## **WEED VERSUS** ALCOHOL . . ? THERE'S ONLY ONE WINNER..



The laws regarding the possession and consumption of Marijuana in merry England are without doubt, some of the most ridiculous and backward pieces of legislation in history and the current government should be held accountable for its sloppy handling of the issue. In order to appease the smokers they brought the herb down to a Class C, but this meant that instead of the police using manpower and resources to bust a Hippy with half an ounce, they are now concentrating on targeting the growers and dealers, which raises the price of the produce and makes it harder to get hold of.

The Government don't want to legalise it. Not because they believe it makes you paranoid or mentally ill, but because they can't tax something you can grow in your own home and they want to appease the conservative Middle England voters who put smoking weed on a par with Nazi War Crimes. Any seasoned smoker knows that alcohol is far more addictive and damaging than Marijuana and yet it is socially acceptable. It's advertised on TV for Gods-sake and in this age where the new target is obesity and a man brandishing a king size Mars Bar is frowned upon, you really have to wonder why the government dosen't do more to temper the nations drinking..

The popular circulating myth is that the health secretary wants us to reduce our ale consumption and temper our ways, but the truth of the matter is the system could not survive without the cash it earns from the nation's weekend boozing, so, in effect, when you find yourself crawling out of a bar at three in the morning, soggy with cider and vomiting into your mixed Kebab, you're actually doing it for your country, you're a goddamn national hero and by all rights they should be erecting a statue of you in the town square and organising a ticker-tape parade on the anniversary of your birthday.

Every so often Trevor Macdonald will do a special report on Britain's Binge

drinking culture but they always focus on the that element that drinks to excess and then engages in some act of random violence...and it's the violence they seem to have a problem with, not the drinking. What they're actually saving is: by all means go out on a Saturday night and drink until your money runs out and you liver commits suicide, but, er, just don't hit anyone in the face. Surely if grass was legalised it would lead to a reduction in violent crime because only terminally psychopathic people feel the urge to be aggressive under the influence of hashish and those kind of folks would probably beat their wives and bray students even under the influence of a sherbet dip-dab. American Politicians, in particular have always struggled with the weed. The Republicans demonise it; the Liberals pretend they are all for it and the Democrats deny its existence! Good old Ronald Regan once came out with a fabulous quote that should be the next exhibit in the National Museum of exaggeration. "I now have absolute proof that smoking even one marijuana cigarette is equal in brain damage to being on Bikini Island durina an H-bomb blast." I'd love to meet the scientist who delivered that report to Regan and ask him what experiments he conducted in order to come to such an amazing conclusion because I can only assume he forced a Monkey to smoke a joint, cut his head open, studied his brain, sewed him back up, dropped an atomic bomb on him. reopened his head, had another look at the brain, tossed him in the dead monkey bin and wrote up his report because I can't possibly imagine how else he could equate a single solitary spliff to an Atomic explosion..

Then again...maybe the scientist gave the monkey some really good shit.

Lee Cassanell.