

Soft Secrets®

Soft Secrets is published six times a year by Discover Publisher BV Netherlands - Issue 4 - 2003



FREE

Reader's photos - Soma's Salad Spliffs - New: Pete Loveday
Talking Drum - New: Gaanj-1 Puzzle Page and more...



Mr. Nice

Super-buds!

As good as it gets

Sweden

The North-Korea of Europe

Watering the plants

The do's and don'ts

Odour neutraliser

How to build your own

Sky high

Jump with Soft Secrets



THE P.O.T.H.O.W.E.P.



FROM THE EDITOR

The UN held a "cautiously optimistic review of its campaign against drugs" in Vienna at the UN Drug Policy Conference in April to discuss progress made half-way through its Ten-Year Action Plan Against Illicit Drugs.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime programme is "on target to reach its goals" - to eradicate drug abuse and the cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium by the year 2008, said Antonio Maria Costa, its executive director.
"In recent years, efforts to reduce abuse of illicit drugs have shown signs of progress."

Yeah, sure you are Tony. Polly Toynbee called it "a Comical Ali moment," in The Guardian, "a breathtaking lie which everyone in the hall knew was nonsense - and Costa knew they knew it.
Out there, drug prices are still falling and drug use is generally thought to be increasing."

But since the only permissible line decreed in three UN conventions is the "Just Say No" policy, all countries signing the conventions must enforce total prohibition laws, ergo no delegate could question whether it works.
It is of course America's war-on-drugs policy, pushed by Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr, that imposes rigid prohibition on the rest of the world, with no softening of internal laws permitted.

Britain had been severely admonished just before this conference, for daring to reclassify cannabis from class B to class C. The INCB, the UN body charged with policing enforcement of the conventions, said Britain's decision would have "dangerous, worldwide repercussions" and "would fill British psychiatric wards with cannabis victims in 10 years' time."

Also on the US shit list: the Swiss for planning to legalise cannabis in the next couple of years, the Dutch for their coffee shops, Portugal for decriminalising possession, Spain for downgrading possession to a civil offence, as Austria and Greece are in the process of doing. In Europe, only Sweden and France tow the US line, and the Yanks know how they can rely on the French, right? Just call it the Coalition of the Stark Raving Sober (and don't mention Canada).

"A drugs-free world - we can do it!" is the official slogan of the UN's current 10-year war-on-drugs strategy. "A free drugs world - we can't stop it!" would be closer to the truth.

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Talking of raving, weeks before Vienna, the US showed once more the sensible policies it has up its sleeve for dealing with the drugs menace. The Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act (previously called the "RAVE Act"), was attached to the AMBER Alert bill (which creates a system for responding to child abduction) at the very last minute, and passed both the US House and Senate.
One senator's pet issue - hatred of raves - has made a mockery of the Democratic process - becoming law without any public hearing or input whatsoever.

The RAVE Act makes any hotel owner, concert promoter, event organizer, nightclub owner or arena/stadium owner liable for the drug violations of third parties - real or alleged - even if the promoter and/or property owner made a good-faith effort to keep their event drug-free.

In other words, someone says I smoked a joint in the kitchen at your party, you lose your house and go to jail. With glow sticks and babies' dummies already classified as illegal drugs paraphernalia, it appears that the US is indeed well on the way to solving its drug problem.
PS: We're delighted to be able to announce that Pete Loveday, Britain's leading underground comic-artist, will be contributing his work to Soft Secrets from now on.
Hi Pete, and welcome to the club!

Page 3 Girl
FRUITY JUICE

An Indica/Sativa cross of the highest order. Both sides of the Indica and Sativa spectrum are fully expressed in this strain.
The sweet aroma comes from our most delicious Thai. This rarefied type was originally very difficult to work with, but we eventually found the ideal cross. Expect big yields from this one, with an exceptionally rich sweet aroma.

Flowering: 50-60 days
Height: 140-160 cm
Yield: up to 150 gr.

Flowering in greenhouse: end of October
Yield in greenhouse: up to 750 gr.



Photo: sensiseeds

READERS STUFF

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

Dear Soft Secrets

Attention Guerilla Growers!

Do you want to receive a packet of High Quality Seeds (Black Label) for free? Feeling up to growing Master Kush, Holland's Hope, White Widow, Oké 47, Bleu Berries, Sensi Star, Jack Herer or Neville's Haze? Then send us a picture of your garden and we will send you the seeds.

If you send us a pic of your garden with a visible copy of Soft Secrets, we will send you two packages, of two different sorts. If you send us a picture of your garden with your topless girlfriend or wife in it, we will send you three packages. (They do not have to show their faces) Send all entries to Soft Secrets, PoBox 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland or e-mail them to softsecrets@ganja.com.

Attention: only readers from outside Holland need apply!

All entries of course are handled with utmost discretion.



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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Hi Editor,

Enclosed you'll find a picture of my 2000 outdoor-girl. She was a real beauty (to compare: 'Goofy' is about 1.85 cm. Tall, she reached 2.70 m.) I don't know her name, since I got the seeds from a friend. I hope you'll change this! I am really looking forward to grow some black label seeds (I would be especially happy if you'd send me some Neville's Haze, since I always wanted to grow a Haze!). I picked up your magazine in Amsterdam and I really enjoyed it. Always,
Jens, Germany

*Thanks for the beautiful pic, Jens, that girl really is a rare tall beauty!
Unfortunately we can't send you the seeds, since posting seeds to Germany would be illegal.*



To Soft Secrets

We're from Skunkport ie Stockport, the English place where it happened and still is happening. Dutch Experience coffee shop closed now but it brought green fingered people out of the burrows. Skunkport is thriving with good Skunks.

Myself and a minority do with soil. We're getting about 2 to 2 1/2 ounces per plant, doesn't matter which plant.

Smoking Power Haze, Red Hair, White Rhino. Really in need of some real fruity Orange or Holland's Hope! The pics are of Power Haze and Red hair. Nice high on both but the Haze is and stays the best.

**Keep growing!
Top man, Skunkport**

Hey Top man, a fine packet of Holland's Hope coming up, we're sure you know how to skunk them...



Variety Afghan/Skunk, ready for harvest



Variety Afghan/Skunk plus Haze Power

Groete van Kaapschadt, Suid-Afrika!

Coming from a pre-legalisation country where ironically the 'grass DOES grow green....er', I was truly amazed to be blessed with a copy of Soft Secrets. Yes, this schweet magazine is not accesible here. So on receipt of Soft Secrets, I sat down, hit a pipe with some homegrown and buzzed for a couple of hours reading. Ofcourse, I was drawn to the two beautiful ladies on the back page; and subsequently, present you with our 'prize-winning' submissions of our 'fun-in-the-sun', in laid-back Cape Town. The summer delights were grown totally organic and outdoors. They produced over a 5 month period from Sensi Skunk X High-grade African Sativa, producing sweet, bushy plants. They grew approx. 4 foot in height with dense sticky buds. With a high crystalline/THC content, this plant when consumed, produces an 'UP-ZINGY' high meeting most of the requirements of a Cannabis Cup judge (the grower, alias The African Bush Doctor, was a judge at the 13th Cannabis Cup 2000). We did 'Honour the Goddess' (see photographs). The yield from my 4 ladies was approx. 300g and now aptly named FUNKY-SKUNKY.

Very impressive photographs indeed! We've sent you 3 packages with seeds, you more than deserved 'em. When you plant our seeds, consider this: Alles sal reg kom! ;-)



My lady is not only topless but naked



My Goddess is smoking some of the bud in a colour-changing glass pipe

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a picture of my recent crop. Plants are a mix of Northern Lights and Blueberry, roughly about two weeks into flower; using hydro-fed with superbloom.
Regards, Gaz



Hiya to all at Soft Secrets,

What a cool publication! I am a first time grower from Devon and it would appear that I have caught the bug all ready! Thought you may like to see some pics of my little ladies at three weeks old (8x Everest Queens.) My girlfriend hardly sees me any more as I spend all of my time in the grow room reading your mag and looking after my babies, so for a bit of attention and some seeds of her own, she thought you may like to see some pictures of her Everest Queens!!!! She says that if we get the seeds then she will pose completely nude next time (oo er missus).
Keep up the good work guys!
DJ

Thanks DJ. Of course now there's nothing more we can do but send you the full monty: Jack Herer, Holland's Hope & White Widow. Now let's have that follow up shots...



Dear Soft Secrets,

Enclosed a couple of photos before and after of some Early Pearl. The 'lighting' on the 'bloom' photo was accidental. On the 'grow' photo there is also some Superskunk but the main photo is of Early Pearl just starting to flower. Soil grown using 'John Innes' nr: 3 compost which is of very good quality and packed with nutrients, the pH is perfect. 'John Innes' compost is excellent for growing under lights because of the soil and sand mixture, it doesn't dry out after 24 hours or so. Also -please- can you give me details on how to get my 6 copies of Soft Secrets a year; I only found this one and it's excellent!
Glenn, Stockport

Please, don't make us blush, Glenn...
Thanks a lot for the pics, you should have received your eagerly awaited Jack Herer seeds by now. Unfortunately, we can't guarantee no one his or her six copies of Soft Secrets a year, since we don't do subscriptions. Soft Secrets UK is available only at fine grow-, smart- and headshops throughout the UK, or in grow and coffeeshops in Holland. Visit your local grow shop often, and you will never miss a beat!



Some Early Pearl cuttings in my bedroom. I was grabbing the last drops of sunshine for my baby's, as we live in the flats



Early Pearl Bud on my balcony amongst umbrella plants



Early Pearl

Dear Soft Secrets,

Here's a photo of my Jack Herer still with a week or so to go. Maybe it's the Scottish water or the woman's touch, we're already calling it Jack, hooray! I would be stunned and delighted to try some Bleuberries, White Widow or Nevilles Haze, if there are any seeds left.
Regards from Scotland, S

Impressive buds indeed, S. The Neville's Haze seeds should be in your pots by now.



Hello,
My name is Rich i'm 18 and i've been growin 'pot of gold' for the last year using florescant lights. I got about 6 clones off a freind and i picked the 2 best to grow. Because of the lights i use my plants are small but i still enjoy growin em anyway. I very recently purchased a 250w hps lamp so hopefully i can grow my plants alot bigger now. Will send some more pics when i have grown some impressive plants from the seeds, hopefully!
Rich, Wales

Are you sure those are marihuana plants, Rich? They look more like wilted spinach to us. Keep reading Soft Secrets, mate! To help you on your way we've sent you some first class Holland's Hope seeds.



UKCIA is a part of the wider Legalise Cannabis Campaign in the UK. The core team and the mailing list are a collection of activists - that is users of cannabis and sympathisers - who all share two things; an Internet connection and the goal to help repeal the cannabis laws.

We know that the best weapon against the "War on Cannabis" is the truth. So UKCIA sets out to be a store of factual information, you can find information about all aspects of the cannabis plant, its uses and the way its used here.

UKCIA holds a wide range of research papers and government reports, we invite you to read it and to make your own mind up on the issue, free of political distortion.

Cannabis legalisation is a major issue and isn't going to go away, not if we can help it anyway! Visit www.ukcia.org

UK: Prohibition, mark two

Americans are now telling pollsters they feel safer after the sack of Baghdad, and are evidently starting to believe the war on terror is being won. Hold that thought a moment while we consider the state of play in the other concept-war: the one on drugs.

It is 42 years since the UN set out to eradicate the use of illegal drugs, with results that we see all around us: the last marijuana smoker races the last speaker of Scots-Gaelic towards extinction; redundant cocaine dealers beg pathetically on the streets; the scourge of heroin has been banished forever from the planet.

That, as Polly Toynbee showed in these pages last week, was the impression a Martian might have got from attending the UN's half-time review of its current 10-year drugs plan in Vienna earlier this month.

The head of the UN office on drugs and crime, Antonio Maria Costa, cheerily announced that his organisation was on target to deal with the problem by 2008:

"Drugs control policy works," he said. Presumably, his job has given him access to some great reality-excluding dope.

This insanity keeps a lot of bureaucrats in work and holds off any unpleasantness with the policy's chief promoters, the US. The American approach that failed in the security council over Iraq - bribe, blackmail or batter your opponents into submission - has successfully prevented any fresh international thinking about drug control for decades. Allegedly liberal-minded governments such as Britain's tinker with cannabis laws to save a little police time, while the piles of used needles grow higher.

Meanwhile, a war that began when heroin, cannabis and cocaine were confined to a small, louche minority has successfully spread them worldwide. It is a re-run of the American booze prohibition experiment, played out globally and indefinitely. But the extraordinary reach of the ongoing catastrophe is largely hidden.

Just consider a few aspects of it from this hemisphere: inside the US, the prison population has now gone above 2 million. That means that about 1% of all American adults are currently in jail, a proportion rising to 12% among black males in their late 20s. The justice department estimates that the chances of a black male baby born today being imprisoned for more than a year are close to one in three.

Marc Mauer, of an independent organisation, The Sentencing Project, reckons that if you add together direct drug offences (sale, trafficking, possession etc), crimes committed to fund drug use and crimes committed by people on drugs, then half the people in jail are there for drug-related crimes.

The US has no policy for curbing drug use internally, except for locking up this million people and putting up "drug-free zone" signs outside schools. It concentrates on supply-side efforts: trying to stop traffickers, spraying South American coca fields and encouraging

farmers to grow other crops. As Ted Galen Carpenter points out in a new expose of the futility of all this, Bad Neighbour Policy, the US has a splendid technique for announcing success as far as seizures are concerned: if it intercepts a lot of drugs, that proves how well its approach is working; if the interception rate goes down, that proves it too.

Officials regularly gloat to the newspapers about how many fields have been sprayed, and how many Colombian farmers have been encouraged to switch to legal crops. They don't tell us they are spraying with a form of glyphosate unapproved in the US that is, according to reports from other sources, having disastrous effects on wildlife, legal crops and, sometimes, humans.

They don't say that the more they spray in one area of Colombia, the more production moves deeper into more impenetrable rain forest, where the locals add to global warming by chopping down more trees and planting there. They don't say that the more they spray in Colombia generally, the more cocaine production rises again in Bolivia and Peru.

They don't say that shrewd farmers have now found they can beat aerial surveillance by sticking coca bushes in the shade of dense coffee plantations. They don't admit the crop-substitution projects are useless because other crops bring in about one-ninth the income of cocaine, which, thanks to US policies, is untaxed, unregulated and rampant.

Instead, the Americans jail a million of their own people and force the UN to hold idiotic conferences where officials spout drivel. They should hire this Costa bloke to run the war on terrorism. After all, most terrorism is financed by drug money anyway. He could keep proclaiming victory for them.

Author: Matthew Engel
Source: The Guardian

NL: Dutch Marijuana Joints Take a Hit from Smoking Ban

AMSTERDAM (Reuters Health) - Dutch "coffee shops" famous for selling marijuana could see business go up in smoke, as it seems the drug will be included in an upcoming ban on work-place smoking.

The 2002 Tobacco Law requires all employers in the Netherlands next year to provide a smoke-free work environment for their staff.

Due to get government approval soon, the law aims to protect employees of all companies from second-hand smoke.

Although cannabis is formally illegal in the Netherlands, its use and sale are tolerated under strict government conditions. Coffee shops, where customers can buy a small amount of cannabis without fear of arrest, are a major tourist draw. The bar and restaurant industry (Horeca)

has been granted a one-year exception from the new law, but coffee shops do not fall within the definition of that industry. "Coffee shops are not a part of Horeca," Health Ministry spokesman Bas Kuik said in an interview with Reuters Health. "They are an employer like anybody else, and they must provide a smoke-free environment."

Coffee shop owners were aghast.

"The whole point of going to a coffee shop is to smoke," said Arjan Roskam, chairman of the Union for Cannabis Retailers. "I'm really surprised by this—it's just not logical," said Mohammad Ijouen, co-owner of the 1st Aid Coffeeshop in Amsterdam. "I mean, come on, people come here to meet and smoke, right. So now where are they going to go—smoking

in their cars?"

He said that the ban would be particularly harmful to his business, as, like most coffee shops, he doesn't sell alcohol. "I'm going to lose a lot of customers," he added.

The Netherlands boasts around 800 cannabis cafes. Smoking a joint in an Amsterdam coffee shop vies with canal boat tours and trips to the flower market for a place on tourists' itineraries.

One patron, named Deena, said that although she had sympathy for the workers, she didn't trust the government's motives.

"It's this religious government, man," she said, as she exhaled a large cloud of smoke. "Why don't they just outlaw pleasure and at least be honest about it?"

UK: GW signs cannabis deal

GW Pharmaceuticals, the UK research and development group, has teamed up with German company Bayer to market the former's cannabis-based drug, Sativex, in the UK.

The deal, worth up to £25m, marks the first significant income earned by the UK group, which commands a market capitalisation of some £230m.

Sativex, which is sprayed into the mouth, is used to provide pain relief for multiple sclerosis sufferers and may be

developed to alleviate cancer-related pain. The deal announced yesterday only covers the UK, where the government has already indicated it is ready to change the rules governing the use of cannabis to allow doctors to prescribe Sativex. However, Bayer also has an option to market the drug in the rest of Europe as well as Canada, Australia and New Zealand. "Bayer is a very good pharmaceutical company which is highly respected around the world.

"That's what we want from a partner," said GW Pharmaceuticals' executive chairman, Geoffrey Guy.

The US is not included in the deal. Mr Guy indicated his company would take a cautious approach, which could mean several years before it attempts a foray into America.

The US may be the biggest market, but it is also one of the most difficult for a small company to enter, he argues.

"It may be an enticing market but we will be very careful. You can lose your shirt trying to get into the US."

Bayer, which is wrestling with lawsuits

following the recall of its cholesterol-lowering drug, Baycol, in August 2001, said it regarded the market for Sativex as a significant one.

"For a special kind of patient it is a very, very useful drug -for example for patients with severe pain," said a spokeswoman.

She said the two companies hoped to have final approval for the drug by the end of the year. Once that was achieved, she expected that the drug would become available very quickly, she added

Source: The Guardian

UK: 'Confusion' over cannabis legality

Confusion over whether cannabis is legal has led to the drug being smoked openly on Northern Ireland's streets, a House of Commons report has claimed.

The Northern Ireland Select Committee called for the government to emphasise the dangers of cannabis and highlight that a clampdown on the drug remained a high priority for law enforcement. Although cannabis was reclassified in Northern Ireland last July from a Class B to a Class C drug, the then-Secretary of State John Reid denied it meant the government had softened its attitude towards the drug.

The report on the illegal drugs trade in the province found there was still "widespread confusion" among the public about the status of cannabis. The select committee's chairman, Michael Mates, said on Tuesday that cannabis remained "overwhelmingly the most widely available drug" in the province. "We have heard that cannabis is being smoked openly on the streets and in pubs and clubs in Northern Ireland because people believe it is now legal," Mr Mates said.

"The government and the Northern Ireland Executive must intensify their efforts to communicate the fact that the use of cannabis remains illegal and harmful." The select committee said demand for cannabis was being exploited by organised criminals and paramilitaries who were using the profits to support other illegal activities. Dr John Reid said at the time of the declassification that cannabis remained an illegal drug. "Those who are convicted of cannabis-related offences can expect to face the full force of the law," Dr Reid said last July. "Cannabis will be reclassified as a Class C

drug on the basis of scientific and medical evidence, but those found guilty of possessing it could face up to two years imprisonment. "Trafficking cannabis will still attract a maximum penalty of 14 years in jail. Because of the seriousness of this crime, I welcome the decision to extend this penalty to all Class C drug trafficking offences." The committee welcomed this increased penalty but said such an action on its own would not be "a sufficient counterbalance to the opportunities for extending criminal activity which the reclassification may provide".

Figures from the Organised Crime Task Force in Northern Ireland showed cannabis accounted for two thirds of all drugs seizures in 2001. Ecstasy tablets were found in 16% of all seizures, prescription drugs made up eight per cent, heroin made up five per cent, amphetamines four per cent and cocaine one per cent. Mr Mates said that unlike the rest of Britain, hard drugs were not as commonly used in Northern Ireland, and the committee recommended that the government should bear this in mind. Des Browne, the Northern Ireland Office Minister with responsibility for drugs issues, welcomed the select committee's approval of the reclassification of cannabis. "Cannabis is still a harmful drug that can cause psychological dependency and depression and our treatment agencies will continue to see people suffering from its effects," he said. "Smoking cannabis, whether on its own or mixed with tobacco, contributes to our high incidence of premature deaths and avoidable illness."

CANNABIS STILL ILLEGAL!

Declassified to Class C drug
Up to two years prison for possession
Maximum 14 years for trafficking.

Source: The BBC

Wales: Labour falls out over drugs

A drugs row has broken out between two senior Welsh Labour politicians, with one accusing the other of getting his facts wrong over the risks of decriminalising cannabis.

Former Welsh Office Health Minister Jon Owen Jones criticised Huw Lewis, a new minister in the assembly government, for his "hardline approach" to drugs.

Mr Jones, the MP for Cardiff Central, has long advocated decriminalising cannabis and two years ago tried to change the law to enable it to be sold in off-licences.

He claimed that Mr Lewis, the Merthyr Tydfil Assembly Member had suggested there should not be a "proper debate" on drugs in Britain.

Ironically, the row was sparked by Mr Lewis's attack on Plaid Cymru over its attitude to drugs. He criticised new Plaid AM Leanne Wood, who he said had called last year for "quality cannabis" to go on sale. Ms Wood speaks for Plaid on social justice, which includes responsibility for tackling drugs. Mr Lewis, who has just been made deputy minister for social justice, asked whether Plaid would change its drugs policy, or if Ms Wood would change hers. "Decriminalisation risks encouraging the use of cannabis," said Mr Lewis. "I understand the Dutch desire to separate the markets for hard and soft drugs, but the fact remains that coffee shops are part of the commercialisation of cannabis in Holland which has led to an increase in use." But his Labour colleague said the approach backed by Mr Lewis had failed. Mr Jones said: "We've moved on from where we use drugs as a political football and kick it around."

The MP described the drugs death toll in south Wales as horrendous and said: "We won't get anywhere by simply shouting at each other and calling one another names." Mr Jones said: "Huw Lewis is wrong on his facts, and wrong to suggest we should not have a proper debate on drugs in this country. "Cannabis use in Holland is considerably less than that in Britain. The evidence suggests that the Dutch experiment has been a success, not only in reducing the growth of cannabis use but more importantly cutting the link with hard drugs. "Where heroin use in Holland is decreasing and its users getting older, heroin use in Britain is increasing." Mr Jones said latest available figures showed that Holland, with a population of 15m, had 70 deaths from heroin, and the average age of an addict was 36. That compared with south Wales, where with a population of 1.5m there were 200 heroin deaths, and an addict's average age was 25. "To put that in context Holland has about 30 times less heroin deaths than south Wales per head," said the MP. "With the terrible and growing problems of drug use in Wales we desperately need a sensible analysis of the problem based on reliable evidence."

In response to Mr Lewis's criticism, Ms Wood said a proper debate on drugs was long overdue in the assembly.

The Plaid AM said: "It's a serious problem which has not been addressed by Labour.

"The 'war on drugs' has been long lost and their initiatives haven't worked. It is time for a mature and enlightened debate which Huw Lewis obviously lacks."

Source: BBC Online

UK: Cannabis boost to rural economy

Cannabis is growing legally in fields around Driffield. In the first experiment of its kind in East Yorkshire, 300 acres of land is being used to grow the plant. But it is not normal cannabis as all the narcotic qualities have been bred out. If smoked all it will do is cause a nasty cough. The first shoots of the government-funded project are now beginning to show. "We believe that the market for hemp will bring profitability back to the countryside." There is no waste with the crop and every part of the plant can be used for building materials, food, detergent, wool, medicine, oil, ink and fuel.

With a relatively short growth cycle of 120 days, hemp is an efficient and economical crop for farmers to grow. Unlike many crops, hemp can be grown in most locations and climates with only

moderate water and fertilizer requirements. Hemp facts Ancient Greeks used hemp fibre in clothing Hemp cloth was common in the 13th century Hemp is thermally efficient and absorbs sound Hemp can be treated to be non-flammable Hemp can only be grown in the UK under Home Office licence Farmer Cliff Spencer said: "We have been growing wheat for a number of years and the price has dropped and dropped and dropped to the point where we can't make any money out of it.

Source: BBC Online

UK: Officer backs legalisation

One of Scotland Yard's most senior

officers said he would have "no problems" decriminalising all drugs. He also said officers were wasting their time policing cannabis. Chief Superintendent Anthony Wills retired last week after six years as borough commander of Hammersmith and Fulham in west London in charge of 2,000 officers. Mr Wills said he was opposed to drug-taking but accepted people were going to take drugs so they should do so "safely, with a degree of purity and in a controlled way". And he said he had a "very liberal" attitude to possession of drugs, equating smoking cannabis to getting drunk. Mr Wills said: "I would have no problems with decriminalising drugs full stop." He said "stringent measures" are needed over drug production and supply and the market needed to be removed from the dealers. But he stressed: "I do not want people to

take drugs but if they are going to, I want them to take them safely, with a degree of purity and in a controlled way." Mr Wills, who has two teenage children and served as a police officer for 30 years before his retirement, said he did not want his own children taking drugs but if they wanted to, the reality was there was little he could do to stop them. He added: "I am very liberal in relation to possession of drugs. Policing cannabis is a waste of our time as I do not feel the effects of cannabis are any worse than over-consumption of alcohol." The remarks may fuel the debate over how police deal with drugs and the law surrounding cannabis. It is understood Mr Wills' remarks were his personal views on the possession of drugs and he supported the Metropolitan Police's policies while a serving officer. But he wanted to "field ideas" for a national debate on how to deal with drugs in the future. Source: Channel 4 News Online

Quantumhydro in Sudbury

Quantumhydro produces the world famous professional NFT system and was started in 2001 by Garry and Nick. Both these guys were born with green fingers and in the meantime have each gained 35 years of cultivating experience.

Just as with all pioneers, countless tubes, pipes, water tanks and plastic containers had to be tried out and tested repeatedly. It took five years to develop a decent and reliable hydro-system. An important part of the system is the pump and there are few really good and safe pumps available on the market. Despite that, these guys succeeded in fitting a 12 volt pump that is put together to make sure no roots can get entangled in the parts. Everything about this system has been carefully thought out and even the quantum theory plays a part. The next logical step was to take these ideas, put together by a group of friends, work them out and start up their own wholesale business – Quantumhydro.

Their range includes NFT systems for 25 cuttings or different containers for numbers between 1 and 10 full plants. The pieces of the system are all made of good quality materials. The people at Quantumhydro are continually busy perfecting and upgrading their products with one eye open on new developments. Already it is not necessary to use a growing medium in this system which avoids a lot of splashing about and that saves the environment also. This is an extremely user friendly system and involves minimal work as you only have to add water once in a while, with a bit of nutrient but after two weeks of that you need not look at them again.

There is a 24 hours continuous water circulation that infuses the water with oxygen. There are a variety of adapters available that makes it possible to use from a half to a third rock wool or 50mm net pots. The whole system can be easily dismantled and cleaning it is no problem.

Quantumhydro
Gartside House, Harris Way
Sudbury TW16 7EL
Tel.: 00 44 (0)1932 785 220
Fax: 0044 (0)20 8948 7282
www.quantumhydro.com

The proverb, 'perseverance pays,' is very appropriate to these pioneers at Quantumhydro who have managed to bring the revolutionary NFT system to the world.



Growshop 18/12, Bradford

Just over a year since opening growshop 18/12 in Bradford and it seems that already the premises is too small to cope with the demand. By the time you read this, the move to the new location will have taken place to a really suitable location with more than 3000 square meters to fill. Talk about growth!

Tony and Debbie are at the helm of this sturdy enterprise and can look back over the past year with a great deal of satisfaction, which has seen a steady increase in satisfied customers. Most of them are locals and enjoy the opportunity provided by the shop to gather and drink coffee and chat amongst each other. The shop has a reputation for giving good advice and information for putting together a successful garden. Tony has a technical background and has always been interested in fruits. At sixteen years old he was already busy with fruit cultivation. Amongst other good things he has grown peanuts and passion fruits, each with a different system. This practical experience makes for a solid foundation of knowhow.

Extensive information about cultivation can also be found in the grow guide compiled by the two. In it you can find pH and EC values per week. It all becomes very easy especially for beginners who might be using an allround soil mix. You can also make a choice out of a variety of cultivation systems and can count on personal guidance and excellent service from 18/12.

For example, they will test a water sample from your area and so be able to customise the nutrition requirements of your plants. There is choice enough amongst these as there are products that range between basic and top. The stock includes Hydro Tops, B'Cuzz, Canna and Ionic. The will also consider requests for other brands. Before taking on a new product, they analyse the product on safety factors and give it a users test. On a smaller scale they also provide the possibility to buy second hand items at reduced prices. They will also any equipment that is not already in the assortment. As an extra, they supply head gear like pipes and papers, bongs, T-shirts, books, seeds, etc. There is an excellent range of books provided for even the most obsessive indoor farmer. Check out their website for more information and a route description to the new location with its discreet parking place. It is also possible to order directly online, of course and the site also contains many useful links.

Open: Mon. – Sat. 10:00 – 17:00
Growshop 18/12
Unit 9 Bowling Court Ind. Est
Mary street
Bradford BD4 8 TT
Tel. 00 44 (0) 1274 742022
[www. Eighteentwelve.com](http://www.Eighteentwelve.com)

Looking at the blueprints for the new 18/12 premises I see growth ahead for the loveliest grow show room in the UK!

Attention grow-, smart- and head-shopkeepers of Britain!

After just four issues, Soft Secrets UK is already the biggest and considered by many the best cannabis-related publication in the country - and it keeps getting bigger and better!

If you think your customers would be as keen to read it each month as we do, and you would like to receive copies of SS UK for distribution in your shop or outlet, please fax us at: 00 31 73 547 9732 with your business details or email us at softsecrets@ganja.com.

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Soft Secrets - essential reading for Britain's independent smokers, growers and cannabis businesses!

REPORT

Cannabis Day

By Kaz Peet / Photo's Daphne Dahrendorf

Now in its fifth year, The Cannabis Festival has become as much an established date in the free festival calendar as it is part of the campaign to re-legalise the plant throughout the UK and world-wide. This year over 230 cities around the planet held pro-legalisation rallies. In London, this took the form of a carnival style march followed by a festival in Brixton's Brockwell Park.

With the vibe of the event being one of a safe, happy and fun day out for all the family, this was certainly the intent of the organisers, who recognise the importance of normalising and making mainstream the issue of cannabis. (Most opinion polls now show a small majority in favour of legalisation and a large majority in favour of decriminalisation.) The festival is a kind of temporary autonomous zone on the cannabis front and living proof that it is neither individually or socially harmful. Also, that it poses no threat.

The festival comprises of a mixture of music, product stalls, information, education and a kid's area.

It is perhaps the music that is key to the day's success, with the sound of base bins and speakers filling the bowl of Brockwell Park.

Three stages and several dance tents hosted a wide array of bands, artists and sound systems with influences from around the world. There was a rare performance from The Cunts, the punk alter ego of the locally infamous Alabama 3 on the Main Skunked Stage, as well as sets from Digidub, Spacegoats, Oojami, Babyhead and Howard Marks amongst others. The Hashbash Stage featured bands such as Headjam and Nomadix Roots and the Hip-Hop Stage, rappers, mixers and scratchers from all over. In the dance tents, outfits and DJ's played to packed and rocking crowds.

In the Hemp Area, the many benefits of hemp for food, fibre and fuel could be experienced where a wide range of produce and information was available. From toasted seed to hemp milk and green juices by Hemp Seed Organics; a range of finely designed hempen women's clothes with hand beading from Se to THTC's urban ecowear with hard hitting slogans on original hemp content T-shirts.



Yaoh's new range of body products and The Hemp Store from Brighton with their clothing, accessories, fabrics and even hemp plastic digereedoods. As always, the festival party atmosphere

was added to by the presence of loads of individuals simply doing their own thing, whether that be spontaneous stilt performances, dancing or selling crafts, paraphernalia, food or other goodies.



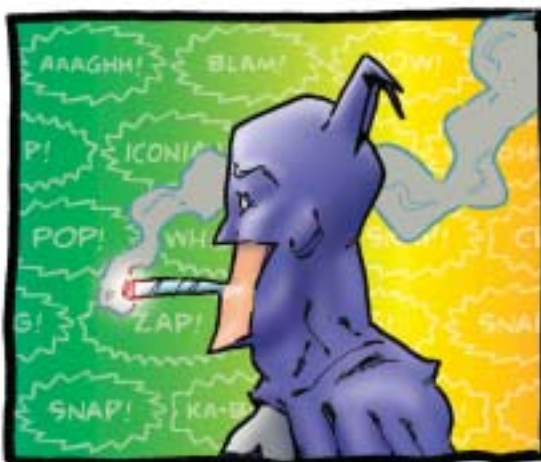
People coming together to peacefully party and to celebrate the positive benefits of something has got to be good.

Despite attempts from Lambeth Council to stop the event, it has continued to grow in popularity. The first march and festival took place on Mayday 1999 when about 10000 people marched through South London and held a festival on Clapham Common. The council had refused an entertainment licence and subsequently spotted people dancing. They prosecuted the festival licensee but the courts found him not guilty of the memorable charge of permitting dancing and amplified music on a common on Mayday in England. Since then marches and festivals now happen in a growing number of countries each year.

The success of this years festival can only serve to add further weight to the extremely pressing issue of cannabis re-legalisation.

The WEED Vs...

by Dave Braysheer



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

By Charlie Stone

Part five

The Dealer

Andy (not his real name) comes from Amsterdam and ever since the seventies he has been earning not only his bread out of dealing, but his jam too. Starting with 'people protection', he soon got to know the hash world where he did a bit of everything until he settled as an independent dealer. Next to hash, he also dealt in coke before choosing for marihuana, which he started to cultivate for himself. Andy has seen all aspects of this business and in this interview he speaks openly to Soft Secrets about his remarkable life.

Soft Secrets:

Andy, how did you get into this part of the underworld?

"About twenty years ago I lived in the same house as a guy who was a dealer. This guy dealt heavily in coke and dope and I would see the stuff all over the house. After a while I started transporting stuff for him. A kilo here, two over there, it was all very easy."

Did you bring stuff to other dealers or to end-users?

"You could say, to house dealers. But the guy for whom I was transporting started using the stuff heavily and started to lose himself in it. Slowly but surely I started doing more and more jobs for him. He started expanding and I went along with it. After a while I thought to myself, 'hey, this is really great' and so I started doing it for myself. Just take a 25 kilo box and begin."

Was it all hash or did you have some weed too?

"Hash only. You could get a Lebanese then, black stuff, Moroccan, but it's different these days."

What rewards did you get from your housemate as a result of helping him out?

"In the beginning I would get one hundred guilders (€45 – ed.) per kilo delivered. Sometimes I would deliver five or six kilos on a day and that was certainly good money for a sixteen year old. By the time I was eighteen, I had a steady income of five hundred a day plus I would do some extras like keeping debtors in line if they would not pay up."

Why did you decide to go into it for yourself?

"Because the guy was using so much coke, he let a lot of things slide and so I began to do too much for him. By then I had learnt much and made a few good connections and from there it was a small step to branching out for myself. But I also made the same mistake with coke and just wanted to party all the time. The first few years were really fucked up by that."

How did you come by all the coke?

"The man just had too much of the stuff. He gave me some and told me to try selling it, as I would make much more money from it. If you bought weed to the value of ten thousand, you could sell it on for two or three thousand more and be lucky with five hundred profit. If you spent the same amount on coke, your profit margin jumps up to seven or eight thousand. You cut it of course and sell it in small quantities. If you sold ten ounces in a day then you'd be sitting on ten times a thousand. With weed you would have to sell 100 times that quantity for the same profit. I was already used to taking risks so I had no problem with it."

What kind of characters did you deal with?

"I have never been one for the limelight and so I do not know any popular characters. I usually did business with

transit where impounded and people were arrested."

How did you cover yourself officially then, for example with the taxman?

"I just bought a job on paper. That means you have to pay your employer to employ you plus give him a bonus of 500 or so, for doing it. An official salary of three thousand costs quite a lot but then at least you are totally covered to the outside world. You must be sure to have a clear agreement with your 'employer' in case the police or any officials should check up, then he needs to know whether you're 'off sick' or on 'vacation'."

Was the drug scene harder in those days, compared to now?

"Earlier it was much easier. However there were a lot of rip offs. Ripping off has become more rampant, if you believe the Yugoslavs. Before it was often Italians who would try their luck."

Has that ever happened to you?

"Sure – a couple of times. Mostly small scale. One time I went with some guy to deliver a box of hash. He got out of my car to ring the bell at the correct address. I hardly knew this guy, so I had brought a

prove that. I have been taken for a ride in this way a couple of times."

Is there a big difference between coke dealing and hash?

"Sure, dealing coke is a different world from hash. You have to be tough in the coke trade. If for example, the product should disappear, someone is likely to get shot down. Sometimes people go on holiday and never come back, that sort of thing. The rip-offs are getting a lot nastier too. An acquaintance of mine who owns a coffeeshop was recently attacked in his home. He was dumped in his bathtub whilst his child was pushed into the refrigerator. They were waving a chainsaw above his head whilst repeatedly forcing his head under water. For fifty thousand. I thought to myself at the time, that if they could do that to him for that amount, what would they do to me if they knew how much I had? After that I decided to give the coke trade a rest."

Did you stop dealing coke then?

"No, first I started establishing legitimate businesses. Clothing shops, catering companies, that sort of thing. I also invested abroad. These companies were not fronts but bonafide businesses. Next to that, I continued to deal but more as a hobby. I maintained two or three calm coke clients and let someone else who wanted to be a hotshot, serve the others. This person acted as a sort of buffer zone between me and the customers."

Why did you need a buffer?

"A good friend of mine got busted, another good friend committed suicide, some people I knew were arrested abroad and then someone else died. All that made

The growshops are responsible for giving away Dutch technology. It would be smarter to retain this know-how by keeping it a bit more exclusive so that everyone could make something from it.

your average person. I've never had dealings with any of the names you come across in the scandal pages. I've only done business with the type of people who never have and who never will appear in those sort of stories."

What was the ratio between hash and coke as product once you started for yourself?

"About 50-50. It did not make much difference to me if customers wanted 50 kilos of hash or 50 kilos of coke. Later, when personal circumstances started changing, I got more into weed. There followed a period of eight years whereby everything went really well. After that strange things started to happen, loads in

pistol along for just in case. I sat in the car waiting while he disappeared behind the door. After that, nothing happened. I became restless and went to find out what had happened to him. I was quite worked up by then so I kicked in the door, waving my pistol around. I walked in and found myself in a roomful of bewildered strangers. I ran up the stairs, convinced he must be somewhere inside the house. Up in the attic I found a really tiny stairway that led into the neighbouring attic. That's where he made his escape. I also had some customers in England who were thinking of giving the business a rest and decided that they would rip me off on their last order. I sent off 100 kilos and they claimed it never arrived despite not being able to provide a police report to

me stop and think about what I was busy with. That's why I took on someone else. It freed up my hands and allowed me to take some distance from the coke. You could say I took early retirement from the coke business."

Did you notice an increase in demand for pills?

"Yes I did, customers from England who only ever took hash, suddenly asked if I could organise 10 or 20 thousand pills. I did it once because the transportation is so easy to arrange. Later they started ordering less hash so I decided to stop the pills. I don't like to see one thing being shoved aside in preference for another, especially when I do not have complete control over

that other. Pills are really difficult to check on quality. You really have to know what you are doing, it's another world entirely. One doesn't ask a shoemaker to repair a hole in the roof! Some people think that everything can be bought and then expect you to know if it's quality. But it would be a real disaster to buy 100 000 of the wrong pills. You have to be so careful. I am too

First you have to install lamps, air filters etc. You have so much to organise. You need knowledge of electricity, water pipes, everything plus. Besides that I have my legitimate businesses also needing my attention. Not to mention having a private life. With one small grow room, a single person can just about manage, with ten, it is totally impossible."

Did you sell weed or hash?

"In the beginning I used to convert all the weed into hash plates. I would mix it with hash I had bought in for the purpose. A few pieces of black in the mix and it all comes up looking good. It is necessary for the weed to have aged a while. If you press Nederwiet it comes up very green.

world European neighbours and do the thing there. Poland has been producing thousands of kilos these last few years. That weed is being grown with Dutch technology and clones from the Netherlands.

The growshops are responsible for giving away Dutch technology. It would be smarter to retain this know-how by keeping it a bit more exclusive so that everyone could make something from it."

How did you experience the rapid rise in coffeeshops?

"Some Dutch guys started that up, along with some friendly blokes from Surinam. In the beginning, coffeeshops were just social meeting places until people realised that enormous profit could be made.

That prospect invited in the criminal element who very often go into the business with a large flash place and in a super commercial manner. If the authorities would decree an end to these commercial shops and only permit the more Cannabis friendly type of shops; that would already make a big difference."

What's the difference though? They all want to make a profit.

"Sure, but I believe that if these big boys were pushed out of the picture, it would make room for the normal shops to earn more – more customers, more turnover and more honest prices. I know shops that still sell weed for €5.00 per gram (± 7.50 British pounds –ed.). These megashops sell the same for €7.50 (10pounds).

And personally I think the atmosphere in most of these shops really sucks. If I wish to get stoned, I prefer to go to a shop where I can relax and be comfortable with friendly people around me and with good service. Nowadays at some of these shops you have to watch out not to get bruised by the doorman or that you are not getting really dirty

I finance the entire set up and then share the return with the property owner on a 60/40 basis. 40% for me, that is, after all costs have been deducted

cautious in myself for such a uncontrolled market."

So you continued, but only with hash?

"I continued with the hash for a number of years until the prices fluctuated and it became too difficult to change money at the bank. That sort of hassle. I was just starting to think 'forget it' when 'Nederwiet', Dutch homegrown weed, made its appearance."

Was that new for you?

"I had a friend in America who was growing indoors in California who had brought me to the idea. He also sent me my lamps and my first seeds. In the beginning, I did not expect to make money from it. I just believed that it might become something later. I just kept it in the background and then, next thing it was a rage and I knew the time was ripe. Then I really turned my attention to it."

How was that for you?

"With a lot of feeling about in the dark. It was quite confusing actually because there were many new developments in rapid succession. I had learned about growing by trial and error. It had taken me six months to get my first room up and running. I had one thousand plants in it so I counted myself lucky. But it was not so smart. It is very labour intensive. You come into direct contact with nature and then you cannot bluff. I realised that it would be better to have ten rooms with 250 plants each than one major room. You actually even earn more like that. You also save on labour costs, as you need a smaller team of weed trimmers whom you can send to a new room every other week. If the plants cycle endures ten weeks, you can stagger the starting times of each room by a week so that there is always a harvest in one of them. Small portions bring in good money also."

Did you do this all by yourself or do you have other people helping you?

"I myself am a real lazy beast, so I always work with others. I could not do it all by myself anyway. For example, for one hundred plants, you need at least 500 hundred litres of soil, and if you want happy healthy plants you can increase that to 800. This soil you then have to shovel into all those pots. And then that's only after you have put an entire room together.

If one room gets busted, does that affect any of the others?

"No, I am very careful to work with different people per room. I also have some reserve rooms, so if I should need to, I can continue somewhere else. I have lost a room to a raid once before, but otherwise I have been really lucky. The various people I do business with are not aware of each other and are not even aware that I do this same business with others. The only ones who know that are the members of my trimming team, yet they do not know that I own all the rooms. I just send them there.

I finance the entire set up and then share the return with the property owner on a 60/40 basis. 40% for me, that is, after all costs have been deducted. That includes the costs of paying the trimming team, so I do not actually pay them directly and I still clear a 40% share of the direct profit.

Do you ever go into these grow room yourself?

I pass by regularly once a week. The inhabitants take care of the daily requirements like watering and so on."

Every hundred kilos therefore, gets paraffin and milk powder added to it. We would then press it into neat plates of about 200 grams a piece."

Is it true that in those days, hash was more popular than weed?

"In the beginning, yes. Weed smokers wanted mainly African weed then, but Nederwiet was the first weed to prove really popular."

When did you first notice the arrival of growshops?

"The first started appearing about fifteen years ago. I never did any business with them as I was still getting everything I needed from America. That way I also ensured that nobody here knew that I was growing."

What did you make of the increase in grow supply shops?

"I admit I harboured mixed feelings. My first thought was, oh dear, competition. But competition can also be healthy."

So was it beneficial to you or did it make no difference?

The various people I do business with are not aware of each other and are not even aware that I do this same business with others. The only ones who know that are the members of my trimming team, yet they do not know that I own all the rooms.

Who were your primary clients in the beginning?

"Mainly coffeeshops, house dealers were not really interested and now they are just about extinct anyway."

What were prices like back then?

"For quality Nederwiet, you could ask 3500 guilders per kilo (approximately one thousand pounds–ed.). The prices were pretty much the same for African and Jamaican weed. After that it started to get better."

"It was definitely an advantage. People were naturally curious as to where all that weed could be coming from. In the early days there were maybe a hundred people busy supplying the market, now there are thousands all over the country. The advantage is that one is less noticeable. The disadvantage of all these grow supply shops is that people are being bothered more by the authorities. Energy usage is strictly controlled now, computers can flawlessly detect aberrations in energy usage. And what is the result. People run off to our third

looks from the dealer.

Paradiso and De Melkweg (Amsterdam) used to slice a piece of hash right there in front you.

Some shops where they at least are trying to make it feel cosy, have started doing that again."

What is the hash market like at the moment?

"Totally upside down!

You really have to slog now to make it happen. Besides that – you stick out like a sore thumb."

"Reefer Madness" All Over Again

U.S. Government's War on Drugs Puts Media in its Gunbelt

By Kristie Szalanski

As any American can tell you, living in or visiting Amsterdam not only provides a tolerant atmosphere in which to enjoy the sacred herb, but also a welcome respite from the constant barrage of anti-cannabis sentiment in the media. American networks have been battering television audiences with a fresh affront in the War on Drugs via ridiculous television adverts. Roughly a year ago, the campaign message was that as a weed smoker, you support terrorism. The most commonly aired advert at the time included several sweet-faced children between the age of six and twelve, a backdrop of innocent nursery-rhyme music, and each child confessing his or her implication in the War on Terror; or wait, was it the War on Drugs? It's so difficult to tell any more. One blond angel-faced girl whispers, "I helped blow up a school." A young boy replies, "I helped kill women and children," then another: "I helped sell guns to terrorists."

The U.S. Government's attempt at drawing a parallel between cannabis and terrorism is vague, misrepresentative, and just plain wrong. Any home-grown smoker in the States can tell you, for a fact, that they're more likely supporting a local kid who's just trying to pay for college. Or Canadians. It is true that importers dealing in the hard stuff may also deal in the soft. This is inescapable. However, hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin have long been the target of import (smuggling) sting operations, and the weapons connections with South and Latin American countries is easily researched. What's scary is that the Feds have in their control the two most effective avenues of control: fear and the media. By insisting to the public that their medical or recreational use of the drug directly wounds America itself, they forcibly inflict a stigma on pot smokers, which is already pretty damaging.

Almost any corporate job in America requires drug testing, leaving a large contingency to choose between smoking weed and having a job. Add to that the threat of being labelled anti-patriotic, and users "on the fence" will likely straighten themselves out. This leaves the activists and victims of anti-cannabis legislation with even less allies and support. To make the situation even worse, the fresh ad campaign in the U.S. is now taunting: "Marijuana: It's worse than you thought." From here, we are led to believe that if

you smoke weed, you become a lethargic, useless, dangerous person without the

American networks have been battering television audiences with a fresh affront in the War on Drugs via ridiculous television adverts. Roughly a year ago, the campaign message was that as a weed smoker, you support terrorism.

ability to make decisions. Here are a few of the situations represented on television in the States at the present:

Scene: A teenage boy stops his car next to a roadside memorial for a victim of a recent car crash. The boy places flowers on the memorial, then gazes sadly at the photo above a card explaining that the child was killed by a driver under the influence of marijuana. The teenager was the driver and the little boy was his own brother.

Message: Marijuana kills other people. It's more dangerous than you think.

Scene: A teenage couple are getting high at a party. As the joint gets consumed, the boy becomes more and more amorous, and the girl's efforts at resisting falter. Fade to black, voice-over of the girl screaming "No!"

Message: Smoking weed makes you lose your inhibitions, self-control, and decision making ability to a dangerous extent.

Scene: Two teenage boys sit smoking weed in dad's office at home. While rummaging in a desk drawer, the boy finds

his dad's gun. He pulls it out and points it at his friend. "Don't worry, it's not loaded," he says. Blackout. Gunshot.

Message: Marijuana makes you stupid enough to kill someone.

Scene: Some teens are practicing the good old American tradition of smoking up in the car. They pull into the drive-through of a local fast-food restaurant, and because they're stoned, they can't decide what they want. They leave, then repeat the process. On the third trip around, the driver floors the gas at the exit, and immediately crushes a small girl on her bicycle.

are so afraid of being caught and prosecuted that the ritual is confined to their home or friends' homes, anyway. The rowdy troublemakers on the streets at night are usually drunk or on hard drugs. I personally don't know anyone who has inhaled a huge bong hit and said, "Hey, now that we're stoned, let's go rob a convenience store." The point that most Americans miss is that the negative stigma forced upon cannabis was just that; created for the versatile plant that at one time was legal in America. Not only was it legal, but under law Americans were required to grow a certain amount of hemp on their property.

Regarding terrorism, the only people who support terrorism are those that do so in word, action, and funding. With America currently defending the title of highest incarceration rate, it seems obvious that the "terrorists" that most stoners are "supporting" are the same people that we're paying tax dollars to imprison. Our friends, brothers, mothers, teachers, etc. These are, for example, growers who find it difficult to feed, shelter, and clothe their families in the "land of opportunity." One

Almost any corporate job in America requires drug testing, leaving a large contingency to choose between smoking weed and having a job. Add to that the threat of being labelled anti-patriotic, and users "on the fence" will likely straighten themselves out. This leaves the activists and victims of anti-cannabis legislation with even less allies and support.

Message: Marijuana ruins your life.

The fact is, cannabis can inhibit your reaction time and motivation, but responsible moderated use only carries with it little more than the negative effects related to smoking. It is irresponsible to drive a car under the influence of drugs or alcohol because of the risk to others' lives as well as your own. Most pot smokers

clear message of the anti-cannabis ad campaign is that if you break the law in America, that in itself is a form of terrorism against "our great nation."

For more information about the legal history of cannabis in America, read *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* by Jack Herer.

Kristie@ganja.com

Bio Power – biological nourishment

The market has recently been expanded with the introduction of the new brand name Bio Power. Bio Ibo in Gorinchem, Holland, has developed this new biological food and the line came into being after much careful research in a laboratory. It was a logical step after having first developed their soil and coco mixtures.

Bio Power is already well known for their super soil mixes that are built up of high quality peat. Another high flyer is the Bio Power coco mix, which is a medium that ensures an even growth for growing plants under any circumstances.

The researchers at Bio Power certainly know what they are doing. After much research they have managed to bring a complete nutrition range onto the market. The list starts with the professional one component food for growth and flowering in soil, Compo 1 that can also be used in irrigation systems. Actually the Bio Power hydro nutrition A+B, should also be listed

alongside the newly developed products. The Bio Power hydro nutrition A+B has been developed especially for professional cultivators.

The Bio Power range includes special pH+ and pH-, for stimulating growth and flowering phases; a biological detergent, high quality phosphorus- potassium's, an enzyme preparation that is 100% organic, leaf food, root stimulator and growth and bloom stimulators and are available in quantities of 0.5L- 10L bottles.

For info call 00-31-(0)184-65466 or visit www.bioibo.nl



The Great Hash Brainwash Stoned in Stockholm

By Joost van der Wegen

Hash is more harmful than heroin. And if we have the slightest suspicion that you have used it, then we will drag you off to the nearest police station for an instant urine test. The Swedes are generally known to have a civilised and tolerant democracy. Yet when it comes to using soft drugs, they become extremely paranoid. Smoking a bit of Cannabis is already enough to get oneself totally ostracised from Swedish society. Soft Secrets reports from a country where the war on drugs has been elevated to a national priority

"I don't think it's wrong to smoke marihuana. So why am I not allowed to smoke it?" Mikael Forsberg repeats his question aloud, a few times, whilst we are sitting on the terrace of a Chinese restaurant in the centre of Stockholm. He asks his question directed at me and with a tone that implies he expects an answer from me. Or even a possible solution to the problem. From someone who is permitted to sit in a coffeshop in his own country and smoke it in all freedom. This innovator of the Swedish Legalise It Movement is presently very stoned on hash and inspired by the Carlsberg beer. He persists in his question, getting louder, "Why is it forbidden to smoke

Someone in a leather jacket takes a seat beside me. He greets me, it is Mikael. He confirms, "Yes, that is how the police constantly observe the square," he says matter-of-factly as I stare at the cameras in disbelief.

No mercy

Sweden has a reputation for being a social society. A community where the mentality of the inhabitants is evidenced by free sexual morals. You would think in such a culture, recreational drug use would also be welcomed. But nothing could be further from the truth. France is usually considered to be the biggest foe of Dutch

Sweden is the only country in the European Union where soft drug users can be forced to undergo rehab. You can easily be confined for three months for tripping out on psychedelics.

marihuana in Sweden?" While the waitress busies herself with our fresh beers, I withheld my response and pondered why it is after only two days here I have a feeling that I dare not say the word 'hash' out loud.

Just before Forsberg had begun with his rhetorical questions, I had been sitting on the steps of the Sergels Torg which is a big square within the city centre. It is also known as the 'Platten' and is to Stockholm what the Dam is to Amsterdam. This is where the Swedes do their Saturday morning shopping. But this is also where groups of Punks gather together. Junks are to be seen clustering together in entrances to the Metro. They are dealing. They are being continuously observed by the frequent police patrols that are out hunting anything that looks like a user. The group of Punks stands out like a sore thumb against the backdrop of hyper organised Swedish city life.

I take a seat next to them and when I turn the conversation to drugs I fully expect evasive answers. Earlier on some Swedes I had met had made it very clear that drug use was a taboo subject. But that doesn't happen here. Without any hesitation, Wolff and Anna introduce themselves. They talk easily about the drug scene here on the square. Wolff claims that he could score some stuff within one minute. Could, but won't. Wolff does not take chances anymore. Whilst he plays with an unused hash pipe, he points to a spot above me. Indeed! Cameras, which according to him, record anything that moves on the Platten, with the purpose of arresting anyone seen dealing. The cameras are quite obviously placed on the roof of a department store and another on the roof of the Stadtheater.



The 'Hash booklet' is sent out as an information service to all parents. The booklet claims that smoking hash can cause fatal accidents and excessively violent outbursts.

enforced 'kick off' treatment in a clinic. Sweden is the only country in the European Union where soft drug users can be forced to undergo rehab. You can easily be confined for three months for tripping out on psychedelics.

Suspect

"In our country, drug users are not being pointlessly pursued but rather, through the means of arrest and the taking of urine tests, we can get to those people who have difficulty saying no, and assist them with

If the health services decide that you have a problem, you stand a good chance of receiving an enforced treatment in a clinic

rehabilitation programs." Commissioner Johnsson is chief of the Stockholm Narcotics brigade. He has his office on the fifth floor of the police station nearest the T-Centralen (central station). In one of the side offices, the walls are covered with thousands of photos of kids who have been arrested. Underneath that is a bunch of Polaroid's showing loads of confiscated drugs. Not only are there photos of packages containing coke and heroin, but plates of hash and bags of marihuana are also in evidence. These are the trophies of the Swedish war on drugs. Another wall is covered in dope paraphernalia like posters and badges, T-shirts with that international

icon –the weed leaf, Rastafari colours and the inevitable face of Bob Marley. In Amsterdam, this stuff flies over the counters of the shops, here in Stockholm they form a grim display of suspect symbols decorating the walls of the Narcotics chiefs office.

It's obvious from his ready-made speech, that the chief of Narcotics has had to explain the Swedish drug policy to questioning journalists before now. He emphasises that the system is all about helping drug addicts. And that includes Cannabis smokers. "Unlike the Dutch, we

do not believe that marihuana is a harmless substance. All the heroin junks in this city started their drugs careers because of marihuana." And that's that!

Johnssons story is thinly repeated by Bengt Forsman, a 'social – inspecteur' at a rehab clinic for youth. The Maria Ungdom as it is known is a clinic situated in a suburb of Stockholm. They process approximately 1300 youth here annually in an attempt to keep the kids off alcohol or drugs. Even kids who have only used Cannabis are locked up in here. Forsman considers it justice that marihuana smokers are regarded as criminals. "Hash smokers are not arrested in this country because we want them in jail. Anyone caught regularly using Cannabis comes under the addiction treatment. The system is there to help these people off their addictions. We try to warn off the youth by making it forbidden."

Forsman believes that the youth of the nineties are just like the hippies in the sixties. Just as in the sixties, recreational drug use was seen as desirable and according to the Inspector, this is largely due to the lyrics of current music, plus Internet and movies. Forsman points particularly to American movies of the



The War on Drugs in Sweden; sticker slogan translates as "United against Narcotics – Police, Health Department and Social Services".

moment in which drugs are seen as pleasurable. Watching movies in which people consume dope apparently has a terrible effect on Swedish youth. Forsman is busy selecting films on their suitability...apparently he lost his little brother to drugs propaganda.

Government propaganda

But the Swedish government itself is not shy to make it's own propaganda. It recently released a book titled 'Hashboekje' which sets out to inform all parents about the dangers of hash. According to this booklet hash is

T-shirts with that international icon –the weed leaf, Rastafari colours and the inevitable face of Bob Marley form a grim display of suspect symbols decorating the walls of the Narcotics chiefs office.

responsible for brain disturbances, damage to unborn children, panic reactions and personality disorders. You are also warned that smoking hash means the death of your sex drive, although it does just manage to stop short of linking hash directly to death. The booklet clearly implies that Swedish research indicates an unmistakable connection between the confused person stoned on Cannabis and impulsive and violent behaviour against both persons and property. In this way, this booklet tries to make accidents, suicides and even murder appear synonymous with using hash. The booklet concludes with the unmistakable and dire warning to parents that hash will permanently damage development in teenagers.

"In Sweden right now, we have a certain professor who is claiming that marihuana is more dangerous than heroin." Mikael Forsberg can give many examples of the hysteria against hash that is raging through Sweden. As member of the Swedish Legalise It campaign, he is not a popular figure. "I frequently receive threatening letters. Even people from official institutions have warned me not to persist." According to Forsberg, the Swedish cannabis culture has been totally repressed by the prevailing attitude. "Weed is very rare in Sweden, it is most often hash that is available. We are completely dependent on outside suppliers and for them, hash is best. " Forsberg thinks that indoor cultivation of weed in Sweden is highly unlikely. He did have one example though and that was at an aquarium shop in Stockholm, where they had set up a small nursery. "It did not take the police very long to bust that up completely."

Internal examination

Much of the hash smoked in Sweden originates from Christiana, a Danish version of the Dutch Ruigoord (an area declared independent and where smoking dope is OK). The Swedes can reach Christiana very easily by boat. Mikael goes there regularly. According to him, police controls are very stringent, "I have been through the police controls once on the ferry boat between Sweden and Denmark. It was very intensive. People were even given internal examinations." The latest news that Mikael can tell us about the Swedish War on Drugs is that

there is now a proposal to inject addicts with a certain medication that causes a bad physical reaction if drugs are taken. George Orwell didn't manage to think of that one....

This totalitarian approach to drugs use is extended to alcohol too. In Sweden the sale of alcohol is strictly controlled. It is only available at State owned shops, the Systembolaget. This system has been in place since the beginning of the previous century because the Swedes almost wiped themselves out as a nation of drinkers during the 19th century. During the Second World War, they developed a taste for amphetamines,

preferably intravenous. When marihuana came onto the scene in the sixties, it all proved too much for most Swedes. A project had been tried in which free drugs were given out to addicts, but it encouraged the problem. And so the

authorities decided to try the other extreme. During the seventies, the RNS, (which loosely stands for the union of a drugs free community) managed under their leader Nils Bejerot to overturn public opinion and gain the support of the police and politicians alike. From that moment on, 'the drug free society' has been the national pursuit. This hard approach appeared to be working well through most of the eighties. By continuously arresting drug users and putting them through the clinic, the statistics for drug abuse went down to the lowest in Central Europe. But that changed at the start of the nineties. Swedish youth had turned to Cannabis and discovered XTC. The Swedish authorities reacted with even stricter controls. In vain. According to figures released by Maria Ungdom, drug abuse is on the increase amongst the youth. It seems the Swedish youth have now added sniffing glue to the list.

To other European nations, the Swedes like to show that their fanaticism against drug use is working. But with little success. Their stubborn stand over drug policy forming in Europe often leaves

them looking like fools. They lack in credibility.

Hypocrisy

The terrace at Drottninggatan. It has gotten dark and turned chill. Mikael Forsberg is still philosophising. He talks about the hypocrisy in Sweden that exists between hash and other pleasurable substances. "Every village in Sweden has an illegal alcohol still. Also cigarette smuggling goes on, as the prices here are very high. But if you mention hash, everyone seems to be brainwashed."

Two Swedes join in our discussion about Swedish drug paranoia. They are soldiers who have just got back from a tour of duty in Bosnia. They have an obvious distaste for hash, "Fuck marihuana, this is our drug of choice," one of them calls out while he nods in the direction of his beer glass. However, ten minutes later, he is lighting up a cigarette containing a lump of hash, and passes it over. "But fuck the government even more," he laughs as Mikael takes a satisfying toke. Perhaps there is still hope...

The Rave police and the Party crushers

In an attempt to halt the increase in drug abuse by Swedish youth, the police in Stockholm instigated the Rave Commission. The Rave Commission is a police unit set up specifically to make regular raids on popular nightspots in the city, searching out any XTC or other recreational drug users. The detectives of the Rave Commission work in disguise so that at parties they can zoom in on anyone they suspect of being high. These cops have all received training from the American DEA and after flashing their badges, they set out to extract a confession. If that doesn't work, they will simply drag you off to the nearest police station for a urine test.

The Rave Commission came into being sometime after February 1996 when the police made an extensive raid on Stockholm's underground club – Docklands. The owners at the time were all members of an organisation calling itself the Freedom Front. The Stockholm police took exception to the organisations liberal declarations concerning soft drugs. During the raid, a thousand young people were forced to exit the club and stand in the street waiting for their coats. Seventy-two people were arrested that night and 48 different stimulating substances were found. A week later and the police made a repeat raid. Now three hundred people took the rap. Despite the fact that a judge later overruled all the cases, the Stockholm police decided from then on that all house parties would be forbidden. Jenny Sjodin, editor of the Swedish dance magazine, Lotus, recently claimed that the Rave Commission is working outside Swedish borders too. "A couple of their guys were spotted during the Love Parade in Berlin." The visit was not so much for the purpose of the parade as later at the Swedish border, many partygoers were stopped and summarily told to leave their busses after which they were all searched. Sjodin, "The best was when it became apparent that not one single person had anything on them." In her concluding comments concerning the police presence at the parade Sjodin says, "Sweden is the only country in Europe where you can be arrested for listening to or dancing to house music."

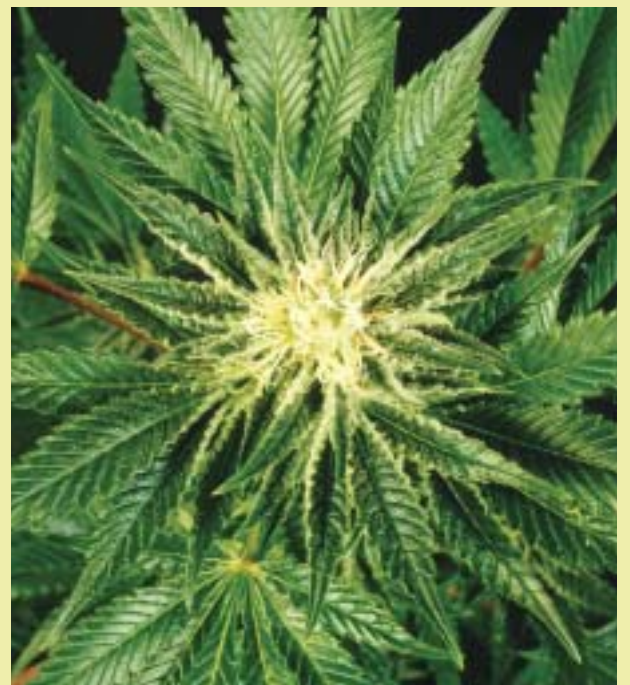
At police headquarters two young policemen try to explain that the Rave Commission is not out to exterminate the Rave scene. Detective Hans BrontAn, "We are not anti – house culture. We are only against the use of recreational drugs at these parties." These two

cops perceive that their job constitutes a serious breach of privacy to these young Swedes, but that they can justify themselves, " Especially when these kids call us up later to thank us for rescuing them from their XTC addiction."

The detectives do admit that reactions from the public are normally angry and aggressive. A complaint by one of the party goers stays with BrontAn, "Do you have any idea of how you are meddling with someone's psyche if you arrest them whilst under the influence of a powerful psychedelic?" The cop responds with a remark that it is no fun being a party crusher.

The Rave Commission will also arrest anyone even if they have only smoked a joint. BrontAn thinks that Cannabis use is pretty harmless compared to taking tabs but his colleague makes it clear he does not share that view, "Cannabis is a gateway to other stimulating substances" he firmly declares.

More info? Go to <http://www.virtualexp.net/dope/SwedNarcNazi.html>





weckels
world of
wonders

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

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

Mothers & Clones

For indoor growing nearly all growers in the Netherlands are reliant on clones or cuttings. There is no land on earth where so many young ladies are shunted from one corner of the room to another, to be repeatedly robbed as a mother plant of her young shoots. This trade is very lucrative in the Netherlands (especially when one knows how to make real top class cuttings), but alas, thanks to the chances of getting caught, it's also rather dodgy.



Take-away clones, ready to order!

In previous times this was quite different, with whole greenhouses full of cuttings the rule rather than the exception. Making and selling clones was often more lucrative than the growing of the weed itself. Particularly when you had a reputation for delivering good quality clones and you had several varieties on offer, you were sure of a large circle of customers and a network of contacts. Alas, those days have dramatically changed for the clone dealer. Whether you're caught with 100 tiny cuttings or a barn stuffed with 100 mother plants, Justice doesn't give a toss: you'll pay. Similarly, the clone dealer is more frequently demonised as the source of all evil these days, and that does not do a great deal to encourage a light punishment. All of this adds up to a heap of stress for the clone business.

It does still happen that a grower 'forgets' to pick up his ordered clones, and that doesn't make things any easier for the clone farmer. By contrast there are also the growers who know how to bring down problems upon themselves, by bringing a veritable plague of insects home with the clones they just bought, for example. Fortunately there are clone farmers who sort this out tactfully and arrange for the frequently disappointed grower to get a free biological method of control. Anyone can make a mistake. Sometimes the clones are sitting there happy as Larry, when less than a week later they're already infested (with insect larvae), without there having appeared anything seriously wrong. Similarly, it is often the clone farmer who traded his clones trusting in good faith they were in top condition, and above all a bad name is the last thing he or she sat there hoping for.

that you do get insect problems after a couple of days, and as the grower you are convinced that they came from the clones, let the person you got them from know as soon as possible. Most growers this has happened to go green with indignation,

Happy is the grower who knows how to raise his own top plants from seed

then vow never to return. Alas, the damage is already done and maybe there are even dozens of growing sites infested.

Some growers really do have only great clones on the premises, but then the same breeds and varieties every time. For the growers who want to grow something a little different from the usual weed varieties, it is not particularly easy to get hold of another sort of weed, other than the couple available directly from the supplier. For many growers there is no

choice but to build themselves a nice collection of seeds with which to provide themselves with new strains. Happy is the grower who knows how to raise his own top plants from seed! Rare varieties, with exotically high levels of THC, a good yield and even a great taste too!

If you're successful and you end up with a number of potential mother plants raised from seeds, read in this instalment how we can select a beautiful mother from which you can harvest the clones you need.

Must

Before we can set to making clones, we first have to select a good mother plant. A

good mother ensures that we get good progeny - and that, as a grower, you'll notice! Important attributes I often look for to choose my mother plants are: a good, tight leaf cover (for optimal uptake of light), a strong stem and side branches (produce far more than pitiful ladies), the grow- and bloom-periods of the (mother) plant (determines the number of harvests per year) and perhaps the most important: the appearance and eventual taste of the (dried) flower clusters. Of course, every grower has his or her own preference and

Varieties

Be smart and check the clones well before you definitely buy them. In the eventuality



INDOOR

we will rarely be able to select the mother that fulfils all our expectations. But learning how to make you own clones remains a must-have skill, and as a grower you can do yourself a number of favours by acquiring it. When you make your own clones you can always be sure of young plants, that you know how best they can be raised to become superb adults, and save yourself a pile of cash outflow along the way.

Fibres

The best clones come from young growth shoots of between five and fifteen centimetres in length. It is vital that the shoots have complete and well-developed leaves in order to develop into a clone. Once we have removed a few shoots from the mother plant, we cut the base of the stem off with a slanting cut from a razor blade (these are ideal because they are so sharp). By cutting the stem at a slant, the stem has a greater surface area with which to take up moisture, and that increases our chances of success. Often, I remove a strip of fibres, so that the cutting powder

cutting powder. You must make sure not to get cutting powder on the slanted, cut surface of the stem, as the sap flow of the young clone might get clogged up and thereby die an early death.

Air moisture levels

When the base of the growing shoot has had cutting powder correctly applied, I let the growing shoots root in small blocks of stone wool. These blocks are ideal because they hold enough water, and enough oxygen for the young stems when the blocks dry out a little. Oxygen plays a crucial role in successful rooting in growing shoots, and therefore we need to ensure that the conditions for this are made as optimal as possible. So let the stone wool blocks dry out a little once in a while.

When all this has been accomplished, we can best place the yet-to-develop growing shoots in a special germinating tray. Here we can keep the air moisture content high, by sprinkling the clones with water and closing the germinating

bye-bye to a whole generation of marihuana plants.

Light cycle

To give the clones a little extra help in weaning we can place a warming system in the base of the germination tray. The

growing shoots sticking out of them, we can place the whole thing under growing lamps. These lights are ideal for letting the clones bed in and root successfully since they do not cause the clones to evaporate too much moisture and yet still provide enough light. Keep the light cycle on 18 hours and the growing shoots should rapidly begin to develop



This grow corner also depends on clones. There is no land in the world in which so many marihuana clones are doing the rounds as in the Netherlands.

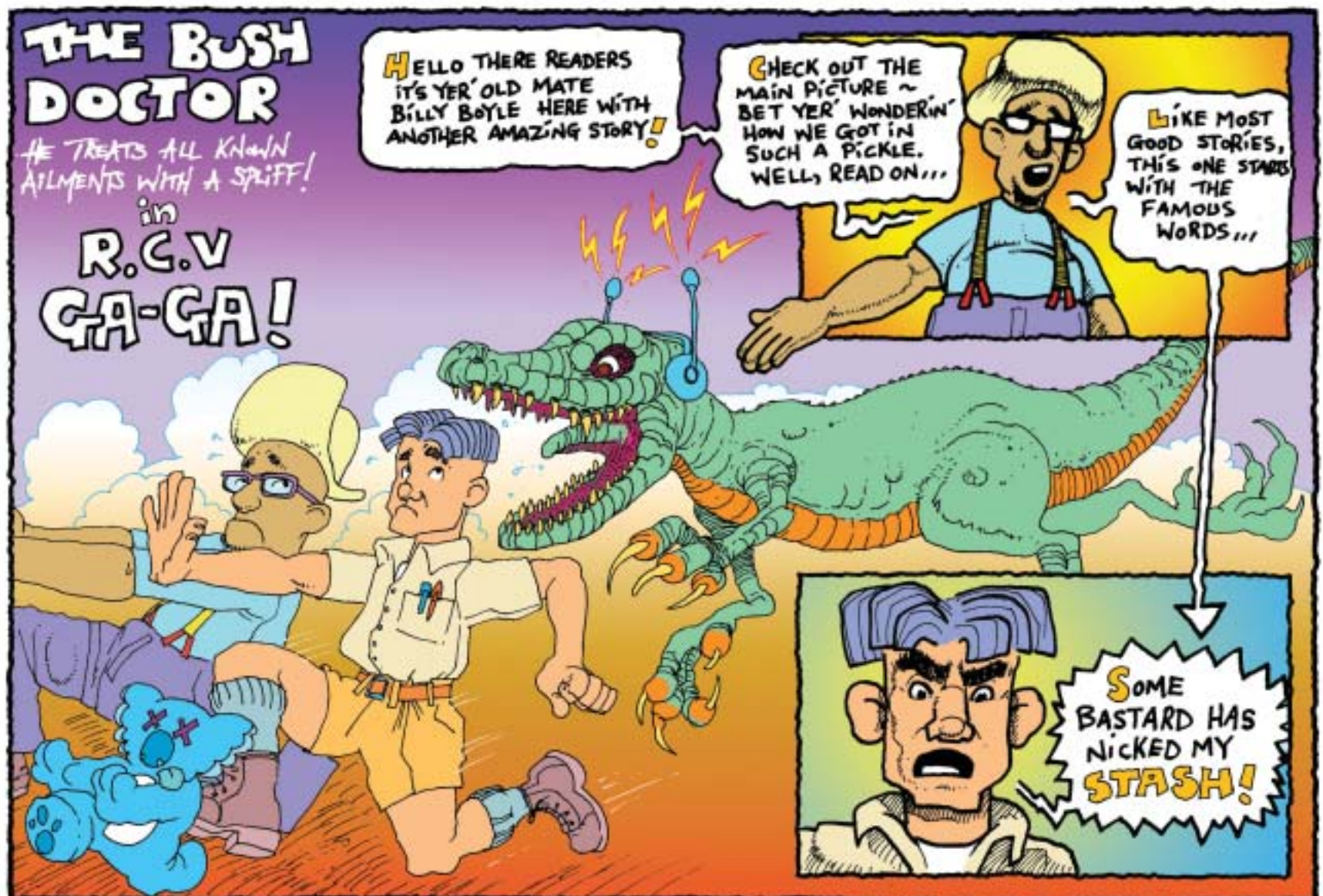
(which we apply immediately) can do its work better. Also, the bark of the marihuana plant can hinder the cutting powder from promoting the shoot from forming roots.

Once we've got the above steps out of the way, dip the stem into some water and after that dip the sides of the stem into

tray with its (transparent) lid. The young shoots can then take-up water through their leaves, and that will dramatically increase the survival rate of the yet-to-develop clone. Keep the process firmly in hand and don't go crazy with the air moisture, because clones can also be the victims if fungal attack. When Mr Mould comes a-calling, you can wave

roots of the marihuana plant adore a lightly warmed soil, and by providing this the growing shoots will better develop into clones. Once the germination tray is filled with a large quantity of stone wool blocks with

into lovely clones. As a last tip, I'll advise you to always take more growing shoots (and make clones from them) than you think you're going to need, since not every growing shoot will take root in the end.



Part 2

Starting to itch....

By Bart B.

It's some months later and my fingers are beginning to itch again. If you remember from the previous issue of Soft Secrets, I had not had a successful

crop because most of my plants died off of an excess of nitrogen or had proved to be male. As everyone knows, only the ladies can provide a good yield.



bit in postage. I went once more to the smart shop I mentioned in the previous article in order to buy a specific book about indoor growing. The owner asked me if I was growing under lights as he had a spare lamp. I flew home to grab some money and get back there before he might sell it to someone else. That's how badly I wanted the thing.

Good genes are important

Now I had the lamp and the knowledge about clones but still no idea about how to get my hands on some. Whoever says that television is useless is wrong. I caught a really informative

widows either but a mix of all sorts. Because of the extremely high price I did not take very many with me and so was still open to buying some less expensive cuttings. On the way back, we passed by the smart shop again and it was just as well that we did. We mentioned that we were looking for a grow supply shop closer to home and asked if he knew of the whereabouts of one in our area. To my delighted surprise he said there was a good one just a few kilometres further away. Happy day, I thought as I dashed out in the direction he had indicated. This time I was hoping on a decent looking business and I was not disappointed. This grow shop looked like a grow shop. Lots of products and items on display, a nice big

I did not know at the time that there was a grow supply shop right in my own neighbourhood all the while.

documentary about our favourite weed and all that goes with it. This documentary really helped me as it had a piece in about grow supply shops and about cloning also. Equipped with this information, I realised that this time it would be wiser to try to use clones, rather than to go back to working with seeds which had provided so many obstacles last time. I wanted to be sure this time. The documentary had made mention of places one could acquire these clones so a few days later I was off out in that direction. This particular growshop was far away but I thought it would be worthwhile to go there. I did not know at the time that there was a grow supply shop right in my own neighbourhood all the while.

Once I was there though, it felt a bit shady. It was very small and not very professional looking. A few products were stored haphazardly. I ordered several clones, which the owner assured me, were White Widows. I paid €6.00 a piece for them which turned out to be daylight robbery later when I found out that they were also available for considerably less. Always check if you can. Later I would find out that they were not even white

service counter, and a growing corner so you could see exactly how things should be done plus very friendly helpful staff. Also some first class clones. After a chat over a cup of coffee I knew that I would be coming back here in the future. Not only were the clones top quality they were a good price too. €2.00 a piece which is a huge difference when you've just paid €6.00 an hour earlier! I felt like I had been conned. I had made a bad buy yet I was now happy that I had made acquaintance with a good supply shop that I could trust and rely on for good advice.

So now to make a grow space.

Safety first should be your motto. Before you start doing anything, make safety your first priority.

For myself I was in the fortunate position of having a cellar that was perfect for recreating the ideal climate. Ventilation would be easy too. Where you choose to grow has some vital considerations that need to be taken into account. There is a big difference between the cellar and your



Information highway

I checked out Internet for information and came across some excellent and informative sites. Through these I was able to find out a lot more about growing. I found a list which indexes all the grow shops throughout the Netherlands and that has proved very useful. Where would we

few months later and early spring was happening. There was no more frost, but it wasn't really pleasant yet. Because the plants prefer a temperature of 18 degrees minimal, below this temperature, the root growth will be restricted. I had to be patient before I could start outside and I am not a patient person. What else could I do? I decided I had to buy a lamp, as I

A high pressure sodium light would be perfect as it would mean I would no longer be completely dependant on the sun and could be assured of a good harvest

be without Internet? I'm pretty sure such address lists can be found for the UK too. Via Internet, I also found out about clones. Clones are very interesting, as they are 100% female and identical copies of their mother. That was precisely what I needed. However, I could not find out where to get them, so I had to leave it at that.

knew I could order one from the Internet and I knew of no grow shops any where near my neighbourhood (although it turned out there was one after all). A high pressure sodium light would be perfect as it would mean I would no longer be completely dependant on the sun and could be assured of a good harvest.

Heavy duty light

Time flies as they say, and now it was a

Fortunately I did not have to order the light via Internet, as it would have cost more than buying it in a shop. Those lights along with their ballast weigh in at quite a



living room. In my cellar I would not have to worry if I spilled water or made a mess with mud. In your living room you would have to be a bit more careful. Everything has to be made waterproof and everything that has to stay clean should be covered. You also have to take the humidity factor into account. For example, should there be wallpaper in a room, it will not take long before mould starts to set in and other diseases will quickly follow. It's one thing to have a good crop but not so good if it is at the expense of your room.

The major problem I encountered with my room was trying to hang my light, as the ceiling is made from reinforced concrete. Not so easily screwed! But after repeated effort and much sweat, I did finally succeed. After overcoming that obstacle I could proceed. I had never seen a high-pressure sodium lamp before and it looked most impressive. It has an enormous shade with a huge bulb in the centre. And so to see if it would work. I put the plug into the contact point; I heard some humming and the globe started to flicker, faintly at first, before coming into full glow. It certainly is more of an experience than changing your average household light bulb.

Herewith follows an important tip for new lamp owners; the top of the reflective shade has plastic foil attached to it. Do not do as I did and leave it on. This foil is part of the packaging and if not removed, it will melt into the reflective surface where you will be unable to remove it without scratching and damaging your lamp. Currently, this foil comes in colour so that

They are small plants but the return for size is incredible. Does size matter? In my case, it would seem not.

you notice it, but in my case, it was an older lamp and so the foil was still transparent. That is how I came to wreck my reflector, not smart, but, live and learn, hey!

The long awaited moment

After much experimenting, some setbacks, good luck and misfortune, the ball had

started rolling. I had managed to get some really sturdy clones and they had been standing proudly under my 400watt lamp. They were K2's and what a wonderful white and powerful weed it is! It is a strong Indica that does not stretch up very high. They are small plants but the return for size is incredible. Does size matter? In my case, it would seem not. I also had a few seedlings going, they were supposedly Big Bud, but you can never be sure unless you get your seeds from a recognised seed retailer. They struggled through the first week with an underrated root system and had to adapt to the new climate. Because I kept humidity to a minimum, it took a long time for them to adjust and get going. I noticed that if I kept the humidity level on high, approximately 80%, growth would appear within a few days.

Learning and observing

Cultivating means continuous learning. Step by step you find out about new developments and techniques until you reach optimal harvests. Fertilisers are an example. I had never used liquid fertilisers but only the fertiliser granules that you can mix into the soil and which are available at any garden centre. In order to achieve a good harvest and to know when the plants are experiencing shortages, it becomes essential to observe your crop closely. Otherwise you will have no idea what is really happening. The most frequent problems are caused by deficiency of nitrogen, potassium or phosphorous. With a

phosphorous deficiency, the leaves will become darker with a purplish tint. Be aware that purplish leaves can also indicate stress or cold, so do not jump to conclusions. With my knowledge, I could see if my plants were showing a lack of something and so whether they needed boosters or not. Because the granules from the gardening centre seemed to not be doing much, I went to the grow shop and got some Canna Groei en Bloei. This

fertiliser works wonderfully. Within a few days all deficiency symptoms had vanished. Do not be too generous with fertilisers though. Better too little than too much of a good thing, I learnt to my peril. For sure, do experiment, but only with a few plants at a time, or else should something go wrong, you could just lose the whole lot. You have to develop a feel for fertiliser. You can do this by closely observing your

Nothing tastes better than weed you've grown yourself! I shared some within my circle of friends in order to get some feedback.

plants and trying to determine what their needs are. Leave them without any stimulation for a few days until some yellowing starts to show. In this way you can work out how long they can go without and what it takes to get them back on track. A shortage is filled up quickly, whilst an overload can be devastating.

The strength of Mother Nature

It's now some three weeks later and I switch over to 12 hours of light and so start with the blossoming phase. The three weeks that followed were unbelievable. The K2's doubled in size and had good strong stems. It was really impressive how they had rocketed upward, developing white hairs everywhere. Yet I was restless. Something could still go wrong. A crop is only a successful harvest once the heads are dried (and even then!). There you have it again. Once the initial three weeks of the growing or should I say, blooming phase was over, a phosphorous deficiency began to become apparent. What else could I do but rush to the grow shop for a bottle of phosphorous supplement. It was either that, or watch them wilt. My first crop was not much other than rushing off down the grow shop for another necessary product. I did not mind at all as I was determined to achieve a successful harvest. For sure!

End in sight

It's a month later and the plants are developing wonderful buds. Delightful.

That's got to be what we do it for. I read somewhere that pk-13-14 produced firmer tops so I had to have it. I added that to what they were already getting. No harm, I thought, yet I sat waiting as if before the chopping block, waiting for the worst to occur. Once in a while, a friend of mine would come by and check them out. He was always amazed by how much they had changed. Because I saw them on a daily basis I was not so aware of their growth as he noticed on his weekly visit. Slowly but surely.

With only two weeks to go and much expert advice from the grow shop, everything was looking very promising. The heads were firm and full with resin. All those glittering THC particles under a bright light is certainly something to see. And yet I did manage in my clumsiness to destroy one plant completely with nitrogen just before the end.

By the way, when I had fetched the clones, I had also put a few of them into the ground outside. Under the intense spring sunshine, they had grown into a thick hedge, a meter high and a meter wide. The temperature was staying above 20 degrees. The goal was being achieved.

Snipsnipsnip!

Grab those scissors, it's time to get snipping. Now comes a few days of snipping and sticky fingers full of resin. A word of warning: don't use mothers finest,

because the scissors you use for this job will be rendered completely useless afterward. This stuff is very difficult to remove. All in all, I had achieved a respectable harvest. I reaped 240 grams from under one 400-watt lamp. Not bad for a first try! I had eight K2's, plus four so called White Widow, amongst which was a Sativa. Return per plant averaged out between 15 and 25 grams. I noticed quite a difference in performance between the clones and I thought they would be identical. Not so!

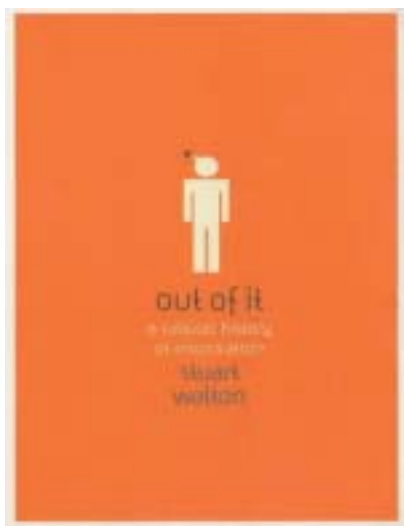
Home grown

Nothing tastes better than weed you've grown yourself! I shared some within my circle of friends in order to get some feedback. All I got was positive reactions. I used to think the Nederweed from coffee shops was the very best, until I tried my own. Nothing beats your own. For a start, I can be sure of how it was produced and am therefore certain that it does not contain pesticides or such like nasties that are in fond use by commercial growers. And you get to smoke that.

With my four outdoor K2's, things did not go so well. That September just happened to be the worst September of the century, just my luck I suppose. The K2's succumbed quickly to mould. They did hold out until the end of the month, a month of non-stop rain. Those K2's proved themselves really tough. But no despair because from their demise, something positive occurred. But about that, more next time.

bartb@gonzo.com

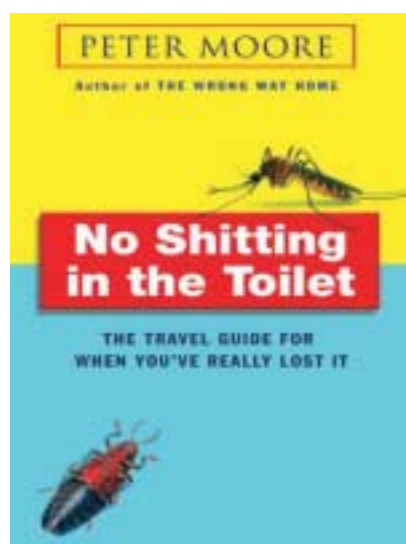
Out of it - Stuart Walton
(Penguin Publishers)



"A thoroughly gripping history of dangerous drugs, drinks and the compulsion throughout the ages, for people to get off their faces." Arena. In 1994, two Dutch psychonauts got together to write a book, titled 'Uit Je Bol', which loosely translates as 'off your face' and is a handbook for present day users of legal and illegal drugs. The one psychonaut is a screenwriter whilst the other writes novels and travel books. This book has been repeatedly reprinted and on the cover of the 1997 version, a full quote by yours truly from my review in Highlife at the time, 'In 'Uit je Bol' all the pro's and con's of substance use, both familiar and unfamiliar are thoroughly covered. This is the first book on drugs that presents a realistic picture of 'drugs' that has long been familiar to many people throughout society.' This same quote can just as easily be applied to 'Out of it', a book by Stuart Walton. This book is a treasure of relevant information over just about every substance that people have ever used to influence their awareness. From those general everyday things like coffee, alcohol and tobacco, which a few centuries ago also endured the same status as cannabis and cocaine do now, to substances like speed and ecstasy, LSD and anything that lies in between. On the cover, Walton is quoted on his perspective, "that we not only have an abiding desire to consume intoxicating substances but actually have a right to do so. And that the harm they can do is greatly outweighed by the variety of experience they make possible and the considerable enjoyment we derive from taking them." In the same style as in 'Uit je Bol', in his book Walton reviews the history, effects, risks and social status, composition and punishment attached to a large number of psychotropic substances that all qualify under the general term 'drugs'. For politicians and the general populace that term usually means, 'scandal, danger, addiction, loss and mostly, prevention! Only those who use drugs know anything about the delightful and consciousness expanding aspects of these maligned substances. The demonising of drugs by church and state authorities alike are based on a big fat lie. These authorities decided that insights and pleasure (the effect of most recreational substances) should remain out of the reach of the downtrodden. These same authorities however, have found it in their interest to conduct their own secret experiments with chemical substances as was evidenced in the case of LSD being used by the CIA on

unsuspecting US soldiers. Walton demonstrates that drug use for pleasure is not a new phenomenon, but seems to be as old as mankind itself. Walton proposes that what is new is that people nowadays will experiment with drugs without damaging themselves or society. Spiritual censorship made itself felt with the rise of the major religions, Islam and Christianity. These two are closely associated in that they both forbid pleasures like leisure or sex for fun and both of these religions are against lax members or worship of other deities. Drugs are a well-known stimulation for participation in pleasurable physical activities or insightful spiritual experiences, one might even start thinking, and that, for both these institutions is just too much! And for this same reason, these same powers that be, sternly set themselves against the printing press! The present War on Drugs is a consolidation of the same mentality. In any case, the fact that they did lose the battle against the printing press makes it possible for this informative work about the pleasures of drugs, to be presented. And in the same light as his Dutch colleagues, Walton does not promote indiscriminate use of drugs. He warns against smoking, swallowing and spiking just any old thing that comes your way. His motto is, "Know what you use; avoid risks and don't believe everything the government tells you." Surely you don't imagine all those annually confiscated tons of weed, speed and coke were to deal with the demand of a few thousand junkies? One hundred years ago, the philosopher Nietzsche wrote, "Who will ever relate the whole story of narcotics? It is almost the history of 'culture', our so-called, 'higher culture'." The famous thinker would have enjoyed Walton's work.

No shitting in toilet - Peter Moore
(Bantam Books, London)



Peter Moore is an Australian backpacker who would rather hit the road with a sixpack of Aussie lager in his rucksack than a joint in his inner pocket. It is not that he is against drugs – it's just that he is Australian and that's the way it is. The title of this unusual travel guide is taken from a sign on a toilet door in some crappy little café in a village, somewhere in the middle of nowhere in China. This idea might be completely surprising to those who have never been to the Far East, but for those more familiar with travel in remote parts of Asia, it is instantly comprehensive. In Central Asia, hygiene is not such a big issue. Probably the owner of the same café has a hole in the ground

somewhere on his property for the dumping of human waste and thoroughly recognisable by the cloud of flies. This sign was obviously meant for a Western style toilet that is actually an ornament acquired to impress fellow villagers, probably in the naive belief that it is some ceramic art piece. This travel guide by Peter Moore cannot be compared to any other. There is no mention of lovely hotels or exotic locations. No golden beaches, discotheques for smouldering sex and no excursions, by camel taxi or even bicycle! He does however state, "Even if a riksha runner takes you for a total ride, they are still the most disgustingly cheap means of getting around. I realise that some of the more politically correct travellers have difficulty being carried around by another human being, but then you realise that many successful tuk-tuk chauffeurs and owners of mini busses started as riksha runners. Besides that, can you think of a more environmentally friendly form of transport?"

According to Moore, the philosophy behind his book is the fact that NSIT is not an ordinary travel guide, despite its typical layout. But instead of finding practical tips, he has a section devoted to unpractical tips. He does not take you to places where you would like to enjoy your holiday, but takes you to precisely those places you would rather avoid. In Moore's world you will more likely surprise a cockroach under your pillow or find a rat behind the wallpaper than the obligatory bible in the bedside drawer.

A few tips from No shitting in Toilet: Money: most especially, how much can you spend? If you are travelling on your social security cheques then forget about going to Monaco.

Language: whether you like it or not, if you cannot speak the language, its going to be difficult to make yourself understood. Do not despair, try to turn it to your advantage.

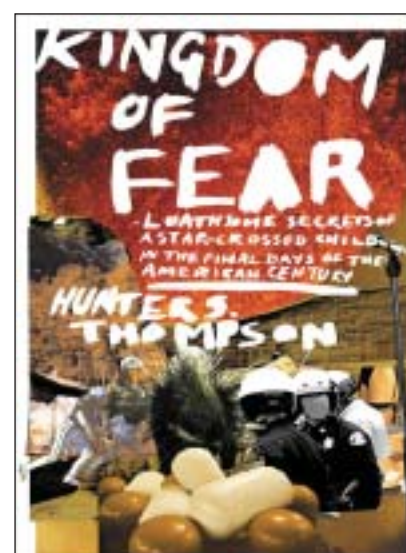
Physical damage: remember that in most countries, medicinal practices have hardly progressed since the Middle Ages.

Spiritual sensitivity: remember that in most countries, mental health care has hardly progressed since the Middle Ages. Time: remember that in most countries, the public transport has hardly progressed since the Middle Ages.

In addition, Moore strongly advises travellers to take advantage of the world's troubled zones, "If a café gets blown up in Cairo, then that's the place to be. Ticket prices drop dramatically and the likelihood of there being another explosion during your stay is practically nil. Besides that, if it does happen again, at least you will have something exciting to write home about."

Like this, Moore might come across as a bit corny and sometimes, he is but despite the Aussie beers NSIT is definitely an informative guide for the real backpacker. He takes you to places Lonely Planet haven't even heard of yet and that in itself already makes this book worthwhile. Moore has published photos and travel stories on his website including stories from many other backpackers. It's a virtual village pub for low budget tourists. Address: www.noshit.com.au. It is also a recommended read for those who are not fond of travelling but are fond of reading about the sufferings of those that do.

Kingdom of Fear - Hunter S. Thompson
(Penguin)



Hunter S Thompson calls himself the high priest of gonzo journalism. Gonzo meaning stubborn, uncensored, raw and always on the edge. To be compared with Larry Flynt on his best days and the late Timothy Leary, especially when it is about making pure propaganda for drugs and porn. Deadly sins in the eyes of Puritan Americans yet Thompson can still compete with the LSD guru whose mortal remains are meantime flying in orbit around the planet.

The grim Baroque film, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, brought to life by animation genius Terry Gilliam, is based on Thompson's alcoholic and psychedelic experiences. Fortunately, Hunter S Thompson is still very much alive but he is getting on a bit and that was reason enough to put his turbulent experiences on paper. Thompson takes fragmentary glimpses of a life filled with much alcohol, many drugs but mostly writing. This last is what caused him the most grief despite the Freedom of Speech Act in puritan America. Thompson was the first journalist to write an inside story on the Hells Angels without moralising. As a result, he was hounded for many years for being a dangerous motorbike gang member. For a joke, he ran for sheriff and was elected whereupon he had to seek protection for his life. Hunter S Thompson has difficulty trying to put a decent word down about the current president of America, "Let's face it, the yoyo president of the USA knows nothing. He is a dunce. He does what he is told to do, says what he is told to say, poses the way he is told to pose. He is a fool... Who votes for these dishonest shithheads? Who amongst us can be happy and proud of having all this innocent blood on our hands? Who are these swine? These flag-sucking half-wits who get fleeced and fooled by stupid little rich kids like George Bush? They are the same ones that wanted to have Muhammad Ali locked up for refusing to kill gooks. They speak for all that is cruel and stupid and vicious in the American character. They are the racists and hate mongers among us - they are the Ku Klux Klan. I piss down the throats of these Nazi's. And I am too old to worry about whether they like it or not. Fuck them."

Hunter S. Thompson wrote these words a year prior picked up their latest axe... Hunter S. Thompson is the American voice of anti-America. Read it!

Feije Wieringa

The War on Drugs Claims More Victims...

In our previous two issues, Soft Secrets introduced several of the most prominent help sites for victims of American anti-cannabis legislation, including www.hr95.org, www.november.org, and www.Green-Aid.com. This installment spotlights www.famm.org, which is the website for an active advocacy group called Families Against Mandatory Minimums.

Julie Stewart, founder and president, was recently awarded the Ford Foundation Leadership award. The award honours those who "[get] results tackling tough social problems in the community." Mandatory minimum sentences were introduced to Americans as a "tough love" approach to the War on Drugs. "Illegal" activity (no matter what the situation) is to be punished with an aggressive sentencing policy, probably to serve as a lesson to enterprising youths. Medical cannabis users are suffering in prison, deprived of their organic medicine and in fact wasting away in a cell because of their choice to use it. Some doctors who have recommended medical cannabis have lost their licenses to practice medicine. In many cases, those who provide relief to terminally ill patients are convicted at sentences several times more stringent than those accused of murder, rape, or armed robbery. Todd McCormick is just one example.



Todd McCormick
Charge: Marijuana
Sentence: 10 year mandatory minimum sentence

Todd was arrested in July 1997 for maintaining a medical cannabis garden at his house in California. A medical patient, grower, activist, author and former Soft Secrets and Highlife editor, McCormick has been suffering from cancer and chronic pain at an early age. He was treated for cancer nine times before he was ten years old. While serving five years for his garden, Todd was prohibited from using medical cannabis while in prison. He was prescribed Marinol, a synthetic version of THC, which led to his testing positive for cannabinoids. As solitary confinement was the resulting punishment, Todd was relegated to a small concrete room with one bunk, a vinyl mat, and no sheets or pillow. Uncomfortable accommodations for even the healthiest of individuals. At the age of two, Todd's top five vertebrae fused together, and tumour complications prompted severe headaches. As a result of radiation treatments, his left hip stopped growing when he was nine years old. Imagine living in solitary confinement while suffering from severe scoliosis, nerve damage in the upper back, shoulders, and neck, and severe muscle

spasms in the lower back. The celebrated author of *How to Grow Medical Marijuana* viewed the world from a three-inch by sixteen-inch window, stifling in the day and freezing at night. Apparently the "incident report rating" that is used to sentence a positive cannabinoid test is the same as that applied for murder. A friend, Renee Boje, is an artist who was employed to illustrate the above-mentioned book, and is now fighting extradition from Canada back to the DEA. She faces four charges amounting to ten years to life in prison, for not much more than allegedly watering a weed plant. This charge is based on the testimony of a DEA agent.



Joann Zedler
Charge: Marijuana; 6,265 plants
Sentence: 10 year mandatory minimum, 03/11/95

Joann and her husband Alan maintained a cannabis garden at their home that was discovered by police as a result of a neighbour's complaint. Cops investigating a report of domestic violence in the Zedler household discovered the garden while searching the property, as Alan had fled the scene. Loaded guns were also discovered. Both Joann and Alan received a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence. They were forced to forfeit their property and assets to the U.S. Government. The Judge's comments: "When I read the pre-sentence report, I thought to myself 'this just doesn't seem right.' On the other hand, it's the law.... There's absolutely no

question in my mind that these are severe mandatory minimums. Ten years is a long time. I sentence under the Guidelines many people who have more narcotics, more cocaine, that don't even come close to ten years. But I don't have the authority, Counsel, to reverse the Congress...."

Bobby Jarrell
Charge: Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Marijuana; 3,220 kilograms
Sentence: 10 year mandatory minimum

In 1996, Bobby Jarrell was hired by Charles Maier and Randolph Ayersman to transport some pottery. Jarrell, a truck driver who usually moved furniture, noticed a strange smell coming from the cargo during the transport. Upon investigating and discovering that the pottery was stuffed with cannabis, he dumped the entire load into a nearby dumpster. When the police were notified regarding the pungent bin contents, they eventually connected the weed to Ayersman and Maier. In an attempt at reducing their sentences, the two men implicated Bobby Jarrell as a long-time contact responsible for moving a total of 7,100 pounds of weed during their acquaintance. The jury believed it and convicted him. No physical drug evidence was ever found on his person, nor in his home or truck. Maier and Ayersman admitted to making over seven million dollars through their enterprise, while Jarrell's legitimate trucking job paid just one-hundred dollars per day. Jarrell, with kids and grandkids, serves ten years for his accidental and unknown involvement in the drug deal, while the kingpins are already free. Maier was only sentenced to one year and one month in "community confinement."



Milton Eugene Robins
Charge: Conspiracy to distribute Marijuana, aiding and abetting the sale of Marijuana
Sentence: 40 years

In a "reverse-sting" operation, Gene bought 3,500 pounds of cannabis from United States Government agents. At the trial, it was alleged that he had been the ringleader of a drug conspiracy for years, which effectively multiplied his sentence by a factor of twenty. Gene is married and has four children. His wife Penny was also found guilty but sentenced to probation. Unfortunately, the

government seized all the Robins family assets: home, car, restaurant, plant nursery, and several undeveloped properties.

John Casali
Charge: Marijuana conspiracy
Sentence: 10 years

Federal agents stumbled across a marijuana garden being grown on private land adjacent to government property. The property was monitored to discover the gardeners, and John and a friend were found watering and tending the plants. John's home was then searched for evidence, and he and his friend were found responsible for growing three marijuana gardens totalling 1,036 plants on their property. In addition, they were charged with beginning a second garden, of 525 seedlings, on government land.

When police officers searched John's home, they found gardening implements, the remnants of an indoor marijuana garden, and several legally owned guns. John was not charged for the guns, which were owned by his mother.

Judge's Remarks:
At John's trial, his judge stated that he did not want to give John a ten-year sentence, and hoped that his decision would be reversed on appeal.

Gary Roth
Charge: Cultivation of marijuana
Sentence: 10 years mandatory minimum

Gary Roth was raised on a farm and worked as a state patroller for fifteen years before becoming a farmer himself. For 17 years he owned and operated a cash crop and pig farm in Wisconsin. In 1992, Gary's farm started losing money because of drops in grain and hog prices, so he and a friend, Robert Rohda, decided to grow and sell marijuana to help subsidize the farm. In 1996, Gary had a falling out with Rohda over some pig money and bought out Rohda's share of the marijuana grow.

Two years later, Rhoda went to the police and turned Gary in. He agreed to testify against Gary in exchange for total immunity and a share of the assets Gary would be forced to forfeit when arrested. With Rohda's testimony, the government estimated that from 1992-1998 the farm produced a total of 26,292 marijuana plants. Under the mandatory minimum statute which assigns a weight of 1 kilogram to each plant, Gary was held responsible for 2,692 kilograms of marijuana and received the mandatory sentence of 10 years.

If you would like to contact any of the featured Green Prisoners, or find out more information about these or similar cases, check out www.famm.org, www.hr95.org, or www.rense.com/general5/freedom.kristie@ganja.com

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

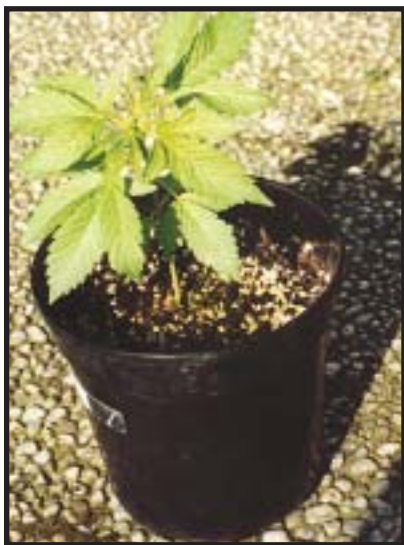
Text & photography: Weckels, the grow-specialist from Atami



**weckels
world of
wonders**

Watering the plants

In the last article I discussed the method I often use to discover at an early stage whether a plant is female or male. An important aspect was to be able to make cuttings from the plants that we had earlier grown from seeds. Having made the cuttings, we make them bloom to discover the sex. Because it is difficult to make cuttings successfully, I would like to tell you a little more about it.



After two weeks or so the seedling has completely developed and therefore can begin to add root stimulator to the water. The root complex will from this point develop rapidly.

To start with, it is especially important that the young (first stage growth) plants get very little water. By ensuring this, the taproot can develop better because it sets off growing like crazy in search of water and will grow downwards more strongly when water is limited. Of course, don't

over do this limiting of water; once in three days will do no harm. Because "a dash" of water says nothing about the right amount, it's maybe better to give the cuttings water with a syringe - a squirt of 10-ml should be enough per cutting. By using a syringe, you will be less likely to slip and give them too much. When watering cuttings - three times a day if they are standing in the sun - you have carefully watch the top layer of the earth and pour more over it when necessary. You can check this by simply pushing your finger into the earth (not too close to the cutting) and check if the ground is wet enough.

Cuttings

We never put cuttings in the sun during the first week because they can dry out too quickly, and also because we are going to spray them with a plant spray. In this way the cuttings will get enough water (via the leaves) and will 'strike root' a lot quicker because of the higher atmospheric humidity. During the first week, the soil in which the cuttings are standing is a little dry, to support the growth of the roots. This method of rooting the cuttings has been used very successfully, but you do have to take care that the sun does not shine directly on the cuttings because the



Even when you grow your plants in solid earth it is advisable to bury small plant pots into the ground around the plants, into which you can subsequently pour the feed water. The feed water will drain into the ground much better as a result.

leaves can be burned. Water droplets have an effect similar to a magnifying glass and because of that, sunny places have to be avoided.

After two weeks the roots of the cuttings are well enough developed for root-stimulator to be added to the water. Root-stimulators will ensure an explosive root growth, which is exactly what we want,

water in this way is that you can more easily keep the upper layer of the earth dry, which is good for the supply of oxygen. You often see a layer of perlite on the top of the soil if you water from upside. This is because the soil is washed away. The soil becomes less aerated because the perlite comes to the top. It is not unusual when plants are at the end of their life cycle, if



I fill the small blue watering can with warm water, which I subsequently mix with the cold water (containing the root stimulator) that is in the green watering can. Marihuana plants are crazy about lightly-warmed water and when given it, they develop much better.



Even a year later you can still see clearly how extensive a network of roots this long-harvested plant has developed during her life cycle.

because then the young cuttings can absorb more nutrients. Read the directions before you use the root-stimulator - this sounds obvious, but a lot of growers don't do it. When you've mixed the root-stimulator with the water (by stirring it well), place the plant pots in it (take care that they don't fall over) to let them suck themselves full with water. In this way you stimulate the roots to grow downwards. The water comes into the pot, and you don't wash away the upper layer of earth. Another advantage in giving

they are re-potted and we continue to water wrongly, to get rotten roots and all kinds of diseases. The oxygen cannot reach the roots and the soil at the bottom of the pot becomes too soggy.

Re-potting

As soon as you can see the first roots at the bottom of the plant pots, it's time to re-pot them to the cement tubs. As I told you



This is how the plant looks after a month of growing, and it's now she starts to receive plenty of liquid nutrition and root stimulator. She also receives the necessary food stuffs from the fertilised earth in which she stands.

before, you knead the roots so they grow outwards and then put them in their tub. Then you give them hardly any water, so you force them to look for it themselves. Also, you put three small flowerpots around the plants so that they can be used later on to deliver the feed water (water with dissolved root stimulator and nutrients). Put the pots in the middle between the stem and the side of the tub. In this way you create an optimal distribution of the feed water. Many growers may ask themselves if adding extra nutrition is needed if fertilizer is added to the soil, such as worm manure and lime. If you only give tap water, that

will be enough. But we can do a little more for the plants by adding nutrition to the water. Such small things make a difference – a small effort and a little higher investment in stimulators and nutrition can boost your crop.

Nutrition

For my feeding I mostly use fertilisers based on A and B components, a type of feed especially for growing in earth. These only do what they are supposed to do if you use the same amount from each bottle. Bring nutrients from bottle A and B



This is the same plant as in the previous photo. Here, she is two months old; in scarcely a month's time she will have become a good two times as large.

together in a watering can and mix well with water and root-stimulator. Some growers stop adding the root-stimulator after one month, but I keep adding it during the whole season because the roots develop the whole season, so can always use a little stimulation. Another reason is because a root-stimulator has a good effect on the biological activity of the soil. Water temperature

An important advantage you can achieve is by simply warming the cold mains water in the watering can by adding hot water. If you only use cold water from the tap, the plant gets a shock or setback every time. Cold feed water has a retarding

If you let the plants grow in smaller pots than a cement tub (about 30 litres), I advise you put every pot in a big bowl. Then you can fill the bowls with the feed water and let plant suck it up itself. You have to take care to leave a little space between the bottom of the plant pot and the bottom of the bowl, because only then can the feed water pass freely into the pot. To prevent this problem you can also make a few holes in the side of the pot, as low as possible. Then the plant will get its water easier.

If the roots of the plants in the pots have developed well, the plants have grown and become bigger and therefore use more



This is what remains of a previously good-looking plant, after she has gone without feed water for a couple of days.

effect on the plant, so it will develop less. Particularly on hot days when the sun has warmed the earth, the roots will have to deal with big differences in temperature. And that's a shame when you know that marihuana plants love a slightly hot soil. A nice ground temperature also makes for optimal biological activity in the soil (so nutrition is more easily absorbed by the plant), as well as an active sap stream through the plant. A plant that gets its water warm is growing twice as fast as one that has to deal with cold water. So I really recommend you add hot water to the feed water, so the final temperature of the feed water will be 23 Celsius. Adding hot water to the feed water is certainly wise in the autumn, when the outside temperature is lower. Giving the plants warmed water may compensate for this. You can use a thermometer every day but a temperature of 23 Celsius is the feel of warmish water. The plant will not notice a difference of one or two degrees.

Dosage

On most of the bottles two dosages are mentioned, one for lightly fertilized soil and one for heavily fertilized. If you grow on potting compost, I would choose the heavy dose, but since I always add fertilizer to my soil I always choose the dosage for lightly fertilized soil. In this way the chances of over-fertilizing are minimal. For getting the root-stimulator out of the bottle, a syringe is again handy. You can get them from any pharmacy and they cost almost nothing, but it's an important instrument and prevents you giving your plants too high a dosage of stimulators or nutrients.

feed water. Now the danger of giving too much water is over, because the plant itself determines how much it absorbs. But the surplus feed water flows out of the pot itself, which you need to prevent too much of because the feed water takes other fertilizers with it. If you give the soil too much water this also flows out of the pot.

The amount of feed water that you must give the plants depends not only of the size of the plants but also of the kind of soil and how aerated it is. The weather is



In this photo you can clearly see that the leaves on the lower part of the plant are the first to go yellow, then die. The very lowest side branches have even lost all their leaves already.



This Shiva plant stands complete with its pot in the large grey pot (in the photo). In here is a water reservoir and therefore the plant can take up water whenever she needs it.

also very important. On a very hot day it is very important that the plant gets a lot of feed water, because it will use more of it the greater the amount of light and heat it gets. So on a hot summer's day a big plant can use three watering cans (one watering can is 12 litres) of feed water, whereas on a cloudy day one watering can will do. When there is a lot of rain, you're better off giving no feed water at all, because the plants now have enough liquid. The chemical composition of rainwater makes it a good alternative. Evaporation

It is known that marihuana plants have a well-developed root system when they are big and have had plenty of fertilizer. They can grow 15 millimetres on a hot day. The opposite is also true: plants that get no water in such circumstances can die in a few days. The plant begins to lose its big leaves, which lowers the transpiration rate. If it gets no water soon, the plant will shed leaves from bottom to the top and die

slowly. If you ever experience this (always try to prevent it), make sure you give the almost completely dried out plants lots of water for a few days. The strong plants will survive and begin to grow new leaves, though the plant will never recover completely and the yield will be a lot smaller at the end of the season. So it's very important for the plant to get sufficient water at the right time. The best way is to give the plant a lot of water in the morning so the sun will not get the chance to evaporate a large portion of it. Take care that the leaves and the stem do not come into contact with the feed water. The chance of burning is greatest when direct sunlight shines on the moist spots. It is also important to give the plants plenty of water so the pot is completely soaked.

Bone dry

If the soil around the plant is almost bone dry at the end of a long sunny day, it is

necessary to add the feed water via the little flowerpots around the stem. Because the soil is dried out, it shrinks and opens up a gap between the side of the pot. When you pour the feed water on the soil, it flows away down the gap leaving the plant still with nothing. If you put the feed water in the small pots, the soil absorbs it gradually, and so gets soaked fully with the feed water. When you go on holiday, ask a friend or neighbour to give the feed water. This prevents your homecoming from becoming a nightmare because all your plants died in the dry weather. Take care to generously reward your friend because success will be guaranteed by this assistance!

Groundwater

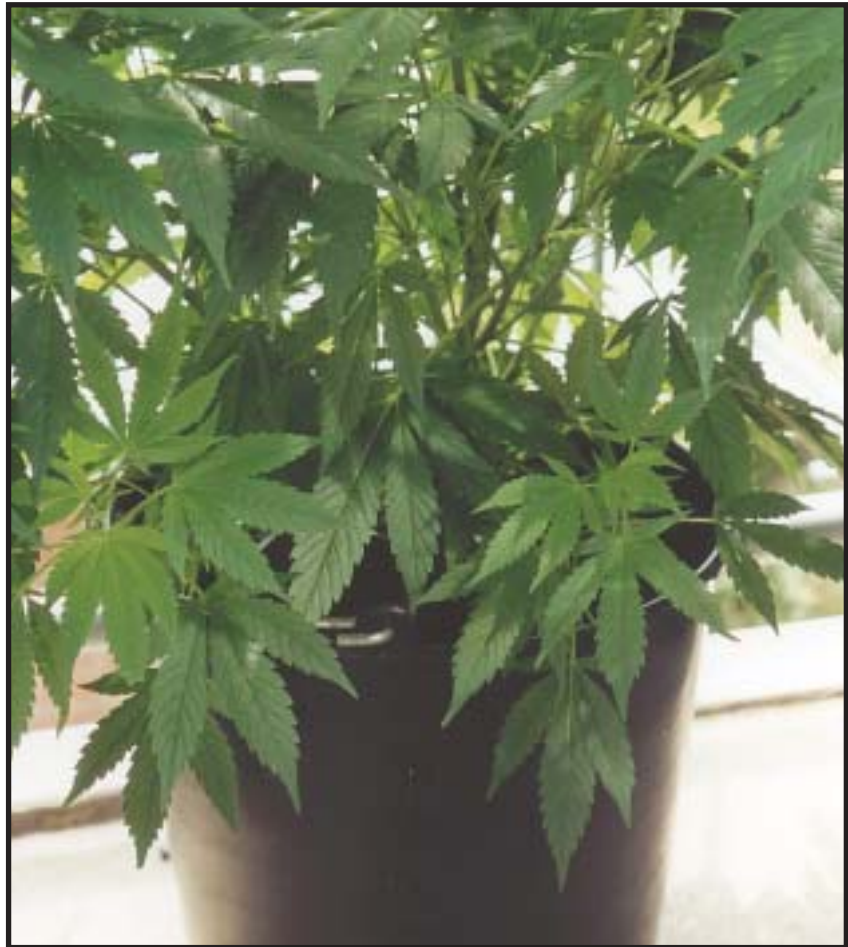
Growers who grow in the low-lying parts of Holland (the 'polders') and the UK only have to water their plants in the first month. The groundwater is mostly of an ideal depth of 1-2 metres below the surface, so the plant arranges its own water supply from soon after we put it into the ground. The roots will grow to the groundwater, so we do not have to help them. But I still advise you to water the plants in the first weeks, with added root-stimulator. It goes without saying that a grower who has to give no water at all is a happy one. These plants will soon be enormous without any effort. The (post-WW2) Flevo polders with their clay soils are particularly well suited to growing marihuana, but the clay soils do need some preparation first. Clay has the property that water will pool on top of it, and it is also a very sticky soil, with the result that there is hardly any oxygen in it. Because marihuana hates both soil with low levels of oxygen and soil that is too wet, we modify clay by mixing a huge



With the aid of a bowl we can let the plant take in the feed water itself, and in doing so eradicate problems such as exposed roots and overflowing.

amount of perlite through it. Now we have rectified the two problems of clay. Clay is also a very good soil, one on which farmers often cultivate the higher-value farm crops. Even so we can enrich a clay soil by adding worm manure and other fertilizers so our plants can develop even faster and even further. Growing in the polders has also its drawbacks. In the first place it is very flat and the wind has more chance of doing damage in a storm. To prevent this, support the plants with a strong stick. Check after every storm how the plants are doing, repair damage and remove broken branches and leaves, which could aid the growth of fungi. In the next article I will discuss the preparations for the harvest.

Keep growing!



With the aid of a bowl we can let the plant take in the feed water itself, and in doing so eradicate problems such as exposed roots and overflowing.



By boring a number of extra holes in the flower pot we can improve the drainage considerably.

HOT-WAX

A STONED SELECTION ACCORDING TO SOFT SECRETS

By Kaz Peet

Mixmaster Morris
'God bless the chilled'
 (Return to the source)



This selection from mixmaster morris is a chillout album of real substance with each track, obviously, being carefully picked for it's individual strength, making the album certainly shine out from the crowd.

Unconventional and captivating throughout, it relies on no formula. The album also features several highly collectible pieces such as 'moving triangle'; a track from Haruomi 'Harry' Hosono, founder of Yellow Magic Orchestra, taken from the 1978 album Coochi Moon made with avant-garde artist Tadanori Yokoo. Also outstanding is 'skunk' from (underground) legendary South London dub collective L.S.Diezel and 'electric garden' from Conrad Schnitzler, founder of Tangerine Dream- this track was one of the most well known anthems of the cosmic music scene of the 70's.

Other long respected artists included are Rei Harakami, one of Japan's most original and provocative producers... With his wild sweeping glissandi and twisted rhythms his is a friendly futuristic world of electronic sound...this track ('remain') is from his 2001 album 'RedCurb'. Underground favourites, Sphongle feature with tune 'once upon a time' and Irresistible Force aka Mixmaster Morris steps out with a tune from the 'It's tomorrow already' album. The inclusion of new outfits such as Steamer from Amsterdam and Electrical lovers from Japan adds a freshness of taste to this highly recommended album.

Lawgiverz
'Bass Instinct'
 (Botchit and Scarper)

Taking the mixed compilation into the next dimension with live decks n' effects, the Bass Instinct series hits the spot with this mix from Lawgiverz. The seven deadly sins of greed, pride, envy, sloth, gluttony, lust and anger are played out before your very ears in a breathtaking onslaught of 'Dex n' fx' by R.Kidz and Noize.

Funky as f..., this takes you rip roaring through around 44 new and current Botchit tracks, into loads of different styles, all held together by excellent



mixing, scratching and treatment. Lawgiverz by name and certainly by nature, this is amongst the most exciting breaks style around. "Law enforcement never sounded so good".

Compilation
'Arabica III'
 (Bar De Lune)



This fourteen-track compilation brings together a spectrum of respected and master musicians to create a voyage into North African sound.

Drum n' base rhythms pervade a thick atmosphere of Arabic sounds, percussion and vocals.

The album even includes a track from the great U- Roy, 'Half the Hard Way' with an excellent chat style toast.

Compilation
'Punjabi Lounge'
 (Beechwood)



A fantastic collection of some of the best of today's Punjabi style lounge music. Featuring the likes of Moby with track 'Another Woman' and Transglobal Underground with 'Air Giant', every tune on this double CD package is really good. Outstanding for this listener is 'Goa Dreams' (Reflective mix) from Maha Samable with it's lovely saxophone and theme tune style. Coming as part of a much wider series of world influenced music, this is really worth looking out for.

Bonobo
'Dial 'M' for Monkey'
 (Ninja Tune)



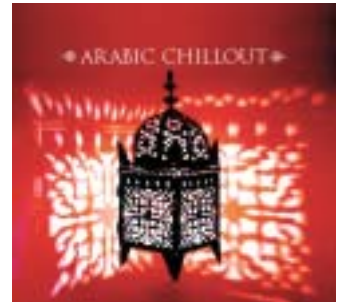
With this compelling new album, Bonobo continues to explore and grow in the musical field. Created as a musical progression or journey, the artist describes; "I think it flows well as a whole piece. The first album was a collection of tracks that I had built up over a few years where as this time I've made an album from start to finish." Skilled in the craft of musician, Simon Greene, aka Bonobo, plays, samples and sequences all the instruments himself, giving a strong sense of consistency and continuation of composition. There is real development throughout the piece with the building of moods and feelings. From the opening track 'Noctuary', with it's creepy stoned- Hammer feel, through the head nod sitar funk of 'Flutter', on into the Rhodes meets Gamelan of 'D Song', the first third of the record sets out the tone for what is to follow. All beautifully melodic and perfectly assembled but with enough of a creeping undertow to stop the music becoming empty or saccharine. Penultimate track, 'Nothing Owed' is epic pastoralia, while 'Light Pattern' rounds things off with what sounds like the theme to the best TV programme never made. This album is a genuine attempt to make great, proper, music that is incidentally computer created.

Compilation
Celtic Beats
 (Bar De Lune)



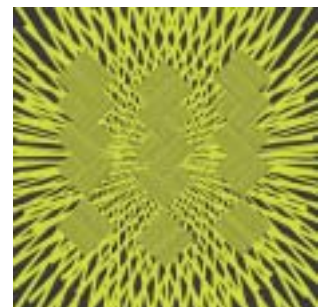
Describing themselves as the sexiest label in the world, Bar De Lune present a new album for the mind, body and soul. This selection of modern day Celtic Beats includes 'Troy', a powerful track by Sinead O'Connor as well as tunes from Jah Wobble, Banco De Gaia, Celtic Sound System and a Massive Attack 'hilltop mix' of 'African Vibrations' from Kwanzee Posse.

Compilation
'Arabic Chillout'
 (Bar De Lune)



Another new release in this extensive and prolific series of world influenced music. Again with every tune on the album being good, amongst the artists included are Thievery Corporation, Fragile State and Natacha Atlas. The title makes clear the style of this fine release.

Chk Chk Chk
'Me and Giulliana down by the school yard.'
 (Warp Records)



New act from Warp records makes a strong first impression with this debut release, an EP, consisting of two tracks. The music is funk fuelled and electrifying, emitting a kind of luminescent intensity that has an immediate magnetic power of attraction that grips and holds the listener's interest.

Karsten Pflum
'Tracks'
 (Worm Interface)



More fun and madness from Worm Interface with this latest release who seem to have the knack of creating and finding music that makes the oddest sounds and arrangements completely delightful. This listener is never disappointed by the label's releases and this is no exception. Chaotic, even absurd rhythms join with electronically treated instruments and funny sounds creating extremely pleasing results

Drugs and terrorism

Dr. John Dee

Among the more interesting stories running this week in the UK press have been those discussing the link between the drug trade and (international) terrorism. At the EU-Russia summit, discussions are underway as to how to go about breaking these links.

It strikes me that while there's some truth in the charge that the international drug trade does to some extent finance international terrorism, it also seems quite clear that an equally guilty culprit is oil. But that's another story. We're here to talk about drugs in general and dope in particular, so let's get down to it.

Unfortunately, there's a tendency to come up with grand schemes to "get tough" without actually thinking things through. One of the big problems with these all-purpose, take no prisoners type crusades is that there is a lot of collateral damage incurred along the way.

When "the international drugs trade" becomes defined as everyone involved in the sale of controlled substances from the very top of the tree down to the very bottom of the tree, it doesn't take a genius to see trouble being stored up. To

say that, for instance, a Northern Alliance heroin producing warlord in Afghanistan...actually, let's change that example, as the official line is that this isn't the case any more. Yeah, right.

Anyhow, to say that a Colombian cocaine cartel is in any way similar to the guy up the street growing Northern Lights in his loft is clearly nonsense.

While there's certainly money to be made from selling weed – particularly in countries where it's illegal – we're not talking about the really serious amounts of money required to fund and arm a private army. No, that's a different ball game altogether and seems to be connected to the market for highly purified and/or synthesised drugs. Domestic weed production really doesn't belong in there at all. In fact it's probably reasonable to argue that domestic weed doesn't really overlap into the realms of organised crime:

certainly not in the way the government would have us believe.

I should stress that by weed, I'm talking about the herbage of the marijuana plant, as when it comes to solid, there is evidence to indicate that the continued prevalence in Scotland of piss poor resin is associated with organised crime. Precisely how organised is open to debate.

It's precisely this general lack of connection with the organised underworld and terrorist networks that makes weed growers and dealers such a good target for overzealous policemen. Bust a guy growing 20 plants under lights and it's going to be an easy pinch. While they might have a baseball bat behind the door, the chances of them having a Kalashnikov are pretty remote. And the fact is that the baseball bat is probably as much for show as anything else (and who knows, maybe they actually play baseball?). The 20 plants become 2000, the baseball bat becomes "a cache of offensive weapons" and before you know it, a major cartel has been shut down.

The weed scene in countries where weed is illegal is a very attractive and soft option for police to be seen to be doing "something" and keeping arrest rates healthy, while not actually taking any real risk that someone might blow them away.

On the face of it, it appears to be illegal drugs that are implicated in terrorism and not the legal ones (alcohol, tobacco, or benzodiazepines, for example). Therefore, one very obvious solution to this problem would be to make the illegal drugs legal.

As this situation probably isn't going to arise in the lifetime of anyone reading this, serious drugs, serious crime and serious terrorism are going to be with us for the foreseeable future.

The best advice is probably "stick to weed". More specifically, "stick to weed and buy local".

And if you really don't want to fund terrorism, don't drive a car.

dr_john@ganja.com

THE BUSH DOCTOR
HE TREATS ALL KNOWN AILMENTS WITH A SPLIFF!
R.C.V
GA-GA! II



Soma Salad

By Soma

Variety is the spice of life they say, and when it comes to Cannabis it is no exception. Imagine going to a restaurant and only being able to order one type of food, or being at home and eating the same dinner night after night. It would get quite boring very soon and you would lose your enthusiasm for having a good meal. With Cannabis it is no different, if you smoke the same flavor day after day with the same part of your brain getting affected all the time, it's very similar to your taste buds getting almost numb to the same taste over and over.

My method for not getting bored with the same taste in Cannabis is to smoke Salad Spliffs. What is a salad spliff? It's when you roll at least 5 different types of Cannabis together in one joint. Before you can do that you have to grow different types of weed, at the same time.

In my 31 years of growing Cannabis, I've seen almost everything that comes with it. Many people are very afraid to grow more than one type together in a room. It's mostly because they think money first. They think that if they grow more than one type they will lose money. Sometimes it can be true, but not if you really get to know the plants you are working with.

Just as in normal gardening where certain plants have other (companion plants) that they get along well with in the garden, Cannabis plants also have other (companion Cannabis plants) that they get along well with. The factors for getting to know the compatibility of one plant to the next are as follows.

The height needs to be very close in the last quarter. They need to be spaced so that ones that get wide, have enough room to not shade out plants next to them. Plants have to finish within a week of each other. Having up to one week to harvest can be advantageous. If you have 50 plants or more, or even if you have several large plants, harvesting can be quite time consuming and take a lot of energy. Taking a week to harvest takes the pressure off!

The way that I arrange a flowering room with many different kinds is like this, taller plants on the outside edges, short plants in the middle, making sure that all the plants receive enough light. "It's Better to have less plants with more light than more plants with less light". Again it is very important to have (companion) marijuana plants growing with each other. That way there is no fighting among them for light or space and the harvest is easy.

Bending and Supercropping

When growing many different kinds together I like to try my best to achieve an even canopy. I do this by getting down eye level with the plants and looking at which ones are taller and have a chance of shading out surrounding plants. I then take the top stem of the taller plants in-between my fingers and gently, slowly, but forcefully roll it until I feel the inner pulp cracking together, then I slowly bend it over being careful not to break it. Within a few days the stem makes an elbow and does it's best to straighten itself out. In the meantime the shorter plants have gotten a chance to catch up in height, and the canopy of plants in your room becomes level.

Feeding

Not all plants enjoy the same amount of food. You must get to know how the genetic strain your working with uses food.

For example Haze Heaven will eat as much food as you give it. Reclining Buddha will not like it if you give it too much food. It's very important to feed each different plant in the correct way, you can't treat them in a generic manner, you are growing very healing medicine, that affects humans not just physically, but emotionally, mentally, and Spiritually. This is not as I said before the method of choice for the commercial farmer. This is the method for the connoisseur, self healer, spiritual seeking gardener, who enjoys a deep interaction with their plants. I love the taste of ripe biologically grown Cannabis. There are so many different tastes I like to blend together. When many different tastes are blended, it starts to get an almost (pardon the comparison) blended tobacco flavor. Some of the best cigarettes are made from a blend of different tobacco strains.

Now comes my favorite part to write about, smoking it. I love smoking with my friends, as it greatly enhances the concept of sharing. We sit together, or go for a boat ride, or walk down the street together after eating at a fine restaurant, and share a joint and without even trying, it gently brings us closer together as friends, helping us to remember to laugh and smile in these troubled times. I am including some juicy photo's of my last salad crop. One last note, when I smoke these salad joints with my friends they are always trying to guess what it is (without any luck), and trying to find a way to acquire some, I finally tell them it's Soma Salad, and you have to grow it yourself, for yourself, if you want to make a salad of your own.

Until next time, Keep it Green and remember to use a lot of Love as fertilizer.

Peace, Soma.

Visit Soma at www.somaseeds.nl



Lavender



MasterBud



NYC Diesel



RockBud



Somango



White light



AMETHYST BUD



FREE TIBET

WIN sets of HQ seeds in our prize puzzle competition!



Gaanj-1's Premo Puzzle Page

GREETINGS, PUZZLE PICKERS!

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

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

WIN SETS OF H.Q. SEEDS!

Send your most complete entry to:

Soft Secrets Puzzle Competition
P.O. Box 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam

All answers published next issue.

Groovy Word Search

The names of 32 psychedelic bands, and 10 of the substances they abused, are hidden in the diagram. They can be written forwards, backwards, up or down - even diagonally.

Once you've found them, the unused letters will spell out another band, and the title of their greatest album. If you find them all, you're not smoking nearly enough dope!

The bands are:

TOMORROW T.R.E.X.
THE MOVE NIRVANA
THE SMOKE NICE
ARTHUR BROWN
DONOVAN TWINK
PINK FLOYD BYRDS
JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
KING CRIMSON
BLUE CHEER CREAM
CANNED HEAT
DOORS SPIRIT
(Frank) ZAPPA NICO
EDGAR BROUGHTON
JIMI HENDRIX
JANIS JOPLIN FREE
FOCUS TRAFFIC
PURPLE GANG
(The) FUGS DR. JOHN
(The) FISH GUN
BLUES MAGOOS

The abused substances are:

HASH GRASS ACID
PEYOTE Mescaline
SPEED BOOZE
COUGH LINCTUS
HEROIN COCAINE

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

The hidden band is:

their album is:

Riddle-me-Rigid

My FIRST is in Mescaline, but not in Peyote
My SECOND'S in Platter, but not in Karaoke
My THIRD is in Ecstasy, and also in Heaven
My FOURTH is in Essex, and also in Devon
My FIFTH is in Good, but never Vibrations
My WHOLE is an Agent of Acceleration

WHAT AM I?

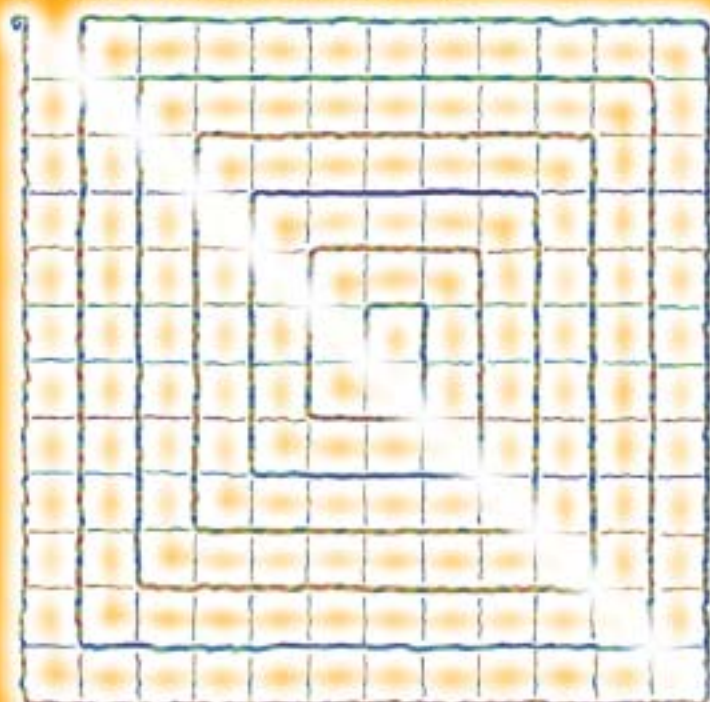
Spot the Difference

There are 8 differences between this picture and the one below it. Can you spot them all...
...or have your solitary habits made you blind?



Spiro T. Mania!

Every answer--except the first--starts with the last letter of the preceding word. Solve the clues and follow the spiral to the centre - then find out what drugs affect your mind by reading diagonally down from the starting point.



CLUES

1. Inebriated as a small water-lizard (6,2,1,4)
2. If you didn't solve the first clue, you'll feel a right one! (3)
3. Pole used by Native Americans (5)
4. Occult fungi? (5,9)
5. Spirit from north of the border (6,6)
6. Affirmative 70s band? (3)
7. Arachnid superhero (9)
8. Nuclear half of Asian peninsula (5,5)
9. Atmospheric stress? (3,9)
10. Seasonal hen-fruit? (6,3)
11. Romany travellers (7)
12. Wasted by rocks? (6)
13. Extinct bird (4)
14. Digit that separates man from ape (9,5)
15. Wrong way round (4,2,5)
16. Whistle as you snort coke? (4)
17. Acid journey (4)
18. Moon of Mars (6)
19. One who trembles with cold or fear (8)
20. They used to make them out of hemp (5)
21. Injects, or kicks for goal (6)

Stepword

Changing one letter at a time to make a new word each time, turn COKE into NOSE in only 3 steps!

COKE to _____ to _____ to NOSE

Bilbo's Mega-Buds

Bodybuilding with Cannabis

By Bart B

Some grow weed for their own pleasure while others grow it to make money. Whatever the motivation, the most important thing is the same for all, and that is producing the largest and most potent heads. Also to learn from each crop so as to improve the next and increase the grams. Everyone thinks that their own crop is the best but occasionally you come across someone with a crop to die for. Heads bigger than your forearm, thick as your head and solid as stone. These are extreme cultivation successes and Bilbo takes full responsibility. Bilbo likes to let his plants flourish under extreme light intensity using the logic of light = weight!



You'd swear his plants are secretly working out when they should be sleeping – because these plants resemble baseball bats more than anything and it is hard to imagine that they got that way simply because of excessive light waves. 2L Cola bottles look small in comparison, honest! First impressions are that these plants must be on

steroids, but they have simply been grown in earth. Bilbo points out that you do not necessarily have to use hydroponics to achieve extreme buds. Bilbo has used hydroponics before, but never with these results. Good old earth is still full of surprises!

As a starter, Bilbo had gone wholeheartedly into the whole hype surrounding hydro techniques that ensured sizeable heads. He was working with aeroponics and was hit with a power failure that meant the ruin of his entire crop. After that he returned to solid earth. He was happy to leave all the fuss of pH and EC meters behind him. The stunning success of this particular crop has even Bilbo mystified. It cannot possibly be just the extra light intensity because this is not the first time Bilbo has applied his extra light method to a grow room and those heads had not been on the same scale as these.

For him, the amount of light a seedling is exposed to seems to be of the greatest importance. Seedlings that germinate outdoors are continually exposed to the intensity of the sun and do not suffer any negative effects. On the contrary; they flourish. The first few hours of a seedlings life determine how it will develop later. Bilbo starts hanging his lamps at 1.80m and then slowly brings them closer to give the plants time to adapt to the light intensity.

One in a thousand, unique, exceptional and rare



Out of the countless number of seeds available, Bilbo managed to find this winner – a combination of good genes and plenty of light has resulted in these formidable heads. From a selection of 20 or 30 seeds, he managed to single out this phenomenal plant. He was attracted to this particular plant by the size of the then up and coming buds and was satisfied that he had made a good choice. But then this monster took all the attention by towering up above everything else in the room. Such a special plant is rarely found. This one is a Sweet Tooth 3 from Spiceoflifeseeds and it is tops on their list of quality seeds available. The taste is sublime and reminds one of sweet grapefruits.

It might have even been possible to have produced even heftier heads than these as Bilbo has just used ordinary potting soil from the normal garden centre. With a quality soil mix he might have bumped up his gram total return even more. These plants had enjoyed 4 weeks of growth phase before flowering for 51 days. During growth he gave them 3000 watts and once in flowering they received 6400 watts. He lines the lamps up both vertically and horizontally and all of them have exhausts fitted to them to keep them air-cooled. He also uses CO2 generators that can put his room into 1500 PPM in just under three minutes. A digitised CO2 control gadget then keeps it that way. Every second hour the air in the whole room is changed completely in order to exhaust any gaseous fumes that may have built up. The whole room is constantly regulated by a number of climate controllers. Bilbo claims to make carefully considered use of the CO2 for he notices a big change when he allows the temperature to really soar in the room.

The most important thing to remember is to grow them hard with as much exposure to light as possible, from the moment they are seedlings up until the final harvest. To obtain results like these, you do have to have a number of factors under scrupulous control and Bilbo does have that. Everything is arranged down to the smallest detail, from climatic regulation to the feeding scheme. It is up to the grower to make optimum use of the intense light and the best way to achieve that is to co-ordinate all the factors involved.

Be aware that bigger is not always better, even though it is human nature to want to improve continually. Bilbo has set the sights really high this time and yet he still wants to push the boundaries again. Fortunately Bilbo is a generous man and naturally wanting to share his joy and good fortune, he made clones from the monster and distributed them amongst some of his fellow farmers so that they too could share in the fun and produce their own extreme pleasure.

I am also invited to join in the pleasure as I was sent a sample of these genes too. My expectations are already running high as I sit impatiently waiting for the flowering phase.

Wishing you all much growing pleasure. Be sure to go nuts – go extreme!

bartb@ganja.com



I'll Take The High Road

Fraser Clark, Our Roving ACCESS ALL LEVELS Reporter.

Illustration: Dai Owen

Is supergrass meant for superman's brain?



The tenth time it happened I realised my Logical Memory (not just short term names and numbers) was disintegrating. Launched into a 5 step argument, I'd find around the 3rd step that I'd forgotten the first step and could no longer remember where I was heading!

I was on a tour of 'peace rappings' in clubs, at festivals and in private homes around California. Had my extensive club experiences not made me an old ham with public talking, I woulda been in deep shit. As it was, I had enough tales and passing ideas to manage a funny or wise conclusion at the 4th step that left the audiences feeling they'd heard an interesting tale. So not many people noticed, but I did! Was it the aging process? Or was it the Californian grass I was smoking? I'd noticed something different, and back in

London now, reunited with my old Moroccan allies, I think it was the dope, cos the problem seems to have disappeared. My last visit to the States since was before 9/11 when we Zippies were warning that disaster on the scale of 9/11 was heading their way unless they accepted the renaissance that Rave Culture was offering. And since then, as History secretly developed its comeback in the form of this "xtian" Final Solution republican righththead takeover, the Future was equally secretly developing these super home-grown strains.

STUNNED BUT NOT STONED

My first puff this time (in a friend's car from the airport) was, well, like a slightly diluted DMT hit. I mean, a thousand miles a second trip to "High"! My sequential memory started dissolving a few days later. And soon, when I started losing the plot during my talks, I would wonder aloud if weren't forgetting that 'stoned' means several other things than having your brain mega-buzzed and discombobulated? Have these constantly evolving strains which "stun me but not stone me" been over-specialised?! Would you even be amazed to find out the dope you've been smoking

is genetically modified?!

Just as opium ain't heroin and coca ain't cocaine, the marijuana plant with which mankind has developed a million year relationship probably contains a dozen different ingredients - something, say, to cool your mood, something to produce a sense of detachment, something to slow the heart, accelerate or slow the blood depending on the social situation, and of course some chemicals and spontaneous mixes of them that stimulate the brain in several ways.

Could such massively financed research by breeders (whom our admittedly old-fashioned laws define as criminal, black-market businessmen) and experimentation (often on us!) have over-developed just the head-buzz aspects? and a nice smell, as one grower told me! Is the definite SOMETHING we get from these strains a "high"? Or are we being slowly weaned onto a different drug. Just because the police say it too doesn't prove it's wrong!

BEST ORGANIC COLOMBIAN AT QUARTER THE PRICE

Once, during my previous stay in San Francisco, my finances had dropped so

low that I'd moved into the poor Mission district where the Mexicans and hippies couldn't afford the pricey new breeds. And they were smoking... best Colombian weed (which we hippies considered the best dope in the world!), and for a QUARTER of the price - \$65 an ounce!

It was quite different smoking experience too! As with traditional hashish today, you'd puff for a couple minutes till you started wondering how long you'd been at it? Was it 3 minutes, or 30 minutes, or had you always been here? And there was this delicious disjuncting of time (scuse the pun) as your soul eased (back?) to its unmovable centre while a mist of conscious detachment from Life's daily grind settled slowly over your limbs! Nothing like today's express elevator slamming your head against the roof. And creativity?! Where supergrasses buzz my brain senseless and hijack it into a stunned, memory-shredded coma-corner of the psyche, the Colombian, after a few minutes, sends me loping to my typewriter or notepad to sketch down ideas or rhymes, or prods me into gazing wondrously at the Miracle of the clouds floating across the sky.

Is Supergrass meant for Superman's Brain, and not for us Mexicans?!

THE BUSH DOCTOR
HE TREATS ALL KNOWN AILMENTS WITH A SPLIFF!
R.C.V GA-GA! III



The New Face of the “Old Amsterdam”

The next time you're browsing the stalls at the Waterlooplein market, pause for a joint break at the near-by Old Amsterdam coffeeshop. High ceilings, tidy interior and friendly service welcome each guest, and an extensive weed and hash menu (over a dozen varieties of each) draws many locals. Conveniently located at Amstelstraat 35, right over the bridge from the open-air market, Old Amsterdam has been dishing out smokable treats for about twenty-five years. Prior to that, when the area was host to speakeasy-type after-hours clubs, the building housed a private club with dancers and a smoke-friendly environment. This was back in the days when local cops patrolling the “fancy girls in the back” were satisfied by the explanation that the pungent smoke was a result of the “special Chinese tea” the customers were smoking. Opening as one of the first proper coffeeshops in the area, Old Amsterdam currently upholds the tradition of catering to the herbal crowd, even offering a microscope on the hash bar. If you're interested in a new smoke, try the hash special, aptly titled “Old Amsterdam.” For weed fiends, the “Dutch Diamond” special was created especially for the shop, and refers to the long-neighboring diamond shop next door. This mostly sativa bio selection has a sweet smell and a smooth, flowery taste, but packs a punch. Be sure to check out this local favorite. Due to restrictions on coffeeshops, including decor, the owner has recently renovated the place and no longer serves alcohol. New furniture and snack machines complement the eclectic decor, but make sure to spend some time gazing at the ceiling. In a coffeeshop? That never happens.... A quirky selection of objects ranging from angels to ostriches dangles from an impressive collage of old and new Melkweg and Paradiso posters. Marco, the shop's owner since 1996, points out a section towards the back displaying particularly old flats dating back to the early days of the coffeeshop.

Nearby the Rolling Stones hangs one featuring a famous Dutch artist and singer, Herman Brood, who used to live upstairs. While the locals remember Brood's morning creme de menthe sessions first-hand, Marco has brought a fresh perspective to the shop. Visiting our fair city on holiday a few years ago, he decided to pursue the dream many have, and took over Old Amsterdam. After closing restaurants in Alberta and B.C., Marco brought with him the “outsider” perspective, enabling the Canadian to offer the customer experience he enjoyed as a tourist. The shop now offers cakes and cookies, savory snacks, and the usual selection of coffee, teas, and juices. The old decor mixes with lovely artwork done by an Amstelveen artist friend (and regular customer, of course) by the name of Fred. Chill music abounds, Marley's a favorite, and is audible but doesn't drown out conversation. Pop in for a cup of tea and a few grams of the house special and ask the locals to tell you a story.

Old Amsterdam
Amstelstraat 35 Amsterdam
Open seven days a week 7AM to 1AM
www.coffeeshop-old-amsterdam.nl



Today's Forecast: “Clouds of Weed” at Wolkewietje

The Nieuwendijk shopping street holds many wonders of the capitalist variety. If you're seeking solace from the overwhelming crush of people and brand names, a quick detour onto the Kolksteeg will result in a smoker's haven – coffeeshop Wolkewietje. Visitors of this past High Times Cannabis Cup may recall the coffeeshop's representative party pool and bikini girls. The diminutive shop is perhaps more aptly described as a ‘nook,’ the entire front wall is windowed, lending to an open-air effect. The interior is a pleasant conflagration of aesthetic stimulation. While smaller seating capacity usually detracts from the appeal of a shop, Wolkewietje is tastefully filled with a mix of low benches and high bar stools, as well as an assortment of tile-mosaic café tables that match the ones on the cozy terrace. The terrace, due to the glass front of the building, tends to appear more as a continuation of the interior seating. It's almost as if the relaxed vibe inside literally spills onto the sidewalk. The central location provides a great collage to view from the shop, almost like watching television. Inside the shop, the bar blends with the décor, and those getting high at the perimeter bar may gaze close-up into the large

tropical fish aquarium centered on the back wall. Service is friendly, and it's obvious that the place is a local hang-out. Entering customers recognize each other, but don't worry about feeling out of place: This is the kind of shop where the locals will easily share conversation and a joint. Speaking of which, the menu is modest by some standards, but includes a healthy variety of bio and hydro weed, regular hash and even some Ice-o-Lator. Everything is sold at a one-gram minimum, and in specials up to five grams (legal limit). The Blueberry smells incredible and actually makes the legs a little tingly. Beverages include a healthy non-alcoholic selection of coffees, teas, juices, sodas, and energy drinks to pick you back up after a nice fat joint. To commemorate your visit, choose from a stylish collection of hats, t-shirts, lighters, etc., that don't look like you bought them off of the street in the Red Light District. The shop has a local reputation for high-quality smoke, as well as consistency. This is important, as it is not uncommon for coffeeshops to distribute a less-popular smoke under the name of a sold-out strain. At Wolke Wietje, what you ask for is what you get. That's refreshing.



John the barman, “right hand man” to the shop's owner

Wolkewietje
Kolksteeg 1a Amsterdam 020-4273776
Open seven days a week, 8AM to 1AM
www.wolkewietje.nl

Life bubbles at Vereniging Joy, in Leiden

If you hear the word, foundation, you don't immediately think of a coffeeshop. But in Leiden, people know different and that is thanks to coffeeshop Vereniging Joy (translates as Joy Foundation). In common with usual foundations, there is a membership list and a foundation mission and in this case it is ‘Games, Sport and Leisure’ and you can be sure that the last mentioned takes top priority.

The history of the Foundation starts twenty years ago on the same café premises, with then still illegal sales of weed and hash. This initiative was first known by the name of ‘de Recreant’ which loosely means “holiday-maker”, which was also quite an appropriate name for a foundation of this nature.

The coffeeshop or rather, head shop is situated next door to the café in a tiny space. This is also the tiniest shop in Leiden, yet it is also completely and fully stocked and is renown for its good stuff. The head paraphernalia section services all your smoking accessory requirements. Every square centimetre of the shop is used to display the bounty in products to the max and yet there is still room for a couple of barstools up against the counter where regular customers (some ageing now!) can still catch up

on a chat.

All the staff are friendly and well informed and so can give out good information and advice. Every one of them holds a certificate for ‘Drugs prevention and information’ a standard course for personnel of coffeeshops.

The hash and weed menu looked like they have a certificate too, as you can certainly look up to the quality available. A monitor displays an extensive green menu with all sorts of top quality hash and weed sorts. From this it is easy to conclude that this foundation takes good care of its members.

In addition with every purchase you now can get a Cannabis lottery ticket complete with the Joy logo. The prizes are definitely worthwhile too. You can win €12,50 to spend in the shop, or a ready made joint, some small discounts or a real ‘Joy’ T-shirt.

There is nothing to hold you back from taking your chance at Vereniging Joy in Leiden.

Weed toppers: Kali Skunk; Dutch Passion; White Widow; Afghan

Hash toppers: Ketama Gold, Afghan, Moroccan; Grand Royal



Vereniging Joy
Beschuitsteeg 6A 2312 JV Leiden
Tel: + 31 71 512 0988
Open: seven days a week 16:00 – 22:00

Skyhigh on Texel

Next time you go to Amsterdam you might like to make a day free for another sort of high altogether. If you travel a bit up north to the Dutch island of Texel, you can get involved in extreme sport – a tandem parachute jump! Charlie Stone, Soft Secrets indefatigable editor got there before you and has made this report on the jump of his life!

By Charlie Stone



Hardly ten minutes after I had reported to the booking counter of the para-centre and I have a bright red overall (or should I say 'jumpsuit'?) pressed into my hand by the instructor. His name is Robert and he is very athletic and looks like he just stepped out of the movie Drop Zone. He gives me a speed instruction course in skydiving that lasts ten minutes. Course in this context is a bit of an exaggeration for the few simple instructions I am obliged to follow.



A group of solo skydivers are clustered around the crate that will soon be taking us up 13 000ft. Before I'm allowed to go to the plane, Robert insists that we run through the drill here on the floor of the hangar. I assume the appropriate position on my belly, with my head thrown back, hands on the straps, waiting for Robert to tap me twice on the shoulder as sign that once in the air, I should spread my arms completely in order to make the most out of my flight. So far, so good.

Because we will be the last to jump out of the aeroplane, Robert and I are the first ones in. Robert sits behind me and immediately fastens the harness, so tightly I can hardly move. Rather too tight than too loose is what I'm thinking. After everyone else has clambered aboard, the old crate turns in all haste toward the blue sky. We gain altitude at a fantastic pace and after only ten minutes we are already at 3000 meters.

A nervous excitement starts to mount inside me.

I had parachuted before, when I had been in military service and then it had been on a static line. The purpose of that exercise was to be through the air as quickly as possible (otherwise you are a hanging duck as it were, for the enemy). But this experience is completely different. The very reason for doing it is to be suspended in the air for as long as possible – you are not landing behind enemy lines, but out for the sheer pleasure of it.

The moment arrives. The pilot gives a nod and a hatch on the side of the Cessna rolls open. Calm, cool and collected, all wearing enormous smiles, the other jumpers leave the floating crate, one at a time. Robert indicates that I should shuffle forward, on my bottom. We sit next to each other bound together like Siamese twins and I realise that this is the time to have second thoughts and back out. But I let the thought pass and let Robert do the rest. The wind rushes into my face as I take my place at the open door. Next thing I know everything is happening in rap tempo – with my head thrown back and my hands on my harness, I feel my stomach lurch involuntarily as we drop the first several meters. It's a bit like a roller coaster ride, but then a hundred times more so and where a drop in a roller coaster lasts a few seconds, this drop just keeps getting faster and further. I feel Robert tap on my shoulder and in

instant reflex I spread my arms wide. The wind in my face is much stronger and my ears are whistling like there is a mini tornado dancing on my eardrums. That we have been racing like this through the air for more than a minute is meaningless to me. This first experience was far too fast and furious to be noting stuff like that. Once we were on the ground again I heard Robert telling the others that it had been more than a minute, but for me, it could just as easily been ten seconds.

That immeasurable free fall suddenly becomes subtle and supple once Robert's chute opens. The hard jerk that I had expected did not occur. What did occur though was the most incredible feeling. Suspended some hundreds of meters above the ground Robert starts chatting as if we are both at a bus stop. He explains some of the workings of the parachute, while I stare down between my feet, noticing that the pastures below are still only the size of a postage stamp.

We drift like this for four endless minutes, free as birds and completely untouched by worldly problems while we descend inevitably back towards the bosom of

Mother Earth.

Our landing is book perfect and smooth as cream. We landed in a big gravel spot, barely twenty metres from the hangar where I had pulled on my suit, not half an hour earlier. The jump had been accomplished. And the big smile plastered on my face for the rest of the day must have looked like a chronic defect. To sum up the entire experience in one word – Unreal!

**Paracentrum Texel, Postweg 128,
1795 JS, De Cocksdorp, Texel
Tel 00-31- (0)222- 311464,
fax 00-31-(0)222-311414
Email: info@paracentrumtexel.nl
Website: www.paracentrumtexel.nl**

How to get there? Just take the train to Den Helder and board the ferry to Texel (€4). On Texel, take a shared cab ("Teletaxi") which will drop you off at the para centre for just €4. The whole return trip can easily be made from Amsterdam in one day. A tandem jump costs €180.



Legalize! Street Rave 2003

Legalize! Amsterdam Fights Prohibitive Drug Laws With One Hell of a Public Party



Saturday, 07 June, the cobblestones in beautiful Amsterdam rumbled with the thunderous bass of multiple sound systems and a couple of hundred pairs of dancing feet during the once-a-year free street rave legalization campaign. You may be familiar with the Legalize! folks, highlighted in the last issue of SS for representing our fair city at the Vienna anti-prohibition march in April. Trucks packed with amps and turntables snaked through the city, flanked by a colourful crowd of drug

supporters and users, promoting a message of tolerance and less-punitive drug laws.

The day's events kicked off with a political debate in Café Danzig on the corner of Amstel and Waterlooplein, site of the famous open-air market. Politicians mixed with the Legalize! crew and even some 'radical cheerleaders'. Recently in Holland drug policies have begun to mirror those of more stringent countries, such as the United States. New restricti-

ons have been placed on formerly 'tolerated' possession amounts, coffeshop laws, and soon, even smoking in public. Most political parties in Holland, such as D66, GroenLinks, and PvdA, may consider the cannabis industry a (perhaps occasionally annoying) revenue boost; while those in the Christian contingency insist that cannabis fall under criminal laws. The harm resulting from punitive drug laws as opposed to decriminalization is that normal people with harmless recreational habits are publicly labeled 'criminal', then perhaps restricted from holding certain occupations as well as deprived of a

relatively reliable public source of cannabis and product information.

The recent march presented an opportunity for a mixed crowd to share opinions and dance moves. After the serious stuff, protesters moved outside to prepare the floats and costumes for the demonstration through the city. The march attracted around five-hundred people at any given point, and the after-party sucked in about twice that amount. Common sentiment

included the fact that this year's parade included many more conspicuous messages regarding the dangers of restrictive drug policies. Many people living in Amsterdam feel that the Dutch Parliament, the 'Tweede Kamer', is 'moving backward' in terms of its drug policies, especially in an industry where the laws are already so vague. One of the associated dangers of the newer policies is that a lack of public information presents unknowing violations on a relatively frequent basis. Legalize! used this opportunity to get the public involved. The more brightly-dressed and pierced/tattooed people latching onto the parade from the sidelines, the more the uninvolved gaped. Not a bad way to spread a message.

The music and revelry surged toward Papaverweg in the North of Amsterdam, where it culminated in a massive party reminiscent of the outdoor festivals of the 1970s. Good feeling got even better when the more than ample bar opened, and around a dozen sound stations provided a massive summer treat for amateur and 'professional' protesters, many of whom viewed the party as a last celebration before going on the festival circuit. In all, those who just came to party also received a quick education in drug policies as well as fun stuff like the Verdampers. And demonstrators who began with a more serious attitude likely succumbed to the intoxicating party atmosphere. Don't worry, guys, you have a whole year to recover!

For more information about changing drug policies, party listings, and photos, visit www.legalize.net.
Kristie@ganja.com

Photos: Cappy Jack, Peter Fronczek



Bunz's odour neutraliser

How to build your own inexpensive odour neutraliser

Bad smells, stink and hefty weed odours is something every indoor cultivator needs like another hole in the head. Because the problem arises as a result of growing activities, it is logical to take preventative measures. Many weed growers use carbon filters to get rid of weed smells and that can often be expensive, depending on the size of your space, of course.

For those starter growers and other interested parties, investing in ventilation and filters can be a big step and it's great if there are cheaper methods that are still effective. One of these methods is to build an odour neutraliser. These work excellently and are easy to build and cheap to run and you can easily make and use more than one. Plus it has the advantage of being useful anywhere, even in the toilet and is efficient enough to drive off the smell left by a baby's bad nappy. Anything that smells bad can be exorcised by this gizmo.

What you will need to construct the odour neutraliser is:

- Either a computer driven ventilation fan or a normal rotating fan €30.00
- Air freshener product such as Ona or Febreeze €10.00
- Hydrogel (polymer crystals) €10.00
- 10-20L plastic bucket with lid € 4.50

You can use either a computer generated ventilation fan or a regular one. On the first photo you can see all the things you require for this project so let's make a start. For practical purposes I use a large bucket but you can use either a smaller or larger one with no problem. Cut a hole in the lid large enough to fit your ventilation fan and then secure it to the lid. There are many ways to achieve this so choose one that is suitable for your lid and your fan. If you look at the photos you will clearly see how I mounted my fan. Once that is done, you need to cut large holes into the sides of the plastic bucket. That is all the heavy work done and now you can fill up the bucket with the other ingredients. To nine cups of water, you add one cup of smell neutraliser product such as Febreeze or Ona and add a half-cup of polymer crystals. Place the lid on, turn on the ventilator and within 5 minutes the whole place should be smelling good and clean and fresh.....

The workings of this method are simplicity itself. The foul air is sucked into the bucket where it comes into contact with the air freshener and so becomes clean as it is once more blown through. The neutralised product absorbs all the bad smells and the polymer crystals serve to suck up the moisture which ensures that the air freshener lasts longer so that you only need to add a little more occasionally. The crystals themselves work well for many years and can swell up to fifty times their original size.

The only maintenance necessary for this odour neutraliser is to top up the water and air freshener now and then. Normally it needs no extra attention for about four weeks at a time. There are about five different kinds of smell neutraliser that you can use, be aware that other similar products will not work. Other smell absorbers will also work, even the soluble variety and these come in different colours and perfumes. So dare to change your Cannabis fumes into a vanilla flavoured fragrance.

All in all this is a very efficient and inexpensive alternative to carbon filtered exhausts. A combination of the two is the best way to be absolutely sure that you are not pervading the atmosphere with a bad pong. A smaller version of this odour neutraliser can be used in the bathroom or living room where it can efficiently eradicate even cigarette stink. Its a good idea to keep one in your communal space just in case any whiffs from your grow space invade while you have visitors. Often one does not notice the smell of one's own hole and in this way you can be sure that you stay sweet. Prevention is always better than the cure and you'll be amazed at how much the smell in your grow room can be changed.

The only problem here is that you might end up with such a nice smelling place, that all your friends would want to be there all the time.

Have good clean fun!

bartb@ganja.com







Talking Drum

Access All Areas

From a humble base in Kentish Town Road, 'Access All Areas' spans an extensive network throughout underground party culture and it's players. Serving the scene since the spring of 1999 they cover every aspect of party and festival making and their enjoyment. This is done through



the H.Q. combination of 'Trackheadz' record shop with 'Access All Areas' and, most importantly, a considerably informative and comprehensive website. Imagine all the creativity, craft and skills among the people in the Techno and Trance culture. A taste of this was experienced by Amin when doing party network stalls at parties since 1994 under the banners of Club Alien Network, Restless Natives Network and Trancentral Network.

Having established connections with many people in the scene, he felt there was room for a forum outside of the actual parties. Access All Areas was started with it's own space in the back of Dragon Discs record shop in Camden during the spring of 1999. The combination of Access All Areas with a record shop has always been important and has attracted many people to what has become a popular resource as a whole. Following the closure of Dragon Discs, the only way forward was to find a new space and incorporate a record shop under its framework.

Trackheadz provides an ever expanding range of techno, acid techno, trance, psy-trance, hard house, d and b, electronica and hard-core, with everything being available on the online stall.

The space in Camden has provided the opportunity to continue to expand the skills and services register and to give information, encourage creativity, drug awareness, sharing ideas and other community based things. Craft work made by individuals continues to be important and is all available on the online stall. The combination of an online record shop with an online party stall also allows DJ's and other creative people, up and coming in music, to find a place to make their music or mix tapes available online and for new labels to find an outlet for their releases. The website, as well as the online shop, also includes extensive party and festival listings and other information. Forever active, Access All Areas put on the main dance area at this years cannabis festival.

Checkout their website at onlinestall.com

SCRAP Records

Active on the underground for many years now, the Dirty Squatters collective continues to flourish with SCRAP Record's acts, DSG AND Juan Zero in

action and in a stoney style on the Pirate TV stage at this years Legalize Cannabis festy in Brockwell Park. Arising from the free festival scene, SCRAP (Sub Cultural Radical Arts Productions) is the central creative channel of a worldwide network of bands, DJ's, rigs, performers and artists. "Bolt-croppers and crowbars are a way of life to the homeless and travelling community. Sounds, art and

jackonories are created on the road as well as the homes, buses and studios." Original members, loveable rogues and hardcore punksters, 2000DS started off in a field full of renegade travellers being chased and pushed around the UK in 1987. At a time when techno and ecstasy hadn't quite reached the teenagers and live music was still thriving in the free festival and squat scene. Moving on into the London squat scene, keeping the traveller style and attitude, things have evolved and mutated into what they are today. Including bands and artists with a broad spectrum of sounds from punk, through hip-hop, d+b and dance, SCRAP both release music and put on live shows. Always supporting the cannabis freedom



cause, in 2001 they released the POTWOW EP (Prisoners of the War on Weed) to help raise funds for Mark who was serving a six-year sentence in Morocco for smuggling cannabis.

A very comprehensive web-site, dirtysquatters.com, pulls the whole thing together giving out loads of information and includes an on-line shop.

Flowers in the street

Certainly adding to the pleasure of wandering amongst the abundant delights of Haight-Ashbury, that area of San Francisco of 1960's infamy, is the floral work of self styled 'human extraordinaire', James Becket. All along the upper Haight he has created beautiful flower gardens as dedications to people who have moved us and brought great joy, such as Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jerry Garcia.

An eccentrically dressed character, who also does a wicked Elvis impression, James describes himself as "...an Indian who respects Mother Earth." How he would like "to bring back a lot of the plant life that was taken away because of these



buildings and the pavements that we walk on, to bring back the beautiful spirit of Mother Earth to help heal the people. We're going through these difficult times and we need this touch of benevolence, and dedication, and meditation." Each dedication is a lovingly created and well kept patch of colourful flowers complete with a collage of psychedelic artwork, photographs and articles relating to that person. With a purpose of refreshing the Haight through love, joy and harmony, the healing power of flowers, just like the song's gentle people with flowers in their hair, is bringing benevolence and respectability to Haight Street. James tells how "...people from around the world admire and respect the dignity of each flower garden with respect to who it's for with the understanding that these people gave us joy when they were alive. You know like Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jerry Garcia, they brought us joy and gave us humanity at it's best." All the dedications are to people who "...made big differences through life, love and music. It means a lot to me to show people that there is respectability in the world and that somebody can make a difference. That's what I'm doing with the flowers, I'm making a difference in everybody's life."



Always dedicated to big impact people, one garden embraces both Bob Marley and Martin Luther King together on one plaque, which looks particularly nice. A long list of participants has included Freddy Mercury, John Lee Hooker, Ken Kesey, Timothy Leary and the artist's mum. With plans for future dedications to Linda McCartney, Billie Holiday and Judy Garland, the healing power of the flowers will continue to refresh not just Haight Street and San Francisco but humanity itself.



Barking & Dagenham Yellow Advertiser
Thursday 29. May 2003

Cannabis 'farmer' faces long jail term

A PAINTER who transformed a council flat into a sophisticated 'cannabis factory' capable of producing more than £200,000 worth of skunk weed each year faces years behind bars.

Police raided an 11th floor flat in Peveral House, Stour Road, Dagenham in October last year, and found 37-year-old Mitchell Parry surrounded by hundreds of cannabis plants.

But Parry, of Colne House, Harts Lane, Barking, denied dealing in drugs, claiming that the vast quantities of skunk were for his own personal use.

He told Snaresbrook Crown Court that he was a 'heavy user' and smokes up to three ounces of cannabis a week.

Parry claimed that he was only going to use 72 of the plants and would throw away the rest, which he had grown as 'insurance' in case the others failed to harvest.

Rejecting this during a special Newton hearing (a hearing where the defendant has admitted to the crime but says there are special mitigating circumstances not

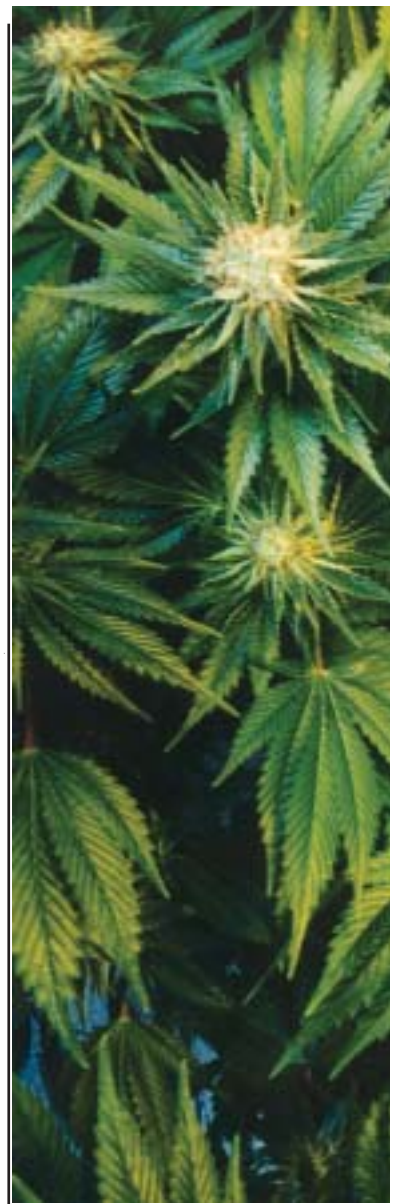
agreed by the prosecution) last Thursday, Judge Alan Simmons said: "It was ludicrous for him to suggest that he would go there every day, feed the plants and spend a lot of money for him to keep only 72 of the plants and throw away 300 of the remaining."

During the search officers found 396 grams of cannabis which had been laid out to dry in the tumble dryer, the hallway and the airing cupboard.

Parry, who had carried out the complex operation by bypassing the electricity meter, was arrested and admitted to spending £4,000 of his own money on the equipment to grow cannabis for his own consumption.

He pleaded guilty to cultivating cannabis and abstracting electricity. One charge of possessing a controlled Class B drug with intent to supply is to be left on file.

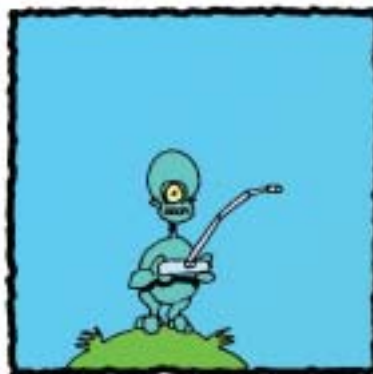
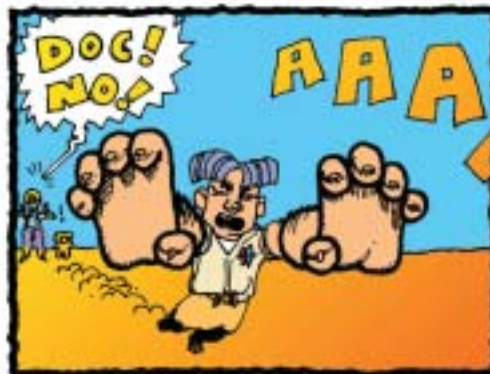
He was remanded in custody and sentence was adjourned to June 17 while reports are prepared.



THE BUSH DOCTOR

HE TREATS ALL KNOWN AILMENTS WITH A SPLIFF!

R.C.V
GA-GA! IV



Bexley Borough Mercury
Wednesday 21. May 2003

Cannabis factory: man gets a 10-year prison sentence

A MAN who set up a factory with the potential to grow £100,000 worth of cannabis in a house in Erith was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment last Wednesday.

Unemployed Thang Van Le, 43, of Ryan Close, Ferrier Estate in Kidbrooke, was sentenced to six years for the production of cannabis and four years for the abstraction of £4,000 worth of electricity over a three-month period. The sentences will run concurrently.

Police say Le brought in £20,000 worth of special 'hydroponic' equipment to grow the drug in the five-bedroom detached house in Pleasant View when he began renting it last July.

As the plants grown were capable of producing 10kg of cannabis per harvest and there were three

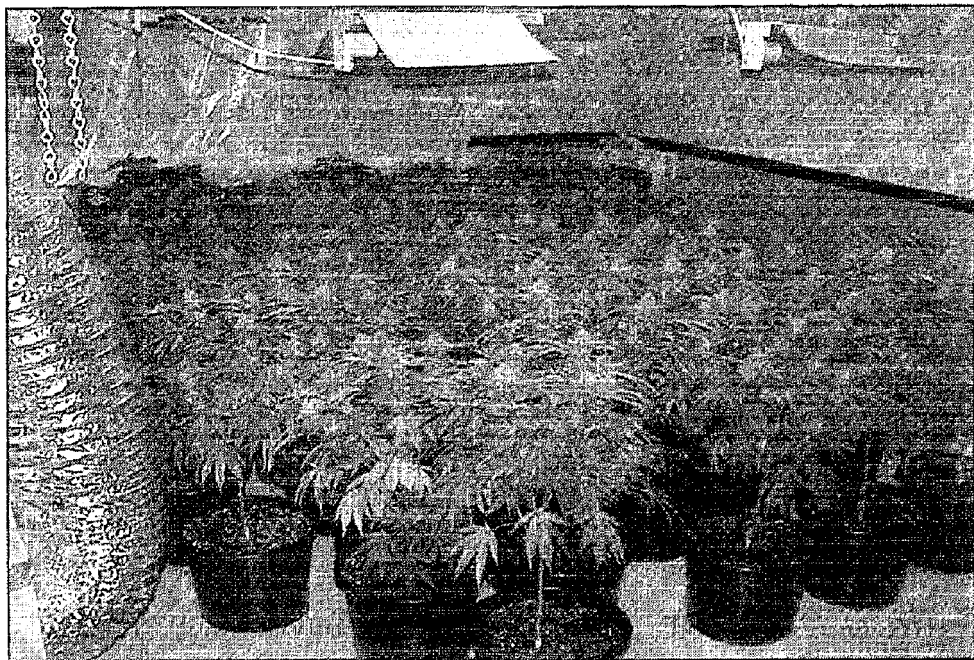
By MANDY LITTLE

or four harvests a year, police estimated his crop would have a street value of £100,000.

Officers from Plumstead's drug squad raided the property on October 2 last year and have now confiscated Le's equipment, which will be donated to local horticultural charities.

Detective Tina Knightsbridge, from Greenwich police, said: "I hope this sentence demonstrates to anyone else out there who is producing or is thinking of producing drugs, the consequences of doing so."

Police are urging anyone with any information on the production of drugs to contact them on 020-8284 9818.



Some of the plants found in one of the rooms in the house in Pleasant View

7698/M

Mayo News
Wednesday 28. May 2003

Probation report on man found with cannabis for 114 cigarettes

A MAN found in possession of cannabis resin, sufficient to make 114 cigarettes, has had his case adjourned to allow for the preparation of a probation report. Garda Aiden Foley said the matter related to an incident on Friday 19th July 2002 at 1.30a.m, when a house in the Lough Mask area of Ballinrobe was searched by himself and Garda Ryder. During the search, the defendant, David Coyne, Mill Park, Cornamóna, Galway was present.

On searching him under the Misuse of Drugs Act, a package containing a resinous substance was found in his right hand trouser pocket. Mr. Coyne admitted that it was cannabis. It was analysed

by forensics in Dublin which confirmed it was cannabis resin, sufficient to make 114 hand-rolled cigarettes.

Mr. Coyne was very co-operative on the night. He said he had purchased the cannabis in Galway, from a person unknown.

Replying to Judge Devins, Garda Foley said he was satisfied the cannabis was for Mr. Coyne's own use. "It was in his pocket. It wasn't exposed. I believe he had just bought some of it. He was going leaving for Amsterdam some weeks later and I believe this was going to be a farewell party for him."

Mr. Michael McDarby, defending solicitor, said the

incident was totally out of character. Mr. Coyne had no previous convictions. He knew it is wrong and was wrong.

Judge Mary Devins asked Mr. Coyne how long he had been in Amsterdam and whether he had taken drugs while there.

He replied he was there for three months and had not taken drugs.

Judge Devins asked him did he realise what it would mean to any further travelling plans of his if she was to record a drug conviction. He replied he did.

Judge Devins said she would like a probation report in respect of Mr. Coyne. She adjourned the case to 1st July next.

Brentford Chiswick & Isleworth Times
Friday 23. May 2003

Drug possession

FOR a number of motoring offences and possession of drugs, a man had been threatened with prison at Feltham court when remanded for reports.

Sean Hayes, aged 36, of Holly Parade, Feltham, appeared last week in custody after admitting driving while banned, no insurance, failing to answer bail and possession of cannabis at Browells Lane, Feltham, on January 6th.

Magistrates were told that there was no report available on

these cases but were offered one from another court on other offences. They were told he had been banned for two years and was seen speeding in the street in a Volkswagen Golf.

At the time he gave a false name and address but a passport was found in his car and his real name and address came to light.

The bench was told that he was on bail to another court where he had admitted offences and was on a Drugs Testing and Treatment Order and the charges were referred to that court.

Sussex Express (Lewes & Ringmer)
Friday 23. May 2003

Cannabis worth £4m seized in port swoop

CUSTOMS officers found cannabis worth £4 million in a lorry as it left the cross-Channel ferry from Dieppe at Newhaven Harbour.

About 1,400kg of cannabis resin, which had been shrink-wrapped into pellets, was found hidden behind piles of ceramic tiles at lunchtime on Saturday.

The discovery follows the introduction of a new system whereby passengers call an honesty line to declare excess goods. Instead of permanent Customs officers, roving teams now patrol the south coast and make swoops based on intelligence and tip-offs.

'New methods'

Graham Hooker, Customs head of detection for the South, said: "This was an excellent detection by one of the new Customs mobile teams. It clearly demonstrates the importance of our new methods of working."

"We are very pleased to have stopped this quantity of drugs from entering the UK."

The lorry driver was arrested and interviewed by Customs officers and later released on bail.

The seizure is the latest in a series of large hauls in Newhaven. In March, Customs seized more than 3.5 million contraband cigarettes and in September last year 133,500 ecstasy tablets with a street value of £2 million were found on a freight lorry from Germany.

The Scotsman
Monday 2. June 2003

QC calls for legalisation of all drugs

Findlay says politicians posturing

ANDREW DENHOLM

A LEADING Scottish criminal lawyer yesterday called for the legalisation of all drugs.

Donald Findlay QC said legalising narcotics such as heroin, cocaine and cannabis was the only way to "break the link" between users and dealers.

The advocate also attacked politicians and the Scottish Executive for failing to get to grips with the problem of drug abuse, accusing them of fostering a "tough on crime" image rather than looking for radical solutions.

However, politicians last night hit back at Mr Findlay, describing him as "irresponsible".

The Executive also denied Mr Findlay's claims, pointing to a raft of recent policies to tackle drug abuse.

Mr Findlay, who last week attacked the Executive's policy on crime, said: "Drugs is a huge issue and there is no question that what drugs do to families and communities is the biggest problem that we have had in recent years, and it is a problem that politicians just will not

tackle.

"Since the mid-1980s we have had drug offences. It is now more than 20 years on and the problem is continuing to grow.

"From the law's point of view, there has to be much more effort to break the cycle, and I really think we should be having a proper look at legalising drugs. You have got to try something to get people away from the dealers."

Mr Findlay said simply decriminalising cannabis did not go far enough.

He said: "If you are going to look at it sensibly, I think you say the proposition has to be that we simply legalise them all and argue from that standpoint, unless you can find good reason not to legalise particular drugs, as opposed to saying, 'let's try cannabis and see how we get on with that'."

Mr Findlay, one of Scotland's most high-profile criminal lawyers, went on to call for drug use to be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal matter.

"People have always taken drugs since Moses was a boy, so surely it is better to control and look after people's health and well-being, rather than simply punishing those who break the law and provide minimal help for those who want help to get away from their addiction.

"The law is as it was 20 years ago and I have thought for a

long time that we have to improve the resources available to help people with drug problems."

Annabel Goldie, the justice spokeswoman for the Scottish Conservative Party, said the problem was not politicians talking tough, but the failure of courts to "act tough".

She said: "For the past six years, we have had mixed messages from the Executive on drugs rather than concerted action, a simple message and being tough on those who deal in death."

"The problem is not politicians talking tough, it is the justice system failing to put tough action into practice."

Michael Matheson, the deputy justice spokesman for the SNP, insisted legalising all drugs would send the wrong message to society.

He said: "It would be irresponsible to legalise all drugs, but there is a clear need for political consensus on the issue."

"The Executive needs to find a common approach so the problem of drug misuse is tackled effectively, and I don't believe

that is happening at the moment."

However, a spokesman for the Executive said drug misuse was seen as one of the most serious problems facing Scotland and was therefore a "top priority" for ministers.

"Our drugs strategy covers prevention, education, treat-

ment and care, and balances enforcement measures with action to reduce demand," he said.

"We are supporting better drug education for children, police action to target the

dealers, help for many more drug mis-users to beat their addiction and new ideas like drug courts, which tackle the link between drugs and crime."

Last week, Mr Findlay launched a broadside at the Executive's crime policy, accusing it of underfunding both the police and the courts.

He said politicians "talked tough" on crime to win votes, but then failed to deliver because other spending priorities, such as health and education, were more popular with voters.



Donald Findlay: Drug abuse 'should be a health issue'



Brighton Evening Argus
Friday 6. June 2003

Father set up cannabis factory at cottage

A FAILED entrepreneur set up a cannabis factory at his cottage home after losing his savings in a business deal.

Father-of-four Adrian Smith, 38, of Westergate Street, Westergate, claimed he had been growing the plants as an experiment.

Smith broke down in tears at Worthing Magistrates Court yes-

terday after admitting cultivating cannabis.

Police officers executed a search warrant at his home at 11.20am on Wednesday. They found cannabis seeds in the dining room and plants in the garden.

Officers also found plants organised in rows on the garage floor under special lighting.

Peter Lytle, prosecuting, said: "In their opinion the set-up has all the appearance of a commercial growing system."

When Smith was interviewed by police, he told them the cannabis was for his own use only.

The court heard Smith, a diabetic who suffers from depression, was separated from his wife but

still had contact with his children.

Soheila Richardson, defending, said: "This was a one-off experiment. He has never sold any cannabis."

Chairman of the bench Lilian Holdsworth adjourned sentencing until June 26 for a scientists' report on the value of the plants. Smith was granted bail.

Boston Globe (USA)
Monday 2. June 2003

Cellucci warns Canada on marijuana

Says law change would force US to hike security

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORCESTER — US Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci says he has told Canadian leaders that their proposal to decriminalize marijuana for personal use would result in much tighter security along its 5,500-mile border with the United States.

More vehicles would be stopped and searched at crossing checkpoints that already have

high security, the former Massachusetts governor told The Telegram and Gazette of Worcester.

"If the perception is that it's easier to get marijuana in, then some border officials' antennas will be up," Cellucci said. "We don't think it's a good thing, and there will probably be more inspections."

The amount of Canadian-grown marijuana being found in drug busts is on the rise in Massachusetts and other states, Cellucci said.

Canadian lawmakers last week proposed a new marijuana law that would eliminate a criminal record for possession of marijuana

in small amounts while spending millions on a campaign against use of the drug.

Under the measure introduced in Parliament, getting caught with 15 grams — about half an ounce — or less of marijuana would bring a citation akin to a traffic ticket, not a criminal record. Possession of marijuana would remain illegal, and the maximum sentence for illegal growers would be increased by double to 14 years in prison.

Cellucci's expression of US positions toward its largest trading partner have been more vocal than many previous ambassadors. This year he publicly accused Prime Minister Jean Chretien's

government of deserting the United States by not supporting the war on Iraq.

Traditionally, many ambassadors to Canada have seen their roles as largely ceremonial.

"He is markedly different. His predecessors have really been a shadow of American foreign policy, whereas Mr. Cellucci has really been an evangelist of sorts, and much stronger," said Rob M. McGowan, editor of Politics Canada, the country's biggest independent political website.

"It's definitely tempered by diplomacy," McGowan said. "You might not agree with what he says, but at least he says it directly."

Woking Informer Friday 30. May 2003

DOPE FACTORY

Demolition worker had kilogram of cannabis

by Court Reporter

A MAN found with more than a kilogram of cannabis and £13,000 when police raided his Woking home claimed it was all for his own use, a court was told last week.

James Fleming, who also had a

cannabis factory in his loft, told police the cash had been 'saved up' over many years to avoid paying tax.

Fleming, 44, of Waterer Road, Knaphill, was fined £5,000 after admitting four counts of possession of Class B and Class A drugs and one count of production, at Guildford Crown Court on Friday.

Prosecuting, Greg Tee, said Fleming claimed that as a demolition worker, he was always paid in cash and wanted to avoid paying tax.

Mr Tee said: "He accounted for the large sum of cash by saying he had saved it up for many years."

As well as 922 grammes of cannabis,

Fleming was found to possess 120 seeds, amphetamines and a small quantity of ecstasy.

Defending, Alex Meylin said Fleming had admitted possession of the drugs and production of cannabis and had always maintained it was for recreational use and not for economic benefit.

Sentencing him, Judge Michael Addison said: "You claim to have avoided paying tax all these years. It seems to me that you have avoided spending the money also."

"I reject the suggestion that you are in need of help for your cannabis addiction. Cannabis is not addictive. All you need to do is to stop."

Hastings & St Leonards Observer Friday 30. May 2003

Gran's anger at park pot smoker

by Lee Gibbs

A GRANDMOTHER who reported to police a man smoking cannabis in front of 60 children play-

ing in Alexandra Park was disgusted when officers failed to show.

Patricia Lloyd, 53, of Marina, spent most of Bank Holiday Monday supervising her four-year-old

grandson Oliver in the new play area when a man sat on a bench next to her.

Just minutes later, she was stunned to see him roll a cannabis joint and start smoking it in front of the youngsters and his own child.

Recognising the man was not a cigarette, she tactfully walked away and called police from her mobile phone, thinking it was not suitable behaviour in a playground full of small children.

But over an hour and a half after being told an officer would be sent, Mrs Lloyd was still waiting and she is angry and frustrated with police for not calling her back.

Mrs Lloyd, who had been in the park since 9am entertaining her grandson, said: "It doesn't bother me but I don't think this is very nice in an area with lots of children. I'm a smoker and there were others smoking but we were careful not to blow our smoke near the children. Anyway, it is different with cannabis."

"I called police at 12.45pm who said they would send someone but I was still waiting at 2.15pm when he went. The least police could have done was inform me of what was going on."

A Hastings Police spokesman said: "We did a search of the area but could not find a man matching the description given. Obviously this is an incident we were very interested in and once it was possible a car was sent."

LEFT, PATRICIA Lloyd H22528



Jackass star free

JACKASS star Stephen Glover has been freed after being held last week on suspicion of drug smuggling.

Glover - Steve-O in the TV stunt show - was released by a court in Stockholm after accepting a fine of £3,700.

Police raided his hotel room after he claimed to a newspaper and on his website that he had swallowed a condom filled with marijuana.

Glover, 28, admitted having an ecstasy pill and smoking pot. He said the condom story was a joke.

The People
Sunday 1. June 2003

Backpacker on drug rap

A BRITISH backpacker who has been in jail for six months in India has finally been charged with drug smuggling.

Daisy Angus, 22, will go on trial in December accused of trying to take 22lb of cannabis through Bombay airport in a suitcase.

The fitness instructor from Bournemouth faces a minimum 10 years. She claims she was duped into carrying the case.

San Jose Mercury News (USA) Thursday 5. June 2003



scottherhold

'Guru's' tirade on marijuana earns respect

The "Guru of Ganja," marijuana grower Ed Rosenthal, is an unprepossessing guy with a pug nose, a gray suit, a slight belly. He looks like an accountant. But put a microphone before him and he buries any concept of Mahatma Gandhi.

Twenty minutes after U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer let him off Wednesday with a \$1,000 fine and a day's jail sentence for marijuana growing, a red-faced Rosenthal denounced the judge, calling him corrupt and demanding his resignation.

Then he went on to undermine the medicinal marijuana defense that his lawyers and supporters had so carefully constructed for him.

"The federal government makes no distinction between medical marijuana and any other kind of marijuana," he said before a crowd of supporters in a parking lot across the street from the federal building in San Francisco.

"They're right. All marijuana should be legal!"

Just for good measure, he insulted the people working in the courthouse. "This has become the harm center of San Francisco," he shouted.

A little respect

I say you have to respect a man like this. Not like him, but respect him. Yes he's intemperate. Yes, he's unfair. Yes, he's full of himself. But he has the quality of being unyielding — and maybe that's what was needed in this particularly silly case. *You wanna prosecute me? Fine. Bring it on.*

To understand his role, you have to know the stakes: To his lawyers and supporters, this case was about the right of a decent man in Oakland who followed a city ordinance that let him provide marijuana to sick people.

To legal scholars, it was a contest between the anti-drug Bush administration, which brought the case, and California Proposition 215, the medicinal marijuana initiative.

But those battles were only the surface warfare. What was going on in Judge Breyer's 19th-floor courtroom No. 8 Wednesday morning was a huge salvo aimed at decriminalizing marijuana — and maybe even making it effectively legal.

That salvo goes well beyond medicinal marijuana. I don't doubt there are ill people who genuinely benefit from pot. One of the most remarkable features of Rosenthal's case was that a cadre of the jurors who convicted him on federal charges of cultivating more than 100 plants showed up Wednesday on his behalf, still irritated that they had not been allowed to hear evidence of how Rosenthal helped the sick.

But the feds, for all their overzealousness in bringing this case, have this much right: There's a slippery slope between making marijuana available medically and making marijuana available, period.

Would a woman with severe back problems benefit from a toke every now and then? Well, maybe. Would she like it even after her back stops hurting? Why not?

Inverness Courier (Tuesday) Tuesday 27. May 2003

Drugs cache uncovered in city grannie's imported furniture

A DOPE-DEALING Hilton grannie was caught with £55,000-worth of rare cannabis resin imported from India, the High Court in Inverness was told.

Penelope Gore (41), took delivery of 11 kilos of the Kashmir Brown resin on behalf of a major drug dealer who she knew in the Highlands but refused to name.

The consignment of cannabis was intercepted by chance during a random check by Customs officers at Heathrow Airport.

The drugs were hidden within two furniture cabinets addressed to Gore's Inverness home at Dell Road.

Advocate Depute Hugh Irwin said Customs's suspicions were raised as the packages, marked from a business called Hi Design in India, appeared much heavier than they should for two cabinets of their size.

Holes were drilled into the pieces of furniture and resin was found. Northern Constabulary were called following the discovery on 24th April last year.

They decided the packages should continue to be

flown to their destination of DHL International Couriers base in Inverness, and Gore was asked to collect them from there.

The following day she arrived at the premises on Harbour Road and was kept under observation by drug squad officers for 30 miles through a number of country roads.

The advocate depute said the police had hoped Gore would be meeting her contact, but stopped her after concerns about the routes she was taking.

Within the two cabinets, officers found 111 bars of cannabis resin described by experts as high quality Kashmir Brown.

"This was a relatively rare type to be found in this country," Mr Irwin told the court.

First offender Gore, who admitted being concerned in the supplying of cannabis last April, was to be paid £2200 for her role in the drug deal, the court heard.

Her counsel, solicitor advocate Murray McAra, said Gore had suffered depression following her arrest and has not worked in her employment as a temp for an agency since the offence.

Mr McAra said his client had been approached by "a major player" in the drug scene — someone who she

knew and refused to name — and agreed to take delivery of the drugs.

He added Gore did not devise the scheme, did not purchase the cannabis resin in India and was not to be involved in their on-wards distribution.

Judge Lord Kirkwood said she played an intricate role in the chain of distribution and called for background reports. He deferred sentence until 13th June and remanded Gore in custody.

The court earlier accepted pleas of not guilty to charges of producing cannabis, possessing cannabis and possessing cannabis resin.

Financial Times
Saturday 31. May 2003

Politicians and property prices lay siege to Copenhagen hippies

By Clare MacCarthy
in Copenhagen

Less than a kilometre away from Copenhagen's austere parliamentary complex, the 1,000 residents of Europe's last bastion of flower-power idealism are living on borrowed time.

The self-styled "Free Town" of Christiania, a former military barracks in the heart of the city, is a lively community hosting eclectic individuals, wacky architecture and a libertarian ethos reminiscent of the freewheeling days when "peace and love" was a political slogan.

But that is about to change, as Denmark's centre-right government plans to close it down because of concerns over drug pushing.

"It's a town within a town where lawlessness rules and hash is freely traded," said Lene Espersen, the justice minister.

Her ministerial colleague from the department of defence said: "The experiment has failed."

The village is home to a

score of thriving businesses including an award-winning restaurant (the Eating Flea), a top-notch concert hall (Bob Dylan played here) and a workshop producing exquisite handcrafted bicycles for export.

But Christiania, on land owned by the department of defence, is also home to northern Europe's most open marketplace for cannabis.

Its central thoroughfare — Pusher Street — contains more than a dozen market stalls with everything from hash cookies to ready-made marijuana cigarettes on open display and sale.

Ministers say the hash stalls on Pusher Street will be bulldozed. Buildings lacking planning permission will be demolished and roads built in what is now a leafy car-free zone. Recreational areas will be established for the benefit of the outside community and some 300 homes will be built for new residents.

Christiania's residents are appalled. They fear that their unique way of life is

facing extinction and say the crackdown is not just about cannabis. Christiania's 34-hectare site is one of Copenhagen's most valuable open spaces.

Sites on an adjacent former military area, Holmen, have been sold off by the government to developers of luxury waterfront apartment buildings. One such 10,000 square metre site fetched Dkr60m (\$9.6m, €8m, £5.8m).

"Property prices around here are exploding and Christiania would be a goldmine for developers," said Peter Plett, another resident.

Christiania, however, will not be giving in without a fight. Residents have planned an unprecedented open day in June when outsiders can visit their homes, businesses and kindergartens. "People will see that we're real people with real families in real homes and not just a bunch of hippies," said one resident.

With Christiania's estimated 1m visitors a year, rivalling the Little Mermaid statue as Copenhagen's most

popular tourist attraction, the residents may find they can muster a lot of support.

And not just from tourists. One recent Gallup poll said 75 per cent of Copenhageners did not want the place to close down.

www.ft.com/europe



Freewheeling families: one of the bikes made at Christiania Rex

Jersey Weekly Post
Thursday 29. May 2003

Drugs haul

FIVE men appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Tuesday in relation to a police seizure over the weekend of £250,000 worth of cannabis and £20,000 in cash. Mark Ormesher (34), a non-resident from Liverpool, and Paul McEvoy (43), a non-resident from Yorkshire, have been charged with being concerned with the importation of cannabis. David Bentley (36), and Mark Rowles (25), were charged with possession of cannabis with intent to supply. All four were remanded in custody. Tony Spinola (25), is charged with possession and supply of cannabis resin and was given bail of £2,000. All five reserved their pleas. A 37-year-old woman from Rugby and a 39-year-old man from Liverpool, who were also arrested during the operation, have been released pending further inquiries.

The Journal (Newcastle / Tyne)
Friday 30. May 2003

Diamond lives of drug pair

Pusher is jailed for 33 months

By Hilary Clixby

A COUPLE bought gold and diamond jewellery worth £30,000 with money made from drug deals.

Unemployed Jason McElderry sported a Rolex watch worth £2,350, a £1,025 gold chain, £450 bracelet and a £5,000 diamond solitaire Rolex ring, Newcastle Crown Court heard.

His wife Diane, a part-time supermarket worker, owned a £3,000 gold bracelet containing 52 diamonds, a £750 gold bracelet, earrings worth £2,700 and £1,900, and a necklet set containing 112 diamonds, which was worth £6,750.

The couple also enjoyed exotic holidays, fitted their flat in Byland Road, Longbenton, North Tyneside, with a £10,000 kitchen and £3,500 bedroom and drove a £15,000 Volkswagen Golf.

But they face losing the lot after being trapped in an undercover police investigation. A forfeiture and confiscation hearing in July, brought

by Northumbria Police, will determine whether any of the McElderrys' assets can be seized.

Det Sgt Steve Dunn said: "It was apparent this couple was living a lifestyle that far exceeded their legitimate income and this formed a large part of the case against them."

Jason McElderry, 33, was jailed yesterday for two years and nine months after admitting supplying class B drugs and possession of class B drugs with intent to supply.

His wife, 35, was ordered to do 240 hours community service after she admitted assisting her husband retain the proceeds of drug trafficking.

John Taylor, 30, of Stonechat Place, Longbenton, admitted possessing class B drugs with intent to supply and was given 240 hours community service.

A youth, 17, was given a 12-month supervision order and 120 hours community service after admitting involvement in supply of Class B drugs.

When officers arrested the four in May last year, cannabis resin worth £10,000 to £14,000 was found at Taylor's home.

Dominion Post (New Zealand)
Thursday 29. May 2003

Marijuana laws to be liberalised

■ CANADA

THE Canadian Government has overridden objections from the United States and police groups and introduced legislation to end criminal penalties for the possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Under the bill, people caught with 15 grams (enough for about 15 to 30 "joints") or less of cannabis would only be fined and criminal penalties would be reduced for those growing up to 25 marijuana plants.

"We have to ask ourselves as a society, does it make sense that a person who makes a bad choice can receive the lasting burden of a criminal conviction?" Justice Minister Martin Cauchon said.

"A criminal conviction can limit career opportunities and make travel to other countries difficult. These factors, coupled with the possibility of a jail sentence, amount to sanctions that are disproportionate."

He said police would have more resources to go after big growing operations, flourishing especially in British Columbia and Quebec, and maximum penalties would be increased for big growers.

But Canadian Police Association executive officer David Griffin said police would have nowhere near enough resources to address the ris-

ing supply and said with no minimum sentences the courts would still be able to let growers off lightly.

US anti-drug czar John Walters has warned that implementing this law, which the government hopes to pass by the end of the year, could force a clampdown at the US border and thus potentially hurt the world's richest trading relationship.

A dozen US states, however, have already decriminalised the possession of small amounts.

For 15 grams to 30 grams, the Canadian bill would give police the discretion of handing out a fine or pressing for a summary conviction which, as at present, could result in up to six months in jail.

Randy White, of the Canadian Alliance, the biggest and most conservative opposition party in Parliament, said he had been prepared to support decriminalisation of five grams, but he said 15 grams to 30 grams would raise questions of the person's intent.

"If you're talking about someone carrying 50 to 60 joints with them, I'd hardly call that minor personal possession," he said.

Some backbench members of the governing Liberal Party have also raised questions about the bill, but the opposition Bloc Quebecois and the New Democratic Party favour decriminalisation. — Reuters

Sussex Express (Newhaven & Peacehaven)
Friday 23. May 2003

Police swoop on drugs factory

UP to 400 cannabis plants were seized at two flats in Claremont Road, Seaford.

Police raided Chichester Lodge on Sunday afternoon and found equipment being used to grow the haul, estimated to have a street value of around £5,000.

Detective Constable Mick Baldwin said the drugs factory consisted of high voltage heating lamps used for cannabis propagation.

He added: "It was a sizable seizure that we found as a result of intelligence we received. Five kilos of cannabis

plants and one kilo of herbal cannabis was seized from one flat and 1.5 kilos of plants and four ounces of herbal cannabis at the other.

Two men, aged 36 and 37, were arrested on suspicion of producing the class B drug and later released on bail.

The Guardian
Thursday 29. May 2003

Smoking ban could close cannabis cafés

Andrew Osborn

For the Netherlands' famous network of cannabis-peddling coffee shops the high times could be about to be stubbed out — for good.

A tough new anti-smoking law due to take effect from January of next year is about to turn the Dutch work place into a smoke-free zone and coffee shops are not exempted.

Under the new law every company in the country must ensure that their employees are not exposed to tobacco smoke. Lighting up a joint in

one of 800 coffee shops therefore faces extinction from 2005.

Coffee shops will still be allowed to sell joints but their customers will have to go outside to smoke. Unsurprisingly the country's marijuana retailers are not pleased. "We might as well just shut up shop," Dick Langereis, the manager of two Amsterdam coffee shops, told the daily Trouw. "Just let them try and enforce this in the Hague, added a man called Gilbert who runs a coffee shop in the city of Nijmegen.

However a spokesman from

the Dutch health ministry told the Guardian that the law will be rigorously policed.

"Consumer authorities will carry out random spot checks," he said. "Coffee shops are just like any other companies — they will have to follow the law."

Customers could scarcely believe their ears yesterday. "They've got to be out of their minds," said Annemiek van Royan, a regular at the Kashmir Lounge in Amsterdam. "The best part is coming here to relax. It makes my day."

The first Dutch coffee shop opened in 1972 and although

cannabis is technically illegal its use and sale has been tolerated ever since. "The point of going to a coffee shop is to smoke," said Arjan Roskam, chairman of the union of cannabis retailers. Some have floated the idea of heated outdoor terraces to get round the ban.

"We only employ smokers," said Mr Langereis. "If you work for us you are a smoker and all our customers are smokers so this is just crazy."

Coffee shops had a turnover of €300m (£220m) in 1999, the latest year for which figures are available.

Connacht Tribune
Friday 23. May 2003

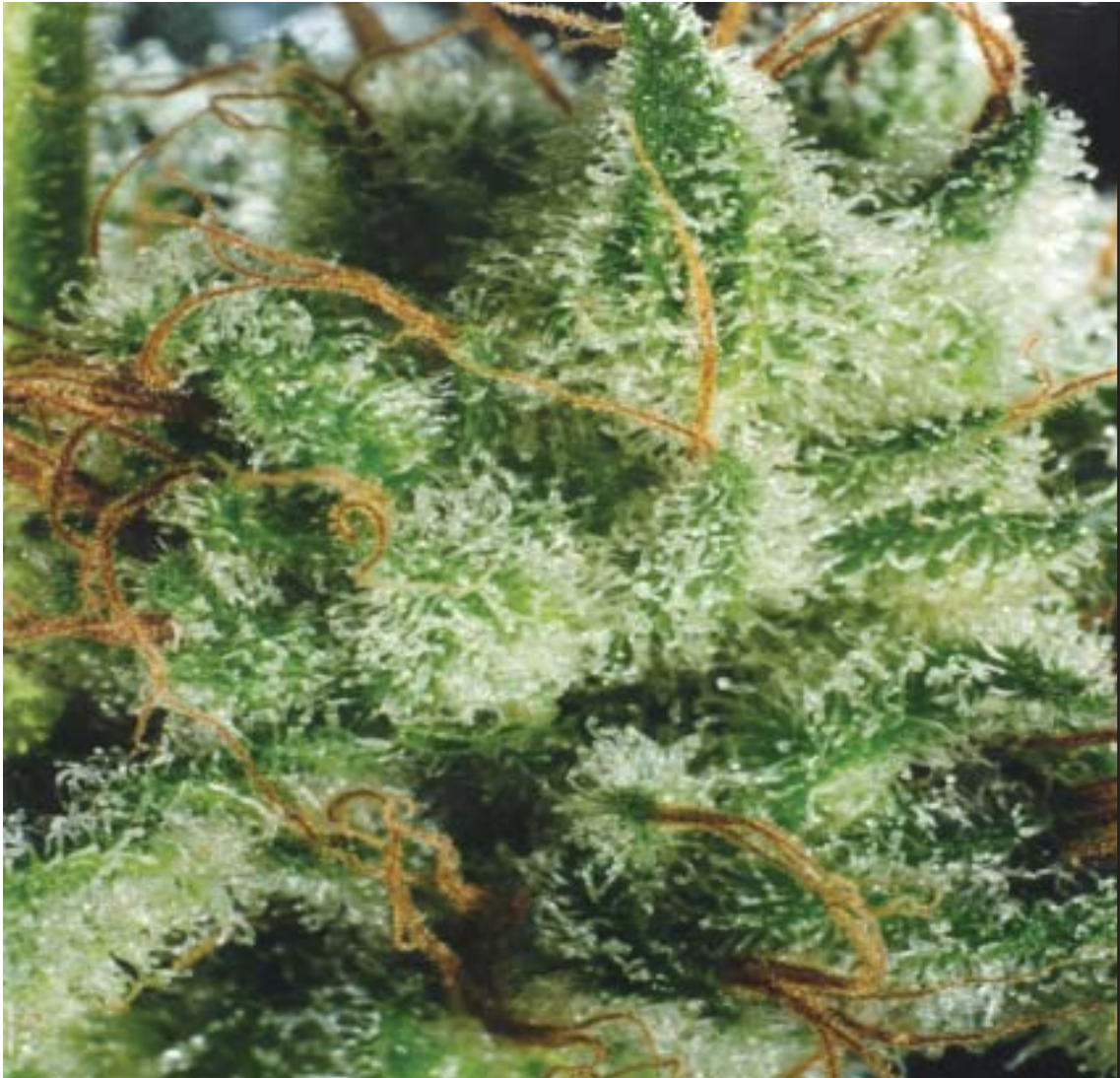
Fined €300 for having cannabis

A 20 year old with a second conviction under the misuse of drugs act was fined €300 at Loughrea court last week.

Dean Loughrey of Kilmeen, Loughrea, admitted possession of cannabis at Bohercom, Loughrea, on January 11.

Supt. Martin Lally told Judge Michael Reilly that the defendant had a previous conviction, as well as convictions for criminal damage and public order.

His solicitor, Mr. John Nash, told the court that only a very small amount of cannabis for his own use was involved.



Mayo News
Wednesday 21. May 2003

Cannabis find was sufficient for 12 cigarettes

A DISTRICT Court Judge has imposed a €200 fine on a Ballina man who was found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis resin when he was searched by a Garda Sergeant last year.

Philip O'Hora, of Hanvell House, Foxford Road, Ballina, pleaded guilty to a charge under the Misuse of Drugs Act when he appeared before **Judge Mary Devins** at Ballina District Court.

Inspector Willie Keaveney told the court that O'Hora was stopped by **Sgt. Joe Doherty** at Connolly Street, Ballina, at 3 a.m. on August 3rd last. He was searched and was found to be in possession of 1.272 gm of cannabis, which was sufficient to make 12 hand-rolled cigarettes. The defendant had no previous convictions.

Mr. O'Hora told the court that he had purchased the cannabis at a party some weeks previously. He apologised for his behaviour.

Judge Mary Devins imposed a fine of €200.

Bo'ness Journal
Friday 16. May 2003

POTTY ABOUT GARDENING

WHILE looking for a missing person, a police search team uncovered more than they bargained for when they visited a Bo'ness house.

A quick look in the greenhouse opened their eyes — for there sat 23 cannabis plants.

The story unfolded at Falkirk Sheriff Court last Thursday where 22-year-old **Jonathon Duployen** was appearing for sentence on two drugs charges.

Duployen, of Grange Terrace, Bo'ness, appeared in court on November 11 and admitted possession of controlled drug morphine in his home on September 7, 2001. It was said in court that it was his grandfather's medication.

The 23 cannabis plants were found in the greenhouse at his home the same day.

Solicitor **Gordon Addison** said: "The police came to my client's house about a missing person. They were looking around the house and grounds and discovered the plants in the greenhouse."

Sentence on Duployen had been deferred for six months and he was ordered to be of good behaviour until last week. Sheriff **Andrew Murphy** admonished him and said: "You are a very lucky young man — this is not the sentence I would have given you."

Barking & Dagenham Post
Wednesday 28. May 2003

Police smelled cannabis in car

OFFICERS stopped a car in Gosfield Road, Dagenham, and smelled cannabis smoke when they opened the door.

John Veitch, 33, was in a red Ford Escort when he was stopped on May 17.

A search of the car by officers uncovered cannabis resin and a bag of amphetamines, which Barking Court heard were for personal use.

Veitch, who lives in Silvertown with his girlfriend and three children, pleaded guilty to two counts of possession at the court last week.

He was fined £200 in total, and ordered to pay £118 costs.

Faversham News
Thursday 29. May 2003

Drug user's baby fear

A 23-YEAR-OLD man found in possession of cannabis told magistrates he was using the drug because he feared his unborn child could be handicapped.

Derek Philpott, of St Albans Road, Hersden, admitted his fourth offence of drug possession.

The bench heard he had been stopped in Canterbury by police who found one gram of the drug on him.

Philpott told magistrates the stress of his partner's pregnancy with a suspected Down's Syndrome baby was putting him under pressure.

He was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

Milford & West Wales Mercury
Thursday 29. May 2003

Depression drove man to smoke cannabis

A MARRIED father of four has admitted possession of cannabis, having previously been unable to attend court after suffering a heart attack.

Forty-one-year-old **Brian Michael Burnett** of Dewsland Street,

Milford Haven pleaded guilty to possessing 7.66 grams of cannabis resin, at Haverfordwest magistrates court this week.

Prosecuting, Mr **Nicholas Newton** told the court how police officers executed a search warrant at Burnett's house on May 9

and found cannabis resin and three cannabis reefers with a street value of £20.

Mr **Sean Dyer**, defending, said: "My client has suffered health problems including depression which led to him turning to alcohol and cannabis. Following his recent

health scare where he was rushed to hospital the day before his court case, he has been told he must change his whole lifestyle."

Burnett was fined £50 plus £55 costs and a destruction order was made for the drugs seized.

Galloway Gazette
Friday 23. May 2003

£60,000 cannabis haul

POLICE at the port of Stranraer recovered a quantity of herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of around £60,000 on Tuesday morning.

A 35 year-old woman with a London address has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to the seizure.

The Guardian Thursday 5. June 2003

Americas

Guru of ganja jailed for one day

The man described as the "guru of ganja" walked free from court in San Francisco yesterday after being given a one-day sentence for growing marijuana for medical use.

The sentence will be seen as a judicial slap in the face for the US attorney general, John Ashcroft, who has encouraged the FBI to pursue some growers. The prosecution had sought a five-year jail term.

Ed Rosenthal, 58, was also fined \$1000 (£650) by the judge, Charles Breyer. As he had already spent a day in custody, he was able to leave the court, to be greeted outside by about 200 supporters.

Mr Rosenthal was convicted in February of growing marijuana at a warehouse in Oakland, but the jury had not been told that he did so at the request of the city of Oakland and to produce marijuana for medical use.

When jurors learned of this, they urged a re-trial, which

the judge refused. But Judge Breyer made clear his views on the seriousness of the offence by giving a nominal sentence. Other medical marijuana growers in California have received five-year terms.

Allen StPierre, of the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said yesterday: "We celebrate the judge clearly weighing public opinion, compassion and pragmatism." It called into question the stiff sentences handed out to other medical marijuana growers.

California voted in 1996 to allow medical use of cannabis if prescribed by doctors.

Duncan Campbell, Los Angeles

Dover Express Thursday 29. May 2003

A GUITAR teacher who claimed to have used cannabis to relieve stress, has been fined £200. Paul Elvey, 48, of Park Avenue, appeared for sentence at Canterbury Crown Court on Friday, having pleaded guilty to possessing a small amount of resin and for allowing his premises to be used for smoking the drug.

Daily Mirror Saturday 31. May 2003

SMOKING HURTS MIND

TEENAGERS who smoke tobacco are more likely to have psychiatric problems than those who use cannabis, new research has shown.

Thirteen to 15-year-olds who regularly light up are over five times more likely to suffer depression and non-emotional disorders. Cannabis users only double their risk.

The study in today's British Journal of Psychiatry looked at 2,624 children.

By JILL PALMER

It concluded: "Having a psychiatric disorder was associated with an increased risk of substance use."

Another study found heavy smokers had poorer memories in middle age.

Two thousand were tested at 13, and again at 13. But it is far too far early to predict dementia, said researchers from University College London.

Daily Express Tuesday 3. June 2003



FLYING HOME: Anna Bartlett was released

Jailed Brit returns

A BRITISH woman jailed for life for smuggling drugs to the United Arab Emirates was flying home last night after being released.

Anna Bartlett, 24, of Southend, Essex, was convicted of smuggling cocaine and cannabis in

Sunday Herald (Glasgow) Sunday 1. June 2003

news of the world

And finally, the best of the rest

De Telegraaf

SMOKING is to be banned in Amsterdam's famous coffee shops where cannabis is sold without fear of prosecution. Under a new public smoking ban, coffee shops will still be able to sell joints but customers may have to go outside to smoke them. Holland's new national health guidelines, due to take effect from the start of next year, were aimed at second-hand smoke from tobacco, not marijuana. But they are also threatening the liberal Dutch drugs policy which attracts tourists from all over the world.

"The whole point of going to a coffee shop is to smoke," complained Arjan Roskam, chairman of the Union for Cannabis Retailers.

The head of the Dutch anti-smoking lobby, Clean Air Now, conceded that banning smoking in coffee shops was not the goal. But Willem van den Oetelaar still backed the move. "It's not our priority, but it is a good thing," he said. The Netherlands boasts around 800 cannabis cafes, the first of which was opened in 1972. The sale of marijuana remains officially illegal in the Netherlands, but its use has been decriminalised.

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