

Books

The Cultivator's Handbook of Marijuana. By Bill Drake, Ill. by Terry Rutledge. The Augur Publishing Co., Eugene, 80 pages plus bibliography. \$2.50.

Anyone seriously interested in growing and consuming marijuana, be it for pleasure or profit, would do well to pick up a copy of this booklet.

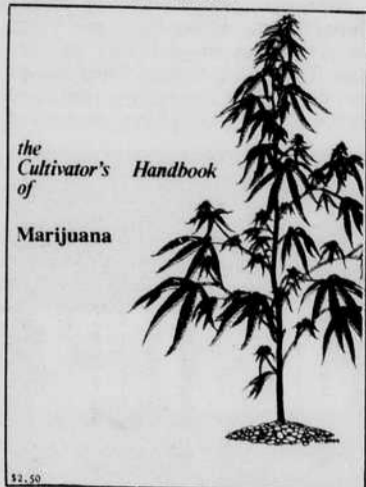
Authored by Eugene resident Bill Drake, the book is a well-detailed effort designed to acquaint the reader with everything he needs to know in order to produce good home-grown weed.

A brief introduction and overview of the Cannabis Sativa (the marijuana-producing hemp plant) precede the sections on cultivation. This serves as a good introduction to the rather dryly-presented main body of the text, both from the standpoint of reader interest and worthwhile information.

Myths exploded

Some popular myths about the plant are exploded in the introduction. Did you know, for instance, that the drug's potency is not affected by climate or soil, but rather by the genetic prop-

erties found within each strain of grass? So ends the myth that Panama Red, Acapulco Gold or Eugene Green—is of exceptional quality because of the location in which it was raised.



To put this information to practical use, tips such as how to induce favorable genetic traits are mentioned. Increasing plant productivity as well as potency is also touched on in the introduction.

Generally-held notions which are attacked here include the belief that high doses of nitrogen stimulate Cannabis growth and the myths that the plant doesn't

need much water, or that high, humid temperatures are best for growing.

These and other enlightening tid-bits are elaborated on in the sections dealing with the planting to reaping cycle.

Topics covered in the cultivation include soil, water, nutrition, environment, seeds, germination, transplanting, indoor and outdoor lighting, harvesting and drying. These are in turn broken down further in the text's illustrations, charts and graphs. In short, pot producers are given a good breakdown of every main aspect of the process.

One drawback is that, because

of the amount of essential technical information that a serious marijuana grower should digest, the book often reads like an elementary botany text.

However, there are many diversions to catch the reader's fancy. The charts, graphs and illustrations are numerous and fairly simple. Some not-so-subtle references to the drug culture come through in the writing and illustrations, and Drake's frequent use of hip vernacular helps the reader to stay in good spirits while digesting the technical information. Also, the amusing centerfold may be found to be a desirable addition to your wall-poster collection.

The author's style is remarkably concise and matter-of-fact,

generating an enthusiasm for the drug and its cultivation which continues throughout.

For those concerned about the possibility of being busted while the plants are growing, Drake offers instruction in producing hybrid strains which the authorities won't be able to recognize. Indoor growers also receive a good deal of attention.

From large-scale marijuana producers to casual Cannabis lovers, The Cultivator's Handbook of Marijuana should provide much insight leading to more prosperous grass-growing endeavors.

It might also serve as an amusing, well-received gift for any of your turned-on friends.

Bob DaPrato

Slide show on valley presented

Sounds of buzz saws in the French Pete Valley coupled with slides of beautiful scenic areas in the Cascades and along the Willamette River made for a very effective sight and sound show to culminate Wednesday's Earth Day activities.

Don Hunter, head of the audiovisual media center and amateur photographer, received a standing ovation from the 80 some people who attended the colorful presentation.

The hour-and-a-half show which began at 7:30 included two features — "Willamette Greenway" described the possibility of a park system along the Willamette River which would run from Cottage Grove to Portland; and "Oregon Volcanic Cascades" which featured scenes of the Three Sisters area between Santiam Pass and Willamette Pass.

The first feature, which Hunter assembled for the Oregon Soil Conservation Service, pointed out pollution and lack of access problems which will face the Willamette in the next few years if nothing is done to remedy the situation.

The federal government has authorized funds for the Greenway project but nothing can be done unless these funds are matched with state and local efforts, says Hunter. State legislation concerning the project is pending.

In the second show, Hunter's commentary emphasized the small number of natural wilderness areas remaining in Oregon.

About 55,000 acres have been set aside from the Three Sisters wilderness area but this action did not include French Pete nor did it outlaw the possibility of mining in the area, according to Hunter.

Hunter's show involves 680 slides and four projectors. He plans to present it to schools and civic groups throughout the state.



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Opera at 8:30 & 11:30

SUNDAY—Opera at 7 & 10:00

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Featuring

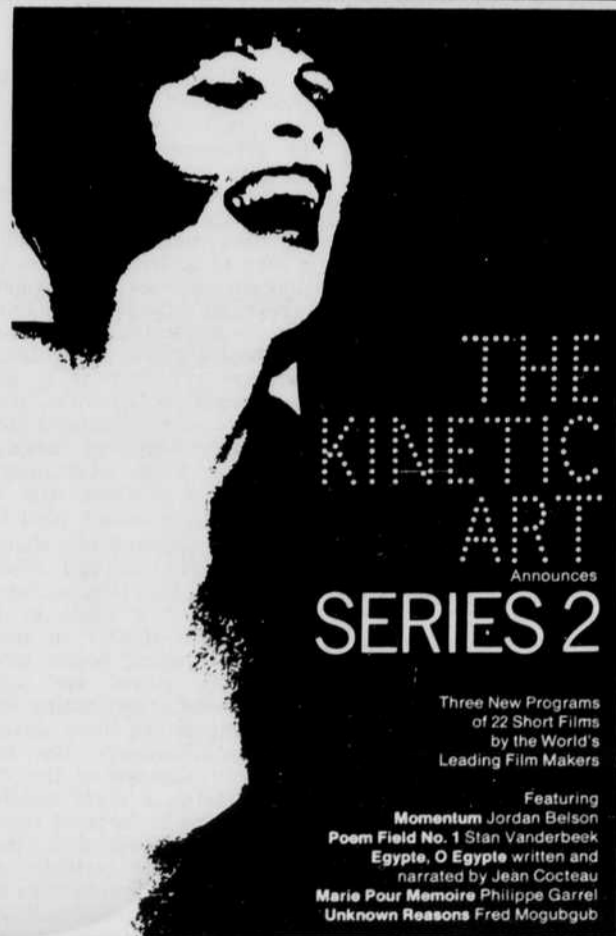
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