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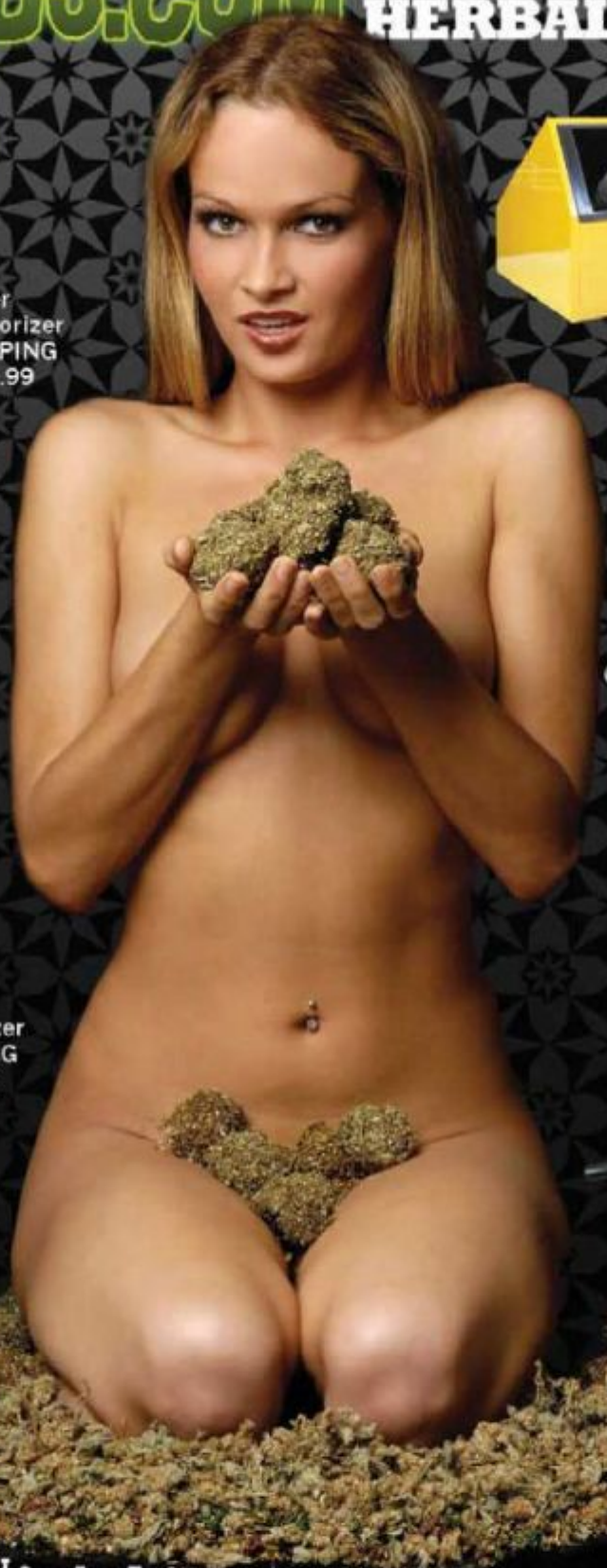
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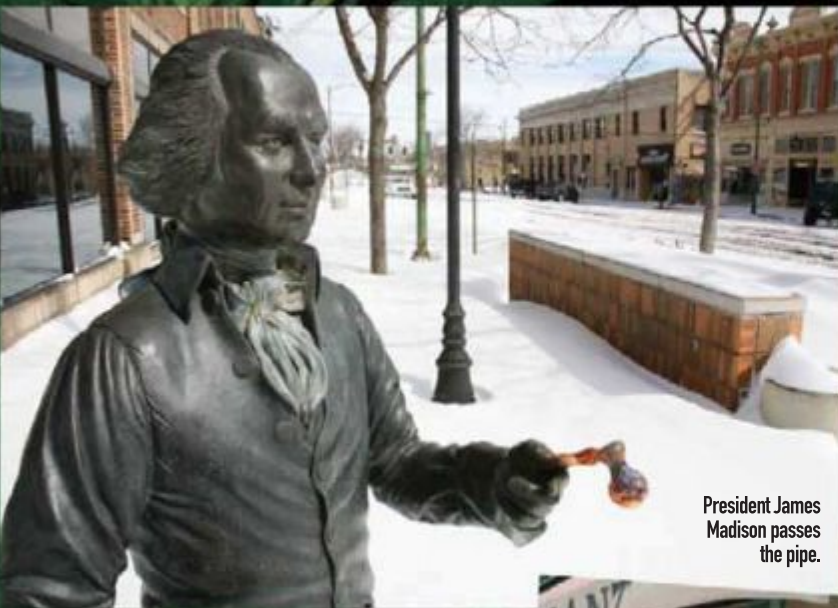


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President James Madison passes the pipe.

DAN SKYE (2)

Snowbound!

My plane was on the tarmac, ready for takeoff. Then the pilot announced that we'd be returning to the gate. There were no complaints among the passengers: Furious wind ripped across the runway, and a steady drumbeat of sleet pinged off the plane. By nightfall, 12 inches of snow had fallen and the wind gusts were being clocked at 80 mph. By daybreak, the Black Hills of South Dakota had received three feet of snow.

Freaky weather. The day before, the temperature had nearly hit 80°—but 48 hours later, I was marooned in Rapid City, SD, running low on pot, with nothing but a camera and time on my hands. So what's a snowbound HIGH TIMES editor to do?

Fortunately, Rapid City has undertaken a tribute to US presidents entitled "The Presidential Walk." Life-size sculptures of our top leaders occupy the downtown street corners—not all of them are represented yet, but Washington, Nixon, George H.W. Bush, JFK, Truman and a number of others already stand.

So I trudged through the deep snow seeking a victim, and then I found him—James Madison, our fourth president, whom the sculptor had graciously designed with an outstretched hand, perfect for grasping a bubbler and alleviating my boredom. And Ronald Reagan was more than cooperative, willing to pose stonily with a pot-leaf lei.

The next day, South Dakota dug out. But the real question is, can we? As we try to climb out of the deepest economic hole since the Great Depression, everyone's talking about the financial boon that taxing cannabis would provide to states struggling with budget woes. And if industrial hemp could be grown legally as well, a host of new ancillary industries would spring up as a matter of course.

This month, Paul Armentano, the deputy director of NORML, takes a closer look at the economic windfall that America would enjoy if cannabis could be grown freely. It's great reading, and we all could use a heavy dose of optimism right now.

Change hasn't arrived yet, though, since too many among us continue to be busted and jailed. But with the issue of legalization warming up considerably, we just may be witnessing the ultimate thaw.



Cowboy/Prez Reagan gets hogtied by hemp.

Dan Skye
Dan Skye
Senior Editor

HIGH TIMES

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Contributors **Paul Armentano, Ashley Boudreaux, Chimera, Crazy Composer, Ben Corbett, Big Croppa, John Fortunato, Mel Frank, Freebie, Jon Gettman, Andre Grossmann, Brian Jahn, Kris Krane, Kyle Kushman, Lochfoot, Mark Miller, Mitch Myers, MzJill, NEBU, Michael Simmons, Allen St. Pierre, Subcool, Katy Winn, Max Yields**

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HIGH TIMES



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BY DAN SKYE

Never before has the Canadian seed scene been more competitive. We profile three breeders who supply the Ontario Seed Bank in Toronto with a host of super strains.

40 BLOWIN' SMOKE

Some of your most pressing inhalation/exhalation problems are examined. We come up with solutions, plus a lot more as we investigate high Hollywood, stoned employment, and scary urban legends.

48 A METHOD TO MADNESS

Cannabis correspondent Freebie goes into the mind of a madman to learn why hanging plants from the ceiling can induce higher levels of trichome production activity - an unconventional approach that could possibly lead to higher yields of stronger pot.

54 JORGE'S STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO YOUNG POT PLANTS

Esteemed international pot growing author and HIGH TIMES cultivation reporter Jorge Cervantes shines light on the crucial first four weeks of plant growth, during which proper care is vital to fruitful future harvests. The story is an exclusive excerpt from his newest grow book, *Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados*.

66 CAN POT SAVE THE ECONOMY?

BY PAUL ARMENTANO

As our global economic crisis deepens, cannabis legalization is being taken seriously as a solution to easing state budget deficits.

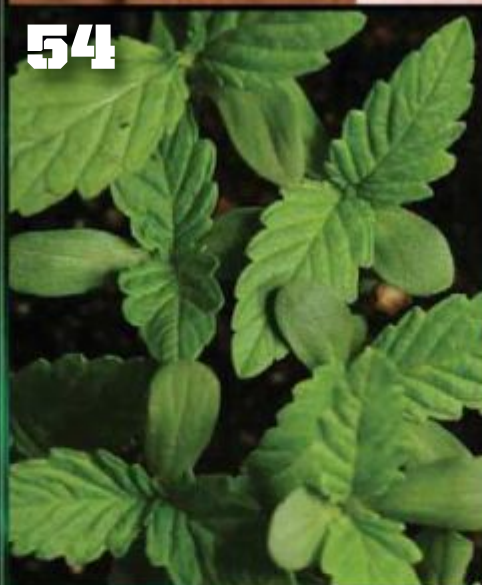
72 HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: RUSSELL MEANS

BY DAN SKYE

Influential and highly controversial, Russell Means has been at the forefront of American Indian issues for over 40 years. He's a skilled film actor as well, but his greatest role may be his current one: leader of the Republic of Lakotah.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Heart of America; Rockefeller Laws fall; Cocaine cast; Shut up, Phelps; Obama disses stoners; Pot cancer scare dismissed; Italian shepherd cleared; Rolling stoned; Cookie buzz; Leary archives; Oscar bong; Showbuzz; Sativex stock; Pills vs. Pot; Summer music festival guide; Ron Mann's Know Your Mushrooms; Spindrift; Girl Talk; Gyptian; Reviews; Almost Infamous; Vaporella; Band of the Month; Brain Damage Report.

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110 next month

116 pot 40

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FEEDBACK

WEEDITOPIA!

It was refreshing to read “Weeditopia Emerging” in the May 2009 issue of HIGH TIMES. Growing outdoors in the sunshine is how this plant was meant to live. Thanks for all your efforts in helping to legalize this harmless plant, and thanks for a great magazine over all these years. I’ve been reading HIGH TIMES for almost 30 years now, and I’ve always appreciated the way you guys removed the coke in the late 1980s and put the magazine’s focus back on the cannabis plant, where it truly belongs!



which to base their opinions about marijuana and its decriminalization. Since we live in a nation that is so strongly influenced by its various media outlets, it is of crucial importance that you do your part and use your power responsibly. That said, I am a longtime reader and admirer of your magazine, and hope to continue seeing it on stands—and on my coffee table—for many years to come ... even if it means putting up with the ridiculous drawings in the Pot 40.

Jay

RB

Sonoma, CA

If you don’t like what’s on the Pot 40, you have the power to change it: VOTE! Send your ideas to pot40@hightimes.com.

EXCELLENT CUP COVERAGE

I’ve been an avid reader for over 50 years, starting out with pretty much anything that Jack London or Ernest Hemingway wrote. I’ve also been an English and social-studies teacher, and I recently retired as a school counselor—so I think I’m a pretty good judge of writing. Plus I’m a stoner who loves reading your magazine; it has taught me much over the years. I’ve just finished Danny Danko’s and Nico Escondido’s articles in the April issue on the Netherlands and the Cannabis Cup. Excellent writing! Gaining information is one thing, but enjoying good writing is another. All the editors at HIGH TIMES are great writers, and their articles make for very enjoyable reading—I love your individual styles! The late Senator Sam Irvin (D-NC) once told me, “Reading can enable you to travel the world.” Truly, Danny and Nico made me feel like I was there. I know I speak for thousands when I say: Thanks for beautifully sharing with us your experiences in the cannabis culture.

SBR

Big Island, HI

NO MORE STEER SKULLS?

I am looking for one good reason why, on the page for texasnorml.org, you would post something as stereotypical as that image [i.e., a steer skull with a pot leaf]. What I’m trying to say is that the images and articles you present, as one of the leading marijuana-advocacy magazines, have a detrimental effect on what we Texans for the legalization of marijuana are trying so hard to accomplish in Congress (see Bill 902). Please do what you can to get this bill passed, but remember that a picture of a skull and marijuana leaves is hardly helpful in the pursuit of our final goal of legalization.

Take heed, for the smallest pebble can cause ripples throughout an entire lake.

Steve

Bobby Black responds: I fail to see how an image of a longhorn cow skull with a pot leaf is either stereotypical or detrimental to the legalization effort—and so does Texas NORML, whose members were at the party. Lighten up, dude!

POT 40 NEGATIVITY?

I am writing in regard to the Pot 40 list that has become a regular feature on the last page of HIGH TIMES. Although I find some of the illustrations and captions to be somewhat comical, I am concerned that some of the submissions are portraying cannabis enthusiasts in a negative light. Some of the illustrations that I have seen include drawings of characters smoking marijuana with evil or idiotic looks on their faces, and captions that get as absurd as “getting high and then smelling my cat’s ass!” (number 36 in the February 2009 issue). Now I enjoy a good laugh as much as the next guy (if not more), but this might not be the best time to be making pot smokers look nefarious and/or witless, given that many people are working tirelessly at the present moment to decriminalize marijuana in the United States.

Since HIGH TIMES is probably the most popular marijuana-related magazine in circulation, I can only assume that its staff would want to portray marijuana users as honestly and positively as possible, since many ill-informed people will look only to your magazine for something on

LEGALIZE IT ALREADY!

Longtime observer, first-time reader. I found your “Hemp and Ignorance Get Licensed” article in the April 2009 issue really intriguing, and it sparked my thought processes (while I was toking up and enjoying your fabulous centerfolds, of course—ha ha!). We all know that the US is in a deep recession, and I’m sure I’m not the only one to say this, but: LEGALIZE IT ALREADY! As your article points out, marijuana is a multi-billion-dollar cash crop. You would think that under our first black president, this nation would be ready to accept such “radical” change—after all, how many people are there who still find the idea of legalizing and regulating marijuana just like alcohol or tobacco to be completely beyond the pale? Just imagine how great life would be if marijuana were legal—and then you could take some up to make it even better!

D.

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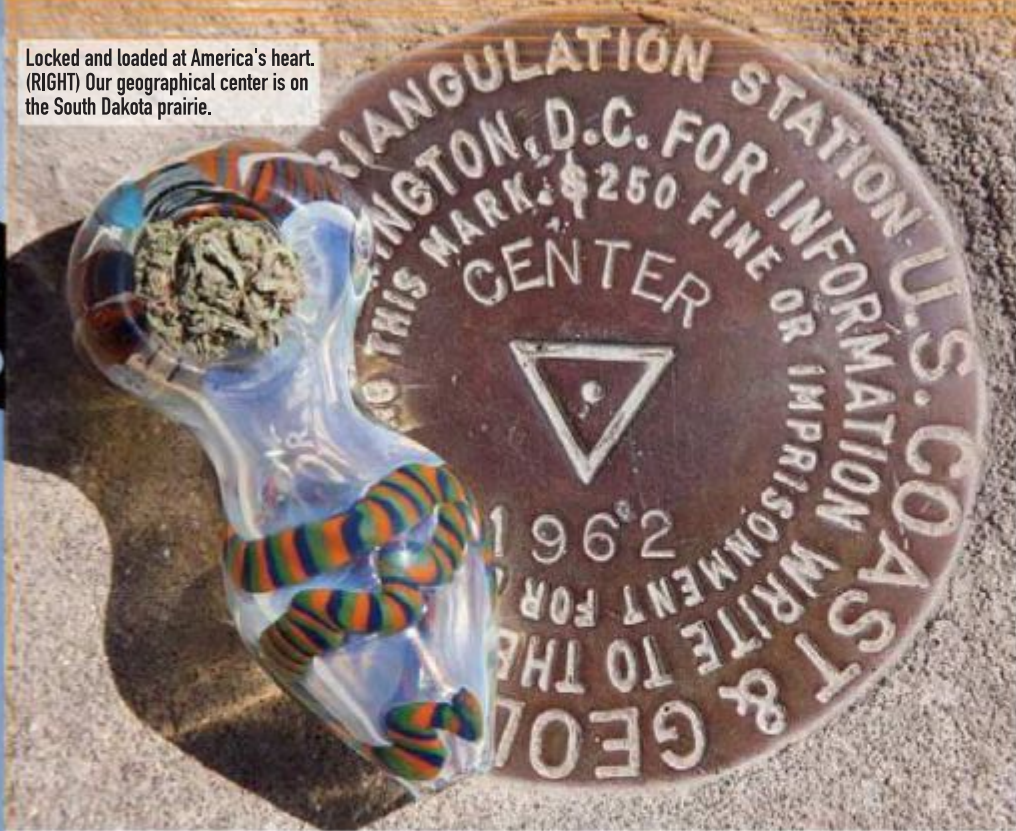
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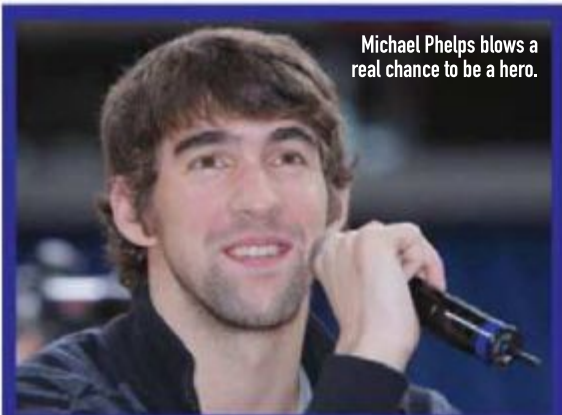
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Michael Phelps blows a real chance to be a hero.

YOU CAN SHUT UP NOW

Ever since Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps found himself in hot water over his infamous bong hit, he's been an abject wimp, sniveling on and on to the media about what a terrible mistake he made. So when Phelps appeared on the *Today* show recently, it was business as usual: "It was an awful judgment," he repeated. "And really, the people I hurt is my family, clearly; my friends, the close people around me; and, most importantly, the fans."

Phelps did no harm to anyone we know, but he has done irreparable damage to the notion that he possesses character. He went on to call the bong hit "immature" and "stupid." Additionally, he's never quite been able to acknowledge that he was, in fact, smoking marijuana in that bong.

One can only imagine the authentic hero that Phelps might've been had he decided to stand tall for cannabis instead of cringing. After all, the guy had to be an experienced toker; he was hanging out with people he knew, and they were all "celebrating." It's hard to believe that this impromptu celebration was the occasion that introduced a previously unsullied Phelps to the dark world of ganja.

Phelps also seems to partially blame the rest of us for the firestorm of pot publicity. "I've come to realize that people want to bring you up, but more people want to bring you down," he said. "It's how the American public is."

Now that's "immature" and "stupid."

OBAMA NO WANNA MARIJUANA

The president's honeymoon is officially over—at least as far as the marijuana community is concerned. On March 26, Barack Obama held his first town-hall-style meeting using the White House website to field questions. Pot activists encouraged smokers to submit queries regarding legalization. As a result, of the over 100,00 questions emailed, pot was among the most popular topics.

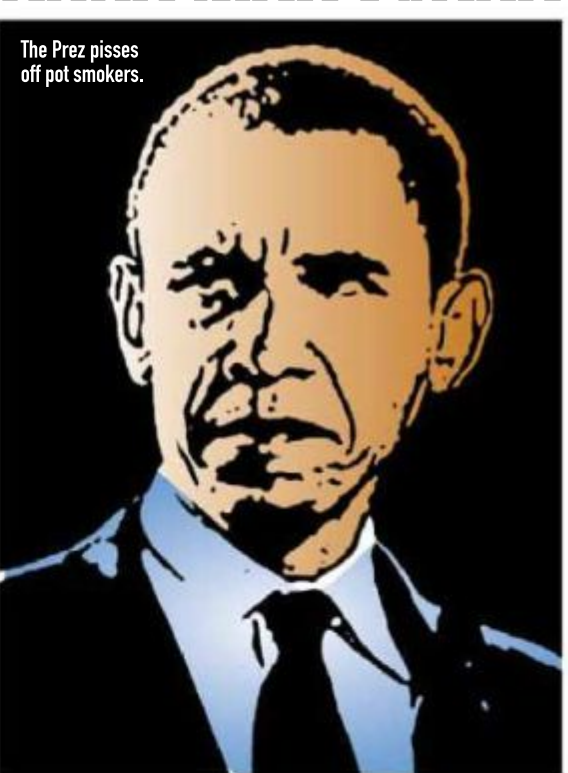
Obama chose to address a question regarding whether legalizing pot would help the economy—but no one was pleased with his smug response on the issue. Using pauses for comic effect to communicate a near-sneering disdain for pot, Obama said: "I don't know what this says about the online audience [waits for laughter]. The answer is 'no' [more laughter]—I don't think that is a good strategy to grow the economy [louder laughter]."

That's all we get—wink-wink bullshit about getting high? This is the second time the president has been compelled to respond to questions about cannabis, and both times he's made it clear that he doesn't support legalization. Yet he's given no considered explanation for his views—and in his most recent performance, he dismissed the seriousness of the issue entirely by intimating that pot smokers are vacuous Web surfers obsessed with a trivial issue.

Just as disturbing is the raid on Emmalyn's California Cannabis Clinic in San Francisco, which occurred the same week as the president's forum. According to the city's Department of Public Health, Emmalyn's had obtained a temporary permit and was actively working to meet the requirements for a permanent license. The raid flies in the face of statements made by US Attorney General Eric Holder a week earlier, when he announced that the DEA would cease its raids on medical-marijuana providers unless it found clear violations of both state and federal law.

Aaron Smith, the California policy director for the Marijuana Policy Project, weighed in on the circumstances surrounding the raid: "It is disturbing that, despite the DEA's vague claims about violations of state and federal laws, they apparently made no effort to contact the local authorities who monitor and license medical-marijuana providers. For an agency that, for eight years, said it couldn't care less about state law, suddenly to justify raids as an effort to uphold state law, simply doesn't pass the smell test."

Not a lot does these days.



The Prez pisses off pot smokers.



BREATHE FREELY!

Although the government has promulgated an alleged link between pot and cancer for years, the largest study of its kind has concluded that smoking marijuana regularly—even heavily—does not lead to lung cancer.



Donald Tashkin, a pulmonary specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles who has studied the effects of marijuana for 30 years, acknowledged that the findings “were against our expectations. We hypothesized that there would be a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer, and that the association would be more positive with heavier use. What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of some protective effect.”

The study found that even very heavy users showed no increase in head, neck or lung cancer. While Tashkin still believes that pot smoking is potentially harmful, he acknowledges that its alleged cancer-causing effects appear to be far less certain than previously thought. Tashkin also indicated that THC may actually kill aging cells and keep them from becoming cancerous.



In a 1763 letter to the Boston Evening Post, John Adams wrote: “We shall, by and by, want a world of hemp more for our own consumption.” A signer of the Declaration of Independence and our second President, Adams believed hemp cultivation could help pay off taxes and debts. As we celebrate our nation’s birth, Adams’ hope seems closer than ever. One question though. Was “by and by” supposed to last so fucking long?

COMPOUND FRACTURE

When cops in Barcelona, Spain, sprayed a special drug-detecting chemical on the cast of a Chilean man with a broken leg, it turned blue. Amazingly, the entire two-pound cast was made of compressed cocaine. The cops also discovered that the six-pack of beer the man was carrying, plus two small, hollowed-out stools he’d brought along, were stuffed with coke—nearly 11 pounds in all, including the cast. About the only thing real was the dude’s broken leg, although authorities believe it may have been fractured deliberately to deflect suspicion.



Russell Simmons says, “Remember your power!”

NEW YORK DROPS THE ROCK

In the 1970s, New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller championed a draconian and disastrous set of law-enforcement policies with the stated goal of stemming drug abuse. By implementing lengthy “mandatory minimum” prison sentences—which effectively took the sentencing authority away from judges and gave it to ambitious district attorneys instead—these laws resulted in serious overcrowding in the state prisons, which were used to warehouse nonviolent, low-level drug offenders at taxpayer expense, without any actual disruption of the drug trade.

Thirty-five years later, the state government has finally reached an agreement to roll back the Rockefeller drug laws, repealing many of the mandatory minimums and returning sentencing authority to judges—including the option to order treatment instead of incarceration. The announcement occurred just one day after a “Drop the Rock” rally in New York City. The rally included speeches from notables like hip-hop entrepreneur Russell Simmons, who told the crowd: “Nothing happens without the power of the people—and your power is the reason the governor, the state senators and the State Assembly are at work today. They’re working today to prioritize this issue because you said so. So remember that none of this could happen without all you mothers and all you kids and all the members of the hip-hop community. Remember your power!”

BAA BAA FOR BUDS



An Italian shepherd driving into the mountains of the Alto Adige to spend an extended period of time with his sheep was stopped by police and arrested after they discovered 1.3 ounces of pot in his possession. Apparently, the shepherd intended to be high in the hills while tending his flock, um, high in the hills.

The accused—identified only as “Giorgio D.”—subsequently appealed his conviction to the Court of Cassation, the Italian equivalent of the US Supreme Court. In their infinite wisdom, the

judges on that bench upheld the shepherd’s appeal, ruling that he was justified in possessing a small quantity of cannabis due to “the long and solitary period” he was about to spend “in the countryside and the mountains, due to the migration of his flock of sheep.”

This isn’t the first time that the judges on Italy’s highest court have shown a nuanced appreciation of marijuana’s benefits. Last July, the court also ruled that Rastafarians are free to use ganja as “a possible conveyor to a psychophysical state connected to contemplative prayer.”



Doug Benson enjoys his doob.

ROLLIN', ROLLIN', ROLLIN'...

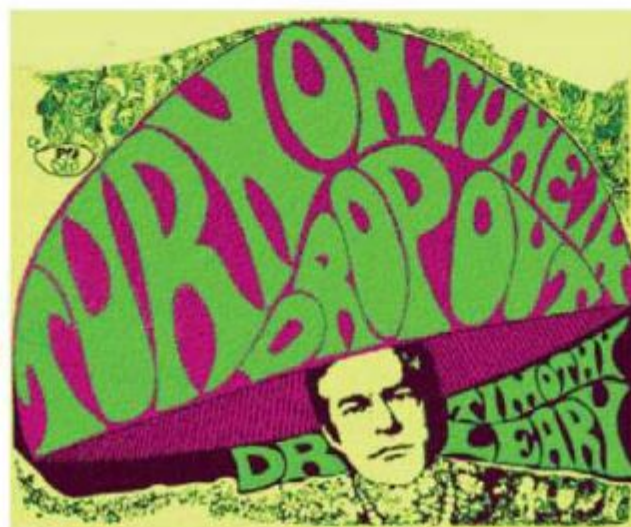
Every competent joint roller has his or her own preferred (and well-practiced) technique for creating the perfect spliff. Some meticulously prepare cylindrical cones with "pre-built" filters, while others may use a rolling machine or dollar bill to tighten up their doob or blunt. God, as they say, is in the details, and now photographer Sebastien Roche-Lochen has captured the magic in his new book, *That's How We Roll!* This highly useful volume, which features intimate portraits of 20 different cannabis lovers grinding their herb, building their joints and burning the results, pays homage not only to a wide variety of tokers, but also the methods they employ to get high. Comedian Doug Benson makes an appearance, as does adult-film actress Penny Flame (who definitely seems to like her blunts big!).—Danny Danko Available at beusphotography.com for \$35 in hardcover, and also in a limited-edition softcover (numbered and signed) for \$30.



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AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

Every great stoner deserves an award: one for biggest bong hit, best performance by an indoor gardener, most beautiful bud—feats like these. Now you can present yourself with a lifetime achievement award every day: The glassblowing goddess Tammy Ball has created the coveted Oscar bong, a smoking homage to the Academy Awards. You'll feel like a winner every time you toke: "There are so many stoners I'd like to thank—the growers, my dealer, the headshop owners "



TIM LEARY ONLINE

Twelve years ago, Dr. Timothy Leary died. An unabashed champion of LSD, Leary spurred a monumental change in spiritual and social awareness in the '60s and early '70s. He encouraged young people to think for themselves and "question authority" and was branded by then-President Richard Nixon as "the most dangerous man in America."

Leary left behind a treasure trove of papers spanning his lifetime and recording not only his own experiences, but also the emergence of scientific research into mind expansion. The Timothy Leary Estate is seeking financial help to digitize the Timothy Leary Archives so they can be made available to the public online prior to being placed in the Library of Congress or an appropriate institution. Help preserve one of the most important collections of mind-expanding materials in the history of social change!

Visit timothyleary.org.



BUD MEETS BUZZ

Buzz Strong's, an all-natural gourmet food company, makes cookies with actual brewed coffee. Eating four of these little guys add up to one cup of java. Available in peanut butter, chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, and the highly coveted white- and dark-chocolate chip.

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this month in

SHOWBUZZ

REEFER & ROGEN

In his *Playboy* magazine interview, Seth Rogen chronicled his arrest for smoking pot on a Malibu beach when he first arrived in Los Angeles and torched MTV for its hypocrisy in during the MTV Movie Awards when he and James Franco brought an ounce of weed to the podium in order to do a comedy bit. "MTV is insanely stupid. They knew well in advance what we were going to do. When they cut away in the middle of our bit, it made it seem like it was a much bigger deal than it actually was, and it effectively ruined our joke. I'm not offended as a pot smoker; I'm offended as a comedian."

He also caused some embarrassment at *HIGH TIMES* when he revealed the stoned, cold truth about our recent choice for Stoner of the Year. "James Franco doesn't even smoke weed. I hope I haven't ruined it for anybody."

Ouch.

Rogen raps MTV.



Meth tells it straight.

BECAUSE HE GOT HIGH

In March, Method Man's Lincoln Navigator was repossessed because the rapper was \$52,503 in arrears on his personal income taxes. Meth explained to the *New York Daily News*: "Myself, I'm a pothead.

It's no secret. Everyone knows that. Sure, [the tax department] sent letters to my house saying, 'We need this money.' They started sending them in 2002. I never paid this shit because I don't think like that! I could have easily just written them a check for whatever amount, but no—I waited until they knocked on this door and were like, 'We got your truck and we outta here.' Now I'm thinking we've gotta get our truck back, which means I have to get all my paperwork together. That means days of going through mail, 'cause I got mail like *woah!* I've found checks from 2005 that have never been opened yet. And we're talking a significant amount of money! But I never opened [the tax department's] letters ... so this is how the taxman came to Meth's house and took his truck. Not because I was broke! I got plenty of money!"

When Afroman's song, "Because I Got High," was mentioned, Meth was quick to see his predicament reflected in the lyrics. "Exactly!" he said. "Because I got high, I forgot to pay. It was stupid. I'm an idiot for that."

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It's a bull market for cannabis products.

STOCK MARKET STAR

With share prices falling faster than a suicidal CEO, the stock market is in dire need of a quick fix. Fortunately, when it comes to improving one's flagging financial health, marijuana is once again proving an effective medicine.

The patient in this case is GW Pharmaceuticals, one of the world's leading drug companies, and the medicine is Sativex, a cannabis mouth spray that alleviates the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. The publication of positive clinical results for the spray, which is pending approval in the UK, sent the company's share price skyrocketing.

The *Financial Times* reported that the 16 percent increase is only the tip of the iceberg: If a second set of trials has positive results, EU regulatory approval—and access to the EU's multimillion-euro market—moves one step closer. At that point, GW shares might be the only ones still selling on Wall Street.

The company is also hoping to break into the US market with Sativex, and has joined forces with the Japanese pharma giant Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, which will fund extensive US trials. News of this partnership sent GW shares climbing further.

All of which goes to prove that, despite the medical-dispensary raids, hysterical propaganda, billions of taxpayer dollars wasted, and relentless harassment, imprisonment and property theft, the Man doesn't really have much of a problem with cannabis—just so long as he's able to patent it and sell it to sick people. For a profit, of course.—Brendan Hogan

PILLS VS. POT It comes down to this. Which would you choose?

AILMENT	PHARM CHOICE	SIDE EFFECTS	POT'S SUPERIORITY	POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS
DEPRESSION	Antidepressants like Zoloft and Prozac increase levels of the vital neurotransmitter serotonin in the brain.	Decreased libido, birth defects, increased suicides in those under 25. Can trigger potentially fatal "Serotonin Syndrome."	Provides safe, controllable euphoria. Those switching from Zoloft to ganja report improved outlook.	Improved outlook makes repeats of <i>Friends</i> actually seem funny.
NAUSEA	Drugs from Anzemet to Zofran reduce activity of the nerve that induces vomiting and block receptors associated with nausea.	Constipation, potential arrhythmia, Parkinson's-like symptoms. Bonus: nightmares worthy of Freddy Krueger.	Cannabis quells nausea! Who needs drugs?	You've got a new problem: The munchies have doubled the size of your ass.
GLAUCOMA	Topical eye drops are commonly used to decrease the thick, watery substance that causes intraocular pressure.	A whole host of eye problems, from blurred vision to permanent change in your eye color to brown.	Since the '70s, studies have shown that pot is highly effective in lowering intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients.	With improved eyesight, you get to see what your significant other actually looks like. See: "DEPRESSION."
INSOMNIA	Scary-sounding "hypnotics" like benzodiazepines, plus good ol' sleeping pills and sedatives.	How can I overdose? Let me count the ways. Expect psychological dependence/addiction. You can't sleep without your "little helper."	A powerful <i>indica</i> strain puts you to sleep with no chance of overdose and no chemical/booze hangover.	You oversleep and miss your job interview. No big deal—there were 42,000 applicants.
ASTHMA	Short-acting agents like Salbutamol relieve bronchospasms. Agents like Salmeterol last three times as long.	Salbutamol is known to cause anxiety and tremors. Salmeterol can lead to a bad case of death.	Cannabis opens up your lungs' airways without killing you.	Now you know how bad patchouli really smells.
CARDIOVASCULAR ISSUES	Statins (drugs that lower cholesterol) are widely prescribed. Aspirin is effective for its anti-clotting properties.	Headaches, nausea, weakness, infections—plus they can't be used by pregnant women. Aspirin can cause stomach bleeding.	Studies on mice show that pot reverses artery clogging and can protect the heart from further damage after heart attacks.	Your heart gets so strong that you become a fitness freak and bore the shit out of everybody yakking about "the burn."
POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER	A cornucopia of antidepressants are on the market. MDMA (Ecstasy) has been tested in several studies.	Sexual problems, drowsiness, sleep difficulties, nausea. Some side effects can worsen. Expect withdrawal symptoms if you quit dosing.	Pot regulates unpleasant memories that cause PTSD nightmares and flashbacks. <i>Sativas</i> induce euphoria.	The only stress you now experience is running low on God's medicine.
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	Only four drugs are currently available, which may slow Alzheimer's by producing the key neurotransmitter acetylcholine.	The efficacy of these drugs has yet to be solidly demonstrated. They can trigger anorexia and slowed heart rate.	Cannabinoids reduce the inflammation associated with Alzheimer's in human brain tissue and prevent cell death by anti-oxidation.	Patients are now aware that their 401(k) retirement funds have vanished.
SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION	Viagra, Cialis, Levitra in TV ads with married couples taking baths together.	"For erections lasting more than four hours, seek medical treatment immediately" pretty much says it all.	While pot doesn't necessarily promote blood flow to certain body parts, its power as a safe, mild aphrodisiac is well known.	Your tongue has the texture of sandpaper. (Need we say more?) The possibility of potholes in your 400-thread-count cotton sateen sheets.
CHRONIC/SHORT-TERM PAIN	Analgesics from aspirin to opiates work in various ways on the nervous system.	Painful constipation, raging addiction, possible overdose.	Pot actually augments analgesics by preventing the tolerance that people develop with traditional painkillers.	You're <i>almost</i> pain-free: Your lighter-flicking thumb is developing arthritis.

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THE HIGH TIMES SUMMIVIER MUSIC GUIDE



"We're getting the band back together..."

Phish wowed fans at the Hampton Coliseum this March.

IN SEARCH OF DEAD PHISH

Pack your bags (and your bong), because it's time to get groovy for what should be the most exciting summer music season in many moons. Phish and the Dead both return to active duty after half a decade spent off the road, and it's "highly" likely that both herb-friendly acts will be truckin' their way to a venue near you.

For those of us old enough to remember the glory days of the jamband world's two most celebrated acts—and even for those of us too young to have ever caught "St. Stephen" or "Character Zero" live and in person—the return of Phish and the Dead promises renewed glory for a scene that's been sailing at half-mast lately. The only question: Will this formidable one-two patchouli punch rise to the challenge and hit the high notes of their respective peaks, play solid but unmemorable nostalgia-rock, or make us wish they'd never come back from ... well ... the Dead?

Grateful Dead fans, of course, have been living in a post-Jerry world since 1995. Some cosmic shoes will always be too big to fill, but for the first time in five years, dedicated Deadheads can hop on tour with all the surviving original members, plus Gov't Mule guitar addict Warren Haynes. In the interim, through side projects like Planet Drum, Ratdog, and Phil and Friends, the Dead scene, however splintered, managed to survive—but it took Barack Obama to put all the pieces back together again.

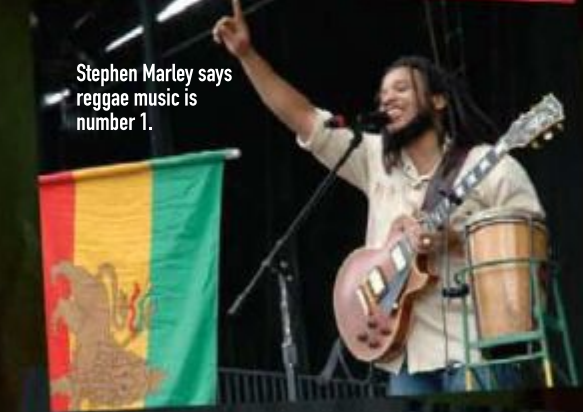
The Dead first reunited in their entirety last October for a "Change Rocks" concert to benefit Obama's presidential campaign, the first official political endorsement in the history of the band. Good vibes and good reviews followed (not to mention that big win in November), and then somewhere along the way that one-off appearance blossomed into a major summer tour.

As for Phish, the journey back to existence wound its way through a hiatus, a reunion, drug abuse, a slightly nasty break-up, legal problems and now a heart-felt recovery. The Phab Four first reassembled in full to accept a Lifetime





MIA was hard to miss at Bonnaroo 2008.



Stephen Marley says reggae music is number 1.



The Raconteurs took their rock on tour last summer.

Lollapalooza's notorious Lolla Girls shake things up.



Phish will play Bonnaroo for the first time in June.

BONNAROO'S BACK

Two nights of Phish restore the ultimate festival's grassroots appeal.

While last year's Bonnaroo undoubtedly featured some amazing individual performances (My Morning Jacket at midnight, M.I.A. on the prowl, Willie Nelson amid a cloud of fragrant smoke), many felt the vibe was a little off, pointing to a face-shredding Metallica set on the main stage and Kanye West's 4:30-in-the-morning arrival for a show originally scheduled for 8:15 p.m. as signs that the "hippie" had been removed from the erstwhile Hippy Disneyland.

This year, however, the jamband world's temporary Mecca returns to glory with two nights of reunited Phish on the main stage, a living-legend tribute performance from Bruce Springsteen, and a bulletproof lineup featuring the Beastie Boys, David Byrne, Snoop Dogg, Elvis Costello, Ben Harper and many other acts to set your joints blazing. Check bonnaroo.com for more details.

Achievement trophy at the Jammy Awards ceremony in New York in early 2008, but didn't perform together. Nonetheless, their first "joint" appearance since 2004's farewell concert in Coventry, VT, set the Internet buzzing with rumors of a rebirth, particularly after lead singer, resident guitar hero and now ex-con Trey Anastasio dropped a few timely hints.

"When Phish broke up, I made some comment about how I'm not gonna go around playing 'You Enjoy Myself' for the rest of my life," Anastasio told *Rolling Stone*. "And now—it's not that I can't believe that I said that, but it's symbolic of how much I lost my mind or how much I lost my bearings or something. Because at this point in time I would give my left nut to play that song five times in a row every day until I die. I certainly thought about that while I was in jail."

In July, Anastasio was joined onstage at the inaugural Rothbury Festival in Michigan by bassist Mike Gordon and drummer Jon Fishman. With three-fourths of Phish amicably jamming away, and veiled clues about an imminent reunion serving as between-song banter, it quickly became a matter of when—not if—the Phish flag would fly once again.

This March, Phish's long, strange trip (yes, mixed song metaphor) officially resumed with three nights at Virginia's Hampton Coliseum. Check hightimes.com/phish/ for a review of those historic shows, and hightimes.com/events/ for the latest updates on all the summer festivals and tours in your neck of the woods.

Oh yeah, one last thing: Hide your weed really well before hitting the road. And we bid you goodnight! ✨

KICK OUT THE JAVIS

Pitch a tent, start puffing, and get ready to roll with HIGH TIMES' list of the best summer music and camping festivals!

MOUNTAIN JAM

Hunter, NY
May 29-31

WAKARUSA

Ozark, AR
June 4-7

BONNAROO

Manchester, TN
June 11-14

HIGH SIERRA

Quincy, CA
July 2-5

ROTHBURY

Rothbury, MI
July 2-5

ALL GOOD

Masontown, WV
July 10-12

CAMP BISCO

Mariaville, NY
July 16-18

10,000 LAKES FESTIVAL

Detroit Lakes, MN
July 22-25

GATHERING OF THE VIBES

Bridgeport, CT
July 23-26

LOLLAPALOOZA

Chicago, IL
August 7-9

WHISTLER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Whistler, BC, Canada
August 29-30

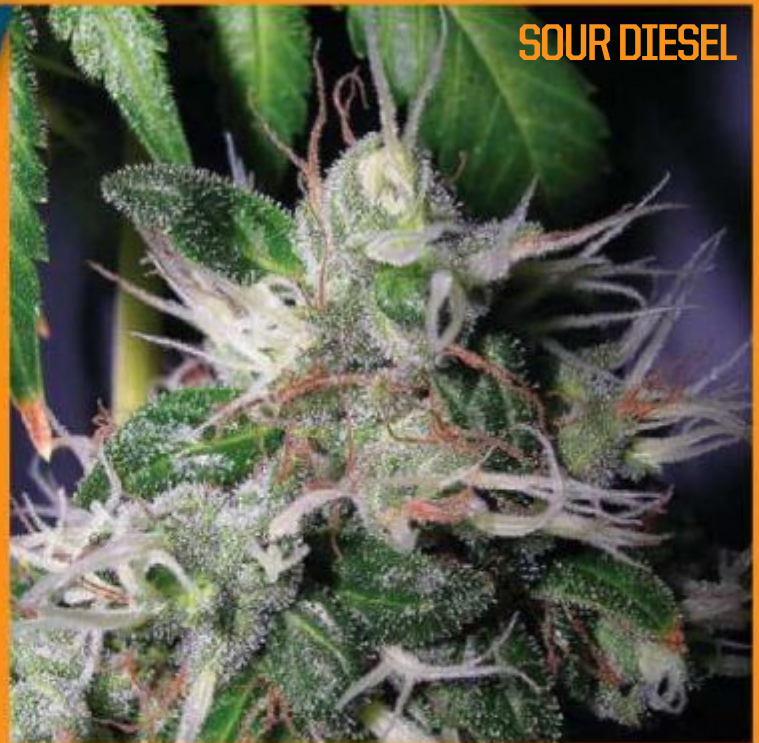
BUMBERSHOOT

Seattle, WA
September 5-7



THMQ

SOUR DIESEL



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: **\$381** (last month: \$383; YTD: \$376)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$434** (\$435, \$449)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$256** (\$296, \$268)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$92** (\$98, \$91)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
CALIFORNIA	Buena Park	Bubba Kush	\$325
	Los Angeles	Sour Diesel	\$350
		Master Kush	\$410
COLORADO	Boulder	Trainwreck	\$350
	Denver	Lemon Cough	\$375
CONNECTICUT	Hartford	Beasters	\$400
FLORIDA	Melbourne Beach	G-13	\$450
HAWAII	Honolulu	American Dream	\$450
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Cinnamon Haze	\$400
		Juicy Fruit	\$200
		Hindu Kush	\$600
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Chocolate Thai x NL	\$400
KANSAS	Lawrence	Granddaddy Purps	\$450
		Wichita	AK-47
KENTUCKY	Lexington	Blueberry Schwag	\$500 \$150
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Silver Haze	\$500
MARYLAND	Bowie	Sour Diesel	\$500
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Jack Herer	\$480
South Coast		Space Queen	\$525
MICHIGAN	Oxford	Juicy Fruit	\$400
MINNESOTA	Duluth	Kush	\$450
MISSOURI	St. Louis	MK-Ultra	\$300
		Grape Ape	\$350
MONTANA	Bozeman	Afghoey	\$400
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Manchester	Sour Diesel	\$400
		Lamb's Breath	\$380
NEW JERSEY	Bergen County	Jack Herer	\$445
		Blueberry Haze	\$465
NEW YORK	New York	Super Snowdog	\$500
		Strawberry Cough	\$450
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville	Raleigh	\$350
		Raleigh	\$450
OHIO	Cleveland	Stow	\$400
		Stow	\$390
PENNSYLVANIA	Uniontown	Mids	\$150
SOUTH CAROLINA	Columbia	Sweet Tooth Haze	\$425
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	Purps	\$560
	Knoxville	Kali Mist	\$450
TEXAS	Austin	Shishkaberry	\$420
VERMONT	Burlington	Grape Skunk	\$400
VIRGINIA	Portsmouth	Purps	\$450
WASHINGTON	Seattle	OG Blueberry	\$300
		Romulan Mist	\$350
WISCONSIN	Manitowoc	Blond Bubble Hash	\$625
	Wausau	Snowcap	\$450
INTERNATIONAL (all prices given in Canadian dollars)			
CANADA			
MANITOBA	Winnipeg	NYC Diesel	C\$220
		Sweet Tooth	C\$240
ONTARIO	Mississauga	Lemon Hash Plant	C\$200
		Bubba Kush	C\$300

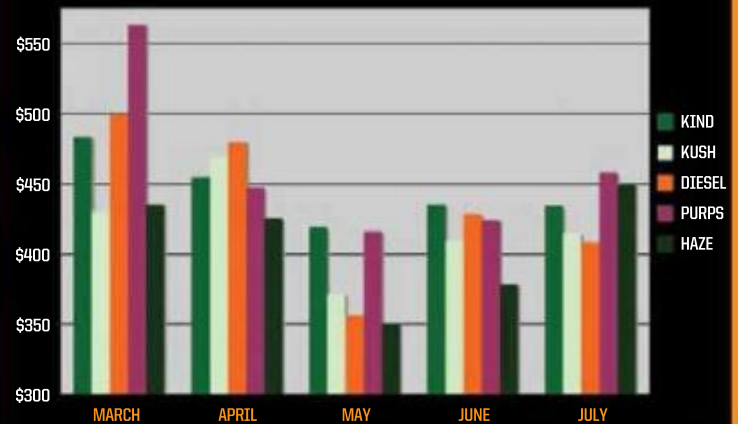
MARKET ANALYSIS

Kush reclaimed its customary position in the top pot spot this month. For those keeping track, that makes four first-place finishes for Kush, two for Purps and one for Northern Lights so far in 2009. The top five submitted strains for July (with average price) were Kush (\$415), Purps (\$458), Haze (\$449), Diesel (\$408) and Blueberry (\$424).

Index Watch: Both the US and Kind indices finished very close to their previous month's average. This leveling off caps five months of fluctuation on the major indices. Meanwhile, Mids and Schwag both dropped from the previous month; however, each settled in close to its year-to-date 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.

AVERAGE PRICE MARCH-JULY 2009



TRAINWRECK - \$350

Boulder, COLORADO

"This was the grower's third crop of Trainwreck. It's very potent, with a strong flavor and smell. Just don't wander too far from the couch!"

AMERICAN DREAM - \$450

Honolulu, HAWAII

"In Honolulu, the American Dream is real but in limited supply. Resin-heavy, with a sweet, almost citrusy smell, and the flavor follows suit. Especially great for wake-and-bake ... but then again, it's *always* a great time to wake-and-bake."

JACK HERER - \$480

Boston, MASSACHUSETTS

"Very well-cured nuggets with varying

shades of green; like breaking up velvet in your fingers."

GRAPE SKUNK - \$400

Burlington, VERMONT

"I've been getting some really kick-ass Grape Skunk from Burlington. It's definitely very potent and will stink out a whole room with just one small nug. It's the best stuff that comes around here."

BUBBA KUSH - C\$300

Mississauga, ONTARIO

"This Bubba Kush is *insane*—that's the only way to describe it. It's incredibly strong, with an even stronger scent. If you leave the smallest nugget on your desk and go to work, by the time you get home, your whole house will reek of Kush."

High Lumens, meet our friend high efficiency.



the SUPERNOVA

The only one of its kind in the world, the Supernova provides incredible output and efficiency for extraordinary growth potential. Independently adjustable spectrums let you fine-tune the light to your plants. Using only 270 watts of power, the Supernova far outshines a 1000w HID light, while providing maximum coverage (5' x 5' area). For even greater growth, choose the Enhanced Spectrum Supernova, at just \$1,399.95. Our standard Supernova is only \$999.95.

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Our L.E.D UFO's are extremely efficient and powerful. Using only 90w of electricity, our UFO's eclipse all 400w HID lights on the market. Our *new* Adjustable L.E.D UFO allows for custom output settings and is priced at just \$599.99, while our original L.E.D UFO is priced at \$499.99. Our latest Satellite System allows for extended coverage at only \$49.99. (LED UFO and LED Bulbs not included with Satellite System)



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Cooltube reflectors for just \$79.99, deluxe air-cooled reflectors with German anodized aluminum inserts for the low price of \$119.99.



DIGITAL BALLASTS

250w Digital Ballast	\$99.99
400w Digital Ballast	\$119.99
600w Digital Ballast	\$179.99
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The sun goes down in Telluride.

A 'SHROOM WITH A VIEW

Ron Mann, the director of *Grass*, digs a little deeper and pulls *Know Your Mushrooms* from the dirt. By David Silverberg

Ron Mann's first trip to the annual Telluride Mushroom Festival turned out to be, well, a serious trip. "I saw a guy dressed up as a fungi who squirted psilocybin out of a honey tube," he says in his office at Sphinx Productions, the company he heads in Toronto. "Everyone was getting high."

The documentary filmmaker, best known for his pot-friendly *Grass*, couldn't help but be bitten by the desire to learn more about mushroom mania. Sure, he knew about psilocybin, and how magic mushrooms could be a spiritual ally as well as a portal to another world. But why did so many people fear mushrooms, both magical and culinary? That curiosity led him to his latest film, *Know Your Mushrooms*. Released in March, it tracks the history, biology and "fungophilia" linked to this widely misunderstood spore.

"This film is really just a primer to a subculture, like all my films," Mann reminds us. And he's right: *Poetry in Motion* introduced the world to spoken-word poetry well before *Slam Nation* did; *Comic Book Confidential* was a historical survey of comic books and graphic novels; *Go Further* spotlighted actor Woody Harrelson on his eco-friendly tour. And much as he did with *Grass*, Mann wants his mushroom ode to tattoo the subject's history onto our collective consciousness. After all, pot activism isn't so different from mushroom mania; in fact, their festival bands would probably be label mates.

Mann says that he made *Grass* partly because marijuana has been so misunderstood by the general public. Mushrooms, it turns out, are equally misunderstood, even unfairly reviled: Parents warn their children about eating wild mushrooms, while grocery stores opt for the safe button variety. Mann thinks it's pathetic that we aren't exposed to a finer mushroom buffet.

In *Know Your Mushrooms*, he visits Colorado's Telluride Mushroom Festival, the annual Woodstock for fungophiles. A portion of *Know Your Mushrooms* chronicles the psychedelic side of fungi and pays tribute to such



Director Ron Mann.

'This film is really just a primer to a subculture, like all my films.'

seminal thinkers as Terrence McKenna, a long-time advocate of psilocybin. As we learn in the doc, McKenna believed that mushrooms not only played a key role in the development of human consciousness but actually came from outer space, because "the miracle of psilocybin is the hallucination, and I'm completely convinced that couldn't have come from me."

Mann also narrates a segment explaining the effects of a 'shrooming session, saying: "The outdoors—the setting of choice for a mushroom trip—is transformed, so the forest feels more like a living, breathing cathedral, a forum for a deep appreciation of nature, through which the wondrous mushroom eater moves in a state of ecological grace."

In the film, Mann follows Gary Lincoff and Larry Evans, two passionate 'shroom experts. Along the way, Lincoff shares with us his best 'shroom-trip story—I won't give away the details here, but let's just say it involves a werewolf, the apocalypse and a fire pit in the Andromeda galaxy.

Know Your Mushrooms was made on a half-million-dollar budget, thanks to Bravo, and has a DIY toy-camera

feel. Mann's treatment of this niche "vegetable" (admit it, the tomato gets more love) conveys the enthusiasm of his subjects. Mann himself never jumps in front of the lens to bully us with his beliefs, instead leaving it to Lincoff and Evans to detail the mushroom's many benefits—for example, the Japanese swear by shiitakes for lowering blood pressure, while oyster mushrooms can even mop up oil spills. As the film points out, mushrooms embrace the entire surface of the earth with their rubbery, skin-like tendrils.

Even so, Mann is practical about his subject matter; he knows it won't be everyone's cup of (mushroom) tea. "But this film is about being open to the *idea* of fungi, to the *idea* of alternative ideas and philosophies." He pauses, then adds with a smile: "Who knows—maybe mushrooms truly can heal the planet." 🍄



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Theme for an Imaginary Spaghetti Western

Kirkpatrick Thomas's *Spindrift* and *The Legend of God's Gun* crawl from Delaware across the desert to L.A. By John Payne

As you might recall, the suborbital transport vehicle called "Spindrift" was featured on the Irwin Allen TV series *Land of the Giants* circa 1968. That may or may not have been the inspiration for the naming of the neo-spaghetti-western/psychedelia/klezmer/sea-shanty band Spindrift. Then again, Spindrift could have named themselves after the natural phenomenon to which the term refers: the spray blown from cresting waves during a gale. That would account for the band's brutally frenzied thrashing and broodingly calm interludes—often within the space of a single song, and usually without fair warning to the lazy-eared listener.

Whatever the case may be, some peculiarly skewed visions—real '70s-TV grainy ones—characterize Spindrift's recent album, *The West*, and bandleader Kirkpatrick Thomas's very own directorial debut, *The Legend of God's Gun*. Both are fixated on cracked, parched images of a desperate and depraved Old West, complete with a soundtrack of wickedly warped steel guitar and mocking, jaunty accordion amid the taunting toots of Mexicali horns. This Old West frontier, apparently, wasn't just the domain of cowboys, gold miners and cavalry scouts, but also a drifting rabble of losers, loonies, crackpots and criminals, all of 'em out for what they kin git as they live out their days frying in the sun and contemplating hell over the lip of some incredibly nasty sour mash.

Thomas grew up obsessed with the crap-culture cavalcade of late-'60s/early-'70s TV and film, whose apotheosis would seem to be Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns, such as *A Fistful of Dollars* and *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, with their instantly unforgettable soundtracks by composer Ennio Morricone. In pursuit of this vision, we'll call it, Thomas led several bands based in his native Delaware, wherein he slowly sculpted away at his colorful brand of garage-psych/film-score "rock" music, eventually moving to Los Angeles after serving time as a touring guitarist for the sonically somewhat similarly inclined Brian Jonestown Massacre. Members of BJM and of LA's equally quixotic psychedelic outfit, the Warlocks, ended up joining Thomas to flesh out the mind-warping wonders of these ventures of doom known as Spindrift fulltime—which brings us back to where we are today.

Thomas credits both BJM and the sand-strewn, arid lay of the land in the Wild, Wild West for the launch of Spindrift and its freaky forays into rocking revisionism.

"I was very inspired moving to another place, to a different coast," he says. "We did a lot of trips out to the desert, going to a lot of these mining towns and ghost towns. We started playing gigs out there in the desert as well, and we spent so much time out there that the music

'When we were making the film, there wasn't a scene when there wasn't somebody fucked up on something.'

started forming and changing. We played a lot out in Yucca Valley (at Pappy & Harriet's, our home away from home), and did a lot of touring in Nevada and New Mexico and Arizona."

Obviously, these desert extremes contributed heavily to the swelteringly surreal atmosphere of Spindrift's music—and that's an element way more important than heavy lyrical concerns, according to Kirkpatrick.

"Atmosphere is the overlying idea in the sound of the music," he says. "I've always seen music as something that could take you to another place—rather than your formulaic rock sound, where you listen to the lyrics and they sing about everyday life. We're more concerned with things that make you feel like you're in an unnatural state—a *different* place."

The West comes fully stocked with a wide array of weird sounds that take you to some different places indeed: strange ones, threatening ones, abandoned ones, gnarly ones. The album's acoustical landscapes aren't all distorted by the relentless beat-down of an unforgiving big, black sun, however; in fact, with its invigorating side trips through such oddly related genres as klezmer, polka, Polynesian swing and avant-jazz, even, the band's sound is supremely visual—no

doubt the reason why Quentin Tarantino featured a Spindrift track in his half of *Grindhouse*, and why Thomas's so-Leone-that-it-hurts *The Legend of God's Gun* is an even more intensely evocative dose of the band's iniquitous-chintz worldview.

"We're cinematically inspired—it's all just reaching for living in a different state," Thomas acknowledges. Then he adds with a laugh: "When we were making the film, there wasn't a scene when there wasn't somebody fucked up on something. It's a psychedelic spaghetti western—definitely more enjoyable when you're under the influence."

So dig, if you will, the creaking, ancient, dusty calliopes and sudden, sinful blasts in Spindrift's depraved-carnival/garage-punk sorta music and furry, filmic freak-outs. It's as if these fuzztone guitars twang into the night amid gales of barbed-wire-like Farfisa cheapness on a big, epic hell ride—with, of course, plenty of tambourines and tremolo to imply all that malevolent bad stuff that went down on a daily basis in the wild old Wild West.

And if you half-cock your ear, you'll hear forlorn, faraway choirs of sympathetic dead souls, aghast at our fates, still ululating from yonder mountaintop or deserted gravel pit

Kirkpatrick Thomas: "You talkin' to me?"

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Walk Like Gyptian

By Danny Danko

Soft-spoken reggae singer Gyptian has been captivating listeners and audiences worldwide with his combination of heartfelt vocals and intense subject matter. *I Can Feel Your Pain* is the follow-up to his 2005 album, *My Name Is Gyptian*, which featured his biggest hit thus far, "Serious Times." Nominated as Best New Entertainer at the 2006 International Reggae and World Music Awards, Gyptian gives voice to the Jamaican ghetto, his plaintive vocals soothing pain while exposing injustice.

Musically, he lists a diverse group of artists as inspiration, from the obvious choices (Beres Hammond, Jacob Miller and Garnett Silk) to a few surprises (Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and Toni Braxton). "All the artists, dem the great souls that sing," he says. "But my real true inspiration comes from life itself, ya know—the reality that we see everyday in the street."

Asked whether ganja has played a role in his musical and spiritual development, Gyptian exclaims: "Ganja! Oh yes, man—ganja to the fullest! Day and night, morning, noon and supertime! Weed is only illegal when the policemen see it, so if there's no police dem around, then it's strictly legal. They see it as a bad thing, but that's good for us. The best weed in Jamaica comes from the west—Westmoreland. The foreign weed we smoke have a different vibe. I like the highness from our homegrown. True upliftment from the ganja! Longtime me a-burn this, and people call me lazy, but I never plan nuttin'—it's only what's meant to be. I'm a survivor."

Asked whether he had a message for the readers of *HIGH TIMES*, Gyptian responds: "I love smoking. Smoking is not bad for your mind if you can manage it. Some people can't manage it, and them should not be smoking. If you a-go smoke, know what you are doing. If you can't handle it, it will handle you." ✨



'Weed is only illegal when the policemen see it, so if there's no police dem around, then it's strictly legal.'

Gyptian samples some NYC Diesel.

Girl Talking

By Danny Danko

Pittsburgh native Greg Gillis, working and performing under the pseudonym Girl Talk, creates musical mashups using his computer to layer together "live sound collages" out of a diverse collection of samples. Citing fair-use laws and blending such artists as Billy Squier and the Pixies with MIA and Lil Wayne, Girl Talk creates a sound all his own. He sat down with *HIGH TIMES* before a recent gig in New York City to discuss cannabis, copyrights and crowd copulation.

Your sample-heavy style of music is considered controversial in the industry. Where's the line between one artist's work and another's? It's weird. People interpret what I do differently—some think it's original compositions made out of samples, others think it's just a DJ mix. I don't think it's black and white, so there's not really a correct answer—but for me, I use very blatant samples, but I try to use them to make a transformative piece of music, to make it kind of become its own entity. Similar to hip-hop and everything else, it's taking your influences and putting them into a new context. The level of originality is the amount of recontextualizing you can accom-



Rock star or computer geek?

plish—like I can make a heavy-metal song out of Dr. Dre or a soft-rock song out of whatever. The goal and the challenge for me is keeping it entertaining and recognizable, but with my own stamp on it, so people interpret it as a Girl Talk song.

Did marijuana play any sort of role in your musical discoveries?

Not really growing up, but later on—I can appreciate music from that perspective. I think all music has its time and place and its role and audience. For me, I try not to say "This music is good" or "This music is bad," because there's stoner music and rock music and dance music

The frenzied crowd participation at your shows is the stuff of legend. Have you always encouraged this type of behavior in your audiences?

Sometimes it gets nuts. A few times in the past year, people have had sex onstage. Not even as a show, but just like "We're so into this that we're not clapping—we're fucking!" So it's gone there. And I've broken like three laptops last year—and I just broke one of those Toughbooks that are supposedly indestructible.

Some of the best early shows were house parties, where stuff is *always* getting trashed. The bigger the venues I play, the harder it is to make it feel like a house party. So if something happens and someone kicks out a cord, it might seem unprofessional—but to me, it just shows that it's a party and not just some staged show. ✨

Check out illegal-art.net or myspace.com/girltalk for more info.

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From the moment Phish stepped onstage at the Hampton Coliseum in March to begin a three-night reunion set, it was clear not only that had Phase II begun, but that they were back to stay.

After a two-year hiatus spanning 2000 to 2002, the band returned, only to call it quits again in 2004 after more than 20 years on the road. Phish's final concert, which took place in Coventry, VT, seemingly ended their career in the same state it all began. Split on the decision to break up, Phish had fallen prey to the vices of most great bands. Guitarist Trey Anastasio, the band's preeminent leader, had succumbed to an unbalanced life, torn between music, family and drug abuse, while the largess of the band itself (the band's employees numbered in the hundreds) had eventually proven too much even for Phish to handle.

But all that faded away in a matter of seconds as the band appeared onstage and Trey and bassist Mike Gordon convened together, taking a



The boys are back in town!

moment to look out upon the frenzied crowd and decide what the much-anticipated opener would be. After nearly five years of zero Phish, the emphatic choice was "Fluffhead"—possibly in homage to Gordon, the fluffy-haired member most against the band's breakup.

And from there, three full nights of Phish heaven ensued. Whispers became shouts as the simple words "The band is playing!" traveled from the front rows throughout the venue and into the parking lots, where hordes of fans were dancing and sharing their smoke and wine.

With just shy of 100 shows under my belt, I feel only semi-qualified to say that it was some of the best Phish ever. There were points—most notably during the second set on the second night—when you knew these guys were having the most fun they've ever had together

onstage. The room just didn't seem big enough for Trey's guitar as he tore through "Birds of a Feather." Other highlights from that night included a stellar "Ghost" and a funky "Wolfman's Brother" from the same set, and a "Punch You in the Eye"/"Gumbo"/"Reba"/"Mexican Cousin"/"It's Ice" kick-ass finish to the first. The encore was the Beatles' "A Day in the Life."

Looking around the room at that point, I saw as many tears as I did smiles, but none were bigger than those on the faces of the four men onstage.—Nico Escondido

ISAAC HAYES

Black Moses

(Stax)



I don't know about books, but you can usually judge an album by its cover—especially the old 144-square-inch cardboard/vinyl variety. Originally issued by Stax in 1971, *Black Moses* is my number one argument against the mp3 revolution. What at first seems like a disarmingly simple picture of Isaac staring into the camera through the obligatory pair of shades folds out into a four-foot-tall cross-shaped portrait of the man in biblical robes with arms outstretched, entreating the masses to follow him on his exodus of smooth lovers' funk. And the folks who just put this back out there on CD have been faithful to Hayes's original vision, replicating this multi-gatefold masterpiece down to the smallest detail. It's a shame that Ike didn't live to see it, dying as he did on August 10, 2008.

Black Moses finds Ike in an introspective mood—he was going through a divorce at the time, and it shows. One of his great talents was to take a Top 40 hit, slow it down, strip away all the mid-'70s Velveeta, pile on some Southern-soul cheese of his own and create something that, save for the lyrics, is a totally original song. Check out what he does to the Jackson Five's "Never Can Say Goodbye" or even (don't hurl) the Carpenters' "Close to You." In this age of mixes and mash-ups, that might not seem too unique, but he was doing this back when people your age were killing commies in Vietnam.—Chris Simunek



PSY/OPSogist

Suffused with Static

(Beatguild)



The age of the record company is going the way of the dinosaur. In the midst of a failing economy, car manufacturers and a lot of other companies will have to fight to catch up to the future, but the music industry has already been saved by technology, now that iTunes, CD Baby and Rhapsody have expanded the war that Napster started. The computer giveth, and the computer taketh away, and the computer giveth again.

Joining the ranks of the viral mp3-upload army these days is an electronic-music soldier named PSY/OPSogist. Armed with his latest album, *Suffused with Static* (available at beatguild.net), he joins an elite group of 420-friendly, down-tempo electronic musicians like Nightmares on Wax and the Crooklyn Dub Ensemble. PSY/OPSogist unleashes AHM (Atmospheric Headphone Music) on listeners who can appreciate deconstructing his collages of sound. Songs like "Service Preparation" and "Time" are dirty bombs packed with backstepping beats and haunting organs. An hour of traveling through PSY/OPSogist's aural landscapes of descending baselines and argument-as-sound will convince you to march further and subject yourself to more of his musical mind control.

When not manipulating the thoughts of young listeners, PSY/OPSogist is part of a musical collective formed with two other electronic masters, Feckweed and Silence Do Good. Together, they have created a workshop called the Beatguild. With their audio chisels and trigger-fingers for hammers, they offer a service to musicians who wish to send in the stems of their recordings, to be sculpted by the Beatguild into various arrangements in their musical laboratory. Like a trio of Dr. Franksteins, they will birth beats, build audio backbones, and dissect, rearrange and rewire until, finally ... "It's alive!"—Rollergirl



BRIAN O'DEA

High: Confessions of an International Drug Smuggler

(Other)



If you bought *High: Confessions of an International Drug Smuggler* because you spotted the giant doobie on the cover and figured it was about the adventures of a big-time pot smuggler, then you got taken. On the other hand, if you wish to follow the "ongoing spiritual journey" of a reformed coke dealer, cokehead, junkie, lapsed Catholic, born-again Christian, and drunk who finally manages to land a couple big loads of herb before the story ends, then read on, dude.

High begins with the proverbial "knock on the door" from the DEA. The remainder interweaves O'Dea's suspiciously brief prison experience with the story of his wasted, profligate life as a junkie middleman in the blow biz. The author goes a bit overboard with the ethnic dialects and tough-guy crap, but nevertheless provides an extremely accurate picture of life in the low-level federal joint on Terminal Island, offering readers a clear peek at the shock and awe of existence in a noisy, noisome, overcrowded prison.

Unfortunately, O'Dea's tale of life as an international drug dealer is a tad witty. Beginning in college, he eventually lands a major connection and then, by his own account, spends most of the next two decades trying to get into the pot biz while earning his living dealing coke. Excuse me, but this guy allegedly spends years in Jamaica transshipping keys of coke, and he can't find a load of weed? In those days, if a boat so much as slowed down along the coast, a dozen locals would pull up uninvited and start throwing the bales on board.—Black Tuna



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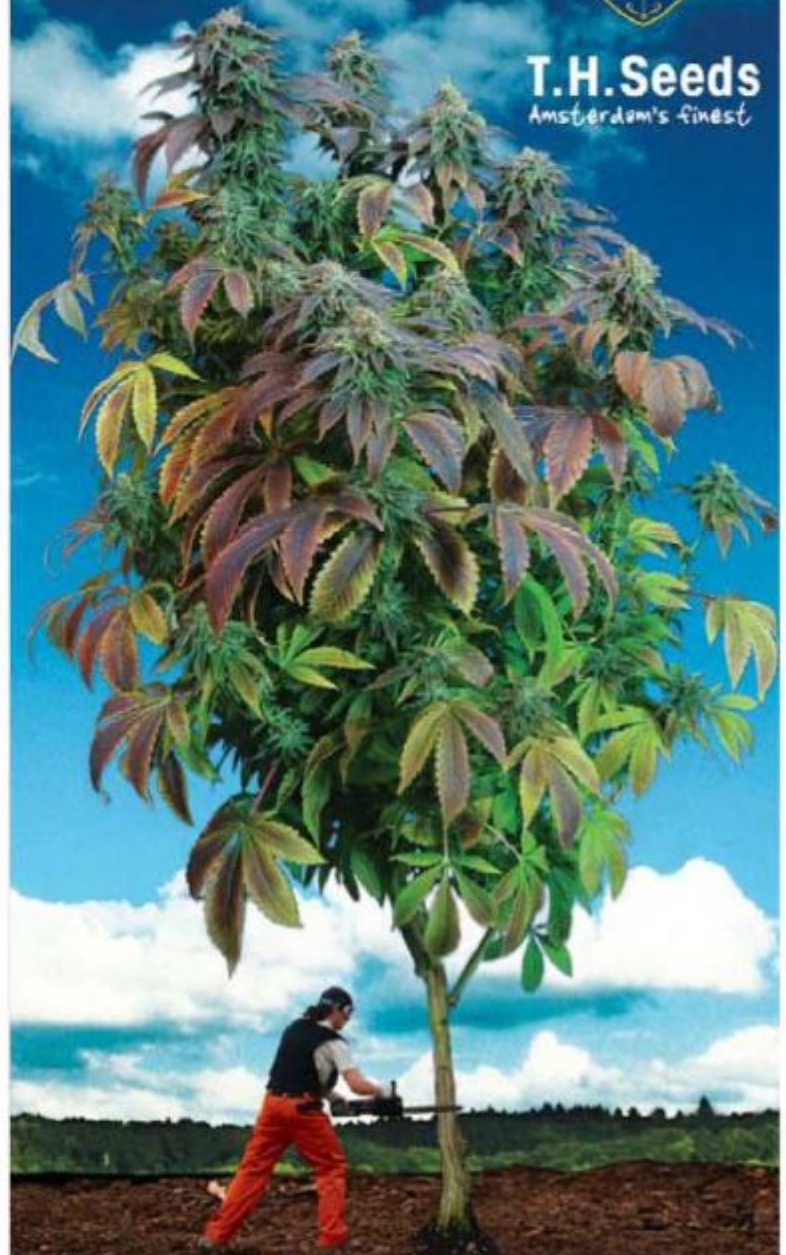
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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND: THE VOLUNTEERS

Originally featured as an Unsigned Band of the Week on HT.com, this New York City quartet went on to win a cyber-battle of the bands and become our first-ever Unsigned Band of the Month, as selected by the readers of HIGH TIMES.

The Volunteers, led by Dan Goddard (guitar, vocals), with John Cave (guitar), Joe Spinella (drums) and Dave Smith (bass), have been rocking out enthusiastic audiences across the country with their potent blend of intelligent, poetic and often humorous songs. They're at their best onstage displaying a unique mix of solid musicianship, infectious vocals and wild energy, as showcased in off-color, instantly memorable songwriting. (Just try to forget lyrics like "When I die, if you want, you can fuck my ghost" or "Even God likes bitches and booze.")

The Volunteers' most recent album, *Spectrophilia*, was recorded at Brooklyn's Monsterland Studio with producer/engineer Paul Mahajan (the National, TV on the Radio, Yeah Yeah Yeahs). They're currently touring the country, so check hightimes.com/thevolunteers for tour dates, music and news.

And be sure to hit them up after the show if you want to party with the first-ever HIGH TIMES Unsigned Band of the Month!



vaporella's hit of the month

DRUG TRAFFIC

Zipcar is the cheap and easy alternative to renting cars. It's the wave of the future, man. Insurance and gas included. You pay by the hour. And the drivers of Zipcars are environmentally conscious. I picked up my Zipcar zipvan to find someone had scratched out the catchy motto "Wheels When You Want Them" into something I could really get behind. I want hemp all the time—why not throw a pair of heels in there too?

YOU ROCK, I'LL ROLL

Bobby helps Bambú choose their new band of the year.

When I didn't have the scratch to enter last year's Reefer Poker tournament, my friend Sarah (owner of Bambú rolling papers) came to the rescue and fronted me the \$100 buy-in. Well, she called in her marker this February,

when she enlisted me as a judge for the Bambú Band of the Year Final Battle showdown. The contest—co-sponsored by Roc-Elle Records—was Bambú's first such foray into the indie music scene. Every few weeks throughout the summer, bands competed at Manhattan's historic Bowery Poetry Club and were voted on by the audience. Now, the competition had been narrowed down to four bands: Vicio, Captain Coconut, the Chosen and the Communication Corporation. Whoever won tonight would receive a prize package valued at over \$5,000—including cash, banner ads on bambu.com, a record deal with Roc-Elle, plus a photo shoot modeling Bambú's hip new clothing line for an upcoming ad campaign. And, of course, a shitload of rolling papers.

When I arrived at Santo's Party House that evening, Sarah welcomed me with a fistful of drink tickets, then led me to the elevated area toward the back, where she introduced me to my fellow judges: *Relix* senior editor Mike Greenhaus; stylish electro-rocker Jen Urban and her bandmate, Alan D; and Jen Nuccio, an associate vice president with the Susan Blond PR firm. I'd actually met Nuccio a few years back, when she introduced me to rock queen Joan Jett the last time she played New York. I ordered the first of many beers, got acquainted and reported for duty. As I've learned over the years, serious judging requires serious drinking.

The first band up was Captain Coconut. They were a funk/jazz/jamband fusion with a horn section and groovy sound that got everybody's booty moving. They looked pretty young and were a bit lacking in stage presence—just standing around shoe-gazing most of the time—but there was some genuine talent there.

"You guys sound like you could be Steely Dan's little brother—like, Steely Doug," I commented, finishing my second beer. "I'm known mostly as a rock/metal guy, but I'll let you in on a little secret: I'm all about the funk, and you guys bring it. All you need are some matching rhinestone jumpsuits and you're all set."

Next up were female-fronted pop rockers Vicio from Brazil (by way of Long Island). From singer Samira's zebra-print top to the

Pop rockers Vicio.



Sarah and the judges announce the winners.



bassist's Tufnel-esque hair and tight white jeans, their image was an eclectic mixture of '80s glam and British mod with a dash of punk. The vocals were a bit reminiscent of Benatar, and the fuzzily 'froed guitarist Rickardo ripped out

some killer solos. Overall, they put on a high-energy show with lots of action and style.

"Well, it's nice to see *someone's* bringing back the mullet," I joked, popping open my fifth beer.

Then came the Chosen. Normally I'm not much for hip-hop, but these guys blended phat rhymes and irie rhythms with soul and finesse. And more importantly, they were the first band to publicly hail the leaf onstage, when dreadlocked bassist Young Nattie gave a shout-out to all the pot smokers in the crowd. Obviously, that earned them big points in my book.

The last band of the night was the Communication Corporation. These guys were a gimmick band—one wacky businessman character dressed in a suit and glasses, another dude with a hat made of playing cards. They had bullhorns, monkey masks, hard hats, jumpsuits, flashlights—you name it. By this time, I'd used up my last drink ticket and was starting to get rowdy.

"What's this supposed to be, some kind of Devo hoedown?" I chided. "I'm into Mr. Bungle and all kinds of weird shit, but if you're gonna be weird, you gotta be *good*." I went Simon Cowell on their asses big time, soliciting boos and howls from the crowd—but that only fanned the flames of my derision. "You guys are all shtick and no substance!" I railed. "No balls!" They probably didn't deserve the fury I unleashed on them, but I was shit-faced and having fun, so I let 'em have it anyway.

Ain't I a stinker?

Afterwards, the judges all headed backstage to confer with our corporate counterparts and cast our votes. After a passionate debate, we ended in a split decision—a tie between retro rockers Vicio and reggae rhymesters the Chosen. Sarah brought us all out onstage and announced the winners. Afterwards, I grabbed one of the many packs of papers lying around and rolled a few celebratory joints backstage, treating the winners to some Bubblegum Skunk. ✨

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Harry Shearer Hears Voices

But talking to yourself is part of the job! By Paul Krassner

Harry Shearer became an actor at the age of seven, at the urging of his piano teacher. As a kid on the *Jack Benny Show*, he once told me, when the cast was doing a read-through, there was a line in the script where "I just got it in my mind to do it with a slight Brooklyn accent—and when I did that, Benny just started howling, banging the table and laughing." That was an auspicious omen for Shearer's future career.

Foremost among his many talents is the uncanny ability to mimic with satirical precision the voices, mannerisms and points-of-view of countless public figures—entertainers, politicians, news anchors—on his radio program, *Le Show*, which recently completed its 25th year. *Le Show* is broadcast every Sunday morning on KCRW in Santa Monica ("From the edge of America, from the home of the homeless") and syndicated to around 100 stations in this country, plus one in Berlin. It's also carried by NPR in Europe, the US Armed Forces Radio, and as an audio feed on Japan's cable system.

For a quarter of a century, Shearer has never been paid for doing *Le Show*—but what about the perks?

"Well, one of the advantages of doing weekly radio shows is that you tend to forget them as soon as they're done," he told me. "The great part, since gaining Internet coverage, is hearing feedback from listeners in places like Japan and Africa, where this broadcast would never be heard on terrestrial radio. But the real highlight, from a life standpoint, has to be when I had a chance meeting on the street near the newsstand just off Melrose with somebody who was a fan of the radio show, and whose then column in the then *LA Reader* I was a fan of. It was Matt Groening, and that meeting led to a little remunerative gig in the Murdochian vineyards."

Shearer is referring, of course, to *The Simpsons*, on which he performs voice-overs of several cartoon personalities. Since he does both Mr. Burns and his assistant, Smithers, I asked: "When you're taping *The Simpsons*, do you sometimes just stand there and talk to yourself?"

"Yes, and that happens a lot," he said.



Shearer, man of a thousand voices.

'In the tradition of Lenny Bruce, he plays all the characters in his audio-theatrical sketches.'

audio-theatrical sketches that serve as a vehicle for his incisive humor. He has frequently presented phone conversations between George W. Bush and his father, taking the part of both and capturing the nuances of each. In his own voice, alluding to Bush's crusade to stamp out global terrorism, Shearer has observed: "It's like the War on Drugs—it's a totally metaphorical war in which some people get killed. I expect the Partnership for a Terrorist-Free America to start soon."

But how will Shearer handle Barack Obama? "I think there's going to be something sadly funny about the collision/intersection between the sky-high hopes and expectations of his supporters with the sky-high mountain of crap left on his desk by his predecessors," he says. "I'm still learning his speech pattern, but there's something about the way he emphasizes certain words—especially the ones at the ends of sentences—that gives the aura of decisiveness whether there's anything decisive being said or not."

I asked Shearer, a dedicated news junkie, about his philosophy of comedy. "Comedy is good," he said. "Reality is better." 🌟

A longer version of this column is included in Paul Krassner's latest book, to be published next month, Who's to Say What's Obscene: Politics, Culture and Comedy. (It was originally titled We Have Ways of Making You Laugh, but that was already the name of a collection of cartoons, all with a swastika theme.)

"When Hank [Azaria] plays Apu and Chief Wiggum, he'll talk to himself, and when Dan [Castellaneta] plays Homer and his dad, he'll talk to himself."

One of the voices that Shearer has done on *Le Show* is TV journalist Dan Rather. When the Museum of Television and Radio in New York honored Rather, he personally invited Shearer to attend. Shearer wanted to discuss the issues, but Rather preferred to talk about *This Is Spinal Tap*, the classic rock mockumentary in which Shearer played the band's cucumber-wielding bassist, Derek Smalls.

In the tradition of Lenny Bruce, he plays all the characters in the



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Never has the Canadian seed business boomed more robustly. In a climate of waning government interference and growing public acceptance, the competition among star breeders and super strains continues to flourish.

BY DAN SKYE

Sunday morning at the Ontario Seed Bank in Toronto: It's quiet now, no walk-in business yet. But soon the seed hunters—predominantly American—will arrive. They'll sit down at the seed bar on soda-fountain-style stools affixed to the floor and be offered a menu of strains. A meandering discussion of yields, flowering times and recommended grow techniques will ensue, prior to the exchange of cash and seed. But right now Richie, OSB's owner, is sipping coffee and answering the ever-ringing phone.

Truth be told, the telephone is OSB's overwhelming priority. It's here where the sales connections are made, where trust is instilled in prospective buyers. Most customers order through the mail and are understandably concerned about how the transaction goes down. Much of what OSB communicates to these growers is the assurance—and reassurance—that, yes, they will receive their full order in a timely fashion. And if they don't, OSB always makes good on delivery snafus.

However, Richie also functions as a mentor to growers with big dreams. He steers them toward seeds that suit their circumstances, gently advising them to rethink the act of growing as an evolutionary process: "Try to bring in a successful harvest, learn from it, and then move forward." But sometimes a new grower's dreams know no bounds—like the first-timer who

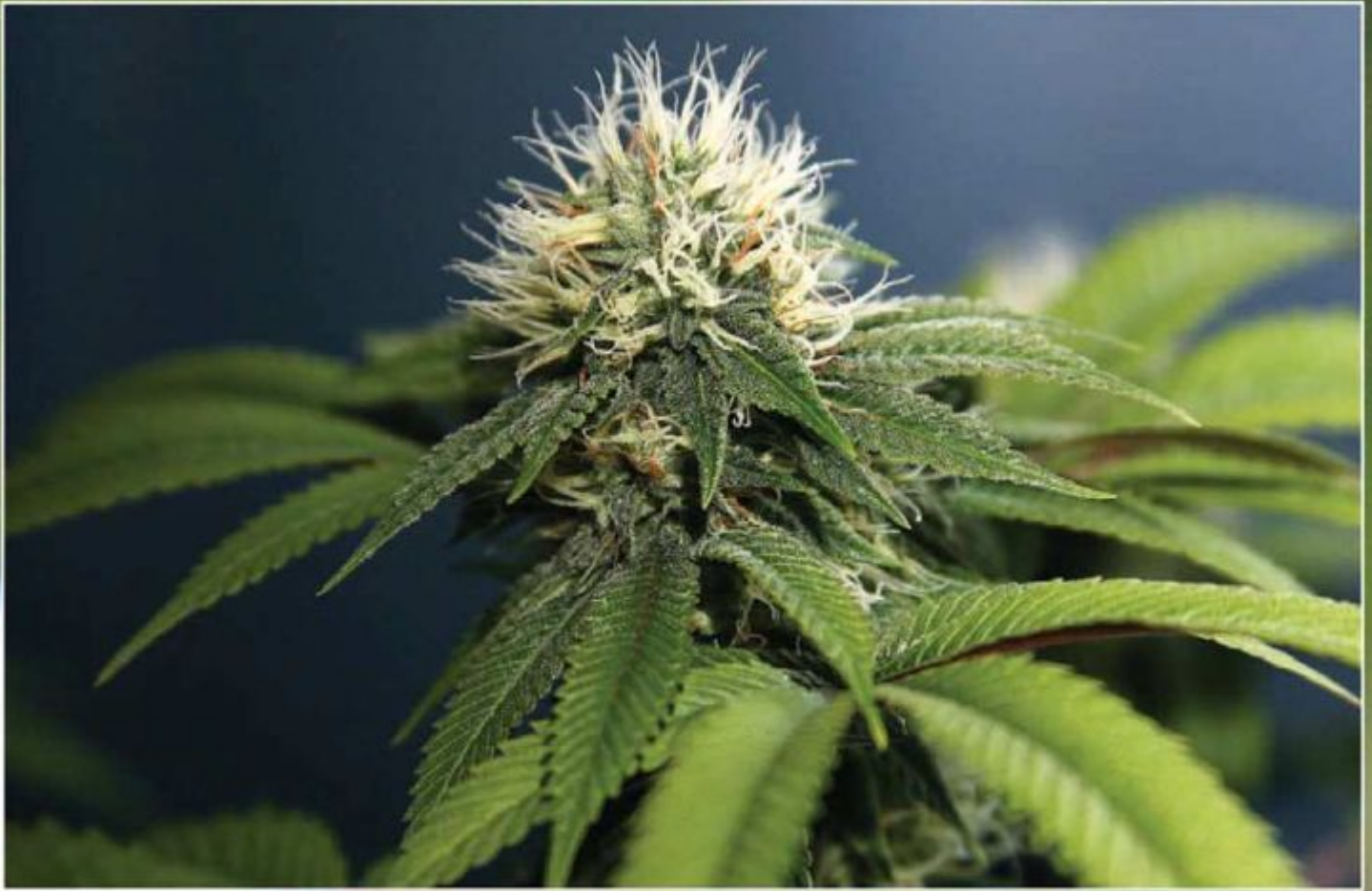


OSB's storefront in Toronto.

purchased an AeroFlo2 60-plant hydroponic system, called to order some Haze seeds (a problematic strain even for experienced growers), and demanded a near-guarantee that he'd be able to harvest a pound from every seed he planted. These calls take a bit more diplomacy and patience, because Richie doesn't want to burst the customer's grow bubble entirely.

"Wow," Richie responds. "That's pretty ambitious for your first crop. I don't know how much experience you have growing plants indoors, but I'd recommend starting small and working up to a bigger harvest."

Still, some folks can't be deterred and insist on shooting the moon their first time out. "A sign of the economic times," Richie says. "People want a quick economic turnaround for themselves."



A sticky specimen of L.A. Confidential, grown by the Messiah.



A garden of Crystalline Entity.



Richie of OSB, at your service.

It's hardly uncommon for these get-rich-quick types to lose interest in the process once their gardens don't turn out to be the gold mines they'd hoped for. "Look," Richie explains, "I want people to be successful, and I'll do everything I can—short of working in their garden—to help them. Because when people grow great weed, they remember where they got their seeds; they come back, and they tell their friends. I want them to have a good experience. I give my customers variety and reasonable prices. I'm a retail store, basically. I'm like Wal-Mart."

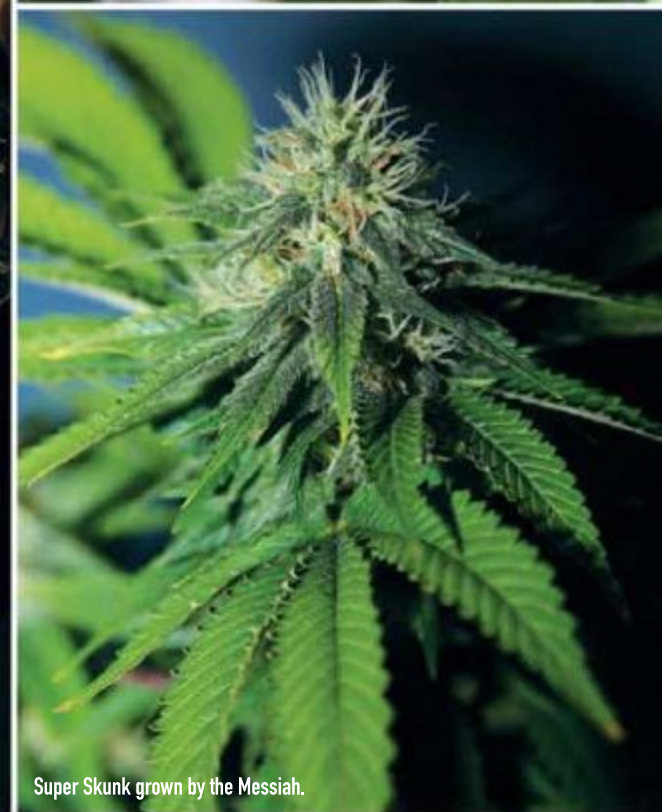
At OSB, seeds can be ordered in 10-packs, 50-packs, 100-packs, 500-packs—pretty much any size pack; just put the money down. However, the Wal-Mart analogy extends further than customer service. Richie always keeps an eye out for the next hot product: "I'm always looking for great breeders and the next big thing. If the public wants something, then I want it in my store—and I want a lot of it."



An underground gardener displays his harvest of MK Ultra (top) and Purple Princess.



A close-up of seed pods.



Super Skunk grown by the Messiah.

Professional breeders pore over every detail of plant development and post-harvest characteristics. They chart growth rates, disease resistance, flowering duration and psychoactive effects. Strains are tested under different conditions in a search for the optimum environment to promote both health and yield. These breeders select favorable characteristics from different strains and crossbreed them in a quest to develop plants that produce predictable results.

OSB merchandises seeds from over a dozen such sources: DNA, Paradise Seeds, Dutch Passion and Soma Seeds are among the Amsterdam outfits represented. But the Canadians are here, too—Ontario’s Best, the Wild Rose Seed Company out of Vancouver, and a few other underground seed banks.

OSB also deals with single breeders who prefer to stay completely under the radar, like the Messiah out of St. Catharines, about an hour away from Toronto. One of OSB’s newest breeders, the Messiah is responsible for the popular Bubba-dential, a heady new strain he’s produced via LA Confidential x Bubble Gum from Serious Seeds. Next on his agenda is Super Con—LA Confidential x Super Skunk. He’s been breeding new strains for about two years, but says that growing terrific pot is really his first priority. “It’s just a hobby,” he says modestly. “I like to see what happens.”

The Messiah questions the notion promoted by some self-serving grow-

ers: that breeding superlative strains requires almost mystical gardening abilities. “It’s not that hard,” he explains. “It’s all in the genetics: You’ve got to have true-breeding parents. Like a Skunk #1 and an Afghani—you know you’re going to get something special. Do your homework; otherwise, it’s like a shot in the dark.”

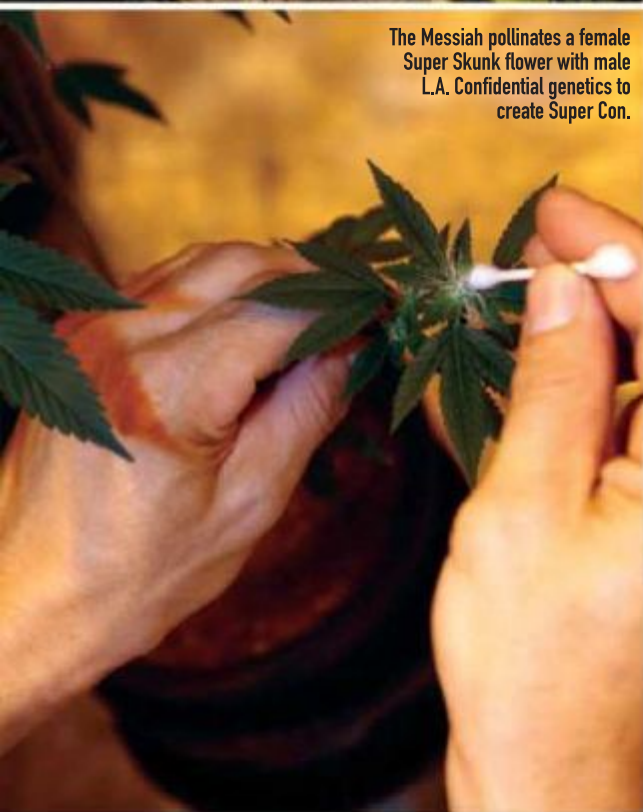
The development of new products has always been the mainstay of capitalism, and cannabis capitalism is no different. OSB just snapped up the entire inventory of a long-time breeder who recently decided to lower his profile. Until last year, this breeder was the owner of a small seed bank. But, he says, “I just got plain uneasy.”

It’s called grower paranoia. Sometimes it’s based on the reality of encroaching law enforcement; other times, it’s more of a nagging feeling that you’re not safe. With a family depending on him, this breeder could ill afford an arrest, so he decided to move from Hamilton to Vaughan in north Toronto and restart his gardens.

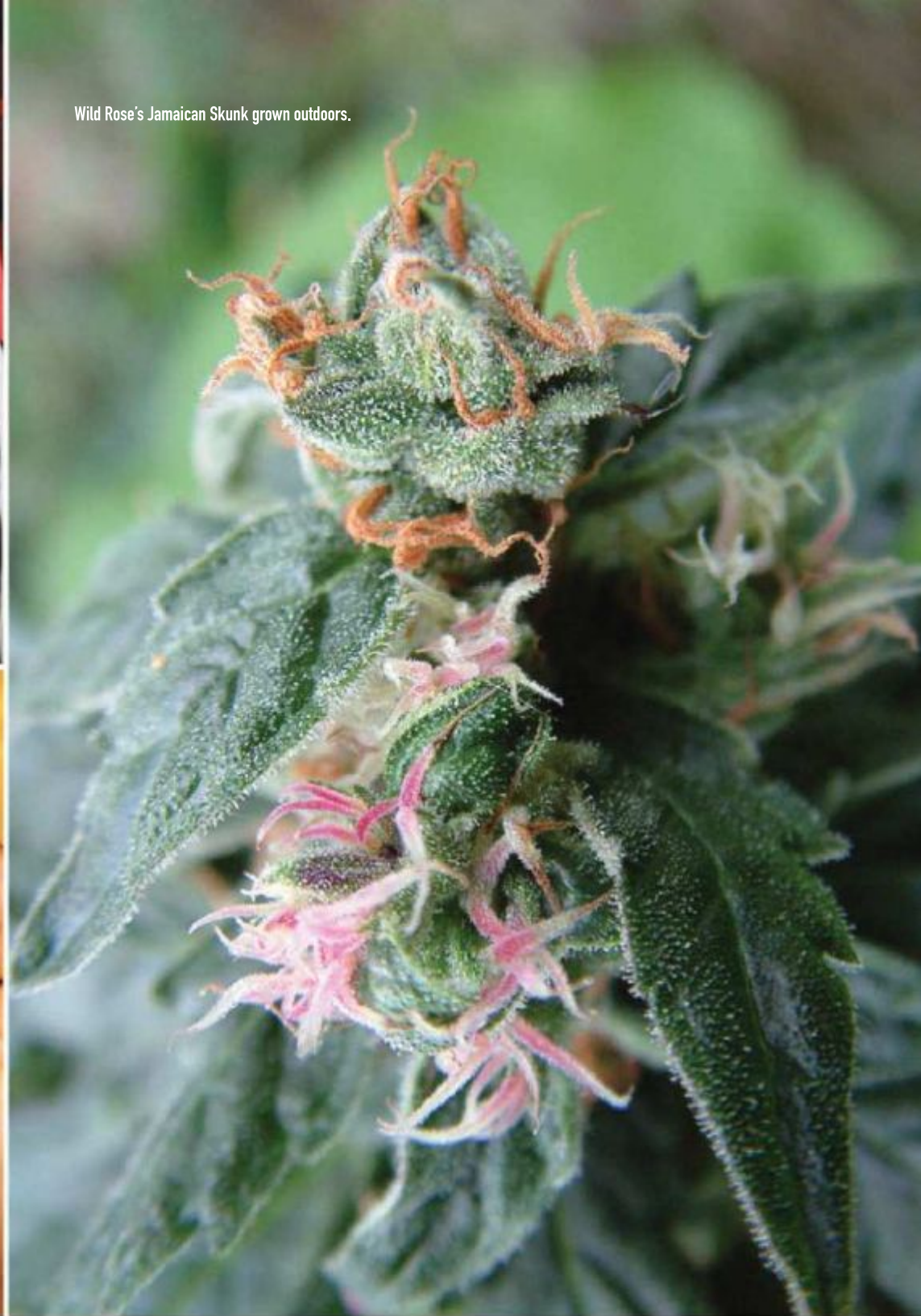
His new base of operations is a two-story home in a relatively new housing development. His pot factory is located in a well-protected virtual concrete bunker situated in the basement. Two-hundred-amp service powers his home, but it branches into two 100-amp feeders that connect to a separate panel. Everything has passed inspection and is kept scrupulously up to code.



An electrically secure, concrete bunker houses this garden.



The Messiah pollinates a female Super Skunk flower with male L.A. Confidential genetics to create Super Con.



Wild Rose's Jamaican Skunk grown outdoors.

This grower manages a breeding chamber, a vegetation room and two flowering rooms. His latest star strain is Crystalline Entity, a secret creation produced by crossing a Shishkaberry/White Widow with an unnamed *indica*. It's a quick-flowering strain that he harvests at about seven and a half weeks. But even at five weeks, the Crystalline Entity looks ready for harvest. When asked to describe the high it delivers, the grower says: "It's a sedating strain but doesn't produce couch-lock. It's very mellow. In truth, the medical patients who rely on Crystalline Entity say you can use it for just about anything you want to."

Richie was so impressed with this suburban grower's expertise that he quickly negotiated to market his entire seed stock, a host of heretofore unheard-of strains: Rockabye Baby, Thunder Punch, Bubble Bomb, Super Shit and Citrus Mistress.

OSB is also in business with the Wild Rose Seed Company, which supplies to five seeds banks—three in Canada and two in the US (which, for obvious reasons, prefer to remain nameless).

The three partners who comprise Wild Rose oversee a trio of gardens. One garden grows out seed, another's devoted to raising bud, and the third is strictly for research and development. The gardens are tended at different locations for security reasons, but also to prevent pollen from spreading to unwanted areas.

"We need absolute control," says the founding partner of Wild Rose.

"The size of these operations is large enough to supply our seed-and-weed customers. When spring comes, the project takes a shift to the outdoors and the process starts again. There's always lots of work to be done, and you're never sure of success. There are so many variables: floods, drought, rip-offs, helicopters, animals, bugs, all that stuff. Over the years, we've had entire crop losses—too many for what it's worth, sometimes. But when you love growing weed as much as we do, you keep on plugging away."

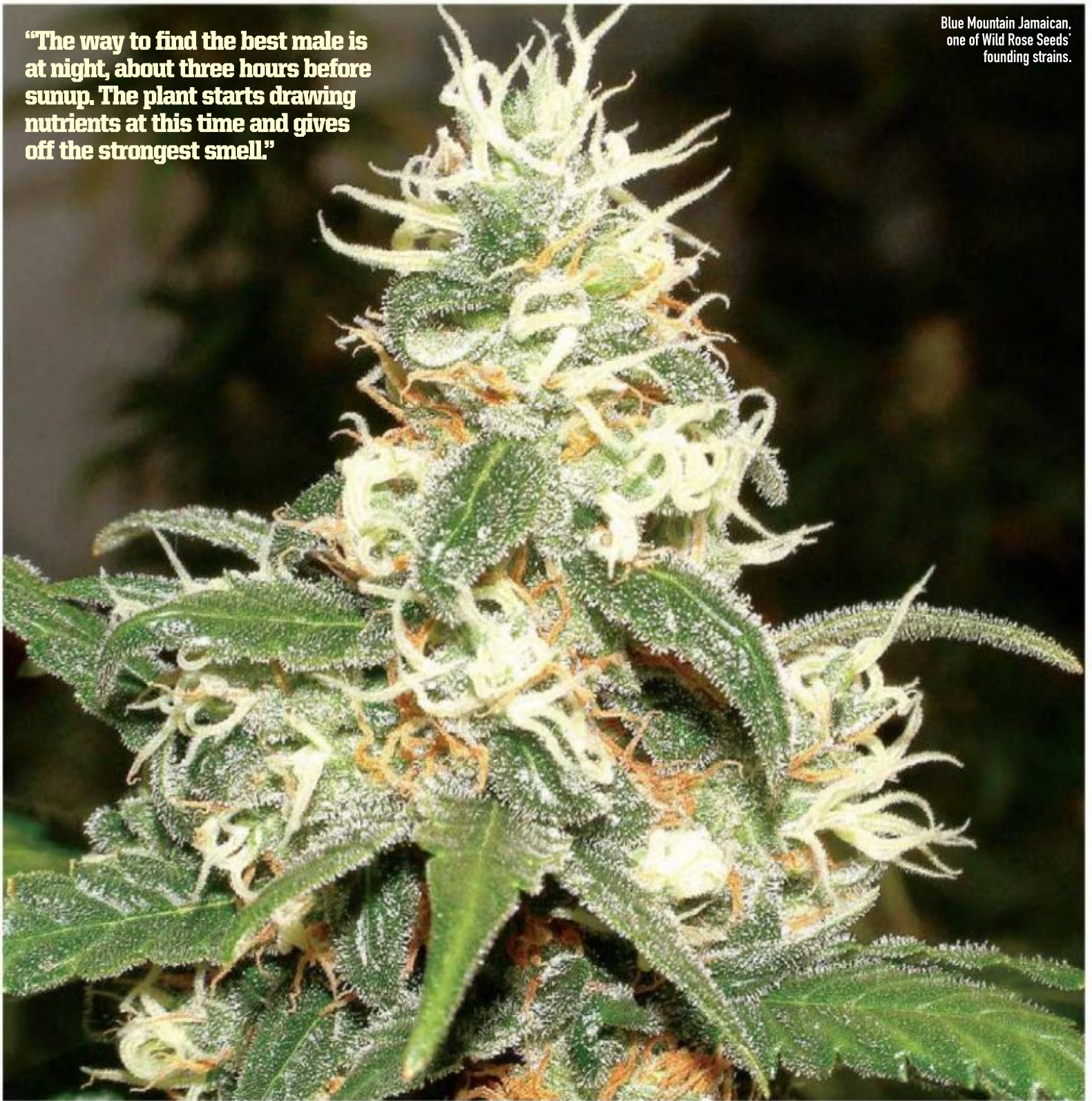
The origins of Wild Rose hark back 20 years, when the company's founder traveled to Colombia and Jamaica. "I was introduced to some real good weed," he recalls. "I got seeds and managed to bring them back to Canada."

The seeds in question were Colombian Gold and Blue Mountain Jamaican. Then he acquired a Skunk *indica* from an old hippie friend. "Being the gardener that I am, I started a breeding program," he says. "I wanted to develop strains that were suitable for the Vancouver climate. I've been using these three stains for over 20 years—they were excellent then, and they're excellent now. I see no need to change a good thing. I know these strains very well. They've been with me a long time, like a good friend."

He adds that every time he produces a new strain, it becomes his favorite. "The strains I grow now are very well-received. People like them a great deal, so I'll continue to breed them."

“The way to find the best male is at night, about three hours before sunup. The plant starts drawing nutrients at this time and gives off the strongest smell.”

Blue Mountain Jamaican,
one of Wild Rose Seeds’
founding strains.



Asked how he maintains potency from generation to generation, he states flatly: “Males—it’s all about the man. Of course, the right female is also important, but the male plant is, in my opinion, the most important factor in the breeding program. In the male plant, you look for the obvious. Obviously, you want it to grow fast, big and strong, with tight flower clusters—but there are other things to consider. I grow out a lot of males, and from my experience, they may look the same, but they can be quite different. It’s the smell the male gives off that you need to be aware of—this can make a big difference in the potency of that male.”

“The way to find the best male is at night,” he continues, “about three hours before sunup. The plant starts drawing nutrients at this time and gives off the strongest smell. That’s the one to use for your female plant. And also, if you’re lucky, some very potent males will produce visible resin glands—not many, but some. The way I see it, if it don’t smell, then no go. Some of my customers have been asking me if I’m going to introduce feminized seeds. Maybe in the future I’ll experiment and see how it goes—but from a breeder’s point of view, with regular seeds, I like the fact that I can get males to experiment with.”

“Some people can’t be bothered to produce their own seeds,” he adds. “But I understand that.”

Later this year, Wild Rose will introduce an entirely new seed line. “As long as we’re talking to HIGH TIMES, I may as well raise the curtain,” the founder says. “The Bing family is making its debut: Mr. Bing, Lady Bing, Baby Bing, Bud-a-Bing, Bing-Bing and Bing-a-Ling. I’ve been working on this project for some time now and hope to have seeds ready later this year.”

There are so many factors to consider when choosing your plant, and selecting a strain for a successful harvest can cause stress and uncertainty. Does it fit your needs in terms of height, potency and high? Should you grow indoors or out? What are the characteristics of your grow space? Wild Rose seeks to allay many of these common anxieties.

“When someone buys our seeds, from that moment it becomes their baby,” stresses the founder. “They take these little gems home, gather all the soil, all the containers, and all the other stuff to give that seed life. If that’s not total commitment, I don’t know what is. I understand what my brothers and sisters go through, and I want them to have the best experience in growing. It will change their lives for the better—I think you get a better understanding of what nature and nurture is all about. Everyone should be able to afford to grow this magnificent plant.” ✨



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BLOWN

Every now and then, stoners need to clear the air. Here are a few fresh perspectives on the world of pot smoking.

STAYING STONED/STAYING EMPLOYED

In a study just published by Switzerland's Bio-Med Central (biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/9/40), stoners did not show any increased risk of personal injury due to pot use—and, interestingly, drinkers who toked are less likely to be injured than those who don't. Despite those comforting statistics, and considering today's perilous job market (where being stoned can mean instant dismissal), it would be foolish to suggest anything that could jeopardize one's livelihood. However, for those who enjoy a more liberal work environment—as well as those who just don't give a shit—here are four suggestions for dealing with medical emergencies on the job.

1. EAT, DRINK OR SPRAY

It's nearly impossible to detect users who eat pot-laced brownies, drink marijuana tea, or spray cannabis sublingually with an alcohol-based tincture. These delivery systems should always be the first line of defense in avoiding detection.

2. USE A MUTE

If you have a private office, storage room or stairwell available, any carbon filter, gas mask or laundry scent device can be turned into a mute (see "Scent of a Stoner", next page). For muting to work properly, a one-hitter, bong or pipe must be used, and the bowl must be completely burned and inhaled so that no smoke escapes. Load the bowl lightly, and blow the smoke into the mute slowly. The primary drawback is potential coughing, which must be avoided at all costs.

3. DOES THE JOHN LOCK?

You can comfortably smoke a joint while standing on a toilet, provided that you hold the joint over the outtake vent and blow the smoke into it. Turning on the hot water full blast to create steam will aid in preventing detection, and the addition of a shaving kit will create a near-foolproof cover story.

4. BUY A PLASTIC GROW CLOSET

The same tent-like devices used for grow closets can make fantastic stealth-smoking chambers, serving as a kind of marijuana sauna by recirculating the smoke continuously in a very small space. The only problem is exiting: When you unzip and step outside, a cloud of stinky smoke inevitably follows close behind. The solution is to install an air filter within the chamber and stay inside until the smoke has cleared. This only works if you have a private office or storage space available and can explain the sudden appearance of a freestanding plastic closet in the office.

TOP 10

PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SMOKE POT ON THE JOB

10. Race car pit engineer
9. Rodeo clown
8. Heart surgeon
7. Asbestos remover
6. Land mine placer
5. Barbed wire salesman
4. Doritos taster
3. Boxing referee
2. Snake handler
1. Autobahn crossing guard

TOP 10

PEOPLE WE WISH WOULD SMOKE POT

10. Customs agents
9. Cops
8. Nuns
7. Heroin addicts
6. All military personnel
5. Assholes
4. Nightclub doormen
3. In-laws
2. The president
1. You

SMOKE

HOMAGE TO THE ONE-HITTER

No system ever proves 100 percent foolproof, but a one-hitter is surely the safest way to sneak a puff on the go! The ironic thing about smoking a one-hitter cleverly camouflaged to look like a cigarette is that you're actually pretending to do something far more dangerous than smoking marijuana in order to avoid detection. Act natural, hold the one-hitter like a Camel while puffing your weed, exhale somewhere discreet and then keep on trucking.

If you're at work, befriend the office smokers who congregate outside your building. Hold your hit for as long as possible and always exhale into a cloud of cigarette smoke. It only takes the smoke of one or two cigarettes to conceal the smoke of a one-hitter.



The vaporizer is considered the safest way to smoke.

HOW HARMFUL IS POT SMOKE?

Not very, according to the evidence. We'll concede right off the bat that inhaling any type of smoke isn't the healthiest activity, and studies have shown that the vaporizer is probably a far healthier choice for inhaling. Still, there are many of us who prefer the aesthetic pleasures of a fragrant joint, the efficiency of a bong, or the sweet mini-hits that a pocket pipe allows.

Medical studies report that pot smoke can cause coughing and wheezing—duh—but no links exist between marijuana use and lung cancer or emphysema. What's clear is that mainstream medicine has increasingly embraced medical marijuana, acknowledging that its benefits far outweigh any minimal impact on patient health. At the Fifth National Council on Cannabis Therapeutics, health care professionals repeatedly endorsed medical pot and its benefits—but none so succinctly as Dr. Donald Abrams, the chief of hematology/oncology at San Francisco General Hospital, who stated with finality: "If it works, it should be available."

CLEARLY, A FAD

About two years ago, clear rolling papers made their debut. Although they're made of plant cellulose and contain no glue, the papers never quite caught on. Sure, everybody tried them and marveled at the idea of smoking a see-through joint, but after a while—well, let's just say that it was hard to believe you weren't smoking cellophane sandwich wrap, or worse. After one or two clear paper jays, people returned to traditional papers. Today, clear papers have become virtually *invisible* on the stoner scene.

The clear rolling paper craze burned out.



CURSE OF THE WHITE LIGHTER

Jimi Hendrix died on September 18, 1970. Less than a month later, Janis Joplin died of a drug overdose. Jim Morrison of the Doors died in Paris on July 3, 1971. All three were left-handed, died at the age of 27, and reportedly had a white lighter linked to their death. Kurt Cobain's autopsy report also notes the discovery of a white lighter at the scene. Could this be where the fear of white lighters—specifically white Bic lighters—began? If so, it doesn't make much sense: Bic didn't debut its disposable lighter until 1973.

A spokesperson for Bic claims never to have heard of the white lighter curse. But headshop owners all across the country have: Every day, they encounter smokers who shun white lighters, and also see customers warning their friends away from them. And don't make the mistake of handing one to your customers assuming that any lighter will do; they'll almost invariably insist upon a different color. Bonnie Klahr of Pipe Fitter in Boulder, CO, is often left with several extra white lighters from each Bic shipment she orders, which she offers for free to her patrons—usually without finding any takers.

Those who flick Bics also swear that a link exists between white lighters and legal troubles. Google "white lighter curse" and you'll discover a trove of arrest tales, as well as numerous accounts of bong breakage, stash accidents and other harrowing instances of bad luck. And lest we forget, pot residue shows up easier on the glossy exterior of a white Bic.

Is Bic truly ignorant of the curse? The Classic edition and the Classic Mini lighter both come in an assortment of colors. The lighters are arranged and distributed in packs of 50 and shipped to stores around the country. But, there are only two or three white lighters in each shipment. Beware, though. You stoners may be using a white lighter unwittingly: In 1990, Bic launched the Decorative Fixed Flame lighter, which boasts an ornamental plastic covering. But if things are going badly in your life, you might want to check under that cover. A cursed white lighter lurks. *The horror, the horror...*—Tiffany Kimmell

LOST IN THE WILDERNESS

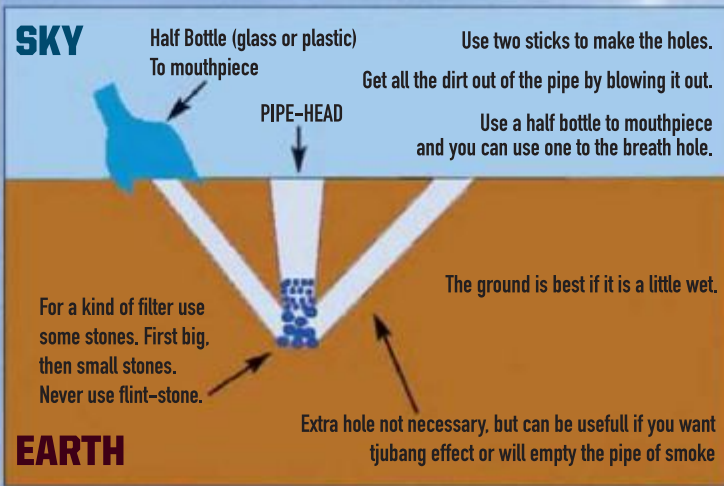
If you're ever lost in the wilderness with only your pot and no way to smoke it, you're not as lost as you think.

If you need to take up under such circumstances, get to work on a *jordhuga*, a Scandinavian earth pipe made by digging a hole straight down into the dirt, then digging another hole at a 45-degree angle to connect up with the first one. Fill the first hole with a few pebbles as a filter, then suck through the second hole as you light your pipe. You can use the upper half of a plastic soda bottle as a mouthpiece so that you don't inhale dirt.

The *jordhuga* actually works better in snow, where you can easily shape the pipe to your liking. A regular drinking straw can serve as a tube if you'd prefer to avoid frostbitten lips, but it's really not necessary if you shape your pipe with finesse.

Incidentally, you can also dig a third hole at another 45-degree angle to create a carb. Oh, yeah—and it helps to have a lighter.

No lighter? That's a problem, because we have no idea how to make fire in the wilderness.



SCENT OF A STONER

TOP TECHNIQUES FOR SMOKING STEALTH



#1 THE BLOW TUBE

We have to give high honors to the homemade blow tube for sheer simplicity and ease of use. Anybody can make a blow tube with a few standard household items, namely a cardboard tube and a couple of dryer sheets (a.k.a. fabric softener). Simply empty a roll of paper towels (or even toilet paper, if you must), stuff it with a few dryer sheets and *voila!* You've got yourself a blow tube. This age-old method is tried and true—blow your hits through the tube and they come out smelling laundry-fresh!



#2 CARBON FILTERS

If you're going for real efficiency and have no room for error, then the choice is obvious: carbon filters. A bit on the expensive side, these filters work in conjunction with fans (usually in-line) to "scrub" odors from the air. A fan sucks air in through the filter, which is filled with activated carbon that purifies the air via chemical absorption, removing impurities and odor-causing particles. Carbon filters come in various sizes and models ranging from personal use to industrial applications. Few products available today can beat this technology.



#3 THE HOLD-IN

This technique isn't for everyone, but if you're really desperate to filter an odor, use your lungs to do the trick. All you have to do is hold your hits in until your body totally absorbs all the smoke. Easy, right? It's been done and it works, but it takes enormous lung capacity and good breathing control. Unfortunately, it's not the healthiest alternative for concealing smoke. But it will get you high!

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400 MH/HPS AUTOCool- \$239.
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CALI GROWERS' LED CHOICE- Cali Growers recommends growing with MH or HPS lights over LED's unless you grow in a hot place. They only recommend and sell the T1 SmartLamp 600 for \$1445.00 and the new 5 watt LumiGrow LED (replaces up to 1000HPS) for \$1645.00.



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TOP 10 TIPS TO PICK YOUR BOX

It is estimated you will save 1-3 years on the "learning how to grow" curve AND production, by choosing the perfect, all-in-one, fully assembled, fully automated, hydroponics cabinet. Follow these top 10 grower tips, when choosing your ideal perfect roommate with benefits:

- 1. "The Look"** - You want to make sure your cabinet looks like one, not like a futuristic time machine with controls on the front. Make sure it is 100% light tight, 16 gauge "Cool-Running" metal, and looks like it belongs in your house.
- 2. Dimensions** - Be aware of misleading pictures. Realize that 24 inch deep cabs grow 33% more than generic 18 inch deep ones. The major factor of how much you grow is by Height, Width, AND Depth of your cabinet.
- 3. Airflow** - Lights are PROPERLY air-cooled by bringing air in from outside the chamber, then pushed out as well. Some only bring air from inside the unit itself, then through the light. You do not want this. Also, make sure your cab is "Cross Corner Ventilated" AND has an adjustable internal circulation fan. The output air should go out through a professionally made carbon filter.
- 4. Ease and Expertise** - Make sure your system is user friendly and the company knows what they are talking about. Your cabinet should come and look professionally assembled, automated, and easy to grow.
- 5. Net trellis and adjustable lights-** you grow up to 50% more when using a net trellis. A bonus is if both the light and veg. chamber is adjustable to allow for maximum height and lumen intensity.
- 6. Comes with Everything-** Let them shop for you. You want every possible thing you need to start growing the day you get it, including an automated Cloning Machine, nutrients, DVD, TDS meter, PH kit, Make sure it is fully assembled, automated, and ready to grow with ease and confidence.
- 7. Good Warranty-** Make sure the company backs your investment with at least a 3 year warranty and excellent lifetime customer support - for free.
- 8. Made in USA** - That is if you are in the US. For obvious reasons, such as supporting the economy, it also means not worrying with US Border Customs and such when dealing with your warranty and replaceable parts.
- 9. Customer Support-** Prompt phone and email service, knowledgeable support and replies. Accredited by the Better Business Bureau with little to no complaints over the past 3 years. Friendly and helpful is also a must.
- 10. Options-** Make sure you have the choice to switch from soil to hydro, and can decide between ebb n flow for taller units, and aero for the shorter ones. Pay attention the details. Now save a year or two start growing!



Supercloset scored a perfect 10 out of 10.

HIP HOT TIPS

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Side2Side- \$2995*
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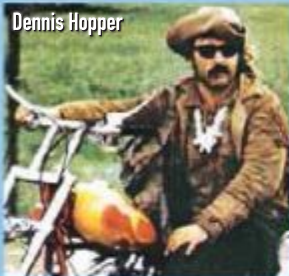
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Dennis Hopper

THE '60S

DENNIS HOPPER/*Easy Rider*

In his floppy suede hat and fringed jacket, wearing dark sunglasses and a bear-claw necklace, Dennis Hopper in *Easy Rider* gave us the first realistic portrayal of a stoner on film. Perhaps a little *too* realistic, as Dennis dove headfirst into the deep end of substance abuse for the next 15 years. Check him out in 1979's *Apocalypse Now*—he's not acting.



Cheech & Chong

THE '70S

CHEECH MARIN and TOMMY CHONG/*Up In Smoke*

Any comedian telling pot jokes today should have to pay some kind of royalty to the inventors of the genre, Cheech & Chong. Although all of the movies have their merits (except maybe *The Corsican Brothers*), *Up In Smoke* is still the masterpiece. The best thing is: No matter how many times you've seen it, you can always roll one up and watch it like it's the very first time.



Sean Penn

THE '80S

SEAN PENN/*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*

"People on 'ludes should not drive!" Forget about *Milk*—Sean Penn should have gotten an Oscar for his portrayal of surfer/über-burnout Jeff Spicoli in 1982's *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*. Though Penn still turns out some pretty respectable performances, see him here before he married Madonna, went to jail and started hanging out with Hugo Chávez.



Jeff Bridges

THE '90S

JEFF BRIDGES/*The Big Lebowski*

Anyone with even a passing knowledge of pot culture knows a dude like The Dude, a droopy-eyed stoner who just lets life happen to him. There's no clear distinction between the clothes he sleeps in and those he walks the streets in; he's righteous yet perpetually confused due to the omnipresent joint in his left hand. And yet he abides—while the rest of the world is in a perpetual panic, trouble washes over him like water off a duck's back.



Cho and Penn

THE '00S

JOHN CHO and KAL PENN/*Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*

It's taken 30 years, but we finally have a stoner-comedy duo that can crank it up to Cheech & Chong levels. The great twist here is that these guys aren't lowly burnouts; they're honor-roll students who work hard and party harder. And though most fans might cite *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* as the better film, that scene from *Guantanamo Bay* when they have a threesome with a giant bag of weed is classic. Whoever came up with that idea is a freakin' genius.



Do waterpipes reduce your high?

WRONG ON BONGS

Maybe Michael Phelps should have used a vaporizer while in training. Many stoners swear by bongos, and "pulling tubes" certainly proves quite effective when you want to get baked—but you'd think that a 14-time Olympic champion would know that they're not necessarily a lung saver. In fact, a 2000 NORML-MAPS study found that "water pipes filter out more psychoactive THC than they do other tars, thereby requiring users to smoke more to reach their desired effect."

Fortunately, marijuana—unlike tobacco—has never been linked to lung cancer, but cannabis-friendly athletes like Phelps, Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes, Japanese sumo star Wakakirin and even the HIGH TIMES softball team—actually named "The Bonghitters"—should seriously consider making the switch to a vaporizer.

DUBIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



BIGGEST WEED RIPOFF IN A MOVIE

Kevin Spacey/*American Beauty*

Spacey lives up to his name in the scene where he shells out \$4,000 for an ounce of G-13. How did the filmmakers come up with that figure? It seems pretty clear that nobody on the set ever bought a bag of weed in their life.

MOST UNCOMFORTABLE POT SCENE OF ALL TIME



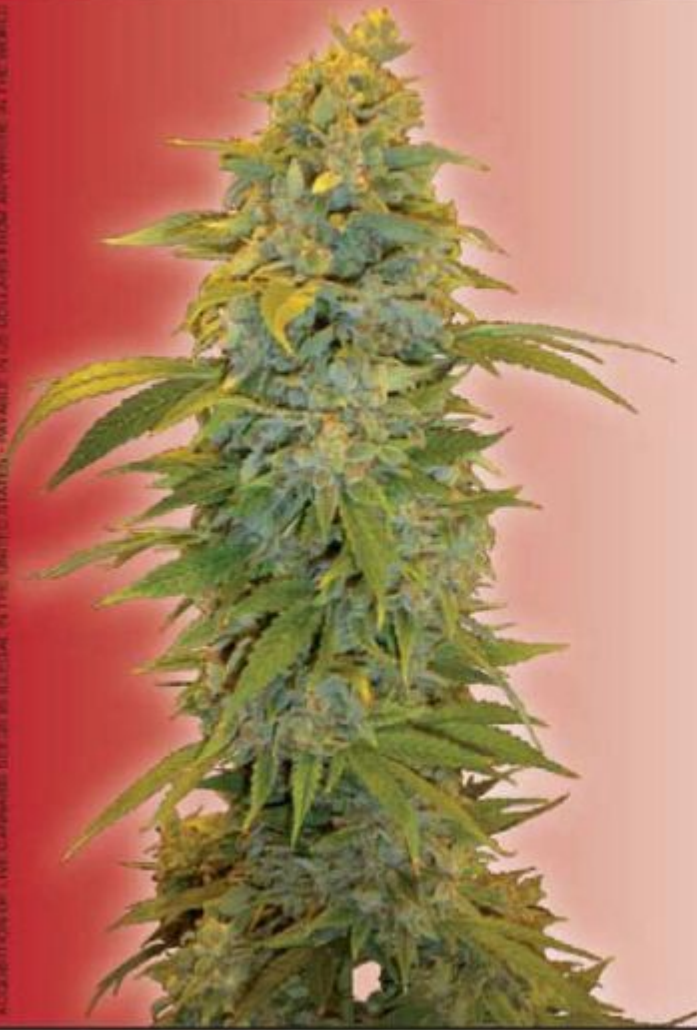
Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise/*Eyes Wide Shut*

C'mon, guys, you know you've been there. At some point in your life, you thought it would be a great idea to get a lady high before you busted a move on her—and promptly found yourself face to face with a pissed-off wingnut. We're pretty sure she didn't need to study too hard to play the part of a lunatic married to an asshole.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF STONER ETIQUETTE

- I. Thou shalt not be a mooch.
- II. Thou shalt not bogart the joint.
- III. Thou shalt slobber all over the girlfriend, not the bowl.
- IV. Thou shalt buy thy neighbor a new bong to replace the one you broke.
- V. Thou shalt be honest about having a cold sore.
- VI. Thou shalt offer a hit to thy neighbor at a concert.
- VII. Thou shalt not steal lighters.
- VIII. Thou shalt clean up immediately after spilling bong water.
- IX. Thou shalt never narc.
- X. Thou shalt pass the dutchie from the lefthand side.

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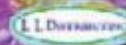
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TAKE A TRIP TO THE GROWROOM OF A WACKY WEED WARRIOR WHO MOVES HIS PLANTS TOWARD STATIONARY LIGHTS, CREATING A HANGING GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS.

A METHOD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FREEBIE

Plants grown hydroponically display rapid growth characteristics.

COMA

With the economy in turmoil, jobs at a 20-year low and cash flow strapped, more and more people are deciding to grow their own. I've seen my fair share of good and bad gardens over the years. I can remember some growers who'd get you psyched by talking their plants up. Here's the kind of crap I heard:

"Get ready for the best you've ever seen!"

"Dude, this shit is the *shit*."

"Just wait till you see this"

"I'm your next centerfold!"

"Dude, you should be paying *us* for this."

"Wait till you get shots of my garden—you'll shit yourself."

"This plant is amazing! It's purple, green, white, blue, red, or orange ..." (and dead).

Funny thing: Not one of these growers produced an ounce of



good bud—not one (well, maybe *one*). Mostly, I would get all psyched about visiting the garden and perhaps learning a thing or two. Of course, after leaving, I'd be thinking to myself: *What a waste of time and energy—theirs and mine*. For them, it was a waste of electricity, a waste of the time spent in brainstorming and construction, a waste of effort and a waste of good intentions. Left with nothing but huge electricity bills and some crappy weed, most—if not all—of the growers gave up and decided to stick with their day job. And how can you blame them? It's not easy to grow great weed, is it?

As it turns out, for some it is.

Of course, people like to say, "Well, he has a green thumb." But what does that mean exactly? As it turns out, it means a person who possesses an extraordinary skill to make plants grow. Some people have it, others don't. Some folks study horticulture and biology in school for years to obtain this skill. Others seem to be born with the gift of knowing how to read a plant and, through trial and error or some genetic trait handed down from their forefathers—who knows?—they can grow the shit out of anything! Folks who have a green thumb, however they got it, are the lucky ones. Especially these days.



Hanging platforms allow plants to be moved towards their light source.



The garden seems to float above the floor.



Chambers separate plants growing at different stages of life.

Let's take this garden, for example. Now, I've known this grower for years. He's always successful and grows really top-shelf weed. I've seen it and you've seen it: He's been featured on countless covers and centerfolds. I've also smoked his stuff, and so have many in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This new garden of his, however, was quite different and interesting in every respect. He's changed his ways over the years, first growing in soil, then hydro. Big plants, small plants, small scale, really large scale—he's done it all. Nowadays, he's a regular guy with a family and a mortgage payment. Money is tight and, with work slow, he was laid off, like so many others in the last few years. Having grown before, he had a couple of old lights and a few hydro trays laying around, so he decided to start growing again. "It doesn't take much once you have the basics," he told me. "Water, light and food—that's about it, really."

He set up the garden in his basement, where the temperatures can be kept cooler: "Some two-by-fours and sheetrock with some white paint, and you're good to go." The growroom was set up in the back corner of the basement, so two walls

were already in place. Power to the room would need to be pulled from all over the house, since the breakers were only 15 amps each for the entire basement. He also added a charcoal filter and ventilation through an adjacent window. Two rooms, both for flowering, were loaded with plants a few weeks into their flowering cycle when I visited him—one room for Granddaddy Purple, and the other for AK-47.

He had constructed a system of hanging hydroponic trays for the rooms; instead of raising the lights, he decided to lower the plants. A complex rigging system was built using rope and pulleys. This system causes stress on the plants, since they can never fully situate themselves, which in turn increases their THC levels. According to the grower, it also allows each tray to be moved as needed. To me, it seemed like a ton of extra work for an unknown increase in THC. A controlled experiment would have proven one way or the other whether this hanging system caused the plants to produce more THC; no such experiment was done, so who knows if this system actually works as advertised. I've heard of growers literally abusing their plants to stress them out toward the end of flowering to stimulate

extra THC production. From cutting the stems with razor blades to breaking the stems by hand, I've seen it all—except this.

When I asked about fertilizers, he told me he's been using General Hydroponics ferts for years. Great stuff. Even so, fertilizer levels are impossible to maintain accurately without a ppm meter—but he just pours in the fertilizer until he thinks he's added enough. Needless to say, I've never seen anything like that done either: He just picks up each bottle and, without any measurement, dumps it into the reservoirs. He glugged a couple of bottles this way as I looked on in amazement. Then I pointed to another bottle, and he just picked that one up and started pouring it in as well. *Wow*, I thought. *He's either a total idiot or a total genius.*

The funny thing is, the plants seemed to be healthy and raging. "I've been doing this forever," he assured me, "so I know how to estimate what the plants want, when they want it. If I see the garden reacting poorly, I'll investigate further, but so far, so good." He takes the same nonchalant attitude toward proper pH levels. Again, I've never seen this practice before, and I certainly don't recommend trying it without 20 years' pre-



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This grower believes that stressing out plants can produce more THC.

WHEN INEXPERIENCED HYDRO GROWERS MAKE MISTAKES, THEY SOON FIND THEMSELVES SURROUNDED BY DEAD PLANTS.

The plants do look great, and he assures me that the harvests are bigger than ever. Which just proves that sometimes, even the strangest-looking gardens can produce amazing results. This grower has obviously created a very unusual system that works for his environment and living situation. But the general rule still applies: start with the basics and move on from there. "Make small changes and observe any differences in the garden," he told me. "That's how I was able to turn my madness into a method." ✨

vious experience. After he finished pouring in the acid to bring the pH to within tolerable levels, I had to test it, just for fun. It was solid yellow—about 6 on the pH scale. Not bad for guessing with no meter.

How the ... ? Who the ... ? What the ... ? With any other grower, I'd be seeing what I call a "marijuana torture museum." When inexperienced hydro growers make mistakes, they soon find themselves surrounded by dead plants. Soil gardens have a bit more time to see problems occurring and a bit more leeway to correct any mistakes before your plants start dying. But hydroponic gardens aren't nearly as forgiving—typically, if a major problem occurs in a hydro garden, you've got about a day to fix it and get back on track, or your garden will be a bone yard.

This grower had obviously been doing his homework over the years. His unorthodox hanging system must be doing well for him, because he continues to use it—he's already on his fifth garden, and he couldn't be happier.



It may look strange, but the proof is in the pot.

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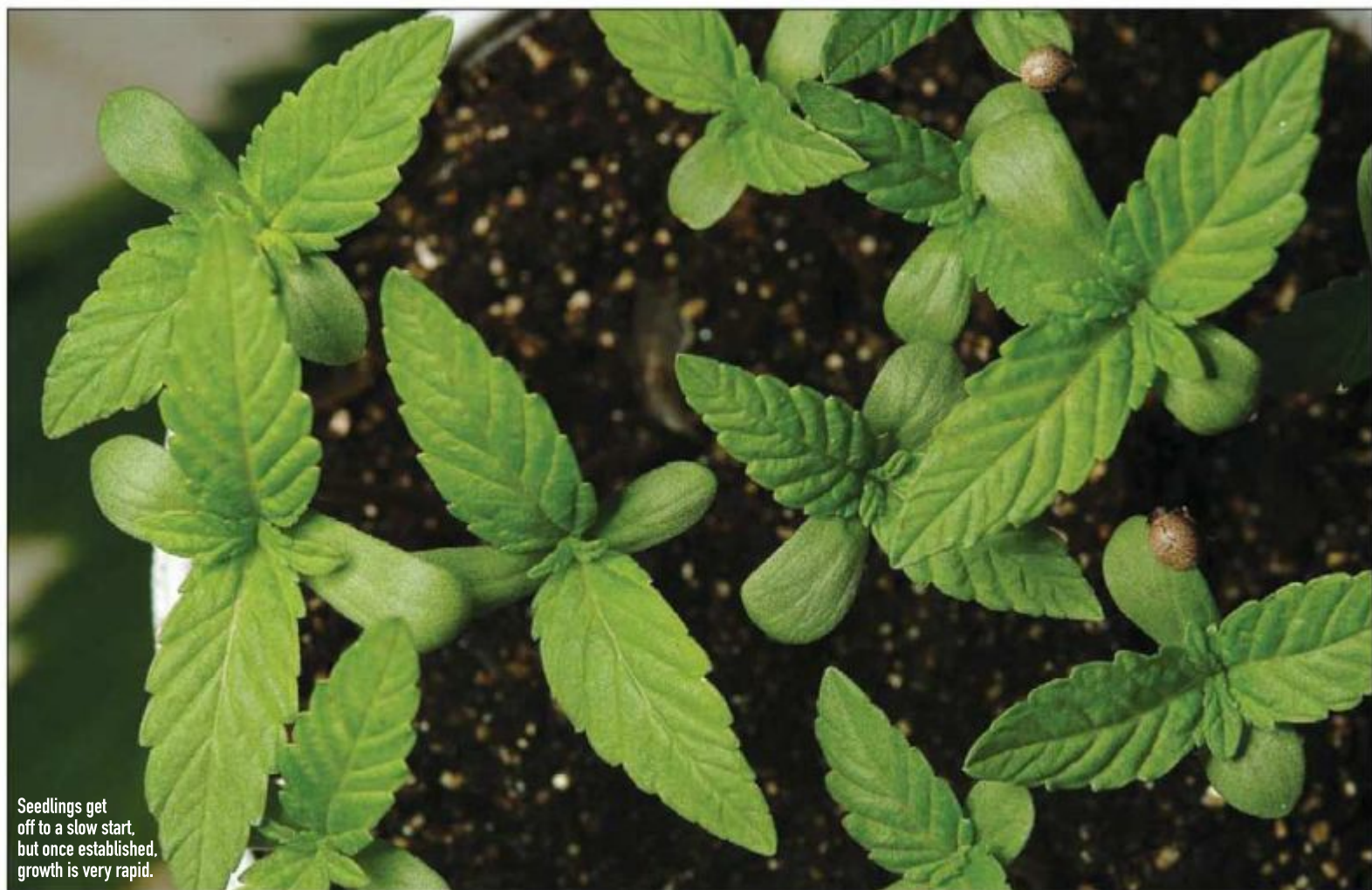
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Seedlings get off to a slow start, but once established, growth is very rapid.

Jorge's Step-by-Step Guide to Young Pot Plants

In this excerpt from his new book, *Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados*, acclaimed cultivation author and **HIGH TIMES** columnist Jorge Cervantes provides a step-by-step guide for the care and feeding of cannabis plants during the crucial first four weeks of growth, and discusses how success during this early stage is vital to a healthy and heavy harvest down the road.



This plant is 8 days old.

WEEK ONE: First Week of Vegetative Growth

LIGHT/DARK: 18 hours day, 6 hours night

LIGHT INTENSITY: 400-watt lamp placed 24–30 inches (60–75 cm) above tender plants. Note: Other high-intensity discharge (HID) and compact fluorescent (CF) lamps can also be used.

TEMPERATURE: 75°F (24°C) day, 72°F (22°C) night

HUMIDITY: 60% day, 60% night

pH: 6–6.5 soil, 5.5 hydroponics

WATER: Keep growing medium evenly moist so that roots stay wet but still have enough oxygen to take in nutrients. Be very careful not to overwater the limited number of roots or let tender roots dry out. Irrigate with enough water so that 10%–20% flows out the bottom of the container. Do not let plants sit in standing water. Do: Keep growing medium evenly moist. Don't: Overwater and make the soil soggy.

FERTILIZER: Use your favorite “grow” nutrients for seedlings and use per the manufacturer’s instructions. Use any additives suggested by the manufacturer.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS: During the first week of vegetative growth, plants develop a strong root system. You will see signs of upward green growth too. It is very important now to keep plants from suffering water and temperature stress. Be careful and water only as needed.



Move clones or seedlings in 1-pint 4-inch pots into the room.



Strong root system.

Water small clones and seedlings regularly, and keep the growing medium evenly moist.



WEEK TWO: Second Week of Vegetative Growth



Once clones are rooted, they can be moved into the vegetative room.

Clean room regularly and wash your hands before touching plants.



LIGHT/DARK: 18 hours day, 6 hours night

LIGHT INTENSITY: 400-watt lamp placed 24–30 inches (60–75 cm) above tender plants

TEMPERATURE: 75°F (24°C) day, 72°F (22°C) night

HUMIDITY: 60% day, 60% night

pH: 6–6.5 soil, 5.5 hydroponics

WATER: Plants need a little more water now. Keep growing medium evenly moist. Be very careful not to overwater or let tender roots dry out.

FERTILIZER: Use your favorite “grow” nutrients with higher levels of nitrogen for green growth per the manufacturer’s instructions. Use any additives suggested by the manufacturer.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS: During the second week of vegetative growth, plants will continue to develop strong root systems, and green, leafy growth increases noticeably. It is very important now to keep plants from suffering water and temperature stress.

During the second week, plants should be about 6–8 inches tall.



Young plants can be crowded together for space efficiency.



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WEEK THREE: Third Week of Vegetative Growth



LIGHT/DARK: 18 hours day, 6 hours night

LIGHT INTENSITY: 400-watt lamp placed 24 inches (60 cm) above plants

TEMPERATURE: 75°F (24°C) day, 72°F (22°C) night

HUMIDITY: 60% day, 60% night

pH: 6–6.5 soil, 5.5 hydroponics

WATER: Plants need 16 ounces (500 ml) or more of water per week. Keep growing medium evenly moist. Continue to monitor water levels carefully to avoid overwatering and underwatering.

Flush on Friday of the last week of vegetative growth. Plants will need a good flushing to wash out any built-up nitrogen in the growing medium. Leach plants in 4-inch pots with three times the volume of water as the volume of growing medium to flush out any built-up nitrogen. For example, flush a 4-inch, 1-pint (50 cl) container with 3 pints (150 cl) of water.

TRANSPLANT: On Sunday, transplant clones and seedlings into 3-gallon (11 l) containers. Transplant just before the lights go out so that plants have all night to recover from shock. Move lights up to 24 inches (61 cm) or more above plants for a day or two until transplant shock is over.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS: During the third week of vegetative growth, plants continue to develop strong root systems, and green, leafy growth increases substantially.

(above): Plants need a little more water now.
(right): Remove yellowing bottom leaves if light doesn't penetrate foliage.
(bottom right): During the third week, plants should be about 10–12 inches tall.
(bottom): Leafy growth increases.

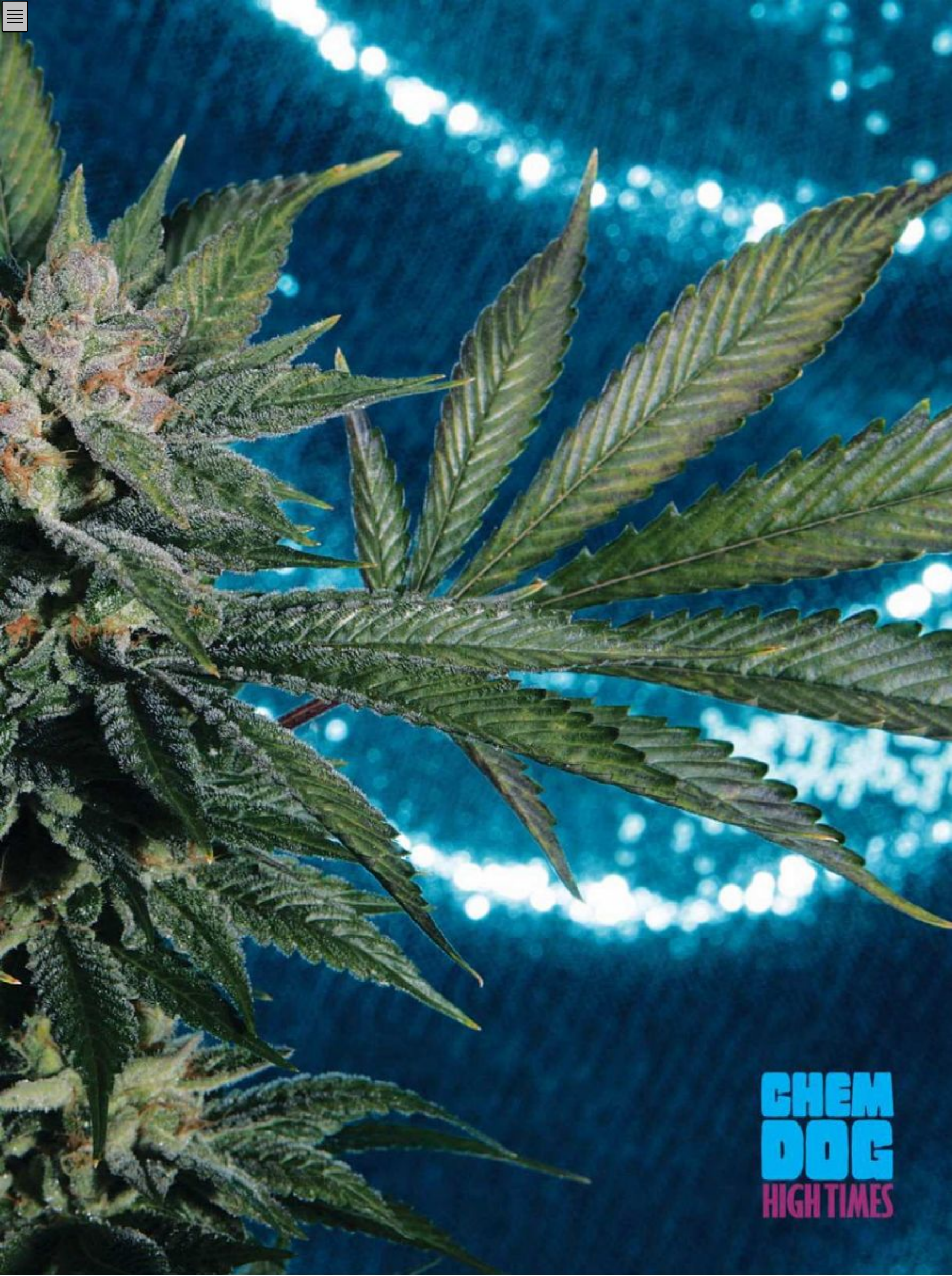




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DYNAMITE



WEEK FOUR: First Week of Flowering

LIGHT/DARK: 12 hours day, 12 hours night

LIGHT INTENSITY: 400-watt lamp placed 18 inches (45 cm) above flowering plants. Keep light at 24 inches (60 cm) if transplants look stressed.

TEMPERATURE: 75°F (24°C) day, 72°F (22°C) night

HUMIDITY: 50% day, 50% night

pH: 6–6.5 soil, 5.5 hydroponics

WATER: Plants need 25 ounces (75 cl) or more of water each week. Keep growing medium evenly moist so that roots stay wet but still have enough oxygen to take in nutrients. Continue to monitor water levels carefully to avoid overwatering and under-watering.

NOTE: Plants will need irrigation less often this week because they are in larger pots.

FERTILIZER: On Monday, switch to your favorite “bloom” nutrients with higher levels of potassium and phosphorus to stimulate bud growth; use per the manufacturer’s instructions. Use any additives suggested by the manufacturer. Pay special attention to the dosage calendar.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS: During the first week of flowering growth, plants will recover from transplanting and develop roots and green, leafy growth. Stems start to elongate as plants prepare to flower.

CAUTION: Stress symptoms will be more evident now and will appear in the form of slow growth, yellow and discolored foliage, and burned leaf tips.

Diseases and pests may rear their ugly heads now. Inspect foliage and soil surface for signs of the two most common problems, fungus and spider mites. ✿

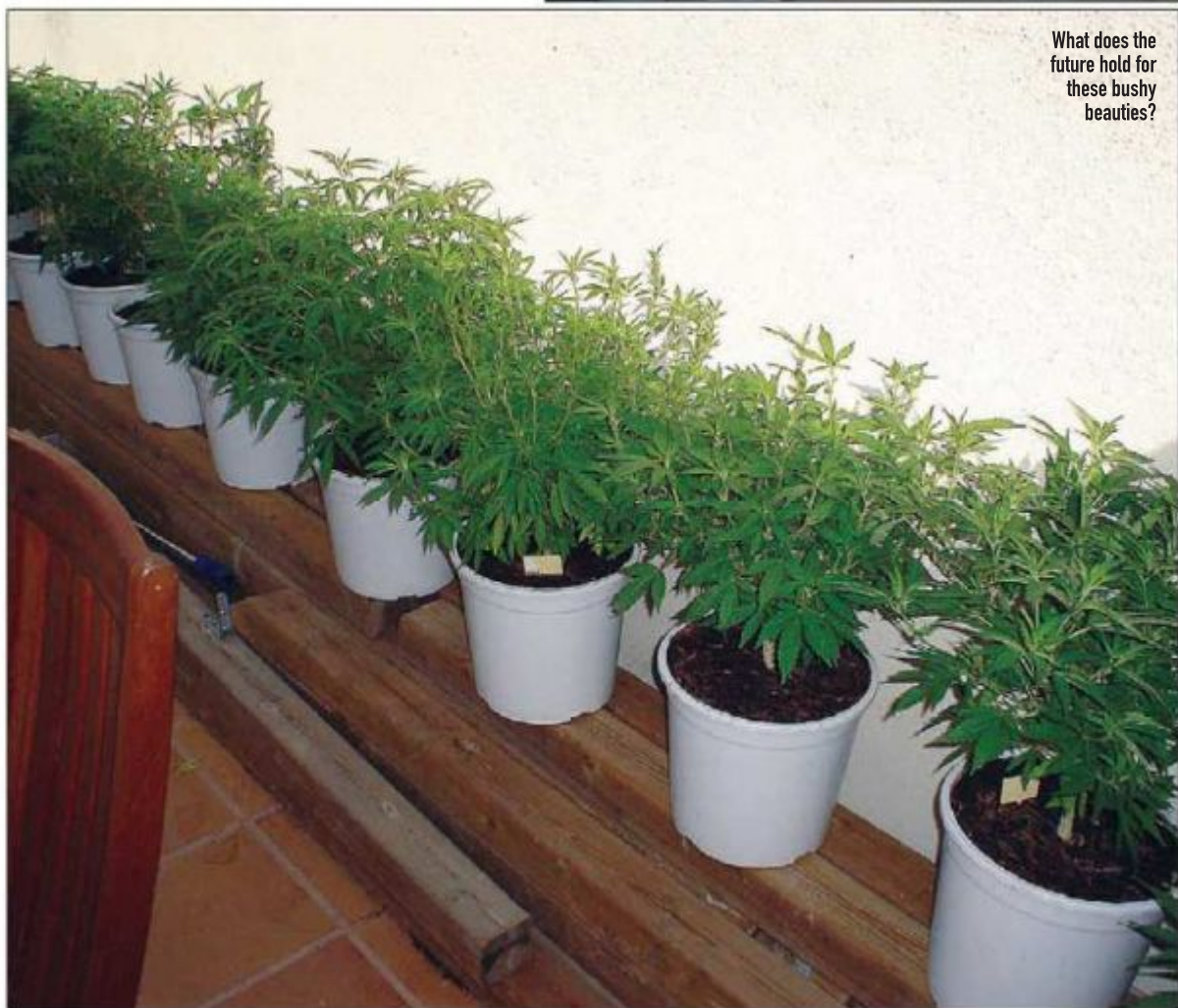
Want to know more? For the rest of Jorge’s “12-Week Grow Scenario,” you can purchase Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados for just \$21.95 plus shipping at headshop.hightimes.com.



By the first week of flowering, plants should be about 14 inches tall.



These plants are ready to begin the flowering process.



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Can Pot Save The Economy?

OR WILL THE ECONOMY SAVE POT?

It's very likely that when marijuana prohibition ends, it won't be with a roar or even a whimper. Instead, everyone will hear one very American sound.

Ka-ching!

By Paul Armentano

With the American economy in freefall, pundits and politicians alike are looking to “the green” to help stimulate state and federal budgets back into the red. Does the nation’s No. 1 cash crop really hold the key to solving America’s economic woes?

Raising Revenue From Pot

Many of the nation’s top economists think so. To date, more than 530 economic experts—including the late Milton Friedman—have endorsed the conclusions of *Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition in the United States*, a 2005 report by visiting Harvard professor Jeffrey Miron, which estimated that pot legalization could yield some \$14 billion in annual savings and revenue.

“Legalizing marijuana would save \$7.7 billion per year in government expenditure[s] on [the] enforcement of prohibition,” Miron’s study concluded. These expenditures include police and prosecution resources and incarceration costs. Of this \$7.7 billion, Miron estimates that state and local governments would save \$5.3 billion, and the federal government \$2.4 billion. (According to the US Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than three times as many pot offenders are serving time in state prisons as in federal penitentiaries.) Miron’s study estimates that an additional \$6.2 billion could be raised annually in state and federal revenue if cannabis were taxed at rates comparable to those for alcohol and tobacco.

But while \$14 billion per year is a good start, that figure looks like chump change compared to more recent estimates compiled by George Mason University professor and longtime HIGH TIMES contributor Jon Gettman. In his 2007 analysis, *Lost Taxes and Other Costs of Marijuana Laws*, Gettman calculates the annual retail value of the US marijuana market to be \$113 billion, a total far outpacing the value of corn, soybeans and hay. “The Office of Management and Budget reports that local, state, and federal government receipts represent 28.7% of the gross domestic product as tax revenue,” Gettman writes. Therefore, the diversion of \$113 billion from the taxable economy into the illicit economy “deprives taxpayers of \$31.1 billion annually.”

On top of this figure, Gettman further estimates that police spend some \$10.7 billion arresting marijuana offenders each year. Gettman arrived at this total by multiplying the percentage of marijuana arrests (as a portion of all criminal arrests) by the total cost of all arrests (\$193 billion per year). Adding these two totals together, Gettman concludes that prohibition’s ultimate cost to taxpayers in expenses and lost revenue is a staggering \$41.8 billion annually. In these tough economic times, that’s a price tag that can’t be ignored.

Public Support for Legalization Grows

According to a 2009 nationwide Zogby poll, commissioned in January by California NORML and Oaksterdam University, a record 44 percent of Americans—including nearly six out of 10 West Coast voters—now believe that weed should be “taxed and legally regulated like alcohol and cigarettes.” While still shy of a nationwide majority, the figure is a significant spike over the 36 percent of Americans who said they supported legalization in 2006, when NORML last posed a similar question—and it’s a whopping 25 points higher than the percentage of voters who endorsed regulating the herb in 1979, when self-reported pot use was at its all-time highest levels.

“While legalizing marijuana is not a major-

‘A legal market would generate additional benefits in the form of tourism and spin-off industries, such as coffeeshops, paraphernalia and industrial hemp.’

ity or a plurality position at this time, it is very close to becoming one,” media pundit Chris Bowers blogged on OpenLeft.com. “Not only do the long-term trend-lines show a dramatic shift in favor of legalization, but a majority of the population under the age of 40 is already in favor of legalization.”

Comparing legalization’s popularity with other hot-button political issues, Bowers determined that it enjoys greater nationwide support than the occupation of Iraq (39 percent), decreasing immigration levels (39 percent) or privatizing Social Security (36 percent). In fact, these days far more Americans back legalizing and regulating weed than support the Republican Party!

Writing on the CBS.com website in the days following the release of the Zogby poll, legal analyst Andrew Cohen acknowledged the mounting public support for ending pot prohibition. “The economic case for legalizing marijuana ... is as compelling as it has ever been,” Cohen wrote in a syndicated column titled “Time for Marijuana Legalization?” He concluded: “If we are going to lower state and federal budgets for criminal justice ... let’s make sure we do it in a

way that maximizes the opportunities available to us.”

Radio talk-show superstar and right-wing blowhard Rush Limbaugh even took time out during a recent broadcast to comment on the legalization issue, noting—albeit sarcastically—that taxing and regulating cannabis like alcohol could raise billions of dollars in cash-strapped states like California. “Put it all together, and California could potentially wipe some \$3 billion off its budget deficit by letting its people puff and pay,” Limbaugh announced on the February 17 edition of his syndicated radio show. Always the culture warrior, the convicted prescription-drug abuser concluded his monologue by arguing that despite legalization’s inherent savings, he opposed any efforts to loosen US marijuana laws. Some people never learn.

Taxing and Regulating Weed In California

These days, it’s not just pundits who are raising this once-taboo subject. In California, State Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D—San Francisco) recently introduced legislation to legalize and regulate the commercial production and sale of cannabis for adults age 21 and over. Assembly Bill 390, the Marijuana Control, Regulation and Education Act, is the first bill ever introduced in the California legislature that seeks to tax and control the sale of cannabis.

“With the state in the midst of an historic economic crisis, the move toward regulating and taxing marijuana is simply common sense,” Ammiano announced at a February 23 press conference at the California State House in Sacramento. “This legislation would generate much-needed revenue for the state, restrict access to only those over 21, end the environmental damage to our public lands from illicit crops, and improve public safety by redirecting law enforcement efforts to more serious crimes. California has the opportunity to be the first state in the nation to enact a smart, responsible public policy for the control and regulation of marijuana.”

According to Betty Yee, chairwoman of the State Board of Equalization and Taxation, which backs the measure, passage of Assembly Bill 390 would raise nearly \$1.4 billion in annual tax revenue via excise taxes on cannabis production and sales taxes on consumer purchases. (The non-retail cultivation of pot would not be subject to taxation under the bill.) This \$1.4 billion would be in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that are currently being paid annually in taxes by the state’s numerous medical-cannabis dispensaries. (Med-pot sales in California are now estimated to top \$1 billion per year.)

But even this \$1.4 billion is likely just the tip of the financial iceberg. According to Richard Lee, proprietor of the Bulldog and Blue Sky coffeeshops in Oakland, legalizing Califor-

nia's budding cannabis industry could put an additional \$15 billion. A 2009 economic analysis by California NORML echoes Lee's estimates. California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer, who assisted Amiano in drafting AB 390, says that the State Board of Equalization and Taxation failed to include in its figures the potential tax revenue from the thousands of cannabis-related jobs and industries that would be created once pot is fully legalized.

"A legal market would generate additional benefits in the form of tourism and spin-off industries, such as coffeeshops, paraphernalia and industrial hemp," Gieringer says. "A comparable example would be California's wine industry. With \$12.3 billion in retail sales, the wine industry generates 309,000 jobs, \$10.1 billion in wages and \$2 billion in tourist expenditures. Extrapolating these figures to a legal marijuana market ... one might expect \$12 to \$18 billion in total economic activity, with 60,000 to 110,000 new jobs created, and \$2.5 to \$3.5 billion in legal wages, which would generate additional income and business taxes for the state."

Finally, Gieringer adds, legalization would save the state over \$170 million per year in law enforcement costs. According to 2007 data, more than 70,000 Californians were either cited or arrested for pot-related offenses in 2007—the highest total in 35 years.

Is Obama Listening?

Given the sagging state of the economy, some reformers believe that the economic arguments in favor of liberalizing US pot laws may even be starting to have a positive impact on federal policy.

For example, on the campaign trail, Barack Obama repeatedly pledged not to waste federal tax dollars on DEA efforts to prosecute state-authorized medical-marijuana providers or otherwise circumvent state med-pot laws. "I would not have the Justice Department prosecuting and raiding medical-marijuana users," Obama said at a campaign stop in Nashua, NH, last summer. "It's not a good use of our resources."

White House spokesman Nick Shapiro reaffirmed Obama's campaign pledge in early February, stating: "The president believes that

Finally, Gieringer adds, legalization would save the state over \$170 million per year in law enforcement costs.



federal resources should not be used to circumvent state laws, and as he continues to appoint senior leadership to fill out the ranks of the federal government, he expects them to review their policies with that in mind."

Later that month, speaking at a joint press conference with the DEA, newly sworn-in US Attorney General Eric Holder made good on Obama's promise, declaring on C-SPAN: "What the president said during the campaign ... will be consistent with what we will be doing here in law enforcement. What [President Obama] said during the campaign ... is now American policy."

It also appears that Obama may have been appealing to both pot pragmatism and fiscal conservatism when he tapped former Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske to be the nation's next Drug Czar (an office created in 1988 by then-Senator Joe Biden, now Obama's VP). Local activists have publicly praised Kerlikowske for abiding by a 2003 voter-approved initiative recommending that Seattle police make marijuana

offenses their lowest law enforcement priority. Since the passage of the initiative, pot-related arrests—as well as the percentage of the city's public resources dedicated to marijuana-law enforcement—have fallen significantly. In 2006, fewer than 150 people were busted for pot in Seattle, making it far and away one of the pot-friendliest cities in the United States.

Kerlikowske's pot tolerance has also extended to the Seattle Hempfest. Organizers of the event have consistently commended the city's police force for taking a hands-off approach to the festival's thousands of herb-indulging attendees, noting that in recent years, Seattle police haven't made a single arrest at the two-day extravaganza.

Writing in the Seattle alternative weekly *The Stranger*, NORML board member and Hempfest organizer Dominic Holden extolled Obama's selection. "The larger brilliance of Obama's pick for drug czar isn't just that Kerlikowske is open to new strategies," Holden wrote, "but that he is first and foremost a cop ... Like many Americans, he agrees that drugs should be illegal. But he understands that both enforcement and public health have their place, and he's willing to take a look at new approaches when enforcement alone has failed."

Does the Poor Economy Spell the End of Prohibition?

So is this really the beginning of the end? Will the worsening economy and the growing scrutiny of prohibition's fiscal toll be enough to persuade lawmakers to finally call a retreat in their seven-decade war on weed?

Perhaps, but Gettman cautions that it will take more than fiscal arguments alone to usher in the end of cannabis criminalization. "I'm pleased to see some of my work having an impact, but ... I don't think marijuana will be legalized because states want the tax revenue," he says. "The economic conditions are getting more favorable to legalization, but they just create a sufficient context for reform. If prohibition were effective, people wouldn't care what it cost."

"The reason so many states and localities are opting out of marijuana-law enforcement is because the benefits aren't worth the costs. The real problem with prohibition is the social costs. Ultimately, these are the costs of prohibition that we can no longer afford." ✨

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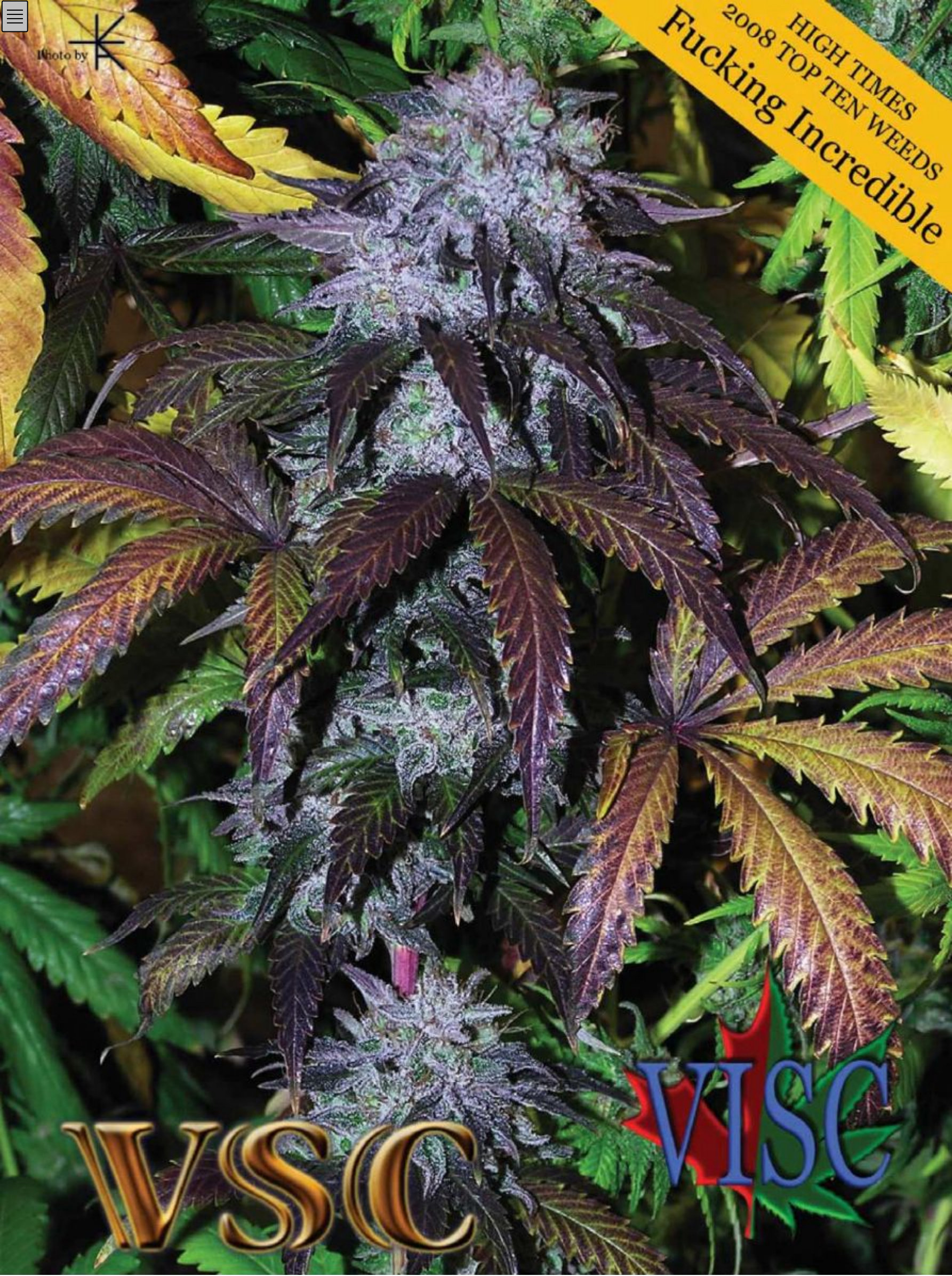
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RUSSELL MEANS

SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Interview & photos by Dan Skye

On December 24, 2008, a delegation of Lakota leaders delivered a message to the State Department announcing that their people were unilaterally withdrawing from treaties signed with the US. No longer would they tolerate the federal government's gross violations of these agreements; America was put on notice that the Republic of Lakotah had been re-created. The new nation would issue its own passports and driving licenses, and living there would be tax-free—provided residents renounced their US citizenship. As has been the case for the past 40 years, Russell Means, the longtime Indian-rights activist, was there, helping see the declaration through and cosigning it. "We are no longer citizens of the United States of America, and all those who live in the five-state area that encompasses our country are free to join us," he stated.

Means is one of the best-known, most influential activists in the Indian community. He rose to prominence as a leader of the American Indian Movement, and participated in the 1969 takeover of Alcatraz that lasted 19 months. He also participated in AIM's takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Washington, DC, and was one of the leaders in the famous standoff between Native Americans and the government at Wounded Knee in 1973. In recent years, he has directed Indian youth programs and worked vigorously to improve the conditions for his people in Pine Ridge, SD.

In addition to his lifelong commitment to Indian rights, Means has sought the governorship of New Mexico and battled Ron Paul for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination in 1987. He is also a talented actor who has appeared in numerous films, most notably *Last of the Mohicans* and *Natural Born Killers*. In all his dealings, Means says that he strives "to speak from the heart." That forthrightness has sometimes caused controversy, but Means remains a vital presence in the American Indian community.



Influential but highly controversial, American Indian activist and actor Russell Means has been a force for American Indian sovereignty.



Describe growing up as an Indian.

I was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, but I didn't grow up there—I was five years old when we moved to California. My dad worked in the defense industry as a welder. In large part, I grew up in Northern California, in the Bay Area. I was the only Indian at San Leandro High School until my brother got there in the 10th grade. I was always very conscious of who I am. I always have been—through my relatives and extended family. I made continual visits back home.

When did your activism begin?

Not until after I got out of high school—then the Indian-relocation program was going full swing. [The Relocation Act of 1956 provided funding to establish “job-training centers” for American Indians in various urban areas, and financed the relocation of individuals and whole families to these locales. It was coupled with a *denial* of funds for similar programs and economic development on the reservations themselves—in fact, those who availed themselves of the “opportunity” were usually required to sign an agreement stating that they wouldn't return to the reservation to live there.]

I started hanging around with Indian people at the bars in Los Angeles. The forced relocation of Ameri-

'You're free to be responsible. and if you want to be responsible—therefore free—it's hard work. But it's pleasurable work.'

can Indians from their land into urban areas forced us to get together as independents. They didn't put us in specific neighborhoods; they dispersed us throughout different ghettos and barrios. Our only social activity together would be at a local bar. But from the local bar, we formed athletic leagues and social events. That's how we did our socializing as Indian people. It really opened us up to a whole range of different experiences in thinking from the different Indian peoples.

Talk about the early days of the American Indian Movement.

The American Indian Movement began in Minneapolis. Dennis Banks and Clyde Bellecourt were the founders of AIM. We sat in a hotel room one Saturday afternoon in Minneapolis, and we're all drinking beer and socializing, and there's about seven or eight of us, which included some of the women who were founders. We asked questions of ourselves: Who are we? Where did we come from? *Why* are we? And where are we going? It was the consensus that we return to our respective reservations and find out. We were fortunate that the real old people who had been born in the 1800s were still alive. They'd been raised by people who had been born free. None of them had been contaminated with the white man's education; they had a clarity of mind and a purity of heart. They had our worldview intact as indigenous people—and, of course, our own language, our own songs.

AIM certainly caused concern for the government.

Were you frightened of repercussions?

No, it was an exhilarating time. Freedom is an exhilaration. I believe if you have fear, you can't be free. We come from a matriarchal society. Patriarchal societies are fear-based societies. Therefore, we had a head start on the rest of humanity, and we had no fear. We have trust in the unseen, to put it one way. The pride that was engendered, the self-dignity, was enormous—and it spread. It was thrilling.

Often there was dissension within the AIM ranks.

What caused that?

We've all been colonized, unfortunately, and to what degree varies from individual to individual. Those disagreements were initiated out of misguided ego.

You became a prominent spokesperson, a handsome, articulate presence—even charismatic. How do you think you are perceived?

[Laughs] You know, I never thought of myself as good-looking. It wasn't a consideration in my life. When I first joined AIM, a Crow man told me: “Now that you've joined AIM, you've made yourself a target. Remember that. But always speak from the heart and you can't go wrong.” That's all I've done my whole life is speak from the heart. Actually, our whole tradition is that way.

AIM often staged events and protests that were meant to tweak the government—like the Mount Rushmore event, where you and others planted a prayer staff there and renamed it “Mount Crazy Horse.”

The one thing I love in the American Indian Movement, and it was the first thing I learned: Don't fool with bureaucracy—go right to the top. If you're going to go to Washington, DC ... figure it out. At Mount Rushmore, we went right to the top: These are our treaty rights, we own that land, and we're going right to the top, man! Four white men up there, and I peed on George Washington's head—one of the proudest moments of my life. Right in front of God and everybody.

What current obstacles do Natives face?

Well, as far as AIM is concerned, the obstacle has been and will always be the United States of America government and its subsidiaries—until it destroys itself.

Has activism changed over the past 40 years?

There's a very big difference between then and now. When the civil-rights movement began, it wasn't called “civil rights.” Everything was *liberation*—freedom, free speech, black freedom, women's lib, gay liberation. Liberation, liberation! It was a great time in America. Everywhere you went, everywhere you turned, people were talking about liberation, and it lasted for a good 10 years. When you're young, that's a long time.

Then the government threw a couple words in there that killed it all: “civil rights.” All of a sudden, everybody lowered their sights on freedom down to “I want to ask the powerful white males for permission for the same rights and privileges that they have.”

We were now fighting for our “civil rights,” our “equality.” I don't want to be “equal” to a white man—I don't want to lower myself! Who wants to be a white male in terms of values? I come from a matriarchal society. Why women would want to lower themselves is beyond me!

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Means in *Last of the Mohicans*.

How do you view Obama?

The problem is, everybody wants freedom as long as it's easy—and that's Obama.

Actually, I have to hand it to the controllers of Americas. They brought in the emperor with new clothes—and the whole world suddenly just changes. Obama offers hope because he's like a preacher. Americans feel good about themselves. We were the worst people in the world under Bush. But now we've got Obama! We're great Americans again! Even though Obama said before the election he'd consider invading Pakistan. And he's not leaving Iraq—that's the new Indian reservation.

Mass psychology, and it happened overnight! I have lived a very fortunate life in a fortunate time. In my lifetime, I witnessed this about America: In the late '50s, it started turning itself from a producing, productive country into a consumer nation. By the mid-'80s, it was complete—a beautiful study of mass-psychological control of the masses. It was amazing. George Orwell saw it all. Americans are so easily led, like the slaves that they are.

with a bunch of Lakota guys, we were laughing.

Thunderheart?

Good movie ... great movie. It was based on the truth—but, unfortunately, it was fictitious. I wish they had focused more on the story of Leonard Peltier itself.

Black Robe?

One of the worst. One of the *worst!* One of the most anti-Indian movies ever. It's a statement of the Jesuits.

Pathfinder, which you were in?

Huge disappointment. It was Marcus Nispel's second movie. He remade *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*; it made a \$100 million, so he was hot at the time. He got to do his passion, which is American Indians. It's all about violence, and there's no story—it was a horrible, stereotypical movie and, of course, it starred a white superman who taught us how to fight, where to go, and how to walk across ice and everything else. The Native cast got together to change the dialogue, but it was all cut out. It got panned by critics.

Last of the Mohicans?

Great movie, except for that one scene—what I call the "African village" scene. Back before black liberation took hold on the African continent and in the United States, you always saw the star rescuing the fair maiden in the African village, with the chieftain on his throne and his sub-chiefs around him with all their plumage on. Of course, the entire village is yelling for blood.

I'll name the movies that were good. In the '50s, there was *Broken Arrow*, about Cochise. In the '60s, there was *Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here* and *Little Big Man*. Then there's *The Outlaw Josey Wales* and *Last of the Mohicans*.

One of the things Hollywood does to Indian people is, we're only allowed to make two kinds of movies:

What do you think is the biggest misconception about Native Americans?

There aren't any misconceptions. There aren't any conceptions, either—we're out of sight, out of mind. And Hollywood is the second-most-racist, anti-Indian institution in America—just short of the American government. They've perpetuated stereotypes, and that's what people think of us: We don't have a brain, we're still primitive. That's why they won't get rid of those sports-team names—we're out of sight, out of mind. We don't have any power in the white man's world, so they don't have to pay attention to us. They can't be harmed politically or economically.

You must have distinct views on Hollywood's Indian films. Give us your take on *Dances with Wolves*.

Remember *Lawrence of Arabia*? That was *Lawrence of the Plains*. The odd thing about making that movie is, they had a woman teaching the actors the Lakota language. But Lakota has a male-gendered language and a female-gendered language. Some of the Indians and Kevin Costner were speaking in the feminine way. When I went to see it

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Means aims to lead the Republic of Lakotah.

Either we dress up in leather in the summertime, or we have to be drunken, dysfunctional misfits in movies like *Skins* or *Smoke Signals*.

In January, Lakota leaders withdrew from all treaties with the United States. You were at the forefront of this action. You even called some tribal councils "Vichy governments," an allusion to French collaboration with the Nazis during World War II. Do you feel your rhetoric is divisive?

Listen, *colonialism* is divisive. Not only in America: look at Guatemala, at Africa, Pakistan, India. Colonialism takes its toll. I try to call a spade a spade—I can't help it if people are brainwashed.

What challenges does the Republic of Lakotah face?

Back in the '80s, under Carter, this whole five-state area, which is the Republic of Lakotah, was designated as a "national sacrifice area" because of its richness in coal and uranium and iron ore. The Black Hills Alliance defeated mining in the Black Hills through the lobbying of state legislators: Union Carbide, all of them—we beat those guys. That coalition was made up of Indian people, white ranchers—pure Westerners. Now they're gone, our old people are gone, and just a few Indian people are hanging on.

But there are more battles in the future. We defeated the government interests once with the people of South Dakota, the landowners. And that's what the Republic of Lakotah is all about: We want to include the landowners—especially family farmers and founding ranchers—in a free country.

The Northern Plains have been called by experts the "Saudi Arabia of wind energy." The sun shines on the Northern Plains over 300 days a year. We have all of this free energy—we have enough wind, according to experts, to light up every major city in America 24/7, forever.

But the coal companies control the energy of the West. Some may say that it's an impossible dream to fight against those guys and expect to win, but we're going to. People can only take a police state for so long, and you can't mess with rural people. Because rural people are, by and large, mostly self-sufficient, or they have a very recent memory of self-sufficiency. They're not used to being pushed around. So they will react like we did in the '80s against the planned sacrifice that opened mining in the Black Hills. I can see that through arbitration and mass psychology in this country, they plan to colonize this rural area and the people. That's another reason why the Republic of Lakotah was re-created. We can defeat them again.

We have non-Indians who have come in. These are new immigrants to the Republic of Lakotah, but these are all professional people, very skilled people. It's amazing—they're moving here. It's not massive, and we wouldn't want that, because we're rebuilding the foundation of freedom. It's going to be a free society. We have our four major plans: health, education, economics and politics.

You've run for tribal president in Pine Ridge four times. If you were elected, what would your agenda be?

Freedom—outright sovereignty. If you want to *be* sovereign, you have to *act* sovereign. Freedom isn't free. You're free to be responsible, and if you want to be responsible—therefore free—it's hard work. But it's pleasurable work.

I ran on the "Freedom" ticket on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and 45 percent of my people who voted wanted freedom.

Do you plan to run again?

No. We got a country to run. ✱

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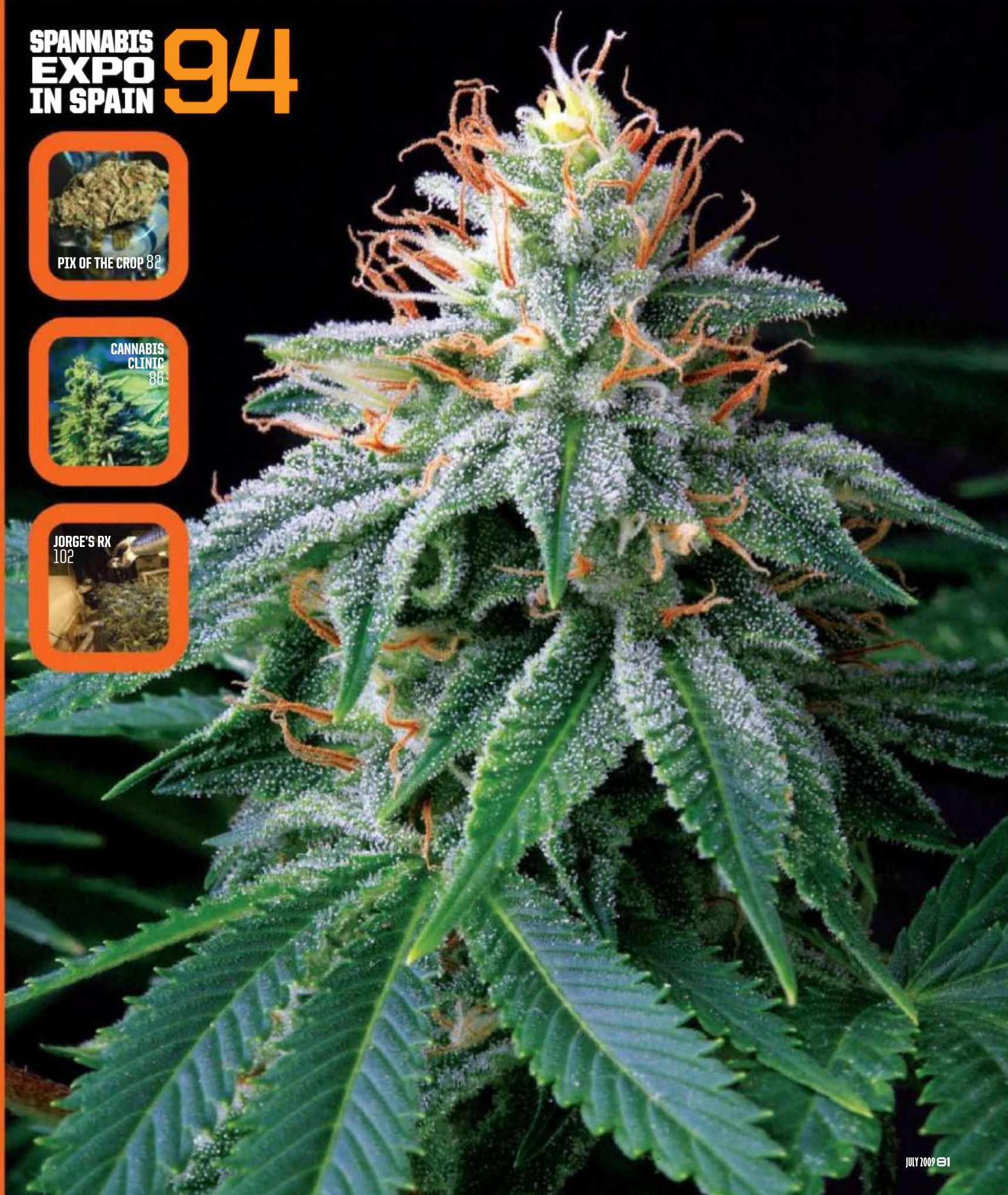
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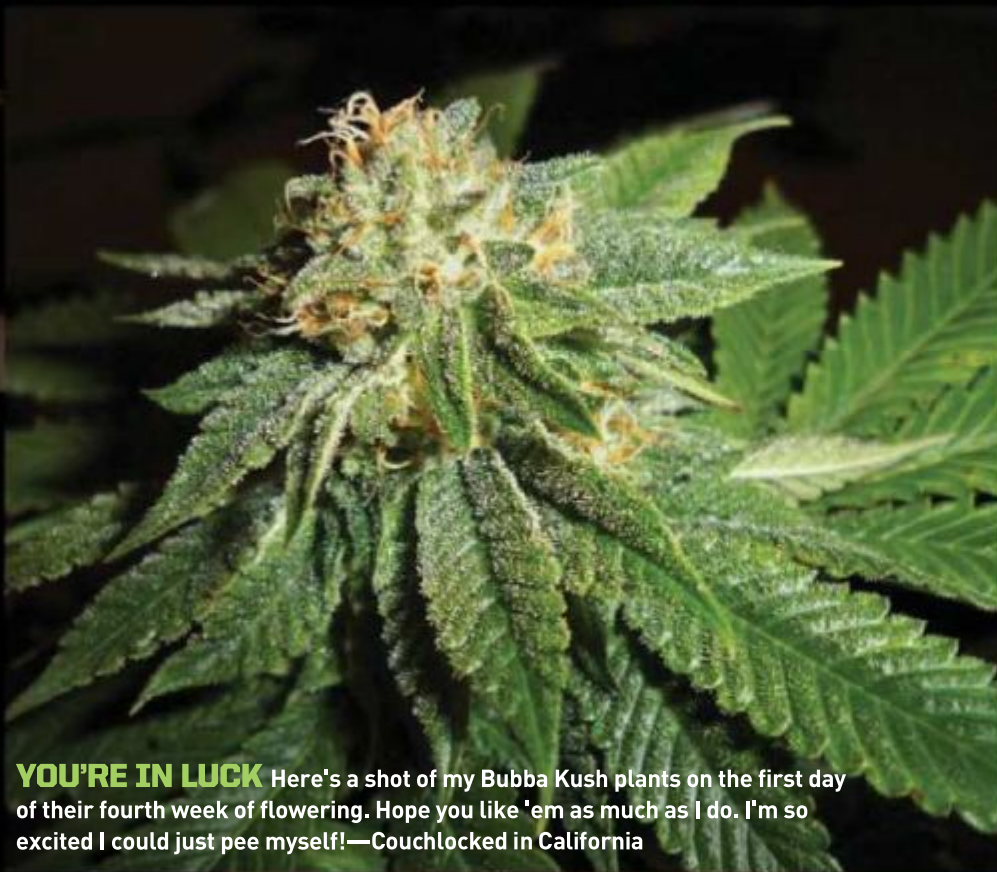
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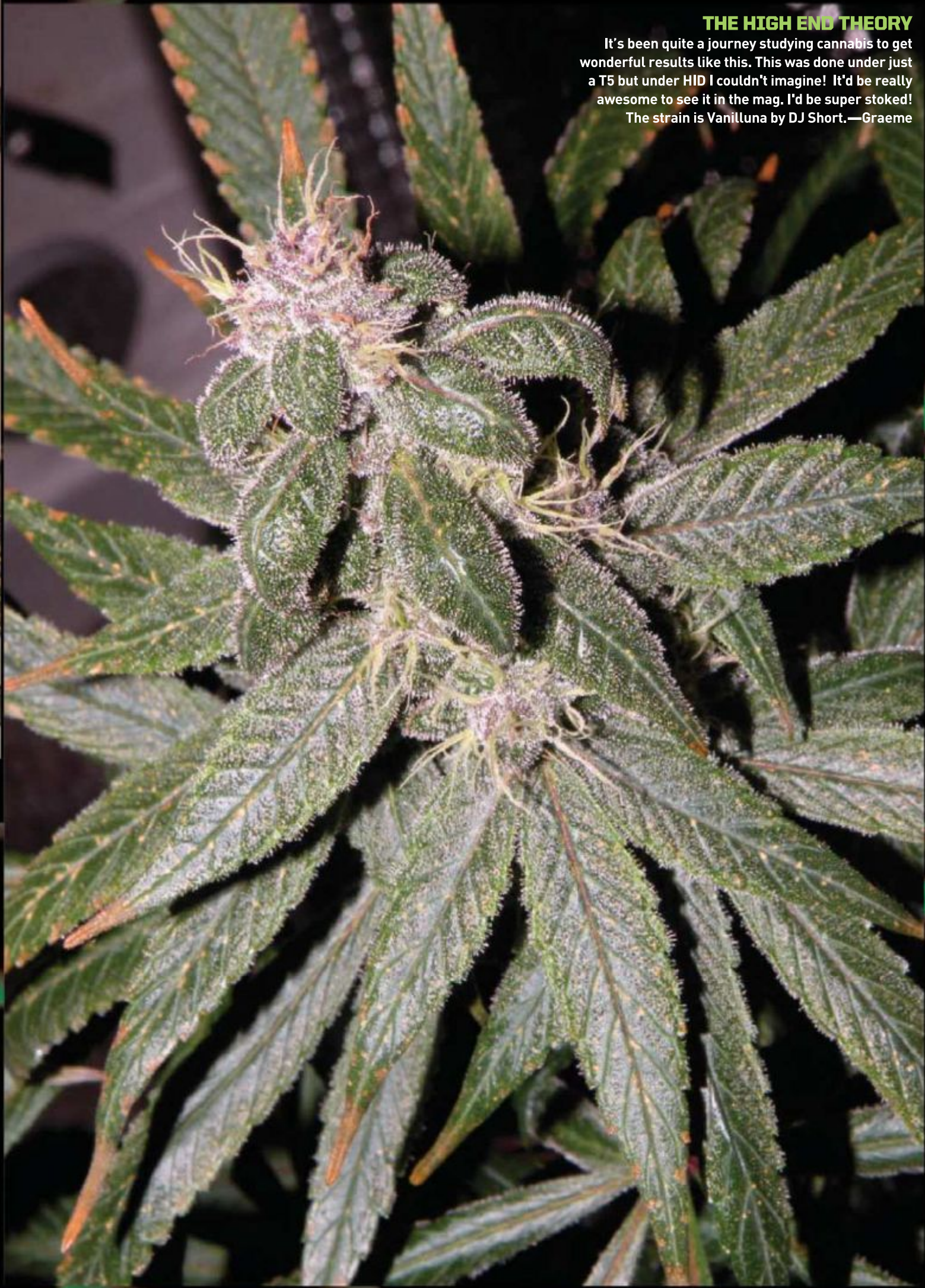
YOU'RE IN LUCK Here's a shot of my Bubba Kush plants on the first day of their fourth week of flowering. Hope you like 'em as much as I do. I'm so excited I could just pee myself!—Couchlocked in California



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My Dad passed away a year ago, March 2, 2008. He was 55 years old and a longtime avid cannabis fan. I found the attached photo in his box of pictures. On the back is a handwritten note - 11ft 6in for the size of the main plant in focus and 1985 as the year it was taken. As a tribute to him, I hope you'll consider publishing it or including in Pix of the Crop. He died of cancer and one of the last moments I have with him was buying something to help him "get through his last days," and one of his last coherent moments telling me "don't get busted." He never got to finish it but some of our family paid tribute with that!
—Cheyanne Dooley.

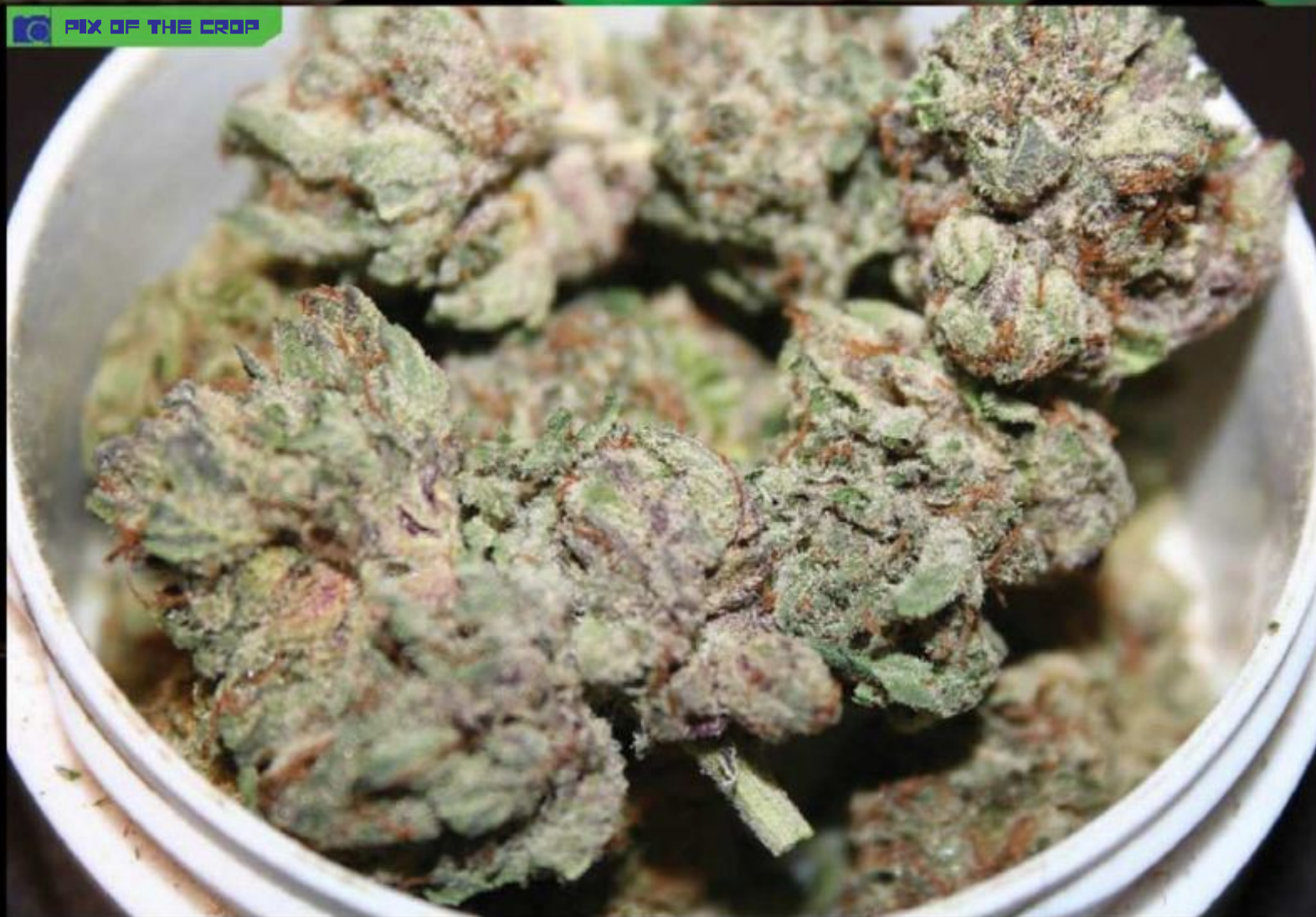
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THE HIGH END THEORY

It's been quite a journey studying cannabis to get wonderful results like this. This was done under just a T5 but under HID I couldn't imagine! It'd be really awesome to see it in the mag. I'd be super stoked! The strain is Vanilluna by DJ Short.—Graeme

A



MY NUG JUG (above)
Where the healing love resides.—A Patient Patient



PROUD POT PARENTS (above right)
We look forward to seeing HIGH TIMES each month. Keep up the great work!
Hope to see this in your Pix of the Crop. Here are some SoCal lovelies.
—nascartimbob

HEMP A BROTHER OUT (left)
Skunk.—Da Rizzle from MA

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

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Obama Administration Applauded for Halting Medical Raids

Medical-marijuana patients and advocates across America applauded the Obama administration last month when it signaled that it would halt DEA raids on dispensaries, easing a long-standing rift between the 13 current medical-marijuana states and the federal government.

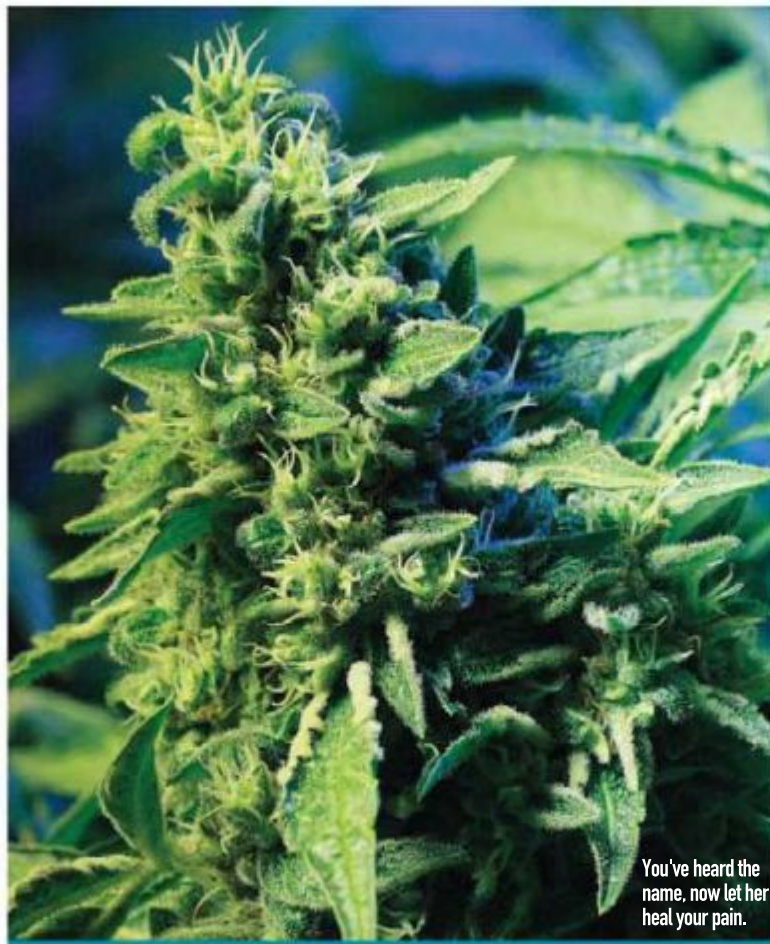
During his presidential campaign, Barack Obama indicated that he would instruct the Justice Department to end the raids. California and 12 other states have laws permitting the medicinal use of marijuana by their citizens, but the federal government has refused to recognize those laws, most notably on the West Coast. The raids continued even after Obama was inaugurated: The DEA raided a dispensary in South Lake Tahoe in January and four others in the Los Angeles area in February and March, seizing marijuana and cash.

Asked about the raids, newly appointed US Attorney General Eric Holder said: "What the president said during the campaign, you'll be surprised to know, will be consistent with what we'll be doing here in law enforcement."

"You'll be surprised to know." Well, Mr. Attorney General, there is no surprise here. We actually expect our politicians to be smart, honest and courageous. It's good to know our country is again (finally) realizing the principles on which it was founded—you know, free trade, states' rights and so on.

Holder then went on to say: "What [President Obama] said during the campaign ... is now American policy."

California voters approved Proposition 215 in 1996, which made it legal to sell marijuana to people with a doctor's prescription.



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MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: WHITE WIDOW

A Dutch staple that was popularized in coffeeshops in the 1990s, White Widow is a strain with a mixture of medicinal and recreational value. Developed by Shantibaba when he was still breeding for the Green House Seed Company, this strain is said to have an Indian/Brazilian heritage as well as a balanced high that comes out slightly more on the *sativa* side of the *sativa/indica* scale (60/40). It was the winner of the Eighth Annual Cannabis Cup in 1995.

A mega-producer indoors, the White Widow strain grows much as its *indica* genetics would dictate. It does very well under lamps and in hydroponic set-ups, and the yields are usually considerable, with huge top colas and white, resinous trichomes that coat even the lower-tier buds when the lighting is good.

As far as medicinal value goes, White Widow possesses sedating qualities but also provides a euphoric feeling that helps combat depression aside from the pain relief. The Widow is also known to be a good appetite stimulant for patients looking to boost their nutritional intake. Related strains with similar medicinal qualities include White Russian (AK-47 x White Widow), White Rhino (Afghani x Brazilian/Indian) and White Lady (White Widow x Master Kush).

Since that time, over 300 dispensaries have opened there, as well as hundreds more in other medical states across the US (check out weedtracker.com or norml.org for more info on medical-marijuana states).

During the Bush administration, federal agents raided medical-marijuana clinics, prosecuted suppliers and pressured property owners to evict dispensaries. However, that tune is quickly changing.

"I'm not going to be using Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws on this issue," said President Obama in March.

Now all we need is a new

Supreme Court decision to cement this policy, and we can wave goodbye to the business formerly known as the DEA. Unfortunately, that's looking unlikely, seeing as how George W. Bush drew a lucky hand and got to stack the court according to his whims. But with a bit under four years to go in the Obama administration (and possibly eight, given a second term), the new medical-political landscape has definitely shifted away from the dark side.

Oregon Proposes Taxing Medical Marijuana

As the economic crisis deepens, more and more states are turning to

alternative streams of revenue—and some are turning to cannabis.

Oregon, for one, is now seeking to take over the growing and distribution of marijuana to patients in the state's medical-marijuana program. Under House Bill 3274, a \$98-per-ounce tax would be imposed to cover the state's cost of operating and securing the production center.

Oregon voters approved the use of medical marijuana more than a decade ago, deciding that chronically and terminally ill patients should be allowed to use the drug to ease pain. Roughly 21,000 Oregonians now have medical cards authorizing them to use marijuana, according to the state Department of Human Services.

Current law allows registered patients to have six mature cannabis plants, 18 immature seedlings and 24 ounces of usable cannabis. In 2004, voters rejected a measure that would have created state distribution centers.

DRUG CZAR F.A.Q.

President Obama recently tapped Seattle Police Chief R. Gil Kerlikowske as the nation's next Drug Czar. Here are a few fun facts to aid you in your evaluation of this appointment:

✦ When criticized for not supporting a local ballot initiative to make marijuana possession the lowest lawenforcement priority in Seattle in 2003, Kerlikowske responded that "arresting people for possessing marijuana for personal use ... is [already] not a priority."

✦ The White House acknowledged that Kerlikowske's son, Jeffrey, has been arrested on drug-related charges in the past.

✦ President Obama has admitted to using marijuana and cocaine as a teenager himself in his memoir, *Dreams From My Father*.

✦ The administration will remove the Drug Czar's cabinet-level designation—reversing a decision to elevate the office under George W. Bush.

✦ In 2004, Kerlikowske—seeking to demonstrate the efficacy of the Taser stun gun—allowed himself to be zapped with 50,000 volts of electricity in front of reporters and television cameras. ✦

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

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Patients info: (720) 890-4247
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CHOCOLATE CITY BLUES

Reinventing New Orleans as a ganja-laced "Chocolate City." By Ashley Boudreaux

I love chocolate. It's on my Top 5 list of Best Things in the Entire World, along with weed, sex, love and timeworn city streets. If Amsterdam could be bottled, it would be my favorite perfume, rich and heavy with the decadent combination of all of those sensual fragrances. I love Amsterdam, and came very close to relocating my family there during the height of Bush's fascist regime. But the notion was far more romantic than practical, once the relocation costs and the overabundance of pickled herring were factored into the equation.

Plus I get homesick easily.

So I stayed here in the Chocolate City instead. That's what Mayor Ray Nagin calls New Orleans—a Chocolate City, as if people could frolic through a Wonka-esque world of edible brown skyscrapers and Hershey Bar streetcars when they visit. But Nagin's statement was meant to be racially divisive in an already racially divided city, and to pander to what he thought was his political base. It took the storm of the century to rip open those wounds; it took Nagin opening his mouth to pour salt in them.

One integrated generation simply hasn't provided enough time to heal the centuries of social injustice and collective mistrust. But the issues here aren't merely black and white; they're a million shades of gray.

Take homicide, for example: We have the highest murder rate in the nation, and more than 80 percent of those murders are black-on-black and drug-related. Unfortunately, this further exacerbates the social divide, since some whites are fond of calling it a black problem rather than a New Orleans problem, thereby washing their hands of any responsibility for addressing the root causes of the issue. But distancing oneself psychologically from the victims of violent crime doesn't reduce violent crime. Eliminating the black market for drugs, on the other hand, might actually have some effect.

On the bright side, Katrina gave us a blank slate, and how we paint our future is up to us. There's a new public-art project being launched here called "Opening Doors to Peace"; its goal is



Homemade chocolates are easier to make than you think!

to draw attention to the victims of murder in our Chocolate City, to humanize each and every one of them through colorful chalk outlines and, later, through discarded doors brightly painted by public-school students. Today is the first day of the project; the first victim to be memorialized is a 51-year old woman who was shot on I-10 while driving at 5:30 this morning. Was she black? White? Brown? Yellow? High? Sober? What difference does it make? She was a victim—that's all that really matters.

Another social project—NOLA: the New Orleans Legalization Amendment—is examining how to effectively lobby legislators and start a voter-driven initiative for the legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana in New Orleans as a way to reduce incarceration-related expenditures while increasing the adult-tourist base. Its creators plan to announce the proposed drive during the World Wide Marijuana March this year, and I plan to support their measures fully. Reinventing New Orleans as a Gulf Coast version of Amsterdam is an absolutely delicious idea.

Because, after all, what good is a Chocolate City without marijuana?

This recipe comes to us courtesy of Kevin Monoxide, a local Jazz Fest stagehand and punk rocker. As you'll see, Kevin doesn't believe in precise marshmallow measurements. But damn, these sure are tasty! ✦

CHOCOLATE CITY CHOCOLATES

- 1 oz commercial-grade ganja, cleaned
- 2 sticks salted butter
- 2 bags Andes Mint Chocolate chips
- 1 big, manly handful of marshmallows

DIRECTIONS: Simmer the butter and ganja in a double-boiler for at least one hour. Strain. Also in the double-boiler, melt the chocolate chips without stirring until they become shiny. Then cover the chips completely with marshmallows until, per Kevin, "they get all puffy like a mushroom cap." Now stir. Once

the concoction is completely liquefied, whisk the mixture. Pour into Teflon-coated mini-muffin tins and cool in the freezer for at least two hours. (Any leftovers can be poured directly over ice cream.) Pop the chocolates out of the mold and wrap them individually in tin foil.

These chocolates will rock your world. Enjoy. **Stones 24.**

You can let Kevin know how you like the recipe at www.myspace.com/monoxidepoisoning.



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THE L-WORD

The time has come to 'legalize it' once and for all!

While the American public clearly, even enthusiastically, supports medical access to cannabis (75%) and decriminalization for adult possession (73%), a significantly smaller portion of the population (42%) supports outright legalization. Thankfully, that didn't stop California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco) from boldly introducing legislation in March to finally legalize the sale of cannabis for non-medical purposes—i.e., for responsible adult use!

Proponents, including NORML, framed the Marijuana Control, Regulation and Education Act as a way to generate more than \$1 billion in new tax revenues and reduced enforcement costs in California—a tough case to argue against in these troubling economic times. So let the debate begin in earnest, particularly now that a viable marijuana-legalization bill has been introduced in the nation's largest state (which also happens to be the nation's most cannabis-tolerant—and cash-strapped—state), with the world's eighth-largest economy and an already existing semi-legal retail market for medical cannabis—a market that's clearly leaving billions of uncollected tax dollars on the table, unable to benefit a general population that supports legalization and control.

Wait, it gets better. Once the bill dropped in California, the ensuing media wildfire quickly spread, until my NORML "legalization" file literally overflowed with fascinating and persuasive columns,



This scene is getting old.

editorials, TV coverage, academic papers and white papers, to say nothing of grant requests to study legalization; requests to start new NORML chapters; political-action committees seeking our donations for pro-reform political candidates; and requests for funding for legalization-related protests, rallies and concerts.

Best of all, the legalization train continues to gather steam, with state legislators in Massachusetts and Texas (yep, you read that right: Texas) working with NORML

to draft legislation designed to regulate the legal production and sale of cannabis, while assigning wholesale and retail taxes, along with licensing fees, to help plug the massive economic holes in these states' budgets, as well as provide sustainable annual revenues for the foreseeable future based on cannabis's current popularity and use patterns.

Save the Date!

Want to take a peek into the brave new world of legal marijuana? "Yes We Cannabis," the 38th annual NORML conference and HIGH TIMES Activist Awards show, will be held September 23 to 25 in San Francisco. Make plans now for the trip of a lifetime! 🌿

Allen St. Pierre is the Executive Director of NORML in Washington, DC. For more information about cannabis legalization and the NORML national conference, go to www.norml.org or call 888-67-NORML.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

The Mayor Smokes Marijuana

Nine years ago, Joe Blundell of Cliff Village, MO, was run over by a train.

"It ground me up pretty good," he recalls. "As a result, I got several three-inch titanium screws drilled into my spinal column. And the only things the doctors would give me after this accident was morphine, codeine and Demerol—all opium-based narcotics."

A friend recommended cannabis, and Blundell found that it eased the pain ("I felt so good I cried"). Like so many other medical-cannabis users, he was able to eliminate his doctor-prescribed narcotics in favor of marijuana. This familiar story becomes more interesting, however, when we discover that Joe Blundell is also the mayor of Cliff Village, who subsequently earned his share of headlines by spearheading the drive to legalize medical marijuana in this tiny hamlet of just 33 people. (You can read Joe's personal account at joelundell.blogspot.com.)

And rest assured, while Mayor Blundell understands that the 4-3 vote legalizing medical use in Cliff Village is purely symbolic, he's also lobbying to change that with Missouri's HB 2514, which would create legal protections for medical users like him.

Meanwhile, medical marijuana and politics are not Blundell's only passions. He's also a sustainability engineer, and his battle to test contaminated wells and guarantee clean drinking water for his town is what led to his election as mayor. Blundell's Sustainable Living Systems (geo-gro.com) are self-heating, self-cooling homes that he developed when he had to solve the problem of heating a community greenhouse.

With a creative and dedicated activist like Joe Blundell behind the effort, NORML believes that medical marijuana will fast become a reality in Missouri.

Russ Belville is NORML's Outreach Coordinator and hosts NORML's Daily AudioStash podcast at www.norml.org.

Joe Blundell



Ask Dr. Mitch



Jon L.

Dr. Mitch,
My brother says that anybody who has ever been busted for possession is a substance abuser. What's the deal?

Hi Jon,
The formal definition of "substance abuse" requires the presence of at least one of four different symptoms, but the symptoms have to be causing actual distress.

Recurring legal problems in a given year would technically qualify someone for a substance-abuse diagnosis. Note that it has to be recurring or multiple legal problems, and they have to be causing meaningful trouble, so a single misdemeanor bust for possession is unlikely to qualify. Obviously, folks who use legal drugs are less likely to receive that diagnosis. All the more reason to fight for a legal market!

Do you and your legalizer friends really think there's a need for medical marijuana given that we have THC in pill form?

Dr. K.

Hi Dr. K,
Dronabinol, the synthetic THC pill, has many drawbacks compared to medical cannabis. Because it's a pill, folks who suffer nausea or vomiting can have a very hard time keeping it down. Once they do, it can take a long time to help since it has to be digested. In addition, because it's THC and only THC, many folks find that it doesn't help their ailments as well as cannabis, which contains other active ingredients like cannabidiol. Finally, as a prescription pharmaceutical, it's three to five times the cost—and in today's economy, that's a real drag.

A friend says the Vikings ate pot to go berserk in battle. This can't be true, can it?

Rebecca

Hi Rebecca,
No. The Vikings were known to use hemp rope, but there's no historical evidence for Viking marijuana use. In addition, marijuana intoxication doesn't lead to aggression; in lab tests, people don't get hostile after smoking marijuana even if you provoke them. The Vikings may have used the rare hallucinogenic mushroom *Amanita muscaria* before fighting, but it's more likely that they sloshed down alcohol, which has been proven to make plenty of folks belligerent.

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