Borough Council said: "Between September and December 2005, there were 13 calls to the ambulance service in Ipswich for 'overdose' relating to cannabis use. This was more than for any other illicit drug during this period.

"The survey targeted 132 of Ipswich's most vulnerable young people, and the data suggested that the majority were using large amounts of cannabis, on a frequent basis, and smoking the stronger strains, which contain more of the active ingredient THC.

"Many of these young people reported feelings of anxiety, boredom and depression, which appeared to be symptomatic of a completely de-motivated lifestyle.

"Other features of this lifestyle included a poor diet and a lack of participation in sports, and complaints from close acquaintances and partners about the users' constant intoxication."

Brian Tobin, project manager for the Iceni Project, which helps rehabilitate drug addicts in

Ipswich, said most of his clients attributed their drug addictions to the use of cannabis in their teens.

To make matters worse, today's society is also blighted by a stronger strain of cannabis than in the past.

Mr Tobin said: "Cannabis is firmly entrenched in our society. The difference between 20 years ago and now is the strength. Most of it is cultivated as home-grown. That produces greater strength than herbal cannabis or cannabis resin. It is around twice as potent as it was.

"The scientific evidence that is coming out now indicates if you do smoke cannabis regularly you are likely to exhibit mental health problems."

Demotivation, paranoia and depression are often seen to be a mainstay of users' lives.

Mr Tobin said: "We have seen a lot of youngsters who lose their educations and livelihoods because they can't be bothered to go to school. They are smoking it day in and day out. People become dependent on it because it makes them feel normal and gets them through the hurly-burly of life.

"We have got to get out of this thing where people say it's harmless because it's not."

THE poll in Ipswich echoes national concerns about the association between cannabis use, mental health, and other cognitive and motivational impairments.

Among the symptoms are impaired work performance, lower self-esteem, depression, and social withdrawal.

The Health Jam event will be a high-profile multi-agency one. Its aim is to help provide healthy alternatives to a user's lifestyle.

Tibbs Pinter, Ipswich Borough Council's substance misuse officer and the event's organiser said "It's time to take responsibility and rally members of the community to support one another in developing a safer and healthier Ipswich.

"A key focus of this first Ipswich Health Jam is to encourage and celebrate principles of healthy living in order to promote alternative choices to smoking cannabis."

At least 14 different groups and anti-drugs agencies will be taking part in Health Jam. It has been designed as a celebration of youth encapsulating a range of activities including sports, music, information, advice, and healthy eating.

Date: 20/07/2006 // Source: Evening Star, Ipswich

Australia: Marijuana Abuse Responds to Psychotherapy, Overall Is

Marijuana Abuse Responds to Psychotherapy, Overall Is Hard to Treat

Newswise — Marijuana dependence and abuse can be moderately improved by various psychotherapy treatments — but reduced use rather than abstinence may be the best clinicians can hope for at this time, a new review finds.

One-on-one cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is most effective, but other counseling approaches also help users to cut down or improve social problems associated with their marijuana use.

Dr. Marc Auriacombe of the Addiction Research Group at the Université Victor Segalen in Bordeaux, France, and colleagues analyzed results from studies of 1,267 people who received no or delayed intervention, motivational enhancement therapy (MET), family therapy, CBT or combinations of these for marijuana abuse or dependence.

The researchers measured outcomes such as abstinence from marijuana (cannabis) use, improvements in family and social problems, other drug abuse and continuing treatment to assess the various approaches.

"The six studies included in this review show that cannabis dependence is not easily treated by psychotherapies in outpatient settings," the authors write. "Cognitive-behavioral therapy both in individual or group sessions and motivational enhancement in individual sessions has been demonstrated to be effective to reduce cannabis use."

The review appears in the current issue of The Cochrane Library, a publication of The Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization that evaluates medical research. Systematic reviews draw evidence-based conclusions about medical practice after considering both the content and quality of existing medical trials on a topic.

Because the researchers compared studies with varied interventions and timelines, they didn't perform a meta-analysis that measured the overall results, and so did not provide overall comparisons across studies. But they found improvements in different measures of patients who received some type of psychotherapeutic interventions, especially CBT. Among these:

--In the study of 450 users that showed the greatest benefit of CBT, marijuana use was lower for those who received sessions of CBT or MET, and at four months, 22.4 percent of those in one-on-one CBT intervention had been abstinent for the previous 90 days compared with 8.6 percent of those treated with MET.

--Another study of 212 users showed those who received CBT or social support had a reduction in marijuana use throughout the post-treatment follow-up period and at 12 months; about 14 percent reported abstinence from marijuana use and 19 percent reported use at 50 percent or less of their pretreatment levels.

--A smaller CBT-MET study rewarded users for staying clean. Some of the 60 participants received vouchers exchangeable for retail items contingent on them submitting negative urine specimens. However, results showed no clear benefit with either treatment, although participants who received vouchers were more abstinent than those who did not.

CBT emphasizes the role of how people think, rather than external influences, in causing negative feelings and behavior, and encourage patients to make positive changes. MET seeks to enhance motivation for behavior change by working with and resolving ambivalence, while family therapy focuses on changing the interaction patterns within a patient's entire family.

New drug therapies may be needed to help abusers who don't respond to psychotherapy, according Auriacombe.

"The high relapse rate and number of cannabis dependent individuals suggests the importance of developing pharmacotherapies for patients who may be less responsive to other treatments," Auriacombe said. "In general, the problem in treating cannabis-dependent individuals has been less that of treating and more of preventing relapse."

In terms of the improving low abstinence rates, Auriacombe said, "Alcohol research has suggested that the therapeutic effects of pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy may be synergetic, with the greatest treatment efficacy seen when medications are combined with psychotherapy." He said that similar combinations "may prove optimal in the treatment of cannabis dependence."

People often fail to notice that a friend or neighbor has a marijuana problem because the consequences of cannabis use are less striking than those associated with other drugs, according to Dr. Alan J. Budney of the University of Vermont's Treatment Research Center. "You don't see the severe acute consequences you get with alcohol or cocaine," Budney said.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, marijuana is the most widely abused drug in the world.

Denis C, et al. Psychotherapeutic interventions for cannabis abuse and/or dependence in outpatient settings (Review). The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, Issue 3.

Date: 21/07/2006 // Source: newswise

'Scrog': growing with chicken wire

British grower Trichomes By Bart B

In his series on growers from outside the Netherlands, Bart B. talks this time to Trichomes, an English grower. Trichomes tells all about his growing techniques and his vision of what cannabis growing is all about.



The chicken wire is hung 40 centimetres from the plants.

"Ever since I was born I have been surrounded by cannabis. My father has always smoked. Which is fortunate, because he was a bit of an aggressive person and a nice fat spliff always calmed him down. So I had already established at a fairly young age that cannabis had great advantages for certain people. Whether this was down to stress reduction or lessening pain, I noticed that the green herb had many qualities. Logically then, I began smoking cannabis pretty early, together with my father and my brother. That was pretty cool. I once lived for a while quite close to the Spanish border, where the hash you got was always of good quality. Given that I was from England, where the hash was very poor quality, I really enjoyed those seven years living down by the Spanish border. During that time I got used to the high quality and learned to tell the difference between the good stuff and the garbage.

Jorge Cervantes

When I eventually got back to England it soon became obvious that if you wanted anything decent to smoke here then you had to have good contacts, or you had to be content with a bit of skunk. It is quite rare to get hold of any decent Moroccan hash. For at least ten years I have smoked a pretty good skunk variety in the UK, and just as in the Netherlands, growing cannabis indoors is the best way of ensuring a supply of good quality smoke. Our drizzly, rainy climate is not really suitable for outdoor growing. But if you really have nowhere you can grow then, you have no other option than to buy it, and the stuff is still quite expensive here.

The first growing method that I became familiar with was growing on water, or hydroponic growing as it's known. A friend of mine who back then was older than I am now gave me a book, 'The Marijuana Horticulture Bible' by Jorge Cervantes. I was about 15 years old and a heavy smoker. Growing cannabis had always appealed to me, and now I have succeeded in finally getting my own grow room together in which I can grow a reasonable quality of cannabis for myself. I've still only been growing a vear, but enjoying picking it up. I'm just really going for it as best I can, to the maximum of my own capabilities.



Thanks to the 'scrog' method, a 'screen of green'.

Skywalker and White Russian

There are a lot of varieties of cannabis on the market. To date I have succeeded in raising from beginning to end some Skywalker and White Russian. Unfortunately, I started out growing from seed, and that held me back in my progress. It took a few months before I had enough clones to start growing seriously. The Skywalker is a very congenial, mellow smoke; the White Russian by contrast looks a hell of a lot better and is also a bit stronger in its effects. I will not be growing the Skywalker again, I reckon. In any case not for the time being. In the meantime I have had the good fortune of meeting a good friend on the 'overgrow' web site. He was so kind as to load me up with various clones of top varieties. Some of the varieties I'm busy with now include White Russian, White Widow, Jack Herrer, Jamaican Pearl, Armageddon, Critical Mass, Skunk 1, Durgamata and Blueberry. Variety is the spice of life, isn't it? These varieties will soon all be grown up and ready for

Watering of the plants is by a 'drip-to-waste' system. I have a 200-litre reservoir that is used to give them water once a day.

'Sea of Green'

The grow system that I'm using at the moment is actually very simple. I use the 'scrog' method ('screen or sea of green'). The 'scrog' method consists of a piece of chicken wire fixed about 40 centimetres above the soil in your pots. You use this wire gauze to guide the plants where you want them to go. Of course, this requires a bit more work than other techniques, but the increased yield speaks for itself.

We do not allow the plants to grow through the gauze before they are covered with hundreds of potential buds. So we are going to repeatedly tie the side branches to the chicken wire gauze and train them into positions



Make sure you have good ventilation and extraction.

where they can develop lovely buds. Once the gauze is about 80 percent filled, then the light cycle is switched over to 12 / 12, that is to say they are started in their bloom. This method allows you to create a thick leaf cover of mostly buds, and so get a large crop from a small number of plants.

Internet

I use a 'drip-to-waste' system for watering the plants. I have a 200 litre reservoir that is used to give them water once a day. All the plants are growing in 10-litre pots. I wanted to keep things simple in the beginning in order to first take the time to get to know the plants and to see how they grow and bloom, and then just draw on my experience. I really like the basic idea of 'aeroponics' because you avoid having a medium you have to haul about, and so you also have no rubbish problems. I reckon I will probably give it a go sometime in the future. Aeroponics is the art of raising plants by spraying the roots with a nutrient solution, using sprinklers for example. The roots of the plants hang in the air, and thanks to the huge amount of available oxygen they grow really fast. I have found a fantastic summary of how to build an aeroponic system for 150 plants. Simply brilliant, and it saves vou a whole load of money if you do a bit of research yourself and then build a system yourself. In my opinion, the internet is the best place for information for growers. You can find everything you want or need to know.

Yields

With the 'scrog' method I managed to get 0.9 grams per watt. I recently managed with a slightly smaller space to grow more than 1 gram per watt. I don't grow in an especially large grow room; it's only about 3.5 m x 2.5 m. In here I've hung 3600 watts of lamps and an extra 600-watter that I use in an extra smaller space by the window. In total then, I use 4200 watts. And my last harvest was 3800 grams.

The time that I allow the plants to spend in their growth period is between two and three weeks. When I use clones though, it can take up to a month before they are nicely well rooted. I like to

get the clones quickly rooted so that I can begin again with a new planting immediately after the harvest. My last average yield per plant growing with a 'scrog' was 155 grams.

Since I began growing I have become intrigued by special bud-stimulators. I have now tried Dutch Master Superbud, but was not overly impressed. The quality of the cannabis was not so good and I don't particularly enjoy using chemicals. Another time, I used a new British product, called Triple F. It is made by Hydrotops, and is supposed to be 100 % organic. To be honest, I doubt whether good growers would really need these so-called budboosters. Although I have never conducted a side-by-side grow to determine whether or not these products really work or not.

In order to keep the odour problems down I have a large carbon filter attached to my ventilator. It is the most important piece of material in the space. Without a filter, there'd be no grow.

Experimentation

The nutrient that I am using at the moment is Canna's Coco A & B nutrient. I find this to be really good, but nevertheless I am thinking of switching over to a nutrient that consists of three parts, so that I have more control over the whole thing. I think that if you can determine the exact quantities that a plant needs during the whole cycle this can strongly influence the quality of your harvest. I don't think that I do anything especially different than any other growers. I just look at the growing techniques of other growers on the internet and compare all the good grows that I see there. Then I try to apply this information to my own growing practices. The growers are always very friendly and helpful in these online communities. And there are lot of people doing a lot of experimentation that they are willing to share, along with their knowledge and ideas.

Problems and harvesting

Up until now I have not had any really major problems during any of my growing attempts. The only problem is the heat that is given off by the lamp. To combat heat problems you need a reasonable extractor fan. As a ruleof-thumb, when you think you have sufficient ventilation, double it. I use a 1700 m3 extractor in a small space that makes sure that the temperature of the space is kept under control. I have stayed loyal to the same system that I started out with, and it is always getting better. I always try to find adjustments I can make that will make everything work even better and to help keep the climate even more firmly under control. Essentially, the more efficient everything operates, the less work you will have to do.



This is starting to look like it.

I have a single grow space and harvest all the plants at the same time. If I were to have more spaces then this would definitely delay the harvest, since as everyone is well aware, the trimming of the many plants would be a nightmare

someone with just a few plants in a small cupboard who was not using a filter, and he didn't take my advice. One of the neighbours grassed him up to the police, and as a result, as you might expect, he is no longer growing.

Make sure first and foremost that you have a good digital pH- and ec-meter. Your plants will not be happy I they have to cope with too many swings.

thanks to all the work involved. The harvest comes around every three months. In actual fact I would like to see this cycle happen a bit quicker. but I am not prepared to go potting up more plants and so squeeze more grow cycles in. I'm attempting to grow a minimal number of plants and to get as much yield out of them as I can, and so far it's going nicely.

Beating the aroma

One other point is combating smells. In order to keep the odour problems down I have a large carbon filter attached to my ventilator. It is the most important piece of material in the space. Without a filter, there'd be no grow. It is pretty simple: without a carbon filter it would be just too risky. This year I warned

As the harvest time approaches and the plants begin the last days of their lives, then I stop giving them water for the duration of these last few days, I allow the pots to dry out a bit before I harvest. As soon as the plants have been trimmed, they are hung up to dry. It takes around seven days before they become reasonably dry. After this what I do is pack the buds into a huge, 125 litre airtight tub to ripen for another week - actually, the longer the better. This really benefits the taste. Freshly harvested buds must always be given enough time to become cannabis. Thanks to a shortage of space I have to use the grow room as the drying room too. This is a bit of shame as the grow space can not be used for a further week as a result. Once the buds are well and truly dried, then in goes a new



consignment of clones to the grow room for the next round.

What tips do you have for other growers?

1 Make sure first and foremost that you have a good digital pH- and ec-meter. Your plants will not be happy if they have to cope with too many swings in the levels of nutrients they are given, so try and keep these values as stable as possible.

2 Prevention works, so always spray your plants with an insecticide. preferably an organic one - even if you do not see any insects. I always spray my plants twice during their life cycle. Once when they are still clones, and then later before they go into bloom they are sprayed again. I have never had any trouble from insects in my grow space, with the exception of the odd fly now and again.

3 Do not be afraid to experiment. Cannabis is a weed and very resistant to the stress we might give it. I do not advise you to stress the plant, but at the same time, do not be afraid to 'top' your plants so that they grow more in width. Normally I remove the top when the plants have reached their sixth internode. The plants will become wider and bushier, which is a must when you are growing with a 'scrog'.

4 Always use a carbon filter or some other form of odour busting

What are the laws like in your region and what do you think of them?

Cannabis is illegal in Great Britain, just as in the rest of the world. How can something like alcohol be legal and cannabis not? Everyone knows that alcohol is the real poison in society. I like to smoke because I am a relaxed person, not because I am a criminal or a fighter. I just want to be happy and content. Why do we have to break the law to do something that we enjoy and that does absolutely no-one any harm?

Any observations you would like to share with the readers?

I would like to thank everyone who has been prepared to risk their own security in order to help others. The growing community is the first one I have ever come across that was so ready to help, and sp prepared to share the knowledge they had spent years accumulating. Don't be afraid: 'overgrow the world'.



The end result.



Drying in my grow space.

Stonehedge

Sagarmatha Seeds

By Mr. Silly

Environment: 250 watts

Method: topped in
'eco-test-cab'

Medium: Bio-Biz All-Mix
Nutrients: Bio-Biz Bloom
Grow time: 21 days
Flower time: 70-80 days
Plant structure: x2 branches
Bud structure: khaki elongated
flowers

Scent: oriental spices
Effect: strong cerebral-stone

Yield: 10g

We were kindly gifted with two seeds in the corner of a bag of 'Stonehedge', sometime back, while chilling-out in the Grey Area coffeeshop Amsterdam (who says these people aren't cool)! As soon as we got home the seeds were planted to test them out. The two plants were both similar in appearance in vegetative cycle under a recycled 250w unit. This recycled unit is both ecological and non-bias when it

comes to testing strains (because the plants do all the work, not the bulb) and has a glass front. The medium was All-Mix with a couple of feeds of Bloom midway. One plant was slightly shorter than the other, but each were a khaki olive colour with thin spear shaped leaf that bowed at the edges. These plants weren't average skunks – but a unique blend of sativa.

The taller of the two plants proved to be male when the light cycle was switched to 12/12. Foolishly we didn't use/keep this male - like the other plant it was an exotic looking (we lives n learns from our mistake!) The female plant was topped the moment it showed sex (as suggested by the breeders). This promoted a fresh growth spurt during the first couple of weeks (plus: otherwise the plant would have grown too big for the 'testcab'). This method produced two main branches about 50cm each, with a nice long flower developing

at the top. The lower buds stayed fairly small, getting bigger as they climbed up the stems. The light cycle was reduced to as little as 9 hours per day during the final stages of the bloom cycle and more ventilation was added (this is standard in the 'eco-test-cab').

The plant took between 70-80days to mature under this limited environment. The flowers were lighter than the fan-leaf - a fawn colour with a spicy hashish scent. The trimming took 2min. When dried and cured the two main flowers were much like the buds sampled in dam (well ok their nugs were fatter with more resin depth). All the same the scent and high where appreciably the same. An exotic hit of spicy-resin followed by a strong (and long-lasting) cerebral stone. We still haven't got round to snatching a packet of Stonehedge, which is silly, because it is one of the best sativa plants we've yet to



Homegrown Fantaseeds

By Mr. Muddle and Mr. Rush/Photo by DJS & Nas

Environment: Sun Lighter 125
Method: Seed to standard
Medium: John Innes Compost

and perlite

Nutrients: Bonsai feed and tap water

Grow time: 40days
Flower time: 55-63 days
Plant structure: spear shaped
Bud structure: solid mountainous tops

Scent: acrid skunk

Effect: heavy buzz

Yield: 12-14g per plant



This was our first serious indoor grow. Our K2 seed were bought direct from the breeders. We wanted something short and compact - suitable for closet growing. Five seeds out of the ten were sown/

hatched on damp tissue. Only two seedlings survived because the tissue dried. The surviving seedlings went into little red pots of John Innes #3, #4, or #5 (we can't remember which) mixed 50/50 with perlite. We couldn't get hold of proper fertiliser back then, so we gave them bonsai feed to begin with. Otherwise they got cold tap water. After some more weeks we noticed roots growing out of the red pots and whacked them into deeper pots.

The closet had a computer fan fitted to the back and an oscillating fan across the front. It was summertime so we wanted to keep things cool. We used a Sun Lighter 125. At 30days 12/12, switched by hand, the white cluster of hairs filled the gaps. (At this point we didn't even have a timer). These buds set-up quickly then slowed for a week or so until week 6, then they kicked in again, rocked up and looked ready.

We topped one of the plants early (through inexperience) to test the top cola. It was sacrilege! We waited with the other plant. Both continued to go over-ripe getting harder and packed-out. The remaining main cola looked like K2 itself – a stepped

range covered in crystals. We spent hours looking at these plants against their sodium sky. These two little plants set the seeds of indoor growing in us both. We were mesmerised. We finally had the courage to harvest at about 63 days.

The plant structure was like spears with 2-3 inch buds in all the gaps and a big top bud. There was nothing under thumb-size and no trim waste (just big rough leaf). The colour lasted till the end, with a nice light green condition. The bud structure was dense dark green and very sticky with orange and red hairs throughout. It smelt skunky when cut. Due to the density of the main cola it took 14 days to dry. The smoke was expanding with thick creamy mouthfuls. Not that skunky, arid like the smell. The buzz was heavy and quick. The yield was alright. We were really very happy with the quality represented.

Blueberries

Black Label

By Mr. Topsy Turvy/ Photo by DJS & Nas

Environment: 600 watts

Method: Super cropped

Medium: Canna Coco

Nutrients: Iguana Juice and Top Max

Grow time: 28days
Flower time: 65-70 days
Plant structure: tall and compact
Bud structure: long flowers
Scent: musky fruits
Effect: stoney
Yield: 50g + per plant



x3 healthy plants. The seedlings were rooted in Jiffy7s and transplanted into

small pots of Canna coco. They were fed Dr Hornby Iguana Juice Grow. When the roots were visible they were potted-on into 15litre pots of the same medium. All x3 plants were supercropped at the 5th node by removing some tops (to clone) and twisting the main stems. The Iguana Juice was changed from 'Grow' to 'Bloom' as the plants were placed into flower after 28days growing.

All the plants grew healthy in bloom shooting up to reaching about 4ft tall. The plants were big and the sativa influence was noticeable when grown besides skunk plants. One of the 3 Blueberries grew completely purple calyxes from the off-set in bloom. This plant continued to remain purple until harvest. The other x2 plants were a blue/grey tone, with the odd purple part now and then. The fans were

big, long, and wide, with pronounced saw-blade edges. All the flowers had a heavy coating of resin, which extended onto the smaller leaves as the plants finished. At 40 days, feeds of Top Max were introduced, followed by a 7day flush before harvest.

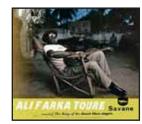
At harvest time the flowers were long and compact on the blue/grey plants, like grey carrots when trimmed. These were fruity to smoke. The 'purple pheno', while still dense, was not as close in structure. The buds were also slightly smaller. The taste/scent of the 'purple plant' had a musky-sweet twang, like chutney or jam. The yield was above average at 50g plus per plant. After a good 6month cure the colourful calyx retain the grey/blue/purple tones. To smoke Blueberries, varies depending upon the flower sampled- sometimes

The Blueberries were donated by Soft Secrets UK. x3 seed produced

MUSIC

Ali Farka Toure - 'Savane'

(World Circuit Records)



This stunning album by 'the king of the desert blues singers' comes deep from within the very heart of the man

and the earth itself. Recently deceased following a battle with bone cancer, this is Ali Farka Toure's final work, which he believes to be his best. It completes the trilogy that began with 2005's 'In The Heart Of The Moon' for which he shared the traditional world music album Grammy with Toumani Diabate. Joined by Malian musicians Basekou Kouyate and Mama Sissoko, masters of the native stringed instrument the ngoni and James Brown Band saxophonist, Pee Wee Ellis, the sound is a compellingly full and emotionally stirring yearn for what should be simple human wisdom on this planet. A natural union of traditional Malian music and the blues of the Mississippi Delta (originating through the tragedy of slavery and the removal of black people from their Mali homeland), Ry Cooder describes it as "Absolutely perfect. It's a very enriched musical statement. A truly great piece of work." Ali Farka Toure was born on the river in Mali into a people whose way of life is based around the earth and it's natural cycles. As a child he became possessed, was healed by the tribal shamen and subsequently began playing music. His first instrument was the traditional monochord, having a reputation as being the most dangerous instrument in the world because it can be heard three kilometres away, which he used to play with the healers. Now playing violin, traditional guitar and bamboo flute he transposed his way of finger picking the monochord to playing guitar resulting in his distinctive style. All his songs are always about work and basic life - agriculture, fishing, livestock, education, health and tolerance. "Its not so much the music that's important but what you're saying. The music has to be good for people to listen to the words." 'Savane' was inspired when he was crossing the desert and realised how Savane and the environment have been destroyed -"It hurt so much I had to express it", yet Farka Toure does not make music to wage war but to give people dignity and hope, to improve things and bring peace. In 'Ewly', the opening track he is praising the ancestors for what they have built but points out that when you praise those who died yesterday it means that there is no one worth praising today. Ali Farka Toure will surely be missed but at least we are left with his eternal spirit in the form of his remarkable musical legacy.

Naked Ruby -'Nuthin' But Dirty Lowdown Trash!'

(Go Baby Go Records)



Having gained notoriety for having one of the best, most deranged and glamorous stage shows

By Kaz Peet A STONED SELECTION

around for some years now with the filthy musical raunch of the band and the energy whipping gyrations of the go-go girls, this album showcases seven of Naked Ruby's best tunes. Sound wise, thier headlong rush into the maelstrom of melody and discordance suggests a raucous amalgam of twisted girl pop and early rockabilly. The chiffons devour The Cramps in a swamp near you! See you later alligator. Recommended.

Nucleus Roots - 'heart of dub'

(Hammerbass)



This is penetrating deep bass dub that reverberates throughout body and mind with its positive vibration and

conscious message. Whilst it pushes no boundaries, the music is well crafted and produced with particularly heavy bass lines in 'Dub Rule' and 'One Fe De Soundman'. Close associates of the Zion Train crew, it cannot go without mention here that 'Siren', an early Zion Train album featuring the absolutely blinding reggae/dance crossover tune 'Follow Like Wolves' has been rereleased on Universal Egg. Other recent top runners from the stable include Root 23 'Edutainment' 10" featuring tunes from Rudy Lee and Abassi All Stars, Root 24 'So Much Confusion' 7" from Dubdadda and 'Across The Valley', an album from Love Grocer'.

The Realistics - 'Exit Soul'- sampler'

(sireddie@therealistics.co.uk)



Imagine the skeleton of dance music being deboned and then reformed piece by piece, the organic clatter of rhythm on

a cadaver. Sir Eddie Real (Alabama 3) and Scott of the North realistically deconstruct the soul of house, sparser than minimal Detroit Techno this is organic in the extreme. Base, percussion and imagination combine to create a much-sampled soundscape, singularly unique and an example to the avant-garde. This is seriously weird music from two beautiful people. The North will rise again..

Dr Alimantado 'House Of Singles'
(Greensleeves)



Blinding
listening
and highly
collectable
comes this
collection from
the extremely
influential,
rude yet so

sweet master toaster, Dr. Alimantado. 'House Of Singles' is an anthology of this dreadlock brethren's work recorded from 1967 up to the late 70's and released previously on obscure or hard to find 7" and 12" vinyls, most of which are still a rarity today. To any lover of Alimantado, creator of such scorching classics as the 'Best Dressed Chicken In Town' album (remember the Massive Attack version of 'I Killed The Barber') and tunes like 'Born For A purpose/ Reason For Living', 'Sitting In The Park' and 'Still Alive', this is an invaluable and essential slice of plastic. With an utterly unique style, elementally fusing the sounds of spiritually uplifting soul, the relentlessly defiant badda dan bad tuffness of a sidewalk soldier. the subterranean depth and primal strangeness of guttural releases from the solar plexus along with omnipotent torch lit rays of comic light beaming the way to Zion, Alimatado's influence reverberates throughout the conscious music arising from the tin roofs of Jamaica today. The rhythms, unsullied by time, sound as fresh as the morning dew; this Dr.'s studio collaborators were such as Lee Scratch Perry, Errol "ET" Thompson, Joe Gibbs, Rupie Edwards, KC White, Jimmy London and Ernest Ho Kim. Toasts and chants to popular rhythms of the day, the album even features two tracks that Alimantado himself didn't realise had been recorded until on two separate occasions, when distributing records to a shop in France, he heard 'Mary Lou' and 'Dread Natty Dreadlocks' being played. This is positive mash up Babylon music to make you feel both empowered and high! ONE LOVE. YES L

Fuck Pony -'Children Of Love'

(Get physical Music)



A funky journey back to the roots of dance music, Fuck Pony is the latest project of Berlin

based US producer Jay Haze and his Swiss collaborator, Samim. Best known for their stripped down, quirky techno, here the intention is different. Intelligent, substantial and musically gifted, this is dance music at its best. The sounds of deep Chicago and groovy acid lines mingle effortlessly with Detroit minimalism and phonetic vocals actually used instrumentally add rich picturesque textures. "We're in an era of robots and machines, so we're trying to step back in time to rediscover the roots of dance music." explains Jay. Leading an interesting life himself, including such experiences as LSD dealing with The Grateful Dead, it is perhaps this that filtrates into making Fuck Pony a compelling sonic sensation.

Can - remastered releases (Mute/Spoon)

(Mute/Spoon



Completing the series of remastered versions of original Can material comes the release of these five classic albums

- 'Flow Motion', 'Saw Delight', 'Can', 'Delay 1968' and 'Rite Time'. Can founders Holger Czukay and Irmin Schmidt, themselves inspired by the sounds of Jimi Hendrix, Captain Beefheart and The Velvet Underground, have unleashed an untameable influence upon music as cited by artists such as Sonic Youth, Mark E Smith, Brian Eno, Faithless, John Lydon and Primal Scream. Fantastically groovy bass and percussive rhythms, beautiful melodies, mind warping heights of guitar and instrumentation along with tripped out lyrics and vocal distorts combine together into an intoxicating cocktail of pure musical freedom and head explosion. 'Delay 1968' was actually the bands first album but was lost in the vaults until 1981 when Holger Czukay edited the archive tapes and formed the album. Completely transcending time and space, this music is about as experimental and psychedelic as it gets. If you haven't consciously heard them then check 'em out baby!

King Jammy 'King At The Controls Essential Hits

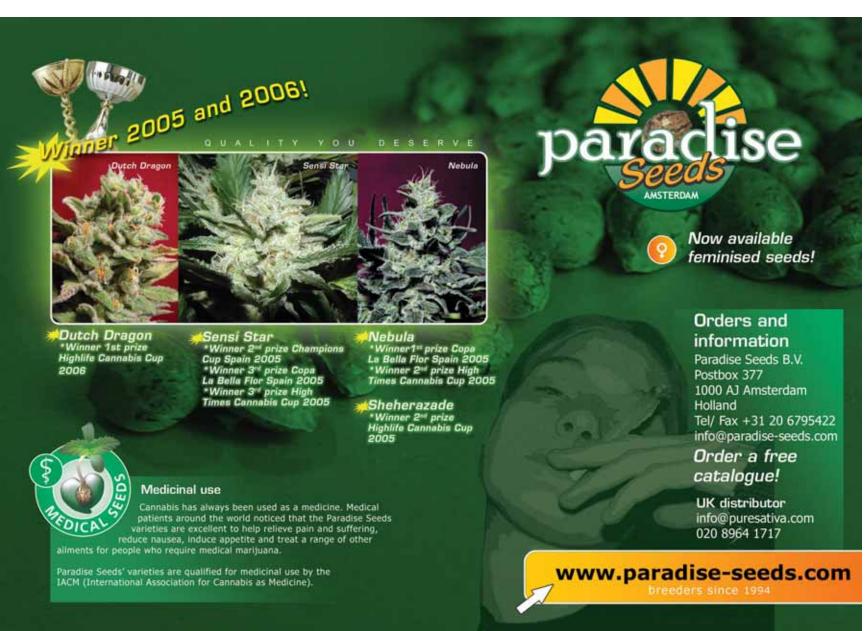
(VP Records)

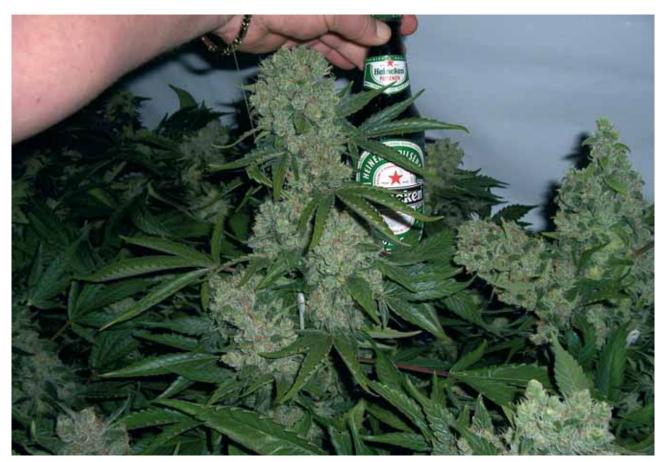


Legendary producer and instigator of much of the digitally driven riddims breaking into dancehall in the mid

eighties, showcases twenty essential hits covering a variety of styles such as Johnny Osbourne's 'Water Pumping' to 'Under Mi Sleng Teng' by Wayne Smith. There's not a poor choice amongst this totally bad selection of classic gems. Also new from this label is a joyful offering of one drop riddims from veteran Cocoa Tea with his album 'Save Us Oh Jah'.







Victor and his love of "big pots" Part 6

Text Smiley Grass/Photos by André

Each time in this series for the organic grower, a different weed farmer from the Netherlands is put under the spotlight. In this issue we get to take a stroll around the kitchen of Victor, an antique dealer from the South of the country and a great plant lover. Victor really does love his plants and pampers them from beginning to end, when they thank him by producing nearly three pounds (1.5 kg) of smoke-ready buds. How does Victor do it?

"First of all, I give them all the space they need by using pretty big pots. My pots have a diameter of around 40 centimetres and a volume of nearly 25 litres. With a bigger pot volume I get bigger plants and a better yield. And I am less vulnerable to the law because I have fewer plants at home: 18 pots with 28 plants, in place of 60 or more, al packed in to about two square metres. I generally get about the same or more off them, and they take a lot less work. Large pots like this are just easier to work with.

Over the years I have re-built my attic eight times already; each time I try something a bit different. I had always been busy with smaller pots, as well as 7.5 litre ones. This was until one time I came across a couple of these large pots. They had been sitting in my shed for years and decided to finally give them a try out. I tried all kinds of mixes: everything just chucked in together. Blood meal, fish meal – you name it. I came to the conclusion that if I was going to work with such big pots, I was best off using a simple organic compost with an NPK of 7-7-5, from which I reckoned I could get a harvest of at least 30 grams per plant. Plus I would only have to add water! Once or twice a week, no more.

And at that moment I went further with my experimentation. I chucked all kinds of fertilizers and food supplements in and came up with better and better results. This was partly down to articles in Highlife and Soft Secrets.

All my knowledge about growing in 24-lire pots I had to gather for myself. There

is almost no-one in the Netherlands who could tell me how best to go about it. I have 16 years' experience, because I started growing outdoors back when I still lived with my mother. If I'm going to work with something, then first I want to figure it out for myself. I did have the advantage that a friend was working with the same pots, and sometimes with the same plant. But we had very different spaces, ventilation, lamps and light and then you might as well be talking about a different plant. But you do learn a hell of a lot.

As well as this I had a special diary, my memory support. Everything that I did, I wrote up in this. The longer I grow, the more I can build up this external memory. Thanks to this, I know that if things are going to go wrong, it will be

for a reasonable price - so it all works out good for both of us. I find in the grow scene you usually get sold clones with spint...

A good mother plant is very important. I have three of them, of which two are really big – at least two metres tall. Not like they mostly do these days – those little bonsai shrubs, but adult mothers. They give grown up clones: lovely, strong and woody.

As for nutrients, with the mothers we use a very simple feed. A basic Terra Vega or a bottle of cheap nutrient from the *'Boerenbond'* (Farmers' Union – ed.), with an NPK of 7-7-14. Terra Vega is for a grow medium a really good feed. There's everything in it. It's shite for blooming, but for growth it's good stuff.

I'm an organic grower; I just don't get the point of hydro. A plant belongs in a nice tub filled with soil. To me, that's what a plant is all about.

on or around the 50th day. The block that I have at the moment is the best I have ever played with. And that is always what I'm striving for, after all.

Mothers

My mother plants are also raised in big pots, in *really* big pots. I have them stood in 60-litre pots, round at a friend of mine's place. He's not active in the weed world in any other way, so he remains the right side of the law and I can be sure of always having access to good mothers. I help with their maintenance, he gets his smokeables

The mother plants are just stood under ordinary 'blue' Osram Agro glow burners. For the rest, I only have one task and that is discipline. With a plant like this, just as if you had a baby, you have to change it in good time and look after it when it needs it. If you just stick a plant in a pot and never pay it any attention, nothing's going to come of it. Even a dog is let out when it wants to go, right?

Oasis

Often I put the newly rooted clones in a pot of earth on a windowsill for the first

five weeks. Then they build up a nice natural base. And the older the clones are before they go under the lamps the better. It doesn't cost you a dime to put them on a windowsill. First I let them become a little bit mature. Do as little as possible to your clones; just let them be.

But I begin with medium blocks from 'Oasis'. They're ideal for growing in soil; I've never had such great clones as in the last few years. Such a fresh green. I take a cutting from the mother plant, nice and short, under the internodes, and shove it with some cloning powder into the Oasis block. It's the same soft stuff as you use in Christmas ornaments and flower arrangements, a sort of plastic. You can buy it at the florists or at the garden centre. I know for sure that it is 100% sterile and it is pH-neutral. So if I pour some mains water over it, it just takes on the pH of the water company. I acidify it down to 6.5 and keep the temperature of the grow room at a minimum of 20 degrees. Then within three weeks it has taken root without me having to do anything. Except keep it wet of course.

The stuff has a perfect absorbency. If you plonk the clone directly in the middle, the young sprout can take up every last drop of water. If you stick the clone in too deep then it dries out because the water doesn't reach the beginning roots. The medium block dries out from the outside in.

In the grow tray I restrict the fresh air for the first two days. The air moisture inside rises to near enough 100%. On the third and fourth days, I open the air vents, and on the fifth day I remove the tray's lid completely. Not a clone has failed! I never keep them longer than this in such a humid regime; I want my clones to stay healthy. In the worst case, you get a mould or infection in your plants, and you lose up to half of them! That is the only thing you have to watch out very carefully for when using oasis: the clones have to have a nice tight fit. If air gets in around them, you get mould.

How do most clones get screwed up? You take a tray with rock wool clones and by accident when watering it you give it a small shock. They come a bit loose and so air can get in to them. In principle, 25% of the clones are already screwed. With this stuff: you prick a small hole with a cocktail stick, you pop the clone in and its wedged in there firm as anything is. Just to be sure, I take a pen and give a small push next to the clone's base and then the cutting is 100% sealed off from the outside air.

Re-potting

The clones never take root uniformly of course; the one always eats and drinks better than the other. I do re-pot them when I have to, but only when it's necessary to minimise the stress caused them. That's why I keep a close eye on them. It is handy to let them germinate on a glass plate. Then you only have to lift them up to see if the roots are visible yet or not. The roots will just as easily shoot into other blocks if you don't keep an eye on them.

As soon as they've got roots, I pot them into soil. To me, that's a hundred times

better than putting the clone directly into soil. With little Jiffy pots it takes about three weeks before they start to bloom. With my method, they sometimes do that within 10 days!

When I'm re-potting, I just leave the oasis blocks around them. Such a small block can hold a good 30 millilitres of water, which is a heck of a lot. That is why for the first three or four days there is no need to water them. The clone has enough power to keep going. When you're re-potting from rock wool to soil, the rock wool sucks the clone completely dry. Then you can be dripping water on it ten times a day.

From below

I only ever take off the lowest two internodes (the growth that comes out of the point where the leaf meets the stem); the rest I leave alone. And I don't top them, because then you get a better yield. Once I can see that the clones have strong roots, they are all switched over to soil. I mean, you have to keep the plant natural. I prefer to stand in a good pair of shoes, and it is just the same for a plant. They also prefer to be stood in a pot of good soil. That's how you have to look at things, you have to put yourself in the place of the plant. The better they feel, the less they still have to get used to warmth and cold. That is also really important. You have to cause as little stress to young plants as you can. You just have to try and do what's good for the plant, and that takes a lot of discipline.

I choose to let my plants bloom fully. I'm a bloomer, and then you can not have too much fuss around. It's a real factory having and maintaining a grow space like this; you have to rebuild, get new raw materials; sometimes you have to do this, you suddenly have to that ... meanwhile I have a whole day's work, but my wife knows the score.

Most people forget one thing: that plants reach a massive peak in root growth activity, which starts to tail off again two weeks after blooming begins. This is something you want to try and influence. That's why I water mine during this extended growth spurt both from above and from below. From above I give them neutral water and from beneath, in the dish under the pot, water with a little splash of Roots (from Bionova). In this way I give plants an optimal stimulation. I do this until two weeks after the bloom begins. After that I let all the roots that have grown into the dish die off again.

From underneath I also sometimes mix in a little potash, and that also stimulates the root growth a bit. Pure potash - you only need to put two millilitres into ten litres of water. I give it with a plant syringe. The plant already has so much phosphorus, nitrogen and calcium in the pot that I have no need to give them any more. But pure potash and Roots make the roots go off and try to find more. And the more roots, the more nutrient they can then pump back upwards, and the more buds you end up with.

Blooming

At the bottom of my pots I always toss in a layer of clay granules, so that they can't

dry out from the bottom. Once I see roots poking out from there then I have an idea how things are going. That's 35 bloody centimetres that they've got to travel! If I can already see them down below after a week, then I start to influence them. Of course, you should not let them poke out of the pot. Otherwise, when you come to turn the pot, you'll pinch the roots and then you've got damage. That will cost the plant energy to fix its wounds. Only once they start to bloom do I let the lowest roots die off. For this I use a catalyst and BN-enzyme, which closes the roots off nicely. This allows a section of root to die off and yet not lead to an increased risk of fungal infection. Once the whole growing cycle has been completed, I simply rake through the clay granules, clean them off and start to use them again straight away.

After a minimum of two and a maximum of three weeks, I start the plants off with their blooming. That's pushing things a bit. But by then, they are well-rooted clones and they do not need any more getting used to lamps. Within a day they've caught on. And then you have to keep them gorging. If it gets dried out, then it won't be able to eat. That's why I always make sure that it is never too dry, but at the same time, never too wet. You also have to take care not to make it addicted. Hemp plants have an inclination to fall into a pattern. If you, for example, give them water every two days, then that's what they come to crave. That's why from time to time I give them water only every three days, or even every four days. And why one time I'll give them 700 millilitres. and another time 800 millilitres or maybe even a` litre and a half. I keep track of all this on my calendar.

Love of the green

Once in a while I'll move them. Then I think: 'things are going too well for you, matey!' Then he's shifted over to the other side. The plants not doing quite so well, I move in to the middle, and in this way I'm constantly moving them around. The really big ones, the whoppers, I mostly keep on the outer edge. They have just got to keep drinking. If I feel they're not drinking enough, then there is something wrong with the housekeeping. Then I give her a bit of BN-enzyme from Bionova. I have tried everything in my growing life. so all my kitchen cupboards are filled up. Sometimes I get a good harvest, yet I still feel there could have been more. If I call Bionova, I get good information straight away, I don't need to go in person. They give out their information totally freely. For example, when I wanted to know something about NPK. With others, you have to physically drop by, to calculate the conversion formula. Bionova gives me everything I need to know. If outsiders can substantiate for me how things are going, then the going is probably good.

It all begins with a good base, then you've already got half your harvest. The more light, the more air, and how much more nutrients you can give them, the higher your yield is going to be. These are just laws of nature. I do the same for my house plants. They had never flowered, but now they are flowering! You can just imagine what kind of a soil that is! They get all the left-overs from all my

nutrients. I have a test plant, a lab rat, and if this fails, then I know for sure that I'm doing something wrong. I try to compare everything. What are the similarities between my house plants and the hemp plants? I'd also like to take clones from my conifers, on a small scale. You just have to have green fingers. It's a feeling.

I'm an organic grower; I just don't get the point of hydro. A plant belongs in a nice tub filled with soil. To me, that's what a plant is all about. No rock wool, even though the whole of the Netherlands is filled with it. Tomato green houses, cucumber cloches – that's just selling balls filled with water. You have to enjoy handling it. Just so long as you give them water regularly, then you've got half your harvest already.

Love too

The other week I met this young guy who had just started out growing and I gave him three of my plants. If it's only a couple or three I'm happy to help out. When it gets to be more than that, then I can't really be bothered. Anyway, he has a little smart shop, and I came in and he just tosses the box with the plants in over into a corner. So I totally lost my rag! I go to all the trouble to make sure he gets a few great condition plants and the geezer breaks their bloody necks without so much as a thought! I just can't stand that sort of

behaviour. Keep the fuck off my plants! If someone's invited in to my grow room, it's just the same. I'm always looking out for my plants; I'm just very careful and even touch the leaves as little as possible.

Floor heating

I also use a heated floor, but that that comes in the next phase. Only my clones are warmed where they stand. I just crank it up to 25 degrees where my plants are, and I have a hugely thick layer of insulating material under them. After there had been a raid on my place, the same evening I had the thought: shall I put things back as they were? I thought, you know what: I sat for ages getting pissed off at the floor, the eight centimetrethick doors. I'd set up a complete safari park! Now there's just a thick layer of insulation and a layer of plastic. I don't think a better insulated floor than mine even exists. The thickest factor that there is, that's underneath. I've sent away for documentation on all the floor heating systems. I've got all the folders and books at home. I have here a folder from a Chinese company: do you need to drive a buggy between your plants? The grow world is doing absolutely nothing, I'll tell you! You have to search far and wide for the cool stuff, not just in the Netherlands. There can't be more than the odd hemp farmer who really needs to be able to drive a buggy. Is it really necessary?"



They have just got to keep drinking. If I feel they're not drinking enough, then there is something wrong with the housekeeping. Then I give her a bit of BN-enzyme from Bionova.





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GREEN HOUSE GROW DVD

THE KING OF CANNABIS AND HIS GENETICS

After over 20 years in the industry, Arjan is one of the most experienced cannabis growers and breeders worldwide. The Green House Coffeeshops and Seed Company have won over 30 High Times Cannabis Cups, 17 Highlife Cups, and many prizes in Spanish competitions.

Millions of Green House seeds have been cultivated in the past 20 years. Hundred of thousands of Green House plants are being grown all over the world just as you read these lines. In order to help all growers worldwide reach the best results, Arjan has decided to share the secrets behind the plants of the Green House Seed Company. After the three King of Cannabis movies, a Grow DVD was the best present to give to our customers.

This project started at a secret location, somewhere in Holland, in the autumn of 2004. It all began with the construction of a perfect grow room, with complete climate control, 1000 watt of light per single plant, and a flexible feeding system to accommodate the needs of very different types of plants at once. The growroom had reflecting white foil on the side walls as well as on the floor, to increase light diffusion. The climate control system guaranteed a day temperature between 24 and 28 degrees and a night temperature between 18 and 22 degrees. Each lamp had to be independently adjustable to fit the growth pattern of each plant. A total of 4 water tanks were used for feeding and flushing solutions. We decided to use a single 65 lt. container per plant, to be able to move the plants when shooting the grow documentary.

In order to show our customers the optimal results with each strain, we decided to grow hydroponically, using rock wool flakes as medium. Each plant was selected from a batch of cuttings taken from the original mothers, and as soon as they were rooted the project started.

The young plants were introduced to the growroom, while the lamps were left at a 2 meters distance to get the leaves accustomed to the high concentration of lumens. During the first week the shooting schedule was prepared, with a session per week for the entire duration of the crop. The director, Kenya from Hemp TV, s p e n t few days adjusting the camera settings

Special

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action!

to cope with the extreme luminosity of the environment. During some shooting sessions we had to turn off some of the lights to be able to shoot.

Each week we would isolate each single plant and describe the climate and feeding condition of that particular stage, with hints and tricks directly from Arjan himself. The lower branches of each plant were taken off as they grew, to increase growth and to avoid problems of mould or fungus. Apart from this, the plants were allowed to develop following their natural growth pattern, with no pruning or splitting. Each plant had a special feeding schedule tailor-made to the needs of that particular strain.

During the High Times Cannabis Cups some celebrities visited the breeding facilities, between them Steve Hager, editor in chief of High Times Magazine and creator of the Cannabis Cup; Eddie Lepp, freedom fighter and medicinal marijuana grower; and the Editor of the Japanese magazine Burst High. They all appear in the Green House Grow DVD.

The Grow DVD was introduced for the first time during the Ibiza Cannabis Film Festival, organized by the High Times magazine. At the Film Festival the Green House Grow DVD won the first prize as best movie. Now it is in production, but a free preview is available for download on the Green House Seed Company website, www.greenhouseseeds.nl.

In a few weeks it will be available as a stream movie, free of charge. The downloadable version will be for sale for a very small price, one that has to be seen as a contribution for the production of the best cannabis seeds in the world and not as a profit making operation.

Each plant was given the best attention and the optimal conditions day after day, until harvest. Arjan shows the harvesting secrets of the Green House Seed Company, and the extras of the DVD include a peak at the Highlife and Spannabis Expo of 2005 and a long feature about the V.I.S. Panel, the Very Important Smokers Panel where the band System of a Down and many Cannabis celebrities are invited by Arjan to sample the best strains selected from Arjan's library.

The Green House Seed Company Grow DVD is the best tool for beginners and experts, a real journey through the best marijuana in the world!

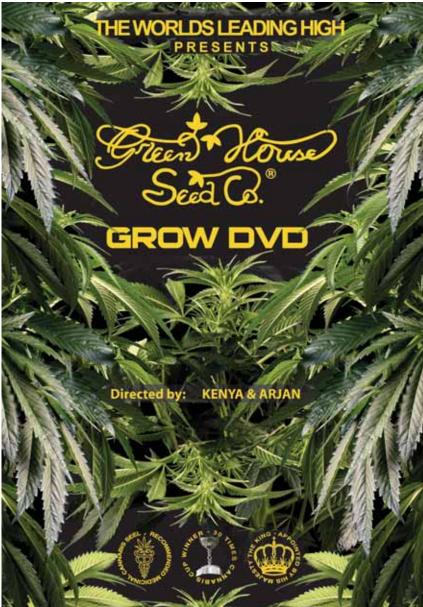
Win Arjan's Ultra Haze #2 — feminised seeds!

Arjan is one of those world class professional growers who just loves SSUK! Of course thousands of growers world wide are already working with Greenhouse

seeds, but now Arjan wants to give YOU the chance of raising some first class Greenhouse seeds as well! Therefore the King of Cannabis gives away 25 packs of Arjan's Ultra Haze #2 (feminised), to 25 lucky SSUK readers. All you have to do is drop us a 'green-spirited' post card and we will pick the 25 winners, compliments of SSUK and Arjan and his Greenhouse team!

Send your postcard before september 15th 2006 to Soft Secrets, 'Arjan's Ultra Haze', PoBox 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland. Winners will receive their packs automatically at home.





Family Names

By Lazystrain

Genealogy is the study of family history. The genealogy of cultivated cannabis, as with people, can often be traced back several generations. Some cannabis plants descend from a long line of close-knit ancestors, each of which shares distinct history with other family members. Other cannabis plants have derived from interfamily (or even perhaps polygamous) relationships; with the most vigorous family members being procreated alone. These go on to form new families in the process. Nominally, the labelling of cultivar may take on genealogical pattern or a stereotype of vogue. Here we shall discuss some of the popular

'Family Names' that in recent times have dominated the cannabis world.

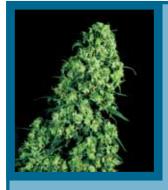
In the past breeders worked closely with landrace species of cannabis to make fresh seed. In time they started to play around and develop their own varieties from the stock they'd acquired. These cultivated varieties (or cultivar) were engineered through programs of selective, haphazard and sometimes accidental breeding. Following the Linneaus system of plant categorisation these cannabis breeders (mainly based in the USA) where free to name their own cultivar of cannabis as and when they became known.

Some breeders came up with some really inventive (and groovy sounding) cultivar names for their new strains of cannabis, like say 'Haze' and 'Skunk'. A few breeders preferred to keep a sense of heritage amid their lines by using geographical places in the naming of their genetics, like say 'Kush' or 'Colombian'. Many breeders opted for an in-between approach by mixing geographical names with patterns evident in growth, like say 'Acapulco Gold' and 'Maui Wowie'. Later, others simply used names that sounded nice, like 'Northern Lights'. Today, many of these names are taken for granted.

Before continuing it is worth noting that where Horticulturists sub-divide the genus *Cannabis* according to its species (*indica*, *sativa*, *ruderalis*, *chinensis*), then

'cultivar', the Botanist prefers to attach the prefix 'Cannabis sativa' to all varieties regardless of their specific contextual origin. Here we shall also ignore species of cannabis, concentrating purely upon the cultivar name/ strain. The examples given below are a rough guide to some popular family groups of cultivar. The term "family" is here used in a loose horticultural sense, whereas in botany the term "family" represents the genus Cannabis overall. Those groups with looser affiliations or fewer members are here termed "tribes".

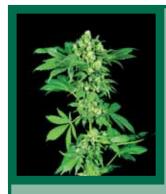
N.B. [The following information was extrapolated from various sources including 'Nivarna B.V.' (2006), 'The TR Genetic Cookbook' by Tropical Rainforest (2005), and 'Green House Seed Co.' (2006).]



The Skunk Family

We shall begin with the largest and most notorious family in collection that of the Skunks. 'Skunk' itself is a mix of x3 famous landrace strains. These are 'Acapulco Gold', 'Colombian Gold', and 'Afghan'. The variety 'Skunk' was first bred-out in the USA during the 1970's. The name "Skunk" represents the intoxicating smell that the plants produce when grown and smoked. Commercial Dutch growers would

later use 'Skunk #1' as a base block in many projects of intensive breeding. For example, many landrace genetics available within The Netherlands are crossed with 'Skunk #1' so to add stability and reduce flowering. In recent years the Skunk family has then established an almost 'Mafioso' presence across the cannabis scene in Europe. Members of the Skunk family may include 'Big Bud', 'Cheese' (aka Skunk#1), 'Holland's Hope', 'Ice', 'Jack Herer', 'Mazar', 'Shiva', 'Super Skunk' and many, many more than we care not to list here.



The Afghans

Closely aligned to the dominant factions within the Skunk family, the Afghan tribe enjoys stamping its authority onto a number of cultivar families, be they large or small. 'Afghan' is itself a landrace strain procured from Afghanistan sometime during the countries Soviet occupation. Considered to have descended from an ancient family line, 'Afghan' was soon stabilised by breeders so as to preserve the

family's honour. Various breeders/growers have also term 'Afghan' as 'Kush'. Besides its active role in the Skunk family, 'Afghan / Afghan #1' plays a big part in some real heavy hybrids like 'Chronic', 'Critical Mass', 'Northern Lights', 'Super Afghan' et al... In recent years seed collectors and breeders have hunted strains containing pure 'Afghan'!'Kush' hereditary (often from Afghanistan) for the purpose of in breeding and to rectify the family name.



The Thais

'Thai' varieties are often confused with their close cousins 'Vietnamese' and 'Cambodian' and visa versa. This extended family-unit then acts more like a tribe than a close-knit family in the traditional sense. A reason for this is that S.E. Asian varieties are often interchanged by breeders, both difficult to stabilise and identify. Patterns of kinship may be unique or so inbred that progeny display hermaphrodites (an

element typical in Thai landrace). Breeders prefer to identify and isolate the 'Vietnamese' and 'Cambodian' genetics that display uniformity in action. As a result the family is split into many factions (or smaller tribes). Today some influential tribal leaders have emerged some on the Thai/Vietnamese side some on the Cambodian ('Blueberry', 'Cali. Orange', 'Haze', 'Juicy Fruit', 'Kali Mist', 'Northern Lights', 'Yumbolt'...). Many of now command their own family units.



The second biggest family of cultivar is that which has acquired the common name Haze. 'Haze' itself is a complex cross between several landrace cultivar including 'Colombian', 'Mexican', 'ThailVietnamese' (and possibly 'Jamaican')? Whilst the lineage of 'Haze' is debated, it is accepted that 'Haze' originated in California during the 1970's. In their own right the Haze family have come to represent some of the best long-flowering plants for indoor growing. The family gene is considered to be mild when inbred yet highly vigorous (and extremely potent) when hybridized with certain members of both the 'Skunk' and 'Afghan' families. These crossbreeds also help to reduce the flowering periods traditionally associated with the Haze family. Today the Haze family has connections all over the world and holds influence over many breed-lines.



The I ndians

Perhaps originally one of the smallest tribes, the Indians have been grown-out to make new families of plants, forming a distinct relationship with other families in the process. Many 'Indian' varieties derive from a single 'South Indian' plant, while others stem from more humble beginnings. 'White Widow' is arguably the most famous family to be spawn from 'Indian' varieties, although strains like 'Armageddon47'

actually carry more in the way of Indian prominence in heritage.



The White Family

Another big group of cultivar is that of the White family. With pedigree in the strain 'White Widow' (aka WW) this family was once one of the most competitive in seed competition. Rumoured to be a cross between 'Brazilian' and 'Indian', WW comes from the breed stables of one of the industries' most prolific breeders, Shantibaba. Originally released in Holland during the early 1990's, for many years WW flew the White

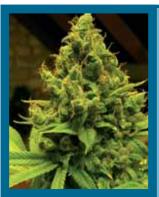
family flag and set the standard of things to come. Many of the 'White' family members are still housed at the Greenhouse seed/coffeeshops Amsterdam. The strains 'El Nino' (aka 'Godzilla'), 'Great White Shark' (aka 'Peacemaker'), and 'White Rhino' (aka 'Medicinal Man'), each contain 'White Widow' in varying parts. Since the White family is so popular it has grown in recent years to include 'Snow White', 'White Pearl', 'White Rose', 'White Russian'...and so on.



The Northern Lights Family

The Northern Lights family is synonymous with the Netherlands and 'the Dutch method'. 'Northern Lights' ('NL') is a cross between the 'Thai' and 'Afghan' families (a perfect inter-tribal marriage). The NL family received much attention during the 'Golden Age' of indoor cultivation. Inbred, out-bred, and linebred, 'NL' went on to mother/father lots of

siblings, each of which has picked up awards. 'NL#5xHaze' which by itself commands authority, is the strain that cracked the spyglass when paired with the Skunk families '#1' to make 'Jack Herer'. For many years this offshoot of 'Northern Lights' was the richest child in the family business; until mother came back to run the family affairs. Today the Northern Lights family still make a tidy sum, simply because they still child some of the best genetics known.



The Blue Family

Like the Bubblegum family the Blue family grows stronger by the day. This clan was made infamous by the strain 'Blueberry', which itself is a cross between 'Juicy Fruit Thai' and 'Afghan'. Certain family members are always 'Bluer' than others but generally speaking at least one sibling in each clan (seed pack) will display blue/purples hues in their leaf or buds (hence the name). The Blue Family grows so well that the suffixes 'Goo', 'Haze',

'Hen', 'Russian', 'Satellite', 'Thunder' 'Velvet', 'Widow', plus lots more, may be applied. This isn't to mention the extended family members that don't have the prefix 'Blue' in their name. The Blue family, like most families, also has a 'black sheep' or two. These split-off on their own, to make a really new family group.

Summary

Hopefully the above illustrates some of the close and distant relationships that exist between many popular families of cultivar (old and new). Ask any collector of seeds about their hobby and they will tell you that the pursuit of cannabis genetics is addictive, sometimes expensive, yet always sprouting with excitement and knowledge. Seeds are seeds the world over, yet the plants that spring from them are each unique. Understanding the genealogy of particular cultivar provides cultivators with an edge over the process of selection, which ultimately makes for wholesome gardening.



The Bubblegum Family

'Bubblegum' is one of the smaller families that have only just started to leave a lasting impression upon cannabis breeders. 'Bubblegum' itself is a cross between 'Big Skunk' and 'Northern Lights #5' (that's 'Skunk' x 'Afghan' x 'Thai' x 'Afghan'). Many breeders have based whole genetic collections upon 'Bubblegum' alone; opting to outbreed then

inbreed lines of the family with one another, each striving to produce the ultimate medicinal strain. We'll leave you to do a Google search over the families many children.



The Black Family

The Black family likes to think themselves 'bluer' than the Blue family. As with any family argument both families could be in the wrong. The Black family gained notoriety via the strain 'Black Domina', which is neither black nor blue in colour (perhaps purple every now and then). However when some clever dick (another American) crossed 'Black Domina' with 'Blueberry' to make 'Blackberry' and all hell broke loose. The 'Black' now turned

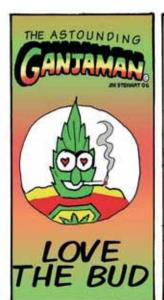
'Blue' in bloom. Although unrelated 'Black Widow' ('Brazilian' x 'Indian') is another 'black sheep' from the White Family.



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Gaz's rockin' blues — a home to the green

Gaz Mayall, West End club host, dj. and son of world-renowned blues artist John Mayall has been opening up and offering the irresistible temptation to step out onto the floor for more years than most. The success of Gaz's Rockin Blues lays not so much with him moving with the times but more with him sticking to his guns. SSUK's Kaz Peet talked to him about the club, music and marijuana.

SSUK: Gaz's Rockin' Blues is London's most long-standing club. When exactly did it begin and how?

G.M.: It began on July 2nd 1980. I was doing a bit of DJ'ing at a place called the Two Tone club in 1979 when I had a little shop selling second hand clothes in Kensington Market. Some people had seen me DJ'ing there and set up a similar kind of thing playing rock steady, ska, R&B and sixties soul, they said to come along and so I turn up at Gossips and the only people in the club were two fat girls dancing. I said to Alex, the organiser "Come on what are you doing, this is such a good place and it's such good music, how come no one's here?" Then as I was leaving the manager said, "Well, could you do any better?" To which I replied, "Of course, anyone could." He offered me a deal and with the encouragement of friends we opened the following month. I did a really cool flyer for it, put it around everywhere and it was absolutely rammed and the club was born. On the first night, the owner, a West Indian guy who looked like a cross between Mohammed Ali and James Brown said to me that he'd been doing this stuff a long time and he could guarantee that the club would last for three years. At that time, I was only twenty-one and I couldn't imagine what three years looked like. Anyway, here I am twenty-six years later- it's our birthday party next week.

The music you play at the club is decades old. What keeps it fresh and popular especially with so many young people? What's the secret of its longevity?

All the records when they first came out were created either by young people or at least for young people and basically its young people's jumping around music and each generation, when they come across it just totally relate to it. They don't think of it like an old thing. The music that was made in the fifties, sixties and seventies when its put onto vinyl and you turn it up loud even if its got a few scratches on it, it still sounds really lively and fresh like it could have been made this morning.

Do you still avidly collect records?

Yeah, I don't obsessively charge round the place looking for records, although I have been known to but I still get new tunes all the time.





Are you a purest on that front, do you only play vinyl? Have you got into cd and downloads?

Well I've got cd.'s but down the club people like to see vinyl and I find it so much easier rather than dealing with loads of buttons just to get a record out of a box. I prefer 7 inches because you can just put them on and you don't even need headphones.

The cd's that you release, are they compilations?

This grew out of the tapes that I used to do for people years ago and I now do compilations for record companies like Ace, Sony and Trojan.

Moving on now to the herb, obviously there's a pretty strong connection between the world of reggae music and marijuana, and you with all the artists that you must have met and have performed and played at the club must have smoked some pretty pokey spliffs. Do you have any particularly memorable occasions of this kind that you could recall?

There were two incidents at Gossips that were hilarious. One was when we had this little corridor behind the DJ booth where we used to go and smoke but we kept getting found out and get in loads of trouble with the bouncer, Bigga who'd been asked to be extra vigilant because it was a black owned club in the West End and the police were constantly looking for a reason to close it down. So we bored a little hole in the wall and used

to blow the smoke through there. I have this memory of J.T., a black violin player who was with Dennis Bovell and Linton Kwesi Johnson now; he was about sixteen then, with this spliff blowing the smoke through this little hole. Suddenly, the door opened and it was Bigga who was really gigantic insisting that he was to be thrown out. I argued that he couldn't do this as he played in my band. Bigga was unrelenting so I had to threaten to leave myself,

with it. The funny thing is, I put it in for The Portobello Film Festival and anything shown had to go through the council and it got an 18 certificate. That was really quite amusing. I don't smoke so much myself now but I always have it around in case someone wants a smoke. How Amsterdam is ideal where its respectable and you get a menu and you can look at it. It really should be legalised. I played at two or three of those May Day cannabis



stopped the record and started picking up my boxes. The club was absolutely rammed and there was nothing he could do; he couldn't have it closing down and so he went of in tears. That is the only time I have seen a big man cry and that was all over a little spliff The funniest other time; there was always so much smoke there, we all smoked, and one day Lee Perry was playing. He arrived for a sound check and starts looking at all the graffiti in the corridor to the back stage area. Normally people ask, "Where's the back stage?" I'd point to the end of it and say to just do a right at the end but this time there was no right. He'd made a little shrine out of broken glass and other bits and pieces and he went with his torch and analysed all the graffiti for about two hours and then spent the next hour with his black felt tip pen writing 'I KILLED THE DEVIL DEAD' and stuff like that. Then, dressed up in a Union Jack t-shirt. Union Jack shorts, a Union Jack plastic bowler hat and all this paraphernalia over him, went out onto the stage at midnight, the club was rammed with a gigantic spliff nobody could do anything. Bigga just stood there knowing that the only person to whom he would never be able to say, " no, you can't do that" is Lee Scratch Perry because he's completely mad, you can't have a normal conversation with him. He spent the whole gig, right in the middle of everyone, spliffing away.

Are you involved in the campaign to legalise cannabis?

I made a 12 inch in 1993 called 'The Great British Spliff'', its also on the 'Wild and Free' album and there's a video that goes festivals in Brixton and I performed 'The Great British Spliff' live on stage with this enormous spliff made out of cardboard stuffed with this palm that had just died in my house as the weed. I went round the whole festival smoking it, which was hilarious, everyone wanted a puff.

What about festivals this summer?

I'm doing some good ones. The Fuji Rock Festival in Japan, The Rhythm Festival, a ska festival and of course Notting Hill Carnival where we're doing a lost world theme using a crashed aeroplane in the jungle with the Mutoid Waste crew.

There doesn't really seem any reason to stop. Do you see the club continuing for the next twenty years?

Well I don't know what else I'd do, I love it, it's just one of these ongoing things. I'm a party animal; I just don't know when to stop.

Do you still wear holsters with melodicas in each one?

Yes I have them. I thought I'd lost them about two years ago but then I got them back which is great. The guy who made them is actually a saddle maker and they are beautifully made with each holster perfectly measured to fit each melodica. I don't wear them as often as I used to, but yes I do still wear them.

Do want to say anything else to Soft Secret readers?

Yeah, skin up and keep on puffing!









Paranoia

By Lazystrain

Paranoia: from the Greek para (the mind), is a mental illness in which a person(s) has delusions or suspects and distrusts people.

The initial plan in this issue of Soft Secrets was to interview the owner of a hydroponics/growshop so as to gain an insight into the present retail scene within the UK. Finding a shop that was willing to spill the inside beans regarding the behind the scenes of the cannabis industry, as expected, proved challenging. Moreover, the more we delved the more it became evident that certain growshops in the UK actually hold an ingrained sense of paranoia towards "cannabis" and the "cannabis growers" that support the industry to which they belong. We'd always assumed that it was the cannabis growers that held a firm sense of paranoia towards growshops, not the other way

There are several reasons why growshops should/would/could be apprehensive about their customers. Foremost the issue of legality, or is that criminality, or both? So long as cannabis cultivation remains illegal in the UK, growshops continue to step on Policy's toes. Wrongly this is how it grows, so everyone involved has a reason to feel on edge. But wait a second, this is the UK not France. Sure, in France, cannabis T-shirts are illegal; so is educational info about cannabis and advertising (Soft Secrets France is a strictly under-counter affair). The point being, last time we looked at the paper discourse that spurts out of Whitehall, growshops within the UK were doing little wrong. Legally neither the customer or growshop owner is committing any crimes in shop, so why the pretence?

A serious problem arises because people visiting growshops often feel as though they are doing something wrong. This obviously doesn't apply to everyone. However, logic implies that the person on the other side of the counter understands that the customer 9 in10 intends to do 'wrong' (at least within the eyes of the law). This creates a sense of tension

between the shopkeeper and customer until acquaintance is known. Makes you think how many people move from shop to shop, simply because dialogue isn't real or just plain uninviting?

The sale of seeds is also a contentious issue for certain growshops. Some sell seeds over counter, some under counter, some don't bother at all. Many prefer to "distance themselves from 'thatside' of the business"? Surpassed by 'inside-industries' many shops then no longer supply everything that is needed for growing cannabis; which via every method involves seed at some stage (the first!). Certain commercial outlets look at their customers gone-out when they ask if they "sell seeds?" The customer leaves the shop thinking "Are these people for real or what?" $[\bar{N}ote: growshops that do$ not stock cannabis seeds are like pubs that don't sell crisps.]

For the majority, the people that visit growshops hold an interest in cannabis. This is where we reach a part of the law that is designed to screw everyone in one word 'conspiracy'. It is illegal to 'conspire' to cultivate cannabis in the

UK. Growshop owners therefore tend to get vexed toward customers that ask too many "awkward" questions that she/he cannot be answering. The growshop can however advise on how best to cultivate let's say "tomatoes", "cacti" and "chillies".

For many growshops provide a source of necessity. The strawberries, chilies and tomatoes really do prefer advanced soil mixes, let alone cannabis. This is to say nothing about hydroponic growers who really do need to visit the shop every now and then to stock up on essential supplies. At this point we'd like to say a big respect and thank you to all of those shop owners that support educational awareness towards ecological methods of cultivation, regardless of what is being sown or grown.

None of the above is to say that growshops don't ALL have the best interests of their customers in mind (well ok maybe a few). Most growshops we talked with seemed genuinely positive about making homegrowing a legitimate pastime. Our '20 questions' have been placed on hold,,, until the next issue.

Danger Signs: Cannabis versus Ecstasy

By Dr John Dee

I should probably apologise for this before going any further. It's not going to be at all popular and I doubt it will win me many popularity contests, but in the spirit of free enquiry, I feel it to be necessary and right to disseminate current thinking on drug issues (particularly cannabis). All I'm doing here is reporting the findings of others therefore please do not shoot the messenger.

Let's begin with a question:

Which is the more neurotoxic: cannabis or Ecstasy? No doubt at this moment most of you out there are thinking something like "Stupid question: obviously it's got to be Ecstasy, right?"

Well, wrong, actually. Or rather, not necessarily.

Recently, I was perusing the recent scientific literature on an MDMArelated matter when a paper from Germany (the details are given below for the curious) caught my attention.

The study looked at a group of Ecstasy users and a control group of non-users for comparison (the controls "had no previous or current history of alcohol or drug use other than moderate use of cannabis"). The E group were also "regular" cannabis users, whatever that may mean; my own experience of Ecstasy users is that the tendency is to use a lot of

cannabis. There's a dictum here: "not all tokers use Ecstasy, but most Ecstasy users are tokers".

Ecstasy users were asked to complete a few self-rating scales "for impulsivity, sensation seeking and general psychological complaints". While the E users reported significantly more problems than the non-users, these were mainly associated with their cannabis use.

Basically, a whole range of behaviours usually associated with mid to long-term Ecstasy use, such as obsessive-compulsiveness (loosely defined: sounding like a stuck record), interpersonal sensitivity (loosely defined: misinterpreting the meaning of what people are saying), depression and anxiety can also be attributed to cannabis use.

The authors concluded that:

"The present findings suggest that self-reported psychopathology in ecstasy users is predominantly attributable to concomitant use of cannabis. Abstinence from cannabis and not ecstasy seems to be a reliable predictor for remission of psychological complaints in ecstasy users."

To sum the whole thing up, if you're a fairly regular Ecstasy user you'd be well advised to go easy on how much cannabis you use. At the first sign of any psychological bother, do yourself (and those around you) a big favour

and stop using cannabis at least for a while or until the symptoms pass (with luck, they'll be temporary). And then you should give serious consideration to giving up - or at least cutting down – your Ecstasy use.

The authors again:

"Abstinence from cannabis and not Ecstasy seems to be an appropriate predictor for remission of psychological complaints in Ecstasy users"

Of course, the paper finishes with the usual get-out clause that the findings need to be interpreted with caution, and therefore we can probably assume that the findings are, to a degree at least, inconclusive or open to interpretation. What anyone reading this decides to take or not take from this article is a matter of personal choice, but it should at the very least be filed away in the back of the brain.

Reference:

Daumann J, Henson G, Thimm B, Rezk M, Till B, Gouzoulis-Mayfrank E (2004) Self-reported psychopathological symptoms in recreational ecstasy (MDMA) users are mainly associated with regular cannabis use: further evidence from a combined cross-sectional/longitudinal investigation. Psychopharmacology 173:398–404

When leaves become discoloured with red and purple tints this is often a sign of a shortage phosphorus. This is an important nutrient that is essential for optimal growth and bloom in marihuana plants. Its presence ensures a good, healthy root system. When growing outdoors leaves can sometimes take on a purple or reddish hue because the plant is from one of the Purple strains or a related cross (in which the flower heads and/or the leaves are pretty much always purple). Also, a temperature that is too low (in outdoor growing common scenario in the autumn) can cause leaves to turn purple. But indoor growers can also be troubled by too low a temperature, such as when the lamps are not on (which can make the temperature plummet!)

BACKGROUND

"One of the deep secrets in life," once told to his friend, the actress Ellen Terry, is "that all that is really worth the doing, is what we do for others." When you take a look into his letters you can conclude that he really was serous when he made the remark. He wrote a lot for free. Not only books and stories, but also instruction about mathematics, art and science. Sometimes he even gave away food and clothing or payed, in silence, medical bills. Carroll was not only a puzzling character himself. He liked to invent games and puzzles, based on the mathematical rules and logic. On the other hand: it is still an enigma that this serious, religieus man wrote books, poems and stories which have nothing to do with morality, logical rules and other practical ideas. He created an universe where impossibility is ruling, without using scorcery. In fact Carroll is the counterpart of J.K Rowling. By the time her nerdy Harry Potter is forgotten, his little hero Alice will be as fresh and alive as she was when Carroll gave her to the world, and she is today. Talking about magic.....

Lewis Carroll

Feije Wieringe

lives on in Alices' Wonderland

1998 marked the centennial of the death of the author of the Alice in Wonderland stories, Lewis Carroll. Carroll's real name was actually Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and his pseudonym represents an anagram, which is not so surprising when you know that this vicar's son was a lover of puns and word games. Besides having penned what is probably the most well-known of all children's stories, Carroll also wrote a number of other children's stories as well as lots of nonsense poetry. But is it all nonsens, or is it something else? And what do Alice and drugs have in common?

When Gulliver's Travels was first published it was read as satire by adults whereas nowadays it is considered to be an exciting children's story. The same fate is shared by Don Quichotte. Youth classics such as Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe were also never intended for children. With Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll saw children as his audience. He intended it to be a child's book and strangely enough many an adult as well as children have found it endlessly intriguing. A strange effect appears often while reading Alice: when you are young, you will like it as a very funny story. Not a fairytale, but a children story with talking animals, mad hatters and other funny charcters which are saying funny things. When you are aging and reading Alice again the story is still funny, but not all of the time. Slowly you will stop laughing and recognize that the characters are not fun at all. They are crazy. A parade of fools is passing by, there's no security in the world Alice entered after falling in te hole and the white rabbit seems more a sinister pied piper then a friendly guide. It looks as if Alice's universe becomes more and more a dimension where everything is meaningless. There are no certainties anymore for Alice, she's lost in a world that doesn't have any connection to the real world, she came from. Or is it, like we all do, our own look at the world that changes as we are growing older? Childhood lost, funny Alice lost....

Alice is a book you will a) - enjoy if you are in a good mood or b) - scare you senseless if you are feeling insecure. Set and setting!

Set and Setting

Once I asked the Dutch author Koos Verkaik, whose reputation in the Netherlands is similar to that of Stephen King, which book had influenced him the most in his life. Without losing a second he replied, "Alice in Wonderland, that is such a weird and scary book. A lot scarier than any of my own horror and ghost stories." A lady I met recently was recounting how after eating some magic mushrooms, she found herself in a world that made her think of the one on which Alice had found herself.

"When I looked down I saw a deep well and at the very bottom of the hole, all kinds of unimaginable action was taking place. My greatest fear at the time was that just like Alice, I would be caught in a house that was shrinking. It was pure horror! I had read Alice as a child and had not thought it very nice then. I was really afraid."

Alice is a book you will a) - enjoy if you are in a good mood or b) - scare you senseless if you are feeling insecure. Set and setting!

At the high point of the psychedelic wave of the Sixties, two popular LSD related songs also refer directly to Alice in Wonderland, namely; White Rabbit by Jefferson Airplane and 5D (fifth dimension) from the Byrds. This last song contains the lyrics:

All my two dimensional boundaries were gone I had lost to them badly I saw the world crumble And thought I was dead But I found my senses still working

And as I continued to drop through the hole I found all the surrounding Who showed me the joy that innocently is Just be quiet and feel it around you

This is exactly how Alice feels after she drank from the bottle -drink me!!- and started shrinking and stretching. Roger McGuinn who wrote the song, told the press that these lyrics were inspired from a book he red at the time, One Two Three Four, More, More, More, a book about the possibility that there are a lot more dimensions than we look at. But I think he's telling a part of the truth: just before his drug inspired song Eight Miles High was banned from the radio because it could be experienced as the description of a psychedelic trip. McGuinn tells that it was about in an airplaneride from L.A. to to London. Trying to save the airplay of the song. But he loves playing these games even in these times. Almost hidden messages are common in his work...

The connection between Alice's drop in the hole and McGuinn's theory about dimensions is loud and clear for anyone using mindbending drugs, cannabis included. And isn't a hole another dimension? Also McGuinn is known to know his classics. Het knows Alice... It's a looks a little like Lennon's trick to slow down the discussion about the Sgt. Pepper album. Lennon used telling about his Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. Is there any person who believes his explanation that the song tells about a child's drawing instead of LSD?

But what do Alice and drugs have in common?

Drugs and Morals

Lewis Carroll is far from subtle when referring to the use of drugs. One of the first characters Alice meets is a large caterpillar, who is seated on a mushroom whilst sucking on a water pipe. Please note that when Lewis Carroll wrote this story the use of cannabis and other psychedelics was accepted as normal in British intellectual circles and was also completely legal. It seems pretty obvious that Lewis Carroll, just as Coleridge and Swinburne, to name another two psychedelic poets, used these hallucinogenic substances and then reworked the experience to form the Alice stories. If you've ever been in a psycedelic state of mind than you will regognize Alice surely as a deeply well written tripreport. Walls are crumbling, ceilings are moving, dimensions changing, fear turns into fun, fun becomes fear. All these imaginations are well known psychedelic pictures. And so it's a lot more easy to understand why Alice in Wonderland is extremely funny and extremely scary at the same time. Children are not scared, they accept talking rabbits and mad hatters because children go with the flow. When children grow up, they discover that's impossible not te be scared. Parents and evironment are warning against everything that's out of order (and also against a lot that's normal) and when a child has learned that rabbits cannot talk they it's scared when a rabbit talks....The fear we read in Alice is the fear for being mad. Lewis Carroll was playing a game with the mind when he wrote Alice, Jabberwocky and made his mindbreaking puzzels.

Pedophilia and incest are currently a hot issue. Lewis Carroll is often criticized for being a pedophile who misused children, but in Victorian times, the adoration of innocent children was regarded as the norm. That Lewis Carroll loved little girls is a fact. Alice in Wonderland was at first not even intended for publication but was meant as a gift to Alice Liddell, the daughter of a friendly reverend and there is no evidence in his letters to suggest that Lewis Carroll saw their

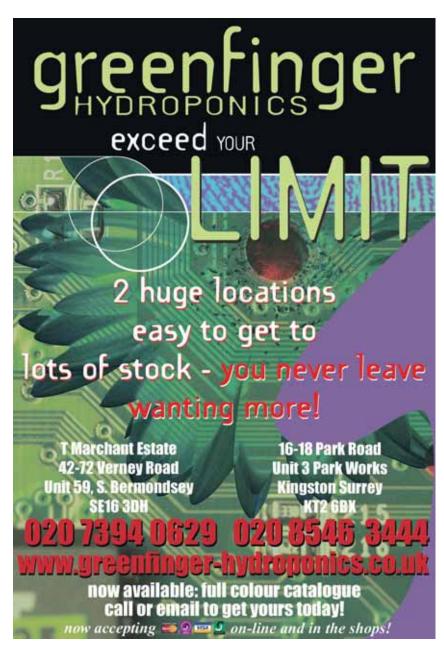


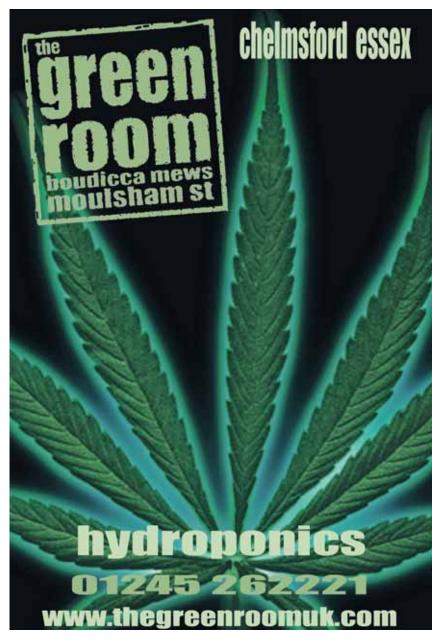


relationship as anything more than purely platonic. And the same goes for all the other young girls that he had loved. He is also known for the number of photographs he took of very young naked children, but none of these suggest any misuse, plus they would not have been taken without parental consent. In the letters (the one's I saw, hundreds) he wrote to children he knew, Carroll talks mostly about the brain and the funny things it triggers. There are no sexual hints. A lot of good advises, a lot of funny stories and a lot of good advise. And puzzles, always puzzles... Think about thinking is the message.

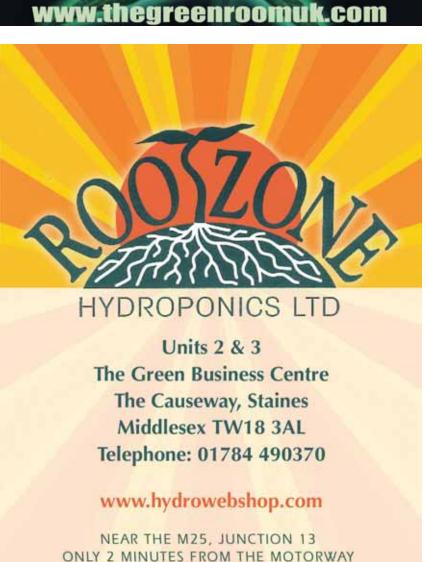
One would have to be seriously Freudian in order to find any hint of sexuality between the lines in Alice. What makes the story so special is that it lacks any moral. Alice finds herself in a completely surrealistic world that is populated by all sorts of, to be polite, unsympathetic characters. A queen who constantly shouts, "Off with their heads!", not to mention the Cheshire cat who just hangs in the trees with a dazed grin on it's face. The White Rabbit disappears whenever Alice needs him most, but due to her uninhibited behavior, no serious harm befalls her.

Probably the lack of a moral to the story is what keeps it alive. This is quite an achievement when you consider that it was written in an age which seems to have discovered the term, moralism.









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GROW REPORT

Blueberry & Master Kush from Black Label

By The Advanced Beginners

GERMINATION:

There were 10 seeds in each packet; we germinated all 20 in one batch. We used the paper towel method; within 48 hours they had all grown large enough initial shoots to transplant them into the medium. Such quick and high germination rates showed us that there were no major restrictions in our environmental conditions, and (as these remain relatively consistent) that the seeds had very high viability rates. We know this because although we're fairly new to growing, we're also quite unique as we choose to only grow around 99% of the time from seeds. We've had rates as quickly as this, but never really any quicker than this, as we smoke herbs constantly we've quickly have gone through hundreds of seeds!

We planted the seeds into 3.5" round pots filled in a 50/50 mix of Bio Bizz Light Mix and Coco, then placed the seedlings on the perimeter of the grow space. For the next couple of days the pots and vegetative matter of the previous crop heavily shaded them, so they would become accustomed to the intense light they would soon experience.

VEGETATIVE GROWTH:

The vegetative growth area was constructed from a small wardrobe lined with Mylar. Inside the wardrobe we hung a 400-Watt Metal Halide lamp, which ran for 18 hours per day. Outside of the wardrobe we placed an oscillating fan, which was positioned so (when the lamp is lower in the later stages) its airflow directly hit the bulb and shade.

After 2 or 3 days the seedlings had risen above the surface of the medium, grown their cotlydons and had started to produce their first set of leaves. At this stage we moved the plants shading the seedlings into the flowering tent, placed the young seedlings in the wardrobe, and raised the 400w lamp to around 1meter from their tiny tops. Over the next 14 days the plants slowly grew, as we gradually lowered the lamp. It was around this time when the plants and the lamp met, and we began to use the backs of hands to monitor optimum lamp distances. Quite simply placing one of our hands palm down over the top of the plants to feel the heat. With a oscillating fan pointing permanently at the bulb its amazing how much closer you can comfortably position your hand / the lamp.

On the 14th day we repotted from the 3.5" round pots into 3 litre square pot. Over the next week both varieties really transformed, their stems thickened and the lower branches started forming. Their

central stems (when rubbed) smelt of a very pungent cigar like scent, common to Indicas. On the 19th day we noticed the first roots coming though the bottom of the 3 litre pots.

21 days into vegetative growth and the plants were looking great. A very nice scent developed (in the air), which began to worry us slightly as we have taken no preventative measures to combat this in the grow area. Fortunately the scent didn't intensify much beyond the aroma level of strong pot purrey within the room our wardrobe was in. We don't generally have this concern because we generally choose strains with high Sativa genetics, which are generally less heavily scented. I remember a Super Skunk crop in a cupboard, which made a large 6 bedroom house reek of super skunk - such a lovely smell, such a dangerous one!

Halfway though the third week we began twisting the tops of both varieties to encourage bushy growth patterns. The plants regained their vigour within 24 hours, and we repeated the process twice a week until around 7-10 days into flower.

We decided to move them into the flowering room after 28 days growth, as they were soon to outgrow the size of the wardrobe! They were all 15"-18" tall and were beginning to grow only upwards as there was no other direction for them to grow in. We were very impressed with both strains rate of growth, when we compared this grow to other attempts we've made in the same area. Also it was a great time for us because we run a perpetual harvest, and this was the first time the change over has been because we needed to move our plants out of the grow area, rather than desired to fill the flowering area. All the way though the growth stage plants were fairly uniform, with no major variations in their traits.

Regarding nutrients we generally kept to the schedule for Bio Bizz light mix. We like their product range as its simple and 100% organic. We used all their liquid products except for their Leaf Coat, and when the schedule stated Bio Grow we mixed it 50 / 50 with Fish mix. We foliar feed with plain water for the first week then a 50/50 mix of Algamic and Fish Mix several times a week.

The only way we diverted from the schedule was rather then start feeding them the 2 ml per litre Bio Grow / Fish Mix at 7 days; we had risen these components gradually starting from 1 ml per litre at 7 days growth, working up to 2 ml per litre at 25 days when they were around 6 / 7 internodes in structure. Also

we didn't raise this component further then 2 ml per litre in the later stages.

FLOWERING

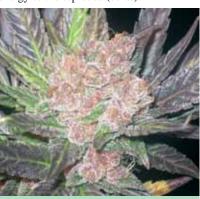


58 days

The flowering area was made from a grow tent covered in Mylar. Inside we hung 2 x 600 Watt HPS lamps, each one covering an area of 1square metre. There was an extractor fan removing air from the room and a large 12" pedestal fan for constant air movement. Like many growers we create passive air intake successfully without a dedicated input fan, simply by leaving the door to the room open when the lamps are running.

While transferring the plants between the two rooms we thoroughly sprayed them with buzz off as a preventive measure. For the first 7 days we choose to put the plants on the perimeter of the flowering room, as the previous crop required a little longer. We appreciate this is not good practise, but we felt it was the best option given the situation. Both varieties stopped growing in height so rapidly and started filling out in width as soon as they were placed into flowering, showing us we had done the right thing by not forcing them to grow upwards any longer. This meant our flowering room was the fullest it's ever been, both square metres and the perimeter as well - let's just say watering from the bottom of the pots became hard

By 7 to 8 days the Blueberries had risen a few centimetres in height above the Master Kush, other then this there were no major differences in size or structure. Nether variety had the remarkably thick fan leaves, or dense squat structures characteristic of Indicas. At 9 days the first signs of sex began to show on both varieties, so we repotted 8 of the females from the 3 litre pots into 15 litre pots. The 3 litre pots served us well, with both varieties having nice thick healthy root system. We checked the others every day or so, eventually weeding out 9 males, leaving us with 7 female Blueberries plants and 4 female Master Kush plants. When we repotted them we cut of the lower _ of the bud sites to divert the energy to the top buds (colas).



Blueberry at 70 days

On the 14th day we bent the tops of most of the plants down and tied them to the pots with string. The plan was to roughly overlap the tops of the main stems (the colas), exposing more bud sites on the main stems and canopy underneath. While bending them we applied too much pressure and spilt 2 of the Master Kush plants main stems, which we repaired swiftly by binding string tightly around the break points. We readjusted the tie downs on the 16th day, and it looked like both varieties had filled out and would not grow much further. There was still very little between the two strains in structure, except now the Master Kush plants had regained the height difference and a little extra as (if they were not tied down) they were the tallest of the crop.

Around 21 days into flowering, all the plants had nice thick central stems and medium side branching. A quick check revealed all the plants had grown roots to the bottom of their individual pots. A few bud sites on both varieties had begun to form, but so far we could only tell that the Blueberries were true to form by their leaf and stem structure. We could tell easily by the overall rate of growth and general health that this crop had great harvest potential.

At 28 days into flowering we noticed one of the Blueberries had purple buds, which made for a nice change, as (however aesthetical) it is rare we see this trait in our herbs. On day 30 we noticed all the support strings on both varieties had became unstuck from the sheer strength of the plants growth. We considered tying them down again, but there simply was no room any longer, as the lower branches had grown so much.

Over the next couple of weeks the Blueberries started forming their bud sites abundantly. From this we could tell the Blueberries were all slightly different, exhibiting hybrid vigour and generally great quality. The Master Kush we were a little more concerned with as they were leaving fewer clues, by developing at a much slower rate. We were right (at day 16) to think the Blueberries structures were fairly set, but wrong about the Master Kush. There were 2 basic variations in the Master Kush structure, 1 of them was shorter, wider and denser and the other 3 were taller, with longer internodes. The taller ones stems and branches continued growing their central stems and branches for a good few weeks into flowering exhibiting a fair amount of Sativa in their genetics. If we had to estimate we would say they were 25% or more Sativa.





Master Kush at 84 days

On day 43 we harvested the plants (from the previous crop) in the other half of the tent, quicker then could be en expected. This meant we had created a gap, as for the next few weeks we had no plants vegetated large enough to fill the space. So now we had the full 2 square metres to utilize for this crop only designed to fill half that space. To make plants the most uniform they could be while exposing them to the extra light, we moved the 7 Blueberries under one lamp and the 4 Master Kush under the other.

It was around 49 days into flowering when the bud structures of 3 larger Master Kush plants really came alive. Until this point we could not even slightly predict how these plants would finally develop, as we have not grown this strain before. We noticed the shorter Master Kush plant was looking amazing; it was very dense and literally drenched with resin. This was one of the plants that we had to repair after splitting its central stem. The repair job had worked but the string now was suffocating the central stem. We didn't know whether to remove the binding or not, but choose to, as it now seemed unnatural and cruel. The plant had not seemed not to suffer up until this point and stayed healthy after we had removed it, so it would appear little harm was done. Some of the branches on both varieties began to bend downwards due to their excessive

At 63 days into flowering we decided to harvest the top colas of the Blueberries. It seemed logical as the main colas were considerably more mature then the under canopy and blocked much of its light. We hung the colas and they were dry within 5 days.



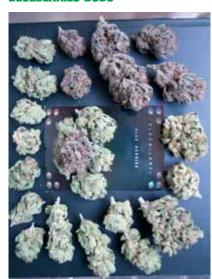
Master Kush, 84 days

On the 70th day we harvested the rest of the Blueberries, their buds had really developed so we were glad that we left them to flower for the additional week. The plants consisted of lots of branches and medium sized buds. They looked beautiful with purple tints coming though on the most of the plants. The one plant that was totally purple throughout flowering was bright pink when you prized open a fresh bud. Some smelt more fruity or sweet then others, 4 / 5 out of the 7 smelt exceptionally rich. The trimming took much longer then expected, roughly around 30 minutes per plant. The resin barely hit the fan leaves but all the shade and bud leaves were well coated. So we were able to make a nice few joints of scissor hash and a gram or two of great bubble hash. We also harvested the small Master Kush plant on the 70th day.

The last three Master Kush plants began to fall over due to excessive weight around day 70 onwards. We supported their central stems with string tied to the grow tent, but there was little we could do for the lower branches. In the end we harvested these last 3 plants on the 84th day. We could have easily taken them earlier but we prefer our herbs to be fairly mature. The buds had a high flower to leaf ratio so they only took around 5 - 10 minutes per plant.

We don't normally weigh our herbs, but we figured as were writing a report we should give you the facts. The 7 Blueberries weighed 206 g, and the Master Kush 233g (37g of which was the shorter / Indica plant). For many this yields would be moderate for us it was way above average. Allowing the plants spread out with twice and space and light from day 43 onwards we believe must have contributed to our success, other than this would put it down to great quality genetics.

BLUEBERRIES BUDS





Blueberry dried

The Blueberries were made up of medium sized calyxes, with a high resin content. There was some variation in this strain, so the way the buds from each plant looked, felt, smelt, and tasted was slightly different. They were some of the tastiest buds we've smoked in years, sometimes actually leaving a sweet taste in our mouths for a while after we exhaled. The general taste was a very sweet mix of fruits, the purple/pink plant and a couple of the shorter plants stood out in this respect.

There was not a great deal of difference in their effects. For us it generally fell in to the category of happy effects, pleasing for both the body and mind. This strain has great potential for repeated use, as the effects are fairly long-lived and each joint takes you higher. This means throughout a smoking session the effects build on one another significantly, this also means it's harder to explain its effects as they are greatly different depending on how much you consume in a given period.

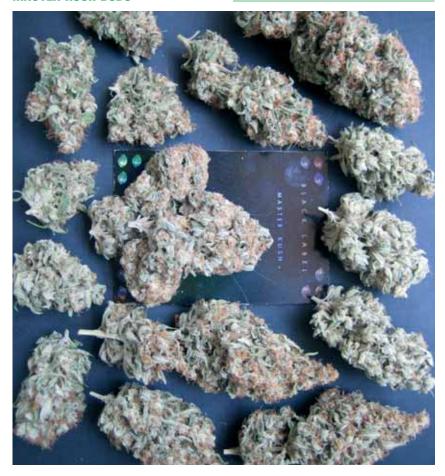
In moderate amounts we had cheerful, realistic mental outlooks and a nice smooth bodily feeling. It has elements of euphoria, but at such levels such feeling / thoughts are generally controllable.

In greater amounts in shorter frequencies, we have had the giggles (uncontrolled hysterical laughter), and "shut eye perma grins" (blatant intoxication shown via a permanent "blissed out" / uncontrollable facial expression). Also we have felt physically relaxed to the point of sedation, making it a nice strain to smoke before you intend to fall asleep.

MASTER KUSH BUDS



Master Kush dried



Both variations of the Master Kush had small sized calyxes and medium resin content. Their scents and tastes were a mix of sweet, spicy and skunk blended together. The effect from both the varieties was very similar; it's a fairly powerful stoney effect, that's felt both throughout the body and the mind.

In regular amounts the body feels relaxed but active. It was slightly stimulating for the mind, but not through taking you on a psychoactive journey, rather through speeding your thoughts up, similar to coffee. But what goes up quickly often comes down in the same manner, so compared with many strains we found the mental effects to be fairly short-lived and easily reached a plateau.

In our case the effects also wore off and tolerance developed to them

much quicker then with the strains physical effects. This made it nice to smoke a little in the morning, as a strong physical base to more mentally inspiring highs throughout the day. In contrast to Blueberries to smoke this though out a whole day we were less content, often reaching for the skins to try to achieve a different or new effect without success. However every time we had little Master Kush circulating in our systems and then smoked a joint we found the effects to be positive and profound.

The Indica variation had a very dense bud structure, and a scent and taste which was slightly spicier than the others. Its effects were similar to the other 3 varieties; it took you a little *higher* a little quicker, and was in our opinion the best of the Master Kush.







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More Rules

By Dr John Dee

In my column in the last issue of Soft Secrets, I ended with these words:

"The health zealots will have their way and I have a very real sense that the tobacco ban is just the beginning"

As it's transpired, they've turned out to be even more prophetic than I imagined (just call me Nostradamus) as it has recently been announced that, having 'tackled' the issue of smoking so successfully, the next target is Scotland's drinking culture.

Thus far the details are rather vague, but it looks as though what the politicians have in mind is some sort of system that will allow people their "recommended number of units" per week only, and these not all at the same time. How this is going to be policed is anyone's guess but with the proliferation of "chip and pin" technology anything is possible. A possible scenario: a card issued to everyone over the age of 18 for use in bars, a three and two unit a night maximum (for males and females respectively), no card no beverage.

Setting a limit on the card would prevent consumers simply moving from one bar to another, but there

are clearly problems going to be problems when one goes to a wine shop, for example, as a bottle of wine contains upwards of 7 units (depending on alcohol content). And it's going to be a major bummer for someone having a party.

The other side of the argument is that there would be a drastic reduction in under-age drinking practically overnight, and therefore a concomitant drop in antisocial behaviour. Every cloud *does* have a silver lining.

While I agree that there is most definitely a need to address certain negative aspects of Scottish booze culture (drink-related violence for example), I also find myself wondering what business it is of the politicians – or of anyone else, come to that – how much I drink.

This is all being packaged and spun as a preventative measure to improve the health of the nation, but we can't help but see it as another attack on personal freedom. The public smoking in a number of respects was fair enough, and bars and restaurants etc are far more pleasant places for its introduction. This new scheme (assuming it gets past first base: it's guaranteed to be highly unpopular) seems to us potentially a triumph for the killjoys.

I've written about these people many times over the years: the self-righteous fundamentalist zealots who consider enjoyment of any sort to be reason for the re-

introduction of public flogging.

For all that hardly anyone goes to church any more, Scotland is a predominantly Protestant country. We're not the only one – look at Switzerland and Holland, for example – but we do seem to be the only one where those who run the country appear to suffer from an intolerant Puritan-Protestant mindset and are intent on imposing it on the population at large whether they want it or not. I'm amazed that 16th century values and attitudes to pleasure prevail in the 21st century. It's like The Enlightenment never happened.

This is why I now despair of any meaningful and positive overhaul in the drug laws for the foreseeable future. I reside in a country where the ethos dominant among the decision makers is 500 years out of date and therefore the notion of "progress" equates with more and more legislation apparently fixated on banning, prohibiting, controlling. The signs aren't good, and what is even more concerning is that Scotland is regarded by like-minded legislators elsewhere as something of a "trailblazer" in the imposition of regulations constantly chipping away at the right of the individual to unwind and have fun. And it's being looked upon as a *good and positive* thing.

Somewhere the ghosts of John Knox and John Calvin must be laughing.

SSUK

EXTRA

dimethyltryptamine777@hotmail.com

DEAR

Dear Soft Secrets

Blackie from Gloucester

This strain which as I know have not yet been named or classified, is Connie Chong x Martian Mean Green which the guys from Puresativa gave me as a free sample. They are under 1 x 600watt Son-T-Plus, using coco coir, Coco A + B, Rhizotonic, Cannazym, Canna Boost Accelerator, PK 13 / 14. This beauty is 5 wks old with another 4 wks to finish. As you know the MMG won last years 2005 cannabis cup for best sativa, but that is not surprising when you see the pedigree of this baby, Sharks Breath - G13 Haze. Definitely smells like a Diesel when brushed against or touched, the buds are rock solid and tight as a ducks ass so I better watch out and take great care against bud rot. The crystals are just popping out all over the place like a miniture nuclear war has broken out on top of these leaves, and I am thinking ''Wow and I still have 28 days to finish you off!''. This breed puts on weight from week 4 I have noticed, a bit leafy when growing so I had to get those shears out to let light through. This one plant is 83cm and will produce between 2 & 2 1/2 oz of dried manicured stinking weed. I chopped a few THC heavily covered leafs and put them to dry out naturally. Already you can tell the guys at DNA have done it again, cause those leaves just zoned me out, excellent start. Can't wait for the harvest I know I have something special here.

US: Court declines to rehear pot king case

SAN FRANCISCO - A federal appeals court declined Wednesday to review its decision overturning pot guru Ed Rosenthal's conviction for growing marijuana.

Rosenthal, who has written books on how to grow marijuana and how to avoid getting caught, was convicted three years ago for cultivating hundreds of marijuana plants for a city of Oakland medical marijuana program.

He was sentenced to one day in prison after U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said it was reasonable the Oakland man thought he was immune from prosecution because a 1996 state law allowed medical marijuana use.

Both sides had appealed, with prosecutors seeking a stiffer sentence and the defendant seeking to clear his record.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the jury verdict in April because of misconduct by a juror who consulted an attorney on how to decide the case. It affirmed that decision Wednesday.

Prosecutors declined to say whether they'll take the case to U.S. Supreme Court or seek a new trial.

The case is United States v. Rosenthal, 03-10307.

Date: 19/07/2006 // Source: The Mercury News

Nepal: Three held with 350 kgs of marijuana

NEWS FROM THE UKCIA

Police on Monday arrested three persons on charges of attempting to smuggle 350 kgs of marijuana to India.

Police seized the marijuana from 32 different parcels in a truck with registration number Na 1 Kha 759 on Lahan-Thandi road section near the Indian border.

Police have arrested truck driver Raju Thapa, a resident of Dubarbana-7, Bara, truck owner Ram Bilas Kuswaha of Birgunj-16 and marijuana trafficker Sona Lal Yadav of Bhawaratar-3, Parsa.

Four days ago police had arrested three persons and seized 73 kg of marijuana from Lahan area of the Mahendra Highway.

Date: 18/07/2006 Source: nepalnews.com

Maldives: Police continues destruction of narcotics discovered on

Maldives Police Services is continuing destruction of narcotics found on the sea floor of Maavaru in April.

On Saturday in the presence of reporters police destroyed 350 packets of cannabis weighing 378 kilograms. Among the hundreds of packets found in the lagoon police has already destroyed 800 packets.

Since the destruction commenced police has destroyed almost half of the cache that weighed more than 1600 kilograms.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday Ibrahim Khaleel, Chief Inspector said that within the next two weeks the cache will be completely destroyed.

Still a report on the investigations carried out in relation to the discovery is not published by the authorities that sought international cooperation in the investigations.

Police this year alone has destroyed close to 2 tons of illegal drugs brought under their custody over the past years.

The frequency of police destroying narcotics is considerably high during this year.

Date: 17/07/2006 // Source: Haama Daily

Soft Secrets TRAVEL

Into the Heart of Darkness "There are practically no laws left in Cambodia" - United States Drug

Enforcement Agency Officer.

Cambodia has suffered from a terrible political history over the last century. From its involvement in the Viet Nam War with America in the 1960's to genocide carried out by President Pol Pot's regime and civil war with the Khymer Rouge the Cambodian people have suffered great adversity and still come out as one of the friendliest, most welcoming society a traveller could be lucky enough to encounter.

By Chris Marchand

Today Cambodia has opened its doors to the world and is being discovered by a new generation of travellers. It is only in the last twenty or so years that the country has become a safe destination for travellers and it still retains some of that edgy, off-the-beaten-track appeal. For years neighbouring Thailand has been the top destination for backpackers looking for white sand beaches, parties and jungle but word is rapidly spreading about all that Cambodia has to offer, and with only a fraction of the tourist who have flooded other parts of South East Asia. One particular draw is Cambodia's massively relaxed attitude to cannabis. Buds are placed on the tables in bars and restaurants and 100-gram bags of low-grade can be bought off a market stall for as little as \$5. Smoking in public accepted as nothing out of the ordinary. Indeed cannabis in Cambodia was only criminalized at the end of 1996 after heavy pressure from the US. Cambodia had no choice but to bow to the pressure since the US supplies aid to the tune of roughly 40% of the countries budget and could cause chaos with a sudden aid cut off.

Corruption in Cambodia is said to run deep and drug trafficking is where it is most rife. At the end of the last century the UN estimated the Cambodian cannabis trade to be worth \$1 Billion

and Cambodia to be the worlds second largest exporter of cannabis after Colombia.

Many of the countries most prolific traffickers enjoy diplomatic immunity or protection, which has led to some truly bizarre cases. A few years ago the French Press Agency reported a story with the Headline: "Naval Police Arrest Six Drug Squad Officials by Mistake". What had happened was a sting operation headed by an American DEA official stationed in Bangkok who led an undercover operation to arrest some Cambodian drug traffickers. The parties had arranged to meet on boats off the harbour at Koh Kong, known as Cambodia's main cannabis producing region, to exchange a large quantity of cannabis for export to the US via Thailand. After a two-hour wait two boats came out to meet the undercover officers and make the deal. To their surprise when the boats arrived the delivery men were Cambodian Naval Officers who inspected the boat before taking it and the officers to a deserted island where the DEA officers was ordered to phone his "bosses" and pay \$40,000 owed for a previous shipment and to secure the release of the men on board. The DEA officer called the Intelligence Agency in Bangkok who had no trouble pinpointing the boat with satellites. Frantic three-way negations

began between Thailand, Cambodia and the US with the six Thai prisoners/ drug squad officers being extradited to Bangkok four days later. No arrests were made and the matter ended with a "memorandum of understanding" which stated that no party had broken the law and so the matter was closed.

In the case of cannabis it is hardly surprising that the peoples attitude is relaxed. Cannabis grows wild all over the place, at the side of the road, outside police stations and in the ancient ruins. Farmers need only scatter the seeds and reap the harvest with very little hard work. Ganja plants can even be seen growing amongst the trees of the Ankor Wat temples, remains of a lost society to rival the Pyramids in Egypt as well as Machu Picchu in Peru. As with much of Asia, in Cambodian society smoking cannabis is seen as an old man's pastime and far less popular with the young generation. Young Cambodians looking for a high are more likely to drink alcohol or take imported amphetamine than smoke buds.

Along with its stunning wildlife, jungle and beaches it is undeniable that it is Cambodia's seemingly "lawless" society that attracts many foreign visitors. Cambodia has always had a reputation for being the "Heart of Darkness". Anyone who has watched Apocalypse Now will testify to the image of Cambodia accepted by the West at the time of the Viet Nam war. Depending on the view you take Cambodia is now being both enjoyed and exploited by visitors to the "lawless" society. At best, these visitors simply want to enjoy the natural country whilst freely smoking cannabis in a tolerant atmosphere. At worst the countries lack of law enforcement attracts sex offenders who can readily exploit children and adults in the sex trade. (Ex-Pop Star turned Paedophile Gary Glitter was extradited out of Cambodia rather

than prosecuted and it was only when he turned up in Viet Nam that he was imprisoned for child sex offences). In a place where anything goes and the law represents only a small threat to ones liberty it becomes the individuals moral responsibility to act appropriately. Needless to say there are plenty who don't pass the test.

If you so choose you can pay a small sum and be taken to some remote part of the jungle to let off rounds of a whole arsenal of weaponry from small hand held to shoulder mounted rocket launchers and assault rifles. And yes, you can also purchase a live chicken, cow or goat to use as target practice. This practice may prove more morally divisive; some would find it grossly unacceptable whilst others would no doubt relish the opportunity.

It is hardly surprising that, in an age when travelling all over the globe gets easier and easier and Western society becomes more and more restrictive on the individuals personal freedom, those who feel constrained by the laws of their own country would flock to places where they are allowed to experience those forbidden fruits. Cambodia is one such place. Keen to emulate their neighbouring Thailand's massively lucrative tourist industry Cambodia has opened itself up to the rest of the world to be either enjoyed or exploited. All too often the case is the latter, with natural rainforest being destroyed to make way for the tourist influx, a booming child sex industry, and drug trafficking trade supplying much of the worlds heroin. Sadly, the tolerance and industry surrounding cannabis is also seen as part of the problem and one can't help but wonder how long Cambodia will be allowed to remain a pot paradise. Cannabis has been part of Cambodian society and culture for thousands of years; it has only been a problem since we in the west decided that it was.

Smoking Grass and Making Bubble in Cambodia: Tales from an English Hash Maker



"We crossed into Cambodia from Thailand over the border at Koh Kong. It was a classic border with metres and metres of barbed wire fencing, armed guards and a very simple small hut. Once our passports had been checked we crossed out onto the road where several local taxi drivers were hanging about waiting to whisk the new arrivals off to hostels in town. We got chatting to two local guys with a car and scooter Honda crunchy was a welcome relief from the 35° heat and 90% humidity but it also dawned on me that my stone from the weed we'd smoked on the Thai side of the border was beginning to wear off and I'd need to score some more here in Cambodia.

Thankfully, this turned out to be no problem at all as the guy who checked us into our room also sold us a bag of local

Cannabis grows wild all over the place, at the side of the road, outside police stations and in the ancient ruins.

and agreed to a ride into town to their guesthouse. The car quickly filled with people and baggage leaving just one seat on the back of the scooter, which was cool with me. As we cruised into Koh Kong the breeze on the back of the little

grass. The weed was sticky and pretty twiggy but it had some decent resinous buds in it and did the job, although we were told that there was nicer bud available for a little more money. Despite almost all the plants being pure sativa's





It takes some effort.



the weed had a full-bodied stone that was not what you might expect from a sativa. This could well be down to the way the herb is treated after it is harvested. There is a massive lack of education in Cambodia and this includes techniques we almost take for granted here in Europe. For example very little of the local Cambodian weed has been dried properly let alone cured. Most of it is left in the sun which degrades the THC and possibly converts much more of it into CBN and CBD, which would account for the heavier stone.

That evening at dinner we met a German guv named Otto who owned a restaurant and guesthouse. Otto had lived in Cambodia since the seventies when he had been imprisoned in Sweden for having literally a spliff's worth of Moroccan hash. After that he thought 'fuck Europe' upped sticks, moved to Cambodia, married a local woman and opened a bar. Otto told us he could get some nice herb if we hang about for a while in which time I had begun to tell him about the bubble hash I had brought from England. He seemed interested so I borrowed one of his bikes and headed back to the hotel to get it.

A little while later I had returned with the bubble and found Otto with a Cambodian dealer who had the nicer grass. This guy seemed pretty charged, sat forward with an intense expression, drawing hard on a cigarette and talking quickly. I only point this out because after a couple of pipes he had completely transformed and was sat back with a big grin on his face and

was telling jokes and stories. It turned out his weed was pretty good and the conversation quickly got onto how the Word of Bubble should be spread. It had gone down well.

After a short ferry ride from Koh Kong we arrived in Sianoukville where we had arranged to meet a Canadian guy, Billy, who was a friend of a friend back home and had been living here for a couple of years with his wife. I had packed a 6-bag set of Next Level Bubblesacs and was keen to try them out on some of the local herb, especially as the ball I had brought with me had shrunk considerably. In no time at all I had chatted to some kitchen staff at a restaurant and was now purchasing a kilo of bud for \$50US. I don't know anywhere in the world where a kilo has come to hand quite so easily. This is the beauty of Cambodia for the cannabis enthusiast.

Billy was keen to try out the Bubblesacs so we set about making some highgrade in the kitchen of his apartment. In England when we make bubble, everything we need is at hand or easily purchased. In Cambodia we needed to improvise a little but this gave the process a unique local feel. To begin with we needed lots of ice. Unlike here or even Thailand where ice comes in cubes, Cambodia still uses massive whole slabs of ice. This is apparently left over from French colonial times and you can often see a local woman dragging a huge block of ice down the street with a hook in it. We set about chipping away at our block and made plenty of shards for bubbling.

Next problem was the mixer. As Billy's apartment didn't have electricity even if we had had a mixer we would have to use a bamboo pole.

After picking out the best buds from our kilo we set about putting the rest through the Bubblesacs. I knew that with a bamboo pole for a mixer we weren't likely to get a huge amount but when the kilo only cost around £30 who cares? We'd have a piece of pure local bubble hash to enjoy on the beach and that's what counts. As a hash maker and cannabis lover you want to enjoy the best of the local weed. Making the hash allows you to experience the pure resin from the plant without having to

Happy or Very Happy. I think we went for just plain Happy but when it arrived we could see that it had a good thick layer of ganja covering it. Unperturbed we all tucked in. On top of all the grass we had smoked it wouldn't make much difference now anyhow. And there was still the hash try...

It's hard to say exactly how much bubble we made but there was plenty for us to smoke and share for the rest of our stay and a good-sized ball to leave behind as a gift. Of the three grades (we also used the Catching Sac) of hash we made there was slightly more in Sac 5 than Sac 4, which has the smaller micron screen. Usually on indoor crops

Along with its stunning wildlife, jungle and beaches it is undeniable that it is Cambodia's seemingly "lawless" society that attracts many foreign visitors.

smoke your way through all that green matter. If the bud is dried quickly and outdoors in the sun lots of the plants natural chlorophyll is locked in and THC degrades. Again, reasons why this full sativa will get you real stoned. The hash turned out to have a much more pleasant and full stone. Still strong but not so debilitating.

Because the process would take a while and since we had smoked countless pure spliffs we decided to call out for pizza. Billy suggested we get a Happy Herb Pizza delivered and called one up. He asked us if we wanted Happy, Mildly

and particularly indica-dominant strains you would expect this to be the other way around. Since these were full sativas we were using and they were grown in the sun it is not surprising that the smaller screen collected the highest amount of mature glands. What's more: the Catching Sac (with the smallest sized screen) collected a larger amount of high-grade hash than I've seen when using any other type of weed. The high from the hash was full-bodied and long lasting but not at all sleepy. Perfect for a bit of site seeing on the scooter or just lying on any of the numerous deserted beaches. Paradise.

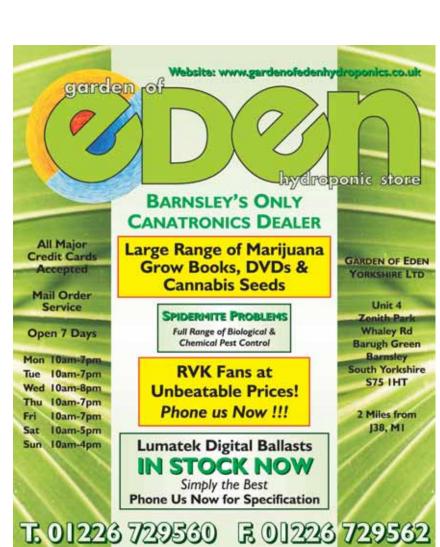


Typical Cambodian grass, low quality



Cambodian hash

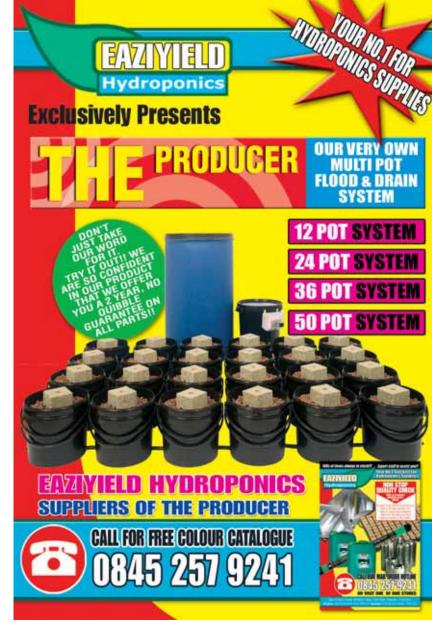


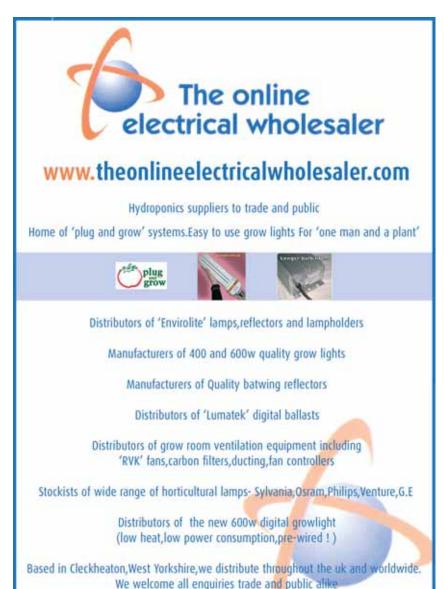


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The Suicide Girls

It is not a porno site, but neither is it your normal internet community. Soft Secrets sheds some light on the notorious internet success of Suicide Girls.com.

By Martijn Haa.

He was a computer nerd; she wanted actually to be a photographer. The 20-somethings Sean Suhl and Selena Mooney set up the in alternative porno site Suicide Girls in 2001. They filled the site with pin up-type pictures, photographed by Mooney, and put by Suhl in to a fine looking internet web. The site consisted entirely of young amateur models that Mooney had literally plucked off the streets of the city she was living in, Portland, Oregon. Her criterion for having a girl take her place in this sensitive situation was primarily that the babe had to have a certain attitude.

with attached to it a line of clothing, an online magazine, and has a film- and music department.

The heart of Suicide Girls has always been the alternative chicks from when it started. Even if these days they no longer all hail from Oregon, but from all parts of the globe. At the time of writing the firm had 840 different young women on the firm's regular web site.

It goes without saying that the site, with the attached community is something of a wet dream for the intellectual male. Thanks to its supposedly feminist aspect As well as this, many renowned artists have been glad to offer themselves up for interviews on the Suicide Girls site with the thought in the back of his head that in the red light haven of the Suicide Girls, he will be reaching precisely the public that he's seeking.

A more inventive community marketing concept you will be sore pressed to find anywhere on the net. And it is not for nothing that Sean Suhl, who has since moved to Los Angeles and remains Vice President of Suicide Girls Services, has been lauded by magazines such as Time and Wired as *the* whiz kid of the new Millennium.

Nothing then appeared to be standing against the same founder when he and his stable undertook a tour in 2004 to promote the SG concept even further. The Empire Burlesque Tour was even to have been the crowing glory on all the operations to-date. That the trip was an eventual high point was assured

To begin with various Suicide Girls were extremely annoyed about the way in which Suhl behaved towards them, whenever they went to him to report a problem, with observations along the lines that the girls should just be happy that he was their employer, because he ultimately paid much better than the original regular internet sex entrepreneurs. They at the time must surely not have realised just how much he was demolishing his own case, because the participation of the punkand rock chicks was based precisely on the female-friendly, even feminist aspect of the business.

The row between Suhl and his employees took on a more serious form when he forbade them from complaining about their disquiet on their permanent Suicide Girls pages. Following this he just went straight ahead and sacked any girls who disobeyed this command and wiped them from his database, except for a



Their site was clearly intended to be erotic, but not female-unfriendly, so the duo stated in their statement of principles to the outside world. A visitor to the site did perhaps see beautiful naked bodies, but no spread beaver shots, or other potentially offensive positions. And there were certainly none of those soft focus images of girls in a haystack with next to them stupid questions about what the model's favourite colour was. Or the plastic tits of orange-brown venuses from the hills of Hollywood, looking like they wanted nothing more than a good old double penetration.

No, the Suicide Girls were women with something to them besides a good bod, the sort who love to hold forth about the new book from Irving Welsh, or the reunion of The Pixies.

Suicide Girls.com showcased with them a lifestyle that was contemporary and even a bit feminist. There was plenty of space for female chat rooms, bodily self-exploration issues (like the female orgasm), openness about lesbian leanings and a fashion styling in which no body was left un-pierced or skin un-tattooed.

In the meantime, Suicidegirls.com has become a multi-million dollar business, based around an internet community.



it is even in the most elite American circles *de rigeur* to sit around the drinks table, with a glass of wine in one hand and a toastie in the other, and confess to your internet adventures with the tattooed lasses.

Because the visit to the site is of course not only for the pleasures to be found South of the belt buckle, but also about having enriching and responsible discussions in the global community that internet has become these days.

Of course, the same man will probably answer with a blush to the question whether these pleasant chat sessions could not be conducted with similarly aged women who are not quite as sexy. But that will not restrain the same guy as soon as the working day has ended from sitting with his fingers gliding over the keyboard as he types in the magic letters 'Suicidegirls.com'. Happy to combine business once in a while with pleasure.

As an illustration of their politically correct image, the founders of the Suicide Girls throw around references to photographers like Anton Corbijn, Fight Club author Chuck Palahniuk, American Psycho author Bret Easton Ellis and many other icons of the top segment of the entertainment industry.



by the video footage of this year-long travelling circus, to be seen each week on an American pay channel, and once this was released on DVD it ensured record circulation.

But the DVD also marked a low point, because the tour footage led to internal frictions, and eventually to the resignation of about 30 high profile Suicide Girls. That is, the girls who had meant the most to the business venture before then. Models who for example had been the faces of countless Suicide Girl-advertising campaigns.

A bizarre development, agreed everyone involved. Take the DVD; on it is no hint of the tensions that would soon after its release rise to the surface. We see about 30 girls that under command of a sort of 'mother-dominatrix (Selena Mooney) travel from town to town in each case doing their best to give a strip show in a local establishment. Wild nights that inevitably ended in an orgy of drink, naked swimming parties in anonymous hotels and various – not untasteful – girl-on-girl erotic couplings.

But behind the scenes everything was going pear-shaped, it later came out. Certain girls began to become increasingly disconnected from the rather interfering duo of Suhl and Mooney.



fdew nice erotic shots (which he still owned the copyright to).

In the meantime, American journalists got wind of the skirmishes in the outwardly so tightly organised feminist bastion, and suddenly the newspapers started to fill up with stories about how Suicide Girls Services underpaid its employees, about the 300 euros per photo session, and the 1000 euros paid per girl for their contributions to the DVD. As if that was not enough, some journalists also began to drop subtle references to the fact that Suhl had expressed in online chat sessions remarkably pro-Zionist opinions, including that as far as he was concerned all Muslims could get stuffed.

The girls on top of this also had to deal with Suicide Girls' lawyers, who directed them to never utter anything about their past experiences at the internet company in public. A method which Suhl and Mooney could pursue thanks to certain causes in the models' contracts.

That did not succeed in restraining many of these offended young women for long. A number of them united under the company name Godsgirls. com and have tried since then to try

and build up a new sort of Suicide Girls website, but one that really was woman-friendly, and which guaranteed freedom of expression. Not much has been of this since then.

In other cases the sacked babes want nothing more to do with the whole cybersex community, and describe it as something that they should never have stuck their silly heads in to in the first place. Their testimonies can be read in, for example, endless anonymous posts to the gofuckyourself.com web site.

Since the DVD debacle, Suhl, Mooney and their business partners have been handling their business somewhat differently. Where the Suicide Girls site in its early years still had the vibe of feminist family of women who looked out well for each other. In the meantime, the concept appears to have been watered down to just another American franchise formula, with hundreds of girls who are still allowed to write about their interests, but who must do so within set boundaries. Thanks to this they rarely manage to generate the notoriety as their predecessor sisters from the early days. Provocative texts would be immediately taken down from their pages. And it is a public secret that the majority of chicks have opted to exchange certainty for the uncertain, and therefore limit themselves, it's true, to very humorous but nonetheless also rather bloodless chit chat.

The continued participation of the founder also gives a false idea of the level of her involvement. The for months now un-updated Suicide Girls page of Missy Suicide (as Selena Mooney is known on the site) is now a bit like the photos of the branch manager you see in a local Sainsbury's in the entrance to the store. A company leader wishing you a pleasant trip to her store, with a rather false tone of excitement. While you the visitor, looking at her sour-puss face, wonder to yourself whether she actually does anything fun with all that money that they earned off the backs of their punkettes.

Dominica and Lauren

The success of Suicide Girls has not been diminished by all this. The site attracts 1500 applications a week, according to the founders. Young women (at least 18 years old) who are under the impression that naked internet attention will free them of their fears and uncertainties and perhaps even lead to nice new contacts or a job. In this way a lot of girls grab what they see as a chance to promote their rock bands via the site.

Soft Secrets tried to make contact with the press department at Suicide Girls. Hoping for a few spicy quotes. But after a week the reply came by email, from Suicide press and publicity department employee Lauren Suicide, also known as guitarist Auren Suicide from the band Rocket. She told Soft Secrets that her employer was in the middle of a re-organisation, and all applications for interviews were on bold

So then we made contact with the girls from the site. We spoke first to suicide girl Dominica (26) from Delaware, who was on the verge of leaving her boring home town of Dover to move to Los Angeles. She was not allowed to say anything about her boss, she said in an email. But she did say should would love to visit Amsterdam some time. She had once had a single toke of a joint, but nothing yet had really come of that. She had not really noticed anything. In Dover marihuana was barely to be found. Soon in Los Angeles everything would be different. And she thought it would be pretty cool to be able to discuss what smoking dope might actually do, if she knew more about it. Her move to L.A. was certainly inspired by her participation in Suicide Girls.com. The web community had encouraged her to see that on the American West Coast, perhaps a nicer and more adventurous life waited for her than the one she was living at the moment.







The Scotsman Friday 30, June 2006

100 people caught with drugs every day



MICHAEL HOWIE

mhowie@scotsman.com

THE depth of Scotland's drugs problem has been revealed by new figures showing every day almost 100 people are caught in possession of illegal substances.

Police found more than 34,500 people in possession of cannabis, ecstasy and other illegal drugs in 2005-6.

The number represents an increase of 2,100, or nearly 7 per cent, on the previous year's total of 32,413. Police and drugs experts said the rise showed that an increasing number of young people are taking illegal drugs.

Meanwhile, The Scotsman can also reveal a rise in drug deaths across the country. More than 40 more people have died from overdoses this year compared with the same period in 2005, fuelling calls for a national debate on Scotland's drugs strategy.

According to figures released to *The Scotsman* under Freedom of Information legislation, 83 suspected drug-related deaths occurred between 1 January and 25 May in Strathclyde, compared with 53 for the corresponding period in 2005.

Andin Tayside, there had been 16 drug deaths by 19 May this year, compared with six in the same period the previous year. Increased numbers of drug deaths have also been witnessed in the Fife, Grampian, and Cen-

tral police force areas. Only in Lothian and Borders has a fall been recorded-from 19 last year to 14 this year.

Illegal drug use is concentrated in Strathclyde, where 19,684 people were caught in possession in 2005-6, compared with 18,630 in 2004-5.

In the Lothian and Borders force area, 4,204 people were caught in 2005-6, 7 per cent up on the previous year's 3,913.

Rises were also seen in the Grampian, Northern, Central, Fife and Dumfries and Galloway force areas.

Tom Wood, who chairs the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action teams, said the rise in people caught with drugs was a "disturbing" indictment of society's failed attempt to dissuade young people from taking them. "We have failed that generation," he said. "Education is a priority and is the one main policy area on drugs where we haven't done well."

Mr Wood added: "We have failed to win the argument with regard to educating young people to steer away from drugs. It's something that's been largely left to teachers to get on with. But they are not best placed to deliver that kind of message.

"People might think that sending out a few glossy leaflets, a video and a teaching pack will be fine, but it's not. What we need is a public information campaign of a magnitude and subtlety that Scotland has never seen before. I really believe that's what we need to do.

"The increase in the number of people caught possessing drugs is a clear indicator that more and more people are starting to dabble in recreational drugs. That is very disturbing."

He praised work by the police to target dealers but said a successful education policy was the only way to control the drugs market. He added: "We need to have a public debate on the way forward. What we did before was probably very good at the time but the time has come to stop and think again. But the fact that more people are taking drugs means the education message either wasn't the right message, or it hasn't got through. We have to accept that, work on it and treat it as an utmost priority."

Police said the rise in people caught in possession of drugs showed that drug misuse was becoming more widespread.

A senior source said: "More and more people are carrying drugs. That could be down to the fact that people tend to have a higher disposable income. I don't think anybody has failed anybody else. What we are trying to do is find an effective way to deliver the right message."

Graeme Pearson, director of the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, said: "We need to target resources in a more effective way so that treatment complements education, and that complements what is happening in enforcement."

The extent of Scotland's drugs problem among young people has been highlighted by a series of disclosures. Earlier this week new figures showed the number of Scots children treated for cannabis abuse has almost doubled since the drug was downgraded to class C.

It has also emerged that more

then 500 children and young people aged 16 with drug and drink problems came forward for treatment in 2004-5.

This week the drugs watchdog of the United Nations delivered a rebuke to the UK government's policy change on cannabis, saying it sent a confusing message.

Mr Wood said he was "optimistic" that inroads could be made into Scotland's drug problems. But he criticised treatment services for drug addicts, describing them as "patchy".

"There are, in some areas, shining examples of good practice. But we don't have a system in place that these are mainstreamed. There are difficulties over funding streams which are muddled, with some money coming from local authorities and some from health boards."

Professor Neil McKeganey, director of the Centre for Drug Misuse Research at Glasgow University, said treatment services were focused on managing, rather than curing, addiction. "We will only see a big increase in our ability to reduce drug deaths if we are able to reduce drug misuse rather than simply seek to stabilise it among addicts."

A spokeswoman for the Executive said drugs education was being delivered by 99 per cent of schools and the Know the Score campaign, which is directed at pupils and parents. "We need a broad approach and that is why our drugs strategy is based around enforcement, education and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and support for communities," she said.

A losing battle in Scotland? Number of people found in possession of drugs:

	04/05	05/06	% change
Strathclyde	18,630	19,684	+5.7%
Lothian and Borders	3,913	4.204	+7%
Grampian	2,320	2.520	+8.6%
Tayside	2,608	2,544	-2.5%
Northern	1,720*	2.229*	+29.6%
Fife	1,265	1,338	+5.8%
Central	1,362	1,417	+4%
Dumfries and Galloway	595	663	+11.4%
Total	32,413	34,599	+6.7%
2000000			

'We have failed a generation
... we have failed to win the
argument with regard to
educating young people to
stay away from drugs'

Tom Wood

Calculate in advance how many millilitres of nutrient you can safely give your marihuana plants. You should also measure it carefully and in moderation. You are better off giving the plants a slightly too small dose and gradually building it up during the grow cycle, than giving too high a dose in one go and running the risk of over-fertilizing them.



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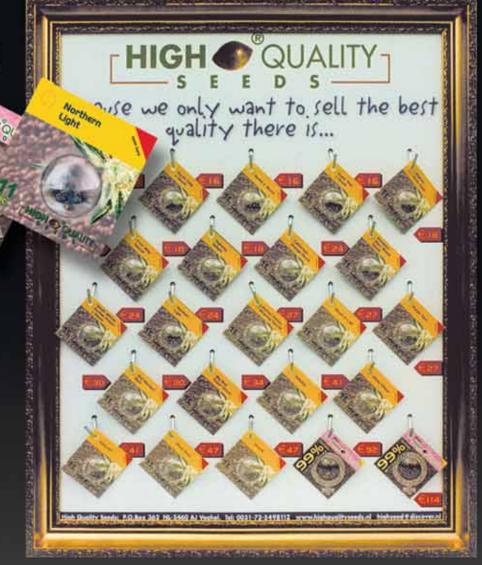
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FOR INFORMATION: www.highqualityseeds.nl binfo@highqualityseeds.nl Daily Mail Tuesday 27, June 2006

Downgrading of drug has confused the young, says UN

Labour blamed for cannabis pandemic

By **Steve Doughty** Social Affairs Correspondent

THE decision to down-grade cannabis to a class C drug in Britain has led to confusion among youngsters and helped spread a pandemic, the United Nations said yesterday.

Its drug control chief said cannabis was as dangerous as heroin or cocaine and warned countries that performed Uturns on drug laws that they were putting impressionable young people at risk.

Antonio Maria Costa declared: 'Policy reversals leave young people confused as to just how dangerous cannabis is.'

Those with misguided policies

a thinly-veiled attack on
Britain - got the drug problems
they deserve as a result, he
added.

The unprecedented rebuke from the head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime comes 30 months after the Home Office reclassified cannabis to make its possession a less serious offence.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Costa said: "The harmful characteristics of cannabis are no longer that different from those of other plant-based drugs such as cocaine and heroin. National policies on cannabis vary and sometimes change from one year

 Drugs: Facts every parent should know at: www.dailymail.co.uk/drugfacts

Adding that health damage caused by cannabis was on the rise, he went on: 'It is fundamentally wrong for countries to make cannabis control dependent on which party is in government.'

'The cannabis pandemic, like other challenges to public health, requires consensus, a consistent commitment across the political

spectrum and by society at large.'
Mr Costa said coherent antidrug policies could cut supply, demand and dealing.

He added: If this does not happen, it will be because some nations fail to take the drug issue sufficiently seriously and pursue inadequate policies.

The Italian spoke out as he launched a UN report showing Britain has the highest levels of cocaine abuse in Europe.

Britain is also the biggest market in Europe for heroin and amphetamines while cannabis users here consume more of the drug than those abroad. His remarks single out Britain, the only country to push through

major changes to its cannabis laws in the past five years.

His reference to party politics points the finger at the Labour Home Secretaries who have either regraded the legal status of cannabis or refused to reverse the decision—David Blunkett, Charles Clarke and John Reid.

Mr Blunkett first mosted the

Mr Blunkett first mooted the reclassification of cannabis from Class B to Class C in 2001, say-ing the change would allow police to concentrate on dealers and more serious drug offences.

The switch, which means those caught with small amounts are unlikely to be arrested and tried, came into effect in January 2004.

Less than 15 months later his successor Charles Clarke called on Government advisers for a rethink because of growing evidence of links between cannabis and mental illness and because of the increasing availability of very powerful strains of the drug.

But this year he accepted advice not to change the law back because to do so would cause even more confusion. Since then the new Home Secre tary, Mr Reid, has twisted the law again by reducing the proposed amounts of cannabis needed to

again by reducing the proposed amounts of cannabis needed to be considered a dealer.

Selling drugs brings harsher treatment than possession and jail terms of up to 14 years.

The UN report said the health risks of cannabis had been underestimated and linked the drug to psychosis in vulnerable individuals and aggravation of symptoms of schizophrenia.

It went on: 'As the risks posed by cannabis consumption become clearer, our ignorance of this health issue begins to look particularly alarming.'

A Home Office spokesman said cannabis use in Britain had dropped by a sixth among young people between 1998 and 2004.

But Tory home affairs spokesman particularly payis said: 'The Governmen Devid Dayis said: 'The Governmen's cannabis use in Britain had done the control of the cont

But Tory home affairs spokes-man David Davis said: 'The Gov-ernment's seriously confused course of action on cannabis has led to chaos and confusion in the enforcement of drug laws. This in turn has lead to a continuing failure to reduce this dangerous threat to lives."

'Inadequate policies'

The Independent Saturday 6, May 2006

Cannabis painter to erase images

CONNECTICUT Christopher Seekins, who spraypainted large cannabis leaves on his house, has agreed to remove the paintings as part of a plea bargain. Mr Seekins, 26, was arrested when police found marijuana plants in his house. He said they were hemp and part of a research project. After his arrest, he painted images of green leaves on his house. Town officials said complaints had been received.



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Cannabis on pathway

The People Sunday 2, July 2006

By MATT GLASS

A HARMLESS-LOOKING field just a few feet from a public footpath and main road is full of CANNABIS.

Britain's wackiest pick-your-own farm does not have a single fence and the massive plot the size of 14 football pitches is raided almost nightly by teenagers.

The cannabis is grown legally on the outskirts of Boreham, Essex, for its fibrous hemp content which has industrial uses

Although the leaves are weaker than illegal street cannabis, local kids make regular raids on the field.

They dry out leaves then smoke them in the belief it will have the same effect

as "wacky baccy" sold by drug gangs.
Our investigator watched the field for an hour and saw a car full of teens drive

up, shouting "Stop, it's the hash field." One villager said: "Most nights a string of youths can be seen making their way to the field. They take as much as they like thinking it's the real thing."

The Home Office grants licences for growing hemp and cannabis for research but says plants should not be in sight of main roads or where someone could easily steal them.

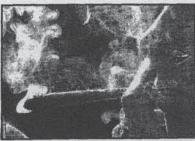
But the local said: "There's not a hedge,

fence or even a ditch. The stuff there might not be as strong as street cannabis but it looks and smells the same. You have to smoke a lot to get a high but there's so much here that's not a problem.

One 16-year-old told our investigator he'd been arrested for carrying some of the plant but was released when police realised it wasn't true cannabis.

The farm's owner, Peter McMillan, said: "We grow the hemp for a company called Hempcor. They have a block licence

for us to grow it.
"We never had any problems here except for the odd set of kids who make dens



ILLEGAL: A "wacky baccy" reefer

in it because it's so tall. To my knowledge nobody has ever smoked it. You could smoke a whole field and it wouldn't get you high - you'd just get a sore throat."
Mr McMillan claimed rules about

not growing it near paths had changed. But a Home Office spokesman warned:



AVAILABLE: Our man picks leaves

"Hemp crops bordered by a main road or public footpath without any barriers would not meet the guidelines.

peoplenews@mgn.co.uk

Daily Star Tuesday 27, June 2006

Idiot tells staff: 'Look after my drugs'

■ by JOHN MAHONEY

BRITAIN'S dopiest defendant stunned court staff when he asked them to look after his drugs while he was in the dock.

Stephen West handed over a lump of cannabis before going through a court security check.
Gormless West, 20, then agreed to

sign a receipt confirming the pot was his – before staff went off to fetch a policeman who arrested him.

A court security officer said: just couldn't have scripted it.

"We have never seen anything like it in our lives. We are used to seeing people hand over mobile phones,

lighters, metal combs and things like that - even a packet of condoms in one case.

But this bloke just stood there with this lump of cannabis in his hand.

Jobless

"He was told there was no way he would be allowed to take that into court.

"So he asked if we could look after it during his hearing. It was so surreal, I kept looking around to see if this was some TV wind-up."

Jobless West had arrived to face magistrates in his home town of Wigan, Lancs, accused of breaching hall condi-

of breaching bail conditions

Instead he appeared at the court yesterday charged with possessing the Class C drug.

He admitted the charge and was fined £50 with

£43 costs. Magistrates also ordered the confiscation and dest-ruction of the cannabis West had hand-

ed over. A police officer said after the hearing: "If only all crimes were this easy to secure convictions."

He added: "This chap not only handed over the evidence willingly, he then went and signed a receipt saying that he was completely responsible for the cannabis."

IT took police 32 years to arrest a man living 200 yards from court.
Roger Gerald Hawkins had been detained in 1974 accused of gross indecency.

Hawkins, now 52, said he didn't hear any more and assumed the case

Alld assumed the case had petered out.

But he had been expected at Cardiff Crown Court and when he failed to appear a warrant was issued.

Hawkins said that he was stunned when, 32 years later, police knocked on his door and

told him he was under

arrest. "I've "I've never hidden from them," he told judge Michael Burr at Swansea Crown Court.
"I only live round the

The Crown Prosecution

Service no longer has papers for the case and no-one in court could say what it was about.

Hawkins was told to attend Cardiff Crown Court on July 7.



SHOCK: Roger Hawkins

Yorkshire Post Friday 5, May 2006

£85,000 haul of cannabis found

Suspected drugs with an estimated value of more than £85,000 have been seized in Bradford by police.

Specialist officers found a quantity of cannabis after forcing their way into an address in the Clayton area.

A 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class C drugs, interviewed and released on police bail pending further examination of the items recovered.

Shropshire Star Wednesday 28, June 2006

Couple tried to cultivate

A couple attempted to grow more than 20 cannabis plants in the loft of a friend's house in the Ketley Bank area of Telford, a court heard.

Martin Thompson, 24, and Laura Thompson, 22, were arrested after police searched the house in December last year.

Telford magistrates heard yesterday that 21 plants were found in the loft area at the house in First Avenue.

Heating lamps and fans were powered by cables running from a bedroom and a quantity of feeding formula was found. But the court was told that the crop was poor and that very little cannabis would have been produced.

Both defendants were also found to be in possession of small quantities of cannabis resin and bush when seen by police.

The couple, formerly of Castle Street, Hadley, and now of Campion Close, Newtown, have admitted aiding and abetting the cultivation of cannabis in September and October last year and being in possession of the Class C drug in December last year.

Magistrates adjourned sentence until July 6 for reports and the defendants were both allowed bail.

Simon Rollason, defending, said it was a low level of production and the cannabis was not for commercial gain, but only personal use.

He said it was not a sophisticated operation and the couple were motivated by wanting to avoid buying drugs from criminal elements. "They were not successful in cultivating the crop and there would have been little yield." he said.

Irish Examiner Thursday 4, May 2006

<u>Cannabis</u> case

A DRUGS dealer has pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to having cannabis valued at over €130,000 for sale or supply in a city suburb in 2004.

Anthony Daly, aged 23 of Coolgreena Close, Whitehall, pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis resin.

John Quirke BL, prosecuting, said the guilty plea was acceptable to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Times Tuesday 27, June 2006

High risk strategy

Stephen West, 20, asked court staff to look after cannabis resin when he appeared before magistrates in Wigan. West produced the drug during a security check. He was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis, pleaded guilty and was fined £50. He was ordered to pay £43 costs. A hearing for alleged breach of licence conditions was adjourned.

Wigan Evening Post Saturday 24, June 2006

A DEFENDANT asked court security staff to look after his drugs while he appeared before magistrates.

Stephen West bulled a lump of cannabis resin out of his pocket as he walked through security checks at Wigan Magistrates' Court.

The 20-year-old, who was due to appear in court for alleged breach of licence conditions, showed the substance to surprised security staff and asked them what he should do with it while he went into his hearing.

BY ANNETTE KELMAN

The bemused security officers told him he could not take the cannabis into court and said he would have to leave it with them.

Incredibly, he agreed and even signed his name on a receipt confirming the cannabis was his.

Security staff promptly informed a police officer who was in the court building for another case and West was arrested.

West, of Jasmine Road,

Worsley Hall was charged with possession of cannabis and was bailed to appear at the court the following day.

When he did so, he pleaded guilty to possession of the Class C drug and was fined £50 and ordered to pay £43 costs.

Believe

The court also ordered forfeiture and destruction of the cannabis.

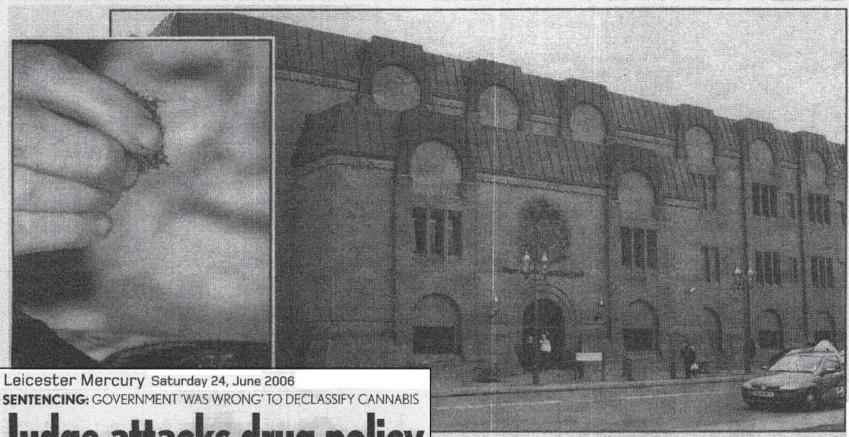
A security officer at the court said: "He took this lump of cannabis out of his pocket and asked us what he should do with it while he went into court

"He left it with us and even took a receipt for it.

"We couldn't believe it."

A spokesman for Wigan Police said: "Shortly before 10.30am on Tuesday, security officers at Wigan Magistrate's Court informed police about a man who had walked into the court with cannabis.

He was arrested and appeared in court the following



SURPRISE REQUEST: Wigan Magistrates Court exterior and (Inset) cannabis resin

idge attacks drug

by SUZY GIBSON

COURTSTAFF

A judge attacked the Government's drugs policy as he jailed a man for selling cannabis to his friends.

Judge Richard Bray said the Government had been wrong to declassify cannabis from class B to class C in the light of evidence that it is potentially damaging to mental health.

He said supplying cannabis was still a serious offence as he sentenced 20-year-old Imran Ali to five months' imprisonment.

During the hearing, Judge Bray said: "Everyone is treating cannabis like tobacco and noone seems to care any more - I

"The Government changed it from class B to class C and it was

'It has now realised its mistake and might change it back because of the damage it does, potentially, to mental health particularly considering the strength of cannabis being used.

As he passed sentence yesterday, Judge Bray said: "Although cannabis may now be registered as class C, it remains a dangerous drug.

"As the psychiatrists are telling us, the consequences of taking this drug are beginning to come through today." He told Ali: "I am sending you

to prison - otherwise completely the wrong message will goout."

Ali was arrested on May 13 last vear after officers saw him acting suspiciously with two others in a Mitsubishi car in Leicester.

Nicola Moore, prosecuting, said: "The police found a cannabis reefer on the car bonnet."

She said that inside the passenger seat pocket was a 15-gram piece of cannabis.

Ali also had electronic scales on him. A further 12g of cannabis was recovered during a search of his home in Trueway Road, Stoneygate, Leicester, along with a large quantity of re-sealable plastic bags for packaging deals.

His mobile phone was found to have stored text message references to his dealings.

When questioned, Ali said he was a user of the drug and bought it in bulk.

He said he had occasionally

supplied his friends if they ap-

proached him.

He pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to supplying cannabis between January and May last

Jonathan Eley, defending, said: "He got involved with others and he began using cannabis.

"He was able to buy more than the others and was known as someone who was likely to have some.

"He is of previous good character.

On hearing the sentence, Ali shouted an insult at the judge and called for someone in the public gallery to contact his mother as he was escorted from the dock at Leicester Crown Court.

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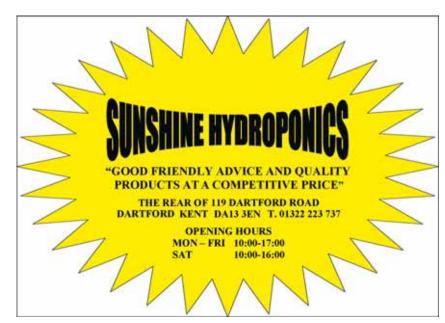
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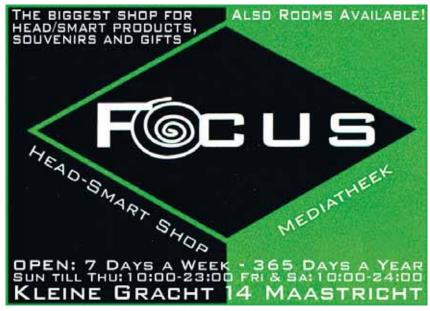












Ipswich Evening Star Thursday 29, June 2006

GMBAILE F SAMBILLAI (HAS 1) (S1)

By JOSH WARWICK

josh warwick@eveningstar.co.uk

AN Ipswich man is facing jail today after police discovered a cannabis. stash of weighing scales and hundreds of pounds in his flat.

Appearing at South East Suffolk Magistrates' Court, Fonvilla pleaded Shane guilty to possession of drugs with intent to supply.

The 22-year-old also pleaded guilty to causing criminal damage by punching a cupboard following his arrest. and having the cash as criminal property.

The court heard that police officers discovered the class C drug stuffed in plastic carrier bags next to a set of scales when they searched Fonvilla's Orwell Gardens home on May 3.

Search finds cannabis, scales and cash in flat

Their search also uncovered £720 hidden with drugs in the living room.

The defendant, who is a tenant at the flat, had been out during the search but later returned and was arrested.

In interview, Fonvilla admitted that the 178 grams of cannabis, with a street value of £670, belonged to

Stephen Colman, prosecuting, said: "He told police he smoked cannabis at home with his friends.

'He accepted he had sold some of the cannabis for £20 a time.

"He said he had been selling it on and off since January this year."

Mr Colman said Fonvilla was working but that he earned a low wage as an apprentice, and had bought the drugs hoping to make a £180 profit.

Magistrates were told Fonvilla had a number of drug-related previous convictions.

They committed the case to crown court for sentencing and told Fonvilla that he was likely to face between nine and 12 months imprisonment for the offences.

He was released on unconditional bail and will appear at Ipswich Crown Court on a date yet to be confirmed.

Irish Independent Thursday 29, June 2006

Man held in cannabis probe

GARDAI have questioned a 44-year-old man after discovering almost 60 cannabis plants near his house in the west of Ireland.

The man had been stopped earlier on Tuesday by gardai and during a search of his vehicle, a small quantity of cannabis was discovered. The plants were found in a field at the rear of the house after a warrant to search his home at Rathclooney, Crusheen. Co Clare. was obtained.

The Sun Friday 23, June 2006

UNK GANG JAILEI

A GANG who used a gardening business as a front for growing powerful skunk cannabis yards from a police station have been jailed for 22 years.

The six Vietnamese men had an annual turnover of £250,000 and spent hundreds of thousands

of pounds on sports cars and designer clothes.

More than 1,000 plants were found growing under special lighting with sophisticated watering systems at one of their three East London flats.

The gang were led by Quoc Van Nguyen, 24, and his lieutenant Toan Van Pham, 48, Snaresbrook Crown Court heard.

Judge Georges Khayat told the men: "At the end of the day, this was a large enterprise on a commercial basis."

Evening Gazette Saturday 25, March 2006

or back

A MAN who claimed he smoked cannabis in order to ease a back condition has been jailed.

Alan Calvert used cannabis to sup-plement the painkillers, which made him drowsy, said his lawyer. Police raided Calvert's home three

times and on each occasion they seized cannabls resin, including three nine-ounce bars which a police sniffer dog found hidden in his loft, prosecutor Adrian Campbell told Teesside Crown

Calvert, 39, claimed that he was stor-ing the bars for a dealer, and that the rest was bought in bulk with two friends to reduce the cost.

In the first raid on April 27 last year, when he was asked about drugs, Calvert produced a tin holding cannabis resin, and 18 bags of the drug were found down the side of his sofa.

Officers also found three small pack-

ets of amphetamine. Police returned on August 5 when a sniffer dog discovered the bars in the attic, and there was more cannabis in a tin.

The total value of the drugs seized from father-of-two Calvert was £2,406. Stephen Constantine, defending, said Calvert had suffered back pain for 20 years. "With too many painkillers he becomes drowsy so, rather than spend his waking day in a company state he

becomes drowsy so, rather than spend his waking day in a comatose state, he takes the painkillers and he tops it up with cannabis," he said.

Iudge Peter Armstrong jailed Calvert of Ilkeston Walk, Stockton, for five months after he admitted three charges of possession of Class C drug cannabis with intent to supply, and two of possession of Class B drug amphetamine.

Daily Mail Friday 24, March 2006

Heat cameras find cannabis

THERMAL imaging cameras are being used to detect houses concealing cannabis factories. Lighting systems used when marijuana plants are reared intensively give off an extreme heat, which is picked up by police filming a street.

A property in which cannabls is grown releases up to ten times the heat of an average family home. Police in Haringey, North London,

searched streets looking for suspicious heat emissions and seized cannabis after two raids.

Sergeant lan Pyles, who led the operation, said: 'In some cases, so much heat is being emitted that the house will look as though it's ablaze.' A crop from one house can be worth more than £70,000, he added.

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Northern Echo (Darlington / South Durham) Tuesday 27, June 2006

Grandfather told to prove drugs claim

who said he smoked cannabis because of his bad back was told by a judge to provide medical records to prove it

Peter Walsh made the claim after he was caught with hundreds of pounds worth of cannabis resin at his home.

He was convicted at Teesside Magistrates' Court of possession of the class C drug with intent to supply, and was sent for sentence at Teesside Crown Court.

Walsh, said he was advised try cannabis after painkillers issued by his GP failed to solve his three-year spinal complaint.

He had never been in trouble before until police raided his home in Stockton, in December last year, and found cannabis resin worth £465.

Patricia Mancina, prosecuting, said Walsh claimed he was given it in a pub by a

A35-YEAR-OLD grandfather stranger, and cut it into pieces and wrapped them in clingfilm.

She told the crown court: "He said it was for his personal use, but he would have sold some on if he needed the money."

Harvey Murray, defending, said: "He did smoke it on a couple of occasions and it relieved the pain.

"Everyone who knows him is shocked that he was taking drugs. He has sworn that he will never take drugs again."

The judge warned Walsh that he was facing prison, and adjourned the case for medical reports.

Walsh, of Dunoon Close, Stockton, was bailed for sentencing next month after he was found guilty of possession with intent to supply cannabis resin.

He pleaded guilty to possession of a small amount of amphetamines.

Shropshire Star Thursday 23, March 2006

Cannabis crops found by camera

Thermal imaging cameras are being used by police to reveal homes concealing secret cannabis factories.

The hand-held equipment detects the extreme heat created by lighting systems used in the intensive rearing of marijuana plants.

Properties where cannabis is being grown will release up to 10 times the amount of heat of an average family home.

Police said that the crop from just one "factory" house could be worth more than £70,000.

Officers in London have successfully used the cameras for the first time in the Haringey area of the capital.

Officers seized a "significant" amount of cannabis and drugs paraphernalia after raids on two properties

Sergeant Ian Pyles, who led the operation from St Ann's Road police station, said: "The equipment means we can covertly film a line of properties and identify the factory when the thermal image glows white-hot." Oxford Mail Tuesday 28, March 2006

NEWS IN BRIEF

Accused of drug factory

FOUR men have appeared before Didcot magistrates accused of drugs offences.

The men, all from Reading, were charged after a raid on Manor Farm, Frilford, in January 2005.

Christopher Bridges, 28. Dino Sofroniou, 21, David Stannard, 35, and Jason Warrick, 29, were jointly charged with cultivating 1,386 cannabis plants and possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

Bridges was accused of possession of heroin with intent to supply and possession of amphetamine with intent to supply. Sofroniou was also charged with possession of heroin with intent to supply.

Stannard was charged with retaining, or seeking to dispose of, stolen goods.

The case was adjourned until April 20. All four men were hailed

Yorkshire Post (North/York) Wednesday 28, June 2006

Haulier cleared over drug find

Rob Waugh

HAULIER Paul Watson was cleared of drug smuggling by the French authorities yesterday, ending a near three-year ordeal which began when a ton of cannabis was found in a load he was delivering.

He was found guilty of having incorrect documentation when he appeared before the High Court in Arras and he was fined £2,743,000. He was also sentenced to "time served" in prison, which equated to 10 months on remand in custody.

It is understood the fine will be negotiated down to a more manageable figure. Mr Watson has 10 days to consider an appeal.

Last night his barrister Nigel Edwards said: "His previous business was devastated but he is slowly rebuilding. He wants to thank everyone for the support he's received."

His nightmare began in September 2003, when he flew from his home in Morley, near Leeds, to Spain to pick up a tractor unit and drive it back to Britain. Drugs were found at Arras.

Daily Mirror Tuesday 27, June 2006

A DRUG-USER asked court security staff to look after his stash while he appeared before magistrates.

Stephen West, 20, even signed a receipt confirming the cannabis was his.

He walked out of court, where he was accused of breaching licence condi-tions, and was charged by police with possession of the Class C drug.

West, from Wigan, was back before the town's magistrates the next day and was fined £50.

A security officer said: "He took this lump of cannabis out of his pocket and asked us what he should do with it. We couldn't believe it."

Western Daily Press Monday 20, March 2006

Culkin: I'm no druggie



Out of character: Macaulay Culkin

FORMER child star Macaulay Culkin has denied he has a problem with drugs, despite an ar-

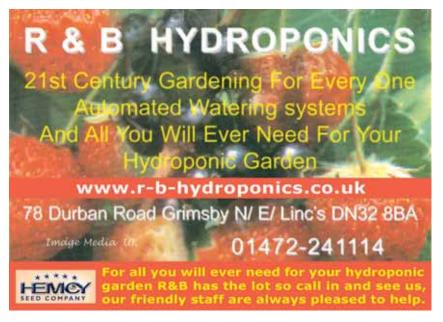
rest for <u>marijuana</u> possession. The Home Alone star admits he used the drug recreationally, but insists he should not be

labelled a "drug user".

Culkin was arrested two
years ago while he was driving
through Oklahoma, where officials found marijuana and prescription anti-depressants in his car.

He says, "It is not something I make a habit out of.

The 25-year-old actor claims the Oklahoma district attorney was prejudiced against him because of his fame.











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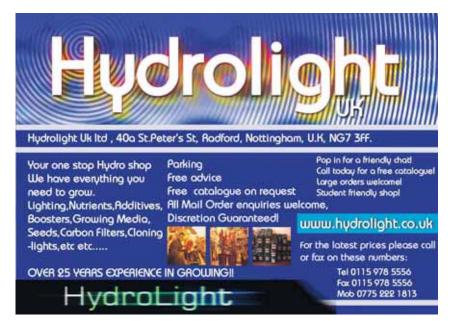
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Western Daily Press Thursday 30, March 2006

Hopes that wedding picture will stop extradition to US

Accused smuggler puts faith in photo

By Marcus Denby wdnews@bepp.co.uk

MEMBER of one of the West's oldest families fought against extradition to the US over drug smuggling allegations yesterday - claiming a picture taken at a society wedding could save him.

Public-school educated businessman Giles Carlyle-Clarke is accused of being the captain of a ship used to bring cannabis into America from the Caribbean in the 1980s.

If he is extradited, Carlyle-Clarke, who lives on part of a 1,200-acre family trust-owned estate at Winterborne Clenston, near Blandford, Dorset, faces up to 25 years on an Alabama chain gang over alleged drugs offences.

He is accused by the US authorities of pocketing \$500,000 (£288,000) from the drugs deal and faces a number of charges relating to possession and distribution of cannabis.

But the single father has denied any involvement, and has been fighting extradition to the US ever since authorities there made moves against him in the late 1990s.

Yesterday at the High Court he claimed a photo from the 1988 wedding of his life-long friend, the Marchioness of Bute, would be the key of his case.

It was the latest installment in a long-running saga over attempts to extradite Carlyle-Clarke.

In November 2004 his lawyers failed in a High Court challenge against the Home Secretary's decision to extradite him, despite arguing the US authorities had taken too long to begin proceedings.

In the latest challenge, Alun Jones QC said one of the key pieces of evidence at the 2004 hearing was the wedding photo.

hearing was the wedding photo.

Mr Jones said the US authorities had always denied having a copy of the photo.

That denial was accepted at the High Court in 2004, said Mr Jones, and the decision to dismiss Carlyle-Clarke's complaints about the delay was partly based on it.

delay was partly based on it.

But, said the barrister, in February 2005 the US authorities finally admitted to having had the photo for years. Because of that fresh evidence, Carlyle-Clarke made a second application to the Home Secretary, arguing the delay in bringing extradition proceedings was "unjust and oppressive" and he should not have to go to America.

Arguing extradition would be "profoundly oppressive and cruel" to the father-of-two, Mr Jones said the plight of his family was "desperate".

He was indicted in the US in 1992, but was not arrested in the UK until five years later.

That followed an investigation - dropped before it ever came to court - by UK authorities into alleged money-laundering by Carlyle-Clarke.

In written documents Mr Jones said Carlyle-Clarke was a keen sailor and owned a ship called the Can Can of Arne.

He admitted being in the Caribbean in 1986 and 1987, and later travelled extensively in Europe and Indonesia, where he met his second wife, with whom he has a son, Max.

Judges yesterday reserved judgment on whether he is being unlawfully extradited.

Northern Echo Saturday 25, March 2006

Man jailed for smoking cannabis to ease pain

A FATHER-OF-TWO who smoked cannabis to help his back problem was jailed for five months yesterday.

Alan Calvert told police he used prescribed medication for his chronic back pain, but topped up the dosage with cannabis.

Teesside Crown Court heard he had suffered for 20 years with back problems and had used the drug to ease his symptoms.

Alastair Campbell, prosecuting, said the 39-year-old's house in Ilkeston Walk, Stockton, Teesside was raided by police on April 27, August 5 and September 23 last year. They found bags of cannabis, large blocks of the class C drug, and amphetamines. The total value was £2,406.

Mr Campbell said: "When interviewed, he said the drugs were for his own use."

Stephen Constantine, mitigating, said Calvert was the father of a 18-month-old baby and a three-year-old child. He said the defendant was a heavy cannabis user because of his back pain and had bought the drugs with two friends, intending to split the supply three ways.

In 1995, Calvert was arrested for possession of cannabis, and was jailed for two years in 1997 for importing 39 bars of cannabis. In 2001, he was convicted of producing the drug.

Judge Peter Armstrong said:
"Your medical condition does not require use of cannabis as a pain reliever. It could be dealt with in other ways."

Calvert pleaded guilty to three counts of possession of cannabis with intent to supply and two of possession of a class B drug.

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Shropshire Star Thursday 13, April 2006

Couple deny cultivating cannabis plants in loft

A Telford couple have denied being involved in cultivating cannabis plants in the loft of a house in the town.

Martin Thompson, 24, and Laura Thompson, 22, appeared at Telford Magistrates Court yesterday.

The defendants admit possession of cannabis resin and bush, but deny allegations of cultivating cannabis plants in November and December last year.

Magistrates adjourned the case until June 27 for trial and the defendants, both of Castle Street, Hadley, were allowed bail. Western Daily Press Friday 14, April 2006

Police seize <u>cannabis</u>

POLICE seized more than 70 cannabis plants in a raid at a house in Weston-super-Mare.

Officers executed a search warrant in Monkton Avenue on the Oldmixon estate on Wednesday and discovered the huge haul of plants and specialist equipment in the loft.

The occupant - a 37-year-old man - was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply. He has been released on police bail pending further inquiries and forensic analysis of the items seized. Greenock Telegraph Saturday 8, April 2006

Cannabis

GREENOCK man Craig Homer, 20, of 50 Luss Avenue, who admitted possession of cannabis in the town's Lomond Road and at Greenock police station on 6 April, will be sentenced at the sheriff court on 12 April.

Scarborough Evening News Friday 10, March 2006

Cannabis seized in house raid

A LARGE amount of cannabis has been seized in a police raid on a house in Sussex Street, Scarborough.

Four men in their 20s were arrested on Wednesday night. One man has now been charged with possession with intent to supply, one was given a drugs referral order and the remaining two men were released without charge. Shropshire Star Tuesday 4, April 2006

Caution for man with drug in car

A man stopped by police during a vehicle and driving clamp down and then arrested on suspicion of drugs offences has been cautioned by officers. The man was stopped in Shropshire

Street, Market Drayton last week.

It followed a "zero tolerance" operation on people not wearing seatbelts and having defective vehicles.

Police issued 20 drivers with £30 fixed penalty notices for a variety of offences but the man was pulled over and then officers discovered cannabis in his vehicle.

Police spokeswoman Maria Hawkaluk said a man had been arrested on suspicion of possession of the drug with intent to supply but received a caution.

She said: "A man was arrested and was given a police caution for possession of cannabis. The cannabis was discovered in his vehicle after it was stopped."

Paisley Daily Express Saturday 1, April 2006

TWO FACE PRISON AFTER COPS FOUND CANNABIS HAUL

Undercover police caught duo transporting drugs

By KATIE KELLY

TWO Paisley men are facing jall sentences after cops staging an undercover operation caught them transporting thousands of pounds worth of drugs.

The High Court in Glasgow heard that John Mullen, of Montgomery Road, Gallowhill, was under surveillance by officers from the Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency after they received a tip-off.

They watched as 46-year-old Mullen left his home and drove to Glasgow Road, Paisley, where he met accomplice Graham Walker in a bookmaker's.

Mullen handed his car keys to 35-year-old Walker, who then put a plastic bag into the boot. When Mullen's car was stopped minutes later, the bag was found to contain 20 bars of cannabis resin with a maximum street value of £14,000.

John Hamilton, prosecuting, told the court: "When Walker was interviewed, he said he was a sales advisor for an insurance company.

"He admitted he was given a bag outside the Burgh Bar and said he put it in Mullen's car. He said he was due to be paid a couple of hundred pounds."

Mullen and Walker, formerly of Espedair Street, Paisley, both admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis resin on May 3, last year, at Glasgow Road and Williamsburgh Terrace, Paisley.

Co-accused Alastair Myles, 43, of Williamsburgh Terrace, admitted having cocaine with a maximum street value of £225 in his possession on May 3, last year.

Also in the dock were 20-year-old John Myles, of Williamsburgh Terrace, and 19-year-old Peter Wingate, of Netherhill Road, Paisley.

They both walked free from court after their plea of not guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine between March 6 and May 3, last year, was accepted by the Crown.

Judge Lord Carloway deferred sentence on Mullen, Walker and Alastair Myles for background reports until April 27 at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Their defence counsel will give their pleas in mitigation then.

Yorkshire Evening Post Saturday 22, April 2006



Police find cannabis in loft

POLICE searching a house in Keighley found several cannabis plants being grown in the loft.

A 34-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis and possession of Class B drugs. He was released on bail pending further enquiries.

Evening Telegraph Friday 14, April 2006

Couple arrested after drugs raid on home

A MAN and a woman have been cautioned for possession of <u>cannabis</u> following a raid on their Ramsey home.

The 45-year-old man and 41-yearold woman were arrested following an early morning raidy.

They were taken to Ramsey police station, where they were questioned by officers and later released with a caution.

The drugs bust on Wednesday

came as part of a drive by Cambridgeshire police to execute arrest warrants and encourage the community to report criminals.

Following the arrests, officers delivered postcards to neighbours of the pair to explain steps being taken to combat crime in the area.

The postcards include details of how to contact local police officers and how to pass on information and intelligence to the police. Chief Constable Julie Spence said:

"By informing the public that we are aware and dealing with the issues that affect the area in which they live, I hope it will encourage them to come forward with information and work with us to make the neighbourhood a safer, more pleasant place to live in."

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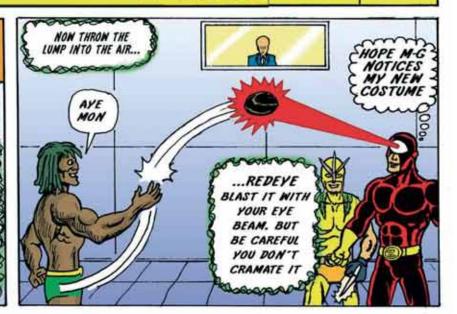


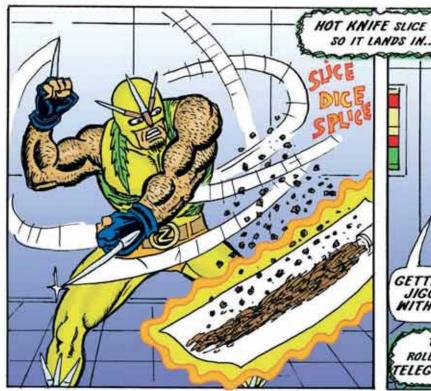
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BY JIM STEWART O6















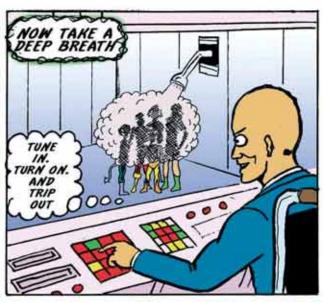










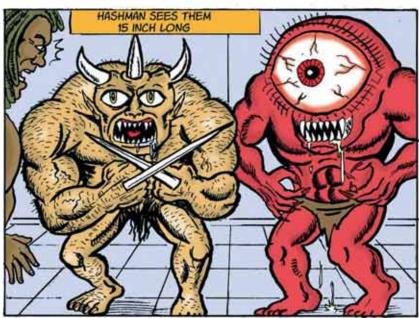












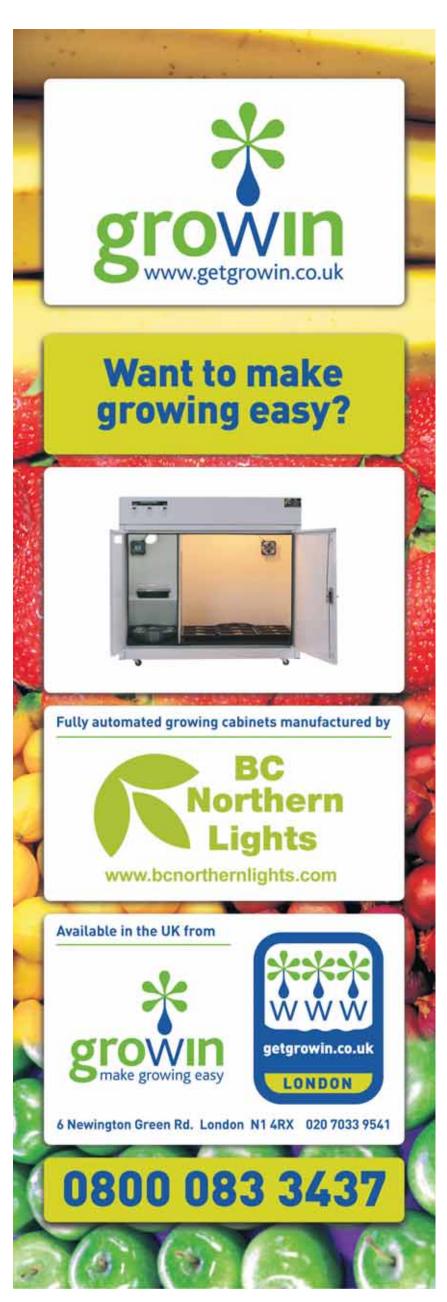




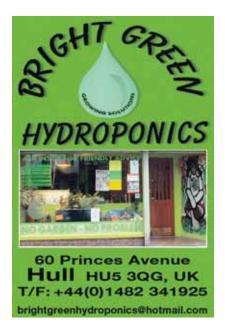












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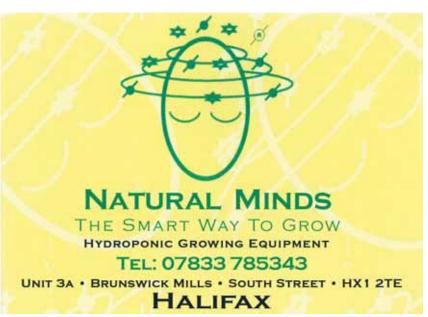
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Irish Independent (Dublin) Monday 10, April 2006

Man in court after huge drugs seizure

Olivia Kelleher

A MAN has appeared before a special sitting of Cork District Court charged in connection with the seizure of 100 kilos of cannabis resin with an estimated street value of €700,000.

Martin Whelehan (38) from Castlemanor, Carrignavar, Co Cork, was charged with three counts relating to the drugs seizure after gardai searched his van near Tower in Blarney.

Whelehan was charged with possession, possession for sale or supply and pos-session for sale of more than €13,000 worth of cannabis resin at a special sitting of Cork District Court on Saturday evening.

Garda Geraldine Daly said Whelehan replied "no comment" after she charged and cautioned him in relation to the three offences.

Det Insp Tom Myers said that gardai had no objection to Whelehan getting bail provided the court imposed a substantial independent surety. He also requested

that Whelehan surrender his passport and sign on three times a week at a Garda station in Cork city.

Judge Uinsinn Mac Gruairc remanded Whelehan on bail on his own bond of €9,000 and an independent surety

He also ordered the 38year-old to surrender his passport. Whelehan must also sign on three times a week at Gurranabraher Garda station.

Free legal aid was granted in the case. Whelehan was remanded on bail to appear before Cork District Court again this morning.

In a separate search in Cobh, Co Cork on Saturday a further 250 kilos of cannabis resin and a kilo of cocaine were found.

Meanwhile, in Dublin gardai found two kilos of cocaine when they searched a flat complex in the inner city at around 8am on Saturday. It is understood the drugs recovered are worth around €400,000.

A man in his 20's is due before Kilmainham District Court this morning.

Western Morning News Tuesday 21, March 2006

Court told police raids uncovered illegal drugs

business behind respectable facade

Flower firm 'was front for cannabis farm'

flower business, a Dawlish family ran a sophisticated and highly profitable cannabis farm with crops approaching £250,000 in value, a court has been told.

Even after police raided them and the case was going through the trial process some members of the family set up a second oper-ation from a hidden walk-in container and in

the loft of the family home.

Exeter Crown Court heard the front for the cannabis-growing enterprise was Williams Flowers, a wholesale operation run from a site in Straplake Lane, Starcross.

Peter Williams, 59, and Kevin Williams, 39, have pleaded not guilty to producing cannabis and possessing it with intent to supply it. Kevin Williams and Robert Williams, 18, have denied being concerned in producing cannabis and possessing it with intent to supply it. Kevin has possessing it with intent to supply it. Kevin has also pleaded nor guilty to two more charges of producing cannabis and possession with intent to supply, and their trial continues. Another family member, Richard Williams, 20, has pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply and will be sentenced later.

Prosecutor Malcolm Galloway said police first went to the Starcross site in August 2003 and the smell of cannabis was so pungent that they forced entry into walk-in containers.

they forced entry into walk-in containers. Inside they found sophisticated hydroponic growing equipment, heavy duty electrics, fans, high-powered lighting and chemicals.

In the first container they searched police found a cannabis nursery for young plants. There were labels on the plants showing the different strains being produced.

Handwriting on the labels was later exam-ned by an expert who said it matched that of Kevin Williams.

In a second trailer police found adult plants under stronger lights with humidity control thermostats, fans and a hydrogen meter to bring on the high cash crop

Mr Galloway said the potential yield from

the crops found in August 2003 was £224,000. Two other containers were also found at the site with cannabis plants and the equipment

needed to produce them from seeds.

Fingerprints in some of the containers were matched to those of Kevin Williams and it was alleged that Peter Williams, his father, was also

involved in the operation.

Mr Galloway said police went back in February 2005 and found the operation again in full swing. This time a container had been buried under soil and an inspection pit in the main office was kitted out for cannabis growing.

On this occasion police also went to the family home in Fairlea Close, Dawlish, and found more growing equipment and plants in an attic. Mr Galloway said fingerprints belong-ing to Robert Williams were found on a Coke in the attic.

Mr Galloway said that when Kevin Williams s first interviewed he said he was the joint

> Crown Court trial of four members of family continues, while fifth pleads guilty

owner of the land with his father and the business imported flowers wholesale and sold

He said the containers were not his responsibility but that of his father, Peter. They were rented out to private customers and he did not know anything about what was going on in the containers.

Peter Williams said the containers had never been used for cannabis. He rented them out to someone who put the money through the letter box of the flower business. He could not name

After the second raid Kevin made no com-ment, while Robert said he had no idea the plants were in the loft and he had never seen any other family members using the attic.

Jersey Evening Post Tuesday 11, April 2006

Four-year term for man sessed with drugs

By Diane Simon

erseyeveningpost.com

A YOUNG man obsessed with drug taking and its culture was given a four-year youth custody sentence in the Royal Court yesterday for drug dealing.

Bjarni Hebert (18) admitted pos-ession with intent to supply, supplying cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis, and growing cannabis.

Crown Advocate Michael O'Connell told the court that in October

police had searched Hebert's bed-room at the home where he lived with his mother. They had found cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis with a total street value of over £6,000, as

well as three cannabis plants and

drug-dealing equipment.

When arrested, Hebert wrote his own indirement to some extent by confessing that he had been dealing in drugs for some time. Hebert said he had been using cannabis from the age of 15, and regularly used ecstasy

at weekends and occasionally cocaine. He said he had been given the cocaine to look after and had helped to cut and bag it, as well as selling ten lots for £800.

Advocate O'Connell said that Hebert also told police that he had been dealing in as many as 36 nine-bars over a year with a street value of over £50,000, but Hebert's counsel Advocate Jane Grace said that in other statements to the police her client spoke of dealing in just half that amount.

Character

Describing Hebert's actions as amounting to a fairly sophisticated level of drug dealing, Advocate O'Connell said he had taken into account his age, his guilty plea and his previous good character. He called for a four-year sentence in

youth custody.

Advocate Grace said that her client, who regretted what he had done, had written much of his own indictment. He had been a victim of the drug culture with which he was obsessed and had sold drugs to fund his own habit. Emphasising that this was his first offence, she said that court reports described him as being at low risk of reoffending. The Bailiff, Sir Philip Bailhache,

said that dealing in class A drugs

was too serious to warrant a noncustodial offence and that the court was sentencing him to four years in youth custody. Sir Philip said that the court had taken into account the fact that Hebert had faced a difficult start in life and to some degree still carried that burden with him. Although he had made serious mis-takes, the court accepted that he had the capacity to reform and the intelligence to succeed and they hoped he had the will to do so

The Bailiff was sitting with Jurats de Veulle, Tibbo, Allo, Clapham, King and Le Cornu.

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Gloucestershire Echo Friday 7, April 2006

We should be allowed to get dope from docs

MUSCULAR dystrophy suffer Allan Johnson says he will fight for the right to take cannabis medicinally.

He and Jeffrey Ditchfield are to be tried for possession, growing and supplying the drug at Gloucester Crown Court next Western Mail (Cardiff) Friday 10, March 2006

Jail for 'naive or stupid' couriers

TWO members of a drugs ring were jailed yesterday for trying to smuggle £14,000, the proceeds of crime, out of the UK.

Szopa, 33, and Gavin Evans, 21, were taking the money to Amsterdam where it would have been used to buy cannabis with a street value of £40,000.

They were stopped at an airport with the money stuffed inside trousers in their luggage.

Prosecutor Lawrence Jones said, "Mr Evans was stopped by a Customs officer at Cardiff International Air-

"Szopa said they were going to Amsterdam for a holiday.

The officer became suspicious and conducted a search of their luggage which found a large amount of euros concealed inside pairs of trousers."

The unemployed men were given money by members of a drug trafficking ring to take to Amsterdam where the gang would use it to buy cannabis.

They changed the money from sterling into euros at travel agents four separate times.

In a police interview Szopa said he was visiting Andrew "Tyson" Roberts who was recently sentenced to seven years in prison for his part in a drug trafficking

operation.

But Cardiff Crown Court heard Szopa and Evans, who both live on benefits, were used by the gang and only got £800 each from the crime.

Byron Broadstock, de-fending Szopa, said, "They were the ones taking the risk but they were certainly not ones pulling strings."

Clare Wilks, defending Evans said, "He is someone who, because of a medical condition, is unable to work and his benefits are at the low end of the scale.

"He saw this as a way to make some money and treat his girlfriend."

Judge David Wynn Morgan said though the men were not the masterminds of the operation they would still have to go to prison.

He said, "Sophisticated criminals never take the risk of being caught in possession of anything that could convict them. They use people who are naive or stupid or both. This is because they know drug trafficking results in lengthy prison sentences.

Szopa, of The Croft, Betws, Bridgend, and Evans, of Llan Road, Maesteg, both pleaded guilty to four counts of converting criminal property and one count of attempting to remove criminal property from the UK. They were jailed for two years.

Yorkshire Evening Post Thursday 20, April 2006

Four months' prison

Stephen Doyle (31). Ballindean Terrace, was sent to prison for four months at Dundee today.

He had previously admitted possessing cannabis resin outside the sheriff court on February 8.

He also admitted being found in the garden of a house in Aboyne Avenue on March 25, in such circumstances as it might reasonably inferred that he was there for the purpose of committing theft.

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-legalisation advocates. This assumes that the publisher does not necessarily agree with everything that appears in articles and advertisements. The publisher therefore distances himself explicitly from published statements or images that might give the impression that an endorsement is being made for the use or production of cannabis.

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