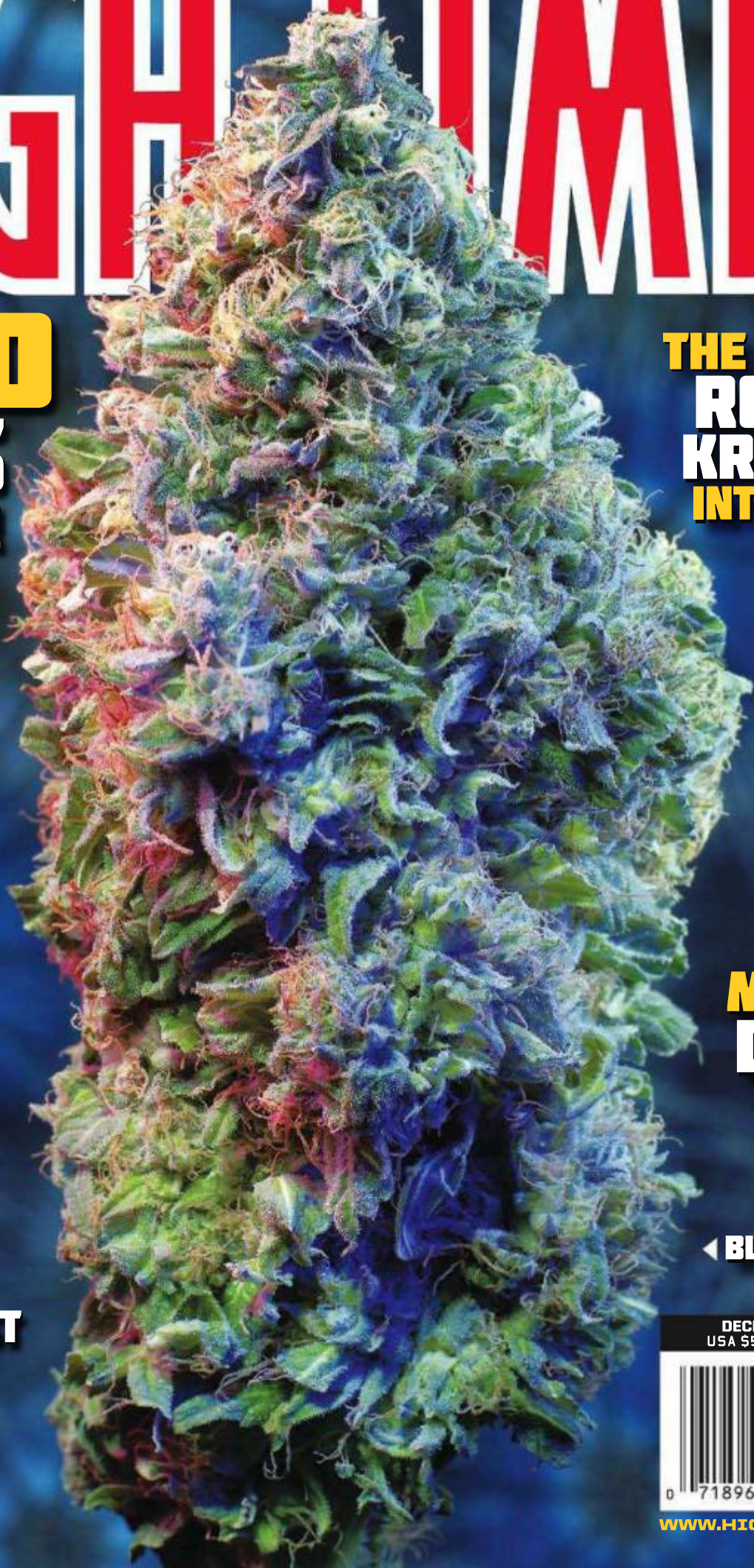


GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

HIGH TIMES

DEC 4/10



TOP 10 STRAINS OF THE YEAR

THE DOORS ROBBY KRIEGER INTERVIEW

INDOOR TENT GROWING

KID CUDI

- LIGHTING
- NUTRIENTS
- AIR FLOW
- HARVEST

MGMT

LEGAL BUDS ON THE EAST COAST

MEXICO DRUG WAR CHAOS

POT AND THE NBA

◀ **BLUE DREAM**

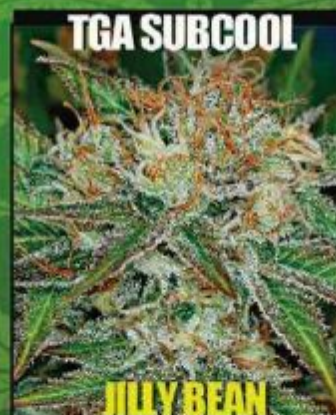
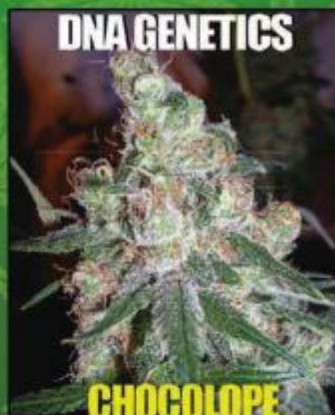
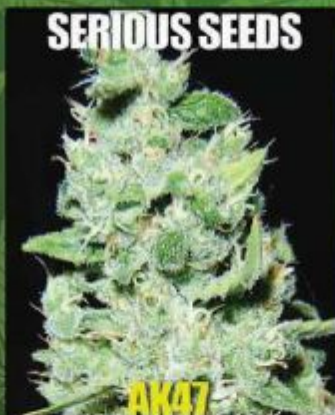
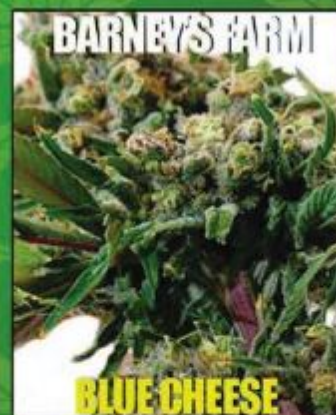
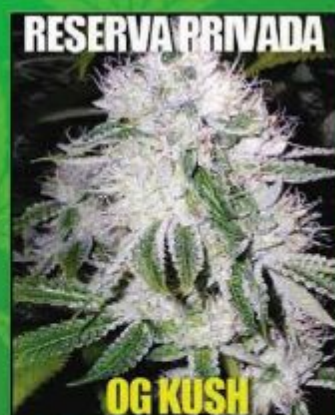
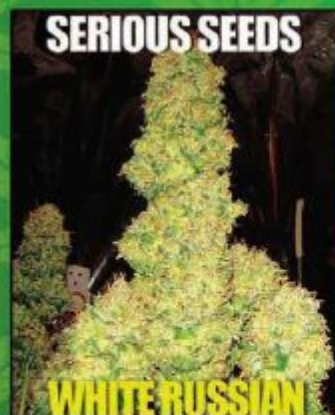
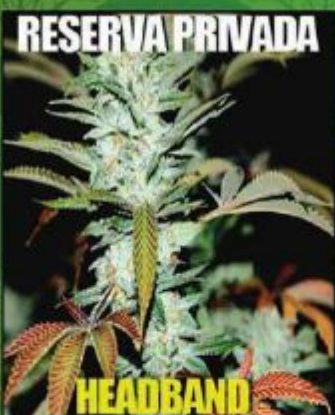
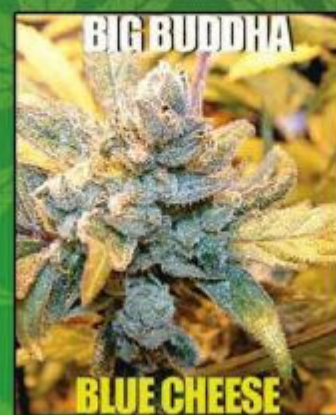
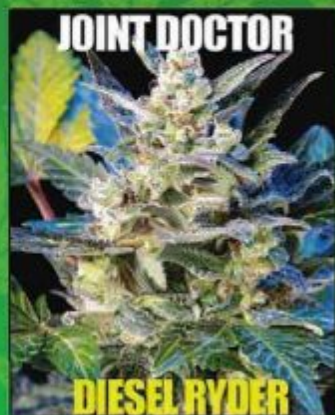
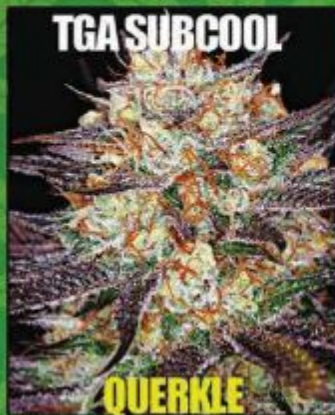
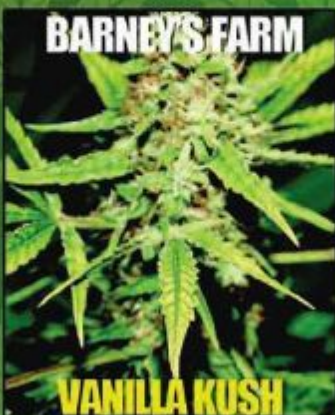
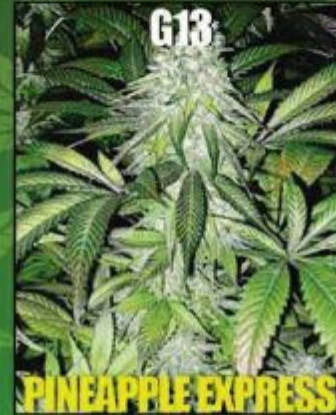
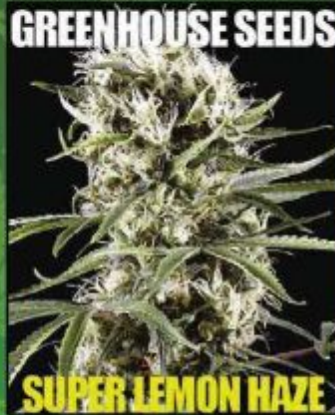
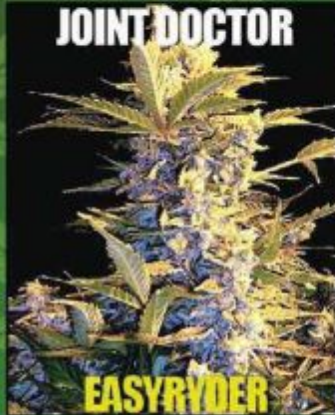
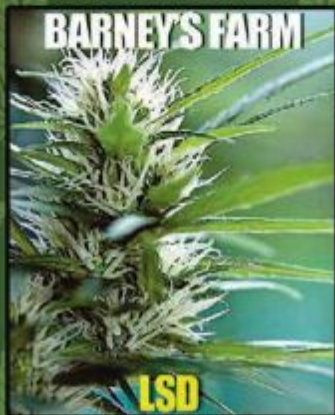
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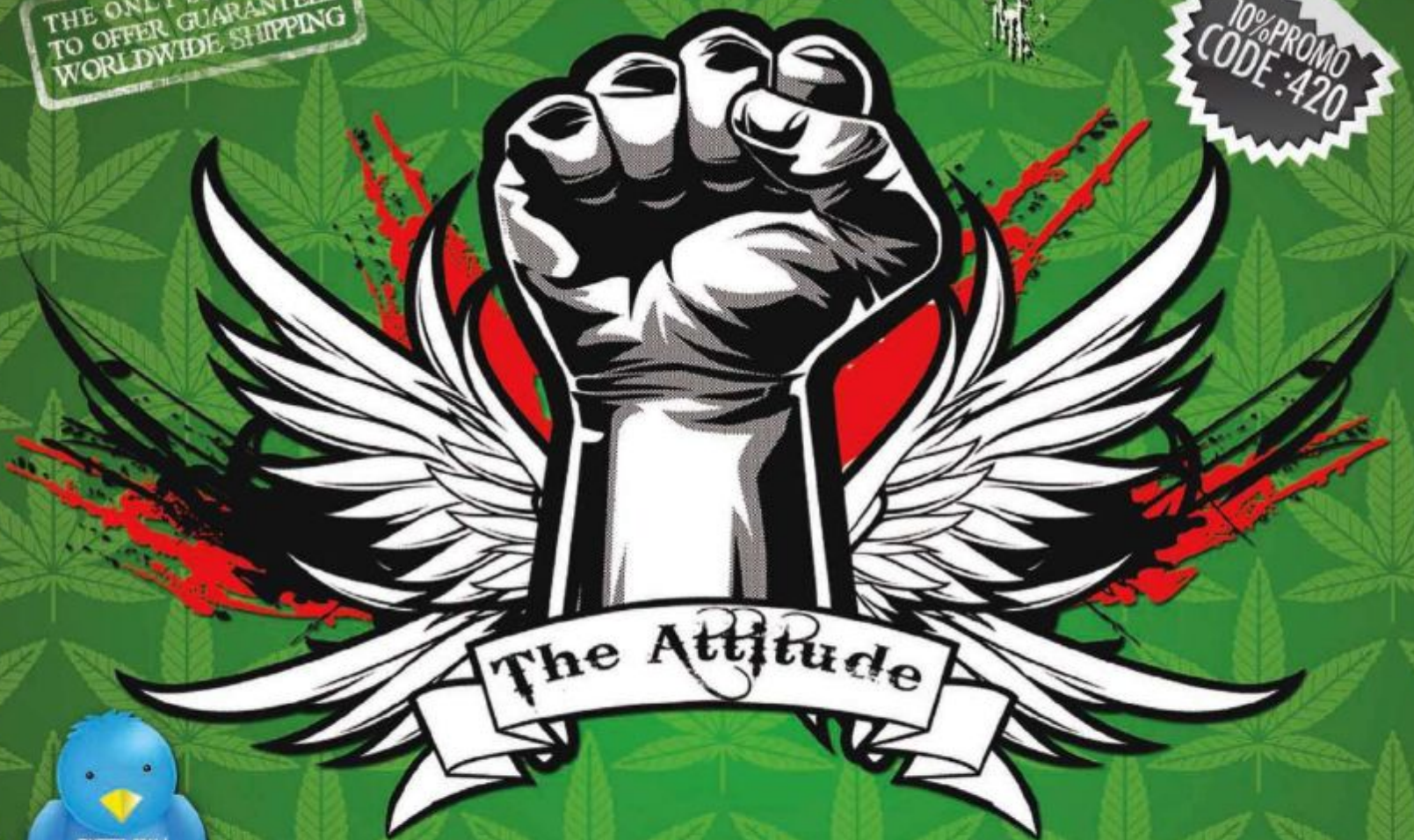
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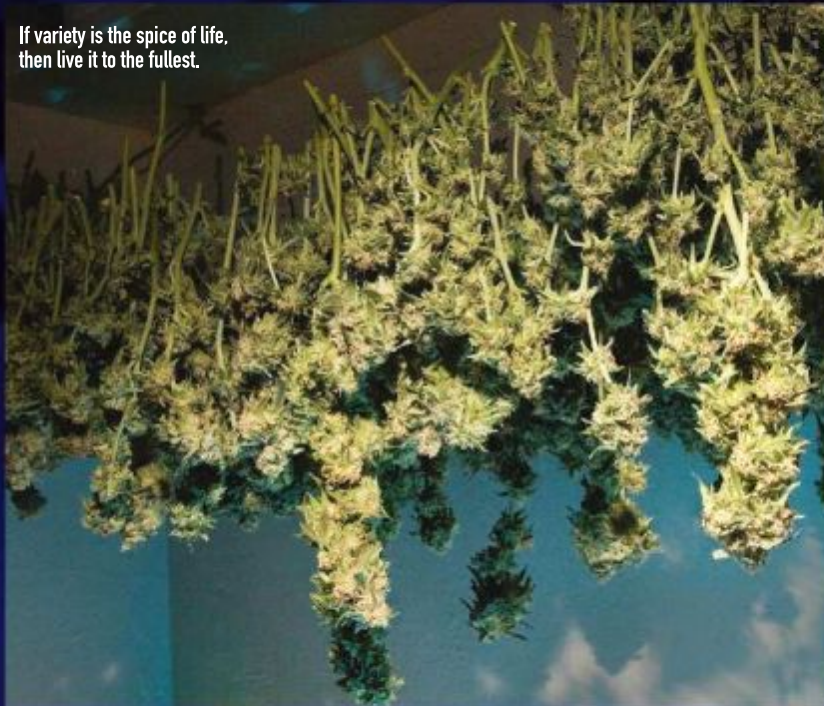
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60 STRAINS TO PLEASE YOUR PALATE

As we approach the end of this incredibly productive year for cannabis-law reform here in the US, and enjoy increased awareness of the plant's potential around the world, it's time to celebrate what's been growing and how much we've gained. Our annual Global Harvest Report and Top 10 Strains of the Year issue pays homage to the highs of 2010!

I've overseen the selection of our Top 10 Strains of the Year six times now. That's 60 award-winning strains I've had the honor to sample and savor. I don't take that task lightly: Growers can't afford to waste their time and effort on sub-standard buds. Choosing the proper seeds to pop requires knowing how to separate the hype from the truth. And with new "breeding" companies sprouting up daily, the gene pool is often tricky to navigate. So when we make our selections, we recognize the labor and skill that goes into creating these wonders.

In other cultivation news, our Global Harvest Report highlights various cities and regions around the world and details how and what they're growing, and what kind of yields are being realized internationally. Plus, cultivation correspondent Harry Resin discusses the unique benefits of grow tents, which provide portability and stealth for your indoor garden.

Also in this issue: Dan Skye reports from Rhode Island, a tiny state with a big medical-marijuana heart. Bobby Black interviews the Doors' legendary guitarist and songwriter (and med-pot patient), Robby Krieger. And modern musical marijuana visionaries Kid Cudi, MGMT and Trash Talk round out our end-of-the-year cannabis coverage.

But while we're celebrating the good news, let's not forget that the Drug War rages on—especially in Mexico. Correspondent Malcolm Beith files a horrific report on the carnage south of the border.

Unfortunately, that's the current state of the cannabis world: lots of celebration tempered by bloodshed and tragedy.

The beat goes on

Danny Danko
Senior Cultivation Editor

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34 HIGH TIDE IN RHODE ISLAND

BY DAN SKYE

In September, the state of Rhode Island authorized the opening of several medical-marijuana dispensaries. Here's a look at how the smallest state in the US deals with big problems by relying on community and compassion.

42 THE 2010 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

The HIGH TIMES Global Harvest Report is compiled annually from our correspondents around the world. With a dozen countries and states covered, the 2010 Report includes exotic nations such as South Africa, Morocco and Australia, as well as regions throughout the US, Canada and Mexico. Strains, grow conditions, yield reports and much more are included in this month's top feature, keeping growers around the globe in the know about their fellow comrades!

58 TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2010

The HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department "researched" all year long to bring you our choices for the best marijuana varieties in the world. Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko reveals the year's finest cannabis, all award winners sure to go down in history among the greatest pot strains of all time.

78 MADNESS IN MEXICO

BY MALCOLM BEITH

South of the border, a drug war rages: It's the Mexican military against the cartels, and the carnage worsens by the day. Is there anything the ordinary American citizen can do to help? You bet—buy American!

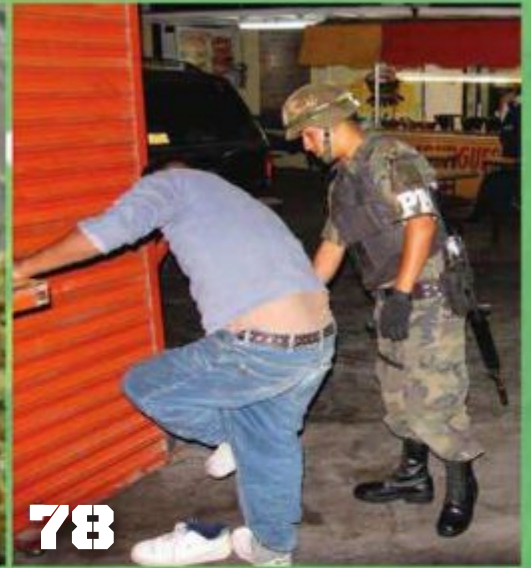
84 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: ROBBY KRIEGER

BY BOBBY BLACK

Transcendent and timeless, psychedelic and poetic—the music and mystique of the Doors epitomized the hedonism and rebellion of the late '60s and forever transformed American consciousness and culture. Now, for the first time ever, the band's legendary guitarist, Robby Krieger, talks to HIGH TIMES about music, Morrison and, of course, marijuana.

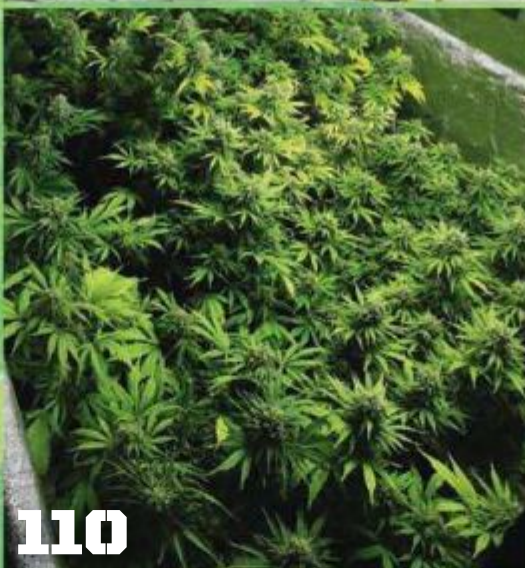
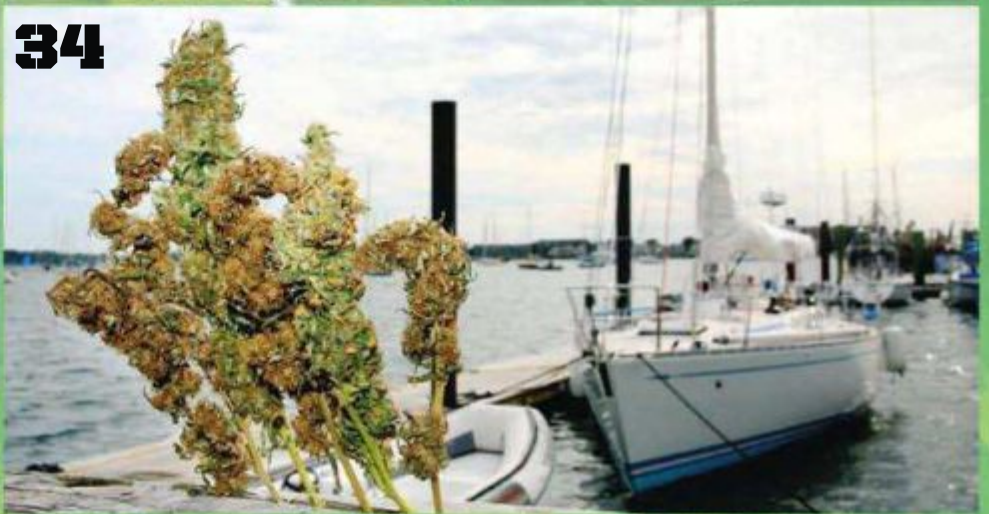


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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO
Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; SSDP Report; Introduction to Tent Growing, by Harry Resin; Dear Danko.

126 NEXT MONTH

132 POT 40

COVER: FREEBIE STRAIN: BLUE DREAM
CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE STRAIN: JACK HERER

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FEEDBACK

MY MAINE MAN

Just a short note to say I really enjoyed the story on the "Strains of Maine." Very interesting. Intelligent growers doing amazing things—and, of course, it was very well written. Must have been fun!

Aloha,
Ray

IT'S NOT OK-2

My favorite bud is the dense, red Thai buds with huge seeds. I want to see worldwide legalization so we can get Thai buds again. They cane you in Thailand if they catch you with buds, I heard.

Also, K2 probably isn't very good. I know a bunch of really dangerous herbs you could put in a smoking mixture, but people would get sick and maybe die from a negative reaction.

Peace,
MN

LEGALITIES, SCHMEGALITIES

Pot smoking *is* legal in Alaska, though with some restrictions, and I think an article explaining once and for all what that means is a good idea.

It's not legal, for instance, to stand on your front porch and smoke a doobie. And it's not legal if you smoke it in any room in your house where a policeman—or, theoretically, anyone else—can see you from the street. Nor is it legal if you have more than the accepted amount for personal consumption.

But it is totally legal if you're smoking inside your home in a room that can't be seen from the street. Smoking is legal if you're totally outside the realm of hurting another person. But what that means can get a little confusing—that's why I think an article clarifying the rules surrounding the only legal recreational (as opposed to medicinal) smoking allowed in the US would really serve HT readers well.

Sarah

AWESOME EDITORS

Hats off to Chris Simunek and HT! I buy your magazine because you stay true to your roots. I have been down for the cause for 30 years now. Tom would be proud!

Vtext

ROBERT DOWNEY DOWNER

Hello, HIGH TIMES. In your October issue, you put Robert Downey Jr. on blast for calling pot an "ambition crusher" and referring to it as "insidious." I thought this was bogus as well, until you quoted him saying, "Pot, for me, is just take the sharpest table" ... and you know the rest. Anyway, did you get that beginning part of the quote? The two words he prefaced his argument with, which were spoken to let the listener know the following is to be taken as an opinion: "for me"?

However, Ashley Boudreaux's Munchies column entitled "The Last Supper" was, for me, pure genius. And I would like to close my letter by saying: Fuck you, BP!

Just John



POT 40 MARRIAGE

Well, thank you very much for the chance to propose in the Pot 40. She said YES!—and she also thought it was absolutely wild that I was able to do that. The best part is, this was our first subscription issue, and I wasn't even home! Thanks again!

John

GOVERNMENT GROW

Over the years, I've read different articles about the origins of G-13. My first encounter with G-13 was back in the late '70s. I'd been smoking bud for about 10 years at that point and been involved in "the business" for about five of those years. My friends and I were offered this really incredible weed, but the price was outrageous for the time.

We were told that G-13 was initially an experimental pot developed by the Canadian federal government. Now, during the early to late '70s, the Canadian government was conducting experiments with marijuana—but not the sinister mind-control experiments that I've read about. The Canadian government was conducting some of the first attempts at breeding for potency for medical use. They had an experimental farm outside the capital, Ottawa, and were crossbreeding for medical research. My contact told me that friends of his had broken into the farm at night and stolen either cuttings or seeded plants that were mature. The batch they stole happened to be called G-13 on the tag at the farm for this particular crop. That was what I was told back in 1977-'78 about the origins of G-13.

I never gave the story much thought for many years, but in the past six years I've had a serious downturn in my health and I now take medical marijuana for pain, among other problems. I didn't realize the mystery behind the G-13 strain until I started to think about finding some seeds and maybe growing some. I also produce my own medi-bud, since I can't afford the \$600 to \$800 a month for medication. Imagine my surprise when I started reading about the supposed origins of G-13. I don't know if anyone has gotten any solid info from Uncle Sam about this Mississippi link, but there is data available through the Freedom of Information Act here in Canada, and I'll bet some enterprising young sleuth could find out the truth and put the mystery to rest forever. All they would have to do is make an application to Health Canada for records pertaining to marijuana-growth experimentation during the 1970s. According to my friend's story, their theft was discovered and recorded, so it may be in the archives—who knows?

processoroftruth

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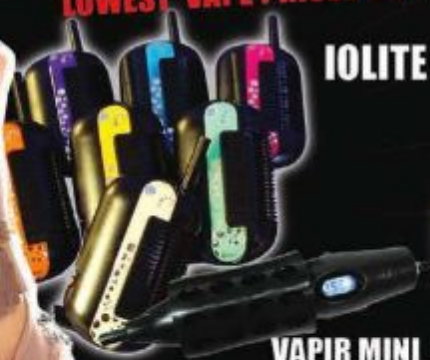
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GROWIN' DOWN THE ROAD

Anyone who's ever grown has feared, at one time or another, that the local authorities might find out about their grow op. And when paranoia sets in, the first thing anyone usually does is break everything down and vamoose.

Well, those days are now over. New from Hydrobotanical Engineering, the GrowBot 5300 is a fully automated, turnkey grow op housed in a discreet, um, 53-foot *semi-trailer*. Basically, it's a fugitive's dream (since fugitives generally aren't known for their fear of breaking the law)—and wouldn't you rather finance your outlaw lifestyle by growing on the run?

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Price: \$57,500. Contact: Hydrobotanical Engineering, growoptech.com.

Is it Barton's butt or her roach?

MISCHA TOKES & DENIES

The pot-arazzi recently snapped actress Mischa Barton doing a good job of conserving her weed. The former star of *The O.C.* was aboard a yacht in Saint-Tropez, France, expertly taking a final rip off a roach when she was photographed. But her publicist begged to differ: "To clarify, she was smoking a hand-rolled tobacco cigarette."

Really? Then Mischa must have a huge tobacco habit. Either that or she needs some acting lessons.



Gibbs gripes.

FEELIN' HEAT IN HIGH OFFICE

President Obama landed his job in the White House by vowing to usher in a new era of hope and change and assuring the electorate that "Yes, we can!" Well, things haven't been going so well lately—Afghanistan, the BP oil spill, a stagnant economy—and White House staffers are starting to get a little frustrated. Like press secretary Robert Gibbs, who in August jumped ugly on left-wing critics of the administration. "I hear these people saying he's like George Bush. Those people ought to be drug-tested," Gibbs whined. "I mean, it's crazy. They will be satisfied when we have Canadian health care and we've eliminated the Pentagon. That's not reality." (Unfortunately, "reality" is why many disenchanted voters turn to drugs in the first place!) Obama promised us a "higher" level of political discourse, but we never expected this.

HALLUCINOGENS & HEALTH

As many of us know, tripping can be transformative as well as just plain old fun. But recent studies reveal that dosing yourself may actually enhance your mental health: Two research articles released in August confirm that hallucinogenic drugs stimulate healthy brain activity and even promote the growth of neurons.

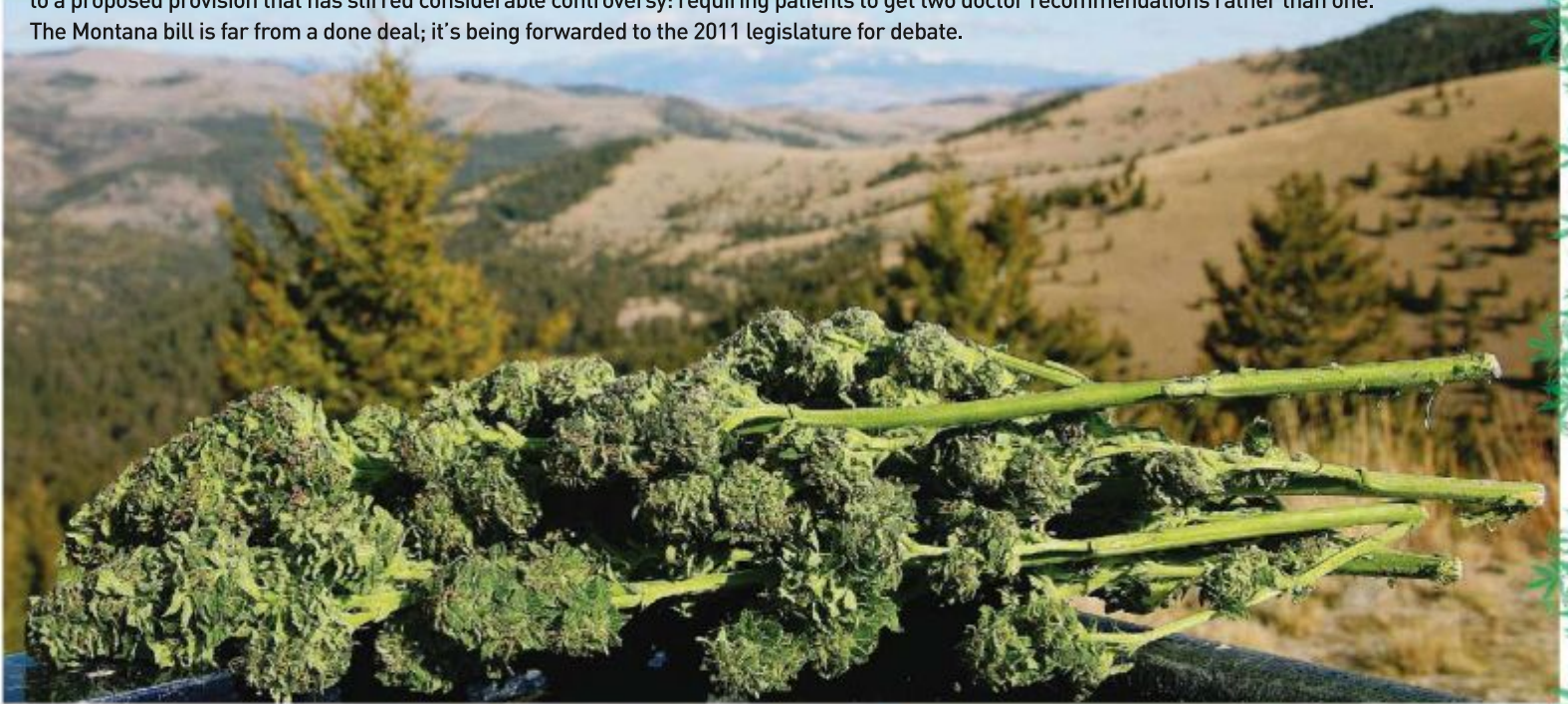
A study led by Nanxin Li, a researcher and Yale University grad student working at the Yale School of Medicine's molecular psychiatry lab, suggests that ketamine may be useful in treating depression. His study, published in *Science*, says the drug increases brain activity instantly and stimulates the growth of synapses (whereas chronic depression has been linked to inhibited synaptic growth).

Researchers Franz X. Vollenweider and Michael Komater, based at the University Hospital of Psychiatry in Zurich, Switzerland, buttressed Li's study by offering a broad overview of the clinical research into hallucinogens over the past 50 years. Their article, published in the journal *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, cited hundreds of reports supporting the idea that LSD, psilocybin and ketamine can have positive effects on the brains of healthy people, as well as those suffering from depression and other psychological disorders.



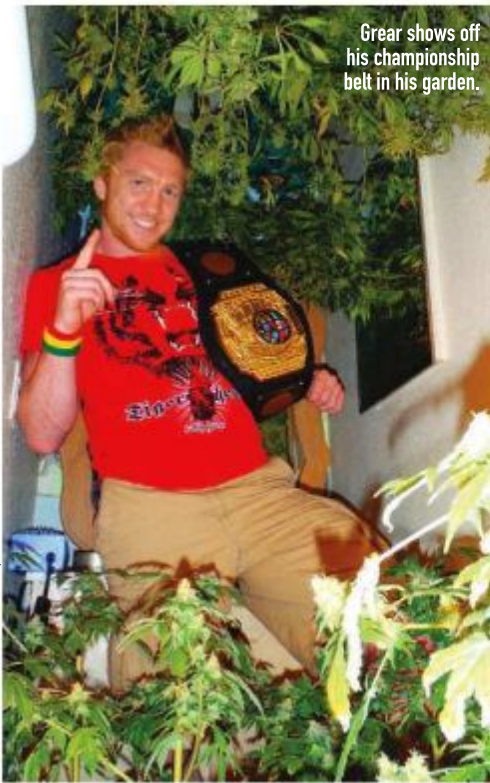
BIG SKY COUNTRY GETS CLOUDY

In Montana, residents have been able to acquire medical marijuana since 2004 and the industry has established rock-hard foundations. A year ago, there were only 4,000 registered med-pot patients; now there are over 22,000. But some legislators are alarmed at the success of the marijuana industry in Montana and are trying to impose unnecessary restrictions. If they have their way, marijuana suppliers will soon require background checks, fingerprinting, and licensing. Plus, cities and counties would be able to impose zoning restrictions on dispensaries (but not prohibit them). Legislators also want to make it harder to acquire a medical card. Apparently, they have problems with the number of people who cite "chronic pain" as their ailment, leading to a proposed provision that has stirred considerable controversy: requiring patients to get two doctor recommendations rather than one. The Montana bill is far from a done deal; it's being forwarded to the 2011 legislature for debate.



MARIJUANA MARTIAL ARTIST

Toby "Tigerheart" Gear is the former Total Fighting Alliance Light-weight World MMA champion, and runs True Warrior Fitness, based in Hollywood. His goal is to make it to the UFC, but he says there may be some roadblocks. Gear believes: "Marijuana allows athletes to both manage pain and help get the appropriate sleep naturally without the risk of becoming addicted to prescription drugs with various side effects. Marijuana helps significantly with recovery in that it relaxes the body naturally allowing for cells to repair more efficiently allowing athletes to train longer and harder the next day. As a fighter, marijuana helps me mentally by allowing me to turn the volume down on everything around me and stay focused on my students and career."



Gear shows off his championship belt in his garden.

Toby isn't just—um—blowing smoke. He's battling the California State Athletic Commission for the right to use medical marijuana and still be sanctioned for mixed martial arts events. He also appeared on the "Cannabis & Athleticism" panel at last year's NORML conference in San Francisco. Toby feels a deep responsibility toward younger people, partnering with two Los Angeles high schools to bring martial arts to students.

"As I continue to win fights with my eye on that UFC gold," he says, "it's important that people understand the importance of teaching responsible use, rather than allowing children and young adults to make poor decisions regarding their use of marijuana."

Gear is one of the 12 fighters competing this fall for a possible six-figure UFC contract on Spike TV's *The Ultimate Fighter*. Sounds like he'll be taking hits while dishing them out.

Visit truworriorfitness.com.

PARIS BLOWS IT

Last month we noted Paris Hilton's remarkable knack of walking away unscathed after getting caught by cops twice with an illegal substance—pot—in her possession. We spoke too soon. The heiress was busted in Las Vegas, this time for cocaine, and now faces a felony rap. She was popped after a bag of coke fell out of her bag while she was reaching for her lip balm. Paris insists the bag wasn't hers because it wasn't a designer bag. Paris, after all, is a *high* fashion gal!





WRIST TAKERS

If you support medical marijuana, local growers, dispensaries and pot smokers around the world, then show it by wearing a green CannabiStrong bracelet. Twenty percent of the proceeds are donated to Americans for Safe Access. Buy two for \$4.20, or get them in bulk for hemp and pot rallies. Give a bracelet as a gift or bequeath one to yourself. Defend the weed and say it loud and proud: "I am CannabiStrong!"

Visit cannabistrong.com for bracelets, T-shirts and bumper stickers.

DOOMSDAY OPTIMISM

To all the people who insist that psychedelic drugs were a '60s thing and couldn't possibly benefit society today: Daniel Pinchbeck highly disagrees. Pinchbeck, the author of *Breaking Open the Head* and *2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl*, is arguably the Timothy Leary of the new millennium, a visionary who sees psychedelics—in this case, iboga and ayahuasca—as a gateway to self-awareness.

Since his last appearance in *HIGH TIMES* (July '06), Pinchbeck has been striving to put these ideas into practice. His new documentary film, *2012: Time for Change*, takes on the Mayan and Lakota prophecies and their significance for the present day. Outlining detailed arguments for the validity of shamanism and psychedelic experiences, Pinchbeck and his supportive interviewees—including Sting, Ellen Page and Dennis McKenna—discuss how these experiences can be transformative, both in changing ourselves and the world. But whether you believe the end is near or that 2012 is just another Y2K, it's hard to disagree with Pinchbeck's assertion that we're sorely in need of a conscious awakening. Enjoy a refreshing take on doomsday prophecies.

Visit 2012timeforchange.com.



DE-FRIENDING FACEBOOK

Here's a modern-day lesson in dumbshit PR. Facebook, the largest social networking site in the world, has decided that its advertising guidelines do not allow marijuana leaves to appear in ads. A pot leaf ad from for the Just Say Now campaign ran for more than a week before Facebook just said "no." They claimed it promoted illegal content. But you'll find thousands of pot leaves on member pages. And now you'll find plenty of petitions from the marijuana community denouncing Facebook's stupidity. Brilliant.

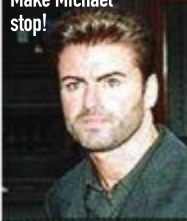
HOOTERS BANS HIGH TIMES

If you're in a Hooters restaurant and want to use their free Wi-Fi, don't expect to visit us. Hooters has blocked hightimes.com, plus a whole lot of other websites that it apparently finds too unseemly for its customers, including YouTube, MySpace, Erowid and College Humor. Incidentally, we find Hooters just as unmentionable—mainly the food. In fact, unless you smoke up, there's no way anyone can stomach that menu.



THIS MONTH IN SHOWBUZZ

Make Michael stop!



GEORGE OF THE BUNGLE

Four years ago, pop singer George Michael said, "Pot keeps me sane." We prefer you the other way, George, because obviously it's not doing much good. Plus he's giving responsible pot smokers a bad name! Because every time this doofus gets busted for DUI, he's also carrying pot.

The latest incident involved a crash through a North London storefront in July while under the influence of GBH, or the "date rape drug." He pleaded guilty to marijuana possession and driving under the influence of a prohibited drug. Three years ago, Michael fell asleep in traffic zonked on pharmaceuticals. He had pot in his pocket then, too. He was banned from driving for two years after that episode.

PAIN AND THE NFL

When Percy Harvin, a second-year Vikings wide receiver, was sidelined in pre-season due to debilitating migraine headaches, thousands felt for him. But the event also pointed out how archaic the NFL's drug



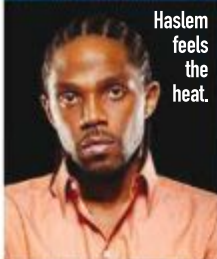
Harvin's achin' head.

policy is. Harvin has dealt with migraines for over a decade and it's pretty clear that he used pot for migraine relief in the past. The Vikings picked him 22nd in the NFL draft, but they reportedly warned him that his pot use had to stop. So Harvin has had to rely on pills instead, which, as most migraine sufferers who use pot will tell you, offer little relief in comparison.

The NFL talks a good game about caring for its players, but its track record is awful. Its neglect of disabled veteran players is nothing short of scandalous. As for the welfare of current players—well, that's a whole other headache.

LOOKAWAY PASS

Udonis Haslem of the Miami Heat was arrested in August in Hialeah, FL, after a traffic stop. Officers smelled pot, so they asked to search his car. Haslem consented and cops found pot in his duffel bag. But a day later Haslem's attorney, Eric Schwartzreich, said both the bag and the buds were actually the property of Haslem's passenger. Schwartzreich was suitably outraged. "The million-dollar question was why was Udonis Haslem arrested," wondered Schwartzreich. "He shouldn't have been. How that happens is beyond me."



Haslem feels the heat.

Yeah. Us, too.

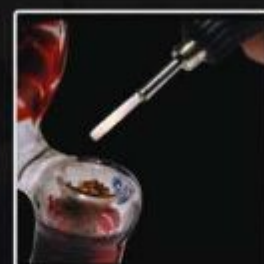
HOSS *Glass*

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D.A.R.E. TO BE D.U.M.B.

The anti-pot crowd has found its new poster boy in Louis "Skip" Miller, chairman of the national anti-drug group DARE. In July, Miller penned an editorial for the *San Jose Mercury News* opposing Proposition 19, California's legalization initiative, with scientific arguments like "pot mashes up your brain." Miller also proclaimed: "As chairman of D.A.R.E. America, I get strident e-mails from people who want the rest of us to bless their drug habits by making marijuana legal and easier to get. I read every e-mail, but I have yet to



Booze before buds.

see one that overcomes the body of scientific research demonstrating that smoking marijuana is harmful and does just one thing well: It gets people high."

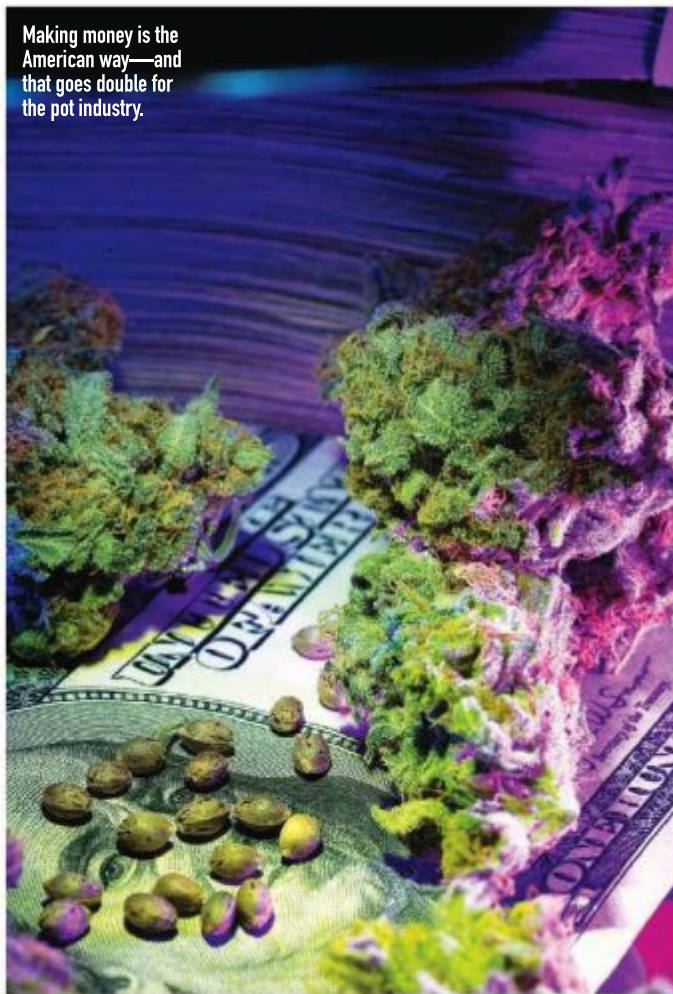
He then asked rhetorically: "Do we really want to make it easier to get stoned?"

We'll give Skippy a free pass on that op-ed—because he must have been drunk when he wrote it. Check out DARE's website: "Social drinking is an acceptable and pleasurable activity for millions of Americans. It relaxes you, curbs stress, and chases away inhibitions, but if it becomes a regular mechanism to escape troubles and to feel good, it can be an abuse."

Obviously, the line between social and problem drinking is invisible and different for everyone, but it's easily crossed. Nearly 14 million people in the US—1 in every 13 adults—abuse alcohol or are alcoholic. More than 700,000 people in the US receive treatment for alcoholism daily. Seventy-six million Americans—about 43 percent of the US adult population—have been exposed to alcoholism in the family. Oh, and need we remind you? Alcohol kills.

How's them for facts, Skippy? Now we *dare* you to go away.

Making money is the American way—and that goes double for the pot industry.



THE PROFIT PUZZLE

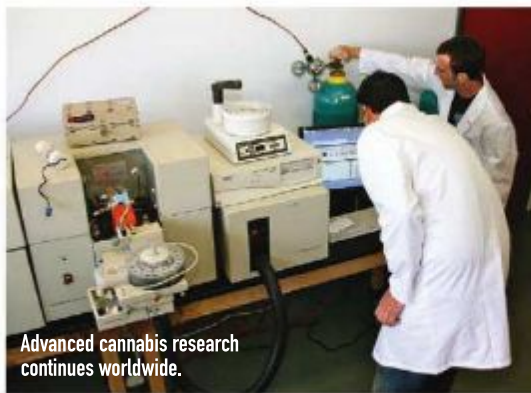
Many in California believe that med-pot dispensaries should be solely nonprofit. It's become such a hot-button issue that, in August, a new San Francisco dispensary even took out a full-page ad in a local free weekly boldly stating its intention: "Taking the Profit Out of Pot." The debate may have been sparked by the fact that some unethical dispensaries have been charging black-market prices for high-grade med-pot. But aside from price gouging, what's so bad about making a profit on marijuana, medicinal or otherwise? After all, the health-care giant McKesson notched over \$106 billion in sales in 2009 selling drugs not nearly as helpful as medical marijuana.

Proposition 215 legalized medical marijuana in California back in 1996. The current position of the state attorney general's office is that dispensaries may "associate within the State of California collectively or cooperatively to cultivate marijuana for medical purposes" (emphasis added). But while a "cooperative" is defined as a nonprofit entity under California law, a "collective" is vague, with no clear legal definition. Also, Prop. 215 never addressed the sale of medical marijuana.

But stay tuned. When marijuana becomes fully integrated into our economy—and not just as medicine—the issue will become moot. Competition to create a better American pot product will end up making the profit motive unavoidable.

HEADS IN THE SAND

Pot studies abound—so why isn't the government reading them?



Advanced cannabis research continues worldwide.

Pot opponents often say marijuana hasn't been sufficiently studied by medical science to be legalized, that it poses too many potential physical and mental health risks.

Really? Actually, marijuana is one of the most studied, researched plants on Earth. By the end of 2010, the number of published papers and reports will have passed 20,000, encompassing studies of the plant itself, as well as studies of both naturally occurring and synthetic cannabinoids and the endogenous-cannabinoid-receptor system found in humans. And all of this new research is creating medical breakthroughs.

Investigations of the anti-inflammatory benefits of cannabis,

which can prevent Alzheimer's, strokes, cancer and diabetes and even treat arthritis, have been extremely promising—especially the recent work of Dr. Raphael Mechoulam of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who in 1964 became the

first researcher to isolate THC.

Meanwhile, in pot-friendly Madison, WI, Dr. Sarafaraz Khan has written extensively on the medical uses of marijuana, including his contribution to the paper *Cannabinoids for Cancer Treatment: Progress and Promise*. And two years ago, a joint Italian-UK study found five cannabinoids that showed germ-killing capabilities when pitted against the flesh-eating "super-bug" MRSA.

In 2009, a study conducted by Dr. C. Liang found intriguing correlations between moderate pot use and a reduced rate of head and neck squamous-cell carcinomas. Also of note is the groundbreaking work of the Cannabis International

Foundation, located in Northern California's Emerald Triangle, which promotes the anti-inflammatory properties of cannabis juice derived from the entire raw plant, including fresh marijuana leaves.

So you have to wonder: The *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association* reported in 2008 that it had discovered no serious adverse side effects from cannabis in over 30 years of research. Was anybody paying attention?

Ironically, pharmaceuticals, have hardly been tested in comparison to cannabis—a far bigger cause for alarm. The industry standard requires a pharmaceutical company to conduct a bare minimum of clinical trials before presenting the data on a particular drug to the FDA for approval. Marinol, for example, which the government touts as a safe synthetic alternative to the real thing, was allegedly given the green light by the FDA after only three double-blind, placebo-based trials.

So maybe it was better for pot to have remained unregulated all these years, because it's certainly clear that we now understand it better. ✨

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POT & THE NBA

The National Basketball Association remains the professional sports league most synonymous with toking up.

By Mark Miller

Michael Beasley was fresh off being traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves. The versatile forward missed out on the high that playing with newly signed Miami Heat superstar LeBron James would have provided. But in July, just as he was adjusting to the change in scenery, Timberwolves team president David Kahn inexplicably revealed a private conversation that he'd had with Beasley, telling the local Twin Cities ESPN Radio affiliate: "He's a very young and immature kid who smoked too much marijuana and has told me that he's not smoking anymore, and I told him that I would trust him as long as that was the case."

The NBA wasted little time fining the T-Wolves organization \$50,000; Kahn was personally hit with an additional \$50K fine. The association is always quick to distance itself from the sticky-icky, at least in the public eye, since it doesn't mesh with the family-friendly corporate image that the NBA seeks to project to the mainstream. Yet the reality is that marijuana has long been as much a part of the NBA as the nothing-but-net three-pointer.

As it happens, this wasn't the first awkward run-in that Beasley's had with pot. In September 2008, at the NBA's Rookie Transition Program, the cops showed up at the hotel room of two of his fellow rookies, Mario Chalmers and Darrel Arthur, following a fire alarm. The cops claimed that the room smelled like marijuana, but no pot was found and no charges were filed. Curiously, Chalmers and Arthur were both excused from attending rookie camp and then paradoxically fined \$20,000 for "missing" camp. However, they weren't fined or suspended for any drug-related violations, and both later denied any involvement with marijuana.

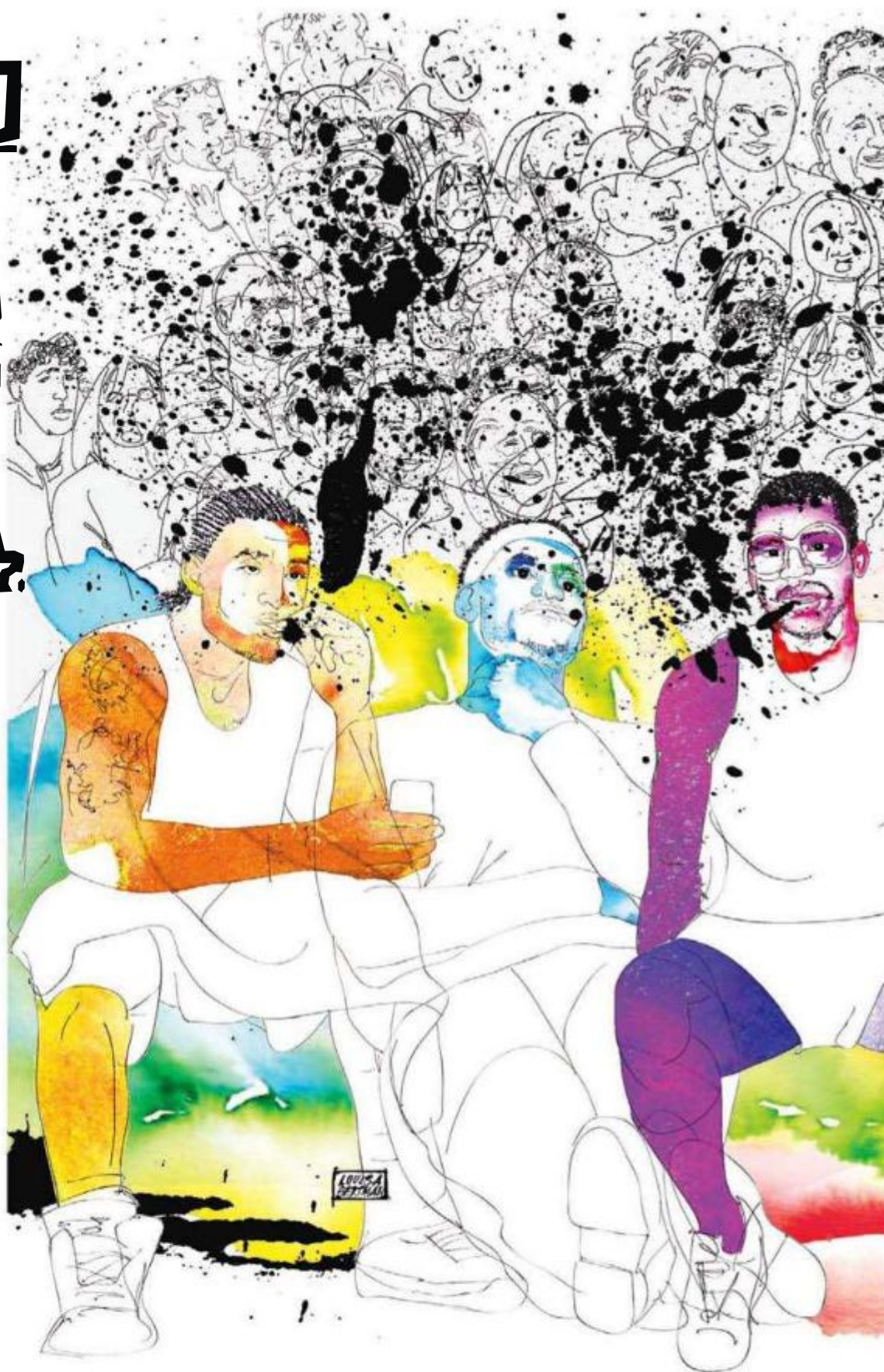
Even more curiously, ESPN had originally reported that Beasley was also present in the

room, but wasn't asked to leave the camp. Then the story was "updated" and all mentions of Beasley were removed from the article. All of these actions are suggestive of a cover-up. The NBA—and its primary media partner, ESPN—seem willing to go to great lengths to disassociate a group of high-profile rookies from marijuana.

But the story doesn't end there. Beasley was later fined \$50,000 by the NBA for his involvement in the incident after Heat team president (and legendary coach) Pat Riley forced him to confess to league officials that he had, in fact,

snuck out the door when police arrived at the Chalmers/Arthur hotel room.

Less than a year later, in August 2009, Beasley reportedly checked into a Houston rehab center, just days after he posted a picture of himself on Twitter with two plastic baggies that might have contained pot in the background. There has also been speculation that all of the publicity surrounding Beasley and marijuana was actually intended to cover up his use of harder drugs, and that this was the real reason he went to rehab. (After all, "kicking" pot doesn't generally require professional rehabilitation services.)





ILLUSTRATIONS BY LOUISA BERTMAN

The Beasley saga is just the latest story linking pot to NBA players, but it wasn't always so. In the 1970s and '80s, the NBA was regarded as a cocaine-fueled league, the nadir of which came with the death of 22-year-old Len Bias in 1986. Bias had just been drafted two days earlier by the world-champion Boston Celtics, and died after a night of cocaine indulgence.

Coincidentally, one of the NBA's most prominent earlier pot scandals also involved the Celtics (fittingly known as the "Green Machine"). The team's solid, stoic center, Robert "the Chief" Parish, was busted in 1993 after a drug-sniffing

pooch detected pot in a FedEx package in San Francisco that was addressed to Parish's Massachusetts residence. When the package arrived in Beantown, drug dogs there also smelled pot, and Parish was charged with possession.

That Parish was the NBA's oldest player at the time (39) may have been a telling indicator that the Chief was using the herb in a medicinal capacity—the better to cope with the stresses and strains of playing the rigorous sport at such a relatively advanced age. In fact, Parish played until he was 43, making him the third-oldest player in NBA history—and he played far and away the most games in league history as well, which should drive a stake through that tired old "marijuana kills motivation" argument.

By 1997, some were calling pot smoking in the NBA an "epidemic," as epitomized by a *New York Times* "special report" headlined "Marijuana and Pro Basketball: N.B.A.'s Uncontrolled Substance," which declared that 60 to 70 percent of NBA players "smoke pot and drink excessively."

That "drink excessively" part seemed to get lost in the uproar touched off by the article. And though NBA Commissioner David Stern (the man largely credited with rescuing pro basketball from those coke-filled dark days of the late 1970s) and players' union president Billy Hunter both denounced the report, there were several major repercussions from the *Times* piece. First, in 1998, then-US Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey used the article as the inspiration for a self-serving essay that appeared in the *Washington Post*, ironically titled "A Clean and Sober NBA." Not surprisingly, McCaffrey's piece was consistent with US drug policy in general: It completely ignored the debilitating influences of the legal (and corporately sanctioned) substance known as alcohol and focused solely on the NBA's allegedly "uncontrolled" pot use, which McCaffrey then went on to embellish, to embarrassing effect. The Drug Czar stated that it was "routine for players to build an addiction [to marijuana] bad enough to run afoul of the law before their problem receives attention."

A year later, urine testing for marijuana was added to the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, after having been absent from previous agreements (which made the NBA the only league at the time to ostensibly "permit" cannabis use among its players). So when it came to the hypocrisy of legal booze and illegal weed, the NBA proved equal to any other professional or college sports league. All those lucrative sponsorships with major beer companies have clearly impaired the NBA's judgment when it comes to distinguishing between pot and alcohol use among its players.

But despite the NBA's official disapproval, the

use of pot hasn't seemed to decrease. In 2001, one of the toughest players in hoops history, power forward Charles Oakley, claimed that 50 to 60 percent of players smoked weed. A *Rocky Mountain News* survey released in 2005 reported that NBA players estimated on average that one out of three of their colleagues—roughly 30 percent—smoked pot. In 2008, Josh Howard of the Dallas Mavericks caused a stir when he admitted on ESPN Radio that he smokes marijuana during the off-season and that "everybody in the media world and in the sports world knows that NBA players do smoke marijuana." Asked how many, Howard offered the rather high figure of 70 percent, while his Mavericks teammate, Jason Terry, thought that only 5 percent of players got high—a wildly unrealistic claim.

As for the argument that only fringe players use pot and not the superstars, what about the aforementioned LeBron James, who has acknowledged that he smoked pot during his high-school years? Aside from Kobe Bryant, you don't get much bigger than King James.

Then again, some may argue that players like James and Howard are part of a pot-smoking younger generation—but not so fast. You don't get more old-school than Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar, six-time MVP, six-time NBA champion, pro basketball's all-time leading scorer, and one of the league's most iconic figures ever with his unstoppable hook shot and trademark goggles. Jabbar freely admitted smoking and enjoying pot in his 1984 biography *Giant Steps*.

Still, in 2000, Abdul-Jabbar was arrested in Los Angeles for driving under the influence after a cop pulled him over for speeding and smelled pot in the car. Kareem failed a field sobriety test and got popped, but at least he had a medical-marijuana defense: He was using pot to cope with the migraine headaches that afflict him.

So the question remains: Is the use of pot confined to the off-season, as Josh Howard asserted, or is it clandestinely approved by coaches and general managers during the arduous season—because they'd rather see their prized players getting stoned in their hotel rooms rather than out at a bar or strip club, where danger always lurks? (Since it's usually not quite as dangerous to be stoned and asleep in a hotel bed.)

Whether it's half the league or just a third smoking pot, the simple fact is that marijuana's here to stay, even in the NBA. The day will finally come when a player challenges the league's pot policy—especially if he has a legitimate medical reason or lives in a state that has legalized it, as California may do in November. And when that day comes, professional sports may finally recognize that, far from hurting players, pot actually helps them remain on the field. ✨



They'd rather see their prized players getting stoned in their hotel rooms rather than out at a bar or strip club, where danger always lurks.

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

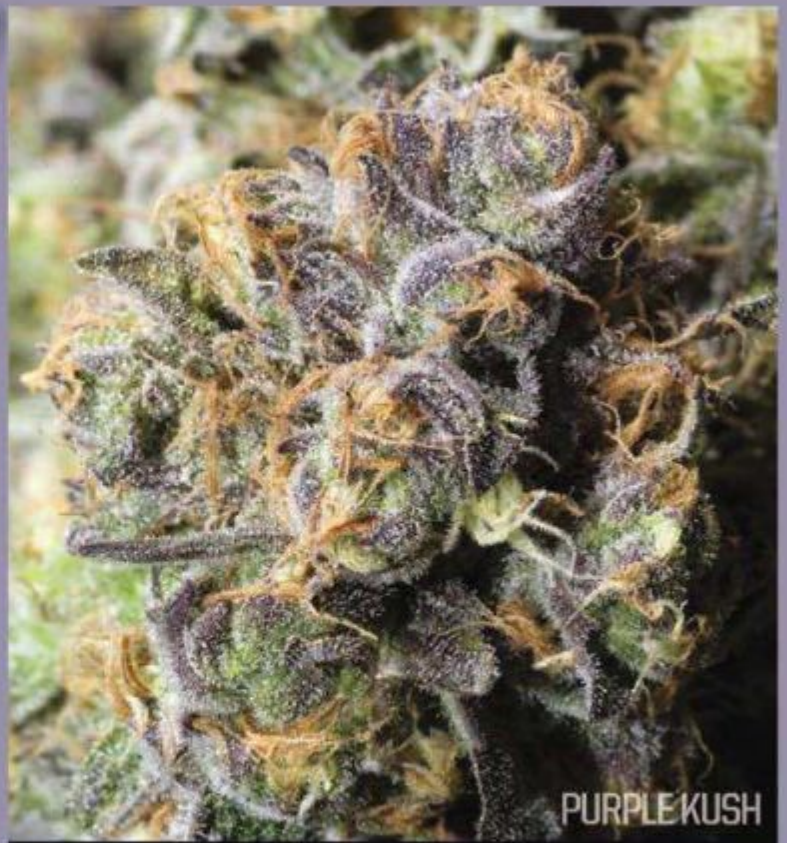
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$336** (last month: \$357; YTD: \$356)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$407** (\$418, \$423)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$285** (\$262, \$277)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$99** (\$87, \$95)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Tuscaloosa	Purple Kush	\$450
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Silver Haze	\$325
CALIFORNIA	San Diego	Blue Dream	\$420
	San Jose	Jack Herer	\$460
		Blue Dream Chocolope	\$325 \$300
COLORADO	Denver	UK Cheese	\$300
		Super Lemon Haze	\$350
	Fort Collins	Orange Crush	\$320
		Viper	\$320
CONNECTICUT	Hartford	Blue Dream	\$420
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Purps	\$400
INDIANA	South Bend	Mids	\$75
KENTUCKY	Louisa	Northern Lights	\$250
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Sour Diesel	\$425
		Master Kush	\$450
		Lemon Haze	\$450
		Purple	\$450
		Chocolope	\$450
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Granddaddy Purps	\$380
MISSISSIPPI	Jackson	Purple Afghani	\$320
		Sour Diesel	\$450
	Meridian	Schwag	\$140
MONTANA	Bitterroot Valley Helena	G-13 Haze	\$400
		Purple Kush	\$250
		Headband	\$250
		Jack the Ripper	\$250
		Jillybean x Pinequeen	\$250
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Manchester	Kush	\$375
NEW YORK	Buffalo	Chronic	\$300
	New York	Sour Diesel	\$500
OREGON	Portland	Hawaiian Kush	\$300
		Sour Diesel	\$300
PENNSYLVANIA	Berwick	Pineapple Express	\$300
	Pittsburgh	Sour Diesel	\$390
		Strawberry Cough	\$375
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	White Widow	\$300
		Chemdog	\$300
	Columbia	AK-47	\$360
		G-13	\$360
TEXAS	Dallas	OG Kush	\$400
		AK-47	\$375
	Houston	Sweet Island Skunk	\$280
	San Antonio	New York Power Diesel	\$350
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Canyon	\$350
INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Canadian dollars, Australian dollars and euros)			
AUSTRALIA	Queensland	Hydro	Au\$200
CANADA	Montreal	M-39	C\$150
		Bubblegum	C\$150
	Surrey Toronto	Purple Kush Juicy Fruit	C\$175 C\$200
DENMARK	Hyllsted	Diesel Ryder	€200
		Moroccan Hash	€155



PURPLE KUSH

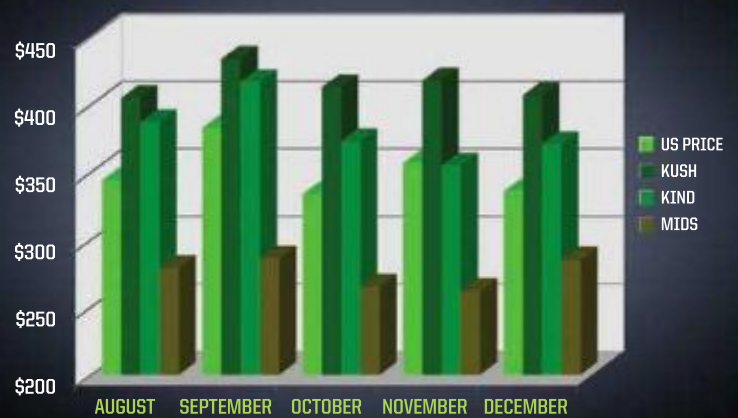
MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush failed to reach the top pot spot for the first time since July 2010. Diesel finished as this month's most submitted strain; it also was the most expensive of the top five, with an average price of \$399. Blue Dream made its top-five debut this month, finishing as the fifth-most-submitted strain of December. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Diesel (\$399), Haze (\$368), Kush (\$371), Purps (\$375) and Blue Dream (\$388).

Index Watch: The US Price and Kind indices both finished below their year-to-date and previous month's average. The US Price Index dropped \$21 from November, while the Kind Index was down \$16 from its year-to-date average. The Mids and Schwag indices both finished above their year-to-date and previous month's average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

2010 PRICE INDICES WITH KUSH



Blue Dream - \$420

Hartford, CONNECTICUT
"The best bud I've ever had, with a smooth high that is good for both a daytime and a nighttime smoke."

Northern Lights - \$250

Louisa, KENTUCKY
"These are long, fluffy, red-haired buds with a great buzz. Can't beat this deal anywhere. There are good things going on here in the hills of eastern Kentucky."

Jillybean x Pinequeen - \$250

Helena, MONTANA
"[Jillyqueen] is a favorite flavor among patients here for her tropical, fruity taste. A nice, mellow high allows for pain relief while remaining functional. Nice, dense, slightly purple nugs make this a fun one for the grower, too."

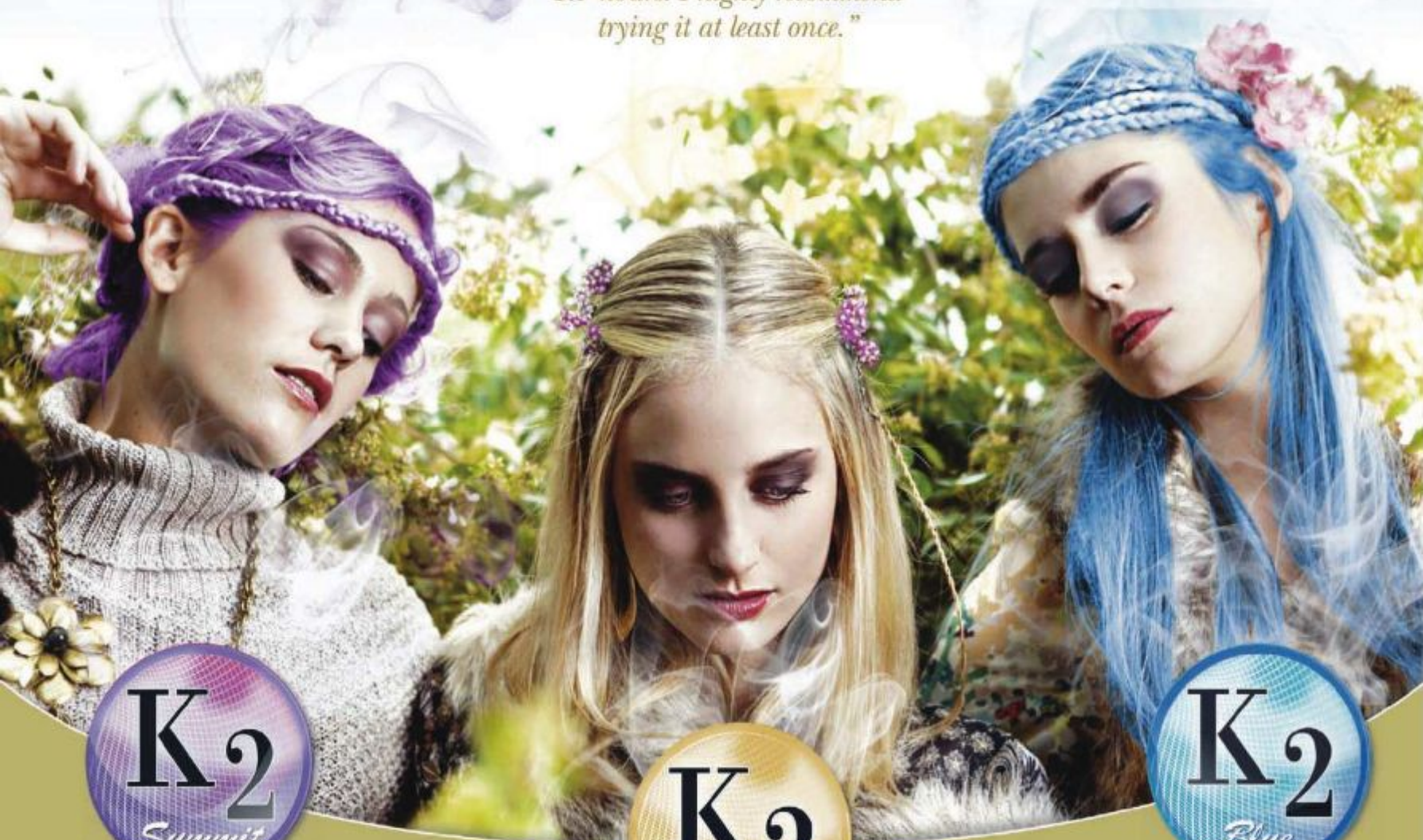
Sour Diesel - \$390

Pittsburgh, PENNSYLVANIA
"Beautiful, crystal-coated, light-green nugs with lots of orange hairs. This stuff looks and tastes like heaven."

"I researched K2 for weeks before buying. Summit is the best and K2 is the real deal!"

"Nice fast aroma. Lasts about 1.5 hours. I highly recommend trying it at least once."

"I was surprised how relaxing the aroma was. Great herbal blend. It's a must buy."



Aroma Potency Rating
★★★★★
5/5



Aroma Potency Rating
★★★★☆
4/5



Aroma Potency Rating
★★★★★
5/5



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Getting trippy in New York City.

mgmt @ht

By John Fortunato

It's a hectic scene as the popular electro-pop quintet MGMT make their way into HIGH TIMES' Manhattan offices following the first stage of a tour promoting their provocative sophomore set, *Congratulations*. But before we get down to some conversation, a truly synchronicitous moment occurs: Remarkably, it turns out that longtime HT editor Steve Hager hung out with MGMT co-founder Ben Goldwasser's father at the historic Woodstock festival in '69—and he's got a photograph to prove it to the bespectacled Wesleyan alum.

Ben was attending college in Connecticut with principal bandmate Andrew VanWyngarden when the bohemian twosome started their transformative musical collaboration on a whim, creating instrumental laptop fodder while offending the haughty campus squares with their abstruse art.

"At Wesleyan, we were both into synthesizers," Goldwasser offers. "We didn't consider ourselves a band or songwriters—vocals weren't a part of it. We were making weird noises trying to annoy snooty students."

VanWyngarden points out that the classic, beat-driven Memphis soul he heard while driving around as a teen in Tennessee served as his inspiration. Intuitively, MGMT have appropriated those memorable soul beats for some of their most familiar fare. More impressively, they've deftly connected modern techno-rock to the pioneering electronic machinations that producer Brian Eno brought to the work of David Bowie and the Talking Heads, as well as the colossal prog-rock eccentricities of Yes and King Crimson.

"It actually began on 9/11, our second week of freshman year," VanWyngarden explains. "Ben and I started hanging out, reflecting about campus, goofing off, messing with people's heads. We made a weird sculpture, *Leave No Trace*. It really offended one girl. People got testy and anxious. That helped us become musical parodists."

MGMT high above the city:
Will Berman, James Richardson,
Ben Goldwasser, Andrew VanWyngarden
and Matthew Asti.

The big buzz on MGMT was initiated by their hooky, sun-baked dance-rock anthem, "Electric Feel," a delightful '09 summer sizzler from their debut album, *Oracular Spectacular*, which helped the post-adolescent combo grab an unexpected Grammy Award nomination. Though original guitarist Hank Sullivant had left the band to form his own promising outfit, Kuroma, drummer James Richardson stepped into his shoes, while Will Berman took over on drums and Matthew Asti handled the bass.

"We listen to a lot of different things, but all of us share a big interest in old '60s psychedelic music," Goldwasser notes.

Sick of political correctness, *Oracular Spectacular's* surrealist opener,

"Time to Pretend," defied straight-edge self-righteousness with an outlandish barb: "I'll move to Paris / Shoot some heroin and fuck with the stars / You man the island / And the cocaine and the elegant cars"

Yet despite living the high life and scoring two headlining dates at Radio City Music Hall, MGMT realize that partying too much during the creative process could easily have destroyed their momentum.

"On tour, people started giving us a lot of marijuana, which is really appreciated ... we're hoping to keep up the tradition!" VanWyngarden says. "But we don't necessarily compose when we're baked. I think it helps with listening, not writing. It's good for fixing a recording, or when you're listening back to a demo to see if it's actually good."

Hoping to broaden their horizons, MGMT increased their experimental latitude with 2010's *Congratulations*. VanWyngarden says: "We were up in High Falls, NY, renting someone's home,

writing the new album for three months in the middle of winter. Then we recorded out in California and smoked a lot of weed there. I lean more towards *Cannabis sativa*—I like being peppy and awake; I don't wanna lay down and watch television.

"Sour Diesel hash was the best," he adds, "but it smelled like dog shit. I hope it wasn't smuggled in from some dog's ass."

Enlightened bassist Asti chimes in: "I love smoking hash! When we were in Los Angeles, there was a guy on a moped with backpacks, coming into our kitchen with a variety of hash."

Though MGMT have been accused of championing illegal controlled substances with the allusions to heroin and cocaine in their lyrics, they're clearly taking the piss out of it. There's plenty of cautionary advice under all the sarcastic innuendoes debunking stardom's sense of instant entitlement. VanWyngarden admits that herbal medication for recreational purposes is fine, but losing complete control to the harder stuff isn't in the cards. Nevertheless, he recalls hallucinating on weed at a high altitude during a popular Washington State concert series.

"I was tripping on weed at Sasquatch Festival a few months ago," VanWyngarden says. "I smoked a fair amount. The combination of bong hits and being on the edge of a cliff all day—high in the air, eating barbecued meat—robbed us of oxygen."

Ax handler Richardson starts to reminisce: "First time I got baked was with [ex-guitarist] Hank [Sullivant]. I thought I was Superman. We were hanging outside my friend's house, and I remember running down a hill. There was a huge jungle gym—we had no shoes on and were laughing going up and down in the jungle gym. I had just gotten this Melvins record, *Lysol*, for my birthday. It had a picture of an Indian growing out of the album, and it was just *blurring* in color."

Which brings up an interesting side note: *Congratulations'* striking cover art was done by the famed cartoon surrealist Anthony Ausgang, whose psychedelic inspiration grew out of his enjoyment of the hallucinogen DMT. The eye-grabbing artwork features a double-headed, piano-eyed, surfing purple feline about to be swallowed by a monster wave in the shape of a giant shiny blue cat head, all against an unfurling background of pink and blue racing checks.

So what started out as a silly college project needing the campus conservatives has grown into a massive, worldwide musical journey spurred on by joyous, tape-manipulated keyboard noise, media-hyped spoofs and the finest in herb. As Goldwasser notes: "There may be consequences that compound marijuana legalization, but it won't wreak havoc on the world. Prescription pills tear people apart and ruin lives—we should raise people's awareness of *that*. But I'm reading this book, *Guitar Army*, a collection of activist John Sinclair's prison writings. One of his big platforms was that the counterculture revolution would have weed as basically one of the most important elements—because as soon as you're smoking weed, cops want to do something about it, and it becomes political and cops start busting people. So it's part of the revolution for freedom." *

"On tour, people started giving us a lot of marijuana, which is really appreciated ... we're hoping to keep up the tradition!"



'When we're recording, especially, we have to be smoking the whole time.'

Spencer Pollard, Lee Spielman, Sam Bosson, Garrett Stevenson

HIGH AND HEAVY

Hashing it out with Trash Talk. By Polly Watson

I'm hanging around Brooklyn's Party Xpo, watching paint slough off the walls as West Coast metallians Abominable Iron Sloth load out and talking to Steve LaCour, bassist for New Hampshire rippers Trap Them. "You write for HIGH TIMES?" he says. "Man, you should interview Trash Talk!"

"What?" says AIS vocalist Justin Godfrey, loping over. He's drenched in sweat and wearing a T-shirt with a giant pot leaf on it. LaCour repeats his suggestion. Godfrey snorts: "Absolutely."

Talk about your reputation preceding you. The hardcore band called Trash Talk hail from Sacramento, CA, some 2,800 miles away, yet they're known across the country for two things: blazing shows and blazing blunts. They've shared the stage with everyone from hardcore legends Sick of It All to Canadian punks of the moment Fucked Up. By the time you read this, they'll have shredded the UK's Reading and Leeds festivals—but so will Arcade Fire. Arcade Fire, however, won't have played a guy's going-to-prison party. Trash Talk did just that, arriving at his garage at the ungodly hour of 10 a.m. to play to 20 people in exchange for . . . well, probably less weed than the guy was busted for selling.

Hell yeah, I wanna interview Trash Talk!

Some time later, the band members arrive at HIGH TIMES' offices and promptly start blazing up some crystal-coated nugs. After a few minutes, they're arrayed on a battered leather couch in editor Dan Skye's lair, relaxed and articulate as they discuss writing, touring and recording—all while under the influence of weed.

The members of Trash Talk live within striking distance of the Emerald

Triangle. All, naturally, are supporters of California's Prop. 215, and guitarist Garrett Stevenson has a medical-marijuana card. They acknowledge that, in recent years, medical-marijuana dispensaries have become more plentiful in the region—and more visible. "There's one around the corner from me with a giant neon arrow!" says vocalist Lee Spielman.

But these guys don't spend too much time at home; they've just released a new album and are about to tear up the US and Europe in support of it. Recorded with Joby Ford (of sometime tour mates the Bronx), *Eyes & Nines* encompasses 10 tracks of ferocious hardcore, including the thundering "Explode" and the moody, mold-breaking "Hash Wednesday" (which is about just what you think it is, and features the outstanding lyric "Jesus is in me at a premium price"). Trash Talk have always relied on the kindness of strangers to keep them supplied on the road—but were they allowed to smoke in the studio?

"Joby had a no-smoking rule," says drummer Sam Bosson.

"At first," Spielman adds.

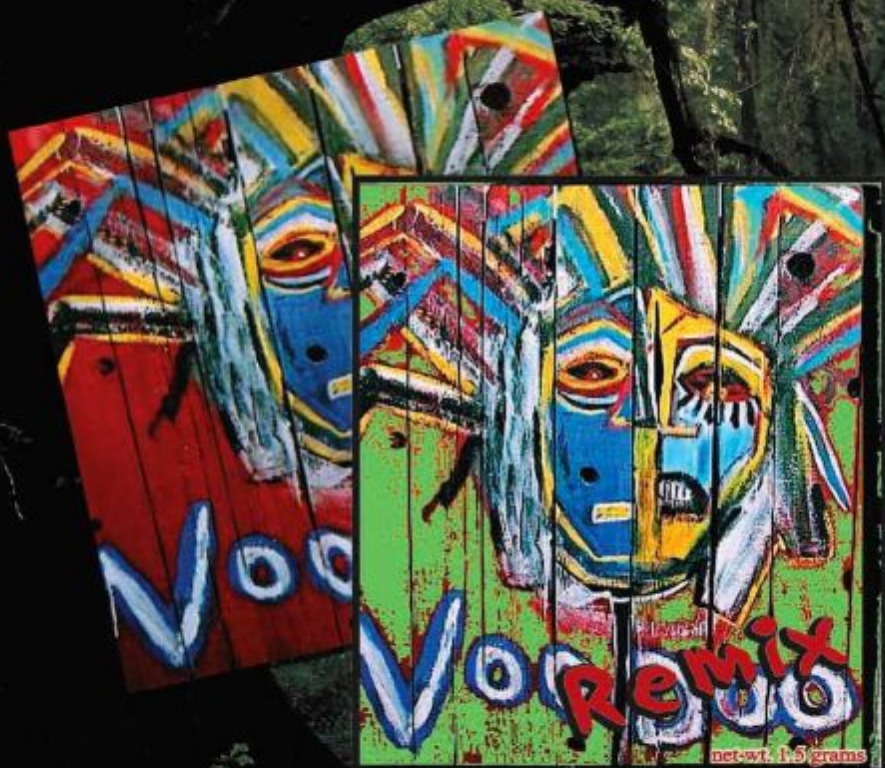
Bosson looks gleeful. "Then we started breaking him down!"

Bassist Spencer Pollard explains: "When we're recording, especially, we have to be smoking the whole time. We spent so much time outside and not recording, finally [Ford] had to be like, 'Okay, you can smoke inside.'"

Later that night, after a radio interview and a show at NYC's Bowery Ballroom, Trash Talk heat up Brooklyn's Acheron, a tiny DIY venue on a side street in one of Brooklyn's industrial wastelands. Kids' limbs flail; the walls are practically bleeding thrash. Yeah, this band smokes no matter where they are. ✨

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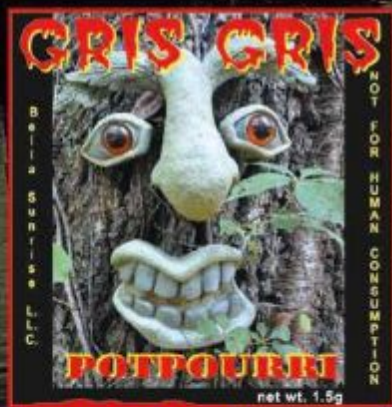
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CANNABIS COMPOSER KID CUDI

HIGH TIMES meets up with the “Lonely Stoner” for a serious session and a sneak preview of *Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager*, the sequel to his chart-topping debut album. By Danny Danko

Welcome, and thanks for the opportunity to hear the new stuff—it’s some onto-the-next-level shit. Who produced the songs on this record?

We had Player Pat, Dot da Genius ... we also had Chuck from Cool Kids, who provided some ill-ass joints. He is immensely talented and a cool dude; for us to work together on this album means a lot. Also Chip the Ripper. This album is really progressive: It combines all of the musical friendships and bonds that I have made—and I’m still working them. It doesn’t come out till October, but I’m still at work until the last minute.

I heard a song on there called “Marijuana,” and I could imagine that other songs of yours are similarly inspired by *Cannabis sativa*. How do you feel about the upcom-

ing vote to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana out in California? Well, I am really excited. I’m already looking for property there, so I am right on board ... that’s how I feel about that.

Another thing I heard while listening to your record: You’re exploring themes that a lot of other artists don’t really get into. Do you think marijuana helps you get into other realms of your life—maybe some vulnerability that you may be feeling and are able to express, even in the masculine, tough-guy world of hip-hop?

Well, definitely marijuana gives me a certain confidence when I’m creating. It kind of gives me that “Don’t think too much, just write what you fucking feel” vibe. I make what I want to write, and I just write what comes out. The weed is

really what keeps me in that frequency. If I’m not high, I think too much. Certain things aren’t right; it’s a disaster. So it gives me a calming vibe around the people I trust and the people I rock with. We *are* a band—Kid Cudi is just a fucking name, ya know?

We’re sampling some strains here ... these are Subcool strains from TGA Seeds. We’ve tried Black Cherry Soda—that’s what we’re smoking now—and the A-13 and Space Bomb. These are high-end breeder strains ... basically experimental hybrids that these breeders are putting out on the market to see if they should sell these seeds to the public. The biggest event for pot-seed breeders is the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. We’re hoping to have Cudi there this year.

I will be there! Don’t be “hoping.”

One final thing: There was some controversy about our last interview. Many of the comments on YouTube—thousands of them, as a matter of fact—discussed whether Cudi was actually inhaling the weed or not.

I was high the whole time. First off, we are doing an interview; we are taking small puffs. You don’t have to hold this weed in—this is connoisseur/aficionado-type herb. I’m not trying to have a coughing fit during an interview, but I do know we got lit. ✨



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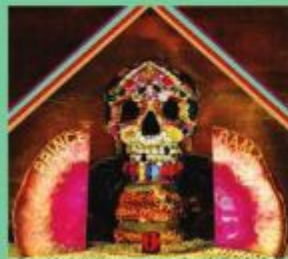
(Ajna/Feral House)



Wander too far off the constricted path of mainstream Western spirituality, and your beliefs will either be condemned as cultish or dismissed as New Age nonsense. Despite the well-publicized hypocrisies of various charlatans and gurus, however, you can still encounter the occasional unique and heartfelt curio left behind by such modern-day religious experiments.

Two such curios are the albums under review here. The first is by a group of former Hare Krishna millennials mining their heritage for musical inspiration; the second was inspired by a group of onetime UK Scientologists looking to reconcile Jesus with Satan. But whether drawing its inspiration from the East or the West, the music here stands defiantly apart from the petty concerns of pop music—at least when it's done properly.

The ex-Krishnas of Prince Rama offer the spacier musical vision, crafting the songs on their fourth LP as an extended suite of psychedelic *bhajan*. Clearly, the band's pedigree appealed greatly to the members of Animal



Collective, since the group's Avey Tare and Deakin contribute to the sonic shenanigans. Aside from the high-concept quality of this album's production (portions of it were recorded in the house of Kurt Vonnegut's grandson, if that makes any difference), there is far more going on here than just a facile bow to retro-countercultural tradition. Prince Rama's music stretches out simultaneously into electronic deep space and '70s-style free-form expressionism. Tribal drums interweave with spectral, distorted vocals and droning guitar lines to invoke an atmospheric trance thankfully devoid of any hipster affectations. Granted,

its appeal may be limited, but its authenticity is undeniable.

Meanwhile, the folks at longtime "underground" publisher Feral House have slowly been unearthing new material on one of their oldest obsessions: the '60s-era Gnostic Christian cult known as the Process Church of the Final Judgment. Once reviled as a perceived influence on the Manson Family, the Process Church preached a reconciliation between Jesus, Satan and Lucifer (and made connections with Mick Jagger and Funkadelic while they were at it). For recruitment purposes, the church also conceived a few hymns, faithfully presented here by the Sabbath Assembly, whose members include No-Neck Blues Band drummer Dave Nuss and doom-metal vocalist Jex Thoth. Indeed, the re-creations are perhaps a little *too* faithful: Were it not for the occasional praising of Satan and Lucifer, these apocalyptic tracks wouldn't sound out of place on a Christian rocker's iPod, which renders them interesting as underground relics, but not much else.—Justin Hampton

HANK WILLIAMS III

Rebel Within

(Curb Records)



Hank III inherited his grandfather's voice, iconoclastic spirit and dissolute appetites. Raised a punk-rock bastard who never truly knew his father, he was forced by pater-nity to cash in on his legacy with 1996's *Three Hanks: Men With Broken Hearts*, which spliced the voices of three generations of Hank Williamses onto a dozen songs. Hank III has been serving two masters ever since, trying to satisfy fans of his honky-tonk heritage on the one hand, and fans of the punk/metal that's always been his first love on the other. All along, he's also been engaged in a (losing) legal battle with his label, Curb Records, which prefers that he concentrate on the former.

Though rebellion comes naturally to Williams, time has been moderating his extreme temperament (something he suggests on "#5," the album's six-minute closing paean to DOA friends, singing: "All the heroin and downers are taking away my flame"). The conflict has resulted in his most satisfying album to date, in which he channels his hard-living, boundary-pushing attitude into 11 well-written, exceptionally listenable, country/bluegrass songs with a dash of death metal and punkabilly. The best is the opener, "Drinkin' Ain't Hard to Do," which recalls Hank Sr. as it recounts the hardships that make drinking easy. The banjo-driven "Getting Drunk and Fallin' Down" has a similar air, as Williams sings: "I like living life full-throttle, but it seems I'm running out of steam." The most intriguing effort is the haunting, understated "Karmageddon," with a lonesome steel guitar lingering over Williams's reflective mood like road haze. Age is taming this wild horse, but it's also helping to demonstrate the immense talent still beneath the collar.—Chris Parker



Smoked, Volume 2: Bringing the Art of Glass Pipe Making Into the Light

(Grit City Inc)



"Hip" isn't just for hipsters anymore. *Smoked, Volume 2* takes glass art to a whole new stoner level in this beautiful coffee-table book. *Smoked 2* opens with a foreword by Kyp Malone, the guitarist for hipster pioneers TV on the Radio, in which he details his personal history with ganja and glass. His might be the only name you recognize in this book, but that's not the fault of these fascinating artists, who work in multiple media, including graffiti, sculpture, woodworking and graphic design. But their glassblowing backgrounds still show through: From Dan Pratt's "Louisville Smoker—Major League Smoker" (a foot-long baseball-bat bong) to the steampunk three-piece, "Punished," by Zach Puchowitz, each of these pipes is meant to be smokeable.

Accompanying each featured piece is an interview with the artist. The questions are usually the same, but the answers differ greatly. Asked if he'd be willing to spend time in prison for his work, Big Z says: "I'd go to jail. I take the utmost pride in what I do." Some of the others waver on this point, but for most of them, it's art or die.

Flipping through *Smoked 2*, you'll see a lot of spidery, bulbous, colorful glass pieces that couldn't have been created without the love and respect of good ol' Mary Jane. All of these creators—whether tokers or not—deserve a place in the artistic community. They're giving bongas a new face and reversing the glass laws of yore through their own hard work and creative engineering.—Marsha Brady



Baked

Mark Haskell Smith

(Grove Atlantic/Black Cat)



You know the times are a-changing when a pot grower stars as the hero in a crime novel—even one as quirky as *Baked*, a good-natured, picaresque romp through the Los Angeles medical-marijuana industry. *Baked* follows the rapid ascent of Miro Basinas, a UC Davis-educated botanist turned weed gardener who is determined to invent marijuana's answer to the "pluot," the plum/apricot hybrid developed by his hero, Floyd Zaiger. After the resulting strain—a mango-scented bud named Elephant Crush—unexpectedly wins the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup, Miro is shot by a sociopathic thug employed by an unscrupulous dispensary-chain owner. Then his strain is stolen upon his return to LA, and Miro spends the rest of the book attempting to reclaim it.

Before he turned to novels, author Mark Haskell Smith cut his teeth writing for TV (*Star Trek: Voyager*) and film (*Playing God*), and it shows in *Baked's* ultra-conventional plotting techniques. Smith trots out the usual stock characters—a lovable sidekick named Daniel (an innocent Mormon missionary who gradually and amusingly morphs into a B&D aficionado); a grizzled, world-weary investigator, Detective Cho; and the obligatory love interest (Marianna, a Portuguese scientist)—in the course of Miro's escapades, and the story itself unfolds predictably. But the book is very light and enjoyable overall, and Smith clearly embraces the medical-marijuana community despite the snakes in its garden.—Justin Hampton

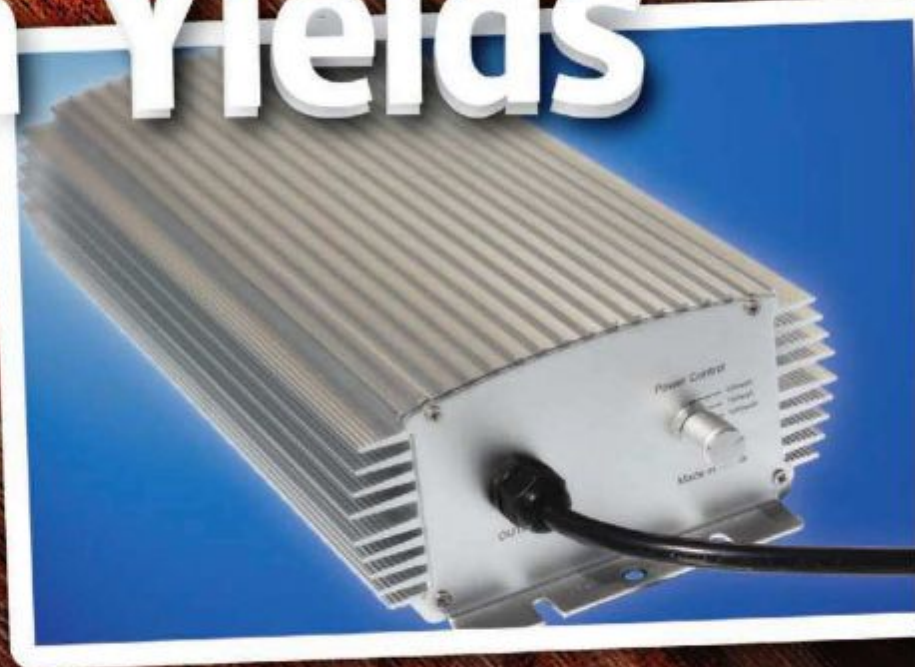


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TULI HAS LEFT THE PLANET

The founder of the Fugs was a poet as well as a gentle madman. By Paul Krassner

Prologue: Ah, the songs—"Boobs a Lot" . . . "Nothing" . . . "Morning, Morning" . . .

I first met Tuli Kupferberg in the early '60s at the Paperback Gallery in Greenwich Village. I was delivering my magazine, *The Realist*, and he was delivering his booklet, *Birth*. Sharing a concept that tragedy and absurdity were two sides of the same coin, we bonded immediately.

Tuli went on to found the notorious '60s countercultural rock group, the Fugs, with poet Ed Sanders. In 1966, I published an article by John Wilcock, "Who the Fugs Think They Are." In it, Tuli talked about the importance of sexual liberation. "Americans like to kill or be killed," he said. "Aggression is reaction to frustration. Sexual frustration is still the major problem to be solved and in my opinion the appearance of sexual humor is a healthy sign. And if we can put some joy, some real sexy warmth into the revolution, we'll have really achieved something."

When Norman Mailer wrote his first novel, *The Naked and the Dead*, he used the euphemism "fug" for "fuck," which at that time was still a literary taboo. At our first encounter, I asked him if it was true that when he met actress Tallulah Bankhead, she said, "So you're the young man who doesn't know how to spell 'fuck.'" With a twinkle in his eye, Mailer told me that he replied, "Yes, and you're the young woman who doesn't know how to." Anyway, that's where the Fugs got their name. In "Doin' All Right," they sang: "I'm not ever goin' to Vietnam / I'd rather stay right here and screw your mom." Tuli told me, "That was enough to get us beaten up if we did it in the right place."

There was a rumor that Philip Roth had lifted the theme of his masturbation-obsessed novel, *Portnoy's Complaint*, from a Fugs song, but that notion was disavowed by Sanders, who assured me: "Philip Roth did not plagiarize a Fugs song. He came to a Fugs show in 1966, and I think he was inspired by Tuli, in top hat and cane, singing 'Jack-Off Blues.' Many times in reunion concerts, introducing Tuli singing that song, I have suggested that Roth got some of the impetus for *Portnoy's Complaint* from that time he was inspired by the Tuli tune."

Another rumor was triggered by Allen Ginsberg's famous poem, *Howl*. Tuli acknowledged that he had been the inspiration for this pas-



Back in the day: Paul Krassner, Tuli Kupferberg, and friend.

'If we can put some joy, some real sexy warmth into the revolution, we'll have really achieved something.'

sage: "... jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge this actually happened and walked away unknown and forgotten into the ghostly daze of Chinatown soup alleyways & firetrucks, not even one free beer" Actually, it was the Manhattan Bridge—Tuli was just out of college and in the throes of the breakup of his first major love relationship, which contributed to a nervous breakdown that precipitated his suicide attempt. He was rescued by a passing tug-

boat and taken to Governors Island Hospital with a broken transverse process that put him in a body cast.

"Throughout the years," Tuli complained, "I have been annoyed many times by, 'Oh, did you really jump off the Brooklyn Bridge?'—as if it was a great accomplishment." At first he refused to talk about it, but as Ginsberg's myth spread that he had simply "walked away" after jumping off a bridge, Tuli became concerned about wrongly influencing young people. He didn't want anyone else to take a similar chance of being severely injured if they survived.

Tuli was the first poet-in-residence at the Bowery Poetry Club. Proprietor Bob Holman sent an email two days before Tuli's death on a gloomy Sunday: "I am in Medellin at the amazing International Poets Festival here—100 poets! Ten days of it!—and Tuli's spirit is everywhere. Tell that bum to get up and out and over here." Norman Savitt, the producer of Tuli's TV show, *Revoltin' News*, reported from the hospital bedside that Tuli reminded him "what a shame it was that I had my son circumcised, how I should be putting lyrics to all my instrumental music, and the importance of raw garlic in my diet." And Larkworthy Antfarm recently adapted a Fugs song, applying the original lyrics to the BP catastrophe, singing about "a river of shit."

Epilogue: Ah, the condolences—"Tuli, may you see Boobs a Lot in Heaven" . . . "This Monday will be just a little more Nothing" . . . "Mourning, Mourning" . . . ✨

Paul Krassner, who was last seen peeing on that forest fire, publishes the infamous *Disneyland Memorial Orgy poster*, available at paulkrassner.com.

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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH LAST PERFECT THING

You may know Last Perfect Thing as the band you saw amid a sea of fans at many of their headlining shows. Or you may know Last Perfect Thing as the guys you hung out with at the bar last week. The beauty of a band on the brink of taking off is that you can know them from both of these angles.

Last Perfect Thing have been together for a decade now and are considered one of Asbury Park's marquee bands. They've worked hard during those 10 years, sharing the stage with hundreds of national acts, booking their own tours and constantly expanding their fan base. Along with a natural ability to write solid songs, they deliver a tight and powerful live show, converting every audience member into an instant fan. These guys not only show you a good time onstage—recording incredible, full-sounding albums has always been their forte.

After sold-out pressings of their last few albums, Last Perfect Thing are preparing to soar on the wings of their new one into every radio, television and computer in the country. After all, good music *is* the last perfect thing we have. ✨

For more on Last Perfect Thing, including audio samples and tour dates, check out hightimes.com/last-perfectthing.

MISS DECEMBER

NAME: Sunnie **AGE:** 22

PROFILE: Sunshine

OCCUPATION: Waitress

CITY: Watervliet, MI

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THE MORNING INFIDELITY

I've said it many times: I don't believe in coincidence. I've found that when people and events align in a way that seems to defy mere chance, these synchronicities tend to be meaningful. For example: When I learned that an artist buddy of mine from New York *just happened* to end up producing a radio show in Arizona that an old school chum of my fiancée, Vegas Price, was co-hosting, I saw that as a sign. So when they invited us on the show during our latest visit there this summer, we were more than happy to accept.

The Morning Infidelity is a 420-friendly morning show starring host Beef Vegan, sidekick Laugh Track (Vegas's old school chum) and producer Buddha (my artist friend) that airs from 6 to 10 a.m. every weekday on KWSS



In the studio: Vegas, Bobby, Beef Vegan, Buddha and Laugh Track.

106.7 in Phoenix. As it turned out, their other guest that day (via phone) was the hilarious "King of New Media," Adam Carolla (*The Man Show*, *Loveline*, *Crank Yankers*). He was promoting his upcoming appearance at the Tempe Improv and the recent partnership between his media company, ACE Broadcasting, and Wizzard Media, which will now distribute all of ACE's podcasts—including the immensely popular *Adam Carolla Show*, which gets three million downloads a month and was named iTunes' Best Audio Podcast of 2009. After their basic interview segment was out of the way, Vegan clued Adam in to my intoxicating presence in the studio.

"I feel it over the phone, man!" Carolla joked. "HIGH TIMES has been around for how many years now? God ... that magazine endures! I mean, how many magazines have come and gone since HIGH TIMES' first issue rolled off the press in God-knows-whose garage back in 1974?"

"Actually, it was founded by a pot smuggler," I pointed out.

"How ballsy is that?" said Vegan. "You're a pot smuggler, and you go and put it in print just to talk out against the government and make a publication to spread your gospel."

"It's kind of diabolical that you could launder money from smuggling pot that way—by doing a pot magazine—because it seems too obvious," Carolla observed. "Nobody would have the balls to launder pot money with a magazine that had a big picture of a bud on the front of it. You'd start a magazine for special-needs children or something. That's how you launder money—you open an ice-cream shop or a flower stand. You don't do a *pot magazine*! But he may have been crazy like a fox."

"Have you ever been to a Cannabis Cup or a medical-marijuana rally?" Vegan asked Adam.

"No, but I'm sure Mike [his manager] is fever-

ishly trying to book me at one of those gigs as we speak," he replied. "I went to the Playboy Mansion a couple of times for some sort of pot-advocacy event, but the thing about the Playboy Mansion is that everyone just wants to go to the Playboy Mansion. So you show up there and you're like, 'What's this fundraiser for?' And someone's like, 'Al Qaeda.' And you're like, 'Oh ... well, get me another Heineken.' [Laughs] I dig the weed, don't get me wrong—but if they had the pot

party at the Target store in Van Nuys, I probably wouldn't have gone."

"You've been in Hollywood a long time; you're friends with the likes of Snoop Dogg and whatnot. You've got to be pro-marijuana to a certain extent, right?"

"Yeah, totally," Carolla said. "I went to Snoop Dogg's house

and got high with him."

"That was one of the legendary moments on *The Man Show*. How much did Jimmy [Kimme!] really eat?"

"He brought Snoop Dogg a basket with like 16 muffins in it, and he ate every muffin. He brought him a housewarming gift, and then he ate his own gift!"

"What was great about it was, you had a case of the giggles and you couldn't stop laughing."

"When he was asking Snoop how he stayed so thin and smoked so much pot, it made me laugh so hard. I didn't do anything—I just got really high and laughed the entire time. It was quite a day."

After Carolla hung up, we spent the rest of the hour shooting the shit about how Vegas and I hooked up in Amsterdam, how I got my start at HIGH TIMES, and what it's like to work at the most notorious magazine in the world.

"Being who you are with HIGH TIMES, is that like an all-access pass to most events?" Vegan wondered. "Do you get into all different types of parties and shows just by namedropping?"

"Well, not *everything*, but a lot of things," I said. "I've found that a business card and a joint can go along way."

They also wanted to know what celebrities I'd partied with, so I recounted tales of the times I'd smoked out with Jason Mewes, Tommy Chong, Ozzy Osbourne and, yes, even Snoop himself.

"He was *soo* mellow ... almost to the point of being unconscious," I joked. "But he was way cool."

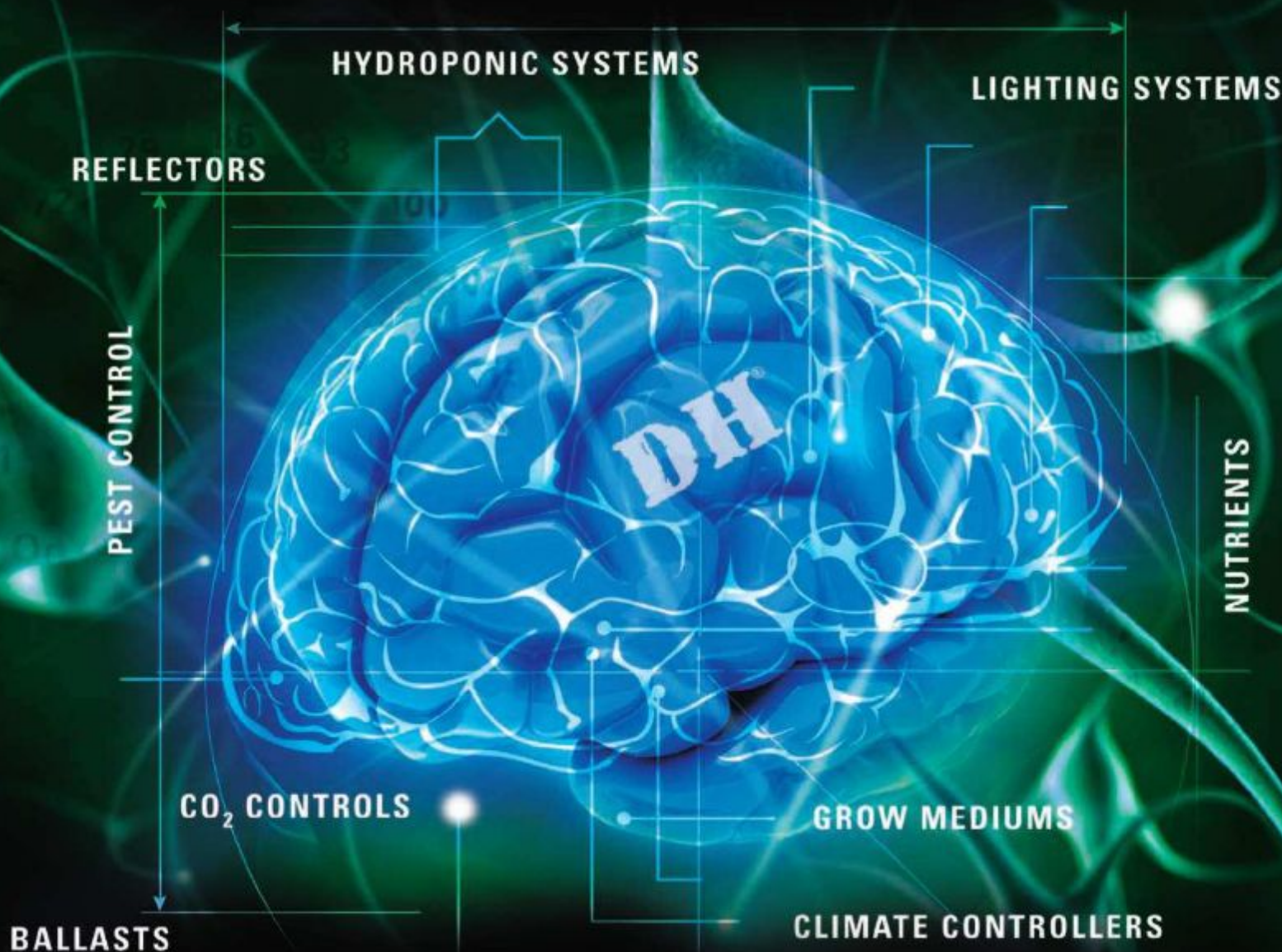
Unfortunately, I've never gotten the chance to chill at Snoop's crib like Adam has, but who knows? Maybe if I showed up at his door one day with a joint and a business card ✨

Listen to highlights from Bobby and Adam's episode at themorninginfidelity.podomatic.com.

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HIGH TIDE IN RHODE

The nation's smallest state has navigated the changing seas of medical marijuana admirably to establish a safe harbor for cannabis.

Story & photos by **DAN SKYE**

Rhode Island offers a safe harbor for medical patients.



ISLAND



The heavy rains and flooding that Rhode Island experienced in late March and early April—the worst in two centuries—were just about the last thing it needed. The state was already dealing with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country (13 percent, about three points above the national average) as well as a \$220 million budget deficit. And some of the areas damaged most severely in the flooding were business districts, further impacting revenue and the status of jobs. West Warwick had already been designated a “distressed community” by the state because of its many low-income residents and heavy tax burden. Businesses in that town alone lost an estimated \$730,000 in revenue—a huge bite out of the local economy.

In other parts of the country, a natural disaster can often seem like an abstract event. If Mother Nature strikes a sizeable state like California, people who live hundreds of miles away from the disaster zone may feel for their unfortunate fellow residents, but perhaps not too intensely. But in a state as small as Rhode Island—about 48 miles long and 37 miles wide—it seems to encourage a sense of community. When everyone knows somebody from a nearby town—in a state where *everything* is nearby—the spirit of neighborliness comes more naturally.

JoAnne Leppanen cites this as the principal factor in the success of Rhode Island’s medical-marijuana program. “The more personal an experience, the more likely it is for someone to be there for you,” she says. “It’s easier to say no if a situation is theoretical. But when it’s a relative or a friend who is suffering or in need, it’s harder to say no. Things become very personal here. Everyone knows someone who is in the program, or should be in the program, or is suffering needlessly.”



A backpack carries the medicine for a mobile caregiver.

JoAnne is the director of the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition (RIPAC), a nonprofit organization composed of local medical-marijuana patients, caregivers, doctors and advocacy groups that has been integral to advancing the cause of legal medical cannabis in the state.

"We have a very compassionate legislature," JoAnne adds. "We have legislators who wanted this—our champion was Tom Slater, a state representative. He himself had cancer and has a reputation for being an extremely compassionate man. He said, 'If I need this, I want to be able to use it.' No one was going to argue with him."

The state's medical-marijuana bill was passed in 2006, overriding the governor's veto, and then made permanent in 2007. State Senator Rhoda Perry was an equal partner in the journey. Her nephew, Edward O. Hawkins, died four years ago from AIDS complications. Slater and Perry's personal experiences guided them, allowing them in turn to steer their colleagues toward passage of a bill that would allow safe access. In fact, the General Assembly honored both Perry and Slater by naming it the Edward O. Hawkins and Thomas C. Slater Medical Marijuana Act. However, the legislature neglected to address one key component of the new program: How do patients acquire their medicine?

"People were worried about using and finding medicine, about getting arrested," JoAnne says. "People around them had to worry."

Currently, almost 2,000 patients are registered with the program. JoAnne points out that over half of these people are on Supplementary Security Income (SSI), which provides cash benefits and Medicaid assistance. Although patients are permitted by law to designate up to two caregivers to grow marijuana for them, many patients had no idea how to find one. The idea that many of these people could feel compelled to purchase their cannabis from the so-called "criminal element" made RIPAC a particularly persuasive entity during the recent legislative slog to introduce state-registered dispensaries. A new bill, passed in June, expanded the original law by creating nonprofit compassion centers that would be registered by the Department of Health to distribute medical marijuana to registered patients. (Fifteen applications have been made so far; lawmakers promised to grant licenses for up to three compassion centers in September.)

Make no mistake, though: Cultivation has flourished in the Ocean State since passage of the 2006 bill. Patients are legally permitted to cultivate 12 mature plants and 12 immature plants (i.e., plants with no observable buds). They can also possess up to two and a half ounces of marijuana in usable form. Designated caregivers, on the other hand, can possess no more than 24 ma-

'We know the program. We want to protect the program. We want to keep people safe.'

—JoAnne Leppanen



JoAnne Leppanen, head of RIPAC.

ture plants, 12 seedlings and five ounces of usable medicine at any one time—regardless of the number of patients they serve. As a result, the massive grow ops of states like Colorado and California are rarely seen. But cultivation prowess is abundant.

"Actually," says expert grower D.J. Stone, "there was a lot of underground growing that was going on for years here. Around the '70s, we had the Mother Superior Seed Company; they had an underground radio station that encouraged people to grow. From what I understand, the two guys that ran the company were called 'the Pope' and 'Cardinal Green.' The word was, they grew for the Grateful Dead on a farm in Vermont. They supplied the seeds for a lot of New England."

A healthy specimen of Lemon Skunk stands tall.



A healthy Afghani plant branches upward.



Sweet Seeds

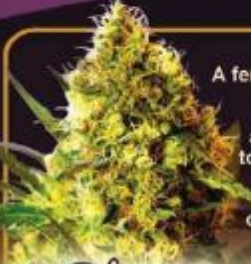


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Big Devil

Autoflowering: 100%. Indoor Blooming: 6 weeks. 3s. \$32,98
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 9 weeks from the germination. Height: 1-2 m. 5s. \$54,50 / 10s. \$109

Autoflowering



Our most recent and fastest auto flowering strain. Excellent production with big buds covered by abundant and aromatic resins. These plants can reach heights of 40-90 cm. Strong effect and sweet taste with exotic tones inherited from its Diesel ancestry.

Fast Bud

Autoflowering: 100%. Indoor blooming: 5 weeks. 3s. \$21,50
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 7 and half weeks from germination. Height: 40 - 90 cm. 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Autoflowering



Automatic feminised variety. The beginning of its flowering does not depend on season or photoperiod; therefore it can be grown all year round. Extremely fast flowering, it's height does not exceed 80 cm. Sweet aroma, hints of cheese and yeast.

Speed Devil

Autoflowering: 100%. Indoor Blooming: 5 weeks. 3s. \$37,28
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 8 weeks from the germination. Height: 40 - 80 cm. 5s. \$58,80 / 10s. \$117,6

Sweet Cheese

New



It's a fusion between two high-grade strains, Cheese x Black Jack. The genetics highlight the virtues of its ancestors, giving a new twist to the aromas and flavour of the Black Jack. It produces long central buds surrounded by plenty of peripheral buds that are also long and of good quality. Its high productivity added to a new and revolutionary flavour - a slight taste of mature cheese and spice - makes Sweet Cheese a recommended option for those who seek new flavours and aromas. Regarding the effects, it is important to remember that we're dealing with a mix of two of the big hitters in cannabis genetics. Its effect is strong and long lasting, inducing euphoria and a feeling of relaxation.

Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October.

3 seeds \$41,59 / 5 seeds \$70,28 / 10 seeds \$142,01

Snow Fruit

New



Sweet Seeds present the abominable plant of the snow! It has predominantly indica genetics that, in our opinion, have rarely been seen before. This strain has an exaggerated development of the lateral branches. Because of this just one plant can occupy an extensive area of cultivation and produce a huge harvest on its own. It produces succulent and compact buds thanks to its long calyxes. While it blooms it exhibits a charming range of colours in its foliage, with shades of green, magenta, red, and purple. It also develops a big mantle of trichomes in the flowering bunch and throughout its foliage during this phase. It's a strong strain, with a very short internodal distance and strong stalks that help it to resist the windy conditions of outdoor growing. While fresh, its aroma is reminiscent of a mix of mint and fruits of the forest, with a slight flavour of toasted almonds and humus. Its effects are very strong and relaxing due to its high percentage of THC and CBD. This is a strain of high medicinal quality.

Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September

3 seeds \$35,85 / 5 seeds \$60,24 / 10 seeds \$114,75

Double White

New



This is the result of crossing two elite clones selected around the year 2000, White Widow and Great White Shark, which are the two most appreciated and famous of the White family. Genetics characteristics include easy growth, strong effect, extraordinary taste and high production of trichome covered buds. In short, this is a plant with which it is easy to get good results. It's a vigorous and strong plant, with short internodes and a very resistant structure. This allows easy control of its growth during which the blooming of the buds join together to form a long tail. Its aroma is very pleasant and powerful, with slight tastes of sweet and sour, fresh and floral. The effect is also strong and typical of the indica-sativa hybrids.

Indica/Sativa: 60%-40%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October

3 seeds \$28,68 / 5 seeds \$50,19 / 10 seeds \$100,38

Cream Caramel



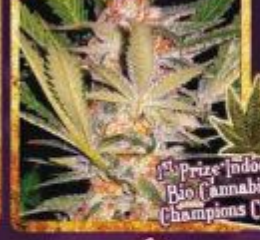
Cocktail of our best indicas, Blue Black x Maple Leaf Indica x White Rhino. Sweet and caramelized taste. Relaxing and antidepressant.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, beginning of October.

3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

S.A.D. S-1



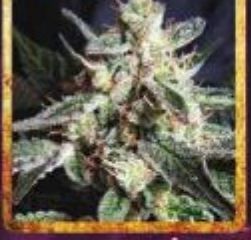
Self-pollination of one of our strongest and most aromatic mothers. Afghan genetic, with a strong sweet aroma.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Black Jack



One of our most powerful and productive hybrids, Black Domina x Jack Herer. Intense incensed Haze aroma. Very strong hybrid.



Indica/Sativa: 50%-50%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning of October.

3s. \$27,24 / 5s. \$48,76 / 10s. \$97,52

Jack 47



Hybrid between the two most powerful varieties of all time, Jack Herer x AK 47. Very high production with a very intense effect. Excellent force, the plant produces big buds full of resins. Sweet and incensed aroma.

Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 and a half weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of October.

3s. \$43,02 / 5s. \$71,71 / 10s. \$143,42

Ice Cool



Developed starting from a NYC Diesel line, powerful with high production with a particular and strong blue cypress tone and exotic smell. Indica's plant structure with a strong euphoric effect that shows the presence of sativa in its genetic heritage.

Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$47,33 / 5s. \$68,84 / 10s. \$137,68

Green Poison



Hybrid variety principally indica with very high production. Excellent taste and aroma. Thanks to its quick flowering, it anticipates fungal attacks. Flowery and fruity taste.

Indica/Sativa: 70%-30%.
Indoor Blooming: 7 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late September.

3s. \$32,98 / 5s. \$54,50 / 10s. \$109

Sweet Tai

Súper Tai x Early Skunk
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Wild Rose

Rosetta Stone x HOG
Indica/Sativa: 35%-65%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late of October.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Mohan Ram

White Widow x S.A.D. S1
Indica/Sativa: 85%-15%.
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Psicodelicia

USA Clone x Nepal's Plant
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$25,01 / 5s. \$47,33 / 10s. \$94,66

Ganesh Spirit

Sativa clone from Northern India's mountains
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning-mid October.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Flash Back #2

FLO x White Widow
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$24,37 / 5s. \$45,09 / 10s. \$91,78

Botafumeiros

Asian ancestry and Haze
Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.
Indoor Blooming: 10 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late October.
3s. \$35,85 / 5s. \$67,37 / 10s. \$114,74

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Sweet Tai
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Double White
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A small, legal medical garden in Newport.

Stone says that virtually all Rhode Island grow ops are indoor. “There used to be a lot of outdoor—backyards, state parks. Some people still do it,” he adds, “but between animals and people, I never had a big garden outside myself. I’m indoor all the way. Years ago, we used to steal streetlights! Grow lights were expensive—but you could get a 1,000-watt street lamp for 30 bucks. So that’s what we used in our basements. Those were my first grow lights: two streetlights.”

Things are a little bit different for him these days. Stone runs a co-op for patients who are unable to grow. “I set up seven rooms in a warehouse that I own,” he says. “I divided it into growrooms for separate patients.” Plus he’s just introduced his plants to a new, sterile, fully automated grow op that uses three intake fans, six air-cooled 1,000-watt lights, and a dual air-conditioning system. It includes a room called the “lung” that houses two 55-gallon drums with chemicals, with a coolant system just in case anything fails. It also includes a small veg area and a large one. The entire grow op takes less than 20 minutes to tend.

John is another caregiver with three patients; his partner takes care of two people himself, for a total of five patients. “I’ve had my garden for a little over two years,” John says. “I started off with hydro but turned to soil, which I find is much bet-



John is a caregiver with five patients and multiple strains.

ter. Right now we have about 12 different strains. We do a lot of trading—I get my hands on new strains every two to three weeks. We order seeds from Green House, Dutch Passion, and everything has been good. I trust their seeds.”

Both caregivers note that the system can be taken advantage of by unscrupulous caregivers or growers. “They may grow the plants,” Stone explains, “but they don’t give the medication to the patients. The caregiver has to be a compassionate person. Every one of my patients gets a free ounce a month. If they need more than that, it costs \$250. I teach patients how to grow and how to clone. I give away free clones to any cardholder who wants

Day Wrecker is a sweet, powerful *indica*.



them. This is medicine; this is a nonprofit.”

Patients who have undertaken their own successful gardens are understandably pleased that they’ve been able to cut the cost of their medicine drastically. Their gardens are remarkably compact—sometimes nothing more than a coat closet. Dan from Newport has designed a small growbox that houses clones, which sits unobtrusively in his living room. In his bedroom (now devoid of any visible floor space), he’s transformed a grow tent into two flowering rooms. The Lemon Skunk and Chronic he produces are exquisite.

But things can go haywire, too. After a suc-

‘The caregiver has to be a compassionate person. This is medicine; this is nonprofit.’

cessful career as a lighting technician for bands up and down the East Coast, Richard was forced to undergo multiple neck surgeries following a work accident. Now he lives in subsidized housing. He had quietly converted a spare closet into a terrifically efficient growroom and was turning out potent crops of Jack Herer—until spider mites made an unwelcome appearance.

So what do you do when your income is limited and your medicine has been destroyed? How does a disabled patient find an ethical caregiver?

That’s why “compassion centers are essential,” says JoAnne Leppanen. “And the more compassion centers get talked about, the more patients will register. Physicians are the gateway—and the patients are educating their doctors.”

But one wonders: Just *three* compassion centers—for a population of over a million?

Colorado’s population is six million. This year, more than 2,000 people applied for licenses there to run state-regulated medical-marijuana dispensaries, growing facilities or related businesses before an August deadline. According to Colorado officials, the state made \$7.34 million from the application fees alone.

In a state as economically challenged as Rhode Island, the lure of revenue may eventually alter the present-day model. But right now, it’s important to protect the status quo: There are more than a few politicians who would like to dismantle the program if improprieties are discovered.

“We know the program; we want to protect the program,” Joanne says. “I take it personally that everyone knows the law—because if they don’t know the law, or stay within the law, they are not going to be within that safe harbor. We have to keep people safe.”

But as Rhode Island moves forward, she’s already looking to the future. “If I own a compassion center, the patients have to appoint me as the caregiver,” JoAnne says. “But I have to wonder: Why should a patient have faith in me? It will be interesting to witness the marketing that results. This is going to be a competition.”

And, with any luck, the patients will be the winners. ✨
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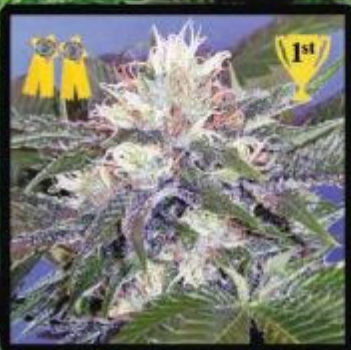


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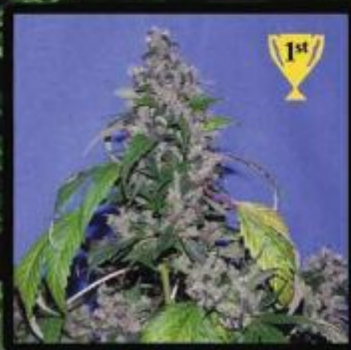
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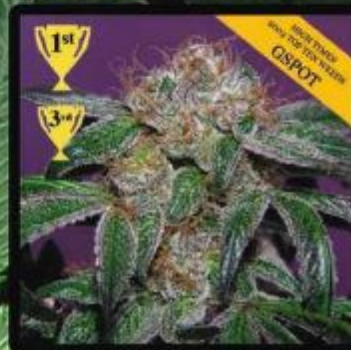
VISC



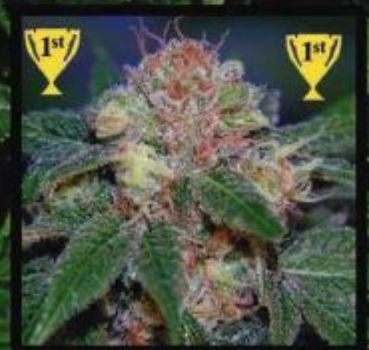
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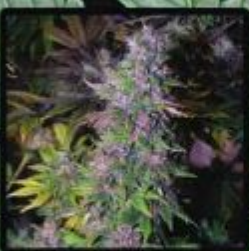
Lady Liberty



GSPOT



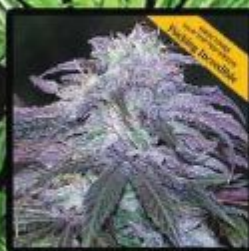
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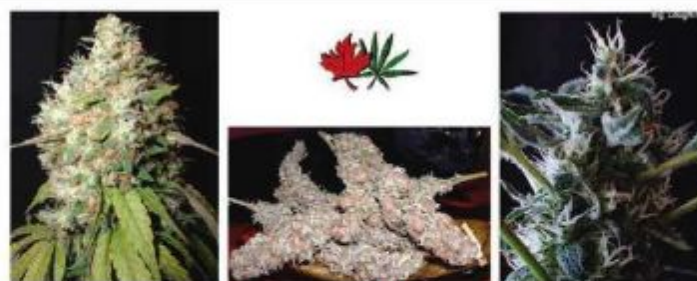
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THE 2010 GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

Compiled by the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department.

Each year around this time we put out a collection of reports gathered from our cultivation correspondents around the world. These reports inform us on crop harvests, yields, strains and other interesting details related to this most glorious season. We realize that not all cannabis growing regions of the world harvest at the same time, but nonetheless the Harvest Report is generated by some of the world's foremost experts in marijuana growing who (when not totally stoned) know their shit. Enjoy!



Harvest day is a holiday, no matter what city in the world you're in.





Fields of this landrace Pakistani are grown every year in Morocco for hash production.

things in return: batches and batches of new seeds to sell in the European and American markets, and first right to purchase the hashish made from their superior (usually more potent) genetics. This is one reason why the US's interest in African hash-producing countries has dropped off: Most of these exports go north to Europe or south to the rest of the African continent, with very little being smuggled to the Americas anymore.

Still, as far as bud and good Moroccan hash go, there's still plenty of excellent work being done with original landrace genetics and the country's ancient cultivation and hash-making methods (like dry-sieving entire dry plants on stalks by beating them over silk screens with wooden reeds). The flavors, though not antiseptically produced as with water-extraction techniques, still make this the best-tasting hash in the world. Some of this is due to

old-school genetics being grown way up in elevations over 10,000 feet (i.e., the old Pakistani and Swazi varieties), but a lot has to do with the extra vegetative matter from the flowers and plant itself that make it off the stalk along with the resin. This extra vegetative matter brings a fuller flavor into the hash, giving smokers a real essence of the plant's true flavor.

Most of the bud here that doesn't get turned into hash is saved or shipped within Africa to those who prefer herb (which is still a lot of people, especially in tourist areas such as Casablanca and Marrakech). The strains that have recently made their way into Morocco have come from European seed breeders, mostly in Spain and Holland. The yields, as usual, are very heavy in the mountainous regions, especially when the new varieties are bred for outdoor use to take advantage of the high altitude and consistent heat.

—Nico Escondido, reported from Nador, Morocco

MOROCCO

The latest reports out of Morocco have shown more of the same trend continuing: Hashish plantations continue to operate relatively unimpeded for those (locals) who are connected or for those (outsiders) who have money. The mountainous areas—both the Rif and Atlas mountain ranges—where marijuana is cultivated and fine Moroccan hash is produced haven't become any more accessible or easy to reach in today's world, and most law-enforcement agencies (even the DEA) have allowed their costly efforts in these areas to subside.

However, this has opened the gates for new European genetics to enter Morocco and find a home in the fields and mountains of these world-famous regions. In exchange for bringing these new genetics into the country (in the form of seeds by the hundreds of thousands), European breeders ask for two



Big colas grow in dense patches in the South African sun.

SOUTH AFRICA

With the influx of international visitors for the World Cup, security has been a major factor in South Africa this year. This meant that local growers were on high alert for most of the past year too, with crops feeling the pressure as "crop sprayers" (from law enforcement) were out in force—often at the expense of local food crops. With "zero tolerance" in full effect and trouble brewing in nearby Zimbabwe, even some of the age-old "trade routes" have been feeling the pressure.

Local delicacies, such as the Malawi Cob, have thus become very scarce and in high demand. That said, once again huge harvests are being achieved in some parts of the country, with the Transkei being one of the biggest producers. More and more locals are now looking to rent their fields out to growers who have fresh genetics and better techniques for utilizing the African sun (sometimes in contrast to local techniques), since landlords and investors want to reap the benefits of using super-nutrients geared for this climate to boost yields. Overall, a bumper year with lots of sunshine has meant another year of success for the SA grow scene.

More than ever, smaller operations and indoor growrooms have been essential in maintaining a year-round supply in South Africa. Dehumidifiers have been brought in to ensure a proper drying process indoors, and other technologies are now being used to help growers stay safe and out of the public eye. Plus, with more indoor ops, a greater variety of genetics can be grown. The price of Skunk is soaring, and local favorites like Kong Cheese and Blueberry are now ever-present.

With great genetics circumnavigating the globe, even the local hash scene has gained a new lease on life. In the early days, South Africa's hashish scene was basically limited to using the trial-and-error methods developed in the Transkei (Eastern Cape) and Swaziland areas, which produced smaller batches. But there has certainly been a shift in recent years. Most hash found in the urban centers now originates in Pakistan or Afghanistan, traveling south down the eastern coast of Africa; this includes the more expensive batches of charas. However, with the constant influx of travelers and tourists from Europe as well as the proliferation of information that the Internet has allowed, the quality of local hash (as well as the demand for it) has grown by leaps and bounds. This really helps to ensure a smorgasbord of local delights, from hand-rubbed hashish to water hash (i.e., water-extraction hash, also known as "bubble hash" in the US). The latter commands much higher prices, about 10 to 100 rands per gram (roughly equivalent to \$1.50 to \$15 per gram). This has made hash far more attractive to local growers.

All in all, 2010 has been another successful year, and with the abundant demand for Swazi in Europe, SA growers will ensure that this demand continues to be met. It's fairly obvious why this is South Africa's biggest export—and with new genetics on the rise and African seed companies now representing on the world market, collectors from all over the world will soon be able to get their hands on some of these gems! —Nick from Holy Smoke Seeds, South Africa

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Indoor, SOG urban growing dominates the coffeeshop scene in A'dam.

AMSTERDAM

At the moment, the quality and diversity of the cannabis in Amsterdam is at one of its lowest points in the last 10 years. The supply is steady, but the quality is not what it has been in the past, and great buds are a rarity these days. The only good thing is that prices have managed to stabilize somewhat: Very good buds with longer flowering times command about 10 to 13 euros a gram, while common *indicas* range from about 6.5 to 8 euros per gram.

At the moment, the most prevalent strains around here are the Amnesia Haze, Cheese and PP (or Power Plant), which is a big yielder and favorite among indoor commercial growers. The most common Amnesia is generally the nine-week *indica* phenotype; while the yields are great, this pheno lacks the flavor of the more cotton-candy-tasting Amnesia pheno that most have grown to love. As for the PP, it can be found in most coffeeshops, usually with a creative name (marketed to tourists) like Space Bud or Crystal Bud or—the all-time best—Sinsemilla. (Try explaining to a dealer that this simply means “seedless buds” and watch what his face does.)

Nevertheless, we *are* in Amsterdam, which means that the occasional oasis of good bud can be found—but only at a handful of shops. Places like De Dampkring, the Green Place and Amnesia do have consistent menus of high-quality buds. Among the top flavors in town are the Mexican Haze, G-13 Amnesia, OG #18 and Crimea Blue. The Mexican Haze is generally cured for at least six months (if not longer), which gives it a rare quality not often seen in Amsterdam. Plus two new strains have popped up in recent months, Bubba Kush and the Grape, the latter being an old Skunk phenotype that tastes like grape juice and is similar to the best purple strains coming out of Northern Cali.

Outside the city of Amsterdam and throughout the rest of Holland, some great genetics can also be found, including new strains like the Happy Brother from Karma Genetics and the Ceres Hilton (2009 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup winner for Best *Sativa*) and Old Dutch from the Harvestmen. These were recently spotted on the menu of a coffeeshop about an hour outside of town, in a city called Gorinchem. Finds like this are a bonus when touring the countryside to get a real feel for the country and our potential for great pot.

This summer in Amsterdam has been very, very hot, so it won't be until around the time of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup (or even a bit after) that some of the better-quality nugs start to show up in the coffeeshops. This is particularly true for the indoor crops—though, because of the unseasonable heat, there should be some great outdoor crops this year around October and November. All in all, it should be a great harvest this fall and an even better HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup!

—Harry Resin, reported from Amsterdam, the Netherlands

AUSTRALIA

Depending on seasonal temperatures in a particular region of the country, the methods and results for Aussie growers vary. While the climate in some areas promotes an early grow cycle, most of the growers “down under” have a limited number of cycles to work with and choose to grow indoors instead. But for those lucky Aussie growers blessed with ideal conditions, the best time to start their seedlings indoors is generally sometime between the months of October and November, after which they transplant them outside in the springtime a few weeks later. (Keep in mind that the seasons down here are the opposite of those in North America.)

Those growers who get an early start hope to harvest their outdoor crops in early March, but harvesting usually continues well into May. An early start time combined with ideal environmental conditions can allow outdoor growers in some regions to harvest up to four times a year! These regions are also particularly well suited to grape growing, and loads of wineries can be found nestled amongst the farms in the states of South Australia and Western Australia.



Outdoor growers in OZ reap some of the biggest yields in the world.

However, due to the harsh heat and low precipitation that many areas suffer from (this includes many of the central regions of the continent), *sativa*-dominant strains are the outdoor grower's best friend. With their extended growing season and tall but sturdy stalks, these resilient plants are some of the best suited to these climates, thanks to their ability to withstand wind, heat and disease. Most of the *sativas* grown in Australia first came to the land down under in the mid-1970s and early '80s from the Asian Pacific (i.e., Southeast Asia).

One great-yielding and super-resilient strain down here is the Bushman, a mostly *sativa* outdoor strain cherished by growers in Western Australia. Aussie growers have also been tinkering with recently imported genetics like Cheese and a variety of new Hazes; however, many growers in the area are still struggling to find the best conditions for these new genetics.

This doesn't mean there aren't plenty of *indica*-dominant strains to be found here in Oz, but growing them and ensuring their survival is a bit trickier. Since *indica*-dominant strains are generally easier to stress and don't always thrive in extreme temperatures, certain steps have to be taken to protect these crops and help them adapt to outdoor growing conditions in the country. This includes using greenhouses, mist systems, shade cloths (just imagine a big cheese-cloth stretched over the plant canopy), and other fairly common techniques to keep plants cool and protected from the elements.

Overall, thanks to the influx of new genetics and information, Australian growers are really starting to hold their own against growers in more cannabis-friendly places around the globe, and their harvests are being smoked all over our beautiful country.—Daussie, reported from Brisbane, Queensland

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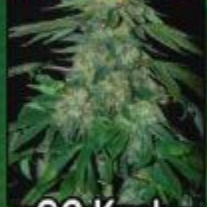
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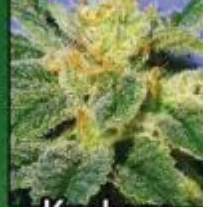
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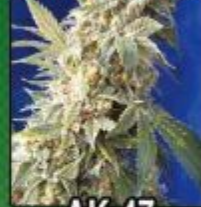
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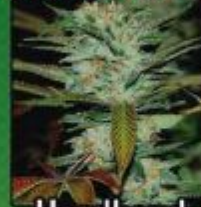
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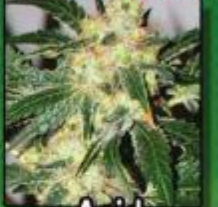


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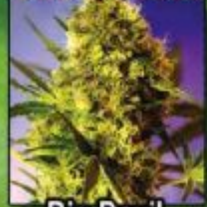
Strawberry Diesel

Secret Valley



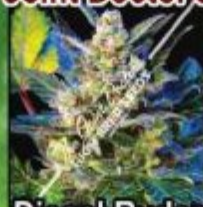
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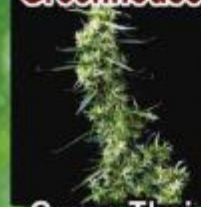
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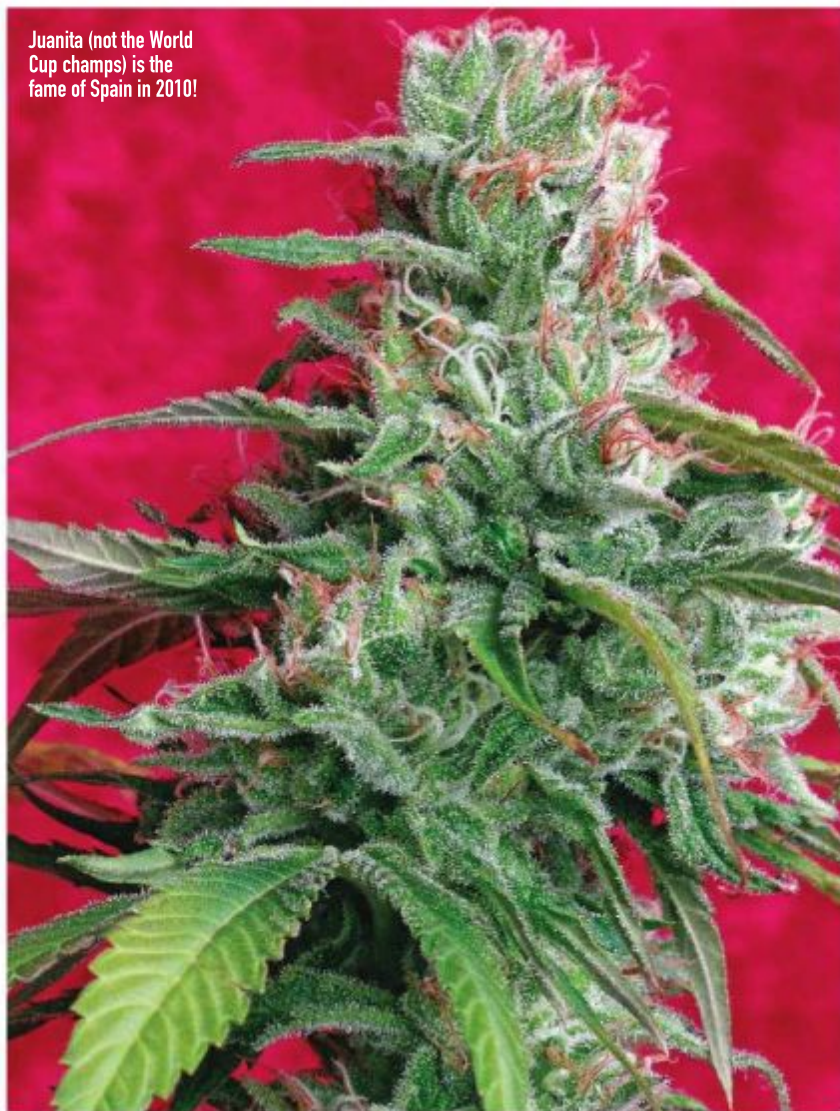
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Juanita (not the World Cup champs) is the fame of Spain in 2010!



SPAIN

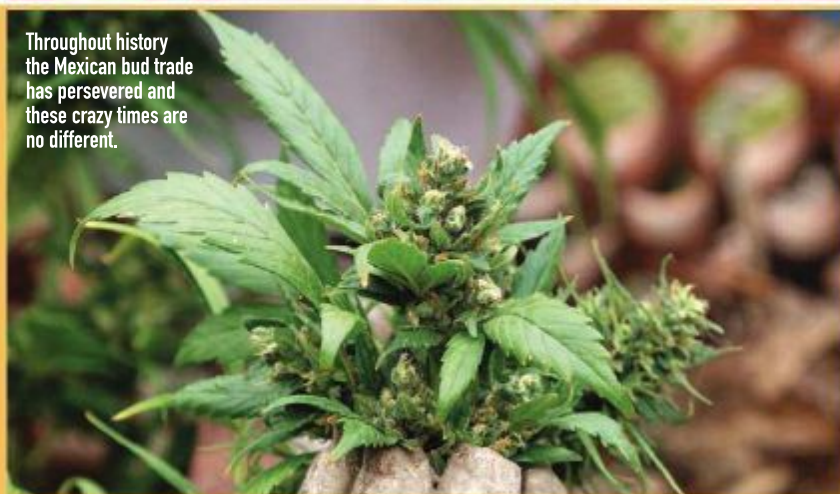
This past season has helped Spain ripen up like a fat 13-week *sativa* bud! Yes, things are looking up here, and the improving quality of the average Spanish grower has made for much better buds over the last few years. At one time, Spanish breeders weren't taken seriously on the world cannabis stage, but that has definitely changed: Elite Seeds has had another successful year racking up prizes across Spain, and the emergence of Reggae Seeds has brought us some great new genetics as well.

The climate in Spain is extremely varied, which means the number of strains that can be grown here is fairly large, depending on where in the country you live. In the northern provinces of Asturias and the Basque region, there's a climate similar to that of British Columbia, which means many of the strains that thrive in North America will do so here as well. In Andalusia, a province in the south of Spain, the weather has been extraordinarily hot during the long grow season, making it easy for growers to harvest any strain they want. Along the Mediterranean coast, from Barcelona to Alicante, the climate is very different: Here, high humidity combined with lots of sun have tested many a talented grower, but the results have been overwhelmingly positive.

The new genetics being developed by seed companies all across Spain have made the 2010 harvest season particularly exciting, with batches of new strains popping up all over the place—and most of these are very good. Expect to see some making their way to Amsterdam this November for the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. One new strain of particular interest is Reggae Seeds' Juanita la Lagrimosa, which has an exceptionally high CBD count—in recent tests by Canna Research Laboratories, the CBD level tested out at an unheard of 8.81%, making it an ideal choice for medical users. Juanita is also an easy-to-grow strain with a deep, sweet flavor, further enhancing its value to patients. With the added Spanish concern for the needs of medical users, plus the generally relaxed attitude toward seeds and seed companies here, good things are continuing to happen in the South of Europe!

—Jay Generation of Next Generation Seed Company, Valencia, Spain

Throughout history the Mexican bud trade has persevered and these crazy times are no different.



MEXICO

In 2010, the word in Mexico was "Lay low and go with the flow." More drug-related deaths occurred this year than ever before in our history (and not from overdoses, either). But in spite of this, the beat goes on. Here in Oaxaca, the military presence imposed by the politically repressive government of President Felipe Calderon has inhibited growing—except that which is done for commercial use, and thus can afford the necessary bribes.

According to reports from close inside the Familia Michoacána (a Mexican drug cartel based in the state of Michoacán, formerly allied to the Gulf Cartel as part of Los Zetas, but split off on its own since 2006), the same is true farther up the coast, where the domestic supply is good but international transport is next to impossible. The tunnels are waiting, but the roads are peppered with military checkpoints. The 30 or so soldiers manning these checkpoints are, on average, 19 years

old and have attended school to the age of 14. They wield European-made automatic weapons of impressive caliber, and some sit astride enormous machine guns mounted on the backs of brown military pick-ups. It looks like Somalia, and our best hope is that they don't actually give bullets to these young 'uns.

All of which makes transporting drugs here a lot like fishing without a license on a lake that 50 game wardens are patrolling. The soldiers will be under your car and looking through your wife's purse at each checkpoint—and *everyone* is stopped.

Even so, there is hardly a place in the country where *marihuanos* aren't smoking the dank Criollo that predominates the current harvest. The buds being harvested now are so gooey that they have to be cut up with scissors. The seeds are sparse, almost nonexistent; the ring of oil around the ash is so pronounced that the oily tip leaves a brown spot on your fingers. The smoke almost can't get through the resin at a joint's end, and the high is an undeniably tropical, hashy haze—perfect for any ocean morning. The heat may have left the big fields empty, and the hydroponic warehouses may be shut down for now, but this has allowed growers to concentrate on raising fewer, higher-quality plants ... the good stuff that we locals smoked all year!

Aside from and in spite of the narco-horrors here, the Mexican Congress re-enacted a bill vetoed by former President Vicente Fox that legalized the possession, in small amounts, of almost every drug imaginable: heroin (0.25 grams), opium (2 grams), meth and cocaine (0.5 grams), as well as marijuana (5 grams—enough for a car ride, for sure). Because of its massive Congressional support, the bill was finally signed into law by the same anti-drug president, Felipe Calderon, who has done more to curtail Mexico's single most lucrative revenue stream from a renewable natural resource than any past president.

Calderon's stance is that our problems stem from the USA's insatiable appetite for illegal drugs—a situation that will hopefully start to be remedied in the next California election. Our hope and wish is to become an economical source of medical marijuana for the countless Americans who would benefit from using it—because if there was ever a nation in the history of this planet that needed to smoke more marijuana, it's the United States of America.

One Love,—Jack Chastaine, Oaxaca, Mexico

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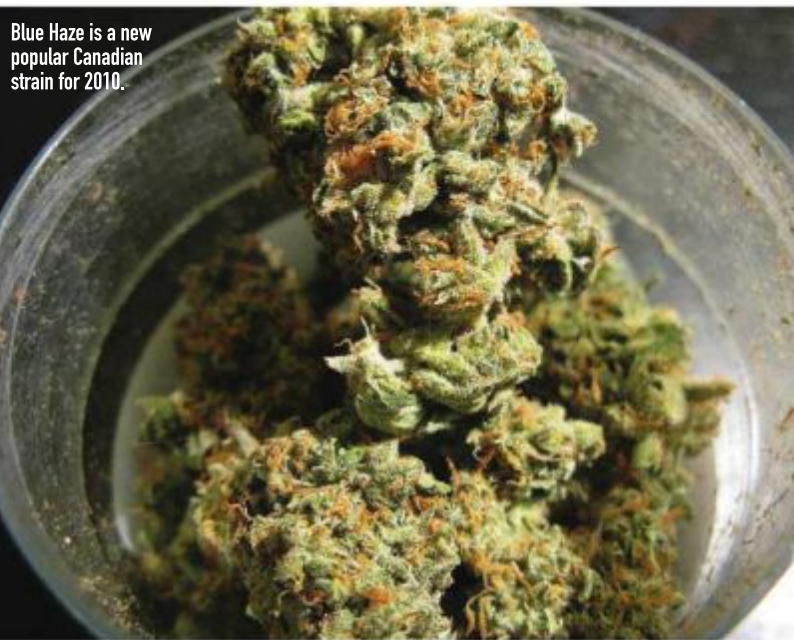
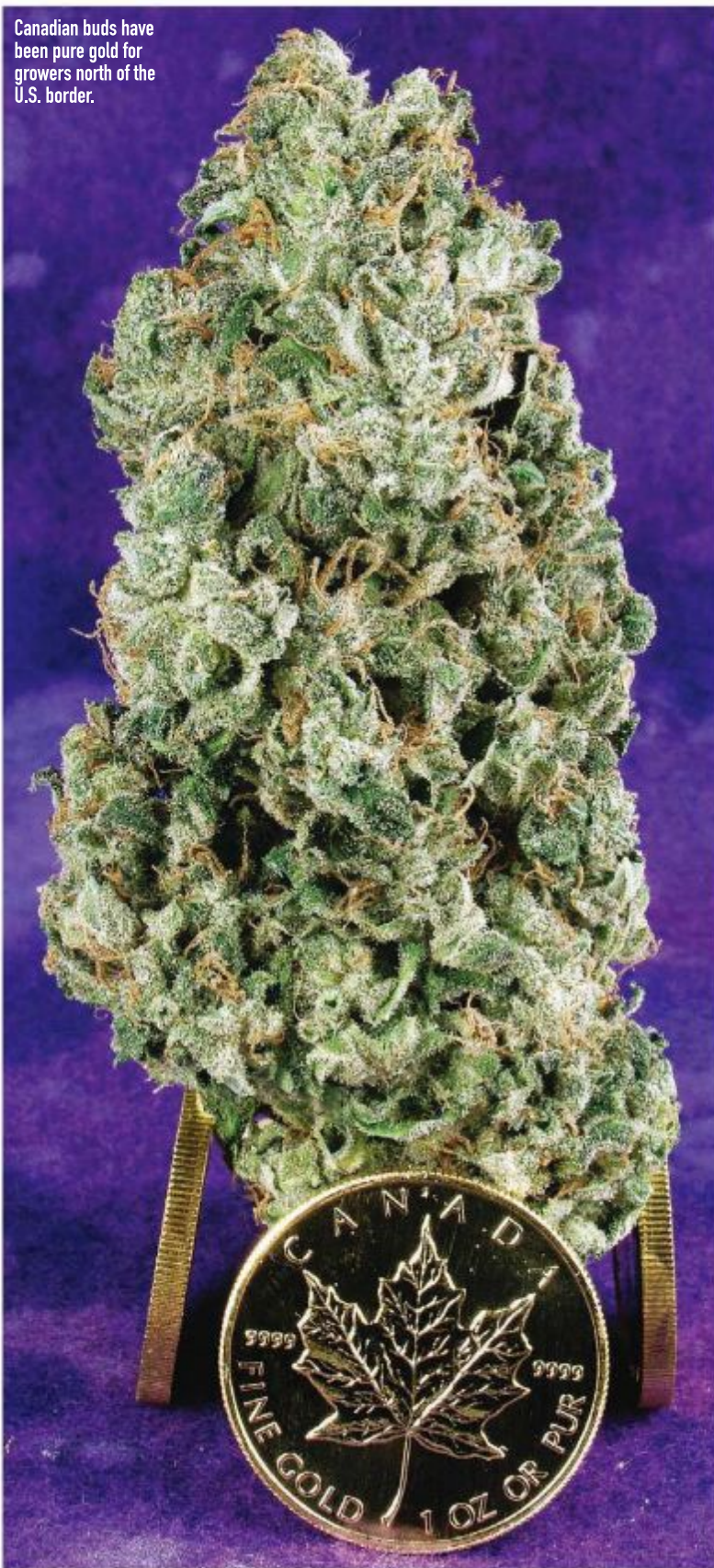
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Canadian buds have been pure gold for growers north of the U.S. border.



Blue Haze is a new popular Canadian strain for 2010.

At the moment, the Canadian federal government doesn't produce medical cannabis, choosing instead to let patients legally grow their own.

past, strains were generally grown for yield, these days more and more improvements are being made in the areas of aroma and taste, as smokers increasingly gravitate to the more flavorful strains instead of the normal, head-whopping *indicas* that were once popular (such as M-39, a.k.a. the notorious Beasters). One of the newest and most flavorful strains in Canada these days is the Purple Kush—which rarely makes it out of the country, since the locals smoke it all up.

Recently, Toronto hosted its first-ever medically oriented cannabis expo, including several display booths with buds from the local Toronto compassion clubs. Among the strains on display were a couple of OG Kush phenotypes and a really pungent Cheese that originated in the UK. As the authorities recently shut down all the compassion clubs in Montreal, it was good to see that patients in Ontario were still able to get their medicine and that clubs in the province were thriving.

At the moment, the Canadian federal government doesn't produce medical cannabis, choosing instead to let patients legally grow their own. Some patients are still unable to grow themselves and either purchase their cannabis from compassion clubs or through caregivers who grow for them. This is why there are many large-scale commercial grows still in operation and supplying the US. However, with California blowing up and 14 other medical-marijuana

states now in the US, a fierce competition has been developing between US and Canadian growers in the marketplace. This should make for some interesting bud wars this fall, as California and Canada compete for shares of the US bud market.

The prices that med-pot patients have to pay in Canada vary. In the compassion clubs, prices fluctuate between \$7 and \$10 Canadian per gram. If purchased directly through private growers, the price will be from \$4 to \$5 Canadian per gram. On the wholesale level, pounds of above-average bud can be purchased for \$1,800 to \$2,500 Canadian. These prices are for orders of 100 pounds or more, and they go up exponentially as transportation and smuggling fees (i.e., across the US border) are added. The strains that do best for export continue to be variations on Jack Herer and other prominent Canadian strains like God Bud and Romulan.

Luckily, an unseasonably warm summer spells very good news for people waiting on that great Canadian outdoor weed. However, this also means that the quality of indoor buds has suffered a bit, with buds looking looser and less compact than normal. All in all, there will be a robust harvest in Canada this October—and whether the best bud comes from indoor grows or outdoor ones, there will be plenty to go around.

—Harry Resin, reported from Montreal, Quebec

CANADA

The Canadian cannabis scene has improved dramatically over the last few years. British Columbia (BC) and Quebec were always known for their quality bud—think Reeferman Seeds or strains like the Afghani Bull-riding—but, in general, the buds coming out of Canada were the standard-issue commercial strains. With the spread of medical licenses across the country, however, there has been a marked increase in the types and quality of pot being grown.

This growing movement has helped improve Canada's bud menu immensely, as we're getting more and more strains coming out of the Kush/Chem family and more modern hybridizations of old-school Hazes and Skunks. One example of these new hybrids is the Jean Guy, whose taste has been likened to eating pure honey after taking a big rip off a joint. There are also strains like the Purple Princess and Blue Haze now making their mark in the pot marketplace. Whereas, in the



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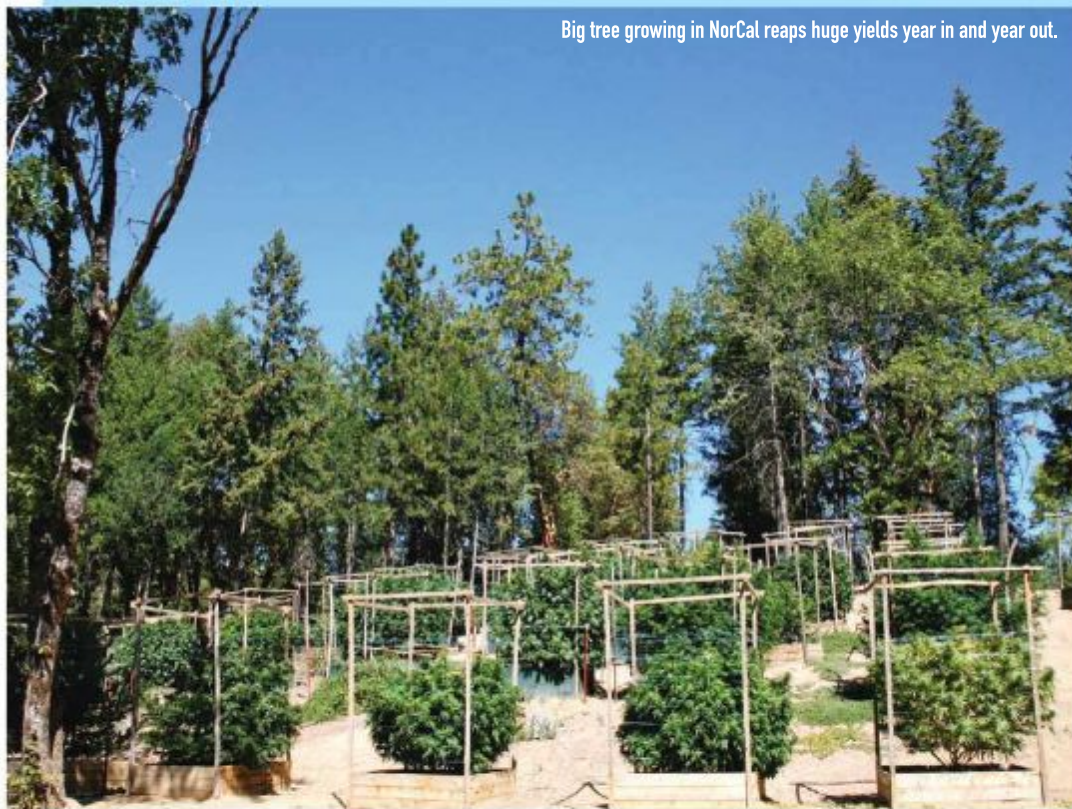
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Big tree growing in NorCal reaps huge yields year in and year out.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Many Northern California growers have come to expect the unexpected during the transitional (and temperamental) months of May and October. However, even by that standard, this year's cold nighttime temps and rain deep into June caught many growers in the Emerald Triangle (Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity counties) by surprise.

But weather was merely one of the many challenges facing outdoor NorCal growers this year. As HIGH TIMES held its first annual US-based Medical Cannabis Cup in late June, helicopters scoured national forests and private lands for evidence of large-scale grows. Although gardens exceeding 99 plants are illegal by any standard, the sheer number of cannabis plants in Northern California often forces the authorities to focus on grow ops that involve 200 or more plants.

Come September, as happens every year on US 101, the California Highway Patrol will attempt to intercept the river of marijuana flowing north to south. Even though indoor cultivation is still considered king in California, indoor and outdoor growers alike will find it nearly impossible to sell their product at its usual market value for many months to come. For California growers, the dominant question is not whether the market will get flooded this fall, but rather how low prices will go when it does. And with legalization on the table, few can claim to know what comes next.

In places like Mendocino County, which is known for its organic wine and weed, sophisticated compost blends are oftentimes trucked into remote regions at 10 cubic yards per load. Given NorCal's tendency toward terrain that's heavy with clay soil (and holds only moderate levels of organic matter), the safest bet for outdoor growers is always to replace the soil rather than try to amend it. Thus, outdoor farmers dig out and refill huge plots quite often or utilize various

aboveground containers that are usually very large in volume (25 gallons or more).

However, techniques for the remediation of organic soil mixes are becoming more widespread among veteran growers. This isn't solely for environmental reasons: On very large scales, these organic grow techniques reduce year-to-year recurring costs across the board. Soil, nutrients and even pest control (via compost tea) can all be generated using common everyday trash. Even some indoor organic growers are catching on by culturing worm farms in their growrooms.

With the widespread proliferation of dispensaries in the state, it's become increasingly difficult to pin down any given strain as being associated with any particular region. That said, NorCal growers are always on the lookout for early finishers to beat out both the fall rains and the soon-to-be-flooded bud market. Whereas the conversation-inspiring Bubba Kush, the eyelid-closing Granddaddy Purple and the chronically crippling OG Kush once reigned supreme, growers have since diversified in a million different directions in search of huge yielders (such as the Diesel hybrids). Growers are also turning to strains exceptionally high in CBD, like Harlequin and Cannatonic.

To the outside world, Northern California may seem unified in its support for marijuana and marijuana-law reform. However, the region remains just as deeply conflicted as it was back in the early '70s, when San Francisco hippies brought the plant up north in their attempt to escape urban living. Even as the rest of the country has become more aware of marijuana's medical utility, many NorCal locals continue to scapegoat "doper hippies" for all sorts of societal ills. The ultimate irony here is that, were it not for the cannabis industry, many of these counties would have been plunged long ago into the direst economic conditions.

—Hue Jielder, Ukiah, California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

When people think "California growing," the first thing that usually comes to mind is outdoor cultivation. But, in truth, that's a stereotype more suited to Northern Cali. Sure, there are some outdoor operations in Southern California, but these tend to be highly illegal, operating on public properties and barren wastelands (in terms of large-scale growing, anyway). No, the biggest growing in SoCal is done mostly indoors and, in some instances, in large greenhouses.

With moderate but fair medical laws in Los Angeles County, many growers have taken to small warehouse spaces capable of housing many hundreds of plants. Further east, medium to large greenhouses dot the valleys of various counties, with some even rotating crops between regular agriculture and medical cannabis. Both of these set-ups yield large, with the most potential for heavy harvests coming out of the greenhouses.

Overall, the crops that are better tended and produce much higher-quality herb come from the indoor grow ops. Strains like Blue Dream and Chemdog give indoor yields an extra boost, as they tend to produce well in hydroponic set-ups. Also, large-scale or commercial operations vary greatly in technique. Some take more of an outdoor approach and grow giant trees indoors in 25-gallon containers. Others stick with flatbeds filled with soilless mixes and deploy "sea of green" (SOG) techniques. Hydroponic systems are very popular because they tend to make feeding a lot easier for experienced growers; in these instances, flood-and-drain tables seem to be the system of choice.

California, north and south, is currently supplying the United States with enormous yields of quality medicine. On a yearly indoor schedule (i.e., an average of four harvests per year), a large facility can easily turn out hundreds of pounds of primo marijuana—sometimes into the thousands. That's not to say the little guy or do-it-yourself home grower isn't doing well, too—all of which has helped change the face of cannabis in California and the rest of the nation.

—Nico Escondido, reported from Riverside, CA



Down in SoCal the hydroponic boom is on.

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Commercial growers in CO utilize outdoor space and greenhouses...

COLORADO

It seems that as each month goes by, the pot scene in Colorado grows larger and larger. Commercial grow ops are developing at a considerable pace, and the good summer weather has provided a hotbed of great chronic in the area. Add to that the backlog of patients (over 60,000!) waiting for medical-marijuana cards and the 1,100-plus registered medical dispensaries, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that the Centennial State is spawning a revolution of pot smoking in an otherwise conservative part of the country (i.e., our neighbors Utah, Arizona and Nebraska, just to name a few).

Except for California and maybe Washington, no other state can rival Colorado's pot scene. Leading the nation in the passage of SAFER (Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation) laws, Colorado is one of the few states where simple pot-possession charges carry less of a penalty than alcohol violations. Colorado is also the only state in the union where medical marijuana was passed not as a ballot proposition, but as an amendment to the State Constitution, making it a fundamental part of each resident's constitutional rights.

With all that said, let's get into the harvest scene. Here in Colorado, you have everything from personal head-stash growers in the suburbs to multi-thousand-square-foot warehouses in the more industrial areas, supplying both friends and dispensaries with a constant supply of heady pot. The progression of medical-marijuana laws has only helped to create an explosion in all types of grow ops: Every medical dispensary in Colorado is responsible for growing 70 percent of the product it sells, while the remaining 30 percent must be purchased from other registered dispensaries in the state. So, thanks to this law, you have each dispensary maintaining a large grow op to provide its patients with high-grade medicine. And along with the increase



... while home growers churn out the "heady" strains.

'Except for California, no other state can rival Colorado's pot scene.'

in dispensaries and their grow ops has come an increase in private growers as well. People in Colorado now have the luxury of buying solid, healthy clones from their local clubs. And with no shortage of grow shops to get supplies from, the industry is booming—some places even offer instructional classes on how to grow your own.

Then you have the mountains in the southern parts of the state, where outdoor gardens and greenhouses dominate the grow scene. The high winds and unconventional weather can make it difficult at times—there's always the chance of a hailstorm coming out of nowhere, and sometimes even snow at higher elevations during the prime grow months. Longtime Colorado growers have had to become crafty, and their wisdom is always passed down (as it should be) to newer growers, making expectations for this year's harvest very high.

The strains that seemed to dominate the 2010 harvest season include Lifesaver, Banana Kush, Tangerine Haze and Durban Poison. Of course, each dispensary tries to grow its own exclusive strains, so there are too many to list here. The outdoor harvests seemed to be mainly *indica*-dominant strains like White Widow, Purple Kush and Sweet Tooth. These strains work better for higher-altitude growing because of their ability to bud earlier in the season, cutting down on the chance of losing crops to an early frost. There was also no lack of the usual favorites like Colorado Cough, Northern Lights,

Blueberry, Sour Diesel and OG Kush. With Colorado so centrally located, just about every strain in the country makes its way through this pot-enriched state at one point or another.

After a successful summer season, and with an ever-growing medical scene, it seems likely that future harvest reports from the Rocky Mountain State will only be larger and tastier—just like the green scene itself. Keep growing and keep smoking, Colorado!

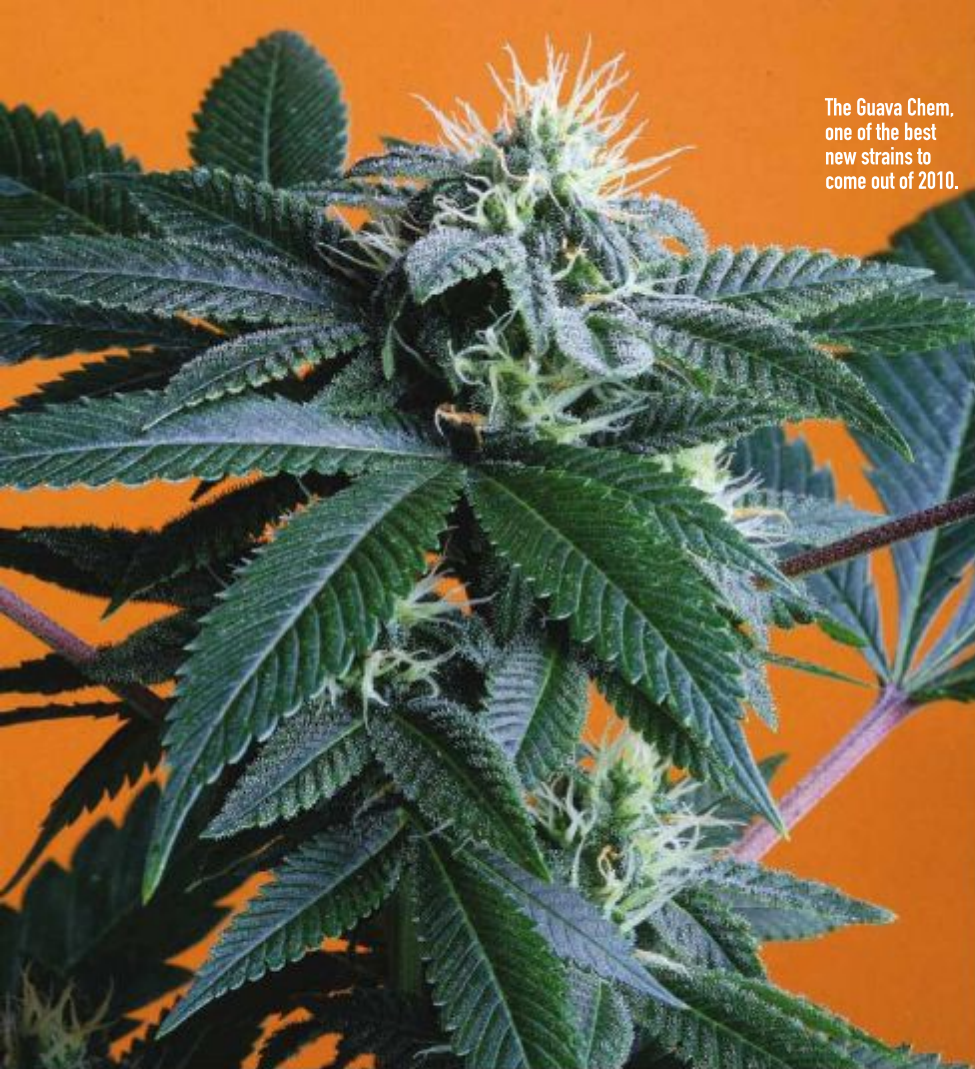
—Felix Green, Denver, Colorado

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The Guava Chem, one of the best new strains to come out of 2010.

MAINE

Farmers in Vacationland were expecting a bumper crop of cannabis this year, and they weren't disappointed. With incredibly favorable weather throughout the summer (bright, sunny days and gentle breezes, as opposed to massive heat waves in the lower Northeast), it seemed that the biggest concern among cultivators was how to find enough hands to trim it all come fall. Many an outdoor and greenhouse grower was heard talking about buying a pricey automatic trimming machine in order to get through what one local told me would be an "off the meter" year when compared to previous cannabis harvests in the region.

The strains being grown in 2010 included familiar stalwarts like Blueberry, Skunk and Kush along with newer arrivals like Super Lemon Haze, Chemdog and MK-Ultra. Indoors, growers used ballast flippers in order to maximize each harvest. The flippers shift power from a grow light in one room to a corresponding light in an adjoining room every 12 hours during flowering, thereby running two alternating bulbs from a single ballast. The rooms, side by side but on opposite day/night schedules, thus produce double the yield per grow cycle while eliminating suspicious electrical spikes.

On the medical-marijuana front, earlier this summer Maine's Department of Health and Human Services approved dispensaries for six of the state's eight districts, prompting fears that the resulting "monopolies" (some bigger groups had come from out of state to lobby for shops) would begin squeezing out the smaller caregivers and their collectives. The licenses to run the remaining two dispensaries were being hotly contested at press time, but suffice it to say that the marijuana scene in Maine changes almost daily, shifting uneasily between the concerns of politicians and the needs of patients.

—Danny Danko, reported from Portland, Maine

NEW YORK

With an imperfect medical-marijuana bill stalled by an impotent legislature and a lame-duck governor (who happens to be a severe glaucoma sufferer himself), the med-pot patients of New York State remain in legal and legislative limbo. Even though an overwhelming majority of the state's residents support the right of ailing citizens to treat their illnesses and symptoms using cannabis, heartless lawmakers continue to twiddle their thumbs and waste time, passing up the chance for some serious revenue in a state hard-hit by the recession and the resulting unemployment and economic malaise.

In New York City, marijuana-delivery services continue to be the source for such choice strains as Chemdog, Strawberry Cough and the ever-popular Sour Diesel, which crisscross the streets in the packs of bike couriers. Even so, at an average of \$25 per gram for such services, bud buyers have increasingly started growing their own. Local hydroponic shops cater to the closet and growbox horticulturalist now more than ever. Hobbyists, using turnkey kits designed to produce pot for pennies (and in limited spaces), have become very popular in and around Manhattan. With the availability of some of the world's best genetics, growing a few small plants for top-notch head stash is definitely an attractive option to many New Yorkers.

Still, in the outlying boroughs, the yuppie grower turns more and more



Indoor rules in the Big Apple, helping preserve top strains like East Coast Sour Diesel.

hardcore: The growrooms tend to get larger in size, and entire grow houses begin to pop up in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and even as far out as Long Island. These houses run the gamut; some have college students tending the rooms, while others are run by serious professionals with ample financing to plow into high-grade ops. These grow houses supply what New York connoisseurs refer to as "boutique bud" (a reference to the upscale shops that dot elite neighborhoods of the city, selling high-end products for exorbitant prices). In high demand and short supply, boutique bud commands anywhere from \$5,500 to \$7,800 per pound; these strains include the Guava Chem and Super Sour D.

Upstate, outdoor farmers in 2010 experienced some frustrating and trying conditions. A heavy-duty heat wave that lasted almost the entire summer forced many to water their gardens two or even three times per day. Guerrilla growers arrived at their clandestine plots to find wilted or dried-out plants

dying from the prolonged high temperatures and extreme lack of rain. Despite the drought, some enterprising cultivators reaped heavy harvests, especially in greenhouses with automated watering systems and plenty of air movement. The same held true on the far eastern side of the state, where the outdoor growers of Long Island suffered alongside the vineyards and wine makers. For a state not often recognized for its outdoor agriculture, New York has had years of stellar outdoor, organically grown crops, but they always stayed local. This year, however, we're looking to our indoor friends and West Coast counterparts to get us through the long winter.

—Danny Danko & Nico Escondido, reported from the isle of Manhattan



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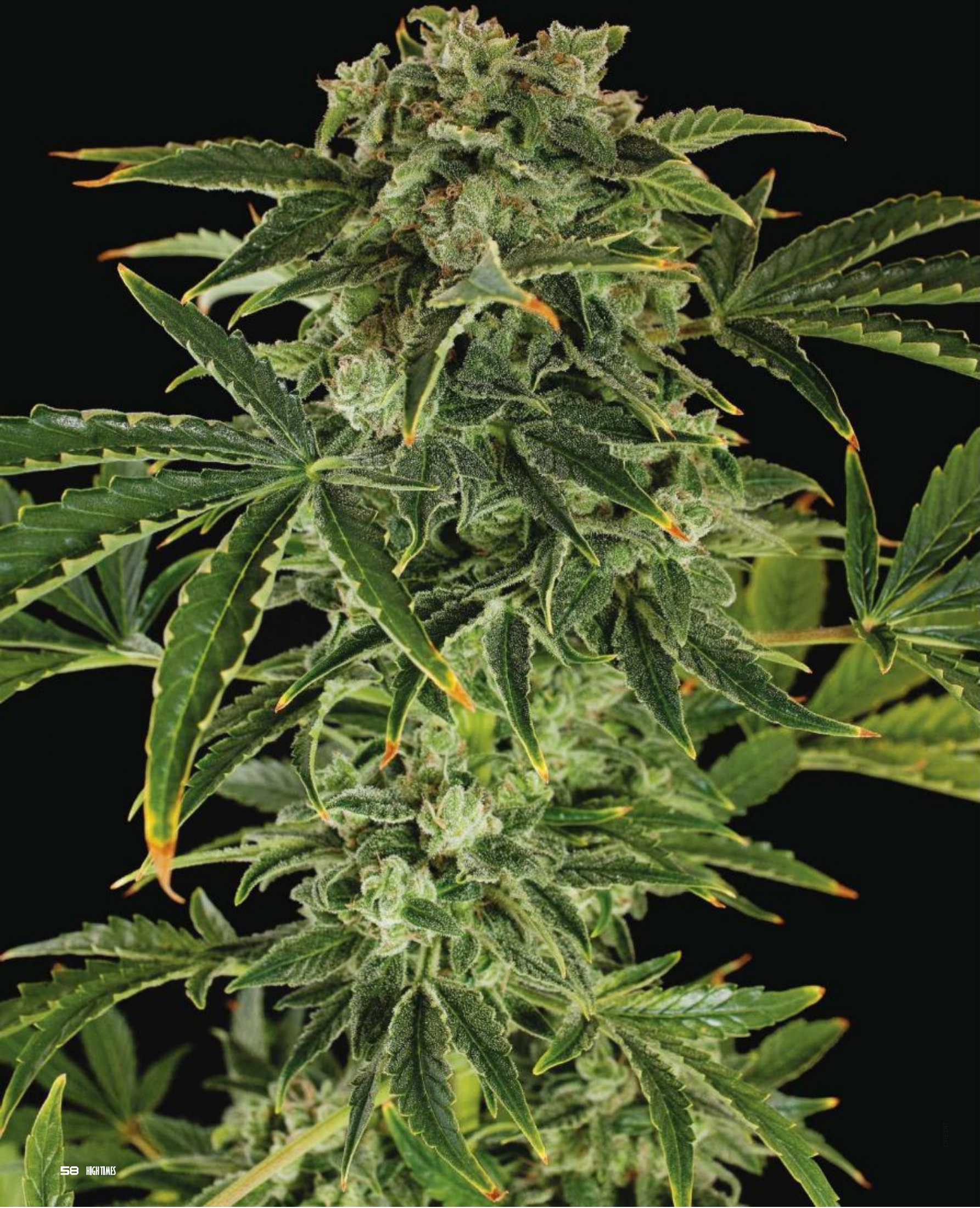
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HAZE AUTOMATIC

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TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2010

Danny Danko unveils HIGH TIMES' choices for the most potent and finest-tasting pot varieties in the world—our annual, highly esteemed list of the award-winning ganja genetics available for true cannabis connoisseurs and weed aficionados.

HAZE AUTOMATIC

Dinafem

Auto-flowering strains are all the rage in Europe and Canada, but they have yet to take off in the US. But as more and more farmers awaken to the convenience of growing cannabis plants that start flowering at a certain height regardless of the light cycle, we'll see these varieties start to proliferate. Pushing the envelope ever further, Dinafem—a respected and award-winning breeding outfit from Spain—has introduced the world's first auto-flowering Haze hybrid.

Combining the complex *sativa* flavor and psychoactive high of Haze with a *ruderalis*-tinged strain's ability to bloom automatically, Dinafem has created a truly unique, useful and versatile cannabis variety. In most climates, you can simply plant the feminized seeds any time the threat of frost isn't an issue, then walk away and return 80 days later to find mature, fully formed flowers ready to trim and dry—long before the typical harvest season has even started.

Lineage: Haze x ruderalis

Flowering time: 10 to 11 weeks

Contact: Dinafem, dinafem-seeds.com

BLUE DREAM

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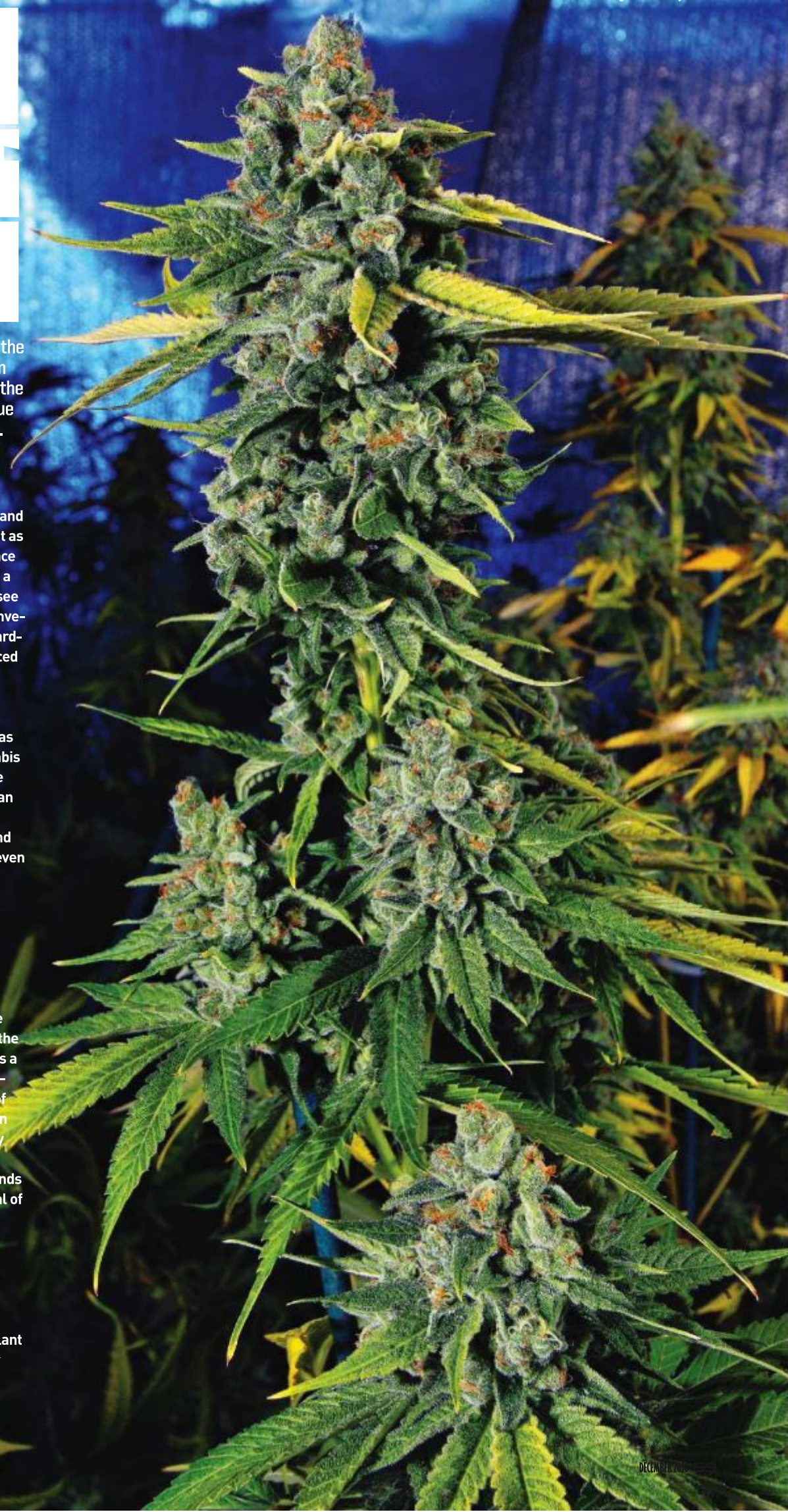
Over the past few years, the *sativa*-dominant Blue Dream has become a real dispensary favorite on the West Coast—especially in the Bay Area, where it's a staple at many medical-cannabis collectives. Full-bodied in flavor, odor and high, and reminiscent of our beloved Strawberry Cough, this colorful strain provides a richness of experience lacking in many other "meds."

The long-lasting high starts in the head and ends in the body, yet without the sedative effects typical of *indicas*, leaving you fully functional yet pleasantly stoned for a truly expansive and cerebral experience. The incense-like aroma of Blue Dream—capped by a spicy, fruity taste that lingers on the palate—also makes it a perfect strain for making hash. The only problem is that the mites love this plant as much as everyone else does, so stay vigilant and constantly check the undersides of leaves for damage.

Lineage: Blueberry x Haze hybrid

Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks

Contact: Clone only



SOUR KUSH (a.k.a. Headband)

DNA Genetics

East Coast residents familiar with the strain known as Headband will be quite excited to know that the “breeding bros” of DNA Genetics have released a superb version of this famous Diesel/Kush cross. Their Headband won third place at the 2009 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup for the Green Place coffeeshop under the name Headband Kush, earning it the first of what will undoubtedly be many more awards.

Don of DNA Genetics tells me that they reversed

the OG Kush to pollinate the Sour Diesel, and he assures growers that they’ll find a great mother plant out of a pack of 10 beans. Luckily, cloning this strain is easy too, with roots popping out within eight to 10 days of cutting. Headband possesses that familiar diesel-fuel smell and sour lemon taste and starts producing resin glands early and often, exemplifying the best qualities of its elite parentage.

Lineage: Sour Diesel x OG Kush

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: DNA Genetics, dnagenetics.com



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JACK HERER

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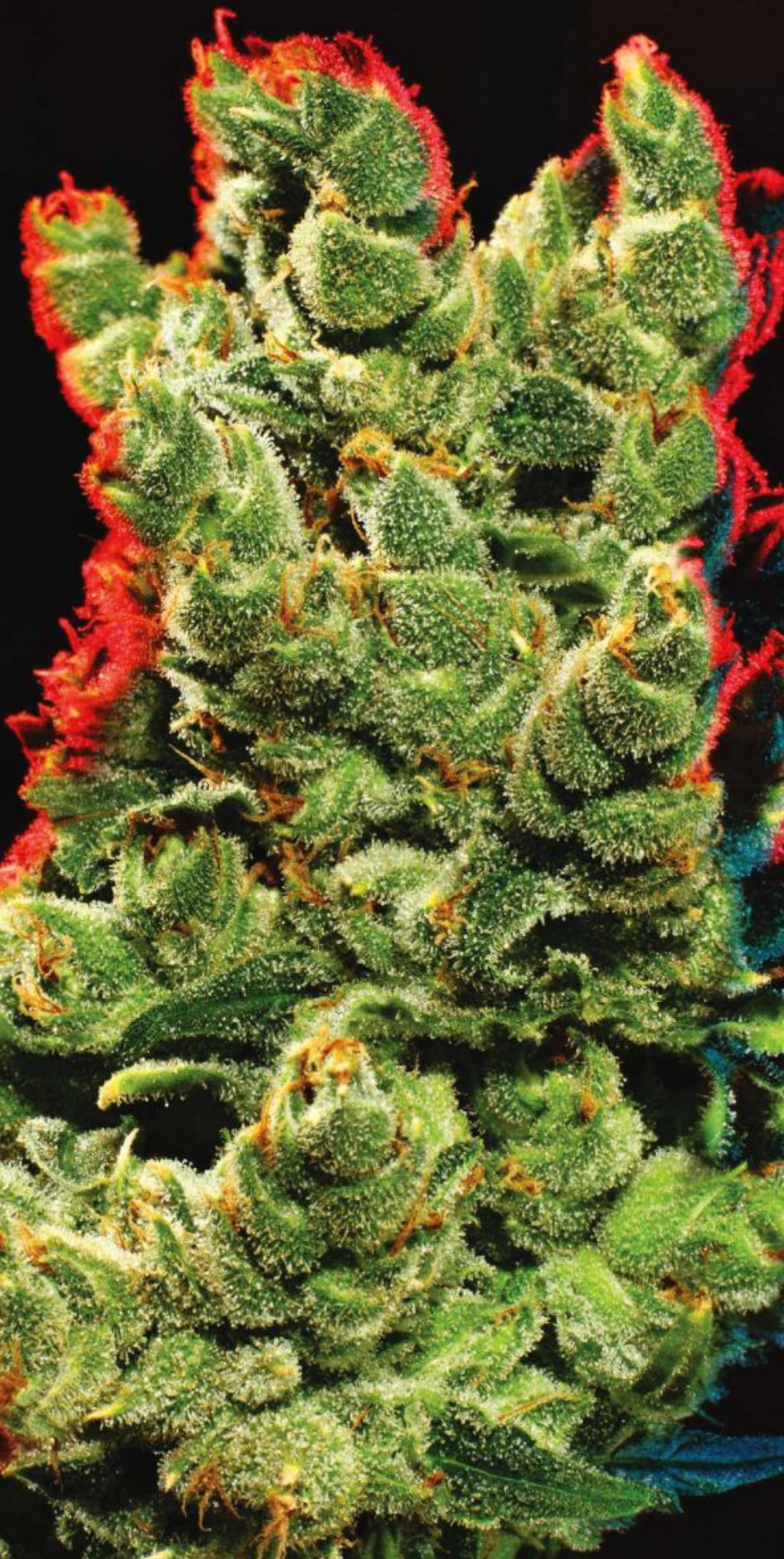
Though not exactly new (it was the first-place *sativa* at the 1999 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup), Jack must still be included this year. Named in honor of the late, great Jack Herer, noted activist and author of *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, this strain delivers head-stash-quality cannabis with a unique flavor and supreme potency. A favorite of the Sensi Seed staff—they call it their “Champagne of Strains”—Jack grows frosty and covered with trichomes. Amazingly, even the *stems* of these plants have resin glands on them!

Cultivators will experience several phenotypes from Jack Herer seeds, and all are fantastic and complex. Related strains—such as Jack Flash, Jack’s Cleaner and Candy Jack—testify to its strength, beauty and versatility in breeding programs. The death of its much beloved namesake makes every puff of Jack Herer taste bitter-sweet, yet what greater honor than to have your name forever on the lips of tokers everywhere?

Lineage: Skunk #1 x Northern Lights #5 x Haze

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: Sensi Seed Bank, sensiseeds.com



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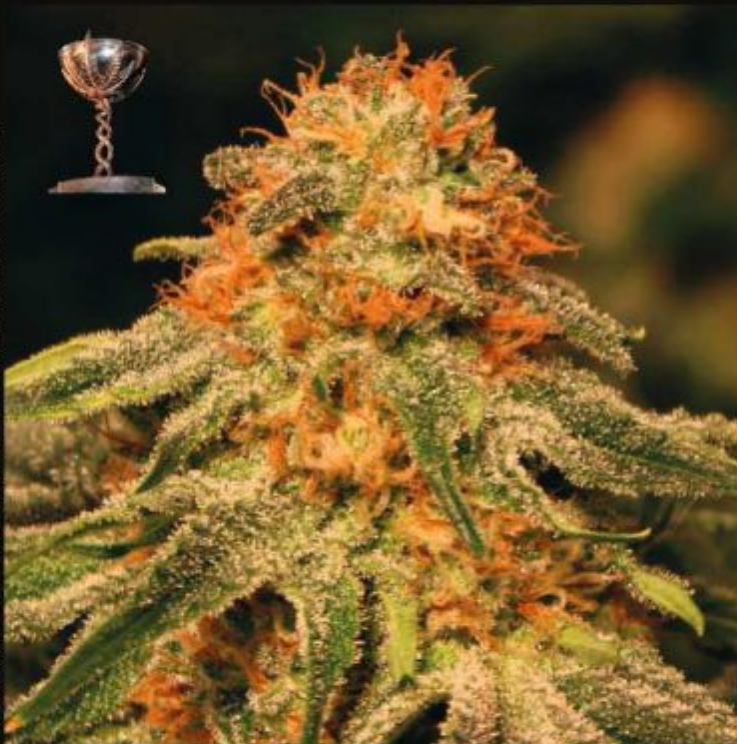
NEW



Pineapple Chunk

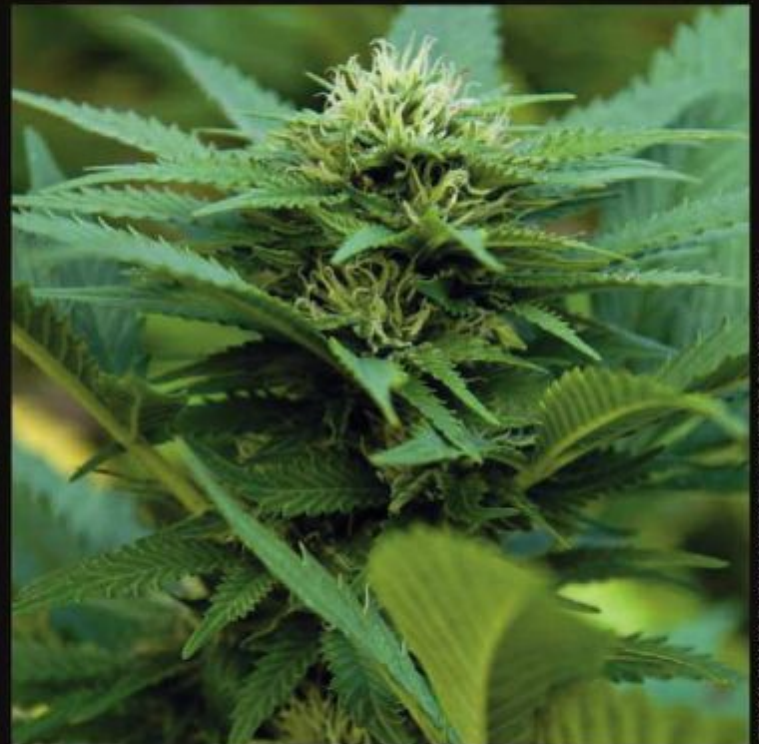
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WRECKAGE

T.H.Seeds

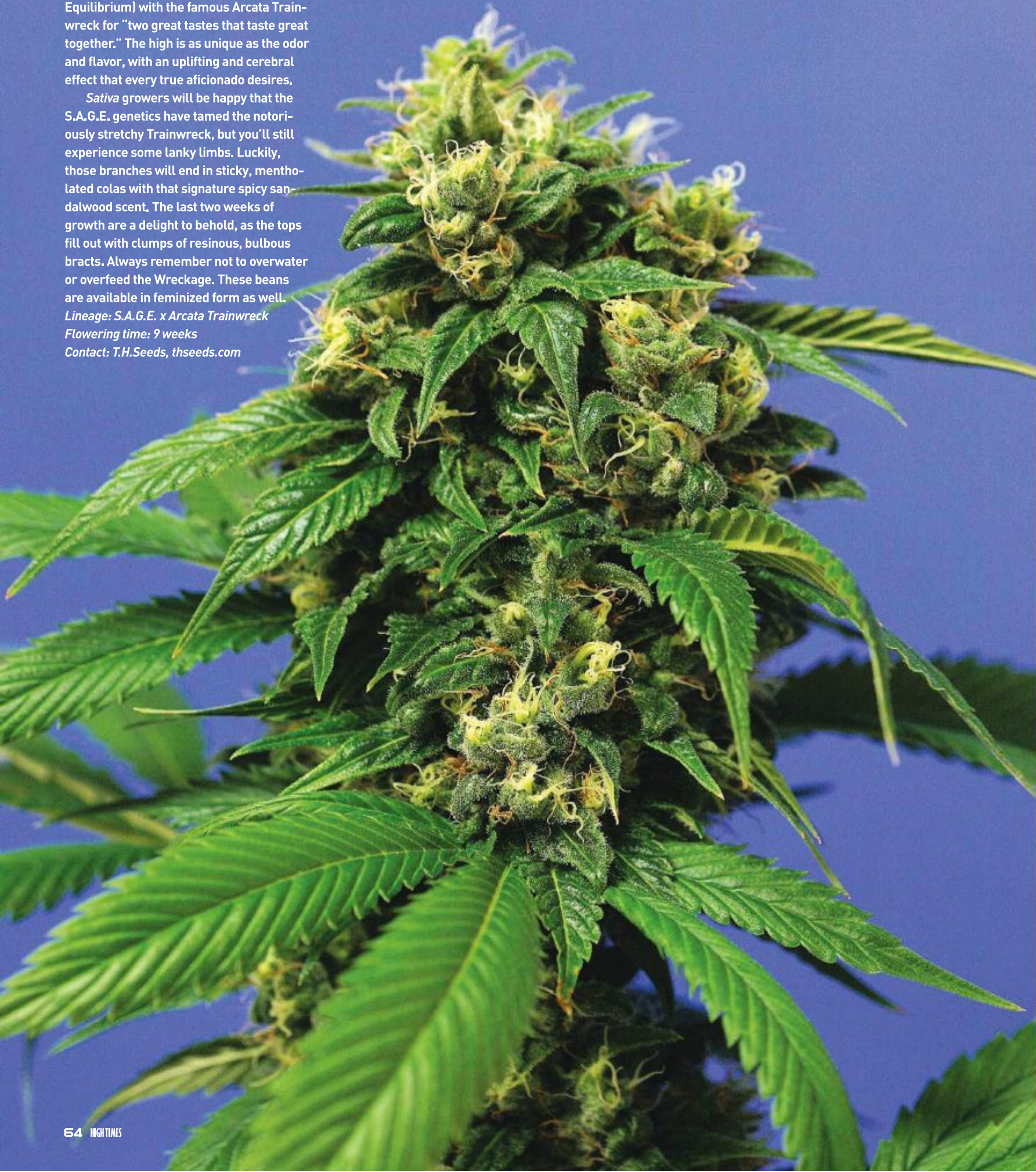
HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame inaugural inductees T.H.Seeds represent two decades of stupendous genetic achievements, including MK-Ultra, Kushage and A-Train. Now T.H.Seeds have combined their legendary S.A.G.E. (*Sativa* Afghani Genetic Equilibrium) with the famous Arcata Trainwreck for “two great tastes that taste great together.” The high is as unique as the odor and flavor, with an uplifting and cerebral effect that every true aficionado desires.

Sativa growers will be happy that the S.A.G.E. genetics have tamed the notoriously stretchy Trainwreck, but you’ll still experience some lanky limbs. Luckily, those branches will end in sticky, mentholated colas with that signature spicy sandalwood scent. The last two weeks of growth are a delight to behold, as the tops fill out with clumps of resinous, bulbous bracts. Always remember not to overwater or overfeed the Wreckage. These beans are available in feminized form as well.

Lineage: S.A.G.E. x Arcata Trainwreck

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: T.H.Seeds, thseeds.com





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CHERNOBYL

Subcool from TGA Genetics
After being gifted the legendary Arcata Trainwreck cut on a trip through Cali, Subcool immediately set about finding a way to incorporate it into the TGA Genetics breeding program, enlisting his bud Dioxide to pollinate it with his Jack the Ripper male and study the results. What emerged was the Chernobyl, a devastatingly beautiful plant with incredible coloring late in life and a singular taste all its own.

Growers—especially those in the Pacific Northwest—will love the fact that Chernobyl resists the scourge of powdery mildew. Sub loves the “unique lime-sherbet smell” and praises Dioxide’s ability to choose special strains for the TGA quiver. Always experimenting and on the lookout for new gear, Team Green Avenger continues its dominance of dank with the devastatingly powerful and supremely tasty Chernobyl.

Lineage: Jack the Ripper x Arcata Trainwreck
Flowering time: 8 to 9 weeks
Contact: TGA/Subcool Seeds, tgagenetics.com



CHEM'S SISTER

Chemdog
Though he’s become known as the “Midas of Marijuana,” Chemdog’s original intentions were just to grow the highest-quality pot he could find. Almost 20 years since he popped the seeds from a bag of kind bud purchased on a Dead tour, those rare beans are still causing a ruckus among cannabis aficionados worldwide, and the original Chem’s Sister from 1996 was no exception with its powerful and long-lasting high.

The new Chem’s Sister, started in 2006 using selfed seeds from the older version, exhibits the same dark orange hairs and “skunky sandalwood” smell, as well as that fruity-candy bite the whole family of genetics is known for. Chem tells me he loves the Sister’s mold resistance, noting that “pests don’t really like it either.” He calls her a “heavy yielder, getting very tall but with even the lower branches getting nuggy.”

Lineage: Chemdog (Chem’s Sister pheno)
Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks
Contact: Top Dawg Seeds at thcfarmer.com

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JACK HERER
HIGH TIMES

CHEM'S SISTER



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VANILLA KUSH

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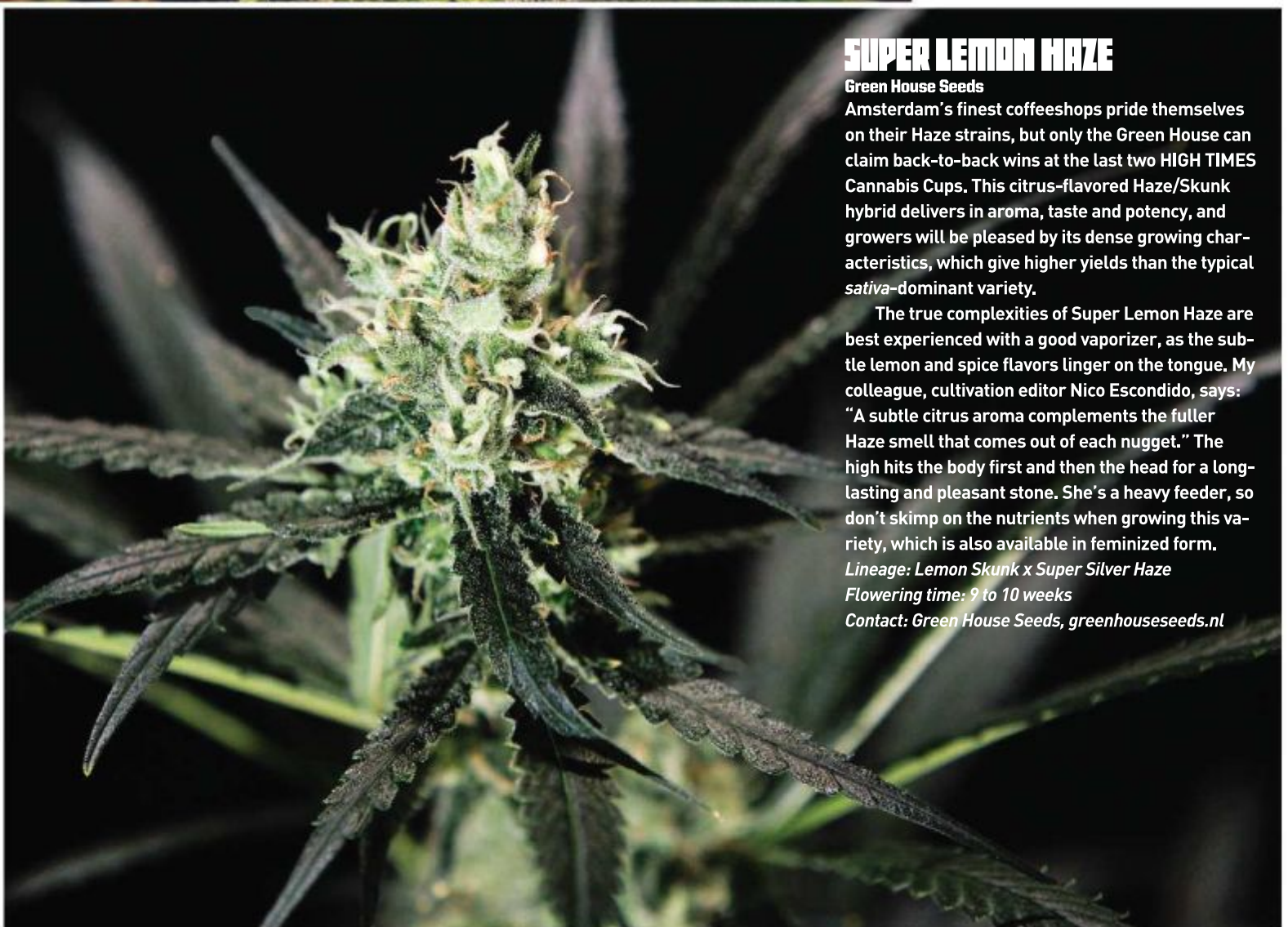
The second-place winner at the 2009 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup, Vanilla Kush proves the adage that not all *indica*-dominant strains are created equal. It's hard to nail down the intoxicating scent these buds exhibit upon grinding, which is both complex and varied: Vanilla and sandalwood compete with citrus and lavender as they all dance upon the palate. The smoke is full-bodied and sensuous, with the strong medicinal properties associated with heavy-duty Kushes. The higher-than-usual CBD level will especially soothe certain symptoms, such as severe headaches and muscle spasms. In fact, medical patients report immediate relief from smoking or vaporizing it.

When cultivated, the Vanilla Kush boasts dark red hairs surrounding tight, frosty clusters. Even the fan leaves are crystal-coated almost out to the tips, and the buds fill out quite nicely. It's yet another winner from Barney's Farm, and it's also available in feminized form.

Lineage: Kashmir Hash Plant x Kush

Flowering time: 9 weeks

Contact: Barney's Farm, barneysfarm.com



SUPER LEMON HAZE

Green House Seeds

Amsterdam's finest coffeeshops pride themselves on their Haze strains, but only the Green House can claim back-to-back wins at the last two HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cups. This citrus-flavored Haze/Skunk hybrid delivers in aroma, taste and potency, and growers will be pleased by its dense growing characteristics, which give higher yields than the typical *sativa*-dominant variety.

The true complexities of Super Lemon Haze are best experienced with a good vaporizer, as the subtle lemon and spice flavors linger on the tongue. My colleague, cultivation editor Nico Escondido, says: "A subtle citrus aroma complements the fuller Haze smell that comes out of each nugget." The high hits the body first and then the head for a long-lasting and pleasant stone. She's a heavy feeder, so don't skimp on the nutrients when growing this variety, which is also available in feminized form.

Lineage: Lemon Skunk x Super Silver Haze

Flowering time: 9 to 10 weeks

Contact: Green House Seeds, greenhousesseeds.nl



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ARJAN'S ULTRA HAZE #1



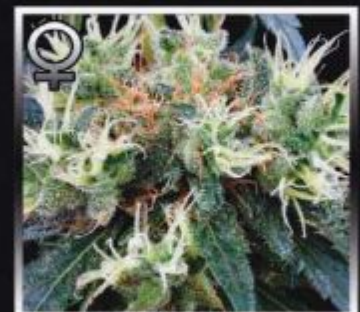
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Canadian farmers typically prune the *sativa*-dominant Timewarp several times throughout the summer in order to widen its profile and create several tops, which will turn purple in the last few weeks of flowering. If you're growing in less-than-perfect hillside or greenhouse conditions, try the Texada Timewarp for a tasty, fruity alternative to the typically hardy outdoor fare.

Lineage: Texada Timewarp IBL (inbred line)

Flowering time: 8 weeks

Contact: BC Bud Depot, bcbuddepot.com



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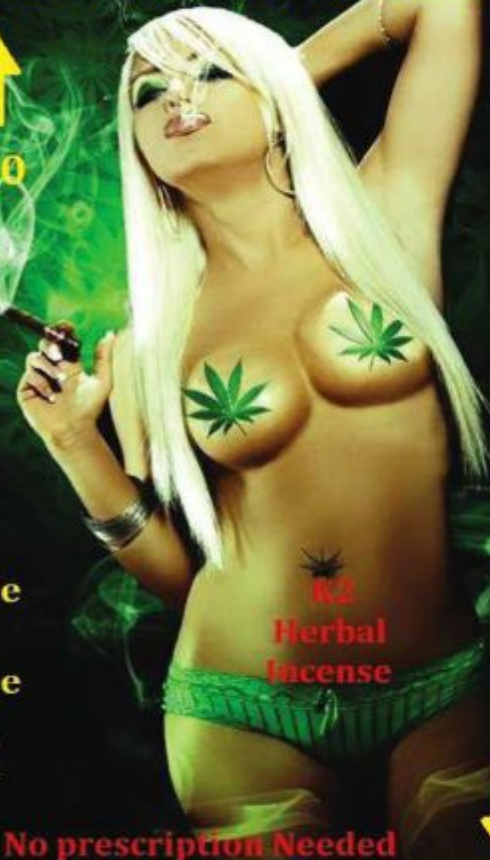
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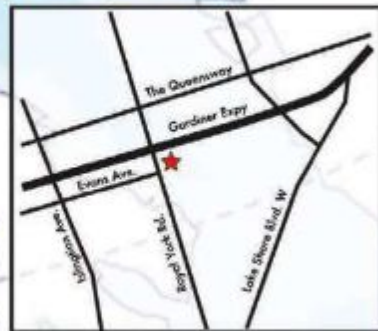


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South of the border, the Drug War rages on. Who are the bad guys, and who are the good—and what, if anything, should America do to help? Questions abound, with few apparent answers, except one: Buy American! By Malcolm Beith

Hundreds of pot plants go up in smoke.



MADNESS

As the waist-high marijuana stalks burned to the ground, pillars of smoke rose above the soldiers and drifted off through the clearing and into the hills of Sinaloa, one of Mexico's 31 states, located in the north-west part of the country. From the other side of the lake, the faint sounds of a narcocorrido—a song hailing the exploits of Mexico's drug traffickers—could be heard coming from a stereo. The general and his men barely batted an eye as they continued to burn the 3,500-square-meter patch. They explained that the song was a reaction to their destruction of the marijuana—essentially a big middle finger from the defiant local farmers, who would soon find a new place to grow their profitable plant.

Since the 1930s, the Mexican Army has been playing a cat-and-mouse game with the narcos, as the nation's drug traffickers are called. A marijuana plantation springs up, the army goes in and burns it down, and the narcos plant more marijuana somewhere else. Sometimes they simply return and grow again in the very same spot. The same goes for poppies, which are used to make heroin. And, in recent years, methamphetamine production has become a big income generator for the Mexican cartels, which earn anywhere between \$19 billion and \$40 billion a year, according to the US Department of Justice. Made in labs hidden

throughout the mountains, meth has now become a military target too.

But in the past four years, Mexico's Drug War has evolved into a real shooting war. In 2006, drug-related violence in parts of the country began to reach unprecedented levels; on one occasion, a drug gang interrupted a night of revelry at the Sol y Sombra nightclub in the central state of Michoacán and hurled five severed heads onto the dance floor. It was meant as a warning: Don't mess with the cartels. As a result, in December of that year, newly elected Mexican President Felipe Calderón decided he had to do exactly that. Calderón deployed several thousand troops to Michoacán to combat the cartels and reduce the violence. Shortly thereafter, he sent troops to other hot spots as well: Sinaloa on the west coast, and the cities of Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez on the border with the United States. The goal was to come down hard on the cartels and instill a sense of security in the local population.

Unfortunately, the results have been extremely mixed. The presence of the army in cartel-dominated areas—not to mention the cartels' own bloody rivalries—has only heightened the appalling violence; more than 25,000 people have died over the past four years. Some of the victims have been beheaded, their heads stuck on pikes outside of police stations or



Both marijuana and poppies are hurled into the fire in the Mexican mountains.

IN MEXICO

left alongside handwritten placards warning rivals to back off their turf. Bodies have been thrown from airplanes or torched beyond recognition. Some of the dead have been left with their pants pulled down in order to shame them; in one instance, a man's face was carefully carved off and stitched onto a soccer ball. The brutality of the cartels' killers knows no bounds. One cartel member dissolved 300 bodies in a vat of caustic soda, earning him the morbid nickname *el Pozolero*, or "the Stewmaker."

There have been some successes for the Mexican anti-narcotics forces and their counterparts in the DEA, which assists interdiction in Mexico by training and advising Mexican cops (who must be vetted first), not to mention passing on valuable intelligence concerning fugitive drug suspects. Of the four traditional drug cartels in Mexico—the Tijuana, Juárez, Gulf and Sinaloa organizations—only the latter remains intact.

The Arellano Félixes, for example, have all been arrested or killed. These ruthless brothers once ruled Tijuana, the border city of about 1.2 million inhabitants just south of San Diego, with an unparalleled bloodlust. During their heyday, Ramón Arellano Félix, among the most important of the brothers, would be out drinking with his cronies and suddenly just have "the urge to kill," recalls former DEA Special Agent Errol Chavez,

who tracked the brothers from across the border. "So they would just drive off down the road and kill somebody." Ramón was shot and killed in 2002, and the last remaining Arellano Félix brother was arrested in 2008, thanks to DEA intelligence supplied to the Mexican authorities.

Other crime lords, like Osiel Cárdenas Guillén of the Gulf cartel, were bloodthirsty too—and astonishingly defiant in the face of the law. Cárdenas Guillén once ordered his men to surround a pair of DEA and FBI agents in the border city of Matamoros, his hometown, where the two were meeting a source. He was well aware that the men were agents of the US government, but he didn't give a damn. "You fucking gringos—this is my town, so get the fuck out of here before I kill you," Cárdenas Guillén told them.

In 2007, Cárdenas Guillén was finally extradited to the United States. In February of this year, he pled guilty to drug-trafficking charges and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Thus, since 2006, the leaders of all the main groups—with the exception of the Sinaloa cartel—have either been caught or killed thanks to US-Mexican cooperation. And these days, even the Sinaloa cartel is under attack: The brother of cartel boss Joaquín Guzmán was sentenced to 13 years in

MALCOLM BEITH

