

# Soft Secrets®

Soft Secrets is published six times a year by Discover Publisher BV Netherlands - Issue 6 - 2003

Northern Lights #5 x Haze



Make your own  
**NEDERHASH**

Cannabis Ruderalis  
**A Rare Strain**

5 Pages  
**Readers Photos**

Hot Wives & Nasty Buds!

Readers Questionnaire  
**Win a Growing Cabinet!**  
And many more prizes...

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE! 80 PAGES!**



FROM THE EDITOR

The wonderful thing about being given a good excuse to trawl through the international developments in cannabis production, usage and policy is that there is such an extreme range of views encountered. And anomalies, paradoxes, prejudices, opinions, claims and counter claims, reports, commissions, conferences, symposia, medical and sociological studies. It never stops, and provided you're not currently facing a cannabis-related charge, it makes fascinating reading, by turns amusing, inspiring and depressing.

In the year that has passed since Soft Secrets launched in the UK, just dipping a toe into this endless torrent of events and news has consistently produced an amazing range of human drama and emotion. From the downright stupid to the most enlightened, from acts of self-sacrifice and bravery to the most mean-spirited and just plain vindictive – it was all there.

But what we make of all this information as individuals, smokers, growers, politicians, doctors, cops, parents, confused and curious adolescents – whatever - is what matters. This is where it gets interesting, but it's also where it gets hard.

Because what we make of all this really depends on factors rarely delved in to in 'the drugs debate'. They're the cultural and individual beliefs about what it means to be a human, about free will, reality and its transcendence or escape that create the individual lens through which we view not just cannabis but life.

It is challenging to question this messy 'operating system' of the psyche, but one thing we're sure of is that cannabis users are more willing and equipped to do so, not just than their opponents on the criminalisation debate, but the self-styled neutrals and fence-sitters. It's one of the reasons we smoke the damn stuff in the first place, and for better or worse, it should be a human right. It's as simple as that.

We live in a complex and information-rich world, but one full of natural and unnatural beauties, diversions and rewards. The right to hack this reality – Cognitive Freedom – to make of this weird shit what we will, is arguably the most fundamental right.

Of course the right to smoke is not the only issue Soft Secrets is devoted to exploring. Reading that the first AIDS patients to be offered legal medical weed – the stuff grown down the old coal mine – had pronounced Health Canada's government-approved marijuana "disgusting" and want their money back reminds us that helping you the readers to grow your own great quality weed is our 'prime directive'.

So do check out the questionnaire in this issue, tell us how we can do things better (and be eligible for some great prizes), and more entertainingly, tell us the issues you want to see raised, and let's all have a happy new year and a great growing season in 2004!



Soft Secrets UK  
1 Year!

Table of contents

From the editor	3
Page 3 girl	3
Dear Soft Secrets	5
News from the UKCIA	11
Product Flash	14
Review: Skunk power	15
Weekels indoor	17
Column Joe Kane	18
Report: Lowlands	21
Shop reviews UK	23
Grow with Bart B.	25
Background: Coffee shops	29
Weekels outdoor	33
Book reviews	36
Column dr. John Dee	38
Hot Wax	39
Pete Loveday	42
Grow with Soma	45
Column Fraser Clark	46
Review: Prescription Pot	46
Blow in the Philippines	49
Gaanj-1 Puzzle Page	51
New! Poster	53
Cannabis Ruderalis	55
DIY: NederHash	57
Shop reviews NL	59
Grow report Blueberry, part 2	61
Reader's questionnaire	65
Tobacco, part 2	66
Trimmed for you	67
Colofon	78
Index of ads	78

Page 3 Girl

MR. NICE G13 X HASH PLANT

The G13 is an outstanding pure Indica cutting reputedly discovered by the u.s. government research program in Mississippi. Crossed with the Hash Plant it produces one of the best indoor hybrids that, unfortunately, was last available in the late '80s. Several years ago the Sensi Seed Bank was very proud to put this hybrid into production again and to bring it on the market labeled as 'Mr. Nice'. This is in honour of Howard Marks. If you like a solid and resinous bud with a 'double Indica' hashish taste and aroma, it is time to go for the Mr. Nice G13 x Hash Plant.

Flowering: 60 days

Height: 100-130 cm.

Yield: up to 100 gr.

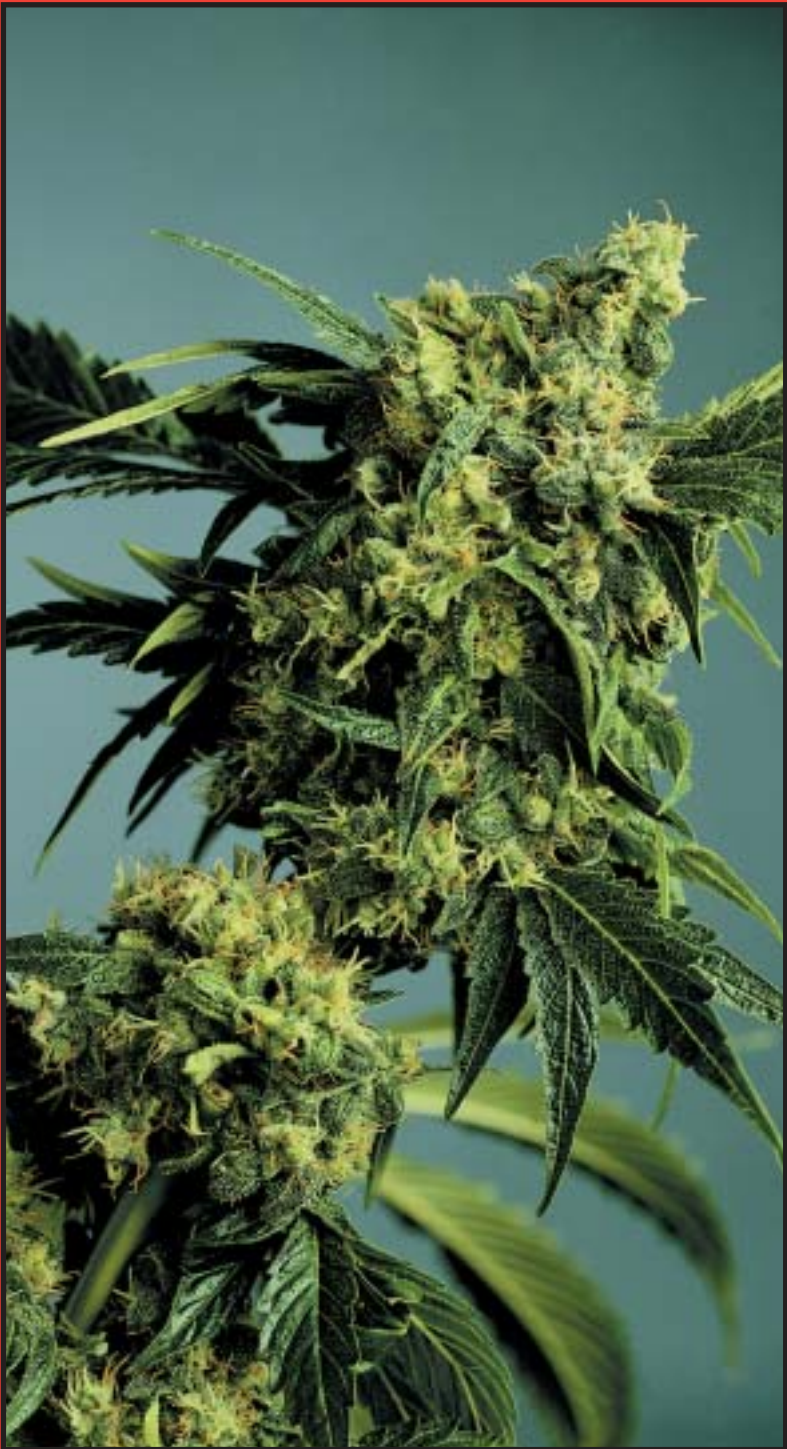


Photo: Sensi Seed Bank



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

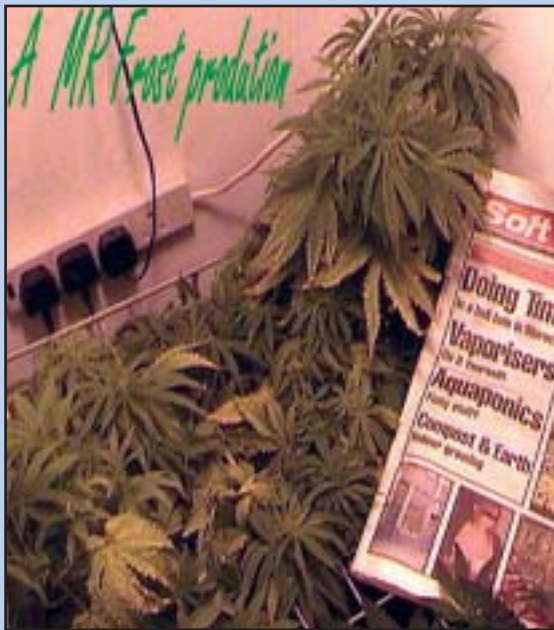
# Dear Soft Secrets

First could u possibly tell me how to get hold of your paper, what a read chaps! what a read!

This is my 1st grow and my 1st picture. Look forward to hearing from you about my free seeds and look even more forward to growing 'em.

**Take care, Mr Frost.**

*Mr. Frost, SS UK should be available at any grow-, smart- or head shop in the UK. If they don't carry the title, smash your fist on the counter and demand they're gonna carry it too!*



**Hi to the editors,**

I was in the Netherlands by hitchhiking and I didn't have so much money. I didn't bring back home lot of things, in fact I have took only your newspaper and a few stickers. I am a photographer with no job so I have decided to send you some pictures. I have been growing for 5 years, but this year was the worst, thieves have visited my small garden and took everything except my window bonsai SWISS MISS flower.

**Bye Pasta, Czech Republic**



*Hey Pasta, where did you find that marvellous bean stalk? Is it growing towards the sun or the moon? We've sent you some seeds, so please start and grow SERIOUS, will ya?!*

**Howdy folks,**

Hope you are all well and healthy? I'm sending you some pics of some of my beauties indoors and outdoors. I don't know what they are, got some blinding smoke and hey some seeds inside, so, as any toker would, I popped them into some mother earth and wow look at them! Magnificent!! Look forward to growing some fine seeds of your choice. Wicked read, keep up the good work. Respect and support to all out there. LEGALIZE DA HERB!!!



**Damo, Wales**

*Wicked pics, Damo!*

*Jack Herer is on his way...*



**Hi Soft Secrets,**

I was in Netherlands this season and took a copy of your newspaper. When I saw your action with seeds I decided to send you some pictures of my children. Here in Czech republic where I come from its not easy to get some good seeds. Only chance is to take some from NL. I have sent you only outdoor harvest pictures. Indoor is little bit problematic for me because I did not have any good seeds, so I hope next year I would send some indoor pics too. If you send me some good stuff...

**Nick, Czech Republic**

*Nick, what else can we do but be silent and enjoy the beauty of it all...? Best seeds in da house – Black Label- are on their way to you, Czech Mate!*



**Hello Soft Secrets,**

When I was for the first time in Holland, I've found a copy of your paper in a growshop. Now I send you some pics of my garden. I hope to receive the free seeds. Afterwards I'll send you some pics of the results.

Thanks

**Stijn, Belgium**

*Comin' to you quicker than they brought the good news from wherever it was! Your buds look rather tiny though... First time reader, we assume?*



**Dear Soft Secrets,**

I picked up my first copy of your Newspaper, issue 4. Great reading! Lovely pics! I've taken the liberty of sending you pictures of my Girls and babe's. They are grown from the seeds of a cloned #1 plant, not sure what.

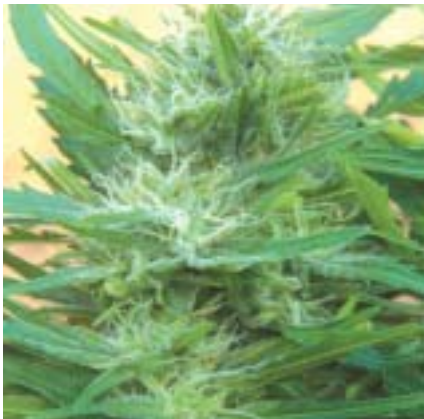
This is my first time grow. The Girls I grew earlier are now 24 days into flowering and looking great, just under two 20W triphosphor fluorescents, they've been grown in soil using mineral water and Veg and Flora nutrients. I know I need a decent 250W HPS lamp for the blooms but I can't afford one for another couple of months. I've sampled a few shade leaves and it's a really mellow job, Can't wait for the buds. I started off six



babies under another two fluoro's, they're taking over my cupboard after 2 weeks! Sadly I don't have a girlfriend to include in the pics but I did the Soft Secrets paper bit, how about a favourite centrefold instead, lol. Many thanks, **Mr.A.**

*We think you are going to go far, Mr A. And, when you do, you're sure to find a good girlfriend*





Dear Ed,  
I photographed this sticky fat girl in a sunny NW London garden, all the lovely hot June sun helped this Ruderalis x Orange Poison fatten up to perfection. A real stinky plumper of stocky proportions with a hashy taste, not bad for English outdoor herb!  
**Gee Mobile**  
*We thought you were talking about your girlfriend there! Maybe you were? But the plant certainly looks plump as you say. Seeds on way.*

Congratulations on your brilliant publication. I'm an avid reader from Yorkshire who's been growing for many years. Thought you might appreciate this photo of my girls (no, the plants !). This is my most recent crop of Northerns, pretty impressive eh? The two big ones belong to my girlfriend, there was only just enough room to get the plants, the boobs & your paper in! Hope this qualifies for the free seeds 'cos if I don't get them my bird will kill me!!!!  
**Regards, Shaun**  
*He wasn't just making it all up, Shaun's girl. Everything's looking pretty good down your way then, am sure the seeds will be very happy.*



I recently discovered your terrific magazine while getting some feeds from my local grow shop (what a find!). It's interesting to see how all the other growers around Europe are growing their stash. The wife straight suggested that I send some pictures. I have a question for you. I have a constant battle with spider mite I've tried insecticides and predators to no avail. Can you suggest anything else? As you can see the wife is posing topless. Believe it or not, she really is a shy thing, but she was so impressed with your magazine and some of the other wives posing that she says if we get some seeds she will pose nude with these when they're ready for harvest. What do you think, should we call her bluff?  
**CR, Aberdeen**  
*Of course we're gonna call her bluff, who do you think we are? Some first rate seeds should be sprouting from your pots by now, so if we can have those follow-up shots please... Now for your question: from now on readers can send ANY grow related questions to our highly skilled expert Bart B. at bartb@ganja.com, see also page 26.*

Please find enclosed some pics of my first crop. These were grown in an area 4 ft. x 2 ft., proper closet style. There is 1 Dutch Passion and 3 Silver Blue. My lady is French and has promised to get those little French tittys out for us, so be expecting some great pics! So please sort me out! Share... share... share!!!  
**Sincerely, J. from Plymouth**  
*Tempting story, that of the eager French girl waiting to get her little French titties out... As Sherlock would have said: How come she's nowhere to be seen, Watson?*



Dear SS,  
Yeah, this a pic of my small 1st grow room. A few friends are helping me on the internet and I just love to read your mag for hits and tips.... The pics are of 1 white feminised White Widow, 2 feminised Skunk#11, it being my fave smoke, and 1 feminised Hempstar, all 3 weeks old. Yeah, also I would have got a bird available to get her tits out like, but you don't wanna see my mom nakid, now do ya, that's like gonna make ya blind 'n shit.  
**Yours faithfully, Homegrown!**  
*Seeds on way. Now if you get your mum to do the thing...*



HELLO!!  
Locking like love!! This is my first try, to cultivate some trees. And trust me its looking nice. It's bags of seed from a Jack Here hybrid (I think), the funniest thing is that they don't smell, 2 weeks from done?! We straight out Sweden stocktown..  
**LOVE & RESPECT YOUR PAPER.. Moibah**  
*Weather can do strange things. Keep us informed, Moibah, and seeds winging their way to you.*



I have just come across your paper after recently visiting the Dam and must say what a great paper, thought I would attach a few pictures of me and my grow. Cant wait to see my pics in your paper and await my seeds!! Hope to hear from you soon.  
**Mistergreen.**  
*Soon enough, mate?*





Hiya all at soft secrets

Firstly top mag, one of the best grow mags for many years with regards to giving you lots of smoking and growing info. No need to mention names but some are more interested in advertising than giving you what we're all looking for: INFO. Anyway my reason for sending you this mail is I thought you'd like to have a look at my breeding attempts from start to finish, Sensi sk-shiva sk cross hope you like em. P.S To all new Guerilla's just because a feed costs an arm and leg does'nt mean it's any good. Gwent, South Wales



Hello, here is some pictures of my grow, hope you like it. Dont worry about the seeds, I am too cautious to send my address guys.  
**Andy, West Midlands.**  
*Lovely grow box, Andy! But you can win a professional one if you return our questionnaire, see page 65.*



Dear Soft Secrets,

Congratulations on a great read and thanks for all the helpful tips and interesting articles which has really helped us first time farmers. Here are 3 pics of our plants which are KC Brains 36 at 4 weeks into bud. They have an absolute delicious aroma and stickyness. Oh, and by the way also included are both our girlfriends, Amy & Laura. Keep up the good work, happy growin and smokin  
**John & Tim, Bristol**  
*Bloody hell, what else is going on in your grow room?! Some first-rate Black Label seeds coming your way, lads. You've more than earned them!*



Hello!

Im a swedish boy who just has built a big setup and I need some new seeds to fill it all up, so I would love to get some Black Label Seeds. And if I'll get the chance to choose 2 strains (both plants and a copy of Soft Secrets is in the pics), I would like Nevilles Haze and Jack Herer.  
**Oskar, Sweden**  
*Excellent choice, Oskar, and thanks for the fine pics. Good to know there are still some very brave souls out there, in the North-Korea of Europe. Respect!*



Dear Soft Secrets,

I never knew your magazine existed until last week, when one of my mates brought your first issue of 2003 round to my gaff - I instantly took a shining interest in your mag, I thought that the article about the Transporters in your Underworld segment was very good. The reason for me sending you this letter is to see if you will grace your pages with my girlfriends. Even though I am an amateur gardener and have a small crop of plants I think I have excelled myself in the art of growing the plant of the Gods. It was my local dealer that made the decision for me to start growing the wonder weed, when he couldn't get enough quality bud for all to enjoy. The seeds I used were out of a deal of good Skunk. I done my research as I didn't know how to grow my plants properly, and I realized that it was quite expensive for all the growing equipment so I had to grow them naturally in my back garden using the light of the sun, the rain of the clouds and the winds of the sea. The results of my plants torture was phenomenal, the stalk on one of my plants is about 5 cm thick and can take very high winds with little damage. Although my plants haven't budded yet I can see the little wispy calyx just forming. I enclose a picture of me and my bitches and hope you will do the right thing and print my picture and letter in your mag.  
**Yours Mikey**

*Of course what's right is right, ain't it, Mickey? We have to do the right thing, because it's only right to do it right. Right, mate?*





Hi guys,

Hope your all flying high. Kust like we hope to be from our first try. Mate gave us a handfull of seeds, only two females out of lot, don't know variety, hope to do better with seeds u send us.

Mr. T., England

Decent looking gals, mr. T. Try some Holland's Hope next year.



Dear Soft Secrets,

My name is Beacky and I live in the lovely town of Bournemouth. Got given a copy of your mag from my local grow shop (Addloes) last year and haven't stopped reading them since. Enclosed are some pics of my second batch of weed. Also my girlfriend holding your mag. I tried to take some pictures in my grow room, but the digital camera did not like the HPS, so I moved all my girls into the kitchen for this photo-shoot. They are 3 weeks in flowering and consists of Bubblegum and Big Bud (apparently) in soil being fed by Terra Flores twice a week. Please send me some seeds so I know what I'm growing. Plus I have a lot of mates that want to start growing as well, so I can get them started and between us we can sort this town out with quality weed.

All the best, Beacky

PS Thanks to the boys of ADDLOES and Soft Secrets for making this possible. Keep up the good work!



Hey Beacky, great plans and what a great and utterly lovely girl you got there! Let's swap mate, we'll shower you with seeds for your Bournemouth green revolution expedition, and you'll send your girlfriend over to Amsterdam... Just for a couple of days... How's that? ;-)

To the editor,

Please accept this picture of my girls in return for some White Widow, Sensi Star and Master Kush seeds. In the pic are (at front) 2 x Pot of Gold and 2 x White Widow in their sixth week of flowering. Emma, holding Soft Secrets, is of Brummy stock. Prime stock! Great paper, keep it up, very informative.

Jaz

And of prime stock she is, Jaz! Prime seeds coming your way too!



Well Soft Secrets,

here's a picture of the missus with her tits out holding a copy of your mag, the tips on growing are ace!

I'm not sure of the breed of my plants as a friend gave them to us. He says they are Silver Haze, who knows.

Yours, Paul, England

PS She didn't want to get her tits out for the lads, but the thought of a decent weed to smoke turned the tables. All the best and keep producing a great mag!

Paul, what was all the fuss about with the missus then? Looking great!



To the lads and lasses at Soft Secrets,

Here's a picture of myself, my garden and a copy of your wonderful magazine. Well, here's the story behind my garden. My mate gave me three seeds to experiment with and that's where it all started. I cracked out my seeds in the airing cupboard, then put them in the garden for 18 hours a day, round about march, this carried on for about 7 weeks. Then I cut down their sunlight to 12 hours. After 6 weeks of flowering, one decided to turn male, my other two survived (as you can see). I've also used household materials, and things like crisp packets to aid the growth of my little ones. But a few eeks ago I decided that I was going to treat them to a lamp and they have been enjoying it's rays ever since. They're looking quite good now considering, but I have quite a lot of seeds as well as buds! I hope to hear from you soon, the sound of your lovely seeds coming thru the letter box! I would love to have a go at growing something with some strength like Jack Herer and White Widow. Also I wouldn't mind having a go at growing your Blueberries strain, as I've heard that it's pretty good for period pains.

Love, Amy, West Midlands

Amy, full package of primo Black Label seeds -Jack Herer, White Widow & Blueberry's- should have been stomped through your letter box by an unsuspecting British postman by now...



Hi friends,

Just picked up our first copy of Soft Secrets and thought we'd send you a pic - check this little beauty out! Our second crop of Pukka Skunk, a Silver Haze/Super Skunk cross. Now we're onto Bubbleberry, long lasting and very smilie - nice. Anyway, we'll leave the choice to your discerning tastes. Josie promises she'll deliver for next pics if you do!

J & J, Sunny Skunky Cornwall

Josie? Who's Josie? Come & surprise us next time, will ya?



High Soft Secrets,

Here are 2 pics of my Black Widow, april 2003. Grow period indoors, with neon grow lights 24h/24h. Bloom period outdoors, transplantation in februar 2003. The plants turned black, after that the males got cut out. It is like here in Andalucia, where women put black clothes on after somebody in their family is dead.

The prohibition is the Mother of all Mafias. Growing yourself is the only way to eliminate the narcotrafficans.

Daniel, Andalucia, Spain



Just look at that marvellous Black Widow! She may be in mourning, but she sure is as horny as hell - Just the way we like it! Some serious White Widow seeds coming your way, Daniel. Muchos Gracias!



Dear Soft Secrets,

I have just read your mag for the first time and thought it was prodigious. I'm growing Hayleys Comet which has a sweet citrus taste and a superlative cerebral high. We have 16 plants and just built a new grow room for another 9. As you can see the plants are burgeoning and have another 5 weeks to fully develop. Keep up the great work, SS, as I've become an avid reader and it's caused me great joviality.  
**CR, London**  
*Thanks for the pic, CR, but the quality of your print was so bad we couldn't use it. Master Kush & Bleu Berries are on their way anyway...*

Dear Soft Secrets,

I would like to introduce you to my fine buf 'Flo'. She is my 4th crop (previously crops of Master Kush, AK-47 & Bubble Gum) and at the time of the pics she was nearly 8 weeks into flower. I used a homemade flower system which was constructed using a toybox and a washing up bowl, a drip ring and a submergeable pump donated to me by my mate, total costs £15.00. I also purchased 2 x 400w Light units (Low Bay) including bulbs for a total of £108, the pair from my local friendly electrical retailer. Flo's life started when she was cloned and given to me as a cutting, after she had established a good rootbase it was time to transfer her to her new home. She was grown using 1x400w light with metal halide bulb for 7 days. After that an extra 400w unit was added and the bulbs changed to sodium for a 12 hour light cycle for the flowering period. I hope you like my photos and I'm looking forward to seeing my baby in your paper.  
**Troglodities, Suffolk**



*Troglodities (what's in a name for heaven's sake?), your babe now is for the whole world to see, and with good reason: she's a beauty! We did have to give your face some nuclear radiation though, we wouldn't want anyone to recognise our readers, ok?*

Dear Soft Secrets,

I'd like to start by congratulating you all on such a brilliant publication. It has really opened my eyes this last year. I've been growing for two years but am a serious reader. My first attempt pictures (2002) were grown in a cupboard under a 250w HPS in a 3 ft. NFT tray. My new secret garden is a little more advanced but still waiting for results. Happy days,  
**Charlie, Birmingham**



*This is my mother plant, a Black Domina*

*The tray on the left is a large NFT with 5 Black Domina's grown under 2 400w HPS*



*First attempt, almost ready...*

Dear Soft Secrets,

After reading the last few SS UK issues, introduced to me by a friend (what have I been missing), I couldn't wait any longer to go alone. Armed with new equipment and a head full of knowledge (thanks to you at Soft Secrets) I managed to produce some lovely bud (White Widow label). Would love to have another go with your top seeds, and promise to send photos of new garden!  
**Yours hopefully, Mr. Hu**

*Dear Mr. Hu, we think your yield was very potent too, since you forgot to enclose the pics...*

Dear Soft Secrets

I'm sending you a couple of pics for your paper. First one is the harvest from my very first crop. 8 ounces dried weight from 4 Shiva Shanti II plants grown from seed and using a 25 litre Hydroponics system. All grown in a small cupboard measuring 2 x 4 ft. with small alcove. Well chuffed with the smoke, 8 ounces would have cost me over 1000 pounds on the street. £500 for complete system + odouriser - £500 saved straight away! Second pic refers to issue 3, SS UK 2003. This is my second crop just before harvest with my partner reading Soft Secrets – with her tits out! Does this qualify for some serious good seeds? Love the paper, some great advise, please keep it up.  
Yours stoned again,  
**Clive, Cornwall**  
*You're saving an awful lot of money, Clive. You don't even have to pay for the prime Black Label seeds which came your way. Say hello to the bird, ok?*



Dear SS,

These are pics of an unknown that we call Jennifer (no reason for the name, we just started calling her that). Been reading your paper for a couple of issues now, and can't wait for next one.  
**Martin, Lancs**



*Well, Jeniffer is such a beauty, she's worthy of becoming a Page 3 Girl with us...*

## Attention Guerilla Growers!

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



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

## The harsh taste of progress

Posters have gone up in Washington bus shelters and underground stations in recent months, urging commuters to "Enjoy better sex: legalise and tax marijuana." The posters are sponsored by Change the Climate, one of two large lobbying operations urging Americans to reassess whether pot-smoking should be a criminal offence. (The other is Norml, the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.) In spite of their misleading argument - for surely it is the smoking of marijuana, not the taxation of it, that delivers the alleged aphrodisiac kick - the posters have made many middle-aged Americans think about pot for the first time since university. Worldwide, marijuana has not enjoyed such prestige for three decades. In July, Canada began permitting doctors to prescribe cannabis, as Germany and Australia do already. The Netherlands followed suit in September. In several cases working their way through Ontario courts, judges are deciding whether Canada's marijuana laws pass constitutional scrutiny at all, given that the government has, in effect, declared the drug a medicine. Spurred by such concerns, Canada's parliament is rushing to decriminalise possession of 15 grammes of pot or less. On the surface, the US appears to buck this trend. The Bush administration has favoured prosecuting doctors who prescribe marijuana. The Federal Bureau of Investigation recorded 723,000 pot arrests in 2001, double the number of a decade ago. But such figures may reflect not the public's intolerance but the drug's popularity, as Washington finds itself at odds with local authorities across the country. At the state level, the estimated 18m Americans who regularly smoke pot have won significant victories. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington all have medical marijuana laws. At a September forum during the California governors' race, the candidates were unanimous on only one thing: keeping medical marijuana legal. In Seattle, 58 per cent of voters passed a law ordering police to assign the arrest of pot-smokers their lowest priority. According to Keith Stroup, executive director of Norml: "We have essentially won the hearts and minds of the American public." Not so fast, others might argue: wherever marijuana has made advances in recent years, it has done so as a medicine, not as a means of getting stoned. Legally, this is true; practically, it is hard to separate patients from recreational users. The list of people authorised to smoke pot tends to lengthen. Dutch law, for instance, allows pot to be prescribed for cancer, HIV, multiple sclerosis and Tourette's syndrome; but activists are urging that glaucoma and migraines, Crohn's disease and chronic neuropathy be added to the list. In the US, where many medical-marijuana laws allow authorised users to grow their own drugs, telling patients from pot-heads is even harder. A new law in Maryland allows marijuana defendants to argue for nominal sentences if they can show that they have any condition for which the drug could be prescribed. As one giddy Maryland lawyer said last week, "How many people out there don't have any kind of physical pain that marijuana might alleviate?" Some people will continue to serve time: a California man who claimed he was growing marijuana to treat a wrestling injury recently got 18 months in jail - though it probably did not help that he was growing a 100-bush orchard of the stuff and had a semi-automatic handgun in his pocket when arrested. But, barring such circumstances, it is hard to imagine an HIV-positive person, or one who has ever had cancer, being convicted on a marijuana charge.

The medical basis for the marijuana campaign is in striking contrast to similar movements in the 1970s. Back then, the agitation to decriminalise grass was overtly hedonistic and was carried out in the context of a society-wide easing of restrictions on all manner of vices and nonconformities. Today's bid for liberal marijuana laws takes place in the context of an uninterrupted crackdown, in virtually every western country, on other illegal drugs. Not to mention legal ones. The western jihad against cigarette-smoking continues to spread, even to the most unlikely venues: Israeli restaurants, Italian airports, Irish pubs. Alcohol is no different. Scandinavia now has zero-tolerance drink-driving laws. France is enforcing its own, for practically the first time, as part of President Jacques Chirac's campaign against reckless driving. America's National Academy of Sciences devotes vast resources to measuring "teenage binge drinking". In late September, a UK Cabinet Office study warned that booze cost British workers 14m missed work days a year. No one is scrutinising marijuana's effects nearly so closely.

There is a strange bifurcation of criteria. We now take a puritanical view of traditional intoxicants such as alcohol and tobacco and a libertine view of non-traditional ones such as marijuana. How come? One answer is common sense: marijuana is simply a far less dangerous drug. You could legalise it tomorrow across the UK, say, and still not wind up with the 1m annual casualty-ward visits that the British Association for the Advancement of Science attributes to alcohol. But surely part of the appeal of the marijuana movement is that it defies common sense. In today's self-doubting west, the most energetic politics is dedicated to stopping the runaway train of progress that the west set in motion. We see this in green, gay, anti-colonial, anti-globalisation, animal rights and feminist politics, all of which aim to throw into reverse longstanding western preferences and power arrangements. In their minor way, alcohol and tobacco are vulnerable precisely because they are proper to our culture; marijuana gets a pass because it is not. The most deep-seated values are delegitimised by the very fact of their having been formed in the first place. Whatever the people who brought us slavery, the Gulag and the hydrogen bomb did, we want to do the opposite. Right down to our choice of intoxicants.

Author: Christopher Caldwell

Source: Financial Times

The writer is a senior editor at The Weekly Standard

## Australia: WA passes new cannabis bill

Minor possession of cannabis in Western Australia is set to be decriminalised after legislation finally cleared state Parliament last month. Labor's Cannabis Control Bill was passed on the Government's numbers, with amendments approved by the Legislative Council. Under the reforms, possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis leaf, or two plants, will no longer attract a criminal record, although a "three-strikes" clause will target people issued with repeat infringements. The successful passage of the bill, first introduced in March by the former Health Minister, Bob Kucera, sees the major recommendation of the 2001 Community Drug Summit achieved.

Source: ABC Online, Australia

## Wales: Row over AM's drugs call

An Assembly Member came under fire today after calling for schools to teach children how to use drugs. South Wales Plaid Cymru Assembly Member Leanne Wood suggested that cannabis should be decriminalised and schools should teach children how to use drugs safely at the Assembly's south east regional meeting today. She said: "I think we should adopt a similar approach to drugs education as we do to sex education. We should teach children how to engage in sex and drugs safely. "Some children don't respond to the message that taking drugs is wrong and we should accept that and try a different approach. "We should accept that some will end up taking drugs and they should be taught how to use them safely." Labour AM Leighton Andrews and Tory education spokesman David Davies criticised the suggestion as "irresponsible" and "naive". Mr Andrews, AM for Rhondda, said: "I completely disagree with Leanne Wood's view that cannabis should be decriminalised or her views that schools should teach kids how to use drugs safely." Mr Andrews said: "These dangerous and irresponsible policies threaten the safety of our children and our communities. "Responsible politicians should support education programmes in schools which help raise children's self-esteem and give them the confidence to stand up to the dealers and the bullies, not advice on using drugs." Tory David Davies, AM for Monmouth, said the suggestion was ludicrous. He said: "Today's outburst is one of many from Ms Wood. I completely condemn the suggestion that children should be taught how to use drugs. We should concentrate on sending a strong message that taking drugs is wrong and those who use them will be punished." Later, Ms Wood accused other AMs of "sensationalising" her views. She said: "If we don't get to have a rational and sensible debate about the huge problem of drugs without it being sensationalised - then that is a real problem."

Source: icWales

## UK: Drugs testing machine shocks councillors

A police drugs testing machine caused shock and awe when it picked up traces of cannabis during a voluntary test on Hertsmere Council Leader Neil Payne. The councillor was at Hertsmere Primary Care Trust's annual health fair in Elstree, where the police had set up a mobile drugs testing machine, capable of detecting the tiniest traces of drugs. Councillor Chris Dawes also tested positive for traces of cannabis, along with a several other people considered highly unlikely to use drugs. The machine is extremely sensitive, and can pick up traces of drugs left by a handshake, or passed on from a banknote handled by a person using drugs. After the event Mr Payne said: "I can assure you that I have never tried cannabis, and I have never smoked. It does not appeal to me." Inspector Dave Rankin said the machine often gave out "false positive readings", where people with no involvement in drugs provided positive readings, because they had innocently picked up minute traces of drugs. When we do an event with this piece of equipment, on average, we could have half a dozen people prove positive. We would not draw any conclusion from it." At the health fair traces of drugs were even found on a seven-year-old girl.

Source: Borhamwood & Elstree Times, Hertfordshire



# NL: Coffee shops in decline

AMSTERDAM - The number of coffee shops in the Netherlands continues to decline, with new figures indicating there were 782 legal establishments last year, 3 percent less than 2001. The Netherlands had almost 1,200 cannabis coffee shops in 1997, but that number has steadily declined since 1998, due in part to stricter regulations.

But in contrast to the general decline in coffee shop numbers, the number of coffee shops in small municipalities - those with less than 20,000 people - has slightly increased. The number of marijuana cafes in small towns rose from 105 to 107 last year, Dutch associated press ANP reported.

Furthermore, research bureau Intraval - which conducts the studies on assignment from the Justice Ministry - said the number off municipalities without a coffee shop decreased last year. Only 3 percent of the nation's 496 municipalities do not have a coffee shop

The annual Intraval report, the fourth of its kind, also indicated that two-thirds of Dutch municipalities tried to keep the sale of soft drugs away from schools. About 50 percent of coffee shops are located at least 250m from schools. Along the German border, one out of every 13 municipalities with one or more official coffee shop maintains a minimum distance requirement.

The Dutch coffee shop, long the bane of foreign countries opposed to the Dutch toleration of soft drugs, narrowly escaped looming anti-smoking regulations forcing employers to provide a smoke free workplace.

Source: Expatica.com

# Europe: Some examples of cannabis policies in Europe

- NETHERLANDS:  
Legislation dating back to 1976 decriminalized cannabis. Consumption and sale allowed in so-called coffee shops, which have annual sales around \$3 billion.
- BELGIUM:  
Decriminalized possession of cannabis in 2002.
- BRITAIN:  
On Sept. 12, downgraded marijuana from Class B to Class C drug. Possession now carries maximum sentence of two years, but government says most offenders will get off with a warning.
- FRANCE:  
Possession of soft drugs risks heavy fine and year in prison, but in practice cannabis use seldom prosecuted. Government may eliminate jail time but toughen fines for cannabis use.
- NORDIC COUNTRIES:  
Possession and consumption of soft drugs illegal.
- GERMANY:  
Cannabis consumption illegal, but possession of small quantities seldom prosecuted, although varies in German jurisdictions.
- GREECE:  
Cannabis smokers face prison if caught, but enforcement lax.
- ITALY:  
1993 referendum decriminalized possession of "minimum daily dose" of marijuana.
- SPAIN:  
Possession of marijuana for personal use carries no sanctions.
- PORTUGAL:  
Cannabis illegal, but under 2001 law those possessing small amounts no longer jailed and instead given mandatory counseling, and sometimes community service or small fine.
- CROATIA:  
Last month, ended criminal prosecution for possessing marijuana for personal use. Sale remains punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Source: MSNBC.com

# UK: Eye scanner spots employees under the influence

Companies could soon be using a quick new eye test to tell if workers are under the influence of drugs or drink. The portable eye scanner can tell if employees have taken anything from alcohol and cannabis to hard drugs such as cocaine, ecstasy or heroin. It is estimated as many as two million people take ecstasy alone each weekend and the new test, which takes just four minutes, will spark fears of "Big Brother" monitoring of lifestyles outside the workplace. The new machine, called an Eye Check Pupilometer, looks like a pair of binoculars and has a link to a computer. It is held to the eye and scans using green light flashing at the pupils. It gives an instant reading of the pupil's reaction speed. It can then instantly tell if the employee's reaction is impaired due to the influence of drink, drugs, or simple fatigue, according to Hampton Knight, the UK firm distributing the US-built device. A swab or urine test would then be carried out on any "suspect" employees who failed the eye impairment test, to confirm the presence of drink or drugs. The £10,000 machine could replace costly "invasive" tests currently used by some firms. It is bound to spark further disquiet over what rights employers have to test and monitor employees. One large UK company has already bought the device. Their identity is being kept a secret, along with two police forces who are also testing it. Industry groups say such testing is an important element to monitor health and safety. Currently only about 5% of firms test for drink and drugs, but the number is on the increase.

Source: Ananova

# France: French plans to change drug law anger pot-smokers

Pro-cannabis groups poured scorn on France's conservative government for planning to bring in harsh fines for occasional pot-smokers to replace the existing -- rarely enforced -- sanction of jail sentences. "This is ultra-reactionary," said Jean-Pierre Galland, founder of the underground pro-cannabis lobby group CIRC. "At the moment, many policemen don't do anything if they see some young person smoking a joint. But under the new plans, it would be much easier to hand out harsh fines," he said. In 2001, police prosecuted only eight percent of the drug users they stopped under the 33-year-old drug law, down from 30 percent in 1990. Media reports said the new rules could hit small users with fines of up to 1,500 euros and the confiscation of property such as their mobile phones or motorbikes. Other countries have taken a more relaxed approach, with a new British policy effectively leaving people free to enjoy the drug in private and the Netherlands making cannabis available as a prescription drug in pharmacies to treat certain illnesses. "Most of our European neighbours also have a system which defines clearly how much cannabis someone is allowed to possess for personal usage. This does not exist in France," said Alain Morel, president of the French Addictology Federation. Source: Reuters

# Scotland: Confusion over cannabis

THE announcement by the First Minister, that Scotland will definitely not follow England and Wales in effectively decriminalising the personal use of small amounts of cannabis in the home (or at least ignoring such a misdemeanour) came on the same day that a large quantity of cannabis resin was seized in a raid on a Highland school. Many will applaud Mr McConnell for his toughness and his resolution to send out the message that dealing in harmful drugs will not be tolerated. Allied to the decision not to end the prohibition on 24-hour pub-opening and moves in the Scottish Parliament to ban smoking in public, this can be viewed as a determined effort to improve health and brand the culture of drug abuse - regardless of drug - as unacceptable.

However, others will see Mr McConnell's stance on cannabis as adding one more anomaly to the numerous anomalies and contradictions surrounding official drug policy. Not least the fact that Scots wishing for a discreet joint need only cross the Border to (metaphorically) thumb their noses at the police -- hardly the sort of message Mr McConnell was hoping to send. If anything, having the police treat cannabis use differently on either side of the Border is exactly the sort of official confusion and hypocrisy that young people will smell a mile off. Add that to the fact that tobacco and alcohol - despite being killers - are still legally acceptable, largely for the pragmatic reasons, and Mr McConnell's tough stance will strike some as being close to posturing.

In fact, the First Minister personally is deadly serious about the dangers from drug abuse, and is not being cynical in any way. However, he has to face the fact that the war against drugs is - at best - only containing the scourge, and certainly not convincing society that moderate recreational drug-taking (of all kinds) is wrong.

That suggests that at some point we all need to confront our hypocrisies. It also suggests that serious anomalies in drug policy between Scotland and the rest of the UK over a sustained period of time will cause more problems than they solve.

Source: The Scotsman



## The Hash Maker

Soft Secrets thinks this little toy is brilliant! Here's why.

You can use bud if you want, but my friend gives me his trimmings and I get about 14 grams of what's called "skuff" in Holland. It's a Dutch combo name, skunk where you get it from (sk) and 'stuff,' the Dutch slang for hash (uff). sk+uff = skuff.

You can tell bad skuff because it's dry and powdery. High quality will shake off as white-yellow which, when pressed with the hands, goes dark brown/black and sticky instantly and easily. Hash Makers can produce a very high quality skuff that's virtually unavailable on the commercial market, even in Holland. The grade of sieved resin they produce is unbelievable and you'll be hooked forever once you've tried it. They're also very cheap and durable, and very efficient. For the true hash connoisseur this is the future! The method Soft Secrets found best was to pop the trimmings or bud in the icebox for an hour or so till frozen, then start shaking - it's illogical to fill the device first then wait while freezing and shake each time. So what's actually happening? Freezing the marijuana makes the resin glands much easier to knock off the plant material (leaves/bud) when shaken. The fattest glands will drop first - top quality - then, as the shakes go on the quality and amount diminishes. It's very similar to Moroccan sieving techniques, but vastly improved by the freezing.

**USEFUL TIPS:** Like the Moroccans, you can create different strengths and amounts. To get 1st quality, freeze, shake lightly and collect. Do this again, but shaking more vigorously until no more resin drops off, and you have 2nd quality, but still very potent. For 3rd quality, sieve what's left through a kitchen sieve, crushing manually as you go. Collect it in a plastic Tupperware because resin glands stick to it via static electricity, making collection very easy. Once you've shaken this sieved batched you'll find it's harder to press and doesn't bubble when heated, but there's a lot more of it! Remember to run your fingers around the Tupperware bowl! Is it all in the mix? You can mix and blend to create your own perfect strength, or you can opt to smoke them separately, maybe the top quality at night when you don't plan on moving around too much!

Available at [www.skiffy.com](http://www.skiffy.com)



Load it at the top and screw shut, then pop the red lid off and collect resin.



Only a few shakes and look what happens - 1st Quality shake, yum yum!



Trimmings are coated in resin glands which will produce supreme hash.



2nd Quality shake still has throat tickling potency.

## Sentinel Controllers

If you keep burning out your plug-in timers (and who doesn't?!), a Sentinel Controller is a MUST. Basically they're electricity regulators which make the amount of electricity passing through components more manageable.

They come in three sizes 2-way, 4-way or the 6-way 'super six'. The 2-way doesn't come with a built-in timer like the other two. Each plug point can handle 1000w so the 'super six' can allow you to plug in 6 x 1000w/600w/400w lights. They have to be plugged into a 2-way wall socket and not into anything else. Don't run other controllers off of it, nor plug a 4-way extension into one of the sockets and run more lights off that as well.

These lights are made and supplied by Avon Gro-lite Systems [www.gro-lite.co.uk](http://www.gro-lite.co.uk), tel. +44(0)117 952 1379.



Make your grow area a safer environment!

## House and Gardens' Bud XL

House and Garden are definitely the new kids on the block who are coming forward with some good shit. Bud XL is one more example. You might have come across their 'Top Shooter,' that's an expander, remember they're different from P-K boosts, but Bud XL is different from expanders and P-K boosts. Let's break it down: P-K will boost the levels of phosphorus and potassium. Higher levels of these are needed during flowering, hence the difference in grow and flower feeds. With an expander like 'Top Shooter,' the plant will manipulate the polarised potassium and can use it as an extra grow hormone which yields an extra 20%!

Bud XL is not a feed as such, but it works by way of an enzyme designed to make your plants feed better. It's designed to make your plants deliver the essential sugars from the leaves to the buds for better production and formation. In turn the buds will be bigger and tastier. Soft Secrets enjoyed testing this, especially when it did as it said on the bottle and the top of the colas formed up nicely. It's for use during the last 3 weeks, and it's safe to use with P-K, but some growers use it after the week of P-K is over, but that's an individual choice. If you've ever noticed your plants feeding a little slower in the last fortnight, Bud XL seems to speed them up again, and the effects can be noticed when you weigh the yield. We also tested for quality of smoke. The test plant has been smoked for a good while now, so its characteristics are familiar. Frankly, the quality was probably a little better than before, plus there were no detrimental side effects like hardening of the bud, nor a chemical essence. Perfect and clean. Now, don't be put off by the 'navy gunpowder' in the listed ingredients. Gunpowder's been used for years as a medicine, trust me on this one. Or go on the net and research it yourself. Gunpowder contains sulphur, carbon and saltpetre/nitre. In the old days they treated blood poisoning and eczemas with it, ingested orally or used topically on the skin. So it's sorted. Flush with pure water for the last 3 days to get rid of any salt build up. One precaution: be careful when using flowering additives, especially when in conjunction with other additives. If you're unsure what to use with what, call House and Gardens' info line, they're most helpful, tel:00 31 610939412.



A very delightful product because it works well

Full range of House and Garden products available at Avon Gro-lite Systems  
189 Whitehall Road, Bristol, BS5 9BJ [www.gro-lite.co.uk](http://www.gro-lite.co.uk), tel.+0044 (0) 117 952 1379

## B'cuzz rock wool slabs and cubes.

Atami, the research company behind B'cuzz, really put in a lot of effort in with all their products. These rock wool products are no different, all B'cuzz rock wool products are designed to a very high standard. The rock wool is available in 1m slabs, 3-inch cubes with 1 or 1/2 inch plugs. Since this all sounded like the currently available ones on the market, Soft Secrets called them to ask if there's any difference. And there is, especially with the 1m slabs. The fibres run in many directions, so allowing the roots to grow all over the slab instead of just vertically down or horizontally in the top section. Although the cubes and plugs are designed in the same way the fibres run horizontally and vertically. The diameters of the fibres are smaller too, so holding more water, which is beneficial for rooting of young plants. So don't over water, take time to adjust to this important difference.

The main aspects of Atami's B'cuzz rock wool cubes are:

- Mixed fibre technology (fibres run in many directions)
- Reliable homogeneity (i.e. consistency in material - same density etc)
- Easy to manage
- Inert, and pathogen free
- Effective air to water ratio
- Large water buffer
- Efficient with water and energy use

Nutriculture is the only major importer of B'cuzz products, so check them for supplies. Nutriculture, by the way, is so dedicated to their customers that they've had this range independently analysed, and are happy that the build quality is of a high standard.

Nutriculture Ltd. Tel: +44(0) 1695 554 080 E-mail: [sales@nutriculture.com](mailto:sales@nutriculture.com)  
Website : [www.nutriculture.com](http://www.nutriculture.com).



Advanced rock wool by B'cuzz.



# Vita - Screen



Check Sandeep for the Vita Screens.

Vita Screens are to make sieved hash from your home-grown, and with this tool at home you can produce extremely high quality cannabis resins. Sandeep (proprietor) import these from America, in a metal or wooden frame, holding taught a screen of the finest quality, which I'd guess are around 300 micron units. So the extraction ratio is 300:1 which means you'll only sieve the very best possible. Again, the traditional ways of sieving marijuana come into play (see above). This product's great idea for people who want to take their kitchen hash production seriously. Soft Secrets is delighted to see products like these that are adapted for the hobbyist but based on the real thing, whether in Morocco, Lebanon or Afghanistan. Soft Secrets recommends you put the screen in a washing up bowl or any large smooth plastic container so the resin collection is easy. If you apply technique of grade sieving you can expect three grades of resin. Get first grade by gently disturbing the flowers over the screen. For second grade do it more enthusiastically. Third grade comes from by Hulk type crushing of the flowers while simultaneously sieving. So now all you have to do is choose what grade to smoke, or mix and blend to suit!

Tangy Gifts, 286-288 Stapleton Road, Bristol. Tel: +44(0) 117 951 2202

# Dutch Masters APS clone food/cube soak.

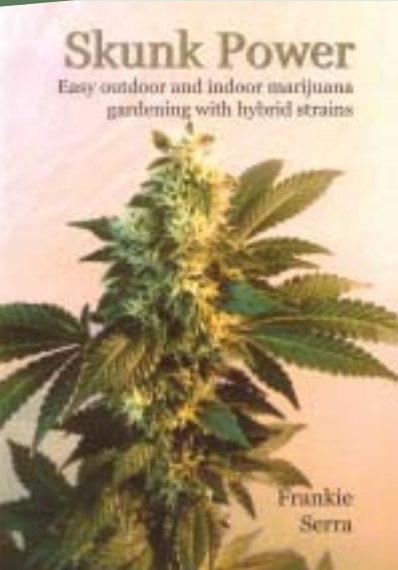
Duchtmasters have come up with APS - Advanced Propagation System. It's comes ready-mixed, with the pH already sorted for you. So it's ready to go, straight from the bottle. Apart from being extremely easy to use, APS incorporates a specialised wetting and delivering agent, designed to help the uptake of nutrients without allowing a salt build up. The instructions are on the back of the bottle, but we'll cover it again for you. Ok, first you got to soak your little cubes (1 inch or \_ inch) in APS overnight. So put the required amount of cubes in a tray of half full APS. They'll soak too much and get oversaturated if you don't get rid of excess solution. Best is to shake the excess out of the cube. Best place to do it is over the bathtub. Hold cube between thumb and forefinger, arm outstretched at head height. Quickly draw your arm down in a single action, taking care not to squeeze the cube out of shape. If you use it like a sponge, you'll fuck the original quality of the cube. The instruction tells you to spray the cutting with APS once or twice daily, but be careful, don't go crazy and spray loads, just gently mist the babies and you'll see their response, fantastic!The optimum environment conditions would be 25degrees Celsius with humidity at around 80%.

Available at **Beaver Hydroponic Store** Tel: +44(0) 1322 273444 111 Invicta Road, Stone, Dartford, Kent DA2 6AY. E-mail beaverhydrostore@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.beaverhydro.co.uk



A simple soak and spray solution

## GREEN BOOKS



Skunk Power  
Frankie Serra  
(Positive Publishers, Netherlands)

Home growers with a literary interest are swamped with the current market of grow books, whether for bio gardens or hydroponics. Frequently, writers/growers spend the first three chapters of a book talking about how great they are at growing. Skunk Power: Easy outdoor and indoor

marijuana gardening with hybrid strains is written by Frankie Serra and skips the ego, but the book itself presents a confusing maze of both useful and outdated information that is difficult to navigate. Unfortunately, the book appears to be written by a non-native English speaker, which wouldn't be a problem if the text weren't in English! Normally simple techniques such as cloning are muddled by unclear language; information regarding photoperiods is made complex by the accidental switch of the words "darkness" and "lightness."

Skunk Power is not recommended for beginners due to these strange word choices, and some experience is required to pick through the actual facts. Hmmm. If you already know enough information to understand this book, then why are you reading it?

The effort is good; however, complex scientific terms that even seasoned growers don't bother using is combined with over-generalized information. For example, strictly limiting pruning can actually keep you from reaching your maximum potential yield. Besides this, the text is arranged in a slightly irrational manner considering that growth begins

with germination, and you probably want the specifics for your grow room before you begin. Instead, early in the chapters you can find out how to artificially alter the flowering period of your outdoor garden. Why not have an indoor garden then, or plant your seeds at the right time of year? Most people just want big plants that taste good and get them high or stoned.

Reading this book is a lot of work, and even if it were translated properly, it would still be difficult to understand. One redeeming quality is that at the beginning, Serra notes that the book should be supplemented with basic gardening books, from which any grower of any experience level can learn how to maximize their Plant potential. Trouble-shooting sections are highlighted as well as construction and use of rip-off versions of the Pollinator sieve box and Ice-o-lator bags. The photos would be nicer if the same exact caption weren't repeated over and over. All this aside, my lasting impression of the book is this: I've heard of cannabis referred to by many names and descriptions. However, I never have and never will forget Serra's promise of your lovely ladies turning into "a smelly and resinous pussy that is desperately eager to collect male pollen trying to reproduce." -KS







**weckels**  
**world of**  
**wonders**

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

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

# A rolling production system

In this edition I'm going to be describing a grow system with which we can produce a continuous stream of plants - leaves, branches and buds! That this system is often well-suited to people who like to keep a nice garden growing on the side of their regular job or other activities will become clear. At least we don't have to hide ourselves away like some sort of hermit when the harvest comes upon us...



*A rolling production system as shown here in the photo is the basis of every independent grower, who does not want to be dependent on any third parties for his or her clones.*

It's a particular problem for the lone grower attempting to raise and look after a whole plantation in a commercial fashion that time, in every way, eventually runs out. Frequently the plants are just at the right moment for harvest, when your normal work week begins once more.

Which means a whole world of stress and anxiety for the grower, since he can hardly call in sick without taking a risk. Many a grower has fallen victim to some sickness ruse or other, only to have someone call round - a colleague or health worker - come to check on them. For the busy grower upstairs trimming, there's no escape, since to go downstairs and open the front door would release a gulf of dope stench from his clothes. But not answering runs the risk of getting into a heap of trouble at work. In short, an unwelcome drama.

## Ease

That a rolling production system can take away a huge pile of stress is down to the

fact that it requires that you clone and harvest only in small numbers, and that makes the raising of marihuana for many a great deal more comfortable. Trimming for days (sometimes even weeks) on end can create in even the most fanatical grower a degree of irritation. And let's not get started on the problems of a whole room full of trimmers in a small, warm space trying to keep cool while at the same time getting through a load of trimming in a reasonably short space of time.

The greatest arguments break out in such situations over the tiniest of things, and these high pressure situation can also be avoided by using a rolling production system.

## Various stages of growth

The rolling production system is in principle very simple. It works more or less exactly like any other system of growing. Only that in this case we now plant the marihuana plants in a variety of different stages of growth.

In this way, we always have plants we

***That a rolling production system can take away a huge pile of stress is down to the fact that it requires that you clone and harvest only in small numbers, and that makes the raising of marihuana for many a great deal more comfortable.***

can harvest, a selection of mother plants from which we can continuously take clones from, and of course the clones that have just developed their little roots. Of course we have to keep an eye on the various growing stages, and if necessary help them along.

When the plants have reached the desired height and shape, we take them to a different room. The plants from now on need a shorter light period than the standard 18 hours, thus we have to divide our growing space in two.

This is not as easy as many people sometimes think. We have to also split the air inflow, the air outflow and such like in two, given that both rooms have to be split entirely in two.

In doing so, we have to also make sure that absolutely no light in any way can leak from one space into the other, since

we would no longer be able to guarantee the light levels and the plants risk not wanting or being able to bloom, and can even become stressed.

Of course, we could always choose to just take the well developed plants to another location. Much safer is to go ahead and let the plants bloom in the same space or perhaps in the room next door to the growing room.

In this way we prevent having to go struggling around in public with fully-grown plants. In the first place, this brings with it great risk, not just to the plants but to the entire rolling production system, when the goal is to set up a system that is a self-contained as possible.

We can better try and put a fully independent nursery into production, and not have to rely on any third parties at all.

## Clones

Such plantations are generally found outside of Holland and in places where it's difficult to get hold of clones.

Here in Holland it is impossible to be self-sufficient and raise healthy clones without outside input (as in any other indoor growing).

Furthermore, growers can sometimes

evade large punishments if caught, since they are rarely in possession of seriously large amounts of marihuana (they can only harvest limited amounts). In this case a plantation in which the plants are in various stages of growth has the great advantage that this system will deliver much earlier some smokable weed for their own use or hobby, since much less has to be raised at the same time.

## Experimentation

It is quite unusual for it to be hard to get hold of clones in our small country (with exceptions), but especially for the grower who likes to experiment a little, the rolling production system has a lot of possibilities to offer. I myself know a number of growers who, besides their regular garden, also keep a grow cupboard going "for pottering" in.

Maybe this sounds a bit negative, but the



new breeds that are (and might be) coming out of such growing cupboards, more than makes up for it.

Flower pots

Given that we are going to have to move the pants around a bit if we're going to get them into flower, it goes without saying that we have to grow them on a substrate that allows the plants to be mobilised easily. Huge growing tables or extensive feeding systems are simply too unwieldy for this system. Far better in contrast to raise the plants in flower pots, or special boxes, for example. The great advantage of flower pots is that we can immediately remove the poor growing plants and replace them with new clones in their space (and we always have

advantages when compared with growing in flower pots, since we can move a larger number of plants together when they're in boxes than when we have to struggle to the other room with single plant pots. Also we can use the boxes purely on their own to grow in water, and this is a bit harder with plant pots. In addition there are special grow boxes that are more than strong enough to house the huge mother plants. Definitely when we want to wean the plants and encourage them to develop large side branches, by allowing a ventilator to blow regularly on the plants, a fully toughened base for growing is soon more important than an unnecessarily luxurious one. When we grow and raise the mother plant in too

*Especially for the grower who likes to experiment a little, the rolling production system has a lot of possibilities to offer.*

enough clones to hand with the rolling production system). Also we can move the plants away from each other if it looks as if they are beginning to compete with each other. Doing this when growing in boxes can be a bit more of a hassle, because in the first place it can be harder to spot the poor growers. In addition, removing the poor growing specimen is more problematic, since we can easily damage the roots of neighbouring plants without even realising it.

Boxes

But boxes too have their place and own

small a plant pot, they are bound to fall over as soon as the ventilator starts doing its job. A sad glimpse at a severely damaged mother plant is the result. One box system then does earn a place in this way of raising plants by preference.

Top breeds

Despite the fact that this form of growing in Holland is rare, thanks to the wide availability of clones (nearly) everywhere, it still suits a limited number of growers. The grower who is completely independent and alone, for whatever reason, should certainly consider it.

Because with this rolling production method of growing, when all is said and done, we can select the best mother plants very precisely and use them to continue

raising plants in this way from the most expensive top breeds, and get lovely harvests time after time. Be successful!



COLUMN

# Still Smokin'

**Joe Kane lives in Glasgow. Having been removed from higher education some years ago he's managed to nothing much at all ever since. To the untrained eye it looks like he sits around on his arse all day, but he is actually an adept of the ancient discipline of Stoner Zen, and is working towards The Satori of the White Widow.**

By Joe Kane

Well, readers, for the past three months now I've been trying to quit the filthy weed. And I've got to tell you that it's been a fucking struggle. This is one bad, addictive bastard of a drug.

Yeah, I'm talking about tobacco. Nicotine. Fags, tabs, baccy, shag. Or to give it its Sunday name: Nicotiana tabacum.

I'll tell you something. The Ottoman Empire had it fucking right. Getting rumbled sparking up a ciggie back then and you'd find your neck on the business end of an axe. Or hanged and quartered. But all the same, even the threat of a horrible death didn't stop folk taking up the habit.

Anyway, I'm trying to kick the ciggies

again. This has been an ongoing fucking battle for the past ten years. After the usual tantrums and bad temper I stop. I once managed it for nearly two years, but usually I only last for a few months and then it's back on that path to the cancer unit.

Fucking hell, the shit politicians spout about drugs eh? In my life I've done as many legal and illegal (mainly illegal cos there's more of them and I think they're more of a buzz) substances as I could lay my mitts on. And I've had a few ups and downs with some of them. These days I don't do Class A drugs, and I can put my hand on my heart and tell you stopping them was no bother at all. But see trying to stop fucking smoking

tobacco? Getting off them isn't too hard. I wouldn't say it's a piece of piss exactly, but it can be done. It's the staying off that's a bitch.

I've given this whole thing a lot of thought I reckon there are two big obstacles between me and a nicotine free body.

To start with, there's alcohol. There's something that's just wrong about going to the pub for a skinful and not smoking tobacco. It's abnormal, man. Beer and fags were made to go together; or at least if you're a smoker they are. So I can't try to quit smoking

and still go to the pub. So stop going to the pub, as my girlfriend (a non-smoker) says, and that's fair enough I suppose. I probably drink too much anyway and if I drink too much it means I'll be smoking too much as well. A bit of a fucking wrench, but not the end of the world.

But the REAL problem for me is the weed. Beer I can just about do without, but weed? No fucking way, man. And I know what you're all thinking: why don't you eat it, Joe? Why don't you smoke it in a pipe, Joe? Why not use a vaporizer?

Well, eating it's too unpredictable. Either you don't eat enough and you're left high, dry and straight (bad

situation), or you eat too much and end up whiteyng (worse situation).

Pipes I can't be bothered with cos they're not sociable. A joint is a good thing because it can be passed around. A pipe just isn't the same.

Proper vaporizers are too expensive,

there's too much farting around with temperatures, and it's like smoking fresh air. I know that's the point but I don't like it, man. I like to see a big cloud of smoke leaving my mouth. That way I know I've had a good toke.

I tried some of those horrible fucking 'herbal smoking mixtures' too, and I got to tell you, I think I'd rather take my chances against the Grim Reaper than put any of that shite into my lungs. It just doesn't cut the mustard, people. Know what I'm saying? It lacks that small but all-important nicotine hit.

I just looked at what I said already and maybe I was wrong about the two things. Maybe there's a REALLY important third obstacle and that's that maybe I don't really want to stop smoking the fags and all this is just bullshit? I think I need to go and smoke a spliff and re-assess the situation. Where did I put my fags and skins?  
*Later, Joe.*



# Get High and Get Down: "A Camping Flight to Lowlands Paradise 2003"

text by Kristie Szalanski, photos by Dave de Koning et al.

Planning a summer holiday in Holland next year? Excellent! Got your tickets, got your bags, drinking money, and if you're lucky, a coffeeshop recommendation from a knowledgeable friend. Forgetting something? Your tent! Once a year in August, hundreds of acts converge to create Lowlands, Holland's largest outdoor music event. For a reasonable E107.50, entrance is gained into a completely self-contained camping event. Seven campsites accommodate tents and campers, where residents have access to munchies and, by some accounts, "the cleanest festival toilets ever." Hot showers set you back one token, currency of the event purchased for E1.85 each. The festival grounds are located about an hour and a half from Amsterdam near Dronten, which is a bit of "reclaimed land" that as recently as WWII was seawater. Lowlands, now in its eleventh year, is surprisingly unobtrusive into everyday life in the surrounding Dutch landscape. Aside from the currency, campers are supplied with every necessity at the camping store, dozens of restaurants and food stalls, sports facilities, relaxation rooms, barber, marketplace, and even phone recharging stations. If you need an extra bit of attention, feel free to visit the massage tent, or maybe the tattoo parlor. If media is your thing, Lowlands boasts its own radio station and newspaper. Sorry, guys; it's in Dutch. Luckily, music remains the universal language.

"Lowlands 2003" proved to be one of the most peaceful ever, although this year's eleventh installment set a record low for attendance. Usually the tickets sell out for what [www.lowlands.nl](http://www.lowlands.nl) describes as "a temporary township of sixty thousand people," but 2003 figures topped at about forty-eight thousand from August twenty-ninth through the thirty-first. In typical Dutch fashion, would-be partyers were frequently doused with fresh rain showers, especially at night (never been that cold in a tent before). However, several career Lowlanders assured me that rain is as much the usual as music, drugs, and sex. Long Live Holland!

And speaking of drugs, one of the reasons people enjoy Lowlands so much is the combination of fantastic music and Holland's tolerant drug policies. To counter this, all Lowlanders were searched upon entry, as were the campers and other sleeping vehicles. Zero tolerance hard drug laws still applied, but a personal amount of cannabis, up to twelve cans per person, and alcohol in plastic bottles were acceptable. Upon entering the actual festival grounds, bags were searched again. This was mainly, of course, to keep the concession profits inside the venue, but stories circulated of an unfortunate guy with nine and a half grams of weed that was confiscated for exceeding the five-gram limit. Why not just take half away? Lowlanders were amused by a constant stream of extreme sports, theatre, amateur and professional cinema, and the people around them. A few lads, probably inspired by Jackass: The Movie, constructed their own stunt with a picnic table and several huge garbage bins. In true Jackass fashion,

the guys took turns racing up a ramp and jumping off the tables, flipping head-first into the bins. After witnessing the extrication of a very dazed male dressed as Smurfette, it became obvious that immediate drug access would be necessary to dull the pain. Is that what they call "suffering for your art?" Unfortunately, concert-goers found themselves the unwilling target of the public. Just before the Foo Fighters performed, the crowd surging toward the Alpha tent were sidetracked by a man with a whistle and a streamer cannon. After dousing the crowd with a long, air-propelled silver, blue, and white streamers, he moved onwards and targeted a very unsuspecting man who was, well, busy in one of the stand-up urinals along the path. Much to his surprise and our amusement, he turned towards the sound of the whistle in time to be obliterated, face first, by the contents of the streamer cannon. When everyone lost interest and continued along, the poor guy was left practically tied to the urinal. It could happen to you, in the land of crunching plastic cups and thumping bass. The self-contained festival grounds are close enough to Amsterdam to easily board a train or bus, but far enough away that it really feels like a weekend holiday. As if all the music, food, and events weren't enough, Lowlanders frequently stumbled upon other surprises at every turn. Nearby the extreme sports half pipe sat a small, simple booth with a large button and a sign reading "Seven Seconds of Fame." Press the button, and the next seven seconds of your life, whatever they contain, are broadcast on a huge movie screen above the half pipe to the entire festival grounds. Stripteases and drunken cheering were common choices. Then, head over to the Silent Disco, where fifty sets of headphones are handed over to willing participants. Herded into an oddly cage-like area, the chosen few move, groove, and shout along with homespun DJ tracks that no one else can hear. Luckily, the antique ambulance turned cocktail bar is open. And, fans of irony, you weren't forgotten. The white concession stand napkins were printed with simple black-lettered messages ranging from "I shot Madonna" to "Fuck me while I'm sleeping." My favorite, though, had to be: "The futility of artistic expression." Sigh. No worries; plenty of black T-shirts to go around. So, the tents are down, the tokens are spent, and that legendary hangover has finally gone. It's an overwhelming weekend, even if you've done it before. The senses are overloaded with all types of music, food, people, and drugs. Well, entertainment in general, but very extreme in all directions. Some would complain about the decrease in revenue due to lower attendance, but anyone who visited this year will tell you the numbers were perfect. As "Puddin'," breakdancing drummer for rockband the Eels says, "It's not about whether you do drugs or not, or what type of music you listen to. Everyone's just here to have a good time." Rock on.



The entrance to the festival



Some tents were more popular than others...



Having a good one...



Only at Lowlands: a silent disco



## Avon Gro-Lite Systems in Bristol

Phil started AGS on a discreet Bristol road in 1993 - the southwest's first grow shop. The shop's gone so well for them since that they've now opened a factory store in Brislington, Bristol. Because AGS opened early enough, they were able to establish themselves really well and design their own products for the U.K market. After 10 years their own make of products like Sunbeam ballast and Shine reflectors have been so successful that they're legendary across the UK. The factory store is where they manufacture their products - reflectors, ballast, sentinel controllers and automated CO2 controllers. And it's not just a factory - private customers are welcome too! If you watched Dispatches, Blunkets' Reefer Madness on TV you'll have seen Phil's colleague Steve being interviewed at the Highlife Fair in Holland earlier this year. He and Judy run the original shop in Whitehall, and, when Soft Secrets caught up with them, they described how even the local community had accepted the shop. Local residents have welcomed them and even thanked AGS for putting up a street light where the local council had prevaricated. Talking to Steve about the stuff they stock compared with other shops, it soon becomes clear they have a high customer-

relation ethos. They stock the products customers have reported work well, and won't sell stuff anything their customers haven't got on with. So, by constantly asking for feedback from their regular customers, AGS have managed to stock and produce high standard products. Their fantastic range of products include Hesi, House and Garden, Growth Technology and Canna, General Hydroponics and Nutriculture products. The range of their stocked items is simple yet complete, all well proven as winners. AGS don't keep records of customer accounts, and if you want to do mail orders it's as discreet as you can get. This attitude's maintained for whatever you want, from a single 600w lamp to 30 600w lamps. Delivery is possible and also discreet (there's that word again) the van bearing no advertising that would alert any nosy neighbour. Discounts are always given on large orders, and, when we were there, a special promotional offer on the full House and Garden range was in full



swing. Beginners and green-stain-fingered aficionados, alike, feel most comfortable inside both AGS shops. Their advice is sound, and, if they can't give an immediate answer with 101% confidence, they'll research the matter and get back to you sharpish. Check the AGS website, it's well put together and is especially good for the beginner as the basics of hydroponics are covered in easy-to-understand diagrams.

The site covers everything you want to know, like maps to find the shops, special offers and new product info, as well as the current prices for everything. So Big Shouts to the AGS team for a friendly and efficient outfit!

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## Grow shop Worthing Hydroponics in Worthing

### Back to Basics with Worthing Hydroponics

In the South of England, the climate is fractionally better than anywhere else on the island and here too, people need information as to how to practice their secret hobby. In order to satisfy this growing demand amongst the locals of Worthing, Ben opened his shop Worthing Hydroponics, a little over a year ago. It was an instant success as evidenced by the demand. Ben is an electrician by trade and so can provide professional advice. He is concerned for the safety of those hobby growers. So at Worthing Hydroponics you can be sure of the best in important electrical information. The shop offers

even more in useful and current advice on cultivation techniques, including all kinds of growing mediums. Remarkably, the autopot system seems to be the most popular around here, so there is a lot in stock, but there is also plenty of whatever you need for any system. Just as in the Netherlands, there seems to be a tendency to return to growing with soil and so you will find mixes from Atami B'cuzz and BioBizz there too. Whether the choice of partner was chance or not I cannot say, but Ben's partner is an expert in the field of organic cultivation with many years of experience growing flowers and vegetables. The clients of Worthing Hydroponics are the lucky recipients of this excellent combination of

knowledge and skills. Most of their clients live around Worthing but some come across London to get there. Many of these represent the increase in medical marihuana users who want to grow their own. There is also the possibility for home delivery throughout the country via the mail order service. Delivery is fast and packaging is discreet. The shop has been well accepted by its neighbouring businesses. At the outset, everyone

thought that a coffeeshop was going to open there but now that they have proved themselves not to be a menace, they have got the green light for growth!

**Worthing Hydroponics**  
70 Teville Road, Worthing  
West Sussex BN11 1UY, UK  
Tel/Fax: +44 7930 929441  
Office hours: mon-fri 10am-6pm, sat. 10.30am - 5pm



## Quantumhydro

### What is Quantumhydro?

The adverts have only been seen since last year so you may well ask what Quantumhydro is? Well, we can tell you it is not NFT, it is not Aeroponics, it is not Ebb and Flow. Quantumhydro is a totally new concept in the way to grow plants. Patented and unique, a complete system designed for all stages of the plant life, it comes with units for cloning and mothering. Quantumhydro is a hybrid system that has a NFT type feeding station for each site. Once a plant is placed on the manifolds, these change to NTT or Nutrient Trickling Technique (quite possibly the secret to the hanging gardens of Babylon, reputed for harvesting massive yields!). Due to the way the system is encapsulated,

it gains aeroponic action, plus a constant flood technique, like plants in a riverbed. Sample systems were sent out to various locations late last year and earlier this year but the 1/2 inch rockwool/barefoot ideal was too limited for use by the general public. By consensus a larger range of growing medium was required. Quantumhydro gained considerably as a result of this revamp, they now have a system that is more versatile. At the start, there was a standard lid that used the old favourite 3 inch rockwool. An adapter cap for 50 mm net pots was included for people who use the General Hydroponics cloner as well as a 40 mm square cap for use with both types of rockwool. Lastly a 1/2 inch/barefoot adapter with a rubber mount for bare rooting. The latest design allows for plants

to be transferred from one system to another anytime with no root damage, which is quite handy if the odd undesirable pops its head up. While waiting for the tools to be finalised, Michael and Barry, the Quantumhydro team, attended the Urban Gardens Show at the London Olympia. Quantumhydro scooped two awards at the UK style Gardening Awards held at Blenheim palace. They got a first for the Most Environmentally Friendly product. Also they had a first for the Best Garden Machinery!

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**E-mail: [quantum@quantumhydro.co.uk](mailto:quantum@quantumhydro.co.uk)**  
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**but please make an appointment first**



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# The experiences of an amateur grower

## Spice of life: Winter

By Bart B.

**Just enjoying a good smoke during the cold winter days. The good harvest I had just gathered had done me proud and was enough to see me through the whole winter. Lovely fat buds bulging with resin had been well dried, slowly over three weeks in fairly warm air (between 15-20 degrees Celsius). Every time we smoked a bud we were hit with the impression of just how good and strong a self-grown weed can be. Let's not forget either how lovely it was to watch the ladies grow up and come into bloom. All my efforts had been well rewarded.**

Just as an outdoor grower waits until the last frost is over and the temperature has begun to rise once again in order to put his plants outside to begin growing (and eventually to harvest) a big old lady, so too I began to tremble with anticipation when the temperature began to rise once more. It was just as if I had awoken from a winter hibernation and was coming back to life. This time I also had the intention of building a growing space outdoors. For anyone who is a bit handy, this has got to be one of the nicest things you can do: make your own grow cupboard in order to pluck its fruits later. Some growers even stick real jewels in them. I don't go for the most beautiful cupboard but the cheapest that is still good enough for growing a top quality harvest in.

In the early spring I turned up at the nearest DIY shop to get all the materials I would need. I got everything for under 25 Euros. I built a frame with the measurements 1m x 1.80m x 1.5m. As a base I used several large, cheap wooden plates and covered everything with black-white plastic. All this was built on one sunny spring day, enjoying the sunshine with a good fat spliff hanging out of my mouth. The most important aspect of the project was to make sure it was light-tight, and I made real sure no light could get in. The growing cupboard sat under a shed, safe from wind and rain. On the uppermost side of my cupboard, I installed the filter, protruding like a chimney from a house. On one side there were three tubes through which the fresh air came in. On the straight tubes a bend was added to make sure no light would creep in.

Inside, the lamp was hung, along with a swivelling ventilator placed in the corner. Everything was made as safe and secure as possible, making especially sure that no water could come into contact with the electrical apparatuses. Everything looked good, and then...

The luxury of choice <<vet>>>

Variety is the spice of life. That is to say, a good change in what we smoke is welcome. In keeping with this, I had the plan this time to grow a range of varieties so that I would not be left smoking the same stuff the whole time. Also, there were some varieties I just fancied trying and I hadn't been able to get hold of them as clones, so I had no choice but to raise them from seeds.

The biggest harvest it would not be, but this time I would not be going for the best harvest but simply for many varieties of quality weed.

I had already researched and made my

choices during the cold winter months and ordered the seeds on the Net. A week after placing my order my seeds arrived, so well hidden that I couldn't find them. This particular seed merchant had a special trick to deliver the seeds in as unobtrusive way as possible. Obviously I can't reveal how exactly here, but I can say that you were to deliver the package to a police station, they would never suspect there was anything like seeds stashed in it. At first I thought that I'd been the victim of a rip off and there were no seeds sent, until I sent them an email describing the situation. Their reply made me feel stupid but delighted at the same time. It is so easy to spot, but if you don't pay attention you'll never find the seeds. My order consisted of Blueberry, Bubblegum, KC Brains, Leda Uno, Jack Herer, K2 & Skunk 1.

The Blueberry and the Bubblegum especially I was really looking forward to trying, having heard so much about them. The Leda Uno really blew me away because it was the most powerful plant in the whole garden and shot up like a tower in a very short time.

The shame about seeds is that there is so much variation between one and another that it has to be a great coincidence or you have to be just plain lucky to find that special plant that fulfils all your requirements in terms of taste, yield and smell. I was well chuffed to find a Blueberry that really did smell of blueberries - and I did - only it was a male, which was kind of a let down.

By contrast was the Bubblegum, which most of the plants I had did indeed have the typical chewing gum smell. It is really incredible how these plants smell of that white chewing gum. And the typical taste too is really unique and extremely sweet. These were both 'must have' varieties as far as I was concerned. The Jack Herer needs little to be said about it; everyone knows it's a quality plant. The K2 was back as a clone, a Powerplant (also a clone) and to round off, a good Skunk #1, which was bound to be a heavy-yielder.

### A good start is half the battle

The pots were filled and the seeds were planted, having been germinated in a small dish of waterlogged kitchen towel kept on a warming mat. These little mats are really handy as they keep a constant temperature 20-22 degrees and are therefore perfect for letting seeds germinate on. Certainly when you let your seeds germinate when it's still pretty cold outside, you can spare having to keep your central heating on 24-hours-a-day - that's a waste of energy. Much cheaper to just use one of these mats that



**At age 15, in Belgium, Bart B. decided he'd been landed with low-quality herb too many times! His life mission became to be self-sufficient. After growing and smoking his own herb for a couple of years, he found his body was slowly mutating: he was growing a green thumb! "I'll do my best to continue to bring informative grow stories and related articles to my fellow urban farmers, puffers and breeders, wherever they are on this planet. I hope deep in my heart that eventually you can and will grow your own Monsterbuds too. And never forget: it all starts from seed!"**

can stay at a good 20 degrees all day and night. At least, that's what I think.

So the 20 seeds were planted first and ten clones joined them a little later. This time around I had chosen to use high quality earth and went for a good, airy earth from a grow shop. I did notice a great deal of difference between the ordinary earth you get from a normal garden centre and that from a grow shop.

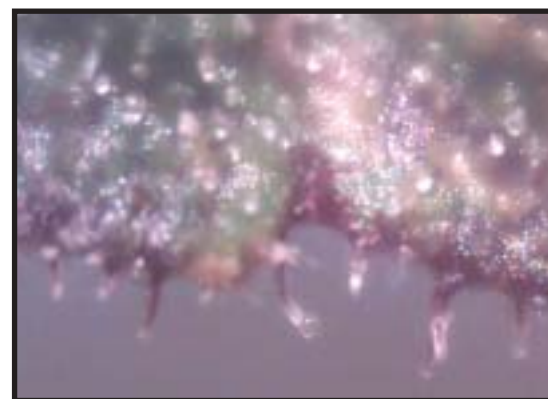
Because I had built a smaller growing space and no longer had a large area to grow in, I decided I could best use some climate control. It was really easy to keep the air moisture content very high during the first few weeks for the growth phase. I have never seen plants grow as fast as then. Within the shortest time the seedlings had grown into little ladies with strong side branches. The clones too shot up and very quickly built up their root systems.

I gave every plant a dose of root stimulator, naturally. The first time I grew it took my seedlings a week to get going, but this time, thanks to the high air moisture, only a few days.

So you can see how everything you learn you can use the next time you grow in order to get a better harvest. Thanks to the rapid growth I let them sprout only for a week-and-half before I put them into bloom. Everything seemed to be going according to plan and was looking perfect. Now all I had to do was hope that I got a good number of females, since with seed you never can tell, though if you maintain a good climate you raise the chance of females. Some factors can influence the seed and tip the balance in favour of females. A high air moisture makes for a greater >>



*Blueberry in blooming phase*



*Blueberry in 60x close up*



*Blueberry bud*



*More BB buds, ready to smoke*





BB 5 weeks old

chance of females, as does a raised nitrogen content in the soil, a lower temperature and several more...

To my amazement I turned up with 17 females out of 20. This was very good and most unexpected, maybe also a bit of bad luck because I had expected more males and can never find it in my heart to throw away females. The excess of females I simply put outside and left them to grow in peace.

In order to ensure that the clones became as big as the seed plants, which normally are a little higher, I had planted the clones in coconut fibre. On this, they shoot up a little higher into the air than when grown in earth, and so they can catch up the seed plants. It is very hard to raise the various varieties all at the same time and still make sure that they end up the same height. Especially if you've got Sativas and Indicas growing together you can be handed some nerve-wracking developments.

Whenever I made a Sativa a head shorter, the Jack Herer for example, then it still ended up shooting up again sometime later. With the Leda Uno I had the same problem – it just wouldn't stay small. It was hideous trying during the growth phase to keep everything nicely bowed and tied up. Every day coming back to see if there were more branches needing bending and whether the already bent branches needed bending a little more and if so, in which direction.

Bending is simply guiding a branch to grow down by holding the tip of the branch down with string. By doing this you put a brake on the growth and allow the lower branches to develop a little better. You can of course just decapitate the plant, but then you lose the head bud; in this way you get to keep it and still allow the under-most branches to develop better. Of course it is more work, but you will be rewarded in the end. I don't think in retrospect I will try and grow so many varieties together at the same time again. Each to its own square meter is the best way.

Despite the drawbacks, you also have the positive side of the mix of wonderful sweet aromas from the various varieties. It was a real mini-Paradise. So much

choice is nice, and the tasting at the end even better. Also great to see of course was the difference in growth patterns and how each plant blooms in a different way to the others and how each bud looks different to the others.

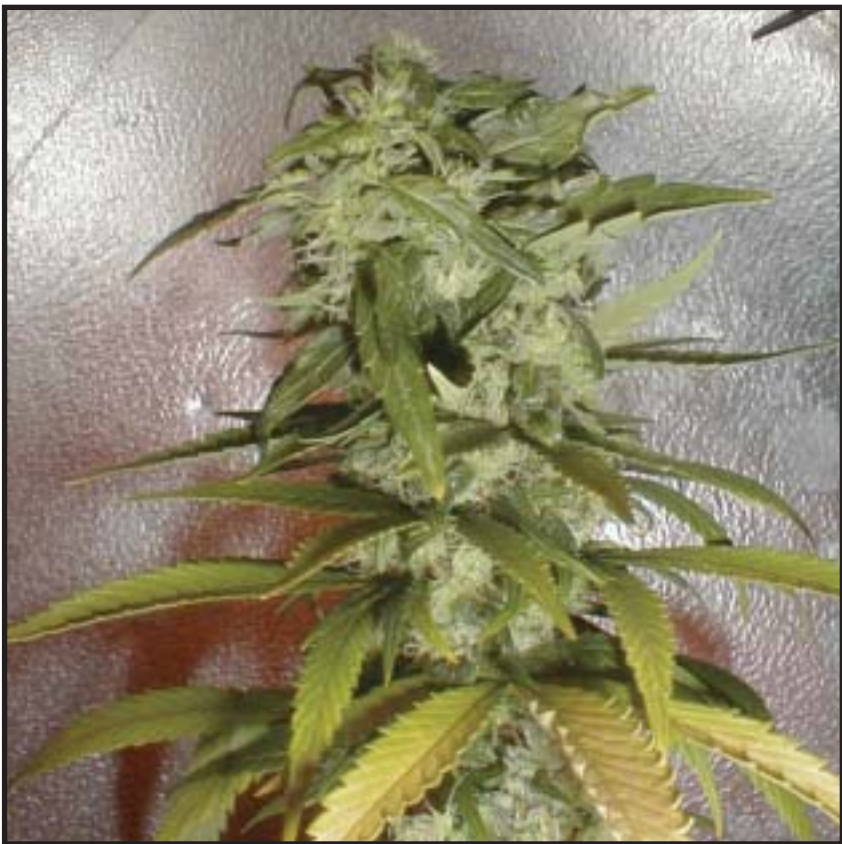
The Bubblegum bloomed with these enormous oblong buds I had never seen before, even the lowermost buds had a huge size. The Blueberry had lovely, hard, round buds, gorgeous in shape. Because it had become a real jungle I had to take out a few plants to give the others more space in which to develop. The

***I did notice a great deal of difference between the ordinary earth you get from a normal garden centre and that from a grow shop***

thing I learned here is that a plant really does need sufficient room to grow and bloom. If you limit a plant's space by putting too many other plants around it too tightly in your growing cupboard then you will end up getting less out of that plant because it can not develop sufficiently. I certainly felt this with my harvests. I had still left too many standing and in place of them developing their width, they simply grew too high, which ensured that I had more long, skinny plants.

By the time I realised this, the damage was already done and I had no choice than to go with what I'd got; I'll do better next time, I always say. You could clearly see the difference between them and the plants that did get enough space. These plants had the loveliest buds of all and were much more broadly spaced out than the others.

Thanks to the continuous input of fresh air and co2, very attractive buds developed on the branches of my plant. There is an advantage you have as a grower when you live in or near a city. Thanks to the many cars, factories, and industrial sites there is more co2 in the atmosphere than if you lived out in the sticks. Thanks to this your plants will grow significantly better and develop larger buds. So actually if you ventilate well and get plenty of air and fresh co2 flowing through your cupboard you will get a top harvest. Some growers in industrial areas simply ventilate well



Jack Herer

rather than giving extra co2 from bottles. Now you're not going to hear me say that the automatic, controlled addition of co2 from bottles in to your space is no good, but the cheapest option is still to make good use of the higher co2 values of the polluted city air. Good ventilation is one

of the most important and cheapest ways of scoring yourself a good harvest. However many wonder potions you use, if you don't ensure good ventilation you will never get the maximum out of your plants.

Harvesting, trying and enjoying

Because I now have everything I need to raise and harvest a crop, I have no need to go to a grow shop. Apart from the struggle to keep the plants growing at the same height, things went pretty smoothly. No phosphate deficiency, no lamp came crashing down or other such accident. Thanks to the variety of weed, the harvest was spread out and not all bunched up at the same time, since each had its specific blooming period. This had its advantages in that I could trim away with no pressure with no need to do a huge pile in one go. At the end of it all, I collected up all the trim waste and made a superb water hash. This was a particularly delicious hashish since it had such a mixture of varieties mixed in.

After having dried out all the varieties came the best bit of all, the tasting. Each weed has its own character and it was a real party to smoke them all at the same time.

Although I did not achieve a huge harvest from any single weed, I did have a reasonable harvest from all of them. It is nice to have a choice and not have to smoke the same stuff every time. Having

a choice is a luxury. Just laying them all out and sorting through them by shape and appearance is fun. The most stoned I have ever been was when we once made a cocktail of seven different varieties rolled into one fat joint. After half an hour we were so languid we were almost asleep, so it's definitely not an experiment I would recommend if you're hoping to go out, because you won't be moving at all!

This time of course I also had some outdoor plants; the few seed plants from indoors I had left over and had stuck outside to give those left inside more room, and the four K2 clones that didn't work out. With some time these too began to shoot up like rockets under the intense sunlight. They were stood in seven litre pots of coconut fibre that looked marvellous to me, but more of those next time.

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**Kristie Szalanski is an American expatriate from the East Coast who now lives in Amsterdam and writes freelance for several cannabis publications. After earning a degree in English literature, music, and theater, she now prefers to focus her writing on medical information and the legal climate in the USA and Canada. Kristie considers herself one of many cannabis activists and advocates. You can meet her at the Cannabis College in Amsterdam, where she works as a volunteer on an almost daily base. Her motto: Smoke in Peace!**

# Coffee Shop Confusion

## How Do Authorities Regulate an Illegal Industry?

By Kristie Szalanski

It is not uncommon to overhear tourists in coffee shops gushing about the “legal” drug scene in Amsterdam. In the time it takes to smoke one joint, some visitors can construct an entire dream about moving to the city and owning a coffee shop. Some coffee shop owners, when pressed for advice, would likely advise: “Don’t do it.” The cannabis industry is enjoyed with much more freedom by tourists than it is by the people who define it. Cannabis is not legal in Holland. It is tolerated, due most likely to the fact that it is organic and feeds the economy, and is monitored in a very vague and confusing way. The more research I did, the more confused I became, as every owner knows the rules in a slightly revised format. No concrete copy of requirements is posted in the shops, save for a basic list of five main rules and usually a few created by each shop individually. The list as follows is courtesy of The Beginning of Cannabis and Coffeeshops in Amsterdam, by Anne Bonney, as well as a bit of clarification from the kind folks at Global Chillage in Amsterdam.

Soft Secrets spent an afternoon at the aptly titled coffee shop chatting with the owner and several employees about the regulation of the illegal industry. The main problem seems to be that out of all the monitoring groups, like local police, the tax office, and the labour department, no public official will take responsibility for clarifying the laws of the business that seem to be little more than rumours. Protecting your license is a balancing act between legal and illegal, and there is always a chance of being closed temporarily for violating a law you did not know existed. The following are the basic requirements the shops must respect in order to be ignored by the authorities:

**(1) “No advertising, including no cannabis leaf motif in the window or on the sign.”** This also means that wall art and posters should be monitored and should not include any dangerous or excessive drug activity.

**(2) “No hard drugs, no buying, no selling, no possession; by the owner, staff, or clients.”** What is tricky here is that this rule obligates the coffee shop owner to be responsible for the contents of employees’ and customers’ pockets. Zero-tolerance policies apply regarding hard drugs, and soft drugs are not to be carried in bulk, as explained in rule four.

**(3) “No public nuisance.”**

This means whatever [the owner] wants, but is generally things like fights, loud noise, scooters blocking the sidewalk, or people smoking in front of the door.” Gambling and dealing (dealing includes buying and selling) are also a public nuisance, to patrons as well as locals. So is over-doing the cannabis consumption. Remember, people actually live here. No local enjoys finding a tourist relieving himself on their front stoop, much less having their shoes vomited on while smoking an after-work joint in a coffee shop.

**(4) “No sale of more than five grams to any client on any day.”**

Weed and hash in Amsterdam are super-strong. You are not permitted to carry more than a total of five grams of cannabis products, and with such a wide selection of potent stuff, there’s really no need. Outside of Amsterdam, possession is tolerated up to thirty grams, but in the city drug restrictions are a bit more stringent due to the high tourist and cannabis industry volume. Five-gram specials are friendly on the wallet, but leave it at that. Collecting a mass quantity of samples from several shops puts their licenses at risk if you carry all of it around with you, and you can only smoke so much at one time, anyway.

**(5) “No minors. This means persons under eighteen.”**

Dutch law dictates that from sixteen years you may purchase beer, wine, and tobacco. At eighteen you may consume cannabis, mushrooms, and hard liquor. If you’re travelling with a half-legal group, plan a few alternate excursions for the minors. Expect to be asked for identification at the coffees hops and smart shops. Don’t make a fuss; this is a business with many legal constraints.

***The cannabis industry is enjoyed with much more freedom by tourists than it is by the people who define it. Cannabis is not legal in Holland. It is tolerated.***

Along with these five, known as the ‘AJOHG richtlijnen’, shops must never stock a combined quantity of more than five-hundred grams. It is legal to grow three plants if you live alone, five total per household without lights or hydroponics. However, it is not legal to grow in mass quantities and supply a coffee shop. It is also illegal for the shops to buy from growers in bulk. Purchasing small amounts and smoking is

tolerated. The five-hundred gram quantity includes half a gram apiece for pre-rolled joints, and the cannabis content of the “space” products. This is disputed, as many shops still carry the products, while some have been slapped with the “three strikes” policy and closed for a week per strike for violating this “rule.” Supposedly, the space munchies and pre-rolls are no longer legal due to dosage and tobacco license issues. Space cakes are made with products ranging in quality from leaf material to hash oil, which is a controlled substance and illegal in Holland. Many tourists cannot handle the amount of cannabis they’re consuming, as it produces a different physiological experience than smoking. Eating too much or combining cannabis with alcohol gets many people into trouble, not to mention embarrassing situations. In terms of the pre-rolled joints, it is better to avoid these anyway, as the quality and source of the contents may be questionable. Often, weed that is not dried or the dusty mix from the bottom of each box is thrown together, with seeds occasionally, and wrapped in a nice cone so you can’t see what you’re smoking. Sometimes, pure weed smokers smoke a joint mixed with tobacco and get sick. The dosage concern is definitely a viable one.

***Protecting your license is a balancing act between legal and illegal, and there is always a chance of being closed temporarily for violating a law you did not know existed.***

### 500 gram per shop

The five-hundred gram rule is enforced in the same way as all the others. Sometimes a local undercover controller stops by to see if the list is being upheld, and the rumour is that they often refuse to show identification. Another “rule” is that the menu must not be displayed; in fact, journalists are forbidden from publishing menus in their stories and coffee shop websites are being investigated for content. However, if for example this particular rule comes into question, and the controller is asked to write down the specific legality concerning the menu and to sign the statement, he will not comply. No one seems to want to take responsibility for these vague but enforced laws. Aside from the local controller, there are also local “hit teams” that do random searches of the premises, investigating the quantity and products in the shop. Lately, this has included drug dogs trained to find secret stashes that may be hidden in the coffee shop. The tax office also visits, as does the Gemeentelijk Administratie Kantoor (GAK), the people who investigate illegal employment.

Employees behind the bar may not work alone if they’re under twenty-one years of age, which is a basic “Horeca” or café law, although you can enter the shop at eighteen. No small children are allowed even if accompanied by an adult.

### BCD

Regarding Horeca laws, the shops are restricted from alcohol licenses. They must follow the same licensing issues as regular cafes who sell food, beverages,

and snacks. The coffee shop owners pay a fee to be a member of the Horeca community; some feel they receive no information or protection in return. Some cannabis retailers are members of the BCD, or Bond van Cannabis Detaillisten. Of the less than three-hundred shops in Amsterdam, only about thirty are members. The BCD coffee shop map, available at the Cannabis College and some grow or smart shops, lists the member shops and provides one of the only avenues of advertising. Coffee shops are no longer permitted to advertise, and the re-printing of the map has come into question due to its content. These two examples are just two of the points that make the legality confusing.

### Dying Down policy

A “Dying Down” policy was placed on the shops within the last few years in order to do just that: kill off as many unsavory shops as possible. The policy combined with the AJOHG richtlijnen is intended to regulate the quality of the shops. This is not necessarily a bad thing. A few shady places harbor hard drug deals, and many shops have the habit of selling unpopular weed under the guise of something everyone knows by name, simply to liquidate their stock.

Hydroponically-grown weed is often labelled bio, swindling the discriminating customers who avoid purchasing the chemical version of a naturally-occurring plant. Any shop violating the AJOHG laws faces a penalty of forced closure for a week or two, and after three violations the license is lost. Part of the dying down policy is a restriction on issuing new licenses. At the City Hall building, all the existing coffee shops are listed in hard copy. After each name follows a code, and the code dictates the restrictions on that license. These include the possibility of transferring the license, if for example the owner dies or quits the business. This is where you can also find out the possibility of the issuing of a new license in a particular area, although an overabundance of Horeca licenses in the area or a location too close to a school can restrict new shops from opening. In some areas, no new coffee shops are allowed at all.

### Chill

It is extremely important for shop owners to maintain a healthy relationship with its neighbours. If a dealer isn’t careful with product distribution, although this isn’t always possible, the customers become unruly or sick. As mentioned before, this directly affects the people living in the area. Customers have as much responsibility in respecting the neighbourhood, and local complaints weigh heavily against the possibility of staying in business. Global Chillage is a great example of a healthy relationship with the surrounding community. The exterior is unassuming; no garish neons or drug murals adorn the building, and inside you are greeted by a calm, beautifully decorated environment. The owner and staff maintain a constant



stream of chill music that never drowns out conversation. While it is annoying to have to shout to your friends over a joint and a coffee in a coffee shop, it is even more evasive for neighbors to endure pounding rap or hardcore techno music. In fact, the whole point of the coffee shop is to provide a safe, relaxing environment for people to experiment with cannabis. Anne Bonney explains the history of the coffee shop in her book. In the sixties, people all over the world

***It is legal to grow three plants if you live alone, five total per household without lights or hydroponics. However, it is not legal to grow in mass quantities and supply a coffee shop.***

were dealing with political and social upheaval. Drugs became a welcome haven from the bad news, and many people cured their restlessness by travelling. India and the Middle East were popular destinations, and provided a nice stash of exotic weed and hashish for the friends back home to enjoy. In the seventies, much of the weed and hash smoked in Amsterdam, and in fact much

of the hash sold in coffee shops today, was and continues to be produced on foreign soil. Returning as experts on foreign smoking practices and with a new interest in cultivation, this generation created a curiosity that had to be controlled in some way. The early seventies saw an increasing trend of hard and recreational drug use that posed a health threat to the citizens of Holland. Irene Vorink was the Minister of Health and Interior at the time, and made a point

place to provide the safe atmosphere for experimentation, and removed the street-dealer aspect of the drug trade. Vorink believed that cannabis users were introduced to harder drugs through the drug dealers themselves, and she recommended to the authorities that consumers and the sale of personal quantities no longer be prosecuted. The irony of the “tolerated coffee shop” is that the target group of Vorink’s studies ranged from the ages of fourteen to seventeen, a group now effectively excluded from stepping foot inside the shops created to fill their need.

For more information, check out [www.Expatica.com](http://www.Expatica.com). This site covers local Amsterdam news as well as highlighting issues of special interest to expatriates living in Amsterdam. Special Thanks: Global Chillage, Kerkstraat 51, Amsterdam

**‘The Beginning of Cannabis and Coffeeshops in Amsterdam’, by Anne Bonney**



**GROWZONE**

# The microbiological balance in the root-zone

The microbiological balance is a simple way of describing a very complex society of micro-organisms. These micro-organisms have a big influence on the growing and blooming plants. It is very important for the serious grower to understand this balance in plants and, if possible, to control it. A healthy microbiological life always leads to an optimal macro-biological life span in both growth and flowering. This is also well known in the regular and professional gardening. This year much research about biological balances was started. Many research institutes in Holland are investing millions of Euro in research. Soft Secrets gathered the most important facts and definitions for the serious grower.

The roots are very complex and are influenced continually by the farmer and other outside factors. The farmers’ influence lies with his watering and fertilising of his plants, the choice of the substrate, the influence of temperature and light, the level of the pH, etc. The most important outside factor is the spreading out of the roots, also called root-extrusions. Micro-organisms can be good or bad (they also cause diseases). When there are more good micro-organisms than bad in a plant and the situation is stable, then a positive balance is achieved. These are a few of the factors that can influence the balance:

Tap-water  
Tap water also contains micro-organisms. Each time you mix water for the plants there are already micro-organisms present. This influences the biological balance.

Substrate  
Most current substrates are inert (means that they don’t react with

nutrition and roots) examples of these are rock wool, PU-foam, oasis and Mapito (a mix of rock wool and PU-foam). There are also organic substrates like cocoa and soil-mixes. The inert substrates do not influence micro-life very much. These are often so sterile that they hardly contain microbiologic life. This can be changed with biological means. Organic substrates on the contrary do have a lot of microbiological life. Most of the times it is a positive balance, certainly in the better quality mixes.

Root temperature  
The presence of a micro-organism and the quantity of it, depends on the temperature in the root-zone. Every micro-organism has its own optimum. EC (solved salt-concentration)  
The complete salt-concentration is important for the fact that the micro-organisms can survive. The separate nutritional elements influence the growth of certain micro-organisms.

Light  
Roots don’t like light at all. Micro-organisms that live in the root-zone also don’t like light. Organic substrates have a natural dark colour, so the root-zone is also dark. Inert substrates are often packed in plastic material so that light cannot pass through.

pH  
Fluctuations of pH influence the composition of micro-organisms. The more stable the value of the pH (5.5 – 5.8), the more stable the microbiologic balance will be.

Bio-means  
Biological, bio mineral, organic means and means based on plant extracts, all influence micro-organisms. The latest developments in gardening are bio-stimulators. The bio-stimulator directly

influences the micro-flora. The bio-stimulators directly restrict the influences of disease producing micro-organisms, so that the good organisms can develop well.

Chemical insecticides  
These synthetic methods kill more than only mite or white fly. If the residue of the insecticides drips from the leaves into the root-zone, they also kill the positive micro-life. This is not recommended because of the damage to your health too.

Oxygen  
The type of substrate, how thick the layer of the system is and how often the plants get nutrition influence the amount of oxygen in the root-zone. Other micro-organisms develop when there is a lack of oxygen.

Root-extrusions  
Besides the multiple factors which influence growth, there are processes

in the root-zone that are influenced by the plant itself. These are the so-called root-extrusions. These separate products consist of sugars, amino acids, phenols, phenol-acids or other organic combinations. Sugars and amino acids can serve as nutrition for the plant and so they can play a role in growth-stimulation. Phenol-combinations and certain organic acids can restrain the growth of the plant if they are too strong. Bio-stimulators play their part too. Bio-stimulators break down all kinds of organic combinations so that plants can easily absorb it. That is why we advise the serious grower to check the micro-climate of his plants... It can make a lot of difference...

Happy Gardening!  
© Highlife





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

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



**weckels  
world of  
wonders**

# Making Nederhash (using a Pollinator)

**By-and-large, for the outdoor grower the winter months are a time when there is pretty much nothing to keep him occupied. Last year's harvest is well behind him; done, dusted and processed. Plus for most growers, it's too cold for outdoor activity. However, the winter months are especially suited for making your own 'Nederhash' – a hashish, by-the-way, that is of outstanding quality. So in this cold period of the year we do in fact have something to keep us occupied, an activity that is guaranteed to yield some top smoking Nederhash, as we Dutch have dubbed it.**



*In this photo you can see trim waste from outdoor grown plants. It's a shame to throw it away, especially when you think that you can get some top quality hashish from it.*

Nederhash essentially means hashish made in the Netherlands. You often come across it in Dutch coffee shops in a powder form, because this is a sure-fire way of indicating that it was definitely made in our homeland. Hash from anywhere else is almost always pressed in order to make it easier to transport (it takes up less room, obviously). Sometimes Nederhash is made only with ice and water and when this is the case the hash made is so sticky that you never come across it in powder form. Just how one makes hashish from just ice and water I will leave until another time to tell, given that this time around I'm planning to tell you how to make hash powder. This method of making hashish is derived from time-honoured techniques and is often a more appropriate technique thanks to the fact that hashish made this way is often easier to mature and subsequently store. Once you've got hash powder you can keep it for years, and in contrast to weed, it often appreciates in quality (provided that you keep it cool, dry and in the dark).

Before we actually get down to starting to make our hashish, let us first look back to the harvest time, given that this is the source of our most important raw material (the leaf trim from around the buds).

During the harvest period we trimmed away the small leaves sticking out around the buds in order to end up with lovely, round-shaped buds. Once we'd got this little job out of the way, the buds were ready for hanging up to dry in our drying cupboards. Once you'd let these buds dry for a good ten days there's simply no way you could have avoided a great crop of outdoor weed.

But then the marihuana plant contains so many more valuable gifts than just the well-developed buds, and that's why many a wise grower never throws away these small leaves and under-developed buds, rich in THC as they are. These small leaves and under-developed buds, also known as trim waste, are indeed chock-a-block with THC crystals and resin glands that are highly valuable to us. The ever smaller pieces into which the trim waste and budlets are cut soon create a large pile, which is why it is worth your while letting this valuable stuff dry out rather than throwing it away.

The trim waste is best left to dry on a sieve, because it can more easily be turned over with the hands to prevent the interior moisture building up to mould-threatening

levels during the drying process. In order to advance the drying process a little, I leave a small ventilator on its side, blowing up through the sieve. Air circulation plays a crucial role in the successful drying of trim waste and flower heads. The air has to be kept in continuous circulation during the entire process, so that the moisture from the trim waste and flower heads can easily (with help from a suction pump) be expelled outside. After around ten days the well-developed buds (the less-developed ones sometimes a little earlier) can be removed from the drying cupboard.

For the drying of the trim waste I would even advise you to give it a good three weeks. This is a situation where 'the drier the better' really does apply, because the chances of a successful hash production is partly dependent on the dryness of the small leaves and under-developed buds.

Growing outdoors, there is never a guarantee of total success. In a bad year the making of a superior-quality hashish can make-good a whole heap of misery. Even in a good year there will be sufficient barely-developed buds on the lowest side branches left over, that despite a happy harvest, you can still put the icing on the cake of all that hard trimming.

*This trim waste comes from plants grown indoors. As you can see, it is chock-a-block with THC crystals and resin glands, and therefore worth a great deal to us!*



You will in any case have a bit of work to do, beginning with the storing – and therefore ensuring you dry – the trim waste. Sadly, just drying out the under-developed buds and small leaves is not enough for making hashish, so next we've got to separate the THC crystals from the vegetable matter. Because there are a lot of different ways of doing this, there are also a lot of methods, with or without involving modern apparatus, and therefore a variety of ways of making hashish. So there are methods that involve extensive beating of the trim waste with bamboo sticks or lengths of reed, methods well-known for example in Morocco, Afghanistan and other famous 'hash-lands' where they are well-suited. The trim waste often lies here on a very fine sieve and sometimes even on a sort of cloth, through which the THC crystals (that are very small in size) pass and are then caught.

Because I personally prefer - on balance - to use modern apparatus to separate the THC crystals from the trim waste, rather than whacking the arms off my body and even then probably ending up with an inferior product, I choose to hire a machine. Because buying a machine to make hashish can often be a very expensive undertaking, it is smarter for the (outdoor) grower who only has decent amounts of trim waste once a year.

But even if you decide to hire something, you have some choices to make between the many makes, such as the Skuff Buzzer and the Pollinator. What you as a grower prefer differs from individual to individual, but personally I give the Pollinator the edge. That is why later in this article I will be referring mainly to the method using this, even though using the other apparatuses on the market will make no difference to the operation.

The Skuff Buzzer is a sort of wide box fitted on the inside with a very fine sieve.



When you put the trim waste in and turn it on, the sieve vibrates, agitating the trim waste. The result is that the THC crystals fall by their own weight to the bottom of the vibrating pile and through the sieve. You can just stick the Skuff Buzzer on a table and after leaving it running for while, tilt it over to scrape off the hash powder. Even more handy is if you place the Skuff Buzzer on a mirror (shiny side uppermost!) laid on top of the table, so that the hash powder is easy to see. The smooth surface of the mirror also prevents the hash powder from sticking, and so makes scraping it together into one clump a lot easier. Scraping the hash powder together is best done with something with a hard, sharp edge - a credit card, for example.

The biggest difference between the Pollinator and the Skuff Buzzer is that with the Pollinator the trim waste is smashed up inside a similar box structure and constantly turned around and around. In this way the trim waste is pounded continually onto the sieve, which in turn shakes loose the THC crystals. The crystals are subsequently collected on a white plate which after a period of time (usually after letting it churn for 15-30 minutes) can be scraped together with a credit card-type implement.

Now that I have outlined the way both machines work it is time to set to making the actual hash powder. Having supplied a decent amount of dried trim waste, we have to make sure that we treat it right. The small and slightly larger buds we cut up finely, so that the THC crystals fall more easily from them, as well as the leaves, once the Pollinator starts to turn.

After this we check that there are no twigs hidden in the trim waste. Even small twigs (such as those that had once had buds on them) can cause a great deal of damage if they are left in the Pollinator. Any twigs present can be rock hard, because they are so dry, and can cause severe damage to the sieve (also known as the screen), with negative consequences for its effectiveness. Sieves such as these are not exactly cheap and once damaged are practically useless, because the quality of the hash powder - if you even bother to continue - declines dramatically. Once you get small bits of leaf coming through the damaged sieve instead of only THC crystals, the hash powder is no longer of a pure enough quality (plus there are bits of leaf in it).

Once we've sorted the trim waste well and finely chopped up any rough buds, I generally split it up into plastic ziplock bags (and close them as tight as possible). These bags are ideal because you can take the dried trim waste out easily, and just as easily put it back again once it's been processed. We can use the trim waste more than once; a second or even occasionally a third pass is possible (depending on the quality of the waste).

I fill each re-sealable plastic bag with about 80 grams of trim waste; in my opinion, this is the ideal amount for the trim waste to turn freely in a standard size Pollinator - and therefore the handiest amount. What's more, you can empty the plastic bag of its contents directly (with no need to weigh it again) into the box of the Pollinator. Of course, there are also larger models, right up to ones you could lie down inside the



*Once you got your trim waste nice and dry, chop up the larger buds, so that the THC crystals can be more easily shaken off the buds and small leaves, once the Pollinator starts to turn.*

box compartment of, but such models are rarely for hire and more than that, are way above the budget of the average (outdoor) grower.

Before we rush off to hire one of the two machines, you should put the re-sealable bags and the trim waste in the freezer; a day before is fine. This freezes the THC crystals and thereby makes them shake loose more easily from the under-developed buds and small leaves. Freezing the trim waste before placing it in the Pollinator to churn works a treat. An additional advantage of doing all this in the winter months is that you have a lower air moisture to deal with as well as a lower temperature. Thanks to the cold outdoor temperature the trim waste stays cold longer than if you worked with the Pollinator during the summer. That's a reason why you should also refrain from putting the heating on when you are at work with the Pollinator. There are even some smart growers who place their Pollinator entirely in the freezer while it's turning in an attempt to make the gadget work even more effectively. Naturally, you need to be in possession of such a capacious freezer, and of course check whether such a use is recommended (you don't want to void your warranty!).

Just to return one more time to the freezing of the trim waste issue: it is very important to do this in advance, otherwise you can't get straight down to work, at the moment you get the Pollinator or whatever machine in your hands. Growers who prefer hire a Pollinator or some such apparatus can often do best to get straight down their local grow shop. Always keep in mind that there is often a considerable deposit to be paid, because so many growers become so enthused by their first adventure into hashish production that they omit to bring the thing back again. Such practices have ensured that their rental is no longer as easy as it used to be and many grow shop owners have become rather choosy who they hire them to.

An alternative is to rent one with a group of

friends or colleague growers in order to split the costs. Sometimes growers will save the trim waste from a number of harvests in order to do it all in one go. This is a little cheaper (than hiring one every time you harvest), only you have to watch out for Mr Plod, given that he has a tendency to view 'trim waste' in a far more flattering light than we might. The courts too do not differentiate between trim waste and good bud, nor do they seem too keen to make that distinction. So you pay your money and takes your choice when you choose to start yourself a nice collection of trim waste.

Once we've got a Pollinator or some such apparatus in our possession, we can begin. Preferably put the Pollinator on a table, so that we have it at the ideal height for working with (your back will thank you). We remove a plastic bag from the freezer, empty it into the Pollinator's box and start this turning (making sure first that the clip on the box is well shut and the large catch is placed downwards). Usually I let the Pollinator turn initially for a quarter of an hour before I first scrape the hash powder from the white tray (see photo). Then I take out the trim waste again and put it back in the plastic bag, stick a number (like, or "1") on it and pop it back in the freezer. The number I wrote on the plastic bag is to make sure I don't go putting the same bag through the Pollinator (it's perhaps best to start keeping the plastic bags separate from each other). The hash powder from this



*The day before we set to work, with the Pollinator, we place the bags of trim waste in the freezer.*

first churning is often very dark in colour and of the highest quality (Premier Quality, in fact).

You should not make the mistake of looking strangely at it when, after just 15 minutes, you have only a small amount of hash powder collect on your white plate. The process does not proceed all that quickly, but the quality by contrast of this tiny amount of hash powder is terrific. Moreover, small amounts put together soon create a decent amount, especially once you remind yourself that it would all have been thrown away (as pure waste). We keep the hash powder during the production process in another small plastic bag. At a later stage many people choose to store their hash powder in linen bags, in order to let the hashish "breathe" during the maturation process.

I myself always keep it in plastic bags (also during the ripening stage because in my opinion it is better protected from damp from outside.

Once we have replaced the plastic bag with the trim waste, having used it first, back in the freezer, we pour the second bag of trim waste into the Pollinator box. We let this batch also sieve for a quarter of an hour and then repeat the above steps until all the trim waste (in various plastic bags) has been given one turn in the Pollinator. Next we start all over again with the trim waste from bag number 1, only this time we give it a half hour turning.

You will notice that the hash powder is somewhat lighter than the first batch, and I put it in its own plastic bag (Secondary Quality). And so back into the freezer goes bag number one. Again, once all the bags have gone through the process again, you'll find the bag of Secondary Quality hash soon mounts up.

But we are not yet finished with the making of hash powder and can safely run the trim waste through one more time. This time we let the trim waste churn for a good hour because most of the THC crystals are already shaken loose and collected, and a little less hash powder comes out. The hash powder we get from this third churn of the trim waste is really light in colour and of lesser quality still. But it is still worth the effort of reclaiming this light coloured hash powder, leaving us with three qualities of hash. There are many growers who simply mix all three grades together, in which case you end up with just one grade of hashish, but this is concentrated enough and you're still left with a good quality hash. For the still inexperienced smoker it's going to take no more than a couple of tokes to be guaranteed an interstellar trip. If in fact you find the Premier Quality really too strong, you can take the edges off it by



*To ensure that we don't keep getting the same plastic bags out of the freezer, we make sure that each one is given a number.*

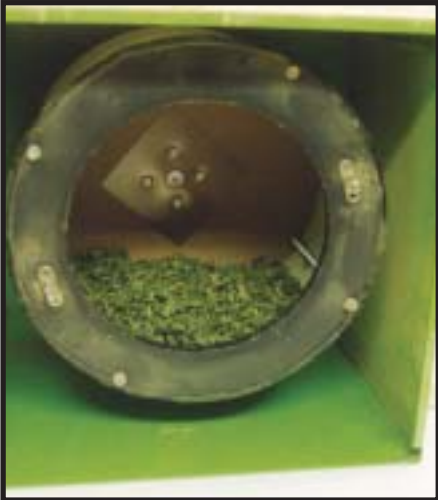


mixing it with secondary and tertiary quality; even then you're likely to be stoned as an ape. Once you have finished all the work and have amassed a nice amount of hash powder, naturally you'll want to roll a good biftah from a ball of it and get nicely trolleyed. And indeed you can, and will if you do so. But the quality will be even better - supremely good - if you can just resist the temptation to smoke or press it straight away, but leave it a year so - longer if you like - safely stored. In this way the hash powder gets a chance to fully ripen (provided you keep it in a cool, dark and above all dry place) and the quality will gradually rise to stratospheric heights. This happens, among other reasons, because the grains of green leaf (that made their way through the sieve in small quantities) after a period of time die off. This improves both the taste and the quality of the hash powder dramatically. The hash you buy from most coffee shops or independent merchants has usually had a good period of time to ripen, only it is not noticeable, happening slowly, during the production and storage (in the country it was produced in). Even during its smuggling, if the hashish has been pressed, it was still able to ripen. Of course, you can also use the trim waste from indoor growing to make Nederhash (or Brithash, I should say!) just as well. The small leaves and buds from indoor production tends to have more THC crystals in it than that from outdoor growing and it therefore goes without saying that you will also get more hash powder out of it. Because of this it is often the case that the winter months can be a golden time for the indoor grower: frequent low air moisture and low outdoor temperatures (allowing more lamps to be hung up and used than during the summer months). But it can be that indoor growers

*Some breeds of hemp produce so many THC crystals that the hash powder is already starting to accumulate in the bag of trim waste.*



have enough on their plates just trimming to worry about what happens to the trim waste. This is an opportunity for the outdoor grower with time on his hands who is able to spring immediately to work for a colleague in return for a share of the lucrative end product. Once you have made your own Brithash, I promise you, you will want nothing else. There is nothing lovelier than a nice pile of hash powder, made by your own fair hands, and of a superior quality to boot! I'll end by wishing all readers, growers and other interested parties a good New Year and in all probability, I'll be back again next year with new reports from the frontiers of my growing practices at Weckels World of Wonders.



*When you have made sure first that the clip on the box is removed and the large catch too, the bag with the trim waste can be put in the box*



*Next we fasten the clip back on the box and slide the white tray underneath. Now we only have the outer catch to fasten and we're ready to roll!*



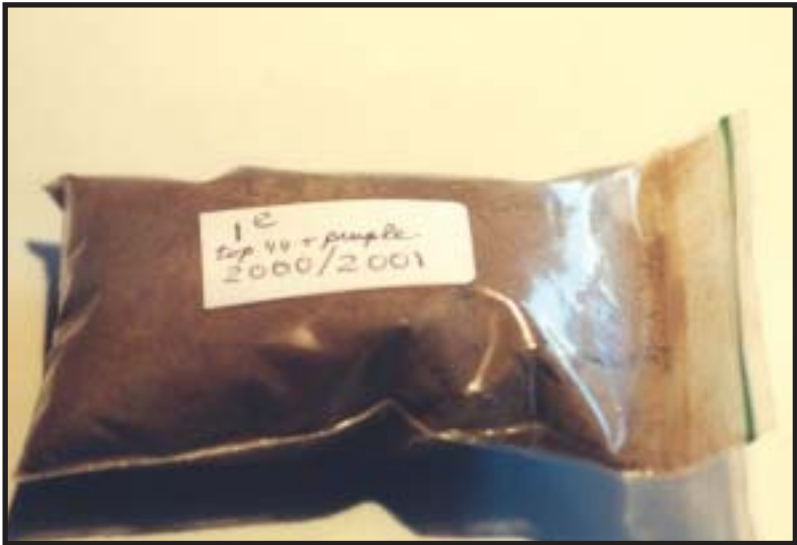
*After a quarter of an hour's turning we unfasten the outer latch and carefully slide out the white tray. With the aid of a bankers card we can scrape the hash powder easily off the white plate.*



*The second time around we let the Pollinator turn for half an hour. A thick layer of hash powder is our reward.*



*A nice collection of hash powders from over the years. If you can quietly let it ripen, you are guaranteed a great quality hash.*



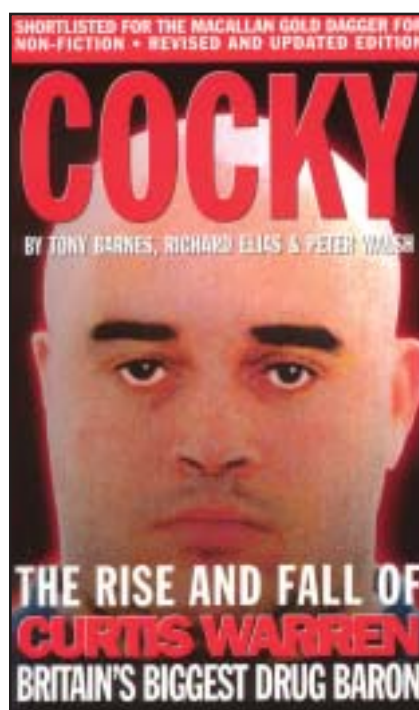
*Always write the production year, quality class and the breed of marihuana used (from which the hash comes) on the label.*



*In this photo you can see once again the hash powder. Real, 100% pure Nederhash!*



## BOOK REVIEWS



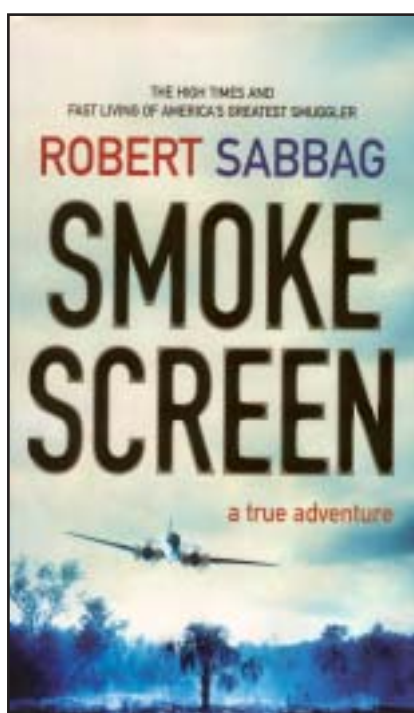
**Cocky:**  
The Rise and Fall of Curtis Warren,  
Britain's Biggest Drug Baron  
by Tony Barnes, Richard Elias, Peter Walsh (Milo Books)

At eleven he was stealing cars. At fifteen he was beating up policemen. At twenty he was an armed robber. And by thirty, Curtis Warren was the biggest drugs dealer in Britain. Curtis Warren is the richest and most successful British criminal ever to be caught. He had a hotline to the Columbian Cali cartel, direct links with the Turkish heroin Maffya, and unlimited credit with the cannabis dealers of Europe and Africa. He organised shipments worth hundreds of millions of pounds and had a small army of violent soldiers prepared to do his bidding. His power was such that he was able to control the price of drugs on Britain's streets. And he did it all with a mobile phone, a photographic memory and an extraordinary criminal mind. COCKY has been extensively revised and updated to tell the amazing story of the rise and fall of Curtis Warren. To catch him, police and Customs officials throughout Europe set up Operation Crayfish, a unique operation, putting together a hand-picked team working from a secret location. In doing so they stumbled across police corruption at the highest level, walked smack into a bloody gang war, and uncovered an organised crime network linking the whole of the British Isles. Finally, Warren was caught in an SAS-style raid by Dutch police. Today, he is serving a twelve year jail sentence under maximum security. One of his gang has already escaped, and he has murdered one of the inmates.

Observer chief reporter John Sweeney wrote about this book: "Once upon a time, a Scouser in a shellsuit with the head of a bullet on the neck of an ox turned up at the Squires Gate helipad in Blackpool and went for a flying lesson in a helicopter. He paid £750 in cash. The notes were crisp and new. The chopper flew up and away over the Irish Sea, leaving the effluent plume from the Mersey and the metal prick of the Blackpool Tower far below. The chopper flew north over the grey, scudding sea to the peninsula of Barrow-on-Furnace where they turn out nuclear submarines for the Royal Navy. The Scouser pointed to a big square of grass down below, the grounds of the non-league Barrow Athletic Football Club, and said: 'I own that.' Some boast. But it turns out that he wasn't short of a bob or a hundred million pounds. The scally's name was Curtis Warren, his nickname Cocky Watchman, Scouse slang for a dodgy caretaker, and he was, some say, the Cali cartel's agent for northern Europe. Her Majesty's Customs and Excise had a different name for him: Target One.

He's banged up now, serving a 12-year-stretch in Vught prison in the Netherlands, a former Nazi concentration camp, for importing enough cocaine into Europe to keep the London advertising industry happy until the year 2010.

Meanwhile, British Customs officers and policemen, working in tandem for a Dutch judge, are beginning to unpick a fraction of Cocky's missing millions. Forget Kenneth Noye. He was just a fence, albeit for the Brinks Matt gold bullion robbers, and one with a nasty temper. Forget the Krays. They were just pathetic minnows. It is nigh on certain that Cocky is the richest criminal in British history. I remember vividly the first time I ever heard the name Curtis Warren. Veronica Guerin, the brilliant Irish journalist had been shot dead in Dublin in the summer of 1996, for going after the heroin barons who were making themselves rich while a generation of Irish kids were getting suckered on smack. Her mission had been simple: follow the money. The Observer sent me off to find out who, and why, and how. And what were the names of the British Mr Bigs? In search of the British Mr Bigs, I had gone to a pub to meet a Customs investigator, the late Bill Newall, who at that time was working for the heroin target team. Bill had 'called the knock' on many heavy-duty nasties, including a number of Turkish heroin traffickers ...I asked Bill about the Mr Bigs, the ones that always get away. He took a pull on his pint and said: 'Then you've got to go to Liverpool. And ask them about Curtis Warren.' Who? 'He's nothing much to look at. The usual big Scouse tough guy in a shellsuit. But this one is good. He doesn't drink, smoke or use drugs. He's got a photographic memory for telephone numbers, numbers of bank accounts and the like. We've been looking for where he keeps his stuff. On a computer? In notes? No way. He carries it all inside his head.'



**Smoke Screen:**  
A True Adventure  
Robert Sabbag (Little, Brown & Co.)

Do you think you have the balls it would take to risk your life for a million dollars?" Allen Long certainly did. Balls like a bull elephant's -- with charisma and cunning in the same large measure. But he needed to know that those around him could handle pressure. After all, they'd be violating Colombian and U.S. airspace in a dilapidated DC-3 and landing on jungle mud-tracks in bandit country. They'd have to avoid detection by America's most tooled-up law enforcement agencies and remain wired and vigilant at all times. They'd be pioneering dope smugglers -- doing it with aplomb and panache like no one else. Their leader, the irrepressible Long, was interested in only the best, Colombian Santa Marta Gold, the Beluga caviar of marijuana. He and his merry band of smugglers were responsible for upping the quality and quantity of weed smoked in North America for several halcyon years in the early '70s. And they did so in the most outrageous and

remarkable fashion. From the writer of the drug-smuggling classic Snowblind comes a true story more hair-raising, high-octane, and heart-pounding than any fictional adventure thriller, as he relates the high times and fast living of America's greatest marijuana smuggler. Take a seat. And hang on for the ride of your life.



**Killing Pablo**  
Mark Bowden (Atlantic Books, London)

Readers of Black Hawk Down know Mark Bowden can tell an exciting story about as well as any writer at work today. Killing Pablo is further proof. It describes the rise and fall of Pablo Escobar, the notorious Colombian drug lord who became one of the narcotic trade's first billionaires. Pablo -Bowden refers to him by his first name throughout the book- started out as a petty thief and wound up running a massive smuggling empire. At his height in the 1980s, he owned fleets of boats and planes, plus 19 separate residences in Medellin, each with its own helipad. Violence marked everything he did: "He wasn't an entrepreneur, and he wasn't even an especially talented businessman. He was just ruthless." He bought off police, politicians, and judges throughout his country, and killed many others who wouldn't cooperate. The Colombian government tried to capture him, but without much luck; he evaded them time after time. "Now and then the police achieved enough surprise to catch him, literally, with his pants down. In [1988], about one thousand national police raided one of his mansions," writes Bowden. "Pablo fled in his underwear, avoiding the police cordon on foot."

He got away, again, but his days were numbered. He was making powerful enemies in both Colombia and the United States.

The final straw probably came when Pablo's men murdered a popular politician and, three months later, planted a bomb on a plane, killing 110 people, including two Americans.

The bulk of Killing Pablo describes what happened when the U.S. government put its resources behind the hunt for Pablo. Bowden describes the search in gripping detail, from the massive electronic-surveillance effort to bureaucratic infighting between rival U.S. agencies. This is an outstanding work of reportorial journalism, too: in the epilogue, Bowden drops tantalizing hints that it was an American--not a Colombian--who delivered the killing shot to Pablo in 1993. Readers looking for a real-life thriller--or any kind of thriller, for that matter--won't do much better than Killing Pablo.

**These books are for sale at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)**



**Dr. John Dee lives in Scotland. In the real world he's a researcher and a writer. In dream time, a scholar of the strange and unusual. He has many interests, but everything always seems to come back to drugs. He really needs to get out a bit more.**

# Grey Areas

There's been a bit of excitement over the past month as the UK government is apparently introducing new legislation regarding the possession and use of cannabis. As is usually the case when something like this happens in the UK, there's considerable excitement and speculation within "the cannabis community" (whatever that means) as to what this is going to involve. Basically, on 29 January 2004, cannabis will be re-classified from a Category B drug to a Category C one. Or at least it will if you happen to live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. This means that as long as the user doesn't take the piss (smoking in public, in front of children, "near schools" and so forth), then if caught they'll receive a caution - which will apparently amount to an informal on-the-spot warning - and they'll have their dope confiscated. This begs the question; if the police aren't going to bust dope smokers, why bother with the caution at all? And why

confiscate something that isn't considered dangerous enough to bust someone for? As ever with cannabis legislation in Britain, something doesn't quite add up. The government has been at pains to point out that no way is dope now legal (in spite of what some people seem to think) nor even decriminalized. So where does this leave us? Is possession of cannabis a criminal offence or not? The answer to this one seems to be "it depends". Personal use will be pretty much ignored, but dealing will still potentially carry a 14-year sentence. However, nobody at the Home Office has bothered to produce guidelines regarding amount, so where personal use ends and intent to deal begins is as vague as it ever was. How does one define and set limits on personal use without sounding like an old fart? Is a quarter of an ounce a week adequate? Or maybe an ounce is more like it? Of course, in the end, it's going to be down to the individual police officer to make a purely subjective decision as to

whether he/she thinks three grams (or whatever) of White Widow is for personal use or not. One wonders if they'll have any sort of criteria to assist them in the decision, or whether being busted or not will continue to depend on factors such as the mood of the officer, whether they like the look of you and if you're middle class. Not good enough, really. Not good enough by a long way.

Here in Scotland it's a different story, as there appears to have been no definite decision made as to what's actually going to happen. Come January 29th 2004, light a joint on the streets of Edinburgh or Glasgow and it'll be business as usual: go directly to jail, do not pass go. You get the picture. Police chiefs in Scotland have decided to wait and see what happens in the rest of the UK before making a decision one way or the other. In the meantime, what we have is a substantial part of the population continuing to be criminalised and targeted because of something that amounts to a lifestyle choice.

Even assuming that the laws in Scotland change in accordance with those in the rest of the UK, these problems are still going to exist. It's all too confusing and it really, really needs to not be.

So what have we got? It's (sort of) okay to possess cannabis but not to buy it, and even though possession isn't a crime (though it is really), any dope found on the person will be confiscated (and presumably destroyed). Oh, and dealing still carries a maximum of 14 years, but you won't know until you get nicked how much dope actually constitutes intent to deal.

Everyone quite clear about all of that? No, me neither. Is it only in the UK that

politicians can fuck legislation up so spectacularly that nobody actually knows exactly what's going on? Next time, I think I might have a look at cannabis policy in other EC countries (with the exception of Holland) and see how they compare to the UK. I mean, the rest of Europe can't be as shit as this, can it?

[dr\\_dee@ganja.com](mailto:dr_dee@ganja.com)



## THE BUSH DOCTOR

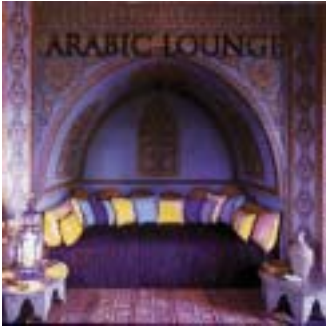
HE TREATS ALL KNOWN AILMENTS WITH A SPLIFF!

PRINCE CHARMING





Compilation  
'Arabic Lounge'  
(Beechwood)



This double album is a heady fusion of dubby beats; Arabic instrumentation and vocals resulting in a seriously chilled out and never dull melt down. The collection includes contributions from Jah Wobble and Temple Of Sound with 'Hayati' and Fila Brazillia with 'Soft Music Under Stars'. A perfect smoker's choice, relaxing in some cushions with a large hookah pipe is the style for this one!

Willis  
'Come Get Some'  
(679 Recordings)



Mix together the spirit of the Delta blues, sixties Stax soul and folk along with a strongly flavoured unique ingredient into a totally contemporary setting and you have Willis.

'Come Get Some' is her debut album and it's really quite brilliant. Old blues singers, soul divas or folk heroines such as Joni Mitchell could spring to mind as association, but why compare her? Willis is quite simply and very powerfully, herself. Throughout this fourteen-track album Willis shows that she is a truly talented musician and her versatile vocal style takes us through a strongly evoked range of emotions.

DJ Deekline presents...  
'Hardcore Beats Straight of the Streets'  
(Rat Records)



This is a Breakbeat album of blood-pumping substance featuring some of the cream of 21st century material. Label owners DJ Deekline and Ollywood present the mix with their trademark cheeky vibes and pure unadulterated enthusiasm, throwing in mad-hype

# HOT WAX

By Kaz Peet

## A STONED SELECTION

scratching and adrenaline- fuelled acapellas. The Ragga Twins host n' toast to raise the energy levels through the roof on this unique compilation.

Ranking Miss P. presents...  
'Sweet Harmony'  
(Trojan)



This is a selection of classic reggae vocal gems, lovingly brought together by DJ. Ranking Miss P, taken from that golden era of JA. Reggae music, the 1960's and 70's. It recalls for her happy memories of Djing at shebeens and travelling far and wide for the love of sounds like Sir Coxson, Sufferers Hi-Fi, Paddington Terror and many others. Every tune on the album is a top lick with contributors including Abyssinians, Alton Ellis, The Ethiopians, Heptones, The Gladiators, Culture and Toots and the Maytals. It is artists such as these who continue to have vital influence on Jamaica's contemporary music makers.

Compilation  
'Sky High'  
(Transmitter)



Subtitled 'The Sky is High (and so am I)', this album is a collection of jazz and blues reefer songs. Twenty-five tunes, both old and more recent, expressing the long standing and inextricable link between this music and the herb. Including tracks from greats such as Tommy Dorsey, Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole and Cab Calloway, the release also features lesser-known nuggets such as Big Bill Broonzy and Jean Brady with the fabulous 'Knocking Myself Out'. Entertaining and fun, this is sure to keep you swinging.

Mettle Music  
'Moodswings'  
(Bar De Lune)

With this follow up to their solid debut album 'Honeycomb Lounge', Mettle



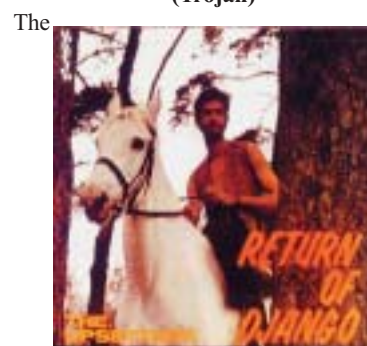
Music move into fresh pastures. Funk fuelled, jazzy, percussive grooves flex effortlessly with more laid back productions. You can unwind to the sweet Latin vocals of 'El Mar' or hit the floor as the full live band takes to the stage with the irresistible grooves of the samba inspired 'Latin Horns'.

Undertones  
'The Best of Undertones.  
Teenage Kicks'  
(Sanctuary Records)



This is an irresistible collection of the loveable Undertones spanning the period from 1978 to 1983. The album includes classic tunes 'Teenage Kicks', 'My Perfect Cousin' and 'Jimmy Jimmy'. As John Peel's favourite ever punk band, if you were to young to remember the Undertones, to not check them out would definitely be missing out.

The Upsetters  
'Return of Django'  
(Trojan)



instrumental 'Return of Django', re-released on Trojan, is one of the defining works of Lee Perry's early career as a truly independent and extremely unique producer and it was this that catapulted him into the consciousness of a wider UK. audience. Named after a Spaghetti Western film directed by Sergio Corbucci it features the unmistakable Perry style rhythms, dubs, organ, 'loco' vocal inserts and organ, so popular with the original

skin-'eads. The album also includes some choice previously unreleased and previously unreleased alternate takes making it a must for any collector or reggae lover. Is this man genius or just totally of his head, perhaps both. One thing is for sure, Lee (Scratch) Perry don't need no gun to blow dem away.

Compilation-Fragile State  
'Just Got Home'  
(Beechwood)



Compiled and mixed by the highly acclaimed Fragile State, this album brings together some of the finest contemporary chill and mellow mood grooves. With it's blissed out beats and lush soundscapes it makes perfect listening for lazing on a sunny afternoon or those all important, dawn lit, after party sessions. A high standard has been set here by Fragile State in this first release of the new 'Just Got Home' series. A favourite, for this listener, is 'Heaven's Gonna Burn Your Eyes' from Thievery corporation.

Turbulence  
'The Future'  
(Jet Star)



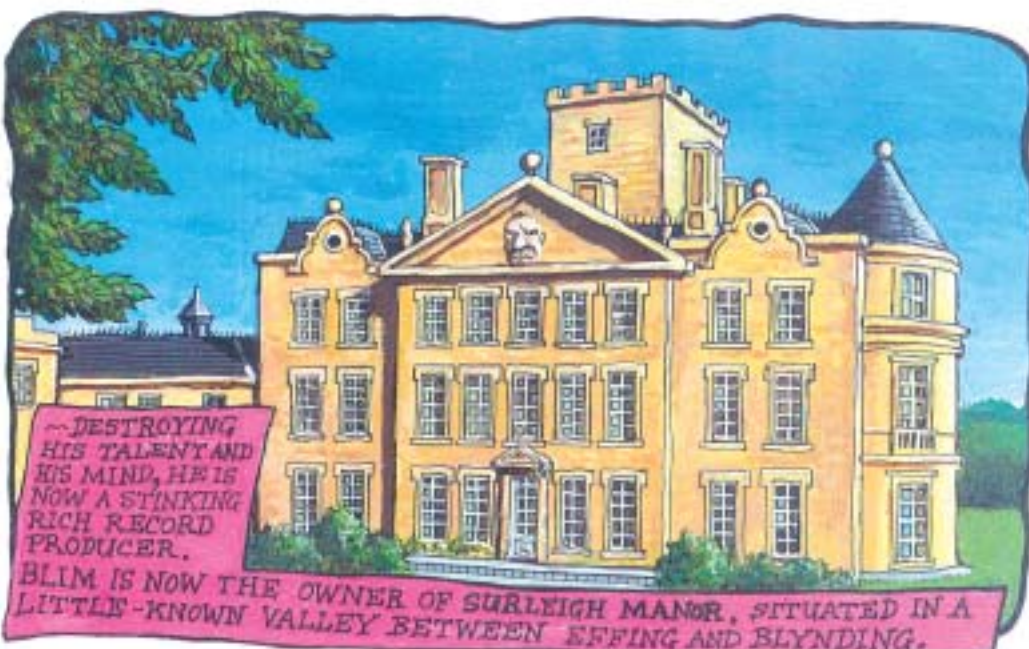
Turbulence is the latest shining star, sing-jay, to rise up from the Hungry Town district of Kingston, Jamaica. Heavily in demand by reggae producers his inspiration comes from the likes of Sizzla, Luciano and Buju Banton, as well as "some foundation man like Bob Marley." Originally known as Double Trouble, he was renamed Turbulence by a Rasta elder on account of his capacity to upset Babylon. Brimming with free-flowing talent, conscious lyrics and a love of expression that allows him to flow effortlessly through a variety of styles including dancehall, ragga, hip-hop and the more orthodox, "live" rhythms heard behind tracks like 'Nah Bluff', 'Revolution Pon Di Wicked' and catchy former single, 'Bad In The Past'. This versatility in no way dilutes the blistering skills demonstrated on more hard-core tracks such as 'Life Over Death', 'Gone With The Wind' and 'We Are'. Throughout the album, Turbulence inflames, inspires and uplifts. One Love.



# GROWING PAINS

WITH RUSSELL

THIS IS BLIM LEAVINGS, 60 YEAR OLD ROCK SUPERSTAR, FOUNDER-MEMBER OF FALCONFLATULENCE AND ONETIME LEAD GUITARIST WITH THE LITTLE FAECES. DESPITE WRECKING HIMSELF WITH BOOZE AND COKE, ETC. AND



DESTROYING HIS TALENT AND HIS MIND, HE IS NOW A STINKING RICH RECORD PRODUCER.

BLIM IS NOW THE OWNER OF SURREIGH MANOR, SITUATED IN A LITTLE-KNOWN VALLEY BETWEEN EFFING AND BLYNDING.

AS LITTLE-KNOWN AS THE VALLEY ITSELF IS THE UNIQUE POSITION OF SURREIGH MANOR IN THE HISTORY OF BUILDING TECHNOLOGY. THIS 18th CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL GEM WAS CONSTRUCTED ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM A FORM OF CONCRETE BLOCK MADE FROM COMPRESSED HEMP STALKS MIXED WITH BADGER-POO.

BLIM DID KNOW THIS WHEN HE BOUGHT THE PROPERTY, BUT HAS SINCE FORGOTTEN IT, ALONG WITH (OCCASIONALLY) HIS OWN NAME AND WHICH PLANET HE'S ON...

ACTUALLY HE SPENDS VERY LITTLE TIME AT THE MANOR AS HE ALSO HAS HOMES IN LONDON, L.A., NEW YORK, TUSCANY, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS AND KINGSTON, JAMAICA.



THIS IS JUSTIN, SEMI-RECOVERED ALCOHOLIC, ARMCHAIR GREEN ACTIVIST, HEAVY TOKER, BULLSHITTER AND LUCKY PARASITE. THANKS TO AN OLD MATE WHO WAS AT ONE TIME A ROADSIDE FOR FALCONFLATULENCE (AND THEIR ACID DEALER) JUSTIN IS NOW

EMPLOYED AS THE CARETAKER OF SURREIGH MANOR, A £200.00 PER WEEK SCAM WITH THE OLD BUTLER'S FLAT THROWN IN. HE ALSO HAS FREE POWER AND HEATING, ACCESS TO THE WINE CELLAR, AND ALL THE FRUIT AND VEG HE CAN EAT. HE EVEN GETS A SNORT OR TWO OF COKE WHEN BLIM COMES DOWN TO ESCAPE FROM THE PRESSURES OF THE CELEBRITY LIFESTYLE.

WHAT ISN'T SUPPLIED IS THE POT JUSTIN NEEDS TO KEEP HIS MIND OFF THE WINE CELLAR. SO, BEING MILE FROM KNOWN SOURCES OF SUPPLY, HE'S GROWING HIS OWN...



HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO GROW GOOD ORGANIC HERB IN THE MANOR'S SPACIOUS GROUNDS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THESE ARE THE PROVINCE OF THROBBINGS, THE PSYCHOTIC GARDENER, AN IRRATIONAL AND UNTRUSTWORTHY MAN.

HOWEVER, EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING, AND SO HAS THE VAST LOFT SPACE OF SURREIGH MANOR SINCE JUSTIN PAPERED IT WITH ALUMINIUM FOIL. USING LONG DISCARDED GEAR FROM THE OLD RAPTORFLATULENCE LIGHTSHOW THAT HE DISCOVERED IN THE HUGE WARDROBES OF THE INFAMOUS HAUNTED BLUE ROOM, HE HAS COBBLED TOGETHER A LARGE BUT INEFFICIENT GROWING OPERATION. JUSTIN'S PLANTS HAVE NOT THRIVED, DESPITE THE LATE 60'S LIGHTSHOW...



ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ENOUGH PLANTS TO KEEP A WHOLE MOROCCAN VILLAGE BUSY, THE INAPPROPRIATE LIGHTING HAS PRODUCED A CROP OF WARPED BONSAIS. IT HAS HOWEVER PROVED TO BE A PERFECT INCUBATION SYSTEM FOR THE EGGS OF THE HEMP-EATING LILAC SPIDER MITT (PREVIOUSLY PRESUMED EXTINCT) WHICH HAVE LAIN DORMANT IN THE MANOR'S WALLS FOR 300 YEARS.



JUSTIN'S PLANTS MAY BE TINY BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM. THE MITT POPULATION EXPANDS MASSIVELY BEFORE HE SPOTS THEM AND INTRODUCES A GANG OF PREDATORY FANG BEETLES AS A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL TACTIC. THE BEETLES, TUCKING INTO THE THOPEL MITES, GO INTO MUNCHIE OVERDRIVE AND EAT THEM INTO EXTINCTION.



THE GORGED AND BLOATED BEETLES, NOW THE SIZE OF MOBILE PHONES, IN TURN FALL PREY TO THE LOFT'S POPULATION OF SPIDERS. AFTER THIS FEAST THE SPIDERS, BIG BUGGERS TO START WITH, ATTAIN THE DIMENSIONS OF COFFEE TABLES. JUSTIN ISN'T HAPPY...



HE'S NO HAPPIER WHEN HE FINDS THAT THE SPIDERS, HAVING EATEN EVERY MOUSE, RAT AND BAT IN THE LOFT, HAVE RESORTED TO EATING EACH OTHER. THERE IS NOW ONLY ONE WORKBENCH-SIZED ARACHNID FROWLING THE LOFT. JUSTIN RARELY VISITS HIS UNFORTUNATE PLANTS...



WHEN HE DOES HE FINDS IT USEFUL TO CARRY THIS RATHER SELENDIP BATTLE-AXE, PART OF A TOP LOT OF WEAPONS PURCHASED BY BLIM TO INCREASE THE 'HERITAGE' ASPECTS OF HIS COUNTRY SEAT.

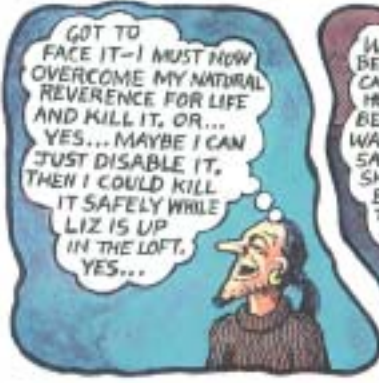
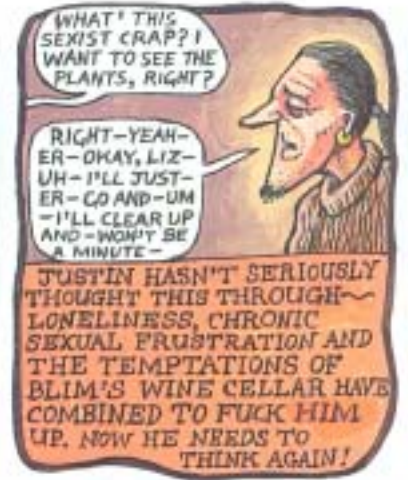


AND THIS OF COURSE IS OUR OLD FRIEND RUSSELL WHO IS RESEARCHING CANNABIS CULTIVATION WITH A VIEW TO GETTING INTO THE ILLEGAL GROWING BUSINESS HIMSELF IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

HE HAS HOWEVER FORGOTTEN THAT JUSTIN TENDS TO BE A BIT OF A BULLSHITTER, AND ASSUMES THAT SURREIGH MANOR HOUSES A VAST DOPE CROP. HE ALSO FACES A PRACTICAL PROBLEM. EVE, HIS PARTNER, IS TOO BUSY TO DRIVE HIM TO THE MANOR AND NEEDS HER CAR FOR WORK SO HE CAN'T BORROW IT. IN ADDITION THERE'S VIRTUALLY NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE EFFING AND BLYNDING AREA AS THE INHABITANTS ARE EITHER TOO RICH TO USE IT OR TOO POOR TO AFFORD IT.

USUALLY RUSSELL PREFERS TO HITCH ANYWAY, BUT HAS HEARD THAT MANY OF THE LOCALS ARE INBRED PSYCHOTIC REDNECKS WHO CAN BITE THEIR OWN ELBOWS (BUT WOULD RATHER BITE SOMEONE ELSE'S). JUSTIN SUGGESTS DURING A PHONE CONVERSATION THAT LIZ, A MUTUAL FRIEND, MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO DRIVE RUSSELL DOWN AND STAY OVERNIGHT AT THE MANOR...







# Soma's Organic Growing Beds

I have been asked so many times lately exactly how I build my growing beds that in this article I am going to explain exactly how they are constructed and used. I first order pre-cut plywood, cut exactly to the dimensions that I need, that way I don't have to do any sawing myself. Sometimes you will need to return the next day to pick it up. Then I make a list of what I need to get to build my beds. Thick waterproof black plastic, a staple gun, PVC pipe 70mm thick, one large bag of hydro-corals, plastic coated chicken wire, felt root cloth, some screws the sizes that you need and 4 multi-directional wheels for each bed.



DCM Mix

After getting the materials, I put the wooden box together. The dimensions are 1.20 meters by 1.20 meters, by 35 centimeters high. As I am not a carpenter I get help from a good friend who is. Then the multi-directional wheels are put on the bottom. Next the waterproof black plastic is carefully placed in to keep it as waterproof as possible and stapled to the outside of the bed.

Then in goes the entire bag of hydro-corals, covering the bottom to an even depth of about 5 centimeters. I then take the 70mm PVC pipe and cut it to a length of 35 centimeters. It is then placed in each corner of the bed, pushing it down slightly into the clay hydro-corals and screwed into the side with 2 screws. The plastic coated chicken wire goes on top of the hydro-corals after being folded back away from the PVC tubes. Felt root cloth is put in next, being cut to fit as exact as possible. You are now ready to put your organic soil



Guano

in, this can be store bought or you can mix it yourself the way I do. You need about 25 centimeters of soil. Even if I buy ready made soil I still add extra perlite to the mix to make it airy. Guano is a must. I prefer Guano Kalong. The NPK is 2-15-2 and the flowers that it produces are beyond compare. Even with soil from the grow shop, guano is a necessary component.

Here is my recipe for my soil mix. This is enough for one of my beds.

- One 50 -liter bag of worm castings
- Three 50- liter bags of black peat
- One 50- liter bag of potting soil
- Three 50- liter bags of Light mix
- Two kilo's of Guano Kalong
- Two kilo's of DCM organic fertilizer 7-6-12+ 4 Mgo
- One third of a large bag of perlite

All of these ingredients are mixed together as evenly as possible and placed inside the bed on top of the root cloth. One bag of light mix is left out of the mix to be used on the very top of the soil. When placing small clones in the beds it is better to have the mildest soil on the top, so that your roots don't burn. The soil with stronger nutrients is below waiting for bigger roots.

The great thing about the beds is that an air layer is created in the bottom where the hydro-corals are. The PVC pipes help with a passive air flow. Roots need air, especially cannabis roots. Many crops have been ruined by plants that have been deprived of enough air. Plants can become trapped in soil that remains too soggy, causing the roots to rot and killing the part above the soil. With the proper amount of water, growing with these beds prevents this problem.

Now I am ready for planting. I put 20 plants in each bed, 4 rows of 5 plants. Each plant can send roots sideways the whole length of the bed, so roots never get root-bound. With the DCM 7-6-12+4Mgo and the Guano Kalong 2-15-2, very little has to be added to the water for the first 5-6 weeks. I like to use some power thrive or super thrive in water that is Ph-ed to 6.0, it stimulates the roots with B vitamins and keeps the plants immune system running well.

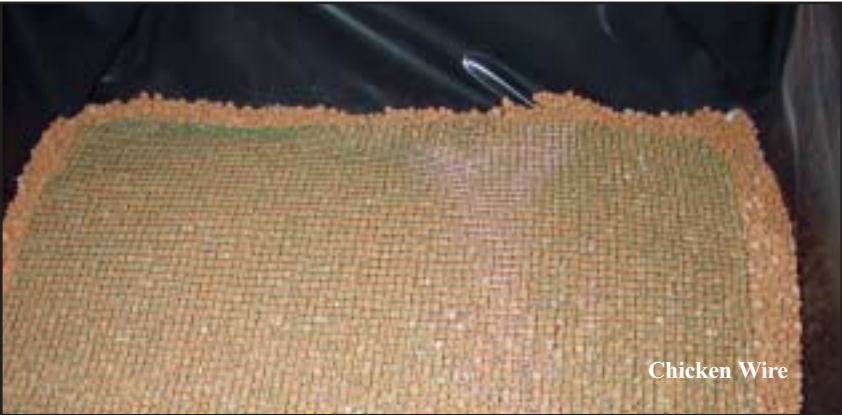
At about 3 weeks into flowering, I start to add guano tea to the soil. This is made by putting 100 grams of the powdered guano into 2 liters of warm water. This tea is watered in between the rows of plants being careful not to get it on the leaves and buds. I give this tea to the plants from week 3 through week 7. Then for the last 3 weeks I give the buds nothing but water Ph-ed to 6.0, for a good flush. Plants that have been flushed well have a much better taste. I have used these beds almost 20 times with great success. The soil can be reused by taking a little old soil to your outside garden, (or your neighbors), and mixing in new nutrients. I usually take out about 1/3 of the old soil. This can be done at least 3 times.

Once you try these organic growing beds you will not use pots again. In these trying times of dirty politics, nothing is better therapy than going into your grow room, and getting a little soil underneath your fingernails.

Soma is a 53 year old Rastafarian from the States who is spiritually dedicated to the Sacred cannabis plant. He has been working with the plant for 35 years. He wears pants and shirts made out of it, smokes it constantly, he has a prescription for 10 grams a day, and studies every aspect of the marijuana phenomenon. He lives in Amsterdam.



Waterproof black plastic



Chicken Wire



PVC pipes



Felt root cloth



Finished Bed



# I'll Take The High Road

Fraser Clark, Our Roving  
ACCESS ALL LEVELS Reporter.



## A NEW KIND OF SHAMANIC POLITICS? ARE THE LOONIES GOING TO TAKE OVER THE PARLIAMENT?!

*"We don't need any more presidents who never inhaled, we need one who never exhaled."*

Ivan Massow, foxhunting Tory entrepreneur turned modern art impresario, may or may not get elected Mayor of London but I reckon he represents the first Crack in the Old Politics.

After all, life has changed dramatically since Rave Culture blasted onto the scene; exploring shamanic highs & wides has become a central part of the lifestyle of millions of people worldwide.

Yet Old Culture politicians seem to chunder on, in some weird kind of social vacuum. But there's no such thing in Nature, right? And now, before the mayoral election's even begun, Ivan has

Fraser Clark, 60, our Access All Levels reporter, graduated with an Honours degree in Psychology from Glasgow University in 1965, dropped out in Ibiza to become a world-wandering Hippy author and non-profit for the next 2 decades, invented the Zippy and became one in 1985, welcomed Rave Culture with open arms, and went on to create the legendary Megatripolis club, the Zippy Tour of America in 1995, and the 24 hour Warp Experiences in London. He presently lives with his dog Jaunty in North London's Hampstead-Kilburn area, interspersed with regular jaunts to the weirder parts of the globe. He's working on several writing projects, including his UP! on-line mag which goes to a quarter million people weekly ([www.parallel-youiversity.com](http://www.parallel-youiversity.com)), and several books, including Dopinions - an irreverent, exploratory series of essays on drugs, several of which have already appeared in Soft Secrets.

publicly confessed to being a "regular user of Class A drugs". Not only that, but he won't stop taking them if he's elected! "I just don't want to be that virtuous" he told a press conference.

Who is this far out freak whose chances against Ken Livingstone cannot be dismissed by serious analysts? Well, he's only a freak to the dwindling majority still swallowing the perennial line that drug-users are far-out freaks!

They're not, and never were, that was all Old Culture propaganda! A million ravers are queuing up outside clubs in every town on the planet to tell you it ain't so! It ain't Puritan Work Ethic,

Now, yes, many pre-cursors had already been appearing. Many British politicians have publicly confessed to "youthful experiments". Indeed, Western world politicians routinely 'fess up to cover their asses, no longer even bothering with Clinton's "didn't inhale". Ken Macdonald, Britain's new director of public prosecutions, revealed that he'd been convicted, when a student at Oxford, of sending himself cannabis!

But my point is that these precursors are qualitatively different from this historic breakthrough. Ivan, far from clearing the decks as a precaution, is saying he'll go on doing drugs! He's not only almost proud of

Ivan Massow doesn't think he's weird; like every Soft Secrets reader he thinks it's the old style politicians who're weird, still appealing to a dying constituency! "Professional politicians don't resemble their constituents because they have to live purer than pure existences" he maintains. "In fact they don't - they live a lie."

Throughout my Hippy days I used to imagine the Old System finally collapsing, and humanity being forced to choose their new 'leaders' by the length of their hair, an un-fakeable sign of someone's serious commitment to the new lifestyle! While I don't believe that any more, I can easily imagine a time when drug experience becomes a standard political test. "Why the hell hasn't she consulted the shamanic level?"... "What dark secret is he afraid of?"

## A million ravers are queuing up outside clubs in every town on the planet to tell you that drug takers are not freaks!

certainly, but it's not far out freakiness either - unless that's your gig of course (which is fine :).

In fact Ivan is a senior adviser to William Hague's Conservative Party who defected to Labour over Clause 28, and is now running as an independent. He has a holiday home in Ibiza, and his friends will openly tell you his history of drug use reflects society and so "definitely includes coke, ecstasy and of course puff".

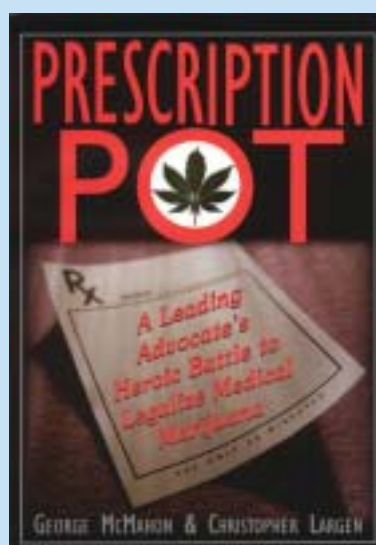
it, he presumably believes enough people out there could vote him into power!

It looks to me like clubbing and empathogens/psychedelics have raised his emotional centre to a point where he feels like serving his community, but not at the price of repressing his inner nature. I see no reason to doubt his promise to "fight to protect Londoners from state interference as long as their activities do not harm others."

For centuries Society's take on drugs has been that, if you ever confessed to trying anything, you were suspect - forever. You'd looked outside Consensus Reality and could never return, you were lunatic, not quite 'One of Us', unpredictable. This of course goes right back to the mediaeval Xtian church propagandising the view that anyone receiving spiritual inspiration directly (without going through Holy Mother Church) could only be getting it from the Devil!

**So stand aside, all you uptight, dangerously outdated weirdos, the Loonies are taking over the Parliament!**

## GREEN BOOKS



*Prescription Pot-George McMahon  
(New Horizon Press, New Jersey)*

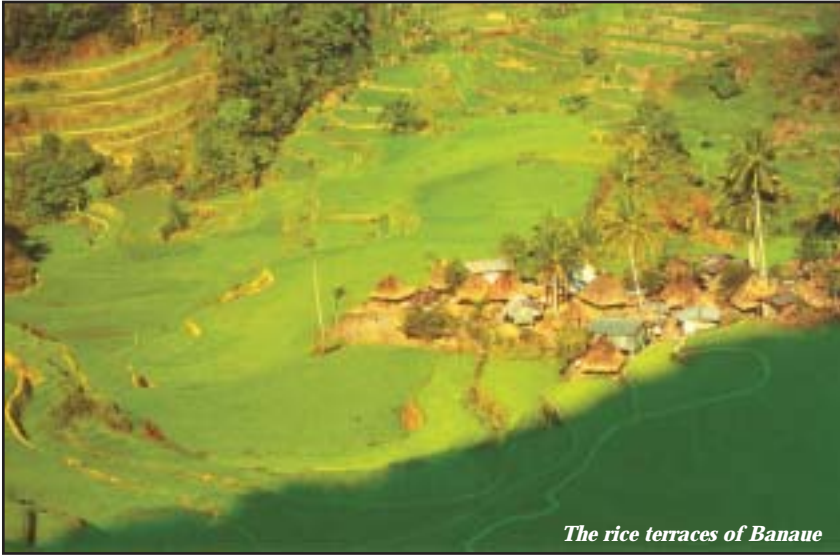
The next time you light up a spliff, smoke it in honor of George McMahon and Christopher Largen. The co-authors of Prescription Pot: A Leading Advocate's Heroic Battle to Legalize Medical Marijuana have presented a realistic, heartbreaking narrative of one man's fight to save his own life, made possible by his use of prescription cannabis from the American Federal government. George suffers from Nail Patella Syndrome, which produces symptoms including unusually brittle bones, lack of fingernails, hypoplastic kneecaps, and renal deficiencies. After a lifetime of unnecessary surgeries and countless chemical pharmaceuticals, he was presented with a natural alternative to his harsh regimen of drugs that often left him in a near comatose state. The FDA's Compassionate Investigational New Drug (IND) program provided George and other

patients in the program with a vacuum-sealed can of three hundred pre-rolled joints of federal ganja per month. The other recipients are being treated for ailments ranging from severe glaucoma to MS and AIDS Wasting Syndrome.

Despite the difficult hand life has dealt him, George uses his newly gained strength to speak out regarding the positive health aspects of the sacred herb. He also discusses tremendous setbacks that added misery to his already, at times, incapacitating illness. The vast differences between law enforcement officials in various states and counties in the U.S. demonstrates the negative effect of information suppression, as George is subjected to occasionally aggressive rebuttals of his medical claims. In fact, he even mentions higher government officials who were completely unaware that America even had a federally supplied medical

cannabis program. Unfortunately, only six federal patients are still supplied, as the IND program was terminated in 1992 by the Bush administration. Prescription Pot is an eye-opening testament of the hardships medical patients encounter in a society that supports punitive drug laws. Terminally ill patients are labeled criminals, often spending their remaining days fighting the anti-cannabis laws that withhold their precious medicine. This book is well written and provides excellent information sources for medical patients, activists, and anyone anywhere with any amount of compassion for his fellow man. Difficult to read at times, the book is a first hand account from George, his friends, and his family, promoting the wonders of medical cannabis that, in fact, saved his life. -KS





The rice terraces of Banaue

*With some 7,000 tropical islands, the Philippines counts itself among the most beautiful countries in the world. But tourism has barely developed, as a result of the ailing economy, the enormous social inequality and the ever-present poverty in the country. The adventurous traveller however will find himself in Paradise: deserted, snow-white Bounty beaches, uncountable diving opportunities and a generous and friendly population. At the moment a strong 'war on drugs' is being waged. But it is a public secret that a large part of the population smokes a joint regularly. Highlife's Charlie Stone brings us this report from the scene.*

Anyone taking a look at the Filipino daily newspapers could not fail to conclude that 'drugs' are Enemy of the State number 1. Which is quite remarkable for a country where the majority of the population still lives under the poverty line and where a handful of stinking rich families still own everything. Communist guerrillas and Islamic separatist movements are active on a daily basis, but the columnists of the daily press only seem to have eyes for the drugs plague sweeping across the land. In editorial commentaries heavy crackdowns are insisted upon and on TV and radio they point incessantly to the 'devastation' caused by drugs. One effect of this is that ever more forces and individuals feel themselves actually involved in the Filipino 'war on drugs', with violent consequences.

In this way the PSG, the paramilitary bodyguard of the President, threw themselves into the battle. This Presidential Security Group took part in Manila in a combined police operation. At one person's home, accused of links to the drugs Mafia, a bust took place. Due to poor co-ordination, the PSG and the police did not work in tandem, and when the smoke had settled after the raid, it became clear that the seven-year-old daughter of the accused had been shot dead. The guilty members of the PSG were immediately placed under protection from high up. Just one small example of how the war on drugs looks in the Philippines...

Another example occurred simultaneously in Ermita, one of the 17 districts of the Manila metropolitan area. There, Mayor Lim – nicknamed Dirty Harry – painted the doors of suspected drug dealers red as a warning. The Mayor did not stand alone in this remarkable action: police, barangays (a sort of armed civilian security

force) and watchful citizens supported him in his crusade against the accused, and in the media he was held up as a hero. Only when one of the accused sought the assistance of a human rights organisation were question marks raised about the action. Didn't it go too far to publicly tie a suspect to the whipping post like this? Those opposed to it were very much in the minority.

The lack of opposition is not so strange when one considers that 80% of the Filipino population are confirmed Catholics (the Pope, in contrast to much of the rest of the world, is unbelievably popular there), and another 10% are devout Christians. Not people one associates with criticising authority, in short. Lim, with one hand on the Bible and another on his pistol, was praised to the skies by the population.

#### Shabu

Anyone looking further than the media message alone sees that the Filipino drugs problem is primarily with the illegal drug shabu. Shabu is the Filipino term for methamphetamine chloride, a synthetic upper in pill and powder form that's swallowed, smoked or snorted. Shabu is also known as the 'poor man's drug' on account of its relative cheapness and easy availability in the shanty towns. The demand for shabu has soared in recent years, with serious pollution of the supplies on the street as a consequence. This contamination, combined with the severe poverty in the country, indeed does ensure that there are many problems and these have led to many deaths. Bank robbers under the influence of shabu who mow down all the armed security guards, or family rows in the shanty towns that end in murder dramas; this sort of incident is occurring every more frequently.

'Drugs' therefore mean to the majority of the population the Great Evil. About the real causes of the social inequality, corruption and poverty, the newspapers have very little to say. Plus there is no distinction made: drugs are drugs, whether we're on about a marihuana joint or a dose of shabu.

Neither does the Filipino law make a distinction between for example hard and soft drugs; there are only 'Dangerous Drugs' that are divided into two categories: Prohibited Drugs (opium, heroin, LSD, marihuana, amphetamines, etc), and Regulated Drugs - medicines such as

By Charlie Stone

# The Philippines

**Charlie Stone is not your average toker: as a former Marine he became an arctic warfare specialist who was based in Scotland and in Norway. After 8 years in the Marines, he became a journalist and writer, travelling to more than 60 countries spanning the globe and specialising in war-related stories. He's the former editor of Highlife magazine, and is still a dedicated member of the jury for the annual Highlife Cup. Charlie has lived in Kenya and Thailand, but currently resides in his place of birth, Amsterdam, where he's working on his third book.**

sleeping pills, painkillers and antibiotics). Possession of, or dealing in Prohibited Drugs are both heavily punished, varying from several years in jail to the death penalty, and usually accompanied by heavy fines. These heavy penalties can also be given to those caught in possession of or dealing the Regulated Drugs if they have no doctors prescription.

#### Earners on the side

It is clear that a debate about the drugs situation is not on the cards. However, I do want to learn more about marihuana and smoking in the Philippines. Even though I read to my horror several times of huge jail sentences being handed out for merely being caught smoking a joint.

"Look, in the media and from the authorities you get a strongly anti-drugs message, but among the general population there is a general tolerance of smoking a weed joint," says Johnny, a Hawaiian who has lived for years in the Philippines. "Just as long as you stay off the shabu, most people think."

Johnny (32) and his Filipino mate Marty (26) come from Baguio, on the largest, northerly main island of Luzon. Johnny has an American father and a Filipino mother, and has lived for years in the United States. For the last eight years or so he has been back in the Philippines, where he makes ends meet as a sort of hustler. Together with Marty, a trike-driver (motorbike taxi chauffeur), he occasionally sorts out some marihuana for locals or tourists. Neither of the two friends are exactly unfamiliar with the dope scene on the island.

Sometimes the two spend some time in the fields near Baguio or Pangasinan where most of the marihuana in the country comes from. The farmers secrete their marihuana plots among the large maize and rice fields. The world famous rice terraces of Banaue are also often used for marihuana production. (These terraces are often referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World": they were hacked 2000 years ago into the mountain slopes by a local mountain tribe. The terraces have been used uninterrupted since then for rice growing). The harvest that comes from here is sent abroad as well as supplying the national market. The crap stays here and the good stuff is for export.

"Do the farmers around Baguio rely on weed for the main income?" I ask the two guys in-the-know. Johnny: "No, it is purely a side-earner, a bit of cash to top up their meagre incomes. The local police and the army know all about it; they 'protect' the fields even, at least for a fee."

Marty: "Often, farmers who are not growing weed will have their land confiscated by local council officials, or put them under pressure to grow too, so that the officials can get their slice of the action. You have to realise, this is one of the most corrupt countries in the world..."

#### Growing

Johnny: "The marihuana in the fields is divided up even while it's growing into that destined for the home market and that that will be exported. The 'export' plants are treated with extra care, that is to say, the farmers come and visit more often to take off double or sick branches. They grow Indicas as well as Sativas here. The Indicas are for export, the Sativas for local use. The plant seeds are carefully collected for sowing later. No-one works with clones or anything like that. The Indicas are also allowed to grow for the whole year, that's to say ten months, and during the last blooming period all the leaves are trimmed off the branches. Then all you see is plants with buds, no leaves. In this way the farmers get heavier buds and therefore a better harvest. Once they actually have to be harvested, their watering is stopped, and the plants are left another month to grow. By then the buds are purple. During this process the buds pump out THC while sucking all the water out of the branches, to the extent that when you come to harvest the buds you can just snap the branches off. The buds though are still moist.

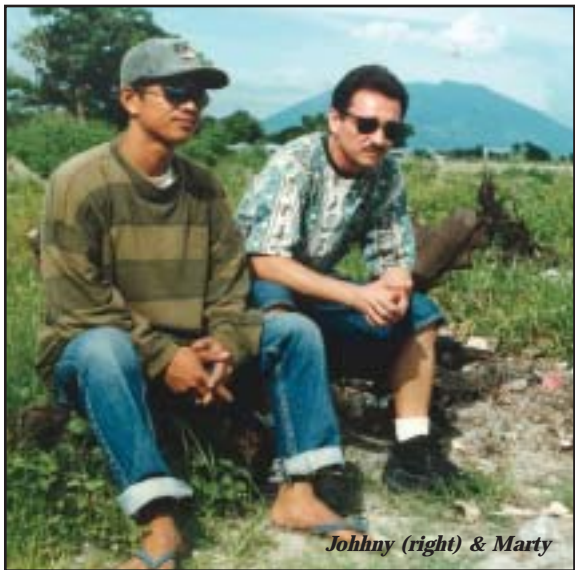
"The drying takes place in small huts with ventilators in them, or the buds are simply put in oblong cardboard boxes. What also happens often is that the buds are put in long bamboo poles to dry.

"Baguio and the surrounding district is a natural greenhouse; the climatic circumstances for growing marihuana are almost perfect. Almost everything else is grown that can be grown: fruit, vegetables, rice and ornamental plants."

Johnny and Marty are obviously well up to scratch. How do things stand with hashish? Is that also produced and smoked? "Hash is not really popular here," says Marty. "Actually, it is only foreigners that make it and smoke it. They are also the only people in the Philippines who grow indoors. Although on this island there is a local tribe, the Igurot, and they do make it sometimes. Their hash looks most like Red Lebanon. They don't smoke the hash but eat it, making a sort of hash brownie out of it."

And what about prices? Marty: "You buy weed here in bags, boxes or sacks. Or by the joint, that is also possible. But mostly the sale is by the kilo. You buy it locally here for about US\$100 a kilo. A 50 gram





Johnny (right) & Marty

The Filipino way of building a joint



slab of hashish would go for between 500-1000 dollars.”

Johnny: “OK, a single joint costs between 5-10 pesos (about 10p). A gram bag will cost about 20 pesos (about 30p). A hundred grams goes for about 200 pesos (three quid), 250 grams for 600 pesos (nine quid). A half kilo is 1000 peso (25 quid) and a kilo for between 2500-4000 peso (100 quid tops). When the American military was still here the prices were a lot cheaper, and the quality was ten

times better. (Until 1992 there was an enormous US military presence on the Philippines, in the form of an airforce base and a naval port – CS). In the areas where Americans lived you saw significantly fewer police, and so doing business was significantly easier.”

**What types of marihuana are sold?**  
Marty: “By far the best weed you can score is Buntot Pusa, which means ‘Cat’s Tail’. Besides that the most popular is a medium-quality weed variety, Baguio Gold. Then you have Lagkitan, which means ‘Sticky’ and Violet, a purple weed. These are the most common types.

**Does much smoking take place in this Catholic country?**  
Johnny: “I estimate that a good 50% of the population, young or old, light up a joint regularly. Smoking is here a sociable thing; it takes place when you visit friends, if there’s a party at someone’s place, or if you’re hanging out with friends. That takes nothing away from the fact that it all takes place underground and in great secrecy. Smoking in public or where there are strangers you just don’t do here. It’s just asking for problems.”

**Smoking techniques**  
Marty: “King size papers do not exist here, nor are they sold anywhere. People smoke pure grass in self-made skins made from thin papers, or in a pipe. What you often see is smoking out of home-made bamboo pipes.”

Johnny: “Young kids tend to tear the foil out of a cigarette packet and roll that into a tube and bend one end upwards into an improvised pipe. They just stick some finely crumbled weed into the uppermost end. We’re talking again about smoking pure.”

Marty: “Smoking paraphernalia such as bongs and water pipes are not available here. Sometimes foreign tourists bring one along, but in general you never see those sort of things.”

**Police**  
What happens if the worst case scenario happens and you get caught? Johnny: “In 99% of the cases you can buy yourself freedom immediately by bribing the cop who caught you. Every officer here is corrupt. That is why they keep such a close eye on you; not so much because they are against drugs, but because they fancy earning a few more bucks.”

Marty: “If you have no cash with you, you have to make sure that you get some as fast as possible, or you’re going to be in big shit.”

Johnny: “Foreigners obviously pay more than Filipinos. If you’re caught with a joint, you can safely count on it costing you 1000 dollars. If you have an expensive watch or chain on, you’ll lose that too. If you don’t pay, you end up in a cell. And once you’ve been there, with 20 others in a space of a few square meters, you’re soon going to choose the lesser of two evils. Tourists who visit here a lot in general know how things work, so you see it is usually newcomers who are picked up, people without contacts.

Marty: “If as a foreigner you don’t have enough cash in your pocket, the cop will casually walk with you back to your hotel to get it. Or he’ll walk you to a cashpoint machine, or a bank.

Johnny: “This sort of transaction cannot take more than a day, since then it can start to cause problems for the police officer. If you haven’t got hold of the money by then, you’re going to the cell. It happened to an American friend of mine that he was escorted back to his hotel, and when he only had Travellers Cheques and the banks were shut, he had to pay for a room for the cop in the same hotel. Next morning, the two of them went straight to the bank.

Marty: “In the meantime the officer will have made sure that someone was covering for him back at the station so his absence is not noticed. Higher ranks of cop will have subordinates to go that sort of thing for them, so that they are not seen to be doing it themselves.

Johnny: “Lower ranked cops too do not want to be seen by colleagues since they risk losing a percentage of the shake down.”

**How about penalties?**  
Johnny: “If you have no cash to buy yourself free, you’re gonna spend a long time in the slammer. For smoking a joint, you generally get two years and four months. That is the base level punishment. If you had more weed on you, the punishment is higher. That two years and four months only counts the first time you’re caught. If it’s your second offence, it will be a lot higher. If you’re caught with more than two kilos, you get automatic life imprisonment.”

Marty: “The police work here with informants. They get a bonus if they’ve shopped someone. Usually that is a share of the bribe that was paid. These same informants also frequently sell-on the confiscated weed for a commission.”

Johnny: “Another friend of mine from the States received a raid at his home while he was conducting a deal with three other Americans. There were 8 kilos of weed, a quantity of coke and a shotgun found at the house. In the end all four of them got off Scot free for paying an amount of 1 million pesos between them. The bigger the criminal, the more cash you have to have in your pocket, haha!

**Scoring**  
What should you take care of as a

**foreigner?**  
Johnny: “Never go yourself to get sorted, because the risk of informants is too great. The most standard way is to ask a trike driver, but there are many informants among them. Furthermore, it is always risky with these characters: normally, there’s some haggling over the price you get asked. If you haggle too far and the trike driver loses too much of his profit for his liking, he’ll shop you. Only if you pay a good price in his eyes, meaning you’ve paid way too much, can you expect few problems. If you are too insolent for his liking, or if he doesn’t like your face, you’re still for the chop. No, your best bet is as soon as possible, sort yourself a girlfriend out and get her to go get it for you. She knows the ropes. I strongly recommend people not to do it themselves.”  
Another learning experience. It just goes to show once again how it all revolves around how quickly you can make the right contacts if you’re scoring something to smoke in a foreign country. Absolutely in a place like the Philippines. ‘Cos 100 dollars for smoking a joint...?

I thank Marty and Johnny for the useful information, and promise to bring them some king size papers next time. As we were parting, Johnny says: “It is perhaps interesting for you to know that for a short while now, doctors can prescribe medicinal marihuana to patients with asthma or arthritis. So you see, we’re not so backward here after all, haha!”  
”Right!

Man gets 2 years for smoking 'grass'

A 24-year old man was sentenced yesterday by the Makati City Regional Trial to an imprisonment of two years and four months for smoking a stick of marijuana cigarette along Buendia Extension in Makati City last March 10.

Convicted by Makati City RTC Judge Sixto Marella, Jr. of Branch 138 was Edgardo delos Reyes, a resident of 187 Alapan Dos in Navotas, Cavite City.

Delos Reyes was promptly transferred from the Makati City Jail to the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Taguig for rehabilitation. The marijuana cigarette confiscated from him was ordered transmitted by the court to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for disposition.

Court records showed that Delos Reyes was arrested while he was in a marijuana cigarette smoking session during a surveillance operation by the police along South Superhighway and Gil Puyat Ave. last March 10.

Two companions of Delos Reyes managed to escape when the lawmen pounced on them. The cigarette seized from him was found positive for marijuana when examined by the NBI.

Delos Reyes denied the accusation, saying he was arrested two days earlier while walking at the corner of Claro M. Recto and Legarda Sts. in Sampaloc, Manila. (Felix Mediavilla)





# WIN HQ seeds in our prize puzzle competition!

## Gaanj-1's Premo Puzzle Page

AHOY, TOKERS, AND WELCOME TO OUR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE PUZZLE PAGE. TO CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL EVENT, WE'RE GIVING AWAY EXTRA SEEDS AS PRIZES! SO SKIN UP, SPLIFF OUT...  
...AN' LET YOUR BRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN!

### 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.

### CANNIBALS and BODYPARTS WORDSEARCH

Hidden in the diagram are the names of 5 famous non-cannibals, 5 famous cannibals, and 35 of the bodyparts on which they feasted. They can be written forwards or backwards, vertically or horizontally, even diagonally. When you've found them all, the unused letters will spell out the name of a whole society of cannibals.

#### 5 NON-CANNIBALS:

Frank Sinatra  
Ted Heath  
Mr Bean  
Lenny Henry  
Jeffrey Archer

#### 5 CANNIBALS:

Ed Gein  
Sawney Bean  
Hannibal Lecter  
Idi Amin  
Jeffrey Dahmer

#### BODYPARTS:

Arm Leg Neck Head  
Wrist Hand Fingers  
Elbow Skin Eyes  
Thumb Hip Ribs Scalp  
Lung Calves Lips Spine  
Gums Knee Penis Anus  
Buttocks Feet Toes Ears  
Nose Thighs Ankles  
Chest Liver Kidneys  
Heart Tongue Brain

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

### BRAINDEAD...!

How many words, of 3 letters or more, can you make using the letters of BRAINDEAD? We'll give you two as a free starter:

BRAIN and DEAD.

How did you score? I have found \_\_\_\_ words.  
Less than 2: You are dead. 2: You are braindead.  
2-29: Smoking good gear? 30: Average.  
31-50: Above average. 50-plus: Excellent! 500: Liar!

### SPIRO T. MANIA "This'll Kill Ya...!"

Solve the clues and enter answers in the grid. Except for the first one, the LAST letter of each answer is also the FIRST letter of the next answer. All of the answers are deadly poisons!

CLUES: 1. Deadly bacillus, anagram of I SLOT BUM (8 letters) 2. Toxic root, also a magician (8) 3. Anaesthetic, or the upper regions of space (5) 4. Evergreen flowering shrub (12) 5. Industrial chemical, also mothballs (6)

6. Colourless gas smells like piss (7) 7. Once so common, it was the murderer's favourite poison (7)

8. Prussic acid; used by Lizzie Borden, taken by Rasputin (7)

9. Edward I's archers made their bows from this tree (7,3) 10. Known as cowbane, locoweed and beaver poison (5,7)

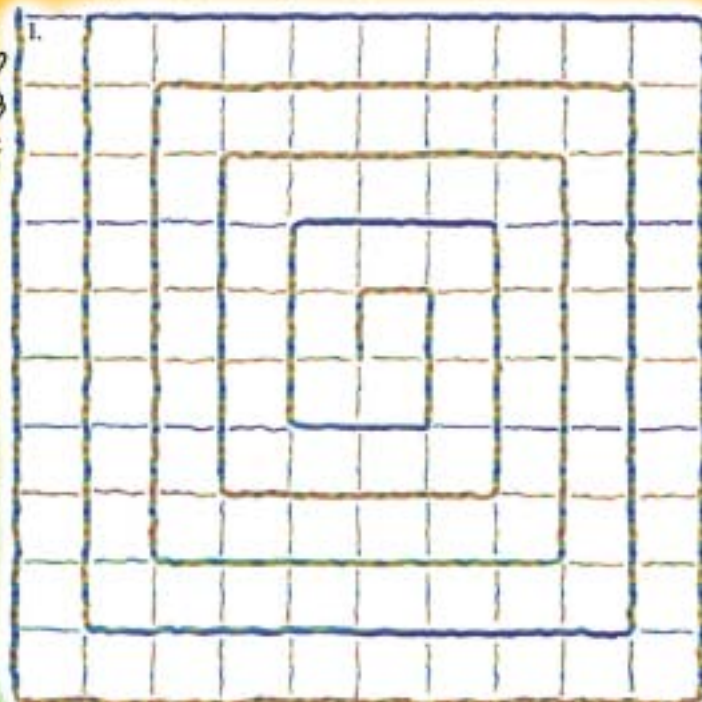
11. Fuel related to petrol (8)

12. Fungal cause of St Vitus Dance (5)

13. Large and hairy wolf spider (9)

14. The snake that killed Cleopatra (3)

15. Deciduous hedge, sounds like an old-fashioned bog! (6)



### Solutions to last issue...

#### WURDZ of WIZDOM

##### SOLUTION:

1. RUM 2. JUAN 3. RAJ 4. RAIN  
5. ARMANI 6. ARUM 7. RAMA  
8. MANIA 9. MARIAN 10. MARINA

#### THE BIG WORD

##### SOLUTION:

BAN, BIN, CAB, CAN, NAB, NIB, SAC, SIN, ANNA, BANN, SCAB, SCAN, BASIN, CABIN, INCAN.

#### SEARCH 'n' DRUGS 'n' ROCK 'n' ROLL

##### Artists:

1. Canned Heat 2. Chas 'n' Dave  
3. Rolling Stones 4. Stranglers 5. Fugs  
6. Tom Paxton 7. King General 8. Dillinger  
9. Rolf Harris 10. Andy Stewart 11. Lou Reed  
12. Beatles 13. Grace Slick 14. Velvets  
15. Shamen 16. Peter Tosh 17. Bush Chemists  
18. Thin Lizzy 19. Doors

##### Drugs:

1. Booze 2. Dope 3. Acid 4. Es 5. Speed  
6. Smack 7. Coke 8. Cigars 9. Hash 10. Grass  
11. Uppers

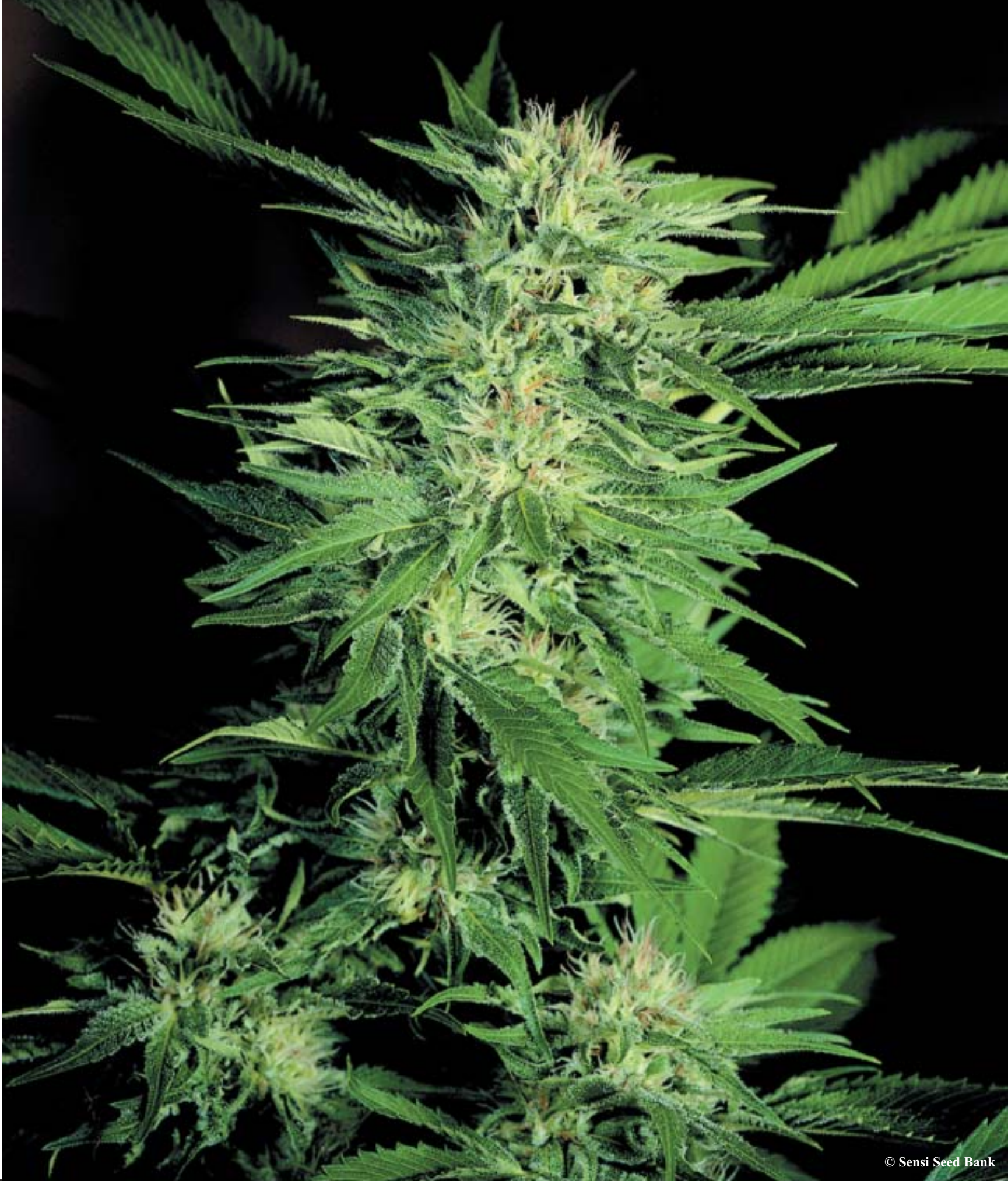
##### Hidden Artists / track:

The Other Man's Grass Is Always Greener  
by Petula Clark.





# BIG BUD





by Markus Berger Photo's: Sensi Seed Bank

# Cannabis Ruderalis

## A Rare Strain



*Sensi Seeds' Ruderalis Skunk*

It is still a moot point whether the genus Cannabis consists of three differing Cannabis types or one type with a variety ranging from it. Such differences in opinion are also held with regard to plants such as Datura (Thornapple), Lophophora (Peyote) and some fungi in the Psilocybe family. Cannabis expert, Matthias Bröckers declares, "It is only recently that Science makes premises of single types from which variations develop. This can be seen with regard to differences in climatic conditions for the wild growth of Cannabis Ruderalis compared to the resin rich Cannabis Indica." And further, "The question whether the genus Cannabis exists in many types or are all derived from one strain is highly controversial. The three strains Cannabis Sativa, Cannabis Indica and Cannabis Ruderalis can be partly differentiated by sub subdividing two groups under Cannabis Sativa, with Indica as the second or by subdividing two groups under Cannabis Indica with Sativa as the second." Consider this from the book 'Plants of the Gods' by Schultes and Hofman, "By just raising the question of how many varieties of Cannabis sorts exist, it soon becomes debatable whether the genus is a single strain that encompasses a large variety or whether there are definitive differences that separate the sorts. Currently the evidence seems to point towards three distinctive strains. Cannabis Indica, Cannabis Ruderalis and Cannabis Sativa can all be classified with differences in their elementary fibres."

### Characteristics and nicknames

Cannabis Ruderalis was first formally described by the Russian botanist, Janischewski. It originates in Southeast Russia but currently grows wild from the Caucasus right up into China. The name Ruderalis is derived from the tough, stony places on the plains where this sturdy little plant prefers to take hold. These places are

known as 'ruderal' and so Ruderalis indicates a plant that can even survive on building rubble. Ruderalis is short and stocky with a maximum height during flowering between 30 and 60 centimetres. In comparison with Indian hemp, Indica, Ruderalis has very small short leaves, hardly any branches and it produces one small firm flower, right on its main growth stem. The seed casing shows a difference in the outer covering tissue, which appears wrinkly and almost spotty. These seeds are usually smaller than their Sativa counterparts but are still larger than those of Indica. Traditional nicknames for Ruderalis are Anascha, Konopli, Mimea, Momea, Mumea, Penka, Penscha, Ruderalhanf, Russian Hemp, Primeval hemp, Wild Hemp, Rough Hemp, Hemp and Weedy hemp. Botanical synonyms are Cannabis Intersita SOJAK, C. sativa LINNÉ ssp. spontanea SEREBR. ex. SEREBR. et SIZOV, C. sativa LINNÉ var. Ruderalis (JANISCHEWSKY), C. sativa LINNÉ var. spontanea MANSFIELD und Cannabis spontanea MANSFIELD.

### The history of primeval hemp

The Greek historian, Herodotus of Halikarnassus (490-430 BC) describes the use of Ruderalis hemp for burial rituals practised by the Scythians.

A tent would be constructed from sticks and folds of felt cloth above a fire place, then everyone would gather under the tent and throw Ruderalis seeds onto the glowing rocks and embers, whilst deeply inhaling the rising fumes.

Archaeological finds have confirmed Herodotus by uncovering incense holders and leather pouches full of hemp seeds that date back 2400 years and were found in Scythian burial mounds around Mongolia. The following text was found amongst his notes that were uncovered at his burial site.

"Both vats contained a large amount of

hemp seeds and these were placed next to the aforementioned large stones. The seeds found were Cannabis Sativa L., of the strain Cannabis Ruderalis, described by Janisch. Hemp seeds were also discovered inside a heavy leather bottle that was attached to the base of a large vat in the form of a Scythian cauldron. The stones in the smoking vats were burned and some of the remaining seeds were carbonised.

Apart from its use in burial rituals, the Scythians used this strain of hemp as their favourite tranquilliser. In Central Asia, Cannabis Ruderalis has been used since prehistoric times by shamans for rituals and that still happens today in parts of Russia and Mongolia.

### Cannabis Ruderalis as folk medicine

In both Mongolia and Russia, Cannabis Ruderalis is widely used as an antidepressant. A Mongolian 'bagashun' or a Russian 'mummio' is a tonic against any and all diseases and ills. It is probably created out of a mix Ruderalis, juniper berries and bat shit. The Mongolians identify two strains of cannabis, that is Cannabis Sativa, which is usually used for its oil whilst Ruderalis is usually used for its psychotropic side effects. Jettmar believes that it is very likely that Mongolian shamans use Ruderalis with juniper berries to induce trance states.

### Chemical composition

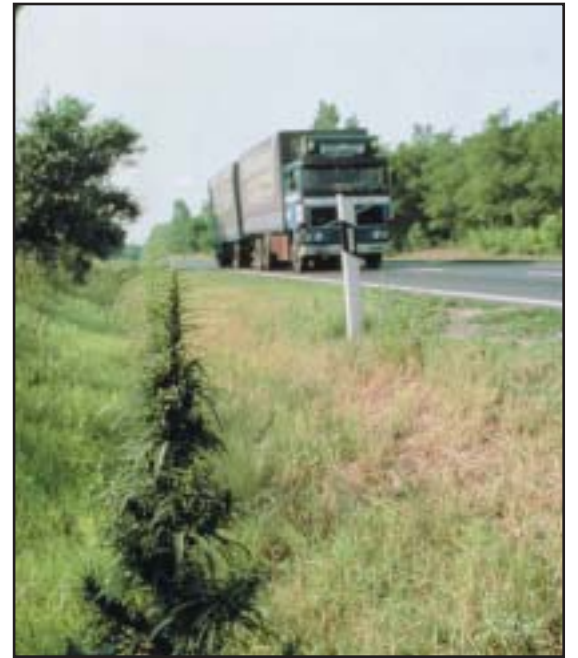
Ruderalis contains about the same amount of cannabinoids as its counterparts. That includes the three main components for THC (delta9-Tetrahydrocannabinol), CBD (Cannabidiol) en CBN (Cannabinol). The quantity of THC in Ruderalis is set at about 40%. In comparison analysis shows that Cannabis Sativa contains up to 70% of THC. Ed Rosenthal has this to say about the psychoactive effects of Ruderalis, "The high from Ruderalis is more of a zoom that quickly descends into a headache. Hybrids and cross breeding on the other hand, often produce a very respectable high." With cross breeds, Rosenthal is referring to modern cannabis hybrids that have evolved due to selective breeding between the Ruderalis hemp plant and a Cannabis Sativa or Indica or already established hybrid.

To conclude, let's have a quick look at some of these interesting developments. Modern hybrids founded with Ruderalis. For outdoor growing, Cannabis Ruderalis can best be crossed with plants derived from Cannabis Indica. Both types are small and robust and have a hearty immune system, (the influence of Ruderalis) and produce a potent high (the influence of Indica).

These factors are very important for the successful cross cultivator. Cross breeding with Sativa produces hybrids with an average high content. Ruderalis Indica and Ruderalis Skunk are outdoors strains produced by the Sensi Seed Company.

Ruderalis Indica, as the name implies, is a cross between Ruderalis crossed with an Indica cross which originated from Hungary and the former Soviet Union. The producers advertise this strain as being a fast and early bloomer that is still a potent hybrid.

With the early bloomer, Ruderalis Skunk, great care was taken to maintain the



*Ruderalis Indica near a highway*

original characteristics of the Ruderalis strain. This hybrid is also exceptional from its primeval origin in that it is able to flower regardless of daylight hours. It will just start when it reaches a certain age. For this reason they are very popular as a beginners plant.

One of Sensi Seeds more exquisite sorts is the Fourway, which is made up of 25% of Indica, Ruderalis, Northern Light and Skunk and is perfect for either indoor or outdoor cultivation.

The Canadian seed company, Mighty Mite Strains, produces two of their own hybrids alongside a purebred Cannabis Ruderalis. The program reads – Ruderalis Skunk crossed with Indica (for indoor and outdoor cultivation) and Mighty Mite crossed with Ruderalis for outdoor cultivation. Their top achiever is the strain Mighty Mite, an Indica strain originating in the Himalayas. Also to be found in Canada, is the Heritage Seed Company who created the Ben Johnson strain, which is an Indica, crossed with a Ruderalis hybrid. Jason King's 'Cannabible', came up with a Ruderalis – Strawberry cross. Strawberry is derived from 75% Indica and 25% Sativa. North American Willi Jack Seeds produces an interesting cross between Northern Lights and Ruderalis.

The original Northern Lights is a Indica hybrid with a very high potency and is the hallmark of Sensi Seed Bank.

All these different kinds are evidence of how interesting games between genetic properties and conditions can be. As different as all these individual strains of hemp are in appearance and form, so they are also different in their effect, in smell, taste and vegetative habits and preferences.

Cannabis Ruderalis is important to cultivators, not only for its hardiness but also for its exceptional flowering ability.



# Home made hashish

**Not everyone who grows their own can also afford an expensive hash press in order to sieve the last bit of goodness out of the scraps and leftovers (shake). Fortunately for a few quid and a fair bit of patience, you too can press yourself a slab of professional looking hashish. Soft Secrets takes you through the steps.**

**By Bart B.**

**Photos: Bubbleman**

To start with, you will need a small piece of cardboard and some cellophane plastic, preferably the type that is used to keep foodstuffs as the heavier variety will press some pretty nasty polymers into your hash. Here you see just exactly what you require.



This is all you need: a piece of cellophane and a piece of cardboard



Take the cellophane and wind it around the cardboard in the manner shown here.



Close it off tightly at the bottom. Tape it securely to ensure that it will not pop free. It's a good idea to use sturdy tape that won't peel off with steam and water.



When you've done that you can proceed to fill up the cone with the sieved shake powder or dried water hash.



It becomes easier to pour the shake into the cone if you wrap the whole in paper first.



You are free to define the size. Halfway up or all the way to the top.



Snip off the excess cellophane and close off this end in the same way as the bottom. Leave a little space for the air to escape or the cellophane packaging might burst.



Ready for the next step.



The next step is to wrap newspaper around the hash package. Do a couple of layers so that it becomes a thick layer. Then you can wet it thoroughly and lay it on a hot plate at the lowest possible stand. For gas burners, the lowest stand is already too warm so watch out. Leave the package on the warmth for a half an hour, then wet it thoroughly again and let it lie for another half an hour on the warm plate. Repeat the process of making the package wet and leave it for another half an hour by which time it should be good. Do not let the package dry out! What has meantime happened is that the hash package has started to steam and the THC crystals are melting. Check the package for dampness more often than necessary, especially if this is your first try.



The package has been warmed perfectly but that does not mean it should be hot. Absolutely not! The perfect temperature is when it is just warm.



Take a large wine bottle and fill it with

steaming water. Be careful not to use boiling water as the glass may shatter and injure your hand. You are well advised to use oven gloves or some other solid protection for your hands. Press out the package by starting in the



middle and rolling it to the edge. Repeat for about half an hour using all your strength.

After the pressing, remove the newspaper and chuck the pressed hash slab into the freezer.



After exercising some patience, the moment has finally arrived for opening the package!

Voila – a pretty piece of hash in no time at all!

And to think you were going to throw that leaf shake away!

**Any related questions? Contact me at [bartb@ganja.com](mailto:bartb@ganja.com)**

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

Now in it's second year, 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](mailto:softsecrets@ganja.com).

If you are already a distributor, you can raise the number of copies you would like to receive by faxing us, or calling one of the UK wholesale distribution centres:

Beaver/The Lodge: 01322 273444  
Avon Gro-Lite Systems: 01179 521379

Note that individuals cannot order their own copies and Discover Publishers does not offer subscriptions.

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



## Heb 't Lef Wholesalers in Venlo

### On the road throughout Europe

Heb 't Lef, situated in Venlo, is one of the oldest head and smartshop wholesalers in the Netherlands. The owner, Youp, has been working for some years to get his business established on solid ground. He has definitely succeeded because his shop in Venlo is not only firmly established in the Netherlands, it also enjoys a good reputation throughout the rest of Europe. Heb 't Lef is renowned for its broad assortment of products and most especially as a supplier of various mushroom growing kits. Of course, their quick and efficient service also does them credit.

They supply seeds from the only very best companies and the branch in Spain takes care of all the international cannabis seed orders. Head and smart shops can order an entire range of products and paraphernalia from them directly on one order form and everything is personally delivered. Heb 't Lef has invested in a whole lot of delivery vans in order to service their clients wherever they are situated. Refrigerated trucks drive daily to Germany, England and Spain with supplies of fresh mushrooms. Distribution is the strong point of this company and deliveries throughout Europe are made using their own transportation and drivers, like Jean François, who can also speak the local lingo.

The range of mushroom kits is really eye catching. Between the reasonable prices and excellent quality, these kits are in constant demand. Aside from that, there is a broad range

of products from Kulu and Bullit (Germany) so customers can order from those catalogues through Heb 't Lef.

A big advantage with the delivery system is that delicate stuff like water pipes are more likely to arrive intact. Prices are pretty much the same and one only pays cash on delivery so there is no hassle of paying in advance for your order. That probably sounds like music to many a shop owner who in the past has opened up his order only to find his pipes in pieces. Monika maintains administrative support from within the cosy shop in Venlo. She always has a ready smile for the customers and ensures that all the orders are filled.



**Heb 't Lef Wholesalers**  
**Bolwaterstreet 41**  
**5911 GB Venlo**  
**the Netherlands**  
**Tel.: +31 77 3510981**  
**Fax.: +31 77 3970725**  
**Open: Mon. - Fri. 10.00 - 17.00**

## Marrakech Wholesalers in Roosendaal

### Smiling faces all the way

It must be five years now since Marrakech Wholesalers set up in Roosendaal as a distributor to coffeeshops and smart/headshops. It was the next logical step to take from their own successful headshop in the centre of Roosendaal. The company is situated in a spacious place in an industrial terrain that suits the wholesaler character. Besides enormous storage spaces, there is also a tasteful showroom, which is most inviting to explore as it is colourful and spacious and every product is on display. Aside from the usual array of pipes and papers and filter tips, there are so many assorted products that one really needs a bit of time to appreciate it all, even cursorily. What's extra special is that it is possible to print your company logo onto products. That not only goes for lighters but also includes neon lighting. You can print it on a bong or a ziplock bag and all at a reasonable price too!

The showroom also boasts a large amount of reggae gear, which recently seems to have been hijacked by aliens. Marrakech frequently expands on their product range and includes all kinds of gadgets. At the moment they are awaiting a large order of jewellery. Their clientele is broad and includes international customers.

Anyone wanting to view the showroom can also surf to the 160-page website where a virtual showroom awaits your browsing attention. The stock is kept high so that orders can be filled quickly. You really have to phone Marrakech though, for their regular specials such as the present one on water pipes.



**Marrakech**  
**J.F. Vlekkestraat 276**  
**4705 AJ Roosendaal**  
**the Netherlands**  
**Tel.: +31 165 547801**  
**Fax.: +31 165 547857**  
**Website: www.marrakech-online.com**  
**E-mail: infor@marrakech-online.com**  
**Open: Mon. - Fri. 9.00 - 17.00**  
**Saturdays by appointment**



## McSmart Wholesalers in Nieuwegein

### Shop smart at McSmart!

The market for smart products is ever growing and that translates to expansion for the number of wholesalers working in this sector. Freddy, the owner of McSmart in Nieuwegein saw his break and grabbed it. He used to be employed by a wholesaler in smart products and that gave him the necessary experience to go it alone. Like others in this business, he started from home and in the meantime has managed to expand to a warehouse on an industrial terrain where he has been successfully established for the past two years. He started as a one-man business and now employs ten people. McSmart has grown considerably in a very short time and much of that is due to the growing demand for fresh mushrooms, since the recent ban on dried ones.

Their catalogue also lists a variety of herbal tablets, gram scales, seeds, filter tips, smoking papers and detox products. Many of their products are to be found in the headshops and smartshops all over the Netherlands. The expansion of the market has also seen their business spreading abroad to Germany, England and Spain in particular. McSmart is giving priority towards getting automated so that they can play a bigger part in this rapidly expanding market. Customers can count on solid and friendly service and anyone unhappy with a product can return it no problem. With this excellent satisfaction guarantee McSmart ensures risk free shopping!



**McSmart**  
**De Liesbosch 14h**  
**3439 LC Nieuwegein**  
**Netherlands**  
**Tel.: +31 30 2851546**  
**Fax: +31 30 285 15 47**  
**GSM: +31 655 321312**  
**Website: www.mcsmart.nl**  
**E-mail: info@mcsmart.nl**  
**Open: Mon. - Fri. 9.00 - 18.00**





# Blueberry

## From seed to flower, *part 2*

By Bart B.  
Grower: Aja

### Week 3 Flowering

This is my favourite part, hey-hey. The girls are starting to look like ladies... I took these pictures today, right after lights off. The tallest plant is playing chicken with the HPS, so I had to raise the lamp a bit. I took some close ups of some of the buds. I can't wait to watch these girls develop.

I noticed that they were cruising through the nutrients pretty fast so I mixed up some lunch for them and they seem to be enjoying it. Unlike my last crop these plants really thrive on higher doses of nutrients during flowering. I have noticed two separate phenos so far. Two of the plants are very compact and bushy with tight buds forming while the other two are taller with more pronounced colas and stalk-like flower sites, but the buds are hairier and seem less dense. My lighting and growing conditions are pretty uniform, so I have to assume that the differences are genetic.

I took clones from all four so I will keep an eye on these different characteristics and select the best clone, based on performance and it's buzz, for a mother. Clones have many advantages, a huge one is that they grow more uniformly. This is important because it allows you to keep the light as close to the plants as possible. This crop from seeds demonstrates this problem; the plant closest to the light is only 6"(15cm) away, while the farthest is almost 18"(46cm). I suppose I could tie it down, but the others are catching up and at this point the plants are still stretching.

### Flowering Day 31

Okay so we have made it to day 31 of 12/12! I figure we're just a bit under half way there. The more Sativa-like pheno buds are still lagging behind the Indica, so I probably will be harvesting these girls in sections... The girls seem to be ravenous and have been gobbling up their food at a record pace. I have had to mix nutrients up twice this week in order to supplement. I think I will go to a higher concentration next water change.

Plant heights are as follows:  
50 Sativa/ 50 Indica phenos - 38"(97 cm),  
36"(92cm) and 44" (112cm)  
20 Sativa/ 80 Indica pheno 32" (82cm)(and about as wide...)

Kinda frustrating to have this much variation. All four plants seem to be maturing at different rates. Another reason to use clones.

### Maintenance:

Maintaining a well planned DWC crop is about as easy as it gets. Here is a list of daily tasks that I perform to maintain healthy growth.

PH and TDS/EC are checked three times a day. In the morning when lights go on at 7:00am. At noon I check during lunch and then again at 6:00pm before lights

out at 7:00. Depending on the readings, I may feed the plants or adjust the pH. I record the start and end readings in a journal. This helps to identify trends and prepares me for future crops with this strain. Any unusual tendencies, such as nutrient sensitivity, deficiencies, etc. are recorded as well. In theory you could probably grow without all of this effort, but you might not learn as much as quickly. I rotate the plants bucket's during these checks as well. This is a delicate process that requires patience and care. Each plant is gently rotated 90 degrees, three times a day. This allows all of the plant to eventually be exposed to the sweet spot of the HPS. Be sure to gently re-position leaves and entangled branches during this process. Once the plants have been rotated, I tuck in any fan leaves that are covering up bud sites. This is a frustrating and thankless job. Marijuana plants are light junkies, they will selfishly hog any light that comes by, even at the expense of sister branches and nodes. Combat this by diligently arranging leaves to form compromises. I never pick leaves off of my plants unless they are ready to come off naturally. I figure that this plant knows best how to manage it's own resources. It is a weed after all. Finally, check the temperature. Move your thermometer's probe around your plant's canopy to locate any hot spots. The temperature is only accurate if it reflects the true reading of your plant's highest point. I check my reservoir's temperature and I try to keep it in the upper 11 – 16 C. This temperature range seems to work best for transferring oxygen and maintaining healthy roots. I check for good air bubble action and make sure the pumps are operating correctly. These cheap pumps will last a long time but they do occasionally bite it due to poor workmanship... While it seems like a lot, all of these tasks can be combined into a session that takes less than 30 minutes per day. Not too bad for 0.63 lb (284 gr) – 0.75 lb (340 gr) of kind...

### Flowering Day 38



Changed my water today. Bumped up the nutrients to 1200. The buds are not developing as quickly as I'd like. Hopefully this will help fatten those buds

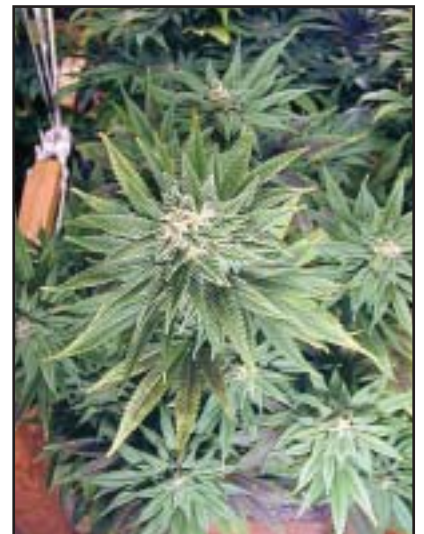
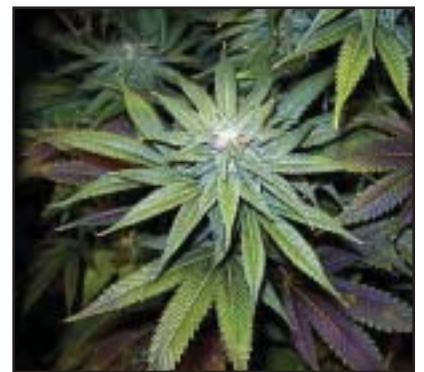


up... Two of the girls are starting to turn purple, and it is fun to watch the colour spread throughout the leaves. These Blueberries are very pretty plants. Can't wait to see them in about 4 weeks... The buds are frosting up nicely. I looked at a piece of leaf under a microscope earlier and the trichoma's are plentiful and clear as a bell. I use the condition of the trichomes to determine harvest time. Some strains mature with white hairs, so I don't feel colour is an accurate indicator of readiness. Although it's too early to tell, my gut tells me they will be ready in 25 - 30 days. I'm losing fan leaves rapidly on one of the plants. This is my fault. I misted some of them early on in flowering and the intensity of my HPS burned them. When you mist too close, the light intensity is magnified by the water drops on the leaves. I maintained the temperature in the mid 16 C range. Lower temperatures allow this water to stand on the leaves longer before evaporation/absorption. Beware... Everything seems to be on track. Hopefully the extra nutrients will kick-start the buds a little.

### Flowering Day 45



The buds are getting very frosty and dense. The cooler temperature and extra nutrients seem to be plumping up the girls nicely. The last few weeks will really be the most interesting, as the buds will really go nuts while sensing their impending demise. I have mixed feelings about flowering. I love to watch the flowers 'bloom' and develop, but a part of me is sad that my plants are in effect, dying right in front of my eyes. Making



clones and running a continuous cycle is the only solution for me. New life replaces the old. I really think that this strain is capable of going as high as 1400-1500 ppm. These girls are little piglets. My pH seems to be much more stable with the higher nutrients. I still am not experiencing any deficiencies other than N, which is expected at this point. I will definitely be harvesting colas first and then continuing down the plant while the lower buds fatten up. Most of the lower buds are lagging behind quite a bit. The only true Indica pheno is surprisingly, the slowest to mature. I really like this plant and am looking forward to grading the smoke. It is the plant with the dark purple leaves and ultra compact buds. Looks scary up close.

### Flowering Day 52



Busy week! All right, we are in the home stretch. Lots of frosty stuff going on, buds are still not there yet but I see the end in sight. My purple Indica pheno is way behind the others.

It stretched quite a lot when I boosted the nutrients. Hopefully I can harvest the tops of the other plants and lower my light down. The 'popcorn' buds on the lower branches are still a long way off. I'm not going to cut these girls until they are completely finished.

Too much time and expense to settle for premature nuggets. Normally, I would do





my last water change at this point. I want to keep them on nutrients for a little longer though. My nutrients are around 600 PPM so I mixed up some lunch for the plants and boosted it back up to 1200. I will keep an eye on them this week and plan on doing a full 10-day or so straight water flush mid next week. The buds are still filling out at this point, so I want to make sure they have plenty of nourishment. I think the lower



temperature is extending the flowering/maturing period by a week or so. I think it is well worth it though because the buds are getting very dense and thick. One indicator of too much heat is light fluffy buds. They look great on the plant but shrink into very airy, crumbly buds that burn and smoke very poorly. Harvesting too soon is probably the worst thing you can do with Marihuana. Wait the extra week or two and enjoy your harvest the way it was meant to be enjoyed. Please be patient and wait until your buds are ready.

Flowering Day 59

I am on day 5 of a straight RO water flush. The plants definitely need to go another week. I'm disappointed by the lack of accurate harvest information for this strain. What little info there is gives

contradictory times. I am confident that 8-10 weeks given by HQS Blacklabel is pretty accurate. The buds have started swelling and resin production seems to have doubled since I took away their food - sorry girls. I have been lowering the lamps and temperatures to around 11-13 C. No real change in colour. I am convinced that plant colour is dictated more by genetics than the ambient indoor temperature, although the outdoor BB plants that I have seen, responded with colour when grown in lower temperatures. Two of my plants have purple fan leaves. Of those two, only one has purple calyxes. The plant shown with the purple cola, is green everywhere else



and the one with a bright purple stalk and branches, is free of purple on the leaves as well. I think I will make my cloning decisions based purely on flavour and buzz. I grow strictly for my own supply, so eye appeal doesn't matter that much to me. The fragrance is beginning to smell fruitier, but I still can't say that they smell like Blueberries.

Flowering Day 66



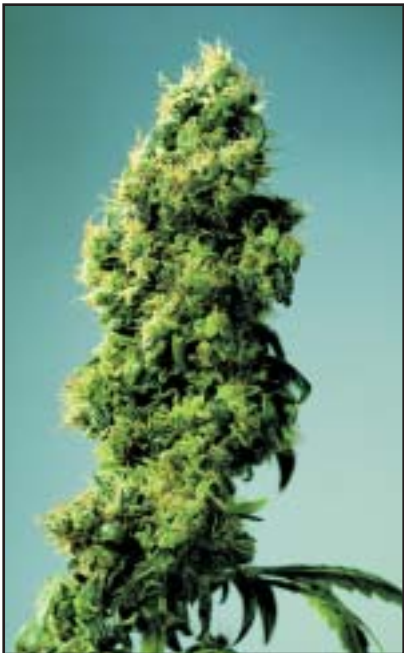
Not much to report, plant wise. Buds are



continuing to fill out and mature. Two of the colas will be cut this weekend and the other two early next week. The 80/20 pheno is almost done, which makes sense being that it is more Indica. The others are all pretty close behind. I will post harvest photos as I cut them, including wet weight, dry weight, drying info, cure, etc. This will probably be an extended harvest, maybe another two weeks total, perhaps... Overall, I am satisfied that I provided the 'optimum conditions', referenced by HQS Blacklabel for good yields, but I will be lucky to grab 0.50 lb (227 gr.) from these phenos, which is poor in my book. On the plus side, all of the mature buds are very dense and compact and should smoke very well. The good news is that I have grown out a mother from clone of my favourite plant. This pheno will have the highest yield by far of the group and has a branch structure that should work well for a SCROG grow. Hopefully the high will match the plants appearance.

Continued next issue...

Any grow related question? Email me at [bartb@ganja.com](mailto:bartb@ganja.com)



**MJ** = Marijuana  
**DWC** = Deepwater culture, the name of the hydro system used  
**PPM** = Part Per Milli  
**MG** = Magnesium  
**N** = Nitrogen  
**GH** = General Hydroponics  
**Phenos or phenotypes** = The different traits that occur in the same strains are called phenos. You can have sativa or indicaphenos in a strain. The best a plant is breded the less phenos will occur.  
**SCROG** = This is just a way of growing where the plants is topped and the branches are spread out to increase yield. Used when one has only a couple of plants.  
**SOG**= This is the opposite of SCROG, this is just letting the plants grow untopped in a large numbers with very little veg.  
**FIM** = This is an advanced topping method where one pines 40% away from the headshoot. Still leaving 60% of the shoot on the plants that will become forming between 2-12 extra branches instead of the normal 2 when one normally tops a plant. This doesn't always work and it takes some practice to do it right. Mostly you only get 3-5. With some experience 8 can be achieved.  
**POTW** =picture of the week





# Soft Secret's readers research

## Win a growing cabinet, HQ seeds or free tickets!

Soft Secrets UK has been going for a year now - which means it's high time for us to listen to how our readers value it. So we're asking you to answer this list of questions and return it to us. Besides helping us to make Soft Secrets an even better newspaper, you can also win something.

To celebrate our one year existence in style we've decided to reward one of the senders of the questionnaire with a fantastic growing cabinet. What's that? It's a ready-to-use camouflaged growing cabinet that looks like a regular wardrobe but, on the inside, is an ingenious growing system. This main prize, for just one lucky entrant sending in a reply, comes in the shape of the ready-to-use iGrow-box Senior, a growing cabinet good for 4 to 24 plants with a yield of between 35 and 100 grams per plant. The iGrow-box Senior contains 2 x 400w (or 600w) lamps, and will be delivered fully-equipped to the winner's home. The only thing not included is the plants themselves. But what the heck, you know what? We're gonna throw some High Quality seeds, Black Label, in it to really get you started. The iGrow-box Senior will be delivered as a self-build kit and is very



simple to just click together; with 30 minutes work, it should be ready for use. The winner of this growing cupboard can choose him- or her-self between the 400w or 600w lamp option to work with, and whether he (or she) wants to work with a hydroponic or a bio-system for growing.

For more info, please take a look at your future iGrow-box at: [www.igrow.nl](http://www.igrow.nl)

As a second prize, we'll draw 25 packages from among the senders who will receive two sorts of High Quality Seeds, Black Label: Jack Herer & White Widow, the best of the very best!

And that's not all. From among the other entries we'll draw 150 names to be given 2 free entrance tickets to the marihuana happening of the year in Europe: the Highlife Hemp Fair in Utrecht, Holland, on 30 & 31 January and 1 February 2004. *There's never been a better reason for crossing the North Sea!*

Questions:

Rate the sections below with a score of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning 'absolutely worthless; take it out' and 10 meaning 'unique and top class' (Please use whole numbers only).

Cover .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Underworld.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Column Dr. John Dee.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bushdocter comics.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editorial.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weckels indoor.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Column Fraser Clark .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gaanj-1 puzzle page .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page 3 Girl.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shop reviews UK .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Column Joe Kane .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Country series .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dear Soft Secrets.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bart B. grow stories.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Music reviews.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shop reviews NL .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seeds for tits.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mushroom stories.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Talking Drum.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trimmed for you .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product Flash.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weckels outdoor.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pete Loveday cartoons.....	<input type="checkbox"/>		
News from the UKCIA .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book reviews .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poster (see page 53).....	<input type="checkbox"/>		

I am male / female*	more of in SS UK?	What kinds of music do you prefer?	participate in the draw, just leave your name and address out.
My age is: 16-20/ 20-35/ 35-50/ 50+	What subjects has SS UK not covered so far that you'd like to see?	Would you like to see more (cannabis-related) book reviews? Yes / No	
Do you grow yourself? Yes / No	How do you rate the availability of Soft Secrets? Good/bad/absolutely worthless	Have you ever been to Amsterdam? 1 - 3 times; 3 - 5 times; More than 5 times	All information will be responsibly and discreetly handled, and all names and addresses will be destroyed after the prize draw. Winners will be notified by mail. Cut this page out and send it (with full postage) to: <b>Soft Secrets, Questionnaire, P.O. Box 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland</b>
Do the articles in Soft Secrets help with your growing?	Should Soft Secrets include more about British politics vis-à-vis cannabis? Yes / No	Do you read the adverts in Soft Secrets? Yes / No	
What other media with cannabis coverage do you read besides Soft Secrets?	Should Soft Secrets include more about international cannabis scenes? Yes/No	Have you ever responded to an advert in Soft Secrets (bought something, visited a shop)? Yes / No	Fill out your complete address below <b>Closing date for entries is Dec 31, 2003!</b> <i>*Cross out wrong answers or encircle right ones</i>
Do you find these periodicals better /worse/ the same as Soft Secrets?	What kind of interests do you have other than the smoking or growing of cannabis?	That's it! Please write clearly in capital letters; unreadable or incomplete addresses will NOT qualify for a prize. If you don't want to	
Why?.....			With thanks to the lads of iGrow-box <a href="http://www.igrow.nl">www.igrow.nl</a> & High Quality Seeds <a href="http://www.highqualityseeds.nl">www.highqualityseeds.nl</a>
What sort of stories would you like to see			

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postal Code.....

City:.....

Country:.....





The Sitting Bull Theory by Fraser Clark, our access-all-levels roving reporter

PART TWO

## The Great Tobacco Sting

How The World's First Multinational Swindled The People Out Of Some Fabulous 'Smoking' Experiences And Palmed Them Off With Addictive Leaves And Chemicals

PART ONE investigated the Sitting Bull Theory that Raleigh got high from an Indian Chief's Peace Pipe, but was swindled with "a kilo of the lousy brown stuff" which we've been smoking ever since!

PART TWO explores just how it was done.

# The 'Lost' Herbs



Geronimo's Revenge?

In 1559, Phillip 11's personal physician described 1200 species of flora in Mexico alone, while different New Worlde tribes had been inhaling in a plethora of ways many mixes of substances still not fully documented today.

But one thing is undeniable: the Virginia Colony's first "commercial" shipment sold to an eager populace in London in 1617 at the unheard-of price of 3 shillings a pound was *Nicotiana Tabacum* (see box). It was the same plant which the Virginia Company spread out from London and then into Europe. And it has been (with various varieties) right up to the present day.

Let us be clear. Since at least the Old World's ancient Scythians, and the New World's Mayans, 'smoking' and 'tobacco' meant many things to Mankind – chewing, brews, taking smoke or powder via nose, mouth, anus and skin, by inhaling fumes from a fire, under a blanket, in a tiny hut, through pipe, 'cigar', hole in the ground, and with many different substances, herbs, seeds, leaves, roots, crystals, tars etc

But exclusively, from 1617, through commercial, contractual and ultimately legal availability, nearly everyone has smoked *Nicotiana Tabacum*. The Great Tobacco Sting probably constitutes the first cynical corporate monopoly scam on the maximum number of 'suckers', for 386 years! An inspiringly wide range of Psychoactive Smoking Experiences was reduced to the repetitive daily sucking of the seriously addictive, health-destroying mono-culture, *Nicotiana Tabacum*.

**What The Suppliers Were Smoking**  
*Nicotiana* is native to the Americas, largely

confined to the warm humid climate of the West Indies and Brazil. Sometimes it was involved in the mix, more often not.

While Europeans largely viewed it as a medicine or an ornamental plant, England spread the habit of recreational smoking to the mainland, alarming the locals like modern football hooligans with alcohol. The SUN headline would have been "CROWDS THROW BEER OVER SMOKING ENGLISHMEN" (it often happened).

Sir Walter Raleigh, the Jeffrey Archer of Piracy, Empire Building, and Tobacco Though Columbus smoked it in 1492, and though the word covered many delights, in England Sir Walter Raleigh is held to have 'discovered' "tobacco" in 1585. Certainly he became a life-long puffer. Raleigh was a freethinking adventurer and marketing genius who rose from humble beginnings, achieved fame as a pirate, founded England's first colonies, was knighted, jailed, freed, jailed again and finally went to his execution demanding his beloved pipe (with whatever he smoked in it). He gained an exclusive Royal Trade Licence for the American mainland from his 'smoking' companion, Elizabeth 1, naming the Virginia Colony for her (Virgin Queen, geddit?)

In 1586, Thomas Harriot, Raleigh's right hand man, publicly named tobacco as the only Colony commodity able to "reap massive cash dividends." With his money and reputation heavily invested in Virginia, Raleigh had actually commissioned Harriot's survey of the colony as an investment promo, and now decided to develop a "novelty" into a market!. With his networks of pirates, court connections, fellow puffers, writers, ex-colonists, and merchants, he set about spreading the new "smoking" habit - to such effect (on Elizabeth, rumoured a lifetime puffer, Shakespeare, Bacon, Marlowe, Edmund Spenser) that word spread from court to court, country to country, and ultimately from class to class.

By the Virgin Queen's death (1603), Robert Burton satirically listed the required accomplishments of the English Gentleman as smoking, dancing, hunting, and playing cards! Professors of smoking demanded ring-blowing as a graduation test! And 'tobacco' "sold for its weight in silver"!

Most odd if it was (always) just tobacco, particularly since Virginia's species, *Nicotiana Rusticum*, was, "poore, weak



"Try this, but it's much more expensive"

and of a byting taste". (*Nicotiana Tabacum* was soon borrowed from the Spanish.)

### The "Virginia Tobacco Bubble"

If the freewheeling Spirit and Romance of the Elizabethan Golden Age had been secretly fuelled, like the 1960s, by these new psychoactive mixes, the Catholic James 1, crowned in 1604, had to stamp down on such wild 'free-thinking' ideas. When Parliament refused to illegalise it; did he fall into line, consciously or not, with an upper-class conspiracy to increasingly channel the peasants towards the "lousy brown stuff"?!

It would be "business as usual" in the drug trade if tobacco, initially cultivated as a cheap 'extender' for other exportable products, ended as the product! And certainly the 'Great Tobacco Sting' was complete by 1620 when, with the investment of a gigantic 6 figure sum, the Virginia Colony was instructed to grow *Nicotiana Tabacum* for mass British consumption.

But does Thomas Harriot's original pitch sound like a Marlboro trip? "Strange gestures, stamping, dancing, clapping of hands, and staring into the heavens uttering strange noises." Or this: "We have had many rare, wonderful proofs of its beneficial effects which would require a whole volume to itself" Really?! Tobacco?! Sounds more like a modern commercial, right? In A History of Smoking, Count Corti makes the situation lucidly clear: "These results, we may assume, were produced by various narcotic plants, not merely tobacco" Eager for extra tax income, James withdrew Raleigh's licence, condemned 'tobacco' as 'an invention of Satan', and imposed a 4000% increase in custom duty. Classic Drug War Logic. Public condemnation in colourful prose accelerates the habit's spread among the masses and hugely increases his tax base. Drug war logic predicts what came next: "the bizness" was driven into the hands of smugglers! Pirates! And home-growers, all across the land. Keeping his head down, the former "court darling" continued secretly as top adviser to the Virginia Company. Secret conspiracies were the essence of the period - secrecy between royal advisers and Raleigh's network (he being finally executed for treason!), between merchants and the public they were addicting, between people who could score the "real stuff" and... the mugs? For never forget how Giralamo Benzoni described a native smoking "tobacco": "On returning to his senses, he told a thousand stories of being at the council of the gods and other high visions" The king's antipathy towards Raleigh might be explained by his wish for people to buy his non-psychedelic tobacco (with

'devil' removed!) and Raleigh's smuggler friends pushing the "real stuff".

### The First Corporate Scam of the Second Millennium!

Charles 1, in 1626, with exports increased by half a million pounds, sold stakes in the fabulously profitable scam for huge sums. The Virginia Company, first of several South Sea Bubbles, generated great excitement, tinged with the idea of "adventure". Only now it was adventure capitalism! Increasingly based on slavery (bigger profits!), thousands were forcefully transported to Jamestown, and worked under such harsh conditions that three quarters failed to complete their 7-year period of servitude alive. A modern American text puts it thus: "In the Virginia /Company we see the fleeting ugliness of private enterprise operating without check, greed magnified by opportunity, producing fortunes for a few and misery for many. We also see Virginians moving towards a system of labour that treated men as things." The Virginia Settlement was "the starting place for the 244-year holocaust of African slavery."

**Are you sure this is what they smoke at court?!** By 1630, tobacco prices had fallen to their lowest point ever. WHAT COULD EXPLAIN THAT? Unmet expectations? "I don't feel a thing, Sidney, except dizzy. Are you sure this is what they smoke at court?!" It obviously took time for the common man to realise that everything called "tobacco" didn't necessarily get you high – like ecstasy I hear you say? On the mass level, however, imports continued to rise, new 'suckers' were always joining, increasingly due to actual advertising. What became of the "lost" herbs between then and the re-emergence of a generation of "tobacco mixers" in the 1960s? Certainly the American Indians continued their old ways. Well, various "special mixes" continued as late as the 19th century, we know this from one of Conan Doyle's paeans to his famous "Arcadia Mix". Thus an inspiringly wide range of Psychoactive Smoking Experiences that inspired the Elizabethan Age, was filtered down, by Christians and Puritan Work Ethic Businessmen, to the repetitive (but obscenely profitable) daily sucking of a seriously addictive, health-destroying mono-culture, *Nicotiana Tabacum*.

Would a small matter like hooking generations on a devil weed and robbing them of a range of angelic highs have put such 'capitalist' off? You know the answer!



"Sure, gringo, take that bag of zero zero over there!"



Source: Guernsey Press & Star  
Date: Tuesday 7, October 2003

## 'I should have left that in the UK' – drug user

A HEREFORD man who was stopped at the White Rock told Customs officers he had no controlled substances.

But a search revealed 4.2 grams of herbal **cannabis** in a

washing bag.

'Oh, I should have left that in the UK,' said Michael Bates after he was discovered with it.

In the Magistrate's Court, Bates, 26, of 147, Ledbury Road,

Topsley, Hereford, pleaded guilty to possessing the Class B drug.

Magistrate Russell Finch accepted that it was for his personal use and fined him £200.

Source: Daily Mail  
Date: Saturday 4, October 2003

# Freed drugs girl is killed in India

By Christian Gysin

A BRITISH woman only recently freed from a Middle East jail on drug charges is believed to have been murdered in India.

The partially clothed body of 25-year-old Anna Bartlett was found near a river in the northern Indian town of Manali on Thursday morning.

She had head injuries, and police originally believed these may have been caused by the backpacker falling into the fast flowing River Vyas.

But last night it was revealed that a murder investigation had been started, and a man had been arrested.

A senior Manali police officer said: 'An autopsy report has revealed injuries suggesting Miss Bartlett was beaten up before her death.'

'In this connection we have already arrested a man. We are also looking for two Irish men and a Nepalese youth.'

The man being questioned was a Manali hotel owner – named locally as Lot Ram – who was seen drinking with Miss Bartlett on Tuesday, the night she was last seen.

Police believe she was killed on Wednesday night. They are not ruling out a drugs connection to the murder after Miss Bartlett's conviction for drug smuggling two

years ago.

Miss Bartlett, from Southend, Essex, was jailed for ten years in Dubai in 2001 after smuggling cocaine, ecstasy and **cannabis** worth more than £100,000 into the United Arab Emirates in return for a £1,000 fee. She swallowed the drugs in bags.

Originally she was warned she might face a life sentence or execution, but in June this year she was unexpectedly freed and granted a pardon.

She spent some time at her parents' home after her release and then travelled to India.

Last night her distraught parents, Philip and Penelope, were being comforted by friends and relatives.

Mrs Bartlett said: 'All we know is that she was found on Thursday. It is so awful.'

It is understood that Miss Bartlett had been staying in a Manali guest house since September 25.

Manali police chief Jagdish Chander said there was no obvious cause of death when she was found

'She was wearing trousers, a bra and one boot,' added Mr Chander.

The hill town of Manali is popular with trekkers and backpackers exploring the lower Himalayas. During her visit Miss Bartlett is understood to have spent some time with a Swiss man.

The man, known only as Benny, is likely to be interviewed by

police.

Miss Bartlett had originally dreamed of travelling the world before embarking on studies at Brighton University, and agreed to carry the drugs to fund her trip.

She first visited India in the summer of 1998 and two years later she disappeared from her home before contacting her parents to tell them she was in Holland.

It was from there that she travelled to Germany before embarking on the drugs trip that resulted in her being jailed in the Middle East.

After her release she said she was 'deeply ashamed'.

'I now realise that drugs kill thousands of vulnerable people across the world,' she said.

'I was a smuggler but at the time I cared only about cash and not people.'

'I thought drug trafficking would make me a bit of easy money.'

'I never thought I would get caught in a million years. I did and it has cost me so much.'

'I have wasted nearly three years in a dirty, stinking prison.'

'I put my family through hell and they fought to get me out. Without them I would not be here today.'

c.gysin@dailyemail.co.uk

Shropshire Star (Last edition)  
Tuesday 7, October 2003

## Cannabis found in loft leads to prison

A Telford man has been jailed for nine months after police found nearly 2kg of cannabis in his home.

Officers went to Jason Skinner's home and stumbled across the drugs, which had a street value of up to £3,000, after receiving a call from Skinner's father saying his son was ill.

Skinner, 28, of James Close, Trench, then went to the police station to report the break-in at his home, but was charged by officers.

He was yesterday jailed at Shrewsbury Crown Court for nine months after admitting possession with intent to supply.

Mrs Janet Pitt-Lewis, prosecuting, said Skinner was not at home when police called at his home on Christmas Eve last year.

When officers checked his loft, they found 1.97kg of cannabis, worth between £2,000 and £3,000.

She said Skinner was arrested having gone to the police station to complain about a burglary. He was told it had been police who had broken in.

He told officers he had found the cannabis about a week before the police broke in. It didn't belong to him but he did admit he had put it in his loft.

Mr Richard Adams, for Skinner, told the court that he did not want to receive a community sentence, as he did not think he would be able to comply with strict meeting times and dates with probation officers.

Source: The Guardian  
Date: Saturday 4, October 2003

## Dozens of tourists missing or murdered in former hippy paradise

Steven Morris

When western travellers arrived in Manali in the 1960s, the north-west Indian town was a Shangri-la, a place of ancient stone houses in a valley originally known as Kulanthapitha – end of the habitable world.

Visitors were welcomed by the valley's gentle and joyful people and relished the wonderful vistas of rocky escarpments and mountain forests.

The town, at the north of what is now known as the Kullu valley, became a haven for hippies, draft dodgers, and idealists, attracted by the peace and a plentiful supply of good quality hashish.

Over the decades the nature of the town has changed dramatically. The wonderful views have largely disappeared behind hotel buildings, souvenir shops and travel agents.

More sinisterly, the hashish trade has turned the area into a rather more perilous place to visit.

Dozens of tourists have

been murdered or vanished without trace. Indian police have been accused of planting drugs on tourists and demanding bribes for their release.

It is estimated that up to 9,000 foreigners could be hiding in the hills, depending on the drugs trade for their living. Police have been pursuing gangs from

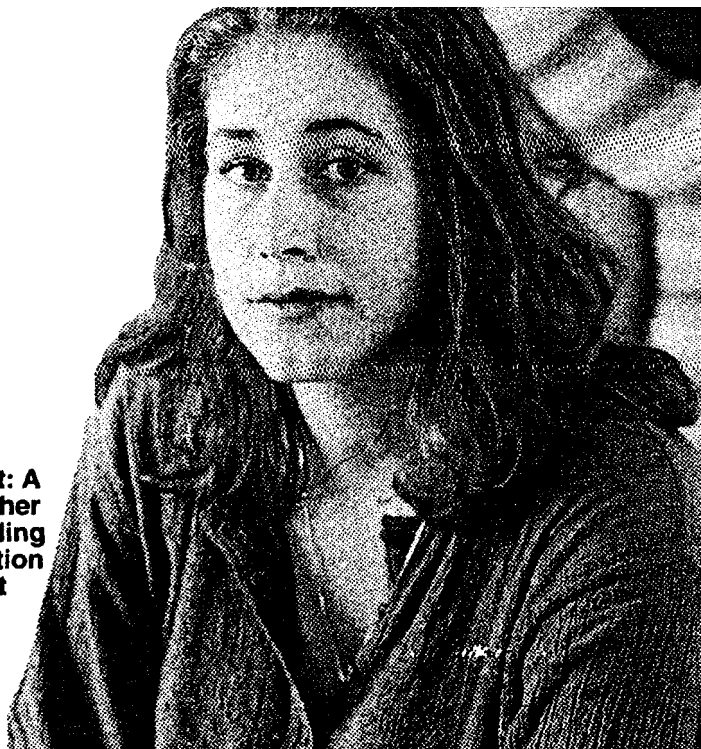
Mumbai and Europe, with limited success. A powerful Israeli mafia is also thought to be involved in much of the drugs trade.

A number of high profile cases have focused attention on the area in recent years including that of British charity worker Ian Stillman.

Mr Stillman, who is deaf, diabetic and has only one leg, was held in a prison for two years after 20kg of cannabis was allegedly found in the boot of the taxi he was being driven through Manali in.

He insisted that he had nothing to do with the drugs and was freed last year after Tony Blair intervened.

**Anna Bartlett: A link to her smuggling conviction has not been ruled out**





Source: Star (Sheffield)  
Date: Thursday 2, October 2003

# Sobbing father imprisoned for smuggling drug

Lorry driver, 23, was 'easily led' by racketeers

A YOUNG dad sobbed in court as he was jailed for two years for smuggling cannabis worth up to £35,000 into Britain.

Stephen Poundall was caught by police carrying almost 3.5 kilograms of cannabis in a lorry he had driven from France. He was disqualified from driving at the time.

The 23-year-old, of Whiston, near Sheffield, had been given £350 by Asian dealers to drive to Calais, collect the drugs from a warehouse and return with the goods stuffed in the roof void of his cab.

He returned to Britain and was arrested on the M1 outside

By Ben Lowndes

Northampton, where he was supposed to have handed the drugs over to two men.

Lawyers representing Poundall, of Blyth Close, Whiston, Rotherham, said he was pressured by a drugs gang and had been threatened since his arrest.

Sam Andrews, defending said Poundall was dyslexic, with a mental age of someone much younger and very easily led by 'more sophisticated' people.

He said the wholesale value of the cannabis was about £7,000, rather than its £35,000 street

value, and Poundall had been tracked by police because it was suspected he was transporting heroin into the country.

But sentencing him, Judge Michael Murphy QC said: "I know you are not a sophisticated drugs dealer and that you are less so than those who got you to do this."

"But if these people did not get those like you to work for them, they would be out of business."

"That is why the courts take such of dim view of offences like these."

Poundall was also banned from driving for a year for the motor-ing offence.

Source: Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)  
Date: Friday 10, October 2003

## Drug user due to be sentenced for growing and selling cannabis

A MAN has admitted growing large quantities of cannabis and selling the drug from his city home.

Stephen White (34) was arrested by members of the police drugs intelligence unit on April 1.

When police officers searched the property in Wellington Street, in the city centre, they dis-

covered numerous cannabis plants and growing equipment.

Peterborough Crown Court was told officers also found 706g of extra-strong "skunk" cannabis, with a street value of up to £7,000.

White later admitted he had been a heavy user of the drug for 12 years.

He said he had sold cannabis to a close circle of friends and had made no profit from the deals.

Andrew Howarth, prosecuting, said a doctor's bag containing ampoules of diamorphine - oth-

erwise known as heroin - was also found at White's home.

White claimed he found the bag on a nearby playing field.

He was due to go on trial accused of producing a class B drug, possession of a class B drug, possession of a class B drug with intent to supply and possession of a class A drug.

But minutes before the jury was due to be sworn in, White pleaded guilty to the charges.

He will return to the crown court for sentencing later this month.

Source: Evening News (Norwich)  
Date: Monday 13, October 2003

## Law change could help fund education

IN HIS attempt to justify the Government's U-turn on university students "top-up" fees, Charles Clarke said in an interview in Bournemouth that he considered it unfair that lorry drivers should have to pay to produce barristers, and that graduates would in the future earn enough to repay their education-incurred debts.

I wonder whether Mr Clarke and his colleagues would now consider making an equivalent donation back into the public purse that provided grants for their own university education.

Members of Parliament also earn far more than lorry drivers.

Students are already leaving college with debts of well over £10,000. What a gift from the country that one day they may participate in running?

I believe that education should be provided free to everyone. If they earn more later, they will pay more tax.

To those who would ask where the money to provide free education would come from, the answer, to me and many others, is obvious.

Legalisation of cannabis which

would bring: separation from crime and hard drugs; taxation on profits - saving billions annually presently spent arresting and punishing victimless cannabis users; less alienation of such a huge proportion of people that the present regime criminalise; greater use of cheaper natural hemp resources for paper, fuel and energy; and an increase in employment and general improvement in the environment and public health.

Alun Buffry,  
Legalise Cannabis Alliance,  
Norwich

Source: The Guardian  
Date: Saturday 11, October 2003

## Former boxing champion jailed for cannabis deal

Gerard Seenan

A former two times world boxing champion was jailed for 30 months yesterday after being found guilty of supplying cannabis.

Paul Weir, 36, a former WBO light-flyweight champion, was jailed yesterday along with two other men for his part in a £57,000 cannabis deal.

A police surveillance operation caught Weir with 5kg of cannabis in the boot of his car in a hotel car park last May.

During his trial at the high court in Glasgow, the court heard Weir had become involved in drugs after his business selling boxing equipment and health foods failed.

Sentencing the three men each to 30 months, Lord Wheatley, at the high court in Edinburgh, said: "It is a matter of great disappointment to see each of you in your own different circumstances convicted in the supply of any kind of drugs."

Weir's defence counsel, Dale Hughes, told the court Weir had been involved in a great deal of charity work during his career as a boxer and pleaded for a non-custodial sentence.

But Lord Wheatley said a non-custodial sentence "was not possible in this case".

Gerald Ferguson, 46, and 62-year-old Harold Mitchell were also jailed for 30 months for supplying cannabis. A fourth

man, James Rankin, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of supplying cannabis. He was jailed for a total of four years.

Weir, from Cumbernauld, Lanarkshire, was arrested in the car park of a hotel in Lanarkshire as he was buying 5kg of cannabis. During the trial, the court heard Weir had tried to blame Ferguson for the bungled deal and had offered him cash to accept the blame.

The former boxer claimed Ferguson had telephoned and asked him to pick him up from his flat and then drive to the hotel to meet someone. He denied any knowledge of the drug deal.

But Rankin told the court he was storing cannabis for a local drug lord when he received a telephone call telling him to go to the hotel and hand over the cannabis to the "wee baldy guy who used to be a boxer".

Detectives had Rankin under surveillance and were there when he handed over 10 half-kilo bags to Mitchell.

Police later saw Weir and Ferguson arrive in a silver VW Golf and unload the drugs from Mitchell's car into their own.

Weir was crowned WBO minimumweight champion in 1993 and won the light-flyweight belt in 1994. He retired in 2000.

Source: News Letter (Northern Ireland)  
Date: Thursday 9, October 2003

## Cannabis seized

CANNABIS plants and other drug-related items worth £7,000 have been found by police in Enniskillen.

A 33-year-old man was arrested after the raid on a house and was released pending reports.

GUILTY: Stephen White.





# TRIMMED FOR YOU

Source: Irish Examiner (Cork)  
Date: Friday 3, October 2003

## Former beauty queen threatened with jail term after cannabis find

by Seán O'Riordan

A JUDGE has warned a former beauty pageant winner that if she ever comes before him again on drugs charges, she will be jailed.

Ms Antonia Moore, a former Miss Cork, was found guilty yesterday of possessing enough cannabis to make 84 joints. Her latest appearance in a District Court came less than four weeks after receiving a six-month ban for dangerous driving.

Ms Moore from Rostellan, Aghada, Co Cork, faced two charges of possessing cannabis earlier this year.

Midleton District Court heard that Ms Moore's car was stopped by gardai on 30 January last, and

they discovered a cannabis reefer in the ashtray. On February 28th her car was stopped again. During a search of the vehicle, Garda Pat Organ discovered more drugs.

"A nodge of cannabis worth around €60 was found. It was sufficient to make 84 hand-rolled cigarettes," Inspector Martin Dorney told the court.

Ms Moore, 21, pleaded guilty to both offences and her solicitor, Jim Sheridan, pointed out the drugs were for her own personal use. "She comes from a very respectable background and acted out of character," Mr Sheridan said.

He added that for a 12-month period the former beauty pageant

winner had "gone off the rails", but had since seemed to have sorted her life out.

Judge Michael Pattwell was told that Ms Moore had no previous convictions for drug use. However, it was pointed out that she had been before the same court on September 4 last where she had been fined €300 and banned from driving for six months after being convicted of dangerous driving. Inspector Dorney added that she had other convictions for motoring offences.

Judge Pattwell imposed a total fine of €325 on the former model. "If she's caught a third time I'll have the jurisdiction to send her to prison," he warned.

Source: Jersey Evening Post  
Date: Saturday 11, October 2003

## Royal Court to sentence man with rucksack of drugs

A MAN found with £7,500 worth of drugs in a rucksack at his home will be sentenced by the Royal Court next month.

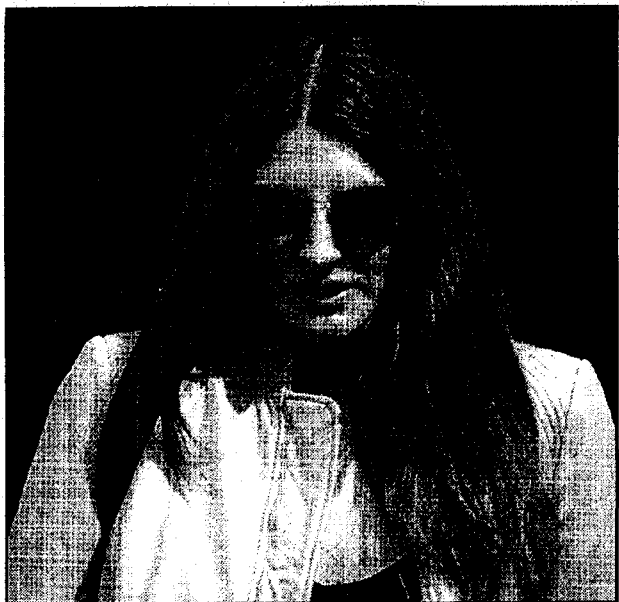
Kevin Doublet (38) was remanded in custody yesterday after he admitted possessing £7,000 worth of cannabis and £500 worth of ecstasy with intent to supply.

His advocate told the court

that Doublet was looking after the drugs for someone, but that he was unwilling to name them.

### Bail

He also made an unsuccessful bail application for Doublet, who will be sentenced by the Superior Number of the Royal Court on 13 November.



Antonia Moore: cannabis reefer in ashtray Picture: Gerard McCarthy

Source: Yorkshire Evening Post (Leeds edition)  
Date: Wednesday 8, October 2003

## Police smash farm drug gang

A PLOT to flood Britain with tonnes of cannabis from an isolated farm near Wakefield was smashed by an undercover detective posing as a money launderer, a court heard.

West Yorkshire Police set up a covert operation to infiltrate an international gang plotting to distribute massive consignments of the drug from Agbrigg Farm on Doncaster Road, near Wakefield, a jury in London heard.

The detective posed as

Kyle Murray, the owner of an aviation leasing business in Leeds, who offered the crooks money laundering facilities.

### Culprits

Norman Radford, 60, is accused of playing a minor role in the conspiracy between July 1, 1996 and April 30, 1998 by acting as a courier.

He is alleged to have delivered shipping documents to the culprits at their homes on the Costa del Sol.

Ben Nolan QC, prosecuting, said the gang included Ronald Everett, John Barnham, his son Jonathan Barnham, Eric Mason, Dutchmen Jan Boorsboom and Cornelius Stout. The court heard they planned to ship container loads of between six and eleven tonnes into Britain.

Radford, of Lillie Yard Road, Earlsfield, south-west London, denies conspiracy to import a controlled drug.

Proceeding

Source: The Independent  
Date: Wednesday 8, October 2003

## DRUGS AND FOOTBALL TEN HEADLINE MAKERS

### Frank McAvennie

McAvennie had a distinguished career as a striker with Celtic, West Ham and Scotland during the 1980s, but has become renowned for his liking of cocaine (two offences of possession), champagne and Page 3 "burdz". In his autobiography, punningly titled *Scoring*, he claims he and his then-lover, Jenny Blyth, put a fortune up their noses.

Earlier this year, he revealed in a TV documentary that he had taken speed (amphetamine dextrine) during the early 1960s, when there were no anti-doping laws in the game. He remains adamant that he was unaware that what he took before matches was classed as a narcotic.

### Diego Maradona

Maradona, the greatest player of his generation, maintained he had "beaten" cocaine addiction after serving a 15-month ban. He arrived at the 1994 World Cup finals looking slim and sharp, but after Argentina's second game he tested positive for five prohibited substances. All were related to ephedrine, a stimulant found in some weight-loss products.

### Jaap Stam

Stam left Manchester United for Lazio in August 2001. In October he tested positive for nandrolone, a performance-enhancing anabolic steroid. He protested his innocence but was fined £30,000 by the Italian FA and suspended for five months. The drug was also found in the systems of his fellow Dutch internationals, Frank De Boer and Edgar Davids.

### Kevin Thomas

Thomas, a former Scotland Under-21 midfielder, was with his St Johnstone team-mates at their 2000 Christmas party in a Perth disco when they were discovered allegedly

### Willie Johnston

Johnston failed a mandatory drugs test after Scotland's defeat by Peru in the 1978 World Cup and was sent home. Now a publican, Johnston still claims he took nothing more than a decongestant for hay fever. Scotland's manager, Ally MacLeod, collected every pill the squad had and dumped them in a field en route to training. They were guzzled by horses.

### Jamie Stuart

Stuart, a defender, played in the same England Under-21 side as David Beckham and Lee Bowyer while with Charlton (where Bowyer also tested positive for marijuana aged 18). In 1996 Stuart was found to have used marijuana and cocaine. After a six-month ban, he joined Millwall then Bury and is now with Southend.

### Harry Gregg

Gregg, now 70, was a goalkeeper with Manchester United and Northern Ireland.

snorting cocaine by the physio. After being sacked along with the striker George O'Boyle, Thomas eventually won an appeal for unfair dismissal but played out his career at Berwick and Montrose.

### Chris Armstrong

Armstrong failed a random test in 1995, traces of cannabis being found when he was with Crystal Palace. The striker was not banned after agreeing to undergo counselling. His career soon recovered, with a move to Tottenham and at 32 he is now with Wrexham.

### Mark Bosnich

Bosnich is arguably the British game's highest-profile drug casualty. The detection of cocaine traces last December cost the Australian goalkeeper his career at Chelsea, whom he joined after a second spell at Manchester United. He claimed his drink was spiked in a nightclub but lost his appeal against an FA ban, later admitting a £3,000-a-week addiction.

### Roger Stanislaus

Stanislaus, who looked set for a bright career when Arsenal signed him as a teenager, had drifted down the divisions to Leyton Orient when he earned the unwanted distinction of being the first player to test positive for a performance-enhancing drug in 1996. The substance was cocaine and the defender was sacked for his offence. He failed to resurface in League football.

PHIL SHAW



Source: Hartlepool Mail  
Date: Saturday 4, October 2003

# Couple set up a cannabis farm

by Peter Tennick

petennick@northeasternpress.co.uk

A COUPLE have been convicted of running a cannabis farm after getting fed-up having to pay for it, a court heard.

Martin Alan Payne and Lisa Ann Connolly grew over 50 cannabis plants at the family home they shared with two young children, in Hazel Grove, Hartlepool, magistrates

"sick of paying for cannabis" the two decided to grow it themselves.

Outlining the case prosecutor, Sharon Campbell, told the court: "Police executed a search warrant at the house in Hazel Grove and when they entered the premises they found a total of 52 cannabis plants growing in an upstairs bedroom."

Ms Campbell added that drug paraphernalia was also found including specialist lamps, scales and weights and plant food.

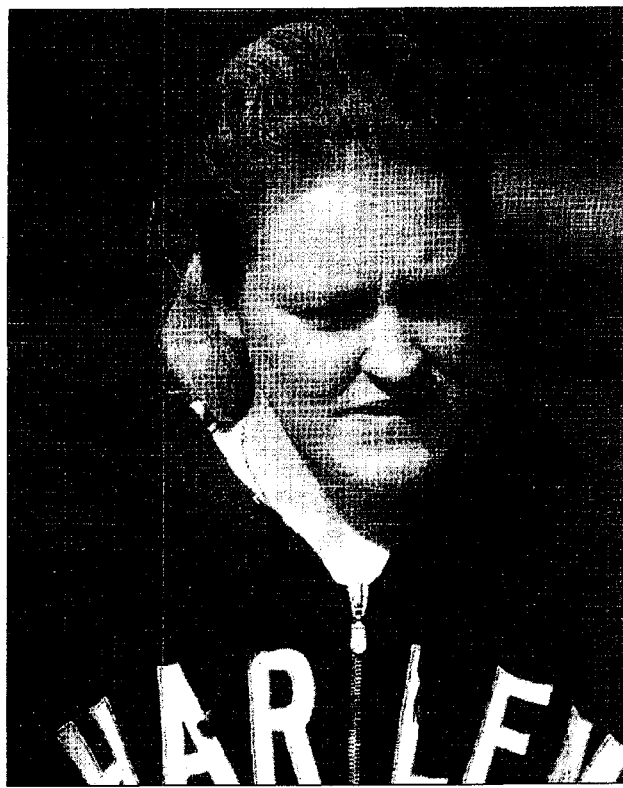
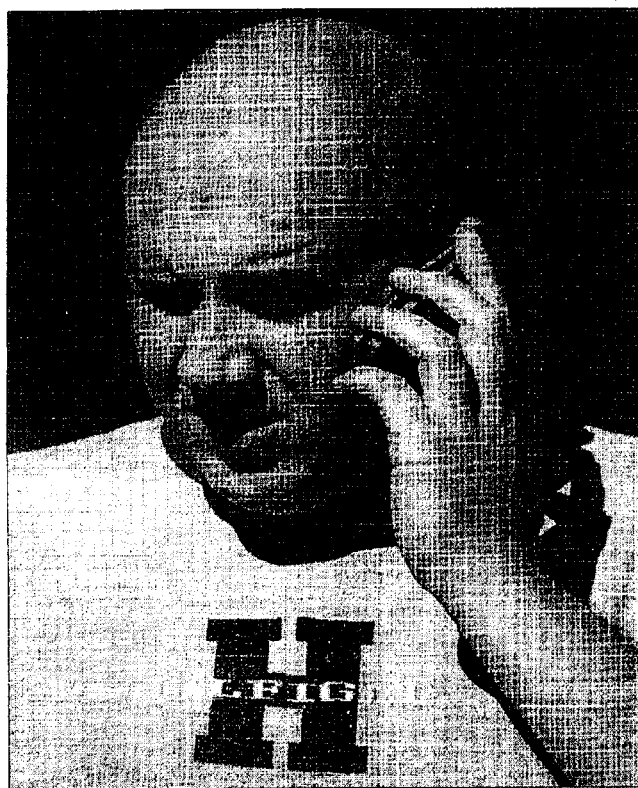
"They were interviewed by police and told officers that they started to

sion of Ecstasy, Payne was given a total of 160-hour punishment order and 22-year-old Connolly an 80-hour community punishment order.

Both were ordered to pay costs of £69 at £6 each a fortnight.

On sentencing magistrate Elizabeth Butterfield told the pair: "We can see that you have two young children in the house and we find it very disturbing and upsetting that you are letting them witness this."

The court ordered that all of the drugs and paraphernalia be destroyed.



CULTIVATED CANNABIS FARM: Police found 52 plants in the home of Martin Payne and Lisa Connolly

heard.

And 27-year-old Payne was also charged with possessing a class A drug after 16 Ecstasy tablets were found in a kitchen drawer.

Hartlepool Magistrates Court yesterday heard that after becoming

grow the plants because they were sick of buying the drug," she added.

The pair pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing and neither of their defence solicitors offered mitigation yesterday.

For growing cannabis and posses-

Source: Greenock Telegraph  
Date: Saturday 11, October 2003

# Drug dealer jailed

**FIRST offender Harold Mitchell has been jailed for 30 months for dealing in five kilos of cannabis resin.**

Mitchell (62), of 36 Ryan Road, Wemyss Bay, was convicted along with former world champion boxer Paul Weir (36), of Dunning Drive, Cumbernauld, and Gerald Ferguson (46), of Riverview Gardens, Glasgow, of being concerned in the supply of the drug in May last year.

A fourth accused, James Rankin (39), of Bank Street, Grangemouth, pleaded guilty to concern in the supply of cannabis and cannabis resin.

Yesterday, at the High Court at Edinburgh, Lord Wheatley told the accused if he did not send them to prison: "This would simply encourage those who pull the strings to find others like yourselves to distribute drugs around the country."

Rankin was jailed for four years and Weir and Ferguson were sentenced to 30 months in jail.

They were caught red-handed in the car park of the Crowwood House Hotel, Cumbernauld Road, Muirhead, with a bag containing £42,500 worth of the drug.

They were snared after a police undercover operation by the Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency.

Within seconds of the bag of drugs being put into Weir's car in the car park of the hotel, all four were arrested.

Mitchell claimed he was there to sell Weir a second-hand car. He told the court £2,000 found on him was given to him by Weir for the car seconds before police swooped.

Solicitor-advocate Maurice Smyth, who represented Mitchell, said his client was ashamed and bewildered by the predicament he had got himself into.

Source: Star (Sheffield)  
Date: Friday 3, October 2003

# Friends grew cannabis in their attics

TWO friends grew hundreds of pounds worth of cannabis in their attics to support a 16-year-long use of the drug.

Craig Gillies' and Gregory Mayes' drug habit was discovered when police smelled cannabis drifting from their car as they drove around Sheffield in January this year.

Sheffield Crown Court heard officers stopped their car and discovered a small amount of cannabis and reflective lighting panels used to grow the drug in the back of the vehicle.

The pair were arrested and police searched Gillies' house in Torbay Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, and Mayes' home in Sherwood Road, Tideswell, Derbyshire.

Prosecutor Ian Goldsack said officers found lighting, plastic bags, trays, plant food and cannabis with a street value of £3,300 at 34-year-old Gillies' house.

The remains of five root cannabis plants and a total of 66.5 grams of the drug with a street value of £670 were found at Mayes' house.

Mayes, 35, told police he had been using cannabis for nearly 17 years and had grown enough to last him three months.

Dermot Hughes, defending Gillies, said his client should not receive a more serious punishment because he had been caught with more cannabis: "My client has more cannabis because he has better horticultural skills."

The pair admitted possessing cannabis and received a 220-hour community punishment order and ordered to pay £150 costs.

Source: Irish Independent (Dublin)  
Date: Thursday 2, October 2003

# Gardai seize 250 cannabis plants

Eugene Hogan

MAJOR cannabis growers here are now farming out their work to smaller operators in order to avoid detection, gardai believe.

According to officers investigating the 250 cannabis plant find at two Limerick locations early yesterday, the latest seizure is indicative of the way the market has changed in the city and elsewhere.

Instead of growing their illegal crops in large warehouses and sheds, many significant players are, instead, "subbing" out their work to smaller growers to avoid the gardai spotlight.

"Major operators are no longer growing their plants in large warehouses and the like. They are selecting certain people, whom they feel would not draw huge attention, to grow it for them on a smaller scale," said Det

Sgt John Heelan, head of Limerick's Drug Squad.

The 250 plants were found in an attic and sitting room in houses in the Castletroy and Singland areas during searches yesterday morning.

In addition to the plants, sophisticated watering, lighting and feeding systems at both locations were also seized. The plants, once cultivated, would have a street value of around €5,000.

Two men and one woman were arrested during the searches but were later released and a file is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Meanwhile, gardai in Thurles, Co Tipperary, yesterday seized around 10,000 ecstasy tablets, with an estimated street value of €100,000, in a search of a premises at The Commons, Thurles.



TRIMMED FOR YOU

Source: Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)  
Date: Friday 10, October 2003

# Stash of cannabis found in man's van

**A CITY man was caught red-handed with cannabis stashed in his van after throwing fireworks out of the window.**

Amber Hussain (19) pleaded guilty to possession of a class B drug with intent to supply, but escaped a prison sentence.

Peterborough Crown Court heard that on Saturday, November 2, last year, police received reports that someone was throwing fireworks from a white Transit van.

David Monk, prosecuting, said police caught Hussain in the driver's seat, with fireworks on the dashboard and a smell of cannabis in the van.

He said: "Police searched the van and found eight £10 'deals' of cannabis in the glove compartment, and a box on the floor containing a further nine 'deals'."

Hussain was searched by police who found a small amount of cannabis in his coat pocket and nearly £80 in cash.

His bedroom was later searched and police discovered £460 in cash, the court heard.

Hussain claimed he knew nothing about the cannabis,

**CHRIS SEALEY** NEWS REPORTER

which he believed was a class C drug. He said he had bought the van earlier that day and the cannabis had been left in it by the vendor.

Nicola Devas, defending, said Hussain, of Midland Road, West Town, was a man of good character with no previous convictions.

And Recorder Martin Oldham took her words into account when he ordered Hussain to carry out 100 hours of community punishment over a 12-month period.

Hussain was also handed a three-month curfew order - meaning he will have to stay at home on Friday and Saturday from midnight to 8am - and told to pay £200 costs.

Recorder Oldham said drug dealing was an extremely serious offence but he had taken into account Hussain's good character.

He said: "You're a young man and come from a good family, that speaks well for you."

"This order will give you the chance to sort yourself out."

chris.sealey@peterboroughnow.co.uk

Source: Daily Echo (Bournemouth)  
Date: Tuesday 7, October 2003

## A user speaks...

**"A**lie" is 30 years old, self-employed and lives in Parkstone, Poole. He has been using cannabis "constantly" for the past 10 years.

"The new guidelines won't change the way I feel about the law, but then I don't walk around worrying about getting pulled over for holding a bit of dope."

"If I was pulled and searched I'd initially be completely shocked because it doesn't feel like I'm doing anything wrong."

"The guidelines are fine but there are still a lot of grey areas that need to be sorted out."

"If you're growing at home, how many plants constitute enough for personal use and how many would make you a dealer? Same with being caught - how much is considered to be for personal use?"

"I don't buy that whole addiction argument, either. I do know people who will go driving for hours trying to get some when they get down to their last eighth, but personally, if I run out then I might be mildly frustrated I can't have a smoke that evening and the next day I'm fine about it."

"It's no different than someone who has a glass of wine every night when they get in from work, they might be a bit niggly if they run out of wine, but it's not going to keep them up all night rocking because they can't have a drink."

"To be honest, if I don't have a smoke for a couple of days then I'm probably sharper and more on it than if I'd had a smoke, so it might do me good!"

"I've been fairly psychedelically-minded since I was about 10 years old. I grew up listening to Sgt Pepper's [The Beatles' album] and my mum's Motown albums and watching films like Quadrophonia, imagining I was in the 60s."

"So smoking cannabis never led me on to other drugs, I was already interested in what they would do anyway. I can imagine peer pressure would cause some youngsters to try different things but there's nothing about cannabis that intrinsically leads you to experiment with harder drugs."

"Actually, I think most people think of dope as quite harmless and are more cautious than they've ever been about anything else."

"I rarely smoke even a cigarette when I'm walking about and I usually like to be sat down and stationary before I have a smoke, so I don't walk around town with a big spliff on the go any more than I'd walk around with a can of Stella in my hand. I'd feel pretty skanky."

"I've smoked fags since I was 16 and I've noticed the usual things - if I run for a bus or something then I get a bit wheezy, but I haven't noticed anything different in my health since I started smoking pot and weed regularly."

"I'm sure most of the damage you could cause yourself is because you usually smoke it with tobacco and if you grind a fag up into a spliff and smoke it without a filter then it's probably not that good for you, although, if you smoke pure weed then you don't have any tobacco at all."

Source: Jersey Evening Post  
Date: Friday 10, October 2003

## 'Candidate for mercy' is jailed for 2½ years

THE Superior Number of the Royal Court decided yesterday that a man who brought £99,000 worth of cannabis into the Island was 'a candidate for mercy'.

Patrick Fitzsimons (43), who admitted importing the cannabis at Elizabeth Harbour, where it was found hidden in the spare wheel of his car, was jailed for 2½ years.

Crown Advocate Cyril Whelan said that Fitzsimons could not claim naivety as he knew the type of drug which he was importing.

Fitzsimons told police that he had brought the drugs into Jersey for someone else and

was to await contact on his arrival.

Advocate Whelan said that Fitzsimons had been arrested at the Harbour while he was on parole for a previous drug trafficking offence in the UK.

He would be returned there to serve a nine-month sentence after completing the term in the Island. Advocate Whelan called for a 2½-year sentence.

Counsel for Fitzsimons, Advocate David Hopwood, said that his client had committed the recent offence against a background of intolerable personal circumstances and duress

A friend who had loaned Fitzsimons £7,000 for a dual business venture had committed suicide and a known criminal had been putting pressure on him for the return of that money which he claimed had come from him.

### Health problems

Fitzsimons's health problems, which included hardening of the arteries, dyslexia and depression, made it very difficult for him to find employment.

Describing Advocate Hopwood's submissions as powerful, the Deputy Bailiff, Michael Birt, said that the court agreed with both advocates that Fitzsimons's guilty plea had been of value.

Mr Birt said they had taken into account that Fitzsimons would be serving another nine months in the UK for the breach of parole.

In view of Fitzsimons's health problems and the loss of his business partner, the court regarded him as a candidate for mercy.


Mr Birt was sitting with Jurats de Veulle, Ruffitt, Bullen, Georgelin, Allo and Clapham.

# LIVERBUDS

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**Cannabis found**

**BRISTOL:** A Hambrook man is awaiting trial in a French jail after being stopped by customs officers with 40 kilos of cannabis.

Source: Bristol Evening Post (Greater Bristol)  
Date: Monday 13, October 2003

Source: South Wales Evening Post (Swansea)  
Date: Friday 10, October 2003

## Convicted cannabis courier faces trial in France

# Man's vehicle held 40 kilos of drugs

**A BRISTOL man is awaiting trial in a French jail after being stopped by customs officers with 40 kilos of cannabis.**

George Rogers, aged 65, was at the wheel of a vehicle which was searched by customs officers in the French Basque country.

The officers became suspicious about the vehicle and, when they searched it, found a large amount of cannabis hidden inside.

Rogers, of Tudor Lodge, Hambrook, is believed to have been travelling with his family.

He was handed over to the French judiciary and charged with importing drugs.

Rogers was jailed for five years in this country in May 2000 for his part in a conspiracy to import £100,000 of cannabis into Britain using tins of tomatoes.

Privately-educated Rogers was

by OLIVIER VERGNAULT and JULIE HARDING

released earlier this year after serving half his sentence.

In an unrelated incident but on the same day and in the same area of France, customs officers found 65 kilos of pure cocaine hidden in a lorry being driven by an unnamed man from the Forest of Dean.

The drug, with a street value of 7,150,000 Euros or £5 million, was discovered in the living quarters of the lorry in a custom-built trunk under the bed. Some of the cocaine was also found in three suitcases buried under plastic bags.

Jean-Paul Balzamo, deputy director of customs services in Bayonne, on the South West coast of France, said finding the cocaine was the most important drug bust ever made by his officers in the Bayonne

district. The seizure happened shortly after midnight on Friday September 12 at the Bénése-Mareme toll on the A63 motorway, near Bayonne.

Three years ago, Rogers and Keiti Valle, a former match-day announcer for Bristol Rovers, were caught drug smuggling by British Customs officers.

Valle received a sentence of 18 months for his role as courier.

Rogers admitted being involved in a conspiracy to import 50kg of cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

Valle, now 62, a taxi driver of Regent Street, Clifton, pleaded guilty to supplying cannabis.

Cannabis was discovered hidden in tins of Italian tomatoes when officers stopped a taxi being driven by Valle.

✉ epnews@bepp.co.uk

## £2,600 of drugs in car boot

**A MAN caught near Pont Abraham service station with drugs worth more than £2,600 claimed he made money by selling cacti and fruit juice — not by dealing in drugs.**

Lucifer Looker Howse was stopped by police on the A48 last May, Swansea Crown Court heard.

He was driving a VW Golf car and in its boot was a hemp rucksack containing an electronic scales and quantities of LSD, psilocybin or magic mushrooms, **cannabis**

resin and herbal cannabis.

Howse, aged 28, admits simple possession of all four substances, but denies more serious charges of possession with intent to supply.

Phillip Harris-Jenkins, prosecuting, told the jury that, when stopped by officers, Howse

immediately accepted he was the owner of the rucksack and its contents.

"He said he would have consumed all the drugs himself over the next three months," said the barrister. The case continues.

Daily Post (Liverpool)  
Saturday 4, October 2003

## Drugs 'minder' jailed for a year

**A MAN caught minding £11,500-worth of cannabis resin was jailed for 12 months yesterday.**

Liverpool Crown Court heard that police raided Paul Johnson's home in Glassonby Crescent, Norris Green, on October 8 last year and found a box containing 25 nine-ounce blocks of cannabis resin.

Johnson, 28, told police he had been given the box to mind for a few hours by a man he would not name.

He did not initially know what was in it but, when he found out, he kept it, intending to give it back to him later, said Donal McGuire, prosecuting.

Judge John Roberts told Johnson, who pleaded guilty to possessing the drugs with intent to supply: "I need to let people know even temporary minders of controlled drugs will be locked up."

David Williams, defending, said Johnson had been frank with police. "His background is a classic template for becoming a criminal."

Evening Chronicle  
Wednesday 1, October 2003

## Police uncover drugs factory

**CANNABIS plants worth £14,000 were found by police in a raid at a house on Tyneside.**

The stash was recovered after officers executed a search warrant at the home in Wilton Avenue, Walker, Newcastle.

Fourteen mature cannabis plants and growing equipment was found in a rear bedroom. A ventilation system kept the room at the optimum growing temperature.

A small quantity of cocaine was also found.

Lee Skinner, 21, of Wilton Avenue, was arrested and charged with producing cannabis, possession of cannabis and possession of cocaine. He was bailed to appear before Newcastle magistrates on October 2.

Det Insp Brian Young, of Newcastle CID, said: "This is an excellent result and shows the value of good intelligence."

Source: Jersey Evening Post  
Date: Saturday 11, October 2003

## 'Stuff' and nonsense



**A good haul of cannabis for the police — but should use of this particular drug really result in such enormous legal penalties?**

**W**HILE on the subject of bizarre events, it appears that there must be a drug dealer in the Island somewhere with a certain amount of egg on his face but no cannabis to distribute.

Perhaps it only seems strange to me that someone would drop a huge chunk of their finest 'stuff' in a field at L'Etacq only to find the police got to it first after a member of the public spotted the goods.

Although a fabulous tick for the police in the 'war on drugs' it did highlight for me the different way in which many Islanders regard cannabis as against any other illicit drug.

It's importation is still a criminal offence as is its possession but it is hardly seen as the life-destroying corruptive substance that heroin or cocaine are deemed to be, or for that matter that legal drug of choice, alcohol.

It is easy to laugh but it

hardly takes into account the brutality of the drugs trade and the fact that it would be a miracle if whoever was supposed to have been picking it up gets away with as little as egg in the face. Broken legs, at least, are far more likely.

With the exception of those who make a huge financial profit at the higher end of the drug hierarchy and those who are given a sense of power at the lower end, it is very hard to see who benefits from the continued illegality of cannabis — or for that matter harder drugs.

Certainly not those who use it with as little, perhaps less, damage to the public at large as the many who drink on a regular basis.

It seems to me that it is about time the law here, and in the UK, caught up with the fact that using cannabis should not carry such a stigma or entail such huge legal penalties as is still the case here.

Source: Northern Echo (Darlington / South Durham)  
Date: Saturday 4, October 2003

## Judge's warning for 16-year cannabis vet

**A MOTHER who admitted she had smoked cannabis for 16 years was given a "pack it in" warning by a judge yesterday.**

Lisa Blakemore is teetotal and prefers nights in to a night on the town.

But Teesside Crown Court heard how police seized £120 of cannabis when they raided her Stockton home on December 23, said Paul Newcombe, prosecuting.

They also found 200 plastic bags, a grinder and a radio

scanner tuned in to police wavebands. She said the cannabis was for her own use, and that she divided it into daily amounts for herself.

Police raided the house again a week later after observing a suspicious transaction, and found a very small amount of cannabis and the radio scanner again tuned in to police messages.

Blakemore, 36, said she was allowing her house to be used by others and herself to

smoke cannabis.

Tim Gittins, defending, said: "She has a five-year-old child and there is no suggestion that her smoking cannabis has affected her ability to bring up that child."

"She is teetotal and is someone who simply enjoys her own company — and that of her friends — at home."

"She has been smoking cannabis for 16 years."

Judge Les Spittle told Blakemore: "As far as these

courts are concerned, the possession and use of cannabis is prohibited and constitutes a criminal offence.

The judge added: "If you do not want to get locked up, do not persist in acting against the law in this way."

Blakemore of Parliament Street, Stockton, was given a two-year community rehabilitation order after she pleaded guilty to allowing premises to be used for the smoking of cannabis.

Source: Glasgow Evening Times  
Date: Saturday 11, October 2003

## Ex-manager slams jailed boxer

**THE former manager of shamed Scots boxing champ Paul Weir today condemned his ex-protégé in a scathing verbal attack.**

Tommy Gilmour, who trained the twice world champion for six years, says he has "no sympathy for Paul" following Weir's sentencing for drugs offences.

At the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday, Weir, 36, of Cumbernauld was sentenced to 30 months in prison after he was caught with **cannabis** worth £21,000 in his car.

Three other men caught in the same police operation were jailed for a total of nine years.

Boxing manager Gilmour said: "If Paul was involved in drugs and the court has found him guilty then he deserves all he gets."

"He was a top sportsman, who we took to great heights. The fact he has been done for drugs offences is disappointing."

"I don't feel sorry for Paul at all. I feel sorry about the misery drugs bring to families."



Source: Jersey Evening Post  
Date: Friday 10, October 2003

**■ COURT:** Five-year sentence for man caught with £112,000 worth of the drug

# Police watched dealer reveal cannabis cache

BY DIANE SIMON

Text messages

A MAN who admitted possessing £112,000 worth of cannabis with intent to supply hidden in a car bonnet and a hole in a St Ouen field has been jailed for five years.

The Superior Number of the Royal Court heard yesterday that the accused, Stephen Darren (43), was seen by police officers to visit the field of a secluded house and open the bonnet where some of the haul had been secreted.

The remainder of the cannabis bars, as well as almost £25,000, was found buried in a container five feet away from the old car, which was registered in Darren's name.

Crown Advocate Sally Sharpe said that DNA tests showed that gloves found by police had been used by Darren. A search of the accused's home uncovered £4,000 in a safe

which had been wrapped in a similar way to the money found at St Ouen.

Advocate Sharpe referred to Darren's record of previous drugs offences and called for a five-year sentence.

Counsel for Darren, Advocate Caitriona Fogarty, said that the disused vehicle no longer belonged to Darren as he had sold it for spare parts eight months previously but maintained the registration because he wanted to keep the number plate.

When the owner of the land asked that the vehicle be removed, Darren had been told by the car's owner of the presence of the cannabis and offered £2,000 to move it to another site.

The defendant had moved some of the drugs by hiding them in the ground nearby and after a series of text messages from the car's owner he agreed to relocate the rest, the advocate said.

Deputy Bailiff Michael Birt said that the court believed Darren had taken an active part in concealing the drugs and the transfer of cannabis, which would no doubt have gone onto the market in due course.

The court noted, however, that since 1987 Darren had made steps to turn his life around and had pointed out a discrepancy in his criminal record when some offences had been omitted.

Mr Birt was sitting with Jurats de Veulle, Rumfitt, Bullen, Georgelin, Allo and Clapham.

Source: Metro London  
Date: Tuesday 14, October 2003

# Cannabis smoking 'burns out sperm'

BY STEPHEN HULL

MEN who regularly smoke cannabis may suffer from sperm 'burn-out' - preventing them fathering children, researchers claimed yesterday.

Scientists discovered drug-users' sperm moved too fast, too early and in smaller numbers. They also produced less seminal fluid.

The sperm counts of 22 cannabis smokers and 59 fertile men were compared by researchers.

Sperm numbers and ability to move were measured, together with a function called hyperactivity.

'The sperm from marijuana smokers

were moving too fast, too early,' said Dr Lani Burkman, who led the study. 'The timing was all wrong. These sperm will experience burn-out before they reach the egg and would not be capable of fertilisation.'

The volunteers were all frequent users who had smoked an average of 14 times a week for five years.

Dr Burkman, from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, New York, pointed out that many men who smoked cannabis had fathered

children. But it was likely the drug could push a man with naturally low fertility 'over the edge into infertility'.

He warned: 'I definitely would advise anyone trying to conceive not to smoke marijuana and that would include women as well as men.'

But Alun Buffry, of the Legalise Cannabis Alliance, said last night: 'If you look at the free love of the 1960s, when many people were smoking, there was a real baby boom.'

'In countries where cannabis use is commonplace, they don't seem to have a population problem.'

Source: Herald Express (Torquay)  
Date: Monday 13, October 2003

# BOY, 12, BAILED IN DRUG DEAL PROBE

School acts over 'cannabis' child

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy has been sent home after allegedly dealing in drugs at his school in Torquay.

The youngster was detained by police last Tuesday after allegedly being found in possession of an amount of cannabis at Westlands School.

A police spokesman confirmed that a child, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, had been questioned at Torquay police station.

He has since been released on bail. Westlands deputy head Pat Brown revealed that a pupil had been tem-

porarily excluded after officers were called to the school.

She said no further comment could be issued by the school until the results of the police inquiry were known.

One concerned parent said today: 'I think it's shocking that a child so young should be involved in such a serious matter. My son was very upset, as were his friends.'

She added: 'This is one of the worst nightmares

for a parent. It's just awful, but what can you do about it?'

'It's such a shame because we think Westlands is a great school and our lad is very happy there. I hope everything will be sorted out properly.'

The police spokesman stressed that the arrest of a such a young child for a drugs offence was 'very very rare'.

He said: 'While it might be disturbing to have a

child of this age allegedly dealing in controlled drugs, it's extremely uncommon.'

He added: 'We have been very grateful for all the co-operation we have received from the school.'

He said police continued to take their anti-drugs message to schools across South Devon as part of an awareness campaign.

Source: Jersey Evening Post  
Date: Monday 6, October 2003

# Plane drops biggest cannabis seizure in L'Etacq field

BY BEN QUEREE

THE largest-ever cannabis haul in Jersey's history has been found in a St Ouen field after being dropped from an aircraft a few days earlier.

Cannabis worth £500,000 was found in a field at L'Etacq on Friday evening after being dropped from an aircraft a few days before. The drugs were found by a member of the public and reported to police.

It was one of three seizures over the last few days that netted £648,000 worth of drugs for Drugs Squad and Customs and Excise officers.

Two men have appeared in the Magistrate's Court today charged in relation to a heroin and cocaine haul, and a further £92,000 worth of cannabis was seized from an address in town on Thursday.

Police also confirmed that they are looking into a possible connection between the L'Etacq seizure and the man who crashed his car at L'Etacq a week ago last Friday, and who died six days later after falling from the fourth floor of the General Hospital where he was being treated for his injuries.

The 27 year-old from St Lawrence broke his leg when he crashed a Landrover Freelander into a wall at the top of L'Etacq hill on the night of Friday, 26 September.

On Thursday he fell from the window of Beauport Ward at the General Hospital and died. The hospital have launched an internal investigation.

This morning, police stressed that they were looking into every aspect of the drug seizure, and that the possible connection to the man was only one line of inquiry. They also said there was no evidence or intelligence yet linking the two, and have refused to confirm his name to the media.

Insp Chris Beechey said that because of the state of the holdalls containing the 90 kilos of cannabis, they believed they had been in the field for some time. He added that it was obvious that they had been

dropped from a significant height.

Drugs squad officers are making inquiries with the air traffic control au-

thorities and checking recent flight plans to try and find out when the drugs were dropped, and who by.

## Investigations

Investigations into the £500,000 haul are ongoing, and police have not arrested or charged anyone in relation to it yet.

But Mr Beechey said that considering the amount of drugs involved and the way they were believed to have been brought into the Island, they thought a significant amount of organisation and resources were involved.

Friday morning saw £50,000 worth of heroin and £6,500 worth of cocaine seized at the Elizabeth Harbour David Haywood (38) and Douglas Quinault (39) appeared in the Magistrate's Court this morning in relation to the haul, which Customs say had been hidden internally.

A person arrested when police found £92,000 worth of cannabis at a flat in town on Thursday has been released without charge.

Source: Brighton Evening Argus  
Date: Sunday 12, October 2003

# £600,000 of drugs in back of a van

A MAN accused of drug smuggling admitted owing money to "everybody", a jury heard.

Gregory Murray, 35, revealed his debts when he was arrested by Customs officers after £600,000 of cannabis were landed on a beach at Seaford in April.

Murray, of Lennox Street, Brighton, and Alexander Goddard, 29, of Conbar Avenue, Rustington, have both denied two charges of smuggling at a trial at Lewes Crown Court.

The jury heard Murray told officers he had been forced to smuggle the drugs by money-lenders who threatened to harm his son after a land deal in Central America went wrong and he ended up in debt.

He said he borrowed £18,000 to buy land in Honduras to start a new life running a diving school.

But Murray, who worked as a refuse collector, mechanic and plasterer, said he spent the

money on living expenses and could not repay the debt.

In an interview with officers read out to the jury, he said: "I owe everybody money. I owe my mum money."

He said the threats started in January when he returned from a nine-week holiday in Australia.

"It was 'You borrowed money to go and do some land which you have not done. So what is happening with our money?'"

Murray told the officers he was 6ft 5in and could take care of himself but he was worried about his son.

He said the night he was arrested was the only time he had smuggled drugs.

Earlier the court heard how customs officers kept watch as the drugs haul was landed on the shore near Splash Point in the early hours of April 17.

Officers and police chased two vehicles, a car driven by Murray and a white van with Goddard behind the wheel. The drugs, 151kg of cannabis resin and 54kg of herbal cannabis, were found in the back of the van.

The prosecution say Murray's allegations of threats are a figment of his imagination.

The trial continues.



Source: Brighton Evening Argus Date: Thursday 2, October 2003  
**Police seize 200 cannabis plants in drugs raid**

A MAN was arrested after police seized more than 200 cannabis plants and growing equipment. Detectives discovered cannabis plants with a street value of £4,000 and a hydroponics factory used to grow the plants worth £3,000. The haul was discovered following a raid on a house in South Coast Road, Peacehaven.

Officers arrested the local man after executing a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The man, who is in his 40s, has since been released on police bail. The raid follows a similar operation on Saturday when police seized more than 400 cannabis plants from a plot of land near Herstonmoex.

The plants, found on a plot of land in Stunts Green, are believed to have had a street value of about £1,000. Last week, officers recovered about £3,000 worth of class-A drugs in Pevensey Bay. Meanwhile, three warrants were executed in Heathfield, where heroin and cannabis were recovered.

Chief Inspector Peter Mills, the new district commander for Wealden, said: "When I started my new role, I made it clear that ridding the streets of the drugs menace would be a top priority. "What is special about these latest warrants is that they are as a result of information coming to us directly from the public."

Source: Cambridge Evening News  
Date: Saturday 4, October 2003

# Burglary case police found drugs growing

A CHARITY worker was caught growing cannabis plants after calling police about a burglary at his home. Officers found 100 of the illegal plants being cultivated in Timothy Raper's loft, Cambridge Crown Court was told.

Forty-year-old Raper, formerly of Grasmere Gardens, Cambridge, and now of Hobart Road, had set up a special hydra-ponic suite to grow the cannabis.

He admitted producing the plants for his own use when he appeared before city magistrates in August and was committed for sentence to the crown court. But he travelled to Spain and missed the hearing, set for last month.

Raper, a voluntary worker who has set up an education health group at the city's Zion Baptist Church, surrendered to police after returning to the UK this week and was brought before the crown court yesterday.

Sentence was adjourned until October 30 for probation reports and Raper was granted conditional bail.

The court was told he had gone to Spain to recuperate from suffering a collapsed lung.

Gloucestershire Echo  
Saturday 4, October 2003

# Cannabis grown in wardrobe

DERRICK Hillman grew cannabis in a specially adapted wardrobe, Cheltenham magistrates heard.

The court was told Hillman, 44, of Brunswick Street, Cheltenham, was found with 15 cannabis plants in a walk-in wardrobe.

He pleaded guilty to cultivating cannabis.

Sarah-Jane Hurrion, prosecuting, said the plants were found by police on August 18.

The wardrobe included systems for airflow, water, lighting and temperature controls.

Simon Hett, defending, said: "Hillman decided to cultivate it because he didn't want to buy it off dealers."

Magistrates bailed Hillman for reports until November 6.

Express & Star  
Wednesday 1, October 2003

# Police grab drugs haul

Police swooped on houses in Wombourne and seized a quantity of drugs. Community Beat Officer for Wombourne Pc Wayne Green said two drugs warrants were executed yesterday on the Giggety estate.

A quantity of cannabis vegetation and a cultivated cannabis plant, with a total value of around £400, was seized. Pc Green said: "This should send out a positive message to people in Wombourne that we are taking action to deal with this."

Three people have been arrested and bailed and are helping police with their inquiries.

South Wales Argus (Newport) Monday 6, October 2003

# Drugs found in house search

WHEN police went to a house in Cwmbran to serve a warrant for non-payment of fines they found a quantity of cannabis on the premises, Cardiff crown court heard.

Christopher Simmonds, 19, unemployed, of Firewater Square, pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis. He was sentenced to a community rehabilitation order for 12 months.

Judge John Griffith Williams told him: "The view seems to be as a result of publicity in the Press that the possession of cannabis is no longer a serious offence. "The government intends to re-classify it as Class C and that has been taken as support for that view."

It had to be known, he said that possession of the drug remains a serious offence. Prosecutor David Evans said police went to Simmonds home with the warrant and found 82 grams of cannabis, enough to make 42 reefer cigarettes.

Source: Paisley Daily Express  
Date: Monday 29, September 2003

# Man 'turned to cannabis' after he was slashed

**POLICE called to a house in Paisley to investigate reports of a disturbance stumbled across a one-man cannabis growing operation.**

Alert cops spotted a mature cannabis plant inside a cupboard lined with tinfoil in the house in Woodside Crescent.

When accused Stephen Riley, a biology graduate, eventually appeared, he told police: "It's only a plant - cannabis."

Police found three other plants in a separate cupboard, again lined with tinfoil and fitted with special lamps.

A "baby plant" was also sitting on top of a coffee table and Riley explained it had been too fragile to be placed under the strong lights.

Riley stressed he had been cultivating the plants for his own personal use and insisted there was no question of any onward supply.

## Knowledge

Mr Clark said the accused "could not have co-operated any more fully" as police quizzed him and he "appeared to have a great deal of knowledge of horticultural matters".

He also said he believed he was doing nothing wrong as any crop produced was for his own use.

Riley, unemployed, pleaded guilty to producing the Class B drug at his home.

A defence agent told Paisley Sheriff Court his client had been "brutally assaulted and slashed indiscriminately" during an attack which left him requiring psychological counselling.

That had led him to "seek solace" in cannabis and he had "cobbled together a crude and self-assembled system of cultivation", using money he received from criminal injuries compensation to buy the equipment required.

Sheriff Colin Pettigrew called for reports and deferred sentence until October 20.

## Colofon

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A word from the publisher:

The UK government has embarked on a process of relative liberalisation towards the use of cannabis, and cannabis activists are engaged in broadening this engagement. Several local councils and police chiefs now actively support a Dutch-style coffeshop system as a way of separating soft and hard drugs, as it has proven to do in Holland. Whether they are finding their way to new coffeshops or growing for their personal supply, cannabis users are a menace to no one, and are causing no discernable social problem. Some politicians and commentators are calling for the outright legalisation of 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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## Index of ads

Name	Phone	Page
7 Summers	0044-2083-107777	63
A Taste of Amsterdam	0044-23-80703990	60
Addloes Lighting	0044-1202-524525	52
AGT Hydroponics	0044-1158-405060	60
Any Time		32
Avon Gro-lite	0044-117-9717007	58
Beaver	0044-1322-273444	20
Biba	0031-20-6261134	76
Bio Bizz	0031-50-5414650	4
Bio Ibo / Power	0031-184-654466	58
Boerenwagen de	0031-20-6834448	79
Bovenstad de	0031-183-631990	72
Bright Green Hydroponics	0044-1482-341925	72
Canna	0031-76-5201746	40-41
Cannabiogen	0034-647-776064	56
CannaTrade	0041-34-4133333	54
Catweazle Seeds		71
Chocolata	0031-20-6226241	76
City Hydroponics Center	0044-1772-204455	24
Conscious Dreams	0031-20-4707744	54
Discount Hydroponics	0044-1424-428186	32
Dutch Wholesale	0031-543-533497	52
Eighteen Twelve	0044-8456-444770	76
Essential Seed Company	0044-1322-273444	20
Europlant	0031-15-2125068	72
Evolution	0031-76-5964520	58
Future Garden	0044-208-5507310	60
Green Grass	0044-1623-755055	63
Green Room the	0044-1245-262221	64
Grotech	0044-1268-799829	54
Grow World	0044-1566-772288	72
Grow Zone	0044-1706-812000	64
Heb 't Lef	0031-77-3510981	72
Hemey		37
Hesi	0031-45-5690420	2
High Quality Seeds	0031-73-5479916	48
High Quality Seeds	0031-73-5479916	68
Highlife Hempfair	0031-73-5498112	27
Holland Cannabis	0031-43-6011581	80
House & Garden	0031-23-5732009	13
Hy Supply	0031-481-452290	37
Hydrogro Top Store	0044-1304-203199	63
I.T.A. Top grow-systems	0031-495-542630	47
Interpolm Amsterdam	0031-20-6277750	79
Joy	0031-71-5120986	72
Jungle Fever	0044-208-3189919	76
Katsu		58
Keeper de	0031-20-6732972	52
King Bong		60
King of Green	0044-1702-347536	56
Liverbuds	0044-151-7332055	74
Marrakech Trading	0031-165-547801	47
Mc Smart	0031-30-2851546	63
Mountain High	0031-186-605590	63
Nirvana Cannabis Seeds	0031-30-3640233	71
Noon the		63
Organic Growshop the	0044-1254-605199	63
Papillon	0031-20-6640628	76
Plagron	0031-495-631559	56
Planet Bong	0044-1926-425050	76
Plantage de	0031-40-2512884	28
Plantarium	0031-24-3888408	37
Pollinator	0031-20-4708889	76
Pooldog the	0031-20-4229838	72
Power Grow Delft	0031-15-2560032	44
Progrow	0044-1392-276998	72
Quantum Hydro	0044-1932-785220	10
Red Eye	0044-1924-359122	56
Rusland	0031-20-6279468	63
Sensi Seeds	0031-10-4763044	16
Sensi-ble Supplies	0044-845-1668023	60
Siberie		64
Sirius	0031-43-3285285	22
Spannabis	0034-661-025630	44
Spoenk	0031-10-4267455	76
Starlite System	0044-1752-551233	31
Tangy Gifts	0044-117-9512202	76
TH Seeds / Hempworks	0031-20-4211762	71
Tiger Lily	0044-1865-241593	60
Totnes Hemp	0044-1803-840706	72
V & L	0031-299-666911	64
Veer 't	0031-162-513322	52
Wall-street	0031-43-3250666	19
Wolkewietje	0031-20-4273776	63
Worthing Hydroponics	0044-1903-204045	54
Xtreme		64