

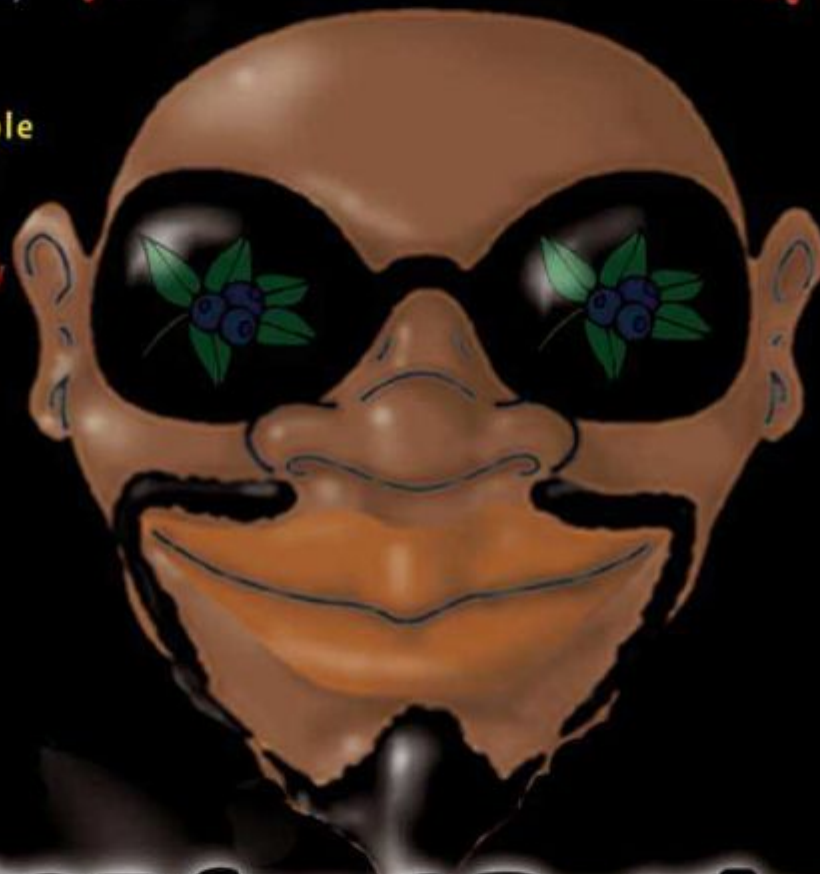
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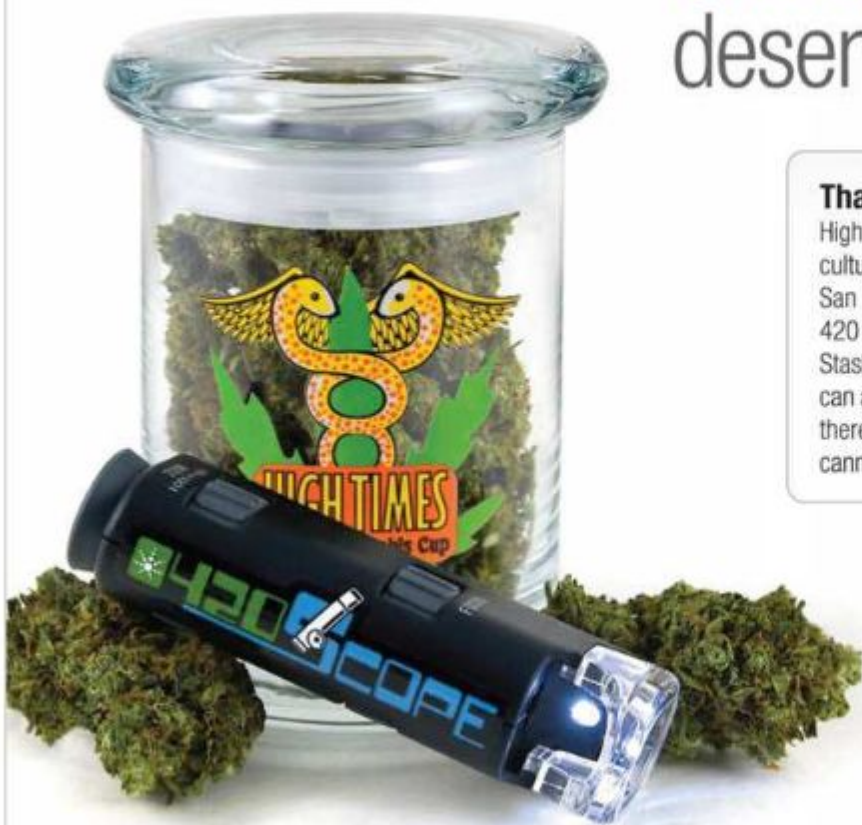
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Lewis Black seems a little miffed by this extra-small nug of Chem Dog.

The BLACK LASH

INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

In the classic film *Network* (1976), news anchorman Howard Beale screams to his TV audience: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!" The line instantly became a national catch phrase expressing our deep dissatisfaction with our government, our leaders and, sometimes, our lives.

Comedian Lewis Black has taken Beale's sentiment and elevated it to an art form. No standup performing today has connected to his audience in quite the same way; Black's anger and frustration illuminates our own. In the end, he makes us laugh at ourselves—at our maddening inability, or even unwillingness, to alter our condition. Ergo, the expression: "So funny it hurts."

Lewis Black feels your rage. In June, he released a new DVD, *Stark Raving Black*, and in November his new book, *I'm Dreaming of a Black Christmas* (Penguin Publishing), will be on the shelves. Which just goes to show that Black humor is now in vogue.

Your mother was a teacher. What did she impart to you about education?

Her thing was that you have to stay on top of these kids: "You go in there, you got to stay on top." She was really funny. I think the thing that was interesting about my mother was that she started teaching in a district when it was still a segregated school system. She was teaching in a black school; she taught math. How she'd teach was, basically, they'd pretend to have \$100, and she said, "I want you to spend the hundred dollars," so they would see the practical side. Her whole thing with education was, in the end, it has to be practical. Connect to the person.

You were in college during the era of antiwar activism in the '60s. How do you view modern college life?

As far as activism, everybody is kind of like, "How come they're not doing this or that?" The thing I think people miss: There is a huge difference fighting a war with a volunteer army, when you have done everything you can to separate the mainstream of the country from the war itself. It's a buzz in the background. Most people don't know somebody in the military. I mean, I didn't—not

until I did the USO tours. I had friends who were in Vietnam, but I didn't have a friend who became a military person. So to expect them to rise up like college students in the '60s

On a practical level, they went out and got Obama elected. They were the whole drive behind that. They seem to have more of a sense of what needs to be done in the community—I think. I am hoping. They are fairly bright—I know from the questions they ask me, they are very insightful. I'm just hoping they do a better job than we did.

You're huge on college campuses. What's your take on modern college life?

I was in a fraternity for a year, and I went back and wanted to see what had changed—and nothing changed. When I was there, it seemed that half the frat was doing drugs and the other half was getting drunk, and we would watch each other. *Weird!*

It's the same thing now: guys walking around with a gut, with four Budweisers hanging from the plastic thing, walking around sashaying it as if it was a purse. It's the same group.

But they seem to be smarter than we are. I hope so—I really do.

Do you believe the US is on a downward spiral?
I think we're like a Slinky—it makes a lot of noise, and it's always kind of the same. My mother said it, talking about the racism we see in the Tea Party. She said, "I don't know why you people are shocked—it's not like these people went away. They're still there!"

People want big, sweeping changes like the civil-rights laws, but you're not going to have big, sweeping change. For every step we take forward, we take two steps back. We don't get much brighter. It's just appalling. Most of it is exhausting to watch.

If you were God or president, what would you do first?

If I were president, I would make education a priority. Everything follows—they still don't get that. As God, the first thing I do would be to put my finger in the hole in the Gulf. Then I would strike dumb Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh. If they didn't talk for a while, it would be really good. I don't want to kill them—I just don't want them to have words coming out of their mouths.

How do you perceive the government's war on pot?

One of the attractions of pot is that I can smoke and be an outlaw—in my basement! I don't know if it's the superego of an entire culture stepping in—"Whoa! These people are having fun! We have to step in!"—but it's out of control. It got crazy, to no effect. You got these guys racing in over the border bringing in bags of weed. They're running around shooting it out in the streets in Kingston, Jamaica, because of our fear of drugs.

You wonder, if pot were legal, would meth labs have risen? If pot had been legal, would there have been crack cocaine? You got a really perfect drug—coca leaves—that you can chew and get a

'I came up with what I called "dope therapy." If I could just stay high, I could find interest in the things around me.'

buzz. It's perfect. No! Then you grind it up into this stinky little powder that gives you an anxiety attack. It's crazy!

You're not a pot smoker anymore. Tell us about your marijuana history.

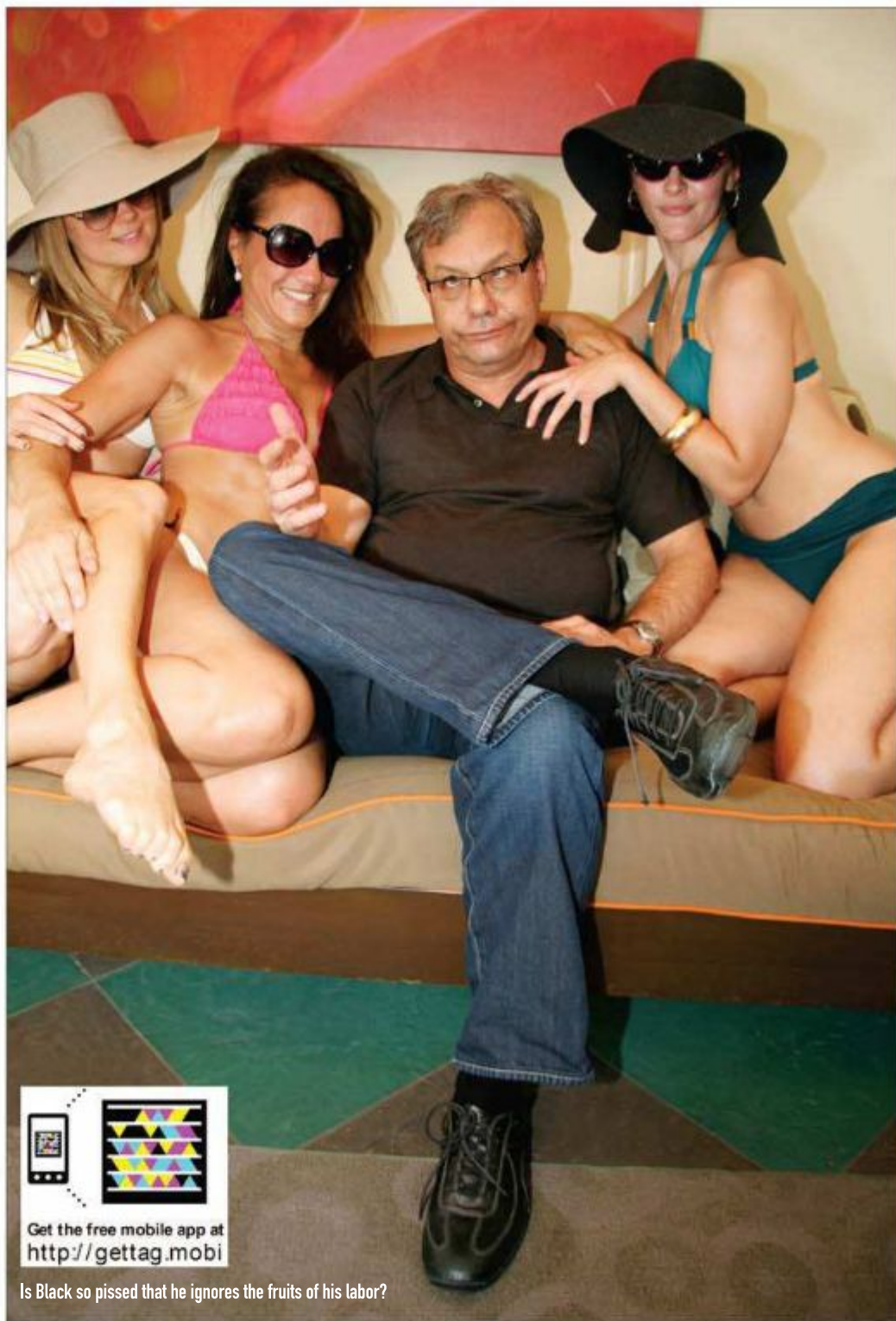
I remember the first time I smoked, I think, was with my friend Stanley, who has since passed away. I didn't really smoke until my freshman year in college. But we had done all this research. We were doing all of this research in chem class for papers that we never did. We were just *preparing*.

I smoked up and through graduate school. I actually stopped for a while my first year of graduate school—I was writing a play. I got to a point where things were going so well, I decided to just have faith that everything would work out: "Stop the going nuts; you're getting some kind of message. Just pay attention to what's in front of you and you'll be fine." It worked. It really worked. I couldn't smoke. That lasted eight or nine months, but I went back to pot.

Then I had a traumatic marriage and divorce and got really depressed—and really upset. I was going to Yale Drama School at that point in time, and the words "emotional wasteland" don't even begin to describe it I came out of the divorce and went into the dean of students' office and said, "Since none of you have any comprehension of where I am, I want nobody bothering me for the next year. If anybody gets in my face about anything, I am holding you responsible. I just got out of this divorce, and none of you know how to deal with it!"

I was really troubled, and I didn't really know what depression was—I had never really been depressed. I was sleeping and smoking in bed; I would wake up and there would be holes in the bed. I had no interest in anything. It was a total depression. So I came up with what I called "dope therapy": If I could just stay high, I could find interest in the things around me. I had to figure it out like a puzzle ... so if I stayed stoned all the time, it would allow me to interact better. I would have to stay on my game, act like I was normal.

So I would wake up in the morning and roll like six or seven jays. Most people who do that become slackers—the guy who doesn't come out of the basement. My idea was the opposite: "You're going to go out there, you're going to be involved with people, and you're going to be stoned to the tits!"



Is Black so pissed that he ignores the fruits of his labor?

I would be with my friends and say, "I got to go smoke some dope before my next class." I didn't burn the bed anymore. I kind of became fascinated with stuff—it kept me in the game, kept me involved. Eventually, "dope therapy" worked, but it killed my taste for pot.

The intriguing part of the story is what happened after I quit. I was back in the game, my brain had clicked in, I spoke my mind better. The same dean of students that I told to stay away brought me in. I had not been smoking for a month. He told me, "A lot of the teachers think you're stoned." I said, "Are you kidding me?"

That was when I knew that it was bullshit—as far as the state of mind pot puts you in, they hadn't a clue. I had been ripped to the tits and nobody said a word. Then I get straight and they think I'm crazy!

I saw you years back at the West Bank Cafe in New York City. As a comic, you were a bit more jovial than you are now.

I introduced the acts, so I was always a little more charming. But I was doing my act one night, and this comic, Dan Ballard, came up to me and said: "You know, you're really angry, and you're not yelling. You got to go out onstage and start yelling. I'm yelling all the time, and I got nothing to really yell about. The next joke, I just want you to yell it!"

So I went onstage and started yelling. It was really that simple: *Fucking idiot!* It was real stupid, because when I was sitting around with my friends and go off and get pissed, it was funny. But it never connected with me.

Are you aware of your wild hand gestures and pointing fingers?

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It's not really conscious. Maybe a little bit—like about 10 percent. But I remember playing the Trop in Atlantic City years ago, and I was coming up the escalator and people were going down, and they were pointing at me—the finger stuff—and I was like, “What the fuck is *that*?” I was told, “They're doing you onstage.” And I went, “I don't do that!” And literally, the next time I was onstage, I was like, “Fuck, I really *do* do that!”

The only thing I really choreograph is working out where I'll go when I'm telling a story, where I'll walk. But, physically, I haven't a clue.

Peter Gent wrote in *North Dallas Forty* that being a pro football player was like being a standup or an ad executive: You fail in front of crowds of people—or your clients. Can you relate to that?

Now that I know I'm a pro football player, this interview is over! As a matter of fact, I don't think I'm earning enough money—and my knees are starting to go.

I never heard that before. I think it's a pretty good analogy—the risk, in terms of that; it's how you learn. It also relates to football: With standup, you learn when you fail. It's the same in theater. What kind of a horrible fucking life is that, when you have to fuck up in order to learn?

I always felt that the analogy is really like boxing—learning to box with your hands tied, and the audience is just pummeling you. After the fight, or the set, you're like, “If I had lifted my right hand up there, they wouldn't have hit me in the face.” The big lesson for me was that you have to have confidence. There is no way out of it—you just have to fake it, even if you don't have it.

How often does that Zen thing occur onstage, when the audience is completely on your wavelength and you're able to create new material on the spot?

It doesn't happen enough.

Bob Saget told us he's never really sure what he's going to say onstage.

He's a liar! He's always been a compulsive liar! In fact, I'm gonna call him—I am going to send him a fucking note and tell him he lied to you!

But he probably does. Most of us don't. I'd say 80 percent of my act, I know what I'm going to say, and the other 20 percent I wing.

How does that moment of discovery feel?

It's the heroin of it—that's what keeps you addicted. What's really stupid is how long it takes to learn it. But in the midst of it, you get the buzz—like the heroin addict who doesn't really know where the vein is, then all of a sudden they hit the vein and they're like, *Ohhh!* As you progress, you start to hit it more. Then it becomes more than the laugh—it becomes more about the discovery onstage. You get totally at one with the audience. You're their voice. That happens, if you're lucky, once a year.



'You're going to go out there, you're going to be involved with people, and you're going to be stoned to the tits!'

What was your reaction when Joe Rogan slammed Carlos Mencia for stealing material?

Here was my response: Joe had a legitimate case—it was his stuff. A lot of comics have talked about Carlos in that respect. Joe was pissed about it, and he had a right to get that angry. I barely remember my own act, let alone somebody else's to notice if they stole something. One of my friends over at *The Daily Show* called me up and asked if Carlos ever stole from me. I said I didn't think so. The next week, he opened up his show with a bit of mine. Apparently, he didn't even take the best part of it.

How does that make you feel?

I don't like it.

But your style can't really be imitated.

That's the thing, but sometimes there's only so much stuff you can talk about. You cross over. My friend Greg Geraldo was doing some stuff recently, and I was going on after him, and I went, “Wow, we're talking about the same thing.” But he took a different point of view.

I went into *Catch a Rising Star*, and my friend John Hayman was onstage. I used to do a thing about the stealth bomber. Now, we had not seen each other in 10 years, but he did the joke exactly how I did: “If you're going to have an invisible

bomber, just *tell* people you built it—why waste the money?” Word for word!

Who really makes you laugh?

Gandhi has always been a buzz for me.

I think my opener, John Bowman, is a funny man. Give him an hour, he has got no conscience—he will go off on whatever he is thinking of. Joy Behar is really funny. We broke in at the same time. I don't even know how she does it—she takes the talent on her show and turns a corner with it. She had the head of the Tea Party on. How do you even do this? I'd like to know. She's funny with them. I get too angry.

I like David Attell, Louis CK ... I was on a plane and Don Rickles was sitting in front of me, and he just tore me up! There's a list of about 50 of them. I like Carlin and Pryor, Shelley Berman, Bob Newhart—all those guys. I should mention Larry Reeb; he's out of the Midwest—fucking brilliant! He just stays doing clubs and says, “Fuck it.” He has a real audience and continues to come up with new stuff.

So what's on your mind now?

I have these new ideas for the country. One of them is just split the country in half and we'll have a contest and see which side wins. The left can practice all their stuff, and the right can practice their stuff, and let's see which side does better. The other idea—Rand Paul [the GOP senatorial candidate in Kentucky heavily supported by the Tea Party] questions the Civil Rights Act and says maybe we should reexamine some of the provisions for the handicapped. A lot of people still want it to be 1956. I think we can take two or three states and call it 1956, and they can all go there. There probably won't be many blacks or Mexicans, so they can have their white society just the way it was—only no cell-phone towers, none of the technology that we've had since then ... it's 1956!

You're someone who thinks deeply about things. How would you describe what we're experiencing here on earth?

We're experiencing hell, and when we go, we go to heaven. It could be

The best thing I've heard to describe things—because I don't think there *is* a way to describe what we're going through—was said by the late newspaper columnist Art Buchwald. He went into the hospice to die, and he wouldn't die. He said, “People always ask, ‘Where are you going to go? What's out there?’” And he said, “I never really wondered what's out *there*; I have always wondered why we're *here*.”

I think we're supposed to be here to have a nice time. There is enough here, there is enough for everyone to have—except for a nice room like this. But whatever it is, I don't think we're doing it. We're doing it ass-backwards. ✨

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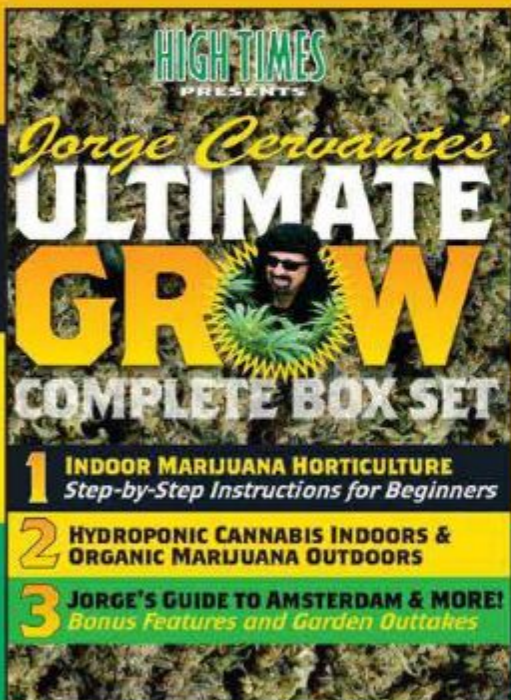
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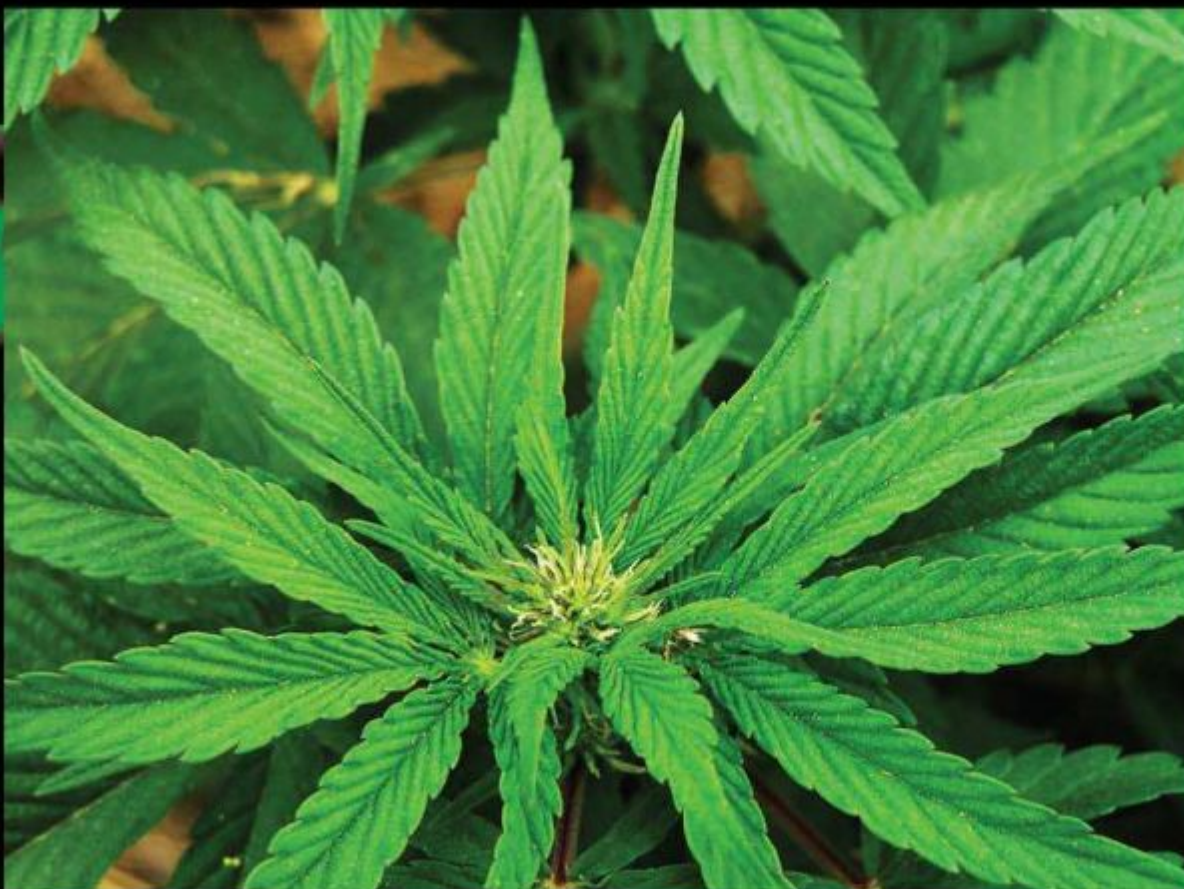
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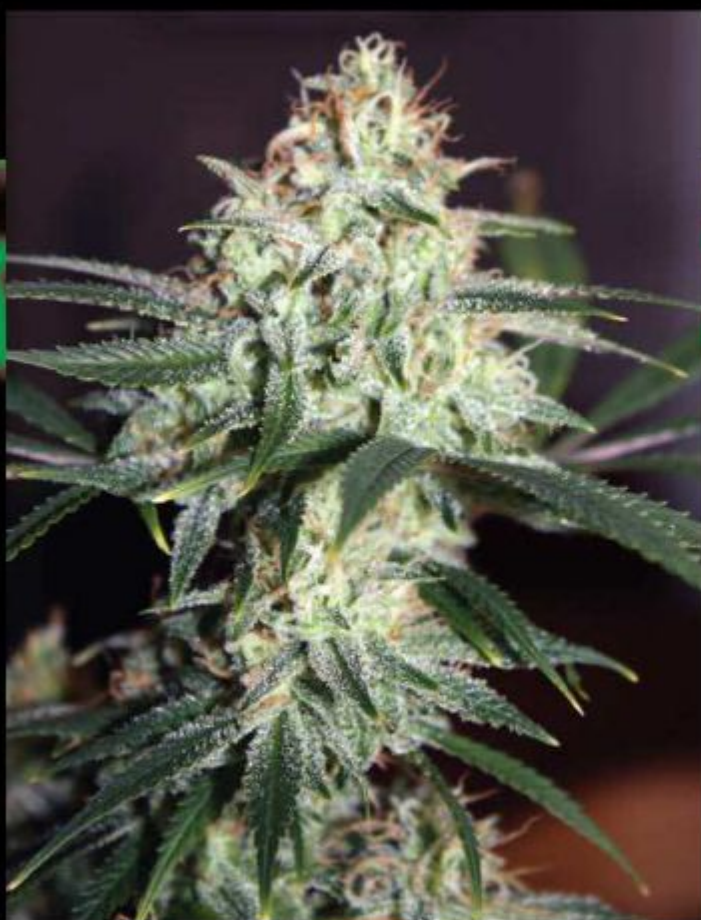
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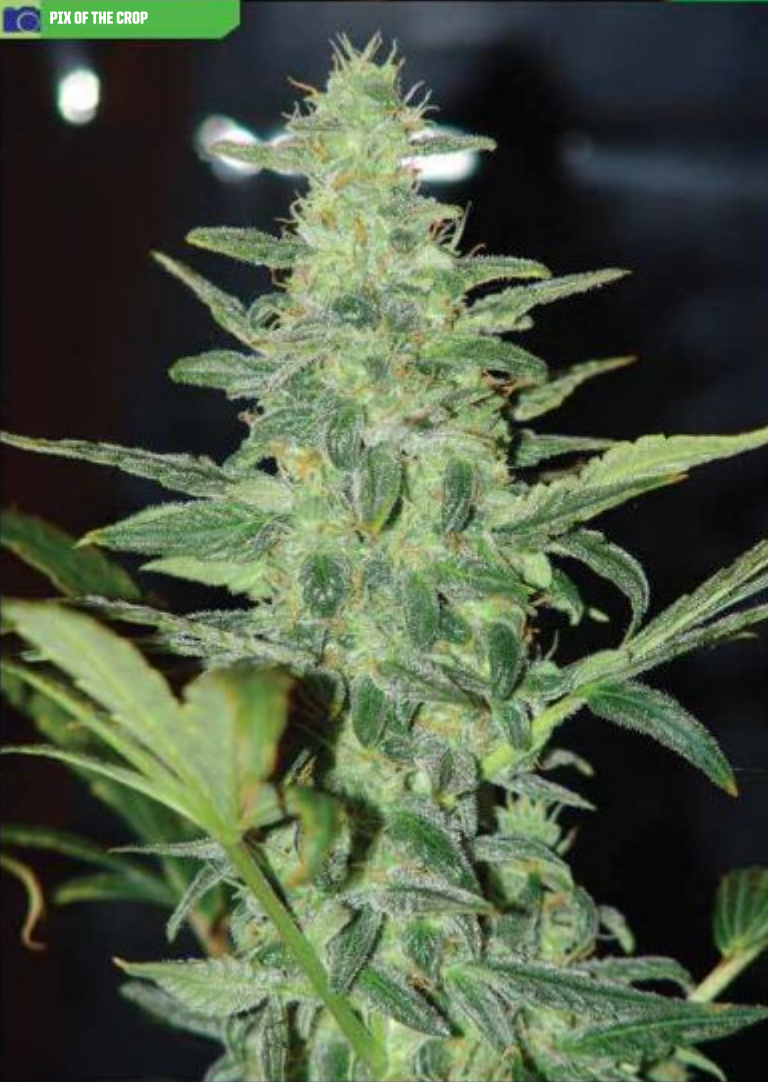
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POWER FLOWER (left)

These are pics of a nine-week-old auto-flowering Taiga (Power Plant). Hope you like!—Twister

PURPLE AND BLUE (above and below)

The first picture is Reserva Privada's Purple Wreck at about six weeks into flowering, and below is Barney's Farm Blue Cheese at the beginning of its cure. All of these buds were raised in the Sour Apple. One love!—Valu One



Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to mailbag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.



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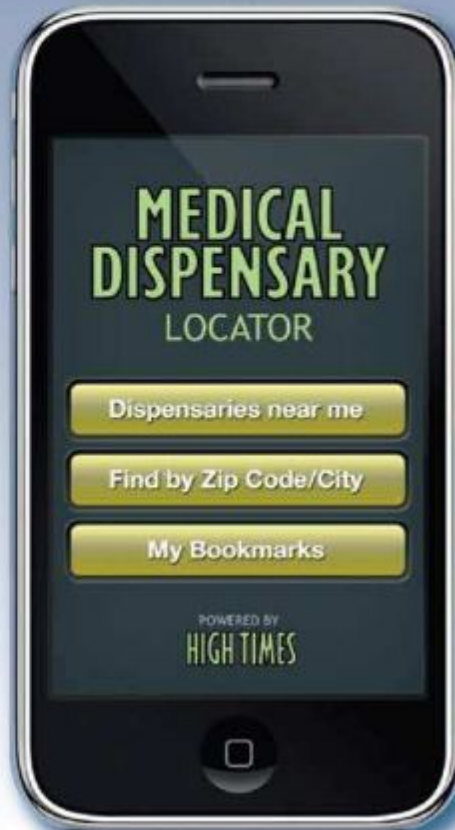
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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

Pharmaceutical-Cannabis Approvals Moving Forward in the EU

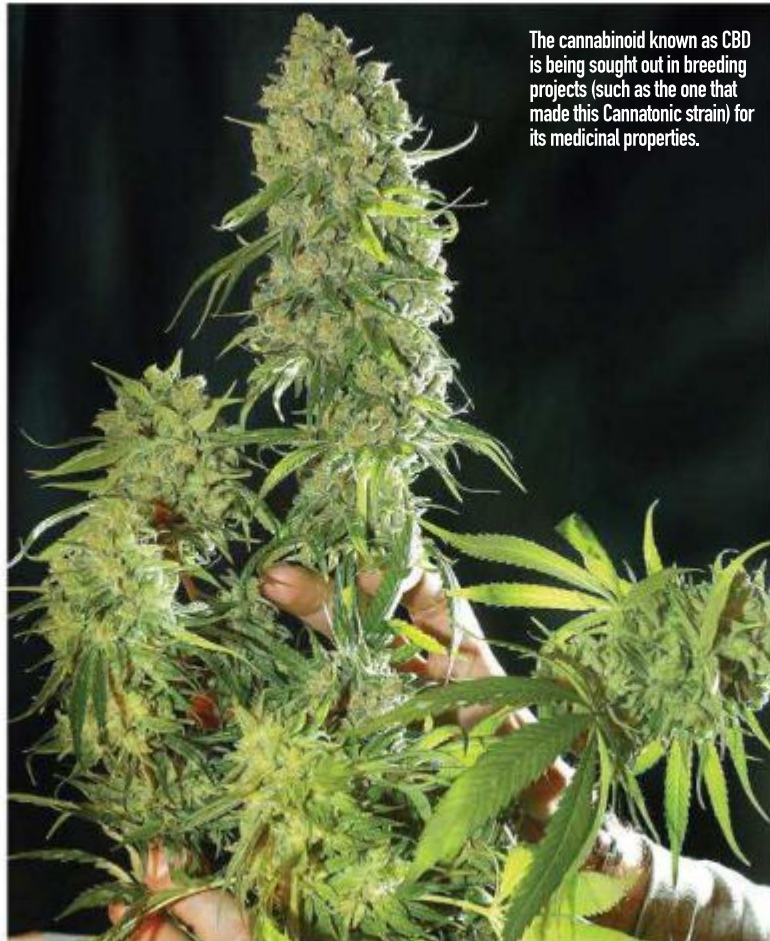
GW Pharmaceuticals, which makes drugs derived from cannabis, is due to have its first medicine on the market this summer. The British biotech company announced that regulators in the UK and Spain had found that there were no quality, safety or efficacy issues with Sativex, its drug to treat spasticity in people with multiple sclerosis.

GW said that Sativex, an under-the-tongue spray that eases muscle stiffness in MS patients, would become available by prescription in Britain and Spain sometime in August or September of this year, pending the exact date that formal approval goes through.

The pharmaceutical manufacturer—which grows genetically cloned marijuana plants in secret locations around England—will receive £12.5 million from Germany's Bayer and Spain's Almirall corporations, which are marketing the prescription drug. The release of Sativex has been much delayed, but full approval was expected by late June or early July.

In 2005, Sativex became the world's first cannabis medicine to win regulatory approval in Canada. It is currently being put through trials as a pain treatment for patients with the advanced stages of cancer. Sativex is the first prescription medication in the world to be derived directly from the cannabis plant. It's an oral spray that works by acting on the same parts of the brain that respond to smoking marijuana. Sativex protects against damage to nerve cells and restores normal functions to nerve cells that are already damaged.

The hope is that GW will be able to quickly expand into other European countries under the European



The cannabinoid known as CBD is being sought out in breeding projects (such as the one that made this Cannatonic strain) for its medicinal properties.

MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH Cannatonic

Three years ago, a little-known seed company from Spain, Resin Seeds, showed up at the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam and took home a third-place finish in the *Sativa* Cup with a new strain called Cannatonic. The herb did almost what its name implies, rendering people catatonic and serving as a powerful medicinal tonic.

Today, after being tested for over a year with patients in Spain, Canada and Israel (and with very good results), we know a few more things about this balanced (55/45 *sativa-indica* ratio) yet potent strain. According to Resin Seeds, Cannatonic is the first known strain to be tested with 6.9 CBD and 6.2 THC counts, effectively giving it a unique almost 1:1 ratio—a ratio used by the pharmaceutical industry for maximizing the therapeutic effects of cannabinoids.

Cannatonic is the result of an MK-Ultra female crossed with a G-13 Haze male. The growing pattern and shape are closer to those of a *sativa*, while yields and flowering times (nine weeks indoors, October outdoors) more closely resemble its *indica* genes. The flavor, however, is distinctly its own, with a fruit and spice combination that leaves the mouth tingly. This particular plant has multiple uses for medical patients, including pain relief, muscle relaxation for spasms and even as a treatment for anxiety, just to name a few.

Union's mutual-recognition procedures, which allow member nations to recognize drugs that have been approved elsewhere in the EU with less delay. GW hopes that recognition will be confirmed in the first half of 2011. Trials of Sativex to treat pain in cancer patients are now also taking place in the US.

Backwards in New Jersey

It's sad to say, especially on the heels of lawmakers passing the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, but there's

still no compassion—or reason, or sanity—in New Jersey.

John Wilson, a multiple-sclerosis (MS) patient slapped with a five-year prison sentence for growing marijuana for medical purposes, was freed from Southern State Prison on \$15,000 bail earlier this summer. Wilson sat in jail for over a month before a court finally ruled that he could be released while he appeals his drug conviction.

Wilson says he'll just say no to the drug until it becomes legal in New Jersey this summer. New Jer-

sey lawmakers adopted a medical-marijuana law that was originally set to take effect on August 1, but legislators have lobbied to push that back while the state scrambles to figure out how to enact and implement the new law.

Multiple sources have said that New Jersey's Department of Health and Senior Services has turned down offers of consultation from other states that already have experience with such regulations, including Rhode Island and New Mexico. The state is still trying to figure out how to run an application process that will allow only six dispensaries (known as Alternative Treatment Centers, or ATCs) in the first two years of the program.

"Whenever they open the program, I would register and abide by the law," Wilson said.

Are you kidding us, New Jersey? While other countries are approving regulations for patents using cannabis-based medications, New Jersey—which just passed the medical bill for compassionate use in January—is still making a patient appeal a conviction for medical use! The conviction even came while the legislation was pending at the state capitol (it was signed into law one month after Wilson's conviction), not to mention the state made a sick man with MS sit in prison for *another* month while granting his appeal.

Wilson testified that the 17 pot plants growing in the yard of the home he rented in Franklin Township, NJ, were for his own medical use. He said he couldn't afford his traditional MS drugs, which cost him \$3,000 a month.

The case is a prime example of how the system still gets these cases wrong and how states have no clue about the true essence of what these medical laws are meant to do. Even under New Jersey's law, patients will not be allowed to grow their own pot; instead, all medical marijuana has to be produced onsite at the six ATCs. Yeah, good luck with that, New Jersey. It's about time that these wannabe progressive states do the right thing and ask experts for advice on how to grow and distribute this medicine—otherwise, worse problems will ensue. One thing is becoming clear with each new medical state: It's not enough to leave it up to state bureaucrats to decide. ✨

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.



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CANNATONIC



THE RUN FOR FREEDOM

Running a marathon to raise money for cannabis-law reform isn't something you hear about—let alone do—every day. But this Thanksgiving in Seattle, I'll be running 13.1 miles in a half marathon to raise money to benefit Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

SSDP, as most HT readers already know, is a nonprofit organization that focuses on reducing the harms inflicted by the War on Drugs. Through student involvement in activism and lobbying, SSDP chapters have been able to create positive changes in drug policy at their colleges and universities, and even at the local and federal levels of government.

Halfway through this year's spring semester, a small group of students (including myself) worked hard to assemble an SSDP chapter at Washington State University in Pullman. We had an overwhelming initial membership enrollment during a "Heads vs. Feds" event featuring HIGH TIMES creative director Steve Hager and former New York DEA chief Robert Stutman. Next, we started working to educate students about their rights and how to protect them. Students also learned about the future of drug policy in the US and how the current War on Drugs has failed the very people it was supposedly intended to protect.

Our first official semester in existence went better than we all expected, but we aren't eligible for school funding yet, so we thought extensively



Tyler training for the Seattle Marathon.

about how to raise money. After a plethora of ideas that were not 100 percent feasible, we stumbled across the website for the Seattle Marathon. We had a lengthy debate about whether it was even possible for one of us to do it, and then a few more minutes of arguing about who should actually run the half marathon. By the end of the meeting, it was decided that I had better start my training right away!

The next day, I got a new pair of shoes and hit the ground running—literally. Since then, my training has been going quite well: I've been averaging about seven to eight miles a day at around 65 to 75 minutes (with the weekends off for cardio rehabilitation, of course). With a few months of training still to go, I feel that I'm on pace for a really good finishing time.

I'm currently looking for sponsors to help me raise the money. If you want to learn more about the Run for Freedom, check out the SSDP blog (ssdp.org/blog) for updates on the run—and if you live in the Seattle area, come down over the Thanksgiving break and support SSDP in the movement for sensible drug-policy reform. —Tyler Markwart

Tyler Markwart is president of the SSDP chapter at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. If you'd like to sponsor Tyler during his run and help raise money for SSDP's important work, please visit www.ssdp.org/runforfreedom.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch, Did Fiorello La Guardia, the mayor of New York City from 1934 to 1945, have something to do with marijuana? If so, I might not be so angry every time my luggage gets lost at the NYC airport named after him.

Sky Pilot

Hi Sky, He appointed a commission that produced a report in 1944 showing that marijuana didn't cause violence, hard drug use, juvenile delinquency or crime. (A Republican on our side!) Harry Anslinger, the commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics at the time, went completely ballistic when the report came out. Hope this makes you feel better about your luggage!

Can cannabis help sinusitis? I've had problems for months and my physician is at a loss.

Rory

Hi Rory, Although cannabis can dry mucous membranes, it wouldn't be my first choice for sinus troubles. If antibiotics aren't working for you, new research supports an odd intervention: squirting salt water into the nose to relieve the symptoms. Check out the details at fammed.wisc.edu/research/past-projects/nasal-irrigation.

What's this about marijuana helping schizophrenics preserve their intelligence??

Zippy

Hi Zippy, A study by a crew of Long Island researchers—including a former student of mine, Todd Lencz—indicated that schizophrenics who used cannabis didn't show some of the cognitive declines that other schizophrenics experienced. This result doesn't mean that pot is a treatment for schizophrenia, but it does confirm other work suggesting that it can preserve nerve cells.

Didn't Nixon say that pot would turn people gay?

T.

Hi T., That was Carlton Turner, who once served under Nixon—but it wasn't until 1986, as the nation's first Drug Czar, that he famously blathered: "Marijuana leads to homosexuality ... and therefore to AIDS." This idea is so ridiculous that I don't even know where to begin. Obviously, marijuana doesn't alter sexual orientation or cause any disease.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

GAME CHANGER

Richard Lee says "Legalize it!" in California. By Russ Bellville

Next month, Californians will vote to legalize marijuana, an historic opportunity that wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our Freedom Fighter of the Month, Richard Lee.

Best known as the founder of Oaksterdam University in Oakland, Lee is also the proprietor of the Bulldog Coffeeshop, a nearby medical-marijuana dispensary modeled after the coffeeshops of Amsterdam, as well as the primary force behind the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010.

If approved by voters in November, the Tax Cannabis Act would legalize the personal possession of up to one ounce of cannabis for all adults of drinking age. Californians age 21 and over would also have the right to cultivate a 25-square-foot marijuana garden, while local governments would retain the option of regulating commercial production and sales. The act would also keep Proposition 215 intact so that med-pot patients would lose none of their current rights.

A med-pot patient himself, Lee moved to California after suffering a spinal-cord injury two decades ago that put him in a wheelchair. But rather than rest content with securing his own medical-marijuana rights, Lee has been tirelessly fighting for full legalization since 1992, including putting millions of dollars into the campaign to get the Tax Cannabis Act on the ballot. Since then, he's given countless interviews in support of the act, offering the public a genuine portrait of a successful and generous cannabis consumer. Thanks, Richard!

Russ Bellville hosts NORML's daily audio podcast at stash.norml.org.



Richard Lee

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As yet another anti-pot crusader finds his place in the “ashtray of history,” we must never forget the marijuana movement’s darkest days.

The recent retirement-in-disgrace of anti-marijuana zealot Mark Souder, the Indiana Republican who resigned from Congress after admitting to an affair with a female staffer—the two had even made a video together promoting his views on sexual abstinence—got me to thinking about the dwindling number of wild-eyed prohibitionists in Congress these days, and how blessedly muted their voices have become since the bad old days of the House Select Committee on Narcotics.

Quite possibly the most nefarious factor in fueling the modern War on (Some) Drugs hysteria in the US, the House of Representatives’ notorious Select Committee on Narcotics, which operated from 1975 to 1993, was the spawning ground for hundreds of policies and programs that fostered a massive government intrusion into the lives of all Americans, whether they consumed cannabis or not. Comprising both liberals and conservatives, the committee achieved 18 years of rarely seen bipartisanship in order to effectively warp the US Constitution, transforming that sacred document into a vehicle for justifying the malevolent use of government force against our individual rights and liberties—all in the name of the War on Drugs.

Specifically, those dark days brought about two omnibus crime bills that introduced Americans to the architecture of today’s \$26 billion federal anti-cannabis behemoth, including the office of the Drug Czar; propaganda outfits like the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and DARE; law-enforcement operations like Weed and Seed, Whack and Stack, and Green Merchant; mandatory-minimum prison terms, federal-guideline sentencing and civil-asset forfeiture; and (last but not

least) the Drug-Free Workplace Act, which largely created the nationwide practice of drug-testing employees as a condition of their employment.

But on the bright side, NORML retooled completely in the 1980s from a media-darling organization funded mainly by elites (i.e., Hugh Hefner and Hollywood producers) to one that served the basic needs of cannabis consumers by providing legal advice to the millions busted on pot charges or facing drug tests. We also established local chapters of genuine stakeholders, convened large public protests and demonstrations, trained lawyers on how best to defend cannabis consumers, and became the major repository of cannabis-related information for the media and policy-makers.

It’s no coincidence that the brave and visionary men and women involved with NORML’s public-advocacy work in the “dark ages” are largely the same individuals now at the forefront of major strides in cannabis-law reform.

Still, while the wind is currently at our backs, cannabis consumers, cultivators and marketers must assiduously continue our collective efforts to advance these reforms wherever possible, and also to guard against a future Congress swinging hard right on social issues and resurrecting a legislative incubator like the Select Committee on Narcotics, in an attempt to roll back the clock once again to the dark days of reefer madness.

In the meantime, NORML officially offers Mr. Souder a not-so-fond farewell ... and please, don’t come back!—Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML Visit norml.org or call 888-67-NORML.

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THE PURSUIT OF PURE POT

Everyone wants safe, healthy buds, but what's the best way to get them? By focusing on the basics—keeping a sharp eye on the biotic and abiotic factors involved in the production and preservation of cannabis.
Story by Ed Glick, photos by Dan Skye

Whether your garden is intended for medicinal or recreational use, success depends on how well you monitor the three P's: production, processing and preservation. Great cannabis is created by maintaining a balance between biotic and abiotic influences. To achieve this balance, there are three areas of particular concern for any cannabis grower or user:

- 1) The influence of *abiotic* (non-living) agents: chemicals, fertilizers, heat, cold.
- 2) The influence of *biotic* (living) agents: molds, parasites, pests.
- 3) Preservation, curing and storage.

Each of these areas will contribute to—or detract from—the quality of the medicine bring produced. The complexity involved in balancing these factors is compounded by the large number of cannabis strains available, the variation of environmental conditions in indoor or outdoor gardens, and the inputs used during cultivation.



A massive garden of plants in Northern California. Best of all, they're all organic!

Influence of Abiotic Agents

The number of chemical agents that may potentially be used on cannabis is huge. These include chemical and organic fertilizers, pesticides, soil amendments, foliar (leaf) sprays, growth stimulants (hormones) and preservatives.

The vegetative (i.e., non-flowering) growth of cannabis requires fertilizers high in nitrogen (N), while flowering plants require increased phosphorus (P) and potassium (K)—hence the N-P-K label on fertilizer packages spelling out the ratio.

The use of so-called “commercial” fertilizers like Miracle-Gro has some justification, because these are purified chemical compounds created with precise quality controls that make them standardized and very simple to use. These fertil-

izers may be advisable for persons suffering from immune-system compromise or who lack the physical ability to deal with smelly, bulky materials. However, one drawback of using commercial fertilizers is that they often contain heavy-metal ions like mercury, cadmium and lead, elements that are not used by the plant; these ions will eventually find their way into rivers and lakes. Another drawback is the effect these contaminants have on soil biology. Plus the high concentrations (and lower dosage requirements) of commercial fertilizers make them more prone to be misapplied or overused.

Overdosing a plant with commercial fertilizers can quickly kill it. A grower’s choice of fertilizer should be guided by an understanding of the label

directions—especially the dosage recommendations—and observations of its effect; other factors include cost, ease of use, and the grower’s physical abilities. If a plant suddenly wilts soon after a commercial fertilizer is applied, overdosing is likely the problem. Flushing with a large quantity of water might save the plant, but most likely it will be weakened and unable to produce quality flowers. Also, overdosing plants near harvest time will contaminate their buds with unacceptable fertilizer metabolites and render them useless. When using commercial fertilizers, a grower should never exceed the manufacturer’s dosage recommendations and should discontinue use three weeks before harvest.

Most medical-cannabis growers prefer “organic” products like fish-emulsion fertilizer, bat or seabird guano, kelp, compost tea and lime (calcium carbonate for pH adjustment). Matching fertilizer to plant is much less problematic when using organic products, since a fish-emulsion fertilizer or compost tea has a wide latitude for dosage. In fact, it’s difficult to overdose with organic fertilizers because they can be absorbed by the plant as needed—unlike commercial fertilizers, which are readily soluble and can be taken up in quantities that far exceed the plants’ immediate needs. It is generally accepted that organic fertilizers produce superior cannabis.

Cannabis plants require frequent fertilizing depending on their size. Plants that are 10 feet tall require heavy feedings; small plants under 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights require diluted dosing. The ideal dosage depends on the strain, plant size, location (indoors or out), and medium (hydroponic or soil-based). For example, organic hydroponic products are sterilized, which eliminates the microbes that contribute to the development of plants grown in soil.

The use of pesticides carries important safety considerations for growers as well as those who will ingest the final product. As with fertilizers, there are many products that can be used on horticultural and food crops—yet there has been little research on the interaction of commercial pesticides with cannabis, despite the fact that cannabis is often incinerated and absorbed directly into lung tissue. For this reason, it’s advisable that growers not use commercial pesticides on cannabis plants: Even products labeled safe for food crops have *not* been tested for incineration and inhalation.

Pyrethrum sprays or neem oil are generally safe for controlling aphids and mites, but nothing except plain water should be sprayed or applied to plants for at least two weeks before harvest. Clean, plain water and the passage of time allow plants to metabolize the fertilizer residues remaining in their tissues.

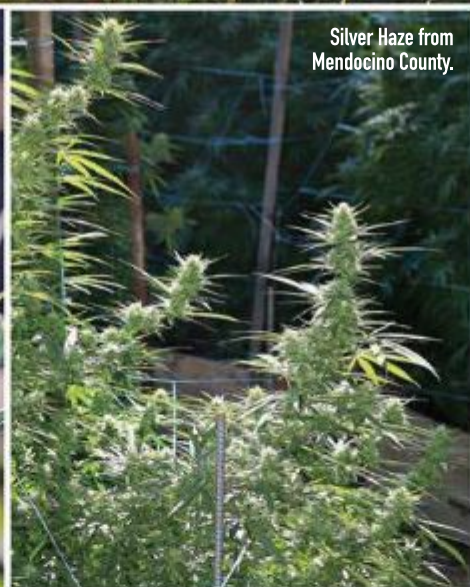
Remember, the contamination of buds with parasites or mold renders them worthless. Discard any such contaminated plants, clean the growroom and begin again. Elevations in indoor or outdoor humidity as harvest nears can quickly destroy thick flower clusters, since mold spores proliferate in warm, moist, dark environments. Do not allow water to penetrate colas that are near harvest.



Sunrise arrives on the last day before harvest.



Organically grown Purple Magic from Trinity County.



Silver Haze from Mendocino County.

Influence of Biotic Agents

Maintaining the health and vigor of plants is the greatest single step to preventing biological contamination. Careful observation during all stages of growth will aid in the early detection of problems. Growers should use a magnifying loupe of 10x to 16x to examine leaves, especially the undersides where aphids and mites often congregate.

Biological organisms like aphids, mites, molds and bacteria are ever-present in most indoor and outdoor environments. Indeed, they are part of the "food web" that contributes greatly to plant health—as long as these various creatures are in *dynamic* balance. (For example, spider mites—a common problem in indoor environments—pro-

liferate on the undersides of leaves in warm growrooms with little fluctuation in temperature.) The objective, indoors or out, is to maintain the "living equilibrium" of the growing environment.

This is more difficult in an indoor environment because the plants are not exposed to ever-changing conditions. Additionally, indoor environments often have inadequate ventilation, which allows heat and humidity to build up. These are perfect conditions for the growth and reproduction of many different pests, especially aphids, mites and molds. Any appearance of mold should immediately be addressed by removing the contaminated material and decreasing humidity; cannabis showing any signs of mold or pest contamination should *not* be consumed.

Growers should use cultural techniques and benign biological agents to rid their plants of such contamination. These include the use of clean soil; predatory mites for mite infestations or ladybugs for aphids; dipping plants in diluted soapsuds; aggressive spraying to wash off parasites; the use of neem oil, Safer Horticultural Soap or pyrethrum (*chrysanthemum*); and environmental changes that will stress the parasites. Maintaining a healthy indoor environment minimizes the chance of contamination and

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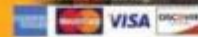
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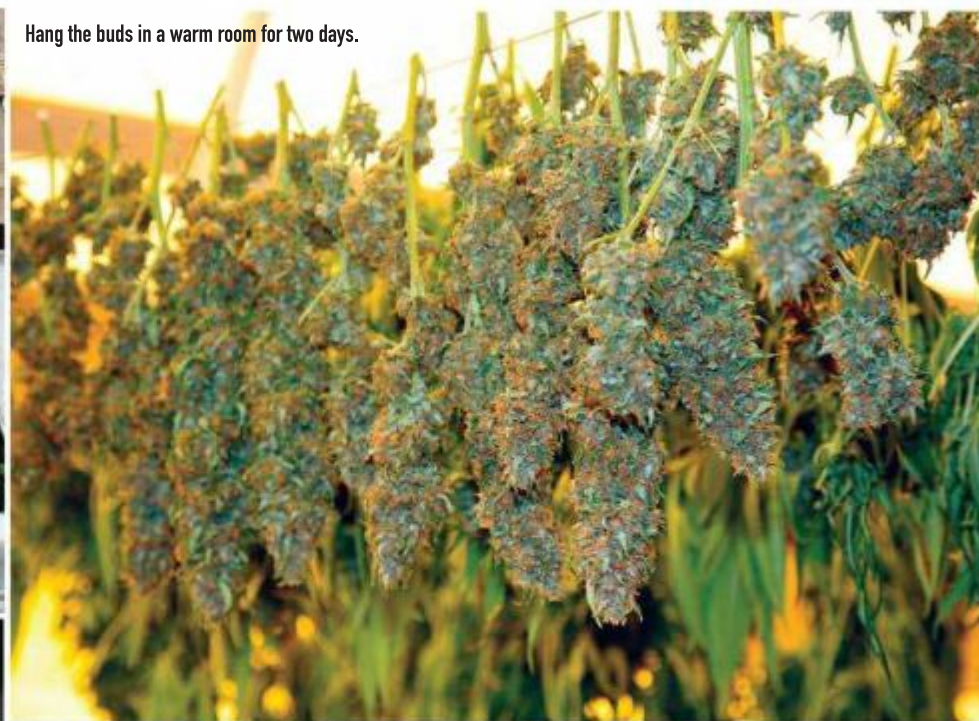
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Flowering, Preservation, Curing and Storage

Different strains mature at different times. Carefully monitor their progress, as morphological changes in the flowers indicate maturity. Generally, when two-thirds of the pistils have turned brown, the cola is ready to harvest. Outdoors, the sun intensity is evenly distributed throughout the open space between leaves; this means that large buds can develop anywhere if the sun's intensity isn't diminished by leaf shade. Indoors, the light intensity decreases by half as the distance from the lamp is doubled. This means that flowers closer to the artificial light source will have greater development than flowers further away.

Cannabis begins to flower when the length of the light cycle's dark period approaches 12 hours (a.k.a. "short-day" flowering). Indoor growers switch to a 12-hour dark period when they wish to induce flowering; outdoor growers either cover their plants with dark cloth or allow them to flower naturally as the late summer sun's exposure decreases. Different strains initiate flowering at different rates based on the latitude of each strain's historical origin. Female plants initiate the production of pistils, and these masses of pistils form the actual buds. The first pistils can be observed one week after flowering begins, usually in the branch internodes. By using a 10x loupe, it's easy to see the progress of floral development. This rate of de-

velopment increases over time, until layer upon layer of unfertilized flowers create thick colas.

There are a number of ways to dry and cure cannabis following harvest ("drying," of course, is the removal of water, while "curing" is the enzymatic and metabolic change that occurs in the presence of oxygen). Hang the flowers in a warm room for two days on 10-inch stems, then carefully trim them into popcorn-sized buds for their final drying and curing. Once the buds are trimmed to their final size, place them in a clean paper bag to finish up drying and curing. Drying buds should *never* be placed in an airtight bag or container, as there is still water present that will stimulate bacteria growth. Paper bags allow for a slow and continuous drying, down to about 15% moisture (e.g., the stems snap when bent).

Once most of the water is removed, the buds begin curing. Curing is a chemical-degradation process in which the acids in the buds combine with oxygen to form bases. This process, called decarboxylation, increases the potency and stability of the resins and changes the cannabinoids from non-psychoactive to psychoactive form. Heating or drying also eliminates the sharp hairs, called *cystoliths* (which is why raw or uncooked cannabis should not be eaten, as these cystoliths can be very irritating to the stomach). Curing allows the metabolic processes to continue using up enzymes, chlorophyll and nutrients in the

plant. The plant continues to "respire," giving off carbon dioxide.

Buds should be slowly cured until they change to a darker green and smell fresh. Many growers place mostly dry buds into large paper bags so that the tail end of the drying process becomes part of curing. You can store dried or cured cannabis for the short or long term—in fact, packing dried buds into clean, preheated 1-quart mason jars is an ideal way to store them: As the hot jar cools, the screw-on cap and lid become vacuum-sealed. Placing the jars in a cool, dark location will preserve the buds for many months. Freezing buds in freezer bags or containers also reduces biological activity to a very low level and prevents rotting. However, the buds still continue to have some biological activity, and year-old cannabis will lose potency and taste if improperly stored. As a reminder, write the strain and date on any cannabis that is being preserved.

All of these considerations should be common sense. Medicine—cannabis or otherwise—should be safe. Informed consumers will always select a top-quality product, whether it's beer, wine, food or a car. As the cannabis marketplace evolves, maintaining high standards for safety and health will be crucial in order to compete. ✨

Ed Glick, BS, RN (suspended), serves as clinic manager for the Voter Power Foundation/Oregon.

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BY JACK STARKS



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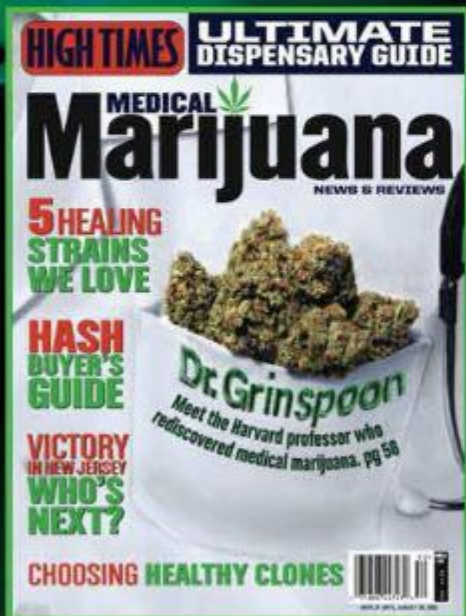
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MUNCHIES

THE LAST SUPPER

(Okay, okay, it's Ganja BBQ Shrimp—it just *feels* like the Last Supper) By Ashley Boudreaux

Shrimp and oysters are my birthright. But by the time this column appears, there probably won't be any luscious white gulf shrimp left at all—or Caminada Bay oysters, for that matter. How many years will pass before I have the pleasure of tasting one of our fresh oysters again—the essence of the gulf passing my lips like a cold kiss from the

ocean? Eating raw oysters is a rite of passage to adulthood here, and Christmas isn't Christmas without oyster dressing on the table. While this may be something which doesn't deeply concern that Palin twat or her drill-baby-drill crowd, the thought of it burdens my chest with a dull, tangible pain, as heavy and dark as the oil sludge that's coating and drowning our emblematic and noble pelicans. I want to cry, but I can't.

Fuck you, BP.

On weekends, my family used to drive over the 17th Street Canal to Bucktown, where the boats were moored after their trawling was done for the day, to buy fresh seafood. I always called the people of Bucktown "the fishing gypsies," because they'd drink and fuss and boat-hop in a very rowdy and intriguing fashion. Whatever will become of them now? What will become of us? There's a hole in the heart of the earth, and we're drowning in the devil's blood. And for what? So we can wrap our lives in plastic and throw it away after one use? So we can drive to hell and back for under three bucks a gallon? It's not worth it. And if anybody thinks it is, I'll gladly swing on over to your house with just *one* barrel of oil and dump it all over your vegetable garden. Then we can discuss it further. This is



about more than just pollution—it's about an entire way of life slowly choking under the untenable weight of corporate greed. This is about losses that money can never assuage.

Fuck you, BP.

As a child, I'd stand on a little stepstool next to my mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, helping them clean

those Bucktown shrimp, carefully observing their feminine and progressively more wrinkled hands deftly peeling, separating and absent-mindedly sorting while they gossiped and giggled about everything and nothing in particular. And now that I have a granddaughter of my own, that cultural chain has been broken before she was even old enough to stand on a stepstool beside us and learn what we long to teach her.

Fuck you, BP.

Although one BP executive noted that "Louisiana isn't the only place that has shrimp," somehow I doubt that busting open a bag of gray, freezer-burned shrimp from where-the-fuck-ever and throwing it in a pan is going to resonate poignantly in my granddaughter's memory in 30 or 40 years, the way my recollections of peeling shrimp at my granny's sink resonate with me today. What will she inherit from me now? Jewelry? Big deal. My dreams of cultural continuity have been dashed against bright orange (and useless) damn boom and replaced by recurring nightmares of dead, oiled alligators and marshlands devoid of all sound. Tony Hayward wants "his life back"? We want our way of life back.

Fuck you, BP. How are y'all going to pay for *that*? ✦

CANNABIS CREOLE SHRIMP

$\frac{3}{4}$ oz quality *sativa* trim or mid-grade shake, cleaned well

10 tbsp real butter (Irish butter if you can find it)

1 tbsp water

1 lb head-on, unpeeled shrimp, 10 to 16 (the numbers denote size—the smaller the number, the larger the shrimp, so basically get the largest shrimp you can find. And good luck with that.)

1 4-inch sprig of fresh rosemary

3 tbsp minced garlic

2 tbsp Cajun seasoning (Tony Chachere's is perfect)

2 tsp pepper, *coarsely ground* (note the italics!)

2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

1 six-pack of Abita Amber beer (you only need a third of one beer for the dish; the rest of the six-pack is for you)

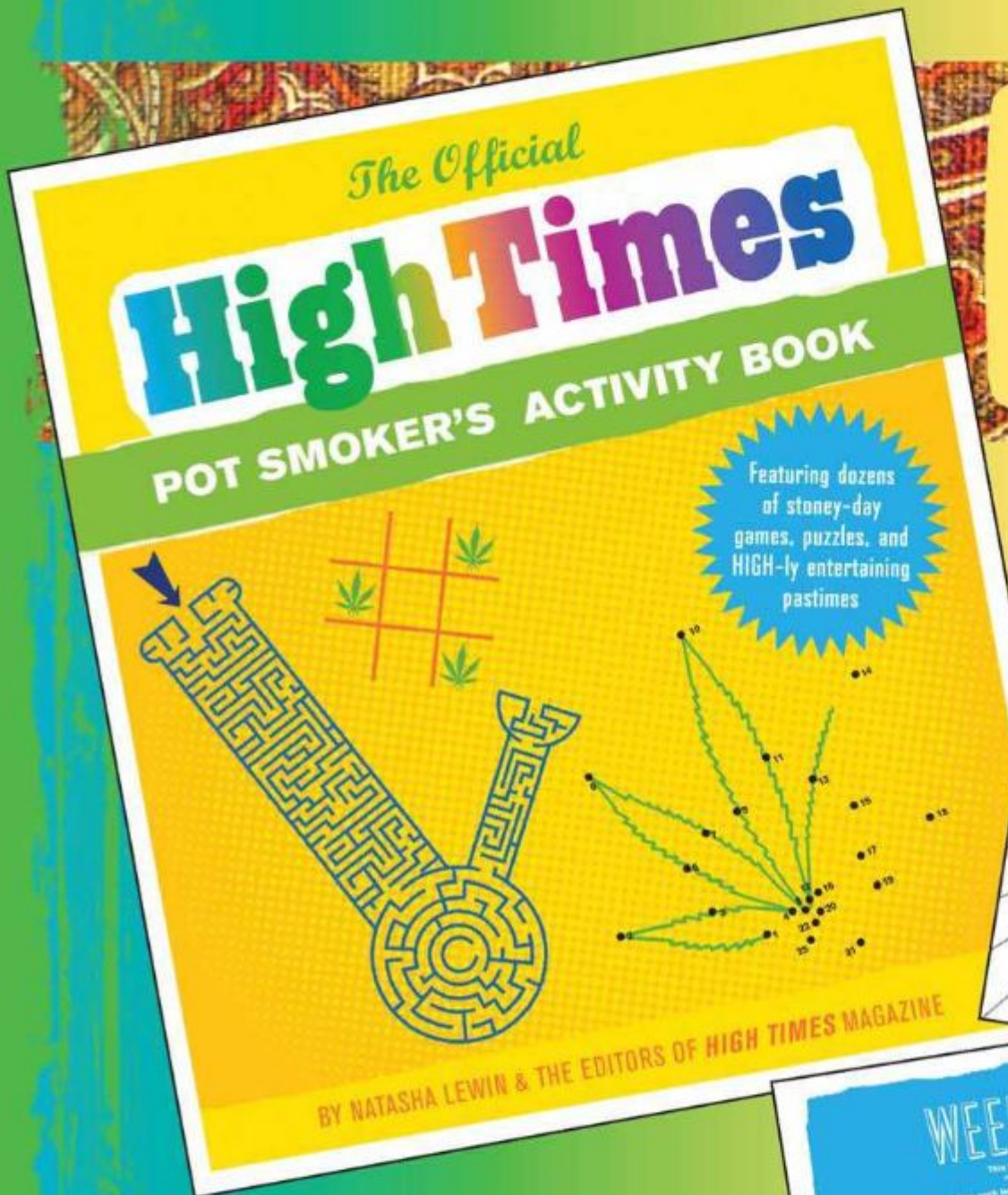
1 pinch of powdered cayenne pepper (optional)

1 loaf of crusty French bread (*not* optional)

In a double-boiler, combine the ganja, butter and water. Simmer lightly over low heat for approximately 45 minutes (if it starts smelling toasted, remove it immediately). Strain the ganja from the butter and return the butter to the fridge until it's completely solid and cold again.

In a deep, heavy skillet, combine everything except the butter and shrimp. Bring to a fast boil over high heat. Throw in the shrimp, tossing lightly until they turn pink on both sides. Reduce heat to medium. Add the butter in tablespoon-sized chunks. Once it's all melted, remove the pan from the heat and serve immediately, using French bread to sop up all the buttery juice (that's the best part). Stones three.

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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

A flexible trellis system keeps these growing buds close to the light source maximizing lumens while keeping heavy branches from hanging low or breaking under their weight.

GOT THAT ALTITUDE

I've been growing pot at 5,000 feet in the California Sierra Mountains for 20 years now. In 2006, I got my first case of powdery mildew (PM) on one plant, and in 2007, I had it a little worse. Finally, in 2008, I got it on most of my plants. I grow outdoors and in a greenhouse. I can control it in the greenhouse with a sulfur burner, but what can I do for outdoors? Also, do you think this mildew is some kind of government pot-eradication plan? And is it okay to smoke bud with just a little of this stuff on it?

Sierra Farmer

Dear SF,

Once again, a question about powdery mildew! My mentor and predecessor, Jorge Cervantes, and I were just discussing how this has become the most frequent question we're asked, supplanting spider mites for the top spot. PM is certainly an issue, and part of the problem is our reliance on clones instead of growing more plants from seed. Clones all carry the same genetics—including susceptibilities and resistances—but many people seem to share clones without realizing that they're spreading pests and diseases. On the other hand, if you find cultivars that are more resistant to molds, share them with neighbors to reduce local blights.

There are many sprays and formulas on the

market claiming to reduce or control PM, but it's quite difficult to do anything about plants outdoors. As far as your government pot-eradication theory goes, I wouldn't put it past them, but I've seen no actual evidence to support the claim.

As for smoking buds with PM on it, I would avoid doing so at all costs. Medicinal marijuana patients with compromised immune systems in particular should never consume cannabis with any mold. Use a loupe or a microscope to detect it (PM looks like fuzzy white tangled spikes to differentiate from glandular trichomes that look like clear tiny mushrooms). Any moldy pot should be disposed of immediately.

CLAY POT

Is it possible to grow marijuana in clay ground—and if so, any tips on doing so? Thanks for any help you can give me on this matter.

Sheila 419

Dear Sheila,

Growing in a clay soil comes with several challenges, but it can be accomplished through an aggressive compost-mixing program over time. Clay soil is severely compacted, making it difficult for roots to spread, and it also retains water, creating soggy conditions that slow and rot root systems before they have a chance to recover. On the bright side, clay soil contains plenty of minerals

as well as macro- and micronutrients that can be released when the soil is properly amended.

To amend the soil, add a heaping pile of compost (5 or 6 inches at least) and work it in as deeply as possible with a shovel or pitchfork. Repeat this process for several years and you'll find the soil becoming much more porous and fertile.

After those first few years of amendment, shift over to "sheet compost" by piling a few inches of compost and manure on top every fall after you harvest, then let the worms do the digging for you. They'll come up for a tasty treat and then dig back down for the winter, leaving you with well-tilled organic loam, dark with minerals and brimming with beneficial microbial activity and life.

CARBON DIOXIDE AT NIGHT

Should my CO₂ only be on when the lights and fans are off? How long should it run in general?

Big Bruce

Dear BB,

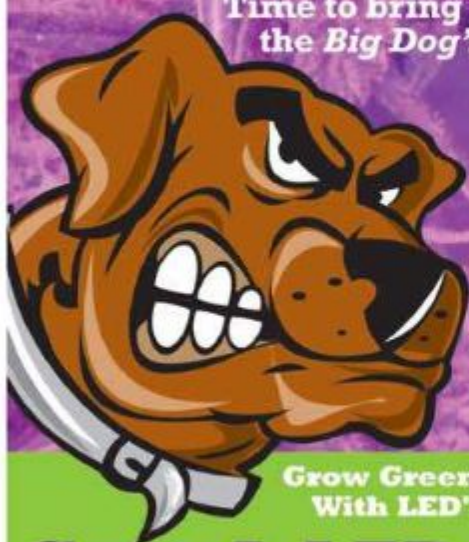
The only way to truly maximize your use of CO₂ requires understanding the plants' needs as well as getting a CO₂ monitor and regulator system so that you know your levels and can control the gas without wasting it or under-using it.

Plants can only take in CO₂ during the day, so there's no reason to use carbon dioxide during the time your lights are off. Photosynthesis slows



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DEAR DANKO

This seedling, started
in rockwool, is ready
to transplant into its
vegging container.



and stops in the absence of CO₂, so it's best to keep it at the recommended level of 1,200 to 1,400 ppm (as long as your lights, water and nutrients can keep up with the rapid use of gas) to increase your yield up to 30%. Set your system to dispense CO₂ during the day, and only when levels fall below optimum (plants are able to take in more when they're larger and flowering).

Place exhaust fans near the top of the room to take out hot, stale air and use your controller to shut them off when the CO₂ is running (unless you have problems with heat, in which case just keep venting). Because CO₂ is heavier and cooler than regular air, dispense it from above the canopy and let it fall to your plants using tubing with plenty of holes poked in it. Oscillating fans will keep the gas moving, so it's okay to leave them on when supplementing with CO₂.

STARTING SEEDS IN ROCKWOOL
What's the best way to start seeds in rockwool?

Mine sprout and then quickly stretch out, turn yellow and die. This has happened too many times to count. I'm at my wits' end because the hydroponic growbox I bought only works with rockwool, and I can't even get off the ground. The seedlings get plenty of light and moisture.

Milwaukee Bud Brewer

Dear MBB,
Rockwool ships with a high pH and must be soaked in a solution of water and pH down for at least 24 hours in order to neutralize it to a level healthy for cannabis seedlings to thrive in. If you've already done this, then perhaps your seedlings are too far from their light source. Lower your pH and raise your plants to a better light level and you should have more success with your youngsters.

Ultimately, however, I try to discourage the use of rockwool. There are better alternatives to this environmentally unfriendly plant medium, such as coco coir and others. They retain plenty

of water and air for the roots, but they also biodegrade instead of sitting in landfills forever. The fibers and dust from rockwool are also a health risk, so if you're hell-bent on using it, always wet it down immediately upon opening the bags and wear a dust mask at all times around dry rockwool.

METER MAID

How do I get my pH from 8 to 7?

Lovely Rita

Dear Rita,

The simple answer is that you use a pH-down product, but the important thing is to do it incrementally to avoid a huge fluctuation that will shock your already-hurting plants. Dilute the pH down according to the directions and add it sparingly at first. Measure the pH of your mix as well as the water that drains out the bottom of your container. The pH should slowly come down and stabilize at your desired acidity/alkalinity level, and the plants will bounce back.

If you're not interested in purchasing a product for this purpose, you can substitute vinegar to bring the pH down and baking soda to bring it up. Both should be heavily diluted with water before adding to your mix—and keep in mind that if you use baking soda regularly, it will cause a buildup of sodium that can harm your roots and plants.

FLOWERING IN MAY

I've grown a number of different clone strains indoors under 18 hours of light from March 1 and then transplanted them outside on May 2. The plants were 2 to 3 feet and in the vegetative stage. Ten days later, I noticed that all of them had started to flower. I was told that if I planted them outdoors at the beginning of May, they would stay in the vegetative stage, and flowering would occur in August/September. This is what I wanted (I live in the San Francisco area). For the last week, I've supplemented the daylight with outdoor lights so that the plants are getting 18 hours of light and six hours of darkness, but they're still flowering. My question is, will the 18/6 photoperiod ultimately cause the plants to revert back to the vegetative stage? And if they do, what's the first indication that flowering has stopped and they are back into the vegetative stage? Also, at what point can I change from the 18 hours of light to outdoor sunlight? Today (May 19), the length of visible light is 15 hours and 16 minutes. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Bud

Dear Bud,

Sounds to me like your plants are not getting enough light during the vegetative stage of growth and are flowering when they should still be adding leaves and branches. Plants need at least 14 hours of light per day in order to stay in their vegetative stage. It's also possible that you're unwittingly growing auto-flowering plants, which bloom at a certain height regardless of their light schedule.

So, yes, your plants should revert back to their vegetative stage after a few weeks under the 18/6 light schedule—but if you are growing auto-flowering plants, you'll be forced to harvest whatever you can get in 60 to 70 days from planting and start over with regular seeds or clones



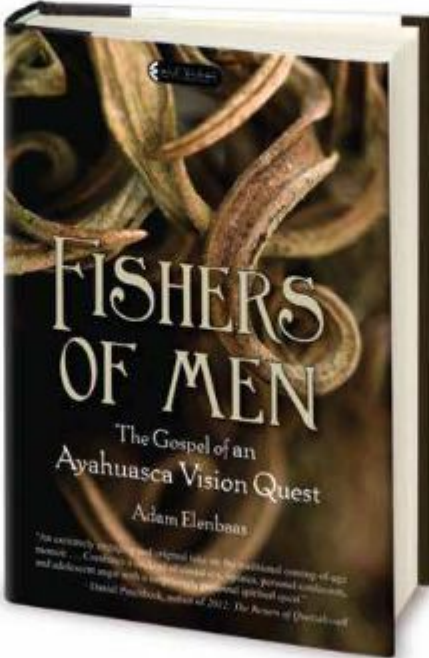
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next year. Your signs that the plants are reverting back to their vegetative stage will be the fact that new growth includes branches and fan leaves and also that the flowering has stopped.

A PROPER TRIM

What's the best way to trim buds after harvesting to get them perfect?

Long Beach Mike

Dear Mike,

For the best trim, use your fingers to pull off the biggest fan leaves, making sure to get them from the base so that you don't end up with excess lumber. Then, using a comfortable pair of scissors, cut off all leaves protruding from the bud, as close as you're willing to go. Either way, any leaf material not completely covered with trichomes should wind up in your "sugar trim" pile and promptly used to make hashish. Compost the fan leaves or use them to make pot butter.

Once the buds are properly trimmed, remember the importance of a good cure in order to get the best flavor and burn. Jar up the buds after drying and let them sweat, opening and shutting the container periodically to let the remaining moisture evaporate. Only then will your trimmed buds be truly perfect.

WHORLED PHYLLOTAXY

Some of my plants are doing something really weird: Instead of two branches coming out of the stem, I get three individual branches. Is this common?

NORML AudioStash Listener

Dear NAL,

Trilateral branching, also known as "whorled phyllotaxy," is a genetic mutation (or modification, if you prefer) of the chromosomes, common mostly among South American *sativa*-dominant strains. It's a benign mutation, meaning there's nothing to worry about, and can actually result in bigger harvests under the proper conditions. Consider yourself lucky, as most other genetic mutations aren't nearly as harmless.

BURNING LEAF

I'm an outdoor grower, and this is my first half-assed attempt at an indoor grow. I have a small garden using soil, and I've been noticing that some of the edges of the leaves are drying up. I'm sure there's something I'm doing wrong, but I don't know what. What should I do to get me through until I can get a better setup?

Grace

Dear Grace,

Sounds to me like you have a slight overfertilization problem. Many times, when outdoor growers move inside, they tend to continue feeding as they were. The problem is, all those salts aren't draining and instead build up in the containers. Over time, these buildups become toxic, and the first sign of nutrient burn is always a drying-up or "burning" of the tips and edges of leaves. Left untreated, this burning will spread to the extreme detriment of your plant, eventually resulting in death.

Overfertilized plants should be flushed with plain water immediately. Take your containers to a tub or large sink and run water in an amount at least five times the volume of the containers through your mix, making sure that much of it runs out the bottom. Now that the mix is flushed, cut back on feedings to one quarter or one half of the recommended strength until you see new growth appear. At this point, continue feeding but always dilute more, and be aware that indoor plants accumulate nutrients more quickly than plants grown outdoors.

CANNABUTTER

Hello and thank you for the many years of helpful advice through your publication! My question: Does cannabis need to be dried in order to make cannabutter? Can I use fresh-cut buds? If it needs to be dried, how long?

Maximo

Dear Maximo,

You can use fresh trim to make cannabutter. Simply add the trim to your butter in a double-boiler with water. Heat it slow and low for a min-

imum of two hours, adding water as necessary and stirring frequently. Occasionally, take the froth off the top of the butter mixture and, once it's done, screen out the leaf using a coffee filter, then let the butter cool in the fridge. You now have tasty and stony cannabutter that you can use on practically anything. I like just plain old green toast for a simple snack with a kick.

MALE PLANT POTENCY

What role does a male plant have in determining the potency of its offspring? I like to breed outdoor plants. My males have always been selected on the basis of genetic background, smell, size and density of the staminate flower clusters, overall vigor and earliness. Are there any other ways for simply and quickly selecting males in the field to increase the potency of future generations?

Johnny B. Goode

Dear Johnny,

Seems to me your male-plant selection criteria are great and much better thought-out than most amateur bud breeders. Breeding outdoors can be difficult due to environmental factors such as wind and stray pollen. The best thing to do is to isolate a branch of your female plants early on in the flowering stage, pollinate it with your chosen male, and keep it covered for a day or two with a paper bag to avoid spreading seeds throughout your crop and harvesting only heavily seeded buds. You can wash off any remaining pollen after a few days and then, when your plants finish flowering and are fully mature, dry out the branches and shake and sift out the seeds for future plantings. Good luck and congratulations for adding to the cannabis gene pool. Be sure to share your discoveries with trusted friends who grow!

FLOWERING INTERRUPTED

My buds started blooming a month and a half ago and they still have only a few white hairs on them. I can't figure why it's taking so long. I did stun them with lighting about three weeks ago - the lights keep on turning on during the time they were scheduled to stay off. That happened only for a few days when I caught it. They do look very healthy and bushy. I was watering them with way to low of a pH for about two weeks and just two days ago I started at 6.0 to 6.5. So I was hoping they are just stunted from all that abuse. Do you think that is why they are taking so long to bloom?

Kris

Dear Kris,

The interruption of your dark cycle with light is to blame for your lack of flower formation. Cannabis plants need 12 hours of completely uninterrupted darkness in order to bloom and any shock of light during the "night" period will cause the plant to revert back to vegetative growth, causing quite a setback to your schedule. Combined with your prior issue with the acidity of your feeding solution, these problems have slowed your plant growth. Avoid any further interruptions and always monitor the PH and your plants should bounce back and begin flowering once again. ✨

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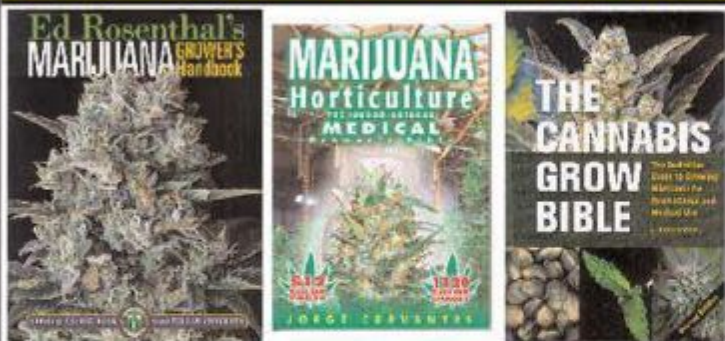
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Controlling the air movement, temperature, humidity and overall atmosphere in your cannabis cultivation facility is vital to successful harvests of potent pot. Canadian correspondent Erik Biksa visits a federally authorized garden and reports on how the growing environment is regulated and manipulated for maximum efficiency.

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Excitement is building for the 23rd Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. Cultivation Editor Nico Escondido got there first to visit some gardens in the heart of the city and tour the government labs that cultivate medical marijuana. Don't miss this exclusive, photo-driven feature and discover why Amsterdam has been the hub of getting high for decades!

CHANGE OF SCENERY FOR COLORADO GREENERY

The playing field for marijuana has just shifted again in the Rocky Mountain State, with a new bill signed into law that calls for more government oversight. How is the Colorado cannabis community handling the changes? Executive Editor Dan Skye investigates.

THE ORGANIC CLOSET

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LEGALIZATION ON THE HORIZON

This November, California citizens will vote on a tax-and-regulate initiative that could free the weed once and for all in the nation's largest state—but not without first overcoming some serious opposition. West Coast Editor David Bienenstock investigates all sides of this historic debate on the eve of the biggest election in cannabis history.

CANNABIS CANDIDATE 2012

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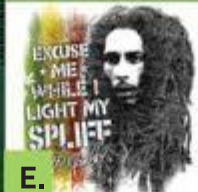
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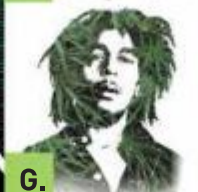
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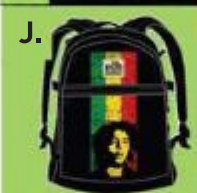
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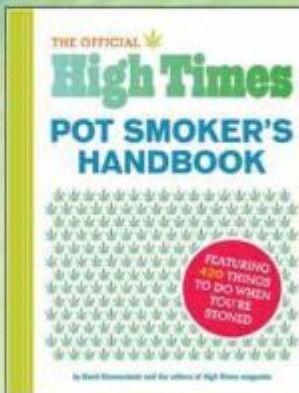


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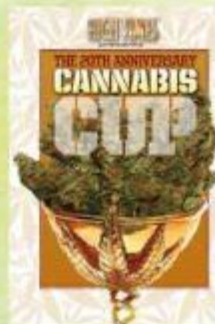
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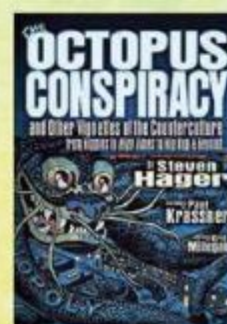
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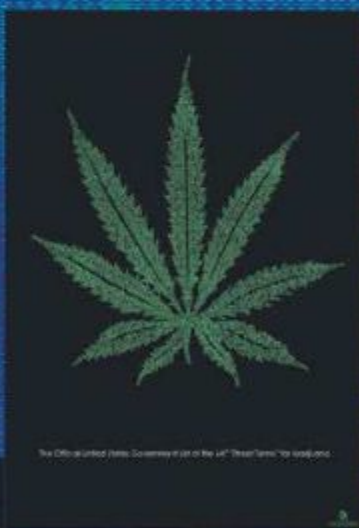
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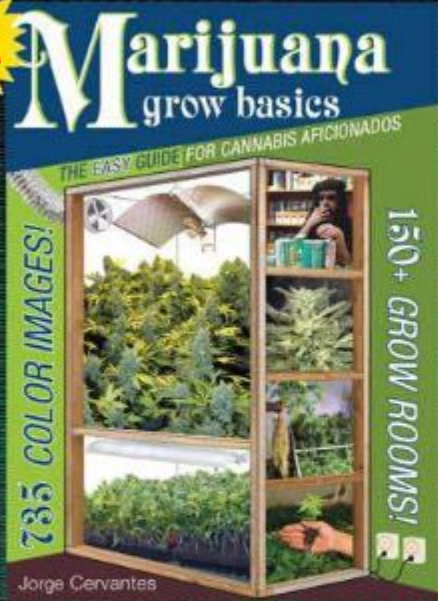
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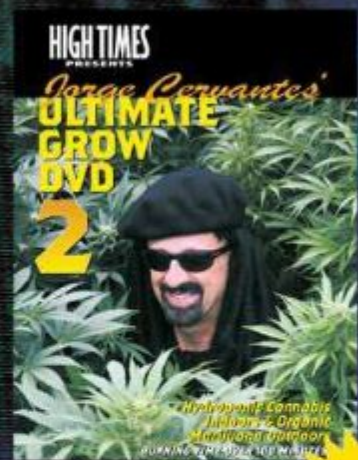
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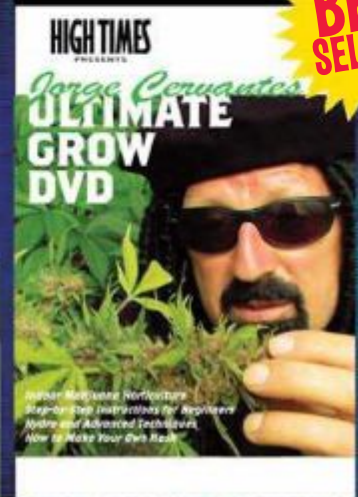
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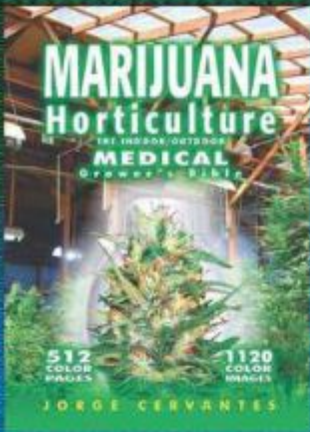
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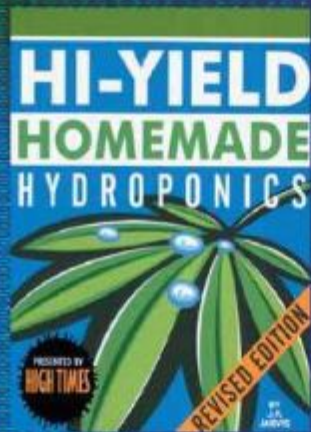
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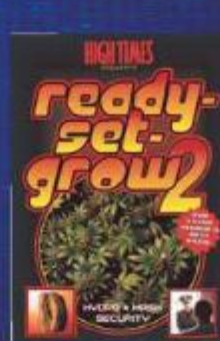
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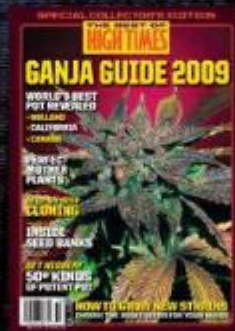
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21 **BRUCE**
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31 **MUNCHIES**
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32 the best thing about having a cat is that whenever you want some pussy, all you have to do is grab the cat and there you are.

3 **HIGH TIMES 1st MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP**

12 **MUSCLEWEEK**
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4 **BONG TV Live**
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13 **STAND WITH THE ACLU**
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22 **LOCOS song "ROLL IT UP"**
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24 **GETTIN' MY BLACK BELT!**

33 **Saloonatics**
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14 **Retired Greyhounds**
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15 **INCREIBLE**
I will eat you!

25 **WHAT DO YOU CALL A VIRGIN ON A WATERBED?**
A CHERRY FLOAT!

34 **Grow Your GANJA**

on government land so the government scumbags will have to arrest themselves!

6 **FABULOUS FURKY FREAKBROS**

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17 **WILLIE NELSON For PREZ in 2012**

26 **RE-legalization!**
Sign 1-1068 and legalize Washington state for everyone!!

35 **Have you seen Mike Hunt?**

7 **The 1st Annual TACOMA HEMPFEST**
on June 26!

18 **420 Nation**

17 **WILLIE NELSON For PREZ in 2012**

27 **SUPER HIGH**
SOMETHING GOOD THIS YEAR!

36 **BALLOT**
I'm high
I'm cheerful
I'm sleepy

37 There should be an all-steroid sport competition called the **OLYMPICKS**

8 **RETARD RIOT**

18 **420 Nation**

20 **Basil Wolverton**

28 **Swamin'**
BIRTH 9/9/98. AWAZED TO WOMEN IN BASSER LANE. AND MORE OR MORE LOW CONCENTRATIONS. WATER. AND DOWN CELLINGS. LIVED IN THE STONY SPRINGS. I HAD MYSELF FOR MANY YEARS. LIKE FOR A DAY. I DID. I DID.

38 **SUN STONE 2012**

39 **CHILDREN IN THE DARK CAUSE ACCIDENTS. ACCIDENTS IN THE DARK CAUSE CHILDREN!**

10 **\$5 FINE IF U WHINE**

19 **STOP CALIFORNIA FROM APPROVING TOXIC PESTICIDES**
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29 **Are you Out of What you're Into?**

40 **FUCK 'EM IF THEY CAN'T TAKE A TOKE!**

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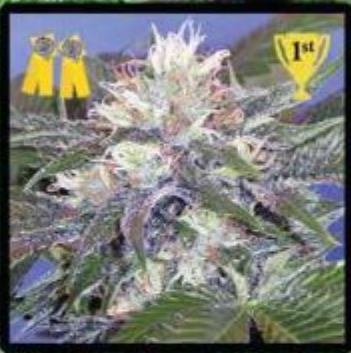
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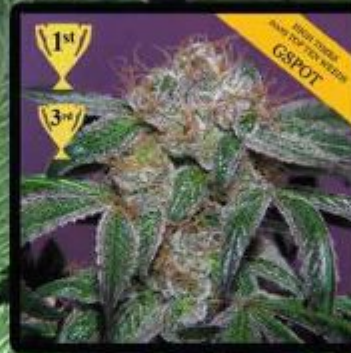
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Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
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Jinn	\$85
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Olympic	\$62
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