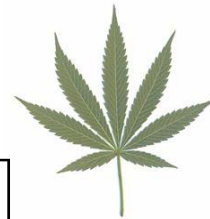




CANNABIS NEWS



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The Party's Over... But the Pressure's on!



THC4MS THREE GIVEN NINE-MONTH PRISON SENTENCES

Mark Gibson, 42, his wife Lezley, 42, who has multiple sclerosis (MS), and Marcus Davies, 36, were each given a nine-month jail term, suspended for two years. They had been convicted of conspiracy to supply free cannabis-laced chocolate to sufferers of MS by a Jury after the Judge had ordered them to ignore medical evidence and disallowed the introduction of doctor's letters.

All three defendants had argued that the drug eased the symptoms of MS and believed they had a defence of medical necessity but this was rejected by a jury last month.

Sentencing at Carlisle Crown Court, on Jan 26th, Judge John Phillips said he accepted their motives were "altruistic", that they had a genuine desire to help people who were suffering and that no profit was made from the operation.

Outside court, Mrs Gibson said she was "very disappointed" at the judge's ruling.

She said: "I was devastated when we were found guilty and this decision has broken me again.

"I still don't think I've done anything wrong. How can it be wrong to try and help ill people? What kind of Government lets people suffer in this way?

"The people that used to use our service are now forced to go to the street dealers and buy contaminated cannabis."

THC4MS CONFESSIONS LIST GROWING DAILY

Source: Border TV, UK
Date: January 8 2007

re: <http://www.lca-uk.org/lcaforum/viewtopic.php?t=861>

Mark and Lezley Gibbon from Alston weren't alone in their conspiracy to supply cannabis laced chocolate. That's according to the Legalise Cannabis Alliance. They say 60 people have written statements to the Chief Crown Prosecutor saying they conspired with the Therapeutic Help from Cannabis for Multiple Sclerosis group.

No regrets for Canna-biz trio

Marcus Davies, of St Ives, was convicted of conspiracy to supply cannabis after helping Mark and Lezley Gibson, of Alston Cumbria, distribute around 20,000 CannaBiz bars for medicinal purposes.

The "cottage industry" made and supplied the Canna-Biz bars, each containing about 2g of the drug, free of charge, with customers required to provide a medical note confirming their condition before bars were supplied.

Speaking after the sentencing, Mr Davies said the decision to prosecute had been "ludicrous" and said he would be appealing against both the conviction and sentence.

He said: "I have been given a nine-month prison sentence for helping people, and it is unbelievable it meant so much to someone that we be prosecuted that they actually went through with it.

"It has taken two years to get where we are today (Saturday, 27 January), and still no-one can tell me - who is the victim here?

"The only victim is me, because it has cost me a fortune to fight this, but the fight will go on because the only thing I have done is help people. I can sleep at night because I know how many people I have helped."

**150g PLAIN MEDICINAL
CANNA-BIZ CHOCOLATE**
FOR PATIENT USE ONLY!
KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS
NOT SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH NUT ALLERGIES
SUITABLE FOR VEGETARIANS AND VEGANS

INGREDIENTS
Cocoa Mass, Raw Cane Sugar, Cocoa Butter,
Lecithin, Vanilla, Raw Cannabis (2% minimum) USE BY
WWW.THC4MS.ORG



Cannabis news from around the world

Ground glass drug alert

Cannabis users and doctors have been warned about a deadly batch of cannabis contaminated with ground glass.

Police believe the drug, known as Grit Weed or Glass Grass, has been bulked out with ground-up glass by dealers so they can make a higher profit.

Calderdale Primary Care Trust has put hospitals and GPs on high alert.

Reports from other parts of the country have told of users coughing up blood, suffering severe chest infections, mouth ulcers and throat problems.

Analysis of the contaminated class C drug has revealed tiny glass particles, which resemble naturally occurring crystals found on cannabis buds, which smokers look for as an indicator of strength.

Experts believe drug gangs are spraying plants with a reflective element found in paint used for road markings.

The tiny reflective glass beads become embedded in the leaves.

One user, who did not want to be named, said: "I had some of this grit weed. It felt like my lungs were bleeding."

Contaminated samples may appear sticky or slightly shiny. Users are advised to wet their fingers and rub some leaves between them - if the residue tastes gritty it is likely that the drug is contaminated.

Marijuana Accepted Use For The Frail in Finland

Finland has now allowed the use of pot to ease the pain in ongoing diseases; it is now being tested by being used by prescription. They will be studying each case separately.

Finland is currently serving out up to two year sentences for illegally using the drug. England, Canada, the Netherlands and other countries currently prescribe it for illnesses like multiple sclerosis.

Erkki Palva of the Finnish pharmaceuticals said "But we do not intend to make this a permanent policy. We will continue to examine cases individually."



Morocco: Customs seize 11 Tons of Hashish.

Maghreb Arabe Presse, 21 Dec 2006

Customs at the Port of Tangier (Northern Morocco) seized a record quantity of 11 Tons of Cannabis resin (Hashish) aboard two TIR trucks bound for Europe, in two different operations.

The first 10.04 Tons of the drug, the largest quantity seized this year in a single operation, was discovered after the lorry carrying tomatoes was scanned by the customs and the Police.

Few hours earlier, the customs intercepted, again thanks to the scanner, another TIR truck with 600 kg of Hashish aboard. The driver from Holland was arrested.

The value on the European market of the drug seized in both operations is estimated at 74 million Euro.

Since early December, Customs at the Port of Tangier seized up to 3.545 Tons of Hashish, in three separate operations.

To strengthen search operations without causing delays, the customs are using a mobile scanner.

Australia: Move to ban bongs, drug kits

Glenn Milne, 16 Dec 2006

THE Federal Government will move to ban the sale of marijuana pipes and so-called "cocaine kits" throughout Australia.

According to Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Health Christopher Pyne, the Government believes the legal sale of marijuana pipes - popularly known as "bongs" - sends a tacit signal that it approves the use of such drugs.

Bongs can be found in tobacconist stores and sometimes even in service stations. There is no age limit on the sale of either drug paraphernalia..

Icelandic marijuana growers on the rise

Iceland Review, 8 Dec 2006

Marijuana is being used with increasing regularity in Iceland and is also grown in Iceland. Iceland-grown marijuana confiscated in 2006 is the tenfold amount confiscated in 2004.

Less marijuana, however, seems to be smuggled into the country. Customs officers confiscated less cannabis this year than two years back. Fréttabladid reports.

CANNABIS AND HEMP EVENTS 2007

MARCH 23RD TO 25TH OF 2007 IN BARCELONA, SPAIN.

SPANNABIS, THE HEMP AND ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FAIR

The 4th edition of SPANNABIS, the Hemp and Alternative Technologies Fair, will be held on the next 23rd to 25th of March 2007 in Barcelona, Spain. web site www.spannabis.com

FEBRUARY 24, 2007: STOP THE WAR DEMONSTRATION

FEBRUARY 23, 24, 25 2007: HIGHLIFE FAIR, AMSTERDAM RAI

MARCH 22 TO 25, GREEN PARTY CONFERENCE SWANSEA

MARCH 30 TO APRIL 1: CANNATRADE.CH 2007: BERN, SWITZERLAND www.cannatrade.ch

MAY 5 TO 7, UK HEMP EXPO AND UK HYDRO EXPO, TELFORD www.ukhempexpo.com at the Telford International Centre.

AUGUST 1 to 5, 2007 BIG GREEN GATHERING <http://www.big-green-gathering.com/>

LCA: PLANS and PROJECTS for 2007

These are just some of the ideas discussed at an LCA meeting held in January 2007:

- To try to get 500 new members
- To organise local and national events
- To concentrate on medical cannabis
- To campaign for consumer protection especially for medical users
 - To hire and pay a secretary
 - To make more LCA banners and placards
 - Fundraising at music events
- To attend events such as local marches, Big Green Gathering, Hemp Expo, Anti-war demo, Green Party conference.

Drug Polices From Selected Countries

Drug policies of selected countries based on information from the New York-based Drug Policy Alliance and governments:

- * Mexico: Under a measure approved by the Mexican Congress, small quantities of drugs for personal use would be legal, including cocaine and heroin. The office of President Vicente Fox has indicated he will sign the bill.
- * The Netherlands: Possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal use has been decriminalized. The sale of cannabis is technically illegal, but operators of coffee shops avoid prosecution by selling no more than 5 grams per person in any one transaction, not selling the drug to those under age 18, not advertising drugs or selling hard drugs.
- * Colombia: possession of narcotics is legal for individual consumption: 20 grams of marijuana, and one gram of cocaine and heroin.
- * Canada: Although marijuana is still illegal in Canada, 2001 regulations allow the use of marijuana by people with serious illnesses. A 2003 court ruling forced the government to sell the drug to certified medical marijuana patients. Canada is also preparing to allow reduced sentences for possession of small amounts of marijuana and is evaluating heroin maintenance programs.
- * United States: Federal drug policy is centered on interdiction, arrest, prosecution and incarceration of users and distributors of controlled substances. Some new state laws, however, take a more liberal approach to drug policy.
- * Singapore: Singapore's sentencing guidelines call for the death penalty for trafficking more than 15 grams of heroin or 500 grams of cannabis.

Join the Cannabis Club and be part of the European Network <http://www.cannabis-clubs.eu/>

Welcome to ENCOD Cannabis Social Clubs. A website to overgrow the worldwide prohibition of cannabis in a peaceful and democratic way.

Cannabis Social Clubs (CSC) are associations of cannabis consumers, who want to organise the cultivation of a limited amount of cannabis that is enough in order to satisfy their personal needs in a legal way.

Today, Cannabis Social Clubs operate in Spain and Belgium, while in other countries, initiatives are being taken to work out a similar model. All depending on the legislation and political practice in the countries. Cannabis Social Clubs can be established in various forms. In countries where the commercial distribution of cannabis is already allowed, such as the Netherlands, the model can be extended for commercial purposes as well.

It is not likely that any national government in Europe is prepared to abolish the prohibition of cannabis and hemp in the near future. At least not if it is not forced to do so. The interests behind the prohibition of cannabis are too powerful: the pharmaceutical industry, the oil industry, the tobacco industry, the alcohol industry, the security industry, the banking industry, among others.

To obtain the end of cannabis prohibition, citizens must act themselves. We must create public debate about it with innovative and solid proposals. The Cannabis Social Clubs are an attempt to establish such a proposal.

The Cannabis Social Clubs (CSC) are a concrete outcome of ENCOD's Freedom to Farm campaign, aimed at the right of every adult citizen of the world to grow and possess natural plants for personal use and non-commercial purposes, using all technical equipment that is available for this. At the same time, individual countries should be allowed to experiment with drug policies that are not based on a prohibitionist regime.

COME AND ARREST ME!

Source: Plymouth Herald, January 27 2007

A musician who suffers from crippling pain which he says is only relieved by smoking marijuana has challenged police to arrest him. A few years ago Stuart Wyatt (pictured right) was a successful violinist with Irish/Celtic rock bands like Mad Dog Mcrea and Black Friday. He would earn good money playing for bands, busking in Paris, producing his own material. Now he lives on income support, isolated in his room in a house in Morice Town.

Stuart has now openly said he will not only use herbal cannabis to combat the effects of his as-yet undiagnosed condition, but will supply the illegal drug to sufferers of ME - often known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome - and Multiple Sclerosis.

If arrested and charged, he could face a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

Plymouth's top policeman, Chief Superintendent Morris Watts, said that while he sympathised with Stuart and his condition, the law did not allow anyone, under any circumstances, to supply cannabis.

Stuart said: "I am not a criminal. But I have to act like one, behave like one, deal with real criminals. I worry about the knock at the door." His stance follows the sentencing yesterday of three activists, one of whom suffers from MS, in Carlisle for supplying the class C drug.

The three members of the campaign group Therapeutic Help for Cannabis for Multiple Sclerosis (THC4MS) were handed nine-

Stuart says he is now determined to fight for what he describes as his 'moral right' to self-medicate with the illegal drug.

Though aged just 34, he says he often feels 'like a crippled 80-year-old'.

He added: "I used to have a life. Now I can barely make it into town."

To date, doctors have been unable to accurately diagnose the causes of Stuart's condition, first saying it was 'irritable bowel syndrome', then 'chronic fatigue syndrome', then possibly MS. He said: "My main symptoms are severe nerve pain, uncontrollable shaking, loss of co-ordination, loss of balance, numbness in my legs, a stabbing pain in the gut, chronic mental and physical fatigue and insomnia. "They come and go in waves. During the three years I have been ill, I've been put on some ridiculous medication - Gabapentin, Amitryptiline, Fluoxetine - I've lost my mind on these drugs. I acted irrationally and I lost a lot of friends."

He said: "I have known since day one that when I smoke good herbal cannabis, I seem to feel better. I don't hurt as much, I don't shake as much, I seem to have energy to do things, my body doesn't feel so tired, my mind clears and I can actually think.

Stuart has started his campaign through the forum of the THC4MS website and his own website, as well as by visiting Charles Cross police station to make his intentions plain. He said: "I asked the officer for legal advice and what were the implications of what I was proposing to do. They didn't really have an answer - one officer just wished me luck and sent me on my way.

To find out more about Stuart's campaign, visit his website: www.swyatt.com