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The War on the Constitution & On Certain Users of Certain Drugs

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ON 26 JANUARY 1848, the American writer and Yankee philosopher Henry Thoreau addressed his townspeople of Concord Massachusetts at the Concord Lyceum on the distinction between civil law and what he called 'higher laws,' later publishing an essay entitled "Resistance To Civil Government," hitherto immortalized as "On The Duty Of Civil Disobedience." Thoreau described his stay in prison for refusing to pay his taxes in protest against the institution of slavery and the imperialistic war with México, which resulted among other things in this region of Old México, the *Bahia de San Francisco*, becoming a part of *these* United States. It was not until the twentieth century, and in no small measure thanks to suchlike warfaring by the imperialistic government on the Potomac, that *these* United States came to be called *the* United States. In the heat of election-year sloganeering regarding the 'problem of immigration,' it is worth bearing in mind that something near half of the land mass of these United States west of the Mississippi lies historically in Latin America. After all, I am not speaking in New London or New Jersey or New York, but in San Francisco, in Alta California Norte, a portion of Viejo México, until the so-called Mexican Cession, compacted exactly one week after Thoreau's lecture.

We are gathered here to discuss the tragedy of the prisoners of war taken in the brutal War On Drugs informally declared in 1969 by the lawless administration of disgraced former President Richard M. Nixon, who created the Drug Enforcement Administration as a sort of political secret-police under the office of the President, and modeled on the Nazi German Gestapo. Thoreau's harsh words on slavery and nineteenth century imperialism are quite as applicable to twentieth century imperialism and especially to the War On The Constitution And On Certain Users Of Certain Drugs, to a government which dares to declare war on its own citizens. The most visible casualties are the prisoners of war, this war our government wages savagely on these very shores; this internal crusade against freedom, public health, medical science and human nature; the only historical parallel of which perhaps is the Albigenian Crusade decreed by the inappropriately-named Pope Innocent III in 1209; also an internal crusade against the very taxpayers supporting the corrupt regime; likewise a war on *certain* users of *certain* drugs, on the ritual

communicants with a *genuine* sacrament — entheogenic mushrooms — in that case waged by a slave army of hapless sheep-men sadly deluded into a pathetic pantomime communion with a phony *placebo* sacrament. I give you my countryman, Henry Thoreau:

How does it become a man to behave toward this American government to-day? I answer that he cannot without disgrace be associated with it. [. . .] All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to and to resist the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable. But almost all say that such is not the case now. [. . .] All machines have their friction; . . . But when the friction comes to have its machine, and oppression and robbery are organized, I say, let us not have such a machine any longer. In other words, when . . . a whole country is unjustly overrun and conquered by a foreign army, and subjected to military law, I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize. [. . .] There are thousands who are *in opinion* opposed. . . to the war, who yet in effect do nothing. . . [. . .] What is the price-current of an honest man and patriot to-day? They hesitate, and they regret, and sometimes they petition; but they do nothing in earnest and with effect. They will wait, well disposed, for others to remedy the evil, that they may no longer have it to regret. At most, they give only a cheap vote, and a feeble countenance and Godspeed, to the right, as it goes by them. There are nine hundred and ninety-nine patrons of virtue to one virtuous man; but it is easier to deal with the real possessor of a thing than with the temporary guardian of it. All voting is a sort of gaming, like chequers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it. [. . .] Even voting *for the right* is *doing* nothing for it. It is only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail. [. . .] It is not a man's duty, *as a matter of course*, to devote himself to the eradication of any, even the most enormous wrong; . . . but it is his duty, at least, to wash his hands of it, and, if he gives it no thought longer, not to give it practically his support. [. . .] The soldier is applauded who refuses to serve in an unjust war by those who do not refuse to sustain the unjust government which makes the war; is applauded by those whose own act and authority he disregards and sets at naught; as if the State were penitent to that degree that it hired one to scourge it while it sinned, but not to that degree that it left off sinning for a moment. Thus, under the name of order and civil government, we are all made at last to pay homage to and support our own meanness. After the first blush of sin, comes its indifference; and from immoral it becomes, as it were, *unmoral*, and not quite unnecessary to that life we have made. The broadest and most prevalent error requires the most disinterested virtue to sustain it. [. . .] Those who, while they disapprove of the character and measures of a government, yield to it their allegiance and support, are undoubtedly its most conscientious supporters, and so frequently the most serious obstacles to reform. [. . .] Unjust laws exist;

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This article is a transcription of a talk delivered by Mr. Ott on October 31, 1996, at the annual awards night held by the Committee on Unjust Sentencing.

The War (cont.)

(Continued from page 117)

shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil. But it is the fault of the government itself that the remedy is worse than the evil. It makes it worse. Why is it not more apt to anticipate and provide for reform? Why does it not cherish its wise minority? Why does it cry and resist before it is hurt? Why does it not encourage its citizens to be on the alert to point out its faults, and do better than it would have them? Why does it always crucify Christ, and excommunicate Copernicus and Luther, and pronounce Washington and Franklin rebels? [. . .] If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go; perchance it will wear smooth, — certainly the machine will wear out. If the injustice has a spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank, exclusively for itself, then perhaps you may consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil; but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine. What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn. As for adopting the ways which the State has provided for remedying the evil, I know not of such ways. They take too much time, and a man's life will be gone. I have other affairs to attend to. I came into this world, not chiefly to make this a good place to live in, but to live in it, be it good or bad. A man has not everything to do, but something; and because he cannot do *every thing*, it is not necessary that he should do *something wrong*. It is not my business to be petitioning the governor or the legislature any more than it is theirs to petition me; . . . [. . .] Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison. The proper place to-day, the only place, . . . provided for. . . freer and less despondin' spirits, is in . . . prisons. to be put out and locked out of the State by her own act, as they have already put themselves out by their principles. It is . . . the only house in a slave-state in which a free man can abide with honor. [. . .] If the alternative is to keep all just men in prison, or give up war and slavery, the State will not hesitate which to

choose. [. . .] that would not be a violent and bloody measure. [. . .] But even suppose blood should flow. Is there not a sort of blood shed when the conscience is wounded? Through this wound a man's real manhood and immortality flow out, and he bleeds to an everlasting death. I see this blood flowing now.

When I came of age, at the height of our unjust, imperialistic war in Indochina, it was fashionable to say to those who, like me, were unwilling to contribute to the bloodshed, and whose only alternative was prison or indefinite asylum in Sweden or Canada: "America, love it or leave it!" Well, I love this country, its ethnically-diverse, creative population, its wondrous and variegated landscape. . . at the same time I hate the imperialistic government on the Potomac which has betrayed our revolution and is dismantling the Bill of Rights to our Constitution. . . all the while I despise the past five decades of unbridled imperialism and wholesale slaughter overseas, for which I accept, as must we all, my share of responsibility, however dutifully we may have washed our hands of it; however cleanly, however plaintively we may cry "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" It will not out. . . and as I look back on my first decade of expatriate life in Latin America and Europe. . . I say "America, I love it, and so I left it;" for I cannot bear to witness up close its Newspeak-oiled, slippery slide into fascism with a human face, into a foul, pseudo-military-industrial dictatorship of the consumariat, in which the evil and hypocritical so-called War on Drugs is the primary battering ram crumbling our Constitution to dust. I salute the prisoners of this dastardly war, who constitute the largest and fastest-growing bloc of political prisoners of the United States government; prisoners whose only transgression is a non-standard taste in inebriants or an entrepreneurial willingness to cater to such; prisoners hanging from bunks in drab cells which were built to house *real* criminals — the rapists and murderers and armed robbers who have been displaced from their true home, and who prowl our dark streets even as we speak.

Supreme Court Scrutinizes RFRA

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is the single most important federal law for the potential protection of non-Native American religious users of entheogens. RFRA forbids the federal and state governments from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion (e.g., by outlawing his or her sacrament) unless the government proves that the burden furthers a compelling governmental interest by the least restrictive means possible. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1996 that RFRA was constitutional. (*Flores v. City of Boerne* (5th Cir. 1996) 73 F.3d 1342.)

On October 14, 1996, the United States Supreme Court agreed to review the Fifth Circuit's ruling in *Boerne*. The crucial questions presented for review (as framed by the government) are: (1) Did Congress violate the constitutional balance between its power under Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment and fundamental principles of federalism by commandeering state and local governments to be agents of federal policy to accommodate religious exercise more than the Constitution requires? (2) Did Congress violate the separation of powers doctrine by legislatively overruling Supreme Court determination of the scope of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment? (3) Did Congress violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment by broadly and exclusively privileging religion over other expressions of conscience?

While the *Boerne* case does not involve drugs, the outcome will have a major impact on entheogen users who hold out hope of presenting a religious defense should they ever be arrested. Look for a thorough analysis of this case and its impact on entheogen users, in a future *TELR*.

Arizona Voters Give Doctors Right to Prescribe Entheogens for Medical Purposes

On November 5, 1996, voters in Arizona passed a referendum (Proposition 200) allowing doctors to prescribe MDMA and other entheogens in some circumstances. A similar referendum (Proposition 215), limited to *Cannabis*, was passed the same day by voters in California.

Under the new Arizona law, Title 13, Chapter 13 of Arizona's Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section (3412.01) which reads as follows:

Prescribing controlled substances included in Schedule I of 36-2512 for seriously ill and terminally ill patients

1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any medical doctor licensed to practice in Arizona may prescribe a controlled substance included in Schedule I of 36-2512 to treat a disease, or to relieve the pain and suffering of a seriously ill patient or terminally ill patient, subject to the provisions of 13-3412.01. In prescribing such a controlled substance, the medical doctor shall comply with professional medical standards.

2. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a medical doctor must document that scientific research exists which supports the use of a controlled substance listed in Schedule I of 36-2512 to treat a disease, or to relieve the pain and suffering of a seriously ill patient or terminally ill patient before prescribing the controlled substance. A medical doctor prescribing a controlled substance included in Schedule I of 36-2512 to treat a

(Continued on page 119)

Ketamine Alert

Utilizing an underhanded, and quite possibly unlawful, method, Senator Joseph Biden is seeking to have ketamine added to the federal list of Schedule II controlled substances. Currently, ketamine is unscheduled under federal law and only a few states have criminal laws regarding it. (See, 4 TELR 34; 5 TELR 45.)

On September 12, 1996, Senator Biden introduced Amendment No. 5295 to an appropriations bill (HR 3756). The stated purpose of Biden's amendment is "To provide for the rescheduling of flunitrazepam [aka Rohypnol] into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, and for other purposes." The "other purposes" includes placing ketamine into Schedule II.

According to Biden, "Rohypnol and 'Special K' are two of the drugs which have recently hit the youth scene and quickly become popular. Both of these drugs are very dangerous drugs whose current legal status does not reflect the dangers inherent in their use." In a speech on the Senate floor, Biden told his colleagues how Rohypnol can be used to drug unsuspecting women and also cause a sort of amnesia that makes it difficult to prosecute the person who drugged her. Biden then switched his focus to ketamine, telling his colleagues:

So let me just briefly explain what Ketamine is. Ketamine is an animal tranquilizer. Ketamine is a hallucinogen that is very similar to PCP. It is called "Special K." It has become a new, popular "designer" drug.

Although the drug has been in existence for several years, its abuse has rapidly become more prevalent in recent years.

In fact, a club in New Jersey was recently closed by police after it discovered teens were attending these things called "raves" where club employees distribute bottled water for the purpose of being able to take this drug called "Special K."

In addition to seizures in New Jersey, recent newspaper articles have mentioned seizures in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona, California, and Florida. Drug Trafficking experts have also cited the presence of "Special K" in Georgia and the District of Columbia and in my home State of Delaware.

It is considered the successor to PCP, or "angel dust," as it is known in the streets, due to the similarity of the two drugs' chemical compositions and mind-altering effects. There have also been reports of PCP being sold to people who think they are buying "Special K."

The bottom line is that this is becoming an incredibly popular drug.

The point I will conclude with is I say to my colleagues that by . . . adding "Special K," Ketamine, to Schedule II of the act, this legislation will subject [the] drug[] to tough controls, increased penalties for unlawful activities involving the . . . drug[], and it will increase the attention of law enforcement and direct Federal efforts against this . . . it also enhances the penalties. . .

In a failed earlier bid (in March of 1996) at scheduling ketamine, Biden told his colleagues:

Special K or ketamine hydrochloride, has become popular as a new designer drug.

Now many parties and raves at dance clubs are called bump parties, as a way of conveying Special K is available. It is particularly attractive to kids at these types of events because along with its mind-altering effects, the drug gives a burst of energy, and it can be mixed with water so kids can take it in public without attracting attention.

What is particularly upsetting about Biden's move against ketamine is that he is going about it in an underhanded way that completely by-passes the procedural steps that are normal preconditions to scheduling a substance. Congress has established a detailed procedure for placing a drug in one of the five federal schedules. The procedure involves publishing notices in the *Federal Register* and allowing comments by anyone who wishes to argue against the scheduling.

Biden's amendment attempts an end-run around the entire procedure. His legislation would summarily order the Attorney General to add ketamine hydrochloride to Schedule II. It's possible that if he's successful at getting ketamine placed in Schedule II by this method, a future defendant charged with unlawfully possessing ketamine might be able to argue that the substance was not legitimately scheduled and that he or she is therefore not in possession of a validly controlled substance.

Arizona Voters (cont.)

disease, or to relieve the pain and suffering of a seriously ill patient or terminally ill patient, must obtain the written opinion of a second medical doctor that the prescribing of the controlled substance is appropriate to treat a disease or to relieve the pain and suffering of a seriously ill patient or terminally ill patient. The written opinion of the second medical doctor shall be kept in the patient's official medical file. Before prescribing the controlled substance included in Schedule I of 36-2512 the medical doctor shall receive in writing the consent of the patient.

3. Any failure to comply with the provisions of this section may be the subject of investigation and appropriate disciplining action by the Board of Medical Examiners.

Other sections of the Arizona proposition: (1) require persons who commit violent crimes while under the influence of drugs to serve 100% of their sentences, without eligibility for parole; (2) require the parole of persons currently serving prison terms for the personal possession or use of a controlled substance. Persons released on parole would be required to participate in drug treatment or education; and (3) require all persons who are hereafter convicted of the personal possession or use of a controlled substance be eligible for probation. (A person sentenced to probation does not serve any time in jail or prison, is under the supervision of a probation officer, and remains free as long as he or she continues their good behavior. Under the new law the person would be required to participate in a drug treatment or education program.)

At a press conference held on December 30, 1996, the federal drug czar, retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey, stated that despite the Arizona and California laws, it remains a federal crime to possess Schedule I controlled substances, and federal law will be enforced. McCaffrey said that doctors in Arizona and California could lose prescription-writing privileges, face federal criminal charges, or be excluded from the Medicare and Medicaid programs if they defy federal law by acting under the authority of the state laws.

Both new laws are extremely important for all entheogen users. They signal that the majority of voters in Arizona and California have seen through the government's extremist War on Drugs, and recognize that the value or harm of a drug must be judged in the context of its use - not vilified in the abstract.

GHB Law

The substance gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)¹ has been the subject of numerous recent stories in the popular media. While few would call it an "entheogen," many have reported euphoria, visual alterations, and subtle psychedelic effects. GHB has found its way into the entheogen-using community. In the last few months, I have received at least a half-dozen communiqués inquiring about GHB's legal status in the USA. This article will detail the legal history of GHB, some of the past FDA undercover operations centered on GHB, and the substance's current legal status in the USA.

THE SUBSTANCE

GHB is an endogenous neurochemical and metabolite of gammaaminobutyric acid (GABA), which has been identified in the human brain and cerebrospinal fluid.² GHB was first synthesized in 1961. It is reportedly a safe non-toxic, non-addicting, hypnotic agent that produces objective and subjective normal sleep, except for increasing slow-wave sleep and shortening the REM latency. GHB is currently being successfully used in Canada to treat narcolepsy and cataplexy, and in Europe as an anesthetic adjunct. Tests are also currently underway at the University of Chicago to determine whether GHB might be useful as a muscle-toning agent in older people as well as a sleep aid. Other studies have shown its

potential efficacy in treating alcohol withdrawal syndrome.

Testifying in a 1992 GHB case, Dr. Andrew Weil explained that the consensus in the scientific literature is that GHB "is an outstandingly safe pharmacological agent." When asked, "Is it an hallucinatory drug," Dr. Weil replied, "Absolutely not." In further testimony, Dr. Weil stated that GHB "has no resemblance to an hallucinogenic drug . . . It is by chemical definition not a hallucinogenic drug."³

GHB is easily made in a crude home laboratory (i.e., a kitchen) by mixing proper proportions of gamma butyl lactone (a common oil that can be purchased at chemical supply houses), with either lye or sodium hydroxide. As would be expected, such home-made products are often adulterated and quite commonly have dangerously alkaline pH levels.

EARLY LEGAL STATUS

Throughout the 1980s, GHB was widely sold to body-builders in health-food stores and via fitness magazines. Its promoters claimed (truthfully) that GHB stimulated the release of growth hormone. On November 8, 1990, the FDA issued a press release stating that GHB can cause nausea, vomiting, severe respiratory problems, seizures and coma.⁴ The warning stated that the FDA had reports from more than 30 people who had become ill after taking GHB. Al-

though this was simply a press release and was never published in the *Federal Register*, it led many health-food stores to discontinue sales of GHB, and triggered the substance's transformation from a legitimate, widely-available and generally well manufactured health product, to a gray- and black-market drug. From that point on, with few exceptions, GHB has received nothing but bad press.⁵

UNDERCOVER FDA INVESTIGATORS, AMINO DISCOUNTERS, AND OPERATION BIGMOUTH

In conjunction with its 1990 warning, the FDA began investigating the commercial distribution of GHB as an unapproved drug to promote muscle gain and weight loss. In late 1990, the FDA took its first action by raiding Amino Discounters, an Arizona company. Information uncovered during the raid indicated that Amino Discounters had recently sent a one-pound package to a residence in Thousand Oaks, California. Further investigation of the Thousand Oaks residence led agents to obtain a search warrant for the home and inside they found relatively large quantities of GHB. Lawrence Wood, who lived at the home, was arrested.

Despite his arrest, Mr. Wood continued selling GHB. About one month after Wood's arrest, an undercover FDA investigator succeeded at getting Wood, through

(Continued on page 121)

Book Review: *Entheogens and the Future of Religion*

Entheogens and the Future of Religion edited by Robert Forte

From mushroom use by the Aztec to peyote use by Native Americans to nitrous oxide use by William James and mescaline and LSD use by Aldous Huxley, there's no disputing the fact that entheogens have a long association with religion and persons spiritually inclined. While the history of entheogen use has been uncovered and documented thanks to investigators like Gordon and Valentina Wasson, Richard Evans Schultes, and Albert Hofmann, to name just a few, the future remains a mystery. Will a future government recognize that a spiritual well-spring has been in-filled by overbroad laws that outlaw entheogens even for religious use? Will sincere religious users of entheogens ever be able to practice their religion without fear of arrest?

The intent of *Entheogens and the Future of Religion*, as explained by editor Robert Forte in his introduction, is to "direct attention to the distinctly sacred nature of these substances with the hope that religious minded investigators, policy architects, and the concerned public will take note." The *Future of Religion* is composed of eleven essays written by: Robert Jesse, Brother David Steindl-Rast, Dale Pendell, Albert Hofmann, the Shulgins, Terence McKenna, Thomas Riedlinger, Thomas Roberts, Rick Strassman, and Eric

Sterling, as well as Mr. Forte's interviews of R. Gordon Wasson and Jack Kornfield.

I enjoyed all of the writings, but I was particularly impressed by Eric Sterling's rhetorically titled essay "Law Enforcement Against Entheogens: Is It Religious Persecution?" and Thomas Roberts' essay "Academic and Religious Freedom in the Study of the Mind." In the latter essay, Dr. Roberts, writes "I propose we recognize a new freedom. Freedom of cognition is the right to choose one's cognitive processes, to select how one will think, to recognize that the right to control thinking processes is the right of each individual person." Roberts makes an important point. Given that our cognitive processes underlie our every choice, what freedom remains once that freedom is lost - as it has been? What freedom remains when we have lost autonomy over our own consciousness?

Introductory notes to the chapters by Brother David Steindl-Rast, the Shulgins, and Terence McKenna, indicate that those contributions were based on presentations made back in 1984, however, the essays by the Shulgins and McKenna show obvious signs of updating, and Brother David's essay is essentially timeless.

While I wish that the *Future of Religion* featured a writing by

GHB Law (cont.)

(Continued from page 120)

Wood's friend Daniel Duchaine, to mail the investigator several bottles of GHB. The bottles arrived unlabeled. In one conversation with the undercover investigator, Duchaine said that he and Wood sold unlabeled products in order to avoid FDA scrutiny. A raid of Duchaine's storage locker in the spring of 1991, uncovered a quantity of unlabeled GHB.

On June 18, 1991, Wood and Duchaine were charged with the following federal crimes premised on their distribution of GHB: (1) conspiracy to defraud the FDA by obstructing the FDA's function of ensuring that "prescription drugs" are safe and effective and dispensed pursuant to a prescription from a practitioner licensed by law to administer such drugs; (2) distributing misbranded GHB in interstate commerce with the intent to defraud; (3) holding misbranded GHB for sale; and (4) distributing GHB without a label stating the manufacturer, distributor, and quantity.

In their defense to the conspiracy charge, Wood and Duchaine argued that GHB was

not a prescription drug. The government countered that GHB fell within the meaning of "prescription drug" because it was a drug intended for human use which due to its toxicity or other potentially harmful effect, was not safe for use except under the supervision of a doctor.⁶ After a jury trial in the federal District Court for the Central District of California, both men were convicted.⁷

Wood and Duchaine appealed. Among other arguments, they argued that there was insufficient evidence to prove that they knew that GHB was a prescription drug. In an unpublished opinion, the Ninth Circuit reviewed the evidence introduced at the mens' trial. Acknowledging that there was conflicting evidence of GHB's prescription status, the Ninth Circuit concluded that under the very deferential standard of reviewing such a matter on appeal, there was sufficient evidence of GHB's lack of safety when used without a doctor's supervision to uphold the mens' convictions.

With regard to the mens' intent to defraud the FDA, the Ninth Circuit noted that although neither man used fictitious names, there was evidence that both Wood and Duchaine discussed "methods of avoiding detection" and were "careful not to generate or maintain any records of [their] . . . dealings." Most fatal, said the Ninth Circuit, were conversations both men had with the undercover FDA investigator in which they specifically stated that the bottles of GHB were purposely left unlabeled in order to avoid FDA scrutiny. The Ninth Circuit also upheld the convictions for "misbranding" GHB, remarking that "[u]nlabeled drugs are considered misbranded . . . , and misbranded drugs are not supposed to be introduced into interstate commerce."⁸

In March 1992, Mark Thierman, the proprietor of Amino Discounters, (the company whose raid led to the above-discussed investigation of Wood and Duchaine) was charged with operating an unregistered drug manufacturing facility and with introducing an unapproved drug into interstate commerce. Like Wood and Duchaine, Thierman ignored the indictment and continued in the GHB business. He set up two new GHB manufacturing facilities, but stopped making claims as to GHB's effects, simply labeling the bottles "GHB."

At his trial, Thierman argued that once he began labeling the product as GHB he never sold it as "a drug" (although he

admitted that prior to that time he had openly promoted GHB's drug effects).

While the Ninth Circuit's opinion is largely irrelevant for our purposes, the court did discuss the question of whether Thierman sold the GHB as a "drug" despite the fact that his new labels made no claims. The Ninth Circuit explained that such "intent may be derived or inferred from labeling, promotional material, advertising, or any other relevant source." The court pointed to evidence that Thierman used GHB with a customer for the purposes of "getting high," remarking that such evidence served as a relevant source for inferring that Thierman did indeed sell GHB with the intent that it be used as a drug.⁹

Shortly after Thierman was found guilty, Georgia resident Joseph Saffar pled guilty to one federal felony count of introducing a misbranded drug into interstate commerce.¹⁰ Saffar first came to the FDA's attention when they found his name on a customer list seized from Amino Discounters. Saffar ran a health-food store, called Naturally Good, which sold GHB manufactured by Amino Discounters. In early 1993, an undercover FDA investigator went to Naturally Good and purchased several bottles of GHB after eliciting statements by Saffar that GHB would help a person "bulk up" and "get high."

Saffar was sentenced to 21 months in
(Continued on page 122)

Review (cont.)

. . . the Future of Religion

Jonathan Ott, a leading proponent of the "entheogenic reformation," it was exciting to read his English language translation of Dr. Hofmann's essay on the message of the Elusian Mysteries. Lastly, as with all non-fiction books in my collection, I wish this book had an index.

The *Future of Religion* is an important contribution because it speaks to an audience far broader than entheogen-insiders. It is just the sort of book to pass to your friends who raise an eyebrow when you mention the union of entheogens and religion. With more "outreach" like this, perhaps the future of religion will be brightened through the above-ground use of entheogens.

Entheogens and the Future of Religion was just released in January 1997. \$15.00 per copy, plus \$3.00 S/H. (CA residents add \$1.09 sales tax.) Order from Promind Services: 1-800-829-8127. ISBN 1-889725-01-3. 191 pages, 6" x 9," perfectbound, softcover.

Iowa Supreme Court Hears Mushroom Argument

On Monday, November 12, 1996, the Iowa Supreme Court heard arguments over whether *Psilocybe* mushrooms are illegal to cultivate in Iowa. Iowa law outlaws the possession and manufacture of the substances psilocybin and psilocin, but does not explicitly outlaw the cultivation of mushrooms that may naturally produce those substances.

The issue is one of first impression in Iowa. Lewis "Skip" Atley, the defendant in the case, was arrested on July 11, 1994, after a search of his home uncovered a sophisticated mushroom cultivation operation. The court is expected to issue a ruling in mid-January, 1997. *TELR* will cover the case in detail following the court's ruling.

GHB Law (cont.)

(Continued from page 121)

federal prison and a \$30,000 fine. Four months after Saffar's conviction, Georgia became the first state, on March 4, 1994, to make GHB a Schedule I controlled substance.¹¹

Through "Operation Big Mouth" a joint effort by US Customs, the FDA, and other government agencies out to catch illicit drug traffickers, the FDA was led to Frank Zenker and Lance Griffin. Operation Big Mouth took its name from its central technique of coercing arrestees to identify other "traffickers" and assist the FDA in making purchases of drugs.

Zenker and Griffin operated a company by the name of Omniopathy Products through which they sold GHB as bulk powder and in capsule form. In late 1991, FDA investigators quietly searched garbage left outside the offices of Omniopathy, finding invoices and other documents showing that Omniopathy was selling GHB as a product called "Oxy-Sleep."

Investigators found that Oxy-Sleep's label falsely stated that the drug was glutathione and also failed to give adequate directions for use and warnings. Undercover investigators posed as interested buyers, called the company's toll-free line and ordered Oxy-Sleep. Tests of the product were positive for GHB. In February 1992, armed with a search warrant, the FDA raided Omniopathy seizing computers, letters, promotional material, and over 600 kilos of GHB. On October 27, 1994, Zenker was sentenced to a 16-month federal term for conspiring to illegally distribute GHB. Griffin was sentenced to two years, nine months.¹²

PRESENT LEGAL STATUS OF GHB

Since November 8, 1990, GHB has been under investigational new drug status with the FDA. The drug is not approved for marketing in the United States. In 1992, the FDA issued an "Automatic Detention Alert" for several substances including GHB. The alert instructed Customs officials to "[a]utomatically detain all shipments of finished dosage forms (both commercial and personal) of [GHB]." As far as I know, this is still in effect today. Customs agents continue to seize imported shipments of GHB when they find them.

GHB is not a controlled substance under federal law. Therefore, simple possession of GHB is not a federal crime. This might change at any time. Jerry Ellis, an official with the Houston office of the DEA, has been quoted as saying "We are documenting cases now to try and get U.S. lawmakers to change [GHB] from a dangerous drug to a controlled substance. That way we could prosecute it on the federal level as a felony."¹³

GHB is a controlled substance in at least two states. In April of 1996, Georgia added the substance to its list of Schedule I substances.¹⁴ In Rhode Island, GHB is a Schedule I "depressant."¹⁵ In those states, just about any act involving GHB, including simple possession, is a crime. Florida, California, and South Carolina, reportedly have laws or regulations concerning GHB. Several news reports have stated that GHB was "banned in Florida" in 1990 or 1991.¹⁶ An article in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* reported that "The Food and Drug Branch of the California Department of Health Services has prohibited further sale of this product in California as have health departments in Florida and South Carolina. . . ."¹⁷ An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* stated that "[s]ale of GHB was banned by California on November 8, 1990, and by Florida on November 9, 1990."¹⁸ My attempts to verify these reports have failed to turned up any such laws or regulations in California, Florida, or South Carolina.

Notes

¹ GHB is also known as 4-hydroxy butyrate, sodium oxybate, and by such "street names" as: "Liquid X," "Scoop," "Grievous Bodily Harm," "Easy Lay," "Gook," "Gamma 10," and "G."

² P. Vayer, P. Mandel, and M. Maitre, "Gamma-hydroxybutyrate, a possible neurotransmitter," *Life Sci.*, 41: 1547-1557 (1987).

³ *United States v. Wood* (9th Cir. 1995) 57 F.3d 733.

⁴ Food and Drug Administration, "Gamma hydroxybutyric acid" (Press Release P90-53), Rockville, Md, Nov. 8, 1990; "FDA Caution on Drug" *Newsday*, Friday, November 9, 1990.

⁵ GHB gained notoriety with the Halloween 1993 death of actor River Phoenix. Although rumors circulated that he ingested GHB earlier in the night, the autopsy released on November 1 was inconclusive as to the cause of death. (S. Hubler, S. Hochman, "Designer Drug" Enters Hollywood's Fastlane," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 3, 1993.) According to a recent article in the *Village Voice*, GHB is widely used by models and is currently the popular drug in the club scene. (G. Trebay, "The

Model Drug: GHB Puts a Happy Face on Fashion Week" *Village Voice*, November 5, 1996.)

Most recently, GHB has been labeled as a "date-rape" drug along with Rohypnol (aka flunitrazepam, "roofies," "Mexican valium," "roachies." (See, "What the Date Rape Drugs Do," *Los Angeles Times*, Tuesday, October 8, 1996.)

In 1996, two Florida men were accused of using GHB to facilitate the rape of a woman they met in a Boca Raton club. (T. Borden, "Officials Warn of Roofie-type Drug Use of 'Grievous Bodily Harm' Tied to Boca Rape Case," *Sun Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale*, Thursday, June 27, 1996. An article in the same paper by the same writer later called GHB "the latest drug in the arsenal of rapists." (T. Borden, "Judge Sets Bail Despite Pleas In New 'Date Rape Drug' Case," *Sun Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale*, Friday, June, 7, 1996.)

The only positive news report I have found concerning GHB was broadcast on the December 10, 1996 ABC World News segment called "Solutions." The report focused on "gamma hydroxybutyrate" (never once calling it GHB), as a potentially miraculous new drug for treating insomnia and other sleep disorders. The researchers interviewed in the segment noted gamma hydroxybutyrate's potential as an anti-aging drug that increases the body's natural secretion of growth hormone and, thereby, helps tone muscles and tissues.

⁶ 21 USC 353(b)(1)(B).

⁷ The details of this trial can be found in the unpublished disposition of the Ninth Circuit (*United States v. Wood & Duchaine* (9th Cir. 1993) 8 F.3d 33, 1993 WL 425948; see also, the published Ninth Circuit opinion *United States v. Wood*, cited in footnote 3.)

⁸ See footnote 3.

⁹ Unpublished disposition *United States v. Thierman* (9th Cir. 1996) 76 F.3d 390.

¹⁰ D. Stehlin, "Georgia Man Arrested in GHB Seizure" *FDA Consumer*, Saturday, October 1, 1994, Vol. 28, No. 8.

¹¹ Georgia Code 16-13-25.

¹² P. Kurtzweil, "Drug Trafficker Jailed," *FDA Consumer*, Friday, September 1, 1995, Vol. 29, No. 7.

¹³ C. Horswell, "Teens Death Spurs Warning About Gamma 'Date-Rape' Drug" *Montreal Gazette*, Monday, September 16, 1996.

¹⁴ See footnote 11.

¹⁵ Rhode Island General Laws 21-28-2.08(e)(16).

¹⁶ According to an article in the *Sun-Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale*, GHB was "banned in Florida in 1990." (T. Borden, "2 Arrested In Rape, Drugging In Boca," *Sun-Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale*, Wednesday June 5, 1996.) Two days later the same reporter filed another article, this time stating that Florida banned GHB in 1991. (T. Borden, "Judge Sets Bail Despite Pleas In New 'Date Rape Drug' Case," *Sun-Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale*, Friday, June, 7, 1996 ["Florida banned the drug in 1991 after people began showing up in hospitals with side effects ranging from nausea and vomiting to coma. The substance is now illegal for sale here, though possessing it and using it is still unregulated."].)

¹⁷ J.E. Dyer, "Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate: A health-food product producing coma and seizure-like activity," *Am J. Emerg. Med.*, July 1991; 9 (4): 321-324.

¹⁸ "Multistate Outbreak of Poisonings Associated With Illicit Use of Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate," *Journal of the American Medical Association* January 23/30, 1991, Vol. 265, No. 4.

Questions & Answers

Q. I've heard a rumor that salvinorin A and/or B is about to be scheduled. Is that true?

A. A search of the Congressional Record for any mention of salvinorin or *Salvia divinorum* turned up nothing. I also searched the *Federal Register*, the official publication where the DEA is required to publish a notice when it intends to schedule a substance. That search also turned up nothing. So, at least on the federal level it does not appear that salvinorin or *Salvia divinorum* is in imminent risk of being scheduled. Usually (but not always) the states don't act until after the feds act.

Salvia divinorum and its phytochemicals are essentially unknown to all but serious entheogen researchers. While they are becoming more popular, their user base is still too small for the authorities to see it as a problem requiring addressing. Usually drugs get scheduled after receiving mass-media attention, or a series of underground drug manufacturing labs are busted in which the drug was being manufactured. Because of the nature of the salvinorin experience and the relative rarity and difficulty in cultivating large amounts of *Salvia divinorum*, I don't think the plant or its chemical constituents will be scheduled in the foreseeable future, if ever.

Q. An individual self-assessed as living in a "highly risk averse" situation (see 12 TELR 107-111) has no scheduled substances in his/her possession or home. That same individual does have plants that when combined have entheogenic potential, and probably no other specific use (e.g., Syrian rue, *Psychotria viridis*, *Mimosa hostilis* root bark, woodrose seeds). In this individual's personal library are many books about spirituality, mysticism, shamanism and entheogens/psychedelics.

Does this put the individual at risk? Should that individual leave these plants on the shelf in jars with other culinary and medicinal herbs they cultivate and harvest or should they be kept locked up out of sight? The individual is under no particular scrutiny, but as we all know unplanned situations occur (robberies, fires, etc.).

How can this individual best reduce risk (besides ridding the home of these sacred plant allies)?

A. None of the plants you mentioned are scheduled, so possession of them, alone, is safe. It is also perfectly safe to have books that discuss psychedelics/entheogens. The question is what liability, if any, springs from having both. The worst-case scenario would arise if the individual you describe (lets call him "Individual A") alienated someone who knows about his use of entheogens and is so upset that he goes to the police and informs them that Individual A is making "drugs" out of various plants. If this informant ("Citizen B") were able to convince the police that he knew what he was talking about (e.g., by describing and naming some of the plants in A's home and explaining how they can be extracted or combined to make an arguably illegal potion containing a controlled substance), the authorities might follow up on B's information by obtaining a search warrant and searching A's home. This would require quite a bit of work just to convince a judge that it was possible to make an illegal drug out of the plants allegedly possessed by A.

In most cases, I suspect that the police probably wouldn't act on such information without some allegation that A was also in possession of clearly illegal drugs such as MDMA, LSD, or marijuana.

Assuming that Citizen B went to the police, and the police were able to obtain a search warrant (two very big assumptions), Individual A would be in trouble if the search produced any prepared extract that contain controlled substances. Let's say, however, that the search only produced the plants mentioned in the scenario and books that detail how to extract and/or combine those plants into a potentially entheogenic potion that potentially contains a controlled substance. In that case, it is possible that they could arrest A and charge him with "attempted manufacture of controlled substances." This would be an extremely difficult case to prosecute successfully, and there would be little motivation to do so assuming there was no evidence that A was selling the final products and assuming that no person was ever injured by ingesting them.

Therefore, Individual A should consider what the chances are that he might upset someone (who has a detailed understanding of natural entheogens) so much so that the person would actually go to the police and encourage the authorities to search A's home. This strikes me as such an unlikely possibility, that even a highly risk averse person would dismiss it as unhealthy paranoia.

If Individual A has his sacred plants in

jars near other culinary and medicinal herbs, he might consider not having an identification label on them. (There's no law that says you have to have labels on all herbs kept in your home) That way, even entheogen-educated visitors to A's home probably wouldn't know what they were seeing and he would further reduce the likelihood of someone informing on him. Plus, in the unlikely event of a search, the authorities might very well not know what they should take (after all we're talking about police officers, not professional herbalists or botanists), and assuming they did take all his herbs, they would then have an incredibly difficult time identifying the dried plants, to say nothing of the further difficulty of determining their chemical constituents and then matching them to parts of Individual A's books that describe how to do extractions and/or combinations.

So, once again, I'm led to the conclusion that while Individual A does have some potential liability in the scenario you sketched, it is so small as to be practically nil. (By the way, A should not hide the herbs unless he is confident that they would not be found. If they are found, it smacks of guilty knowledge on his part and also gives the government's crime lab people more confidence that the plants are indeed worth careful scrutiny.)

Q. Is it really possible to do a drug test for LSD? It's active in really small amounts and is only in the blood stream for a short time.

A. Yes. It is possible to test for LSD use and such testing is becoming more prevalent. You're correct that LSD is rapidly and extensively metabolized (into only a single human metabolite, nor-LSD). Although urinary concentrations of LSD are very low (less than 1% of a dose is excreted unchanged), commercial urine tests have been developed for detecting LSD use by humans. There are also commercially available tests for detecting LSD and its metabolites in human blood. A group of Japanese researchers recently published an article reporting a new method for detecting LSD and its metabolites in human hair. (See, Y. Nakaha, R. Kikura, K. Takahashi, "Detection of LSD and Metabolite in Rat Hair and Human Hair," *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, September 1996, Vol. 20, pp. 323-329.) As I read their article, however, the test is not very accurate. The hair test detected LSD use in only 2 of 17 self-reported LSD users.

Canadian Police Bust Largest Psychedelic Manufacturing Lab in North America

entheogenic substances. According to an October 6, 1996 article in *The Ottawa Citizen*, the raid netted \$6.2 million, LSD, MDMA, and enough raw materials to manufacture another \$51 million in synthetic drugs. The "This was global" article (below), was the first, and best, article on the bust. A recent article in the *San Francisco Examiner* ("20-year LSD case . . .," below) provided more details on Nicholas Sand, one of the men arrested as a result of the raid. Mr. Sand was reportedly the first underground chemist to ever manufacture DMT.

Please note that the following articles are unedited and may (do) contain errors related to the chemistry and effects of various substances.

"This was global:" The RCMP Shuts Down A Major Illicit Drug Lab BY CHRIS WOOD, *MACLEANS*, OCTOBER 7, 1996.

Overhead, the full moon shone in a cold, clear sky, fully restored from the eclipse that had drawn observers out into backyard all across North America earlier in the evening. But in a nondescript industrial mall in the Vancouver suburb of Coquitlam, no one was looking up. The eyes of several plainclothes RCMP investigators were focused on the surreal image of six men dressed like a space-traveling SWAT team in white isolation suits, breathing gear and bulletproof vests. Using keys seized from suspects arrested earlier in the day, the men — members of the RCMP's Vancouver drug section — cautiously opened a grey steel door into one of half a dozen units in a two-storey concrete building. Several gripped their holster's service revolvers in rubber-gloved hands, a precaution that proved unnecessary. There was no one inside. Instead, what the elaborate raid uncovered was just what the police were expecting: a gleaming laboratory dedicated to the production of illicit drugs. "This was huge," said RCMP Staff Sgt. Ken Ross, who led a series of raids and co-ordinated arrests last week after a three-month investigation. "This was global."

According to Ross, the hidden lab is one of the largest ever uncovered in North America, with computer links to drug networks in Europe and the United States. Police believe that the clandestine operation has been churning out

staggering quantities of ecstasy (MDMA) — one of a growing constellation of so-called designer drugs — and more traditional drugs like LSD for at least four years. The RCMP has been monitoring a group of suspects for about a year, said Ross, but its investigation stepped into high gear only after it received detailed information about the lab in early summer. "We had their houses wired, their cars wired," Ross said. "We knew when they got up in the morning. We knew when they farted."

Late last week, that surveillance suggested that several of seven key suspects were preparing to leave the country. And on Sept. 26, investigators secured a warrant to search the suspected lab and several other locations in and around Coquitlam. The RCMP's entry team — one of three in the country that specialize in searching suspected drug labs — was prepared for risks ranging from booby traps to hap-

hazardly stored hazardous chemicals. Instead they found a spotless and expensively equipped lab that left an envious police chemist Richard Laing to remark: "It's nicer than mine."

More shocking than the professionalism of the clandestine operation, though, was its scale. In drug laboratories previously raided by police in the United States, investigators have seized reaction flasks — containers in which the underground chemists prepare their wares — that were typically no larger than a household cooking pot. The heavy steel flask discovered in Coquitlam was a staggering four feet in diameter and five feet high — hinting at

(Continued on page 125)

On September 26, 1996, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police busted what appears to be one of the world's largest underground laboratories manufacturing

20-year LSD case fugitive arrested in Canada BY SUSAN FERRISS, *SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER*, FRIDAY, DEC. 13, 1996.

A fugitive from San Francisco's psychedelic era has been arrested in Canada for allegedly making LSD, more than 20 years after fleeing the Bay Area to avoid a stiff prison sentence for making the same hallucinogenic drug.

Nicholas Sand, 55, was considered one of the most prolific manufacturers of LSD during the height of the 1960s and '70s drug culture. His career as a counterculture chemist ended in 1974 when he was convicted in a San Francisco federal court and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Sand jumped bail in 1976 while appealing his conviction and disappeared. On Thursday, federal officials revealed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had arrested Sand in September after discovering the most sophisticated hallucinogenic drug laboratory ever seized in Canada.

Police said they had seized enough ingredients to produce an estimated \$51.5 million worth of drugs. They also seized another \$6.2 million worth of finished LSD and another hallucinogenic drug, MDMA, or "ecstasy."

Stan Vegar, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in San Francisco, said the 43 grams of LSD found at Sand's home in Port Coquitlam was "a huge amount" that could supply more than 800,000 doses.

Sand faces up to 10 years in prison in Canada if he is convicted of conspiring to sell LSD and MDMA. He would serve his sentence in Canada before being sent back to the United States to serve the 15-year sentence imposed in 1974, U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi said.

Sand's career manufacturing LSD stretches back to the early days of the hallucinogenic drug culture in the Bay

(Continued on page 125)

... in the news

This was global (cont.)

(Continued from page 124)

production batches of head-spinning proportions.

As searches continued over the next two days, police found further evidence of a long-running enterprise. In addition to large quantities of LSD and ecstasy, investigators found recipes for a wide variety of other drugs as well as dated samples indicating that production at the site may have begun as early as 1992. In a unit next door to the lab, said Ross, "we're finding money. There's gold bullion. There's silver. There's guns."

The next day, prosecutors laid charges before a justice of the peace against two women and five men. Now, the investigation turns towards the potential destinations of the drugs being manufactured in British Columbia. According to Ross, a conspiracy centered in Coquitlam had links to drug distribution networks along the west coast of the United States and in England, as well as in Eastern Canada. "The reason these guys are in Canada," said Ross, "is because they can get the precursor chemicals [ingredients] here legally. They can't in the States," where many of those ingredients are closely restricted. Communications among sellers and buyers, he added, were conducted via the Internet using coded electronic mail.

The B.C. lab may turn out to be the most sophisticated drug production centre yet uncovered by police in Canada. But investigators say it is unlikely to be the last. "These are the drugs of the future," observed Ross. But for at least one lab, the days of making and shipping drugs with impunity are now definitely in the past.

20-year LSD Case (cont.)

(Continued from page 124)

Area. He was considered a protege of San Francisco's legendary "King of Acid," August Owsley Stanley III, who made the once-legal drug and helped distribute it during the 1960s "acid tests" popularized by writer Ken Kesey and the Grateful Dead. But the law was never far behind Sand. He was arrested in April 1967 in Dinosaur, Colo., while driving a vehicle equipped with a large

mobile lab for producing LSD. He and another man had \$40,000 worth of LSD on board and were charged with illegal possession and failure to register as manufacturers of the drug.

In April 1973, while awaiting trial on drug charges in St. Louis, Sand was indicted by a federal grand jury in San Francisco in one of the more sensational drug trials the Bay Area had seen.

Prosecutors said Sand, then 31, and seven others with ties to LSD guru Timothy Leary had set up a network of LSD laboratories in San Francisco, the Sonoma County town of Windsor, the state of Missouri, and Belgium. Income from global sales was said to have been deposited in Swiss bank accounts and in the Bahamas.

Sand was charged with evading \$180,863 in taxes for 1968 and 1969, as well as conspiracy to manufacture LSD. The drug was sold to the Hells Angels and the Brotherhood of Eternal Love, a drug cult started by Leary.

One of the star witnesses for the prosecution was William Mellon Hitchcock, an heir to the U.S. Steel fortune who was granted immunity and described how he supplied money to Sand and others so they could manufacture LSD.

In March 1974, U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti sentenced Sand to 15 years, accusing him of contributing to "the degradation of mankind."

Transit passenger caught by 'Ecstasy detector' AUTHOR UNKNOWN THE NEW PAPER/TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1996.

It was a routine check to make sure that passengers about to board the flight were not carrying anything dangerous - such as weapons - on the plane. Almost by accident, it exposed something equally deadly. As a 48-year-old Dutchman walked through the metal-detector at Changi Airport Terminal 1 on Sunday, it began to beep.

The 23-year-old police constable on duty used a metal hand-scanner to check him again. This, too, started to buzz.

The grey-haired Dutchman, a transit passenger on his way to Indonesia, was asked to empty his pockets. Out came

the keys, the coins and the lighter that had sounded the metal-detector. And from the pockets of his grey coat emerged seven Dutch-brand cigarette packets - Carabello and Tivoli. Curious to see these packs spread all over his suit, the police constable decided to examine them. She got a surprise.

The packets were packed with 2,238 Ecstasy tablets which the man was planning to smuggle into Indonesia.

The constable, who has been with the Changi International Airport Services auxiliary police force for a year, immediately suspected they were controlled drugs.

She immediately reported the find to her supervisor who then referred the case to the Central Narcotics Bureau. He was arrested.

ON HIS WAY TO SURABAYA

The 1.8 m-tall Dutchman, who had flown in from Amsterdam on KLM Royal Dutch Airlines at 1:20 p.m., was trying to catch the 4:35 p.m. Garuda International flight to Surabaya.

Said the commander of airport police, Mr. Law Ah Kaw, 53: "Because of the constable's alertness and thorough screening, the drugs were discovered. It wasn't the drugs that triggered off the metal detector and the hand-scanner but probably the man's other metal objects. It was his bad luck he got caught."

THIRD MAN CAUGHT

The Dutchman was the third person caught trying to smuggle Ecstasy pills.

In March, two Singaporeans were charged in court with trafficking in the drug. The pills seized on Sunday were green and white in colour, bearing the letters "RN" and dove logos. Central Narcotics Bureau's deputy director Masbollali Fazal said the green pills with the "RN" logo were of a better quality. He added that the drugs were not meant for Singapore but the bureau still had the responsibility to stop drug-trafficking. The pills have a street value of about \$13,000. Each pill costs between \$40 and \$80.

EARLIER DRUG BUST

On May 23 this year [1996], the CNB seized more than 35,000 Ecstasy pills

(Continued on page 126)

. . . in the news

DEA says Amazon drug is illegal: Brew used on Kaua'i for spiritual rituals BY SUSAN DIXON, KAUA'I TIMES, Nov. 1996.

LIHU'E - A drug that comes from the Amazon rainforest and is being used for spiritual purposes on Kaua'i is illegal, a spokesperson for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said.

The drug, called ayahuasca (eye-awasca) or Santo Daime (dime), has no accepted medical use in the United States nor has it been granted an exemption for religious use. Once it has been extracted from the *Banisteriopsis caapi* vine and the leaves of the *Psychotria viridis* plant from which it is made, it becomes an illegal substance, said Kathy Roush, a DEA agent in the Honolulu district office.

Roush worked with DEA headquarters in Washington D.C. to research the little-known substance, which is ingested as a tea and has been used since last year on Kaua'i as the focal point of private spiritual gatherings led by a Brazilian shaman who apparently transports the brew to the island.

Literature available on ayahuasca describes a wide range of psychoactive effects, from none to reactions comparable to those of LSD or psilocybin. Considered a hallucinogen, it has been used in Brazil for religious purposes for more than 4,000 years. The drug is legal in that country and considered, by some, to be non-addictive.

Although not as well known in the U.S. as sacred mushrooms or peyote (which some Native American tribes are allowed to use under an exemption to controlled substance laws), interest in ayahuasca and other shamanistic rituals is growing. Research findings on the drug were published this month in the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, which reported not only potentially harmful aspects of the substance, but also that the DEA recently seized a modest amount of ayahuasca from a suspected cocaine laboratory on the Bolivian-Brazilian border.

Researchers warned about the possible danger of mixing psychoactive beverages, such as ayahuasca, with anti-depressants such as Prozac. It also does not mix well with drugs like amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, or alcohol.

The psychotherapeutic effects of the drug are not well defined. Allen Ginsberg described it this way, "The whole f—ing Cosmos broke loose around me. I think the strongest and worst I've ever had." He feared he might lose his mind.

On Kaua'i, there is evidence that at least one person who participated in a three-day ayahuasca ritual subsequently experienced a psychotic break.

Common to the experience of most people who drink the stuff is its purgative side effect. Vomiting frequently accompanies every cupful of the drink.

Yet it is also known among South American Indians as "the great medicine" and is used for healing much like peyote. It may also generate vivid images, often in the form of dream-like sequences.

In Brazil, followers of the Santo Daime Doctrine, who use the ayahuasca tea as part of their ritual, have grown from their humble beginnings in the Brazilian Amazon to a major religious movement with thousands of members, including entire communities.

One of these communities is Ceu do Mapia. In the early 1980s, Raimundo Irineu Serra, founder of the Santo Daime Doctrine, led his followers into the rainforest and eventually established the community that is now called Ceu do Mapia.

There a cooperative has been formed to extract natural resources from the rainforest without threatening the environmental balance. An American organization, Friends of the Amazon Forest, has been involved in supporting the effort. The use of ayahuasca for religious purposes has been protected by Brazilian law since 1987. Santo Daime followers are said to believe that the rainforest itself has sent out Daime because mankind has destroyed a large part of the forest and threatens to destroy the rest.

According to writer Gary Dale Richman, followers believe Daime is both an ally that can guide people to the light and truth, and a teacher that can provide new guidelines for relating to nature.

Hallucinogenics and psychedelics have been used by societies through most of recorded history as an aide to magical self-healing and regeneration.

Santo Daime followers argue that ayahuasca is not a hallucinogenic drug, that it does not cause users to hallucinate but rather acts to open the channel between the conscious and unconscious mind to create a visionary experiences.

The word ayahuasca is a Quechua word that roughly translate the "vine of the dead" or "vine of souls." It has also been called *la purga*, and is said to be effective in combating intestinal parasites.

But it's not the drug's purgative aspects that has captured the interest of drug enforcement agents, it's something called DMT (dimethyltryptamine), which is derived from the leaves used in the mixture.

DMT was popular in the 1960s and '70s when it was known as the "businessman's high" because, when smoked, it produced a 30 minute "high."

However, DMT is inactivated by an enzyme in saliva called monoamine oxidase. The second drug, harmine (found in the vine), inactivates that enzyme and is psychoactive in its own right.

The combination becomes a psychoactive compound that enters the bloodstream and eventually makes its way past the blood-brain barrier and into the brain. (Researchers believe that the human pineal gland may contain or be able to manufacture chemical compounds that closely resemble the two drugs.)

The DEA has classified ayahuasca as a Schedule I substance, a hallucinogenic drug that it considers illegal — whether or not it's used for religious purposes.

Transit Passenger (cont.)

(Continued from page 125)

with a street value of more than \$2 million. It was the bureau's biggest haul of the drugs. The pills were hidden in two air compressors on a Singapore Airlines flight from Amsterdam.

PENALTY

The maximum penalty for trafficking in Ecstasy is 20 years in jail and 15 strokes. The minimum penalty is five years' jail and five strokes.

... in the news

Holland Crackdown

Just as *TELR* was about to go to the printer, I received word that agents from Holland's Ministry of Justice cracked down on growers and sellers of *Psilocybe* mushrooms. Currently, the cultivation of *Psilocybe* mushrooms is allowed in Holland as is the possession and sale of the fresh or dried fruiting bodies. Under the law, however, it is unlawful to possess or sell "preparations" that contain psilocybin. Facts concerning the raid are difficult to get here in the United States, but the following information was received from Internet correspondents Ernst (www.smart.nl) and Chris, who live in Holland.

As some of the articles in this issue's "in the news" section allude to, the Dutch government has been under pressure from neighboring countries (and others) to take efforts aimed at stopping the export of en-

theogens to other countries. Perhaps motivated by such pressure, on January 6, 1997, agents from the Ministry of Justice in Hertogenbosch arrested a 21-year-old woman and a 46-year-old man, who had recently shifted their commercial mushroom growing business from edible mushrooms to *Psilocybe copelandia* and *P. cubensis*.

According to a press release by the police, the facility was capable of producing 4,500 doses of mushrooms per week. Authorities seem to be speculating that the growers were using techniques to boost the potency of their mushrooms, and that such procedures might bring the mushrooms within the meaning of "preparation," thereby running afoul of the law. Other reports suggest that "mushroom honey" or "mushroom waffles" were being made by those arrested. A mushroom shop in Eindhoven was raided and the entire inventory was seized. A 32-year-old man in Eindhoven was arrested, and

several homes in Amsterdam and Kerkdriel were also searched.

In an editorial in *De Volkskrant* (Jan 9, 1997), one of Holland's largest national newspapers, the editor criticized the intensity and scale of the police action:

It's quite incomprehensible why the ministry of justice acted in such manner as she did this week. Right this month there was a test case planned to clear up the legality of fresh and dried *Psilocybe* mushrooms. In order to excite jurisprudence concerning the use of *Psilocybe* mushrooms in pastries and "mushroom honey," a minor action at one of the smartshops would have sufficed. The action was also not appropriate for other reasons. The primary goal of drug control is the protection of public health. This goal is not met by this action, because medical experts are convinced that the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms and its constituents does not pose a real threat to health. Also the addiction potential is virtually

(Continued on page 131)

CNB Seizes Jakarta-bound Ecstasy pills

BY TAN OOI BOON, *NEW STRAITS TIMES*, MAY 25, 1996.

In the biggest seizure of designer drugs here, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) intercepted two air packages containing more than 35,000 Ecstasy pills on Thursday. The pills, concealed in two air compressors, came from the Netherlands and were intended for syndicates in Indonesia. They have a street value of over \$2 million.

The latest CNB success against international drug rings came in the wake of the record seizure of 72 kg of top-grade heroin last month. Those drugs were also hidden in air compressors.

CNB's deputy director, told reporters yesterday that the Ecstasy parcels had arrived at Changi Airport on a Singapore Airlines flight on Tuesday, and were later taken to the cargo complex for storage. Two days later, his men received a tip-off from an unnamed source about the two "suspicious-looking" boxes from Amsterdam.

At about 2 p.m. on Thursday, CNB officers, with the help of the airport police, found the boxes which contained the compressors. He said: "When the officers checked the mechanical parts, they saw that the screws were fitted unevenly. There were also pinkish pow-

dery particles at the joints."

They dismantled the compressors, which are normally used in air-conditioners or refrigerators, and saw packets of pink and white Ecstasy pills in the hollow compartments. All 35,266 pills were seized but no one was arrested in the operation.

Mr. Masbollah said: "It was not an easy task counting the thousands of small tablets. It took my men about five hours."

In total, they found 20,382 Pink Super Turbo pills, 8,705 Snow White pills and 6,179 Lemon White pills.

The CNB believes that Singaporeans are not involved in the crime. But it is working with Indonesia's anti-narcotics agency, the Bakolak Impres, so that follow-up action could be taken against syndicates there. It is believed that the two packages seized by the CNB had been sent here as a ploy to allay the suspicions of the Indonesian authorities.

This is because packages from Singapore are generally considered "cleaner" by other countries, as the Republic is known for its tough stance on drug trafficking.

Mr. Masbollah said: "Although the pills are not meant for us, we have a responsibility to interdict such a consignment and stop it from poisoning young people."

Peyote Returned to NAC members

After almost a month of holding it hostage the Ventura County Sheriff's Department on December 17, 1996, finally released approximately 250 pounds of peyote and other ceremonial items seized from two Native American Church members on November 22, 1996. Paul Skyhorse Durant and Buzz Berry, both members of the NAC, were stopped near Ventura because officials said their van was weaving and had a faulty muffler. A search of their vehicle turned up approximately 10,000 peyote buttons, ceremonial boxes and feathers and a sacred pipe - all of which were confiscated.

The men were jailed, released and scheduled for arraignment on charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, but after their attorneys pointed out that the men were protected by a host of laws allowing them to use and transport peyote for religious purposes, the Ventura County prosecutors did not file charges. Nevertheless, the sheriff's department refused to return the peyote. "We still consider this an illegal substance and we're not releasing it until we get a legal opinion that says otherwise," said Captain Mark Ball, a spokesperson for the sheriff's department. After the peyote was released to the men on December 17, 1996, the sheriff's department provided the men a police escort to the county line.

. . . in the news

Asian cities declare war on Ecstasy

BY HAU BOON LAI, *THE SUNDAY TIMES*, SEPT. 29, 1996. (Additional reports by Ho Wah Foon (Kuala Lumpur), Kwan Weng Kin (Tokyo), Lee San Chouy (Taipei), Lee Siew Hua (Bangkok), Mary Kwang (Hongkong), Nirmal Ghosh (Manila), Paul Jacob (Jakarta) and Tan Tam How (Beijing).)

Garbed in black jeans and T-shirt, the man looks like any other disco-goer. He shuffles over to the bar counter and asks a guy with a handphone: "Do you have Ecstasy?" He nods. The deal is made. Money changes hands. \$50 for a pill.

Suddenly the lights come on, showing the startled drug pusher being arrested by an undercover policeman.

This is becoming a common scene in Asian cities from Jakarta, Hongkong, Kuala Lumpur to Singapore as governments across the continent begin to crack down on the increasing use of the new drug.

Labeled chemically as methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA), Ecstasy is a mind-altering drug which helps the abusers to have feelings of well-being and a loss of inhibitions.

They will feel warm, energetic and eventually euphoric 20 - 40 minutes after taking a pill. The feeling lasts anything between two and eight hours, depending on the dosage and the individual's tolerance level. In the words of one user: "It lets me enjoy whatever I am doing."

But this "enjoyment" comes at a high price. A depressing hangover, sometimes lasting for days, takes over afterwards, with side-effects such as muscle cramps, nausea, increased heart beat and dizziness.

First created by a German pharmaceutical company in 1914, Ecstasy was later used by psychiatrists in the early '70s. It exploded onto the dance scene in Britain during the mid '80s, and was the driving force behind the all-night dancing sessions, or mass "raves" at open fields or abandoned warehouses that British youngsters flocked to.

The British and United States governments banned the drug in 1986, classifying it as having "no recognized medical use and high abuse potential."

Although the situation in most Asian countries has not reached "critical" levels as in Indonesia, the authorities have good reason to fear this new po-

tential threat.

This is because Ecstasy comes in the form of pills, unlike heroin, which is produced in powder form. This makes the drug much easier to conceal and more difficult to detect.

Since 1994, when the drug first surfaced in the region, nearly a million Ecstasy pills have been confiscated in Indonesia alone. Other Asian drug enforcement agencies and immigration authorities have also seized hundreds of thousands of the tablets.

Traffickers and pushers of these new drugs often target young people - mainly students and professionals.

The trade in Ecstasy has not involved

The Cost of Destruction

Thailand

Ecstasy: \$40/pill

Indonesia

Ecstasy: \$43/pill

Hongkong

Ecstasy: \$70/pill

Singapore

Ecstasy: \$40/pill

Malaysia

Ecstasy: \$45/pill

syndicates - yet. This, however, can be a double-edged sword. While the authorities find it difficult to track down itinerant Ecstasy-pushers, they also fear that organized crime might get into the act because of the money involved.

Drug enforcement officials say traffickers stand to make 10,000 per cent profit on each pill sold. It costs only about fifty cents to produce one tablet which can fetch about \$50 on the street. The entry of syndicates will cause the Ecstasy trade to become rampant, as used to be the case with heroin until the authorities cracked down on them.

The drug is also not produced in Asia. The Netherlands has been identified as the main source of Ecstasy pills found in the region.

Ecstasy traffickers, many of them Dutchmen, have been caught recently at various international airports in Asia trying to smuggle thousands of the pills into the region.

Almost all of those arrested had arrived from Schipol airport, the port of Amsterdam, or Frankfurt airport in Germany, well-known transit points for the drug.

The governments in Asia are trying to get the Netherlands to do its part in stamping out Ecstasy, while the Dutch government, in a clear admission of its roll as a centre for the drug, set up a special task force last month to crack down on its production and distribution.

Reporters from Sunday Review's bureaus in Asia indicate that although heroin may still be the most favored drug among addicts in the region, most governments seem to be winning the war against it, or at least keeping it at bay.

Methamphetamines, of which Ecstasy is one kind, are replacing heroin as the most attractive drug for traffickers in some countries. Under this category are such drugs as "ice" in Taiwan and *shabu* in the Philippines, and amphetamine pills in Thailand.

Young people, including students and yuppies, form the new and rising breed of drug abusers. In their battle against Ecstasy, some Asian governments are updating their laws to better deal with it.

For instance, Indonesia is amending its 1976 Anti-Narcotics Law to classify Ecstasy as a narcotic and dangerous drug to give the authorities more power to deal with traffickers and abusers.

Malaysia is amending a loophole in its law which listed the chemical MDMA found in Ecstasy as illicit. It is also amending another law, which would provide for heavier penalties - including death - against Ecstasy abusers.

Courts are also meting out heavier sentences for drug abuse. In Singapore, where the maximum penalty for possession or consumption of the drug is 10 years in jail and a \$20,000 fine, even first-time offenders have received jail terms.

Anti-drug laws are also being enforced strictly through regular nationwide raids on the nightspots, where the Ecstasy trade is most rampant. Tough measures include using undercover policemen to nab pushers. Patrols have also been stepped up at immigration checkpoints.

The Indonesian Council of Ulemas (MUI), the highest authority on Islam in

(Continued on page 129)

... in the news

Asian Cities Declare War (cont.)

(Continued from page 128)

the country, joined in the anti-drug efforts by declaring Ecstasy *haram*, or forbidden for Muslim consumption.

Indonesia

'Critical level'

As the Asian country with the biggest Ecstasy problem, it was also the least-equipped to deal with it. Before president Suharto signed an amendment Bill to increase penalties for using and dis-

the police more teeth in cracking down on the drug.

The media has, however, said not enough is being done to counter the threat, and has hinted in various articles that influential people could be the brains behind the Ecstasy trade.

Malaysia:

More needs to be done

Malaysia's anti-drug campaign over the past 10 years seem to have proven ineffective. Deputy Hoem Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayod admit-

An Ecstasy-related murder in June made Malaysians sit up and take notice. Two brothers, reportedly high on the drug in Sabak Bernam, a small agricultural town in Selangor, stabbed their 27-year-old brother-in-law to death after a night of revelry at a nearby disco.

The chemical MDMA found in Ecstasy is listed as illicit under the law, but the forbidden quantity is not stated. The government is amending the law to redress this.

The Crackdown

Asia has responded to the drug threat with tough action. Some recent examples:

MALAYSIA

Sentenced: Singaporean student, 21, to four months' jail and M\$10,000 (S\$5,600) fine for possessing 3,970 Ecstasy pills.

Arrested: 26-year-old woman with 3,000 Ecstasy pills.

Detained: 34 people for drug possession at a disco in Penang.

Seized: More than M\$40m worth of property and other belongings from drug traffickers since 1989.

SINGAPORE

Sentenced: Dutchman Willem Anton Barth Alling, 48, to six years' jail time and 10 strokes of the cane for smuggling 2,239 Ecstasy pills.

Intercepted: 2 air packages containing 35,266 Ecstasy pills from Holland and intended for Indonesia.

Warning: Nightspots will be shutdown if people are found selling or consuming drugs on their premises.

TAIWAN

1993: 47,100 people found guilty of drug charges and 1,114 kg heroin uncovered.

1995: 31,450 people found guilty of drug charges with 262 kg of heroin and 3,761 kg of amphetamines seized.

Surprise checks: Random urine tests of students.

INDONESIA

Frozen: New license for discotheques.

Arrested: TV actress Zarima with 29, 677 Ecstasy pills. She escaped and is still at large.

Intercepted: Package with 5, 514 Ecstasy tablets from Holland.

Other arrests: Indonesians and Dutchmen, with between 3,900 and 20,781 Ecstasy pills.

CHINA

From 1991 to 1995:

Caught: 46,000 drug traffickers.

Sentenced: More than 7,300 offenders to death or life imprisonment.

Seized: 17.1 tonnes of heroin, 10.8 tonnes of opium and 2.7 tonnes of amphetamines.

THAILAND

Proposed: Drug dealers to serve full sentences without parole and have all their property confiscated.

Shift focus: More restrictions on chemicals essential to making heroin and amphetamines.

Hong Kong

Jailed: 2 finance brokers for 15 and 16 months respectively for selling one [Ecstasy] pill to an undercover policeman.

Caught: 37-year-old Hong Kong resident with 12,110 Ecstasy pills on arrival from Amsterdam port.

tributing drugs such as Ecstasy in July, the drug was not even listed as prohibited or dangerous.

The government has acknowledged that the increasing use, trafficking and easy availability of drugs like Ecstasy have reached "a critical level." It has moved on several fronts to curb this problem over the past few months, including freezing licenses for new discotheques and changing the law to give

ted earlier this year, attributing the failure to poor after-care of addicts who had been rehabilitated.

The country needs 100 after-care centres to take care of its 200,000 drug addicts but has only 45 now.

The recent history of Ecstasy has compounded its drug problem. Sold at discos and popular with students, young people and businessmen, the drug has taken the country by surprise.

Singapore:

Jail for first offenders

Last month, two 16-year-olds received a month's jail time each for consuming the drug [Ecstasy]. Believed to be the youngest persons to be jailed in the Republic for such an offense, one of the teenagers, in a plea for leniency, told the judge that it was the first time

(Continued on page 130)

. . . in the news

Asian Cities Declare War (cont.)

(Continued from page 129)

he had taken the pill, and he did not know it was so serious.

Tougher action against first-time offenders is seen to be necessary because of the following trends:

- In the first half of the year, more than half of the 276 people prosecuted for drug consumption were Ecstasy abusers.
- Nearly 90 per cent of them were first offenders, mostly under the age of 35.

Keeping the situation in perspective, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) has said heroin is still the main drug of abuse by about 94 per cent of the total addict population.

Why is the Government paying so much attention to Ecstasy then?

CNB director Sim Poh Heng says the concern is based on the premise of prevention. Even if the heroin problem is solved immediately, other new forms of drugs would enter unless the borders are sealed completely.

"That us something we cannot do, so we have to be alert to keep out any types of drugs which can threaten our youth."

Hong Kong:

Threat taken seriously

Heroin remains the drug of choice in Hongkong, so the Narcotics Bureau deploys most of its resources to halting the import of heroin. In a faxed statement, the bureau says yuppies form the bulk of a small number of Ecstasy abusers in the territory. It noted that to these people, the drug is "prestigious" because it is expensive.

Chief Inspector Bruce Hawkins says while the problem is relatively small, the threat is taken seriously and monitored closely. Come next July, China will have to grapple with Hong Kong's drug problem besides its own, when the territory returns to its fold.

Thailand:

Little headway

A study last year found that amphetamines have become Thailand's most abused drugs, registering the biggest rise in the number of abusers.

A rising new group — youths and students figuring prominently among its 1.2 million drug addicts — is also getting the government worried. The study has found that tens of thousands of students below 20 were hooked on drugs, an increase of above 20 per cent compared with 1991.

As for Ecstasy, it has made little inroads into the country as it costs much more than amphetamines, although both are of the same methamphetamine family of stimulants, said the Narcotics Control Board.

With a minimum daily wage of 156 baht (S\$8.54), most Thais can ill-afford an Ecstasy pill costing about \$40 - \$55. An amphetamine tablet, on the other hand, costs about \$5.60.

The Philippines

Nothing cool about "ice"

Use of "ice," or methamphetamine hydrochloride — a chemical in powder form with ephedrine as its main ingredient — has jumped, according to the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Surveys of drug users showed 56 per cent of respondents used "ice" — known locally as *shabu* — in 1994. The figure shot up to 75 per cent last year. Other drugs abused frequently were marijuana, cheap inhalants and cough mixtures. Heroin abuse is rare.

Shabu is a powerful amphetamine, much like Ecstasy, which has not yet gained popularity. Seizures of *shabu*, smuggled mainly from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, doubled last year over 1994.

Japan:

More teen addicts now

Japan's education authorities opted not to teach youths too much about drugs in the hope of not drawing attention to the existence of such substances. But it seems that this approach has backfired.

After years of keeping the number arrested for drug use at about 15,000 people a year since the late '80s, last year's figures rose to 17,101, due to a rise in the number of teenage offenders.

There were 1,079 young people under the age of 20 taken into custody for drug abuse last year, 252 more than in 1994.

Ecstasy is not included in the list of commonly abused drugs in Japan, but

many teenagers are said to be taking a stimulant drug called "speed," which has similar effects. They believe taking "speed" can help them lose weight.

Drawing attention to the alarming statistics, major Japanese newspapers urged the government in May to launch proper anti-drug education in schools.

Taiwan:

Heroin is bigger worry

Faced with a record drug abuse problem in 1993, Taiwan opted for vigorous law enforcement, and has succeeded in keeping the figures for last year down.

Amphetamines and heroin are the most widely abused drugs, while Ecstasy has yet to make inroads, said the Ministry of Justice.

Public Prosecutor Chen Chia-yau, who is involved actively in the government's anti-narcotics efforts, says drug addicts are mainly jobless or working class people between 20 and 40.

China:

Keeping track

China's anti-drug blitzes featuring highly publicized seizures and public executions of drug trafficker have been going on for years in the drive to deal with its drug problem.

It also used drug-sniffing dogs since 1992 to combat the heroin threat. As many as 60,000 drug addicts were also sent for rehabilitation by force last year.

The authorities say there were 520,000 drug addicts registered at the end of last year, a far cry from the 1952 to the '70s, when China was recognized internationally as a drug-free nation, until it opened its borders in the late '70s.

Beijing police tell *Sunday Review* they are keeping track of Ecstasy but say there have been no cases involving it so far.

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Holland Cracks Down (cont.)

(Continued from page 127)

absent according to experts. Outlawing mushrooms could even be counter-effective as the case with XTC shows. A prohibition could stimulate use and thereby illegal sale and lead to the selling of dangerous substitutes. The ministry of justice claims that the action is part of their program to "clamp down on the large scale drug trade" But while it is not even clear that mushrooms are illegal drugs, the action is premature and unnecessary criminalizing.

Another national newspaper editorial agreed that the raid was ill-conceived:

When asked, the Dept. of Health said it was surprised by the action by the Ministry of Justice. Contrary to the latter it sees no reason to take action against fresh and dried *Psilocybe* mushrooms. There is no large scale use and no real threat to health. The Dept. of Health stresses that, were dangerous situations to ensue, it has possibilities to take action through food and drug regulations. Such cases have not happened yet. We are surprised that the Dept. of Justice still uses the health argument as its motivation to raid the growing facility on Monday

TELRL will report more details as the become available.

The Only Source For Legal Information Concerning Psychoactive Sacraments

The Entheogen Law Reporter

REPORTING AND COMMENTING ON STATE AND FEDERAL CASES, LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND RULINGS PERTAINING TO:

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AUTHOR OF
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TELRL contains legal information of vital importance to anyone involved with entheogens on any level. The only question it leaves unanswered is this: Isn't your freedom worth \$25.00 per year?

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